

# The Journal

## News of the Churches of God

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## King and queen, old friends of COG, invite Legacy reps

Former Texas residents Leon and Gloria Sexton founded Legacy Institute, an independent Church of God ministry in South and Southeast Asia, in 1999. The Sextons live in Chiang Mai, Thailand. They have known the king and queen of Thailand for more than 25 years.

By Leon Sexton

**B**ANGKOK, Thailand—When the king of Thailand turned 80 on Dec. 5, 2007, my wife, Gloria, and I attended the celebration in his honor.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand is the longest-reigning monarch in the world. He has sat on the throne of the Thai kingdom for more than 60 years.

This year numerous special celebrations were held because of the king's birthday, but by far the greatest was the Royal Grand Audience at the Chakri Throne Hall of the Grand Palace in Bangkok. The king had sent Gloria and me an invitation to attend.

### Once in a lifetime

Attending the Grand Audience is a particular honor because only the highest-ranking government officials, army and police officers and ambassadors of foreign countries are invited.

Gloria and I got up early to get to the Grand Palace before the traffic got bad.

People had traveled from all over the country to line the streets while wearing yellow shirts, the king's color, to wait for his royal cavalcade.

King Bhumibol is revered in Thailand, and for an ordinary Thai person even to catch a glimpse of him is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Even with the special car pass we had been given by the king's secretariat, we still were delayed when traffic started jamming up because buses were parked on the streets around the palace to disgorge the thousands upon thousands of faithful subjects.

I was required to dress in formal white tie and tails for this occasion. Gloria calls it my penguin suit.

She was dressed in a yellow Thai silk traditional dress.

### Good sign

We were ushered into the formal-garden area in front of the Chakri Throne Hall by palace servants and led by the chief of protocol to sign the official guest book. We were the first to sign!

Later we went out to the gardens to look around and take pictures.

Government officials and military and police officers decked out in full-dress uniforms with medals and decorations began arriving.

The ladies wore either uniforms or full-length traditional Thai dresses as

See **ROYALS HONOR**, page 24



**PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY**—Clyde Kilough, president of the United Church of God an International Association, and his wife, Dee, attend Sabbath services in Big Sandy Jan. 19 for the formal dedication of the new building of one of the UCG's congregations in East Texas. Mr. Kilough delivered the sermon that day. More than 300 people gathered for the special service in the facility. See the related article beginning on this page of this issue of *THE JOURNAL*. [JOURNAL photo]

## Members of the United Church of God dedicate and move into their new dwelling in Big Sandy

By Dixon Cartwright

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—Local United Church of God members and visitors packed the house the Sabbath of Jan. 19, 2008, for the formal dedication of the UCG's new building here.

More than 300 people gathered in the new facility, which sits on 10 acres at 1007 N. Tyler St. (Texas Highway 155 North), to hear sermons from visiting ministers Roy Holladay and Clyde Kilough.

However, Mr. Holladay canceled his trip from Ohio to Big Sandy at the last minute because of the death of a close friend, UCG elder Bill Winner of Birmingham, Ala.

Speaking at the dedication service were pastor Ken Treybig, making an-

nouncements and introducing the special music, and Mr. Kilough.

### Planning and building

Mr. Treybig credited UCG member Morris Foster of Gladewater, Texas, for donating his service as the building project's manager over the seven years since the church-member meeting, in 2001, that began the planning and building process.

The official groundbreaking for the one-story 12,750-square-foot metal structure was a little more than three years ago, on Nov. 11, 2004.

### Building fund

The congregation, known officially as the United Church of God East Texas, raised \$225,000 for a building

fund, with the home office of the United Church of God an International Association, in Milford, Ohio, contributing an additional \$50,000. The total cost of the facility is about \$586,000.

The deed to the building is held locally, with plans to turn it over to the parent organization when the \$165,000 note at a local bank is retired, perhaps 20 years from now.

### Memory lane

Mr. Kilough, in his sermon, embarked on a trip down memory lane, speaking nostalgically about his days at Ambassador College, Big Sandy, only about three miles from where he was standing and speaking.

See **UCG MEMBERS MOVE**, page 6

## Louisiana pastor says things aren't as bad as they sound

By Dixon Cartwright

**T**om Kerry, pastor of the Church of God New Orleans, which meets in Gretna, La., says reports of his indictment on a charge of bankruptcy fraud in November 2007 don't tell the whole story.

Newspaper and Internet accounts in late 2007 reported Mr. Kerry, 55, was indicted because he concealed assets that he could have used to pay off his debts when he filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition in 2005.

Officials with the Office of the United States Trustee alleged that Mr. Kerry did not disclose a money-market account worth more than \$50,000 and lied in court and in documents filed with the court.

If convicted, Mr. Kerry could have faced up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Mr. Kerry said he is glad for the opportunity to "clarify" the situation after *THE JOURNAL* asked him to comment on a news account of his indictment.

"The news release was in reference to my bankruptcy a couple of years ago in relation to a nonreported financial account," he said.

"The truth is I did not report the account. The understanding I had received from my original attorney—fired early on—was that I was allowed to retain that account because

that particular account was my only means of support at the time."

The money-market account was one Mr. Kerry used to "trade on Wall Street," he said.

"According to my original understanding, I was allowed to maintain it as a source of income, no different than an electrician or a plumber who is allowed to keep their tools and vehicle to get around and perform their trade.

"My trade was stock trading."

The court, he said, ruled that Mr. Kerry should have reported the account and that then the court would have decided whether he could keep it or not.

"The court and the attorneys have been very helpful in resolving the issue," he said.

"Additionally, I am not charged anywhere with lying to the court," contrary to news reports.

"I'm glad *THE JOURNAL* contacted me in this to clarify the matter because I've received numerous calls and letters of concern from the brethren. Please let everyone know things are fine and going well, but please continue to keep me in their prayers."

Mr. Kerry ended his statement to this newspaper by advising readers to "be sure to read the fine print in everything [they] sign, especially if it is a legal document that may come up in a court at a later date."

Further, "don't trust any attorney, even the one you are paying for! Well did Jesus know them when He spoke of them in the Scriptures."



Tom Kerry

## Board expels trustee

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—The seven-member board of trustees of the Church of God Big Sandy expelled one of its own members Jan. 22, 2008. Board president Bernie Monsalvo said the action was necessary because trustee John Warren's conduct in a previous board meeting "was not conducive to an atmosphere of peace as required to conduct meetings decently and in order."

The trustees voted 4-2 in a specially called session to expel Mr. Warren, who wasn't present at the meeting because he had traveled to Maine for the funeral of a relative and had decided to extend his stay.

Some analyze the move as the latest event in a two-year disagreement among Big Sandy members over the congregation's sponsorship of the East Texas Women's Conference, an annual gathering of church members begun by Linda Hardy White in 2000.

Mr. Warren denies the board's accusation, saying he was not disruptive and had civilly commented on "actions" rather than "motives" of individuals under discussion. He also disagrees that his expulsion had anything to do with the women's conference.

"This all really has to do with relationships and how people are treated," he told *THE JOURNAL*.

*THE JOURNAL* plans fuller coverage of the Big Sandy situation in its next issue.

## The Journal invites readers' Feast reports

**T**HE 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 the next 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.

- 3 Dennis Diehl has stumbled across an abundance of Two Witnesses
- 3 Kathleen McCann writes about the door that the Lord opens or shuts
- 4 Readers file Feast of Tabernacles reports from several 2007 sites
- 24 Mac Overton recommends a new book, *Clan of Lilith: The Oldest Conspiracy*



# Lilith and clan in review: What a gal

The writer is a longtime Church of God member and editor of the twice-weekly Gilmer Mirror.

By Mac Overton

GILMER, Texas—*The Clan of Lilith: The Oldest Conspiracy* is a delightful fictional romp through a history that never was.

The title and the theme of Wesley White's new book (Wasteland Press, \$12) is from the rabbinical Hebrew legend that Adam had a wife, Lilith, formed from the dust as he was, before Eve.

As reported in many programs on The History Channel, Lilith refused subservience to Adam and, more or less, became a demoness. God then fashioned Eve from Adam's rib.

The plot centers on an agent (angel?) who fights behind the scenes of history to protect the British royal family from "the Clan of Lilith," a secret society that has existed for thousands of years.

Mr. White skillfully draws in many elements that longtime members of our Sabbatarian tradition in the Church of God will understand, including the belief that the British

royals are descended from King David of ancient Israel and that various peoples of Northwest Europe are

rabbit (uh, for this audience, make that a gut-shot whitetail), it is easy to follow and pleasant to peruse.

(The plot jumps from ancient Israel, 1000 B.C., to Great Britain, c. 1960 A.D., to present-day Missouri and Tennessee—and back and forth again.)

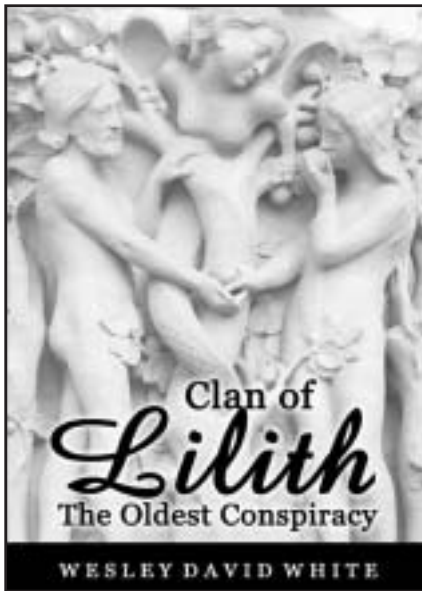
It concerns how the heroine, Kathleen Shidler, works to protect the British royals, who are the Seed of David in the present day. Her work is unknown to them but becomes known to other principals of the storyline along the way.

I won't give the plot away, but I will say the book is highly readable and clean enough for a whole family to enjoy. It is better entertainment than most of the pabulum on satellite TV these days.

Buy and enjoy it. You won't be disappointed.

Like I said, it's a work of fiction. Or is it?

I understand other related books may be in the works, and I can't wait.



descended from the lost 10 tribes.

Once one gets used to the way the plot jumps around like a gut-shot

# Royals honor Legacy with invitation

Continued from page 1  
well as their medals and ribbons.

In Thailand, different regiments of the army wear differently colored uniforms. As more and more arrived, the gardens in front of the Chakri Throne Hall, where the royal audience would take place, became a sea of bright red, yellow, purple, green, blue and even pink.

The prime minister and other government officials wore white, again with all their medals and royal decorations. What a colorful event.

## Meeting dignitaries

Gloria and I met royal ladies in waiting; the former president of the senate; the queen's doctor; Gen. Prem Tinsulanon, former prime minister and now the president of the king's privy council; and many other dignitaries and officials as they took their assigned places before the royal couple arrived.

Around 10:30 a.m. the royal anthem began playing, and the king, queen and members of the royal family arrived by motorcade.

The king, queen and crown prince came outside onto the balcony overlooking the garden area.

A special throne had been set up on the balcony with the royal insignia on a small flag draped over the banister in

The events took only about an hour, but they were accompanied by much pageantry and royal ceremony.

It was an incredible opportunity to participate in this event to honor the king, who has done so much for so many years for his people.

## Mr. Armstrong's friends

Worldwide Church of God founder Herbert W. Armstrong was a good friend of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit, and the royal pair have never forgotten the relationship.

Legacy Institute is blessed to enjoy the favor of the king and queen. They look out for us as their guests in the Kingdom of Thailand.

It was a great honor to join the many hundreds of thousands who joined as one voice in shouting, "Long live the king!"

Donations to Legacy are tax-deductible in the United States and can be sent to Legacy Institute, P.O. Box 7, Dundee, Ohio 44624, U.S.A.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**—King Bhumibol (left), Queen Sirikit and Crown Prince Maja Vajiralongkorn of Thailand greet their subjects in this official photo. [Photo courtesy Bureau of Royal Household]

front of the king.

Cannons fired a 21-gun salute, and officials gave their congratulatory speeches.

The king delivered his formal speech of gratitude to the assembly, and we all shouted, "Long live the king!" several times.

## Notes and quotes

### Chuck Dickerson dies

MINDEN, Nev.—Chuck Dickerson, 64, former WCG minister, died Jan. 13, 2008, of a heart attack after several years of deteriorating health.

Mr. Dickerson was a 1969 graduate of Ambassador College in Pasadena, Calif. He served as a minister for 11 years and then pursued other interests in Nevada, mainly operating a small-



Chuck Dickerson

aircraft-repair business and flying charter planes.

He is survived by his wife, Terri; his brother John of Fayetteville, Ark.; his son Chris of Minden; his daughter Jo Lynn of Las Vegas, Nev.; his daughter Kelly of Denver, Colo.; and several grandchildren.

Mrs. Dickerson receives mail at 2618 Gordon Ave, Minden, Nev. 89423, U.S.A.

### Women in Arkansas

HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, Ark.—Rosemarie Halley announces a women's conference in Hot Springs, Ark., at the Sabbath Day Church of God's building, 2998 Park Ave. (Highway 7), from Friday evening, May 16, through lunch on Sunday, May 18, 2008.

The conference theme will be "God's Greatest Gift," a reference to 1 Corinthians 13:13.

"This conference will be for all ladies, including the teenage ladies," Mrs. Halley said.

For information for would-be participants and volunteers, see [www.sdco.org](http://www.sdco.org), or write Mrs. Halley at [rosyhalley1@earthlink.net](mailto:rosyhalley1@earthlink.net) or 24 Jumilla Ln., Hot Springs Village, Ark. 71909, U.S.A.

### On the road with Bob

BIG SANDY, Texas—*The Buckaroo Bob Puppet Show*, playing in the Church of God Big Sandy for two years now, is busy visiting other churches.

Puppets and their handlers performed for the Waco Church of God Feb. 16, 2008, in episodes titled "Stealing" and "Bearing False Witness." Puppeteers and crew are Jared Weese, Karen Weese, Wayne



Buckaroo Bob

Weese, Nancy White and Wes White, all of the Big Sandy area.

If you are interested in Buckaroo Bob doing a show for your local congregation, contact Mr. White at [market1@att.net](mailto:market1@att.net) or P.O. Box 1062, Texas 75755, U.S.A.

The puppets will also appear at the United Christian Ministries' Feast site this fall, Mr. White said.

### Tornado damage

LAFAYETTE, Tenn.—Two Church of God members lost their home here in a tornado Feb. 5, 2008.

United Church of God elder Fred Kellers, after visiting Jimmy and Judy Law, members of the UCG, said the Laws "have everything they need" but "they do need prayer, including prayer that Jimmy is able to find a used dump truck to replace the 17-foot dump truck that was damaged."

"He feels that he can repair the older 14-foot truck . . . to keep his business going until he can find a longer truck."

A few days later, President George W. Bush toured the damaged area and visited with Mr. and Mrs. Law.

### 2008 One God Seminars

AUBURN, Wash.—Seattle is the site set for the seventh annual One God Seminars May 31 through June 2, 2008, announced founder Ken Westby.

"The Saturday and Sunday sessions will feature several new presenters introducing material not previously examined," Mr. Westby told *THE JOURNAL*. "These seminars offer an objective inquiry into the nature of God and Jesus Christ, the most important of all biblical topics."

See [www.godward.org](http://www.godward.org) for details, or write Mr. Westby at [westby@godward.org](mailto:westby@godward.org) or P.O. Box 4748, Federal Way, Wash. 98063, U.S.A.

### The Movie Lady

HOUSTON, Texas—Ron Lohr encourages donations of videotapes and DVDs to an organization called Films of Inspiration.

Faye "The Movie Lady" McLeod takes the movies to men in prisons and missions, he said.

Movies of Christian and inspirational content may go to Ms. McLeod at 1938 Woodvine, Houston, Texas 77055, U.S.A.

Mr. Lohr receives E-mail at [ronlohr@aol.com](mailto:ronlohr@aol.com).

### COG member's new book

LODI, Calif.—Roy Marrs, a longtime member of the Church of God 7th Day based in Denver, Colo., has a new book out about Sabbath observance and related topics, *Yours in the Master's Service*.

It's \$10 plus \$2.47 shipping and handling, or \$18 for two copies plus \$2.81 shipping and handling.

To order or request more information write Roy A. Marrs at 102 Mokelumne River Dr., Lodi, Calif. 95240, U.S.A., or [r.marrs@att.net](mailto:r.marrs@att.net). Or call him at (209) 333-0357.

### Two million and who's counting?

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich.—The year just ended, 2007, marked Biblestudy.org's 12th consecutive year of increased popularity and "ability to reach the world with God's truth," announced Alan Ruth. Visit the site, operated by Mr. Ruth's Barnabas Ministries, to check out its impressive content.

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