

The Journal

News of the Churches of God

- 2 Walter Steensby writes in honor of Margaret and Chris Waterman
- 3 Reg Killingley recommends finding ways to promote peace
- 4 Dave Havir gives his perspective on recent events in Big Sandy
- 24 The Ambassador West project in Pasadena is having problems

Issue No. 125 (Vol. XII, No. 2)

Founded 1997

Feb. 29, 2008

Symposium presents mix of views about law, grace

By Dixon Cartwright
DALLAS, Texas—The lineup at ART Ministries' Dallas symposium featured 19 speakers, most, but not all, from a Church of God background and most, but not all, Sabbatarian Christians.

One of the speakers addressing the 35 or so in the audience each day was 80-year-old Art Mokarow of Montgomery, Texas, a close friend of conference organizers Al and Tom Carrozzo, father and son from Southern California.

In speaking of the official conference theme, "Law and/or Grace," Mr. Mokarow said in his first comments on the first day of the meetings, Jan. 30, 2008, that "the law is not even the issue."

The law of God is not "done away," Mr. Mokarow said. Indeed, it eternally exists. But the challenge is to follow the "spirit of the law rather than the letter."

Later in the conference Mr. Mokarow elaborated on his views of law and grace.

"I'm going to show you two perspectives today," he said. "One is law and grace, which is perfectly fine." Another is "law or grace," which is perfectly fine."

But Mr. Mokarow's preferred way of approaching the subject is "law to grace"; that is, beginning with an understanding of "law" but moving forward to an acceptance of a partic-

ular understanding of "grace."

"The law is never done away," he concluded. "The question we really have to ask is: Are you trying to be righteous by the law, like the Jews who wear the veil over their face? Or do you want your righteousness to be Christ's?"

The following are excerpts from presentations of each of the speakers.

D&R detritus

First up was Al Carrozzo of Escondido, Calif., the sponsor (along with his son, Tom Carrozzo of Sherman Oaks, Calif.) of the Dallas symposium and founder (also with his son) of ART Ministries (also known as Associates for Restored Truth), based in Southern California (P.O. Box 2524, Escondido, Calif. 92046, U.S.A.).

Mr. Carrozzo's initial presentation included a personal history, noting his 1974 disfellowshipping from the Worldwide Church of God.

The WCG had just published a new booklet about divorce and remarriage, which Mr. Carrozzo immediately concluded was "the worst piece of garbage I'd ever seen . . . I was just beside myself."

His offenses against the WCG included interviews with news media, which he said led to his expulsion from the WCG.

Mr. Carrozzo talked about the pur-

See **CG7 LEADER**, page 4



DALLAS SYMPOSIUM—Louis Williams of Silver Spring, Md. (left), visits with Art Mokarow of Montgomery, Texas, in Dallas during the symposium sponsored by ART Ministries, based in Southern California and founded by Al Carrozzo and Tom Carrozzo. A total of about 40 people attended meetings of the symposium in late January and early February 2008. The organizers hope to sponsor similar meetings in several cities over the next few months. See two articles about the symposium, including an interview with the Carrozcos, beginning on this page of *THE JOURNAL*. See also a related article on page 24. [*JOURNAL* photo]

Events leading to expulsion began two years ago

By Dixon Cartwright
BIG SANDY, Texas—Although the seven-member board of trustees of the Church of God Big Sandy recently expelled one of its members for alleged improper conduct during a board meeting, the roots of a major disagreement among members of the congregation go back at least a couple of years.

As *THE JOURNAL* reported in its Jan. 31, 2008, issue, the board voted 4-2 to remove trustee John Warren. Mr. Warren, who was not eligible to vote on the question of his removal, was absent visiting relatives in Maine.

Mr. Warren's expulsion, in the words of board president Bernie Monsalvo, happened because his conduct during a recent meeting "was not conducive to an atmosphere of peace as required to conduct meetings and in order."

See **FORMER TRUSTEE**, page 8

Organizers of Dallas, Texas, symposium and ART Ministries shooting for something new

By Dixon Cartwright
DALLAS, Texas—When his friends warn Al Carrozzo that any new effort at organizing Church of God members is doomed to fail, he tells them he's determined to get it right this time.

Seventy-five-year-old Mr. Carrozzo, from Escondido, Calif., his son, Tom Carrozzo, 54, of Sherman Oaks, Calif., and their friend Art Mokarow, 80, of Montgomery, Texas, conducted a conference, which they called a symposium, in a Dallas hotel Jan. 30 through Feb. 2, 2008.

The stated purpose of the Carrozcos' ART Ministries, formally known as Associates for Restored Truth, was to attract leaders of Sabbatarian and other churches and ministries to talk

about the theme "Law and/or Grace."

But it was also to discuss the possibilities of providing Christians, especially Sabbatarian Christians, with resources to raise their level of biblical studies and theology.

Toward the end of the conference, *THE JOURNAL* interviewed Al and Tom Carrozzo in the Carrozcos' suite in the Rosewood Crescent Hotel in Dallas, the location of the meetings.

A clearinghouse

The Carrozcos founded ART Ministries (restoredtruth.net) "probably in October" of 2007, Tom Carrozzo said.

"I can give you a vision statement: We want to be a repository and clearinghouse to gather in all the information and advanced thinking from all the

scholars, teachers and doctors of divinity, and we want to come to a common conclusion on our various issues."

There's nothing like biting off as much as you can possibly chew, this writer commented after hearing the vision statement.

The two men acknowledged that no one, to their knowledge, has had much success unifying anything or anyone in the various Sabbatarian Church of God communities, but they insist they're trying something different, something that might actually work.

For the representatives of churches and ministries that work with ART Ministries, to "unify," they say, doesn't mean their groups need to "merge."

"Based on the feedback," says
See **ORGANIZERS FORM**, page 4

Elder says he's God's end-time prophet, reveals his prophecies

A member of *THE JOURNAL*'s staff, as a public service for readers of this newspaper, has compiled a list of quotations, some of them startling, from the new book by Ronald Weinland, 2008: *God's Final Witness*.

(Order or download the free book at the-end.com.)

According to one of Mr. Weinland's Web sites (ronaldweinland.com), he has been "appointed by the God of Abraham to be His end-time prophet to the world, preceding the return of Jesus Christ."



Since 1997 Ron Weinland

Mr. Weinland states that God made him a prophet in 1997.

Mr. Weinland announced that "the final countdown" has begun and that "the 1,335 days [recorded in Daniel 12:12] before the actual day Jesus Christ returns began on February 2, 2008."

Mr. Weinland announced that God will "call thousands upon tens of thousands of people over the next year . . . all in preparation for the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of God's Government over all the earth in the fall of 2011."

Mr. Weinland published his first book, *The Prophesied End-Time*, in

2004. His latest book is 2008: *God's Final Witness*. According to Mr. Weinland, "this book pinpoints the timing of these end-time events and adds additional information beyond what the first book covered."

The Two Witnesses

Early in his book Mr. Weinland stresses the importance of the Two Witnesses of Revelation 11 in the fulfillment of end-time prophecies. Then he informs readers that he is one of the Two Witnesses. (See also "The Two Witnesses: They're Everywhere," by Dennis Diehl, *THE JOURNAL*, Jan. 31, 2008.)

On page 16 Mr. Weinland writes: "It is now with boldness, confidence and great clarity that I give to you what God has given me. I am to announce, through God's direct revelation, that I am one of those two witnesses. The other witness will be revealed to the world during the time of the great tribulation—within the final three and one-half years of man's era."

"During that period of time, we will, together, completely fulfill all that God has given us to witness to this whole earth. Then, at the end, we will die in the streets of Jerusalem; and finally, exactly three and one-half days later, we will be resurrected (Revelation 11)."

"The world will see this resurrection via television. At this same time Jesus Christ will appear in the heav-

See **STRONG THUNDER**, page 6

UCG council worries about blocs of balloters

By Dixon Cartwright
In a rare and repeated use of the words *vote* and *voting*, United Church of God council members conferring in San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 29, 2008, condemned the practice of "bloc voting" among UCG ministers.



Robert Dick

Usually the UCG prefers variants of *ballot* as a noun or verb, as in the general conference balloted (rather than voted) to pass or defeat this or that measure.

The unusual usage reflects the belief in the old Worldwide Church of God that voting was a sin. Hence UCG elders don't vote; they ballot.

But in this case, presumably because bloc voting is considered a serious offense, maybe even an actual sin, Robert Dick of Portland, Ore., council chairman, felt free to

use variants of the word *vote* (in conjunction with *bloc*) several times during the proceedings.

Elders are said to be playing fast and loose by conferring with each other before balloting, and they're going so far as to recommend to each other whom to ballot for.

Bloc voting reared its head in 1998, according to the account by UCG elder and council reporter John Foster of Princeton, W.Va. It returned, said the same report, in 2007. Now it's apparently being indulged in by members of the general conference for a third time.

Chairman Dick said the proper way to ballot in the UCG is for the elders during the annual general conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, to temporarily retire to their individual hotel rooms just before balloting and pray for God to direct their ballots.

That practice, said Mr. Dick, properly focuses the men on the principle that their appeal is to God

to guide them.

Richard Thompson of Orlando, Fla., said bloc voting makes a mockery of the concept of seeking God's Spirit to guide elders' decisions.

But council members Bill Eddington of Melbourne, Australia, Bob Berendt of Edmonton, Alta., Canada, Aaron Dean of Gladewater, Texas, and Roy Holladay of Chattanooga, Tenn., made the point that no one seems to be clear on what can acceptably be discussed before balloting. Bloc voting needs to be defined, the four said, and somebody needs to explain why it is wrong.

Larry Salyer of Cincinnati explained that attempts to influence a fellow elder break the spirit of proper balloting.

Further, said Jim Franks, also of Cincinnati, it is a serious matter when somebody violates important principles and then acts as if nothing had happened.

See **BLOC VOTES**, page 23

The Journal

Subscribe to **THE JOURNAL** (or renew your subscription) anytime! Subscriptions in the United States are \$28 for 12 issues or \$49 for 24 issues. Simply send a check or money order to P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755. You may also pay with a credit card or PayPal. Fax 1-903-636-9097 or write info@thejournal.org. See page 2 of this issue for more information including non-U.S. subscriptions. Visit **THE JOURNAL** on the Web at thejournal.org. Thanks for reading **THE JOURNAL!**

ART's first board meet set for Houston

SAN GABRIEL, Calif.—ART Ministries, also known as the Associates for Restored Truth, plans the first meeting of its board of directors for Houston, Texas, March 26-27, 2008.

"This gathering follows a very successful law-and-grace symposium at the Rosewood Crescent Hotel in Dallas, Texas," said ministry spokesman Tom Carrozzo of Sherman Oaks, Calif.

ART Ministries has contacted pastors and educators representing close to 40,000 people in several countries, he said.

The symposium, Mr. Carrozzo continued, successfully expanded "the basic concept of ART Ministries into a theologically based world service organization."

The ministry is targeting "seven disciplines which focus on education and spiritual development."

The result, Mr. Carrozzo said, is "the emergence of a needs-and-opportunities-driven nonprofit corporation

which express specific needs and the opportunities they represent."

Mr. Carrozzo said that ART Ministries' "founding, fundamental principle is summed up in the two great commandments given by Jesus Christ and can be simply encapsulated by the word *love*."

The ministry plans to release the names of directors and corporate officers after the Houston meeting.

Contact ART Ministries at restoredtruth@gmail.com or P.O. Box 1410, San Gabriel, Calif. 91778, U.S.A.

This issue of **THE JOURNAL** contains extensive coverage of ART Ministries' Dallas symposium in several photos and two other articles, both beginning on page 1.



ART MINISTRIES—Checking the conference schedule Jan. 31, 2008, during the Dallas symposium are Tom Roberts (left) of Weiser, Idaho, an elder of the Church of God 7th Day based in Meridian, Idaho, and Tom Carrozzo of Sherman Oaks, Calif., cofounder with his father, Al Carrozzo, of ART Ministries. [JOURNAL photo]

dedicated to the service of others.

"Instead of pushing a program of our own invention, we are striving to

respond to invitations given by others which express specific needs and the opportunities they represent."

Pasadena project's completion in doubt

This article is reprinted by permission from The Pasadena Star-News of Feb. 23, 2008. It ran under the headline "Housing Slump Hits Ambassador West Hard." Ambassador West is part of property formerly owned by Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God.

By Janette Williams

PASADENA, Calif.—With a crucial part of the Ambassador West development in receivership after its owners defaulted on a \$44 million loan, completion of one of the city's largest, most prestigious housing projects has been thrown into doubt.

The property owners, AACP Properties and Ambassador Acquisition Coalition Partners II, have been unable to find a builder to replace Pacific Standard Homes, which in November 2007 abruptly pulled out of a deal to build 70 luxury condominiums on four parcels on the Ambassador West site.

Property in receivership

The lender, Drawbridge Special Opportunities Fund Ltd., promptly filed suit, and the 19.72-acre property went into receivership Dec. 27.

Now, in the midst of a nationwide housing slump, some neighbors and city officials question the owners' ability to attract a new builder quickly enough to fend off deeper problems.

Howard Weinberg, a part owner of Ambassador West who said he is "the manager of the borrower entities," said he is confident the obstacles can be overcome.

"It's our intention to build, or to have someone build, the condos that have been approved," Mr. Weinberg said.

"The receivership is not time-bonded, and we hope to reach a resolution with the lender and to find a buyer for the condo parcels as quickly as possible. We are as interested as all the stakeholders in the city to see the project completed as originally planned."

Buyer hard to find

But Dorn Platz president Greg Galletly, whose company helped steer the entire project through city hall, predicted it will be hard to find a buyer for the condo parcels.

"Home builders just do not have the capital to step up and buy something like this today," said Mr. Galletly, whose company has a 2 percent stake

in Ambassador West. "This site is still one of the best in Southern California, but in today's world home builders are all in serious trouble."

Ambassador West's receivership is "somewhat unusual," Mr. Weinberg said. Near-term proceeds—including the owners' recent sale of two parcels for the Sunrise Senior Living complex—will "apply to the benefit of the project, rather than the repayment of the loan," he said.

The setup was requested by Drawbridge "to encourage us to quickly create a transition to repay their loan," he said.

He declined to say how much was paid for the prime site in 2004, at the height of California's real-estate boom.

Mr. Galletly said all Ambassador West's entitlements, including the affordable-housing component, are attached to the property, and it would be "very, very difficult" for any future builder to change anything.

12 open acres

The city and neighborhood were won over by Ambassador West's plans to keep 12 acres of open space on the

with Harvest Rock Church, owners of the neighboring Ambassador Auditorium, which claims the building encroaches on church property.

The two parties are "still talking" but no agreement has been reached over the suit filed in May, church attorney Steven Reed said.

City not concerned

Mayor Bill Bogaard said the city cannot impose a time schedule on developing Ambassador West.

"There's been a significant transfer of ownership," Mr. Bogaard said, referring to Sunrise's and other purchases. "From a point of view of the city's economic strength, if it takes longer for further steps to be taken—as long as it's cared for and so on—it strikes me as not a source of concern to the city."

Councilman Steve Madison, whose district includes Ambassador West, said residents would have to be "a little bit patient" while a new builder is being sought at "a really bad time for real-estate development."

Neighbors have expressed concern to him, he said, but he has advised them to apply a "reality check" on the progress on the west campus.

"When I was elected nine years ago Ambassador Auditorium was on the chopping block," he said. "And [Legacy Partners] were asking for 2,000 units" on the combined 46-acre east and west campus.

Pieces of campus

The Worldwide Church of God, which put the 49-acre campus on the market in 1999, later sold it in three pieces. Maranatha School and Harvest Rock Church—owner of Ambassador Auditorium—moved onto the west campus in 2004. That same year Sares Regis bought the 12-acre east campus for a mixed retail and residential development, now underway.

Fred Zepeda, president of the West Pasadena Residents Association, which fiercely opposed both earlier plans for the property, said the neighborhood had been stunned by Ambassador West's recent problems.

"We're anxious to find out what's going on," Mr. Zepeda said. "I don't think anyone knows what's going to happen. Everyone's still staring at each other."

Mayor Bill Bogaard said the city cannot impose a time schedule on developing Ambassador West.

former Worldwide Church of God headquarters site, including lawns, European-style gardens and courtyards, while preserving all the historic buildings and 80 percent of the trees.

Historic mansions

Other parts of the development—including Sunrise's 200 luxury assisted-living condos, now named Sterling of Pasadena, several historic mansions and the vintage Villa Francesca rental apartments restored by Dorn Platz—are not part of the receivership.

Angela Ling, a director of Sterling of Pasadena, said Ambassador West's problems would not affect progress on the 440,000-square-foot senior-living complex, which could be completed by 2011.

"We expect to submit [revised] plans to the design commission in late February or early March, and we're very close to doing that," Ms. Ling said.

The massive senior complex—two six-story buildings joined by a bridge—is the subject of an ongoing lawsuit

Notes and quotes

Sabbatarian singles

LOCKPORT, N.Y.—Steve Caswell informs **THE JOURNAL** about his Web site, www.MyNewDate.com.

The site is "built for Sabbath-keeping singles and has been in existence since Oct. 24, 2004," Mr. Caswell said. "There are other sites claiming to be for Sabbath-keepers but are not actually owned and operated by Sabbath-keepers."

Mr. Caswell also noted a new online community for Church of God folks at <http://community.cog7forums.com>, which at this writing was just a few days old.

Online migration

MANILA, Philippines—Anna Cardona of the Church of God Fellowship Manila announces that the church is migrating its articles, other files and links to a new site, www.sharingvillageone.org.

'Creation Corner'

ANDERSON, Ind.—C. Frazier Spencer announces he has established a Web site that contains many columns he has written over the years that have appeared in a newspaper and magazine.

The columns, called "Creation Corner," are available at www.creationcorner.info.

Pretty little women there

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Marla Prouty reminds **THE JOURNAL** that the Leadership Conference sponsored by the Kansas City Church of God will include events especially for unmarried Church of God members.

The weekend, Aug. 29 through Sept. 1, 2008, around the Labor Day holiday, will include seminars and other activities for singles and married couples.

Participants may dance and sing and feast on Kansas City cuisine.

A highlight will be the eight-hour Tour de Kansas City on Sunday.

Organizers have set a May 1 deadline to register. For more information visit tinyurl.com/22gobo, or write rubenk@aol.com, or call (816) 838-1034.

Board member resigns

BIG SANDY, Texas—Karl Wilson, a member of the board of trustees of the Church of God Big Sandy, gave notice March 24 of his resignation as a board member.

A church official told **THE JOURNAL** that the board will discuss Mr. Wilson's replacement at its next meeting.

For an article concerning another member of the Big Sandy board, see page 1 of this issue of **THE JOURNAL**.

Stonefort Feast invitation

STONEFORT, Ill.—Pastor Bob Farr of the Philadelphia Church Stonefort (not to be confused with the Philadelphia Church of God, Edmond, Okla.) invites everyone to the church's Feast of Tabernacles 2008.

Feast observers will meet Oct. 14-22 at the Stonefort Old Soldiers' and Sailors' Reunion

Grounds, just north of Stonefort. Camping will be free, but donations will be accepted. Hotels are available 12 miles from the Feast site in Harrisburg, Ill.

For more information, see thephiladelphiachurch.net, or call (877) 777-1276.

Honoring J.R.

BERNE, Ind.—DRG, a publishing and product-fulfillment company with offices in Big Sandy,



John Robinson

Texas, and Berne, has established the DRG John S. Robinson Memorial Scholarship at Ball State University, Muncie, Ind.

Mr. Robinson served as DRG's CEO from 1989 until his death, in January 2006. He had been a Church of God member since about 1950, when he was 5 years old, and was an elder in the Worldwide Church of God and later the United Church of God.

From 1995 to 1997 Mr. Robinson published the independent Church of God newspaper *In Transition*, which was the inspiration for the founding of **THE JOURNAL** in 1997.

A company newsletter said the new scholarship is meant to provide financial support for "Ball State undergraduate journalism students who demonstrate active involvement in the journalism department, with preference to students majoring in magazine publishing."

The university will award its first scholarship in honor of Mr. Robinson for the 2008-09 academic year.

Squaw Valley reunion

PASADENA, Calif.—David and Molly Antion's Guardian Ministries plans a Feast observance Oct. 13-21, 2008, with the theme "Reunion in Squaw Valley."

Not surprisingly, Feastgoers will meet in Squaw Valley, in the Lake Tahoe area of Northern California.

Sharing the sponsorship of the site will be Jeff Henderson and his Believers in Christ Church of God of Redwood City, Calif.

"For several years, you have been asking us to make Tahoe a Feast site," Mrs. Antion said. "We have tried and the facilities just weren't there. However, recently we decided to try again."

For reservations at The Village at Squaw Valley, near Lake Tahoe, call (888) 767-1907 and mention Guardian Ministries.

For more information write Guardian at P.O. Box 50734, Pasadena, Calif. 91115, U.S.A., or Mr. Henderson at 88 Creekside Dr., Half Moon Bay, Calif. 94019, U.S.A. Or visit tinyurl.com/346kff.

The Journal
News of the Churches of God
P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755

Time-sensitive material