

The Journal

News of the Churches of God

Issue No. 135 (Vol. XIII, No. 3)

Founded 1997

May 31, 2009

- 3 Wesley White recommends a positive approach to complainers
- 4 Pastor Dianne McDonnell battles the GCI/WCG's 'new truth'
- 5 Ken Westby ponders changeableness
- 30 *THE JOURNAL* inadvertently published private correspondence as a Feast report; read the right one in this issue

Churchwide discipleship '09 theme for UCG elders

By Dixon Cartwright

Elders of the United Church of God an International Association, meeting for the 15th time as a body (if you count the founding conference in Indianapolis, Ind., in 1995), convened May 3-4, 2009, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

During this year's conference 345 elders, most present at the meeting location but others participating by phone or Internet, elected four men to sit for new terms on the 12-man governing council of elders.

The voters chose Scott Ashley and Melvin Rhodes as the two new council members and returned Richard Thompson and William Eddington to their seats on the council.

The elders by secret ballot voted for or against the candidates and balloted as well for or against the yearly strategic and operation plans and the 2009-10 budget.

All three measures passed.

Four new terms

The voting came after the nomination process, in which elders chose nine of their fellow ministers to participate in the election to fill the four open council seats.

For the vacant international position, the elders declined to select David Baker (who serves as a church employee in Africa, even though he is a resident of Honeoye Falls, N.Y.) and selected William Eddington, who

lives and serves in Australia.

For the three council spots open to U.S.-serving elders, fellow elders decided not to select nominees and former council members Gary Antion of Batavia, Ohio, incumbent Richard Pinelli, also of Batavia; Jim Franks of Milford, Ohio; and Doug Horschak of Plano, Texas. The elders elected new council members Mr. Ashley and Mr. Rhodes and reelected Mr. Thompson.



Roy Holladay, new UCG council chairman

The current council configuration: Scott Ashley, Arvada, Colo.; Bob Berendt (international), Edmonton, Alta., Canada; Aaron Dean, Gladewater, Texas; William Eddington (international), Melbourne, Australia; Roy Holladay (who became council chairman shortly after the conference), Cleveland, Tenn.; Paul Kieffer (international), Troisdorf, Germany; Clyde Kilough (president of the church), Cincinnati; Victor Kubik, Indianapolis, Ind.; Darris McNeely, Greenwood, Ind.; Melvin Rhodes, Lansing, Mich.; Richard Thompson, Eustis, Fla.; and Robin Webber, Romoland, Calif.

After the conference, whose See **UNITED CHURCH OF GOD**, page 25



MUSIC IN EAST TEXAS—Ross Jutsum, the composer and musician whose hymns appear in many Church of God songbooks, plays in Big Sandy, Texas, in April during a performance at the Church of God Big Sandy. For an interview with Mr. Jutsum, see the article beginning on this page. See another photo of Mr. Jutsum on page 28 of this issue of *THE JOURNAL*. [JOURNAL photo]

Tabernacles listings begin

By Mac Overton

Beginning with this issue *THE JOURNAL* lists contact information, locations and dates of the Feast of Tabernacles 2009.

If your information is not in this issue's listing (see page 24), you're invited to send it to *THE JOURNAL* at P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A., or info@thejournal.org. Or fax it to (903) 636-9097.

Be sure to include the name of the city nearest the Feast site, the name of a person to contact, the name of the sponsoring ministry or individual and the dates.

It is best to include nine days in the date.

For example, many observances this year will be Oct. 2-10. The Feast is eight full days, counting the last day, but falls on nine days or partial days on the Gregorian calendar.

Music man's circuit takes him out of town for more than 40 weekend gigs every year

By Dixon Cartwright

Big Sandy, Texas—Everybody's heard of Ross Jutsum. At least you've heard of him if you're in the WCG/GCI or one of the splits. Chances are he wrote at least a few songs in your group's hymnal.

Dr. Jutsum (he has a doctorate in music arts from the University of North Texas) was musical even from his youth.

He no longer travels around the country with WCG pastor general Herbert W. Armstrong, the WCG founder having died 23 years ago. But the native Australian and naturalized citizen of the U.S.A. (he has held dual citizenship since 2004) still makes music in more ways than one.

The 55-year-old resident of Sierra

Madre, Calif., plays and sings every week for Christian fellowships and other gatherings to inspire Christians of many stripes in their efforts to worship God and Jesus.

One-man show

Dr. Jutsum stopped off in Big Sandy the Sabbath of April 18, 2009, to participate in church services of the independent Church of God Big Sandy and present a community concert, a one-man show, in the church's building on Saturday evening.

Then Dr. Jutsum, who performs his own and others' songs and even takes requests during his concerts, was off to do something similar the next day in a Baptist church in near-by Gladewater.

In Big Sandy Dr. Jutsum's presentations had him singing while simultaneously caressing the 88 weighted keys of the CGBS's Yamaha Clavinova.

The audience could sing along thanks to the accompanying PowerPoint text on the large screen overhead.

In his Sabbath presentation, and in an interview the next day with this reporter and CGBS pastor and *JOURNAL* columnist Dave Havir, Dr. Jutsum explained how he got here from where he was back in 1997.

That was the last year of Ambassador University, when many members of the COG splits last heard from him.

But first he began at the beginning.

See **DR. HOEH ADVISED**, page 28

Ian Boyne still going strong after 22 years in the media

This article, about regional pastor Ian Boyne of the Church of God International, is reprinted by permission from the Jamaica Observer of May 18, 2009 (see jamaicaobserver.com).

By Jean Lowrie-Chin

Kingston, Jamaica—I remember the intense teenager seriously engaging my seniors at the *Daily News* and commenting, "That guy is bright!" The youngster was Ian Boyne, and at the age of 18 he was interviewing the likes of Rex Nettleford, Peter Abrahams and John Maxwell for cover stories in the paper's *Xaymaca* magazine.

Mr. Boyne had always been fascinated by clinical psychology and as a journalist at the then Jamaica Broadcasting Corp. (JBC) in 1987 proposed to marry both disciplines in the creation of *Profile*, televised on Sunday afternoons.

"I thought maybe I could use the media to help us to have greater confidence in ourselves," he says. "Countries like Japan and other Asian states which had been viewed as backward were able to succeed because of their culture of cooperation and cultural confidence."



Ian Boyne

Up and over

Mr. Boyne's own self-confidence has propelled him over many obstacles. In the early years he had a difficult manager to work with, but he persevered.

Along the way he had to appeal to a JBC chairman to save the program, and then later to Lascelles Chin, the second person he had interviewed, for sponsorship.

"[Businessman] Las Chin told me he believed in me, and he remains a sponsor. [Investor] Michael Lee-Chin, Aubyn Hill with NCB [National Commercial Bank], Robert Levy of Jamaica Broilers [a group of agriculture-related companies] and Earl Moore of Guardian Life [an insurance company] have also been of crucial help as sponsors."

Thus, by dint of perseverance, *Profile* is now in its 22nd year and widely acknowledged as "the inspiration hour" by its audience.

Positive audience

We are continuously reminded that bad news sells, so shouldn't this long-running program trumpeting nothing but positive news be losing listenership?

The latest Don Anderson media survey (March 2009) has exploded this myth.

In fact, Ian Boyne's *Profile* has moved from a viewership of 220,000 to 339,000, with over 72

See **JAMAICA'S CGI**, page 31

Q&A lets elders sound off, ask the hard ones

By Dixon Cartwright

The question-and-answer session during the United Church of God's general conference of elders in early May 2009 gave the several hundred men in the audience the chance to ask questions.



Bob Dick

Some of their queries, directed to the 12-man council of elders, were pointed and apparently difficult to answer. Elder Bill Bradford of Brisbane, Australia, acting as moderator, announced that oral questions from the audience would follow previously submitted written queries.

"The council, under the direction of our moderator and chairman, Mr. Bob Dick, will answer the questions or apportion the questions out to the members on the panel according to his own discretion," Mr. Bradford said.

The answerers could "take as long as they like or See **THE RULES ARE DIFFERENT**, page 25

UCG elder reports on recent general conference

By Dixon Cartwright

Big Sandy, Texas—In May 2009 Ellis Stewart of Big Sandy, a longtime Church of God member and current member and elder of the United Church of God, attended the UCG's annual general conference of elders for the umpteenth time.



Ellis Stewart

Mr. Stewart, 77, came away from the meetings in Cincinnati, Ohio, encouraged and confident that the church is doing a good job of accomplishing its purpose, which he sees, naturally enough, as fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19 to make disciples.

Several interviews in this newspaper with Mr. Stewart, who lives here with his wife of 55 years, Pat, have touched on matters pertaining to the UCG.

The UCG elder has served as such since 1995, the year of the massive splits from the Worldwide Church See **ELDER TALKS**, page 27

Notes and quotes

CG7 history and Christology

SYDNEY, Australia—Craig White announces he has scanned and uploaded a history of the Church of God (Seventh Day) written by John Kiesz, who died in 1996. See Mr. Kiesz's history at tinyurl.com/mwvzfb.

Also at the site (maintained by Mr. White's Friends of the Sabbath Australia) are Elder Kiesz's "The Christological Controversy." (A belief in the singleness of the Godhead was the norm in the CG7



John Kiesz

of the early and middle 20th century.)

Also at the site is the last known interview of Mr. Kiesz, titled "Sabbatarian Pioneer John Kiesz Spent Life in Music Ministry," which appeared in the May 27, 1996, issue of *In Transition* a few days after Mr. Kiesz died.

World's oldest Bible online

LONDON, England—The 1,600-year-old Codex Sinaiticus is up on a Web site after a collaboration between four organizations in Britain, Egypt, Germany and Russia that have had held parts of the ancient book after a Russian czar bought it in the mid-1800s.

The British Library, which heads up the project, said it purchased most of the book from the Soviet Union in 1933 for 100,000 pounds so the Soviets would not discard it.

The Greek manuscript, 800 pages on animal skin, was four years in the scanning, according to a report at independent.co.uk.

View or download pages from Sinaiticus at codexsinaiticus.org/en. The same Web site notes that a new English version of the book is in the works.

Frank Nelte on 'one God'

HIDEAWAY, Texas—Frank Nelte announces a new 30-page article he has written to address Mark 12:29, which quotes the Shema, Deuteronomy 6:4, which states that "the Lord is one."

"Did you know that the Jews have changed their explanation for Deuteronomy 6:4 over the centuries, that they used to explain this verse differently from the way they explain it today?" Mr. Nelte asked.

"When people who believe in the 'oneness of God' throw Deuteronomy 6:4 and Mark 12:29 at you, do you know how to demolish their argument?" he continued.

See Mr. Nelte's article, which is a response to "unitarians," or believers in "one God," at tinyurl.com/ltfh15.

His article concludes that "Deuteronomy 6:4 has nothing whatsoever to do with 'how many members there are currently in the Family of God.' Currently there are two: God the Father

and Jesus Christ. Later many, many others will also become a part of that Family."

Jamaica Web site

KINGSTON, Jamaica—The Church of God International in Jamaica has a Web site at jamaica.cgi.org.

Recent postings feature a report about baptisms in Jamaica for the Passover; Leviticus 23:15 (counting down to Pentecost); and more.

For more about the CGI in Jamaica and its pastor, see "Ian Boyne Still Going Strong After 22 Years in the Media," beginning on page 1 of this issue of *THE JOURNAL*.

Daniel's timeline

NORMAN, Okla.—Church of God members in widely scattered parts of the world are impressed of late with a 2005 DVD that's taken on a new life in 2009.

The DVD contains a video presentation called *Daniel's Timeline* by Oklahoman Dewey Bruton.

Mr. Bruton has discovered intricately interlocking times, dates and prophecies involving the jubilee years that point to the Second Coming in 2016.

See danielstimeline.com.

Two views of war

BIG SANDY, Texas—Traditionally, young Church of God members during times of war have registered as conscientious objectors to warfare.

Many COG young men, Ambassador College students among them, during the 1960s filled out paperwork to file with their "selective service" offices in their hometowns.

A recent CO application, filed May 4, 2009, with the U.S. Navy, is up on the Internet from Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Lakemacher, who, at age 26 and as an Navy corpsman, decided he no longer believed in war and had become, in fact, a sincere conscientious objector.

Discussed in AC classes in the '60s was the perspective that COG members weren't really conscientious objectors because they would fight under the right circumstances; for example, if God were to set up a theocracy on earth, as in the case of Old Testament Israel or, looking forward, the Millennium.

Different about Officer Lakemacher is that, if he can be believed, he is more of a consistent CO than were Ambassador students in the '60s.

To see his detailed CO application go to tinyurl.com/l9hbc. See also "Was Old WCG Right About War for the Wrong Reasons?" an interview with Ewin Barnett in *THE JOURNAL*, Oct. 31, 2001.

For another view of war, that some warfare is indeed justified, see justwartheory.com and "Pastor Says COG Members Should Support War on Terrorism, Including Militarism," an interview with Jeff Booth, also in *THE JOURNAL* of Oct. 31, 2001.

Elder talks of UCG general conference, moving the office, voting, church politics

Continued from page 29

United's philosophy concerning the political process.

A: I don't want to give my opinion. What happened in the first vote?

The people didn't have enough facts. But the people who gave the facts feel like they gave plenty of facts. Based on the facts we were aware of, we voted to move.

Later, when we had more facts, we voted not to move.

Q: So, since you had more information by the time of the second vote, it's a better choice to stay in Cincinnati?

A: Right. That's what they decided. So what did that tell us about God's will? I'm trying to figure out how I should answer that.

Is God the author of confusion?

Q: You asked a good question: What does that tell us about God's will?

One answer could be: It tells us that God lets you guys, you elders, come up with what you believe is the best course of action.

Another possibility: It's an indication that God has thrown you into confusion because you're participating in a worldly democratic process.

Still another possibility: God has changed His mind from one vote to the next.

Maybe the real question is: Does God micromanage you fellows or not? No matter what you guys decide, whether Milford, Ohio, or Denton, Texas, can't God make

your decision work? Can't He bless a decision that He lets you make rather than micromanaging you?

A: Yes.

Q: And wouldn't that be a healthier way to think of how democracy should work in a church administration than imploring God to decide the outcome of specific votes?

A: He could make it work.

Q: Make what work?

A: Either way. Cincinnati or Denton. He could make it work. But I think He wants us to do more research. I think that's why the votes were so close.

I don't know if we've already talked about this, but

there was a big deal involving Judas back when God was starting His church. Judas needed to be replaced, and they chose two people. Either of the two choices would probably have worked.

They cast the lot. Did God cause the lot to fall on one side or the other?



Ellis Stewart

'Judas needed to be replaced, and they chose two people. Either of the two choices would probably have worked.'

Did He guide that throwing of that die, or would either choice have been okay?

I think either choice would have worked as Judas's replacement.

It's just like last year, Dixon.

Praying for facts

Q: What do you mean?

A: We set the government up for a consensus.

In a democratic system like we've set up to get the consensus of the

elders, we as elders are not in a sense casting a lot, asking God to give us His will.

What we are doing, we're praying to God to give us the facts to make a decision. You've got to get the facts before you can make a decision. Is it better to move to Texas or better to stay in Ohio?

I feel like the facts have not been given to us to make an overwhelming decision one way or the other.

Whatever the majority wants the majority gets

Q: Why does a decision have to be overwhelming? You need just one vote more than 50 percent.

A: When you're talking about \$10 million just to get started, that's a big undertaking.

Q: Your need to get the facts before you vote still implies that you think there is only one decision that could work concerning the proposed move to Texas.

But couldn't God bless either decision you guys make, whether you decide to stay in Ohio or move?

A: The facts would tell you that.

Q: The facts might tell you that. They would not necessarily have to tell you

that, because both locations might be entirely workable. Many decisions in life are a judgment call, a tossup.

A: Why would you want to move if it's a tossup?

Q: Good question. But the answer is you would want to move because the majority wants to move.

A: I think we're going around in circles.

Q: Okay, maybe we can try this again next year. Next year in Ohio, or maybe next year in Texas.

More letters from our readers

Continued from page 2

Jesus clearly said: "I will build my church; and the gates of hell [the Council of Nicaea and Emperor Constantine] shall not prevail against it."

"Christianity," the false church, is described in Revelation 17:1-5. The "Church of God," the true church, is described in 2 Corinthians 11:2 and Revelation 12:1 and 19:7-9.

Yes, both exist and operate within

the same world, but the Body of Christ is not within the Roman Catholic Church, nor within any other humanly devised church organization.

Robert Schmid
Westminster, Calif.

Helping Zimbabweans

BBC World Service radio interviewed a spokesman for the following company that will deliver food,

fuel, airtime, etc., to people in Zimbabwe from South Africa. You supply the name and cell-phone number of the recipient, who picks the item up the next day.

Apparently there is no inflation in price once the order has been made. Here is a link to the company: www.mukuru.com.

Geoffrey Neilson
Cape Town, South Africa

The Journal: Subscribe or renew!

Mail to: **THE JOURNAL, Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A.**

Subscribe to *THE JOURNAL: NEWS OF THE CHURCHES OF GOD* and keep up with your family and friends in all the groups!

Name _____

Address _____

City/state/zip or postal code/country _____

New subscription Renewal Start with back issue dated ____/____/____ (specify any month and year from February 1997 to present). Individual back issues are \$2 each, with 2-issue minimum order. (No minimum if ordered with new sub.)

In U.S.: \$49 for 24 mo. issues \$28 for 12 issues \$15 for 6 issues. **Non-U.S. mailed from Big Sandy:** \$51 for 24 mo. issues \$30 for 12 issues \$17 for 6. For distributors in other countries, see box on page 2. Please remit in U.S. funds drawn, if possible, on a U.S. bank.

Use a copy of this coupon or plain paper to order from *THE JOURNAL* or any of our distributors. When writing or E-mailing about subscription problems, please include phone number.

To subscribe, simply send a check or money order. Or now you can pay with a credit card. (Fax 1-903-636-9097 or write info@thejournal.org.)

Be sure to check your mailing label. If you have only one or two or "zero" issues remaining, we suggest mailing in your renewal now so you don't miss any issues.

Contact *THE JOURNAL* for subscriptions and renewals at Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A., or at the distributors' addresses on page 2. See also *THE JOURNAL*'s Web site, at www.thejournal.org.

Thanks for reading *THE JOURNAL*!

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

**Time-sensitive
material**