

The Journal

News of the Churches of God

Issue No. 123 (Vol. XI, No. 7)

1 John 4:18

November-December 2007

COG old-timers planning January Dallas conference

By Dixon Cartwright
SAN DIEGO, Calif.—Al Carrozzo would like to see the fragmented groups, as he calls them, of the Churches of God descended from the Worldwide Church of God come together in some form or fashion, so he and Art Mocarow plan a “symposium” to talk about things in Dallas Jan. 30 through Feb. 2, 2008.

Mr. Carrozzo, of Escondido, Calif., and Mr. Mocarow, of Montgomery, Texas, are both former members, elders and employees of the Worldwide Church of God.



Al Carrozzo

“Many of you will remember me from my final position [in the WCG] as regional director over the churches and ministers in the western half of the United States,” Mr. Carrozzo wrote in a recent “open letter to ministers and members once associated with the Worldwide Church of God.”

“It seems we have been scattered everywhere and there is no program to participate in any sort of unified effort to grow in grace and knowledge,” he said.

Mr. Carrozzo said he does not advocate a return to the “restrictive and stifling” structure of the old Worldwide Church of God, “in which we were not allowed to openly discuss any diversity of opinion.”

Rather, “I am advocating that we do come together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to openly discuss matters of doctrine, prophecy, archae-

ology and spiritual maturity.”

He optimistically hopes his efforts will serve as the beginning of the process of “the restitution of all things” as mentioned in Acts 3.

The symposium’s format will feature presentations of specific teachings and points of view.

“Then we would have a Q&A session followed by a presentation from a different or opposite view, followed by another Q&A,” he said.

The theme of the symposium will be “Law and/or Grace,” but the presentations will also include “peripheral” subjects, he said.

“The symposium will have an audience of presenters [who are] former members of the Worldwide Church of God and others who want to hear and learn.”

The “others” may include representatives from the Church of God 7th Day based in Denver, Colo., the Church of God 7th Day based in Meridian, Idaho, Seventh-day Adventists and other Sabbatarian Christians.

THE JOURNAL asked Mr. Carrozzo if he would like to see multiple mergers of Church of God groups.

“No, that’s not what I’m talking about,” he said.

But he does think Christians should model themselves after the “pattern we see in the early New Testament *ekklesia* in which there was an autonomous structure which allowed for all to participate.”

To participate or request more information, write or phone Mr. Carrozzo or his son, Tom Carrozzo, at Associates for Restored Truth (ART), P.O. Box 2524, Escondido, Calif. 92049, U.S.A.; (760) 749-6900; alcarrozzo@yahoo.com; tom_carrozzo@yahoo.com.



CASCADE CANYON—Artist Don Neff of San Jose, Calif., stands next to the work of art he painted and donated to a congregation of the United Church of God that, as of Dec. 29, 2007, meets in its new building in Big Sandy, Texas. “I painted it somewhat in the spirit of Albert Bierstadt, one of the earliest artists of note to come west in the mid-1800s, using many of the colors and dramatic lighting effects which characterized many of his Rocky Mountain paintings,” Mr. Neff told *THE JOURNAL*. The 30-by-40-inch acrylic on canvas depicts Cascade Canyon in the Teton Range of the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming. Mr. Neff, a 1972 graduate of Ambassador College, is son of Leroy and Maxine Neff of Big Sandy. For Don Neff’s blog entry about his trip to Big Sandy for the painting’s dedication on Dec. 11, go to tinyurl.com/2ner7q. The dedication of the building is set for Jan. 19, 2008. [*JOURNAL* photo]

The Journal invites readers’ Feast reports

THE *JOURNAL* invites readers to send in reports of their 2007 Feast of Tabernacles observances.

Members of the Churches of God and other Sabbatarian fellowships met at several hundred Feast sites in 2007, with most observances beginning the evening of Sept. 26.

You still have time to get your report into a soon-coming 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. Or you may 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 sponsors of the site.

Bad Axe lawsuit lurches to unexpected end: Trial judge insists on out-of-court settlement

By Dixon Cartwright
The protracted legal battle involving Norman Edwards and Terry Williams, both of Port Austin, Mich., and several other Church of God members may at last be over. The apparent conclusion of the matter is the result of an out-of-court agreement Mr. Edwards and Mr. Williams reached during a trial in November 2007 in Bad Axe, Mich.

As reported in several articles in *THE JOURNAL* over the years (including “SEE Ready to Begin in Port Austin in August” in the July 31, 2004 issue), Mr. Edwards and several friends and acquaintances made plans to open a school (called Sabbatarian Educational Environment) and ministry (the Port Austin Sabbatarian Church Com-

munity) at Port Austin.

Several people and their families moved to the location and began working on the project. For various complicated reasons the plans hit snags and, eventually, the organizers and supporters found themselves at odds with each other.

Eventually the events culminated in a lawsuit Mr. Williams brought against Mr. Edwards in October 2005.

Following are excerpts of a letter Mr. Edwards sent to people on his mailing list and a letter Mr. Williams released to *THE JOURNAL*.

Mr. Edwards’ letter includes the legal text of the out-of-court settlement. Mr. Williams agrees that that text is accurate.

The following information, dated

Nov. 14, 2007, is excerpted from Mr. Edwards’ letter:

Meeting in chambers

“On Thursday, Nov. 8, we arrived at the courthouse well before the 9 a.m. trial time with six witnesses ready to testify on our behalf and at least that many more planning to come that afternoon.

“Terry Williams was there with his attorney, Duane Cubitt, but his main witness, Paul Drieman, did not come, even though the trial had been postponed a week so he could attend.

“Rather than begin the trial, the judge asked to see attorney Cubitt and myself in his chambers. He made it very clear right up front that he was

See **HERE ARE STATEMENTS**, page 23

The SBL is a place for scholars to discuss and debate their work

The writer is pastor of the Virtual Church, which welcomes anyone to attend via phone and Internet. For more information go to www.godward.org, or dial in by calling (916) 233-0562 any Saturday at 11 a.m. U.S. Pacific time.

By Kenneth Westby
UBURN, Wash.—The biggest event in religion and biblical studies is the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL). This year’s meetings were at the San Diego (Calif.) Convention Center November 17-20.

Once again, *JOURNAL* editor Dixon Cartwright and I attended the SBL along with about 7,000 other members from around the world.

This is the gathering that attracts scholars and faculty members from virtually every institution that offers religious studies in its curriculum plus a host of independent scholars, authors and serious students. Dixon and I fit in the last category.

The four-day affair offers more than can be digested, with 40-60 seminars going on simultaneously from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with evenings filled by various receptions hosted

by publishers and vendors. The free food and drinks draw the underpaid scholars like flies to roadkill.

Learning and friendship

We attend these things to learn, see friends and keep up on the trends and discoveries in biblical studies, archaeology, theology and related fields.

Most seminars are a bore, so picking those that have substance is important but not always successful.

The SBL-AAR combined meetings offer a big and diverse tent. AAR seminars involve studies in religion per se, which include non-biblical religions.

The SBL is where the biblical meat can be found, with seminars on every area of Scripture from prophecy (one entire session I attended was on “Babylon in Revelation 18”) to archaeology.

My first SBL meetings

Thirty-three years ago I was freshly fired from the Worldwide Church of God for leading an apparently unwelcome reformation. (See “Ken Westby Talks About the ‘East Coast Rebellion’ of 1974,” *THE JOURNAL*, Jan. 30, 1998.)

See **DESIRE TO KNOW**, page 3

Journal readers report on 2007 Feast observances

Following are Feast of Tabernacles reports readers have sent to *THE JOURNAL*. This is the second installment of articles covering the 2007 festival. See more reports in the next issue of *THE JOURNAL*.

On the threshold

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—Festival coordinator Doug Horchak welcomed nearly 800 attendees to the Feast of Tabernacles service in the Sheraton Hotel’s main ballroom.

The daily services began Thursday evening, Sept. 27, and concluded Oct. 4.

Anchorage provided a beautiful setting for the celebration, which featured inspiring messages and great music and fellowship.

Among the 15 speakers were senior elders Les McCullough, Bill Winner, Earl Roemer and David



Doug Horchak

See **READ ALL ABOUT**, page 4

United Church of God’s Texas move hits a snag

By Dixon Cartwright
The plans to move the United Church of God’s headquarters from Ohio to Texas hit a major snag in December 2007 when five members of the 12-man council of elders submitted a resolution to rescind a vote of the general conference in May 2007.

As *THE JOURNAL* reported in its May 31, 2007, issue, the general conference, meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, voted by a slim 202-195 margin to move the home office from Milford, Ohio, to Denton, Texas.

Since then quite a few elders have expressed their dissatisfaction with the plans to relocate.

One elder, not an employee, said he reflects the opinion of many others when he says he likes the idea of a church headquartered in Texas but doesn’t like the “less than open” way the church made the decision to move.

Although the majority of council members support the move to Texas, it takes only four of the 12 to place a question on the ballot for the next general conference, scheduled for May 2008.

Therefore, the five council members—Bob Berendt

See **UCG’S PLANS**, page 23

Aussies organize a gathering of the clans

Continued from page 4

the arguments put forward by Catholic and Protestant scholars and were judged by a panel including the pastor and two other members (including one with a theology degree) familiar with theological arguments.

This year for the first time the Kingston church lost the trophy to the relatively new Spanish Town church, whose representative, Stacy-Ann Hall, did a spell-binding presentation showing why an ever-burning hell is false and why the arguments of its defenders don't stand up to biblical scrutiny.

Second prize went to Trevor Murphy, defending champion from Kingston. Spanish Town is determined to keep that trophy, and Kingston is equally determined to wrest it back, so there is excitement already to see who will emerge winners in the 2008 competition!

This competition is a matter of provoking brethren to good works, in this case good apologetic works, vital in a church that emphasizes evangelism.

Speaking of which, 2008 has been dubbed the Intensified Evangelism Year.

The year kicks off in January with a public lecture, "Should You Keep the Sabbath?," which will be held on the last Sabbath of the month.

There will also be regional public lectures as well as regular advertisements of our church series in the press.

There will, in addition, be publication of special advertorials on controversial doctrines, all designed to show that God does have a church that has the deposit of truth.

The CGI is the most active of all the ex-WCG groups in Jamaica. CGI Jamaica has a fruitful and warm and productive relationship with the Tyler, Texas, leadership and is efficiently supervised by Bill Watson of Bath, Ohio.

CGI Tyler's *Armor of God* television program can be seen all across Jamaica on two satellite stations, Uplift Network and Word Network, at 9:30 Saturday mornings and 10:30 Sunday mornings, making us potentially the most visible of all the COG groups in Jamaica.

We ask for the prayers of our brethren in all the Churches of God (those not too exclusivist to ignore the call) to petition our Father in heaven to further rain down His blessings on us as we seek to fulfill His great commission. *Ian Boyne, Kingston, Jamaica.*

Gathering of the clans

CALOUNDRA, Australia—The Feast of Tabernacles season is certainly a time for the gathering of the clans as people come together to celebrate before the Lord.

Catching up with friends and rela-

tives whom one has not seen for a year or longer is one part of the pleasure. Spending time away from everyday cares and pressures, relaxing as if all one's work is done, is another.

Yet another, and the best, is a banquet at the Lord's spiritual table from which we depart ready to face the world once again.

In Feast reports over the years, the same themes appear again and again: excitement, reunion, spiritual and physical nourishment, refuge from the world, meetings of minds, swapping of ideas, sharing of expe-



AUNTIE BEE—Barbara "Auntie Bee" Eldred interviews "Queen Esther" during a skit at the Feast of Tabernacles site in Caloundra, Queensland, Australia. See the report on the Caloundra site on this page. See another photo from the same site on page 4 of this issue of *THE JOURNAL*. [Photo by Walter Steensby]

periences. This year was no exception.

The Feast in Caloundra was organized by Christian Educational Services Australia, or CESA, a non-denominational organization that aims to provide resources to promote Chris-

has been for a number of years, was the session for the children run by Barbara Eldred (Auntie Bee).

Barbara's method is to sit the children down in the front of the hall, in full view of everyone else, and there to involve them in a series of lessons: seven during the Feast, with a finale on the Eighth Day.

Barbara uses a variety of themes and props. Our first encounter with this was in 2003, when she did a series on the armor of God, for which she had purchased a plastic suit of armor.

A young man put it on, one piece each day, until he was completely clad. Each day Barbara talked about the piece being donned, what it was for and why.

In 2007 the theme was dual: famous people of the Bible and the fruits of the Spirit (which are, to refresh your memory, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith).

The life story of each famous character illustrated one of the fruits.

The children don't just sit on the floor and watch. Oh, no, they're involved—by being asked questions and challenged to put their hands up quickly when a key word is spoken.

Barbara hands out chocolate frogs as rewards. Amazing how the prospect of a reward concentrates the mind wonderfully.

The key to the success of this method is preparation: theme, props and scripts.

Barbara's scripts, written in the vernacular, explain religious concepts clearly and accurately and, while directed to children, are great for refreshing adult memories.

They can be quite hilarious. If you'd like to read them go to fellowship-in-god.org and look for Auntie Bee's Archives.

This is a splendid way of involving the young people, helping them to feel involved in the whole, to give them instruction at their level and to help them remember what they learn.

The adults benefit hugely also. The two sessions we watched four years apart remain bright and vivid in our minds, while just about all the other presentations have faded to gray! *Walter Steensby, Canberra, Australia.*

Barbara hands out chocolate frogs as rewards. Amazing how the prospect of a reward concentrates the mind wonderfully.

tian growth and development. One of its sources is material from Ron Dart and his CEM in the United States.

Caloundra is a subtropical town about 90 kilometers north of Brisbane. The state of Queensland provided its usual fine weather for the duration, although it was rather too hot and humid for southerners!

The United Church of God had its site about 12 kilometers and 18 traffic lights further to the north, in Mooloolaba. People from the two groups visited each other during the week.

It is so gratifying to see people able to move freely from one clan gathering to another. Christ sets us free, after all.

Apart from the usual range of sermons and quiz nights, perhaps the most outstanding, important and worthwhile feature of this Feast, as it

Notes and quotes

Thelma Justus dies

SPRINGDALE, Ark.—Thelma Justus, 78, a longtime Church of God member, died Dec. 27, 2007, at her home.

Along with her husband, Tom, and sons, Mrs. Justus was an essential part of the founding of Just-Us Printers in 1979. Just-Us is one of the most successful printing companies in the American South.



Thelma Justus

Besides her husband, Mrs. Justus is survived by a son, Mike Justus of Springdale; two daughters, Terrie Hammer of Gladewater, Texas, and Judy Petermann of Springdale; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Officiating at Mrs. Justus's funeral was Dave Havir, pastor of the Church of God Big Sandy.

Isabell Hoeh dies

FOLEY, Ala.—Longtime Worldwide Church of God member Isabell Hoeh died Nov. 21, 2007,



Isabell Hoeh

three years to the day after her husband, WCG evangelist Herman Hoeh, died. Among her many other interests, Mrs. Hoeh wrote articles on food and health for *The Good News*, the WCG's member magazine. Two such articles, "Eat Right to Be Healthy" and "Recipes for Days of Unleavened Bread," are reprinted on the Church of God Faithful Flock Homeschool Association's Web site at tinyurl.com/38dunm.

Mrs. Hoeh is survived by a son, Manfred Hoeh; three daughters, Karline Ellis, Anneliese Roemer and Gilda Brockmeier; and several grandchildren.

The oldest conspiracy

BIG SANDY, Texas—Wes White, longtime Church of God member, former Ambassador College faculty member and frequent writer for *THE JOURNAL*'s opinion page, has a new novel out, *Clan of Lilith: The Oldest Conspiracy*.



A work of fiction, the book touches on British-Israelism, the death of Princess Di, angels and politics, and biblical and European history, he said.

Order Mr. White's book online through Westland Press, Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble. Or write Mr. White for more information at P.O. Box 440, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A.

Mergers and rumors of mergers

ARROYO GRANDE, Calif.—Robert Thiel of www.cogwriter.com wants to lay to rest rumors of a merger between the Living Church of God, of which he is a member, and the United Church of God an International Association.

"A general merger will not take place," Dr. Thiel said. "The leaders of the Living Church of God have told me that they do not see any possibility of merging due to major differences in government and approaches to preaching the gospel."

THE JOURNAL talked with a highly placed UCG source and heard the same thing: No merger of the UCG and LCG is in the offing.

Time to cry wolf

TYLER, Texas—Mark Armstrong at the Intercontinental Church of God says it's time to



Mark Armstrong

"cry wolf" about several "shameless self-styled heirs" of his grandfather, Herbert W. Armstrong.

"Since when is it a minister's—servant's—place to demand immediate and unquestioning obedience in regard to decisions that should be personal?" Mr. Armstrong rhetorically asked.

"Since when are ministers supposed to be strong-arming hapless, well-meaning members of the Church of God?"

Mr. Armstrong says he's "seen about enough of this kind of wretched abuse."

Many "have been financially destroyed by this kind of abuse," he said. "Families have been rent asunder by the dictates of so-called ministers. It's enough already!"

Mr. Armstrong didn't mention the names of the Church of God leaders he is unhappy with, but he said they are "entities claiming my grandfather's name, preaching imminent tribulation and thriving on organization authority."

America is in mortal danger from "imminent tribulation, all right," he said: "tribulation imposed by their authoritarian ministers." "Unfortunately," he concluded, "I have to go on the record, and this is only the beginning. But it's way past time people have access to the knowledge they need to see through the misuse of Herbert W. Armstrong's name. Unfortunately, it's reached a stage that can't be ignored."

Write the ICG at P.O. Box 1117, Tyler, Texas 75703, U.S.A., or go to www.intercontinentalcog.org.

Rare book at Biblestudy.org

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich.—Alan Ruth announces the addition of a rare, classic Bible-study book to his Web site, Biblestudy.org.

It's *The Life and Epistles of St. Paul*, by Conybeare and Howson. It includes maps, photos, study materials and more than 4,500 footnotes.

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