

# The Journal

## News of the Churches of God

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John 8:32

November-December, 2005

## Don't look back, advises self-taught archaeologist

By Dixon Cartwright

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—Ed Lain has seen good times and bad times, many of them in the Radio/Worldwide Church of God of the '50s and '60s. But no good, he says, comes from negatively looking back, from sullenly dwelling on the past, from grumpily obsessing about what could have been.

So Mr. Lain, now 78, looks to the future and, even though he's almost 100 percent blind, persists in his resolve to learn from his experiences and help others.

Mr. Lain visited Big Sandy in August for a reunion of present and former Worldwide Church of God members. The get-together took place, thanks to organizer Judy Biggs, in the building owned by the Church of God Big Sandy.

"Life is good," Mr. Lain told a writer for *THE JOURNAL* during the reunion.

"Of course, I lost Ina Lou to cancer back in 1978, and, sure, I went through a time of adjustment and anger and resentment and all the rest of it. But I learned something during those years, and that is that God does not give up on you. Once He calls you, He's not going to give up on you."

Mr. Lain was born in Savannah, Ga., in 1927 and lost most of his sight to complications from malaria coma and spinal meningitis at age 6.

"I had both of them at the same time," he said, "and at that time they

had no treatment for meningitis. You either died or survived, and usually you wound up being crippled in some way."

As a teenager he attended the School for the Blind in Macon, Ga., graduating in 1948. His interests were drama and debate. He still has the gift of gab. In fact, "if I could make money with my mouth," he said, "I'd be a millionaire."

To make a living, Mr. Lain began taking classes in 1949 at a school that taught piano-tuning.

"Then I went to Atlanta in 1950 and went to work for a former schoolmate who had a piano business."

He worked for a couple of years, then began commuting to near Dunbar, S.C., to help his grandmother and aunt eke out a living while his uncle served in the military in Korea in 1951.

In January of 1952, while visiting with his grandmother, he first heard the voice of Herbert W. Armstrong on the radio.

### Definite turn

Like many readers of *THE JOURNAL*, Mr. Lain's life eventually took a definite turn as a result of hearing Mr. Armstrong's broadcast.

"I remember sitting up and running across the radio dial during the police action in Korea, where my uncle was serving," Mr. Lain said. "Of course, at the time there were just beaucoups of radio evangelists. You could hear them all night long on XEG, XELO and XERF."

"There I was drinking hot chocolate and had the ground wire, or maybe it was the antenna wire, wrapped around my ankle to help bring in the stations."

See **FORMER WCG MEMBER** page 7



Ed Lain



**WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?**—Wayne Cole (*second from right*) stands with friends (*from left*) Maria Velasco, Betty Foster and Wayne Weese, all of the Big Sandy, Texas, area. Mr. Cole recently delivered a sermon in which he advised members of the Churches of God to learn to fellowship peacefully with each other. See an article about Mr. Cole's sermon beginning on this page. [*JOURNAL* photo]

## COG veteran's sermon counsels members to learn to live with even major differences

By Dixon Cartwright

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—One of the best-known voices in the history of the Worldwide Church of God and its derivatives preached in a sermon Dec. 17 that Church of God members are too quick to judge—and even shun—each other because of differences in practice and doctrine.

Wayne Cole of Tyler, Texas, who recently retired from a successful real-estate business and who held many posts and responsibilities in the Worldwide Church of God from the 1950s through the late 1970s, preached against intolerance in matters of practice and doctrine. The practices and doctrines he referred to included beliefs involving clean and unclean meats, the weekly Sabbath

and the annual feast days.

In his sermon Mr. Cole, 75, surveyed the history of congregations of the Church of God Seventh Day of the 1940s through the Radio/Worldwide Church of God of more-recent times.

Without ever mentioning the name of the RCG/WCG, he talked of that church and its many splits, especially the separations that occurred in the 1990s.

He spoke of attending as a youngster a congregation of the CG7 in Scrabble Hill, Ore., in the 1940s, when members there exhibited a commendable tolerance for fellow church members "who didn't see eye to eye on every particular doctrine."

But later in his life and in his personal history, while a member of the

Radio/Worldwide Church of God (although, again, Mr. Cole didn't mention by name the RCG or WCG), church members did not show the same tolerance as did their brethren back in Oregon in the 1930s and '40s.

In the WCG's splits that began in the 1970s and snowballed through the 1990s, Church of God members indulged in and "picked at the spoils of this destructive worldwide organization," and themselves in some cases became as intolerant as the "worldwide organization" itself had ever been.

### Imperfect preaching of Christ

He quoted verses beginning with Galatians 1:6 in which Paul warns against preaching "any other gospel. See **HAVING UNITY**, page 23

## John Robinson, publisher of *In Transition*, dies

**A**USTIN, Texas—John Robinson, 60, died Jan. 5 in a hospital here of complications from prostate cancer.

Mr. Robinson, a longtime Church of God member, was publisher of the independent Church of God newspaper *In Transition* from 1995 to 1997; managing editor of *The Worldwide News*, published by the Worldwide Church of God, from its beginning in 1973 until WCG founder Herbert Armstrong discontinued it in 1978; a faculty member teaching journalism and related courses at Ambassador College and the University of Texas at Tyler through the late 1980s; and at the time of his death chief executive officer of Dynamic Resource Group of Berne, Ind., and Big Sandy, Texas.

Mr. Robinson, born in Glasgow, Scotland, held U.S. and British citizenship. He earned a master's degree in journalism from Texas A&M University, Commerce, in 1972. He spoke fluent Spanish. He was an adjunct professor of journalism at Ball State University, Muncie, Ind. He was an elder in the United Church of God and had served as pastor and associate pastor of

the WCG's Fort Worth and Columbus congregations in the '70s and '80s. His first job in publishing was as editor of *The Portfolio*, the AC newspaper, beginning in 1965 in Big Sandy. He had entered AC in Pasadena, Calif., in 1962 and graduated in Big Sandy in 1966.

Among many other ventures over the years, he was a partner with Dixon Cartwright, publisher of *THE JOURNAL*, for three years producing *The Big Sandy & Hawkins Journal*, a community weekly, in the 1980s. He was a pioneer in the desktop-publishing revolution of the 1980s, which included his ownership of a graphic-imaging business in Tyler.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, the former Alice Rothery; his mother, Margaret Robinson of Tulsa, Okla.; sons John David and Stephen of Austin; a daughter, Rachel Venish of Austin; brothers Mark Robinson of Plano, Texas, and Robert Robinson of Palestine, Texas; sisters Felicity Reedy of Tyler and Mary Perrin of Tulsa; and seven grandchildren.

Mrs. Robinson receives mail at 3517 Mocha Trail, Austin, Texas 78728, U.S.A.



John Robinson

## Feastgoers report on their 2005 observances

**F**ollowing are Feast of Tabernacles reports readers have sent to *THE JOURNAL*. This is the second installment of reports covering the 2005 festival.

Members of Churches of God and other Sabbatarian fellowships met at several hundred Feast of Tabernacles sites in 2005, with most observances beginning the evening of Oct. 17.

You still have time to get your report into next month's issue of *THE JOURNAL*. Mail your information to Festival Reports, *THE JOURNAL*, P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A. Or E-mail it to [info@thejournal.org](mailto:info@thejournal.org). Or fax it to (903) 636-9097.

Photographs as prints or E-mail attachments are also welcomed. Please mention the dates of your observance and the name of the church fellowship or affiliation, if any, or other sponsor of the site.

The following reports are in alphabetical order by Feast-site location:

### Reports on three Feast sites

**B**ALLINA, Australia—Ballina is on the east coast of Australia, at the mouth of the Richmond River, and was the site for this year's Feast of Tabernacles for the See **READERS REPORT**, page 4

## The Journal mails second combined issue

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—In this issue *THE JOURNAL* combines the two issues that would normally be dated November and December. September and October similarly were combined.

The reason for the decision to publish two issues for four calendar months is that *THE JOURNAL* had fallen behind in its publishing schedule. This was in large part because the family that publishes this newspaper has for the past 16 months taken on additional publishing responsibilities, which have impacted *THE JOURNAL*'s production.

All subscribers are in the process of receiving the full number of issues they paid for.

*JOURNAL* publisher Dixon Cartwright said the combining of four issues into two at the end of 2005 returns this newspaper to a timelier production schedule.

## AW's creator puts Web site out to pasture

After five years on the Web, the Ambassador Watch Web site, earlier known as The Missing Dimension, has been "put out to pasture," says its creator and operator, Gavin Rumney.

The upkeep of the site, at [www.ambassadorwatch.co.nz](http://www.ambassadorwatch.co.nz), which took a highly skeptical approach to much that goes on in the various Churches of God, was "hugely time-consuming," Mr. Rumney told *THE JOURNAL* Dec. 20.

"Twenty hours a week was the bare minimum to keep it rolling over," he said, "and requests for information and resulting workload was becoming



Gavin Rumney

the issues of accountability in the various churches—both financial and structural—could be aired. After five years I felt that there wasn't much else to add to that basic message and that it

unmanageable."

Mr. Rumney, a former Worldwide Church of God member who lives in the Auckland, New Zealand, area, said that, from the beginning, "I wanted to create a place where

was time to move on."

A Church of God member and AW fan, Reg Killingley of Big Sandy, Texas, said that "to call AW irreplaceable is not an exaggeration. We will doubtless muddle through but will sorely miss the good friend that AW had become under Gavin's inspired, inimitable and indomitable editorship.

"AW did much good. I believe Gavin helped many people—far more than he may ever realize. He deserves our profound thanks for the long hours of work and the financial sacrifice the site represented . . .

"He deserves a break—and our deepest respect and gratitude."

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## Notes and quotes

### COG money

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich.—Webmaster Alan Ruth announces that *THE JOURNAL*'s Web site ([www.thejournal.org](http://www.thejournal.org)) is posting information on yearly tax returns for several Church of God ministries and other organizations.

*THE JOURNAL*'s newest section contains financial information, gleaned from free, publicly available sources, for several tax-exempt COG-related outreaches and two of the three biggest Churches of God.

To view the information go to [www.thejournal.org/cogmoney.html](http://www.thejournal.org/cogmoney.html). See links to data from Ambassador University, the Bible Sabbath Association, Christian Educational Ministries, the Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association, LifeNets Ministries, the Living Church of God, Giving & Sharing, the Church of God an International Community, and others.

### ACD seminar set for Atlanta

AUBURN, Wash.—Kenneth Westby urges you to mark your calendar so you won't miss his One God Seminars set for May 19-21, 2006.

The fifth annual seminar series, to discuss and debate the nature of God and Jesus, is scheduled for Atlanta, Ga.

"This Southeast America location will make our seminars accessible to probably the largest group of interested people yet," Mr. Westby said.

Mr. Westby and his Association for Christian Development are soliciting ideas for specific topics and new presenters, including "an articulate opposition speaker" who would argue against the "unitarian" view.

For more information, visit [www.godward.org](http://www.godward.org) or write Mr. Westby at [westby@godward.org](mailto:westby@godward.org).

### Vessels of mercy

WEST BROMWICH, England—Tom Mahon has a new Church of God-related Web site at [www.thevesselsofmercy.com](http://www.thevesselsofmercy.com).

"It does not represent a new church," Mr. Mahon told *THE JOURNAL*. The site is "still under construction, but it is up and running."

### Wedding invitation

BIG SANDY, Texas—You're invited to a wedding. Jamie Melinda Cartwright, daughter of Dixon and Linda Cartwright of Big Sandy, and Robert Austin Payne, son of Jeff and Kathy Payne of Beaumont, Texas, plan to marry Sunday, Feb. 5.

The ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. in the building owned by the Church of God Big Sandy with the bride's "papaw," Ellis Stewart, also of Big Sandy, conducting the ceremony.

### Help Mrs. McClure

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Mark Carr of Return to Torah Ministries (affiliated with the 7th Day Church of God) told *THE JOURNAL* recently about a project he and

fellow ministry members have tackled: to raise \$1,200 to move a donated mobile home to help Judith McClure of Metropolis, Ill.

Mrs. McClure, 68, was living in a 36-year-old dilapidated, moldy, unsafe trailer house.

Since Mrs. McClure's husband, Darrell, died unexpectedly 10 years ago, she has not had the means to keep up her property while working as a caretaker for other people in their residences.

Return to Torah acquired a donated replacement mobile home for Mrs. McClure and needs about \$1,100 to move it to her location.

To help Mrs. McClure, who presently lives in a 10-by-10-foot area of her old trailer next to a gas heater to keep her warm, write Return to Torah Ministries at P.O. Box 70635, Knoxville, Tenn. 37938, U.S.A., or write Mr. Carr at [mcarr@returntorah.com](mailto:mcarr@returntorah.com). Or call (865) 922-5420.

"We seek to minister to the windows, orphans, to the elderly and those who have a pure love for God and His Son Jesus in their heart," according to a statement on the ministry's Web site.

Donations to Return to Torah are tax-deductible in the United States.

### Prayer requests

BISMARCK, N.D.—To read and send in prayer requests, ask questions and read answers about the Bible and learn about new archaeological discoveries, visit Darwin and Laura Lee's Web site, at <http://darwinlauralee.com>.

The Lees' site, which welcomes "the entire world," even has pleasant background music.

### Friends of the Sabbath British Isles

ABBEYDALE, England—Robert Taylor invites everyone to the Friends of the Sabbath British Isles' Web site and to the Friends' international conference Sunday and Monday, May 28-29. Mr. Taylor said guest speakers will include Seventh-day Adventist scholar and writer Samuele Bacchicchi of Berrien Springs, Mich.

For more information visit [www.friendsofsabbath.org.uk](http://www.friendsofsabbath.org.uk) or write Friends of the Sabbath British Isles, c/o BSAUK, P.O. Box 2086, Abbeyle, Gloucester, U.K. GL4 4WD.

### WCG news

PASADENA, Calif.—An article in the November-December issue of *WCG Today*, the Worldwide Church of God's member newsletter, announced that Matthew Morgan has taken over the duties of the recently retired Ron Kelly as controller.

An article by Mr. Morgan also mentioned progress on the church's move to a new headquarters building in Glendora, east of Pasadena.

"Most interior demolition and earthquake retrofitting is complete," he said, and "plans are in place to begin the task of remodeling."

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**Time-sensitive material**