

The Journal

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1 John 4:18

June-July 2007

Military takeover has little effect on Thailand ministry

Legacy Institute, based in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with a mailing address in Dundee, Ohio, released information to THE JOURNAL in June about the political situation in Thailand in the wake of the military takeover of the Thai government in September 2006.

The following is a report from the president and founder of Legacy Institute, a Church of God ministry that operates a leadership school in Thailand.

By Leon Sexton

CHIANG MAI, Thailand—I have been asked quite often about the political situation in Thailand because of the military takeover in September 2006 and how this affects the country in general and our Legacy Institute project in particular.



Leon Sexton

I thought I should write THE JOURNAL a report to clarify the situation from my personal perspective to inform its readers, since I have lived and worked in Thailand for more than 10 years now.

There is not much news in the Western media about what has taken place and what is currently taking place, and what news there may be is generally biased by an American worldview.

I need to set the record straight concerning the September 2006 coup and recent events that have taken place here in Thailand that demonstrate the justification for such radical action on

the part of the Thai army.

The June 22 Bangkok Post headline is telling: "Taksin and Wife Formally Indicted."

Taksin Shinawatra was the prime minister ousted by the army coup.

The army took action to prevent what could have easily become a civil war in the streets of Bangkok.

This should come as no surprise to anyone who is familiar with the recent political history of Thailand. Blood has flowed in Bangkok's streets several times in recent decades.

In this case massive demonstrations were taking place in Bangkok before the coup asking for Prime Minister Taksin to step down because of allegations of gross corruption, cronyism and abuse of power.

Armed pro-Taksin cohorts were heading to Bangkok to stop the anti-Taksin protesters. Thailand was on a collision course for civil war. The army stepped in to stop the impending bloodshed.

It should be noted that, to the army's credit, not one person was shot during the coup.

In fact, families and children came out of their homes to welcome the soldiers with flowers and food. The situation took on what was almost a carnival atmosphere.

My wife, Gloria, arrived back from a trip to the U.S.A. on the day after the coup took place. There was no indication to her that anything had happened.

Except for a few extra soldiers at the airport, she said that everything seemed normal.

Both the former prime minister, Mr. Taksin, and his wife, Potjaman,

See TAKEOVER, page 4



HAPPILY EVER AFTER—Mary Lingle meets 7-month-old Jessie Neal of Flint, Texas, who was diagnosed with MCAD just weeks after his birth. Jessie was the first Texan diagnosed with MCAD after a law went into effect in December 2006 that requires hospitals to screen newborn babies for 29 diseases, including MCAD. Ms. Lingle's daughter Candice died unexpectedly in 1993. Two months later an autopsy revealed the cause of death as MCAD. Since then Ms. Lingle has crusaded in Texas for a law to require expanded screening of newborns. See the article about Ms. Lingle and her battle to protect newborn babies beginning on this page. [Photo by Jaime R. Carrero, reprinted by permission from *The Tyler Morning Telegraph*, June 18, 2007]

COG Big Sandy elects board

BIG SANDY, Texas—After its annual election process, the Church of God Big Sandy, pastored by Dave Havir, has a new member of its governing board. Neil McIver replaces Wynn Skelton. Don Mischnick was reelected.

Mr. Skelton, whose term was expiring, had decided not to run for reelection during the nomination-and-election process that occurs every May and June.

Of the 114 votes that congregation members cast, Mr. Mischnick received 90 and Mr. McIver 65, with two other candidates garnering 38 and 32 votes, respectively.

In its July 9 meeting, the board chose officers from among its members. Bernie Monsalvo is the new president, replacing John Warren. Ron Avey remains vice president. Neil McIver is the new secretary, replacing Mr. Skelton. Don Mischnick remains treasurer.

The trustees, all from the Big Sandy area, are Mr. Avey, Mr. McIver, Mr. Mischnick, Mr. Monsalvo, Mr. Warren, Jim Wilkins, and Karl Wilson. Mr. Havir attends board meetings but is not a board member.

SDA author claims Gregorian University officials are libeling him, wants an apology

By Dixon Cartwright

A prominent Sabbatarian Christian says he has suffered verbal attacks on his integrity in the form of false accusations from officials at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy.

Samuele Bacchiocchi, a retired professor at Andrews University, a school in Berrien Springs, Mich., sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is known to many Church of God members as a scholarly defender of the Sabbath and its observance, especially in his 1977 book *From Sabbath to Sunday*.

The attacks on his character have been devastating, Dr. Bacchiocchi reports, especially statements from Barbara Bergami, general secretary of the

university where Dr. Bacchiocchi completed work on his doctorate in 1975.

From Sabbath to Sunday is a book based on his dissertation. It, as well as Dr. Bacchiocchi's whole situation, is unusual in that he, a Seventh-day Adventist, for five years attended and graduated from a university sponsored by the Society of Jesus, better known as the Jesuits.

For years his dissertation and book garnered glowing praise from prominent Catholics including his adviser

during his course of study, Professor Vincenzo Monachino.

Further, Dr. Bacchiocchi says he:

- Graduated summa cum laude.
- Received silver and gold medals from Pope Paul VI for his scholarly achievements at the school.

■ Had his entire dissertation accepted for publication by the university. (To save printing costs, he chose to publish an abbreviated version of 144 pages rather than the original 528.)

■ Received an imprimatur, a mark of acknowledgment, from the Vatican for his work.

So what went wrong? A medical doctor living in South Africa, Stephen Korsman, came across an account of Dr. Bacchiocchi's study

See DR. BACCHIOCCHI, page 5

A mother's loss leads to visit with baby she helped save

The following article is reprinted by permission from the daily Tyler Morning Telegraph of June 18, 2007. It originally ran on page 1 under the headline "A Mother's Loss Brings Her Face to Face With Baby She Helped Save."

Mary Lingle, a JOURNAL reader who attended Sabbath services of the Worldwide Church of God in the 1980s, lives with her daughter Erin in Tyler. She works as a Web-site designer and volunteers as webmaster of the local chapter of *The Compassionate Friends* (www.tylercf.org).

See also an article by Ms. Lingle, "The Death of a Child Is Every Parent's Worst Nightmare," in THE JOURNAL of Jan. 31, 2005.

Ms. Lingle, sister of JOURNAL publisher Dixon Cartwright, receives E-mail at mcartwrite@aol.com.

By Lauren Grover

TYLER, Texas—Two-year-old Candice Lingle painted with watercolors, did cartwheels and tumbled with her sister on a Sunday in early November 1993.

But that evening she went to bed early with a cold, not feeling well enough to eat dinner.

On Monday her parents took her

to the pediatrician and then for fluids to a Longview hospital, where she suddenly had a seizure.

By 7 p.m. Candice was dead. The Lingles were shattered. But more, they didn't know what had happened. Neither did the doctors.

For three months they were given no answers. Then doctors told them Candice had died of a rare fatty-oxidation disorder called MCAD, or medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency.

"That blew us away," mom Mary Lingle said. "We had both contributed one defective gene and hadn't known it."

MCAD patients lack an enzyme crucial for breaking down fats in the body. They rely solely on glucose for energy and are prone to hypoglycemia and metabolic crisis.

If treated, people with MCAD can live normally by monitoring

See TEXAN WINS, page 5



Mary Lingle

ACD founder promotes 'one God' concept in N.Y.

By Dixon Cartwright

LATHAM, N.Y.—Ken Westby continues to stir things up five years after his first annual conference to promote the concept of "one God." This year a congregation in the Albany, N.Y., area whose affiliations include the Church of God Abrahamian Faith served as the local host of the sixth yearly conference.

The Living Hope Community Church, pastored by Vince Finnegan and copastored by Mr. Finnegan's son Sean, was the site of the three days of meetings June 8-10, 2007, to argue (in a collegial way, as Mr. Westby always optimistically puts it) that God is one rather than two, three or some other number.

The obvious consequence of a belief that God is one—unitarianism, or unitary monotheism—is that Jesus is not God, at least not God in the sense that the Father is the Supreme Being: eter-

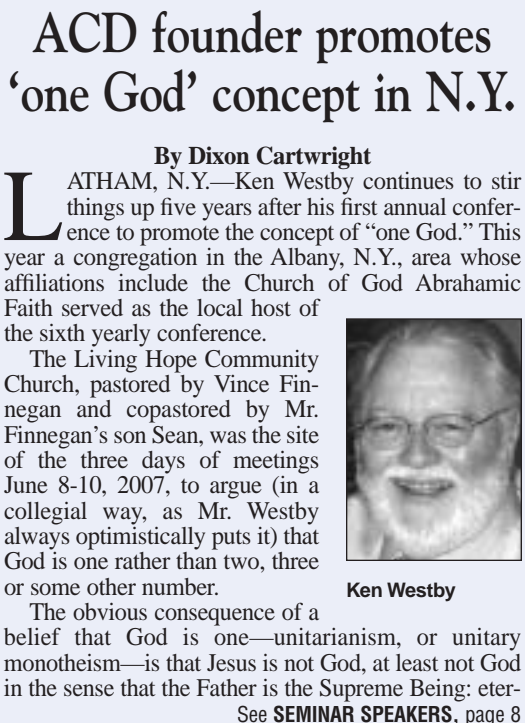
See SEMINAR SPEAKERS, page 8



Samuele Bacchiocchi

Jesus, better known as the Jesuits.

For years his dissertation and book garnered glowing praise from prominent Catholics including his adviser



Ken Westby

Jamaican CGI reports it's still fastest-growing COG

The writer is pastor of the Church of God International in Jamaica.

By Ian Boyne

KINGSTON, Jamaica—The Church of God, International (CGI) in Jamaica continues to shatter its own attendance records, recording on Pentecost, May 27, 2007, its highest-ever holy-day observance in Kingston of 300, moving up from the Unleavened Bread figure of 277.

The Jamaican CGI is the largest and fastest-growing group derived from the Worldwide Church of God group in the English, Spanish, French and Dutch-speaking Caribbean and perhaps the fastest-growing Church of God (COG) group in the world.

The Kingston congregation, with an average attendance of 225, is also perhaps the single largest COG congregation in the world. There are now four congregations

See CGI JAMAICA, page 7



Ian Boyne

Youth camp takes on Renaissance flair

By John Warren

BIG SANDY, Texas—This year's youth camp sponsored by the Church of God Big Sandy featured the theme "Summer Knights."

The fun and learning began each evening June 18-20 at about 5:45. The fair, for campers, volunteers and guests, took place on June 21.

Carol Bald of Gladewater, Reesa Bearse of Hawkins, Angela Dunnam of Big Sandy and Sharon Wilson of Tyler directed the camp.

The campers, from 4 to 12 years old, split up into three levels and four groups. Each group had at least one counselor plus assistants.

Counselors for level one were Pam Bronnum and Jeanie Roden, both of Hawkins. Laura Moody of Hawkins and Sandra Loftis of Tyler were counselors for level two. Sharon Burgin of Big Sandy and Harriet Walding of Hawkins were counselors for level three.

Sixty-six young maidens and knights were registered for this year's camp, and 61 people served as volunteers.

The activities included archery, taught by Ron Avey and Doyle Welborn, both of Big Sandy; mosaics, instructed by Penny Harris of Liberty City; leatherworking, tooled by Jonathan Stahl of Big Sandy; toy-making, coached by Leslie Haroff of Big Sandy; cooking, prepared by Kim Skelton of White Oak; and heraldry, proclaimed by Nancy White of Big Sandy.

A major activity for the campers was something called RenGames, or Renaissance games, coordinated by John Bearse and Karl Wilson, husbands of two of the camp directors.

Each level of campers wore its own color of shirt, thereby emphasizing specific traits.

"During the medieval and Renais-



YOUTHFUL RENAISSANCE—Above: One of the four camper groups at this year's Renaissance Faire youth camp of the Church of God Big Sandy. Left in above photo: Counselor Sharon Burgin. Right in photo: Counselor Harriet Walding. Below, from left: Devon Peterson, Katelyn Welborn, Marcus Allen and Kimberly Wilkinson holding MacKenzie Hawthorne. All are from the Big Sandy area. [Photos by Carol Bald]



sance period, knights were regarded highly and colors had meaning," Mrs. Wilson informed *THE JOURNAL*. "We wanted to emphasize the colorful meaning of emerald green being youth and hope, bright blue being strength and loyalty, and deep purple royalty and justice.

"That, along with the triumphant cheer of 'huzzah,' helped to make some exciting summer knights."

Because of rain on the evening of the Renaissance Faire, some outdoor activities had to be postponed, including the ever-popular water slide, and others moved indoors.

Before the fair was over, all the campers were able to go outside and enjoy the slide.

The evening's activities began with campers and guests enjoying a camp slide show prepared by Jonathan Stahl.

Besides games and a "bounce house," also known as a "jumping tent," the fair included a puppet show put on by Mike and Karin Danapas of Tyler, a treasure hunt, archery and a catapult contest.

COG member's son cited for bravery in Iraq

STRONGSVILLE, Ohio—The son of a member of the Akron Fellowship, a Church of God group, has won the Bronze Star for his service with the U.S. Army in Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Ben Masek, 29, distinguished himself by valorous conduct Feb. 24, 2007, when a checkpoint manned by Iraqi National Police was attacked by anti-Iraqi forces.

Sgt. Masek was executing his duties as a tactical commander during a convoy-escort mission when his patrol arrived during the attack.

According to the narrative that accompanied the award, the scene was "chaotic and disorganized."

Sgt. Masek dismounted from his vehicle to assess casualties when the convoy came under small-arms fire.

"With little regard for his own safety," stated the narrative, "he hastily organized a counteroffensive with one gun truck and five Iraqi national police to secure the checkpoint."

Under direct fire from three concealed positions, he maneuvered a gun truck into the checkpoint to rescue the trapped Iraqi police.

Sgt. Masek and his team engaged the enemy, thus repelling the complex attack. He then entered the burning building to evacuate the wounded and

"suppress the fire." He personally cared for a severely injured officer and assisted with his emergency medical care.

"His valorous actions resulted in forcing the enemy to withdraw, thus saving many lives."

Sgt. Masek's father, Church of God member Ron Masek, said he was not surprised by his son's courageous actions. "He has shown courage and action under stress" in other situations, Mr. Masek said.

In April, while on leave from his duties in Iraq, Sgt. Masek delivered the eulogy for four of his men killed just before he left the war-torn country.

When back home Sgt. Masek lives in Fort Drum, N.Y., with his wife, Keila, and daughters Mackenzie, 5½, and Kristen, 4.



Sgt. Ben Masek

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Notes and quotes

Shirley Pack dies

WADSWORTH, Ohio—Shirley Pack, wife of David C. Pack, founder of the Restored Church of God, headquartered in Wadsworth, died July 22 after a long battle with cancer.

A tribute to Mrs. Pack by Mr. Pack is posted at tinyurl.com/388b9v. Write Mr. Pack at RCG, P.O. Box 23295, Wadsworth, Ohio 44282, U.S.A.

Building meeting

BIG SANDY, Texas—The East Texas congregation of the United Church of God met formally for the first time in its new home July 19 in Big Sandy.

The occasion was not a Sabbath service. It was a Thursday-evening meeting that

The church says there is no truth to the pedophile rumor and the plant is not a threat to the church's potential property. Still, because some in the church are squeamish about the location, the search is on for property elsewhere in North Texas and the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Feast in the Philippines

CALAMBA, Philippines—Enrique M. Gabuyo announces Feast of Booths information for the Church of the Living God in Christ Jesus Internationally Affiliated Associates.

The observance will be Sept. 28 through Oct. 4, 2007, with the Eighth Day on Oct. 5.

Feastgoers will meet at Inn Rocio, Kisad Road, Baguio City.

For more information write Mr. Gabuyo at 398 Kinsville Subdivision; Calamba, Laguna 4027; Philippines. Or E-mail him at cogemg007@yahoo.com.

Port Austin Bible Center Feast

PORT AUSTIN, Mich.—The Port Austin Bible Center and the Philadelphia Church

Port Austin will sponsor the Feast of Tabernacles Sept. 27 through Oct. 4, exact location to be announced.

This year's theme will be "Two Becoming One," with studies on creation and physical and spiritual marriage.

Seminar papers from last year's Feast are up at <http://waterandfire.org/vo3no1.html>.

For a festival packet, write Homer Kizer at info@portautinbiblecenter.com or P.O. Box 629, Port Austin, Mich. 48467, U.S.A. Or call Homer or Carolyn Kizer at (989) 738-0022.

Port Austin Bible Campus Feast

PORT AUSTIN, Mich.—The Port Austin Bible Campus will sponsor its fifth Feast of Tabernacles observance Sept. 27 through Oct. 4, 2007. Feastgoers following "nearby calendars" will also be accommodated, announced Norman Edwards.

Some lodging will be available on campus as well as nearby motels. The Feast staff will prepare three organic meals per day for Feastgoers.

For more information write pabc@portautin.net or PABC, P.O. Box 474, Port Austin, Mich. 48467, U.S.A. Or call (989) 738-7774.

Lots of visitors

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich.—TheJournal.org attracted 84,308 actual visitors in June 2007 and 80,837 in July, announced Alan Ruth, *THE JOURNAL*'s webmaster.

The site served more visitors in June than in the entirety of 2003. "This year's explosion in growth has meant, as of Aug. 1, that TheJournal.org has already had more visitors year to date than it did for the entirety of 2006," Mr. Ruth said.

"The site's goal is to reach one million actual visitors in 2008," he said.



The UCG's new building in Big Sandy

Pastor Ken Treybig convened to inform congregation members about the progress of the construction of the local UCG's 12,750-square-foot building.

Even though the building project has gone on for seven years, church members said they were encouraged and impressed by the almost-completed structure.

Although the final cost will be considerably more (at about \$586,000) than first planned, it will be worth about \$1.5 million, Mr. Treybig said.

Most of the funds to build have come from local donations and fund raisers, with UCG headquarters in Milford, Ohio, kicking in \$50,000.

A mortgage of \$165,000 that could be increased to ensure that a Jan. 1, 2008, move-in deadline is met can be paid out over 20 years or more. The ownership will remain local until the note is paid off, at which time the ownership will transfer to the UCG parent organization.

Congregation member Aaron Dean of Gladewater, a member of the UCG's governing council of elders, advised the congregation that the home office in Ohio would probably kick in some more funds "if we'd just ask."

For more about the building and other projects of the congregation, see tinyurl.com/35onmp.

UCG move hits a snag

MILFORD, Ohio—In other building news from the United Church of God, the planned transfer of church headquarters from a Cincinnati suburb to the North Texas town of Denton has apparently hit a snag.

Word had gotten around on Internet forums that the proposed building site was close to a Safety Kleen, Inc., plant, which disposes of and recycles sometimes-hazardous industrial wastes, and near the residences of convicted pedophiles.

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Time-sensitive material