



United Church of God

an International Association

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

June 6, 2013

Issue 92

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Dear fellow elders and wives, deacons and deaconesses, and staff members,

The big event here recently at the home office was ABC Graduation. It was a joyous occasion seeing 36 students graduate with a certificate in biblical studies. It's sad to see the students go, as they really added to the upbeat spirit here at the home office. Summers get a little quiet here.

At the ABC graduation ceremony, student body president, Aaron Creech, made the following remarks in his student graduation discourse to the class. His words touched many of us, and I invite you to read this excerpt for yourself:

"We all came here looking for something--trying to find answers and meaning in life. We all arrived at different stages in our lives and at different levels, spiritually. Many of us were very young--looking to build our faith. We have learned so much about God and His way of life, and it's been awesome! I have also learned about people and relationships. Life is all about relationships--our relationship with God, our relationship with our families, and our relationships with our friends. They are what is important in life, and that is what we have built while here at ABC.

"You have imparted the precious words of God to us. You have made the Bible come to life for us, and you have shown us how to live by your teaching and example. We may have arrived here as children, but we are not leaving as children.

"When we go home, some of our friends and family might not recognize us. Not because we

look so different--but because we are different, because we act different. It is because we are different on the inside. This experience has begun to change us. We have kicked a lot of our bad habits. We have grown closer to God and His truth."

As the ABC students go back into your church areas, please receive them with a special welcome. Please be open to their desire to serve in your area and indeed make them a part of your congregation family. I was so impressed by the energy of this class that wished to be involved. Please give them opportunities as they are appropriate.



Graduation Day May 26, 2013

Ministerial and Member Services Operation Manager

Questions have arisen about who will be the new Operation Manager for Ministerial and Member Services. We indeed are looking for that person and we are going through a search process. We have talked to a number of people but the final decision has not been made. We want to be thorough in our search. We will certainly let you know as soon as we find that person and he receives Council of Elders confirmation by 2/3 majority.

My most able assistant Chris Rowland, whose role is the Administrator for MMS, is on hand to answer questions and serve you. Until a new manager is selected, I will continue in that role.

Beyond Today Television

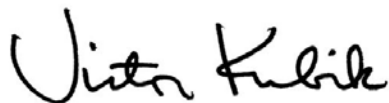
This past week, the Beyond Today team was at work producing a number of programs on their monthly schedule. The planning meetings were very interesting with an amazing spirit of collaboration to produce an effective program to reach the minds and hearts of our audience. I thoroughly enjoyed being part of that process.

Study Papers on the Members Site

From time to time we add doctrinal and other study papers on our members site. The last addition was about the Days of Unleavened Bread. Please go to <http://members.ucg.org/content/study-papers> to see them all.

I do ask for your prayers for all of us as we are thrust in roles to direct what we do next in the Work of God. More accurately, we are seeking what God's Will is in what to do next. Already, I have felt His guiding Hand in how various situations and opportunities play out. Please pray that we always work humbly and wisely in being His instruments. Our prayers will continue for you as well.

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

From Ministerial and Member Services...

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Here in the United States, we are about ready for our summer activities to begin. Our first pre-teen camp, Camp Colorado, is beginning this weekend, and in just over a week, the United Youth Camps season will begin with Camp Cotubic starting on June 16. There are a lot of last minute preparations for each of our camps as we put all of the pieces together. We're looking forward to a strong beginning to the summer camp season.

Here at the home office, we are pleased to welcome students from across the country to our week of ABC Continuing Education seminars that will begin on Monday morning, June 10. The class promises to fill our lecture hall with 60 attendees.

On May 25, 2013, Bill Schutz was ordained into the ministry. He and his wife, Jo Anne, serve in the Traverse City, Michigan, congregation.

On May 25, 2013, Nawa Talama was ordained into the ministry. He and his wife, Felicia, serve in the Lusaka, Zambia, congregation.



Bill &amp; Jo Anne Schutz



Nawa &amp; Felicia Talama

The Festival Coordinators have received the manpower listings for the Feast of Tabernacles sites in the U.S. and Canada. All of our speakers should begin thinking of subjects and ideas for this year's assignments.

We have a few Feast sites in need of additional speakers. If any additional elders could attend Branson, Jekyll Island or Gros Morne, Newfoundland, for all or part of the Feast, please contact Ministerial and Member Services.

We have also distributed application forms to our pastors for the Leadership Workshop to be held at the home office from August 30 to September 2, 2013. This will only be a few days before the Feast of Trumpets. We are asking that applications be returned to us by June 24.

In Christ's service,  
Chris Rowland  
Administrator, Ministerial and Member Services

### YABC: Young Adult Bible Class webcast - June 21

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As part of its continuing education efforts, Ambassador Bible Center is launching a new, once-a-month program for ABC alumni and young adults (of all ages)! The first YABC will begin Friday evening, June 21, at 8:00 p.m. EDT. The inaugural class title is: "The Clash of Titus and Modern Society."

This one hour long YABC will be webcast and available for you to watch via the internet very much like the Cincinnati Wednesday night Bible studies. The link will be posted on the Ambassador Bible Center website at abc.ucg.org under "Upcoming Events."

YABC presenters over time will include various ABC faculty and ministers who work with youth and young adults. The topics covered will be "issue-driven," that is, issues and trends that our young adults must face and deal with today. Each YABC will have a handout posted for download that will also include several topical discussion questions. An ideal way to benefit from the Bible class is to gather with a group of young adults, watch the YABC together and then discuss the topics during fellowship time afterward.

If you have any questions, please contact ABC Alumni Affairs and Continuing Education coordinator Randy Stiver at randy_stiver@ucg.org.

Magazine Back Issues Available for Member Distribution

An opportunity is now open for members of the United Church of God to further help preach the gospel. Back issues of our magazine are currently available for brethren to distribute to interested friends, relatives, fellow workers and neighbors and/or to drop off at waiting rooms in hospitals, doctor's offices, auto repair shops, etc. The magazines include:

- Good News (English language)
- Good News (Spanish language)
- Vertical Thought

If you would like a supply of magazines (minimum number of copies is 25), please contact John LaBissoniere at john_labissoniere@ucg.org or (423) 562-9400 or toll-free at (888) 369-9940. Please let him know the magazines and quantity you would like and give him your shipping address.

Thank you for your willingness to help spread the good news of the gospel of the Kingdom of God!

- Peter Eddington - Operation Manager, Media and Communications Services

Flooding in Europe

Part of the Czech Republic (including Prague), Austria along the German border (the city of Salzburg was affected), and the German states of Bavaria, Thüringen and Sachsen have been hit by flooding following days of rain, resulting in flood levels not seen in some cases for 400 years.

Property damage will run into the hundreds of million euros. The main train line from Munich to Salzburg was closed as a result of the flooding, and the A3 Autobahn near Regensburg, Bavaria was flooded after a dam broke.



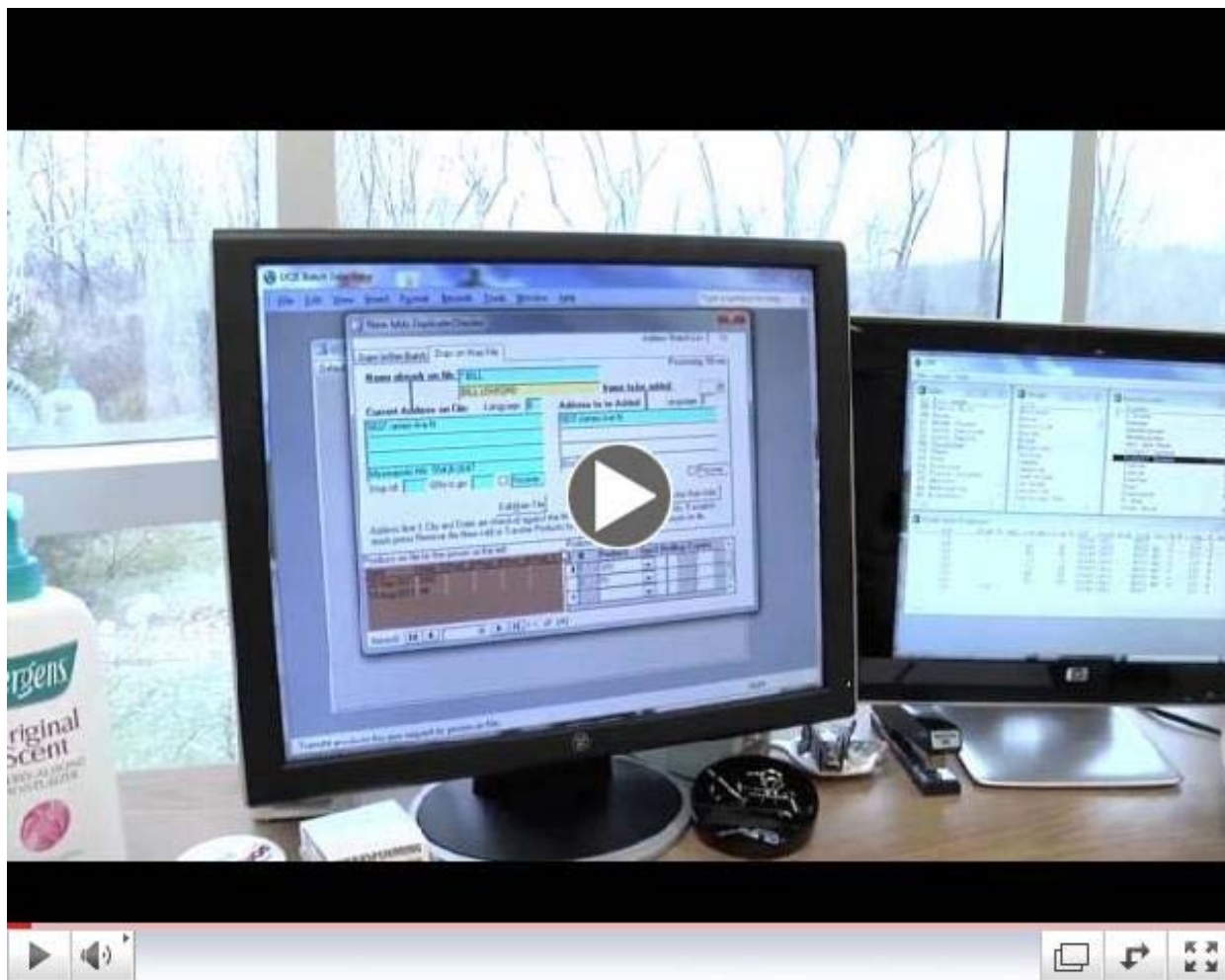
We have members in and near Salzburg, Austria, and in Sachsen. Fortunately none of our members has suffered any property damage.

"Focus on the Work"

Information Technology

The home office has released its fifth monthly Focus on God's Work video about its Information Technology department. Richard Kennebeck, Information Technology manager, gives an overview

of the work done by his team, and the auxiliary projects his area undertakes on behalf of serving the Church.



Focus on God's Work: Information Technology by Richard Kennebeck

As earlier announced, the plan is for various managers and employees of the United Church of God to give a report about their area of responsibility that may be of particular interest to our congregations. Pastors are asked to make the video links available to our membership, and most videos will be suitable to play in the sermonette timeslot at Sabbath services if desired.

Focus on God's Work has its own menu selection on the members website under the "resources" tab at members.ucg.org/content/focus-gods-work. This is where a new video will be posted each month.

- Peter Eddington - Media and Communications Services

Chattanooga Plans Ocoee Rafting Trip

The Chattanooga, Tennessee, congregation will be hosting the annual Ocoee white water rafting trip on Sunday, Aug. 4th, at 10:00 a.m.

As in prior years, the church will be utilizing the services of Ocoee Inn Rafting as outfitters for the trip. Participants must be at least 12 years old (Tennessee law) and in good health. Those with bad backs or other similar injuries should not participate due to the strenuous and jarring nature of the activity. Due to the inherent risky activity, all participants must sign a liability waiver. Those under 18 will need a parent or legal guardian's signature before they can participate.

We have reserved a block of rafting spots. In order to guarantee that you have a seat please send a signed liability waiver and a check payable to the United Church of God, Cleveland, for \$26 per person by July 15th to the address below:

Allen Dance
9201 Cobblestone Hill Drive
Ooltewah, TN 37363

Please clearly identify each participant, church area and a phone number where you can be contacted. We must have your deposit to reserve you a spot so send it in as soon as possible. This activity takes place regardless of the weather. For liabilities waivers or if you have any questions, please contact Allen Dance by e-mail at allendance@hotmail.com or phone at (423)855-0868.

Camping and cabin facilities are available in the area. The church does not sponsor a group campsite, but individual families are welcome to take advantage of the opportunities to camp at their own risk if they so desire. The Chilhowee Recreation Area of the Cherokee National Forest is a 20-minute drive from the outfitters. Campsites are on a first come, first served basis and generally fill up on the weekends so early arrival is advised. There will be a camp Bible study on the Sabbath in the Chilhowee Recreation Area as in past years.

Challenger East - deadline approaching!

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The application deadline for the young adult, wilderness camping program Challenger East is fast approaching on June 15. Although the Challenger West program is several years old, this is your opportunity to help pioneer the Challenger East experience!

Somewhat less physically intense than its western sister program, it will offer young adults fascinating challenges of new outdoor skills and significantly insightful mental challenges in the use of God's Word. All this learning and fellowship is set in a spectacular, eastern Ohio, Appalachian valley on the beautiful banks of the river that runs through it. The program dates are July 24-28.

You can obtain a detailed program description and your application form from [uyc.ucg.org/camp/challenger-east](http://uyc.ucg.org/camp/challenger-east). If you have any questions, please contact director Randy Stiver by e-mail ([randy\\_stiver@ucg.org](mailto:randy_stiver@ucg.org)) or by phone at 513-528-0420 or at his cell number 513-430-6480.

Quick Links...

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