

# The Journal

## News of the Churches of God

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## Angel has a suggestion for a Church of God member

The writer is a 1976 Ambassador College graduate, longtime Church of God member and editor of Upshur County's newspaper of record, the twice-weekly Gilmer Mirror.

By Mac Overton

GILMER, Texas—A few years ago I had an experience that I can only believe involved an angel.

I had lost track of an acquaintance, Robbie Tuel.

Robbie, now 58 and a former member of the U.S. Marines and an engineer employed by the IBM Corp., had been baptized many years ago into the Church of God International.



Mac Overton

He had requested baptism when he became interested in the Church of God and obeying God's laws, but the Worldwide Church of God minister in Longview, Texas, never found time to visit him.

In those days—late 1980s, early 1990s—the WCG had a closed-door policy, and a minister had to invite a person to attend. That is, an interested person could not just show up at a church service.

Robbie got tired of waiting and

learned about the CGI, which had (and has) an open-door policy. He became a CGI member.

Lived nearby

Through a mutual friend I learned that Robbie was living in a nursing home here in Gilmer, which is also my city of residence.

The friend asked if I had a copy of Mr. Armstrong's book *Mystery of the Ages* I could lend him.

I not only could lend him a copy, I had one to give him. (Robbie had lent his copy to the mutual friend's daughter, who apparently lost it. Anyway, the book that had led to his conversion was never returned to him.)

Amputation planned

Robbie was in extremely poor health. His doctor planned to amputate both his legs because gangrene or some other serious condition had set in on his feet.

He suffered complications of diabetes, as well as other serious conditions.

Having dropped out of church fellowship a few years earlier, he was worried about his spiritual health and wanted to read the book again.

Give Robbie a what?

A few weeks after I had gone to the nursing home to give him a copy and had become reacquainted with him, I

See **IT MUST HAVE BEEN**, page 41



Special conference

**UCG ELDERS IN CINCINNATI**—Elders of a stressed-out United Church of God (UCG) meet in a Holiday Inn in Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 31, 2011, to take stock and lay plans for a post-split church. About a third of the membership, including elders, had recently left over governance-related issues. A topic of discussion was the shepherding of congregations whose pastors had recently departed to join the Church of God a Worldwide Association (CGWA). See two related articles beginning on this page. See related photos on pages 5 and 6. [Photo by Dixon Cartwright]

## UCG leaders, at special conference in Cincinnati Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, address causes of recent split

By Dixon Cartwright

CINCINNATI, Ohio—The elders and spouses at the UCG's special conference here Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2011, were determined to put the recent crisis, which included a major split, behind them and move on.

It had been a tumultuous time for the United Church of God an International Association (UCG), and leaders of the denomination as well as pastors of its congregations were still sorting things out.

A major challenge was finding leaders for congregations whose pastors had recently left to join up with the Church of God a Worldwide Association (CGWA).

The atmosphere was upbeat and, at times, emotional. Participants com-

miserated with and comforted each other and looked beyond the trials that are inherent in any church breakup.

Among the speakers were the church's two principal leaders: the president, Dennis Luker, and the council chairman, Melvin Rhodes.

Mr. Luker, who invariably adopted a conciliatory tone even when speaking of the elders who had left, noted that the UCG has had its problems.

He said "sin"—committed by people on both sides of the split—was the cause of "the damage in the UCG, primarily on the part of the ministry and primarily in the leadership of the ministry."

When problems arise in a church, he said, "it's always been [because of] the leadership, the ministry and those in positions of responsibility, those who are supposed to be the pastors, the protectors of God's people."

So "what can we do to lay a better and stronger foundation in our ministry and our leadership" going forward from this conference?

## 'One God' meet comes to Pasadena area

By Dixon Cartwright

SEATTLE, Wash.—Ken Westby says learning about the true nature of God and Jesus is of paramount importance for Christians and everybody else.

Mr. Westby's understanding of the ontological nature of the Father and Son is that only the Father is God. Jesus is not God but is God's only begotten Son and the sinless Messiah and resurrected Savior.

In May 2011 Mr. Westby will play host to the latest in a decade of his One God Seminars, this time in Arcadia, Calif., next door to Pasadena.

"You are cordially invited to attend our 10th annual One God Seminar to explore the wondrous and phenomenal nature of God," Mr. Westby said.

The conference will be Saturday. See **ONE GOD**, page 39

## Over the years, CGI moved away from authoritarianism

Mr. White and his wife, Nancy, live in Big Sandy, Texas, and attend with the Church of God International in Tyler. Write him at wdwhite49@yahoo.com.

By Wesley White

TYLER, Texas—The Churches of God continue to demonstrate their ability to divide rather than unite.

So say two ministers of the Tyler-based Church of God International (CGI).

In March 2011 Charles Groce and Vance Stinson, in a conversation with this writer, expressed their concern with what they say is a dangerous trend among some of the "breakaway" Church of God groups toward "cultism" and "mind control."



Wesley White

The following is excerpts of an interview by this writer with Mr. Groce, CGI board chairman, and Mr. Stinson, CGI editorial director.

Founded in 1978

**Wesley White:** For those unfamiliar with the CGI, could you provide some background.

**Charles Groce:** The Church of God International emerged from the WCG [Worldwide Church of God] in 1978 and was established in Tyler, Texas. It was founded by four former members of the Worldwide Church of God.

Garner Ted Armstrong was the president of the church until he resigned and formed the ICG, the Intercontinental Church of God, in 1998. [See "Garner Ted Armstrong and CGI Parting," *THE JOURNAL*, issue No. 12, dated Jan. 30, 1998.]

Since that time, the CGI has gone through quite a learning curve, placing an emphasis on the message of the gospel rather than its messengers.

The CGI retains a strong fidelity to the teachings and doctrines the organization had when it began. We advance our beliefs though our television program titled *Armor of God* and our congregations in the United States, Canada, Jamaica, Australia the Philippines and our affiliates in Africa.

Who was the founder?

**W.W.:** You say former WCG members founded the CGI. Is it not correct to say it was founded by Garner Ted Armstrong?

**Vance Stinson:** Let me speak to that point. Yes, it would be correct. Most everyone in the Churches of God views him as the founder. How-  
See **CGI HAS RECEIVED**, page 7

## GCI baptizes infants

GLENDORA, Calif.—Grace Communion International, formerly the Worldwide Church of God, now practices infant baptism, according to a posting on the church's The Surprising God blog. Information posted by blogmaster Ted Johnston explains that the GCI "finds support" for baptizing babies in a "Trinitarian, incarnational understanding of Holy Scripture."

For one thing, he said, the New Testament speaks of "whole households"—which would include infants—"being baptized upon the conversion of the head of the household" (Acts 16:15, 31-33; 1 Corinthians 1:16).

"GCI believes that infant baptism is a scripturally permissible and spiritually blessed expression of God's unconditional grace and love," Mr. Johnston concluded. Babies' "conscious acceptance" of God's grace comes a little later in life at a "confirmation ceremony," he said.

For more information go to thesurprisinggodblog.wcg.org.

## UCG elders ask, UCG council members answer

The writer is publisher of THE JOURNAL. This article contains opinions of the writer.

By Dixon Cartwright

CINCINNATI, Ohio—It has been this writer's experience, while attending several elders' conferences of the United Church of God an International Association (UCG) over the years, that the Q&As are the most interesting part of the proceedings.

The special meeting of UCG elders here Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2011, was no exception.

In a relaxed setting with 300 elders and their wives in the audience, and the president and 10 current members of the council of elders up on the stage, pastors

See **UCG COUNCIL**, page 4

# AC Big Sandy students from the '60s will reunite in Dallas in June

**You're invited, but better hurry!**

**L**ACEYS SPRING, Ala., May 14, 2011—"It's getting close to reunion time," said organizer Tom Williams of Laceys Spring on May 14, 2011. "Maybe by the time you get this we'll be over 129. The day we see each other is really getting closer, only 42 more days. This is for all of you on the edge. Just say yes and join us."

The three organizers—former students from Ambassador College Big Sandy in the '60s—are Tom, who lives in Alabama; John Dickerson of Arkansas; and Russell Bettis, who has residences in Malaysia and Iowa.

As a reminder, Tom said, the Ambassador College reunion of all students who attended at Big Sandy

between 1965 and 1974 and any other interested former students or any other interested parties will be Saturday night, June 25, 2011, at the DoubleTree DFW Airport North, on the John Carpenter Freeway, in Irving, Texas.

The hotel is two miles from DFW and has 24-hour shuttle service.

"The dress is casual to dressy casual," Tom said. "From dress jeans to sport coats, whatever makes you the most comfortable. Just leave the suits and formals at home."

The dinner-dance will start at 6 o'clock Saturday night. It will be a Texas barbecue buffet at a cost of \$42 per person, which includes all

taxes, service charges and the deejay (Pat Homer) for music and dancing. There will be a cash bar.

"Our room rate is \$84 per night," Tom continued.

Ask for the "Ambassador College" group or "ACG" when booking rooms. Call 1-800-222-TREE to book a room. The hotel's direct number is 1-972-929-8181.

Many of the attendees have already paid for the dinner. For the rest of you who have said yes, you can go ahead and send your \$42 per person for your dinner reservation to **Tom Williams at 341 Huskey Mountain Rd., Laceys Spring, Ala. 35754.**

"By the way," Tom said, "the new Ambassador Big Sandy Web

site is going great guns."

To join in and make contact with all of your old friends just go to <http://www.ambassadorbigandyalumni.com>.

Contact any or all of the organizers as follows:

**Russell Bettis**  
rbettis@pc.jaring.my  
1-641-932-2646, home  
1-641-814-2394, cell

**John Dickerson**  
txndwnunder@yahoo.com  
1-479-422-7464

**Tom Williams**  
twilliams@tv24.tv  
1-256-283-3824, cell  
1-256-498-0409, home

## Current list of friends who plan to attend

Tom Williams asks that you notify him immediately if you plan to come but your name isn't on the following list. "Help me all you can because the list is really growing," he said.

Elaine Akins  
Alan Anderson and wife Sheila  
Douglas Anderson  
Myra Anderson  
Lester and wife John W. Lester  
Phillip Arnold

Pat Barnes  
Bill Bartholomew  
Bruce Benedict and wife Donna Sharp Benedict  
Donna Benedict Patillo  
Russell Bettis and wife Kim Bettis  
Mike Billingsley and guest  
Mary Biedler Williams  
Bonnie Bird Fairchild  
Don BJORAKER wife Gladys BJORAKER  
Jeff Booth and wife Linda Shaklee Booth

Sandie Boyce Hamilton  
Millie Bronkar Lambert and husband Norman Lambert  
Ron Brown and wife Marilyn Bonnett Brown  
Deaton Bryant and husband Tommy Deaton  
Dwayne Canup and wife Marilyn Russell Canup  
Don Carpenter  
Carl Carson  
Dixon Cartwright and wife Linda Isom Cartwright

George Cheney and wife Brenda Morrison Cheney  
Sandy Clark Salyer  
Arnold Clauson and wife Trish Panella Clauson  
Patty Jo Cole Thomsen  
Marty Coston and wife Jo Ann Coston  
Kathy Crocker Miller  
Brent Curtis and wife Jeanne Hull Curtis  
John Dickerson and wife Cathy Dickerson

Dena (Lucy) Duncan Rootes  
Sam Duncan  
Cindy Flowers McLendon and husband Charlie McLendon  
Hayden "Chip" Fox  
Lyn Fox Ratliff  
Gerry R. Ghearing and wife Maria Carolina Ghearing  
John Gibbs  
Charlie Groce and wife Betsy Groce  
Dale Haynes  
Alan Heath and wife Carole Ann Bronkar Heath

Clarke Hockwald and wife Elaine Houghtaling Hockwald  
Bill Hochstetler and wife Paula Keith Hochstetler  
Beverly Holden Russell  
Don Hooser and wife Elsie Hanson Hooser  
Phyllis Houghtaling Wilson  
Sharon Huggins Graham  
Judi Jenness  
Carl Judy and wife Kathy Marquis Judy

Ron Kelly  
Diane Koch Oden  
Hunter and husband Gary Hunter  
Jody Kirkpatrick and wife Jody Gieselman Kirkpatrick  
Frank Ledford and wife Mylinda Renfro Ledford  
Ron Lohr and wife Lynn Lohr  
John Patt McCarty  
Doug McCoy and wife Teresa Gregory McCoy  
Tracey Merk Wright

Donald Neff and wife Josie Neff  
Darwin D. Nelson and wife Janet J. Stalions Nelson  
Ken Nelson and wife Debbie Montgomery Nelson  
Katy A. Nickodem Lemarr and husband Dave C. Lemarr  
Everett Oakley  
Gina Oxley Rebich  
Diane Panella Snuffer and husband Paul Snuffer  
Gary Pavlo

Betty Potratz Oehler  
Stan Potratz  
Curtis Ray  
Bill Roberts and wife Cathy Haynes Roberts  
Dennis Roberts and wife Allison Wells Roberts  
Julie Robinson  
Donna Shonyo Odar  
Cathy Slack Jackson  
Andrea Springfield  
Beverly Thomas Henderson and husband Wes Henderson  
Marcy Tomes Luckabaugh

Gary Vance  
Larry Van Zant and wife Kathy Engel Van Zant  
Dave Verell and wife Dale Verell  
Larry Watkins and wife Kitty Runice Watkins  
Ed Weiss and wife Ardith Enos Weiss  
Michael Wilhite and wife Terry Wilhite  
Bill Williams and guest John Altman  
Tom Williams and wife Nancy DeVore Williams  
Charlie Wilson

## Friends we haven't been able to find

Tom says: As we get close to meeting in Dallas, I appreciate your help in finding many of the out-of-touch students, faculty and friends of AC Big Sandy. If you have an E-mail, phone number or address for the folks listed below, please E-mail me the info and we'll get them the invitation.

Dorothy Altergott  
Odie Anderson  
Terry Anderson  
Thomas Anderson  
Travis Armstrong  
Barry Atkins  
Darlene Bailly

Dana Bauer  
Carol Bennett  
Andréa Beyersdorfer  
Beverly Bogart  
Bob Boraker  
Geneva Bremer Barnes  
George Bryant  
Bonnie Bunting Taylor  
Doug Burns  
Barbara Campbell  
Gary Castle  
Dana Chalupa Rehak  
John Chambers  
Regina Chambers  
Ben Chapman  
Barry Chase  
June Chase  
Mary Jo Clark  
Travis Armstrong  
Barry Atkins  
Darlene Bailly

Jan Collum  
Nathan Cook  
Lydia Cooper  
Joyce Corbett  
Roberta Cordell  
Gary Corley  
Charlie Crain  
Judy Crain  
Sylvia Jo Crotts Bailey  
Joe Curry  
Virginia Curry  
Don Davis  
Cheryl Davis  
Mary Evelyn Davis  
Kevin Dean  
Lynda Deneke  
Steve Dick  
Earl Dickinson  
David Eads  
Donna Eddy  
Richard Edgar  
Glen Eichberger  
Miki Sowder Elliott

Stephen Elliott  
Sue Enos  
Carol Eubanks  
John Evans/John Jones  
Mary Alice Faulkner  
Kent Fentress  
John Franklin  
Bill Freeland  
Linda Garrett  
Judy Gentry  
Zara Ghourdijan  
Zoe Ann Ghourdjian Rylant  
Pat Gillam  
John Good  
Donna Gordan  
Edward Graunke  
Genell Gray  
Ronald Grimme  
Alfred Guideman  
Louis Gutierrez  
Victor Gutierrez

Betsy Guy  
Dave Hall  
Bill Halliar  
Toni Hammer Cox  
Alan Hanes  
Nancy Hanson  
Melanie Harford  
Richard Hartford  
Linda Helms  
Patricia Hodzinski  
Gerald Hoffman  
Rick Hoffman  
Ron Hoffman  
Lois Holman  
Sheredith Hope  
Virginia Howell  
Elaine Hull  
Robert James  
Betty Johnson  
Eric Johnson  
George Johnson  
Geraldine Johnson  
Geri Johnson  
Mason

Rita Kay Johnson  
Terry Johnson  
Virginia Johnson  
Jeanette Woodbury Jones  
Jeff Jordan  
Anita Louise Judy  
Bill Kaiser  
Susan Kaminski  
Larry Keener  
Dean Keffler  
Tom Kelly  
Gary Kern  
Jimmy Kitts  
Karwin Klassy  
James Knight  
Randy Kobernat  
Diane Koch  
Cindy Koekler Callahan  
Wayne Koman  
Joan Van Koon  
Tom Lapacka  
Carolyn Lash  
Theresa Lawrence

David Littleton  
Nancy Logan  
Everett Long  
Diane Luker  
Bruce Lyon  
Lynda Maack  
Bill Madden  
Linda Martin  
Marcia Matschulat  
Kenneth Mattson  
Janette Mauch  
Linda Mauck  
Brenda May  
Charles McCollum  
Frank McGowan  
Jeffery McGowan  
Kathy McKenzie  
Margaret McNeely  
Wesley McQuown  
Irene McKown  
George Mehaffey  
Edward Metz  
Joe Mills  
Bill Moore

Vicki Moore  
Bill Nelson  
Carla Newby Wicke  
Dan Newell  
Theresa Newell Coston  
Patsy Norris  
Jackie Nord  
Jesse Oden  
Bob Omland  
Lorna Owre Hines  
Bonnie Pace  
Anita Palmer  
Betty Parker  
Donna Pennock  
Don Phears  
Jimmie Tanksley Pierce  
Bill Porter  
Judy Porter  
Al Portune Jr.  
Shari Potter  
Ernie Prociw  
John Pruner

Gary Pugh  
Charles Purinton  
Gus Ragland  
Dale Railston  
Mary Rawlins  
Ralph Read  
Ann Reed  
Bill Reeder  
Renee Register Walden  
Eric Reid  
Rodney Reynolds  
Sandra Robinson  
Bill Rogers  
Ned Ross  
Terrance Roth  
Ray Rottman  
Sandra Salazar  
Don Samples  
Sylvia Sastre  
Paul Shemet  
Mark Schlitt  
Thomas Schlitt  
Barbara Schrolucke

Ivan Sell  
Annabel Shaw  
Sharon Shaw  
Frank Shew  
Linda Shriver  
Ronald Slocum  
Cathleen Smith  
Eugene "Gene" Smith  
Tom Spencer  
Clyde Staley  
Jan Staples  
Phillip Steele  
Karen Sterling  
John Stovall  
Tom Summer  
Dan Summy  
Miquellyn Tautfest  
Janie Templeman  
Randy Thiessen  
Mary Thomas  
Janet Toy  
James Turner  
Mel Turner  
Richard Ulmer

Terri Untiedt  
Ruth Van Buren  
Sue Ann Van Buren  
Dennis Van Deventer  
George Wade  
Ella Mae Walters Collum  
Janice Wandrey  
Christen Waters  
Susanne Welch  
David Wells  
Lisa Rivera Wenger  
Cheryl White  
Richard Wilding  
Joyce Williams  
Hugh Wilson  
Lynda Winberry  
Gerald Witte  
Nancy Wood  
Deborah Woods  
Richard Wren  
Kenneth Wright  
Sandra Wright Purdy

# Feast reporters wrap up '10, plan for '11

Feast reports for 2010 conclude in this issue with the following reports. See also issues No. 142 and 143.

## BIG SANDY, WAXAHACHIE, AND THE DELLS

**BIG SANDY, Texas**—My brother Marvin and I started the Feast of Tabernacles at the Church of God Big Sandy.

In the fall of 2010, as always, the Big Sandy Feast was warm and friendly. The church has an unusual way of opening up the Feast with breakfast every morning and having a potluck on the holy days.

A relaxed atmosphere, with everyone greeting one another, makes anybody feel welcome.

One of the messages was by Reg Killingley, whose sermon was on what we say and how it not only affects us but others.

He also brought out the uniqueness of the full moon at the equinox, with Jupiter prominent.

As noted in my book about the feast days, Psalm 81:3 states that the ramshorn is to be blown at the new moon and the full moon. This is to happen only at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Dave Havir demonstrated that we are to worship the Father in spirit and truth and love one another (John 4:21-24). Mr. Havir's messages were warm and inspiring.

## On to Waxahachie

After Big Sandy we spent the second half of the feast in Waxahachie, Texas, to be with the members of the Church of God Evangelistic Association, pastored by David J. Smith.

The association has about 1,000 members worldwide. I met people from Costa Rica, the Philippines, Alaska, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Colorado, Kansas, Tennessee and all over Texas.

Mr. Smith was briefly associated with the WCG and started his own church in 1980. Through his telecast more than 500 people have signed up for his weekly *Newswatch* magazine.

The Waxahachie Feast started out with powerful messages from Mr. Smith, who gave the main message each day.

## The Feast in the Dells

While keeping the Feast with my brother, Marvin, we were in contact with our sister Marlynn keeping the Feast in Wisconsin Dells.

She heard some very good messages from the United Church of God.

We heard that the fishing was superb in the Dells.

From everything I heard, the Feast

of Tabernacles was great for everyone. *John R. Hawkins, DeSoto, Texas.*

## GENEROUS CHURCH MEMBERS

**CHIANG MAI, Thailand**—Guests from the U.S.A. joined with COG members from Myanmar (Burma), Malaysia and Thailand to keep the Feast and learn more about the meaning of the important holy-day season.

Herb Vierra of Monrovia, Calif., and his wife, Ann, joined us again to help preach the gospel to hungry ears.

In 2010 two Karen families from border refugee camps were able to attend and also bring a family from Burma, thanks to the generosity of Church of God members in the United States who had more than enough for themselves.

Here in Chiang Mai we include the students from Legacy Institute (who earn little or no money) and refugee members from the border.

## Seeking permission to leave camps

It is difficult to get permission for refugee members to leave the camps to come to the Feast. In '09 the border was placed on alert by the military so our refugee brethren could not attend. But by '10 we were able to bring two families to Chiang Mai because of the intervention of a retired military officer who is a good friend of Legacy.

Two other families had to remain in their camp because of a visit by the U.S. embassy staff to register them for

Our job is to teach the truth of the Bible. The rest is up to God.

I was able to give two sermons on the high days and attend every service.

My health has improved in leaps and bounds since a year ago when I spent the Feast in a hospital in Bangkok. God has much more for me to do. It is our Lord Jesus who sustains me.

There is much work to be done and few harvesters to do it.

## Motorcycle accident

Please continue to pray for our student Worawet (Japur) and his mother. They had a motorcycle accident while he was visiting his family after the Feast. *Leon Sexton, Chiang Mai, Thailand.*

## SHARING THE FESTIVAL

**FERRUM, Va.**—My wife, Linda Lou, and I were blessed to receive guests just as the traditional (Sept. 23-30, 2010) Feast of Booths was ending and our reckoning (Oct. 1-8) was beginning. So our total attendance was six!

Linda's daughter and son-in-law camped out in their RV while two principal men (Mike and Bill) from PABC in Port Austin, Mich., stayed at a motel. (They had attended the first half of their Feast at a conference in Tennessee overseen by Dr. Stephen Jones.)

Services consisted of four to six hours of interactive Bible study daily and included taped messages from Hebrew Roots and Dr. Jones.

Our Port Austin (PABC) friends departed on Oct. 1, and (per Leviticus 23:40) I went down by our stream and cut branches of goodly trees, adorning our porch with them.

Linda's children extended their visit until the weekend before leaving for home, and we made a field trip to visit my son and his family.

As a culminating ceremony, I took down the now-wilted and brittle tree boughs and cast them into a fire, thereby depicting Revelation 20:14-15.

We have limited facilities at present, but we hope we can share the festivals with others as we expand our homestead. Please feel free to contact us at (540) 365-0027. Shalom. *Rick and Linda Lou Heath, Ferrum, Va.*

## PEACE OF MILLENNIUM

**HARRISON, Ark.**—More than 300 people participated in the 2010 Feast of Tabernacles in Harrison. It was sponsored by the Church of God International (CGI) and United Christian Ministries (UCM). It was attended by brethren from many Church of God groups.

Sermons were given by Ron Elkins, Wynn Skelton, Dean Roberts, Ray Wooten, Max Davis, Wayne Turnbull, George Crow, Phill Dunagan, Bronson James and Ferrell Vincent.

In addition to Youth Day, evening

See **FEAST OBSERVERS**, page 8



**Legacy accepts Buddhists, traditional Protestants and a few from Sabbath-keeping backgrounds. There was even a Hindu girl from India.**

potential emigration to the United States. We had former students of our Legacy school show up to stay with us and keep the Feast.

We were blessed to have a baptism on the Last Great Day.

Jeh Pabolaw is a graduate of Legacy and is studying for a university degree in education. He plans to return to his mountains near the Burma border and teach the poor who live there as soon as he graduates.

## Students' varied backgrounds

At Legacy we accept Buddhists as well as Christians from traditional Protestant backgrounds, as well as a few from Sabbath-keeping backgrounds. There was even a girl from India who came to Legacy with a Hindu background.

I explain to our volunteer teachers that our goal is not to try to convert anyone from his religious convictions.

## Notes and quotes

### AC Big Sandy reunion

**LACEYS SPRING, Ala.**—A reunion of Ambassador College Big Sandy students from 1960s classes is set for Dallas, Texas,



Tom Williams

each other is rapidly getting closer," said Tom Williams of Lacey's Spring.

The Dallas reunion will focus on students who attended at Big Sandy from 1965 through 1969, but any other interested former students—say, from the 1970s—are cordially invited as well, Mr. Williams said.

For more information see the announcement on page 35 of the *CONNECTIONS* section of this issue of *THE JOURNAL*.

### New UCG COE configuration

**CINCINNATI, Ohio**—Elders of the United Church of God during their annual general conference Sunday, May 15, 2011, elected and reelected council members.

Complicating the election was that during the balloting the general conference also approved a measure to eliminate a conflict of interest. The new policy prohibits officers of the administration (president, media director, treasurer and ministerial-services director) from serving on the council.

Selected to serve beginning June 1 were Gary Antion, Bill Bradford, John Elliott and Don Ward. Reelected were Darris McNeely and Robin Webber.

Mr. Dean, because of the new policy, immediately stepped down from the council because he serves the church as treasurer. Roc Corbett is serving as Mr. Dean's replacement from May 15 until June 1. Mr. Dean's permanent replacement beginning June 1 will be Dr. Ward.

Victor Kubik left the council because he serves as director of ministerial services. Permanently taking his place beginning May 15 was Mr. Elliott.

The following are the 12 council members as of June 1: Gary Antion, Scott Ashley, Bill Bradford, Bob Berendt, Bill Eddington, John Elliott, Roy Holladay, Darris McNeely, Melvin Rhodes (chairman), Mario Seiglie, Don Ward and Robin Webber.

### Expanding ministry

**ARLINGTON, Texas**—The Church of God Dallas—Fort Worth "has transitioned over the years into a broader, more far-reaching ministry," reports pastor Dianne McDonnell.

"We have renamed this out-

reach program Freedom Ministry," Mrs. McDonnell said. "We have a brand-new colorful Web site with an upbeat new design," replacing the previous site.

"You will still find the vitally important biblical articles as well as two videos that can be watched online and many new articles," she said.

Visit Mrs. McDonnell and friends at <http://www.freedom-ministry.com/>.

### Raymond McNair booklets

**LONDON, England**—John Jewell announced that he has a small number of copies of three booklets written by the late Raymond McNair.

"Mr. McNair was well known for his writing ability and especially his research and study," Mr. Jewell said.

The booklets are *King David's Everlasting Dynasty*, *Solving the Arab-Israeli Impasse* and *America and Britain in Prophecy*.

For a copy or copies write BCM, What Next, London WD1N 3XX, England. Or E-mail [whatnext@pobox.com](mailto:whatnext@pobox.com).

See [radio4living.com](http://radio4living.com) for the What Next broadcast and more information.

### Fellowship Choir

**MOUNDS, Okla.**—Ray Kurr, director of the Tulsa Fellowship Choir, has a new Web site that features free downloadable music: [fellowshipchoir.com](http://fellowshipchoir.com).

### Personality types of Revelation 2-3

**SARASOTA, Fla.**—The seven churches of Revelation 2-3 are "personality types," not church eras, says John L. Smith Jr.

Mr. Smith has created a Web site to answer questions from Church of God members.

The site, [kingdomofpriests.org](http://kingdomofpriests.org), chronicles "the ending of the withholding of the Southern Kingdom's 'Sceptre Blessing' (1934) through the 'Abomination that Makes Desolate' that occurred on Aug. 31, 1996, at the field house at Ambassador (College) University in Big Sandy, Texas, to those scattered at this present time," Mr. Smith wrote.

Mr. Smith said he is not attempting to start another "splinter 'church.'"

### Sabbath meditations

**ZIMMERMAN, Minn.**—Tony Stith has announced a new blog, [sabbath-meditations.blogspot.com](http://sabbath-meditations.blogspot.com). Mr. Stith's site contains Christian-living articles from "a Sabbath keeper's perspective."



Tony Stith

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