

The Journal

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JOHN 8:32

June 30, 2005

UCG's new president talks about church's 'zeal' theme

By John Warren

CINCINNATI, Ohio—*THE JOURNAL* sat down with Clyde Kilough on Sunday, May 15, during the annual meeting of the general conference of elders of the United Church of God to discuss the process that resulted in his election as president of the UCG and some of the issues he will address and face in his new responsibilities. (See the May 31 issue of *THE JOURNAL* for full coverage of the conference.)

The United Church of God International Association is headquartered in the Cincinnati suburb of Milford. The general conference met in a Holiday Inn in Cincinnati, where this interview took place.



Clyde Kilough

Mr. Kilough, 53, lives with his wife, Dee, in Antelope, Calif. They have two adult children and one granddaughter, born on April 26.

The 60-day process

Q: What was the process to elect the new president?

A: Immediately after the March council meeting [the council has 12 members], we began the process of taking input from the general conference of elders [the general conference has about 300 members]. Then each member of the council of elders could submit two nominees. Five were chosen, and each was contacted and asked if they were willing to serve. All agreed to serve if selected.

The five were given job descriptions and written interview forms. The next step, after the written interviews, was to reduce the field to three. Then we had personal interviews May 10 and 11, two days of discussions with the entire council where each nominee had a chance to address the council and answer questions.

The other nine [council members] also had a chance to discuss the three without them in the room. After that, all three candidates met with the council again, and on Thursday, May 12, the selection took place.

[The original nominees were Aaron Dean of Gladewater, Texas, William Bradford of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Jim Franks of Houston, Texas, Mr. Kilough and the UCG's second president, Les McCullough of Big Sandy, Texas. The three finalists were Mr. Franks, Mr. Kilough and Mr. McCullough.]

Q: Did the general conference of elders get to make nominations?

A: They could give input and suggestions but no formal nominations. There is no formal process laid out in our founding documents.

[After the first step, two nominees were eliminated, Mr. Bradford and Mr. Dean. Mr. Bradford, the only nominee who was not a member of the council of elders, is a church pastor in Australia. Mr. Dean, the only member of the council not employed by the church, works as a financial adviser and computer specialist.]

Accelerated direction

Q: We've heard statements about taking the church in a different direction. Was it headed in a wrong direction?

See **NEW PRESIDENT**, page 23



INFLATION—A youth day camp at the Church of God Big Sandy in June features tethered hot-air-balloon rides for the campers and many other activities. Fifty-five young people participated in this year's event. For more information and another photo, see page 24 of this issue. [Photo by John Warren]

Announce your site for Feast 2005

For the ninth year *THE JOURNAL* is publishing a monthly listing of sites and dates of Feast of Tabernacles observances.

Members of Church of God and other Sabbatarian Christian fellowships will meet at several hundred Feast sites this year. Now is the time to send in your Feast contact, location and date information.

When submitting information, writers should state the dates (on the Gregorian calendar) on which their observance (including the Last Great Day) will fall in 2005. Otherwise *THE JOURNAL* will assume each observance will begin the evening of Monday, Oct. 17, and run through Tuesday, Oct. 25.

Send to info@thejournal.org or P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A.

For more information see the first installment of this year's full listing on page 10 of this issue.

Statement by an acquaintance of Brookfield gunman shows shootings were premeditated

By Dixon Cartwright

An acquaintance of 44-year-old Terry Ratzmann of New Berlin, Wis., who killed seven worshippers at a Living Church of God Sabbath service March 12, says Mr. Ratzmann warned her that the Brookfield, Wis., Sheraton hotel would soon be in the news.

Mr. Ratzmann shot 12 people during the service in the hotel, killing eight, including himself. According to a report filed by Sgt. Jason Pfeiffer of the Brookfield Police Department on March 15, three days after the shootings, an employee of a hardware store in nearby Elm Grove, Wis., talked with Mr. Ratzmann weeks before the shootings, at which time he told her he was depressed

"about the church."

The store employee said Mr. Ratzmann made his remarks while visiting with her in the store's check-out line. She said he was a regular customer at the store and she was fairly well acquainted with him.

According to the report, she said Mr. Ratzmann mentioned to her he was "depressed and very angry about the church" because of a sermon that Sgt. Pfeiffer noted was "delivered by his church."

The employee said Mr. Ratzmann did not mention the name of any specific person he was upset with. But she stated that he mentioned the Sheraton hotel to her and said, "It's going to be on the news."

Sgt. Pfeiffer noted in his report that

the store employee was "initially very reluctant in speaking with me, and she was visibly shaken at the time of our conversation. I spoke with her at approximately 1:15 p.m. on 03/15/05 while on official business at the hardware store in uniform."

The uncle of 15-year-old Bart Oliver, the youngest church member who lost his life in the shootings, talked with the hardware-store employee on July 20.

"She was very pleasant and expressed concern over our loss," said Tom Geiger of Sullivan, Wis.

The store employee was not "sure of the date of her last encounter with Terry," Mr. Geiger said, but did say it could have been two, three or four

See **KILLER**, page 23

A.N. Dugger congregation is back after almost 20 years

The writer is a former member of the Catholic Church and Worldwide Church of God and was ordained by an elder of the Church of God 7th Day in 1995. Mr. Esposito restarted the Congregation of Yahweh in Jerusalem to publicize the original roots of the early congregations. He is the author of the book *The Great Falling Away. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife, Petra, whom he met inside the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem in 1997.*

By Don Esposito

JERUSALEM—It was 1931 and the Church of God 7th Day's council of elders unanimously voted to send Andrew Dugger, who then lived in Stanberry, Mo., and was editor of *The Bible Advocate* and also for many previous years president of the general council, to Jerusalem.

They sent him there to set up a headquarters congregation for the CG7 for the purpose of the preaching of the end-time work from the Holy City according to Micah 4:1.

Elder Dugger stayed in Jerusalem for about a year and then went back to the United States to report on his groundwork for setting up the church headquarters in Jerusalem.

But upon his return he found the CG7 in much division.

When I started to research the background of the Church of God starting from about 1840 and the breakoff of the Seventh-day Adventists from the Church of God over the prophecies of Ellen G.

White, I was surprised to learn that this modern era of the Church of God, starting in the 1840s, was always filled with division and men trying to control other men's money and beliefs.

This in itself should be a lesson to all of us who have been Church of God members down through the years.

Bordering on blasphemy

The Church of God, as it has been called, is not a worldly secular corporation as many who were privileged by our Heavenly Father to be in positions of influence believed. That there have been so many divisions and splits over the last 150 years should show us that hierarchical government and running our Savior's precious Body as a corporate entity is not only doomed to failure, as church history has shown,

See **DAUGHTER**, page 6

Officers of COGWM wrestle for control

By Dave Havir

The Church of God Worldwide Ministries (COGWM), a church organization that formed in January 2004 after breaking away from the Intercontinental Church of God, has split due to a conflict between some of the original founders of the organization.

Its 11 ministers have separated into two groups, with each group claiming ownership of the COGWM, based in Gretna, La., near New Orleans.

At the center of the storm are three of the original officers of the religious organization. George Trent of Princeton, W.Va., was initially the president, Earl Timmons of Williamsburg, Ky., was initially the vice president, and Tom Kerry of Gretna was initially the treasurer.

On one side of the conflict are the following five ministers: Mr. Trent, Mr. Timmons, John Shelton of Knoxville, Tenn., Joe Shuster of Williamsburg, Va., and David Smith of Pineville, Ky.

On the other side are the following six ministers: Mr. Kerry, Bruce Chapman of Sand Lake, Mich., Ian Hufton of Hawkins, Texas, Manis Samons of

See **NEW ORLEANS**, page 8

Elder John Ogwyn dies

KILGORE, Texas—John Ogwyn, 56, a Living Church of God elder who was widely believed to be in line to succeed Roderick Meredith as presiding evangelist of the church, died here June 14.

Mr. Ogwyn, a presenter on the *Tomorrow's World* telecast along with Dr. Meredith and Richard Ames, had suffered for months from recurring symptoms of a massive infection.

THE JOURNAL reported in its March issue Mr. Ogwyn's conducting of a press conference in Wisconsin shortly after the shooting deaths during a March 12 Sabbath service in Brookfield.

Including his service in the Worldwide Church of God, Mr. Ogwyn had served in the ministry for 34 years.

Survivors include his wife, Genie, of Kilgore; sons Charles of Cabot, Ark., and David of Baton Rouge, La.; mother, Trudy Ogwyn, of Taylor, La.; brother, David, of Shreveport, La.; and two grandchildren. Dr. Meredith conducted Mr. Ogwyn's funeral in Minden, La. Mrs. Ogwyn receives mail at 1218 Brook Dr., Kilgore, Texas 75662, U.S.A.



John Ogwyn

Port Austin plans for Feast of Tabernacles

PORT AUSTIN, Mich.—Every one is invited to a Feast of Tabernacles observance at Port Austin on the traditional Hebrew-calendar dates of Oct. 17-25, announced Norman Edwards.

The theme this year: "Lessons From People of Faith."

"We encourage those coming to

bring a message, book report, poem, song or other means of conveying the story of a person of faith," Mr. Edwards said, "either from the Bible or history."

Accommodations are available on the Port Austin Bible Campus, about a 2½-hour drive from Detroit. They include dormitory rooms, "motel-

like" rooms and tent and trailer spaces.

Also, several motels are about a mile away from the site.

To reserve a place or for more information, write PABC, P.O. Box 474, Port Austin, Mich. 48467, U.S.A., or pabc@portAustin.net. Or call (989) 738-7700.

Congregation carries on youth-camp tradition

By John Warren

BIG SANDY, Texas—For four days the building and grounds of the Church of God Big Sandy transmuted into a youth day camp. Four Texas COG members, Carol Bald of Gladewater, Reesa Bearse of Hawkins, Angela Dunnam of Pritchett and Sharon Wilson of Tyler, coordinated the preteen activity, which ran from 5:45 until 8 o'clock each evening June 20-23.

"Up, Up and Away" was the theme of Youth Camp 2005. The campers were greeted by bright, beautiful decorations that included kites, balloons and miniature airplanes.

Three age-groups attended, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Each had a counselor and at least one assistant.

Bonnie Reed was the counselor for the 4-6 group, assisted by Jared Miller and her son Trevor Reed.

Karen Weese had the oversight of the 7- to 9-year-olds, helped by Christine Wilson.

Sharon Burgin was the counselor for the 10-12 group, assisted by her daughter Candice Self. All the counselors and assistants are from Big Sandy.

Camper volunteers

Each year some teenagers who are veteran campers from previous summers help make the camp a success.

More than 50 campers participated in a wide variety of games, crafts, music and sports.

Ron Avey and Doyle Welborn, both of Big Sandy, taught archery. John Bearse, husband of one of the coordinators, taught a kite-making class.

Three other coordinators' spouses also were volunteer workers. Karl Wilson of Tyler taught music, Jim Bald of Gladewater conducted teamwork classes, and Tim Dunnam of Pritchett designed the woodworking craft.

"We couldn't do this without the

support of our husbands," commented Mrs. Bearse. "Not only do they help us with planning, setup, takedown, teaching classes and everywhere else we need them, they never complain about having pretzels and lemonade for supper."

Each camper earned two shirts with a bright hot-air-balloon logo on the front. Cindy Manno of DeForrest, Wis., designed the logo.



CAMPERS BY DAY—Kids and counselors congregate on the lawn of the Church of God Big Sandy for a youth camp. See another photo of the activity on page 1. [Photo by John Warren]

The preteens enjoyed snacks each evening prepared by Julie Wilkins of Hawkins, Vi Lehman of Pritchett and Penny Harris of Liberty City.

Wacky Olympians

The youngsters also participated in a treasure hunt, "wacky Olympics" and "aircrafts" and other arts and crafts.

"I view the younger kids as arguably the most underserved portion of the church," Mrs. Bald said. "We have classes to teach them principles, but there are few opportunities for them to just enjoy themselves and fellowship, kids' style."

"I'm grateful we have the opportunity here to give our kids a chance to fellowship with each other, try a few activities they may never have had the opportunity to try and let their light shine to their friends and relatives in the community."

The campers were surprised the final evening of the camp with two additional activities: an inflatable slip-and-slide and a real, full-sized, heavy-duty hot-air balloon they could take rides in.

"As far as the hot-air balloon," said Mrs. Wilson, "after the coordinators came up with the theme of 'Up, Up and Away,' I did some research on the Internet and found that the youth chairperson for the Balloon Federation of America was none other than Shelley Caraway, who works at Tyler Junior College and lives in Kilgore. So I E-mailed her and made arrangements for her to come to our camp."

Angela Dunnam made arrangements for the inflatable slip-and-slide, a slippery vinyl water slide.

Volunteer help

The four coordinators, their husbands and a host of volunteers put a lot of time and effort into the annual youth event, Mrs. Dunnam said.

"It does take a lot of our time to do the camp, and it is very stressful at times," she said, "but that first night, when you see all the kids, the smiles on their faces and see how much fun they have, it is all worth the stress of putting it all together and making it work."

"Camp is the only opportunity we have every year to focus on the needs and enjoyment of the children in our area," Mrs. Bearse said. "We try to make it as exciting and worthwhile as we possibly can."

"It is so worth it when you see the joy in the faces of the campers. This year was the best in so many ways. We have learned so much in the past four years, and each year things run a little smoother than the year before."

Mrs. Bearse noted that most of the campers are not from the Big Sandy congregation. Fifty-five kids participated this year.

Notes and quotes

Howard Silcox dies

BRICKET WOOD, England—Howard Silcox, 84, a longtime member of the Worldwide Church of God, died May 26. Mr. Silcox was head of the gardening department at Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, in the 1960s.

Mr. Silcox is survived by his wife, Margaret, and sons David, Andrew and Bronwyn.

Words have meaning

BIG SANDY, Texas—Last month's "Notes and Quotes" included an item about Jim and Dot Ussery's Feast of Tabernacles plans that got the story exactly wrong.

The real story: Mr. Ussery announced he will not sponsor a Feast site in the Florida Panhandle or Alabama



Jim Ussery

this year because the Usserys observe a calendar that this year does correspond with the timing of most Church of God Feast observances.

Up-and-down votes

BIG SANDY, Texas—The Church of God Big Sandy conducted its annual election to the board in June by returning all three incumbents to the governing body.

The congregation reelected Bernie Monsalvo of Gladewater, John Warren of Big Sandy and Karl Wilson of Tyler.

The annual nomination process happens each May. Each member of the congregation is invited to nominate twice as many candidates as board vacancies. At the end of May the names of the top nominees are placed on a ballot and the congregation votes in June.

Since this was a year when three terms were expiring, each member of the congregation could nominate up to six people. (Since the board has seven members, some years have two terms expiring and some years have three terms expiring.) If there are ties for those six people, the number of nominees can expand.

Because of ties this year, eight people ended up on the election ballot. Besides the three incumbents, they were Ron Avey of Big Sandy, Ron Feaker of Hawkins, Vi Lehman of Pritchett, Neil McIver of White Oak and Melodee Overton of Hawkins.

Book distribution

FISH HOEK, South Africa—Geoff Neilson has sent a copy of his new book, *America's Greatest Prophet: The Endtime Elijah—Herbert W. Armstrong*, to the president of the United States George W. Bush.

Mr. Neilson also sent a copy to Prince Charles, Steven

Spielberg and the publisher of *The New York Times*, Arthur Sulzberger Jr.

"I believe this book is unique and should be an inspiration to anyone holding fast to the Philadelphia-era apostle's teachings and make any other reader at least more aware of the importance of the greatest prophet since Bible times," Mr. Neilson said.

The author cannot afford to give away copies of the 272-page tome, which is hardbound and has pages measuring 8¼ by 11¼ inches, but will provide them at his cost to interested parties. Write him at Box 22256, Fish Hoek, Cape Town 7974, South Africa, or geoffneilson@yahoo.com. Or phone him at +27 72 80 76600.

"I also sent a copy of the book to one of the most experienced ministers in the largest remnant of the church still holding fast to God's truth, giving him permission to make copies for any of his colleagues," Mr. Neilson said.

Have a happy 9-11

CLAYTON, N.C.—Neal Brantley announces the annual Barbecue & Friends Get-Together for Sept. 11, 2005, for "friends who have attended the many COG congregations in North and South Carolina and Virginia over the past 40-plus years."

The event will take place in Pine Level, N.C., at an American Legion building on U.S. 70-A.

"Fred Toole and help are preparing the barbecue beef," Mr. Brantley said. "Bring your favorite dishes and drinks to complete the meal. The fellowship starts when you arrive. We plan to eat about 1:30."

For more information write Mr. Brantley at 4796 Covered Bridge Rd., Clayton, N.C. 27527, U.S.A., or phone him at (919) 631-9845. Or contact Mr. Toole at (919) 934-7047.

Conductor dies

ROME, Italy—Carlo Maria Giulini, 91, who conducted the Vienna Symphony in the Ambassador Auditorium in its inaugural performance in 1974, died in his native Italy on June 14. Obituaries at the time of his death identified him as the leading Italian conductor of his generation.

Leading-edge objectivity

HULL, Que., Canada—Sam Licorish announces that www.ChristianInsights.com has launched an online newspaper "which we hope to eventually expand to a printed version."

Your participation, says Mr. Licorish, is invited in submitting news articles, commentary, photos and even free advertising.

"One of its primary objectives is to provide an open and decidedly objective leading-edge discussion for Christians."

Articles on the site include a discussion of the "New Testament Sabbath" and various approaches to prophecy.

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