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# The Worldwide News



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## Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

### Sources of encouragement in trials

Thank you very much for your concern during my recent surgery. I appreciate the many cards, prayers and statements of support. They all encourage me and help my recovery.

As we know, trials are part of the Christian life, and we have all experienced a few trials recently. For some, it has been a death in the family, and our hearts grieve for them. For others, it is serious illness that, whether or not it ends in death, causes severe trials. Some have serious financial difficulties and unemployment. Others are experiencing family strife of various kinds, and some are even going through the pain and trauma of divorce. And many of us have the stress of having family or friends leave our fellowship.

All these trials hurt. I cannot say anything to make them go away. But I can point us all to some sources of encouragement. These have helped me in my own trials.

First, of course, is God. I pray daily for his help and comfort, for healing and strength and faith. I am confident that he will complete his work in me—both physically and spiritually—in the way that he knows is best. He has the perspective to see what I need and what those around me need most.

#### How God uses trials

Trials often drive us to God in prayer, because they make us realize how limited we really are. We are limited in length of life, in intelligence, in stamina, in wisdom, in good judgment, in courage, in strength. We must learn to rely on the Lord, who makes all life possible and who has his purpose to work out in our lives. Of course, we know we depend on our Savior all the time, but trials have their way of reminding us of this in a more penetrating way than successes usually do.

A second source of encouragement is Scripture. The Holy Spirit has inspired these words that guarantee God's blessings. In the Bible we can read of the miraculous ways in which God has helped his people, guided them, intervened for them. We read how he worked with his people throughout history. He has always been in charge, through thick and thin, and we are reminded that he is still in charge.

Scripture also gives us the miracles and teachings of Jesus. We see the example he set, suffering for us, and it helps us put our own suffering in perspective. It doesn't take away our pain, of course.

Even Jesus himself pleaded three times to escape his pain if it were possible. But he endured the cross, knowing the glory that awaited him. Similarly, we are comforted in the fact that we will inherit glory, too—and we also plead with our Father to help us escape from our trials if possible. Whether we live or whether we die, our inheritance is reserved in heaven for us.

Third, the people of God encourage us greatly. In times of trial, the people of God must help each other. That is one reason that church splits are so painful—the people who are supposed to help us are instead the ones who are hurting us. Divorce is painful for the same reason.

Death is painful because a source of comfort has gone. In all such situations, we need the help of one another—a phone call, a hug, an acknowledgement of the trial. We all like to know that others care for us. We like to know that someone is praying for us. We all benefit from mutual encouragement and exhortation. When a loved one dies, for example, we need to help. I am reminded here of a letter sent me a few months ago concerning a new widow:

"Now her husband is gone, and she has to go it alone. Now is the time when she needs warmth, love, hugs and caring shown by others. After his death, when she returned to church, two or three people came up to her and said something ... out of a church of several hundred! People who talked to her and her husband before his death ignored her and walked past her. She should have been surrounded with love and hugs. She understands that people don't know what to say and that they are uncomfortable facing death.

See Personal, page 6

## Pastor general returns home after surgery

By Joseph Tkach Jr.

My father left the hospital and returned home June 11. He is happy to no longer be hooked up to an I.V. and is eating real food again. He enjoyed a veggie burger last night [June 8] and had scrambled eggs this morning.

He is able to walk around and is slowly trying to get back into the habit of walking for exercise. We have received a tremendous amount of encouragement from our brethren. The many notes, cards and flowers from around the world are com-

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

forting, and especially all the prayers to our loving God who grants us the fruit of his Spirit.

Please convey our most heartfelt appreciation to all. Love from the Tkach family.

### Regional directors meet for conference

The nine regional directors and their wives arrived in Pasadena for a series of annual administrative meetings June 15 to 22. They participated in presentations on financial management, human resources, media operations, computers and the Feast.

## Deacon from Solomon Islands knighted by Queen Elizabeth II

Moses Pitakaka, governor-general of the Solomon Islands, honored at Buckingham Palace

By Thomas C. Hanson

Moses Pitakaka, governor-general of the Solomon Islands, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in a private ceremony in the Queen's office in Buckingham Palace in London May 24.

The governor-general is the formal head of state, elected in the Solomon Islands by the Parliament, and represents the British monarchy. Mr. Pitakaka, who was inducted into office July 7, 1994, also had an audience with the Queen in November.

When the Pitakakas entered the Queen's office an aide announced: "The governor-general of the Solomon Islands and Lady Pitakaka."

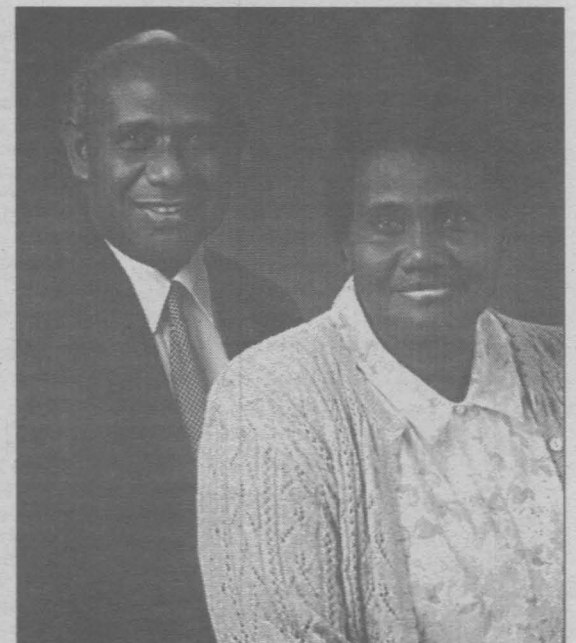
The Queen then touched Mr. Pitakaka with her sword on his right shoulder and then on his left shoulder making him a knight in the Order of St. Michael and St. George, the order for governor-generals.

*Court Circular* reported: "The Governor-General of Solomon Islands was received by The Queen when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of

Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George."

Earlier *Court Circular* commented on the Pitakakas' arrival in London: "By command of The Queen, the Baroness Miller of Hendon (Baroness in Waiting) Called Upon the Governor-General of Solomon Islands and Lady Pitakaka this morning at the Cannizaro House Hotel ... and on behalf of Her Majesty, welcomed Their Excellencies on their arrival in this Country."

After the investiture, Sir Moses and his wife, Lady Lois, accompanied by  
See Knighted, page 8



Sir Moses and Lady Lois Pitakaka

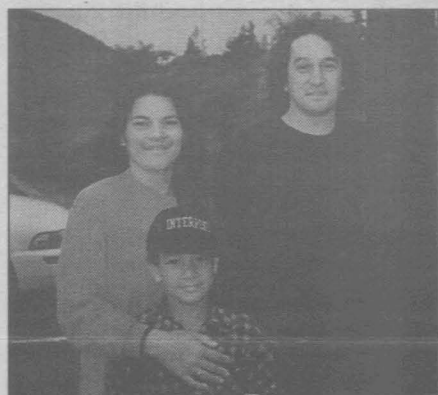


# First Maori *hui*: a learning and bonding event

By Rod Matthews

TURANGI, New Zealand—My wife, Ruth, and I were guests at a weekend Maori *hui* March 17 to 19. A *hui* is the Maori word for a meeting.

Colin Riseborough, pastor of the Whangerei church, his wife, Dene, and my wife and I were welcomed along with visiting Maoris onto the Hirangi Marae, a meeting facility serving as



**FAMILY TIES**—Tina Swann with her husband, David, and son, Kopere, in New Zealand.

the traditional center of Maori community life. The Maori are Polynesian people of New Zealand.

We were called onto the marae by Elizabeth (Hono) Lord, a member of the Rotorua church. Ruby Emerson of the Gisborne church responded on behalf of the guests.

Rod Matthews is regional director for Australia, Asia and the South Pacific. This article first appeared in the Australian edition of The Worldwide News.

The *hui* was a learning and bonding experience for about 30 brethren in attendance. A welcome ceremony included moments of silent respect for the deceased, and speeches by the men, mostly in the Maori language, supported by songs, from both the local brethren and guests.

We then experienced the traditional *hongi* (touching noses) welcome of each guest by the hosts. The *hongi* is designed as a welcome greeting whose closeness brings all five senses into play in reaching out to another. It is an expression of formal intimacy and trust.

The welcome concluded with afternoon tea. Eating together is an integral part of the welcome ceremony, in which friendships are established and strengthened. We found the experience to be a continual education, having had little previous contact with the Maori culture.

However, many of those present who were of Maori heritage also expressed delight at the special nature of the instruction we were given, which was a revelation of the deeper meaning and beauty behind the ceremony and tradition.

We shared the experiences and difficulties many Maori members have experienced over the years, and dealt



**SHARING THE PAST**—The Hirangi Marae at Turangi, New Zealand, is the center of Maori community life [Photos by Colin Riseborough].

with some of the hurts of the past to pave the way for a more productive future as members, called of God and placed by him into the Body of Christ.

God answered our opening prayers because the goals were fulfilled in a special way, beyond the expectations of those present. Everyone spoke for whatever amount of time was needed to say what was in their hearts.

Although the honest expression of such experiences drew tears at times, the overall effect was one of inspiration, because of the deep and freely expressed love of those present for God and his Church.

It is always easiest to dismiss what is not understood as worthless,

which was the approach taken by the early Christian missionaries to the Maori and their culture. Subsequent generations of Christians, including ourselves, have continued to a greater or lesser extent, to perpetuate this practice. However, "he who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him" (Proverbs 18:13).

All cultures, Maori and Western included, need to be viewed from God's perspective, and all have worthwhile things to offer, as well as practices that need to be reviewed, and then molded or sometimes

rejected, in the light of the Christian way of life.

It was a leisurely yet meaningful weekend in which brethren shared their lives and experiences in a number of sessions that did not finish until around midday Sunday.

The *hui* ended with a baptism. The group adjourned to a hot-spring pool to celebrate the baptism of Tina Swann from the Gisborne area, before a farewell meal.

Paul tells us to be humble, gentle, patient and to bear with one another in love (Ephesians 4:1-2). God has placed our Maori brethren where it pleases him, and they have much to contribute to the cultural diversity and richness of God's Church.

## 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.

### Be like the Bereans

It has been so encouraging and inspiring to read ministers' comments published in *The Worldwide News* May 9, about our newfound knowledge of God's teachings.

My husband says he understands the New Testament for the first time and he feels as if a burden has been lifted from his shoulders. He felt that he just wouldn't "make it" into God's kingdom the way we once believed. Our newfound saving-grace knowledge is wonderful. Finally, we are free. Not free to sin, but to be covered from sin.

How good are our Father's ways, revealed through Jesus Christ, our Savior. And how wonderful he is to reveal his truth to Mr. Tkach and to us. We should be trying to prove if what Mr. Tkach is saying is true, like the Bereans in Acts 17:11, instead of trying to prove what he is saying is untrue. We have to have an open mind and a teachable attitude. God cannot show us anything if our minds are closed and set on doing things our own way.

We must continue the good works, keep the faith, study God's words from the perspective of the New Testament, keep an open and teachable mind, pray for understanding, and not listen to gossip, and God will help us understand. If we are sincerely trying and wanting to understand, God will not let us down, we will understand.

Judy M. Benton  
Estancia, New Mexico

### I now understand more

When I was 8 years old, I asked God to be my Savior and friend. I talked to God and obeyed until I came into the Church and gradually had the law replace Jesus Christ. In reading Galatians 1, I see how Jesus Christ was with Paul for three years, explaining and helping him to understand the new covenant. Many people think Paul understood right away. It took time for him too.

I now understand more the why of the experiences I've had, and can now explain much easier to others what you are now teaching us. Thank you for your fine example of stick-to-it-iveness in spite of the lack of understanding displayed by so many members, myself among them.

Be strong and of good courage. God will never leave us, nor forsake us.

Kem A. Dornan  
Tempe, Arizona

### Thanks for new understanding

I am beginning to understand more about our new teachings. I believe that God is directing Mr. Tkach and others at headquarters. I ask God to guide Mr. Tkach in the way he wants us to go. We are like sheep and we need a shepherd.

I see now that, in a way, we were worshipping the Sabbath, putting it first before loving others as ourselves.

I remember how torn I felt, when my father was seriously ill, whether to care for him or go to Sabbath services, and many times my mother needed help on the Sabbath and I held off from helping her to "keep the Sabbath."

Elissa Cannon  
Cincinnati, Ohio

## "Into All the World.."

Your involvement in the Work produces fruit. In this column subscribers to the Work's publications express their views and opinions.

### Warm reception at open houses

I am happy to tell you how I enjoyed the open house meetings last month. I went every week, and I have attended two more Saturdays since then. Everybody is as friendly as can be. I have never gotten such a warm welcome anywhere else as I did there.

So we will keep praying for the Church. I am hoping to belong to this church. Here are my tithes and offerings for the end of the year. May God bless each of you.

Newnan, Georgia

Thank you for the invitation and the opportunity to attend Sabbath services and the open house during November. I attended a couple of services with a member of your congregation. I enjoyed my visit and the opportunity to make the acquaintance of members of the congregation.

I was greeted most graciously and welcomed by a host of friendly people. It was nice to know that although the open house is over, one may still attend the Sabbath service. I hope I may do so again.

Bucyrus, Ohio

### Finally home

When the *World Tomorrow* telecast was canceled, I realized how dependent on it I had become. I felt I just had to have the kind of regular infusion *The World Tomorrow* had provided. I had no choice but to take the "risk" and inquire about Sabbath services.

However, even after receiving the information, I still hesitated to call the minister. Open house services were to begin in two or three weeks, but I couldn't wait.

On Oct. 1, 1994, my wife and I showed up at the Sabbath service, not knowing what to expect. I planned to keep a low profile.

What a surprise! First, we were cordially greeted at the door by several friendly people. Then, before and after the service, quite a number of others came to talk to us, asking where we were from and if this was our first visit. We felt genuinely welcome!

Six months later, on March 30, my wife and I were baptized. We are grateful to our Father in heaven, to our Savior Jesus Christ and to the members of God's Church for welcoming us into his family.

I no longer miss the *World Tomorrow* program! The "hole in my soul" is much better filled by Sabbath services, Bible studies and other church activities, which provide for regular personal contact with members of God's friendly, humble, Spirit-led family.

Winnipeg, Manitoba

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# Advance look at this year's Festival messages

To help strengthen our faith and deepen our understanding of salvation, Church Administration is providing Festival speakers with a lectionary for this year's Feast of Tabernacles. A lectionary is a collection of outlines for individual sermons to help the speaker get the point of the message across (see June 6 WN).

Here is a preview of this year's sermon subjects:

**(Opening night address) Festival of Faith—A Celebration of Salvation:** The Festival is devoted to Christian fellowship, worship and thanksgiving for the new life believers enjoy in Christ. This sermon will focus on new covenant concepts such as faith, freedom, joy, renewal and salvation.

**A Call to Prayer:** Through prayer, our communication link with God, we acknowledge our dependency on God and give him thanks for his great works. This sermon will promote prayer.

**Aliens and Strangers:** Answering the call of God leads to new life in Christ. This sermon will help Christians understand their status as aliens and strangers in this world and inspire their longing for the "bet-

ter country" God has prepared.

**Church in Crisis and Opportunity:** The newfound faith of the early Church led to some severe tests, but also to unexpected growth and opportunity. This sermon will foster understanding of recent changes in belief and practice as opportunities to discover newfound freedom in Christ.

**Confessions of a Former Pharisee:** The change that took place in the life of Paul at conversion was total, profound, unprecedented. This sermon will encourage listeners to seek that righteousness that comes, not from legalistic self-effort, but through faith in Christ.

**Fishers of Men:** The Worldwide Church of God emphasizes the need for Christians to personally share their faith. This sermon will explain how changing times and needs affect the way the Church preaches the gospel.

**God Has Chosen His Home:** *Grace* is a richly expressive term for the full scope of God's working with us through the experience we call salvation. This sermon will remind listeners of the need to be thankful for God's ceaseless work of perfecting us by grace.

**(Youth Day) The Kingdom of**

**God Belongs to Such as These:** The Worldwide Church of God prizes its young people. This sermon will 1) stress the Church's commitment to nurturing them and, 2) focus on the need for citizens of God's kingdom to exhibit the spiritual qualities Jesus Christ appreciated in little children.

**The Kingdom of God—Living the Future Now:** The kingdom of God is a present reality as well as a future hope. This sermon will clarify both the present and future dimensions of the kingdom.

**The One Hope of Church and World—Christ's Return:** At the resurrection, the saints will take their place in a new world order under Jesus Christ. The coming of that wonderful world tomorrow is the only sure hope, not just for Christians, but for all humanity.

**Times of Refreshing:** Streams of living water will refresh even the most parched and desolate of our hearts—if we believe in the One from whom these streams flow. This sermon will encourage listeners to embrace the peace and comfort available through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Victory Over Darkness:** God has already delivered us and declared us

victorious. This sermon will engender faith in the fact that we already enjoy victory in the Christian life through Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.

**When You Give a Banquet:** The old covenant required that generosity be showed to the disadvantaged at the Feast and throughout the year. Under the new covenant, generosity is not enough; caring for the disadvantaged involves tearing down the barriers that separate people. This sermon encourages a lifetime of caring for the disadvantaged.

**(Last Great Day) Greatest Promise Ever Made:** We have been made the people of God and heirs of salvation by a great promise Jesus made during the Feast of Tabernacles. This sermon will encourage Christians to boldly face life's triumphs and tragedies.

**(Offertory) An Offering for Peace:** Our offerings help spread the gospel of peace to a strife-torn world.

**(Offertory) Together We Make a Difference:** Collectively, we make a difference in the world as we share in spreading the gospel. This offertory will express gratitude to the brethren for their faithful support of God's Work during the past year.

## Faith, pain and my house of cards

By Tina Dennis

Growing up in the Church in the early 1960s, I was taught much about God and faith. I learned that God was my Father, Protector, Sustainer and Guide.

Big deal, some might say; everyone knows that. But for my brothers, sisters and me, it meant more. Because of a divorce, we had no father around. My mother raised five children by herself, with the help of God through faith.

We were taught that God would provide our every need, which he did in some unusual ways. For example, when we needed milk one time and we didn't have money for it, a man from Church shook Mother's hand and left \$10 in it. How could he have known when my mother had only told God of her plight?

All through my early years, when things were tough and trials came, my mother would have the family pray together. She told us God would inter-

vene and take care of us, and he did.

So my faith and love for God grew with each trial. Our lives were built on knowing God was there for us.

And like most young people, all was well. I had a roof over my head, food to eat, friends and the love of my family. So far, God was good. As I grew, so did my faith and love for God.

In Imperial Schools Bible classes I read scriptures such as Matthew 17:20, about moving mountains with faith the size of a mustard seed. Psalm 37:4 became my favorite scripture, which says if you delight in God, he will give you the desires of your heart.

### A different answer

So at age 13 or 14, I knew I had enough faith to ask and know that God would grant the most important wish I had, and that was to be healed of a physical disability caused by a premature birth. So I asked for anointing and knew with 100 percent conviction that God would heal me. After the prayer I expected to feel different. I had been anointed before for sickness and God had healed me, but this time it was different.

When I realized I wasn't healed immediately, I told myself it might be a slower healing, over a period of hours or days. So I patiently waited. Hours went by, then days and then months. I finally told myself it wasn't going to happen, and my big house of cards came tumbling down.

The pain was so intense that I stuffed it deep inside so I would never feel it again. I didn't think of it again until a few months ago when

my house of cards again came crashing down around my feet.

Then all the intense and painful emotions came flooding back like a raging river out of control. Thoughts like, I must be unlovable; God must have hated me or he would have healed me, that he lied to me and Matthew 17:20 proves it. I was angry at God. He had left me and let me down.

See Faith, page 7

Tina Dennis works in the Church's Telecommunications Department.

## Church Administration announces list of disfellowshipped ministers

It is with deep and sincere regret that we find it necessary to inform you that the following named persons, former ministers of the Worldwide Church of God, have been disfellowshipped from the Worldwide Church of God, and their ministerial credentials have been revoked.

Such men have either been notified of this change in their status or are in the process of being notified. To prevent further confusion among the congregation arising from the

lack of knowledge regarding their status, we are advising you of their names at this time: Don Contardi, Steve Elliott, Mark Gully, Ron Laughland, Marc Masterson, Steve Myers, Larry Neff, Steve Nutzman, Jim O'Brien, Gary Petty, David Register, Dale Schurter, Cliff Veal, Keith Walden and Mark Welch.

The Church does not bear any ill will toward these former ministers, and we pray that God will grant them repentance.

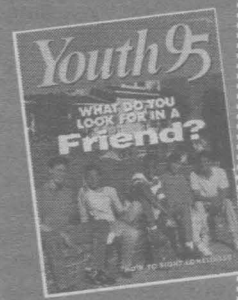
### YOUTH 95 Magazine — Reaching Out...

## Here's how you can help YOUTH 95 help young people worldwide.

YOUTH 95 wants to share its positive, uplifting message of hope with as many young people as possible. And you can help.

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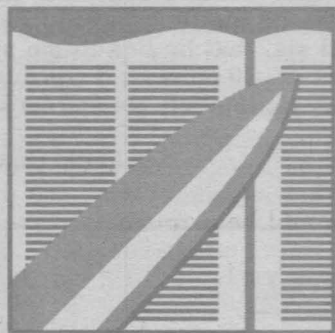
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# IRON SHARPENS IRON

so one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17—As iron sharpens iron,



## A healing ministry for the hurting

By Jeff Zhorne

**L**ate one Sunday evening at a friend's house I was watching a documentary about Debbie, a 43-year-old woman with AIDS. Nothing but skin and bones after suffering from the deadly virus for more than eight years, Debbie looked like she was 75. She said she was staying alive to give her message to elementary kids: "Don't use drugs. Don't share needles and heroin rigs."

About halfway through the documentary, the phone rang. A voice whispered: "This is Jim. I'm calling from the AIDS hospice. I really think Debbie is going to die from this diarrhea medicine they're giving her. Can you get something else at a drugstore and be here in 30 minutes?"

My friend and I bought some medicine and went to the hospice, where a kind nurse showed us down the hall to Debbie's room. Obviously in the final stages of AIDS, Debbie was suffering great pain. She wore diapers and said her bedsores were excruciating. She had lost all her teeth and couldn't see out of one eye. The corridors carried the unmistakable odor of death.

Debbie wept at our willingness to get her medicine and wanted to reimburse my friend \$8 out of the \$47 a month she received from Social Security benefits. My friend refused: "This is what money is for. This is how it should be spent."

I was moved in a way I shall never forget. Death is one thing, but terminal illness and dying are another. Debbie died April 5, and she leaves a legacy of love, not pain. Even as life ebbed away, an ordinary hero like Debbie acted kindly toward others and offered encouragement and help.

### Burdens must be shared

Most of the articles I have written about pain and suffering center on how God reveals his goodness, grace and glory during the dark times, the

desert times, of our lives. If we will only be still and wait for God to minister to us, then he will show himself to us. We trust the process, we trust Jesus Christ is at work in our lives.

But while we patiently endure discomfort and pain, we can bear the burdens of others by ministering to their hurts and, like Debbie, allow others to minister to our hurts.

One person cannot take away the pain, suffering and loss of another person. "No love or friendship, no intimate embrace or tender kiss, no community, commune or collective, no man or woman will ever be able to satisfy our desire to be released

### Different tragedies inflict various degrees of pain. It's different to lose a parent than a baby, but everyone grieves at 100 percent.

from our painful and lonely condition," wrote Henri Nouwen in *The Wounded Healer*.

People cannot fill our empty lives because people are the gifts of life, not the source of it.

Yet that doesn't mean we bury or ignore our pain. Honestly sharing pain with one another mobilizes us toward healing. "A Christian community is a healing community, not because wounds are cured and pains are alleviated, but because wounds and pains become openings or occasions for a new vision," said Nouwen. "Mutual confession then becomes a mutual deepening of hope, and sharing weakness becomes a reminder to one and all of the coming strength."

So how can we minister to others in their pain, and will we let them minister to us? First, what happens in a grieving experience?

### Everyone grieves at 100 percent

Losing a child or spouse, going through a divorce, battling a terminal illness or suffering other major trials,

including loss of trust, can shatter lives into tiny fragments. The intensity of the pain and the acute aloneness are overwhelming. It's normal to feel that no one else understands.

Different tragedies inflict various degrees of pain. It's different to lose a parent than a baby, but everyone grieves at 100 percent.

If the wound is covered too quickly or bandaged with tranquilizers or frantic activity, normal healing will not take place. It can become infected, festered and cause physical and emotional problems.

If the wound is treated properly and worked through rather than sublimated or repressed, hurting people will be able to touch, talk about and accept the wound. No two wounds are identical, so healing rates will differ.

Because the emotions of death, trauma and severe trial are uncomfortable, we often don't know what to do or what to say, or we offer clichés such as, "You're young enough to start again." But clichés are grievers' least favorite words to hear.

Some, in what must be a sincere desire to help, too quickly offer advice, not realizing that unasked-for advice is often criticism in disguise, especially to a griever operating in survival mode.

Christians have a tendency to offer scriptural platitudes, such as all things work together for good, God will never give you more than you can handle or you'll see him again in the resurrection. These statements, while true, are probably not comforting.

Neither are these comments: "It's God's will," "Be thankful it wasn't worse," "Cheer up—there's always someone who has it worse than you" or "Be strong for others."

In *Lament for a Son*, Nicholas Wolterstorff wrote: "I grow weak with hearing such comfort. Please don't say, 'It's not so bad.' Because it is."

### Words of comfort and solace

Just as our words can inflict anguish, they also can be a salve and balm for hurting people. Honestly telling friends and family how you feel

See Hurting, page 6

## Becoming an insider in times of need: lessons from Oklahoma City blast

By Georgia Zick

On a sunny morning in Oklahoma City, my husband, Andre, and I passed by the crumbling ruins of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. Rescuers worked in the rubble, searching for signs of life; others hurried inside the perimeter fence, removing victims and debris.

Loud and steady sounds of generators, trucks and heavy equipment disturbed the cool air. From our position outside the fence, we quietly appreciated those men and women, as they risked their lives in the rescue effort.

An early appointment had brought us to the city, and as we reflected on the horrible destruction before us, our thoughts returned to April 19 and the sudden shaking of our home

that morning. Almost instantly the television showed views of the Oklahoma City skyline, with that grim, black smoke rising overhead.

Like other Oklahomans, as well as millions of other Americans, we felt an intense need, a mounting urgency to help somehow—to be there and do our part. Soon after the explosion, people began to rush to the scene and various volunteer centers. They stood in line for many hours to donate blood or generously gave of themselves, their money, their food, their belongings.

Eager to volunteer, one man said, "I just want to get in there and dig—to get my hands dirty for those poor victims."

However, many other concerned and caring citizens became frustrated, unable to reach volunteer organizations on the over-burdened phone lines, unaware of exactly where to go and how to help. Robbie Powell, a hospice volunteer from Ponca City, Oklahoma, was besieged with inquiries from eager, would-be volunteers.

She said, rather reluctantly: "So

many people want to help. So many have such good intentions. But we can't use them all. There is a certain



Georgia Zick

level of training that is necessary, and the volunteers need to have some experience plus an affiliation with an organization before they can be sent out.

"The ideal is to become involved before a crisis occurs," she said. "Unfortunately, too many untrained volunteers add to the confusion in an already tense and chaotic situation."

This sentiment was repeated by other rescue workers, hospital staff and American Red Cross personnel. And it was disappointing news to those of us who had the heart but not the foresight to prepare in advance for this type of service. Some people were discouraged by the idea that only insiders could be useful.

### Finding ways to help

Many lessons are to be learned from the tragic events in Oklahoma City. Among them, we can be especially appreciative of the inspiring examples of the many who were able to help. Their instant and selfless response causes us to look inward to see if we would be so giving. We are reminded to look outward toward the many ways we can help and serve—not only in times of severe crisis but also in smaller ways, daily.

See Lessons, page 6

Georgia Zick lives 20 miles north of downtown Oklahoma City, with her husband, associate pastor Andre Zick, and their two children, Byron and Christina.



# How I came to understand the new covenant

By David Albert

For all of you struggling or disagreeing with the Church's teachings on the new covenant and other doctrinal changes, I know what you're going through.

I, too, had a very hard time with these changes and opposed them vigorously and dogmatically until the spring festival season. Thankfully, a powerful sermon by evangelist Carn Catherwood began turning my attitude around.

In that faith-filled and gently corrective sermon, Mr. Catherwood made the simple but true point that a person is not going to be able to receive new truth and change unless he or she has a repentant attitude.

He made several other points that I found helpful, but that one hit me the hardest and did the most good. There was a polite ripple of applause at the end of his message—some liked it; others did not!—but I didn't applaud.

## Went away thinking

I was convicted by his message, but not real happy about it. Still, I knew he was right, and I went away thinking a lot about what he said.

Because of that message, God convicted me deeply that I had not given the new teachings a fair chance. Specifically, I realized that I did not have the attitude of the Bereans of Acts 17.

Of them it is said: "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (verse 11, New King James).

I had never done that. Why? Because I knew without even reading the articles the Church was supplying that this had to be all wrong. I could tell by the headlines or after just reading a few paragraphs that it was all a lot of junk.

But Mr. Catherwood's sermon spoke to me, not by offering me more proofs and ideas, but by challenging me to examine whether my heart was right. And I had to admit to God that it was not.

Like those who couldn't understand the new covenant spoken of in 2 Corinthians 3:14, my heart was hardened and incapable of understanding what God was revealing to us.

The sermon was just what I needed because it went right to the heart of the matter. I came to understand that the issues before us are not just intellectual. Attitude, motive and intent often determine what we are capable of understanding, and can explain why we may not understand things even when they come from God and his Word.

After my attitude adjustment, I went back to the Jan. 10 "Personal" from Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach titled, appropriately enough, "Understanding the Covenants" and began reading it, like the Bereans, "to find out whether these things were so."

And for the first time, I read with clarity and understanding. I learned a lot of things I never knew before. I found out that a lot of my objections were groundless, and there was abundant scriptural proof for all the points that were being made—verses

I'd not properly understood before.

When I got to the end I said to myself, "There's nothing here that I can't agree with and nothing here that doesn't stand proved." The veil of disbelief spoken of in 2 Corinthians 3:14 had been taken away. That was the starting point for me, and my studies since have built much more understanding on that foundation.

What is in that covenant article that I as a member of God's Church for more than 35 years found so illuminating? A great deal! I learned that we must understand the terms and conditions of the various covenants—Abraham's, Israel's at Mt. Sinai through Moses, and ours from Jesus Christ—and see how they apply to us today.

In that article, which I hope you will review if you are struggling with

**I wish somehow I could sit down with many of you who are still having difficulties with these things and go over them with you at length, but lacking that opportunity I thought I'd just submit this article for the 'Iron Sharpens Iron' column in the hope that it might encourage you to keep studying and praying.**

or disagree with these things, God's covenant with Abraham is discussed with its sign of circumcision found in Genesis 17. God's covenant with Israel is covered with its sign of the Sabbath in Exodus 31.

I didn't know and nobody had ever taught me in my 35 years in the Church that the Ten Commandments were the old covenant, as is so clearly stated in Exodus 34:28 and again in Deuteronomy 4:13.

I see now that we were generally ignorant about such basics as how God in his Word defines the old covenant—namely, by the Ten Commandments and vice versa. Nobody ever taught me the truth and the sweeping implications of these two vitally important verses.

This came as new truth to me. Not that it is really new, of course—it's been in our Bibles all along—but it's new to most of us in the Worldwide Church of God, and now we must process and deal with this pivotal truth in all of its many implications.

Then the *WN* article showed from Hebrews that the new covenant "will not be like" the old covenant (Hebrews 8:9), and posed the important question, "How much different?"

What a good question! That is about the best question that can be put to the Church of God today. Clearly the old covenant is, according to Hebrews 8:13, "obsolete," no longer binding, and the new covenant is declared to be different, and brethren, we are all struggling to understand just how different and in what ways the new covenant is different from the old.

As I explain in my first-ever new covenant sermon when speaking to congregations of God's Church today, it seems that our old equation

for the new covenant was: The new covenant equals the old covenant minus the sacrifices and offerings plus the Holy Spirit.

In other words, basically the same legal package we find in books such as Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy without the sacrifices and rituals we know to be fulfilled by Christ.

## What we didn't understand

Now I understand that this notion of the covenant is exactly what the Jewish element of the Church in Peter and Paul's day thought and were requiring of new gentile Christians in Acts 15.

And I just didn't get it with regard to what the believing Jews were demanding in Acts 15:5 when they said, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses" (NKJ).

And that's pretty much what the Worldwide Church of God believed for years—not circumcision, of course, but that we should be doing most of the things we find written in the law of Moses or the first five books of the Old Testament (please refer to the May 23 "Personal," pages 2 and 3 for six Bible definitions of "the law of Moses").

I often cite Leviticus 19:19 to illustrate the great confusion we had about the covenants and their terms and conditions. We taught in our literature and on baptizing tours such as those I went on in 1962 and 1963 that this verse showed that hybrid cows and corn and mixed fabrics—and mixed marriages—were wrong practices for Christians and should not be done.

We said things like that to farmers in the past and told them they should observe the land sabbath found in Leviticus 25. Now I realize that gradually we abandoned most of those Levitical teachings little by little over the years, but, brethren, if we had understood just how different the new covenant was and is, we would have never gotten involved with such things in the first place.

And the fact that we pulled away from them does not mean we understood from a theological standpoint why we should do so. We gave them up mostly because they were utterly impractical and virtually impossible to do in the modern world without losing the farm, which sadly, many did.

But now, based on the Bible, we are updating our theology to come in line with our practice and are able to clearly explain why we are no longer trying to observe Levitical

injunctions—namely, because they aren't part of the new covenant.

They aren't part of the terms and conditions of God's covenant with us today. And the same principle can and should be applied to many other practices that we insisted were binding for us today and clearly are not.

As Mr. Tkach's "Personal" put it so clearly: "The new covenant is not simply a restatement of the old laws.... The new covenant is different from the old. It not only adds faith and the Holy Spirit, it also removes some of the laws of the old."

I know that as a former teacher of the Epistles of Paul at Ambassador College (as it was then), many passages in books such as Galatians and Romans were difficult to explain clearly—especially with regard to the law as in Galatians 3.

In fact, we had some odd explanation for those books, some elaborate and convoluted renderings for what now appear as plain verses. As early as the mid-1970s, I could see that some of our own highly individualistic "private interpretations" (see 2 Peter 1:20) just didn't fit the facts of Paul's writings and I admitted as much to many of my students, but I didn't have a better and more complete paradigm by which to fully explain such passages until the past few months.

## Scriptures make sense now

Now, as many others have noted as well, whole passages of the New Testament and especially Paul's epistles make so much better sense when viewed from a proper new covenant understanding.

I wish somehow I could sit down with many of you who are still having difficulties with these things and go over them with you at length, but lacking that opportunity I thought I'd just submit this article for the "Iron Sharpens Iron" column in the hope that it might encourage you to keep studying and praying and that you would be inspired to come at these important issues with the Berean attitude of fair-mindedness and objectivity.

We are being led to a far better understanding of God's Word than ever before. Let's all be sure we "do not refuse him who speaks" (Hebrews 12:25).

Hang in there, brethren! You will come to see in time, if you have not already, that this is of God, not men, and comes to us from the Living Word of God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Ordinations

**John Connors** of the Los Angeles, California, church was ordained a local church elder Feb. 11.

**Edward Kopec**, pastor of the Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Poplar Bluff, Missouri, churches, was ordained a preaching elder Jan. 28.

**John Jester**, a deacon in the San Jose, California, church, was ordained a local church elder Feb. 18.

### Europe

**Sean Prunty** of the Dublin, Ireland, church was ordained a local church elder March 4.

### Mexico

**Guillermo Juy** of the Monterrey, Mexico, church was ordained a local church elder Feb. 18.

### Philippines

**Amador Tibay** of the Quezon City, Philippines, North church was ordained a local church elder Jan. 21.

Evangelist David Albert was a World Tomorrow presenter and is professor of psychology at Ambassador University.



# Personal: Have we really reached out?

Continued from page 1

"Last Sabbath, not one person came up to talk to her. She said: 'I feel like I'm Moses. I can part the Red Sea. I walk up and I part groups of people talking and they just look at me. No one said anything, so I just left.' She had said before, 'I need hugs, I don't need stares.' She is not complaining or in a bad attitude. She is expressing what is happening.

"Herein lies the problem that concerns me. If this is happening to her, then I know it happens to others when they lose a loved one. It seems our members don't know what to do or say, even though we have printed material on this and have had telecasts about it....

"Have we really reached out to the fatherless and the widow and been real Christians, as you have been exhorting us to be? James 1:27 makes this quite clear. Being a widow and being fatherless is definitely an affliction. Losing a loved one, whether mate or child, is extremely traumatic and is an affliction.

"This is where real Christianity should step in. We need to make a point to talk to people each week who have lost a loved one. Just letting them know you care, that you thought and prayed about them, just giving

the person a hug or asking them if there is anything you can help them with, etc., is what is needed."

## Becoming sources of comfort

My point here is that we, if the love of God is in us, should be sources of comfort and encouragement to one another. We will always have room for improvement, of course, and we all know where to go for the grace we need! We need to be positive, confident in our Savior, supportive of one another.

I am thankful to be part of the Worldwide Church of God. Although we've had some significant losses, and that hurts, the great majority of our members are faithful, which is a source of comfort and encouragement. Thank you to all the pastors who are faithfully shepherding their flocks through the valleys toward the green pastures we have in Jesus Christ. Thank you to the many local church elders, who serve so faithfully at their own expense. Thank you to the members for their prayers, their faith and their continuing financial support. Our income has dropped sharply, so donations are very much needed and very much appreciated.

Although various trials beset us, we trust in Jesus Christ to see us through! Perhaps I'll be able to write a bit more next time.

## New equipment facilitates prepress production

"New equipment obtained through R.R. Donnelley, printers of *The Plain Truth*, makes it possible for us to perform in-house color separation, generation of separated film and color proofing," said Barry Gridley, Publishing Services director.

"It allows us to supply any comparably equipped printing facility around the world with purely digital output, ready to produce gravure cylinders, digital web offset press plates or electronic data for on-demand printing," Mr. Gridley said. "By downloading high-resolution page files of the U.S. *Plain Truth* and other Church publications onto CD-ROM [compact disk, read-only memory] disks we can provide the international areas with these products in a form that can be easily reformatted, redesigned and repaginated—that can be tailored, in other words, for that part of the world for which they are intended."

"This cannot help but facilitate the process of local evangelism and is directly in line with the direction Mr. Tkach has given the Church at this time."



**GOING DIGITAL**—Belinda Caruth from Publishing loads a cylinder into a Scanmaster (left), which scans photographs, negatives and transparencies (attached to the cylinder) for color separation. The information is manipulated by computer software before being processed on a digital imaging machine and sent to the printers. [Photos by Barry Stahl]

# Hurting people need encouragement, honesty; make yourself vulnerable

Continued from page 4

about their loss is what helps most.

After losing two children in an auto accident, what I found most helpful were people who did one of three things: those who were quiet and just listened, those who simply hugged me, and those who said sincere phrases such as, "I can't imagine how you must feel," "How painful for you" or "You must be devastated."

Simple phrases, simple words, simple honesty. Yet none of them sought to take away my feelings.

Sharing people's burdens means we cry with them, listen, hug them and resist changing the subject. We don't talk incessantly or act uncomfortable. In these ways we can be there for hurting people.

## Let others help you

It's almost a universal truth: When you let others see your vulnerability, you receive love. When you show your hurt, others befriend you. "There is a marvelous gift of healing that comes when you share your vulnerability," wrote Robert L. Veninga in *A Gift of Hope*. "There is understanding. Acceptance. Encouragement."

Christian author Charles Swindoll wrote: "Fences must come down. Masks need to come off. Welcome signs need to be hung outside the door. Keys to the locks of our lives must be duplicated and distributed. Bridges need to be lowered that allow others to cross the moat and then share our joys and our sorrows."

If you are going to be helped by others, you need to share your pain with those you trust, those who will listen. We all know people who are quick to interrupt or jump in with advice and try to fix you or take away your feelings.

I cherish those people who listen to me when I am upset or angry. The ones who don't offer advice, who don't give me false reassurances, who don't try to convince me that everything is going to be OK. Some people just listen. And sometimes that's exactly what we need.

Why? Because when your self-worth is in the basement, a good friend will open the door a crack and let light into the room. A good friend helps you rediscover the tough core that has enabled you to solve other problems. A good friend will encourage you by pointing out your strengths, not your weaknesses. Maybe that's why Hebrews 3:13 says, "Encourage one another daily."

Sometimes you need to encourage honesty in a relationship. You may find that your friend doesn't want to do anything that might hurt you or make the situation worse. If so, give your friend permission to share his or her ideas. Tell him you need his knowledge and want to benefit from his experiences. Ask her how she would manage a similar problem.

If you've lost a loved one and people ask, "How are you?", instead of saying, "Fine," be honest: "Oh, not so well. I'm missing my wife/son/father today. Thanks for asking." This gives you the freedom to allow others to follow up with care and concern, or to choose not to discuss how you are feeling at the moment. Don't be afraid to ask for help or to say: "I need to talk. Do you have a few minutes?"

Unresolved grief is always about one thing: unexpressed communication of an emotional nature. So take time to let others know you need to talk. Let people be there for you. Tell the truth about yourself. It's all right to spell out, in as much detail as necessary, what you need.

After being air-ambulated back to the United States after an auto accident in England, I felt I needed to give a friend a quick grief lesson. "If I cry, please don't get uncomfortable, don't shift nervously in your chair, don't change the subject. Please just be there for me, just listen to me and don't judge me for what I say," I told him. We remain best of friends to this day.

The emotions of grief, pain and loss propel us to the ultimate hope of lasting healing: Jesus Christ and that day when our hurt is swallowed up in victorious and glorious immortality. We "groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for ... the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 8:23).

In the meantime, we can work to minister to the hurts of others as well as let them minister to us.

## Lessons: How we can learn to help

Continued from page 4

wherever we see a need.

We can decide now to become more serving, according to our individual strengths, talents and personalities. In Oklahoma City, some chose to serve in a personal way—in counseling, nursing or comforting. Others preferred task-oriented service, such as delivering supplies, removing debris or preparing meals.

We have seen big heroes and small heroes—all working together to restore peace and security to the city. Each of these heroes is valued and appreciated for the ways they have chosen to give.

### How to give of yourself

If you honestly wish to be a light, to give of yourself to others (thereby giving to God), you might want to consider some of the following in preparation for your service:

- Research some service organizations in your community. Find a way to establish yourself as an informed and reliable volunteer.

- Enroll in CPR, first aid, hospice care or other training programs.

- Be prepared for the types of disasters that could occur in your region. Would you be equipped to help your neighbor in the event of a hurricane, flood, earthquake, fire or tornado?

- Donate blood on a regular basis. (The Red Cross suggests an ideal of donating every 56 days.)

- Read. Develop an understanding of how to truly comfort those who are ill, suffering or grieving (see article, page 4).

We can allow the loving, caring, selfless examples we observed in Oklahoma City to inspire and motivate us. We can resolve to make service a high priority in our lives.

Outside the ruins of the Federal Building, a perimeter fence was erected for a twofold purpose: to protect passersby from risk of injury from the debris and to prevent onlookers from interfering with the rescue and cleanup efforts. On which side of the fence would you rather be? Now is the time for us to learn to become responsible and qualified insiders.



# Announcements

BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OBITUARIES

**TRIEZENBERG**, Harry and Truus (Meerstra) of Houten, Netherlands, girl, Laura, March 1, now 2 girls.

**WEBB**, Darren and Rebecca (Kresse) of St. Charles, Missouri, boy, Brandon Lee, May 4, first child.

## Engagements

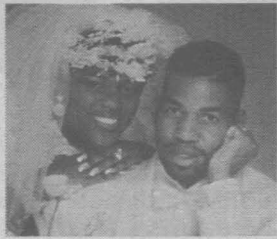
Paul and Diane Hailey of Portland, Oregon, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Amy Batey to Matthew Balvin, son of Marie Balvin of Corvallis, Oregon. A July 16 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh D. Adkins of Troy, Ohio, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Stephanie to Ted McClain, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard McClain of West Liberty, Ohio. A Sept. 9 wedding is planned.

Zephani Santibanez, daughter of Terry and the late Lucelle Santibanez of Bacolod City, Philippines, and Robert Reeves, son of P.H.A.N. and Cynthia Dias of Kandy, Sri Lanka, are pleased to announce their engagement. An October wedding in Bacolod is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dowell of Kansas City, Missouri, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Heather to Brian Unzicker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Unzicker of Joplin, Missouri. An August wedding is planned.

## Weddings



**OLIVER & PATRICIA BRADFORD JR.**

Oliver Bradford Jr. of Bronx, New York, and Patricia B. Lewis of Bronx were united in marriage Nov. 28. The ceremony was performed by Steve Botha, pastor of the Manhattan and Westchester, New York, churches. Tina Owens was maid of honor, Louvinya Nails was matron of honor and Terrence Hewitt was best man. The couple live in New York.



**BRADLEY & RUBY THOMAS**

Ruby Jean Chambers and Bradley William Thomas were united in marriage April 29. The wedding was performed by Bill Kelly, a minister in the Atlanta, Georgia, East church. Maria Walker was maid of honor, and Philo Thompson was best man. The couple live in Atlanta.



**DEREK & MARISOL HAUGHTON**

Marisol Joy Oblites, daughter of Robert and Connie Duggins of Paramount, California, and Derek Blakely Haughton, son of Allen and Margery Haughton of Smiths Falls, Ontario, were united in marriage April 30. The ceremony was performed by Jim Kisse, a faculty member at Ambassador University. Crystal Aust was maid of honor, and Heath Haughton, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Irving, Texas.



**MAT & MICHELLE CLARK**

Michelle Ambrose, daughter of Jerry and Cheryl Ambrose of Neosho, Missouri, and Mat Clark, son of John and Karen Clark of Diamond, Missouri, were united in marriage April 29. The ceremony was performed by Dan King, pastor of the Joplin, Missouri, and Independence, Kansas, churches. Autumn Sweeten was maid of honor, and the bridesmaids were Shelli and Julie Doty, sisters of the bride, and Martha Trowbridge.

Brian Abriz was best man, and the groomsmen were David Ambrose, brother of the bride, and Lowell Bowles and David Brown. The couple live in Neosho.



**ADELBERTO & RAINELDA AREOLA**

Rainelda Talavera, daughter of Natividad Talavera of Bulacan, Philippines, and Adelberto Areola, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alberto Areola of Sorsogon, Philippines, were united in marriage March 12. The ceremony was performed by Cristostomo Mago, pastor of the Baguio City and Mankayan, Philippines, churches. Sarita Yabut and Carol Sison attended the bride, and Ernesto Yabut and Rogel Ngoap attended the groom. The couple live in Baguio City.



**SALVADOR & EVANGELINE CUCHARO**

Evangeline Duavis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesusimo Duavis of Buenavista, Bohol, Philippines, and Salvador Cucharo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Cucharo of Calape, Bohol, Philippines, were united in marriage March 26. The ceremony was performed by Romeo Pusta, pastor of Dumaguete City and Tagbilaran City, Philippines, churches. Doris Duavis, sister of the bride, and Rhodora Torregosa attended the bride. Wilfredo Hofilena Jr. and Lemuel Galope attended the groom. The couple live in Calape.



**JERRY & GINA KING**

Gina Lynelle Balderas, daughter of Jesus and Donna Balderas, of Baytown, Texas, and Jerry Wayne King, son of Gerald and Lana King, of Dickinson, Texas, were united in marriage Dec. 18. Jennifer Schultz of Houston, Texas, was the maid of honor, and Shannon Fertig of Cheyenne, Wyoming, was best man. The couple live in Webster, Texas.

## Anniversaries



**BILL & WANDA OWENS**

Bill and Wanda Owens of Rossville, Georgia, celebrated their 25th anniversary Nov. 19. They have two sons, Tony and Edward, and a daughter-in-law, Mishelle.



**KARL & ROSE JORDAN**

Karl and Rose Jordan of Denver, Colorado, celebrated their 25th anniversary May 23.



**DON & GERVAISE AMUNDSON**

Don and Gervaise Amundson of Austin, Texas, celebrated their 45th anniversary June 11. They have two daughters, Debra Bishop and Kathleen Collins, and one son, David. Mr. Amundson is a local church elder in the Austin church.



**KEN & BARB NORTHROP**

Ken and Barb Northrop of Sulphur Springs, Texas, celebrated their 40th anniversary May 7. They have one son, Randy; two daughters, Sheryl and Val; a daughter-in-law, Becky; a son-in-law, Mike; and three grandchildren, Reyna, Brianna and Donicio.



**AL & ANGIE DAVIDSON**

Al and Angie Davidson of Ottawa, Ontario, celebrated their 35th anniversary June 18. They have a daughter, Ann, a son-in-law, Jacques Perron, and a son, Roy.

## Obituaries

**HAAS**, Florence, 83, of Watsonville, California, died April 5. She is survived by her husband, Nelson S.; two sons, Nelson C. and Craig; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**BAKER**, Paul, 76, of Winter Haven, Florida, died May 12. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; three sons, Andy, Bruce and George; two daughters; Penny Riggan and Debbie Risley; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

**PITTARD**, James "Jim," 76, of Wellington, New Zealand, died May 30. He is survived by his wife and three sons.

**QUINN**, Dorothy M., 66, of Cranbrook, British Columbia, died May 7. She is survived by two brothers, three sisters and many nieces and nephews. Her husband preceded her in death.

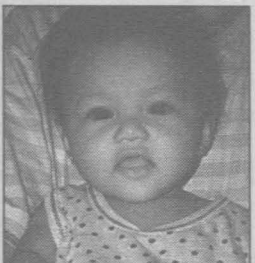


**KATHLEEN JOHNSON**

**JOHNSON**, Kathleen "Kathy," 46, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, died Dec. 10.

## Birth Announcement

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 Charisse Hernandez, daughter of Ronald and Zenaída Hernandez of Quezon City, Philippines.

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Number of children you have* Boys:      Girls:	<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if first child

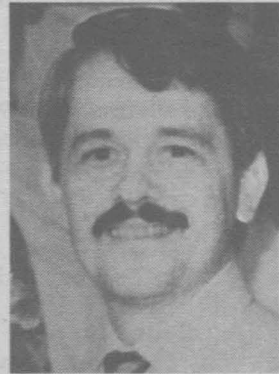
\*Including newborn

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She is survived by her husband, Dave; and two sons, Matthew and Robert.

**CONN**, Anna Ferne, 57, of Fort Hill, Pennsylvania, died May 17 of cancer. She is survived by her husband, two sons and four grandchildren.

**BURGESS**, Karen A., 44, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died of cancer March 11. She is survived by her husband, Michael; her father, Nicholas Koval; a sister and brother; five nieces and nephews; and two grandnephews.

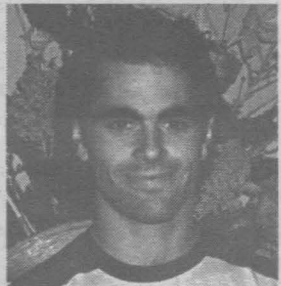


**JOHN JACQUES**

**JACQUES**, John Francis, 41, of Brevard, North Carolina, was killed in an automobile accident March 12. He is survived by four children, Sarah Jo, Rebekah Dawn, Michael John and Reuben Joseph; his parents, Blaise and Gabrielle Jacques;

five brothers, Raymond, Robert, Donald, Danny and Robin; and many nieces and nephews.

**PRIEST**, Ruth, 22, of South Africa, died May 2 in an automobile accident. She is survived by her parents, Allen and Jean; two sisters, Sarah Wilkins and Esther; a brother, David; a brother-in-law, Brady Wilkins; and a niece, Shalyn.



**BRAD McLAIN**

**McLAIN**, Brad Alan, 22, of Molino, Oregon, died March 18. He is survived by his wife, Claudette; two children, Renae and Brandon; his parents, L. Ray McLain and Tamera Whiteaker; step-parents, William Whiteaker and Marti McLain; two brothers, Darran and Paul; a sister, Tara Whaley; a half-sister, Teah-Tephi Whiteaker; an adoptive brother, Thomas Whiteaker; two step-brothers, Raymond and Ian Charters; four sisters-in-law, Shannon, Karleen, Christy and Harmony; a brother-in-law, Greg Whaley; and many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

## Faith and the house of cards

Continued from page 3

Then, with even greater intensity, came shame and guilt at myself for being angry at God. I thought anger was the unpardonable sin, my destiny the lake of fire.

I resolved these emotions, thanks in large part to the Church's new understanding of who and what God is, along with grace, good friends, family and a lot of soul searching.

I realized God isn't the harsh, angry, destroying being I once thought he was and that he loved me so much he chose me before I was born to be in his kingdom, then sent his Son to die for me so I could live. If he did all that for me, I must be special to him.

### Facing the pain

Only after dealing with all the emotions, forgiving and being forgiven, could I start to have a true relationship with God and other people. This has been a process. It hasn't happened overnight.

I am realizing that faith and my

love for God is like a roller coaster. It can change from day to day, and sometimes minute by minute, because I am human. And God knows that.

I learned that God doesn't act like humans do. That he is always there loving me, unconditionally. How do I know? By looking back and remembering all the physical and spiritual ways he intervened in my life.

I had to rebuild my faith and love for God, one memory at a time, with thoughts of how God had worked and intervened in my life. I found God again, even though he had never left. I know his plan will continue to unfold no matter where I am in life. My true foundation is Jesus Christ.

We all have problems, trials and scars. But we each have a choice. We either can sit down in the middle of those fallen cards and give up, or pick them up and rebuild our faith and love for God. Rebuilding takes effort, it isn't easy and doesn't always feel good, but the rewards are love, joy and peace.



# update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

## Pastor nets award for Plain Truth article

ANCASTER, Ontario—**Terrence Roth**, Salmon Arm and Kamloops, British Columbia, pastor, won a writing award at the 11th annual Canadian God Uses Ink conference for his article on Newfoundland and Labrador missionary **Wilfred Grenfell**.

His article, "Grenfell: Fisher of Men," won first prize at the awards banquet June 2 in the nonfiction, nonpersonal perspective category. It appeared in the May-June 1994 Canadian *Plain Truth*.

Mr. Roth commented: "I was delighted to receive this recognition. It is good to see us a group being recognized as brothers in the Christian community."

**Bill Hall**, Canadian regional editor, said: "For Terry to win this award was quite an accomplishment, given this was the first article he wrote for *The Plain Truth*, and the first time we submitted an article for this contest."

God Uses Ink is a Christian writers conference sponsored by *Faith Today* magazine.

## Music unites churches of common faith

SPANAWAY, Washington—The congregations in western Washington are building bridges with others of common faith.

April 30 more than 400 members of various Seventh Day Church of God fellowships met for an evening of inspirational and entertaining gospel music. Performers were from the Worldwide Church of God, the General Conference, Church of God (Seventh Day), and two independent congregations, the New Life Church of God (Seventh Day), and the Port Orchard Church of God (Seventh Day).

The concert, titled "The Power of Love," was organized by **Robin Todd** under the direction of the ministry. Robin, a recording artist, and his wife, **Shellie**, attend the Olympia, Washington, church.

Those who attended were inspired not only by the music, but by the opportunity to fellowship with others of like mind and by the spirit of brotherhood that prevailed.

One performer, who attends another fellowship,

said her parents were regular performers on **Herbert W. Armstrong's** radio program.

Also, **Karen Armstrong**, wife of the late **Dwight Armstrong** (who wrote many of our hymns), attended. **Guy L. Englebart**.

## Staff members attend Gospel Music event

NASHVILLE, Tennessee—The Gospel Music Association conducted its annual convention here April 23-27. *The Plain Truth* and *Youth 95* sent **Mike Hale** and **Rick Shallenberger** to attend press conferences and concerts, and to interview key members of the Christian music industry.

They met recording artists **Steven Curtis Chapman**, **Twila Paris**, **BeBe & CeCe**, **Michael W. Smith**, **Gary Chapman**, **Cindy Morgan**, **Newsboys**, **4HIM**, **Ray Boltz**, **Charlie Peacock**, **Point of Grace**, **Bryan Duncan**, **Susan Ashton**, **Anointed**, **Margaret Becker** and other artists and producers.

Mike said, "The highlight was the premier performance of the My Utmost for His Highest concert, in which Amy Grant and many of the above-mentioned artists were joined onstage by a full orchestra for an evening of elegant worship music."

My Utmost is a new album project based on **Oswald Chambers'** classic devotional book. The concert will be taken on a major city tour in the summer of 1996 and the album is being released.

## SEP in Pasadena open to campers

The Summer Educational Program (SEP) in Pasadena will run from June 26 to July 13. **Curtis May**, camp director, said he expects 125 campers and 25 Ambassador University students, who will serve as staff members. "We are delighted to have camp this year and we have seen great fruit from camps in the past," said Mr. May.

If you would like to participate in SEP Pasadena as a camper, please call 1-818-304-6138 immediately.

## National YOU writing showcase winners

Youth Opportunities United announced winners of the 1995 writing showcase.

## Knighted

Continued from page 1

his aide-de-camp, **Wilfred I. Belo**, stopped over in Pasadena en route from London to the Solomon Islands.

"It is a blessing for us to visit Church headquarters and meet Church officials," Sir Moses said.

Mr. Pitakaka is a deacon in the Solomon Islands church, which has a weekly attendance of about 60.

## Outreach in The Plain Truth

Beginning with the August issue, *The Plain Truth* will launch an ad campaign spotlighting individual congregations of the Worldwide Church of God.

The ads will feature various evangelical outreach and community service programs in which congregations are involved.

"The goal of the campaign is twofold," said **Joseph Tkach Jr.**, director of Church Administration. "We want to encourage congregations to reach out to their communities, as well as send a welcoming message to those interested in joining our fellowship."

*The Plain Truth* is working on three advertisements to begin the campaign.

**Calgary, Alberta**—The Calgary congregation averted a food shortage at a food bank. Their ad shows members' active involvement.

**Bonn, Germany**—In war-torn Croatia, food, clothing and medical supplies are in constant demand. The Bonn congregation coordinated a significant relief effort for collecting and delivering much needed supplies.

**San Jose, California**—The San Francisco Bay area congregations have an active small groups ministry. Members open up their homes and their Bibles, inviting people to act on their commitment to Christ.

Mock-ups of the first two ads are featured here.

If your congregation is involved in a project that you would like to see in print, please contact your pastor or **Tom Lapacka** at Church Relations in Pasadena.

Creative writing: **Crystal D. Morse**, Casper, Wyoming, "Final Moments," and **Gina C. Philp**, Big Sandy, "Spinning a Thread."

Essay on "The Most Significant Relationship in My Life": **Kerin Fleck**, Fort Worth, Texas; **Brandy Hewitt**, Houston, Texas; and **Sarah Sass**, Duluth, Minnesota.

Journalism: **Dawn Michelle Cain**, Reno, Nevada, "A Road to Nowhere," **Tarah L. Kirkpatrick**, Big Sandy, "Professor Shot at, Threatened by Lion, Eager for More," **Heather Ludwig**, Wheatland, Wyoming, "Being Anonymous: Not Your Stereotypical Governor's Daughter," and **Megan Osenbaugh**, Grand Island, Nebraska, "Leading Them West: Remarkable Achievements of Joseph R. Walker."

Poetry: **Seth Capo**, "Being the Story of the Common Man," Fresno, California; and **Elizabeth Bennett**, "Paper Doll," Escondido, California.

Songwriting-Instrumental Composition: **Danielle D. Fields**, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, "Fruit of the Spirit"; and **Amy Baumgartner**, Medford, Oregon, "Seeking."

## Long Island fun for singles weekend

LONG ISLAND, New York—Long Island singles invite you to join them for their annual Fun in The Sun weekend July 29 and 30.

The weekend begins with a seminar at 11 a.m. Saturday at the IBEW Hall in Hauppauge, with Sabbath services at 1:30 p.m. and lunch at an area restaurant (at an additional cost). The Saturday night dance includes a disc jockey and finger foods.

The weekend will continue with swimming in the ocean, a barbecue, volleyball and fellowship at Robert Moses State Park, Long Island.

The cost for the dance and beach party is \$15. Please send payment by July 14 to **Barry Knowles**, Box 2513, North

Babylon, New York, 11703.

For a full schedule of events call **Joe Radosti** 1-800-937-0611, extension 5056. In the evening Mr. Radosti can be reached at 1-516-586-7663.

For housing with brethren, call **George Merle** at 1-516-242-0395. Room rates at Howard Johnsons are \$65 a night. Call 1-516-864-8820 by July 7, and mention the Worldwide Church of God.

## Forums for churches in Philippines

PASIG CITY, Philippines—The Philippine Office sponsored open forums for members of the Metro Manila churches May 14 and 21. The forums addressed the new covenant teachings of the Church in a systematic way and gave brethren the chance to ask questions.

Regional director **William Sidney** and **Jose Raduban**, Quezon City South pastor, moderated the forums.

"I could see a few happy faces that earlier had been troubled," Mr. Sidney said. "There was not as much time as we would have liked for our brethren to ask more questions," he added.

"It is important that our brethren have the opportunity to have their questions openly and honestly addressed. I can see from these open forums that they were successful and they were also necessary," Mr. Sidney said.

## Church to celebrate anniversaries

MANCHESTER, England—The Manchester church will celebrate its 35th anniversary Sept. 2 and invites members and ministers who have been part of the congregation to attend.

The northwest England churches will meet for combined services at Wythenshawe Forum, Manchester.

Events will include refreshments, a display of pho-

## Faith, Hope and Food Banks...



tographs and memorabilia, and special music. For more details please contact **David Catlow** at (0161) 740 2895.

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee—The Knoxville church will celebrate its 30th anniversary July 15.

Services will be at 2:30 p.m., followed by a reception and slide presentation. The event will feature some of the ministers who have served in Knoxville.

Members who have attended the congregation are invited. For more information contact **Charlie Green** at 574 Betty Lou Dr., New Market, Tennessee, 37820.

MONCTON, New Brunswick—Brethren here will celebrate the church's 20th anniversary July 29. Services will take place at 2 p.m. at MacNaughton Science & Technology, 999 St. George. A meal and social will follow.

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