

SEPTEMBER 1979

# CONTACT



90 years of UNITY



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1889-1979

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**ABOUT THE COVER:** This issue of CONTACT has an original cover created by our own AUC worker **Don Payne**. The cover commemorates 90 years of Unity and AUC and the CONTACT staff are proud to make this our contribution.

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# AUC President's Letter

Dear Friends,

You have heard that, "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear." I submit that an equal or greater truth is that, "When a teacher is ready, his/her students will appear." Do we not always draw to us the equivalent of our own consciousness?

If this be so, then as teachers of Truth, we must not be "ready." Last Sunday, only 45,000 students appeared at our 300 Unity centers. Would you be surprised if I told you the AUC is not doing very well--in fact, we are doing very poorly! We are a Movement that is not in motion! We have either lost our momentum, or we have never gained it.

The typical or median Unity church will have 67 people in attendance on a typical Sunday. The average attendance of half of our churches is less than 50 people. Twenty of our churches account for one-third of our total attendance of 45,000 people. Here is the eye-opening breakdown:

Average Sunday Attend.

50 or less	105
51-100	96
101-150	33
151-200	23
201-400	23
401-800	14
over 800	<u>6</u>
	300

Your first reaction might be, "What do the attendance figures of individual churches have to do with our Association? I have submitted these numbers to you only because this is an excellent way to measure energy and growth. Obviously, we are not generating enough energy in terms of activity in people's lives because we are not attracting many people. If the only reason for the existence of Unity churches is that they will be centers of spiritual activity for people--then where are the people? Why are we not attracting 450,000 people every Sunday? Could it be that the people are not ready for Unity's teaching? I think not! Perhaps our churches are not ready for the people, and if this is so, something can be done about it and something should be done about it quickly. Where a problem exists, so does the perfect solution. There are a number of definite and specific things that could be corrected in our churches



Jack Boland

fairly easily that would turn this condition around almost overnight. But first, we must admit we have a problem that needs correcting.

The telltale symptom of our collective problem is the lack of growth. The Association is not growing if we use attendance at our services as the yardstick. Perhaps we have been in error in believing that developing a few new churches each year would be the measure of our growth. This has not worked because for the most part, we have only created additional small churches that hardly function, while most of our older churches remain in a static state.

Speaking of growth, it is interesting to note that in November of 1974, Unity School printed 975,000 copies of the DAILY WORD, and five years later, in November 1979, it will print 1,800,000. In July 1980, the DAILY WORD will go over the 2 million mark--more than doubling its subscriptions in less than six years. There is a similar growth pattern in almost all spiritual, religious, motivational and self-help publications. The Sales Manager of POSITIVE LIVING MAGAZINE told me last week they will double their present size between now and May 1980 to over one million subscribers. New Thought is a known and accepted quantity in America, and Unity centers should be the most logical and natural places to which the millions of New Thought aspirants find their way. The students are ready. We have a vast ready-made market for our Unity Truth

product, but so far we have not capitalized on our opportunity by packaging and marketing our product very well. This is probably why we haven't grown. Here again, something can be done about it.

It is a law of life that when growing ceases, dying begins. Every living thing on this planet must grow or perish, and I am certain this is true of churches. A church must either grow or perish. A church that is not growing is a sad place to be and is usually peopled by a lethargic group of the living dead. A church that is not growing is the least exciting place I can imagine in any community. A static church has lost its ability to motivate and inspire the people it has and does not have the power to attract and draw the dynamic new people it needs. Incidentally, the time is fast approaching when small churches simply will not be able to exist.

For every Unity church, growth is an absolute must because we teach a universal system of principles whose purpose it is to bring about spiritual growth in people. Ours is a teaching that changes people, and the degree of change in us is the measure of its power in our lives. In Unity, we are in the business of causing people to grow, and therefore, we cannot succeed if we conduct our business (teaching) in stagnant conditions and surroundings--and unless we ourselves are growing. Each minister and everything about the appearance of the center are high profile examples of the teaching that takes place inside the center walls and of what can be expected to happen in the lives of the people who attend. To paraphrase Emerson, "What we are speaks so loudly that they don't hear what we say."

Most of us have an earnest desire to be part of a dynamic, exciting, growing organization that is demonstrating its potential for spiritual leadership on this earth in this time--and we can be. The action has to start with us where we are. Our Association cannot grow unless our centers grow, because our centers are the AUC. How long do you think it will take the AUC to double in size, once we set our minds to it? One year? Two years? Five? How long will it take your center to double in size once you set your mind to it? The AUC will measure its growth by your own!

*(Continued on page 3)*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(Continued from page 2)

Have you taken a searching and fearless look at your church or center lately to thoroughly examine what is happening there and to visualize where it is going? Have you and other center leaders asked pertinent questions such as:

- \*\* What is our attendance? At what rate are we growing? Why is our church the size it is? Why not larger?
- \*\* Is our center an exciting place to be, and if not, why not?
- \*\* What needs to be changed or eliminated because it is an obstacle to our growth? What needs to be added because it will be an immediate asset to attract more people and make them comfortable?

- \*\* Is the minister the real center leader, and is the board a strong, harmonious, supportive body through which that leadership is channeled into creative action?
- \*\* Is our church income more than adequate to meet all current and growth needs, and if not, why not?
- \*\* Is our minister the highest-paid minister of any church of any denomination in the entire area, and if not, why not?
- \*\* What changes need to be made in me and by me?
- \*\* What are the goals of my center? Where will we be one year from now? Five years? Ten years?
- \*\* What are my personal goals? Where will I be in one year? Five years?

This next year or two could be the most productive and exciting time in our lives. Let's set some tremendous goals--stirring up some wild and reckless

ideas--and then begin to work together inspiring and supporting each other as we make them happen! Nothing succeeds like success, and nothing is more fun than mind-boggling success in the work to which you have dedicated your life. Some of you are already reaching seemingly unattainable goals, and you can be the catalysts for the rest of us.

The hardest problem will be to make ourselves dream a collective dream and then believe that the apparently enormous goal is somehow, some way, somewhere, sometime attainable. We can't believe it unless you believe it. Maybe we can't do it unless you do it! Who was it who said, "Follow me!"

Excitedly --

*Jack Beland*

## NEWS FROM THE EDITORIAL & PROMOTION DEPARTMENTS OF UNITY SCHOOL

The Promotion and Editorial Departments are working together to bring a service to you--an overview of literature that may be helpful to your center ministry. We will use this space to point out material in our periodicals and books that we feel may be of particular interest to you.

### SPARKPLUGS

Ministers and teachers will be interested in a book recently published by Unity School entitled *Steps in Self-Knowledge* by Leddy and Randolph Schmelig. This book is a compilation of twelve articles that were published in *UNITY Magazine* two years ago. If you liked the Schmeligs' *Patterns for Self-Unfoldment* you are sure to like this, their second book.

Designed as a do-it-yourself text, *Steps in Self-Knowledge* contains instructions and techniques to help individuals to express the real Self and come to a greater understanding of Truth as it applies to everyday life. In "A Letter about Beginning" the Schmeligs write: "The steps you need to take begin where you are; they are mapped out in your own daily route between the usual and common places you travel to and from each day. . . . You too are a saint, a sage, a master in potential. . . . As you attain each step in your own Self-knowledge, you gain the bliss of spiritual awareness, and you lead the world to God-realization as no other can."

The first four chapters concern learning to relate to self, God, and others. They touch on feelings of aloneness and how to reshape the personality to gain happiness and free the flow of love. Chapters five through eight deal with learning that God is Law; these cover the subjects of unfoldment, becoming attuned to divine law, and how to recognize divine love in action. The remainder of the lessons contain the steps needed to learn right judgment and about the many facets of self-unfoldment, such as, keeping the inner vision despite negative appearance and working daily with Truth principles in all areas of life.

The text is quite basic, very practical, and easy to understand and apply. Each chapter contains a meditation and an affirmation to use between classes. This book could easily be adapted for an adult education course to be conducted on a weekly or monthly basis.

*Steps in Self-Knowledge* by Leddy and Randolph Schmelig, hardbound, is \$3.95. This book will be a book club selection in November/December.



# WHAT IS A UNITY CHURCH?

by Stan Hampson



Certainly a Unity church is more than a building housing a group of worshippers. As you well know, many Unity churches meet in buildings not specifically designed for the functions of the ministry, and yet the services conducted are just as spiritually meaningful and uplifting as any held in traditional surroundings. So what is a Unity church?

A Unity ministry is composed of five principle ingredients. First of all is prayer. Unity began, ninety years ago, as an activity of prayer. The first reason for Unity people gathering together as they do is specifically in order that they may pray together. All Unity functions begin and end with prayer. Prayer is that activity which creates an exponential power much greater when engaged in by a group than when it is merely the activity of the individual. We reinforce each other with our prayer-power.

Second in a Unity church is healing. To heal all manner of conditions and circumstances in mankind is a commitment of Unity. Healing of body, mind, interpersonal relationships... all aspects of healing become an integral part of a Unity ministry.

Our third important function is teaching. We get together to teach the Truth, to learn the Truth, to be involved in it, to teach it professionally, to teach it as people involved in Truth in the way we live our lives from day to day.

Our fourth function is preaching. We do not usually use this term in reference to Unity's Sunday lesson-sermons yet one of the dictionary definitions, i.e., "to proclaim or teach publicly" seems applicable. (I suspect that we avoid the use of the word to keep from being guilty of another of the dictionary definitions: "to give advice in an offensive, tedious or obtrusive manner." And of that we certainly do not wish to be found guilty!) Nevertheless, the Great Commission sends us forth to "...preach the gospel." So preaching, as a means of proclaiming the Truth, is a vital part of Unity. It is true, too, that as more and more people come into the study of Truth they begin to find that the churches from which they came are no longer satisfying, and that the joining together with like-minded people—in Unity—leads them into a desire to have the Unity Sunday service their regular means of worship.

As Unity ministers we know that the Sunday service is also an economic necessity. We recognize that somewhere between 75% and 90% of our financial support comes as the result of the love offerings given on Sunday. This income enables us to

do 90% of the things we want and need to do the rest of the week. The Sunday morning offerings pay the salaries, the rent, the utilities. Because we have this income, we then can go forth to make our hospital calls, teach our classes, counsel and engage in many activities which do not produce much income in and of themselves.

Many of us can remember when Unity used to be more of a class dynamic without any Sunday activity. A lot of the older metaphysicians still provide more of a counseling service, and people call them or go to them for counseling who would never even consider coming to a Sunday Unity service. They are still involved in their "neighborhood" church, where their social and professional ties remain strong. We've seen evolve—mostly in the last 25 years—a situation where we now have a viable, meaningful Sunday experience.

The fifth of our primary functions as a Unity church has also fairly recently evolved—that of social activities. I can remember vividly the church in which I grew up. On the front of the lectern was a big sign which read SILENCE. As you walked in and sat down, you observed the sign. You listened to the Truth (and, boy, did you get the Truth!) and then you walked out the door and you didn't speak to anybody. I can even remember getting up a petition as a YOU'er and carrying it to the minister, campaigning for the privilege of having a potluck supper. We were finally permitted to have one each year, but the minister did not attend. . .and that was not uncommon, years ago. Today, most of our churches have things going on all the time. Not too long ago I heard someone say, "You know, I went to a Unity church and they didn't serve coffee! A UNITY church. . .!" It is now so common that one finds it hard to believe that any Unity church, anywhere, would not serve coffee. (It has been said that a hallmark of a successful Unity ministry is the necessity of encouraging members to go home no more than two hours after the benediction! If all the congregation files in at 11:00 a.m. and out again at 12:15, it may indicate that there's something wrong.)

Unity people want to relate to each other. They want to talk to each other. They want to have someone to pray with in addition to the minister. They find it important to be able to call each other, go to coffee together, have lunch or dinner together. This is all part of our tradition. The Fillmores loved to have picnics and to do all sorts of things together". . .just for fun." It surely was not a sober, anti-social religious organization that incorporated into Unity Village the picnic grounds, the swimming pool, golf course, tennis courts. It's amazing that more of our churches and centers don't follow that same lead and have golf courses, tennis courts, gymnasiums. It may be something you'll want to think about as your own church plans for its growth and expansion. It's certainly in the fine old Unity tradition!

So this, then, is a Unity church. . .where lots of loving and growing unfold in a place of prayer, healing, teaching, preaching and fellowship. Each person is important in each of these areas. Each participant makes your church a vehicle of service in each of these very important ways. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in Unity."++





**NEWS & VIEWS ON UMS. . .**  
by Paul C. Barrett

This month I have invited one of our faculty members, **Gary Jones**, to write this column. His message follows:

**CHEMICALIZATION IS ALIVE AND WELL  
AND LIVING AT UNITY VILLAGE. . .**

by Gary Jones

Whether you went through your ministerial training twenty-five years ago or three years ago, can you remember the inner growth, the challenges, the commitments that seemed to cause you to face what Charles Fillmore termed "chemicalization"?

During one of the recent AUC committee meetings I was talking to a field minister. I mentioned to this person that there was much more involved in going through the program than just keeping up the academic load of the class work. The reaction of this person was one of disbelief. He could not understand what I was talking about.

In recent years we have tightened requirements for admission to the Unity Ministerial School. The Educational Council is working toward even higher standards that will insure that when a person enters the program he/she will have the best possible opportunity for successful completion.

I do not, however, believe that higher standards, the work of the Council and the Faculty can ever free ministers-in-training from going through the inner growth that must come when a person dedicates his life and his very being to the Unity ministry. I might add that the demand for growth and change does not stop when we leave our initial training at the Village and begin our work in the field, as we all know.

Because many of our ministers-in-training go through this demanding process of inner growth during their two years at Unity Ministerial School, I believe that there are some things those of you in the field can do to support, encourage and affirm the highest possibility in these men and women who



have offered their lives to the service of Unity.

There are four things that I would like you to consider as possible ways in which you could be a great blessing to the men and women currently enrolled in our Unity Ministerial School.

1. Whenever you are at the Village, attending Ministers' Conference, Committee meetings, attending retreats, teaching in UICE or for whatever reason, take time to meet and get acquainted with some of the Ministers-in-Training. This is really important to them because one of the inner growth challenges that they must deal with is accepting the image of a minister. The more they can get to know ministers in the field the easier it is for them to begin to identify with the role of a Unity minister.
2. With the largest class in the history of our ministerial program coming into the school this month, we face a crisis in the lack of speaking opportunities for our students. It would be a great blessing to them if, when you are going on vacation or attending business meetings you would consider inviting a second-year minister-in-training to fill in for you. This exposure is vital, but with more than eighty students in the program, the speaking opportunities are all too infrequent.
3. If your center or church is so fortunate as to have contributed one of our current ministers-in-training to the program, why not drop him or her a note now and then, reminding them of how proud you are of them, sharing the idea that their minister and friends are thinking of them and keeping them in their prayers, and just plain being proud of them.
4. The last suggestion concerns money. There are a variety of ways that churches and individuals can share their substance (MONEY) with the students. These ways include outright gifts to individual students, gifts to the student scholarship fund, offerings to UMS in general, and buying an Ordination Bible for one student. If you would like further details regarding this, please call the UMS office.

I am excited about your taking the opportunity of getting to know some of these people who will very soon join you in service-to-God-through-humanity via Unity. I am confident that your serving this very special group of Truth students will bless each one of you in wonderful ways.

Thank you.

*Gary*

**PULL  
UP  
A  
CHAIR. . .**



. . . and take my hand for just a moment while I tell you how grateful I am to you, all my dear readers in Unity. This

is my final appearance as your managing editor, so this column is by way of being my "swan song."

Not too long ago I read a brief item in the Wall Street Journal which set me thinking. It read: "It's true that you're never too old to learn--but some people seem to forget that there's a limit on how long you can put it off!" And not only did the shoe fit, it pinched. The fact is that I did not come to Unity to learn to be an editor; I was an editor for a lot of years before I got here. I came to Unity

to learn to be a Minister. So now, as I head into my second year as a minister-in-training at UMS, I'm going to devote all my time and effort and energy toward being the very best minister that I am capable of being. I have much learning and growing and praying and meditating and studying and reading to do. . . and the very twenty-four-hour-a-dayness, seven-day-a-weekness of it leaves no time for these editorial pursuits. I needn't labor the point; all of you who are now ministering in the field recognize it.

(Continued on page 6)





**INWARD,  
ONWARD,  
UPWARD!**

by R. Scott Sherman

**"BLUE SKIES" OR CLEAR VISION?**

One of the most challenging aspects of applying Unity's positive principles in the ministry is the need to be able to "face facts" as well. So often in assisting developing or troubled churches, I discover ministers, Boards and/or congregations which will not first seek to understand the basic facts that surround the present situation and then apply Truth. Too often the phrase, "We'll just pray about it," or "The right way will reveal itself" are just excuses for doing nothing to prepare the way for Spirit to work.

A more effective approach to creative problem-solving in a Unity setting would include:

1. Do Your Homework: Identify the need or the situation that needs to be dealt with, whether it be confronting a difficult person or a financial crisis. One can identify the facts without being limited by them.
2. Include Your Co-Workers: The minister, Board, key center workers and hired professionals become a team to

gather facts and generate alternate possibilities.

3. Pray, Meditate and Plan: Once the problem is identified, prayer and meditation work, and the interplay of the ministry team will bring forth dozens of possible directions for action.

4. Image the Probable Results: Review prayerfully the various alternative plans and visualize the most likely results of their implementation.

5. Act: Choose the best alternative and begin. BUT... keep prayerfully "listening" as you proceed. Spiritual guidance can and does continue as we move forward.

While these brief suggestions certainly do not cover the field of problem-solving in the Unity ministry, I hope they are thought-provoking for the leadership of the field movement. That's YOU!

**THE USE OF "DAILY WORD" IN YOUR MINISTRY NAME**

Unity School has asked us to be considerate in using reference to "Daily Word" magazine in relationship to our field ministries. Even though your church may have been incorporated with the name "Daily Word" in its subtitle (this is true of perhaps a dozen of our churches), the School has provided us with a correct identifying reference for letterheads or bulletins:

"Affiliated with the Association of Unity Churches and Unity School of Christianity, publishers of 'Daily Word' magazine."...or..."Member of the Association of Unity Churches, affiliated with Unity School of Christianity, publishers of 'Daily Word' magazine." (NOTE: Unity School has recently reaffirmed that affiliation with Unity School is only obtained through regular or associate membership in the Association.)++

**PULL UP A CHAIR...**

(Continued from page 5)

Just before David and Alice Durksen departed to take up their new positions as associates with David McClure in Spokane, Washington, David shared with us a story which seems to merit passing along to you all. Maybe you heard about the gentleman who presented to his minister the gift of a bottle of cherry brandy, with the proviso that the cleric would thank him with a published item in the church bulletin. After pondering the matter for a brief time, the minister came up with the following: "I wish to thank my good friend Mr. Blank for his gift of fruit--and for the spirit in which it was given."

to Charley elsewhere in these pages... and if I've learned anything on this job it is not to tell you which page!... and Charley himself will greet you in CONTACT next month.

There's no way I can take leave of you all without expressing love and gratitude to a lot of wonderful people. To Stan Hampson, Editor-in-Chief, who gave me the opportunity to spend this year with you, who handed me this editorial hat (which I have, admittedly, worn at a rather rakish angle!) and let me have a pretty free rein; to Cheryl Vestal, whose patience, cooperative attitude and lovely disposition have made her a joy to work with and whose tremendous artistic talent I deeply respect; to Paul Barrett, Scott Sherman, Greg Barrette, Maggie Finefrock, former AUC President Bernard Dozier, current AUC President Jack Boland...

my regular contributors of CONTACT columns, as well to the charming ladies—Patty Edwards, Helen Hampson and Suzanne Cameron—my SOMA correspondents; to beautiful Joann Landreth, who amassed all the detailed information for the monthly/bimonthly Placement Reports and got them to me in far better order than I would have believe possible; to good friend Mary Rhoades who patiently sorted my mail, took my phone messages, and supplied me with "solidified affirmations" on those days when the world was too-much-with-me; to Gary Jones and Hypatia Hasbrouck, who generously permitted me to park my typewriter in their offices when I had no space to call my own; to the entire staff of AUC, both above-and-below-stairs, who've walked that extra mile to help make CONTACT grow in effectiveness as a link between AUC and the field... thanks for making this a fulfilling experience and (Continued on page 7)

So now I leave you in the capable hands of your new editor, Charley Townsend. You get a brief introduction



## PULL UP A CHAIR. . .

*(Continued from page 6)*

a truly memorable year. And not the least of my loving appreciation goes to the Regional Representatives for their contributions, and to you, whoever you are, Dear Readers—who have taken some time to spend with me each month and have been gracious enough to let me know that you've found it fun. Thank you all, from the bottom of my heart.

On at least one occasion, Charles Fillmore was head to observe that "...if there were more humor in religion, there'd be more religion in the world." That's been my operating thesis and will doubtless be a hallmark of my own ministry. So I really can't leave you all without sharing the delightful story about a charming, silver-haired lady who stopped after the Sunday service to take the hand of her minister and say, "My dear, I

certainly enjoyed that meaningful message you delivered this morning. Do you know that every single point you made I found applies to someone I know?"

I wish you love, laughter and

Richest Blessings

*Marionne*

## UMS GRADUATION

Pictured below is the Graduation Class of 1979. Services were held in the Unity Village Chapel on the afternoon of August 10. Next to each person's name is his/her placement. This list is given so that you may send a note to each of these new Ministers, extending to each a warm welcome into the family of Unity Field Ministers. We hope that you will take a minute to do this, for it is sure to mean a great deal to them.



FRONT ROW, left to right: **Becky Lynne**, Roanoke, Virginia; **Hope Taylor-Fries**, Orange, California; **Geri Weeks**, Everett, Washington; **Jo Foster** *(awaiting placement)*; and **Sallye Taylor**, Unity School of Christianity.

SECOND ROW, left to right: **Paul C. Barrett**, Director of UMS; **Earl Anderson**, Little Rock, Arkansas; **Marleen Davis**, Jacksonville, Florida *(co-minister with husband, John)*; **David and Alice Durksen**, Spokane, Washington; **Eddie Edwards**, Bellingham, Washington; **Eunice Chagnon**

*(awaiting placement)*; **Rene' Pare'** *(awaiting placement)*; and **Jack Boland**, AUC President.

THIRD ROW, left to right: **Kent Kessinger**, Teaneck, New Jersey; **Joan Gattuso Lear** *(awaiting placement)*; **Jim Gaither**, East St. Louis, Illinois; **Mark and Edwene Yarnell**, Knoxville, Tennessee; **Dick Andrews** *(awaiting placement)*; **Helen Glover**, Metairie (New Orleans), Louisiana; **Jim Fisher**, St. Joseph, Missouri; and **Ronel Sinstead**, Palm Springs, California.



..... ON CHANGE IN A MINISTRY.....

*(Editorial note: The following article is excerpted from a letter written to his Board of Directors by the Reverend John A. V. Strickland after he and his wife, the Reverend Connie Strickland, made the prayerful decision to leave Unity Church of Jacksonville, Florida, to accept positions at Unity School. We felt that it was so well-written and contained such valuable suggestions for the management and direction of a center confronting a change in ministers that we are reprinting this portion in the hope that it may be helpful and useful to others in this same position.)*

"I have already spoken with the Reverend Stan Hampson, Director of Ministry Services of the Association of Unity Churches, and to the Reverend Bill Clark, Southeastern Regional Representative for the Association of Unity Churches, about finding a new minister. . . The ministers in the field will be informed shortly that there is an opening in Jacksonville. Reverend Hampson and Reverend Clark are two highly qualified, competent ministers who will help you in any way possible during the interval while you are without a minister. They are familiar with the Jacksonville situation, so learn to rely on their help and trust their judgment. They are the ones through whom candidates for this ministry will gain information about this church. The more you cooperate with them, work with them, and follow their advice, the better are your chances of finding a good, 'top-notch' minister quickly. Remember, they are the trained professionals who, in a real sense, will be your ministers until you select your new minister. They are good; trust them; love them; and let them help you run this ministry during the interim period. They only want what is best for Unity Church of Jacksonville.

"... I would make the following suggestions to you at this time:

1. Stick together. When the Board makes a decision, stick together. You are now charged with a great responsibility, and harmony on the Board is most important. You are a team, and you have already shown a great ability to function together and arrive at decisions that are for the highest good.
2. Communicate. Communicate among yourselves. Speak openly and honestly. Communicate with the Reverend Stan Hampson. Let him know what you are doing and how things are going. Go to him for advice before making major decisions. Communicate often with the congregation (without betraying anything said in confidence.) Keep them current as to what is happening.
3. Love. Love each other. Love each candidate who speaks, even if you do not think you would want him/her as your minister. Each minister does his/her best in a loving environment. Love will draw the right person to you.
4. Pray. Pray alone; pray together; pray often. Encourage the congregation to pray with you. Any time there arises the appearance of the slightest disagreement or inharmony, by all means pray immediately. You might encourage the congregation to use an affirmation such as this:

*THE RIGHT AND PERFECT MINISTER FOR UNITY  
CHURCH OF JACKSONVILLE IS NOW DRAWN TO  
US QUICKLY! WE GIVE THANKS FOR THIS IN THE  
CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE LIVING CHRIST. AMEN.*

5. Inspire. Work to inspire the congregation. Their confidence in you is very important.
6. Release. According to the Unity teachings, the fastest and best way for you to draw your next right minister(s) is by emotionally releasing all previous ministers. This does not mean you have to stop loving us or caring for us, but that you must 'loose us and let us go' on to our highest good. Holding on to someone or something from the past does not enable good to flow to you in the future. It is only in releasing the old that we prepare the way for the new. Just as we now love, bless and release you to your highest good and to your next minister, we know that you love, bless and release us to our highest good in our next work.

"... Let us boldly step forward in the Christ light and love to meet the challenges before us as we do our parts in the spreading of God's Truth. May God bless you richly in incredibly wonderful ways!

In His light, love and service,  
Reverend John A. V. Strickland"

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## H-E-E-R-E'S CHARLEY...

Join with us, if you will, in meeting and greeting the new managing editor for CONTACT. **Charley Townsend** is a member of the first-year class of ministers-in-training. He comes to us from California, where he was an active member of Unity Center of Walnut Creek. In writing to us about him, **Carol Ruth Knox**, minister of the Walnut Creek Unity Center had this to say: "He has been a tremendous asset to our ministry and blessed us with his inspiration and outstanding energy. He has the capacity to cause things to happen, to generate group energy, bring people together, develop ideas and carry them out, and to be a truly inspired example for all of us."

Charley was born, raised and educated in Oklahoma, having attended both Oklahoma City University and the University of Oklahoma. His professional background includes teaching electronic engineering at OCU, and conducting engineering seminars at Fresno State University. He is strongly sales-and-management oriented, having owned and operated his own marketing firm.

In his move to Unity Village, Charley is accompanied by his wife **Kari Lynn**. We are delighted to welcome them both into the family of Unity and AUC, and we commend to you your new managing editor.





# THE FIELD SPEAKS

As much as I love and appreciate **Bernard Dozier** and **Jack Boland** for their contributions to our Annual Conference, and for the research which both had obviously done to prepare their talks to the Conference body, I feel the need to put into writing what there was not time to discuss in June. I realize there are too many of us for open discussion, but it would be interesting to hear other thoughts which arise from talks given by incoming and outgoing presidents.

While Bernard was talking, I was asking myself: Do we have to accept all that men are prophesying? "As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away."

We were given dominion--and it has not been taken from us. Within those who have eyes to see and ears to hear is the Spirit and Power to shape the universe. We cannot lose sight of this gift by becoming overwhelmed by man's prophecies. It is for *us* to say how our world shall be, and the thought of unrelieved mechanization endlessly shoving aside humanity is, for many of us, a depressing view. I cannot accept what certain authors say without seriously questioning their authority. Knowledge they may have--spiritual enlightenment is something else.

And when Jack was discussing the sizes of the various congregations and the monetary contributions we all are making to sustain the AUC, I thought of Jesus, most often speaking to a group of twelve, and only on occasion to multitudes. And as He spoke to the twelve He gave them the mission to spread the message, each of them reaching other men and women. I do not believe numbers are all that important, but the quality of the message will ensure that it continues from person to person--way beyond our ability to measure its impact. We cannot break into statistical pockets how many people are hearing

Truth--and it does not depend upon how many we can seat in our churches or how many we do speak to. It has everything to do with those who hear the message and "go forth" to share it with others in stores, factories, busses, airplanes, through "chance meetings," etc. Just as the Daily Word is passed from reader to reader, so our Truth messages are passed to people we shall perhaps never see sitting in a church, Unity or otherwise.

**Paul Barrett** mentioned that smaller classes are being planned to give more individual training and teaching. Does this not also apply and is it not also a need of our Truth students in the field? Do not smaller groups, smaller classes, have a definite advantage for some students who need more in-depth study and discussion?

The Unity church in Asbury Park, New Jersey, does not fall into the "lowest" category nor the "highest." But I know what a lot of work goes into single-handedly ministering to a church of any size. And I think it would be very nice for ministers in smaller churches to receive a pat on the back and a word of congratulation instead of having the proverbial finger shaken at them for not being "bigger." Each of us has a place to serve, and we believe (don't we?) that everyone is in his or her right place at the right time--so comparisons would seem to be out of place. Anyone who is committed to the Unity ministry is doing his or her very best according to his/her present understanding.

I share with you all what **Gary Jones** quoted from II Timothy at the beginning of his Post-Graduate Course: *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of Truth.*

Mary Rowe  
Christ Church Unity  
Asbury Park, New Jersey

## UNITY AND MARRIAGE?

Help!! What does Unity actually say about marriage? The Fillmore Concordance has 13 references on Marriage, 2 for husband, 1 for wife and none on divorce. What is Unity's stand on marriage or divorce? How many of our other top writers have taken a stand on the subject and expressed their views? Eric Butterworth had some great thoughts on the subject in *Life is For Loving*, but where do we find other usable quotes by Unity writers?

Last fall some of the MIT couples formed a marriage enrichment group called Marriage Awareness in Unity. After a year of working on our marriages with enrichment and encounter type activities, we have felt a need to clarify Unity's marriage credo. Each couple has written and shared their own marriage credo, what they believe marriage is or should be. Now we are seeking to define what Unity says by compiling a list of writings, quotes, and authors on the subject. Will you help us by sending in any references

you have found? Address your correspondence to "Marriage Awareness," UMS, Unity Village 64065.

Anyone contributing to this project will be blessed with our completed reference guide and our heart-felt thanks. Any other ministers or teachers desiring this material should send a request plus a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Your Ministers-in-Training,  
concerned about Marriage Awareness  
in Unity



# 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 who are interested in placement report to the Director of Ministry Services who then 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:

**EUGENE, OREGON**—Unity Truth Chapel, Eugene, Oregon, has as its new minister **J. Scott Thornton**, formerly the minister in Lewiston, Idaho. Scott is a 1975 graduate of Unity Ministerial School. Upon ordination, he went to Holly Hill, Florida, where he served until 1977, at which time he accepted the ministry in Lewiston. In Lewiston, in addition to his regular duties at the center, he was much in demand as a speaker for local professional and civic groups, and assisted an outreach study group in Kennewick, Washington. A study group in Fairbanks, Alaska, has been using his recorded Sunday lessons as a basis for its classes, and the enthusiastic students have sent his cassette tapes to friends all over the country. Born in Kansas City, Scott is a "local product" of Unity Village; he brings to his ministry a fresh and dynamic talent for lighting the Truth in the minds and hearts of people of all ages. He is accompanied in his move to Oregon by his wife, **Patti**, and their two children.

**EVERETT, WASHINGTON**—**Sandra Cousens**, minister of Harmony Hills Unity Church, has announced the addition to her staff of **Geri Weeks**, 1979 graduate of Unity Ministerial School, as her assistant for Youth Education. Geri's primary interests while in school were in the fields of youth education and spiritual healing, with special emphasis on metaphysical interpretation of the Bible. She looks forward to teaching, counseling and working with young people.

**FLINT, MICHIGAN**—**Rudy Nan**, former minister of Unity of the Hollywoods, Hollywood, Florida, is the new minister at Unity of Flint. Rudy graduated from and was ordained by Unity Ministerial School in 1971. For the year following his ordination he operated a Prayer and Meditation Center in downtown Kansas City, after which he was accepted in his first full-time ministry in Sarasota, Florida, where the attendance grew from 45 persons to a regular Sunday morning congregation of 250. His Wednesday night classes drew large numbers. He left Sarasota in June, 1978, and took over the position of interim minister in Hollywood. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. Unity of Flint welcomes Rudy Nan with love and joy.

September 1979

**KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**—Unity of Knoxville, which began as a satellite ministry only a year ago, now welcomes its new co-ministers, **Mark** and **Edwene Yarnell**, both 1979 Ordinands. Mark is both a published author and accomplished musician; his articles have appeared in UNITY Magazine, and he has written and recorded background music for Unity's nationwide radio and television program, "The Word." While a minister-in-training, he served as chaplain for two major hospitals and worked with a fellow student as coordinator for "Helpline," the counseling center at Unity School. Edwene brings to her ministry a wide and varied range of business, educational and public relations skills; a former teacher in secondary schools, she has also worked as a newspaper reporter, editor and photographer. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from the University of Houston. During her ministerial training she was president of her class. She also taught classes and conducted workshops in meditation, prosperity, Unity principles and creative success. Mark and Edwene see their joint ministry as one of unconditional love and acceptance, based on their profound commitment to each other, to their congregation, and to the Truth.

**METARIE (NEW ORLEANS), LOUISIANA**—Unity of Metarie announces that its new minister will be **Helen Glover**, a 1979 graduate and Ordinand of Unity Ministerial School. Helen is an accomplished artists and a musician, and has a deep interest in spiritual healing with particular emphasis on the part that music can play in such healing. Prior to her enrollment in UMS, she was active in Christ Church Unity, Springfield, Missouri, as librarian, Sunday School teacher, YOU teacher and sponsor, and as teacher of several outreach groups. Helen brings to her new ministry a warm, gentle, loving, Truth-oriented approach to the Jesus Christ teachings.

**ORANGE, CALIFORNIA**—**Jaqualyn Hope Fries**, 1979 Ordinand, has accepted the offer of associate minister with **Philip Nicola** at Unity Church of Truth, Orange, where she will be involved in the expansion of the youth education program and will coordinate outreach activities including radio and television programming. In her move to Orange, Hope will be accompanied by her husband, **Jack**, who is taking a sabbatical from the pulpit in order to devote himself to the development of radio and television workshops, for Unity field ministers and be reinolved with **Jack Addington**. Because of their desire to locate near San Diego, Hope worked with this office to contact all the area ministers to locate an appropriate position. While Hope was a minister-in-training, she helped establish the first MIT radio program which is aired weekly on Sunday mornings. She also assisted her husband, Jack Fries, in all aspects of his ministry at the Unity Church of St. Joseph. She has recently completed an extensive log of the AUC Sunday School material according to Bible stories; this compilation is for the purpose of assisting ministers and Sunday School superintendents in the preparation of more effective lessons for Sunday sermon-lessons and family Bible-study classes.

(Continued on page 11)



## PLACEMENT

(Continued from page 10)

**PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**—Unity in the Desert, Palm Springs, will have as its new minister, **Ronel Sinstead**, 1979 graduate-Ordinand of UMS. Ronel is a Canadian, and is the founder of the Truth Center in Kitchener, Ontario, which became incorporated as a church in 1975 and as a Unity church in 1977. He is an author and newspaper columnist, and is listed in the 1977 edition of "Who's Who in New Thought." Ronel has studied in many metaphysical schools of thought; he has helped many people on all levels of consciousness to reach a greater degree of understanding, to develop a greater appreciation of and a more confident attitude toward themselves and their oneness with God. He and his wife, **Cora**, will soon celebrate their 23rd wedding anniversary. She will act as his platform chairman and his personal secretary, as well as taking an active part in his ministry. Cora and Ronel are the parents of two teenagers, daughter **Carmen** and son **Dale**, ages 16 and 17. The Sinsteds are warm, loving, friendly people, dedicated to the Unity Truth teachings.

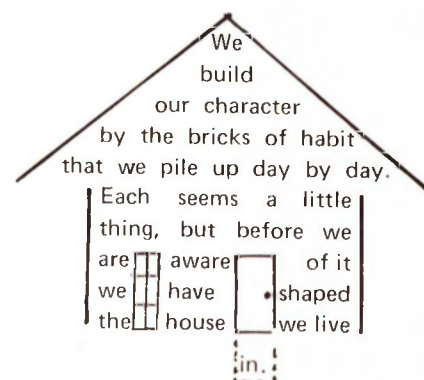
**ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI**—**Jim Fisher**, 1979 Ordinand, is the new minister of the Unity Church of Practical Christianity, St. Joseph. Before coming to Unity Village, Jim received his Bachelor of Science degree in industrial administration from Yale University and his MBA degree in accounting from Stanford. While a minister-in-training, he served as co-minister of Unity of Warrensburg, an outreach ministry under the direction of Unity's Field Services Director, and was employed as a counselor, telephone counseling

trainer, and Helpline supervisor in the Unity Village Counseling and Resource Center. He led in the creation of a slide and sound presentation publicizing the Counseling Center. Jim sees his ministry as one supportive of each individual member's spiritual growth with loving encouragement, free of condemnation, in counseling, meetings, informal activities, classes, seminars and retreats, as well as in the presentation of stimulating, practical ideas in Sunday services. Jim and his wife, **Judi**, have two sons, **Ted** age 12, and **Christopher**, age 10. Judi will assist Jim in administrative, organizational and teaching activities.

**UNITY SCHOOL OF CHRISTIANITY, UNITY VILLAGE, MISSOURI**—Beginning August 13, the new position of social-coordinator for the Education Department of Unity School will be filled by **Sallye Taylor**, 1979 Ordinand. She will be involved with the social programs for Retreats and UICE sessions, in counseling both retreatants and UICE students, and in teaching UICE classes. Additionally, she will serve as a speaker and will lead meditations for Retreats, and will also be available to put on special programs, classes and workshops in the various Unity churches and centers throughout the country at any time when neither Retreats or UICE classes are in session. While a minister-in-training in UMS, Sallye served as Vice-President of her class and, during her second year, conducted regular services each Sunday at Unity of Jefferson City, a round trip of 250 miles. She is a truly dynamic speaker, a dedicated Truth student and a teacher of exceptional ability with a flair for dramatic, innovative and highly-original presentations.++

### ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES Statement of General Funds Operations Three Months Ended June 30, 1979

INCOME—OPERATIONS:	June	Year to Date
Love Offering	\$37,489.70	\$118,720.74
Other Income	2,745.17	9,923.48
	40,234.87	128,644.22
Less: Tithe Transfer	3,748.97	11,872.08
	36,485.90	116,772.14
Gross Profit Materials	3,127.38	5,881.79
Total Income	39,613.28	122,653.93
EXPENSES—OPERATIONS:		
Ministry Services	29,831.32	78,846.59
Ministerial Education	11,006.00	34,999.64
Total Expenses	40,837.32	113,846.23
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES:	\$ (1,224.04)	\$ 8,807.70



...from the bulletin, Unity Christ Church,  
St. Petersburg, Florida



# NOTICE

## SOCIAL SECURITY OPTIONS FOR CHURCHES AND MINISTERS

To the great majority of American workers, the amount paid into the Social Security system is one of their largest expenditures and, in return, the potential benefits each worker will receive at retirement represents his/her largest asset. If the proposed increases in Social Security taxes and benefits become effective over the next ten years, the costs and potential benefits will become ever more significant.

Churches and ministers have a unique status in that both are eligible to determine for themselves whether they wish to become a part of the Social Security system. In this article we will review the steps that churches and ministers may take in making their election to be covered by or excluded from the Social Security system.

Compensation received by a minister for services performed in the exercise of his/her ministerial duties are treated as self-employment income for purposes of the Social Security tax. Accordingly, this self-employment income is subject to the Social Security tax unless the minister specifically requests exemption due to a conscientious opposition, based upon religious principles, to the acceptance of public insurance.

This request for exemption (Form 4361) must be filed by a minister before the due date of the tax return for the second taxable year in which there were net earnings from self-employment of \$400 or more, any part of which was derived from services as a minister. Thus, if you were newly ordained in 1979 and received \$400 or more from self-employment in both 1979 and 1980, the request would have to be filed by April 15, 1981, in order to be effective. The request, when approved, is effective for 1979 and all subsequent years. From

that point on, you are exempt from the self-employment tax.

This is one of those decisions that--once made--cannot be changed. Thus, after the request period has passed, you cannot be excluded from the Social Security system. Likewise if the request for exemption is granted, it cannot later be revoked.

A church that is exempt from income tax under Code Section 501(c) (3) is excluded from the Social Security system with respect to services performed by its employees. Thus, a newly-formed church would not have to do anything if it wanted its employees to be excluded from the Social Security system. It should be noted that, since a minister's income is defined as self-employment income for purposes of the Social Security tax, the minister is not considered an employee of the church and thus would not be directly affected by a church's decision.

If a church wishes to have its employees covered under the Social Security Act, it must file a certificate (Form SS-15) waiving its exemption from the Social Security tax. If this exemption waiver is filed, it will cover all employees hired or re-employed by the organization after that date. However, the employees of the church in the calendar quarter in which the certificate is filed can elect to stay outside the Social Security system by not signing the exemption waiver. If an employee does not sign the consent at the time the waiver is filed and thus stays outside the Social Security system then quits and is later rehired in a subsequent quarter, the employee will be automatically included under the Social Security system.

Once the waiver certificate has been filed, bringing the church's employee

within the Social Security system, the waiver must remain in effect for at least 8 years. After 8 years have passed, the waiver may be terminated by giving 2 years' advance notice that the church intends to revoke its waiver. After the 2 years have passed, the waiver is revoked. Thus a church, having waived its exemption, will be a part of the Social Security system for at least 10 years before it can withdraw.

Occasionally, a church will withhold payroll taxes and forward them, along with the employer's share of the F.I.C.A. taxes, to the Internal Revenue Service without actually filing the exemption waiver. The Service now holds that, if this is done for three consecutive quarters, the church will be treated as having constructively filed the exemption waiver. The church will then be subject to the 8 years waiting period and 2 years' advance notice rules before it can again be excluded from the Social Security system.

The Internal Revenue Service tends to look at the rights of exclusion for both ministers and churches as privileges, and will require that the technical letter of the law be followed in order for any election to be applicable. Therefore, a minister recently ordained should think through carefully whether he/she wishes to be under the Social Security system and then follow the procedures as exactly as possible in order to see to it that his/her elections are effective. The church status should be reviewed to determine if a change in Social Security coverage is warranted and, if so, the appropriate steps to bring about this change should be taken.

*Compliments of  
Baird, Kurtz, & Dobson  
CPA*



# SOMA NEWS

## "ON DOING YOUR OWN THING"

by  
Suzanne Cameron



I have this friend, you see, who married a Unity minister. Now she was delighted with her new life! She suddenly found many opportunities arising to make a significant contribution to the growth and expansion of her new church home. And Unity was so receptive to the involvement of women. Truly, Unity seemed to understand the real worth and importance of a woman involved in the ministry. So when the position of church secretary opened, who better to handle this great responsibility than my friend! After all, she had had a successful business and teaching career of her own, and could type a little bit. This could be a wonderful way to draw closer to her spouse. She could even bring the baby to work and have him near. They could share so much, working together this way.

The day arrived when my friend's husband came to her and told her that the church had grown enough that he would need an assistant on the platform, but that the church didn't feel ready to support an assistant minister. Would she be interested? Would she!! To share the limelight and express through meditation what was in her heart was a dream come true. She surely could find someone to replace her as Sunday School Superintendant for at least two or three Sundays a month. For you see, my friend had also decided that this was her time in life to help take care of the children. After all, she had a child of her own needing to remember and express the Truth.

The months passed quickly, and inevitably, the Christmas season came. She soon learned that it was a church tradition for the minister to entertain the Board members and their spouses. She gave up her Yoga class and stayed home and cooked for the whole week. She produced the finest Open House party they had had in years, they said. She was so proud.

But when January rolled around my friend found herself strangely depressed and very much exhausted. She had even had words with her soul mate and things were downright tense at home. He just didn't seem to appreciate her. He didn't understand how much she had to do. Surely, couples never acted this way in Unity--especially the minister and his wife!

\*\*\*\*\*

Cheer up! The story is fiction. . . .partly. Did you guess who my friend was? Yes, she was me, but she was also a com-

bination of several ministers' wives I've talked to. We all have, at one time or another, given up everything to "throw" ourselves into our ministries. There is always so much to be done there, and there always will be. This is the key: there always will be! I truly believe we are an exceptionally talented and creative group of spouses, capable of fulfilling many roles, or we wouldn't have been directed to and drawn into the Truth ministry in the first place. But I have come to understand the necessity and the wisdom of discrimination and selection in the use of our valuable time.

We are our best, most effective selves when we have learned to achieve a balance between total commitment and effective commitment. We can learn this by "religiously" taking time each day for ourselves--time to see to our personal grooming; to getting our clothes in order; to spending some of that quality, quiet time with the children; to--most important of all--going apart for our own meditation and inspirational reading time; this is the necessity of our lives!

Never give up that Yoga class! In fact, join a singing group, or the docent program in your local museum, or take a course at your nearby university. In short, develop an outside interest. I, myself, belonged to a sorority in college and everywhere we have served, I have joined the alumni group in that city. I find the connection has served me well in the community and has helped promote good public relations for Unity. This year, although I am very much a part of and vitally interested in our ministry, I have taken a part-time job teaching a language program in a local school, which is a return to my original training. I am enjoying stretching my mind!

Do whatever is right for you, but in taking some time out to pursue your own interests you will become more relaxed and have better communications with your spouse. And best of all, you will enjoy serving your church more and you will find yourself relating to the congregation on a higher, more meaningful, level of understanding.

And this is what I call "Doin' Your Own Thing," and doin' it well!!

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## SOMA INTERVIEW WITH. . .

**Carolyn Dawson** is the wife of **Jim Dawson**, minister from Austin, Texas. They have two children, **Heather** 10 and **Holly** 7. For the last 18 years Carolyn has been an optician by profession.



One of her very special hobbies is raising plants. This is something she has just gotten into in the last year and a half. She now has her own greenhouse that Jim built for her. She really loves her plants. . . they respond beautifully to that love and the special talks she has with them. She relates to plants with her own growth.

Her children have their own plants that they care for and relate to. Carolyn tells us it's fascinating to see that whatever is going on in the children's lives shows in the plants.

*(Continued on page 14)*





## YOUTH OF UNITY AND YOUNG ADULTS OF UNITY REPORTS

by  
Greg Barrette

### YOUTH OF UNITY REPORT

#### THE GREAT ADVENTURE

Consider this: you can learn more from the YOU'ers in your church, your regional rally or the International Conference than from an equivalent group of adults.

That is a strong statement. But it is a fact in my life. No group of Unity ministerial or UICE students have provided me with as much high-level teaching. In fact, I learn more during a YOU rally or conference than in ministerial school!

How can this be true? It is true because the YOU'ers are open to their intuitive faculties and the Holy Spirit comes through them. There is no higher teacher!

There is no higher energy than that felt at YOU Conference. Old hands around Unity Village say that YOU Conference week is the most spiritually uplifting time of the year.

Please consider involving yourself in this great adventure. Will you take steps to guide these young people? Are you willing to become involved with these children of the New Age? It will enrich your ministry and will breathe new life into your message.

You might volunteer to teach a YOU class at your center. In addition, your regional coordinator would love to have you participate in the next regional rally. The rewards will be

tremendous! You will learn from the Holy Spirit as it speaks through the YOU'ers.

My most profound spiritual experiences have occurred during YOU rallies and conferences. The energy there is incredible. I invite you to experience this for yourself.

These teenagers may be young in years--they may need direction and guidance--they may not have had the life experiences that temper wisdom--but they are perhaps more open to their intuitive natures than you or I. Can you see what a joy it is to guide their development? Can you see how these children of the New Age can enrich your own spiritual life? Be blessed as you bless them.

#### SPONSORS' SEMINARS

Every YOU region (except Eastern and Southwest) has held seminars for sponsors during the past year. In these seminars, YOU sponsors and teachers were given techniques for better sponsoring and an opportunity to share their best ideas. YOU has grown in each of the regions with seminars but has diminished in size in the two regions without seminars. This is no coincidence!

Please help support sponsors' seminars in your region. Our young people are our investment in the future. Further delay would be wasteful--YOU'ers are only with us for five years at the most. The time to act is now.

### YOUNG ADULTS OF UNITY REPORT

I wish to thank all of you who have contributed to the dramatic growth in YAU during the past year. Our YAU Retreat still is a week away at press time but it looks as if our attendance will be double our most successful previous year. Thanks for your help. You have been instrumental in the revitalization of YAU. ++

#### SOMA NEWS

(Continued from page 13)

#### MEET MEL RYMAN...

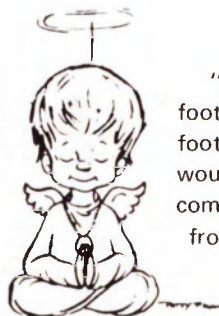
Mel is the husband of second-year Minister-in-Training, **Sidney**, and is himself a first-year MIT. Before leaving Roanoke, Virginia, to accompany his wife to Unity Village, he owned his own business, Industrial Boiler Associates, Inc. During the past year he has been engaged in sales of Industrial air-pollution control equipment. Now, in addition to his ministerial studies, Mel will serve as Helpline Coordinator and Counselor in the Unity School of Christianity's Counseling and Resource Center.

A sports enthusiast, Mel gets great pleasure from hiking and other outdoor activities, and has as an additional hobby both stage and radio drama. (Ed. note: *It seems only fair to add that he is a fine mechanic and in his ability to replace a worn-out water hose on a 1976 Mercury Bobcat he has no peer. This skill should carry him far in the ministry. . . surely it's one no minister can afford to be without! Your Editor, who is "... without," knows this. It is a pleasure to salute MIT-Mechanic-par excellence Mel Ryman.*)



#### CLEARINGHOUSE

**WANTED:** A copy of Dr. Ernest C. Wilson's *The Great Incarnation*. If you have one or know where one may be available, please write **Edna M. Berry, Box 2065, Amarillo, Texas 79105.**



"If a man stands with his left foot on a hot stove and his right foot in the freezer, the statistician would say that, on the average, he's comfortable."

from "Wings," Unity of Escondido  
Escondido, California



## FIELD SPEAKS: OPINION

by Charles Roth

At the June '79 Conference the Foreign Ministries Committee submitted a report recommending that the Bylaws Committee allow the Foreign Ministries a representative on the AUC Board, but specifically denying the representative a vote. The Report was passed by the Conference body.

I strongly urge Unity churches and centers to write to the Bylaws Committee to reconsider the recommendation to deny the Foreign Ministries a vote on the Board; or to draw up an alternative Bylaw that gives the Foreign Ministries a vote on the AUC Board, and let the 1980 Conference choose between the two. I believe that with proponents of the "No

vote" and proponents of the "right to vote" having an opportunity to give their reasons through articles such as this in CONTACT, the 1980 Conference body will be able to make well-thought-out decisions.

Each region is allowed a Representative with a vote. The Foreign ministries are a "region," as implied by the recommendation to give them a representative on the AUC Board. Why, then, no vote? What logic makes them, "second class members"? I believe we all want Unity to cover the world. It sure doesn't make common sense to hold the reins so very tight on our large and growing foreign ministries.

I realize that to the individual minister in Florida or Ohio or Oregon, with his/her local concerns, whether Foreign ministries

have a vote on the AUC Board or not isn't exactly at the top of their list of concerns. But to those ministers in far-away Australia and Germany, the West Indies, England, New Zealand...being granted a Representative but denying the Representative a vote is hard to take. It is a "put down," non-acceptance as an equal, an obvious sign that AUC regards them as "not quite up to our standards."

I would sincerely welcome those who feel that "denying the Foreign Representative on the AUC Board the right to vote" is the wise, reasonable, and fair thing to do, would share their reasons either through the pages of CONTACT or by writing or phoning me personally.

The following is the Foreign Ministries Committee Report as handed out at the June Conference:

### FOREIGN MINISTRIES COMMITTEE REPORT

...We as a Committee heartily endorse these revisions to our Bylaws and urge their passage by the Conference Body.

In addition, we recommend that:

1. During each Annual Conference, the Foreign Ministries shall convene a business meeting at which, under the supervision of the Overseas Department, they shall elect a Representative to serve as a non-voting representative of Trustees for a period of one year. In the event that the Foreign Ministries representative is unable to attend a Board meeting, the Director of the Overseas Department of Unity School may serve in his/her absence.
2. That recognition of the Unity foreign representative for a particular country (either licensed, ordained, or lay

leaders) be given in the Yearbook. The Director of the Overseas Department of Unity School, in cooperation with the Director of Ministry Services of the AUC shall be responsible for appointing such representative.

Respectively submitted,  
David McClure  
Chairperson  
Foreign Ministries Committee

*(Ed. note: In the Conference Edition of CONTACT, page 3, the recommendation of the Foreign Ministries Committee (Item 2, line 4) read, "...elect a Representative to serve as a voting member..." This was an error in transcription and the editorial staff of CONTACT regrets it. Charles Roth is correct; the motion approved by the Conference body was as it appears here.)++*

### AN OPEN LETTER ABOUT LICENSED TEACHERS...

Regarding the Ministerial Advisory Committee Report in the August issue of CONTACT...a big "thank you" to the Board of Trustees for its initiative concerning the Licensed Teachers. Clarification on the side of both the teachers and the ministers would seem to be in order as Unity fulfills its role as the enlightening, expanding Movement that it is meant to be.

I'm sure that many a teacher rejoiced at seeing in print on page 17: "...the Licensed Teacher is definitely a 'member of the team'!"

AUC is here to serve us and, I can assure you, Stan and Scott are doing just that. Our thanks to them, also. With their assistance, we are moving toward having a special page on a regular basis in CONTACT, exclusively for items of interest to Licensed Teachers. As Spirit guides you, why not send in your own answer to the question: What is a Licensed Teacher? We

are also planning a column of questions, with answers provided by AUC, on subjects that will be of interest to all Licensed Teachers.

Already special time is being planned for the June, 1980, Conference for sharing subjects designed to enhance our effectiveness as teachers. And do remember, too, that there will be get-togethers for teachers at each Regional Conference. These will be your times to express yourselves.

If you have not already done so--and even if you have--please take time right now to read our President's wonderful letter on page 2 of the August CONTACT.

I'm sure I speak for all Licensed Teachers when I respond, Yes, Jack, we believe in Unity, too, and as Licensed Teachers we are happy and eager to "begin again!"

Lovingly, in His Service,  
Catherine Garvey  
Licensed Teacher





## REGIONAL NEWS

### EASTERN REGIONAL NEWS with Ed Myler:

Friends of **Stella Wrenn**, long-time center leader for Unity, will be happy to know that seven of her former Unity students gathered together at the Saybrook Nursing Home in Old Saybrook, Connecticut to help celebrate their beloved teacher's birthday. (Estimates of the anniversary run from just-past-eighty to ninety-plus, but in Unity who counts?) **Miss Grace MacKinnon** was kind enough to share the report of the party, which was held in a spacious breezeway by the garden, and it may truly be said that "...a good time was had by all!" Including the Birthday Girl. Those of you who remember Stella fondly and would like to send her a card or note may address it to the **Saybrook Convalescent Hospital, Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475**.

Since **Alan and Kathryn Rowbotham** are now comfortably "settled in" to their new positions at Unity Village—Alan with the Association of Unity Churches and Kathryn on the faculty of the Unity Ministerial School—the new Regional Representative for the Eastern Region is **Ed Myler**. Send him your Regional News items at **Unity Center of Flushing, 42-11 155th Street, Flushing, New York 11355**.



### GREAT LAKES REGIONAL NEWS with Robert Wasner:

Excerpt from a note from **Jeri Andersen**, minister of Unity of Battle Creek, Michigan: "We in 'cereal city' have some great news to share with all our friends. . . our prayers for a new location have been answered, and on Sunday, July 1st, we September 1979

held our first Sunday service in our new building! . . . we hope to dedicate our new building sometime this fall (late September or early October.) The new address is **709 East Columbia Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49015**.

**Tom Skalitzy**, minister of Lemay Unity Church, Lemay, Missouri, circulated to his congregation a most interesting and informative questionnaire, entitled, "Congregational Opinion Poll." It opened with "Pretend you are coming into Lemay Unity Church for the first time. . ." and followed with a series of eye-opening and illuminating questions. If you'd like to try this sort of thing in your own center, why not write Tom for more information?

The following feature story appeared in the **Bettendorf (Iowa) News**, and we thought it merited reprinting in full. Headlined, "A Funny Thing Happened. . . On Friday the 13th," it reads: "**Leddy Schmelig**, who shares the ministry at Unity Church at Mt. Carmel, 14th and Central, Bettendorf, with her husband, **Randy**, can say in all verity, 'A funny thing happened to me on my way to the hospital.' It was Friday the 13th that it happened. Leddy was on her way to St. Luke's maternity ward to visit church member Sarah Hasbrouck and her new daughter, Heidi. 'I guess I was so excited about the new baby that, as I hurried down the long hallway here at the church I got a case of "happy feet" and did a little shuffle-step of joy. I fell off my sandal and broke my foot!' Leddy explains. 'Since I was on my way to the hospital anyway, I just went along and had my foot X-rayed in emergency.' The new mother was somewhat startled to see her visitor arrive in a wheelchair, but the situation lightened when Leddy announced, 'A funny thing happened to me on the way to the hospital. . .' The bubbly, vivacious young woman decided, 'It will take more than a broken foot to stop me!' So, when a church work party met the following Wednesday to stripe the new church parking lot, Leddy hopped around, holding the chalk line down with a crutch to help mark off the parking places. The next Sunday, crutches and all, Leddy gave the sermon at both services. 'It's interesting,' she said, 'that this month's prayer statement is "The Spirit of God moves within me, breaking

bondage everywhere.'" The problem is, I want to break bondage--not bones!' Her husband, **Randy**, contends, 'Maybe all this is a blessing. Leddy never stops moving. There are things she has wanted to do, such as start a new book. Now she'll have to slow down a bit.' (We wouldn't count on it, **Randy**. . . we wouldn't count on it. What a terrific lady she is!)

**West Side Unity of Detroit, Ruth Mosley**, minister, celebrated its annual retreat at Waldenwoods August 24 and 25. The guest lecturer was **Tom Coates**, minister of the Unity Center of Pittsburgh, whose theme was "Visualization and Meditation."

**Les McClelland**, minister of Unity West, Milwaukee, announces, "Unity Goes to Oshkosh B'Gosh!" A class will begin each Thursday in September to serve Truth students in Neenah, Menasha, Appleton, Fon Du Lac, Oshkosh and nearby areas. It will meet in the **Howard Johnson Motor Lodge meeting room, Highways US 41 & Wis. 21, Oshkosh, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Unity of Decatur, Illinois, Ross Tucker**, minister, enjoyed a meditation workshop on August 4, led by **Linda Spencer**, minister of the Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Springfield, Ohio. The program included exercises, a discussion of music as an important aspect of meditation, mantras and mandalas to be used in the development of personal forms of meditation.

A Bible Lands Seminar, led by **Bob Wasner**, minister of Unity Church on the North Shore, Evansville, Illinois, will depart from New York on **January 23, 1980**. For itinerary, cost, and additional details, write or call Bob at **3434 Central Street, Evansville, Illinois 60201. 312-869-2278**.

Another Holy Land Tour is scheduled for **March 18-28, 1980** by Unity of Livonia, Michigan. Led by **Gene Sorensen**, the Tour Escort will be **Dr. Harry M. Smit**. Write to the church for their instructive and attractive flyer giving all the interesting details.

**Dick Ammons**, minister of Unity of Greater Lansing, Michigan, reports on a  
(Continued on page 17)



## REGIONAL NEWS

(Continued from page 16)

very special Family Retreat conducted by his center at the New Church Assembly Camp at Almont, Michigan. Entitled, "Getting in Touch With Your Feelings," the retreat program was based on Adventures in Attitudes with some special additional materials drawn up by Dick and his retreat staff. Any center interested in having this sort of retreat may get in touch with Dick who will be willing to share these very successful ideas.

like a good idea. . .how 'bout your center?)

Another superlatively good idea came from **Grover Thornberry** and **Bob Barth** at Unity Church of Truth, Seattle. Quoted from their church bulletin: "Is there someone in your life who is visually impaired and would like to receive 'Daily Word' on tape each month? Just leave their name, address and phone number at the literature counter and it will be our joy to send the cassettes, free of charge." (What a beautiful UNITY thing to do!)

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL NEWS with Miki Bowen:

News from **Unity-in-Marin, San Rafael, California:**

"Ecumenical history was made in Marin County when **Father Michael Harriman** and **Rev. Candida Wright** united **Linda Listug** and **Kevin Kirby** in marriage in the beautiful chapel of St. Vincent's School in San Rafael. Linda is the soloist at Unity-in-Marin. She and her family are long time members of Unity. Kevin was raised in the



Catholic faith, and in his childhood had served as an altar boy at St. Vincent's. Candida reports: "Father Harriman was most generous in giving me equal rights. Would you believe it, I read 'On Marriage' from *The Prophet*. James Dillet Freeman's poem 'Marriage Blessing' was read; and the bride's choice of Scripture reading, 1 Cor. 13:1-13, was accepted."

"In bringing joy to the families of these two beautiful young people, both the priest and myself recognized a blessed union through the one and same Spirit, of two outwardly different religious faiths. I believe the churchful of friends were aware of it too. Certainly the Spirit is moving us all toward ultimate oneness and peace in the world."

## NORTHWEST REGIONAL NEWS with David McClure:

Unity of Vancouver, Washington, **Bill Esslinger**, minister, has included in recent church bulletins a special page headed, "Let's Get Some Car Pools Going!" The message reads, "We have had many phone calls and written requests for rides to and from church on Sunday mornings. If you can help in this way, please call the church office and let us know. We have a lot of beautiful people out there who want to become an active part of our 'family' but they don't have any transportation. LET'S GET SOME CAR POOLS GOING!" (Sounds

## SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL NEWS with George Rieger:

A personal note arrived recently from **Bill Newsom**, minister of Unity of the Valley, McAllen, Texas. It read: "You once asked me to send you any printable news about Unity of the Valley. Well, we may be the only center in Unity with a bona fide bowling team! We bowl in a Summer League. . . and have won half our games, too. . . (the minister has the highest average because he prays for the team so much!) Also you might like to know that I am going to teach a credit course in Comparative Religion at Pan American University this Fall. . . three credit hours a week. It is offered through their campus ministry program." Busy minister, our Bill!

**Don Gates**, minister of Unity-by-the-Sea at Corpus, Texas, sends word that his congregation plans a retreat for September 14, 15, 16 at Leakey, in the Hill Country. This will be a special time for fellowship for the group, and an attendance of more than fifty people is expected.

The **Unity Church of Dallas** recently celebrated a special Sunday Musical as a part of their building fund drive, welcoming from Unity School Country-and-Western music star and Unity minister, **Wayne Manning**, and **Janet Bowser**, also a Unity minister and writer of "folk-Truth" songs. At the 9:15 service, Wayne and Janet presented a program entitled, "It's the Principle of the Thing." The 11:00 service was "It's Your World," and on Sunday evening their presentation was "I Believe in Music."

(A personal note to Regional Representative, **George Rieger**: If this section seems top-heavy-Texan, it's only because that's what happens when you turn loose an expatriot Texan who tends to get awash with nostalgia now and again. Am I forgiven? mb)

## SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL NEWS with William Clark:

"Search," the newsletter issued by First Unity Society of Tampa, **Ross Goodman**, minister, thoughtfully lists the names and address of the ten other Unity Churches in Southern Florida. What a nice thing to do for all the people in this resort area who may be traveling to other parts of the state!††



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER

- 14-16 Sierra Retreat, Reno, Nevada, hosted by Unity Ministry of Reno
- 14-16 Second Annual Retreat at Sunset Beach, Lake Minnewaska, Glenwood, Minnesota, sponsored by Unity Christ Church, Minneapolis
- 16-19 Great Lakes Unity Regional Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, hosted by Unity Truth Center, Indianapolis
- 24-27 AUC Executive Committee Meetings, Unity Village, Missouri
- 30- Oct. 1 Eastern Unity Conference Retreat, Williamsburg, Virginia, at the "1776 Resort"

## OCTOBER

- 14-16 Southeastern Regional Ministers/Teachers Conference, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad
- 14-16 Northern California Unity Students Retreat, Asilomar
- 14-16 Southwest Annual Retreat, Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, California; Theme: "There Is A Way"

## NOVEMBER

- 10 Northwest Ministry/Board/Laymen meeting, Seattle, Washington

## 1980

## JANUARY

- 15 AUC Mid-Year Committee Meetings, Unity Village, Missouri
- 28-29 Southwest Annual Conference, Tucson, Arizona, hosted by Unity of Tucson

## MAY

- Northern California Regional Conference, (Location to be announced)



## CURRENT PLACEMENT ACTIVITIES

September 22, 1979

This report is sent to all active ministries approximately every two weeks in order to keep you informed of placement activities. If you have served less than two years in your present ministry, you will not want to apply. Otherwise, if you see an opening for which you wish to apply, or about which you would like to receive more information, please call Stan Hampson, Director of Ministry Services, as soon as possible, at 816/524-7414.

This report is also sent in order to keep you current with the changes in the Unity field. It is your official notification for updating your Yearbook and your own mailing list. Also, when you note a change, you may want to send a note to the persons involved and give them your personal blessing.

### FINALIZED PLACEMENTS SINCE LAST REPORT (August 24, 1979)

#### Massillon, Ohio

Unity Church of Truth joyiously announced the selection of its new minister: Eunice LaVerne Chagnon. Eunice received her ordination from UMS in 1979. She was active as a teacher at the Women's Prison at Lansing, Kansas, Unity Village, and other locations while attending school at UMS. She has also served as guest minister at several locations in the greater Kansas City area. Eunice has been active in counseling, hospital work, and radio broadcasting--she brings a lot of talent to her new ministry. She also brings love and enthusiasm.

#### Topeka, Kansas

Richard "Dick" Andrews, a 1979 ordinand, is assuming the spiritual leadership at Unity Church of Christianity in Topeka. Dick's background in building, engineering, finance and management has given him a wealth of knowledge and experience in working with people and organization. His service to the communities he has lived in reflect his loving and giving nature. The Unity Church of Christianity is blessed to have this warm and enthusiastic new leadership.

#### Colorado Springs, Colorado

Unity in the Rockies has as new minister, D. Elayne Decker. Elayne was ordained in 1975 and has served ministries in Ann Arbor, Michigan and Boulder, Colorado. Elayne has been a Unity "builder" all her life, from Sunday Schools to complete center operations. She is well versed in Truth Principles and will be an inspired leader for her ministry in Colorado Springs.

#### Orlando/Winter Park, Florida

The growing, dynamic Unity Church of Christianity has Barbara Provost as new minister. Barbara was ordained in 1977 and has been the spiritual leader at the Unity Church of Truth in Massillon, Ohio since. During her tenure at Canton, Barbara implemented growth programs and guided consciousness which led to more than double the congregational attendance and church income. The new ministry at Winter Park welcomes Barbara and together grow in loving consciousness.



Warrensburg, Missouri

Chad Greer O'Shea, a 1977 ordinand, brings his inspired leadership to the growing Unity of Warrensburg group. Chad's background of activities during his ministerial training and his most recent service as minister of Unity of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia will add a new dimension to his Truth teachings as he serves Unity of Warrensburg. The people of Warrensburg are indeed blessed to have Chad as new minister.



NEW LISTINGS

Pontiac, Michigan

Unity in Pontiac is seeking ministerial leadership. This center has a Sunday attendance of about 100 people at one 10:30 a.m. service. Their Sunday School, which is in a separate building is very active as is their Y.O.U. program. The center owns their buildings, valued at approximately \$100,000, with a small mortgage. Other features are parking lot, paid musicians, and custodial care. Salary is negotiable in \$1,200 a month area.

Ocala, Florida

The study group in Ocala, Florida is seeking guidance from a retired UNITY minister to facilitate them in their seeking of Truth and to help them grow to full Center/Church status. Unity of Ocala is incorporated and is a dynamic study group with Sunday attendance in the 50's. Ocala is located in the central portion of Northern Florida midway between Gainesville and Orlando. If you would like to know more about this study group or the potential of this ministry, contact the Placement Office at AUC, Unity Village.

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Christ Church Unity is seeking a minister to replace Kathryn Garton, who will be leaving in November to be married and become co-minister with her future husband, Marvin Anderson, at Unity of Victoria. The church is three years old and is located in a large office building downtown. There is a meeting room, minister's office, volunteer work room, bookstore/library, and meditation room. With a membership of 125, Sunday attendance averages approximately 50. An average mid-week class attendance is 45. We have a committed, dependable, efficient volunteer staff; an experienced platform assistant, a delightful song leader and an excellent pianist. There is also Dial-A-Prayer. This is a very enthusiastic, loving, and dedicated group of solid Truth students. The salary is \$15,000 per annum. Hamilton is an industrial city of 300,000 on Lake Ontario, situated midway between Toronto and Niagara Falls. The city has a multi-national population with diverse cultural facilities available including a major university, modern performing arts center, and the famous Royal Botanical Garden.

Auckland and Christchurch, New Zealand

Graeme Johnson, minister of Unity of New Zealand, is looking for an assistant minister to be situated in the lovely city of Christchurch, population 350,000, also to serve study groups in Dunedin and Ashburton. This is a pioneer position in a beautiful country full of potential. Christchurch has had a Unity group for over 10 years. The position calls for someone with drive and enthusiasm and lots of love. The rewards are 50% of gross income not including bequests or donations to the building fund. Graeme believes the returns will grow into an attractive salary package. Unity of New Zealand will do everything possible to ensure your happiness and success. Please send resumes to Graeme Johnson, Unity of New Zealand, PO Box 7110, Wellesley Street, Auckland, INZ.



## UPDATES

### Kansas City, Missouri

Unity Northeast is eager to find a new minister to replace Dennis Neagle, who has resigned to take a sabbatical. Although the church is presently housed in temporary quarters, (storefront location), it owns 3.6 acres and anticipates building as soon as possible. A building loan has been approved for building project. The congregation is seeking a minister to teach Bible and the Fundamentals of Unity as taught by Charles Fillmore. The paid staff includes a part-time secretary, maintenance personnel and musicians. Attendance on Sunday fluctuates between 50 and 100. There is at present no Sunday School or youth program. This group wants an aggressive leader for their growing, expanding development. Salary will be \$1,200 a month with periodic increases.

### Reno, Nevada

Unity Ministry of Reno is open for new spiritual leadership. This center owns three acres of land with building valued at \$150,000. The mortgage is \$91,000. Sunday attendance is about 100, and there is an active Sunday School, Y.O.U. and class schedule. The Center employs a full-time secretary and an organist. Salary is negotiable in the \$1,000 a month area.

### Lewiston, Idaho

Unity Church of Clearwater Valley, located on one acre of land overlooking the Clearwater Valley, is receptive to applications for a new minister. The building (rented) seats 90 people. Regular Sunday attendance is about 40. Sunday School, Dial A Prayer, UICE classes, a master mind group, and the monthly newsletter round out the church's activities. The climate is good, outdoor recreation is great and local shopping is available. A part-time secretary and organist are employed by the Church. Salary is in the \$900 per month area, starting.

### Great Falls, Montana

Unity Church of Truth, Great Falls, is in need of a minister to begin serving this congregation. The Church is housed in a building valued at \$80,000 which is owned free and clear. In addition to the sanctuary, the building provides space for the minister's office, five Sunday School rooms, three counseling rooms, a nursery, and two fellowship halls, one with a fully equipped kitchen. The sanctuary seats 100, with a space for 50 more. The lending library and bookstore are both well-stocked. Church equipment includes a Hammond organ, a small portable organ for the Sunday School rooms, two pianos, a PA system, a new lateral file cabinet, an electric typewriter, duplicating machine, Pitney-Bowes postage machine, Dial-A-Prayer, and biofeedback equipment. Paid employees include a musician, a part-time secretary, a custodian, and a part-time nursery assistant. There are two volunteer gardeners. There has not yet been made a definite determination of salary to be offered the minister, but the present figure is \$738.00 per month, plus all income from counseling, weddings, funerals, etc. This figure was determined by calculating 50% of the regular church offerings and new book sales, plus. The formula has been used in order to insure the increase in the minister's income as the growth and prosperity of the church increases. The Chairman of the Board of Directors writes: "The opportunities and challenges are unlimited. Our members radiate great love and faith and our need for a minister is immediate. Great Falls is located in an area with a population of 72,000, 80 miles north of Helena, the State



Capital. Contrary to popular opinion, this is not a state overrun by cowboys and Indians fighting; we do have cowboys (real) and Indians (real), but they are at peace and are quite civilized. What we do have is lots of clean air and clear water....this is aply called the 'Big Sky Country,' and the sky's the limit for Unity's growth here." Reported after the August 24 Placement Report, Marilyn Witherspoon will not be the minister in Great Falls. Rev. Hugh White is serving as interim minister until permanent placement is made.

#### Memphis, Tennessee

"The Unity Church of Christianity, Memphis, Tennessee, growing by leaps and bounds in love and unfolding consciousness, filling its pews to near capacity is open and receptive to the "right" replacement for its much loved minister, Thelma J. Hembroff; she has accepted the position of Associate to Jack Boland in Detroit. Thelma has done a beautiful job of creating the right environment for the right minister to bring his/her own spirit-led desires and fulfillment into fruition. Assets are valued at \$250,000. The sanctuary has 250 theater type seats, the church is considered to be one of the most attractive in the entire movement. A park-like setting, it is even now looking toward a new building program. The congregation heritage has been Southern Conservative, but is like a desert thirsting for spiritual waters. Thelma's ministry has been tempered with positive, self-help, love-yourself lessons beautifully blended with the metaphysical. Salary is 25% of gross receipts; gross receipts averaging \$10,000 per month plus from January, 1979, to the present.

#### Syracuse, New York

Syracuse, located in central New York State, was included in the list of favorable cities (with population exceeding 100,000) in which to live, according to a study recently done by an environmental survey team. In a land of rolling hills, it is situated 90 miles from Rochester, New York. The church owns its own building, debt free, valued at \$150,000, including land, and attached manse with two-car garage. The sanctuary seats 225, and average Sunday attendance is between 175-200. The paid staff includes the church secretary and a janitor. The proposed salary is \$21,200 base, plus 50% of income from minister's classes.

#### Chicago, Illinois

In the last report it was noted that Polly Dozier will be taking a sabbatical and that there is a need for ministerial leadership at Unity Church of Chicago. Unity Church of Chicago meets in the beautiful Ambassador West Hotel in the Gold Coast area north of the Loop. Sunday attendance averages 100 to 125 with a voting membership of about 100 people. Salary is negotiable up to \$20,000 per year range. The church publishes a monthly newsletter, has dial-a-prayer and a bookstore and minister's office. A part-time secretary and two professional musicians are employed by the Unity Church of Chicago.



## MINISTRIES REQUESTING A SUCCESSION OF LEADERSHIP

EASTERN REGION - Ed Myler, Regional Representative

### Portland, Maine

Unity Church of Portland has been, for the past seven months, served by an interim leader, Mike Matoin, who will be leaving to return to complete his studies at the Unity Ministerial School. About Unity of Portland, Mike writes, "The church is well built, with plenty of heat, and is located on a quiet street near a busy corner with bus service...across the street from the Lutheran Church (we have snowball fights with them.) The congregation is made up of no-nonsense, hard-working, rock-ribbed (with soft hearts) New Englanders...warm and loving...every one of them. We're getting more young (chronologically) people and holding all our youngsters (over 60)...male attendance is up. Portland is a seaport and the largest city in Maine. They have done and are still doing over the old port section into quaint shops and restaurants...just delightful. We are minutes away from all winter sports and water, both ocean and fresh water lakes. The University of Maine is just down the street from the center. Portland is the home of Phineas Quimby (and Longfellow, too). The weather is beautiful, with four beautiful seasons and the winters are not as harsh as those in Missouri." Salary open. Mike also reports that there are about 1,800 Daily Word subscribers in the area, so the potential for growth is great. The center has three daily radio spots, one minute each, which are provided free by the local radio station, and has received good feedback from these broadcasts. The station, an NBC affiliate, also has television facilities; there is a possibility of televised Sunday morning Unity lessons.

### New York City, New York

Unity Panamericano, Inc., is located in a commercial building in a Spanish-speaking neighborhood in New York City. With a mailing list of 500, it has an average Sunday attendance of 70 people. The quarters are rented at \$575.00 per month. The center has a substantial cash reserve fund and a building fund. Salary, \$8,000 area, negotiable.

### Richmond, Virginia

Unity of Richmond will be open September 1, 1979. This ministry owns the church building with a mortgage balance of \$37,000. Ample parking space is available. The building seats 100 and 100 have been in attendance for the Sunday 11:00 a.m. services. There is an active Sunday School and a Youth of Unity group which meet on Sundays with approximately 15-25 attendance. The staff included a paid part-time secretary and a paid musician, who plays the piano and sings. Present plans call for a beginning salary of \$12,000 (negotiable) a year.

GREAT LAKES REGION-Robert Wasner, Regional Representative

### Ann Arbor, Michigan

Unity of Ann Arbor, located 40 miles from metropolitan Detroit, is seeking a minister to replace Nancy Hubbard who is going to take a sabbatical. With an active membership of 50, the group currently meets at the Howard Johnson's Motor Hotel for both Sunday services and the Wednesday classes. A monthly newsletter is mailed out, and Dial-A-Thought tape ministry is provided. Nancy writes, "There has been, over the past few months, a growing, dependable, dedicated group of volunteers who assist in the following areas: ushers, hostesses, office staff, typist, Sunday School superintendent, teachers,



literature sales, and mailings. The Board is in the process of organizing, defining structure and responsibilities of the minister and the Board, and setting goals and objectives for the coming year. A base salary of \$12,000 to \$14,000 per year is offered, to be negotiated on the basis of previous experience. The benefits include a generous incentive plan (also to be negotiated), National and Regional Conference expenses, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, an educational fund of \$200 per year for the continuing education of the minister, and three weeks vacation (3 Sundays)."

#### Belleville, Illinois

Belleville Unity Center has announced that Mollie Nirk is planning her retirement. This ministry owns its building and parking lot, totally paid for. The sanctuary has 63 fixed seats, and attendance has been ranging around 50 each Sunday. Class participation on Wednesday has been around 25. Paid staff includes a part-time receptionist and inside/outside maintenance persons. They also have an active Sunday School. They have three large Sunday School rooms upstairs and three rooms adjoining the sanctuary which includes a kitchen and bookroom. The building is fully air-conditioned. Salary is open.

#### Springfield, Ohio

The Unity Center of Springfield is located just east of State Route 68, on 5 acres of gently rolling land north of Springfield, in a beautiful, prosperous residential area. The new offices and plant belonging to International Harvester, the city's largest industrial corporation, is just west of the center. The property is on a direct line with the city of Urbana, Illinois, and can draw from that city too. The building is 22' x 70', housing, in addition to the sanctuary, the minister's office, secretary's office, and a lucrative bookstore. The salary package will include 40% of the monthly income, with a guarantee of \$1150 per month. As the church grows, the percentage will be subject to reevaluation and increase.

#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION - Miki Bowen, Regional Representative

##### Palo Alto, California

This ministry rents facilities on the first floor of a two story home. The facility includes a library, kitchen, minister's office, two classrooms, and two outer rooms. The Sunday services are held approximately a block away at the Women's Club which has a seating capacity of 200. The attendance has been approximately 55-80 persons. The paid staff includes an office manager, one part-time employee, organist, and soloist. The church also has a Dial-A-Prayer. Salary will be approximately \$1,000 per month. This ministry is located near Stanford University and in a cultural center. It has a tremendous potential for growth and expansion. It's a beautiful area, the climate is excellent, and the living conditions are great.



NORTHWEST REGION-David McClure, Regional Representative

North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Unity Church of the North Shore has an opening for a part-time minister to conduct Sunday services either two or three times each month; to attend Board meetings to guide the growth of the group along Unity lines; to be available for counseling (on a love offering basis) approximately three hours a week to teach a weekly class. Schedules for counseling time and for the class will be worked out at a mutual convenience of the minister and the congregation. Salary will begin at \$550 per month. There is a great deal of enthusiasm and energy in this group, just waiting for leadership and direction.

Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Max Lafser, minister of Vancouver's Unity Center, would like to receive applications from ministers or Ordinands interested either in the position of "minister of education" or "minister of programs." For the former the goal is recruiting, training and motivating lay people for increased membership. It would include membership classes, youth work, adult classes, speaking and counseling. The latter is, as the title implies, assuming responsibility for new programs for the increased involvement of members, both in the center and outlying communities. This minister will also be responsible for guest speakers, seminars, bulletins, counseling, class-work, and speaking. In each case, the salary is negotiable, with incentive programs to include additional benefits.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION - George Rieger, Regional Representative

Joplin, Missouri

Marlene Wolford has resigned and is taking a sabbatical. Her home address is still in Joplin. The ministry has had some growing pains, and around 80 people attend on Sundays. The Sanctuary seats 100 and is paid for. Salary will be \$1,000 per month plus incentives.

Jefferson City, Missouri

Unity of Jefferson City has been an active study group, led by ministers-in-training from the Unity Ministerial School, and is now ready for center status. Jefferson City is seeking either a part-time minister or the spouse of a minister-in-training interested in leading the growth and spiritual unfoldment of this center. Salary will be commensurate with the number of days per week of service.

SOUTHEASTERN REGION - William Clark, Regional Representative

Birmingham, Alabama

Unity of Birmingham is the only New Thought church in this city of 800,000 people. Located in a beautiful section of the city, adjacent to a park and a lovely residential district, the center is valued at \$266,000 with an outstanding mortgage balance of only \$54,000. The sanctuary seats 250 people, and there is sufficient parking space for 100 cars. There is an active Women's Group, YAU, and well attended Sunday morning classes. Additional classes meet on Tuesday at noon and on Wednesday evening. The center regularly sends out a Newsletter and has a Dial-A-Prayer.



Employees include a secretary, twice-a-week maintenance person, a volunteer librarian, and volunteer assistance for grounds and additional building maintenance. Proposed salary arrangements are \$15,000 to \$16,000, plus 30% of the next \$1,000 receipts above \$3,500 per month, and 20% of the general fund receipts above \$4,500 (not including legacies, memorials and building fund donations); two weeks paid vacation for the first three years of service, three weeks for the third through fifth years, four weeks for over five years service; an allowance of \$300 for attendance at one AUC Conference per year, \$200 for one Regional Conference per year. Salary to be paid monthly, additional stipend paid quarterly. Final salary arrangement to be negotiated.

#### Tallahassee, Florida

Unity of Tallahassee has an immediate opening for a new minister. The former minister, Loren Flickenger, moved to Unity of Miami Easter Sunday. Since that time the congregation has adopted Bylaws, elected a seven member board of directors, moved to a spacious new facility that is fully carpeted, accepted the gift of a Wurlitzer organ, established bulk mailing rights, and sent two members to Unity Village to interview prospective ministers from the current graduating class. Our new location includes the entire first floor of a brick building that has a 25-car parking lot. Florida State University (over 25,000 enrollment) is a nearby neighbor. We have approximately 75 members with others waiting to join. There are 230 on the mailing list, and apparently there are around 1200 Daily Word subscribers in the area. We are paying \$400 monthly for our present space and have good potential for buying our own property with a year. The two Sundays we have been at our new location we have had over 40 adults at the worship service and 10-20 children in the Sunday School. We are relying on volunteers and guest speakers presently. We need a minister to help us direct our great potential and energy. Let us know what you need to come to this beautiful climate (both physically and spiritually), and we will undoubtedly fulfill the needs of one another.

#### SOUTHWEST REGION-Arthur Hammons, Regional Representative

##### Laguna Beach, California

As a result of the loss of their minister and founder, Hazel Van Dusen, who made her transition on July 3rd, Christ Unity Center of Life has requested applications for a minister to take up this work. The center was established 29 years ago and has a mailing list of 650. Two Sunday services are held, one in the home of a member in San Clemente at 9:00 a.m., the second at 11:00 a.m. in the Women's Club Building in Laguna Beach. Sunday school classes are conducted for children ranging in age from 4 to 12. Lay leaders are presently conducting the affairs of the church, but applications and resumes from interested ministers are needed now. The salary is negotiable. Additional information will follow.

The following ministries, previously listed as open, are not presently seeking ministers. Any changes in status will be reported at a later date:

Delray Beach, Florida - will use present staff for now.

Pinole Valley, California (Rodeo) - being served as a study group under Walnut Creek, California.



## A PREACHER WHO WOULDN'T DO

A certain church was in need of a preacher. One of the elders was interested in knowing just what kind of a minister they desired. He therefore wrote a letter, as if he had received it from an applicant. He read the letter before the pulpit committee.

*Gentlemen:*

*Understanding that your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications that I think you would appreciate. I have been blessed to preach with power and have some success as a writer. Some say that I am a good organizer. I have been a leader in most places I have gone.*

*Some folks, however, have held things against me. I am over fifty years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years at a time. I have to admit that I have been in jail three or four times, but really not because of my wrong-doing. My health is not too good, though I still get a good deal done. The churches I have preached in have been small.*

*I have not gotten along too well with the religious leaders in different towns where I have preached. In fact some of them have threatened me, taking me to court, and even attacked me physically.*

*I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I baptized. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you, even if I have to work to help with my support.*

The elder read this letter to the committee and asked if they were interested in the applicant. They replied that he would never do for their church. They were not interested in any unhealthy, contentious, troublemaking, absentminded, ex-jailbird; in fact they felt insulted that his application had been presented.

The committee asked the name of the applicant. Whereupon the elder replied, "The Apostle Paul."

Author Unknown