

SEASONS' GREETINGS

CONTACT



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DECEMBER/JANUARY

ISSUE 93

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a

BLESSED NEW YEAR

This issue of CONTACT comes to you for the months of December and January, in order that our Editorial Staff may be free to devote its time and energy to the preparation of your new YEARBOOK - 1979

The next issue of CONTACT will reach you in February, 1979.

For information on rates and publication rights to "LORD, I said. . .", please direct inquiries to D. W. DOLE, 110 Stratford Rd., Des Plaines, Illinois 60016.

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AUC President's Letter

Dear Friend,



R. Bernard Dozier

What I would like to see happen in our movement would be for our ministers to come to see the value of building as many large churches as we can in the next twenty years. I know that this idea raises all kinds of apprehension about bigness, competition and impersonality; however, if we take a closer look at our churches, it is those that are large, prosperous and vital to which we always point as being the epitome of service and success. The larger churches prosper because people want to identify with the vitality, service and success which those churches radiate. Central to the development of as many large churches as possible is the requirement that the ministers and the churches stay together long enough to plan and to realize their growth goal. But there is another critical reason why every one of our churches has to get bigger. . . survival. It is axiomatic that, if our individual churches survive, our association survives. If our churches struggle to make ends meet, our association struggles to make ends meet. Likewise, we prosper together.

Before we can grow larger, we have to do some serious thinking about several questions: **1. What is our real financial strength?** My church went through a financial crisis this summer; at the regional conferences I have talked about this and how I handled it in this case. I felt that perhaps I was alone in this, but ministers from every region have shared with me that they, too, have been through a financial pinch. In the past, we have felt that our church had to look and sound prosperous--even though the bottom drawer may have been--and often was--filled with unpaid bills. Maybe there is only a handful of churches that are going through financial crisis. Maybe I found all of them. But I think it would be healthy if, somehow, we could find out how financially healthy all our churches really are. I would like for Stan and Scott to run a simple annual survey, asking every minister, "During the past year, how many months did your church have a surplus of income over operating expenses? What is the average surplus or deficit? What is being done to increase your church's income? If your income stopped today, how long could your church continue to operate on the basis of current expenditures?"

2. What can we do about our too-small

ministries? I have been concerned for many months about the number of churches that cannot seem to attract ministers. Month after month we see them listed in our placement bulletin. I don't know whether or not Stan would bear me out on this, but I suspect that, in most cases, these churches are small and have salary levels that are simply not sufficient to attract a minister. This problem is masked right now, because we simply don't have enough ministers to go around; but if we had a surplus of ministers the problem would instantly become highly visible. Is the answer just to let these ministries wither and die? Is the answer the consolidation of the congregations? Is the answer in subsidizing salaries with AUC's backing?

Small churches face a major problem of survival, and in the coming years it will become even tougher for the smaller churches to make it. We may lament the fact that, in the business world, large corporations are forcing small companies to sell out, merge, or go broke. It's happening in the book and newspaper publishing business. It's happening in real estate, with giants like Sears Roebuck and Merrill Lynch diversifying and aiming at dominating the national real estate market. The fact is that our churches--and our association--*must* get bigger and stronger, or be prepared to face a less desirable alternative.

3. How can we rise above inflation?

We are all aware of inflation, typified by rising prices and decreased buying power, both for our homes and for our churches. Inflation is gradual and annoying. It is hard to realize what it has done to the value of the dollar in our lifetime, but these statistics quite bluntly tell the story:

according to the U.S. Department of Labor, the dollar was worth one dollar in 1939. In 1949, the dollar was worth 58.3 cents; in 1959 the dollar was worth 47.6 cents; in 1968 the dollar was worth 37.9 cents; as of July, 1978, the dollar was worth 21.2 cents! This means that the dollar today will buy just a bit over half what it would buy ten years ago, and only one-fifth as much as forty years ago. On the average, the dollar is decreasing in value about 2 cents per year. For forty years this erosion has been pretty consistent, and no slowing or reversing of the trend has appeared.

What all this means is that, in years to come, it is going to take more money to accomplish less. And this means, too, that our Association is going to have to find or create additional income. Just because the AUC has been able to survive on tithes and offerings from member churches so far, doesn't mean that it can continue to do so in the future...or that it is wise to expect this form of financing to be everlastingly sufficient for the kind of movement we can envision.

I am reminded of Dickens' first paragraph in *A Tale of Two Cities*, his novel about the French Revolution. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going directly to Heaven, we were all going directly the other way--in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in a superlative degree of comparison only." Which is to say that the times are what we make them. We are faced with some challenging times. And certainly we are more than equal to the challenge.

As, together, we create greatness, you have my heartfelt wish for your Christmas to be the merriest and your New Year to be the brightest and the most prosperous on record.

Blessings,

Bernard

WHEN A CHURCH IS OPEN

by Stan Hampson



When a church is open, i.e., does not have a minister, may be a very difficult time. Change of any kind can be threatening, and the change of minister for a church may be only the beginning of a great many changes. The perfectly normal tendency is to deny the deep, personal feelings involved, seek to get a new minister as quickly as possible, and try to keep the momentum going as though nothing has happened. However, like other events in our lives, this can be either the best of times or the worst of times. And there are a great many creative things we can do when a church is open.

A change in leadership may provide an opportunity for new voices to be heard. I read somewhere recently the following thought-provoking statement: "In every organization which has only one, or—at most—only a few paid staff members and many volunteer workers, the staff almost invariably accumulates more information about the organization, its membership, its activities, its policies and priorities than anyone else." Hence, when the minister leaves, he is usually the one who has most of the information and is the one who articulates most of that knowledge. When the minister leaves, there may occur a definite "data gap," an undeniable vacuum. And it is out of this vacuum that the new leadership will emerge. Some people who have been sitting quietly on the sidelines may suddenly come forward, and some who have been leaders under the former minister's regime may elect to retire to a back seat. This "stirring the pot" can be a very healthy activity in the life of a church, particularly if everyone involved views this as an opportunity for new leaders to make themselves available, for new voices to be heard. It can be an exceptionally creative experience.

Quite naturally, there are people who related well to the departing minister who will not relate so well to the next one; similarly, there will be people who could not get as deeply involved in the ministry under the former leader as they will be able to under the new one. This opportunity for change will often involve more people in the life of the church, if we are willing to take a long range view of the situation. This same activity is also a redistribution of power; with a change in leadership, the balance will shift. New good can and will evolve. A lot of things, previously just taken for granted, will now need to be defined.

One thing that is certainly most creative is the change in attitude of the group toward the Headquarters office here at AUC. Until this time, the AUC Office may have been some sort of vague entity; suddenly their relationship with us becomes one of great importance. We are here to help, to serve, to

clarify, to assist in setting up a whole new set of dynamics. When these changes take place and are met with the faith that we teach, the whole experience can be positive and healthy for everyone involved.

You see, this time of openness is not just something to be gotten through as quickly as possible. It is an event to be experienced deeply; it is a time when much can be learned. If a new minister were to be thrust prematurely into this activity of change, the growing process could be aborted or at least thwarted in such a way that it would take much longer to grow through.

I don't know whether you've ever thought of this before or not, but when I first started working with placement I thought that my responsibility was to get a new minister in place just as soon as possible. I continue to be quite aware that there is a definite need for each church to have its own minister, as well as a corresponding need for ministers seeking placement to be employed. Additionally, there is a certain amount of erosion which occurs when the vacancy has gone on for a long time. Some people tend to lose their interest in and commitment to the ministry. But I am becoming increasingly aware of a special dynamic within the ministry itself which needs to be recognized, acknowledged and dealt with as a separate experience. It can, I suppose, be likened to any stage of growth. It is a transition from what we were to what we will become. It is an entity in itself. Childhood, single adulthood, adolescence, maturity, marriage...these are all stages leading from one state—one set of circumstances—into another. And wherever we are within them, this is the stage with which we must deal. Right now. Wherever we are, this is the road we must travel. It is not simply a bridge to be crossed on our way from one point to another.

Let's think of this time of openness as a growing time. And while inordinate delays would not be healthy, rushing isn't either. Many of you who have been personally involved in such changes during the past few years may, since the experience is fresh in your memories, have ideas to share with me regarding your own feelings about this. Perhaps you grew through some things. Perhaps you learned some things which were important, and which you would like to share. And maybe you feel now that there were things that you needed to learned but failed to, because you rushed too quickly. Let's—together—begin to look at the time of transition in a ministry and see it as a viable experience, one of those "best of times" for learning and for growing.

(Next month, CONTACT will bring you the second installment of this two-part discussion on the open church. We invite your comments.)

SIGN IN A UNITY MINISTER'S OFFICE:

REPENT AND BE SAVED.

And beneath, in very small print, "If you have already repented, you may disregard this notice."

*INWARD,
ONWARD,
UPWARD!*

by R. Scott Sherman



My column this month concerns itself with a continuing challenge that has faced our Association throughout its twelve year history: that of the status of non-affiliated Unity ministries and ministers. The most common cause of the challenge of non-affiliation is the action of the Unity minister who has, for some reason, been asked to leave or voluntarily leaves his ministry in a city and then moves across town and begins a Unity work nearby. The ethics of the Association, to which all of us as Unity ministers must subscribe, clearly indicate the non-appropriateness of this choice. This action almost always causes divisiveness among the members of the congregation and an embarrassing situation in the community.

Our conference body has reaffirmed the fact that Unity ordination is granted for life and cannot be removed, no matter how unethical a minister's behavior might be. The Association, therefore, cannot prevent a non-affiliated minister from forming his own ministry as long as his own religious corporation is outside of Unity. However, such individuals oftentimes continue to profess affiliation with the Association and Unity School. This misrepresentation is unethical and

illegal. While we in the Association do not seek to rely on legal means, such misrepresentation is a blot on the individual ministry and the movement as a whole. We have asked our attorney to review this matter and provide us with an opinion as to the relationship of such a ministry to the Association and Unity School of Christianity. A portion of that opinion follows:

"It is clear that once a ministry (or minister) has ceased to be a member of the Association of Unity Churches it cannot hold itself out in any way as holding such membership. Thus, a ministry that has dropped out of the Association of Unity Churches or has been dropped by the Association of Unity Churches cannot display plaques or make any statements that it is a member of the Association of Unity Churches or make any such statement which might give that impression. Further, since an individual ministry's only affiliation with the Unity School of Christianity arises through its membership in the Association of Unity Churches, such ministry is obviously no longer affiliated in any way with the Unity School of Christianity and, likewise, cannot in any way hold itself out, either through plaques or other documentation or by word of mouth, as being affiliated with the Unity School of Christianity."

We are a movement that seeks to include and not exclude, and are directing ourselves to the ends of growth and service to people everywhere. However, even the simplest organization requires some standards and ethics. Individual ministers or ministries that trade on the good name of Unity without adhering to the standards and ethics that have been set by the movement have placed themselves outside of our organizations. Both the Association and Unity School are dedicated to serving a growing number of individuals, but we will not compromise our own standards and ethics to do so. We seek to be loving and forgiving, but we will not embrace activities which demean our great Unity movement.

AUC HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The following schedule has been established for the AUC Office for the upcoming Holidays:

December 22 (Friday) – Closed

December 23 (Saturday) – Closed

December 24 (Sunday) – Closed

December 25 (Monday) – MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 26 (Tuesday) – Closed

December 27 (Wednesday) – Open

December 28 (Thursday) – Open

December 29 (Friday) – Open 'til Noon

December 30 (Saturday) – Closed

December 31 (Sunday) – Closed

January 1 (Monday) – HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2 (Tuesday) – Open

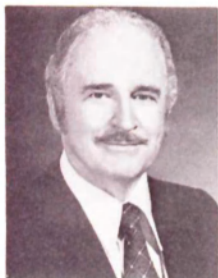
(Unless otherwise indicated, the regular office hours, 8-5 Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8-12 Wednesday, 8-4:30 Friday, will be observed. We will, of course, be closed all day Christmas Day and New Year's Day. . . .)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

(Many of the AUC employees have scheduled vacations during this period.)

by Paul C. Barrett

Admissions procedures! We on the staff of SMRS are keenly aware of how important they are. We know that the quality of ministers graduated and ordained has a direct relationship to the qualifications of the chosen candidates for the ministerial training program. This knowledge moves us continually to examine and upgrade our admissions procedures. In this month's *News & Views* column I'd like to update you on our present admissions practices. They include a number of changes, some extending back into the late spring months while William L. Fischer was still Director, some of recent vintage under the present SMRS leadership.



All decisions as per individuals being admitted into our AUC ministerial training program are made by the Admissions Committee. The Committee is presently made up of no less than eight members, plus the Chairman who is the Director of Ministerial Education. This membership is drawn from a pool of Unity ministers consisting of the following:

- 4-AUC faculty members (2 min.)
of SMRS
- 2-AUC executives from (1 min.)
the Division of Ministry
Services
- 6-AUC area field min- (4 min.)
isters (plus visiting field
ministers available at
Unity Village)
- 3-USC staff members (1 min.)
(8 min. total)

(Please note that at least 50% of the Committee is made up of active field ministers. This is done in order to insure that the judgments of the Committee are balanced by both a field and school perspective.)

There are three phases of activity in

the normal admissions procedure, all of which proceed from the base of prayer and a trust in Spirit at work. They are as follows: Phase 1—Survey of Application; Phase 2—Testing and Interview(s); Phase 3—Evaluation and Decision.

Phase 1—Survey of Application. The average application is approximately fifteen pages long. It contains personal background data relating to the applicant's marital status, education, financial stability, previous occupations and work experience, Unity church affiliation and involvement, etc. Each applicant is asked to write an autobiographical essay, in part covering the reasons and experiences that have led to the decision to become a Unity minister. Essay type questions designed to reveal one's grasp of Truth fundamentals and the basic Unity approach to prayer and teaching, are answered in detail.

The application is received from the prospective MIT (Minister in Training). It is independently evaluated by each of the eight members of the Admissions Committee. The Committee member makes one of two recommendations: (1) that the applicant be invited for testing and interviews; (2) that the applicant not be accepted for ministerial training. The majority recommendation prevails. The Director notifies the applicant of the decision. If the decision is for (1), dates are arranged for testing and interviews. If the decision is for (2), the principle reason(s) for non-acceptance are stated in writing.

The applicant does have the right of appeal on an action of non-acceptance by the Admission Committee. However, he or she must show new evidence, or throw new light upon the old evidence, that strongly indicates the reasons for non-acceptance are invalid.

Phase 2—Testing and Interview(s). The applicant is required to come to Unity Village for testing and interviews. A basic English grammar test is given which requires a minimal passing grade of 60 before further consideration can be given to the application. Other tests are given, but not of the pass-fail variety. They are designed to help the Admissions Committee gain further insight into the applicant's qualifications as to aptitude, personality characteristics, vocational interests, school adaptability, inner motivations, commun-

ications capabilities, administration capabilities, etc.

Following the testing of the applicant, he or she is required to appear before the Admissions Committee for a group interview. The Committee members are free to pursue any line of questioning Spirit moves them to do. General areas of concern include, but are not limited to, ministerial dedication and motivation, knowledge of Unity and Truth teachings, personal life status, teachability, etc. Clarification or expansion of information in the application can be called for at this time.

The group interview technique allows for pursuing lines of questions opened by other members, or being stimulated to open new lines of questioning because of certain answers given. The Committee's attitude is not one of trying to make it difficult for the applicant to pass, but one of affording him or her an opportunity to clearly establish their credentials for acceptance into the training program. Love, tolerance, and understanding are held uppermost as qualities to be expressed by members of the Committee.

After the group interview is completed, each Admissions Committee member, without benefit of group discussion, submits in writing one of three recommendations: (1) to accept; (2) to not accept; or (3) undecided. The latter two require written reasons accompanying the recommendation made. The Director reads these reports to the Committee, but no action is taken on them at this time.

If it is felt that there is cause for further indepth questioning of the applicant, the Committee or the Director may call for further individual interviews.

Phase 3—Evaluation and Decision. In due course, all data on each applicant are compiled in one file in the Director's office. The Admissions Committee is then again called into session. The test results are shared. All letters of recommendation, including one from his or her Unity minister, are read. The interview reports are reviewed. Committee members are free to discuss their individual points of view per each applicant. A decision is rendered by a vote of the Committee. The Director, in writing, informs the applicant of the decision. Reasons are given if the decision is for non-acceptance into the ministerial training program.

(Continued on page 6)



**YOUTH OF UNITY
AND
YOUNG ADULTS OF UNITY
REPORTS**
by
Greg Barrette

YOUTH OF UNITY REPORT

TEACHING FROM THE CHRIST

With the proliferation of self-help techniques and books, it is easy for YOU sponsors to spend less time than they might teaching the basics: God, Christ, and the Bible. The YOUers need to have communion with their Source. If they can be taught how to draw on this Source, if they can feel the Spirit of God's activity within them, they will know the meaning and purpose of life and will be able to draw from that knowledge.

Encourage your sponsor to form a YOU Prayer Panel and to teach a personal relationship with Divinity. Certainly teach the self-help and mental techniques, but have them always tie it in with Principle. Above all, encourage your sponsor to teach from consciousness, because "if ya don't got it, ya can't teach it!"

* * * * *

HELP WANTED:

We need your financial support in planning next year's YOU Conference. Each late December, we send the three International Officers to Unity Village for Conference planning. This year, we need several hundred dollars to cover transportation and expenses. Any amount you can share would be gratefully appreciated. Please help the YOUers plan their Conference by making your check out to the "YOU Planning Committee." Thank you!!

SPONSOR "STROKES":

Christmas is here! Give a special gift to your YOU sponsors: the gift of your warm support and love. Sometimes YOU sponsors do not receive the "strokes" they deserve. Let them know that you care. If your YOU class is held at the same time as your church service, offer your sponsor a free weekly tape of your talk. They, more than anyone, need the spiritual sustenance of a Sunday lesson. They'll love you for it, and will do their job better if they feel supported and appreciated. Thanks to Carol Loos, Denver, Colorado, for this tip.

* * * * *

CLUE US IN:

Please let us know if you are forming a new YOU Chapter or are reactivating a dormant one. We want to help!

YOUNG ADULTS OF UNITY REPORT

Do you have a Young Adults group? If so, please write and let us know, so we can include them in our mailing list.

We want to start a YAU newsletter soon, to provide a dialogue between different Young Adults groups. As we wrote last month, no two groups are alike, but there needs to be a forum through which the YAUers can share ideas about their activities.

We will soon send a mass-mailing to all former YAU retreatants, all post-YOU age Conference delegates from the last three years and the groups you tell us about, asking them for information on their YAU activities and desires. These will be printed in the newsletter and will create a sense of "unity in diversity" among the YAU.

We will also provide a YAU Retreat poster in a forthcoming issue of CONTACT, advertising the high-points of next summer's retreat. Please encourage your young adults to attend.

We plan to see some real growth in YAU!

NEWS & VIEWS ON SMRS. . .

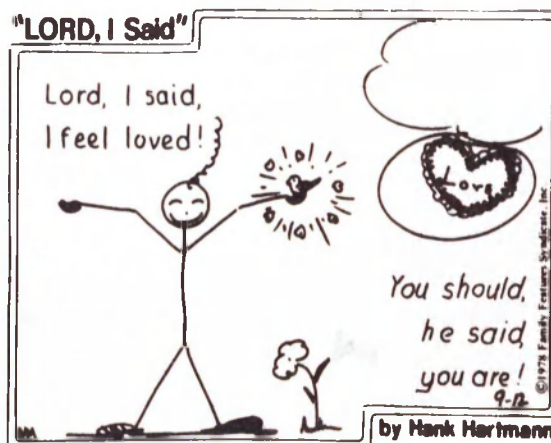
(Continued from page 5)

Again, the right of appeal exists for reconsideration of the application if reasonable evidence is presented showing the reasons for non-acceptance to be invalid.

Other admissions practices are being considered, to wit: (1) bringing spouses into the interview process; (2) requiring a written test on the Unity teachings in Phase 2.

Because of the large numbers of applications received, the admissions procedure is an ongoing activity from early fall to late spring. Logistics of adequately processing the applications would not reasonably allow it to be otherwise.

Thank you for your continued interest in our ministerial training program. Let us hear from you if you have further thoughts on admissions procedures.



PULL
UP
A
CHAIR...



and let me tell you about something very nice that's happened to CONTACT. You will have noticed, scattered throughout the pages of this issue, the delightful little "LORD, I said..." cartoons. These have been presented to us, without charge, by Mr. David Dole, business agent for the Rev. Henry Hartmann, whose "brain children" they are. And our manner of acquisition is another example of the manner in which our good comes to us in wonderful and unexpected ways. The first few of these were sent to me by good friend, Marian Kirkland, of Unity of the Valley, Harlingen/McAllen, Texas. I was so charmed by them that I wrote to the publisher of the Rio Grande Valley newspapers, another good friend and

gracious gentlemen, Ralph Julliard, to find out whether or not they might be available to us. Ralph thoughtfully forwarded my letter to David, who offered the cartoons to us for our use, despite the fact that they are syndicated and sold to newspapers throughout the country. In the light of this generous gesture, it seems only fair for me to ask this favor: if you like "LORD, I said" as much as I do, why not take the magazine and show it to the editor or publisher of your local newspaper, and ask him to buy them for use in your community. The price is reasonable and the message universal. You may write **David Dole at 110 Stratford Road, Des Plaines, Illinois 60016**, or call him at **(312) 824-1805**, for prices and availability.

Much as I regret this, I also have to ask you to move up the deadline for your CONTACT contributions. We will need to submit our copy to the printer somewhat earlier in the month than we had originally anticipated; hence, all items to be included in the February issue must be on my desk by the first of January. (Happy Holiday--make that the second,

ok?) And from now on, copy deadline will be the first of the month for the following month's magazine.

Surely you must know how very much we here at CONTACT value and appreciate your communications. After all, communication with you is our only reason for being "in CONTACT." I'd love to hear from you because if I don't I won't know whether your needs and interests are being met. And I don't want to be in the position of the little girl who came home from school and announced to her mother, "I was the smartest one in the whole class today!" "Really? What happened?" "We wrote on the blackboard, and I was the only one in the class who could read my writing!" Please...don't make me feel that nobody can read my writing but me! Ok?

Love and blessings,

SPARKPLUGS

(A summary of WEE WISDOM Magazine)

"The Winter Tree" in WEE WISDOM Magazine is an enchanting story that could easily be used to develop a Sunday school lesson. Look for it beginning on page thirteen of the January 1979, issue.

This story can illustrate the principle that God is everywhere and God made us to love His world.

In "The Winter Tree" by Almeta Crain, a young girl named Jill notices some birds outside on a cold winter day. She wants to help feed them so Jill, her mother, and two of Jill's friends decide to fashion a "winter tree" by decorating an outdoor pine tree with different foods that birds like.

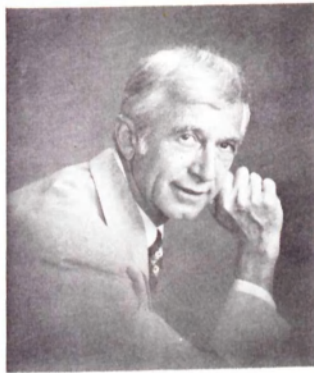
The Bible reference for this story could be Genesis 1:26-28. In this passage the children hear that they are made in the image and likeness of God. Being like God means they are filled with love for all of creation.

The story, lesson, and subsequent project provide opportunities for the children to express love and thankfulness for God's (Continued on page 14)

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES, INC. Statement of General Funds Operations Six Months Ended September 30, 1978

	Sept.	Year to Date
INCOME—OPERATIONS:		
Love Offerings	\$29,614.10	\$193,414.24
Other Income	806.22	15,446.85
	<u>30,420.32</u>	<u>208,861.09</u>
Less: Tithe Transfer	3,238.90	19,618.91
	<u>27,181.42</u>	<u>189,242.18</u>
Gross Profit Materials	1,968.66	11,423.88
Total Income	<u>29,150.08</u>	<u>200,666.06</u>
EXPENSES—OPERATIONS:		
Ministry Services	20,230.64	128,497.98
Ministerial Education	11,907.50	64,662.53
Total Expenses	<u>32,138.14</u>	<u>193,160.51</u>
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES:	<u>\$ (2,988.06)</u>	<u>\$ 7,505.55</u>

THE
SECOND
TIME
AROUND



--by Charles Roth

Would you like to find new romance and deeper love in your marriage. . . then this lesson is for you.

We're titling it "The Second Time Around" after the popular song. I know that the song is supposed to be about someone who falls in love a second time with somebody new. . . and I think the implication is that this occurs later in life.

But, I am going to suggest that you fall in love a second time with the same person you fell in love with the first time!

Let's face it. . . after years of a marriage relationship, the flame of romance can burn low. We forget to feed the flame for many reasons--and in themselves they are understandable reasons: the bride becomes a mother and the responsibility and care of the children fill her days and fill her thoughts. The bridegroom becomes a father and buckles down to providing the very best home and education for his family. He throws himself into his business world to get ahead and make money, and the wife doesn't mind his preoccupation with business too much because she is interested in their financial security too, and she is well occupied with new and challenging responsibilities at home.

But then, somewhere between the ages of say, 37 and 50... it dawns on them that the flame has practically gone out. Instead of a warm, sparkling relationship in which they look to the future with the expectancy and zest of youth, they find that they have settled into ruts. Their lives and personalities have crystalized into a set pattern in which every day is the same, and every thought or reaction can be anticipated by the other before they say or do it!

I remember seeing statistics from the Missing Persons Bureau in which it stated that by far the largest percentage of missing persons were married men in their 40's. The flame had diminished to just a memory-glow. They felt the years were running out and they were seeking warmth again before it was too late. . . seeking a second chance.

The same thing happens with women. They secretly look at the photographs of the golden days when the flame of romance made the whole world bright. . . and then they look at the monotony and boredom and aloneness of their life today and they wonder what went wrong and where.

It is easy for one or both of the partners to feel that they have "grown" in different directions, and are no longer the same person. The new direction calls for a new partner, or at least a breaking away from the old. This is undoubtedly true

in some cases, but it can be a seemingly justifiable excuse to escape boredom and loneliness. Too many times the expected happiness soon turns to more ashes of guilt, boredom and loneliness.

When we look at this very prevalent problem objectively, the answer stands out clearly. Rekindle the flame of Romance!

"Ah yes," you may say, "but how? If you only knew the circumstances. If you only knew my husband, or my wife!"

I'll admit each circumstance is different and each circumstance is difficult. But the flame CAN be rekindled AND IT ONLY TAKES ONE TO STRIKE THE MATCH!

The first thing to do is to consider this: There is only one person in the world who really cares about what happens to you and that is your husband, or if you are a husband--then your wife!

Think about it! Your children don't really have that same vital interest that your mate has. They are too busy living their own lives and working out their own problems. . . or, if they are still young, one day they will leave to build their own lives. Your job, your role, is done. But your role as a wife or husband goes on.

Oh, children are concerned about you. . . but not in the same way your wife or husband is. To your mate, your life with its victories and defeats is his or her life too!

Do your parents really care? They do, but in a removed way. They have their problems.

Do your friends, fellow employees, relatives really care? They will listen sympathetically to your troubles. . . and they sure hope and pray things will turn out all right; they, too, go home to their own problems and you are understandably forgotten.

But there is one person, and only one person in this whole wide world that really does care, that doesn't and can't go home to their problems, because their problems are your problems, their life interpenetrates your life. And, that person is your wife or your husband.

So think much more than twice before you throw away the most necessary and valuable relationship there is--another person, another human being, who really cares, to whom it is really important what happens to you.

Such a relationship takes years to build. It is built of things like a field of diapers on a back yard clothes line. . . of nights when the lamp light shone on a husband hunched over a table with bills that totaled more than the money at hand. . . of anxious moments in hospitals, perhaps. . . of hundreds of auto trips together. . . of looking into those same eyes and saying, "I just don't know what we are going to do!" And hearing and reply, "Don't worry, honey, we'll make out some way!"

So the flame is flickering! So what kind of an understanding man are you? What kind of loving woman are you? LIGHT IT AGAIN!

Now, as you start lighting the flame of romance for your second time around. . . reconsider what love really is. . . and what loving someone really means.

When you say you are a loving person it is supposed to mean that you love ALL things, not just the things or people that come up to your standards. . . that fit your criterion of good or bad, moral or immoral. Love doesn't judge--it accepts and helps.

(Continued on page 9)

UNITY VIEWPOINT

(Continued from page 8)

Persons have said to me, "I am really a very loving person; I am just full of love. If only I could find the right person or place to express my love." (Is there a "wrong" person to love, a "wrong" place to express love?)

Actually, they are bargaining with love. They are saying, "I will give my love under certain conditions. . .if the person or circumstance is right. . .if they come up to my criterion of a person worthy of my love!"

Love cannot be bargained. It might start out as real love but when you bargain with it, that is, make conditions under which you will give it--it becomes counterfeit, false, ego-satisfaction.

Now, consider what loving a particular person really means. Does it mean loving just the virtues and strengths of that person? None of us is perfect. We all have our strengths and our weaknesses. If you are going to say you love someone, you have to mean you love the whole person. You can't love parts of a person!

If you are going to love the strengths and virtues, you must also love the weaknesses and faults.

I sincerely believe that a man and a woman are attracted to each other to the degree that they want to marry, for more than physical reasons. I believe they subconsciously recognize a need in the other that they can fulfill and subconsciously recognize that the other has a strength that they need.

The "first time around" the flame of romance was fed by a love that saw only the good points, the virtues and strengths of the other. The faults were overlooked, were obscured; or if we had hints of them we were sure that we could change all that!

But if you are mature enough, if you are loving enough, the flame and the warmth and the romance of the "second time around" can be so much brighter, so much more satisfying for you will be loving, not a part of a person, but the whole person. You will be loving, not an image in your mind of what a husband or wife should be, but loving a real, living person. And remember, it only takes one person to rekindle the flame of romance. It only takes one person to strike a match. . .

Oh, it might take a little time for the fire to take hold, but if it is tended carefully and unselfishly, it is worth the effort for it will make your cold, grey, dreary life filled with a new and thrilling warmth and color and meaning and sparkle.

So what do you say! Let's start the "second time around" right now with the same wonderful bride or bridegroom that stood at your side 10 years ago, or 20 years ago, or 40 years ago.

This time you are not going to love only a part of the person and expect the other person to love ALL of you. That isn't really fair, is it!?

In your mind, go over the wedding ceremony and when you say "I take thee to be my wife (or husband)" let the "thee" represent the "whole person" . . .accept him or her JUST AS THEY ARE.

Then, follow this "new birth of love" with action!

Take your bride out to a dinner and a show. Don't talk about business or your health or your problems; talk about her.

And you brides, make those evening meals a special time of fun and relaxation. Wear nice clothes instead of saving them to impress someone else. Who is more important than the one guy in the world who actually cares when you have troubles and who will take action and not just give you sympathy when things go wrong in your life?

Love was great the first time around! And it can be even greater the "second time around." You aren't any older unless you think you are! Your mind hasn't grown old--more mature, wiser, more experienced perhaps. But a mind is not made of that which grows old.

Your Spirit hasn't aged. The life in you now is the same life you felt as a youngster. Your physical body may have changed somewhat but you are not your body. Your body is a garment of flesh which covers the real YOU. Bless and be grateful for your physical garment, be proud of it, take good care of it, but remember that YOU are more than your body, and that woman or man who shares your life is also more than a physical structure of flesh.

You both are primarily spiritual beings--growing and unfolding your inner potential. You need each other. Help each other by overlooking mistakes, making allowances--by correcting, with kindness and patience, instead of judging with anger and self-righteousness. Someone ought to write a song entitled:

"Let's Fall In Love. . .AGAIN!"

COMING ATTRACTIONS!!

Tax-tips--or how to make your money go farther--will be the subject of a two-part series starting in the February issue of CONTACT. You know, of course, that the clergy is entitled to special tax treatment. But do you know whether or not your church's by-laws make it legal for you to use a manse allowance? A car allowance? These questions and more will be answered in the upcoming articles. If you have any specific questions, or if there are areas which you would like to have covered, let us know. Just write to CONTACT, the magazine with you in mind!

Y.E.S.!

*An affirmation of AUC commitment
to your Youth Ministry*

by Lani Jones
Youth Services Coordinator

Dear Friends,

My thanks to the many of you who have written to me since the first of October. The services provided by this office will be richer for your sharing.

Please continue to send descriptions of



your Youth Education activities and include photographs whenever possible.

YOU Communication

It has come to my attention that there is some confusion about YOU communications now that Greg Barrette and I are working together. Please continue to send all correspondence concerning International YOU, YOU Conference, and individual YOU chapters to YOU Coordinator, **Greg Barrette**. Please address inquiries, ideas, and suggestions about YOU teaching materials or leadership training to me.

Successful U.I.C.E. Seminar

I am happy to report that **Helen Nairn**

(Licensed Teacher, Fort Worth, Texas) and I issued 30 Youth Education Leadership certificates (reproduced below) at the conclusion of our Youth Education Seminar in U.I.C.E., Session VI. In addition to the 30 people who completed the 24-hour course for credit, another ten students audited, (including several Ministers-in-Training).

With completion of this course, these students are equipped to serve their centers as youth program leaders who can recruit, motivate and train new volunteers! They are familiar with general administration of a Youth Education Department. They know AUC materials, teaching methods and other resources currently
(Continued on page 11)

YOUTH EDUCATION LEADER CERTIFICATE



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:

*Has successfully completed a special course of intensive study in advanced
Youth Education Leadership training, conducted by the
Unity Institute of Continuing Education and the
Association of Unity Churches*

Presented this _____ day of _____ 19____

INSTRUCTOR

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

INSTRUCTOR

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

Y.E.S. REPORT

(Continued from page 10)

being used in religious education. Helen and I know these youth leaders will be a blessing to your centers.

Sparkplugs

Have you read the "Sparkplugs" article in this issue of CONTACT? This article suggests ways to use the story, "The Winter Tree," from January Wee Wisdom Magazine. I thought you might also like to coordinate these ideas with AUC lessons. The following lessons for the fall quarter will work well with this story:

IMAGE for PRACTICE

Year II, Quarter 1, Part 8
(Grades 3 and 4)

IMAGE for LEARNING

Year I, Quarter 1, Part 12
(Kindergarten)

IMAGE for HAPPY TALK

Year I, Quarter 1, Part 11
(Nursery)

Since these lessons are all for the fall quarter, you might have your Youth Education Coordinator slip a copy of Wee Wisdom and a copy of the Sparkplugs

article into the file with each of these lessons for reference next time the lessons are used.

Promotion Idea

You might also consider presenting an "adult" lesson during your Sunday worship service using the Wee Wisdom story and the children's lessons. Use visual aids and pass out a copy of the lessons to each person in the congregation. Not only will this add a dimension of variety to the Sunday Service, but it will promote an awareness of what Unity has to offer children through your Youth Education Department.

Winter Workshop

A final suggestion might be to present an intergenerational "Winter Workshop" some Saturday in January where parents, children, older adults and single adults can all explore truth ideas together. I feel particularly excited about the possibilities of intergenerational church activities to add a special ray of sunshine to the church consciousness. The child in everyone has fun. Children gain experience with adult other than their parents. Adults without children feel the joy of sharing with the little ones, and everyone has an opportunity to practice positive Christian values of

loving, sharing, helping and caring. If you try a Winter Workshop, please send me the details so I can share them with other centers.

Order Materials

One final note: Please remind the person in charge of ordering Youth Education materials to order spring lessons (Year II, Quarter 3, for use in March, April, and May) January 15. If you order by this date, we will be able to ship the lessons to you in plenty of time to let your Youth Education staff prepare for the quarter in a comfortable way.

For your convenience, a handy ordering schedule will be sent automatically with all orders for Youth Education materials. This will help your staff to know which year and quarter to order, and when!

I wish everyone a joyous holiday season of devotion to the Christ child within. This is the Child we really serve in our youth education ministry--praise God!

Loving Christmas blessings,



Lani Jones

IT WORKS

IT WORKS! IT WORKS! LISTEN AND HEAR!

It Works is a new radio program written, directed and produced by the ministers-in-training, S.M.R.S. **It Works** is a thirty-minute program that opens and closes with "Let There Be Peace on Earth," as recorded by the Classmen—the entertainers from the '78 Conference banquet—and contains short talks, music, interviews, discussions and advertisements relating to specific Truth ideas and their practical application in everyday life. The ministers-in-training are working closely with **Paul Barrett** and **Jack Fries** to make sure that each broadcast will fulfill three very important goals: 1) it will be a first-class, professional, high quality program; 2) it will be a strong example of a good Unity Radio Ministry; 3) it will be a learning experience for all interested ministers-in-training in broadcasting ministry.

At present more than half the ministers-in-training are working with the Media Production Committee, getting the first eight programs in the "can" before the Christmas break. Our first broadcast will be on December 3 at 10:00 a.m., radio station KFEQ, St. Joseph, Missouri. This is a high-power station and will carry our message into four states, as well as into the Greater Kansas City area.

Our advertising will include programs and activities at the centers in the area, as well as "Truth Spots." This format would allow for the programs to be rebroadcast in any ministry by simply asking us to change the ads to reflect your activities.

We appreciate your prayers and support for this project. If you are interested in more information, please write to us at: **IT WORKS, AUC-MIT, Box 8, Unity Village, MO 64065.** Thank you for reading this article.

David Durksen, Chairman

Media Production Committee

WHO'S WHO AT UNITY SCHOOL



Alta Tucker, at right, assisted by Alice Dennison, is responsible for the functions of the Adjustment department at Unity School. (Photo by Tony LaTona)

Many letters received by Unity pose a variety of questions that require highly personalized answers. Answering these inquiry letters falls within the area of responsibility of the Adjustment department.

Such letters may concern accounts, payments, inquiries about subscriptions, or specific questions about Unity. Because of the detailed information needed to answer these questions (some require research of computer-held information) the workers in the Adjustment department work closely with both the Letter Analysts and the Data Entry department.

This department is responsible for adding the names of interested persons to mailing lists--retreats, UICE, book club, cassette club, and requests to receive The Word monthly. The filling of orders through Silent-70 is handled in the Adjustment department and it also expedites requests to mail publications requiring special handling, airmail, or air cargo.

All subscription requests received through Unity centers are entered into the computing system through the Adjustment department as are multiple-copy orders for publications ordered through the centers for resale.

The supervision of this highly detailed work is capably handled by **Alta Tucker**, who has been with Unity School for 23 years, working in the Adjustment area the entire time. Alta and her husband, **Dewey**, who works for the Postal Service, are Lee's Summit residents. One of their two grown sons is married and Alta greatly enjoys her small grandson and granddaughter.

She loves to sew and is interested in creative needlepoint and enjoys such hobbies as tole and china painting. Dewey enjoys gardening and Alta processes their home-grown crops. Whenever there is time, she also enjoys bowling and golfing.

Alta and the workers in her department are dedicated to the purpose of helping people who request specific information. Through their prompt, accurate replies they perform a vital service both to their departments and the many people who correspond with Unity School.

REPORT OF EDUCATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Education Review Committee met at Unity School on September 28-29. This committee was established by mandate of the conference body to review and make recommendations regarding our educational program.

A variety of topics were considered, such as: admissions policies and procedure, curriculum content, establishing a Board of Education and guidelines for employment of the staff. The comments, suggestions and ideas shared with us by members of the conference body were discussed.

Although our committee is not ready to make specific recommendations at this point, all are in positive agreement that in the future much more thought, time and attention must be given to our entire education program on a continuing basis.

We will meet again in January to prepare our recommendations for the conference body. They will then be publicized in **CONTACT** so that you can give them your prayerful attention. Should you have further suggestions, please communicate with me or some member of the committee.

—submitted by Joyce Kramer
Chairperson

Committee members:

William Helmbold
Gerard Belanger
Donald Crutis
Mayola SaltPaw
Sandra Cousens

Carol Knox
Nicholas Griffan
Howard Caesar
Robert Wasner



SOMIT . . .

"SOMIT"? Is this a strange new metaphysical name for God on the Unity campus? No. It's the new face-lift our Spouses-of-Ministers-in-Training have chosen. The last few months, SOMIT has done some real, extensive soul-searching. We mailed questionnaires to our members in order to clarify our group goals and define individual needs. Our desire is to help all our spouses of ministers-in-training meet their individual challenges while here on campus.

One of the goals, on which we are working at this time, is to find someone who lives here at the Village who is familiar with the workings of SOMIT and will be willing to work with us on a year-to-year basis in an advisory capacity.

Janet Bowser, 1978 Ordinand, has been gracious enough to extend a helping hand to our coordinators, **Marie Pare** and **Chris Anderson**, in the organization of monthly meetings dealing with the unlimited subject of "Creative Personhood." She led the first discussion, at our meeting on November 14, on the subject, "The Perils of Prosperity." This was a dessert-and-get-acquainted gathering and was greatly enjoyed by all those who attended.

Blessings,
Patty Edwards
CONTACT Correspondent, SOMIT

PLACEMENT

Placement occurs through the activity of Spirit. Your Director of Ministry Services notifies all active Unity ministers of churches seeking leadership through his placement report published separately. Ministers interested in placement report to the Director of Ministry Services who forwards their resumes to churches requesting leadership. Your Director of Ministry Services 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:

MAUI, HAWAII—Unity Church of Maui is pleased to have **Diane Sickler**, Ordinand, as its new minister. Diane has twenty years' experience in working in Unity centers, having been at one time the youngest member of the Sunday School staff at Unity of the Palm Beaches in Florida. Her background includes work with YOU and YAU groups, teaching the Business Women's Class at Unity Temple, Kansas City, Missouri, conducting a study group for the residents of Heritage House, a retirement center in Independence, Missouri, as well as serving in the Silent Unity Prayer Room and acting as counselor at "The Bridge," a home for runaway youths, Minneapolis, Minnesota. A truly "prayerful person," Diane firmly believes that there is no circumstance, no condition, no area of life that is too far gone for prayer to do its perfect work.

WICHITA, KANSAS—**Marlin White** has accepted the invitation of the Unity Church of Wichita to become its minister. He previously served as senior minister in Syracuse, New York, and before that as senior minister to Unity congregations in Livonia, Michigan, and Toronto, Canada. An enthusiastic and innovative leader, Marlin has great facility in working with the media to expand the work of Unity into all areas of the community. Through appearing on TV talk shows and news programs, he has generated a great deal of interest

in cassette programs of his Sunday services, as well as selected classes, seminars and bio-feedback programs. Marlin is accompanied in his move to Wichita by his lovely wife, **Patt**, and their three daughters, **Dawnette**, **Michele**, and **Shannon**.

VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA—**Carl Bonham**, licensed teacher, has recently turned this developing ministry over to **Juliana Coppock**, and now plans to concentrate on developing Salinas which, like Vallejo, is sponsored by Christ Church Unity, San Jose (Warren and Marguerite Meyer). Juliana served ministries in Merced, San Leandro, and Richmond, California, prior to her sabbatical. Recently reinstated, she has worked closely with the Meyers and with Miki Bowen, Regional Representative. You will want to welcome Juliana back into active service and extend to her your greeting and your blessing.

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS—Unity Church on the North Shore, Evanston, where **Bob Wasner** is senior minister, has just announced the appointment of **Amalia Frank** as associate minister to begin December 1. Amalia has served, since March, 1975, as senior minister in Battle Creek, Michigan. An effective and experienced teacher, she holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education, Johns Hopkins University, which was obtained in conjunction with the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, Maryland, and a Master's degree in Music Education from the University of Maryland. Her musical ability has proved a tremendous asset in teaching classes, in conducting seminars, and in reaching people in whatever activity she engages. She is also a pilot!

UNITY VILLAGE, MISSOURI—**Jane Witherspoon** is the new director of Unity's Counseling and Resource Center at Unity School. As part of the Education Department Staff, Jane provides both family and individual counseling and works with Unity's Help-Line, a telephone crisis services. Jane was ordained in 1976 and served briefly as minister of the St. Charles, Illinois, center. Before accepting her new position, she was employed by the Association of Unity Churches, Unity Village. She and her husband, **Tom**, who is editor of UNITY Magazine, live in Lee's Summit.

"LORD, I Said"

Lord, I said,
how do I
keep in touch?



*Im in the Book,
he said.*

8-29

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by Hank Hartmann

"LORD, I Said"

Lord, I said,
isn't the world
brighter today?



*You just have your
eyes open wider,
he said.*

9-11

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by Hank Hartmann



Ann and Bill Otto (above) have, for the past four years, operated the Unity Snack Bar, a haven for rest, relaxation, food and fellowship. While all who come to Unity Village are warmly welcomed here, the Snack Bar is a special place for the ministers-in-training to assemble. From early in the morning until a benevolent Bill finally shoos the last one out the door at closing time, our fledgling ministers may be found there, singly, in pairs, in large groups. . . in fact, during the 8:45 to 9:00 a.m. break, the room is practically wall-to-wall MIT's. Ann and Bill surely must, over the years, have been the repository for more secrets, more aspirations, more hopes-and-dreams than any other counselors. . . official or unofficial. They are never judgmental, never unkind, always loving, always willing to lend an ear or a helping hand. (Out of the goodness of their loving hearts, they provide coffee at the early breaktime to all the MIT's--without charge! We thought you'd like to know.) Small wonder, then, that Ann and Bill Otto are affectionately known as the "Patron Saints of SMRS"...

SMRS FACULTY MEMBER Introducing. . . Dennis Neagle

The Reverend Dennis Neagle is serving his first year as a member of the SMRS faculty. A graduate of SMRS in August, 1976, Dennis spent the eight years prior to his enrollment as a teacher of elementary education in the San Diego, California, public schools. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Literature from San Diego State University, and a Master's degree in Education from the United States International University, San Diego.



In addition to his SMRS teaching duties, Dennis serves as a UICE instructor, where he presents courses in "Life of Prayer" and teaches a Consciousness Development course.

Dennis gives as his primary interest the teachings of Jesus. He and his wife, Kit, a 1978 Ordinand, are the co-ministers of Unity Church Northeast, Kansas City, Missouri.

IN MEMORIAM

Word has been received that the **Reverend E. V. Ingraham** made his transition to another expression of God's infinite life on August 20, 1978.

It was in 1919, that E. V. Ingraham organized the Unity Sales Department--it was created for the purpose of supplying Unity literature at wholesale prices to Unity centers for resale.

In 1931, the Unity Training School was organized, and Mr. Ingraham was placed in charge of the first training class held at Unity Farm. He was with Unity as a worker and field lecturer from 1928 through 1935. He left Unity in 1935.

For the next ten years he worked independently, continuing his research work into the teachings of ancient and modern religions. For three years he taught at the Institute of Religious Science in Los Angeles. Until his retirement in 1959, he was minister of the Progressive New Thought Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, of which he was also founder.

Among the writings for which he is widely known throughout the entire New Thought Movement are: *The Adventure of a Religious Outlaw* (1945); *The Fourth Dimension Plus* (1931); *Incarnation and Reincarnation* (1930); *Ladder to the Sky* (1938); *Prayer, Its Practice and Its Answer* (1935); *Wells of Abundance* (1938); and *Winds of Heaven* (1939).

We extend special blessings of love and God-speed to Unity's friend, E. V. Ingraham, as he has completed his 94th year on this earth plane and goes on to the next stage of his eternal growing.

Unity Licensed Teacher, **Norma Harrer**, of Sun City, Arizona, made her transition on September 22, just short of her 80th birthday. We bless Norma with our love in the ongoing progress of her soul.

SPARKPLUGS

(Continued from page 7)

good world. They learn that God created people to have dominion over all the living things on Earth and over the Earth itself. The children show their love for God by helping God care for the world thus learning that to have dominion means to help be responsible to care for His world.

A good practical application project that the children can work on and take home is on pages thirty-two and thirty-three of the same issue. In this feature, "Let's Do It!" by Bonnie Henson, the children will learn how to make a pinecone bird feeder. This is an easily assembled project that uses natural pinecones, empty cardboard cartons with plastic lids, yarn, birdseed, and peanut butter.

The story and lesson, and pinecone project would be suitable for ages four through twelve. Look for "The Winter Tree" and "Let's Do It!" in January 1979, WEE WISDOM Magazine.

MEET THE (REST OF) THE STAFF

Last month's CONTACT brought you pictures and thumb-nail sketches of the newest additions to your AUC Staff. Now it seems only fair to pay our respects to those wonderful people who have labored even longer in our vineyard. So here's the balance of the Staff--with a tip of the hat to each of them. Bless 'em all!

GLADYS BRANSCUM

Administrative Assistant

Dept. of Ministerial Education

Gladys has the highest SQ (that's "survival quotient") of any member of our staff. She's been here ten years, and it just may be that there are days when it seems to her it's been longer. At any rate, if you want to meet an Absolutely Indispensable Lady--that's our Gladys.



ART BASSETT

Manager, Printing Dept.

Through Art's capable hands goes all the printing of such items as your Placement Reports, the Sunday School material such as Teachers' Manuals, Workbooks, order forms; all the YOU/YAU materials; the Center Listing Directory; the Year-book...want to know what Art does in his spare time?

Well, we have it on reliable Authority (Art) that he's not doing anything much between 2:00 and 4:00 a.m. Other than that, his days are pretty full!



AILEENE PEERY

Administrative Assistant

Aileene is in charge of handling all supply orders from the field, handling the group insurance accounts, and doing the machine posting of all accounts, sending out statements and taking care of so many details that we've no room to list them all. Furthermore, she does them all in her beautifully unflappable way. She's wonderful.



KEN HUFF

Manager

Shipping/Receiving Dept.

Thank Ken for all those orders which reach you promptly and correct in every detail--Aileene takes 'em and Ken fills 'em. He's always on the job, always ready and willing to do the thing that need to be done. He's great!



PEGGY GRAY

Bookkeeper

Pretty Peggy is bookkeeper par excellence. In addition to keeping all our books in balance, she's the one who issues all our paychecks. (We acknowledge God as our Source, but our Peggy is certainly a beautiful channel!)



CLIO TURNER

Volunteer

A list of the things Clio does for us would fill the balance of the page! She assists in so many ways with the operations in the Print Shop and the Shipping and Receiving Department, folding, stuffing envelopes, sealing, bundling the bulk mail, and lending a helping hand wherever one is needed.

In addition, she sees to it that we have fresh coffee, clean cups, iced tea (for Stan) and a nice clean "kitchen area." What a dear lady she is!



EDDY EDWARDS

Manager--AUC-MIT Gift Shop

"Fast Eddy," as he is affectionately known in these parts, is the man in charge of seeing that we have an absolutely superlative stock of books and gifts on hand. When you visit us, be sure to bring your "want-list" with you, for Eddy's shop is a place for the "...sweet buy-and-buy!"



CHERYL VESTAL

Graphics, Word-Processing

Make no mistake, were it not for Cheryl's contributions to CONTACT, you would not have this attractive, well-laid-out publication. She's our graphic artist, an accomplished secretary, and an absolute jewel...and we love her.



DICK ANDREWS

Assistant Manager

Shipping/Receiving Dept.

Dick is the newest addition to our staff, working part time to help out with the workload which continues to increase by weight and by volume. Another one who's willing to pitch in and help out wherever he's needed, he is high on our list when we sit down to count our many blessings.



(Note: Dick Andrews and Eddy Edwards are two of our second-year ministers-in-training.)

The Field Speaks

Dear Stan,

After reading the letter in "The Field Speaks" (November CONTACT), so modestly written by G. Arthur Hammons, we feel compelled to join in this crusade to "Save AUC Money"; (this campaign will henceforth be called "S.A.M." by those of us who know and love her!)

Let us point out (lovingly, of course) that the Reverend Hammons could have saved you even more money if he had taken standing room in the baggage compartment instead of selfishly taking a seat in "K class"! Obvious delusions of grandeur! The fact that the flight from California to Kansas City would take about three hours should be of little consequence to someone whose heart is truly in the right place! As for the fact that he went without food to save a further \$20--doesn't he know that "Man does not live by bread alone"!??

We in Toronto feel that no sacrifice is too great to help "S.A.M." save money! To this end, we have decided to have a small (and very inexpensive) shipping crate tailor-made to Jim Sherman's measurements. We have learned that a further price-break can be realized if he can loose 85 pounds between now and the January meetings. We have put Jim on a strict diet of prunes and prune juice and feel that he will qualify for the 70-pound category by the new year! He will be packed in the fetal position to minimize the size of the crate, so we would greatly appreciate someone being at the airport to claim him soon after his arrival. (Possibly "Humble Hammons" will be flying in from Sunny California at the same time "Suffering Sherman" arrives from Terribly Turbulant Toronto!)

Knowing that you have very strong paternal feelings toward him, Stan, we are asking that you protect Jim from the slings and arrows of those who would possibly take pleasure in seeing him walking with severe curvature-of-the-spine, (the doctor assures us this will only be a temporary affliction) and that you will not find it upsetting or distasteful to remove the wooden splinters which may lodge in his back or derriere due to bumping about inside the crate. We will see to it that he has a supply of food and water to last the duration of the trip--it's only fair, as Hammons went without food on his

journey!

You will, no doubt, want to pass the above information along to other ministers--we are sure Jim's unselfish efforts in this regard will inspire others to participate in "Project S.A.M."

We suggest that a nice (but cheap!!) medal or plaque (called "The Sammy") be awarded annually for the greatest achievement in Parson-Parsimoniousness!

Please feel free to use this letter in the next issue of CONTACT!

Sharon (Secretary to Unity Church of Truth, Toronto)

* * * * *

(The following is an excerpt from a letter by the Reverend **Jacklyn Buboltz**, minister of Unity of Reno. We think it delightful, and will share it just as it was sent to us in Jacqui's inimitable style.)

"I did a most unusual wedding Sunday evening. The bride and groom have a mountain cabin only about a mile and a half from the main road. When the bride came in to my office and saw my new car parked outside, she asked if that was the only car I had. . .and then proceeded to tell me that it would not do! I later found out she was absolutely right--it wouldn't. A four-wheel pickup met me on the main road, at a pre-arranged time and we bounced up and around the winding mile-and-a-half for almost twenty minutes (All the time, you understand, I was remembering--uncomfortably--that I'd have to come down the same way.) The wedding was held in the livingroom, while a guitar and a soloist provided the music and an incredible full moon swung wide outside the picture window. The whole service was geared to the exact time of 'the full moon rising.' I did the service by candle-light and moonlight, but--because of the clouds--we were a bit ahead of schedule. During the prayer, we had an unexpected interruption when one of the guests, overcome by the closeness of the quarters and the flickering candles, quietly passed out. We paused, helped her into a chair, and simply returned to the prayer. The vows then just fell naturally into the time when the moon was suddenly visible, full and bright...so now, with every emergence of a full moon, the couple will be reminded of their wedding."

Jacklyn Buboltz, Unity of Reno, Nevada



REGIONAL NEWS

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL NEWS with **Robert Wasner**:

Unity of Warren, Ohio, recently celebrated the dedication

of their North Park Avenue building, newly purchased. The ceremony was combined with the recognition of Unity of Warren's membership in the worldwide Association of Unity Churches. The **Reverend Glenn Mosley** of Akron led the congregation in the affirmation of dedication. As past-president of the AUC and Chairman of the Executive Board, he presented to Warren's **Reverend Mayola SaltPaw** the plaque of membership for the center. The **Reverend Robert Walle**t, of Westlake, was the principle speaker, recalling the history of Unity in Warren, dating from 1959. The **Reverend Barbara Provost** of Massillon, Ohio, led the meditation. **Bill Provost** played some of his own compositions; **Betty Howard** and **Robert Myers** provided the vocals with **Dorothy Lewis** at the organ. A social hour followed the ceremony.

(Continued on page 17)

REGIONAL NEWS

(Continued from page 16)

Great Lakes Region (Continued)

"The Reverend **Connie Haines** gave Indianapolis Unity its biggest public relations boost ever, in addition to one of our biggest Sunday attendances ever!" writes **Charles Roth**, minister of Unity of Indianapolis. "Through the newspaper publicity, much of which was free, tens of thousands of people were made aware of the Unity Truth Center in Indianapolis. Connie spoke at the two morning services and entertained in the evening with an hour and a half of truly professional music and singing. Centers and churches who haven't yet considered having Connie are missing a tremendous opportunity--not only to give the center a valuable PR opportunity but to give their regular Unity people a real treat. Incidentally, Connie's Sunday morning Truth talk was terrific; she is not only a talented singer but a dedicated and dynamic speaker. Any center wishing to know the details of our expenses, our publicity contacts, etc., may write to Unity Truth Center, 907 N. Delaware, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202, and we'll mail you a full packet of information, including advertising copy and photos."

The Livonia Ecology Commission, Livonia, Michigan, has honored a school, church and professional and industrial building for their beautification programs. The commission's judging panel singled out Unity Church, at 28660 Five Mile Road...for its design and landscaping. The church was cited for its "outstanding enhancement of the community and environment" and won a merit of honor from the commission. The Reverend **Gene Sorensen** serves this church.

Unity Church of Decatur, Illinois, observed a "three-way" Thanksgiving Feast during November, a part of which was **Jim Melton's** "Your Right to Fly" Prosperity Seminar for prosperity-consciousness enrichment. Any church or center interested in learning more about this stimulating, challenging program may write for a color-brochure to "Convention Speakers," Post Office Box 6461, Denver, Colorado.

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL NEWS

with **William Clark**:

"The miracle of love is alive and well and expressing beautifully. Upon arriving in Birmingham, Alabama, for the Southeastern Regional Conference, Licensed Teacher **Shay St. John**, from Savannah, Georgia, and **Pat St. George** parked their 1978 Fort van in the parking lot at the conference hotel. Having just purchased the van with all their available money, they decided that they had nothing left over with which to buy insurance. The girls blessed the van in light, and went to their room. Next morning the van was gone. Three days later, after much 'blessing and releasing,' they learned from the police department that the van had been recovered--totally destroyed. In addition to sharing in prayer, the group presented a love offering to Shay and Pat. Any other expressions of love would undoubtedly be well received; meanwhile, Shay and Pat continue to bless this situation and seek to draw the good from it."

Jim Heinecamp, minister, **Unity Church of Christ, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida**, has offered to share with anyone interested a sample of the "Church Offering Record" which his church has been using with great success. It is a simple, one-time record which can be filled out quickly and which shows graphically the consistency (or non-consistency) of the congregation's giving. Samples may be secured by writing the AUC Office, Unity Village, or Unity Church of Christ, 1800 NE 6th Court, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33304.

EASTERN REGIONAL NEWS with **Alan Rowbotham**:

Eastern Unity Conference was held amid beautiful fall colors at Pawling, New York, during October. Everyone had a great time and much was accomplished. **Tom and Louise Newman** gave a wonderful seminar on "Biblical Archaeology," and a team of ministers from the Region conducted a successful pilot Post-Graduate program. We will be showing results of this with the Board of Trustees in January. The following officers were elected during the conference: President--**Kathryn Rowbotham**; Vice-President--**Jean Grover**; Secretary--**Chad O'Shea**; Treasurer--**John**

Salunek; Chaplain--**Mary Alice Brown**; and Regional Representative--**Alan Rowbotham**. Eastern is looking forward to sharing a Canadian Unity Retreat in Toronto during August 1979, and to the annual Conference to be held somewhere in Virginia the first week of October '79.

Unity of Albany, has a new address. Write to the church at **P.O. Box 1404, Albany, Georgia 31702**. The church location remains the same. Also excerpted from this bulletin: "Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore." (Andre Gide) Good thought!

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION with **George Rieger**:

From the bulletin issued by the **Center of Positive Prayer, Austin, Texas**, the Reverend **Mary Katharine MacDougall**: "Truth spelled with a capital 'T' means knowing Who and What God is, who and what we are, and the relationship between God and us."

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL NEWS with **Arthur Hammons**:

Christ Church Unity of San Diego announces its Third Annual Seminar on "Church Management and Successful Ministerial Attitudes." The Reverend **Robert L. Stevens**, pastor, writes: "Last year, because of the positive response of graduating Unity students and, subsequently, the nation's Unity ministers, others in New Thought and metaphysically-oriented ministries requested permission to attend our seminars. This year we have opened the Seminar for the first time to other Truth ministries. We have found that our seminar experience is as valuable to the ministers of large churches as it is to the ministers of small churches. Enrollment will be limited to approximately 30 people." The seminar is scheduled for February 15, 16, 17, 18, 1979.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MERRY CHRISTMAS

1979

JANUARY

- 3-5 Northern California Regional Retreat, Carmel, California
- 14-18 AUC Mid-Year Committee Meetings, Unity Village, Missouri
- †28-31 Southwest Regional Conference, (location will be announced later)

APRIL

- †23-27 Executive Committee Meetings, Unity Village, Missouri
- 24-29 Second Caribblue Retreat, Intercontinental Hotel, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, West Indies, hosted by Unity of Jamaica
- *29- May 3 SCUCA Regional Conference, Denver, Colorado, hosted by Unity Church of Denver

MAY

- †2-4 Northern California Regional Conference, Reno, Nevada, hosted by Unity Ministry of Reno

JUNE

- 10-21 AUC Pre-Conference & Conference, Unity Village, Missouri

AUGUST

- †6-10 Southeastern Unity Regional Retreat, Boca Raton Hotel, Boca Raton, Florida
- 12-18 YOU Conference, Unity Village, Missouri
- 19-24 YAU Retreat, Unity Village, Missouri

OCTOBER

- †14-16 Southeastern Region Ministers/Teachers' Conference, (location will be announced later)

† Additions
* Changes

