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The Worldwide News



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Aussie members reflect light through service

By Aub Warren

BURLEIGH HEADS, Australia—With May 10 to 16 being National Volunteers Week in Australia, we conducted a survey of congregations in the region to find out how and where Church members are serving their communities. The results were remarkable.

The survey yielded details of hundreds of individuals involved in a range of service activities, from Meals on Wheels and local school activities and committees, to local bush fire brigades and crisis telephone counseling services.

While it is impossible to measure the value of the service provided to communities by these volunteers, estimates put the total value of volunteer service in Australia alone at more than \$5 billion a year. The dollar value of such service is of course only one measure of the true value.

In the Dec. 15 *Worldwide News*, Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach wrote: "As I stressed in my sermon during the Feast of Tabernacles, such service is a vital and necessary part of participating in the life of the kingdom of God, of letting the light

of Jesus Christ shine through us to the world."

"The kind of social action we should be involved in would include such things as promotion of mutual understanding between cultures, promotion of education and skills-training for underprivileged people, and involvement in curriculum development and safety in schools," Mr. Tkach continued.

Bringing about positive change

"For some social concerns, our members can get involved ... in volunteer programs that help bring about positive moral and environmental changes in their local communities."

Reflecting this, we found that members around the region serve at many levels in community, school and other service organizations.

One New Zealand member who has been with his Lions Club for more than 16 years has served as president and secretary. Others are zone leaders in Neighborhood Watch programs, Girl Guide leaders and committee members in parents and citizens groups.

One person associated with an addictive behavior recovery group

for a number of years has turned his own former weakness into a source of strength for others. His visits with those with the problem, including youths, have served to not only educate and encourage them, but have also provided them with a shining example of change and overcoming.

Another member has provided personal support for a homeless man with a criminal record and addictive behavior problems. He helps him with his finances and health check-ups. Two members who operate a business on Australia's east coast have set up an annual scholarship for high school students.

A number of families have provided foster care at various times. Three Caboolture, Queensland, women have provided cross-patterning therapy for a Down's syndrome child for the past six months.

In Colombo, Sri Lanka, a member coordinates a sports program and dance for residents of a home for the mentally disabled. Thirty-six members in the Colombo congregation took part in cleaning, painting and doing general repairs to the home in November last year.

The cost of the repairs was covered by a Canadian member who had

given the funds to Dan Thompson, director of the Ambassador Foundation project in Sri Lanka.

Many teenagers in the Church are also active in serving others. Two Queensland high school students serve as reading tutors for mentally disabled children.

Mount Gambier, South Australia, YOU and YES members, along with adult helpers, are making a patchwork quilt to donate to a home for the elderly.

For the past several years YOU groups around Australia have participated in National Clean Up Australia Day. Parents and other Church members also participate in this activity.

Christian care and concern

Members bring not only professional or technical skills to the lives of others in the community, but also attitudes of Christian care and concern.

An accountant in New South Wales provides his professional services for an organization serving disabled children and adults.

Another member works with the police as a guardian for children during interviews and has worked with

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Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

Understanding the true gospel and what's really important

I recently read a letter that contained a certain false assumption I felt warranted everyone's attention. The letter was from a person struggling to understand why the Church should place so much emphasis on Jesus Christ as the focal point of the gospel.

The letter-writer stated his concern in these words: "A new gospel, about the person of Christ, is being substituted for the glorious truth about the kingdom of God. Jesus always directed people to the Father and to the kingdom, not to himself."

Can you tell what is wrong with this statement? Actually there are two things wrong with it. Let's look at each of them.

First, the statement declares that a gospel about the person of Christ is a "new" gospel. By "new," the writer apparently means "wrong" or "false." The message about the person of Christ is then assumed to be different from, or a "substitute" for, the message about the kingdom of God.

In other words, the writer assumes that the gospel of the kingdom of God is definitely not the same as the gospel about Jesus Christ the king! What does the Bible say? Let's look at a few passages that explain what the gospel is and what it is about. There are, of course,

See Personal, page 3

British conference gives opportunity for growth in understanding

FERNDOWN, England—One hundred twenty ministers and wives met April 25 to 29 at the Dormy Conference Hotel here, near Bournemouth.

After a relaxing dinner on Sunday, meetings started the next morning. Les McCullough, regional director of the United Kingdom, welcomed the group, and Joseph W. Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration, introduced a video of his father.

Mr. Tkach discussed the Church's commission and showed many areas where the Church had saved money by working in a more businesslike manner.

The time before and after the meetings provided many opportunities for the ministry to speak with Pasadena representatives individually and collectively.

On the last evening ministers and their wives shared a dinner in one of the hotel's private rooms.

This conference was the last event that Paul Suckling, director of Ministerial Services, and his wife, Jane, would have with the ministers before leaving on their new assign-

ment to pastor the Norfolk, Virginia, church.

They were given three limited-edition prints and a set of Portmeirion china. It was an emotional event for the Sucklings, who have served the U.K. ministry for about 20 years.

A presentation was also made to Mr. Suckling's secretary, Christine Clere, who is leaving to find employment closer to her home.

The atmosphere of the conference was uplifting and sincere, and all were encouraged to return home to do God's Work.

While in Britain, Mr. Tkach Jr. observed the Sabbath with the Reading and Godalming congregations.

"We received an extremely warm welcome," he said. "Brethren frequently greeted us with a warm hug and expressed their enthusiasm for the growth in understanding from which the Church is benefiting.

"I am delighted to see so many of God's people experiencing a growth in the grace and knowledge of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

The West flounders while the Balkans bleed

Once again, an anxious America appears poised at the precipice of a momentous decision—whether, or more likely how, to intervene militarily in a distant, bloody war in the Balkans.

The stakes are enormous, both for the nation and its president, Bill Clinton, who had hoped to concentrate his energies on issues at home.

Mr. Clinton is appalled by the targeted slaughter of civilians, especially children, in the year-old conflict in Bosnia. And having spoken boldly about the need to stop Bosnian Serb ethnic cleansing tactics, it will be difficult for him to back down from some sort of military response.

Initially this action could entail attacks by air against Serbian artillery positions, command posts and ammunition stores.

The President also wants the United Nations embargo on military aid to combatants in the former Yugoslavia partially lifted so that beleaguered Muslim forces can receive weapons. With this materiel could come U.S. military advisers—a step echoing ominously the initial stages of the Vietnam war.

Europeans doubt success

Mr. Clinton has attempted, so far with little success, to enlist the support of key European allies. Under pressure, the British and the French,



who already have troops on the ground for humanitarian and minor peacekeeping duties, may go along for a while, to preserve the Western alliance.

The reluctant Europeans remain pessimistic about what can be achieved in the Balkan tinderbox, flash point of World War I. Fratricidal fighting among the southern Slavs sucked the Big Powers into world war in 1914.

Getting the European allies on board is only one problem. "Clinton's biggest assignment," reported the May 17 issue of *Time*, will be "persuading the American people that their children and their billions should be spent on Bosnia."

No one in the government, added an editorial in the May 8 *Economist*, "has yet explained, simply and plainly, what America's interests and objectives in the Balkans are."

Instead, members of Congress and even the President's advisers are

deeply divided over this contentious issue, some passionately pro-intervention, others equally anti-intervention.

The same cleft divides newspaper columnists, their clashing viewpoints often crossing over and blurring customary liberal-conservative perspectives.

Intervention in Bosnia, it is generally conceded, would not be for the traditional purpose of protecting a vital national interest, such as guaranteeing access to Middle Eastern oil. It would be for moral and humanitarian reasons—a Somali operation on a much larger and far more dangerous scale.

Some argue that humanitarian interventions to stop raging civil wars have assumed a new national interest, defined as preserving order in the chaotic, post-Communist world. Failure to act in Bosnia, they say, could lead to a modern-day Holocaust.

Yet, editors in the May 11 *Wall*

Street Journal counter: "The world is too large for America to solve all the problems ... the world is full of killing to be stopped. How can we decide in which quarrels to intervene, and on whose side?"

Thankless task

Most experts agree that air power alone will be insufficient to bring the Bosnian Serbs to their knees. "In mountainous, wooded Bosnia," wrote George Melloan in the May 10 *Wall Street Journal*, "it will be difficult for even the high-tech electronics of allied strike aircraft to find and hit targets."

What then? "Will the world's only military superpower cravenly retreat?" asks historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. "Or, having committed ourselves so far, are we not obligated to go farther and send in ground forces?"

"No doubt in time we could win an all-out war on the ground against Serbia," Mr. Schlesinger continues, "but it would probably require at least a quarter of a million troops and it would be a messy, murderous affair that no general staff in the West is eager to undertake."

After looking over his military options, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Colin Powell, was widely quoted as saying, "Boy, was the Gulf War easy compared to this."

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.

Members made me feel loved

I would like to share an experience of Christian love with others. A few years ago when I lived in Kentucky I had the misfortune of losing my job due to layoffs. I was forced to move to a small town.

I found a bus-driving job, which paid very little, barely enough to live on. I could not get to services since I could not afford a car and I lived too far away from any of the brethren to catch a ride.

I felt bitten by misfortune. I hated God for letting me down, in my opinion. I felt I had no friends at all. Whenever I got Church mail I threw it away. Why should I listen to God? I couldn't understand why God let this happen.

I hated God's law and I wanted no more part of it. I felt victim to horrible discouragement and very dangerous anger. I did not care what happened to me or about anything else anymore. God, in my view, hated me. He didn't seem to care or notice me and my problems.

This went on for a year or so. Everything was lost, so it seemed. Two members of God's Church wrote me letters of encouragement. They told me to hang in there and not to give up, that God really did love me despite what I thought.

They were saying things that made no sense to me. That was easy for them to say, I thought.

But I became so moved by their persistence that I poured out myself to them in tapes and letters.

They made me feel loved by them and God and I thank God for using them to rescue me from making the ultimate mistake—going back into the world.

We all at times can feel betrayed and abandoned by God and people. But that experience taught me that we need each other and we need the love that God has given us.

All the pretty thoughts in the world are nothing if not put in action!

Barry Knox
Missouri

New member's perspective

I'm hoping that possibly my perspective,

that of a new member, might help some people think twice before leaving the Church.

I was baptized into the Worldwide Church of God in April 1992. Before taking that final step in commitment toward God, I studied Church literature and completed the Bible Correspondence Course over a period of several years.

It took me a considerable period of time before I finally came to my senses and mustered up enough courage to take the "plunge," but am I ever overjoyed that I did! I can't even begin to explain the positive changes in my life the past few months.

That is why it is so hard for me to under-

stand why anyone would want to leave God's Church. When I was meeting with our minister before my baptism, he pointed out something that has really helped me with my perception of the Church.

If people would go through Church literature they'll find it in many booklets. It is so basic that I think a lot of people take it for granted and lose sight of it: My minister told me that Jesus Christ is the living, active head of his Church.

Whatever changes might be made in the Worldwide Church of God come from him. He always knows exactly what is going on, and nothing happens without his consent.

By keeping this one simple, yet all-important fact in mind, I not only can accept change in the Church, I wholeheartedly welcome it because I know Christ is preparing us for his triumphant return.

Dan Klute
Stromsburg, Nebraska

"Into All the World..."

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

Becoming loving people

Thanks for an enjoyable reading magazine. The article on choosing to forgive has helped a problem in our music group: now we are becoming loving people, as well as forgiving. I keep *The Plain Truth* on tables at each practice. Tempers have stopped. We have a peaceful band practice.

The Plain Truth seems like magic. Everybody picks it up and reads an article, if not more. I keep this special article on choosing to forgive on the wall of the practice room.

M.B.

Startex, South Carolina

Feeling better about life

I am writing to tell you how much I like your magazine. I started reading it in the hospital. I had been hit by a drunk driver and am now disabled.

I felt hurt and bitter for what happened to me, but after reading *The Plain Truth* and finding God, I've been feeling a little better

about life. I have learned to understand the Bible more.

I have forgiven the man who did this to me and I hope he too will find God someday. *The Plain Truth* is really great.

P.R.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Introduced by friend

A friend of mine mentioned the *World Tomorrow* program to me. The show that day I will never forget was on the book of Revelation.

Since then, I watch the program, read the magazine and have even started the correspondence course. And I can tell you all these materials have helped me, and I'm glad to say I'm starting to really understand the Bible and its contents.

I want to thank you for your publications and for how much you are helping me to understand why I am here and of my potential and that of my children. Right now I'm on welfare, but I'm trying to better myself.

At this moment I am happy and my kids are wonderful. They will grow up knowing the Bible, unlike I did. Again, I want to thank you and tell you to keep up the good work.

Dayton, Ohio

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FOUNDER:

Herbert W. Armstrong (1892-1986)

PUBLISHER & EDITOR IN CHIEF:

Joseph W. Tkach

ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLISHER:

J. Michael Feazell

MEDIA OPERATIONS DIRECTOR:

Bernard W. Schnippert

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR:

Ronald Kelly

PUBLISHING SERVICES DIRECTOR:

Barry Gridley

Editor: Thomas C. Hanson; senior editor: Sheila Graham; managing editor: Jeff Zhorne; associate editor: Becky Sweet; news editor: Paul Monteith; assistant editor: Peter Moore; editorial assistant: Maya Wehbe; Ambassador College correspondent: Julie Stanley.

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

Regional correspondents: Cheryl Catalo, Vancouver, B.C.; Eleazar Flores, Manila, Philippines; Aub Warren, Australia and Asia; Frankie Weinberger, Bonn, Germany; Rex Morgan, Auckland, New Zealand; Gerrie Belo, Nieuwegein, Netherlands; David Walker, Spanish Department; Charles Fleming, Caribbean; Marsha Sabin, French and Italian; Bryan Mathie and Peter Hawkins, Southern Africa; Irene Wilson, United Kingdom.

Art director: Ronald Grove; illustrator: Ken Tunell.

Photography: Barry Stahl; G.A. Belluche Jr.; Charles Feldbush; Hal Finch; Margie Dunn; photo librarian: Susan Braman.

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Pastor General visits...

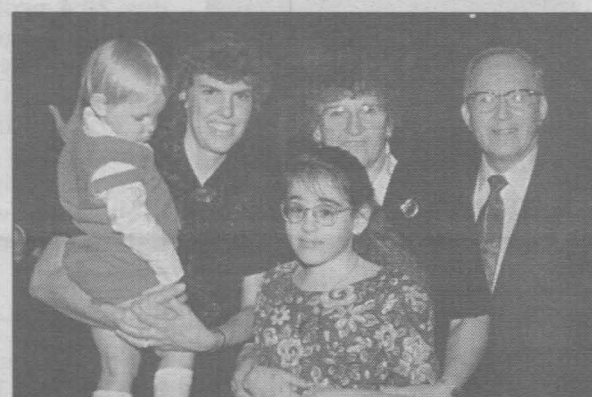
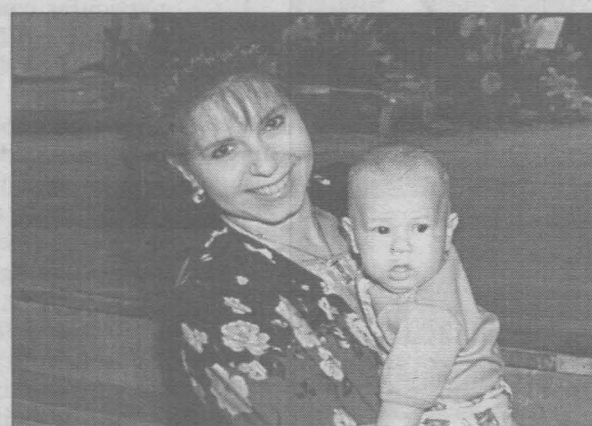
Buffalo, New York



Trip Overview

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 2,455 brethren May 8 from the Buffalo North and South, Binghamton, Elmira, Olean, Rochester, Syracuse and Utica, New York; Erie and Franklin, Pennsylvania; and Brampton, Hamilton, Kitchener, St. Catharines and Toronto, Ontario, Central, East and West churches.

Hosts for the visit were John and Jolie Moskel, Buffalo North; Randy and Debbie Bloom, Syracuse and Utica; George and Vicki Hart, Buffalo South and Olean; Dan and Julie Hope, Toronto East; Oleh and Diane Kubik, Binghamton and Elmira; George and Marlene Lee, Toronto West; Bob and Sandra Morton, Brampton; Doug and Mique Smith, Kitchener; Ron and Laura Weinland, Erie and Franklin; Kim and Kathy Wenzel, Hamilton and St. Catharines; Richard and Janet Wilding, Toronto Central; Ken and Nancy Williams, Rochester; Percival and Shirley Burrows, Toronto Central and West; David and Val Clark, Brampton; Tom and Susan Ecker, Kitchener; Dan and Emmalena Fuller, Hamilton and St. Catharines; and Glen and Elizabeth La Mountain, Buffalo South and Olean. [Photos by William P. Koehn and Carl Mende]



Understanding the gospel, Jesus Christ and what is important

Continued from page 1

many more passages, and some may wish to study the subject further, but I will cite just a few to demonstrate the point. First, we often talk about how we need to build on the foundation laid by Mr. Armstrong, and that is true. The question we need to ask, though, is, *What is that foundation?*

The answer is given by Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:11: "No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."

From Paul, we learn that there is only one foundation that can be laid, and that foundation is Jesus Christ. So, what was the foundation laid by Mr. Armstrong? *The foundation laid by Mr. Armstrong was Jesus Christ*, because no other foundation can be laid!

With that in mind, what did Paul say the gospel is about? For the answer, we can go to 1 Corinthians 15:1-4: "Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the

third day according to the Scriptures."

From this passage we learn several fundamental things: 1) That this is the gospel Paul preached. 2) It is the gospel on which the Church took its stand. 3) The gospel results in the salvation of those who believe it, if it is held firmly.

4) Paul received it, then he passed it on. 5) It is of *first importance*. And, this is what it is: 6) Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, he was buried, he was raised from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures.

Yes, the gospel is about eternal life and salvation (Romans 1:16) in the kingdom of God. It is about the destruction of the kingdom of this world and the victory of the kingdom of God (Revelation 11:15). It is about sin, death and judgment.

It is about love, forgiveness and life. It is about the rulership of God over all things and about human reconciliation with him. It is about the resurrection from the dead and the second coming of Christ, who will reign as king over all nations.

The gospel is indeed the good news of our salvation in the kingdom of God—and our entrance into that kingdom is centered squarely in the life, death and resurrection of the Son of God, the Anointed One whom God the Father sent to take away the sins of the world, and in whom we now live and await our

inheritance, which will come at the resurrection.

Jesus Christ *brought* the good news, and he *embodied* the good news. Without him, the gospel would not have been brought, and without him the gospel would not exist. He was both the *messenger* and the *message*. He not only *told* humanity about God, he *showed* humanity the Father (John 14:7-9).

He not only announced the kingdom of God, he embodied it. He not only declared the resurrection for which we all hope, he opened the way as the first-born from the dead.

Jesus directed people to himself

The second thing wrong with the statement I referred to above is that Jesus certainly *did* direct people to himself. Let's note a few passages that demonstrate the truth.

Jesus told the Jewish leadership: "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life" (John 5:39-40).

He told the crowd: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:51).

He told Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will

live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26).

When it comes to Jesus and the Father, it is not an either-or matter. Jesus is the only way to the Father, and no one can come to the Father unless he or she comes to Jesus (John 6:44, 65).

Jesus said, "This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3). The assumption that Jesus never directed anyone to himself is false, but has been promoted by some as an attempt to find fault with the Church for doing and teaching exactly what the Bible demands.

I hope the letter-writer I quoted above is the only one who has been laboring under those false assumptions. If not, I hope this has been helpful in refocusing our attention on the true gospel.

I wrote more about the gospel in the Aug. 11, 1992, *Worldwide News*. For everyone's convenience, and because the content of the gospel is such an important topic, I plan to rerun that article in the next issue.

Holy Day offerings

Offerings worldwide were down 3 percent on the first day of Unleavened Bread and down 4.3 percent on the last day of Unleavened Bread. We greatly appreciate your financial support in these difficult economic times.

FROM SHARPERS

Religious art and questions of context, content and conscience

By George Hague

About two years ago, my wife, Sandi, and I were discussing how to teach our 2-year-old daughter, Kali, about God and the Bible. We decided we needed a tool to help us. Since Kali loves for us to read stories to her, Sandi suggested we buy a children's picture Bible.

I visited a Bible bookstore here in Pasadena and found about a dozen versions of children's Bibles. One of them in particular caught my eye, *The Beginner's Bible*, published by Questar in 1991.

The stories in it were extensively paraphrased, but remarkably accurate. They were also short, with no more than two or three simple sentences per page, just right for our daughter's age. The drawings were colorful, marker sketches done in a cartoon style.

One aspect of the book that initially bothered me was that it had drawings of Jesus Christ. I knew that the commandment of Exodus 20:4 prohibits worshiping pictures or images of God. It says nothing about having them in books, but I had been so used to not having any pictures of Christ that it now seemed awkward.

On the positive side, in this picture Bible, Jesus was drawn in the same style as everyone else. He looked normal.

George Hague is a department editor for The Plain Truth.

I brought the Bible home and it was an instant hit. Initially we had intended the Bible for story time on the Sabbath, but our daughter requested it almost every night.

During the most recent Festival of Unleavened Bread, one of the speakers was discussing Jesus' miracle of feeding the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish. From her blanket on the



Jesus as a child in the temple. [Artwork by Ken Tunell]

gymnasium floor, in what I thought was complete oblivion to the sermon as she was playing with her toys, Kali smiled at me and said, "Daddy, that story's in my Bible!"

That picture Bible is working.

Context

In the context of a picture Bible that we use to teach our children about God, there is nothing wrong with having drawings of Christ in it. Certainly, however, we should explain to our children that these drawings are not exactly how Jesus looked, that they are just drawings for the story.

If we were to venerate them or pray to them, that would be a different matter. Those actions would take the drawings out of their context of a picture Bible for small children and make them icons or idols.

The commandment in Exodus 20:4-5 prohibits the worship of all created images. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them."

This commandment does not prohibit the creation of art. Some of the earliest instruction God gave to the children of Israel was to build the tabernacle in the wilderness. This tabernacle contained woven and sculpted images of cherubim and various flora.

Conscience

Of course, some of our brothers and sisters in Christ have come out of religious backgrounds where the Second Commandment was violated. Some of these members are understandably more sensitive to any depiction of Jesus, or even to religious art in general.

For these members, the question of conscience is important. If people are uncomfortable with a children's Bible that contains pictures of Jesus, they would probably want to avoid using one to teach their children.

Paul addressed the question of a Christian's conscience in Romans 14. In Rome, the members of the Church were divided over a question of food.

Paul summarized the dispute and

See Religious, page 7

Gulfs, bays, barriers: where European civilization began

Before my wife, Shirley, and I returned to the United States, where I serve as associate pastor of the Wichita South and Topeka, Kansas, churches, I pastored the churches in Greece and Cyprus for a year.

Some of the brethren in Greece meet in Thessalonika, some in Athens and Corinth. On the island of Cyprus brethren meet near Paphos. They are warm, enthusiastic and hospitable people. You would feel comfortable with them just as we did because they have God's Holy Spirit guiding and working with them.

If you look at a map, Greece looks like a skeletal hand stretching its crooked fingers into the Mediterranean. Everywhere there are gulfs and bays. The jagged barriers broke Greece into isolated fragments. This made travel hazardous, and Greece developed into independent city-states.

Greece has had an influence on the world far disproportionate to its size. In its Golden Age, it was famous for its democracy, arts, athletics, architecture and philosophy.

European civilization and culture began here. The Romans, who conquered Greece, adopted its culture and exported it throughout Europe.

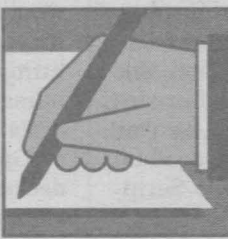
More importantly, the inhabitants of the Greek islands were the first Europeans to receive Christ's gospel.

Paul brought Jesus' message to Grecian civilization. He wrote his letters in the Greek language. The New Testament was written in Greek.

Though Paul was a Hebrew, he had several Hellenistic influences.

Greek brethren by name. Paul had many Greek friends. This Hebrew who had trained at the feet of Rabbi Gamaliel lived his later years in the midst of Greek culture.

Yet since the time of the early



Just One More Thing

DEXTER FAULKNER

His childhood language was Greek. He was born in the trading city of Tarsus, where Greek thought carried great weight. In later life he quoted from the Septuagint, the Greek version of the Old Testament.

It was in Athens that Paul spoke to interested listeners. Few were converted there but Paul had better success in other Grecian cities. Undoubtedly, the geography of Greece became familiar to Paul.

As I walked the hilly terrain I became more compassionate when reading Paul's writings, picturing him walking the distance between Thessalonika and Corinth, and Corinth and Athens.

Through his letters and the book of Acts we know a few of the early

Church, Greece has suffered much. At various intervals, other countries invaded its territory and sullied its sovereignty. Greece's Golden Age never recovered and it was dominated by Rome for nearly four centuries.

Greece is now a member of the European Community and things may improve.

Almost 2,000 years later, the Church has begun anew in Greece. A small number of believers now occupy these islands.

Though few in number, the brethren in Greece and Cyprus are part of the God-given mix that makes up the Body of Christ. As Paul wrote, it is God who places people in the body as it pleases him. Pray with us that the Work of God will prosper there.

Aussie members serve

Continued from page 1

the Central Drug and Alcohol Authority. A refrigeration engineer provides free repairs for the needy in his community.

A husband-and-wife team have been serving with the Country Fire Authority in South Australia for five years. She is a radio operator and communications officer, while he administers finances for six brigades.

Several Sydney members assist the State Emergency Service, bringing urgent rescue and relief in times of disaster. A family in Victoria has given more than 40 years of combined service to a volunteer fire brigade.

Also in Victoria a member provides personal financial management advice as an assistant at a financial crisis center. A secretary who was retrenched now provides secretarial assistance to the National Mental Health Foundation one day a week. One woman cares for the dying and counsels the bereaved.

A Brisbane, Queensland, member teaches English to migrants. A member in Victoria records textbooks for the sight-impaired in her home and is recording her 142nd book.

A member in country Victoria serves with the Citizens Advice Bureau, which among other things runs a 24-hour crisis line. "When the phone rings you never know what it will be, but a quick prayer always helps!" she said.

These only begin to cover the ways members in the region are reaching out and serving people. In this way they bring light to those around them and salt to the communities in which they work.

As Mr. Tkach wrote in the Jan. 13 WN: "We cannot be Good Samaritans to every person on earth. But we can offer some help, as we are able and within the bounds of wisdom and good judgment, to those God brings to us." In the Dec. 15 WN, Mr. Tkach wrote, "After Jesus gave the parable of the Good Samaritan, he said, 'Go and do likewise.'"

Ministers, wives gain insight at European conference

By Henry Sturcke

CHIANCIANO, Italy—"We experienced a unity that the European Community has yet to see," said Joseph Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration, of the third annual conference for full-time ministers and their wives serving in continental Europe May 3 to 6.

The conference in the Grand Terme Hotel here opened with welcoming remarks by Mr. Tkach Jr., who then introduced a videotape of comments from Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach at the regional directors conference in 1992.

In it Mr. Tkach summarized changes in the Church as going from "the things you can count" to "the things you can count on." Emphasis should be placed on spiritual growth. Growth in numbers and income are not proof of God's approval.

Mr. Tkach Jr. then conducted a question-and-answer session on frequently asked questions.

Randal Dick, assistant director of Church Administration for international areas, conducted sessions on tithing administration and divorce and remarriage.

In videotaped messages Bernie Schnippert, director of Media Operations, explained the Church's media philosophy, while Greg Albrecht, *Plain Truth* editor, and J. Michael Feazell, executive assistant to Mr. Tkach, explained the need for changing the terminology we have commonly used in our publications and preaching.

Winfried Fritz, pastor of the Bonn-Duesseldorf, Darmstadt, Nuremberg and Zwickau, Germany, congregations, said the material brought "not just answers, but understanding."

Bram de Bree, regional director for Dutch-speaking areas, commented: "Here we have the opportunity to communicate with fellow ministers. We can't find the time to do this otherwise, since we are more scattered here

than in the U.S. and Canada, and it's a great opportunity to exchange ideas."

Ana Maria Andrews, whose husband, John, pastors the congregations in Scandinavia, commented: "For many who serve in scattered areas, there is little opportunity for relaxed conversation. I enjoy socializing with all the ladies."

Rounding out the meetings were presentations by John Karlson, German-language regional director. I spoke on contacts with the Sabbatarians in the former Soviet Union. Carn Catherwood, French and Italian regional director, also conducted a meeting.

As conference coordinators, David Panarelli and Marsha Sabin from the French-Italian Department in Big Sandy handled a myriad of details, to ensure everything ran smoothly.

On Tuesday afternoon, May 4, the 63 participants toured the Tuscan countryside, stopping at the medieval city of Montepulciano and the Renaissance city of Pienza.

During dinner at a rustic farm restaurant the group joined in a toast to Willi Mandel, pastor of the Munich, Germany, and Salzburg and Vienna, Austria, churches, and his wife, Ingrid, in honor of their 36th wedding anniversary.

Henry Sturcke pastors the Stuttgart, Germany, and Basel and Zurich, Switzerland, congregations.



VIEWPOINT—Olivier Carion, pastor of the Lyon, France, and Geneva and Neuchatel, Switzerland, churches, said the conference showed an intimate bonding among those serving in Europe. [Photo by Henry Sturcke]

Meeting needs of the aged

One feature of our survey showed the number of members actively meeting the needs of the elderly. Daisy Higgs, a deaconess in Launceston, Tasmania, has been volunteering for the past eight years at the Grenoch Home for the Aged.

"I spend my time talking with the people and doing things like walking with those who can get out of wheelchairs," said Mrs. Higgs. She volunteers at Grenoch one day a week, sometimes more. "We're all so attached to each other and look out for each other. They really appreciate us coming and it's so worthwhile to see them accomplish things and the joy it brings them. I think we all need a place like Grenoch that we can go to."

Eighty-year-old Morwell, Victoria, member Glad Brinkman plays piano up to three times a week for senior citizens in homes and hospitals. Mrs. Brinkman has been playing piano since childhood and as long as she can remember has been providing voluntary entertainment. She was this year nominated for the Senior Citizens Premier's Award for service to her community in Victoria.

Another Morwell senior, Ced Reynolds, rises early twice a week to bake scones for his senior citizens group in Paynesville. His recipe, which he claims is simple, has become famous in the area.

"Serving others often requires us overcoming our natural shyness," says Phil Plows, a local church elder in the Newcastle church. Mr. Plows has, among other things, played music for residents in more than 30 nursing homes over the past eight years. "Sometimes we just have to swallow our pride and get out there and do it," he said.

Questions & Answers

FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

What is the Church's policy regarding voting?

While the Church has never published that voting is a sin, we have usually discouraged participation in the political process. This led to the commonly held idea, which was sometimes preached, that any participation in voting would be sinful.

The Church's longstanding teaching is that our citizenship is in heaven, and we do not participate in politics. But we do not teach that voting is a sin. The Church does not decide whether a person should vote, and we ask that members not criticize other members' decisions regarding whether to vote.

If a Church member chooses to vote, it is his or her private and personal decision. The individual should not, however, introduce division into the congregation by campaigning or

announcing a political platform within the congregation.

Whether members vote or not, we definitely do not want the Church to become polarized by political opinions or by criticism of those who prefer different political policies. We cannot endorse political parties. Of course, political topics have, and always will be, part of our conversations.

As Christians, however, we need to learn how to understand and respect other peoples' perspectives rather than insisting that everyone agree with our particular interpretation. Political participation by the Church itself, or its representatives, could jeopardize our tax-exempt status. For example, Jerry Falwell and his Baptist organization lost tax-exempt status for two years because of involvement in the political process.

Job opening in Big Sandy

BIG SANDY—Ambassador College invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the following job opening.

Information Systems & Services: A full-time position is available beginning this summer in the Technical Support Services section as a photocopier repair technician. The successful candidate will work as a team player to provide services vital to the campus.

Technical skills should include all areas of photocopier repairs and maintenance. Experience with Konica

and OCE photocopiers is desirable.

A background in electronics and videocassette recorder, television and small office machine repair is a plus.

Applications must include the following: a letter of application; a current resume and salary history; and three references with telephone numbers.

Applications must be submitted before June 15. Applications and inquiries should be sent to Personnel Services, Ambassador College, Big Sandy, Texas, 75755.

Festival Updates

Closed sites

The sites in Merimbula and Gold Coast, Australia, have reached capacity and cannot accept transfer requests.

Correction

The address for Gary Pender-

graft, the special music coordinator and Festival choir director in Tucson, was incorrectly listed in the April 27 issue.

Mr. Pendergraft's correct address is 3112 Old Medina Rd., Jackson, Tennessee, 38305.

Announcements

BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OBITUARIES

LECLERC, Bruno and Rita (Sabourin) of Bathurst, New Brunswick, girl, Lydie Ann, Oct. 30, 8 pounds 4 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

MACHI, Dale and Dannelou (Oakes) of Pasadena, boy, Kenneth Sean, April 22, 1:40 p.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, now 2 boys.

McALISTER, Stuart and Emily (Ray-makers) of Brisbane, Australia, boy, Carlin Stuart, April 7, 5:30 p.m., 6 pounds 5 ounces, first child.

McPherson, William and Sandy (Hendrix) of Asheville, North Carolina, girl, Mackenzie Alexandria, Jan. 30, 2:11 a.m., 4 pounds 14 ounces, first child.

MEADOWS, Michael and Janet (Lopez) of Baltimore, Maryland, boy, Michael Steven, April 16, 12:31 p.m., 9 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

MILLER, Derek and Brandee (Brown) of Atlanta, Georgia, girl, Blakely Madison, April 5, 12:14 p.m., 7 pounds 4 ounces, now 2 girls.

NIGHTENGALE, Travis and Cheri (Vigenski) of Lansing, Michigan, boy, Cyle Albert, April 13, 8:30 a.m., 7 pounds 5 ounces, first child.

O'CONNOR, Carl and Sharyn (Hofer) of Des Moines, Iowa, girl, Karly Sarah, March 9, 10:25 p.m., 7 pounds 1 ounce, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

PICKETT, David and Joni (Marion) of Mobile, Alabama, girl, Courtney Janice, April 8, 4:01 p.m., 8 pounds 7 ounces, first child.

RACICOT, Lyle and Dixie (Pansky) of Calgary, Alberta, boy, Jordan Lyle, Feb. 6, 9:19 p.m., 7 pounds 6 1/2 ounces, now 3 boys.

RICE, Tim and Julie (Groves) of Duncan, Oklahoma, girl, Katherine Marie, April 13, 1:35 p.m., 9 pounds 3 ounces, first child.

SESKO, Dennis and Kristin of Lakewood, Colorado, boy, Scott Charles, Jan. 22, 2:18 p.m., 6 pounds 7 ounces.

TAYLOR, Dan and Corinne (Loupic) of Pasadena, girl, Christiane Jeannette, April 18, 7 pounds 5 1/2 ounces, first child.

TURNWITSCH, Chris and Alisa (Ulman) of St. Clairsville, Ohio, boy, Ryan Douglas, April 7, 1:49 p.m., 7 pounds, now 2 boys.

WARD, Christopher and Gera (Dickinson) of Wilmington, Delaware, boy, Edward Samuel, Feb. 23, 3:38 a.m., 7 pounds 6 ounces, first child.

WILLIAMS, Willie and Karen (Stevens) of Biloxi, Mississippi, girl, Michelle Ann, April 18, 1:13 p.m., 6 pounds 3 ounces, first child.

Engagements

Laurie Tatum of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Bryan Smyda of Jackson, Mississippi, are happy to announce their engagement. An Aug. 14 wedding in Albuquerque is planned.

Wayne and Ruth Kittel of Barnett, Missouri, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Melinda Kay to Timothy Raymond Tucker, son of Ray and Lois Tucker of Altadena, California. A fall wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Andrew of Wellington, New Zealand, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Joanne Marshall to Graeme Robertson of Palmerston North, New Zealand. An Aug. 29 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Miller of Beaumont, Texas, are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Michelle Leigh to Jeffrey Leonard Pritchard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Pritchard of Valley Center, Kansas. An Aug. 14 wedding is planned.

Weddings



JERALD & ELOISE ZEMLICKA
Eloise R. Lear, daughter of Mr. and



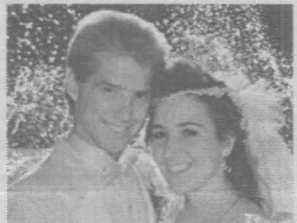
CLARENCE & NAHOMA WEBB AND LAWRENCE & BONNIE MOORE
Bonnie Moore of Gulfport, Mississippi, and Lawrence S. Moore Jr. of New Orleans, Louisiana, were united in marriage Oct. 20 along with her daughter, Nahoma White, and Clarence C. Webb Jr. of Lafayette, Louisiana. The double ceremony was performed by Jim O'Brien, Biloxi, Mississippi, pastor. Sharon Reyer was matron of honor and Brian LaPointe was best man. The couple live in Gulfport.

Mrs. William K. Lear, and Jerald G. Zemlicka, son of Inez Zemlicka, were united in marriage Feb. 7. The ceremony was performed by Jerold Aust, Garden Grove associate pastor. Monica Martinez, daughter of the bride, was matron of honor, and Kelly Gangnath was best man. The couple live in Brookings, South Dakota.



PAUL & SUSAN VAUGHAN

Susan Taylor, daughter of Bill and Joan Taylor of Melbourne, Australia, and Paul Vaughan, son of Carol Vaughan of Perth, Australia, were united in marriage Jan. 3. The ceremony was performed by Lloyd Longley, a minister in the Perth church. Carol Taylor, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Simon Dennis was best man. The couple live in Perth.



PAUL & NIKKI PIEPER

Nikki Rae Landwehr, daughter of Janice Robinson and Ed Landwehr, and Paul Andrew Pieper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale S. Pieper, were united in marriage Sept. 5. The ceremony was performed by Dennis Pelley, Pasadena East P.M. associate pastor. Barbara Landwehr was maid of honor, and Rex Pieper was best man. The couple live in Pasadena.



DAVID & PATTI BOYES

Patricia Lynn Sigurdson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Sigurdson of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and David Aaron Boyes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Merle Boyes of Vancouver, British Columbia, were united in marriage May 17. The ceremony was performed by Rodney Devries, Vancouver P.M. associate pastor. Pamela Redline, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Alvin Schedler was best man. The couple live in Vancouver.



GLENN & ALETA HALLEMEIER

Aleta Rae Mosteller, daughter of Ray G. Mosteller, and John Glenn Hallemeier, son of Frederick and Ruth Hallemeier, were united in marriage Sept. 20. The ceremony was performed by Felix Heimberg, Albuquerque, New Mexico, pastor. Debe Hallemeier and Karen Medley attended the bride, and Mark Hallemeier and Randall Mosteller attended the groom. The couple live in Albuquerque.



ISAAC & NAOMI QUAINOO

Naomi Adinkra and Isaac Quainoo were united in marriage March 28. The ceremony was performed by Emmanuel Okai, Accra, Kumasi and Hohoe, Ghana, associate pastor. Priscilla Akota was maid of honor, and Emmanuel Aryee was best man. The couple live in Accra.



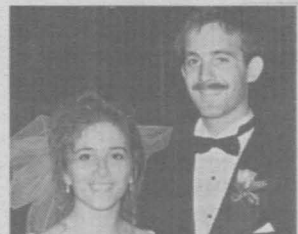
DAVID & ANNETTE SUCHANEK

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Cook of Wolcott, Indiana, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Annette Marie to David George Suchanek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jason Suchanek of Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. The ceremony was performed Oct. 4 by John Dobritch, Erlanger, Kentucky, pastor. Laura Black, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Paul Suchanek, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Villa Hills, Kentucky.



REXFORD & VALERIE POWELL

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Myers of Detroit, Michigan, are delighted to announce the marriage of their daughter Valerie to Rexford L. Powell of Detroit. The ceremony was performed Sept. 6 by Angus Williams, a minister in the Detroit West church. Paula Myers, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Marcus Myers, brother of the bride, was best man. The couple live in Melvindale, Michigan.



BRADFORD & TRUDY WOOD

Trudy Ellen Sass, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Süss of Winnipegosis, Manitoba, and Bradford Wood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Wood of Baltimore, Maryland, were united in marriage May 17, 1992. The ceremony was performed by Aaron Dean, faculty member at Ambassador College. Michelle Brown was maid of honor, and Jim Sutton was best man. The couple live in Cleveland, Ohio.



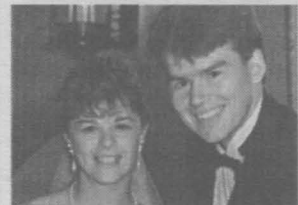
DONALD & JOANNA MADLENA

Joanna Elizabeth Bates, daughter of Faye Bates of Douglasville, Georgia, and Donald William Madlena, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Madlena of Butte, Montana, were united in marriage March 7. The ceremony was performed by Kenneth Martin, Atlanta, Georgia, West pastor. Lori Mauldin was maid of honor, and Ron Saylor was best man. The couple live in Douglasville.



BRENT & DEANNE DUGUAY

Deanne Arnold, daughter of Gary and Bonnie Arnold of Courtenay, British Columbia, and Brent Duguay were united in marriage Jan. 3. The ceremony was performed by Rodney Devries, Vancouver, British Columbia, P.M. associate pastor. Tammy Comeau and Lynea Laycraft attended the bride, and Todd Duguay and Patrick Arnold attended the groom. The couple live in Westminster, British Columbia.

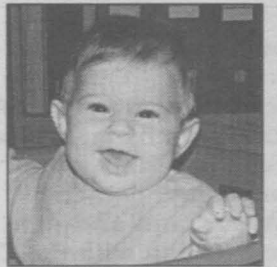


KLAUS & PAMELA HARVEY

Pamela Nixon, daughter of Don and Phyllis Nixon of Saint John, New Brunswick, and Klaus Harvey, son of Jay and Heidi Harvey of Haverhill, Massachusetts, were united in marriage Aug. 21. The ceremony was

Birth Announcements

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



Our coupon baby this issue is Natasha Erin Zabrina Minke, daughter of Craig and Debbie Minke of Vancouver, British Columbia.

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT
THE WORLDWIDE NEWS
BOX 111
PASADENA, CALIF., 91129, U.S.A.**

Please write your *Worldwide News* subscription number here:

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Last name		Father's first name	
Mother's first name		Mother's maiden name	
Church area or city of residence/state/country		Baby's sex <input type="checkbox"/> Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Girl	
Baby's first and middle names		Date of birth Month: Date:	
Time of day <input type="checkbox"/> A.M. <input type="checkbox"/> P.M.	Weight	Number of children you have* Boys: Girls:	

*Including newborn

5-93

performed by Daniel Hope, Toronto, Ontario, East pastor. The couple live in Merrimac, Massachusetts.

Anniversaries

Bob and Linda Yergo of Houston, Texas, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Jan. 7. They have one son, Bryan.



MARTIN & MAVIS BROWN

Martin and Mavis Brown of Basildon, England, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary March 5. Basildon brethren honored them with an afternoon tea. The Browns have two sons and three daughters. Mr. Brown is a local church elder in the Basildon church.



JAMES & LOIS JACKSON

James and Lois Jackson of Grove, Oklahoma, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary April 27. They have three children, Judy Rector, Shirley Hendricks and Wesley; two sons-in-law, Jack Rector and Bill Hendricks; one daughter-in-law, Judy; and six grandchildren.



JOHN & WILMA PETERSON

John and Wilma Peterson of Central Square, New York, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary April 28. They have four children, Zane, Tara, Shawn and Layna. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson serve as deacon and deaconess in the Syracuse, New York, church.



**GORDON & VALERIE
MACDONALD**

Gordon and Valerie MacDonald of

Palmerston North, New Zealand, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary May 2. They have four children, Susan, Jocelyn, Denise and Andrew; and eight grandchildren.



ADAM & LORRAINE CRAIG

Adam and Lorraine Craig of Detroit, Michigan, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary April 3. They have two sons, one daughter and five grandchildren.



LEO & DIANA PEASE

Leo and Diana Pease of Richardson, Texas, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary March 29. They have four children, Rhonda LaBelle, Karen Klaess, David and Jessica; two sons-in-law, Michael LaBelle and Kevin Klaess; and three granddaughters. Mr. Pease is a deacon in the Dallas, Texas, North church.



HAROLD & JEANETTE TREYBIG

Harold and Jeanette Treybig of Houston, Texas, celebrated their 45th anniversary April 10. They have two sons, David and Ken; one daughter, Karen Doig; and seven grandchildren. Mr. Treybig is a local church elder in the Houston West church.



WILLIAM & MARIETTA HOUSE

William and Marietta House of Clear Spring, Maryland, celebrated their

40th wedding anniversary Jan. 26.



CHARLES & ESTHER BELL

Charles and Esther Bell of Baltimore, Maryland, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary April 7. They have three daughters, Venida Andrews, Patricia and Stephanie. Mr. Bell is a local church elder in the Baltimore West church.



EUGENE & JEWELL WOODS

Eugene and Jewell Woods of Southampton, Bermuda, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary April 10. They have one son, Darren; two daughters, Gene Ann Forde and LaNiece Woods; and four grandsons.



TIFFANY & SUSAN JONES

Tiffany and Susan Jones of Randleman, North Carolina, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary March 30. They have two sons, Kyle and Chris; and one daughter, Mandy.



FRANK & JEAN BRENNAN

Frank and Jean Brennan of Blackpool, England, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary March 6. They have four sons, Neville, Stephen, David and Paul; four grandchildren, Michael, Philip, Susan and Cathy; and one great-granddaughter, Rebecca. Mr. and Mrs. Brennan serve as deacon and deaconess in the Preston, England, church.



MARTIN & GENNEEN MANUEL

Martin and Genneen Manuel of Concord, North Carolina, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary April 21. They have two daughters, Janet and Doreen; and one son, Michael Ted, who is deceased.



ALOYSIUS & MARY BACKFISCH

Aloysius and Mary Backfisch of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary April 7. They have two sons, Gilbert and John; five daughters, Patrice Cahill, Marie Dullum, Joan Tumbleson, Anita Estes and Rosie; two daughters-in-law, Debbie and Kim;

four sons-in-law, Tom Cahill, Greg Dullum, James Tumbleson and Dan Estes; and 11 grandchildren. Mr. Backfisch is a deacon in the Cape Girardeau church.



HEINZ & LORRAINE NOTTER-SMITH

Heinz and Lorraine Notter-Smith of Bubendorf, Switzerland, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary March 20. They have two sons, Steve and Mike; two daughters, Sandra and Belinda; two sons-in-law, Peter and Raffaele; one daughter-in-law, Esther; and three grandchildren, Nadine, Kevin and Adriana.



GERALD & PAMELA FIELDS

Gerald and Pamela Fields of Modesto, California, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary Feb. 9. They have five children and four grandchildren. Mr. Fields is a deacon in the Modesto, California, church.



JOHN & WINI KIEVIET

John "Ted" and Wini Kieviet of

Grand Rapids, Michigan, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary May 22. They have one son, Bruce; one daughter, Cindy; one daughter-in-law, Debbie; and one granddaughter, Angela.

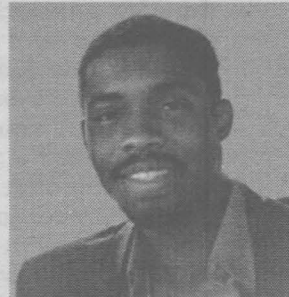


GARY & BONNIE ARNOLD

Gary and Bonnie Arnold of Courtenay, British Columbia, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Nov. 30. They have two children, Patrick and Deanne; and one son-in-law, Brent Duguay.

ters, Myrna, Annette, Barbara, Marva and Margaret; her mother; one brother; one sister; and 11 grandchildren.

NORTH, Roy Etheridge, 87, of Calgary, Alberta, died April 9. He is survived by his wife, Helen; one daughter, Janice; one son-in-law, Fred Connerly; and two grandsons, Darren and Tim. His son, Charles, died in 1968.



DON JOHNSON

JOHNSON, Don Taavon, 29, of Baltimore, Maryland, died Feb. 20 following a short illness of kidney failure and other complications. He is survived by his mother, Lela; two brothers; four sisters; three brothers-in-law; and one sister-in-law.

LLEWELLYN, Essie Marie, 88, of Keyser, West Virginia, died Feb. 11 of respiratory failure after a lengthy illness. She is survived by nine children, 36 grandchildren and 41 great-grandchildren. Her husband, Alvin, died in 1984.

POPPE, Susan M., 96, of Concord, New Hampshire, died March 22. She is survived by one nephew and several nieces.

WALK, Shenedia Denise, 22, of Birmingham, Alabama, died April 5 of pneumonia and arthritis. She is survived by her mother, Corean; her father and stepmother, Stuart and Norma; two sisters, Alesia and Tiffany; two brothers, Douglas and Carlos; and her grandparents, Eugene and Elizabeth Hatcher and Suzy Walk.

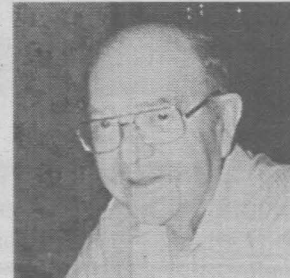
McDANIEL, Leonard Raymond

"Lenny," 52, of Morgantown, West Virginia, died Feb. 1. He is survived by his wife, Dolores; three sons, Lenny, Mark and William; one daughter, Crystal Shahan; two brothers, Russell and Robert; and two granddaughters, Audrey and Michelle.



GERARD PURPURA

PURPURA, Gerard, 48, of Holiday, Florida, died March 9. He is survived by two sons, Scott and Glen; his mother; one brother; and one sister.



IRA ATKINS

ATKINS, Ira Alvin, 83, of Lakeland, Florida, died April 17. He is survived by his wife, Lessie; two daughters, Virginia Borowski and Patricia Gribble; six grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. His first wife, Mildred, preceded him in death.

WILSON, Martha Gilmore, 89, of Natchez, Mississippi, died March 27. She is survived by three adopted daughters, Oretha Gaines, Odessa Gaines Williams and Barbara Wilson; and numerous nieces and nephews. Her husband, Ernest, preceded her in death.

Obituaries



CLARE PERRY

PERRY, Clare, 60, of Tucson, Arizona, died Feb. 18 after a lengthy illness. She is survived by her husband, Jim.

MOORE, Gwendolyn, 71, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died March 12. She is survived by two sons, two daughters and 14 grandchildren.

ATHERTON, Doreen, 70, of St. Petersburg, Florida, died Dec. 4. She is survived by her husband, John; one son, Kenneth; five daugh-

Religious art and questions of context, content and conscience

Continued from page 4

then provided the answer: "One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him" (Romans 14:2-3).

In a broad sense, we can apply the principles of this chapter to our discussion. We must not cause offense, nor should we be easily offended.

Content

The designers of our Church publications have the challenging assignment of designing religious publications that are graphically

appealing and that do not cause offense. With these challenges in mind, the pastor general has approved a set of general guidelines for the use of religious art in our publications. These guidelines allow our designers flexibility in selecting illustrations, while taking into account the religious backgrounds of some of our members so as not to cause offense.

When the Church commissions a work of art depicting a biblical scene of Christ, we show him from behind, or from a slight, behind-the-head profile. Often, only his arm or hand is shown. We follow this policy to try to avoid offending anyone who is uncomfortable with depictions of Jesus.

Our policy for the use of classical religious art is slightly different. (For the sake of this article, I loosely

define classical art as works from previous centuries.) Classical art is more than just a representation of a subject. Because of a particular work's age and fame, it may convey more meaning than just the subject alone.

For example, consider Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel fresco of the creation of man. It not only illustrates a biblical scene but also captures the spirit of the Renaissance, an age of scientific discovery. It was during the Renaissance that the religious leaders of the time began to lose their grip on controlling scientific inquiry and creative thought.

A graphic designer might select Michelangelo's painting to illustrate an article on science and religion. Here the artist is portraying an aspect of the historical conflicts and interactions between scientists and theologians.

We are careful in our selection of classical paintings that illustrate biblical events. The Church's overall policy is to use paintings that are respectful of the persons represented, and accurate concerning the intent of the story illustrated. This policy allows for the use of historical pieces of art that are not necessarily accurate as far as dress or architecture.

The Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn painted many scenes from the Bible. Usually his biblical characters wear 17th century Flemish clothing. The drama and beauty of his work, however, far outweigh these historical inaccuracies.

The artists of previous centuries did not have access to the historical and archaeological data available today. Their unavoidable inaccuracies, which were usually culturally influenced, do not negate the value of their work.

In fact, from our modern perspec-

tive, it is educational for us to understand how people of past generations viewed the Bible. This historical perspective helps us to better understand our own views of the Scriptures that are also unavoidably influenced by our culture.

Another example of the use of classical art is for an upcoming article in *The Plain Truth* on the role of biblical prophecy. Randy Cole, art director for the magazine, chose a 300-year-old painting of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. This piece of art not only represents the subject of biblical prophecy, but also demonstrates the historical fascination people have had with prophecy.

Since the article addresses this fascination, the painting conveys an effective message—that ours is not the only generation that looked for the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

For the new Bible course, *Exploring the Word of God*, art director Jeff Dowd has chosen a rich mixture of classical paintings and specially commissioned artwork. The classical paintings were chosen for their drama, artistic merit or historical accuracy of dress and architecture.

For the commissioned artwork, the Church has contracted the services of various artists to paint specific biblical scenes. Jeff has thoroughly researched these commissioned paintings to portray accurate dress, architecture and social surroundings. Thus, these paintings fill the double role of design and historical education.

We have found these general policies strike an appropriate balance. These policies allow our editors, designers and writers enough flexibility for communication, while, at the same time, guiding them so as not to cause offense.

How to double your contributions

(without giving one dime more)

It's no gimmick. It's possible. You might be able to double your tithes and contributions and yet not give one more dime of your own money.

The answer is found in a tax benefit the Internal Revenue Service grants certain companies when they donate to a nonprofit educational or cultural organization. Because of this, many companies have set up what is generally called a gift-matching program for their employees. Under these programs employers match donations of their employees to nonprofit educational or cultural institutions.

The procedure is simple but highly beneficial to God's Work. You need only ask your employer if he has such a gift-matching program. If he does, obtain a gift-matching form and mail it to us.

This form would merely request verification of your contributions. After we return this verification, your company would contribute a matching amount. It's just as simple as that, and yet you have in effect doubled your tithes and contributions.

If your company does have such a program, please be certain to write and inform us immediately. To aid in the processing of your letter, please write to Ralph K. Helge, Legal Office, 440 W. Green St., Pasadena, California, 91105.

Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

Rochester church to mark 25th anniversary

ROCHESTER, New York—Brethren who have attended the church here are invited to the church's 25th anniversary celebration July 17 and 18.

Scheduled activities are Sabbath services at 3 p.m., a slide show highlighting the history of the church, a dinner dance Saturday night and a picnic Sunday.

For further information call **Ron Felock** at 1-716-426-1956 or write him at 26 Fenton Rd., Rochester, New York, 14624-3905.

Minister and wife honored for service

WICHITA, Kansas—**Ronald Haines**, a local church elder in the Wichita South church, and his wife, **Doris**, were honored April 24 in

recognition of 25 years of service to the Church.

Boston church celebrates 25th

BOSTON, Massachusetts—About 500 brethren attended the 25th anniversary of the church here April 10.

Activities included an hors d'oeuvre luncheon after Sabbath services, two video presentations and a semiformal dinner dance that evening.

Plaques were presented to guest ministers and their wives who served in the Boston church: **Fred Kellers**, Nashville, Tennessee, pastor, and his wife, **Lucretia**, and **Jim Franks**, Houston, Texas, North A.M. and P.M. pastor, and his wife, **Sharron**.

In addition, anniversary lapel pins were presented to 34 original members of the Boston church.

Darlene Reddaway gets Fulbright Scholarship

TARTU, Estonia—**Darlene Reddaway**, a graduate student at Stanford University, was granted a Fulbright scholarship to study Russian poetry at Tartu University.

For nine months starting in April, Miss Reddaway will be in Estonia working on her doctoral dissertation, *Russian Literary Manifestos: 1910-1914*.

Fulbright grants are awarded to students, teachers and scholars to study and do research in different countries.

Miss Reddaway is among about 1,800 Americans going abroad under the 1993 Fulbright program.

After her stay in Estonia, Miss Reddaway will work briefly for Petersburg (Russia) Radio and Television, where she worked in 1991 as part of the Ambassador Foundation project.

Canadian achievers honored

SASKATCHEWAN—As part of Canada's 125th anniversary, Saskatchewan presented to 125 citizens the Saskatchewan 125 Volunteer Recognition Award to honor service to the province.

Donald Chute, a member in the Tisdale, Saskatchewan, church, received one of the awards.

A farmer for 50 years, Mr. Chute has helped develop agriculture in the province. He helped construct many community buildings, form the first municipal council and start the first telephone exchange in the region.

At the ceremony **Ed Tchorzewski**, deputy premier of Saskatchewan, described those receiving awards as "the backbone and spirit of prairie life."

Lorne Davies

That same month, **Lorne Davies**, athletic director at Simon Fraser University and a local church elder in the Vancouver, British Columbia, A.M. church, also received a community service award in honor of Canada's 125th anniversary.

Mr. Davies has been involved in sports in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest for many years. After careers as assistant football coach for Western

Passover at the top of the world

By Steve and Sue Toms

GORAK SHEP, Nepal—With a full moon hanging over Mt. Everest, we celebrated what was probably the highest Passover service at 17,000 feet. No other members were in Nepal during the Holy Day season, so we observed the service alone.

School holidays allowed us to combine the festival season with a trek to Everest base camp, so we privately conducted the service in an icy but vacant yak (long-haired ox) enclosure in Gorak Shep.

We washed each other's feet quickly. Nepalese unleavened chapati and local wine sufficed for the ceremony.

Gorak Shep is a village with three guest houses and many yaks for transporting expedition gear to Everest base camp, which is a two-hour walk through glacial moraine.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the first successful summit attempt by Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norgay, after at least eight earlier attempts to scale the world's highest peak had failed.

Steve and Sue Toms, members from Australia, are teachers at the Kathmandu, Nepal, International Study Centre.

Washington University, Oregon State University, the University of British Columbia and the BC Lions, Mr. Davies became the first athletic director at SFU as well as football coach.

He serves as a director on the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award committee and has chaired the British Columbia task force on drugs in sports.

Jennifer Aitchison

Prince Edward presented **Jennifer Aitchison**, a senior at Ambassador College, with a gold level certificate March 28 for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

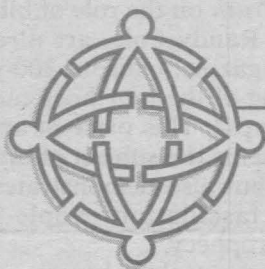
The husband of Queen Elizabeth II started the award to promote leadership and initiative among youths

of the Commonwealth.

To qualify for the award, Miss Aitchison took organ lessons, completed Canada's national fitness program and first aid courses, enrolled in whitewater and flatwater canoe classes, and canoed across Powell, Chilliwack and Myrtle lakes.

To serve the community she catered meals at the Richmond Senior Citizens Recreation Center and helped train mentally disabled adults to become kitchen workers. She worked at citywide fun runs and Vancouver's special olympics.

Miss Aitchison is the daughter of **Norman** and **Gail Aitchison** of the Vancouver P.M. church.



FROM OUR

Brethren Worldwide

Member shines in Land of the Rising Sun

By Greg S. Smith

Relationships are at the center of what Kevin Blackburn does.

Mr. Blackburn has worked in Bato, Japan, for three years as coordinator for international relations (CIR) under the auspices of the Ministry of Home Affairs. There he is a true ambassador.

He began learning Japanese in 1984 while working with me in Photo Services in Pasadena. I was one of his biggest supporters then, so it was gratifying to visit him in Bato in April to see how far he had gone with the language.

Greg S. Smith, director of Design and Publishing Services at Ambassador College, spent the Passover and first Holy Day in Japan.

Bato, home of 15,000 residents, is nestled in the Yami-zo Mountain District, 125 kilometers northeast of Tokyo.

Rising above the inherent difficulties of being a remote member, Mr. Blackburn is reaching out to the community and letting his light shine in a land that would otherwise have little exposure to the gospel.

As CIR for Bato, he produces newsletters and coordinates an international summer camp, and even has his own television show—all of which, to one degree or another, foster goodwill.

Essentially, his job entails creating an atmosphere responsive to accepting cultural diversity.

Impact on Bato

Even though he has been offered more prestigious positions in both the Tochigi Prefecture and Tokyo

offices, he has opted for now to deal with Bato's government and schools.

Area authorities are so pleased with his community contributions they pay him out of next year's town budget, rather than have the Ministry of Home Affairs bring in a new coordinator for international relations.

Mr. Blackburn's fluent Japanese serves him well as



Kevin Blackburn

host of a television show titled *Freeze*. The program, which offers instruction in English as a second language, is filmed in the town's studio and on location.

During my stay there I met the mayor of Bato, Susumu Shirayori. With Mr. Blackburn translating, we discussed Ambassador College and looked through an edition of the *Envoy*, the college's yearbook.

Tough topics

Mr. Blackburn often has opportunities to discuss the Church. "I have given over 50 speeches over the last three years to various audiences and usually have brought up the college or *The Plain Truth*," he said. "I even broached the subject of the origin of Christmas in one speech."

When a Japanese non-member husband asked about the meaning of Passover during our Night to Be Much Observed meal, Mr. Blackburn was able to "give a (Japanese) answer of the hope that lies within."

Even though scattered and isolated from other members, Mr. Blackburn, as well as the other members in

Japan, are being ambassadors. They are doing their part in preaching the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.

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MR-MRS DONALD C TODD
RR 3 BOX 3214
MANCHESTER TN 37355-9117