



United Church of God

an International Association

Ministerial and Member Services eNews

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Issue 46

In this issue

[BT, International FOT, 2nd Passover, Ordination, Distance Learning and more...](#)

[Sign Up Your Congregation for May Kingdom of God Bible Seminars Now](#)

[From the Treasurer - A Way to Cut Costs](#)

[To Pastors, Elders and Hosts: The United Youth Camps Video](#)

From Victor Kubik

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

This week the *Beyond Today* team is at the home office and I sat in on the recording of one of the three programs they make each time they come together. I was very impressed by the good-natured teamwork of the group.

The recording session began with a prayer asking God that all the preparatory work with the script come together properly in the production of television program. The program was part of a series on "Living in Modern Babylon" and spoke of how we must uphold principles while living in a society that may oppose them.



Beyond Today recording on March 7

Feast of Tabernacles - Service in International Areas

We will soon be asking all U.S. elders where you would like to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. Last year we took a bold step to open up attendance to the site of your choice for full-time pastors. We were pleasantly surprised that for the most part we could spread out manpower quite evenly; relatively few had to be asked to go to their second choice site.

We will once again be doing this after the Feast brochure is mailed.

At this time, however, we would like ask all elders, salaried or non-salaried, about your desire to attend and serve the Church in an **international** area. A memo from MMS was sent yesterday to all elders in the United States with more details.

Second Passover

This year the date for the second Passover will be Saturday night, May 5th which falls during the annual GCE. Please be advised so that you can make provision for this if you will be coming to the GCE.

Ordination

On March 1, 2012, Chuck Smith was ordained into the ministry. He and his wife, Mary, serve in the Ft. Lauderdale and Vero Beach, FL, congregations, as well as in the Caribbean.



Distance Learning

For Ministerial and Member Services, the first strategy in our plan of work for the coming year is "Develop a comprehensive training program for ministerial candidates to meet our current and future needs, to ensure that there are pastors and elders to care for each congregation." This is a daunting task, but one to which I am confident we can rise.

Our current teaching mechanisms are area conferences, two-day seminars for new pastors before the GCE and the Labor Day Leadership Weekend. This is not enough. We need training not only for ministerial candidates, but also ongoing training for newly-placed pastors and local church elders. We also need refresher learning opportunities for those of us who have served in the pastoral ministry for decades. How will we accomplish this?

The answer may very well lie in using distance learning methods that our IT department had developed a few years ago, but not yet put in place. Richard Kennebeck and I will be working together on this delivery method. I have also spoken with Gary Antion and Dr. Don Ward about how we can make this happen academically.

We do have senior ministers who would be a great help in developing a curriculum and a syllabus for the classes. The biggest challenge may be finding all the necessary instructors to maintain the level of training that needs to be done.

At this time, then, I'm sharing a preview of what we need to do. If you would like to help out in this broader training project for the ministry, please let me know.

Save Money

At this time of year we work on the projected budget for the coming fiscal year. We need to be ever aware of the need to control spending. While our budget calls for taking some funds out of reserves, it is our goal to take as little as possible out and hopefully not have to draw on our reserves at all and go on to rebuild them. Our proposed budget for next year calls for considerably less use of reserves than the current year. Please be aware that every dollar you save is one less dollar out of reserves. Aaron Dean writes below about some ways in which to get ahead on some costs.

Planning Services During Unleavened Bread

We were not able to send guest speakers to all who asked for them for the spring Holy Days. We know that speakers are appreciated to give support at these times of the year. And, we realize that some of you are very stretched and will have lots of speaking to do. This year there are services Friday and Sabbath at the end of the Days of Unleavened Bread.

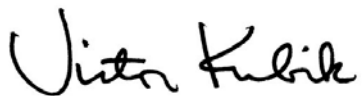
Some may consider trading services with a neighboring pastor. This will allow you to give a prepared sermon more than once. You may work out staying at each other's homes to save money. Just a suggestion.

Jim Tuck

Last week we wrote that Jim Tuck was hospitalized with a rare nervous disorder. His wife Joan has written, giving us an update:

"Jim is still in the hospital recovering slowly. The doctors at the Medical Center where he went originally felt he would be better served by going to UCSF Medical Center in San Francisco. He was there for a few days, and they came up with the plan of treatment to help minimize the movement of his left arm and leg and help get him well. Now it is wait and see. He also needs physical therapy to get back on his feet and able to come home."

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik, Operation Manager for Ministerial and Member Services

Sign Up Your Congregation for May Kingdom of God Bible Seminars Now

We are now heavily advertising the May 2012 Kingdom of God Bible Seminars in all of our major media vehicles, including *The Good News* magazine, *Beyond Today* television, and on our www.ucg.org website.

So far we have 101 congregations listed at www.kogbibleseminars.org and it's important that we add about 100 more locations over the next week or so. The primary date being advertised is May 12, but if you have multiple congregations involved you may also choose May 19 or 26 if necessary.



The reason we mention this is that we are already receiving e-mails at the home office from interested readers and viewers looking for a seminar in their city. At present the listing is not comprehensive enough to accommodate all their requests.

If you've forgotten how to register your city, please login to your UCG website account and view the short online video tutorials again at www.ucg.org/video-tutorials. The tutorials cover "Adding a Kingdom of God Seminar," "Editing Information on your Kingdom of God Seminar" and "Viewing and Managing Signups on your KOG Seminar."

Seminar outlines for May are being written, edited and reviewed this month. We plan to have them in your hands a month ahead of time.

For your planning purposes, the future seminar dates that have been added to our master calendar are September 8, 2012, and January 19, 2013.

Thank you for making preparations for May 2012, and for adding your congregation to the online listing if you have not already done so.

-- Peter Eddington

From Aaron Dean, Treasurer - A Way to Cut Costs

With the loss of a significant portion of our membership one and a half years ago, we sustained the level of our programs and service to the membership by the use of reserves to augment



income. Income has risen a little, but we find the use of reserves has to slow down for income to catch up to our costs. Each of us can help in little ways. I hope to give different suggestions that I have taught and used for many years.

For instance many wish to come to the GCE but can't afford it. Why not sign up on one of the websites of American, United, Delta or Continental (soon to combine with United) and get a frequent flyer number and apply through their link for a mileage credit card. You receive 30,000 bonus miles and the card is free the first year. Since 25,000 miles can often get a round trip ticket, if flights are available you could come to the GCE for free. Even if you don't like to fly, or are close to the home office and drive, you can give a ticket for someone else to come to the GCE or to another of our various meetings through the year. I am not suggesting you go into debt, so if you do this, use the card for food you buy anyway and pay the bill off each month. It is just one way to help UCG, yourself or others.

A Note About Medicare

Employees who are Social Security qualified by their own work or through their spouses' work should be sure to register for Medicare when nearing age 65. There is a 3 month before and 3 month after window. Part A and Part B are automatic. If you register late then there can be penalties depending on coverages you may want. There is more information on the government web site at

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/medicare.htm> I would click on the link "Understanding Medicare Enrollment Periods" on the right side under "Learn about Medicare" for more information.

While we are trying to continue our medical plan, since we are mostly self-insured to keep our cost down, significant claims could change how we approach medical coverage and our ability to continue the way we are. We also don't know how Obama Care, if not repealed, may affect insurance.

To Pastors, Elders and Hosts: The United Youth Camps Video

The United Youth Camps video is about ready for playing in all U. S. congregations (and additional congregations as desired). We wanted to give you an extra week's notice so you can

schedule the video during the sermonette time.

Instead of mailing out DVDs (this will save money), the video can be found at

<http://uyc.ucg.org/2012video> beginning March 13.



There are two simple options:

- 1) Burn a DVD or
- 2) Download the video file and play it on a laptop. If any congregations are unable to do this, please contact Chris Rowland and a DVD will be sent to you.

The dates for playing the 10 minute video (in place of the sermonette time) can be either March 17, March 24, March 31 or, if necessary, April 14.

Thank you for your assistance.

Steve Nutzman

Quick Links...

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[United Church of God Members Web site](#)

[Kingdom of God Bible Seminars Resources](#)

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