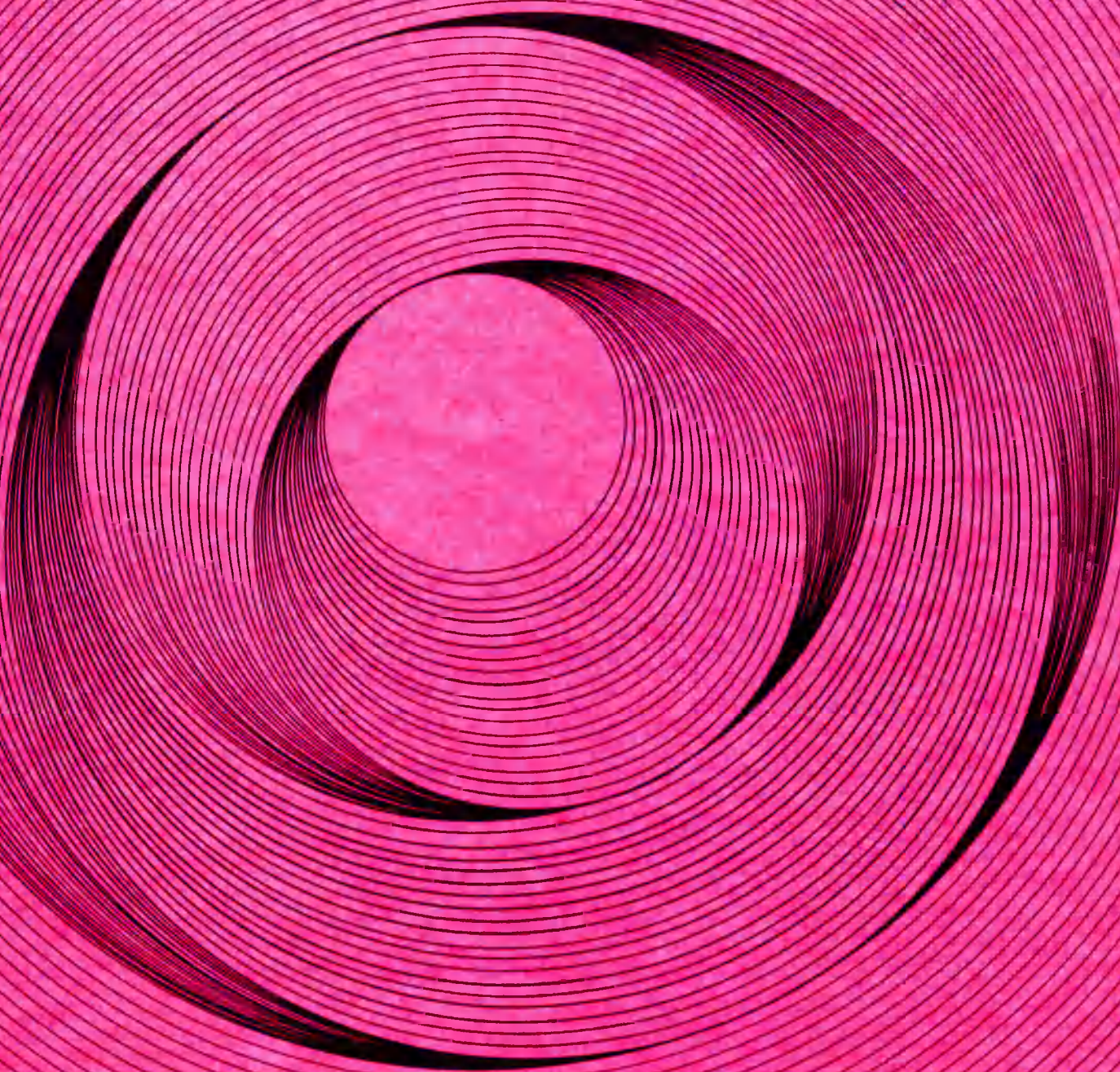


CONTACT





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The following story from Bits & Pieces (Dec., 1976) is our valentine gift to you. It could also be used to illustrate one of your Sunday lessons for this month of love.

FLOWERS FOR TODAY

Somewhere in the midwest, on the outskirts of a large city, is an old, well-kept cemetery. A few years ago the elderly caretaker of this peaceful, lonely spot used to receive a check every month from a woman. She was an invalid in a hospital in the city. The check was to buy fresh flowers for the grave of her son who had been killed in an automobile accident a couple of years before.

One day a car drove into the cemetery and stopped in front of the caretaker's ivy-covered administration building. A man was driving the car. In the back seat sat an elderly lady, pale as death, her eyes half-closed.

"The lady is too ill to walk," the driver told the caretaker. "Would you mind coming with us to her son's grave—she has a favor to ask of you. You see, she is dying, and she has asked me, as an old family friend, to bring her out here for one last look at her son's grave."

"Is this Mrs. Wilson?" the caretaker asked.

The man nodded.

"Yes, I know who she is. She's the one who has been sending me a check every month to put flowers on her son's grave." The caretaker followed the man to the car and got in beside the woman. She was frail and obviously near death. But there was something else about her face, the caretaker noted...the eyes dark and sullen, hiding some deep, long-lasting hurt.

"I am Mrs. Wilson," she whispered. "Every month for the past two years—"

"Yes, I know. I have attended to it, just as you asked."

"I have come here today," she went on, "because the doctors tell me I have only a few weeks left. I shall not be sorry to go. There is nothing left to live for. But before I die I wanted to come here for one last look and to make arrangements with you to keep on placing the flowers on my son's grave."

She seemed exhausted—the effort to speak sapping her strength. The car made its way down a narrow, gravel road to the grave. When they reached the grave,

the woman, with what appeared to be great effort, raised herself slightly and gazed out the window at her son's tombstone. There was no sound during the moments that followed—only the chirping of the birds in the tall, old trees scattered among the graves.

Finally, the caretaker spoke. "You know, ma'am, I was always sorry you kept sending the money for the flowers."

The woman seemed at first not to hear. Then slowly she turned toward him.

"Sorry?" she whispered. "Do you realize what you are saying—my son..."

"Yes, I know," he said gently. "But, you see, I belong to a church group that every week visits hospitals, asylums, prisons. There are live people in those places who need cheering up, and most of them love flowers—they can see them and smell them. That grave—" he said, "over there—there's no one living, no one to see and smell the beauty of the flowers..." He looked away, his voice trailing off.

The woman did not answer, but just kept staring at the grave of her son. After what seemed like hours she lifted her hand and the man drove them back to the caretaker's building. He got out and without a word they drove off. I've offended her, he thought. I shouldn't have said what I did.

Some months later, however, he was astonished to have another visit from the woman. This time there was no driver. She was driving the car herself! The caretaker could hardly believe his eyes.

"You were right," she told him, "about the flowers. That's why there have been no more checks. After I got back to the hospital, I couldn't get your words out of my mind. So I started buying flowers for the others in the hospital who didn't have any. It gave me such a feeling of joy to see how much they enjoyed them—and from a total stranger. It made them happy, but more than that, it made *me* happy."

"The doctors don't know," she went on, "what is suddenly making me well, but I do!"



WHO'S WHO IN AUC



David McClure
Northwest Regional Representative

David McClure was ordained a Unity minister in 1963 and has served in various Unity ministries across the country. An active Unity student since the age of six, David entered the Ministerial Training Program in 1960.

After graduating from Unity in 1962, he served as interim minister in Vancouver, B.C., before traveling to Sydney, Australia, where he established the first Unity ministry in the Southern Hemisphere. Under David's leadership, five large Unity groups evolved around the continent. In addition, he created a unique "ministry-by-mail" for Unity students in New Zealand using specially prepared tapes and printed lesson materials. This led to David's appointment as Director of the first Silent Unity branch ministry in the world in 1968.

The congregational growth and weekly income at Unity Church of Truth in Spokane, Wash., has increased greatly since David's acceptance as minister in the fall of 1975. The Sunday attendance averages 300 children and 700 adults. Over 28 classes ranging from Metaphysical Bible to Clay Sculpture are offered through Synthesis, a quarterly educational program developed by David.

David presents the basic Unity principles through regular activities and the use of innovating teaching techniques, seminars, workshops, and retreats. He is assisted by his wife, **Barby**, whose meditation experiences, pleasant voice, and friendly manner have drawn a warm response from the church members.



Ruth Mosley
AUC Board of Trustees Member

Under the dynamic leadership of **Ruth Mosley**, West Side Unity Church in Detroit, Michigan, is one of the most active churches in the Unity Movement. Due to its extensive programs, West Side Unity Church sponsors retreats, world wide tours, bond programs and community activities. For twelve years, all of the programs at West Side Unity Church have been implemented through the spirited leadership of Ruth and include such activities as the Wee Wisdom Child Development Center. Ruth has served West Side Unity Church since her ordination in 1966.

Presently a sociology major at the University of Detroit, Ruth has served as President and Vice-President of the Great Lakes Regional Conference and functioned as a member of the Great Lakes Youth Advisory Committee. She has served as a member of various AUC Committees and is presently serving on the Licensing and Ordination Committee, as well as being a member of the Board of Trustees. Her outside interests include participation in the Recovery Movement on Drug Abuse and involvement in the Rosa L. Gragg Educational and Civic Club.

Ruth's enthusiastic leadership at West Side Unity Church has provided spiritual, physical, and material growth. Since accepting the position as minister, West Side Unity Church has grown from five members to over five hundred. Ruth inspires others to reach their greatest potential and is totally dedicated to the Truth principles which confirms her belief that "God is Real."

COLOR KEY SONGBOOKS

Many of your Youth Education Departments have enjoyed the Color Key Songbook produced by Unity Church in St. Louis when Joel Baehr was the minister there. These books are now out of print and your AUC office has received permission to reprint them should there be a need. If you would like to have copies of the Color Key Songbook for your youth education, please let your AUC office know along with an approximate number of copies you would be interested in ordering when they are available.



"UNI-TICKLES"

with David McClure

A Sunday School teacher thought she would test her class to determine how much they were learning.

She asked the class: "Who can tell me who Moses was?" There was no response. Trying again, she asked, "Well who was Adam?" Still no response.

A bit exasperated, she inquired, "Well, can anyone here tell me who Peter was?" A small boy timidly raised his hand, and said: "Please, teacher, I think Peter was a rabbit!"

The minister's small daughter, watching her father prepare his Christmas sermon, asked, "Daddy, does God tell you what to say?" "Of course, honey," he smiled. "Why do you ask?" "I was wondering why you scratch so much out" she replied.

With rising prices and decreasing attendance two churches in a small southern town, one a Baptist, and the other a Christian, had been considering a merger for some time. Progress was being made, but there was one elderly gentleman who was extremely stubborn.

Finally a committee called on him and asked why he was so opposed to the merger. He replied: "My grandparents were all Baptists, my parents were Baptists, and I've been a Baptist all my life, and no one is going to make a Christian out of me!"

Planning Ahead

This is the first article in a series written especially for CONTACT by several retired Unity ministers. The authors have met this experience in life with particular dignity and love. Their comments offer valuable food for thought and inspiration to us all. Through this series we shall hear from Marion Brown, Eleonore Krafft, Georgianna Tree West, Mabel Donaldson, Millie Leslie, Marie Handley, and Ernest C. Wilson. Additional authors are invited. **This month we welcome Marion Brown from San Diego, California.**

When Stan Hampson asked me to write down my thoughts on retirement, I began to think about it and discovered that in so far as it applied to me the word isn't in my vocabulary.

I dislike the word "retirement" attached to me. I have not changed jobs once because I felt I was no longer effective in what I was doing—but because the Father said, "I have another work for you to do." I believe our ineffectiveness might come from believing there is only one place and one way in which we can serve. I know some of our ministers have continued in one job beyond their effectiveness. Yet there are many others that have grown and are doing a magnificent job. We must never discount experience. If we ourselves keep growing God will place us where we should be. I do not think we should stop merely because the calendar says we are X number of years old—nor just to make room for a new and younger minister. If they really have the "calling" they will make their place—just as many of us have in the past. So much of the problems I had to deal with were not from our truly dedicated long time ministers but from those who had not really learned their principle and depended on God alone.

In the past seven years since I resigned from the Bremerton center I have simply changed jobs. Surely the years I spent as



AUC Interim Liaison Minister was not retirement in the usual sense of the word. They were the most rewarding, challenging and strenuous years of my many years in the Unity ministry.

Now again I have changed jobs and have the joy and privilege of teaching in the San Diego churches and helping to train new teachers and ministers.

Each change has come to me by the direct guidance of the Spirit within me. It is not always easy to step out of the known and established path. There are many things to be considered, not the least is the financial.

However, I know if our faith is in God the Source of our good we will step out fearlessly on seeming void and find the "Rock" beneath our feet.

I have always said, "God told me when to start and He would tell me when to stop." This has certainly proven true for me and I know it will for all of us. However we have to listen, hear, and obey.

To any of you who may be considering a change in your way of Service I would say, step out boldly and fearlessly and God will direct you into a joyous, fulfilling experience.

*God bless,
Marion Brown*



"ACTIVITY OF SPIRIT"

Stan Hampson
Field Services
Coordinator

Recently I was asked the question, "Do you have trouble placing some ministers?" which could be answered in a number of ways. First of all, I, personally, do not do any placing. I conceive of my job very much like a broker—giving ministers information on what centers are available and supplying those centers with whatever information the individual ministers ask me to send them. The placement that evolves is very much the activity of Spirit flowing through the consciousness of everyone involved.

Secondly, some ministers do appear more difficult to place because of very special requests they have. Either by salary requirements or other special requirements, they often refuse many things available to them. Recently, I was criticized by a minister for not finding him a place when actually he and I both knew that two ministries had requested him, but he refused them. Thirdly, one important reason that some ministers

might find it difficult to be placed as quickly as they would like is the quality and quantity of their resume. I have announced through CONTACT the need for each minister requesting placement to submit an up-to-date resume of ideally one page. I remind each minister who requests placement of this responsibility and often get a few penciled notes or a few ideas over the telephone for me to add to their very brief biographical report that I have on file. Naturally, when a Board of Directors looks over a portfolio of resumes, they will be drawn to the more comprehensive ones and easily disqualify those that are too brief in nature.

Fourth, a frequent delay in placement is obtaining information about the ministry from that Board of Directors or the minister who is leaving it. Sometimes it is necessary for me to make repeated requests for even the application-for-a-minister to be completed and returned. I am in the process of expanding that application to include more information about a ministry, but obviously when little is known about a center, it is difficult for any of our ministers in the field to become interested in it.

Finally, placement is delayed when there are problems within a center and when a minister has had obvious problems in his last ministry or more. On both sides, individuals are reluctant

to share the facts with the AUC office so as not to inhibit their ongoingness. This, of course, results in ministers and Boards finding great surprises when they finally do get together. Often, I am in a difficult situation of attempting to be honest and fair and at the same time not jeopardize a minister's career or discourage a potential candidate from seeking a specific ministry. Yet, there is no advantage in sending ministers repeatedly into a situation that thrives on chewing ministers up and spitting them out again. Likewise, there is no future in sending a troubled minister to successive, unsuspecting congregations.

At this point, I can resolve the dilemma only by speaking candidly with a minister in person or over the telephone to share with him my personal reactions to a ministry and likewise, to not put in writing but to be able to share with the Board President concerns I may feel about a specific minister. In several cases recently, the thing I was concerned about apparently didn't matter to the people involved because they "chose" each other anyway. If their past patterns repeated themselves, no one can say they were not forewarned.

An answer to the initial question, then, is composite. Obviously some placements do take longer than others.

PLACEMENT

Placement occurs through the activity of Spirit. Your Field Services Coordinator notifies all active Unity ministers of churches seeking leadership through his placement report published separately. Ministers interested in placement notify the Field Services Coordinator who forwards their resumes to churches requesting leadership. Your Field Services Coordinator is directly responsible to the Board of Trustees of the Association of Unity Churches and utilizes the resources of the Placement Committee, Regional Representatives, and the Executive Committee in facilitating placements. Since the last issue of CONTACT, the following activity of Spirit has been accomplished in placement:

Brookline, Massachusetts This ministry, under the leadership of **Tom Newman**, has arranged for **Joseph Bettencourt**, UICE student from that ministry, to serve as assistant-to-the-minister and continue to study for UICE credits.

Bridgeport, Connecticut

This ministry plans to work for the next several months, under the sponsorship of Unity—New York, with **Greg Brown**, licensed teacher, responsible for the work. We appreciate Greg's capable willingness in help this ministry grow, and give thanks for **Carolyn Michael** who has strengthened this ministry during her six-week seminar.

Kansas City, Missouri

Dennis Neagle, second year student of Unity's School for Ministerial and Religious Studies, was accepted as part-time minister of Unity Northeast until he is graduated and then he will continue there full-time until his wife, **Kit**, has completed her SMRS training. Before coming into the ministry, Dennis taught elementary school and has a masters degree from San Diego State University.

**PERSON
TO
PERSON**

*with
bob sikking*



I was thinking the other day about the tendency on the part of many of us to hold out for the status quo. We tend to struggle a good deal against change. Eleven years ago about this time, our whole Movement was stunned by the initial effects of our reaction to "Bulletin Four." Some would much rather have seen no change in our relationship to Unity School and its "administration" of our field ministries. Others felt the excitement and the stimulation of a new opportunity for growth and accomplishment. We had no idea eleven years ago even if we wanted or needed an AUC or what it might become. It is time, now, for us to accept the fact that we have an AUC.

We have come a long way and we can be proud of our progress. However, we do have a problem and it's one that individually we must give our attention to.

Last year, 1975-76, we had an operating deficit of approximately \$26,000 which was caused by unbudgeted expenses agreed upon by our membership as a whole. These included the Barton Associates Survey, research and development for our new Youth Education material, and our legal and fiscal counsel. Our tithe

support from our ministers and ministries covered all of our expenses with the exception of these non-budgeted items. In handling your money here in the office, we stayed within our income except for the non-budgeted items which had to be met through the borrowing of our non-recurring income. (You will remember that as a Conference body eight or nine years ago, we decided that bequest monies received in AUC would be held as non-recurring income and would not be used for normal operating expenses. Our deficit spending has been possible because of these funds which we refer to as our Reserve Account and from which we continue to borrow for operation.)

At our Conference last year, we approved our current operating budget. Both the members of the Finance and Budget Committee and our AUC President made a special point of calling to our attention the responsibility that is ours to increase our support of AUC in direct proportion to our increased budget. Thus far, this has not occurred sufficiently. A rough estimate indicates that only about 2% of our membership has made the necessary adjustment in their giving patterns to compensate for the increased budget. We, the membership, agreed on this substantial budget and your staff in the AUC office has thus far kept within the budget, but we have had to continue to utilize our "Reserve Account" as a source of inter-fund borrowing — you know, "borrowing from Peter to pay Paul." At the rate we are currently operating, we have two or three years before we

will use up our existing "Reserve Account." Obviously, we can't indefinitely continue deficit spending.

What are our alternatives? Cutting expenses would certainly be an alternative. Those of us responsible for decision making in the Executive Office continue to search for and find any and all ways to economize. The Finance and Budget Committee, our professional fiscal advisors, and the Board of Trustees feel that we are providing the services that you have requested as economically as we can. Perhaps there are services rendered that could be cut out. We continue in an on-going consideration of this possibility on the Board of Trustees level.

Increase of revenue is obviously an alternative. If this alternative, which seems to me to be a logical one, is the one that we should accept, then individually as ministers and collectively as ministries, decision making rests with us. We do our prayer work here in the office and we know that you do your prayer work there in your ministry. For this ongoing consciousness of prayer we can and must be grateful, but we must put our faith to work and action is required where action can be taken. We have the Committees that seek to devise improved methods for rendering service. We have Regional Representatives, a Board of Trustees, and an Executive Office staff all of whom are eager, open, and receptive to any suggestion, encouragement, and guidance that you may have to offer. It's going to be great to see how we handle this as we move forward in this new year.

LEGAL TIPS

By George Blackwood, AUC Attorney

How often have you heard it said, "My wife and I have all of our assets in both of our names so that we can avoid Probate Court"? Of course, the statement is correct. Probate administration only occurs with respect to property which is titled in a decedent's name alone. However, the avoiding of probate at the death of the first to die of a husband and wife can also result in the payment of massive extra federal estate taxes at the death of the second to die of a husband and wife. The avoiding of probate can ultimately cost thousands of dollars in federal estate taxes. Consult your lawyer to be sure your affairs are in order.

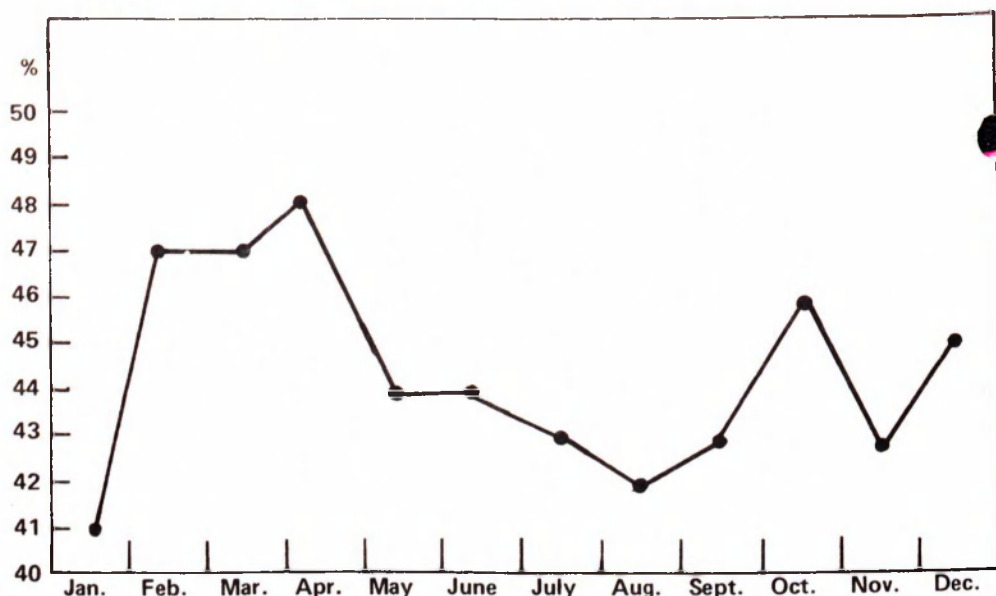
TAX TIPS

By Robert Owens, AUC Accounting Consultant

The Social Security Tax is, once again, on the increase. The wage base upon which the taxes are levied will increase January 1, 1977 to \$16,500 from the present \$15,300. Thus, the maximum tax an employee may pay will increase to \$965.25, or \$70.20 more than this year. The tax rate will remain at the present 5.85% each on employers and employees. The maximum self-employment tax will increase to \$1,303.50 from the present \$1,208.70, and the maximum amount of income a social security retiree can draw without reducing the social security benefits increases from \$2,760 to \$3,000. Starting in 1977, quarterly gift tax returns will no longer be required unless the taxable gifts at the end of any quarter exceed \$25,000. An annual return, covering all gifts to any donee in excess of \$3,000 will still be required.

RELIGION IN AMERICA

According to the 1976 edition of Religion in America published by The Gallup Opinion Index, "...Americans are extraordinarily religious people. Dramatic evidence of this is found in the first global study of lifestyles and religious beliefs, recently conducted by Gallup International. This study shows Americans to be the most religious people in the world among the industrial nations in terms of the importance placed on religion and in terms of the levels of belief in God and an afterlife." On the right is a graph showing the seasonal fluctuation in church attendance over a 20 year study (1955-1975).



INTRODUCING CARE-RING

"God created volunteers and volunteer programs."

A new program has been developed and tried out by the Unity Help Line staff of Unity School and is now available for use in the field ministries. The program is called CARE-RING, and it offers another way for the busy Unity minister to meet the needs of the elderly and shut-in members of his congregation.

The idea behind Care-Ring is simple; everyone in the world needs to know that someone cares about him. Care-Ring provides a way for the minister to let especially isolated and lonely individuals know that he and Unity care about him. The person knows this because once a week, at a specifically scheduled time, he receives a phone call from a Unity Care-Ring volunteer. The call is brief, usually about ten minutes in length, and its content varies according to the individual's particular situation. The volunteer may inquire after the person's health or living condition; he may chat about children or grandchildren; he may pray with him about a situation that is weighing on his mind. No matter what topics are covered during the call, the listener nearly always comes away with a sense of warmth and well-being. He has talked with a positive, cheerful human being who cared enough to call him. This relieves him of the concern he might feel about "bothering" his minister and affirms his worth as a person. Through this brief but rewarding contact, his loneliness and isolation are lessened. Life has been affirmed once more.

The Care-Ring system has been in operation at Unity School since April, 1976, and has met with great success during these initial months. Monday afternoons have found Care-Ring volunteers at the phone, calling individuals referred by local Unity ministers. Those served include shut-ins who receive a weekly call on a long-term basis and those who are in the process of adjusting to difficult temporary situations, such as a stay in the hospital. Sometimes a relative who is to be out of town for a time will ask Care-Ring to call and check on an elderly person until his return. Nearly anyone

who is confined to bed or to home for any reason appreciates such a call.

Care-Ring volunteers are people with strong Unity backgrounds who have received training in geriatric calls. Their qualifications include a positive outlook and cheery voice, a knack for listening and responding to a person's feelings, a heart full of warmth and caring, and a certain trustworthiness. The Care-Ring volunteer is not a counselor, but an agreeable, helpful Unity friend. He calls on behalf of a person's minister, and his duties may entail transmitting a message to the minister. He may also use his judgment to recommend that a particular person might appreciate a personal call or visit from the minister. This enables the minister to keep tabs on the elderly members of his congregation and to respond to their needs promptly when necessary.

The name "Unity" implies a oneness among its members, and part of oneness is caring, caring enough to go out of one's way to help before help is even asked for. Just as it was once thought that God couldn't be everywhere, so He sent His angels to do some of the work, so a Unity minister cannot be everywhere to minister to his people at all times. But if he establishes a Care-Ring system in his center and draws to it the generous, loving, helpful people that typify this kind of volunteer work, then he can rest assured that the needs of the elderly or ill folks in his congregation are getting the attention they need and deserve.

A special information packet including sample record-keeping forms, an instruction sheet, and some hints about setting up a Care-Ring program has been prepared by the staff of Unity Help Line. Any Unity minister may receive such a packet by writing CARE-RING, in care of Unity Help Line, Unity Village, Missouri 64065. The packets are distributed on a love-offering basis, and come with Unity Help Line's special prayer that those who are touched by the warmth of a loving voice will increase a thousandfold.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

We know that each member of the Association of Unity Churches joins us in extending thoughts of love, appreciation, and blessing to our fellow members who have birthdays in March.

March

- 1 Violet Goetchius†
Ann Rothschild†
- 2 Katharine Brookman
- 3 Lois Leibach
Ann Sandefert
Jonathan Stone
- 4 Angelo Caricari*
Mary Hinkle
- 5 Kathryn Bossert
Elvira Caceras
Andy Lucas
- 8 Bill Kozy
- 9 William Fletcher
- 10 Ruth Mosley
Robert Saling
- 11 Marion Lambert
Greg Penn
- 12 Marc Buckley
Ronald Johnson
Roger Tiffany
Frances Von Huben
- 13 Pauline Beauregard*
Cleo Lee
Marie Rose
- 14 Maryan Maier

March

- 15 Roseanna Beach
Warren Kreml
Onita Meyer
Sue Sikking
- 16 Barry Knowles
- 17 Louise Lawrence
- 18 Joseph Stiegler
- 19 Mildred V. Hinton
- 20 James Dillet Freeman
Trudie Liddell
- 21 Gilberta Sommer
- 23 Marie Kapp
- 24 Andrew Carlson
- 25 Martel Wiggins
- 26 M. Whipple Bishop†
- 27 Margaret Marshall
- 28 Jay Dishman
William Fox
Bonnie Grenson
Lillian Matthews
- 29 Peter Bradley*
Clara Gearhart
- 30 Frank Hanson
Ernest C. Wilson
- 31 Fayeth Fox
Connie Fillmore Strickland
Jim Sims

† Minister Emeritus

* SMRS Student Minister

LICENSED TEACHER RECOGNITIONS

In October, 1976, the Licensing and Ordination Committee met with and approved 11 applicants for licensed teacher recognition.

The Board of Trustees ratified such recognitions and we are pleased to welcome into the AUC: **Joan McKee**, San Antonio, Texas; **Carolyn Norton**, Tustin, California; **Judith Sherman**, Crystal Lake, Illinois; **Karen Johnston**, Seattle, Washington; **Florence Taylor**, Denver, Colorado; **Alice Yensen**, Phoenix, Arizona; **Samuel Isaac**, Henderson, Kentucky; **Frank and Margaret Pounders**, Dallas, Texas; **Carolyn Crane**, Mobile, Alabama; and **Dorothy Curtis**, Dallas, Texas.

CREDITS TO TEACH UICE

Each minister and licensed teacher desiring to teach UICE extension credits in a Unity center needs to have at least 10 credits earned through Post Graduate courses. Each of us has three years to maintain at least those ten credits with each course receiving five credits. On July 1 of each year, the fourth year is dropped. So as of July 1, 1977, all credits earned in 1973 are deleted. Exceptions are made in the cases of new graduates and licensed teachers who have three years to get their 10 credits and then keep up.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES Statement of General Fund Operations Nine Months Ended 12/31/76

	Dec.	Year to Date
INCOME—OPERATIONS:		
Love Offerings	\$38,237.13	\$274,920.76
Other Income	4,528.97	27,718.46
	<u>42,766.10</u>	<u>302,639.22</u>
Less: Tithe Transfer	3,823.71	27,492.07
Gross Profit Materials	<u>2,447.31</u>	<u>15,269.20</u>
Total Income	<u>41,389.70</u>	<u>290,416.35</u>
EXPENSES—OPERATIONS:		
General Office	25,414.02	232,767.15
Education Dept.	<u>9,793.73</u>	<u>86,941.90</u>
Total Expenses	<u>35,207.75</u>	<u>319,709.05</u>
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSE:	<u>\$ 6,181.95</u>	<u>\$(29,292.70)</u>

Did You Know...

that there was a profit of \$13,856.63 for the Unity Celebration in Philadelphia?

IN MEMORIAM

On December 16, 1976, the AUC received word of the transition of **Mrs. Essie Hatters**, a retired licensed teacher.

Essie was the first licensed teacher and counselor at Unity Center of Pittsburgh. She also served as Board member and head librarian until the time of her illness.

We know each member of the AUC joins in thought and prayer as we bless Essie in her spiritual ongoing.



Regional News

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL NEWS with
Jack Boland:

Unity in Pontiac, Michigan, where **Elmer Schmidt** serves as minister, recently produced an L.P. stereo recording. The project was inspired out of the desire to produce a special "record" of Unity's musical heritage, in professional character, inviting the membership of Unity in Pontiac to receive a unique style of practical inspiration. Cassette and 8 track tapes of the recording are available through the ministry.

Terry Havens, formerly associate minister in **Akron, Ohio**, has retired following 16 years in the ministry. Terry may be contacted at **P.O. Box 754, Union City, California 94587**. Our love and blessings flow out to Terry as he begins this new phase of his life.

Unity-in-the-Valley, St. Charles, Illinois, served by **Edd Dawson**, minister, and first of the AUC outreach work, recently concluded a four-part Medicine and Metaphysical Dialogue with **Dr. Jerry Loch**, Director of the Institute for Holistic Treatment in DeKalb, Illinois, as featured speaker. Cassette tape packages were offered for the entire program. "It was an extremely stimulating experience for all concerned," said Edd.

Detroit Unity Temple in Michigan, served by **David Williamson**, minister, sponsored a biofeedback seminar entitled "Train the Trainer". Held in early November, the seminar was attended by approximately 25 Unity ministers and teachers from various Unity centers and featured a biofeedback demonstration and meditation by **Hal Rosencrans**, minister of Unity of the Palm Beaches in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Unity Center of Birmingham, Michigan, served by **Betty Jacunski**, minister, held a "come as a little child" dress Halloween service on Sunday, October 31, during their regular Sunday devotional time. The highlight of the service was the removing of the masks of fear, guilt, doubt, embarrassment, or any other limiting mask or facade one had donned and the letting through of the beautiful, trusting, enthusiastic child of God. The congregation then paired off and each pair looked into the soul of their partner, then renamed each other with spiritual names using one another's initials. The new names were then written on pumpkin shaped name tags. "This portion of the service was concluded with the singing of a song and there were very few dry eyes in the congregation for each one was touched deeply," said Betty. After the service, each participant introduced themselves by using their new name and shared in a time of joy and fun.



Pictured with Betty Jacunski are members of Unity Center of Birmingham who participated in a special Halloween service October 31.

Amalie Frank, minister of Unity of **Battle Creek**, has been successfully conducting a Music and Message Experience for Unity centers throughout the country. Entitled "You Can Have The Joy Of Living Now", the program features the music of **Carmen Moshier**. Anyone interested in more information should contact Amalia direct.

Ethel Wallace was the honored recipient of an honorary emeritus status plaque during a presentation held recently at **Unity Center of Truth in Springfield, Ohio**. The presentation was made by **Florence Kellogg**, minister. Ethel, although retired from the ministry, is quite active as a member, co-chairman of the Prayer Panel, and an inspirational

counselor in the center.

Approximately 775 people attended the Annual Unity Community Christmas Ball sponsored by **Unity of the Infinite Presence, Detroit, Michigan**. "Thirteen Unity ministers were present and fifteen Unity Centers were represented," said **Jack Boland**, minister. "Our special guests were **Scott and Judy Sherman** from Crystal Lake, Illinois, and **Gary and Lani Jones** from Unity West in Milwaukee, Wisconsin."



SOUTHWEST REGIONAL NEWS with
G. Arthur Hammons:

Larry and Mary Ellen Swartz, ministers of **Unity of Tucson, Arizona**, recently announced that **Najah Elisabeth Swartz**, born November 7, 1976, has been adopted as their daughter. This makes Larry and Mary Ellen the proud parents of not one, not two, but three beautiful children. It's a very special joy to welcome Najah into our Unity family.



Larry and Mary Ellen Swartz with family, Timothy, Najah, and Felicia.

Unity Church of Sedona, Arizona, served by **Dale Batesole**, minister, recently celebrated its third anniversary by sponsoring many activities. A birthday party was held at a local restaurant and a gourmet dinner was served. The entire proceeds from this dinner were used to purchase biofeedback equipment. Several unique prizes were also given.

(continued on page 10)

REGIONAL NEWS

(continued from page 9)

NORTHWEST REGIONAL NEWS with David McClure:

October 31, 1976, was the first membership Sunday for **Unity of Anchorage, Alaska**, making official the change from a study group to a Unity church. Approximately 56 members joined, including **Gwen Canham** who flew 1,000 miles from north of the Arctic Circle for the occasion. Unity of Anchorage is served by **Donald Jennings**.

Unity of Vancouver, Washington, where **Terri Burkett** serves as minister, recently received extensive newspaper coverage as the result of an increase in membership. Since the first services for the church, the attendance has more than doubled. In addition to comprehensive coverage about the rapid growth of the church, the article outlined the teachings of Unity as explained by Terri.



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL NEWS with James C. Lewis:

Unity of Irving, Texas, served by **Marie Paben Conine**, minister, has moved to a new church home. "There is room for the kids, for the Youth of Unity, for books, offices, a kitchen, everything we need for right now," said Marie. First services in the new facility were held December 12.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL NEWS with
Candida Wright:

Over 100 charter members were baptized in special services held recently at **Unity of Santa Rosa, California**. "This day marked a special event in the growth and unfoldment of our ministry," said **John Strickland**, minister. "What was once an idea, then a study group, is now a vital, dynamic, evolving ministry." The service received extensive coverage by the newspaper media.

Over eight hundred retreatants attended the twenty first annual retreat at **Asilomar, Pacific Grove, California** October 8-10. Featured guest speakers were **Evarts Loomis** and **J. Sig Paulson**, minister of Unity Village Chapel. Workshops were presented by area ministers and **Connie Haines** organized and directed a choir formed from retreatants for the Sunday service. According to Candi, "Many volunteers, both ministers and lay people, came forward to help with the 1977 retreat which is already being planned for October 14-16. Ministers will take a more active role in the presentation and laymen have offered their skills to present workshops. The Northern California Region is working towards mutual sharing between outstanding guest speakers, area ministers, and laymen."

Thanksgiving at **Unity of Reno, Nevada**, featured three days with **Marcus Bach** and a special appearance by **Connie Haines**. According to **Carlton** and **Jacklyn Buboltz**, ministers, "Marcus presented an open meeting on Friday night and an all day Saturday workshop at which a salad bar was available for lunch. He also gave the Sunday lesson." The Sunday following Thanksgiving **Connie Haines** presented the lesson and musical meditation. Unity of Reno held dedication services for their new facilities recently with **Sue Sikking**, minister of Unity By The Sea, Santa Monica, California, and **Charles King** as honored guests. "Since Carlton and I feel that our ministry has paralleled Charles and Myrtle Fillmore's in many ways, I wrote our own dedication and covenant," said Jackie. "It will be placed alongside the original in our prayer room. The Sunday service lasted for two hours and nobody noticed...they just wanted to keep going." Unity of Reno's new facilities are in harmony with the traditional architectural style of the area, carried over from the early Western influence. One of the most prominent features of the building are authentic, Italian stained glass windows which were a gift of a member of the congregation.



Pictured on the left are the new facilities of Unity of Reno. One of the most prominent features of the building are the authentic Italian stained glass windows (right) which are found in Jacklyn Buboltz' office.

An unusual religious partnership was formed in late November when **Unity Church of Vallejo, California**, served by **Thelma Hembroff**, minister, began to hold services in the Sweet Lilly Primitive Baptist Church. The two churches represent the opposite in religious belief. Under the agreement, the Unity Church holds services every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Baptist service at 11:30 a.m. In addition to Sunday services, the Unity group holds classes every Tuesday evening and a healing prayer service before the Sunday morning service. According to Thelma, "One of the first joint efforts of the two churches will be to establish work parties to clean and polish the church and the fellowship hall on Saturdays."

In cooperation with the Field Services of the AUC, **Unity-in-Marin, San Rafael, California**, started an orbiting activity in Salinas, California, January 10. According to **Candida Wright**, minister, "The work started with a team (**Carl** and **Shirley Bonham** and **Warren** and **Marguerite Meyer** of Christ Church, Unity in San Jose) going there for three weeks in a row to present Unity ideas. After that, Carl took charge of the activity. The idea is that when the work unfolds, it can become a full-time Unity ministry."

SCHOOL FOR MINISTERIAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Second year ministerial students (left to right): Jack Fries, Peggy Elia, Bill Williams, and Chad O'Shea.

Jack Fries came to Unity Village from San Diego, California, where he was an active member of Unity—San Diego. A native of California, Jack's highly developed interest in current events brought him into the reporting and commentating end of television and radio. While an SMRS student, he has served as Chairman of the SMRS Prison Committee, conducting a monthly Sunday Unity service at the Kansas State Penitentiary and the Women's Correctional Facility at Lansing, Kansas. Jack also chairs the student Curriculum Committee and is a member of the student Legacy Committee. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the national Abundant Living Foundation. Jack is married. His wife, **Hope**, is a former leading lady of the famed *Our Gang* comedy films.

Peggy Elia is from Shreveport, Louisiana where she served on the Board of Directors and taught classes at Unity Church of

Shreveport. She is a graduate of Centenary College in Shreveport where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education. Peggy is also a graduate of Unity's Institute for Continuing Education. Prior to entering the ministry, Peggy was employed as a Title 1 Reading Teacher and was instrumental in setting up a pilot program for the Green Gold Library System for the teaching of reading to adults. While an SMRS student, Peggy is employed part-time in the prayer room of Silent Unity and serves as an assistant chaplain at the Jackson County Hospital. She is single.

Bill Williams is a native of Louisiana and attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in history. Bill became quite interested in Truth and attended the Unity church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he served as an usher. Following his move to the Lee's Summit area, he became actively involved in the programs of Unity Village Chapel and taught Sunday School. Prior to entering the ministry, Bill served as a probation and parole officer for the Louisiana Department of Corrections and was co-founder and editor of an outdoors magazine. He has been actively involved in Lions Clubs and is a York Rite Mason. Bill is married. He and his wife, **Connie**, have three children.

Chad O'Shea entered SMRS from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where he served Unity Church of Christ as a YOU sponsor and teacher of adult classes. Prior to entering SMRS, Chad was self-employed as a used car wholesaler and was instrumental in organizing an athletic club enabling over two hundred children, ages 8–14, to participate in an organized football program. During the past year, Chad served as football coach for the Pleasant Hill Athletic Club and presently serves as manager for the Student Gift Shop at Unity Village. Chad enjoys golfing, fishing, and writing poetry. He and his wife, **Betty**, reside in Pleasant Hill, Missouri, approximately 30 miles south of Kansas City.



Charles R. Fillmore, president of Unity School of Christianity (left), and **Harold B. Whaley**, library director, examine one of the volumes in the International New Thought Alliance (INTA) archives. The archives were recently transferred to the Unity School Library from the Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

SMRS APPLICATIONS FOR 1977–1978

Please remember that the School for Ministerial and Religious Studies is eager to receive applications for September 1977 admission to SMRS. However, please do not encourage anyone to go through the admission procedure whom you personally, as the minister, would not recommend to become a Unity minister. Anyone who is a *serious* candidate may receive an Application for Admission by writing to: **William L. Fischer, SMRS, Unity Village, Missouri 64065.**



MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES WANTED

Many of you ministers use the Unity Marriage Certificate to give to couples that you marry. Others of you use other things and have created your own certificates. Before we reprint our certificate here from the AUC office, would those of you who are using other kinds of certificates please send a sample to us here in the AUC office, attention Stan Hampson? Thank you.

NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR FOR UNITY SCHOOL

Louis Vene' Bass, concert organist, choir master, and expert in the field of musical and dramatic stage productions, recently accepted the position of Director of Music for Unity School of Christianity. He will serve on the Executive Committee of Unity School and will have the responsibility for all music and musical program. He will also serve as Chairman of the Planning Committee for the Unity World Headquarters Activities Center. In this capacity, Lou will assume responsibility for management of the Activities Center and will coordinate all events held in the building.



Prior to accepting this position, Lou was an executive with the Cannon Music Company in Florida. He is proficient on twelve musical instruments including the theatre organ, piano, string harp, oboe, and bassoon. He has traveled extensively throughout the United States performing as a concert organist for the Thomas Organ Company, the Billy Graham Youth for Christ team, and the Lawrence Welk Orchestra. Mr. Bass was also the featured organist for the water ski show at Florida's Cypress Gardens.

He received a degree from Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, where he majored in psychology, specializing in the psychology of learning techniques and studied theatre arts.

Lou has written and directed numerous stage productions including several for national television. He wrote and directed two Junior Miss Pageants and one Miss America Pageant for NBC. He also directed the musical score for two Glen Campbell television specials.

"I am very excited about the potential for professional quality musical and dramatic programs," said Lou. "There is a great deal of talent here at Unity and in the surrounding communities." His projections for the future include, Sunday afternoon "musicales" beginning the middle of this year; a concert choir and orchestra using local talent; dramas and musical dramas produced for the stage; and a subscription concert series by professional performers.

ARE YOU USING ILLEGAL MUSIC IN YOUR CENTER?

Are you utilizing home printed or mimeographed song sheets—have you photocopied music or lyrics for your use or that of your musicians? If this material is protected by copyright laws—you are infringing upon the copyright of that composition and are liable for a lawsuit.

Recently, an unprecedented suit was filed by a liturgical and sacred music publisher, against the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. Damages in the amount of \$180,000 for the use of illegal copies of copyrighted materials is being sought. A statement was issued indicating that this would not be the only such action—other lawsuits will follow due to the unauthorized copying by churches and nonprofit organizations. It was first announced two years ago that such actions were underway. It is a serious matter, worthy of immediate consideration.

The existing copyright laws protect a composition, and its words, for a period of 56 years (26 years at issue and an optional renewal of 30 years). Former President Ford signed into law a bill which is reported to extend a copyright to cover the life of the author, plus 50 years. This is not yet substantiated, but it is known that the law will extend the copyright period and specifically define rigid parameters as to reproducing copyrighted materials.

The Music Department of Unity School strongly recommends that if you are presently using such materials, you remove them from circulation, unless, of course, you have paid for the use of these copies. Words may be used if they are transmitted live, and the performance and admission to the program is free—but not printed!

If you would like to continue using song sheets—or if you wish to publish one—it is suggested that you contact your local division of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). There is a branch in most major cities. It is our understanding that in some cases, you may obtain (for a fee) a blanket permission for producing, in limited form, material that will not be widely distributed.

If you desire additional information, the Music Department will be happy to receive and answer questions regarding this matter. Please direct your inquiries to Lou Bass, Director of Music, Unity School of Christianity, Unity Village, Missouri 64065.

!!! NOTICE !!!

YES, our AUC phone numbers are still the same. However, on page one of the new Yearbook our number is listed incorrectly. Call us as usual on 524-7414.

THINKING EXPANSIVELY

with R. Scott Sherman

This column indicates not only the expansion efforts of the AUC Outreach Program led by its author in the Chicago area, but will regularly report other expansion projects by any member ministry. If you have an expansion project or idea, please write:

R. Scott Sherman
AUC Outreach Director
622 Cress Creek Drive
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

As this column is written, I am preparing a report to the Outreach Development Committee concerning our outreach activities during the first 15 months of work. I thought that you might be interested in a brief summary of the report because it reflects the scope of dynamic growth that is occurring in every corner of our Movement.

Outreach initiated activities: Full-time ministries in St. Charles and Chicago, Illinois. Study groups in Crystal Lake, Oakbrook, Joliet, and Quincy, Illinois.

Outreach initiated activities with regional assistance: Salt Lake City, Utah, and Boise, Idaho (from previous study group).

Locally developed ministries supported: Charlottesville and Lynchburg, Virginia; Raleigh, North Carolina; Bryn Mawr/Haverford, Pennsylvania; Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; Yorktown, and Evansville, Indiana; and Vallejo, California.

Great Lakes groups assisted through

coordination, etc.: Battle Creek, and Wyandotte, Michigan.

Assistance to chartered churches seeking Unity affiliation: Unity Church of Peoria, Illinois; Unity Truth Center for Better Living, Chicago, Illinois; Universal Church of Christ Unity, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Existing groups assisted by liaison, seminars, lectures, etc.: Sheboygan and Kenosha, Wisconsin; Evanston and Oak Park, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Requests for outreach assistance pending: Huntsville, Alabama; Farmington, Missouri; Arlington and McAllen, Texas; Missoula, Montana; Santa Rosa, California; Roanoke and Lynchburg, Virginia; Victoria and New Westminster, B.C., Canada; South Bend, Indiana.

Preliminary development initiated by outreach: Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

This listing is, of course, a partial report of Unity's newly evolving ministries and study groups and only includes those where significant time and energy have been involved. There are more than two dozen other groups forming throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as the Caribbean, that are in contact with the AUC, but are primarily working on their own.

I believe that the flow of Spirit is truly at work in the expansion of the Unity field ministry so many hundreds of persons may be served.

Clearinghouse

Request—Dan Meyers, Y.O.U. Sponsor for Unity Village Chapel, would like to obtain a copy of the out-of-print book, *Symphony of Life* by Donald Hatch Andrews.

Address your response to Dan at **Unity Village Chapel, Unity Village, Missouri 64065.**

Request—Unity on the Plaza, Kansas City, Missouri, would like to obtain a copy of the out-of-print book, *A More Wonderful You* for a member of their congregation.

Address your response to **Unity on the Plaza, 707 W. 47th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64112.**

Request—Unity Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, would like to obtain a copy of the out-of-print book, *God Always Says Yes* by Sue Sikking, for a member of their congregation.

Address your response to **Unity Center, 1219 Tijeras Ave., N.W., 87102.**

WANTED: CENTER WORKER IDEAS

Do you have any information regarding hostesses, volunteers, librarians, and such? The AUC office would be interested in having this information with the possibility of compiling a pamphlet for center workers. Any ideas you have to share, we would greatly appreciate receiving.

OVERSEAS REPORT

By Foster C. McClellan

Perhaps nowhere in the world are the principles of Unity embraced with more enthusiasm than by the radiant people of the islands of the Caribbean. For them Unity is indeed more than a religion. It is a way of life. The growth of Unity in Puerto Rico, Trinidad-Tobago, and Jamaica sets an example for all of us to follow, as does the faith, zeal and enthusiasm of its many followers.

Unity of Jamaica had its beginning

just eleven years ago when in November, 1965 **Denis Robinson** came over from Trinidad where he had already established a thriving ministry. His arrival there was the result of many requests from thousands of Daily Word readers and Silent Unity correspondents in Jamaica. At the outset meetings were held at the University at Mona, but in 1967 a church building, which accommodated 300 persons, was erected at 87 Old Hope Road. In August 1967 **Reverend Wildorf Goodison-Orr (Goodi)**, our present leader, took over the work from Denis Robinson. Last January **Jacqueline Neal** joined

Goodi as Associate Minister and they are ably assisted by **Steve Samms** who is a licensed teacher.

From its inception the ministry has grown steadily necessitating the expansion of the sanctuary in 1971 to double its capacity. At the present time the sanctuary has been expanded to accommodate 1,000 persons. In addition an enthusiastic number of students form a group in Montego Bay. They are self-supporting and their growth also continues in all areas. At the present time they are seeking to be established in their own place just as soon as possible.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 12 Youth Education Seminar, Dallas, Texas, hosted by Unity Way Church, conducted by Helen Nairn
- 24 Youth Education Seminar, Bakersfield, Calif., hosted by Unity Center-Bakersfield, conducted by Shirley Bonham

MARCH

- †12 Youth Education Seminar, Sacramento, Calif., hosted by Unity Church of the Oaks, conducted by Shirley Bonham
- 12-25 U.I.C.E. Study Program—Session 1, Unity Village, Mo.
- 18-20 Spiritual Retreat, Henry Horton Park, Chapel Hill, Tennessee, sponsored by "The Group", Unity Center of Memphis
- 26- April 8 U.I.C.E. Study Program—Session 2, Unity Village, Mo.

APRIL

- 9-15 Easter Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.
- 11-14 South Central Unity Churches Association (SCUCA) Regional Conference, Houston, Texas, hosted by Unity of Houston
- 12 Post Graduate Program on "Prosperity," Houston, Texas
- †26- May 1 "Unity Cariblue Retreat," Hotel Inter-Continental, Ocho Rios, West Indies, hosted by Unity of Jamaica

MAY

- 21-27 Maytime Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.

JUNE

- 4-10 Rose Festival Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.
- 12-17 AUC Pre-Conference, Unity Village, Mo.
- 19-23 AUC Ministers/Teachers Conference, Unity Village, Mo.
- 25- July 8 U.I.C.E. Study Program—Session 3, Unity Village, Mo.

JULY

- 9-22 U.I.C.E. Study Program—Session 4, Unity Village, Mo.
- 17-23 Snow Mountain Ranch Retreat, Granby, Colo., hosted by Unity Church of Denver
- 23-29 Summertime Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.

AUGUST

- 6-12 August Festival Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.
- †12 Graduation and Ordination Services, School for Ministerial and Religious Studies and AUC, Unity Village, Mo.
- †15-17 Southeastern Regional Retreat, The Breakers Resort Hotel, Palm Beach, Florida
- 15-21 YOU Conference, Unity Village, Mo.
- 22-25 Northwest Regional Conference, Great Falls, Montana, hosted by Unity Church of Truth
- *22-26 YAU Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.
- 27- Sept. 2 Mid-Season Festival, Unity Village, Mo.

SEPTEMBER

- 10-16 Autumn Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.
- 24-30 Harvest Festival Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.

OCTOBER

- 8-14 Indian Summer Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.
- 15-28 U.I.C.E. Study Program—Session 5, Unity Village, Mo.
- †16-19 Southeastern Regional Conference, Naples, Florida, hosted by Unity of Naples
- 29- Nov. 11 U.I.C.E. Study Program—Session 6, Unity Village, Mo.

NOVEMBER

- 19-25 Thanksgiving Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.

DECEMBER

- 21-27 Christmas Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.

† Addition

* Revision