

# The Journal

## News of the Churches of God

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## Parents see something odd involving daughter, vehicle

**By Dixon Cartwright**  
THE WOODLANDS, Texas—Ken and Sharon Mason remember the day in 1979 when their 10-year-old daughter, Jennifer, narrowly avoided being run over by a speeding car.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason, who met at Ambassador College, Big Sandy, when they were students in the 1960s, believe an angel protected Jennifer.

"We were at a little convenience mall when Jennifer was 10," Mrs. Mason recalled. "We had gone to eat at a pizza place."

"I thought we had been shopping," Mr. Mason said.

"No, we weren't shopping," Mrs. Mason corrected her husband. "After we ate, Jennifer had to go to the bathroom, so we went on out to the parking lot to wait for her."

### Headed right toward her

Jennifer's parents sat in their car near the restaurant to watch for her exit.

"You were sitting behind the wheel," Mrs. Mason reminded her husband, "and we were looking out the windshield."

"We saw her running out, smiling great big at us, and we saw this vehicle coming and it was headed right toward her."

Mr. and Mrs. Mason were terrified. They saw a car going fast and Jennifer about to dart into its path.

"You know when you see someone

in a parking lot going real fast and you say that idiot needs to slow down," Mr. Mason said. "It was going that fast."

"I just knew she was going to be hit," Mrs. Mason said, "and we were trying to get her attention."

### Out of the ordinary

Then something extraordinary happened that Ken and Sharon Mason still can't explain.

"She froze in midstep," Mr. Mason said. "It was like something was holding her back."

"It was for just a split second," remembered Mrs. Mason, "like a freeze-frame, like she was frozen in time for just an instant."

While Jennifer was frozen in time, the car sped by without hitting her.

"She later said she never saw the car," Mrs. Mason explained.

"She thought everything was normal," Mr. Mason added.

"She didn't even feel the wind from the car going by," Mrs. Mason said. "She didn't feel anything. She continued walking toward us as if nothing had happened."

"But we were white as sheets. She was wondering what's wrong with us, why we were so upset."

So what did they say to her?

"We said didn't you see the car," Mr. Mason recalled.

"She said what car, what are you

See **GIRL'S PARENTS**, page 22



**RESTORING HONOR**—Rebekah Allen of Hawkins, Texas (left), her 1-year-old daughter, Faith, and Mrs. Allen's cousin Miranda Patton of Little Rock, Ark., pause for a photo near the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 2010. Several relatives of Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Patton from Arkansas, Texas and Massachusetts met in the nation's capital for the Restoring Honor rally featuring as speakers conservative commentator Glenn Beck, former Alaska governor Sarah Palin and Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King. See a related photo and Darlene Warren's column on page 9 of this issue of *THE JOURNAL* for more information about the trek to Washington. [Photo by Darlene Warren]

## The debate goes on: Diehl vs. Rude

The writer was a pastor in the Worldwide Church of God for 26 years in Ohio, Kentucky, New York and South Carolina.

**By Dennis Diehl**  
GREENVILLE, S.C.—In the July 31, 2010, issue of *THE JOURNAL* Noel Rude, in commenting about the debate Art Mocarow, Ron Moseley and I had on Feb. 21, 2010, said that "as debates go Dennis Diehl won—but not because I think his ideas have merit."

(The original debate was covered in *JOURNAL* No. 139, dated June 17, 2010.)

I found it interesting that I "won" the debate, which in fact, was merely a discussion of various Bible topics. How I won without my "ideas having any merit" is beyond me, however. Some people's ideas are another man's truth.

I wish to address some of Mr. See **MR. DIEHL**, page 7

## The public at Tulsa Church of God—sponsored lecture hears astonishing facts about the Bible

The writer is a member of the Tulsa Church of God who lives in Bixby, Okla.

**By Aletha Dennis**  
TULSA, Okla.—The writer of the best-selling book *Shocked by the Bible* was shocked himself, he admitted, by the response to his recent lecture and book signing in a Tulsa hotel.

Joe Kovacs, executive news editor of the conservative news Web site WorldNetDaily.com,



Aletha Dennis

came to Tulsa on invitation from the Tulsa Church of God, pastored by Lawrence Gregory.

Mr. Kovacs spoke and signed books at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel & Convention Center on Friday night, Aug. 6, and the next day in the building owned by Tulsa Church of God. Turnout was about 260 and 175 on the two days.

### Interested in truth

Mr. Kovacs said he was "shocked" by the turnout of several hundred people interested in his book, which is subtitled *The Most Astonishing Facts You've Never Been Told*.

His goal, he said, was to shatter some big misconceptions the public has about the Bible.

"Wow! Look at all these people. I'm shocked," he exclaimed as he took the stage at his first-ever public appearance.

"I didn't know so many people had an interest in Bible truth these days."

The 46-year-old editor quickly learned that the demand for copies of his book greatly exceeded the number available.

So he made arrangements to mail copies to people who could not receive one during the Tulsa event.

Mr. Kovacs, of Washington, D.C.—based WorldNetDaily, made two presentations, the first on Friday night at the convention center.

He talked about growing up in a Christian family but at first was not a See **WHEN BILL O'REILLY**, page 6

## Longtime COG elder's challenge: 'Meet me on Mount Carmel'

**By Dixon Cartwright**  
Bill Glover has a challenge for leaders of Church of God congregations and denominations everywhere.

He wants them to join with him in what he calls a Mount Carmel moment.

Mount Carmel, you might remember, was the location of a challenge thousands of years ago near Megiddo in what is now the northwestern part of the state of Israel.

The prophet Elijah in the 9th century B.C. dared King Ahab and the prophets of Baal to participate in a contest between God and Baal.



Bill Glover

All interested parties were to meet on Mount Carmel including Elijah, Ahab, 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah.

The 450 Baal prophets prayed to their god, and Elijah prayed to Yahweh. The object was to see whose god would send fire down from heaven to consume an offering of two sacrificed bulls lying on a stack of wood.

### Longwinded pagans

You remember the story. After complicated and longwinded suppli-

cations from the pagan prophets, Baal turned out to be either hard of hearing or just not interested.

When it came Elijah's turn to beseech the real God, the prophet had servants drench the bulls and wood thoroughly with water. Then he prayed:

"LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again" (1 Kings 18:36-37).

The answer to Elijah's prayer came swiftly and decisively. The fire of the Lord fell from the sky and consumed the sacrifice, and even "licked up the water" (verse 38).

As a result, the many witnesses fell on their faces and acknowledged that "the LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!" (verse 39).

Elijah directed his followers to slaughter the prophets of Baal. Then (and this was a main reason for the whole exercise, since a drought had prevailed for three years in the land) it rained.

### What does he mean?

So when 76-year-old Bill Glover of Eugene, Ore., founder of The Living God Ministries, challenges his fellow Church of God leaders to a See **CHALLENGE**, page 4

## Ron Dart in studio first time since April injury

**T**YLER, Texas—Ron Dart's progress toward a full recovery after an injury he sustained in April 2010 is "very slow," reported Larry Watkins of Big Sandy, a spokesman for Mr. Dart's Christian Educational Ministries.

The evangelist and broadcaster on Aug. 18 visited the GG Media studio, where he records his *Born to Win* radio broadcasts.

The visit was "great therapy," Mr. Watkins said, although "the end product is not yet usable." But "every step in therapy has to begin somewhere."

Mr. Dart plans to meet with Gary Gibbons of GG Media every Wednesday "as additional therapy," Mr. Watkins stated.

Allie Dart and her husband plan to attend the Feast of Tabernacles at the CEM-sponsored site in Florida.

Mr. Dart tripped over a brick fireplace hearth and hit his head on a bookshelf on April 9. He is gradually recovering during hospitalization and rehabilitation therapy of about four months to date.



Ron Dart

## The Journal invites readers' Feast reports

**T**HE *JOURNAL: NEWS OF THE CHURCHES OF GOD* invites readers to send in reports of their 2010 Feast of Tabernacles observances.

Members of the Churches of God and other Sabbatarian fellowships are meeting this year at several hundred Feast sites, with most observances beginning the evening of Sept. 22.

You still have time to get your report in for the next issue of *THE JOURNAL*.

Mail your information to Festival Reports, P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A. Or E-mail it to info@thejournal.org. Or you may fax it toll-free to 1-888-488-6603.

Photographs as prints or medium- to high-resolution 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.

*THE JOURNAL* wishes you and your family a happy and profitable Feast of Tabernacles 2010.

## Council gets report from administration

MILFORD, Ohio—Members of the council of elders of the United Church of God an International Association heard reports during meetings Aug. 9-11, 2010, about the crisis involving elders and lay members in Latin America.

Council member Mario Seigle of Garden Grove, Calif., who in recent weeks has focused his attention on the volatile situation centering on Leon Walker, who until recently was director of the church's Spanish-language efforts, reported on his visit to Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Mr. Seigle's efforts are meant to reassure and "extend a brotherly hand" to Latin American church members.

(Information for this article is largely based on an article by Elizabeth Cannon that appeared in the UCG's *United News* dated September-October 2010.)

"We will not give up on the brethren or the ministry," Mr. Seigle reportedly said. "We will continue to extend a brotherly hand to those who want to hear both sides and then decide."



Mario Seigle

United News reported that the UCG has plans for five Feast of Tabernacles sites in Latin America, with more than 400 of the brethren expected to attend.

In a statement released Aug. 20,

2010, the council of elders of the UCGIA stated that "it is the Council's sincere desire that this process will lead to reconciliation" with the Latin Americans and their sympathizers.

"As this process continues, the

Council will strive to be respectful of all parties—ministers and members alike.

The "leading parties," the council's statement continued, "request that everyone refrain from inflammatory statements on the Internet and in private that would undermine our efforts."

For more about the current crisis and the 15 years of the church's history that led up to it, see "UCG's Crisis Is the Latest in a Long Line of Ups and Downs Since the Church's Founding in 1995" in the issue of *THE JOURNAL* dated July 31, 2010.

See also Bernie Monsalvo's commentary "What's BP Have to Do With the Churches of God?" beginning on page 3 of this issue.

Contact the United Church of God at P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, Ohio 45254, U.S.A., or info@ucg.org. See also www.ucg.org.

## Notes and quotes

### Radio for living

LONDON, England—To listen to live broadcasts of John Jewell's *Radio4Living*, visit Mr. Jewell's site, radio4living.com.

To be added to a mailing list for a free newsletter, write Mr. Jewell at whatnext@pobox.com or Radio4Living, What Next Media, BCM What Next, London WC1N 3XX, England.

### Colorado recommendations

CLIFTON, Colo.—Whenever you're in western Colorado, Rich Traver has two recommendations for you if you're looking for a congregation to fellowship with for Sabbath services.

Mr. Traver especially likes two churches, both in the Grand Junction area: the Christian Church of God, pastored by Del Leger, and the United Church of God, pastored by Jon Pinelli.

The CCG and UCG meet at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. respectively each Sabbath.

For more information see Mr. Traver's Web site at goldensheaves.org. Or write him at P.O. Box 1411, Clifton, Colo. 81520, U.S.A.

### Research and study

BELMORE, Australia—For research and study papers on a multitude of biblical subjects, see Henk Jens' Web site, at rightly-dividing.net.

Topics Mr. Jens has written on include the Garden of Eden's "no-divorce and no-remarriage law"; Sivan 7 as the proper date for Pentecost; and "Who Was the God of the Old Testament?"

Write Mr. Jens at hwj@zip.com.au or P.O. Box 121, Belmore, N.S.W. 2192, Australia.

### 17 specialized Web sites

VALLEY SPRINGS, Calif.—Alton "Don" Billingsley's articles have appeared in each issue of *THE JOURNAL* in the CONNECTIONS section for several years now.

Readers of Mr. Billingsley's articles may not realize he has many specialized Web sites, and they're all accessible at cog-ff.com. They include the following 17 (these are the sites' names, not their Web addresses):

Church of God Faithful Flock; The Ten Commandments; A New World Ahead; Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?; A Watchman for the House of Israel; Herbert W. Armstrong: Apostle of God; Herbert W. Armstrong: His Life and Work; Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days Which?; The Lost Ten Tribes of Israel; Prophetic Events; The Restored Truths of God; Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?; Church of God Faithful Flock—Home School Association; Three World Views: Only One Is Going to Happen; World News Bulletin; Body of Christ Online; and Free Online Bible Course.

Write Mr. Billingsley at Church of God Faithful Flock, P.O. Box 8819, Modesto, Calif. 95357, U.S.A., or P.O. Box 130, Valley Springs, Calif. 95252, U.S.A.

### Attention Germans

WESTMINSTER, Calif.—If you read German or know someone who does, you might want to visit Robert Schmid's Web site because Mr. Schmid posts articles in German as well as English.

Here is a partial listing of articles he has posted in both languages:

"The Plan for the People of the Way"; "The Nature of God"; "The Purpose of Human Life"; "Are You a Catholic After All?"; "The History of the Lord Jesus Christ!"; "God's Plan of Redemption"; "Jesus . . . God, or (Only) Son of God?"; and "Mythology or Theology: Which?"

Visit Mr. Schmid at logologic.info. Write him at rgs@socal.rr.com.

### 9th One God Conference

SEATTLE, Wash.—Ken Westby announced names of some of the speakers scheduled for his ninth annual One God Conference, set for the Seattle-Tacoma area Oct. 23-24, 2010.

A newcomer to the conference will be Kermit Zarley, a writer of books on Christian themes and professional golfer. Mr. Zarley has produced a series of *Still Here* books as an answer to the popular rapture-promoting *Left Behind* series.

Also to speak (in Federal Way, a city between Seattle and Tacoma) will be Noel Rude, a professional linguist and master of biblical languages and culture.

Also to present at Mr. Westby's conference will be Sean Finnegan, a prolific writer and debater of Bible topics; Michel Danis, author of *The Father: The Only Supreme Almighty God*; Emily Pali-Killian; Lindsey Killian; Bob Woodburn; Gary Woodring; and Mark Bosserman.

This will be the first of Mr. Westby's One God Seminars that will not feature Anthony Buzzard as a speaker, because Sir Anthony will be in Germany for a similar conference.

For more information write Mr. Westby's Association for Christian Development, 27013 Pacific Highway S., No. 400, Des Moines, Wash. 98198, U.S.A., or visit his Web site, godward.org.

### Lexington winter weekend

WEST CHESTER, Ohio—Everyone's invited to the annual Winter Family Weekend in Lexington, Ky., sponsored by the Church of God Cincinnati and Church of God Lexington.

Organizer Jim O'Brien announced that activities will include seminars, Sabbath services, basketball, volleyball, soccer and much more.

The date will be Dec. 23-26, 2010. The location will be the Griffin Gate Marriott Resort, featuring a rate of \$53 per night.

For more information go to cogcincinnati.org/tournament. Or contact Mr. O'Brien at jimobri@gmail.com or P.O. Box 1811, West Chester, Ohio 45071, U.S.A.

## IAO states mission, announces directors

PLANO, Texas—The Web site of International Ambassador Outreach (IAO) has provided information about its mission and listed the names of its directors.

As *THE JOURNAL* reported in its July 31, 2010, issue, IAO is a new non-profit U.S. corporation created to benefit Leon Walker and the Spanish-speaking and Latin American brethren he serves who have been affiliated with the United Church of God, based in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area.

Mr. Walker and his supporters are in the midst of discussions with UCGIA-headquarters officials that will determine whether he and his supporters will be UCG members or become an independent Church of

God group or groups.

According to a statement on IAO's Web site, the organization's mission is to "help meet the financial needs of congregations and care for members of the Church of God in areas of the world outside the United States of America."

IAO's directors are Matthew R. Gus of Plano, Texas, chairman; Cliff Demarest of Dallas, Texas; Arnold Mendez Sr. of Corpus Christi,

Texas; Robert L. Paine II of West Palm Beach, Fla.; and Mr. Walker, of Big Sandy, Texas, Latin American adviser.

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Contact IAO at P.O. Box 251566, Plano, Texas 75025, U.S.A. See also internationalambassadoroutreach.org.



Matthew Gus

## Author still serious Sabbatarian Christian

Continued from page 22

process and watch events unfold from a heavenly seat or from that Rose-Red City in Jordan while pampered by a five-star catering service.

Are you ever in for a shock! I will tell you, frankly, that, as I have written about the events that are leading to the gradual but relentless decline of our nation, I feel like I am watching my nation die.

There have been times during the composing of my blog posts when I could not write because I was crying so hard about the suffering to come that I could not see through the tears. I would plead with God to hold back His judgments, or at least limit them.

### Reasons for God to hold back

Does this sound maudlin to you? Jeremiah wept for his people in the book of Lamentations. God tells us in Ezekiel 22:30 that He *wants* to find

people who will intercede with Him so He will hold back His punishments.

Amos twice averted plagues on the ancient kingdom of Israel by intercessory prayer (Amos 7:1-6).

All the people of all the nations of all the tribes of Israel throughout history (and today) owe their lives to the intercessory prayer of one man, Moses,

who prayed for their and our forefathers in Exodus 32 and implored an angry and visibly present Creator to spare them.

You can be sure Moses felt an immense amount of emotion as he beseeched God to avert the divine wrath that would have annihilated the tribes of Israel.



Steven Collins

If you have never anguished about the prophesied sufferings to come and have never cried as you asked God to spare His people and avert plagues on nations, I question your spiritual temperature.

### The first to go

Amos 6:6-7 warns that those "who are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph" (the modern United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, as my books and articles make clear) shall "go captive with the first that go captive."

This judgment from God applies to believers who knew what was coming but were not all that bothered about the impending sufferings because they thought none of the suffering would apply to them.

For your own good I urge you to be grieved for the affliction of Joseph and pray for God's mercy on our nations.

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