

# The Journal

## News of the Churches of God

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Issue No. 100 (Vol. IX, No. 5)

JOHN 8:32

May 31, 2005

## ICG conducts meetings for leaders in St. Louis

The writer is a minister of the Intercontinental Church of God, headquartered near Tyler, Texas. Mr. Cumming lives in Bellevue, Wash.

By Chris Cumming

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Seventy-five to 80 ministers, hosts and their wives of the Intercontinental Church of God (ICG) gathered in balmy St. Louis May 21-22 for Leadership Conference 2005.

The St. Louis church played host to the event.

The speakers included conference coordinator James Ricks along with ministers Stan Roberts, Tom Griffith and Wendell Yeary.



James Ricks

The conference took place at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel, with Sabbath services conducted at the nearby Holiday Inn Riverport.

Mark Armstrong and Shirley Armstrong, son and widow of church founder Garner Ted Armstrong, attended this conference.

Six classes were presented during the two days of meetings. Their titles:

- "Goals of the Church and Ministry."
- "Servant Leadership/How to Give a Sermonette."
- "Public Speaking."
- "Conflict Resolution."
- "Preparing Topics for Speaking and Biblical Depth."
- "Uplifting People and Handling Difficult People."

Attendees enjoyed a luncheon after

Sabbath-morning classes at the Sheraton. A dinner was scheduled for that evening at the Holiday Inn.

Throughout the weekend the men gave five-minute icebreakers, providing everyone the opportunity to get to know the ministers and hosts who had come from across the United States and Canada for the conference.

Several were meeting in person for the first time despite long relationships by phone and E-mail.

Sabbath services took place in the Pavilion Room of the Holiday Inn. It was virtually standing room only, with about 120 in attendance, including several attending God's church for the first time.

Mr. Armstrong delivered an opening message. Mr. Ricks then gave a sermon titled "Is God Calling You?"

Three ordinations took place over the weekend. Darwyn Jarvis was ordained to local elder. Mr. Jarvis serves the Bismarck, Mo., congregation.

Both Bernie Bercosky and Robert Nunnery were ordained as regional elders. Mr. Bercosky serves the U.S. Northeast, while Mr. Nunnery does the same in the Southeast.

Regional elders have the added duty of serving a number of local churches in a multiple-state area.

Many stated this was the best leadership conference they had ever attended.

The atmosphere of love and unity was apparent to all who were there. Many remarked that it was like being at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Several commented that they were already looking forward to the conference next year.

The Intercontinental Church of God is looking for an increase in regional conferences and leadership-training classes in 2006 as well.



**ICG CONFERENCE**—Members of the ministry of the Intercontinental Church of God met in St. Louis, Mo., recently for leadership-training sessions. Here, Natalie Ricks of Cape Girardeau, Mo., wife of James Ricks, pastor of the Vienna, Mo., congregation, stands with Darwyn Jarvis, who serves as a local elder in the Bismarck, Mo., congregation. See the article about the conference and a photo of Mr. Ricks on this page. [Photos by Chris Cumming]

## 11th general conference of elders marks the 10th anniversary of the United Church of God

By John Warren

CINCINNATI, Ohio—Elders of the United Church of God an International Association met at a Holiday Inn here for its annual general conference, the 11th such gathering counting the founding meetings in the spring of 1995.

The elders' meeting came after a week of sessions of the governing council of elders of the United Church of God, headquartered near here at Milford, Ohio.

Days before the general conference met, the 12-man council had selected Clyde Kilough, 53, of Antelope, Calif., as the fourth president of the church in its 10-year history.

Mr. Kilough was in his second term as chairman of the council. A chair-

man can serve only two consecutive two-year terms. The outgoing president, Roy Holladay, had also served as chairman before he replaced the UCG's second presiding officer, Les McCullough.

Before the general conference of 300-some elders was formally called to order, the smaller council met with "international," mostly non-U.S., elders from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Friday, May 13.

On the Sabbath of May 14, scheduled events included a group breakfast and tours of the home office, in the Cincinnati suburb of Milford. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, church services were scheduled at the Holiday Inn Eastgate, where all the general-conference meetings were conducted.

This year's conference theme was "Seizing the Vision: The Next Decade and Beyond."

After a 20-minute delay due to technical difficulties, song leader Ed Smith of Cincinnati welcomed his fellow elders, their wives and guests to Sabbath services.

Mr. Smith estimated that 562 people were in attendance and another 9,000 listening in by telephone or Internet hookup.

### Outgoing president

The first of two sermons was presented by Mr. Holladay as outgoing president. He reviewed the history of the 10-year-old denomination with a focus on the past three years of his See **ELDERS URGED**, page 4

## Congregation decides to send another volunteer to Thailand

By John Warren

BIG SANDY, Texas—The Church of God Big Sandy has decided to sponsor Daniel Fehr, 18, of Columbia Heights, Minn., to serve as a designer of new school buildings for a school operated by Legacy Institute in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

For two years the Texas congregation has sponsored young teachers at the school, which Texans Leon and Gloria Sexton founded in May 2002.

For 2003-04 the congregation sent Amie Hufton of Hawkins, Texas, who had just graduated from Texas A&M University at Galveston.

In 2004-05 the congregation sent Mandi Steele of Stockton, Mo., who graduated from Missouri State College in Joplin, Mo., and Jessica Wilson of Tyler, Texas, who had taken a six-month sabbatical from the University of Chicago, in Illinois.

"We have been pleased to send volunteers to help at Legacy Institute," said Dave Havar, pastor of the congregation.

Mr. Havar explained that this year will be slightly different.

"There are two differences this year," he noted.

"In the past we have sent three young ladies, and this year we are sending a young man.

"Plus, in the past we sent teachers, and this year we are sending someone to work with the planning and construction at the school."

Mr. Fehr is the son of Dale and Dona Fehr of Columbia Heights.

Mr. Fehr's mother described how her son's recent experience will help him in his service at Legacy.

"Dan has been working under two different architects in the last three years," Mrs. Fehr said.

"So he will be helping design a new school building for Legacy as well as helping in the construction of the school."

Mr. Havar said he expects Mr. Sexton to ask Mr. Fehr to do some occasional teaching of his trade while he is there.

Mr. Fehr was scheduled to fly to Thailand on June 24.

## Church of God member, inspired by 9-11, says tangible steps help combat terrorism

By Dixon Cartwright

BIG SANDY, Texas—The attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, distressed a lot of Americans, but relatively few have taken concrete steps to try to prevent another terrorist strike in this country.

Forty-eight-year-old Willis Hogg, a Church of God member who lives in the Dallas area, did something concrete. For four days in April, in his single-engine Mooney M20G airplane, he patrolled 20 miles of the border between the U.S. state of Arizona and the Mexican state of Sonora, keeping an eye out for Mexicans and others trying to pass into this country illegally.

Mr. Hogg sees America's porous perimeter as the best way for an aspiring terrorist to enter this land.

"If you've flown since 9-11," he

says, "you know it's about impossible to get anything through the airports now. So if you are a terrorist all you have to do is fly into Mexico and just walk across the border."

### Minuteman Project

Mr. Hogg's interest piqued when he heard about the Minuteman Project, organized by a Southern Californian named Jim Gilchrist and others to lend the U.S. Border Patrol a



Willis Hogg

hand in southern Arizona.

"I heard about the project on Fox News on Sean Hannity and I think Bill O'Reilly back in probably February," remembers Mr. Hogg. "Then I went to the Web site [www.minutemanhq.com] to see what they had to say. The main thing I didn't want to get involved with was some kind of racist or hate group."

Mr. Hogg acknowledges that white-supremacist and so-called hate groups might be attracted to an organization whose aim is to keep foreigners out of the country, but he became convinced the organizers of the Minutemen were not bigots.

"I'm 100 percent satisfied of that," he says. "There may be some racist people who joined it, but the group itself is not, and the leaders

See **COG MEMBER**, page 23

## Former AC food director factors bananas

**SHERMAN SOAKS**, Calif.—Carlton Green has a new book out that “highlights the key elements of successful leadership and life strategies,” announced pub-



Carlton Green

licist Joyce Moore.

Dr. Green is the former food-service director at Ambassador College in Big Sandy and Pasadena and the Worldwide Church of God's Summer Educational Program at Orr, Minn., and works as executive director of food services and nutrition at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles.

His book: *What Is the Purpose of a Banana?: Critical Success Factors for Effective Leadership*.

Dr. Green “has become a popular keynote speaker across all industries and educational forums,” said Ms. Moore.

For more information see [www.carltongreen.bravehost.com](http://www.carltongreen.bravehost.com), or write Ms. Moore at [bananafactor2@aol.com](mailto:bananafactor2@aol.com) or 914 Westwood Blvd., Room 202, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024, U.S.A.

Dr. Green lives in Sherman Oaks with his wife, Judy.

## Two sibling pairs team up at awards ceremony

The writer is a member of THE JOURNAL's staff and president of the board of the Big Sandy Independent School District.

By John Warren

**BIG SANDY, Texas**—Big Sandy High School conducted its 13th annual Academic Banquet May 10 in the building owned by the Church of God Big Sandy.

As in past years, the banquet-meal preparer was Melodee Overton, who is the consumer-sciences teacher at Big Sandy. Volunteers from various Church of God groups served the meal.

The end-of-school banquet gives the school administration and teachers the chance to acknowledge and award students who excel in academics and extracurricular activities such as the one-act play, National Honor Society, student council and University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition. The UIL is the organization in Texas that regulates academic and athletic competition in public schools.

School districts send students to compete in academic competitions that include mathematics, writing, public speaking, science and the one-act play.

### Many trips

Two sisters, Jessica Killingley, a 15-year-old junior, and Jennifer Killingley, a 14-year-old freshman, who attend the Church of God Big Sandy, reaped many awards. The siblings are daughters of Reg and Carol Killingley of Big Sandy.

Event organizers asked Jessica to come to the microphone to give the invocation at the beginning of the banquet.

That was the first of many trips into the spotlight. She was recognized for being on the A honor roll, received an award as the highest-ranking student in Advanced Placement Language and garnered the Yearbook Award.

Jessica was recognized as a cast member of the one-act play for placing in district UIL academic competition and was inducted into the National Honor Society.

Jessica's sister Jennifer gained awards for Pre-Advanced Placement English I and Algebra I as well as being on the A-B honor roll.

### Multiple awards

Another sibling team of Matthew and Mark Fisher, also members of the Church of God Big Sandy, garnered multiple awards. Matt, a 17-year-old junior, and Mark, a 15-year-old sophomore, are the sons of David and Laurie Fisher.

The school recognized Mark for qualifying for the A-B honor roll and for earning the highest grade in Pre-Advanced Placement English II and inducted him into the National Honor Society.

Matt received awards for precalculus and Work Co-Op, which is a school-sponsored employment-apprentice program.

Other recognition came for the A-B honor roll, district UIL academic com-



**ACADEMIC HONORS**—Matt (left) and Mark Fisher (in the above photo)

claimed top honors at the awards banquet, as did Jennifer (left) and Jessica Killingley (in the photo at right). [Photos by John Warren]



petition and induction into the National Honor Society.

Matt also presented the benediction at the close of the ceremonies.

Two other Church of God Big Sandy teens were honored for their efforts. Shane Case of Big Sandy earned the Theater Arts Award. Shane is the son of Vern and Jeanine Case.

Because of an oversight, Meagan Overton, a 17-year-old junior and daughter of Mac Overton of Gilmer and Melodee Overton of Hawkins, was not inducted into the National Honor Society at the banquet but was before the end of the school term.

The Killingley girls and the Fisher boys are also members of the Big Sandy ISD's student council.

Jeff Dozier, superintendent of schools, thanked Mrs. Overton for her work on the banquet and Wayne Weese, who helped set up for the event.

Mr. Weese, who also attends the Church of God Big Sandy, is the transportation and maintenance director for the school. Mr. Dozier thanked the Big Sandy congregation “for the use of this wonderful facility.”

## Notes and quotes

### Pat Dennis dies

**COFFEYVILLE, Kan.**—Pat Dennis, pastor of an independent Church of God congregation in Coffeyville, died unexpectedly May 19.



Pat Dennis

Mr. Dennis, 58, a longtime Church of God member who was known for his positive outlook and sense of humor, was active in the Churches of God Outreach Ministries, an affiliation of independent congregations.

Mr. Dennis is survived by his wife, Aletha, daughters Kim Witt of Kearns, Utah, and Renee Steel of Bixby, Okla., and son Trevor Dennis of Bixby.

Conducting the funeral in the building owned by the Tulsa Church of God and at the graveside were Jeff Henderson of Half Moon Bay, Calif., Steve Andrews of Tulsa and Mr. Gregory.

For a tribute to Mr. Dennis, see page 19 of this issue.

Mrs. Dennis receives mail at 402 Elm St., Coffeyville, Kan. 67337, U.S.A.

### Fellowship in Arkansas

**COLCORD, Okla.**—Dan Cafourek announces a Feast of Tabernacles observance in Hot Springs, Ark., sponsored by the Arkansas Fellowship beginning the evening of Sept. 19.

“This is based on first-crescent sighting in Jerusalem, abib barley,” Mr. Cafourek said.

For reservations at the motel in which services will take place, call (800) 974-1385. For more information concerning the site, E-mail [arkansasfellowship@yahoo.com](mailto:arkansasfellowship@yahoo.com) or visit [www.onlinetruth.org](http://www.onlinetruth.org).

### Feast in the Philippines

**CALAMBA, Philippines**—The Church of God Internationally Affiliated Associates will sponsor a Feast observance beginning the evening of Sept. 19.

“This year we are no longer following the Hillel II calendar but the actual sightings of barley and new moon among the Karaites,” announced Enrique M. Gabuyo.

For more information write CGIAA, P.O. Box 3077, MCPO, Makati City 1207, Philippines, or, by E-mail, [cogemg007@yahoo.com](mailto:cogemg007@yahoo.com).

### Halifax Feast

**FLETCHER'S LAKE, N.S., Canada**—Alex Nicholson announces the 2005 Feast of Tabernacles observance planned for Halifax, N.S., beginning the evening of Oct. 17.

“All messages will be some of the best videotape sermons delivered over the past 10 years by Garner Ted Armstrong,” Mr. Nicholson said.

For more information and motel reservations, write Mr.

Nicholson at [ancbns@hotmail.com](mailto:ancbns@hotmail.com), or call him at (902) 860-2880. Or visit [www.feastgoer.org/halifax.htm](http://www.feastgoer.org/halifax.htm).

### Hot Springs Feast

**HOT SPRINGS, Ark.**—You're invited to the Sabbath Day Church of God's Feast in Hot Springs, beginning the evening of Oct. 17.

The setting is “the beautiful Ouachita Mountains,” announced Fred Porter. This year's theme: “To God Be the Glory!”

For more information call or write Bob or Barbara Marlowe at (501) 915-0538 or write [rhmarlowe@earthlink.net](mailto:rhmarlowe@earthlink.net) or Mr. Porter at (501) 760-2013 or (501) 282-1909. Or visit [www.sdcog.org](http://www.sdcog.org).

The church is looking for a sound technician and pianists for this year's Feast.

### Feast down under

**BALLINA, Australia**—David Moffitt announces the Feast of Tabernacles observance in Ballina beginning the evening of Oct. 17. For more information write [totaltruth@hotmail.com](mailto:totaltruth@hotmail.com) or P.O. Box 345, North Sydney, New South Wales 2060, Australia.

### Usserys not at Gulf Shores

**BIG SANDY, Texas**—Jim Ussery, who for years organized Feast of Tabernacles observances at Gulf Shores, Ala., and in the Florida Panhandle, said he will not sponsor one this year.

One reason for Mr. Ussery's decision is the extensive damage the area sustained from Hurricane Ivan in September 2004.

Besides the damage to the Feast facilities, he said another reason he will not sponsor a site is that this year he and Mrs. Ussery will keep the Feast on dates that do not correspond with the timing of most Church of God observances this year.

“Wherever you attend, we hope and pray that you will have a wonderful, inspiring and uplifting Feast,” Mr. Ussery said.

### Women's weekend

**SAN JOSE, Calif.**—The United Church of God South Bay will sponsor the United Church of God Northern California Women's Weekend Aug. 19-21, announced Susan Crow.

The weekend, with the theme “Encouraging One Another to Love and Good Works,” will include Sabbath services, panel discussions and presentations and an afternoon tea, with keynote speaker Judy Servidio.

For more information contact Mrs. Crow at [suecrow@gmail.com](mailto:suecrow@gmail.com) or (408) 238-5324.

### What's next?

**ECCLESTON, England**—The *What Next* radio broadcast as streaming audio and other materials in text are available on Radio4living's Web site, [whatnextbroadcast.com](http://whatnextbroadcast.com), announced John Jewell.

To listen by computer, request a free utility from [whatnext@pobox.com](mailto:whatnext@pobox.com), Mr. Jewell said.

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