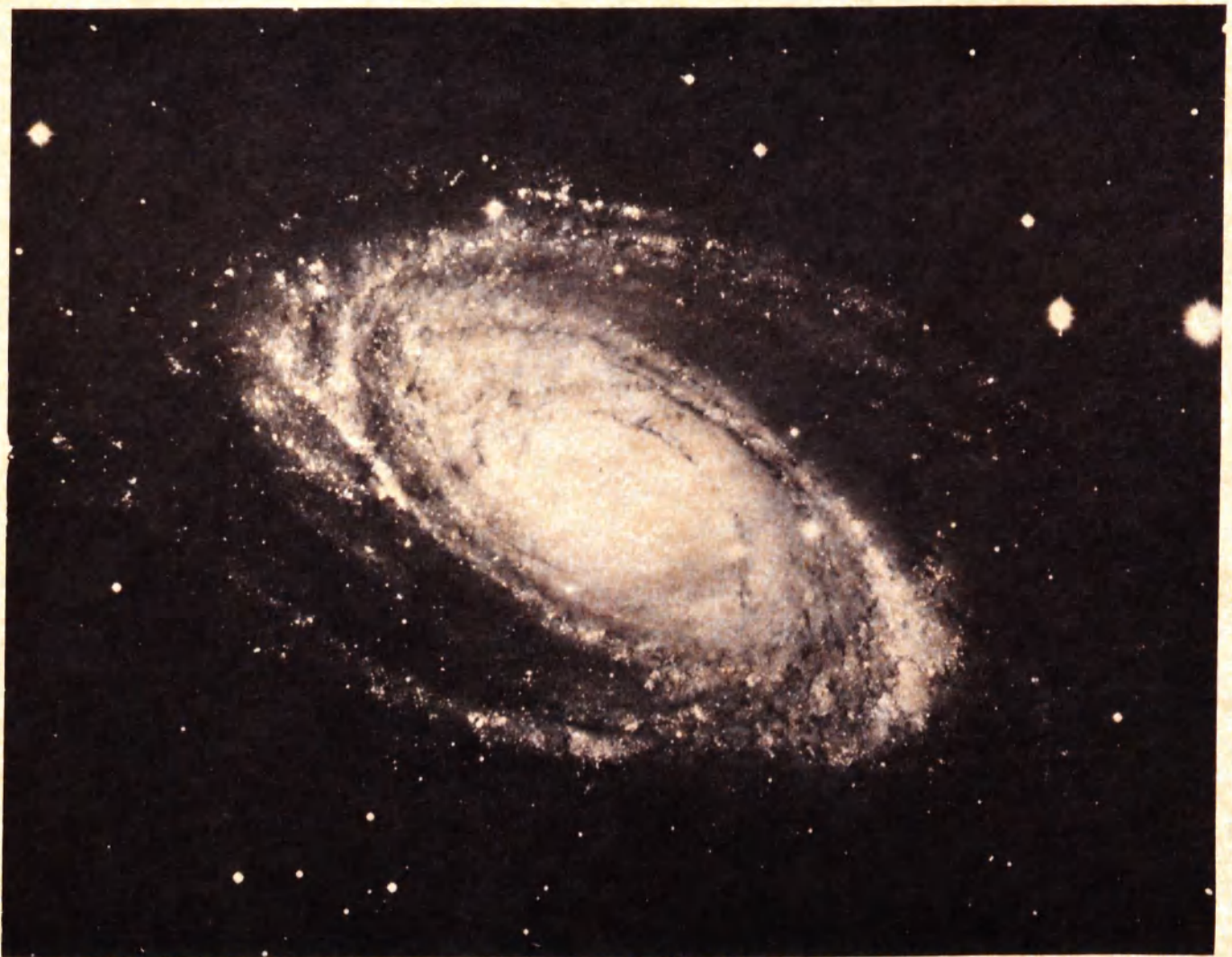


Contact

Volume 13, No. 2

February 1980



LOVE – The greatest power in the universe.

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February 1980

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Let Spirit Sing



THE EDITOR'S LETTER

Thank You, Father, for the awareness we grow in of the greatest power in the universe—Love. The process of giving and receiving love, and the difficulty we have in doing either, was the very obvious platform of activity during the week of January 14 through the 18. Interpretive lesson material for at least twenty-six Sundays was lived out by all those involved in the meetings which took place during that week (and that included just about everybody). The real opportunity was for everyone to examine their ability and desire to live the principles of love. But this is a challenge we face and examine in ourselves every day.

Poets and prophets have defined love and have expressed great truths about it. Modern studies into the depths of the personality have shown a “structure” of love and have developed reasons why it is so sought after and needed by human beings. Studies show why many people, though they wish for love and often starve for it, cannot accept it even when it is offered.

A significant feature of giving and receiving love is that it is interpreted as both principle and as an emotion—depending upon consciousness (and probably many other things—but then that's consciousness too). This particular aspect of love would be, and has been, the topic of many Sunday lessons, workshops, seminars and books. Our world is rich in material dedicated to the understanding of love. I, for one, am ever thankful that our consciousness has guided so many to such noble study.

The description of love given by Paul in his letter to the Corinthians is, in my humble opinion, the most powerful lesson we have as a foundation principle of love:

Love suffereth long and is kind.
Love envieth not—
Seeketh not her own.
Thinketh no evil,
Beareth all things.
Believeth all things.
Hopeth all things.
Love never faileth.

I Cor. 13:4-7

With blessings and love—happy birthday to George Washington, Abe Lincoln and all others whose birthday is in February.



AUC President's Letter



President, Jack Boland

Dear Friend,

This is the month that traditionally has been set aside as the time to express love. In Unity we are learning to let these deeper feelings of the heart flow forth freely every day of the year to take form in words and deeds which give new meaning, shape and hope to the object of our affection.

Therefore, as President of the Association of Unity Churches, I declare February as "Love a Member of the AUC Board Month." Even as I make this proclamation I fear the loss of love and support of many AUC member ministers who may think I have overstepped my authority and should wait until June to get approval of the Conference Body. I would have waited except that February comes before June--and we need all the love we can get NOW! Besides, some of us will go off the Board in June and you may be elected to replace us. If this happens, I can guarantee that before next February you will be glad I took this action!

I considered establishing a "Love a Member of the Executive Committee Day" but discretion

overcame my zealously because I knew that would be carrying things too far. Executive Committee members still remind us of the guys who played on the opposing team when we were in school, and "love your enemy" surely was never meant to be stretched that far.

If you do get elected to the AUC Board next June, do not be surprised if your credibility and popularity decline overnight. The fact that you will not yet have attended your first Board meeting will have nothing to do with it--nor will the fact that you will try to always honorably represent your region and your conference. Some Board members have been known to use a stronger brand of deodorant--just in case that was their problem. Can you see how desperately we need your love?

Sometimes my boldness, brashness or bravery (I am never sure which it is) amazes me. With trembling hand I write this letter, knowing full well that at least two well-known letter writers are going to write you an open letter, taking me to task for writing such a frivolous letter in times like these. The fact that I have already proclaimed February as "Love a Member of the AUC Board Month" will not deter them in the least! How dare us to expect love--or even mercy--when the Board has caused so much trouble! What trouble? You don't have to know what the trouble is to know that we caused it.

In Unity I have come to know that God loves me even if I am a member of the Board! Especially in February.

Happy St. Valentine's Day,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Boland".

Gracefulness has been defined to be the outward expression of the inward harmony of the soul.

—William Hazlitt

Spell Minister With Three "P's"

by Stan Hampson



Obviously there aren't any p's in the word minister. We would do better if there were. I mean, you can enjoy your ministry more by working with these three p's--partialize, pamper, and patience.

Last month we discussed the idea of networks of mutual support--wheels within the other wheels of Unity--for ministers (and licensed teachers too) to enrich one another. Because we are so busy helping the people who come to us, we can neglect to care for ourselves. The easiest way to correct that is to gather with our peers in small groups. We can do for one another what no one else can. Certain strengths are natural to ministers. We are leaders, articulate, hard workers, highly creative, intuitive, disciplined, deeply caring about others, and involved in helping people. These very strengths manifest certain weaknesses if not kept in balance.

We can become so involved in getting our work done that we feel we cannot rest until the task is finished. Then every event of the day becomes an unwanted interruption--the "thingness" of our work takes precedence over the "beingness" of ministering. We all have deadlines--the bulletin must be completed on time; the sermon has to be ready; the radio script is done or it isn't. A minister doesn't want to be controlled by deadlines.

Your work is only your work. You are in charge. When your work is controlling you something is wrong. You can be able to take up projects and put them aside. You can handle interruptions because you planned for their probability. Many of those important things can be delegated to someone else so you can minister in the style most rewarding for you.

Practice partializing. Ministers often need to overcome the compulsive behavior of always wanting to complete a project by learning to let things go. Deliberately start something that you don't intend to finish. Pick it up another time. Partialize. Things don't need to be finished before they can be released. You can release them at any

time. Your work is just your work and your doing. It is not somehow holy and sacred simply because you're doing it. Challenge your compulsive work. Let go, relax. *Partialize*.

To do a better job of partializing, I find the need to consciously shift gears. One event, meeting or task can't really merge with the next without a great deal of inner turmoil. I need to have a few minutes to get still--then I can be "all here" for the next demand.

Perhaps you could think of partializing as allowing mini-meditations to interrupt the stream of events in your day. Nothing needs to be completed before the next event, it only needs to be let go so you can give full attention to your now. Allow pauses of prayer to let you partialize.

Seek to pamper yourself. Your esteem can grow as you languish in that hot tub or buy that extra expensive pair of shoes you wanted. You don't need to be one who is always getting himself in boiling oil instead of languishing in warm water.

"Roadrunners" never allow themselves the luxury of real quiet. Ministers rushing to complete every imagined demand or are involved in the syndrome of "room service," don't really like themselves and hence avoid getting to know other persons. To the degree you are manifesting Zeluff's * conclusions about ministers of low self-esteem and a desire to avoid deep and lasting relationships, you can enrich your feelings about yourself by pampering yourself. Love yourself enough to sleep late one morning. Go to a party or a concert. Go shopping and take in a movie. Take an extra long walk or a run. Start loving yourself by being nice to yourself. You're worth it. Go ahead and *pamper* yourself.

You will recall the syndrome of ministering called "plaster-of-paris." Your idealism of being the perfect minister will guide you for good and, on the other hand, can drive you and haunt you which is not good. You can trust yourself and better relate to others as you practice being patient with your own progress in Christhood.

We ministers tend to be perfectionists. Naturally, we need to be the best we can be. But we also need to appreciate and love ourselves in the process of becoming better. There can be a real blessing in simply giving oneself "the privilege of being average" and not being miserable because we're not somehow different or better. Recently, I came across the idea of "the privilege of being average." It's a thought to dwell on to mute the compulsive perfectionism that never allows joy to be felt.

There can be a release of inner and outer good from allowing yourself to be you, as average as that may seem. At least try to nullify any impos-

(Continued on page 4)



Inward,
Onward,
Upward!

by Scott Sherman

FAITH BOND PACKET

A packet of information on the faith bond system of church financing is available through the Association office courtesy of Phil Pierson of Sacramento. Faith bonds in essence are a loan to your church from individuals of the congregation upon which the individual receives interest. The advantage to the church is that it does not tie-up church property through deeds of trust or mortgages but will (just as it is called) create a bond of faith between the church and individual faith bond packets, which are for your asking

from Alan Rowbotham of our office, and include the following documents:

1. Letter of announcement and explanation of Faith Bonds.
2. Faith Bond application form to be returned by member or friend.
3. Response letter to those expressing interest in Faith Bond program.
4. Covering letter to Faith Bond purchaser as bond is forwarded.
5. Copies of bond and interest coupons.
6. Letter notifying purchaser that interest is payable to him/her.
7. Letter notifying purchaser of early redemption possibility for their bond.
8. Control sheet for returned interest coupon.
9. Letter forwarding check upon redemption of bond.

AUC MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Due to the busy holiday schedule and the new projects we are working on, the membership cards will not be mailed out until around the first of February. You should receive your new card around the middle of February. ++

SPELL MINISTER WITH THREE "P's"

(Continued from page 3)

sible goals that feed on your perfectionism and give pain to you and those around you.

Rollo May speaks in "The Art of Counseling" of ministers encouraging the ability to embrace their own imperfection. We don't have to be perfect. We only have to be us. Remember the clever phrase, "PBPWMGIFWMY." "Please be patient with me, God isn't finished with me yet." Practice being patient with yourself.

Practice spelling your ministering with these three "P's." Partialize, pamper yourself and be patient with yourself. You can increase your effectiveness as a person and as a minister by growing your self-esteem and then feeling strong

enough to embrace deeper relationships with others.

Your wheel within the wheel--your own network of support with other ministers--could be a good place to discuss these ideas. You might perceive the need more easily in other ministers than in yourself. Syndromes, the lack of esteem, and the avoidance of lasting relationships. It's a good start to help yourself by helping another minister consider the three "P's" of ministry. We can best help each other. Together we can seek to spell ministry in a better way--with three "P's." Partialize! Pamper! Be patient!

*Zeluff, Daniel, There's Algae in the Baptismal Fount, 1978, Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN



Projects,
Programs,
and
Perspectives

by
Alan Rowbotham

I have been thinking about each of you in your ministry and how very precious your ministry is to you. Oh, sometimes you may fret and complain and get upset and unsettled. But then, someone comes to you out of great need and you minister to him in love, a love that goes beyond your own need of the moment, beyond your discouragement, beyond even any thought of yourself. And something happens. Something wonderful happens. My wife, Kathryn, said it well on such an occasion. She said, "The Counselor came!" Yes, the Counselor comes-and in an instant of time, in a magical moment, hurts are healed and new hope is born in a human heart. And all this because of love!

We talk a lot about love in Unity. When we come together in our churches we hug and kiss and tell each other "I love you." Then we go home and maybe we still talk about love and think about it and how wonderful it is to love one another. But maybe we won't feel loved and maybe we don't feel very loving either sometimes. So we wonder what's wrong with ourselves that we feel this way and maybe we let that lack of self-worth creep back into our thoughts, or we personalize our hurt feelings onto someone else and just can't understand what makes them act the way they do.

You know, people are just people and act like people! That's what's so wonderful about being a minister like you, whoever you are. You act like people too-but somehow you have encompassed something within yourself and within others that is greater than you know yourself to be and greater than others know themselves to be. And at very special moments, in very intimate moments, face to face with another

human being, that "something greater" reveals itself-and it is love! The Counselor has come. The moment of realization has dawned. The decision is clear as crystal before us. The world is made new again!

Your ministry is made up of a myriad of moments like these, so it becomes very precious to you. You have come to share your life with each other in a very remarkable relationship-a church, a body of believers "called out" in love to minister in the name of Jesus Christ. Is there anything more wonderful or more precious than this?

Because we on the staff of your Association think each of you is so very special, we enjoy a beautiful moment at the beginning of our working day when we pause to feel close to you and pray with you. Every day this past year we have prayed with a selected Unity church and its minister or ministers. We have spoken your names and sent you blessings of love and prayers for success, prosperity and joy in your ministry. Many of you have responded and told us of wonderful things that have happened, that you have felt our prayers, that you were uplifted and warmed in the Christ love that we share. Sharing our prayer time with you in this way has helped us feel especially close to you. We want to continue that closeness by beginning again and going through all the names of our member ministries one by one, praying with you during our morning prayer. We will write and let you know your day so that you can join with us in prayer at that time.

Also, we have prepared a little gift for each of our member ministries that bespeaks of our awareness of your unique heritage as a church ministering in the name of Jesus Christ. This gift, comes to you in love during February, the month of love, a "Blessing for a Church," it is in the form of a poem written by Jim Freeman when he dedicated a Unity church some years ago, printed on parchment and suitable for framing. You may want to display it in the lobby of your church, so that all who read it may know what you want your church to be for all who share in its embrace.

May you always minister in His love,

1980 CONFERENCE BODY MEETING AVAILABLE ON CASSETTE TAPES

Cassette tapes of the January, 1980 Conference meetings (Monday and Tuesday) are available through the AUC office at \$9.00 each for each day's session. If you would like to purchase a copy of the tapes, please contact Myra Moore in the AUC Office.

February 1980

NEWS & VIEWS ON UMS by Paul C. Barrett

A LETTER OF LOVING GRATITUDE



The 50 minute hour. There are twenty of them each week for our eighty-four ministers-in-training (MIT's) to fill with their attendance. At least fifteen of them are major credit hour responsibilities. It is no small task to live up to the demands placed upon each MIT for every credit hour of class--and I commend our student body for the good work they do

However, it is not toward the MIT's I desire to direct the main focus of attention of this month's column, but the faculty of UMS. I refer to those persons who fill the 50 minute hours with their talent, dedication, and great skill to inspire on a daily basis.

In this month identified with the principle of love, I proclaim with all the love energies at my

command my respect for our faculty and my gratitude for the exceptional work they are doing. They are the heartbeat of UMS.

The talents of our faculty are evidenced more and more each day. Our teachers are not satisfied to rest upon the norm of skill they brought with them when they joined the staff. No. As with the wise stewards in Jesus' parable of the talents, our faculty invests wisely their talents which in turn expand, multiply, and inure to the benefit of our MIT's and the Unity movement.

Dedication. I pleasure in the deeper meaning of that word which has come to me through witness of our faculty's example of time and service given. For these dedicated people there is no such thing as a 50 minute hour. It is more like a 150 minute, or even a 450 minute hour. The 50 minutes is but a small part of the whole when prayer work, lesson preparation, and followup work on class assignments are considered.

A love pat on the back is much in order for the faculty of UMS--and I am pleased to give it! They truly are the called of God brought forth to serve those who have received the ministerial calling of God, those who represent the lifeblood of Unity's future.

To Gary, Hypatia, and Kathryn of our full-time UMS faculty, I say, "LOVING THANKS!" To Scott, Maggie, Stan, and Alan, our part-timers from AUC, and to Phil, Frank, and Martha, our valuable teachers from Unity School, I echo the same.

And to Gladys, the one who keeps the rhytm of order flowing through our faculty functions, I say, "THANKS FOR LOVING AND SERVING US WITH SUCH GREAT DEVOTION." ++

SOON TO THE SEA

Stan Hampson

Director of Ministry Services 1976-1980

Recently, during a meditation, I asked my inner being what was in store for me. The inner answer was a resounding "Soon to the sea." I was elated--as much for the message of imminence as for a location on the coast. Then Bob Stevens asked me to come and speak for the nineteenth anniversary of Christ Church, Unity, in San Diego.

While there, Bob asked me to be his associate. That was not something I have been thinking about at all. The more we talked the more interesting the idea became. We agreed to leave it in God's keeping for the moment.

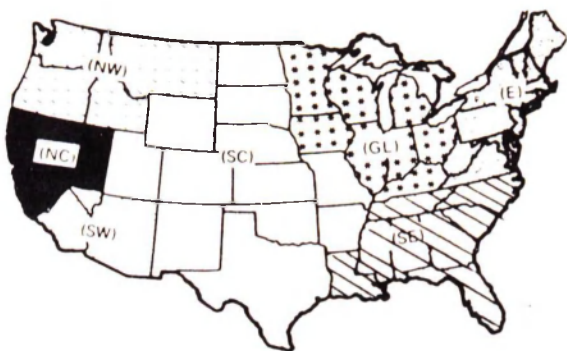
After several days of discussion and meditation the message was clear--this is it! My family concurred. We will be moving to San Diego

around the first of April.

Fortunately, the guidance came while the Board of Trustees was here in January, so the necessary steps for my replacement have been started. The Board also authorized the release of the resumes of Ordinands on March 1, rather than later, so that this important moment of placement would begin before I leave. Scott, Alan, and Joann will give extra attention to this service of our organization so you can be sure that during the transition your needs will be met.

These last four years of service for you in the Association have been great years. Many goals have been accomplished, for which I do give thanks. More about that later, for now I wanted to give you this news and my love. You know that the AUC will continue in capable hands because of the excellent staff we already have. You'll be part of deciding the future, so you know that will be good too. For me it's "soon to the sea."

REGIONAL NEWS



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL NEWS with Miki Bowen:

Outreach is an important part of Christ Church Unity, San Jose, California. This ministry is sending their three licensed teachers on an alternating basis to conduct Sunday services twice-a-month to Salinas. The three are Marion Melin, Lei Lanni Burt and Dorothy Williams. Warren Meyer prepares special cassette messages for the other Sunday services. Lei Lanni Burt and four Youth of Unity students presented a beautiful candle service for this group as a gift from the San Jose ministry.

Two years ago Marguerite Meyer started having Tuesday classes in Livermore. A small but dedicated group attended. Suddenly a very active interest stirred in the class to have Sunday services. A Steering Committee was organized and on the first Sunday in December, fifty-five attended. Marguerite will continue to give both the classes and the Sunday devotional services until the group is ready to support a resident minister.

The Christ Church Unity Board of San Jose, California prepared a surprise celebration for Warren and Marguerite Meyer, November 11th to observe their tenth anniversary in their organization. A special stained glass hanging was commissioned to be designed by Peter and Sharon Irish. This beautiful art piece was presented by Robert Gonsalves, president, who reported the amazing progress that the church had made under the direction of the Meyers. The patterns in the hanging wove together ideas that are meaningful to Warren and Marguerite... California poppies in the foreground with Gina their thirteen year old cat, the rolling hills of California, the tree of life, the tip of Unity Tower, and a rainbow midst the clouds of human challenges. This colorful inspiration hangs in their eastern livingroom window to capture the morning sun.

Robert Gonsalves reported that in the first

seven years of their San Jose ministry the church eliminated close to three hundred thousand dollars of debts without ever mentioning money. The organization now has over a hundred and fifty thousand dollars which will go into their planned education-administration building. Blueprints are now in the drawing board stage after a building committee worked for a year to determine the church's needs and how they should best proceed.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL NEWS with Arthur Hammons:

On January 28 and 29, the Unity Ministers' and Teachers' Conference of the Southwest Region will be meeting in Tucson, Arizona where the Revs. Larry and Mary Ellen Swartz will be our host and hostess. Our President and Vice-President of the Association will be there. New officers will be elected and post-graduate work will be done. A course will be given by Rev. Mary Ellen Swartz and we are looking forward to the wonderful time we always have when we go to Tucson.

On Wednesday, January 30, Larry will be escorting all the ministers and their spouses to Old Mexico where we will have a day of shopping and enjoy a cabaret dinner. To and from Old Mexico, we will visit Arizona ghost towns, mining towns, artists colonies, a tombstone and the famous old city of Tucson.

"Unity Church of Escondido is undertaking a project for the future. It is obvious that in the world today there are a great many needs in personal living. The object of a church is no longer to be just a Sunday morning go-to-meeting sort of organization, but rather one that seeks to serve the purpose of its members, to help them understand there is no problem or condition that God cannot heal and fulfill."

Greg Penn, minister, has created an outstanding program called:

CARING AND SHARING PROGRAM

(The following is an excerpt from Caring & Sharing brochure):

What does it mean to you that Unity Church has begun a Caring and Sharing Program? Well, it can offer many opportunities to a person who
(Continued on page 20)

"LIGHT ON THE PATH"



With the assistance of AUC we will shine a "Little Light On The Path" with a response to your questions of interest to all Unity Licensed Teachers. Send your questions and comments to: Catherine Garvey, MIT, Unity Village, Missouri 64065.

Q.How can I find material available for teaching Joy Songs. Could we have an inexpensive book, perhaps a 'paper back' printed, so we could all benefit by this great teaching tool?

A.I talked with Janet B. Manning, who is working on a new hymn book and her answer to me was: "The answer to our producing a 'joy song paperback' is 'no,' but our new hymn book will contain some joy songs." She also suggested the following:

1. "Sing and Say" by Carmen Moshier
2. "Truth As I Sing It" by Bill Provost (MIT Gift Shop)
3. Genesis Songbook & Exodus Songbook (Available through Church Supply Stores)

Janet will have a book of her songs available sometime next summer.

Q.Do we (Licensed Teachers in the field) necessarily have to use the questions, as given in the Extension Program Teachers Guide, as a requirement for UICE credit classes?

A.UICE feels these questions will best serve the students. However, if you feel all of them are too many, you may use a fewer number. But at least five questions should be answered for UICE credit.

A
LICENSED
TEACHER
IS:



Ruth Bruner of Unity by the Bay, Chula Vista, California. You are a Spiritual being, living in a Spiritual universe, Governed by Spiritual Law. Ruth writes, "I heard these challenging words when I attended a Unity Sunday service the first time at Unity Church of Denver. They were spoken by James C. Lewis; and as I listened it seemed that they were written in letters three feet tall on a flowing banner which stretched high above the platform of the little sanctuary where some three hundred persons were gathered.

The loving invitation of a dear friend brought me to the services. She said, 'come, see what I found.'

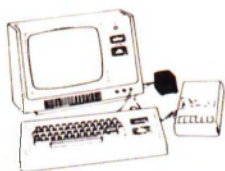
The words of the minister were a double invitation, for they called me to find out what this wonderful Truth Principle was all about. They prompted me to develop a new understanding of who and what I was, why I was on this earthly sojourn, and what I could become.

Then came the privilege of attending a Unity Retreat at Estes Park, Colorado. Inspiration arrived through leaders such as George and Ina Dale, and Wilma Powell. I soon began the Correspondence School studies, directed by Vera Tait. H. Emilie Cady was telling me that I could let 'God come forth.' Charles Fillmore summoned me again and again to quicken my spiritual realm of consciousness. Eric Butterworth challenged me to find varied ways to express my Christ potential.

My response to these beginnings was to take the many rewarding studies offered in UICE.

Wonderful experiences opened up to me. Through the gentle motivation of Mary Rowe and Martha Smock, I began writing for DAILY WORD. When Charlene Lewis (Mrs. James C. Lewis) requested that I do what I could to help Warren and Marguerite Meyer in their work as chairpersons for the music committee in 1973-74, I contributed the lyrics for two songs for Unity in Song (1974). The words for page 42 are an expression of the belief and principles with which I had been growing spiritually for five years.

(Continued on page 17)



COMPUTERIZED MINISTRIES by Gary Simmons, MIT

Last week I heard a fascinating prediction as I was driving home from school. On a local news broadcast a reporter proclaimed that in less than ten years personal computers will be as common as homes with two-car garages. I believe it!

There are two factors that will rescue this statement from the realm of science fiction and make it a matter of fact. The first is NECESSITY. It will become increasingly important that individuals, not just businesses, have the ability to manage information. Personal information management embraces more than tax records, grocery receipts, and the balancing of the checkbook. It involves the organization and skillful administration of everything that is important to you.

In tandem with the effective management of information is the necessity of advanced communication—the ability to be responsive to the information that surrounds us. How do we keep in touch with the world? How are we informed? In what ways are the cares of the world communicated to us?

For many of us, the telephone and television provide our most intimate contact with the outside world beyond our personal encounters. They allow us to appropriate the facts necessary for the effective functioning in a contemporary environment. However, we often take for granted these household appliances that link us to our neighbor, the family doctor, or the community. And yet, in reality, both are simple extensions of a highly sophisticated computer system programmed to process the substance of communication—information.

It could be said that every household possesses a simple computer terminal in the form of the telephone and the television. The former allows us to access other terminals. The latter permits us to display selected programs. Telephone companies provide other computerized options such as automatic dialing, international dialing, call forwarding, and answering machines (like your dial-a-prayer). Cable television will soon offer more than a wide variety of channel selection. It will make possible subscriber response to TV quiz shows, political polls, local elections, educational programming. Already the marriage between the telephone and the television has given birth to a new medium of communication cradled in computer technology. The bottom line in all of this is that personal computers will become the

manner by which we interface with the outside world. Just wait and see!

The second factor insuring the reality of this idea is ECONOMICS. Not only has modern technology made it profitable to market personal and business computers, and word processing systems, it has also created the economic dependence upon them. In the truest sense of the word, our society is addicted to the use of computers. Every major industry employs some aspect of data processing as a mode or a means of operation. (This is not to say that there is something wrong in our reliance upon computer technology. Indeed, it has allowed us to pursue avenues of research and discovery never before possible.)

What this means to us as ministers and center leaders is that “the hour cometh, and now is.” Necessity and economics will move us closer and closer to computerization. As we expand our services and seek to be free from the mechanical pitfalls of expansion, we will be drawn to employ methods and machines to help us minister more effectively. To remain contemporary we must be open to new ideas and innovations that expand our effectiveness and enable the best job to be done at all times. Practically speaking, any investment in the process of understanding and implementing computer technology in one’s personal and professional life is an investment well made.

If for no other reason than personal use, the purchase of a micro-computer would be a valuable investment. Think about the tools of your trade. What things must you have to minister? An automobile? A personal library? A wardrobe? How about a typewriter or an answering machine? Let’s add one more valuable item to this list—a personal computer. Now let’s explore what it means to be a “computerized minister.”

Beside my desk stands a four drawer file cabinet. The first three drawers bulge with tax records, insurance policies, health records, a variety of personal trivia, notes, stories, articles, everything that I have collected as resource material for future use. The fourth drawer contains a remnant of a card file created to locate subject in the top drawers. My computer has given me the ability to condense this information, catalog and cross reference it, and store the entire system on cassette data tapes.

At Ministerial School we are exposed to excellent lesson material. On one computer program I have stored all notes relating to metaphysical Bible interpretation. Later in my own center, I can retrieve this information and obtain a
(Continued on page 10)

COMPUTERIZED MINISTRIES

(Continued from page 9)

printout to assist in the preparation of teaching a class on this subject.

Last trimester our class received an assignment to prepare a pamphlet file for our counseling class. I completed this assignment by programming my computer to catalog and cross reference all Unity pamphlets by subjects and title. Whenever I want to locate material pertaining to a particular subject, I simply request this information from my computer.

In preparing lessons or sermons it helps to quickly find supportive material that will enhance the message. The computer has the ability to function as a card file allowing for speedy access to a variety of resources.

Besides balancing the checkbook, assisting in tax preparation, and printing mailing labels, my

computer can be programmed to perform special tasks. As a member of the Curriculum Committee at UMS I participated in the creation of a class evaluation questionnaire designed to assess the effectiveness of the present course of study. With the help of my computer we will be able to obtain an objective analysis of the responses and make recommendations based upon an accurate understanding of the data collected.

So, what's a "computerized minister?" It's the minister, teacher, counselor, pastor who has discovered a valuable personal resource. Admittedly, the effective use of a personal computer is primarily dependent upon the skill of the user. But, as the old saying goes, "Where there's a will, there's a way."

Next month we will consider the COMPUTERIZED MINISTRY.

"AFTERGLOW"



A TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH SAND TURNER

By Charles Roth

Elizabeth Sand Turner. . . To many today it is a name on a book entitled LET THERE BE LIGHT, and another, YOUR HOPE OF GLORY. I wonder if the reader ever gives thought to the person behind the name?

Elizabeth Sand Turner, in my opinion, is one of the strong building stones on which the Unity movement stands.

A slight woman. An intense woman, intense in the positive sense of the word. When working at her desk, or interviewing a student about a Training School schedule, or trying to get a Bible meaning through the "thick heads" of student ministers her face took on an intensely serious look. But, when she laughed, she laughed intensely also.

What a sense of humor! In the midst of a serious Bible lesson something in the Bible story would remind her of a joke. You could always tell when the joke bubbled up into her consciousness. A kind of "light" would go on in her eyes. Then came the wait. Breaking into a smile, Elizabeth would start to tell the joke, but then would begin laughing in her inimitable way as she thought about the "punch line." A sentence or phrase, then a five second laugh. Then another sentence or phrase, and more laughter from her. Finally she would get to the punch line. . . which wasn't necessary, because we were all laughing with her by this time.

Then back to the serious business of Bible teaching. It was as if a "laughing storm" passed through the room for a short period and when it was gone, it was gone--as if nothing had ever interrupted.

I still, not only have, but frequently use, my notebook from Elizabeth Sand Turner's year long student ministerial class on the New and Old Testaments.

Elizabeth Sand Turner passed on last Spring. I wouldn't have known it except for a five or six line notice in an issue of CONTACT two months later (see the June/July, 1979 issue of CONTACT). Somehow, with all Fillmore's teachings on the spiritual value and virtue of Praise and Thanksgiving that we teach to others--it would be nice if we did a little more Praise and Thanksgiving to those on whose shoulders we now walk. A moment of silence at Conference time, and a few lines in CONTACT is nice. But is it enough?++

How to read faster

Would Bill Cosby kid your students? Not about the importance of effective reading techniques. Here's how you can help students take advantage of Cosby's straight talk.

The following article is reprinted from TEACHING GUIDE, a service for teachers by International Paper Company. It is the first of a four-part series on "The Printed Word."

No doubt your students have been exposed to countless hours of reading instruction during their school years. Eventually came the magic moment when someone decided that a particular student knew how to read. Fanfare, congratulations, and the end of reading instruction for that student. And reading is like riding a bicycle: once you know how, you never really forget. But the truth is that all of us can continue to improve our reading efficiency. All of us need reminders of specific techniques and encouragement to practice them.

There are hundreds of techniques to help people read faster. And that may be part of the problem: where and how to begin without getting bogged down in practice?

Enter the friendly, encouraging voice of Bill Cosby—via the International Paper ad in this week's student magazine—with three simple techniques that he finds helpful for more effective reading.

The underlying message of the ad is that different kinds of reading matter require different reading methods. Reading a newspaper is different from reading a novel is different from reading an informative technical article. Effective reading depends on knowing what you want and adapting your reading style to your purpose.

You can help your students by reinforcing this idea and give them opportunities to practice different reading styles. The key to using the ad effectively is motivation and practice.

Setting the stage

1. Have different kinds of reading material related to your subject available in the classroom: newspaper clippings; articles from both general-interest magazines and technical or professional journals; books of varying lengths and degrees of technicality. Alert students to new additions to the class library with brief but enticing commentary.

2. Most students enjoy knowing obscure information. Share with them

some littleknown fact that you've picked up in your reading recently or that comes from a book or an article in the class library. Encourage students to share information they learn from their leisure-time reading, perhaps with a brief "fact of the day" sharing time.

3. Ask students to give examples of people who have to read a lot—for example: politicians, doctors, people in businesses and professions where new information is constantly coming to light. What would happen if these people didn't keep up with their reading? Then ask: Do you think comedians have to read a lot? Have you ever learned anything from a comedian? When students have had a chance to respond, have them turn to the ad.

Using the ad

1. Give students exactly one minute to look at the ad. Suggest that they look at the pictures and captions first. Then ask them to discuss what they learned in one minute. How did they approach reading two pages in one minute? Discuss the importance of the advice given with the third picture: reading in a comfortable place with as few distractions as possible.

2. Choose a good oral reader to read aloud the first column and a half, ideally someone who can mimic Cosby's style.

Students may not be aware of how much information they acquire from reading. On the board compile a class list of different kinds of things students read regularly: signs, notes and letters, TV listings, newspapers, magazines, textbooks, reference books, instructions, pleasure reading. Do they read it all in the same way? Ask students who seem to read a lot to try to analyze how they have time.

Are students aware of the information explosion that Cosby mentions? Some may want to volunteer to do research to get the facts: how many books have been published in each decade of the 20th century, breaking it down into comics, paperbacks and hardbound, books in special subject areas, and so forth.

3. After students have read the section on previewing, have them do

this exercise for practice: Give them a magazine article or chapter from a text and ask them to preview it and write one or two sentences summarizing the gist of the topic. Then ask: If you had 15 minutes to prepare for a quiz on this material, what sections would you go back to and read thoroughly?

4. After students have read the section on skimming, give them a passage that you have prepared with nonessential words blacked out. Ask them to summarize the information in the passage, to show them that they can get a sense of it without reading every word.

5. For practice in skimming and previewing, do this role-playing exercise: Provide each student with a copy of the same edition of a large-city newspaper. Divide the class into four groups. One group consists of advisors to the President. They must preview and skim the paper to summarize the important news of the day and recommend which articles the President should read in depth. The second group are writers for a comedian who does a nightly five-minute monologue. They must skim and preview the paper to pick out topical material for the comedian. The third group are radio-talk-show moderators looking through the paper for interesting and newsworthy people to interview on the air. The fourth group are TV newscasters trying to choose the most important news of the day for the 15-minute evening news report. Give students a limited amount of time to do this work and have them share and compare results.

6. After students have read the section on clustering, for practice have them read something aloud, clustering in unison. (Before you begin reading, have the students circle the words to be clustered.) This, of course, will not speed up their reading because oral reading always takes longer. But it will help them get comfortable with the technique.

Cosby recommends daily practice of clustering. You might give students the opportunity to do this in class for a few days until they get in the habit.

7. When students feel that their reading techniques have improved, plan a day's outing to the school library. In preparation ask each student to think about a topic he or she would like to know more about. Then let them loose to pursue this interest in the library. The next day have a time to share new ideas and facts they learned on the outing.

YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR REPORT by Maggie Finefrock

Greetings of love to all. These months are filled with opportunities to share your love of Unity youth education. Look for WonderWord to bring excitement to your youth every month in 1980. Look for youth education seminars in every region conducted by the Youth Education Facilitators and me. Look for an exciting decade of re-commitment to youth in Unity. Look inside yourself and your church to see the ways that you are serving all of your community regardless of age, race or background. Look to the exciting and creative possibilities for this new age!



In response to many centers who are creating, re-creating or reorganizing their youth education departments, I am offering these simple guidelines for a YE department. Of course, ideas for creative programming could fill books. Hopefully, these ideas will spark your interest. If you need help—call your regional facilitator or me. If you're doing fine—share the wealth of your success through AGAPE or CONTACT. The days of boring and didactic Sunday Schools are over! This is a time when Unity is applying principles of truth and creativity to meet the needs of our youth.

HOW TO START A YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM IN YOUR CENTER

1. Think about your reasons for wanting to have a Youth Education program. What do you want to achieve? What kind of atmosphere do you want to provide? What expectations do you have? What spiritual and physical commitments are you prepared to make? Examine your philosophy of children and teaching.
2. Start with prayer and meditation. Put your principles to work. Affirm your needs. Be still and listen to the guidance and treasure chest of divine ideas within.
3. Explore your resource of people. Experienced teachers are a great blessing. You will want to designate someone, with some experience and lots of dedication as a key person, director, superintendent. But don't let anyone become discouraged because "they've never done this before." In starting on a new road, we all have

some qualms about our competence. What do you need to be a good teacher?

- a. A dedication and commitment to youth ministry.
- b. Realization that as a teacher, you already have the Spirit of Truth within you. "I speak not of myself, but the Father abiding in me doeth his works."
- c. A Spirit of love that freely flows from teacher to student. You are open and receptive to the needs of all students.
- d. Realization that the student already has the Truth within him or her. This is a gift of God and your task is to create the environment to awaken this gift.
- e. An understanding of and an openness to learn more of basic Unity principles.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE—There is only one presence and one power in the Universe, God the Good Omnipotent.

4. Ask people to make a contract or commitment for their work in YE. Be specific about what support the church will give and what requirements are expected.

EXAMPLE:

The Unity Center invites you to be involved in our education program as a Youth Education teacher. We will provide you with:

- (1) training
- (2) teaching materials, curriculum
- (3) a team teacher if you desire
- (4) access to the minister and YE director for planning, brainstorming and counseling
- (5) peer support at monthly meetings
- (6) any reasonable supplementary materials you request
- (7) adult classes on Unity principles and the Bible

We ask that you make this commitment to our program:

- (1) to attend one teacher's meeting per month

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YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR REPORT

(Continued from page 12)

- (2) to make a commitment to at least one quarter of teaching
- (3) to spend time in prayer and meditation in preparation for each class period
- (4) to spend one hour a week in preparation of lesson plans and material

5. Explain your resources for teaching.

- a. AUC "Image for Living" series: These are two complete years of Bible based lessons for nursery through junior high. Each quarter (three month period) provides the teacher with 12 weekly lessons. One basic truth concept is introduced or reinforced each week with scriptural references, prayers, affirmations and involvement activities for the students. An abundance of suggestions each week gives the teacher the opportunity to choose the activities that are best suited for his/her individual students. Each teacher's lesson is accompanied by student take-home sheets that students and families can use together to reinforce learning throughout the week. These materials are available through the AUC.

The basics of teaching a YE Lesson are:

- (1) Choose one concept you are going to teach.
- (2) Use a reference from the Bible.
- (3) Write a few simple objectives to help you get where you're going.
- (4) Teach and illustrate concepts from the concrete to the abstract.
- (5) Involve the students as totally as possible—mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually—using all the senses.
- (6) Connect each concept and principle with a practical application in the students' life. Give them something to explore, apply and practice the rest of the week.
- (7) Use prayer to open the class and prepare for openness to a new concept, and use prayer to close class time, affirming your new learning and sharing as a group.
- (8) Have fun! Be creative! Ask yourself what you would like to be doing if you were the age group that you are teaching. If you are enjoying the class and having fun, chances are the students will be enjoying and learning too. Dare to try

new things. Make youth education the most exciting hours of the week! Remember:

"What I hear I forget
What I see I remember
What I do I understand."

Other materials that are available as supplemental teaching aids and ideas for assembly programs are:

Color key program—12 powers
WonderWord—daily meditation workbook
Golden Gloves—activity for using the Golden Rule
Children's books by Lou Austin
AGAPE newsletter for Youth Education
reSPONSE Newsletter for YOU sponsors at the senior high level
Christmas pageant package
Sing a Joyful Noise Songbook for youth education

The Youth Education Resource Library in the Youth Services Office at Unity Village offers many other resources of ideas, games, visual aids, tapes and filmstrips for teacher training.

Many resources are available to give support to the YE teacher. But the most important "equipment" the teacher has is his/her own indwelling Spirit that provides infinite avenues for creativity.

6. Once you have established a dedicated corps of trained teachers and exciting, spiritually nourishing activities for children, your group consciousness and enthusiasm will draw many children and families. Be ready with an abundance of love and service. Know that you are part of a wonderful adventure full of special blessings and learning for you.

When you feel confidence in your program you can begin to be creative with options; choosing whether you will have one session or two, pre and post session activities, learning centers, guest speakers for assembly programs, inter-generational activities, etc. The team of adults and children working together to increase their awareness of God is a dynamic and creative boost to your church's consciousness.

If I can be of any further assistance please let me know. The Youth Education Services Office is here to serve you and assure quality programs for our youth in Unity. ++

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



In January's CONTACT please note these corrections in Greg Barrette's article:

"...that have no value of *themselves*."

"This is *the* only new beginning."

YOUTH OF UNITY REPORT

"I AM"--YOU CONFERENCE '80

"I AM" was the theme chosen for this August's YOU Conference when the three International YOU Officers met here for Conference planning during the last week of December. Maggie Finefrock and I assisted the officers--Tracy Pounders (Dallas, TX), Tom Ruggles (Wauwatosa, WI), and Mark Circle (Tucson, AZ)--as they decided on the week's activities. Conference will be held August 10--16, at Unity Village.

Charles King and Jack Boland were invited by the YOU'ers to be their main speakers. We will feature twelve workshop families which will meet daily to explore spiritual growth, social adjustment, prayer, meditation and self-awareness. Beverly Kenny, a Broadway producer and director, has offered (free of charge!) her children's drama group to open the YOU Conference with their version of the musical "Godspell." We also hope to host James Dillet Freeman and Sallye Taylor, who were the two most popular speakers from last year's program.

Please help the young people in your church or center to attend this uplifting, Spirit-filled, life changing event. YOU Conference changed my life dramatically and I hope that the opportunity to attend is extended to all YOU-age youths in Unity (ages 15-18).

CUP OF CONSCIOUSNESS-- SPONSORS' SEMINAR

Does your YOU teacher or sponsor desire tools and inspiration for the challenge of working with youth? Would you like to start a new YOU group or train a fledgling sponsor? Then consider this solution: The second annual "Cup of Consciousness" sponsors' seminar in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, April 18-20.

Last year's seminar was inspiring, informative, fun and unifying. A consciousness was developed there which is still evident in YOU. For information, write Dottie Fisk, Great Lakes YOU

Coordinator, 128 Chestnut, Park Forest, Illinois 60466.

CONGREGATION INVOLVEMENT IN YOU

The Delray Beach, Florida, YOU invites individuals from the congregation to share their experiences during YOU class time. Each person relates what his or her occupation is, what it involves and one or more ways in which Truth principles have worked "in the market place." This ten-to-fifteen minute message is followed by questions and answers.

This teaching method gives career guidance and practical, living examples of how Truth works! YOU'ers relate more readily with real life examples than any other teaching method. The minister can be the first to share his or her occupation and Truth examples.

NEW MIDWEST COORDINATOR

Sai Golden of Warrensburg, Missouri, is our new Midwest YOU Coordinator, serving Kansas, Missouri, Colorado and Iowa. Sai was co-sponsor of the YOU in Houston, Texas, where she helped organize the Center for Attitudinal Healing. She is a unique, highly perceptive educator who knows God as her source and Christ as her identity.

Sai Golden
904 Anderson
Warrensburg, MO 64093
816-429-1521

INTERNATIONAL RALLY

Tracy Pounders, our International President, and Unity Way Church of Dallas are hosting the first International Rally, February 22-24. Tracy feels that since many YOU'ers are unable to attend YOU Conference, there ought to be one event all YOU'ers can attend.

This rally will cost \$35 (includes limo, room and board. It is not sponsored by this office, but by Unity Way Church of Dallas. For information, write: Tracy Pounders, 408 Glen Oaks Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75232.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Youth of Unity is going to grow in the 80's. We invite all Unity Centers who do not currently enjoy the vitalizing enthusiasm of a YOU group to ignite their lamps by our flame. With our individual fires burning as one, the Light of Truth might shine brighter and illumine the world.

In Loving Service,

Tracy Pounders
Intn'l YOU President

(Continued on page 17)

SAMPLE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Here is a sample of a financial statement used by a model Unity church/center. One important thing to notice is that the "Statement of Changes in Fund Balances" sheet and "Statement of Assets and Liabilities" are two separate sheets. Many times a mistake is made in trying to combine these two documents.

—Editor

MODEL UNITY CHURCH STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED _____

	Actual	Budget	Over (Under) Budget
REVENUE			
Offerings	\$63,500	\$60,000	\$ 3,500
Rentals	4,300	5,000	(700)
Literature Sales	4,000	3,500	500
Gift Shop Sales	7,200	6,000	1,200
Miscellaneous	1,300	1,500	(200)
EXPENSES			
Ministers Salary	10,000	10,000	
Ministers Manse Allowance	3,600	3,600	
Ministers Travel Expense	2,400	2,400	
Pension Fund	6,000	5,000	1,000
Salaries—Other	23,000	20,000	3,000
Advertising	1,400	1,500	(100)
Music	3,500	5,000	(1,500)
Repairs and Maintenance	700	600	100
Taxes	500	500	
Office Supplies and Expenses	1,200	1,100	100
Printing	600	1,200	(600)
Insurance	4,900	3,600	1,300
Telephone	2,500	2,100	400
Utilities	1,600	1,200	400
Tithe	3,600	3,500	100
Miscellaneous	300	500	(200)
	65,800	61,800	4,000
EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	14,500	14,200	(300)
OTHER FUND RECEIPTS			
Mortgage Proceeds	6,000	6,000	
Bonds	10,000	10,000	
	16,000	16,000	
OTHER FUND DISBURSEMENTS			
Building	9,000	9,000	
Equipment	4,500	5,000	(500)
	13,500	14,000	(500)
EXCESS OTHER FUND RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	2,500	2,000	500
TOTAL INCREASE IN FUND BALANCES	12,100	\$12,200	\$ (100)
CASH BALANCE, (Date, Previous Year)	18,000		
CASH BALANCE, (Date, Current Year)	\$30,100		

MODEL UNITY CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CERTAIN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
(DATE)

ASSETS RECOGNIZED		S A M P L E
Cash		\$ 30,100
Inventory of Supplies—at cost		5,100
Property and Equipment—at cost		
Land	\$12,000	
Buildings	89,000	
Equipment	7,800	
		108,800
TOTAL ASSETS RECOGNIZED		144,000
LIABILITIES RECOGNIZED		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses:		
Payroll and Withholding Taxes	500	
Payroll	1,300	
Interest on Bonds	1,200	
		3,000
Mortgage Payable		51,000
Bonds		20,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES RECOGNIZED		74,000
EXCESS OF ASSETS RECOGNIZED OVER LIABILITIES RECOGNIZED		\$ 70,000

BOOKS IN REVIEW

HITCHHIKING ON HOPE STREET

By Mike Warnke

(New York: Doubleday & Co., 1979)

Mike Warnke is a recording star-former drug addict-formerly "into Satanism"-born again Christian-who has turned his talents to writing and performing a blend of religious comedy and evangelical witness. His language is unorthodox-straight from the street and from the counter-culture of the 60s--but his message is not. He presents the reader with an upbeat version of evangelical, turned-on-to-Jesus-and-the-Bible Christianity.

Hitchhiking on Hope Street will give the reader an interestingly different insight into the nature of the born-again Christian experience than the usual fundamentalistic tract. Warnke

offers such an insight by way of his "hip" interpretations of biblical material. Take his story of Samson, for example, whom Warnke describes as a "pretty hefty dude"; or his story of Moses and the burning bush, "in the days when they didn't have central heat or air." Interspersed with his biblical interpretations, Warnke writes evangelical epistles to friends: "Dear Larry: Being a Christian isn't the easiest way in the world to be popular with those who don't love Jesus, is it?"

That variegated wonderland "out there," which we Ministers-in-Training have learned is called "The Field," is populated by Mike Warnkes believing and living a variety of Christian convictions. Even a skim through Hitchhiking on Hope Street will, I believe, help us to understand our Christian brothers and sisters a little more. For this reason alone the \$6.95 will be well worth spending.

Reviewed by: Curt S. Jantz, MIT

LIGHT ON THE PATH

(Continued from page 8)

In October, 1975, as I moved from Colorado to California, I found a fertile field of service awaiting me. Having graduated from UICE on August 8, of that year, I was able to begin teaching in the study group which Arthur Hammons of El Cajon, California, had established as an outreach of his congregation. It was in Divine Order that I return to Unity Village in October '77 to apply for and receive my license.

At present I am teaching Lessons In Truth for credit, as well as leading the prayer ministry of Unity by the Bay. Under the remarkable leadership of Bill Kellar, we are a congregation with one birthday celebration to our credit. It is thrilling to see our growth, and bountiful expressions of love, the marvelous lifting of consciousness!

Our newest adventure in the prayer ministry is working with The Master Mind Principle as formulated by Jack Boland of Detroit, Michigan. 1980 promises noticeable unfoldment and expansion of vision for all who become involved in this spiritually rewarding process.

As an added enrichment several of us in the Prayer Ministry are viewing the daily presentation

of 'There is a Way,' on channel 9, from Palm Springs, California, with Dale Batesole as host.

Only a few short months ago I returned to UICE, Session 6, to study again with Ed Rabel, one of Unity's great teachers. I also had the privilege of considering The Twelve Powers of Man under the exciting leadership of one of Unity School's newest teachers, Janet Bowser Manning.

Whenever I think of the words, 'Adventure in Truth,' I realize anew that it is a tremendous involvement, filled with light, joy, and wonder. I want to enthusiastically proclaim with my friend in Denver, 'Come see what I found!'

Ruth thoroughly enjoyed attending the UICE class as a Licensed Teacher and so can you. Be sure and look me up if you do.

Thank you for sharing with us Ruth, your enthusiasm literally jumps from your letter. We know you expect the best from life, and life has not disappointed you. You are truly blessed and a blessing.

Are you doing something special you would like to share? Or know of another Licensed Teacher that represents what "A Licensed Teacher Is?" We need your input to keep this page going. If this is what you want, please contribute your ideas, questions, and comments. —C.G.

Character is not made in a crisis—it is only exhibited. -- Robert Freeman

YOU/YAU REPORTS

(Continued from page 14)

YOUNG ADULTS OF UNITY REPORT

LIGHT ON THE PATH-YAU RETREAT AT UNITY VILLAGE

"Light On the Path" will be the theme of August's YAU Retreat at Unity Village. Over one hundred and fifty young adults (18 and older) are expected to share in this time of search and discovery. The price will begin at \$80 for room, board and all activities. August 18-22 will be the dates.

Next month, CONTACT will feature a poster which we hope will express the spirit of this ever-growing annual event. It is hosted by the Youth Education Department of the Association

of Unity Churches (that's us!!)

TWO LOCAL YAU RETREATS THIS YEAR!

The Young Adults of Unity continues to grow. This year, local YAU'ers are hosting retreats in two locations: Portland, Oregon and Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

On May 8-11, Skyline Resort near Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, will be the site of a retreat held by the Kansas City area YAU groups. Write Bill Hawthorne, 1103 W. 35th St., Independence, Missouri 64055 (816-252-0494) for information.

Portland YAU will have a retreat May 30-June 1 at Unity Center. Write them for details c/o Laurie Martin, YAU Retreat, 4525 SE Stark Street, Portland, Oregon 97215 (503-252-8471).

How to Understand Your Minister's Wife

(This article was written by Denise D. Turner and published in the November/December 1979 issue of YOUR CHURCH. Denise is the wife of a Baptist minister in Ohio.)

Last year I typed "Be Kind to the Minister's Wife Week" on our family calendar. My efforts were blissfully ignored by all (possibly because, in our family, I am the minister's wife). Still, there is always next year. Perhaps I should try a different approach—a sit-in at my Sunday School class or a cooking strike on the eve of a covered dish dinner. Why not? The cause is a worthy one. Ministers' wives have heavy burdens to bear.

To be a good minister's wife, a woman must be kind, compassionate, generous, and tactful. To be a happy one, she must have a fantastic sense of humor. Evidently, in view of the tremendous pressures of the ministry and its divorce rate, there is not enough laughter in many "parsonages" today. I can understand why there are problems. I was not laughing in the beginning either. In fact, when I married "my" minister, I was harboring a deadly secret: I make terrible coffee.

When I got married, I was determined not to spend my life presiding over teas. (I am much too clumsy to pour.) But, I decided to marry the man I loved and wait until afterward to develop talents that would fit my hallowed new state as a minister's wife. I never developed any of them though. I am not a budding pianist. I am a less-than-mediocre nursery attendant. And I make lousy fried chicken. For a while, I wondered if my husband would be doomed to preach his first funeral sermon on the death of our marriage.

It only made matters worse to meet adoring young females who would give their Pepsodent smiles to be married to ministers. I was amazed that there were so many women who would actually seek to marry men who could never afford trips to Paris. Men who would expect their wives to go to church every Sunday, Saturday night late movie or not. I asked myself why I had been chosen the lucky one. Others seemed so much better qualified.

I plugged along though, fully aware of my limitations. Then, one day, it hit me like a tone of Bible tracts. Of course. The last thing a starry-eyed young seminarian needs is a wife who wants to worship him. I decided to start utilizing the one attribute that can make a marriage to a minister last—my sense of humor. Here are a few of the times I have found it indispensable.

...the day my husband's car was smashed into and the other driver was so glad she had only hit a nice minister.

...the morning everyone ooo'ed and ahhh'd over my husband's sermon which, the night before, had contained the forty-six grammatical errors that I had corrected.

...the morning everyone criticized, or napped through, my husband's sermon, and I was expected to remain wide-eyed and complimentary.

...any morning at 2:00 a.m. when I remember that a minister is on call twenty-four hours a day. (So is a doctor, but my clothing budget always reminds me that I am not a doctor's wife—and my husband even makes house calls!)

...when I realized that ministers, at best, take only one day off, and many of them spend that day going to church—"to see if I have any mail."

...the day I discovered that any children I have will automatically be called "PK's" (preacher's kids)—the only children in the world who are expected to enjoy staying home and reading the Bible more than going out to the pizza parlor. (Even in nursery school, a PK's little friends expect him to use his modeling clay to sculpt "the Holy Spirit" while they create duckies and doggies.)

...the afternoon my daughter's little friend asked her what her daddy does for a living and after hearing that he is a minister, replied, "But what does he do for a living?"

...the dinners where it is assumed that the minister's wife is the only person present who is capable of saying grace (and the meetings which must be "closed in prayer" always by the minister's wife, who is supposed to whip out prayer number 301 for such a purpose).

...the evening I applauded a speech given by my professional, respected minister husband and was the only one who knew that he had left ten pairs of dirty socks scattered throughout my home.

...the mornings when the minister's family stood at the door to greet the congregation, and my two-year-old daughter decided to lie on the floor and wave both hands at the passers-by.

...the day I realized that ministers' wives are not permitted to hear the punch lines of jokes they walk in on and are not permitted to visit homes until the magazines have been hidden away.

...every payday, when I wonder why a man
(Continued on page 19)

UNDERSTAND YOUR MINISTER'S WIFE

(Continued from page 18)

with seven years of higher education makes less than my old boy friend, who never even attended college.

...the days when everything goes wrong and I feel like going to the minister for counseling, until I realize that I would be going to the person who had made everything go wrong.

...the time my husband was giving an excellent talk on "Creating the Future," and my eighteen-month-old daughter jerked away from me and danced around the podium with her "clackety" pull toy.

...whenever I think about the future and the day I will have a child old enough to say, "Mr. Jones, are you the chairman of deacons? I heard my mommy say that you were a stuffed shirt.

What's a stuffed shirt?"

It is a fact. In today's world, combining a thriving marriage with a flourishing ministry is no accident. It takes work, communication and sacrifice. It takes a wife with her own interests and no desire to piggyback on her husband's successes and failures. It takes two people who know that the best gift they can give their children is to be the best spouses they can possibly be. It takes a Christian couple who know that, in Christ, they have the means to conquer any problem that might invade their home. And, when times are toughest, it takes a lot of understanding hugs and the ability to laugh at oneself. Yes, a sense of humor is definitely an indispensable aid to a happy minister's wife.

...I still think a "Be Kind to the Minister's Wife Week" would not be a bad idea though.++

SPOTLIGHT ON RELIGION EAST AND WEST

METAPHYSICAL INTERPRETATION:

Its As Old As the Hills!

By Curt S. Jantz

The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us "...there is nothing new under the sun" and this includes the metaphysical method of Bible interpretation. In fact, the idea of metaphysical interpretation itself is far from new. Greek philosophers in the sixth century B.C., for example, devoted considerable energies metaphysically interpreting ancient myths. They believed that the myths contained hidden meanings that would reveal themselves once the interpreter went beyond the literal level of understanding. Sound familiar?

What we now call "metaphysical interpretation" of the Bible developed in the early Christian era as a method most commonly called "allegorical." The term allegorical comes from a Greek word meaning "the description of one thing under the image of another." This is exactly what the early allegorists--both Jewish and Christian--did. They believed that every event, person, idea, and even number, used in the Bible was but an image of a something else

which would become known once they probed deeply enough. Such early Christian theologians as Origen (third century A.D.) even used Paul to support their method. They quoted, for example, Gal. 4:22-26 in which Paul declares the Genesis story of Hagar and Sarah to be an allegory which Paul then interprets.

The allegorists took as their starting point the fact that the Bible is full of inconsistencies, obscurities, and even contradictions which could not be understood with a literal interpretation. Also, both Jewish and Christian allegorists felt that the Old Testament in particular often portrayed God in unworthy, even savage, terms. They concluded that such portrayals could not be literally true; hence, the portrayals must be viewed as allegories with hidden meanings.

The above is offered as a beginning sketch. The next several columns will consider a few individuals who have been influential in the history of Bible metaphysics. ++

SPARKPLUGS

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.

Charles Fillmore taught that the season of Lent presents us with an opportunity to expand our expression of the love and the way of the Christ. He encouraged us to use Lent to take part in a transmutation, or the conversion of one form to another of a higher nature. Hal Lingerman writes about this truth principle in an article entitled "Rolling Away the Stone" in the February issue of UNITY Magazine.

Mr. Lingerman believes that the stone which is to be rolled away is a symbol of the blockage in our thinking that keeps the light of God from shining into the open cave of our soul. As the stone was rolled away from the tomb in which the body of Jesus was placed so we are called upon, especially during Lent, to roll away from us the stones in our life--the old habits, feelings, and thoughts that bind us to our old ways. New and better responses that will be substituted through the process of transmutation can then redirect our lives upward.

"Rolling Away the Stone" suggests ten ways to help transform our responses. The suggestions are practical, concise, easy-to-understand, and

could be used in a sermon or lesson during Lent.

In the fourth suggestion, Mr. Lingerman says we need to pay attention to small things and details. He believes everything deserves excellence and loving attention and as we accomplish small things we will be given greater responsibility. "Begin by pulling weeds," is his sage advice.

The fifth suggestion exhorts us to be interested in others. "Everyone is our teacher," he quotes from Emerson, "if only we have the interest and insight to notice the gift being offered."

Mr. Lingerman writes in the tenth suggestion that we should love God and this earthly life with a sense of humor. He says that Dr. Margaret Stevens, a Truth teacher, instructs that illness is often eliminated by a good laugh; laughter is good medicine. (The famous author Norman Cousins recently wrote about his experience using laughter to help him overcome a serious illness. See The Saturday Review, May 28, 1977, page 48.)

Look for "Rolling Away the Stone," which begins on page four of UNITY Magazine, February, 1980. ++

REGIONAL NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

is house-ridden, lonely, or with problems getting to church or classes. Under this Program a friend, a member of the congregation can be on call to extend his caring. To someone who is finding it difficult to do simple things in life, the needed love and service can be offered.

The Caring and Sharing Program is an extension of Unity Church of Escondido. It is in its infancy--the very beginning of its Institute of Healing and Renewal. The para-therapists are persons who have been trained through our Caring and Sharing Program, and are extending themselves through their love and caring to help members of Unity Church and its congregation in any particular need. The services available at this particular point of its unfolding are: Para-Therapists, Transportation, Friendly Visits, Hospital Visits, and Telephone Visits."

Unity of Carlsbad, California, began A NEW CENTER of Unity Truth teachings sponsored by Robert L. Stevens, minister of Christ Church, Unity, San Diego.

Pauline Beauregard, formerly associate minister of Christ Church, Unity, has moved her residence to Carlsbad where she will be the minister of the new church. She is presently getting acquainted in the area and doing the necessary preliminary work to establish the new church/center.

Weekly Sunday worship services will begin on the last Sunday in January and will be held in the Carlsbad Women's Clubhouse. Continuing class work will also be offered, with "Discover the Power Within You" as the first regular series.

Pauline has given us the mailing address for Unity of Carlsbad: P O Box 50, Carlsbad, California 92008.

Congratulations, Pauline, for this fine pioneer work. ++

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 3-6 Southeast Unity Regional Conference
No. 2, Orlando, Florida, hosted by
Christ Church Unity, Orlando

MARCH

- 14-15 Minister/Board Seminar, Stockton, Cal-
ifornia, hosted by Unity Church of
Stockton
20-23 Church Leadership Retreat, Unity
Village, Missouri

APRIL

- 5-11 Easter Retreat, Unity Village, Missouri
12-25 UICE Session 1, Unity Village, Missouri
26- May 9 UICE Session 2, Unity Village, Missouri
27-30 SCUCA Regional Conference, Austin,
Texas, hosted by Unity Center of Posi-
tive Prayer

MAY

- 2-4 YOU Rally, Camp Castanoan near San
Jose, hosted by Unity Church in
Sacramento
2-4 Wisconsin Unity Retreat, Green Lake,
Wisconsin
7-9 Northern California Regional Confer-
ence, Sacramento, California, hosted by
Christ Unity Church, Sacramento
12-23 Maytime Retreat, Unity Village, Mis-
souri
31- Rose Festival Retreat, Unity Village,
June 6 Missouri

JUNE

- 8-20 AUC Conference, Unity Village, Mis-
souri
22-28 Summertime Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.

JULY

- 5-18 UICE Session 3, Youth Education
Seminar, Unity Village, Missouri
19- Aug. 1 UICE Session 4, Unity Village, Missouri
27- Aug. 2 SCUCA Laymen's Regional Retreat,
Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby, Colo.

AUGUST

- 2-8 August Festival Retreat, Unity Village,
Missouri
10-16 YOU Conference, Unity Village, Mo.
18-22 YAU Conference, Unity Village, Mo.
18-22 Southeast Unity Retreat, Boca Raton
Hotel & Club, Boca Raton, Florida,
hosted by Unity Church of Christ,
Ft. Lauderdale
30- Mid-Season Retreat, Unity Village,
Sept. 5 Missouri

SEPTEMBER

- 13-19 Autumn Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.
16-19 Great Lakes Regional Conference,
Toledo, Ohio, hosted by First Church
Unity, Toledo
27- Harvest Festival Retreat, Unity Village,
Oct. 3 Missouri
28- Unity Retreat, Virginia Beach, Va.
Oct. 1 Sponsored by Eastern Region

OCTOBER

- 10-12 Unity Students Retreat, 25th Anniver-
sary, Asilomar Conference Grounds,
Pacific Grove, California
11-17 Indian Summer Retreat, Unity Village,
Missouri
12-15 Southeast Unity Regional Conference
(place to be announced)
19-24 Ministers' Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.
25- UICE Session 5, Unity Village, Missouri
Nov. 7

NOVEMBER

- 8-21 UICE Session 6, Unity Village, Missouri
22-28 Thanksgiving at Unity, Unity Village,
Missouri

January 1980

Dear Licensed Unity Teacher:

If you have been reading your Contact you know we are planning a time of sharing during the 1980 June Conference. This will be your meeting and I would like to hear from you regarding what you would like to do.

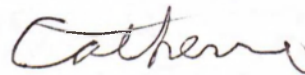
I have talked with Frank and Martha Giudici and they will be happy to give some time just for you. I've talked with Frank about a two-hour class on the Chapter of Exodus. Is this what you would like?

There has been very little response to the columns for Licensed Teachers in Contact. Has it been of any help to you? What can we do to make it more meaningful?

The questions I have been using were from a questionnaire I sent out to the first (January 1979) S.D.S. graduates, but that has now run dry. To keep the space in Contact, I will need your cooperation.

Please take the time, right now, to answer the enclosed questionnaire, or respond in some way on the back, so we can go forward with our plans for Licensed Teachers.

Lovingly, in His service,



Catherine Garvey
Minister-in-Training
Licensed Teacher

CG:pjl

Enc.

BLESSING FOR A CHURCH

By James Dillet Freeman

This is God's house.

May we who come here not only find out about God, but find God.

May there be beauty in this place, but especially may it be a place where men and women become aware of the beauty in themselves.

May this be a place of worship. May this be a place of instruction. May this be a place of singing. May this be a place of prayer.

But for us who worship and take instruction and sing and pray, may this always be a place of inner stillness, where we may listen and hear when God speaks.

May whoever ministers here minister in love. May whoever teaches here teach truth. May whoever serves here serve pleasantly.

May everyone come into this house in expectation and go with thanksgiving, and may anyone who comes needing help go feeling blest.

May this be such a house that Jesus Christ—or any stranger, even one of the least—would feel in it that He was with friends.

Amen.

