

Contact

PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES®

February/March, 1992



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



R. Scott Sherman
Unity Temple
San Francisco, California

This Could Happen To You

"Your sermon on Sunday... touched me so deeply that I feel a need to write and express my gratitude. I have been attending your church for about two months (from another New Thought church) and each week I listen to (your church credo): 'where Truth is taught, hurts are healed, and we learn to live our lives in Love.' And although these words are beautiful and the people appeared friendly, I must admit I have had my reservations. (I came) out of a home where I was physically, sexually, emotionally, and spiritually abused. I don't yet trust people easily and authority figures rank lowest on my list. So it was with deep awe and respect that I listened to you courageously, truthfully, and with great dignity share your humanness. Your words struck a chord of joy in my soul... I'm looking for someone who will walk the walk as she talks the talk--someone to inspire me and walk beside me... Thank you again... I am enclosing my application for church membership. I know I have truly found 'a

spiritual home where Truth is taught, hurts are healed, and we learn to live our lives in Love.' "

These words were written to a minister who has served five years in the field and about three of these years in the church referred to. She had just finished the first portion of a spiritual mentoring process (called VisionQuest) and shared (with her congregation) its impact on her and her own spiritual insights. Then she wrote a letter to me describing her feelings:

"Two weeks out from my VisionQuest has found me still rapidly transforming. It is sheer bliss to have rediscovered 'me' again and to live in the present more each moment. The bottom line really is, 'there is no place (I need) to get to!' I love and support your magnificent healing ministry... thank you for... assisting me on my own personal path of discovery."

I received this letter after the VisionQuest back in May. I have had regular telephone contact with the minister and know that her renewal process and ministry are still going strong. (In fact, she's just become engaged to be married!)

This could happen to you. You, too, can experience a powerful sense of deepening and renewal. During our January meetings dozens of us met to facilitate more Association support of ministry development and spiritual renewal programs for Unity leaders. We opened ourselves to information, programs, retreats, renewal sites and ideas both within and outside Unity. Our Executive Committee also reviewed the preliminary information that Barbara O'Hearne developed in her field focus groups in 1991. Three of our Association standing committees will be tasked to provide further information to you at our Convention in June at Pheasant Run. Other information will be distributed to you through both the Minister's Letter and CONTACT.

Please look for information in your Conference programs for the Renewal Program already scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, June 15 and 16. Your Asso-

ciation is serious about providing you opportunities for your own and your church's spiritual renewal and transformation locally, regionally, and nationally.

This could happen to you!

In loving service,

R. Scott Sherman

Please send me your additional ideas:

R. Scott Sherman
Unity Temple
65 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
FAX: 415-255-1164

Volume 25, Issue 1
February/March, 1992

CONTACT STAFF

Editor-in-Chief Glenn Mosley
Managing Editor Cheryl Vestal
Graphics & Layout Cheryl Vestal
Circulation Glenn Mosley, Jr.

EDITORIAL PURPOSE

The Editorial purpose of CONTACT is the purpose of the Association: the Association of Unity Churches is dedicated to supporting and strengthening its member ministries by providing human resources, administrative and education programs.

Cover:

Unity Church of Peace
South Bend, Indiana
Minister: Barbara J. Jung

Deadlines: 1st of the month, two months prior to issue date

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Glenn R. Mosley
Executive Director

Must Reading: Tax News Alert ALL MINISTERS

Now that I have your attention, before I share three items of very important tax information, I need to say "thank you" to all who made your Association's new dream home a reality.

From the minute your Board of Trustees approved the purchase and completion of our new building, the staff morale began to rise and it continues to do so daily. We no longer have to back out of our offices (offettes) to change our minds.

We thank God for ideas that have come through committees, board members, staff, volunteers, donors, our co-workers at Unity School, and you. We are grateful for God's abundance to be able to acquire and finish and furnish your new Association headquarters. We thank each of you who have given to help us in dream-making; we thank those of you who are giving so that this dream can be paid off ahead of schedule; and we thank you for your continuing ideas, prayers, and money to bring the next phase of our dream into reality by the time the 21st century is upon us.

We are keenly aware that the building is only a vehicle or tool to help us support you, our ministers and ministries, and to expand Unity's message and movement through coming years, but we want to share our joy with you. We praise God for

the quarters which housed us for the first quarter-century of our organization in Unity School's Administration Building and we praise God for our new home. (Headquarter's Highlights--in this issue--shares photos of the big move.)

Now let's return to the mundane and necessary Tax News Items.

Great Lakes and Eastern Regional Conference attendees PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTE; There exists the probability you received misinformation from the tax workshop presenters.

1) The Great Lakes presenter said that he thought most Unity ministers qualified as self-employed for income tax as well as for social security tax. We believe that the presenter must have a false notion about how the majority of Unity ministers function; from IRS literature and from what we know about how Unity ministers function, Young Bae and I disagree with the presenter. For Social Security taxes, a minister must be self-employed. To find out whether or not you as a ministry qualify to be self-employed regarding income tax, see IRS publications 539 and 517. You may determine for yourself by answering 20 questions in the Common-Law Employee Test as it relates to ministers in #539. The outcome of this test will tell you whether you are to be given a 1099 or a W-2 by your church. Most Unity ministers probably should receive a W-2.

2) The Eastern Regional presenter was understood by Alan Rowbotham and others, to say that churches must file US Form 990 "Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax" and then Mr. Sobel made the statement in the second paragraph of his letter to Eastern Regional ministers dated October 25, 1991. **THAT IS ERRONEOUS INFORMATION. OTHER NONPROFITS NEED TO FILE #990, but your church as a ministry listed in the Association's Yearbook does NOT need to file this form. Further, you DO NOT NEED TO OBTAIN YOUR OWN TAX EXEMPT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER; this was**

also misinformation you were given during the tax workshop at the Eastern Region. It is becoming critical, however, that all ministries and study groups listed in the Yearbook must submit an annual report to the Association office. The IRS is increasing its strict adherence policy and the severity of fines (including to churches) for non-compliance. If your church did not submit an annual financial report in September when you received your membership form, I urge you to do so now. Your Association staff can only urge you; we cannot coerce you to comply. However, if the IRS is satisfied that your national organization headquarters has informed you of the need to do so, the national body will not be fined or penalized, but individual churches might be. Your Association office only places your annual financial statement on file; we do nothing with it, but if we are audited, we then have the information required by IRS. Such information has been required by IRS to be sent to the Association office since before the Association was organized, and IRS is now determined to obtain compliance. The recent expose' by TV's Primetime Live on three TV evangelists seems to have increased the determination.

EXCEPTION TO ITEM 2) If your church receives more than \$1000 in non-related income during its fiscal year, you must file US Form 990-T, but not Form 990. If you have \$999 or less of non-related income during your church's fiscal year, you do not file Form 990-T either.

3) The Eastern presenter was also quoted as saying that a minister can take a social security tax waiver anytime during his/her career. It is our understanding that such social security tax waiver must be signed and returned to IRS by the end of the calendar year after the year in which a minister was ordained; usually about 18 months, definitely not anytime.

**May God bless this mess and "us
what has to live by it!"**



Barbara O'Hearne
Church Development and
Management Consultant

Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees of A Unity Church

An Overview

Often we make assumptions that people automatically know how to be a board member. The make-up of many of the Unity churches' boards include women and men who have been involved with the church or center for many years--those with previous community and civic board experience, and/or individuals with extensive business experience. While the qualifications are helpful, if not necessary, specific board development training is needed and ideally ongoing. The organizational culture of each ministry is unique and needs to be understood and appreciated by board members.

As I travel extensively throughout the country, one of the most common requests for information from ministers and board members is a clear understanding of what board members' responsibilities are in serving the church. A key point made at the onset of this discussion is that the minister is a voting member of the board in addition to his/her many other responsibilities.

Board of directors have three major responsibilities which include: policy setting, planning and fund development. In order to clarify and stimulate discussion during the Church Development Workshop these responsibilities are bro-

"... a good board member should be able to face budgets with courage, endowments with doubt, deficits with dismay, and to recover quickly from surplus."

-Michael Davis

Responsibilities of a Board of Directors of a Unity Church

Administration

- ✓ Help set policies for operations
- ✓ Enact charter and bylaw changes
- ✓ Recruit and orient new trustees
- ✓ Assess board performance
- ✓ Meet its legal and ethical responsibilities

Planning

- ✓ Determine and interpret the mission
- ✓ Develop and approve the vision and long-range plan
- ✓ Insure implementation and ongoing evaluation of the plan

Fiscal

- ✓ Set standards for tithing by your personal giving
- ✓ Secure and manage adequate funds for operations
- ✓ Make financial and investment decisions
- ✓ Insure fiscal policies are written and implemented

Personnel

- ✓ Select and support the minister
- ✓ Secure volunteer resources needed by the church
- ✓ Insure adequate personnel policies are in place
- ✓ Evaluate the performance of the board

Programs

- ✓ Monitor program activities
- ✓ Support the minister in developing criteria for quality programs
- ✓ Actively participate in the programs and activities of the ministry

PR/Community Relations

- ✓ Enhance the image of the ministry in the community
- ✓ Communicate with the Association and increase the awareness of being part of a worldwide movement.
- ✓ Insure quality in all materials developed and distributed by the ministry
- ✓ Serve as an ambassador for the ministry in the community

ken down into six key areas: administration, planning, fiscal, personnel, programs, and PR and community relations.

How many of the aforementioned duties are performed by the board will depend to some extent upon the size of the church, its complexity, its available staff, and the effectiveness of the committee structure. All areas of responsibility need to be clearly understood by all, need to be in writing, and need to be periodically reviewed and updated.

The above listing is designed for you to copy the page and use with your board. Please feel free to make additions as you believe appropriate.

Also please share your experiences in using the list of board responsibilities with me. Your ideas and feedback will be used to further refine the list. Thank you. I can be reached by telephone: (816) 531-3353, by FAX: (816) 753-8200, or by mail: 4311 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110.

EXPANSION NEWS



Joann Landreth
Associate Director/
Director of Expansion

The Reverends Austin and Mary Hennessey, ordained in June, 1991, pioneered a new ministry in Burnaby, British Columbia. Both Austin and Mary were eager to share their learning experience about pioneering with other ministers, licensed teachers, and lay leaders interested in such a venture. Following the Hennesseys have shared insightful responses to the questions I asked:

What qualities are necessary in the individual who pioneers?

An entrepreneurial attitude is key, consciousness of ministry, courage, tenacity, leadership skills, meekness and humility, absolute faith and trust in God and a deep belief in the Unity principles.

What steps did you take as you began the venture of pioneering this new ministry?

First of all, during our two years in ministerial school we took the necessary steps to prepare ourselves and establish for ourselves a pioneer consciousness. We were continually focused on pioneering and did everything possible to learn as much as we could about pioneering a ministry. When we arrived in Burnaby we studied the demographics of the area, learning where people are, what was happening, and how they were being served. We did not come to this area by chance. We knew the population and the numbers of unchurched and we saw the need for a family-oriented church. Looking at the demographics is important to finding the

best location, yet bearing in mind and honoring other Unity churches in the area. Then, we began our search for a quality place. The criteria for the location includes (a) quality and excellence; (b) easy access to the facility by the majority of the population; (c) easy to find; (d) visibility; (e) plenty of parking.

Once you selected a location and a date for the first service, how did you go about informing people of this new church?

We advertised in a number of different ways. We developed a quality brochure about the ministry, which we handed out on a one-to-one basis and also left copies in all metaphysical bookstores. We also drew up a press release which we sent to 17 newspapers, 15 radio stations, and 4 television stations.

As pioneering ministers what are your recommendations to other newly developing churches as to what programs should initially be offered?

We began by having an 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship service as well as a youth education program for children. A consciousness and a spirit of oneness was established right from the beginning that this church would have an emphasis on family orientation. We also conducted a Wednesday evening program. When you pioneer all ancillary activities have to be done by you personally. Therefore, we recommend to any other pioneer spirits to focus energy and total emphasis on establishing an excellent Sunday morning worship service only. Pioneering is very demanding, but it is also very rewarding, and highlighting the Sunday morning service is important since that is where the majority of the people will attend. It is also important to establish a steering committee or board, and we used the mastermind prayer technique to open board meetings. In this way we established a prayer consciousness and a prayer based ministry. Other programs can be added.

What is the key to successful pioneering?

Loving the people! It is not the

minister's church but the people's and we need to know that we are all in this together. Also, it is important to share with the congregation an exciting vision for the future and we are enthusiastically helping the congregants to catch this vision. The core group of people who attend have already caught our vision, and they are offering to help in more and more ways. As pioneers we have to be involved in every aspect of ministry, but as we grow, we can delegate and equip people to do more while maintaining our leadership. Communicate with and listen to the people. Sense what they are needing and wanting, and then present vital Unity Truths to them.

Have you any other comments to share with those who have caught the spirit of pioneering a ministry?

Yes, remember that the church may not grow as fast as the ministers wants it to. Be patient and keep the faith!

How are the two of you leading and co-ministering this church?

Essentially we agree that there can only be one leader. However, we researched one of the most successful churches (a Baptist church in Florida) which has two leaders. Each of us has gifts that complement the other. We have been blessed by working in a business partnership for 14 years. We have similar temperaments, and we both have a strong commitment to ministry. We also recognize that what works for us in co-ministering may not work for all couples. We have come to understand that ministry is a process, an ever-changing process, and we as ministers continually grow and change.

It was my joy and privilege to be invited to conduct a special blessing and dedication of this new ministry, Unity Church of the Pacific, on November 3, when the ministry had been in existence one month. The consciousness of love, commitment, and excellence that was present were easily felt which I know will move this ministry forward continually toward greater unfoldment and success. We wish the Hennessey's and Unity Church of the Pacific and all its congregants much success, joy, and prosperity in the future. God bless you all!

CHURCH GROWTH BY RADIO



Carolyn Craft
Radio/Media Consultant

Radio For Peace International

Recently I returned from Costa Rica where I met with 40 World Peace University ambassadors to collectively bring forth new ideas for kindling peace in our world via Radio. Robert Muller, who was for 38 years Assistant Secretary General to the United Nations, spoke to our circle about the many ways for effecting global harmony--with Radio For Peace International (REPI) being the primary objective for our assemblage.

The focus of the four-day meetings was to heighten the awareness for Radio For Peace International and to expand worldwide awareness of the station and the power of short wave radio. REPI provides programming on such issues as: human rights, the environment, oppression, non-violence, arts and media, peaceful solutions, spirituality, the obvious and not so obvious splits in humanity (weaker/stronger, shades of color, men/women, richer/poorer, etc.) and more.

Through REPI, listeners hear programs that alert, empower, educate and inspire without an impending snarl of censorship. (Most of the more than 4,000 short wave stations are government owned and operated.) Radio reaches 80% of the world, while television reaches 20%. REPI

See PEACE on page 7

My Dream 2000

by Robert Muller, Chancellor
University for Peace

I dream

*That on 1 January 2000
The whole world will stand still
In prayer, awe and gratitude
For our beautiful, heavenly Earth
And for the miracle of human life*

I dream

*That young and old, rich and poor,
Black and white,
Peoples from North and South,
From East and West
From all beliefs and cultures
Will join their hands, minds and hearts
In an unprecedented, universal
Bimillennium Celebration of Life.*

I dream

*That the year 2000
Will be declared World Year of Thanksgiving
by the United Nations*

I dream

*That during the year 2000
Innumerable celebrations and events
Will take place all over the globe
To gauge the long road covered by humanity
To study our mistakes
And to plan the feats
Still to be accomplished
For the full flowering of the human race
In peace, justice and happiness*

I dream

*That the few remaining years
To the Bimillennium
Be devoted by all humans, nations and institutions
To unparalleled thinking, action,
Inspiration, elevation,
Determination and love
To solve our remaining problems
And to achieve
A peaceful united human family on Earth*

I dream

*That the third millennium
Will be declared
And made
Humanity's First Millennium of Peace*

Partners in Ministry

a network of spouses of ministers



Al Sears

In my recent Partners in Ministry mail I received the following bit of wisdom on relationships. I would love to give credit to the person who sent it to me but there

was no name nor address; only a note saying: "maybe you can use this, blessings."

The following words of wisdom come to you from some wonderful partner in ministry named Blessings.

RELATIONSHIP - The most important lesson, of course, is the care and love of SELF. For without SELF, there is only despair, fear, and loneliness. People feel that a relationship will bridge their loneliness. No! No relationship can fulfill the SELF. Only the SELF can fulfill itSELF. If this is so, what is a relationship for? What is the purpose of a relationship? The purpose of a relationship is to experience oneness and fulfillment. This purpose can never be fulfilled in the truest sense. It is not what you get from a relationship that is important; it is what you bring to it that counts. And what you can bring, moment by moment, is SELF. For a SELF that is whole brings PEACE and LOVE. And when two persons, two SELVES, come together in PEACE and

LOVE, they come together whole already. Relationships are to remind us that we are whole already, and it is in this wholeness that LOVE and FREEDOM reign supreme. So my way is always to bring and the share wholeness versus receiving, conditions, and qualifications. Remember that relationships are tenuous, moment by moment, occurrences in the universe. Their quality, their degree of LOVE and FREEDOM come from SELF. My way is FREEDOM, not contractual or conditional. My way is wholeness, not two coming together to create wholeness. For humankind the way is to search for and to find wholeness through another person. For me, wholeness comes out of SELF being one and in tune with the total universe. To be whole, moment by moment, in a relationship, one must release SELF from expectations and anticipations. Where? In SELF! So again it always starts with SELF, with SELF introspection and cleansing.

Write **Partners in Ministry, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.**

Peace

(Cont'd from page 6)

is currently heard in 70 different countries (Russia, for example, has over 85 million short wave receivers). With a recent transmitter upgrade, this station can now be heard all over the world. With media as the environment, Radio is the recurrent voice that can speak to millions directly and instantaneously.

From his involvement with the United Nations, Muller shared during our sessions that "world leaders from the United States and Soviet Union believe that our planet will be "busted" in 17 years if we continue to treat our planet as we have in the past."

In Truth, we believe in the power of the invisible over the visible and we believe that our thoughts create our world. We know that in refining our consciousness we do make a difference in our world. Yet, during these days together in pro-active brainstorming, I consistently asked myself how can I make a difference.

If the planet and the human species are waking up at an accelerated rate during this decade as many of us believe, then what can I do differently to further bless and express peace for myself and for my community. The answer that continues to come is "move your feet." Yes, we have a responsibility to ourselves to live moment by moment from our Christ-self, a responsibility to our communities to stay awake and to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters, and we have a responsibility to this earth plane to share our spiritual insight, knowledge, stories, and inspiration, so we may break through old ideas of limitation and race conscious beliefs.

As ministers and teachers you can be a conduit for sharing a seed of hope and transformation to millions of people by utilizing the airwaves. In your community, city, or on a national/international scale, you who are about the experience of regeneration and soul unfoldment; can share your heart with the world via Radio. Your story and insights touch lives and help many realize their potential, their divinity and their oneness with all life. You contribute to the expanding con-

sciousness on our planet when you share your ministry through Radio. Our planet desperately needs Unity. Currently there are program openings on Radio For Peace International through New World Radio (NWR) and Unity is the only religious affiliation with NWR to date. Michael and Faith Moran's radio program, "Vision For A Better World," is on the air with REPI. This program is also available to you for use in various ways. (Call the Radio/Media Department for details and/or a cassette sample.)

If the spoken word can be mechanically intensified one hundred million times, how much greater will be its power when energized by Spirit.

-Charles Fillmore

Share your message of Unity via broadcasting. You are making a difference.

For more detailed information on Radio For Peace International and how you can be involved, call. For assistance in your media outreach, whatever the medium, call. For suggestions and recommendations as to how we can better serve you, call.

Blessings. . .and stay tuned!

Exciting Opportunities Await Us!

I am a true believer in the above statement. Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Debbie Ratliff and I am the new Convention/Conference/Support Services Coordinator.

I have a favorite prayer that I affirm daily and I would like to share it with you. It is:

The Prayer of Serenity

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change.

The courage to change
the things I can.

And the wisdom
to know the difference.

Well, in January, 1991, I made the following New Year's resolution: "There are changes in store for me in my life. God, I now am open and receptive to receive my good." You know the old saying, 'Be careful of the thoughts you put out because they may come true!' It is amazing how many great changes have occurred in my personal and professional life. "The Prayer of Serenity" has been a blessing to me as I go through these changes.

I previously worked for Unity School of Christianity for over sixteen years. Twelve of those years were spent in the Audio/Video Cassette department. I truly enjoyed working for Unity and experiencing firsthand the wonderful Truth teachings taught by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore.

The last several years I have felt that Spirit was moving me to divine destinations that I knew not of! The human part of me would not let divine Spirit move. However, with the thoughts put out in the ethers that day in January, I had no choice. Isn't it wonderful how Spirit moves. I am

truly grateful to be in my right place again and experiencing the exciting opportunities that await me!

I am busily at work on the planning of the 1992 Unity People's Convention which

will be held June 16-21, 1992, at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois. Everyone is excited about the wonderful programs being planned for this event. So mark your calendars now!

1992 Unity People's Convention

June 16-21

Pheasant Run Resort

St. Charles, Illinois

The Association of Unity Churches is pleased to invite you to attend our spectacular 1992 Unity People's Convention which will take place June 16-21, 1992. The location is the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois.

We are excited to have some of today's best speakers appearing daily.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| ✓ Lewis Andrews | ✓ Johnnie Colemon |
| ✓ Larry Dossey | ✓ Matthew Fox |
| ✓ Susan Smith Jones | ✓ Sam Keen |

What a line up! You will be motivated, educated, entertained and inspired while hearing the various presentations available to you.

The convention will be held at the Pheasant Run Resort, a wonderful retreat away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It is a place where you and your family can enjoy the relaxed, country atmosphere of the Fox River Valley. Pheasant Run blends the unique charm and warmth of a country inn with the conveniences and amenities of today's premier resorts.

The Association is working in conjunction with **Uniglobe Priority Travel Service, Inc.**, to guarantee the lowest rate available on hotel (\$55 per night for single or double occupancy; rate for each additional person is \$5), airline, and car rental reservations. So be sure and call **1-800-888-0405** to get your reservations in early!



HEADQUARTERS

HIGHLIGHTS

News for the Field from our Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610 • Lee's Summit, MO 64063 • (816) 524-7414

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FEBRUARY/MARCH, 1992
PRICELESS TRUTH FOR ALL

25 Years of Service to our Field Ministries
Glenn Mosley, Ph.D., Executive Director
R. Scott Sherman, President

I would whisper love so loudly, every heart would understand that love and only love can join the tribes of man. I would give my hearts desire so that you might see, that the first step is to realize, it all begins with you and me.

Love can build a bridge, between your heart and mine.

Don't you think it's time?

Don't you think it's time?

When we stand together it is our finest hour. We can do anything, anything if we believe in that power.

Love can build a bridge, between your heart and mine.

Don't you think it's time?

Don't you think it's time?

Love Can Build A Bridge
The Judds

Love Can Build A Bridge

by R. David Smith, Editor

I believe that we are living in a glorious time, a time when the world is changing, for the good of humanity, right before our eyes. Who would have thought just a few years ago that we would see the end of the "cold war" in 1991. Who would have dreamed that the Berlin Wall would come down or that governments of oppression would crumble and fall all over Eastern Europe. The human spirit is awakening worldwide to its true nature, which is **peace, freedom, and love.**

There is indeed a major shift in human consciousness that is opening doors and lifting gates that have been closed for decades. We have a unique opportunity to build a bridge of friendship, support, and love to people around the world as never before.

Hopefully you read in the December/January issue of CONTACT about the establishment of "Spiritual Unity," the first Unity ministry in the Soviet Union, Republic of Russia. On September 1, 1991, Mikahil Zykov, the first Soviet Unity minister and the Reverend Billie Blain, minister of Sunrise Unity, Fair Oaks, California, together held the first Unity service in Moscow!

Another historic event that same day was the establishment of a bridge of love between Spiritual Unity, USSR, and eighteen U.S. Unity ministries. Via one conference call, this bridge of love was established between Unity ministries half way around the world from each other.

Let me suggest that you and your Unity church consider building such a bridge of love between yourselves and another overseas Unity ministry. You can adopt each other as sister/brother ministries and through the power of love, you can build such a bridge that will establish the support, understanding, and love that we all need.

Another opportunity to build a bridge of love around the world is to sponsor an international ministerial student to attend the Ministerial Education Program at Unity Village. This can be done through participating in the Starlight Fund of the Association of Unity Churches.

Charles Fillmore said, "Love, the Divine Mind, is the idea of universal unity. We connect our soul forces with whatever we center our love upon." If your congregation desires to center their love on being a part of the growth of the Unity movement worldwide, either by sponsoring an international ministerial student and/or by building a bridge of love to an existing international ministry, you can do it now! To get further information on how to start, contact Ron Tyson, Director of World Unity, Unity School of Christianity or Julie Montague, Assistant Director of Development, the Association of Unity Churches.

Again quoting Mr. Fillmore, "Jesus came proclaiming the spiritual interrelationship of the human family." We have the opportunity to follow Jesus' teachings to an even greater degree as we recognize the change of consciousness taking place around the world. ***This is my commandment, that you shall love one another as I have loved you*** (Jn. 15:12). Love can build a bridge.

THE WAYS WE SERVE. . . WHAT'S NEW FROM US TO YOU!

Radio/Media: Response to the new radio spot program "Come Grow With Us" has been wonderful. We would like to share some quotes from churches that have been using them in their cities.

We are going through some very tough and trying times right now and your radio programs keep us going. I don't know what we would do without you.

We have been using the "Come Grow With Us" campaign and the response has been outstanding. We have increased our visitors to the church by 60% over the same period last year.

The first day of our Victoria broadcasts was a holiday Monday. When we arrived in the office on Tuesday we had three messages for information from our broadcasts the previous day. In Victoria we now receive between one and three calls in the ten minutes after one of our spots airs. The callers are asking for directions to find us, time of services or topics for specific classes.

Education Department: Ray Wiggins is now your Coordinator of Intergenerational Ministry. As such he will provide information, training, and resources for children, teens, adults, and family programs in your church. He continues his duties with Y.O.U. Ray says, "Feel free to contact us with your questions related to any of these age levels or program ideas."

Ray is pleased to announce that the following new resources are now available for your ministry:

- *The Parables of Jesus for Children.* A thirteen week lesson series for use in Sunday school.

- *The Adults of Unity Manual.* A "how to" book on starting and programming groups for Young Adults (ages 19-28), Young Thinking Adults (no age limit), Single Adults and Senior Adult groups.

Church Development: Would you like to provide **Headquarters Highlights** to your congregation? Extra copies are available to go on your "free literature table" or for mailing along with your monthly newsletter. Please write Julie Montague at the Association and advise her of your needs. *If this happens to be an extra copy of Headquarters Highlights, please pass it along to a friend.*

CONNECTIONS WITH OUR GROWING FIELD MINISTRIES. . .

Rocky Mountain High Family Retreat, will be the theme for South Central Region's annual family retreat. Mark your calendar now for July 19th through 25th to be at Snow Mountain Ranch near Granby, Colorado.

Austin, TX: Unity of Austin recently celebrated their 30th anniversary. Linda Pendergrass, minister, informed us that their founding minister, Catherine Ponder, was with them on this special day. *Congratulations to Unity of Austin for 30 years of service to God and the people of Austin, Texas.*

Portland, ME: Audrey McGinnis, minister of Unity of Portland writes, "We had our first service in our new facility on November 17. Praise God! We used metal folding chairs. We have no carpet yet, but have paid the contractor, labor, etc., and will continue the outer work as money comes in! Praise God! Our hearts rejoice! Ours too! Blessings and love to you all, and thank you for your contribution to Starlight Fund."

NEWS FROM NEWSLETTERS

Unity Church of Charlottesville (VA): Tony Roebuck, minister, is actively searching for a parcel of land on which to build their permanent home. Their vision statement calls for a parcel of five acres in an attractive natural setting. *We hold the vision with you for the perfect property to be revealed to you NOW!*

Unity of Tallahassee: Nancy Worth, minister, publishes a "Unity Wish List" in their newsletter under the Scripture from John 16:24, "Ask, and you will receive." Their wish list includes such things as a lavalier microphone, video camera, microwave oven, bird feeder, and a computer! *Are you asking for what you need? Are you willing to receive? For someone to be able to give, we each must be willing to receive!*

Unity of Sarasota, FL: Don Jackson, minister, states in his Minister's Letter, "Presently, we are landlocked and we need to make decisions now that will remove this limitation. We are looking at several options and each one will require a leap of faith on our part. Two options are available for expansion. . . . It is not clear to us how this can be implemented, but we are open to our good. . . . We continue to hold the TRUTH of GOD'S GOOD in our hearts and minds as we realize our good. We do this by visualizing the land as if it were already a part of Unity of Sarasota." *We affirm this same TRUTH of GOD'S GOODNESS, knowing that God's Will works through your consciousness to manifest the perfect outcome of your expansion needs. Thank You, God.*

Moving Day Has Arrived!

In the beginning. . .



(l to r) Martha Mosley, Young Bae, Glenn Mosley, Association staff members; and Chip Schmelzer, attorney, at contract signing for the new building, July 19, 1991.

Into the new. . .

Association staff members unpacking or organizing their offices.



Bud Mosley



Connie Nabors



Debbie Ratliff



"Musical chairs" at first lunch in new building. (l to r): Staff members Joann Landreth, Shay St. John, Ann Coolidge, Martha Mosley, Mae Beach, C.J. Floyd, and Susan Valasquez.



Glenn Mosley



Jody Smith



Trish Robinson



Lobby of new Association building at day's end after full staff had partially unpacked.

Out of the old. . .

Crowded yet orderly Association offices at Unity Village during moving chaos November 8, 1991.



Back to Work. . .

with a nearly normal operative office.



Carolyn Kruhm



Nira Schreen



Kathie Smith



Joann Landreth



Shay St. John



Ron Lee



Connie Nabors



Deborah Turner-Bey



C. J. Floyd

UNITY: POSITIVE, PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY FOR OUR TRANSFORMATIVE TIMES!

Association of Unity Churches

P.O. Box 610 • Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414 FAX: (816) 525-4020

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OUR ASSOCIATION OF
UNITY CHURCHES
REFLECTS YOUR
COMMITMENT TO
EXPANDING THE GLOBAL
FUTURE OF OUR UNITY
MOVEMENT

*"There is no difficulty that enough love
will not conquer; no door that enough
love will not open, no gulf that enough
love will not bridge. . . ."*

Emmet Fox

Thank You!

*Please accept our most sincere
thanks for your continuing generous
support
of our Association of Unity Churches.
Your love offerings allow us to reach out
to our growing global community
as we express ever-expanding
Reflections of Service.*

Building Fund Update

Our Gratitude Overflows:

- To the ministries who have already joined us in this vision to have our own home.
- To individuals who have invested in the future of our movement through their support.
- To other ministries and individuals who will join us in our vision of fully repaying our loan.
- For a building to serve our projected needs for six to eight years, giving us time to build a strong foundation for future construction on Village grounds.
- For 9,400 sq. ft. in which to SERVE YOU!

Your prayers, your financial support, your ideas, your planned gifts, and matching gifts all come together to create a home for our Association that will serve and support you in ever-expanding ways.

Abbreviated financial overview: to fulfill the goal of repaying our "balloon note" on our new building by January, 1995, requires \$35,000 per month in donations. Our average gifts at this time are \$19,000. You can MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the fulfillment of this goal!

STARLIGHT 1991-92 Fund

Who is the first STARlight Team?
People like you and me who are. . .

- Insuring ongoing quality services to our field ministries, meeting all current and future needs.
- Committed to Unity's global vision and direct support of international ministerial students. (Twenty-five percent of all STARlight gifts goes directly into an International Scholarship Fund.)
- Pro-active, affirming a positive flow of finances to expand and create vital new programs and services for ministries all over our planet.
- Instrumental in the creation of an active, involved "cadre of patrons"—a team of lightbearers committed to the expanding world vision of Unity NOW and into the millennium!

You are lovingly invited to
Share The Abundant Resources
and join our STARlight Team now.

Planned Giving

Thoughtful estate planning can secure the future of your family and loved ones.

You can make gifts to your church, school, or other philanthropies.

Estate taxes may often be reduced or eliminated.

You can be a philanthropist NOW.

Yes, you do need a lawyer to draw your will.

Before you see your lawyer, send for our brochure "Making Your Will."

The estate planning benefits of gifts to our institution depend upon your unique circumstances. We would like to give you additional information about charitable gifts and discuss with you and your advisors the most advantageous ways to make them.

For more information on Building Fund, STARlight, or Planned Giving, please contact Shay, Julie, or Mae in the Development Office.



Shay St. John
Director of Development

It is my privilege and joy to work with you--ministers, boards, and staff--in many of our Unity ministries. It is exciting to watch you affirm a willingness to understand and implement proven fund raising techniques. Balanced with our dynamic Unity principles, development work is a vital tool for insuring the funds required to do the work ahead.

In my two years of service at our Association Headquarters there have been many questions, mixed emotions, resistance, and encouragement from you, the field, as we have implemented an active and growing Development Department. Time, patience, and the evidence of these fund-raising principles at work have opened many doors that at first appeared closed. Our move into our new World Headquarters building affirms the rightness of the decisions of our Board of Trustees as they made a commitment to move us into active fund-raising. Much of the initial resistance has softened. More and more requests for consultation and increased invitations to come work with staff and boards clearly indicate a growing acceptance.

There is one area, however, that appears to be the most difficult one in which to make a breakthrough. As a field minister for twelve years, I understand the resistance. As one who is daily growing in my understanding of the importance of

...as we unite our energies --as we cooperate and work together, sharing our combined resources in all areas--we will synergize the potential within our individual ministries as well as within our Association of Unity Churches.

active Development Teams within every Unity ministry, I am saddened.

Just one area. It requires a new vision to dissolve its energy. Marilyn Ferguson, author of the *Aquarian Conspiracy*, might say it will require a paradigm shift in our thinking. This one area concerns our hesitancy to actively participate in and accept the concept that as we unite our energies --as we cooperate and work together, sharing our combined resources in all areas--we will synergize the potential within our individual ministries as well as within our Association of Unity Churches.

"But we do that," you may say. And on some levels, we do. Yet there remains a separation between our congregations and our international movement. Most people who attend a Unity ministry know nothing about our Association and its commitment to serve their ministry. Silent Unity is known. Perhaps even Unity School is recognized by many Unity people. But our Association remains a mystery to most of our individual members.

For the first time ever, our Association is actively seeking to break through this 'cloud of unknowing.' Our Annual Fund invites individuals to join our STARlight team and Share The Abundant Resources as we expand our services to you, our member ministries. Many have responded positively. Some feel uncomfortable as individual participants in local ministries are receiving information.

Questions have come. Where did you get the names on our very small mailing list? Did we somehow gain access to the church's list? To answer these questions is important. Our mailing list has been built slowly, but surely. People who have written to us asking questions, or who have sent in a donation at some time are

apart of it. In addition, when I travel to a ministry, I invite people to sign up for mailings from our Association. Our Vision subscription list, those who have attended our annual conference. . .these various sources have become compiled into a mailing list of close to 8,000 names. One ministry has willingly shared its mailing list. Another has selectively chosen a few names to send us. Still another has been willing to take our STARlight literature and mail it with their newsletter.

The possibilities that stretch before us are exciting to contemplate. I envision each Unity ministry abundantly blessed with the financial resources it requires to live its vision. I am committed to working with you as you create the "Dynamic ReSourcing of Spirit for Your Growing Ministry." Our Association affirms its support to you by gifting your ministry with the cost of my expenses as I travel to work with you.

We understand the most basic principle of fund-raising--and of Unity--that the more we share with each other, the better all of us are! The more we give to one another, the more we receive from one another. Statistics consistently confirm that when local organizations actively invite their group into the work of the national or international nonprofit, donations within their local group significantly increase.

Scientists are confirming what we have known for over a hundred years. Our power or impact in the world is increased tenfold as we join together in common purpose. Can you imagine the transform-

See PRINCIPLE on page 10

"Challenges of the Minister"

by Richard Dale Billings
Unity of Oak Park
Oak Park, Illinois

Unity, along with many denominations is asking the question, "Why are ministers moving often? Why is it so many ministers are questioning remaining in the ministry? Why is there so much burnout and breakdowns along with physical illness? Could it be there is a misunderstanding regarding the role of the minister and a need for a clear understanding of his/her responsibility.

The old system sees ministers more as servants rather than the professional individuals they are. Years of training puts the minister in a role along with top professional people. Payments to ministers certainly are not in keeping with other professions for services rendered. The minister is required to be committed; that is part of the calling, but not to the whims of individuals who take advantage of the role. Some say there is a lack of respect for the private life of the minister. Like any professional, certain rules are to be followed and their lives need to be lived in an acceptable way. The way we live is often the way we minister.

Ministry is an interaction with people--all kinds of people. We are required to have skills in communication and understanding. It is important intuitively to recognize problem areas as well as people-problems. Every congregation has its difficult people the same as any other organization. It is the role of the minister and Board of Directors to work together with prayer and healing. In some cases an individual may need to be confronted and allowed the right to state his/her case. Such an instance comes out of a good understanding of our teaching based on the thought, "Principle before personality."

Jesus speaks clearly to the concept of stewardship and its importance in our individual life as well as the life of a church. It is an important quality for leaders in any profession. Good sound administration makes the difference in

success or failure. However, care must be taken not to equate success with financial achievement. In many cases the minister and members of the congregation come from backgrounds of poor money management, not just the experience of a shortage of money. They find it difficult to understand the idea of consciousness and the power within to work with principle in developing a strong prosperity program.

Responsibilities of the minister often become overwhelming and often there is not a support team to turn to. Networking is an important factor in the health of an individual and the health of an organization--NO PERSON IS AN ISLAND (or no person can be everything to everybody). Preaching and teaching are a relatively small part of the work of the minister. The minister is there to work with individuals through their challenges, grief, fear, and all the human experiences encountered on life's path. This is the time when the "timeless Truth" must be shared, realizing it is the Truth that frees and not a person. The successful minister/teacher must assimilate ideas and concepts to keep current. There is organization and planning that is vital to the life of the ministry. Both adult and youth programs must be worked out and given good leadership. Then come the weddings, funerals, christening, and personal counseling which require great amounts of time, and they seldom fit into a schedule of regular hours. Too often proper consideration is not given to the minister for this extra time and specialized service. We also must stand guard so that quantity will not diminish the quality of the services rendered. Scheduling is important along with timing of events. This is only a small part of the ministry but hopefully it will answer questions for some who ask.

(Inspired by an article, "Burdens of a Preacher"--author unknown)

Principles

Cont'd from page 9

ing power Unity ministries would have on this planet if we focused our vision? We conservatively estimate 200,000+ Truth students attending our member churches and centers. What do you think would happen if all of them were holding a shared vision? According to scientific research they would have the power of over nine billion minds and hearts!!!

These words from Thomas B. Welch, Jr.'s, article, "Interdependence," remind us of the gentle bonds of unity that strengthen and support us in all we do.

"At one time in my life I was a loner, quite content to do a 'solo act.' Why did I need other people? They surely did not need me. It was at this point that I came across the word 'bioluminescence.' This word is the result of a marine phenomenon that occurs in the village of Parguera on the south shore of Puerto Rico.

"The periodical in which I found the word told of a charter boat chugging through the sea, bound for the shore. The captain cut the motor and told the passengers to look astern. The wake was brilliantly aglow. This explanation was given: 'That radiance,' said the captain, 'comes from thousands of protozoa. When one tiny protozoan comes in contact with another, the nerves of one trigger the light of the other. They can't light up on their own. They have to touch each other to do that.'"

We have to touch each other to light up! We have to share our strengths, our resources, our unlimited creative talents, as we break through into a new way of visioning! I rejoice in the paradigm shift happening now in our hearts as we open to the joy of touching one another--and lighting up our world!

For the light you trigger in our Association, THANK YOU! If you would like to become a part of our growing mailing list, please send our Development Department your name, address, city, state, zip, and phone number.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

On behalf of the Association of Unity Churches' staff and Board of Trustees, we extend to you our deep gratitude and appreciation for your past financial support. The love and faith you incorporate into your gifts make them special.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES Statement of General Fund Operations Seven Months Ended October 31, 1991

INCOME-OPERATIONS	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Love Offerings	\$88,898.48	\$66,982.49	\$493,722.37
Other Income	<u>5,369.31</u>	<u>2,457.01</u>	<u>42,838.66</u>
	\$94,267.79	\$69,439.50	\$536,561.03
Less: Tithe Transfer	<u>4,645.97</u>	<u>11,981.00</u>	<u>53,431.20</u>
	89,621.82	57,458.50	483,129.83
Gross Profit Material	<u>14,493.63</u>	<u>5,633.01</u>	<u>49,967.95</u>
Total Income	<u>\$104,115.45</u>	<u>\$63,091.51</u>	<u>\$533,097.78</u>
EXPENSE-OPERATIONS	<u>\$68,268.96</u>	<u>\$82,211.18</u>	<u>\$535,918.81</u>
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES:	<u>\$ 35,846.49</u>	<u>\$ (19,119.67)</u>	<u>\$ (2,821.03)</u>

Unity School Contribution to the Association of Unity Churches Through Services Provided:

Month of September: \$8,164.52

Month of October: \$8,531.69

Year to Date: \$65,298.94

Building/Development Fund

INCOME-OPERATIONS	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Love Offerings & Others: Building	\$ 7,954.78	\$ 6,391.38	\$260,251.03
Love Offerings & Others: Development	23,000.00	600.00	49,650.00
Interest & Dividend	<u>2,468.74</u>	<u>3,811.64</u>	<u>12,142.93</u>
Total Cash Income	<u>\$ 33,423.52</u>	<u>\$ 10,803.02</u>	<u>\$322,043.96</u>
CASH DISBURSEMENT			
Development	11,355.03	19,822.46	90,046.86
Building	<u>3,296.20</u>	<u>11,704.14</u>	<u>162,646.96</u>
Total Cash Disbursement	<u>\$ 14,651.23</u>	<u>\$ 31,526.60</u>	<u>\$252,693.82</u>
NET CASH BALANCE THIS YEAR:	<u>\$ 18,772.29</u>	<u>\$ (20,723.58)</u>	<u>\$ 69,350.14</u>

A Letter From The Education Department

by Mick Dustin, Director of Education

It's fun to write! The time spent in researching a focus subject and experiencing the rush of ideas as pieces come together is a real delight. Most of us will agree that one of the hardest things to do is to create a good talk "from scratch." Yet as our experience grows and our research methods develop, we find the process both pleasant and energizing. I know this same process will hold true for me in writing CONTACT articles in the months to come. This month I find myself without research files and still rusty at writing articles. Yes, this too shall pass.

I came into this position without a doubt that my training and experience would lend itself well to the many tasks of this department. The joy and enthusiasm I bring with me, I believe, will be an added blessing in serving you. My prayer for as long as I can recall has been for me to be a positive force for good in whatever I do. In this position there are so many areas and levels of expression where this prayer can be made manifest.

One other prayer that stays with me is to have my work be relevant. I feel competent in realizing the needs of our Association and formulating plans and projects to meet such needs. Yet at the same time, I need your help.

In this first article of CONTACT I am seeking to

communicate my willingness to serve you, to be responsive to your ministry and work with you to accomplish our common goals. How do you need to be served? The Education Department of the Association of Unity Churches has a tremendous resource of information and material available to you. Every day I uncover more resources and I will make much of this information available to you in future articles.

Our Board has at least eleven committees for which the Education Department has been assigned as staff representative. In the months to come I will highlight these committees, the work they are doing and how you can better benefit from their efforts.

As ministers it is so very easy to get so caught up in our ministering to others that we lose track of or forget that there are others who can help us meet our own needs as well as assist in ministering to others. I truly enjoy this opportunity to be actively involved in a ministry to ministries.

As stated, I need your help. I need to know what is relevant to you and the areas of service that you and your ministry would benefit from in the greatest way. Help us to know you better so we can utilize our common resources to our mutual highest and best good.

Sparkplugs

Talk Topics and Sermon Starters from Unity publications

This month: *Fear Not!* by Martha Smock

This inspirational book by Martha Smock, former editor of *Daily Word*, is a collection of articles that have never before been published in book form. The selections were chosen by Jeanne Allen, who was Martha's assistant and later served as *Daily Word* editor.

Many of the topics that you discuss are directly or indirectly addressed in this book. Perhaps a highlight of the book is Martha's own story of writing "No Other Way," the poem that may be her most widely known work. "No Other Way" has been a tremendous influence for many people as they became aware of God's direction in their lives, and in this story Martha outlines the ideas that inspired the poem. "No Other Way" is also reprinted with the article in this book.

Other helpful features of the book are the numerous references Martha makes to her own personal experiences and her sharing of wisdom and insight gained from her relationships. If you like anecdotes and examples to spark interest in a sermon, this book supplies a liberal sprinkling of both.

Fear Not! will certainly rate #1 for suggestions on how to treat the most often-heard needs of healing, guidance, and prosperity. However, it also covers topics such as timidity, fear, courage, life and death, condemnation, choice making, youth and aging, security, relationships, moods, helping others, change, insomnia, resurrection, and time. Many affirmations are given, as well as meditation ideas and Scripture quotes.

This will be a popular book with *Daily Word* readers, and of course every Unity library should have several copies available for lending. For the Truth minister, this is a valuable reference book and idea stimulator. Copies of *Fear Not!* can be obtained from the Sales Department of Unity School of Christianity.



Judith Venturini
Year of the Child Coordinator

Minister's Role In The "Year of The Child"

As we enter this New Year, I suddenly realized that "The Year of the Child" is only a year way! Before we know it, we will find ourselves hanging up those calendars marked 1993! So now is the time to plan and set goals to "enhance and expand our ministries for children and youth." Some of you have already started your plans and I would like to applaud you on your enthusiasm and excitement. Let me share some projects I have heard about in my communications with the people in the field.

One youth director said that their church was planning to initiate ways to provide child care or some kind of program for the children of parents who attend classes during the week. Another plans to hold a community dinner every Wednesday night for parents and their children for fellowship and fun.

One small ministry I visited does not have a Sunday school, but on occasion will have a family with children attend. However, these people never return, so they are planning to have sets of lesson plans available with someone prepared to teach the children when they do attend. They believe that as they begin to serve families, their ministry will blossom.

Other ministries are making plans on

Year of the Child Mission Statement

The purpose of the Year of the Child is to support the Unity churches to enhance and expand their ministries with children and youth.

--Youth Services Committee

a grander scale. I have heard mention of ideas such as initiating a latch key program for the community, day care facilities, preschools, and improving the space that houses the Sunday schools.

As each and every church commits itself to create better programs for children, Unity will truly make a difference in the spiritual lives of these dear ones.

How can you have a successful program for "The Year of the Child" in your church? Where do you begin?

The first step is the desire to celebrate and empower the children. We want to provide the environment that will be conducive to helping children and youth express their Christ consciousness and develop their full human potential. The following steps will help keep you on target and give some ideas of how to begin.

Ten Steps to a Successful Year of the Child

☐ 1. Select a chairperson

This person should be dedicated to children, have a willingness to work with others as the chair of a committee, and be willing to commit time and energy to seeing plans are carried through.

☐ 2. Form Education Committee

Purpose of this committee will be to do a needs assessment to determine the quality of the youth education department and brainstorm ways to improve it. The committee should consist of the YOC chairperson (if not the YE director), the youth education director, a board member, a teacher, and a couple of parents. This committee should report to the minister.

☐ 3. Write a Vision Statement

"Where there is no vision, the people

perish" (Proverbs 29:18 KJV). Just as each of us is individual and unique, our churches share in an individualized expression. Therefore, each ministry will have its own vision, which will be an expression of what is needed to better serve the children and youth. An example would be to raise community awareness of the inherent spiritual value of each child through worship, education, and social action.

☐ 4. Set Goals

Remember to reflect back to your vision statement when doing this. You want to make sure that all your goals are congruent with it. Some important questions you might want to ask yourself when making your plans are:

- * Are children going to be involved?
- * Are others in the congregation going to be involved?
- * Will your plans extend into the community?
- * Are your goals balanced with availability of volunteers and funds?
- * How will you get financing? Do you need to do some budgeting?

☐ 5. Action Steps

Break down each of your goals into action steps. Be sure to indicate who will complete the steps and make a time line that shows when they are to be completed.

☐ 6. Get Board Approval

This is very important. Include your action steps when you present your plan.

☐ 7. Form subcommittees

These subcommittees will be assigned certain tasks. For example, if you want

See CHILD on page 16

Child

(Cont'd from page 15)

special music, you may want to have a music subcommittee, which your music coordinator may possibly head. (The chairperson should check in and make sure that the subcommittees are on target and give any support needed.

☐ 8. Publicity

First of all you want to publicize and create enthusiasm and support in your congregation for your plans for "The Year of the Child." One way to do this is through a short insert in the bulletin which can be a sort of mini-newsletter. Also announcements from the minister or the Youth Education Coordinator will be helpful. A display of the promo items--the T-shirt, buttons, affirmation cookies, and The Year of the Child song, "Growing Love," with order blanks and a poster designed by the children--can help. Some churches are having the children pass around affirmation cookies (available through the Association) to the congregation after a special service on children. Other churches are distributing the YOC buttons to those who will sign a card of commitment to children and youth. Use your imagination!

☐ 9. Regularly Set Meetings

Decide on a time when the committees are able to meet and spend time to check where you are on your goals. Also this may be the time to support and encourage one another and spend time in prayer for your children's ministry.

☐ 10. Celebrate

Plan a time to celebrate your "Year of the Child" projects and your children and family ministry. But most important, take time to celebrate yourselves! You deserve it!

In closing, you will be successful if you follow the three steps found in the acronym for the "YOC." "Y" is for youth. How will you improve the spiritual education for the youth you so dearly love? "O" is for organized. Use these steps to help organize your plans and make sure that your vision becomes a reality. "C" is for celebrate. Let your inner child free and celebrate with the children.

Please contact me at the Association of Unity Churches, if I can assist you in your plans. (816/524-7414, ext. 338)

God's love and mine!

An Invitation To Present Graduation Bibles

Ministers and individuals are invited to participate in the Graduation Bible Project, which has proved to be meaningful to the ministerial graduates. This project gives you the opportunity to present a deluxe edition of a pulpit Bible.

There will be 39 graduates receiving Bibles this year. If you would like to participate, please send \$60.00 made payable to the Ministerial Education Program, and note that it is for a graduation Bible. Address the envelope to: **Gladys Branscum, %USRS-MEP, Unity Village, MO 64065.** This check should be sent by May 1, 1992.

The inscription in the front of the Bible will state that it is presented by you or your ministry. If you would like the Bible to go to a particular graduate, please write the information on your check or in a note.

Attention Ministers A Gift for You

"Picking up the Pieces" is a video and booklet prepared to help children who are grieving the death of a loved one. Ministers can get free copies to give to families in need by calling 1-800-9CARING.

We encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful service.

Year of the Child/Youth Services Committee

1992 Snow Mountain Retreat Granby, Colorado

Sunday, July 19
through
Friday, July 24

For more information contact
Unity Village Chapel Office
816-251-3590

INTERGENERATIONAL EDUCATION MINISTRY



Ray Wiggins
Coordinator of
Intergenerational Ministry

Teaching Resources for Unity Centers

An Update

Upon joining the staff of the Association of Unity Churches almost four and one-half years ago now, it became clear to me that our churches' greatest need was for lesson materials to use in their classrooms, particularly with children and teens.

It became my goal as International Consultant for Teens, as I was then, to meet that need by producing lesson materials for Uniteen and Y.O.U., which were written by Unity people as easy-to-follow lesson plans, based on whole-brain learning.

Our first step was to establish a vehicle by which teachers/sponsors could share their lesson plans with one another. First came the Y.O.U. SPONSOR PAK, a quarterly packet of lessons, fund raisers, and "this worked with us" ideas. Then, came UNITEEN LEADERS' PAK, a bi-annual packet of lessons and information shared by those who worked with this age group. These two packets continue to be our most popular and useful tools.

Soon we were able to publish, LESSONS IN TRUTH FOR Y.O.U., then after that, MAKING CHOICES, a study for Uniteens. This past year we published, JESUS THE WAYSHOWER, for Uniteen and Y.O.U., and a book of the joysongs we sing in our teen ministry entitled, JOYSONGS, JOYSONGS, JOYSONGS, . . .

Our children's department published, THE METAPHYSICS OF OZ and HOLIDAY EXPERIENCES FOR UNITY CHILDREN.

To date, we have published six (6) Unity-based materials.

Meanwhile, we were busy identifying material published by non-Unity publishers which we considered usable in our churches. Over 50 titles were added to the resources we were making available to our churches for children and teens.

During this time, IMAGE, our basic curriculum resource was being updated in language and artwork. Six quarters were re-done before response from the field told us that the revision was not a high priority.

These action steps have been helpful, but are not sufficient. Upon approval of funds, we shall publish another 14 resources written by Unity teachers and 16 from other publishers by 1992-93.

Most importantly, our Curriculum Task Force has designed a totally new curriculum which cuts across all age levels and involves the family. We will present a typical Sunday morning sample lesson plan in January to our Board of Directors. A complete report of our educational philosophy, learning objective, format and lesson topics is available now. Next steps for the Task Force are to field test the sample, identify an editor and writers, and create a budget and time line for Board approval.

I trust this update provides you with data as to what our goals are, what efforts we have made, what has been accomplished, and where we see ourselves going related to providing Unity centers with quality teaching/learning material for children, youth, and adults.

It is a privilege to be of service to you. Your response to this update is encouraged. Together, like our co-founder, Myrtle Fillmore, we "will take care of the children."

Distinguished Youth Service Award



Lei Lanni Burt, minister, and Michelle Gabler-Herz

On September 8, 1991, Michelle Gabler-Herz from Unity Church of Today, Gardnerville, Nevada, was presented the Distinguished Youth Service Award for significant service to the youth of Carson Valley. The Distinguished Youth Service Award was developed by the Association of Unity Churches to recognize a lay person who is an active member of the church and has served youth in the church and community.

Important Dates For 1992

Mid-Year Committee Meetings
Executive Committee Meetings
Skills Demonstration Seminar
Board Member Seminar & Retreat
Pre-Conference (St. Charles, IL)
Unity People's Convention (St. Charles, IL)
Licensed Teacher Postgraduate Week
Skills Demonstration Seminar
Youth of Unity Conference
Adults of Unity Conference
Executive Committee Meetings
Board Member Seminar & Retreat
Skills Demonstration Seminar

Jan. 19-24 (Sun.-Fri.)
March 30 - April 1 (Mon.-Wed.)
April 25-May 1 (Sat.-Fri.)
May 16-21 (Sat.-Thurs.)
June 12-16 (Fri.-Tues.)
June 16-20 (Tues.-Sat.)
June 27 - July 3 (Sat.-Fri.)
August 8-14 (Sat.-Fri.)
August 10-16 (Mon.-Sun.)
August 17-23 (Mon.-Sun.)
Sept. 13-18 (Sun.-Fri.)
Sept. 19-25 (Sat.-Fri.)
Oct. 31 - Nov. 6 (Sat.-Fri.)

1992 Regional Conferences

Attention Regional Reps:

Please advise Nira Schreen in the Association Office (816-524-7414, ext. 352)
of the dates and location of your region's conference
and officers of your region for 1992.

Eastern
Southeast

October 4-7
October 12-16

Virginia Beach, VA

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES®
P.O. Box 610 Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414

 **Contact**

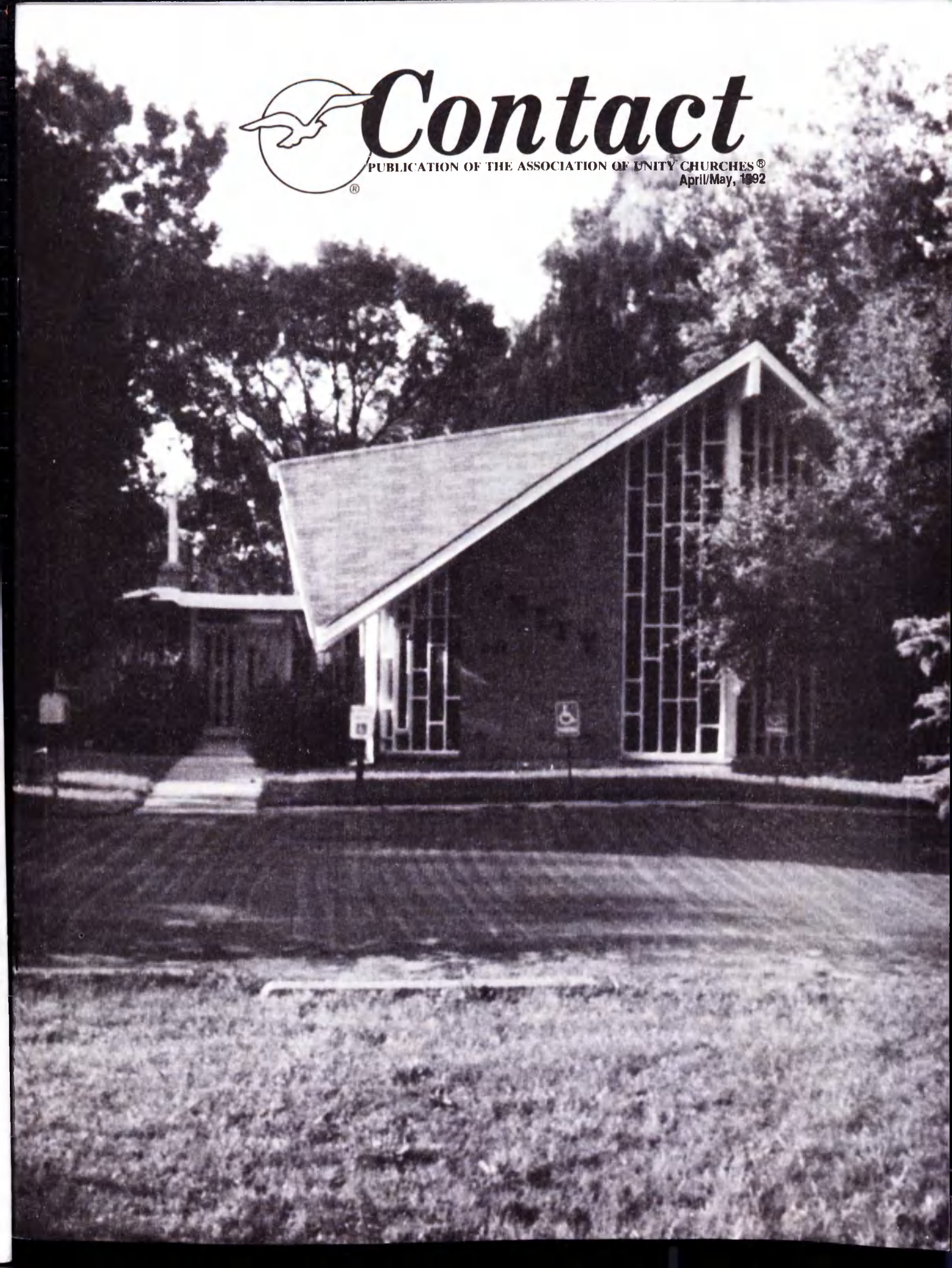
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PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES®
April/May, 1992



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



R. Scott Sherman
Unity Temple
San Francisco, California

Listen, Hear, Respond

One of the greatest needs of adults is to have individuals in their lives who really listen to them then to have clear evidence that the listener really "hears" the meaning of the communication, and finally, that some impact is made so that a response occurs.

In our North American cultures today, there is a great deal of communication, but very little listening, hearing, and responding. This is particularly true in groups and organizations of every size and description. It can also be true in our own homes, churches, and in the Association. In this article, I want to list several areas of need or concern that your Association Board and staff have heard from ministries and how we are responding to you.

I want my ideas for the Association's future to be taken seriously. Sometimes I feel the Board and staff set goals and make decisions without really considering my ideas.

Barbara O'Hearne has spent almost a year conducting thirteen focus groups including 175 ministers and teachers. This information has been presented to the Board and staff for action. Additional work will be done to incorporate the

needs, concerns, and visions in ALL Association plans and programs now and in the future. These ideas will create the Association of tomorrow.

Our Association plans called for a chaplain to support ministers to be hired some time ago. When will this happen?

The board voted to fund hiring a chaplain right after convention this year. Applications will be circulated then.

I want a more spiritually-focused Convention/Conference; a time for my own spiritual renewal.

Our Program Committee, convention staff and board have developed a wonderful convention program for June that includes a two-day renewal retreat, inspirational speakers, much prayer support time and a unique site that will be all ours if we have 1,000 guests registered. The Board has adjusted the schedule so there will be no board or committee business during the renewal retreat so all who desire can attend.

Conventions are too expensive.

Rates at the beautiful Pheasant Run Resort will be \$55 per room for the entire resort except for suites. This compares very favorably with Unity Village and nearby motels. The several resort restaurants and those nearby also compare favorably with the Inn and restaurant prices in the Kansas City area.

I want a live voice when I call our Association offices. The phone system is too impersonal.

Another employee has been hired so you will be greeted "live" during regular office hours and on Fridays. This change should be in effect by the time you read this. This is a powerful commitment as the home office receives 11,000 calls each month.

Our plans for building a new building are much too grand and expensive. Why conduct a building fund when we have an adequate building now?

Our building fund activity is directed at the present building in Lee's Summit. Unity School has granted us a delay in building on the Unity Village site. We

plan to complete the present building and pay it off entirely before doing additional work at the other site. Our present building will probably be our home for another eight years.

I need more direct services such as Barbara O'Hearne provides plus more materials to support me in my ministry.

Our chaplain, mentoring, and renewal are being given top priority. As these continue, we will be asking you for more direct input and suggestions. Our plans are strongly emphasizing these areas now and in the future.

These comments represent only a part of our support for one another, but I hope they give you a flavor of our commitment to listen, hear, and respond.

In loving service,

R. Scott Sherman

Volume 25, Issue 2

April/May, 1992

CONTACT STAFF

Editor-in-Chief Glenn Mosley
Managing Editor Cheryl Vestal
Graphics & Layout Cheryl Vestal
Circulation Glenn Mosley, Jr.

EDITORIAL PURPOSE

The Editorial purpose of CONTACT is the purpose of the Association: the Association of Unity Churches is dedicated to supporting and strengthening its member ministries by providing human resources, administrative and education programs.

Cover:

Unity Northwest Church
Des Plaines, Illinois
Minister: Violet R. Davis

Deadlines: 1st of the month, two months prior to issue date

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Glenn R. Mosley
Executive Director

management team (Board and staff) and a desire for less "management" has come through in such a way that we cannot mistake it. From the responses of your Board and the Executive Committee which I observed in January, and knowing my own feelings on the subject, this is definitely a mutual desire on the part of all of us.

A step toward responding to request number three was taken when your Board of Trustees approved the Spiritual Renewal Committee's recommendation that they and I reschedule our June board and committee work so we can all attend the pre-convention Spiritual Renewal Retreat. The Board then requested that Scott Sherman and I do whatever was necessary to allow this to happen. Gladly! And the rescheduling is done.

The past several years, your Board has had personal "check in" time very early in their meetings and I consider what others say as confidential. If you will permit (by reading on) I'd like to share with you some of my personal "stuff" however.

When I was elected to the Board of Trustees, a few personal friends who were colleagues seemed to begin immediately thinking of me as one of "them." Since I didn't feel as though I was one of "them," I was confused. When elected to the Executive Committee, apparently I became still another "them" member.

In June, 1985, eighteen of the twenty-one board members either "recruited" me to take my present position, or at least to apply for it. By actual count, more than sixty minister-colleague-friends also asked me at the June Conference in 1985. To all I said, "God has not told me to do that." On the drive home from conference, God changed her mind--or at least on the way home I heard what she had been saying all along. I applied and had a conference call interview with the Executive Committee, and I was asked the same questions all other applicants were asked. They selected me. With all the support for my applying for this job, I just

knew I would have support in executing it.

And I did! At least professionally and organizationally. Good things began happening, thanks to the head, heart, finances, hands-on support of so many. The number of donors to the Association nearly doubled the first year, and has continued to maintain or increase since then. Strategic goals and plans began falling into place like a precision Swiss watch, truly thanks to the full support and cooperation of several hundred colleagues and their ministries.

My personal support from colleague-friends became almost nonexistent--or at least that's how it felt. Twenty of my twenty-six years in field ministry were invested in the Great Lakes Region which I dearly loved and by whom I felt loved. My first attendance at their regional conference was in September, 1985, after accepting office in late June. Personally I felt cut off from my friends in the Great Lakes. Through that Fall and the next Spring, I repeatedly felt that personal loss in the regions. There have always been exceptions; some colleagues have accepted me personally, warts and all--and in this position, "warts" don't go unnoticed. However, for the most part, I felt a dichotomy; support for my organizational skills; non-support for me personally. I was no longer one of "them"; I was "him."

Jay Dishman helped me begin to see what had happened and that it was no one's "fault," but long-established customs which helped to support the "happening." In February before he died in December, 1988, Jay called and said, "When I come out to the Village for the M.E.C. meetings in March, can I take you out to dinner? Through the years in which you and I have served on committees and the Board, we have developed a friendship that I don't want to allow to deteriorate. I know you often have dinner subcommittee or task force meetings, but can you "save" one evening for us to have dinner together?" With tears in my eyes

See EXECUTIVE on page 6

We're here to "hear" and we're here to love. The loving is easy and we do it, sometimes when you, the object of our love, are unaware. The hearing is also easy; the problems come when what we "hear" is not what you said, or we "hear" through economy-tuned ears or...or...etc.

Although the Focus Groups' raw data is not yet correlated, we (the Board of Trustees and I) have heard three requests which we can already work on implementing:

1. The desire to have our telephones answered by a person. At this writing, Martha and Young are working on ways that this can be accomplished. This desire of yours will have begun on February 21st (3-4 weeks before you receive this issue of CONTACT).
2. Your desire for a chaplain has been heard and we are preparing for this to happen. We are writing a job description, and preparing space and equipment in the faith that funds will be available so that a chaplain can be identified by late summer.
3. The desire for mutual exchange of feelings among all our ministers and licensed teachers and our Association



TO: All Ministers and Licensed Teachers Who Participated in the Focus Groups
From: Barbara O'Hearne, Church Development and Management Consultant
RE: Strategic Planning/Focus Groups Update

Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for your participation in one of the 13 focus groups conducted around the country over the past few months. Approximately 175 ministers, licensed teachers, and non-management staff members willingly shared their perceptions, ideas, and vision for the future of the Association. I valued your thoughtful input, passion about some issues, and interest and support of the focus group process. It is an important part of the strategic planning process currently being undertaken by our Board of Trustees.

Many of you asked to receive some type of feedback on the results of the focus groups. This letter is to assure you this request will be honored once the final report is completed.

During the mid-year meetings in January, I presented an initial summary of the focus group results to the Board of Trustees. They were asked to respond to this summary by answering a series of questions and to make recommendations for action.

In late March the Board will reconvene for two days of planning at which time an indepth analysis of the focus group results will be completed. During this planning session additional sources of data will be explored in order to validate the findings of the focus groups. These include: a movement-wide written survey based upon the key issues and questions identified in the focus groups and an indepth analysis of the total organization and management data from headquarters; for example, organizational structure, financial statements, board meeting minutes, bylaws, policies, procedures, etc. The results of these three sources information will be used to validate the current practices of the Association of the "Triangulation of Information About Current Practices." The Board will be asked to review the current mission statement, core values of the organization and draft recommended revisions or changes. This will be done after they review approximately 105 vision statements written by focus group participants for surface common themes, ideas, trends, needs, etc., and draft a vision statement.

I am proposing that once the DRAFT mission statement, core values, and vision statement are written that I return to the regional meetings with this information for your input. You will be asked to review these draft documents and give feedback. This will insure that your needs, recommendations and vision are being reflected in these documents. For those who were unable to attend one of the focus groups this will be a wonderful opportunity for your input.

This is a vastly different approach to the strategic planning process and requires a lot of time (and patience). The process invites you to be more actively involved. I hope you will be part of the process by completing the written survey when you receive it and by attending the second series of focus group sessions at the regional meetings in the fall.

Please feel free to call me if you have questions--(816) 531-3353; or fax your questions--(816) 753-8200. Stay tuned, it promises to be a very exciting and lively strategic planning process over the next several months.

Blessings and thanks!



Joann Landreth
Associate Director/
Director of Expansion

The joys of working with ministers, teachers, and lay leaders as they begin the birthing process of new churches are many. The thrill of knowing that the powerful message of Truth and Unity is being more widely spread and hearing of the transformation taking place in people's lives is one of those joys. A board member of the Association of Unity Churches, Rebecca Clark, who is currently serving Bremerton Unity Center, Bremerton, Washington, shares her experiences of pioneering, and gives ten helpful suggestions for pioneering. We extend special thanks to Becky for sharing her expertise.

The Joy of Pioneering A Ministry

by Rebecca Clark

What a wonderful feeling of creative expression comes from pioneering a new ministry! Knowing that you are a meaningful part of the birthing process of a vital growing activity brings special meaning to the phrase, "co-creating with God!"

In my almost sixteen years in the ministry, I've had the joy of founding three ministries. Each was a different experience, yet each had important similarities.

As completion of my ministerial training drew near, Kathryn and Alan Rowbotham, the ministers, extended an invitation to me to return to the Roanoke area as an associate minister. Then we would determine if there was enough interest in the Lynchburg, Virginia, area

Pioneering A New Ministry

The following are some suggestions for pioneering a new ministry that worked for me and may be helpful to you if you are drawn to pioneer work.

1. God first! Open your heart and mind and affirm, "Thy will be done!" The guidance will surely come.
2. Practice the principles of faith, trust, and order. Be totally committed to doing God's work and God will provide in every way.
3. Listen for the voice of guidance through intuition and contemplative prayer and then take action on what you receive.
4. Prepare a plan of action for the "outer world." For example, how are you going to begin--with an established study group, or jump in with both feet as a faith-guided activity? Both avenues are workable. Once you have a feeling for your plan of action, make a list of what is needed to bring this plan into manifestation. For example: facilities, advertising, programs offered, etc. Take advantage of the helpful tools offered by the Association of Unity Churches for expansion activities. And remember the scripture in James 2:17 (RSV), "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."
5. Make early contact with media fields--newspapers, radio, television. Often there are radio and television talk shows which can provide an opportunity for exposure for you and your ministry.
6. Get involved in the community. Some possibilities are as assistant hospital chaplains and presenting programs for retirement and nursing homes. Introduce yourself to area funeral directors and offer to be of service. Get involved in Chamber of Commerce activities and meet and get to know local business people. If your community has a college or university, ask to be placed on their mailing list. Often there are activities which provide many opportunities for community involvement through this connection. And, if they have a music department, it could provide information and contacts for soloists and musicians for your ministry.
7. Many civic and community organizations begin activities with prayer. Make yourself available. Here in Bremerton, Washington, the City Council weekly meetings are televised and I am regularly invited to open the sessions with prayer.
8. Practice the Unity principles in your own life. When you "walk the talk" you become the example. And being/living is the best example. It's contagious!
9. Plan social get-togethers to involve all members of your congregation--pot lucks, movies, bowling, pizza parties, concerts, etc. Get to know one another and grow together.
10. Give thanks! There is much to give thanks for, right where you are. And we know what happens when we lift our consciousness in praise and thanksgiving. The universe responds!

to establish a Unity activity. Lynchburg is about fifty miles from Roanoke and several people from Lynchburg were driving to Roanoke to attend services.

Unity of Roanoke Valley provided a minimum salary for three months and a small amount of cash to open checking and bookstore accounts. They were stepping out in faith also. I flew to Lynchburg a month prior to ordination and pur-

chased a condominium. There was now a home base. My heart was so full of love and excitement that my logical mind didn't have a chance to argue! Sometimes, if we refuse to get bogged down with what "can't be done," we go ahead and perform the task that is before us.

One week after arriving in Lynchburg,

Continued...

our first Sunday service was conducted beside a lovely lake amid a wooded setting on the property of a Lynchburg supporter. Eighteen interested people sat on blankets under the trees that autumn day, listening to the new minister share vision possibilities and asking and answering questions.

Those present and myself decided to jump right into a full ministry. Within a week a large meeting room of a centrally located downtown motel was rented as our Sunday service site. The trunk of my car contained our "portable church," i.e., books for sale, a tape recorder for music, refreshment fixings, etc. One room of my condo was designated as a church office and prayer line center. Our first two classes, *Lessons in Truth* by Emilie Cady and Charles Fillmore's *Prosperity* came alive in my living room.

The power of prayer and faith is fantastic. At the end of three months, Sunday attendance had increased to 35-40. With the able assistance of a local realtor, I negotiated with a Lutheran congregation that had outgrown their facilities and moved on to a larger building, to lease with option to buy a lovely white frame

church in a beautiful residential neighborhood. And at less money than we were paying in rent for the motel room. (This negotiation took three visits with the Lutheran board of directors and some strong convincing that the lease/purchase project would be beneficial for them as well as for Unity. They were open to rent, or sell outright, but not to lease/purchase. However, never **underestimate the power of persuasion backed by prayer!**)

We excitedly moved into our new facilities in full swing--Sunday and special services, classes, youth education program, counseling, regular office hours, etc. A Steering Committee was appointed, and an accountant helped us establish a bookkeeping system.

I made contact with local newspapers and both the Religion and Senior Editors were warm and welcoming. Within four months of leasing the church building, the Feature Editor did a tremendous "spread" (complete with several photographs) of the congregation's fixing up our building and grounds. It was a neighborly human-interest type story which attracted several families into our church. As a result of additional newspaper ar-

ticles about myself an author and minister, I met people from various service and social organizations in the community and was frequently asked to guest speak at different functions.

An invitation came to become a member of the local Ministerial Association, which enabled me to become acquainted with area ministers. I distributed *Unity* magazine, *Daily Word*, *Wee Wisdom*, and various other pamphlets wherever I spoke or visited and people asked about Unity.

Almost to the day, one year from its inception, Unity in the Seven Hills became incorporated and chartered with sixty-one charter members. It was a day of celebration and rejoicing for a divine idea whose time had come. (Note: at the end of the initial three-month period, the ministry was self-supporting and Kathryn and Alan's faith was substantiated!)

In addition to Unity in the Seven Hills, I was founding minister for Unity Church of Applied Christianity, now in Roswell, Georgia, and Unity Church of Albany, New York. Both of the latter were established study groups, yet the process of growth and organization were similar.

EXECUTIVE

Cont'd from page 3

and my throat, I said yes. We did and it was like "old times." (During that dinner, we scheduled a time for me to speak in his church and to do a "Grief" workshop several months later, which I did six weeks after he died.)

What was becoming clear was that since coming to my present place, to serve the Unity movement, I was more "locked away" than I ever had been when I was on the board or committees. It was a practice that went way back into U.M.A.-Field Department days and has continued until now. I meet with the Executive Committee until the Board of Trustees meets; I have sub-committee breakfasts, lunches, and dinners most of the time. When others take refreshment breaks, I

often spend the entire break time with a committee or at least a committee chair. Then at Conference time, I have one-on-one appointments and so am in an office and not in the workshops. I make it almost exclusively to morning prayer times, general assemblies, and business meetings.

Jay helped me to begin to see, and after hearing the raw data from the focus groups, your Board and Executive Committee helped me to further clarify and to see that they, and especially I, need to create it differently.

I go back to my first paragraph and this time I personalize the pronoun from "we" to "I," and the "you" is not collective, but singular. I am here to "hear" and I am here to love. The loving is easy and I do it, sometimes when you, the object of my love (my colleague-friend) are even unaware. The hearing is also easy--but we have to make contact to do that.

From my new discoveries (they're not complete nor perfect), I take it that perhaps you do support me personally and that we need ways to say that to each other.

I commit to you to make every effort that when "business" can be conducted by all of us simultaneously that that will be my "business" conducting time; that when "non-business" time is available, I will avail myself of that fun-learning-growing-touching-heart time. I know your Board's intention to do this and I know their support for my doing likewise. There are "specifics" of the raw data of the focus groups yet to be dealt with; however, from the first feedback given your Board and me, I believe you support that too.

I want your organizational support; and more than that, I want your love. You have mine.

CHURCH GROWTH BY RADIO



Carolyn Craft
Radio/Media Consultant

What's Working For Me

Below is an interview with Thelma Hembroff, minister of Unity Christ Church in Memphis, Tennessee, on what broadcasting ideas have worked for her ministry:

Carolyn: How has radio or other media worked for you in your ministry?

Thelma: In the different years I have been in the ministry I have always enjoyed the radio. I have either found the 60-second spots or half-hour programs to be the most effective. The last program I had was "Life is For Living," and it was an interview show with key people in the community, not necessarily religious people. We would talk about what was going on in the community and I would also interview authors or someone in town for speaking engagements. The feedback from the community was that they learned a lot. One time I interviewed Cohn, the author of *Tender Power*. People in the community commented on how empowering it was to see how two women could share so much when each came from completely different faiths.

Carolyn: Tell me how you feel about doing the interviewing yourself?

Congratulations to us! Ms. Linda Beard recently joined our Radio/Media Department as Assistant Radio/Media Coordinator. Linda brings a diverse professional background in telecommunications and computer technology. She is a Unity student, a Truth teacher, a member of Unity Church of Overland Park, Overland Park, Kansas, and brings many other wonderful qualities and vitality to our staff. She also enjoys country western dancing, riding her horses, painting and photography. Join me in welcoming her and celebrating the gifts she brings to our collective effort of sharing Unity with the world. Welcome Linda!

Thelma: I love it, as with the interview with John Templeton. I interviewed him at the Dallas Convention and he gave me some very inspirational words to share with the Memphis community. Usually, my style is to ask pertinent questions such as: "let's clarify this" or "could you tell me what you meant by that?" I just play the role that I am hearing this person for the first time. I've interviewed the 12-step groups and representatives from various rehab centers. I do not interpret but I do position questions so to appeal to the needs of the listeners.

Carolyn: What stations do you use?

Thelma: Primarily AM's because they have been easier to work with in providing the half-hour program time.

Carolyn: When do your programs air and are they seasonal?

Thelma: One of the programs ran for over a year. There was an individual who privately funded it. It cost \$125 a week for one half hour and it ran Sunday mornings, 9:00 to 9:30. Only a few have been seasonal such as one on the heart, encouraging people to give blood. I did it right around Christmas time, the greatest gift you can give is the gift of life.

Carolyn: Have you thought about airing the same programs on another station?

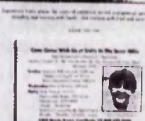
Thelma: Well, I like doing everything live. If I had my way I'd be on radio all the time, but now we're involved in a move. After we get moved, I want to go back to broadcasting. . . number one, to advertise that we've moved. Since being off the air, people still say, "I heard you on the radio."

Carolyn: There is a residual effect. The Church of the Latter Day Saints is back on the air and people think they've been on consistently. What kinds of positive results did you see from your broadcasting?

Continued . .

Congratulations to Unity in the Seven Hills, Lynchburg, Virginia, and Nancy Purcell, minister, in being the recipient of the January, 1992, Templeton Grant in the amount of \$5,000. We honor and celebrate Unity in the Seven Hills' broadcast outreach and the financial contributions this award will bring. Watch April's Minister's Letter for the June, 1992, Templeton Grant Application. There will be two grants awarded for \$5,000 each. Call or write with any questions.

COME GROW WITH US



UNITY IN THE SEVEN HILLS
1000 North Main Street, Lynchburg, VA 24502-1000
434-244-1000

Thelma: My primary thing was to educate and I think radio was a very valuable tool, because a lot of people know about Unity in a more positive way. So the education process was very effective.

Carolyn: If you were speaking to other ministers, what would you say works the best for you in broadcasting the message of Unity?

Thelma: Utilizing drive time and 10-second ads work best. During drive time you get a lot of people going to work. They're in a hurry, yet they still receive a positive message. Even though the 10-seconds isn't very long, I'd say drive time, both morning and afternoon, and 30- or 60-seconds would be the ideal.

Carolyn: When you air 30- or 60-seconds, do you record your own message?

Thelma: Yes, I use the script material from the Association and just make it my own. I get feedback on what seems to help people. For example, "Try Unity." When it was used in my opening and closing, I received positive feedback. I try to keep messages nonreligious, but yet every uplifting and empowering. I use a lot of different types of radio scripts and I hand pick each one.

Carolyn: What size is your congregation?

Thelma: About 50. We have over 500 on the mailing list.

Carolyn: What about your Sunday school?

Thelma: We have a lot of little children attending, but we don't have many in Y.O.U.

Carolyn: Are your radio messages primarily targeted to adults?

Thelma: Yes, both families and singles. One day I was trying on a suit and I asked the sales lady if she would hold it in layaway for me. I gave her my card and she said, "Oh, I listen to you every Sunday morning." This is the kind of response I have received.

Carolyn: What recommendations do you have regarding other types of broadcasting?

Thelma: I had a video program on a cable station when I was in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I enjoyed it but it was so much work because you had to train your own people. Radio seems like the easiest. You don't have to be so worried about the visual; you can just give a positive message.

Carolyn: Many ministers are now being

The Media Communications Committee (eight Unity ministers from several regions) met in January and formed the Communications Committee Network. We are urging each ministry to participate by nominating someone to serve as the member representative from his/her church or center. This individual could be serving as a board member, PR person, publicist, media coordinator, etc. All media news from the Association's Media Department or the Committee will be sent to the attention of the Minister and the Communication Committee Network Member. The member's commission and participation would require energies devoted to the following with respect to media (broadcast, print, internal communications, etc.): research, feedback, observation, inform, tabulate, community awareness, creativity, interfacing, expanding consciousness, checking market pulse/church pulse, service, support, defining the vision and holding the vision.

Your participation ignites Spirit's movement of Unity in our world. We can each make a difference. A survey on page 9 of this issue provides an opportunity for listing your Association of Unity Churches Communications Committee Network Member.

The Radio/Media Department has sold over 65 Communications Manuals to date. This 200-plus page manual provides an excellent way for your ministry to get started in media. Chapters include information on how to begin a broadcast outreach, buying, scripting, budgeting, building a sub-regional group, producing inhouse videos, ideas on writing, etc. The price of the manual will increase after Conference '92. The current price is \$45. Call or check the Communications Manual Order Box on the survey included in this issue (page 9) and mail it to the Radio/Media Department.

asked by their cable companies to provide Unity programs for their cable channels. What programs would you recommend?

Thelma: I would do what I did before. I like the interview process. I always had a theme and opened with a positive thought. I feel with the interview process you can bring in so many things, and you connect with so many people in the community. I feel this is the most powerful. You can share the principles without being "religious." I'll say, "Oh by the way, folks, you still have time to get out of bed and get to church this morning." And I add, "If you don't have a church home, come join us at Unity."

Carolyn: The interview recorded with John Templeton that you shared with our department is excellent. I applaud your broadcast outreach and the creative ways you share Unity with the people of Memphis.

This is a new section from our Radio/Media Communications Department. Please send in or call with your results, and/or ideas on "What's Working For Me" in media outreach.

Stay tuned!

Please assist us in serving you better.

Who's Who on Radio/Television/Cable

1. Ministry _____
(Church name and city)
2. Currently using: ☐ Radio ☐ Television ☐ Cable
Previously used: ☐ Radio ☐ Television ☐ Cable
3. Length of programs: _____
4. Successful themes: _____
5. What free advertising do you receive? (describe): _____

6. Do you advertise to:
☐ Increase church membership and/or
☐ Tithe a message to the community
7. Average age of your congregation:
☐ 25-35 ☐ 45-55
☐ 35-45 ☐ 55+
8. Size of congregation: _____
membership: _____
9. Name of congregant who handles media or publicity for your church/center:

*Communications Committee Network Member
10. What do you need from the media department of the Association of Unity Churches in the way of programs, information, service, consultation, etc:

Your response is appreciated. Because of your gifts and suggestions, you and Unity are making a difference in our world.

Blessings,

Please remove this page and return to:

Linda Beard/Carolyn Craft
Radio/Media Department
Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

☐ Please forward the Association's Communications Manual at the current price of \$45 (subject to change after June '92).



Martha Mosley
Associate Director/
Dir. of Institutional Advancement

Many of our friends have let us know, in a multitude of ways, how you feel about our telephone system. Much feedback was "I love it"; as much or more was "How dare you do this!!" or words to the effect. **YOU HAVE BEEN HEARD!**

By the time you read this, you will be able to call your home office and reach a real, live human. Those of you who love the system can still choose a real, simulated human voice. Your home office number, (816) 524-7414 will be answered by a receptionist from 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For technology lovers, you may call a new number for efficient, computerized call processing, (816) 524-7750.

No, we are not trying to be all things to all people, but we are listening, and where possible responding to your needs, requests, ideas, and feedback. In today's society of computers, including time pieces that talk, machines that record messages, machines that tell us what to do, systems (human, mechanical, electronic, or institutional) that route the flow of information and people, we are still human beings. High tech breeds the need for high touch. We want to feel connected to one another, loved by one another, and

heard by somebody. This seems to be our assurance that we matter, that we have somehow made a difference, that we are not invisible.

Responding to telephone calls with human beings is one way of assuring each of us that we matter. We continue searching for other ways as well. We are open to suggestions and to finding ways of responding to your needs and ideas. If there is a specific administrative need in your ministry to which I may respond with an article in this column, or simply by a phone call, please let me know.

There is Hope: From Addiction to Recovery

Looking for a concise, well-written, positive approach to the problem and issues of addiction? The Association of Unity Churches has available a new ten-page pamphlet which addresses the subject on a holistic basis.

The pamphlet can be ordered for 10¢ per copy from the Association or by calling Susan Velasquez at (816) 524-7414, ext. 324.

*Product of the Association's
Spiritual Resources Committee*

Sparkplugs

Talk Topics and Sermon Starters from Unity cassettes

This month: *The Prayer for Protection/I Am There*, a NEW single cassette by Ladona Ann Cox and James Dillet Freeman

Although only two of James Dillet Freeman's vast number of poems are used for this new cassette, they are probably the most recognized with the Unity crowd, not to mention the entire universe. "The Prayer for Protection" and "I Am There" are cosmically familiar because of their travels to the moon during early space explorations. "I Am There" remains moonbound via microfilm for future space travelers.

Reverend Freeman's poetry has previously been set to music and recorded. However, the consciousness-building power of this new meditation cassette will definitely enhance your personal inspiration time.

As you listen to the cassette, you become aware of background harp music played by Juli Sackman as Jim Freeman reads "The Prayer for Protection." The prayer is repeated in first, second, and third person, a familiar way to make an affirmation all-inclusive. And, as you know, repetition is perhaps the most powerful method used to establish Truth in

consciousness.

Ladona Ann Cox also sings "The Prayer for Protection." She is joined by Anne Marie Furney, vocalist, and Doris Sellards, flutist.

The much longer poem, "I Am There," recorded on side two of the cassette, is also presented twice. Appealing to the totality of your being are the complementary masculine voice of Reverend Freeman and the feminine voice of Ms. Cox.

Meditation is a vehicle that transports you to the very source of Truth, and this cassette enhances the power of meditation. You will find yourself using this cassette often for your own meditation times. Remember, however, to take advantage of an excellent opportunity to use "The Prayer for Protection" or "I Am There" for guided meditation during services.

The Prayer for Protection/I Am There can be purchased through the Sales Department of Unity School of Christianity, Unity Village, MO 64065. To order by telephone, call (816) 251-3771.

Partners in Ministry *a network of spouses of ministers*



Al Sears

I am very pleased to announce that we will have Dr. Michael Ryce, a nationally known speaker, for our Partners in Ministry workshop at the Unity People's Convention in Chicago. The title of the workshop will be "Ministers In Relationship." As you can see from the title, we are encouraging both ministers and spouses

to attend. It will be an experiential workshop focused on:

Creating the healing ministerial partnerships.
Facing issues and strengthening relationships.
Using communication tools to enhance aliveness.
The healing power of commitment.
Issues ministers and their spouses face.

Dr. Ryce is a well-known speaker in the Unity movement, sharing such topics as "Empowered to Heal," and his nationally known series and tapes entitled "Why Is This Happening To Me Again."

When Shay and I were moving to Unity Village in 1989, I had Michael's tapes on "Why Is This Happening To Me Again," and listened to the whole series as I drove from San Francisco to Lee's Summit. I can't begin to tell you what a powerful message of healing and transformation his words brought into my life. I feel very blessed that we are able to have Michael with us at the convention.

As you can tell from the above information, I think this will be the best Partners workshop yet, and I encourage you to register early for the convention and for this workshop. The workshop will be Friday, June 19, 1992, from 2:00 to 5:00

p.m. Dr. Ryce has put this workshop together just for us, so you really don't want to miss this one.

I want to close with an article Shay gave to me entitled, "Partners."

No person toils alone. An achiever who claims "self-made" roots deceives only himself. Even the simplest of lives is tied inextricably to others through countless moments of partnership. Those partnerships may be measured by the clock, as when a stranger helps to change a tire, or by the calendar, as when two people of vision create a lasting enterprise.

To seek accomplishment on one's own is to miss the joy of encounter. It is the wise person who seeks the encounter, the partnership of another who understands that if I give you an idea, and you give me an idea, then we each have two ideas.

Partnership breeds ideas, and ideas create our world. The prosperous life is marked by the willingness of one person to be a partner to others, and to know when to graciously accept the partnership of another.

Write **Partners in Ministry**, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.

Pre-Conference Renewal Retreat

**Monday & Tuesday
June 15-16, 1992**

Pheasant Run, St. Charles, Illinois

Sponsored by the Association of Unity Churches Spiritual Renewal Committee

The Spiritual Renewal Committee is commissioned to support and encourage intentional, personal caring of both the human and spiritual selves of ministers, teachers, and spouses as an ongoing priority, and to provide programs and materials toward this purpose.

We have made it our goal to bring attention to our own need for spiritual renewal a priority in our lives. The purpose of this two-day retreat is to provide an opportunity for all of us to experience activities together that will help awaken our slumbering energies.

We lovingly invite you to join us in this special celebration.

**All Ministers, Spouses, Licensed Teacher,
MEP Students and spouses are welcome!**

Cost: \$60.00 per person (pay at retreat)

Price includes all materials, retreat functions, lunch both days, and dinner on Tuesday.

The Road of Survival

Suggestions for Involvement

The following press release is for your use with your local media. We are developing a more complete press kit that includes a cover letter, a thank you letter, and responses to general information requests. We will be happy to send it to you if you write or call Julie Montague at our Association of Unity Churches, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063; (816) 524-7414.

1. Appoint a volunteer coordinator for your congregation to develop and implement the campaign in your area.
2. Send two copies of your media release with a cover letter to the news directors of local and community newspapers, radio and television stations in your area. Address them to news director by name when possible.
 - A. Your local library will have a list or directory of all media resources in your area.
 - B. You may wish to call and find out the news director's name, so you can address the release specifically to them.
3. Send the media release to other organizations, corporations, and churches with a cover letter inviting them to participate in the project.

FEBRUARY 10, 1992

CONTACT: (NAME OF VOLUNTEER)

UNITY CHURCH OF ANYTOWN

123 LOVE AVENUE

ANYTOWN, USA

DAY PHONE (111) 111-1111

EVE. PHONE (111) 222-2222

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - NO PULL DATE

**ROAD OF SURVIVAL - MINISTER WANTS BOOKS FOR
THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES.**

**HE SAYS HIS COUNTRY NEEDS NEW TECHNOLOGY
FOR CAPITALISM TO WORK.**

ROAD OF SURVIVAL IS A PROJECT TO GET 300 MILLION BOOKS TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES ALL OVER WHAT WAS FORMERLY THE SOVIET UNION. THE GOAL IS TO PUT 1000 BOOKS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT WILL HELP PEOPLE CHANGE OVER TO A FREE MARKET ECONOMY, INTO EACH LIBRARY. THIS PROJECT IS THE BRAIN CHILD OF MIKHAIL ZYKOV, PRESIDENT OF THE 2 MILLION MEMBER WORLD FAMILY CLUB AND A UNITY MINISTRY SERVING IN MOSCOW. THIRTY PERCENT OF ALL ADULT RUSSIANS READ ENGLISH. OVER SEVENTY PERCENT OF THOSE UNDER TWENTY HAVE ENGLISH SKILLS. THE RED STAR CORPORATION OF MOSCOW IS PROVIDING A FREIGHTER SHIP TO SAIL MONTHLY FROM CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, WITH BOOKS. TWO AIRPLANES HAVE BEEN DONATED TO FLY THE BOOKS TO LIBRARIES ALL OVER THE NEW COMMONWEALTH. DONATIONS OF ALL TYPES OF BOOKS ARE WELCOME. YOU MAY BRING YOUR BOOKS TO YOUR LOCAL UNITY CHURCH OR SHIP DIRECTLY TO: THE COMMONWEALTH COMPANY, 811 NORTH CARANCAHUA, SUITE 502, CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78474.





Debbie Ratliff
Conference/Convention Coordinator

A Unity People's Convention

June 16-21, 1992

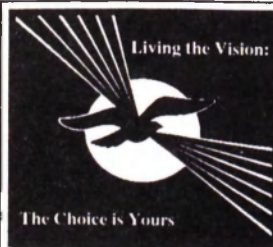
The Association of Unity Churches welcomes everyone to the 1992 Unity People's Convention.

The convention theme is "**Living the Vision: The Choice is Yours.**" Among the week's activities are workshops, business meetings, special programs, a banquet, and award presentations.

Fun activities are also being planned to make this a wonderful vacation experience for all! The ultimate in antiquing and shopping can be enjoyed every season of the year in historic St. Charles. A riverboat cruise and a tour around St. Charles with a storytelling guide are scheduled. Golf and tennis tournaments will be held Tuesday, June 16th, and are open to both men and women. So please sign up now if you wish to participate.

The convention is being held at the Pheasant Run Resort, located in the countryside of idyllic St. Charles, on the banks of the Fox River. Fresh country air, gently rolling green lawns, a flock of Canadian geese settling in a lake... what was once a prosperous farmstead on the edge of picturesque St. Charles is now Pheasant Run Resort.

Travel arrangements can be made by calling Uniglobe Priority Travel, Inc., the



1992 Unity People's Convention
June 16-21, 1992
Pheasant Run Resort
St. Charles, Illinois

For HOTEL Reservations
(and airline reservations and car rental)

Call 1-800-888-0405--UNIGLOBE

official travel agent for the convention. To make your reservations for hotel, airline or car rental, call 1-800-888-0405. Room rates are available for \$55 per night for single or double occupancy, and the rate of each additional person is \$5.00. These rates are available three days prior to and three days after the convention dates.

Exciting programs are scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings:

Tuesday evening's opening program will feature HEARTSONG, composed of Chicago-based artists Ed and Gail Tossing. Our keynote presenter is internationally-known Matthew Fox who is the Founding Director of the Institute in Culture and Creation Spirituality. Creation Spirituality is deeply ecumenical in cherishing the wisdom found in all of the world's spiritual traditions.

On Wednesday evening AWAKENING HEART PRODUCTIONS presents an exquisite multi-media presentation of stunning photography and inspiring music. Larry Dossey, M.D., will present "Recovering the Soul," an inspiring, scientific, convincing, and often humorous lecture about the reality of the soul and the mind/body connection in healing.

The Christ Universal Temple Ensemble will perform Thursday evening. The group consists of 90 voices from the Christ Universal Temple in Chicago, Illinois, where the Reverend Johnnie

Coleman is minister. Sam Keen, author of the best-selling *Fire in the Belly*, will give a keynote address called "Hymns for an Unknown God."

Each year the Association recognizes two individuals who have made significant contributions toward the betterment of humankind. This year the **Light of God Expressing Award** will be given to **Johnnie Coleman** and **J. Sig Paulson**.

The Reverend Dr. Johnnie Coleman is the founding minister of the Christ Universal Temple in Chicago, Illinois. The recipient of numerous awards, Johnnie Coleman is constantly in demand throughout the country as a speaker and consultant. Reverend Coleman will be giving a keynote address on Wednesday, June 17, at 10:45 a.m.

On Friday evening, Sig Paulson and Johnnie Coleman will be presented their awards during the convention banquet. Sig Paulson will be honored for his extensive contributions to the expansion of Unity Truth teachings. He is the author of numerous books, cassette albums, articles, and poems for Unity publications as well as international magazines.

For registration information for this spectacular event, please write to:

Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

We look forward to seeing you there for this inspiring, spirit-filled week!



Shay St. John
Director of Development

Fund Raising. . . How Do We Begin?

Within our ministries, active planning of creative ways to generate needed resources is vital. The following is a page taken from our Development Manual. This manual is now available for a love offering from our Association. Order yours today!

- I.** To insure a constant flow of resources within our ministries, it is important to realize the truth of these words:

MANAGEABILITY
leads to
CREDIBILITY
which increases
ACCOUNTABILITY
which insures
FUNDABILITY
which results in
VIABILITY!

- II.** Without good management, which includes an active and involved Board of Trustees and a highly motivated staff, the credibility of the organization is in doubt. Donors require accountability and responsible management when making substantial gifts.
- III.** Begin with the Board. At your next meeting, ask members to list three things they enjoy about serving. Then have them list three things that challenge their serving on the Board. Discuss these thoughts and seek ways to turn the "challenges" into enjoyable activities. Allow staff and volunteers to do a similar exercise.
- IV.** Develop a job description for service on the Board. Make nominees aware of this job description. Insure their willingness to fulfill their duties--including fund raising--if they are elected to serve.
- V.** Seek ways to develop a high public image. Unity no longer desires to "be the best kept secret in town." Let's find ways to let others know who and what we are.
- VI.** Insure financial accountability to your donors. Exquisite stewardship is an absolute requirement. How do you report to your donors? How often? Do you speak in the layperson's language? Consider simple cash flow statements to communicate clearly the monies that have come in and the funds that have been spent. Include this statement in each monthly newsletter.
- VII.** Have a PLAN in place that confirms the vision of the ministry for the next three to five years. Don't be so locked into this plan that you cannot vary when the timing is right. However, know that the plan is a common focus of your Board and staff, and it reflects the agreed upon vision of your congregants.
- VIII.** Let your mission be contagious to all who hear it! Put it in your newsletter, your Sunday bulletins, major printed materials. Live from your mission! It will guide the programs you present and the goals you set--if you allow it to do so.
- IX.** Regularly evaluate the entire focus of the ministry. Look at programs, classes, and activities through the lens of your mission and the response of your congregants.
- X.** Begin to create a clear Case Statement of who and what you are--and why the work you are doing will make a difference in the world. From this Case Statement, create the financial statements that will provide your Development Team with the information it requires to generate these funds.
- XI.** Remember, planning gifts us with efficiency, economy, and effectiveness. A formula from the Templeton Institute for Excellence in Religious Non-Profits states: **Efficiency + Economy + Effectiveness = Excellence = Increased fundability!**
- XII.** Begin now to plan a viable Development Program for your ministry. If we can help in any way, please call us at (816) 524-7414, ext. 355.

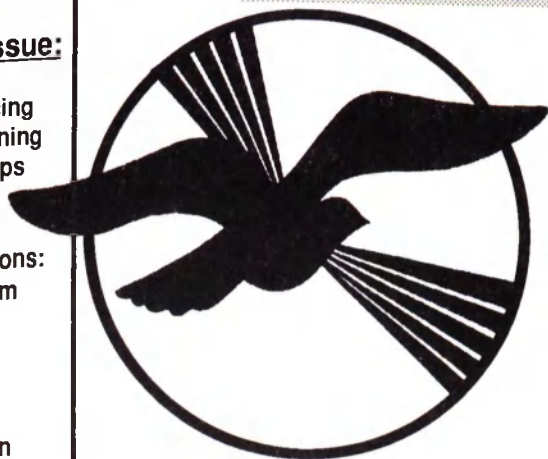
In This Issue:

- Announcing New Evening Workshops
- Connections: News from the field
- Capital Campaign Update
- Year of the Child Update
- Sunday School Supplies to Moscow
- Adults of Unity International Conference

Assn of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414

Glenn Mosley, Ph.D.
Executive Director

R. Scott Sherman
President



Living the Vision: The Choice is Yours

1992 Unity People's Convention
June 16-21, 1992
Pheasant Run Resort
St. Charles, Illinois



Presented by the
Association of Unity Churches®

You're Invited!

Come and be motivated, educated, entertained, and inspired at the Unity People's Convention this year at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois. Relax and enjoy the warm country atmosphere with family and friends, and be renewed spiritually by the wonderful presentations and special keynote speakers appearing daily. (Continued on page 2)

Special Keynote Speakers



Matthew Fox:

Theologian Matthew Fox is internationally known and the author of thirteen books. He lectures throughout the world and has dedicated his career to reclaiming the Creation Spirituality tradition which traces its roots to the oldest creation story of the Hebrew Bible.



Sam Keen:

Dr. Keen is the author of over a dozen books and was the subject of a PBS special by Bill Moyers entitled, "Your Mythic Journey With Sam Keen." Over the past twenty years he has been conducting seminars on personal mythology to groups all over the world. His latest book, *Fire in the Belly*, is currently on the bestseller list.



Susan Smith Jones:

Susan Smith Jones, Ph.D., has been a fitness instructor for the past twenty years. Her more than 500 articles have appeared in numerous magazines and journals around the world. Her two latest best selling books are *Choose To Be Healthy* and Pulitzer-nominated *Choose To Live Peacefully*.



Lewis Andrews

Dr. Lewis Andrews takes a decidedly untraditional approach to traditional psychology, combining modern psychiatric techniques with traditional religion. In his latest book, *To Thine Own Self Be True*, Dr. Andrews calls for a return to universal ethics as a foundation for effective therapy by defining emotional problems in terms of spiritual principles.



Johnnie Colemon:

The Reverend Dr. Johnnie Colemon is the founding minister of the 34-year-old Christ Universal Temple. Often referred to as "the first lady of America's Religious Community," she is the pastor of the thriving, beautiful, and progressive Christ Universal Temple in Chicago, Illinois.



Larry Dossey, Ph.D.:

The author of numerous articles and three highly acclaimed books on body/mind health, Dr. Dossey has lectured around the world on how physical health and spiritual awareness are synergistic. He joins the company of physicians who have transcended the role of doctor/scientist to become wise, spiritual teachers.

HIGHLIGHTS

THE WAYS WE SERVE. . . **What's new from us to you!**

Our Association of Unity Churches Announces:

Fourth Thursday

Evening Workshop Series Starting April 23, 1992.

Workshops will be interactive and will help each participant develop skills that will move his or her church or other nonprofit organization forward. All sessions will be on the fourth Thursday of each month from 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m., in the Association's board room, 401 SW Oldham Parkway, Suite 210, Lee's Summit, MO.

The workshops are open to the public on a love offering basis. We encourage lay leaders, board members, youth education directors, youth sponsors, ministerial students, licensed teachers, ministers, or anyone interested in serving their church community to attend. The following are list of dates and topics:

April 23, 1992

How to Create An Effective Newsletter
Julie Montague and Cheryl Vestal

May 28, 1992

Dynamic Resourcing
Shay St. John

June 25, 1992

Mobilizing Volunteers
Martha Mosley

July 23, 1992

Enthusiastic Commitment Through
An Annual Fund
Julie Montague

August 27, 1992

Finding Them and Keeping Them
How to attract and keep more people coming
to your church.
Joann Landreth

September 24, 1992

My Church Is ???
Creating a metaphor that works for your
church and you.
Mick Dustin

October 22, 1992

Kolnolia, Group Bonding in a Fun,
Non-threatening Way
Ray Wiggins

November and December - no session

Continued next column

January 28, 1993

Stress, Stressors, and Their
Management
Glenn Mosley, Ph.D.

February 25, 1993

Planned Giving
Mae Beach and Shay St. John

March 25, 1993

How To Grow Your Ministry
Through Broadcasting
Carolyn Craft

Mark your calendar now. You won't want to miss any of these informative evenings. Video tapes of sessions will be available for purchase. Please call the Association for more information.

Year of the Child

Our children's art to be featured on bulletin covers

The art contest sponsored by the Youth Services Committee and Support Services was very successful. Ministers voted for their favorite drawings and the pictures with the most votes will be selected to enhance bulletin covers in 1993, the Year of the Child. Our heartfelt thanks to all those who participated. The selections will be announced at the Unity People's Convention in Chicago, in June.

Adults of Unity International Conference

Join us for the second annual Adults of Unity International Conference set for August.

Plan now to be among the 200 anticipated attendees from America, Canada, and abroad! Request an information brochure from Adults of Unity, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063; or phone 816-524-7414, ext. 327.

Connections. . .

Overland Park, Kansas Sunday School Supplies To Moscow

The 1991 holiday season saw the

Unity Church of Overland Park, Kansas, filled with the spirit of giving. Volunteers collected funds and purchased creative art supplies for the children who attend Spiritual Unity Church in Moscow, Russia. The children of Overland Park plan to continue their correspondence with the children of Moscow and look forward to future exchanges.

What a wonderful way to celebrate the true spirit of the holidays.

Granby, Colorado

Rocky Mountain High Family Retreat, will be the theme for South Central Region's annual family retreat. Mark your calendar now for July 19th through 25th to be at Snow Mountain Ranch nearby Granby, Colorado.

Irving, Texas

Ms. Mature Texas

A very special congratulations to Unity of Irving's member, Vivian Martin, crowned Ms. Mature Texas.

This slender, red-haired, 70-year young lady believes that you're not getting older, you're getting better." Her philosophy: "Serving others is celebrating life."

We celebrate you, Vivian, for letting your light shine so brilliantly.

Continued from page 1

To attend, please call for a copy of the registration information at (816) 524-7414, ext. 329 or 330, or write to the Association of Unity Churches, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. For hotel, airline, or car rental reservations, please call the Unglobe Priority Travel Service, Inc., at 1-800-888-0405 to guarantee the lowest rates available for this event. Hotel rates through this service are \$55 per night for single or double occupancy; \$5 for each additional person. These rates are available three days prior to and three days after the convention dates. Call soon to make your reservations!

Who is our Association of Unity Churches?



Members of Unity - Jamaica



Ssh!



Unity Nigeria



Members of Unity - India



Riverside, California

We Are!!

Let's reunite at our Chicago People's Convention in June!

STARlight FUND

Our Association is growing and expanding. We are experiencing about a nine percent growth rate per year. We estimate our Association will have 1500 member churches and study groups by the year 2000. Isn't it wonderful? When you join the STARlight team you become an active part of this growth. Seventy-five percent of all STARlight gifts goes to support vital services to all our growing ministries. Twenty-five percent goes for critical requirements of new and expanding international ministries. Catch the global vision. Join us today!

Headquarters Highlights

Would you like to provide **Headquarters Highlights** to your congregation? Extra copies are available to go on your "free literature table" or for mailing along with your monthly newsletter. Please advise us of your needs. *If this happens to be an extra copy of Headquarters Highlights, please pass it along to a friend.*

Thank You!

Please accept our most sincere thanks for your continuing generous support of our Association of Unity Churches. Your love offerings allow us to reach out to our growing global community as we express ever-expanding Reflections of Service.

There's A Will in Your Future Is It Yours or the State's?

by Mae Beach

If you do not have a will to settle your estate, the state will step in with what is known as an all-purpose plan. In that case, someone you do not even know will be appointed to settle your affairs. The state will direct distribution of property according to state law, which assumes you wish to treat all legal heirs equally, regardless of need. No charitable giving wishes will be considered, regardless of your philanthropic interests during your lifetime.

Most who have witnessed application of this "state-made plan" agree it is far better to make your own plans--write your own will.

A well-planned will is the cornerstone of every estate plan. There are other ways to dispose of many types of property. However, you'll want a will in order to:

- ✓ distribute possessions not covered by joint ownership arrangements, trusts, or other plans;
- ✓ dispose of items you acquire in the future;
- ✓ distribute properties that you may convert to other forms before your death; or
- ✓ back up any plans that may no longer be in existence at the time of your death.

Through a will, not only can property be distributed, but provisions can be made for guardians of minor children. You can also provide for management of assets should an heir be unable to manage property due to age or other factors.

To receive our brochure, **Making Your Will**, call or write us today!

Capital Campaign Update

Our Association of Unity Churches announces the union of our current Building Fund Campaign with our expanding Children, Youth and Family Curriculum Development project.

All future gifts to our Building Fund will be placed in our Capital Campaign project to support the pay-off of our new home and the development of "The Living Curriculum" for our children, youth, and family.

Thank you for making this Capital Campaign an expression of the love and support we affirm for our field ministries and the families they serve!

Did You Know?

It is important to specify the Association of Unity Churches by name when making your gifts, tithes, and any bequests. Our Association or any individual Unity church does not share in gifts made to Unity School, Silent Unity, or the overall Unity movement. Our Association of Unity Churches is a separate legal and financial organization whose focus is supporting our field movement. Unity School, Silent Unity, and our Association of Unity Churches share a common goal to help people the world over realize their divine potential.

Development Department
Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414, ext. 355

UNITY: POSITIVE, PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY FOR OUR TRANSFORMATIVE TIMES!

Association of Unity Churches

P.O. Box 610 • Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414 FAX: (816) 525-4020

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Lee's Summit, Mo.

PERMIT NO. 41

OUR ASSOCIATION OF
UNITY CHURCHES
REFLECTS YOUR
COMMITMENT TO
EXPANDING THE GLOBAL
FUTURE OF OUR UNITY
MOVEMENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

On behalf of the Association of Unity Churches' staff and Board of Trustees, we extend to you our deep gratitude and appreciation for your past financial support. The love and faith you incorporate into your gifts make them special.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES Statement of General Fund Operations Nine Months Ended December 31, 1991

INCOME-OPERATIONS	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Love Offerings	\$58,649.75	\$55,634.37	\$608,005.99
Other Income	<u>8,330.83</u>	<u>4,366.99</u>	<u>55,536.98</u>
	\$66,980.58	\$60,001.36	\$663,542.97
Less: Tithe Transfer	<u>6,166.18</u>	<u>5,896.86</u>	<u>65,494.24</u>
	60,814.40	54,104.50	598,048.73
Gross Profit Material	<u>4,088.77</u>	<u>1,965.24</u>	<u>56,021.96</u>
Total Income	<u>\$64,903.17</u>	<u>\$56,069.74</u>	<u>\$654,070.69</u>
EXPENSE-OPERATIONS	<u>\$58,200.87</u>	<u>\$67,189.90</u>	<u>\$661,309.58</u>
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES:	<u>\$ 6,702.30</u>	<u>\$(11,120.16)</u>	<u>\$ (7,238.89)</u>

Unity School Contribution to the Association of Unity Churches Through Services Provided:

Month of November: \$9,451.55

Year to Date: \$74,750.49



Mick Dustin
Director of Education

Access to Information

In serving, a big part of what we do is process information. Wouldn't you agree, one of the most enjoyable as well as frustrating things we can undertake is the preparation prior to giving a service? It doesn't matter what kind of service, hours of research, refining and finishing go into Christmas, Easter, weddings, and memorial services. On a scale of 1 to 10, the time given to preparation of information will always rank among the highest for those who serve the public as we do.

Most of us also agree that a good file of previous research material is worth its weight in gold. More specifically, a file full of Unity material on any subject we are looking into is worth its weight in diamonds. As we grow in experience we learn to see the big picture, how the service fits into our ministry and how the various component parts make up the whole. Yet developing all of these components takes time and most of the services come at an already busy time for us.

A few years ago a task force put together a wealth of material with the thought of developing a new Special Services manual. For many reasons the project was put on the shelf and recently I acquired this very large and impressive file of information. In addition to the task force information, the class of '92 shared a wealth of information as did Jack and Pat Barker, minister in Cincinnati, Ohio. Some of my own research has been included and we're off to creating a Unity research resource library.

Perhaps you, too, have been reinventing the wheel for years and there are many different ways you have presented any one of our regular services. Would you please

share it so we can all benefit? The file will be available to all of us as food for thought. Right now, if you come to our Association offices you can go through the entire file and copy what you need. Or give me a call for a specific item and we'll do our best to locate it for you. Your good ideas can spark the creative imagination of others.

This file is in hard copy form and expanding rapidly. There is a desire and need to have it put into a computer for even easier access. At the very least you will have a wonderful resource of Unity material available to you. To be able to receive a disk full of excellent research would be even better. We need to begin by creating the file to satisfy the needs of those I have already spoken to. As the idea grows, so will the means to meet the expanded need.

Below is a list of files currently containing material. As you send in new information, new files will be created as well as expand our current files.

1. Orderly Unity services, metaphysical workshop, celebrating
2. The New Year
3. Burning Bowl
4. Balloon releases and other celebrations
5. Easter season and Lent; Maunday Thursday and Good Friday
6. Special days
7. National holidays
8. Thanksgiving
9. Advent
10. Christmas
11. Candlelighting
12. World Peace
13. Dedications and blessings; invocations-benedictions-table blessings-home-animal
14. Membership
15. Spiritual Communion
16. Baptism and christening
17. Weddings, rededications of marriage, divorce
18. Memorials and funerals
19. Rites of passage
20. Other
21. Minister's contracts
22. Volunteer's Job Description
23. Classes--Twelve Powers, Christian Healing, Lessons in Truth, etc.

We are a community of professionals dedicated to serving God through our life's work. Our Association of Unity Churches is here to serve you, to be your associate in ministry.

LIGHT ON THE PATH

When someone is in trauma or facing a crisis there are so many ways to let them see, hear, and feel your compassion. There is one thing that never should be said: "I know how you feel." Even when a person is mildly upset these five words will trigger an adverse reaction and this reaction is sometimes an inner withdrawal. It was this subject that prompted the following poem.

It is a strangeness that I feel.
In limbo once again I've been.
A storing up of energy to be released when
I am where I'm going?
So long a time it seems that I have not been me.
Not up nor down.
And who but I keeps me locked within?
No walls, no fence that man can see,
like a closet made of mist.

My soul tells me, when I listen,
I have had skin of black.
I have set high upon a camel and
crossed the desert dry.
I have danced in filmy clothes with
bells on fingers and toes.
The Orient was my home. As a Hebrew I have been.
My soul tells me, when I listen,
an Indian maid was I,
O're North America I did roam.
A priestess, a monk,
A physician or high esteem.
Yet a feel of fools would be my lot
If I said to you - I know how you feel.
My soul too has bled.
My body has known hunger
and all alone my soul has grieved.
Still. . . I have not known myself -
how could I now know thee?

On mountain tops I've felt the wind.
I've longed for distant stars.
My mouth has spit dry sand
and caged my soul has been.
My tears have mingled with crusted blood.
Self-righteous I have felt.
I've lived and died a thousand deaths,
yet an affront to all I'd be
If I dare say to you, I understand -
I know how you feel.
For how can I know you when I do not yet know
me?

-- Trish Robinson



Trish Robinson
Licensed Teacher Consultant

Don't forget:

**Licensed Teacher Postgraduate Week
June 27 - July 3, 1992**

What's planned for you? TOP NOTCH workshops on:

Communications Bible Teaching Theory
How to Love Yourself Personal Ministry
Transformation: "The Incredible Journey"

and. . .that's not all.

For those of you who haven't made flight arrangements,
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A resource for ministers and licensed teachers:

Addiction & Recovery Resource Packet

- Recognizing symptoms of addiction
- The Intervention Process
- Bibliography by Type of Addiction
- Unity ministers who are resources
- Pamphlet: "There is Hope:
From Addiction to Recovery"
(may be ordered separately, in quantity)

**Order packet by name from the
Association of Unity Churches**

No charge

A Spiritual Resources Committee Project



Judith Venturini
Year of the Child Coordinator

Inviting Children to Church

The January/February, 1992, issue of *Alban Institute* has an article written by Roy M. Oswald entitled, "How Do You Make Your Church More Inviting?" The focus of the article is on encouraging children to invite friends to church. Oswald said, "Children have not yet developed inhibitions about sharing their religious beliefs and activities with their friends." It has been my experience as an educator that if given the right incentives and support, children will surprise you with the zeal and enthusiasm they will generate as they invite peers to their Sunday school programs.

It would be wise to understand the dynamics of encouraging more children to attend. The Sunday school and the teachers need to be prepared for the sudden increase in growth. Oswald continued to say, "This plan will probably fail if it meets with an inflexible response from your Sunday school's normal routine. For the plan to succeed, your entire Youth Education Department will need to want to increase the number of children attending your church functions by 15% to 30% with all the implications of such an influx." I would recommend that the church consider specific needs they will encour-

ter with the increase of children to ensure that this be a positive experience for all involved.

Oswald reinforced this when he said, "Your Sunday school teachers will need to plan ways to help children who are new to their classes feel welcome and involved. If you can attract thirty to one hundred new children (depending upon your church size) over the course of six months but not retain them, this is a reflection of the Sunday school's ability to hold the interest and commitment of children. Your entire Sunday school faculty may need six months of preparation to work through ways to make their classes more welcoming, more fun to experience, more effective in communicating the good news of your faith in a way that draws forth the commitment of visiting children."

This task of creating innovative Children's Education programs will be much easier to do in Unity come this June. The Year of the Child Project will produce a new manual designed to assist you in envisioning and planning your youth ministry entitled, "New Directions In Spiritual Education For Children and Youth." This manual will be available at the People's Convention in Chicago in June.

The article written by Oswald goes on to discuss some "what if's."

He said, "What if your Sunday school began to plan a special Sunday every month--each Sunday focused on a different religious theme, yet every Sunday having the familiar celebrative atmosphere? Children would attend their regular classes on the Sundays, but their classtime would be shortened to make room for a festive time with cake and

punch, plus special music in which the various classes could participate. In larger congregations, these festive events would gather together classes in broad age groupings. Possibly each class could take turns acting out a modern version of some Biblical theme or story for no more than five minutes. I would suggest repeating one that the children could get to know well and sing with gusto. Possibly you could enhance the festive quality of this singing time by having the children accompany the music with drums, noise makers, and rhythm instruments."

1993--The Year of the Child--should be an excellent time to implement such plans. In fact, another item that will be available from the Year of the Child Project is a packet with twelve months of ideas that you can use to celebrate the children during 1993. There will be mini-lessons for ministers to use from the platform, intergenerational activities, suggestions for music, activities, children's blessings, and many more ideas that will be focused on monthly themes.

Mr. Oswald tells us, "You will need to invite the creativity of your Sunday school faculty as you begin to think how to make this ten- to fifteen-minute period a time more action-oriented, more fast-moving, more participative. It wouldn't be a bad idea for each teacher to ask the children in their classes what would make Sunday School a more exciting place for them." (This would be a wonderful thing to send on to me at the Association of Unity Churches and these ideas could be compiled and shared through the Year of the Child Newsletter.)

Mr. Oswald continued, "And what if these monthly celebrations consistently

Continued...

Year of the Child Mission Statement

The purpose of the Year of the Child is to support the Unity churches to enhance and expand their ministries with children and youth.

--Youth Services Committee

included an emphasis on encouraging the children to invite their friends to these special times? Once they had gotten familiar with the fun, surprise, serendipity, and music of these monthly celebrations they would be more highly motivated to invite their friends."

We need to ask our children about their ideas on how to make their Sunday school experience more exciting. Mr. Oswald said, "I am convinced that the creativity and ingenuity of the children in our churches will bowl us over if given half a chance. They simply need to know that we are willing to try out some of their ideas. We can't make our Sunday school a more exciting place to be for our children without their wanting to invite their friends to attend with them. When there is energy and excitement at church, children rarely keep it to themselves. They begin to talk about it with their friends, and their friends will naturally become curious and ready to respond to an invitation to attend some Sunday."

If you are a minister, you may be wondering, "Why in heaven's name would you want to increase your attendance of children?" For the simple reason that it is a way to increase your adult attendance as well!

Mr. Oswald addresses this when he said, "What if you really did have a jump in attendance in your Sunday school, and some of these children began attendance on a regular basis? You would then have before you the challenge of engaging their parents in your congregation."

And, "What if your Children's Education Committee really did take on the task of holding adult forums on topics of real interest to parents, like these:

Kids and drugs

Talking to your child about sex

How to nurture honesty in your child

Rituals that build family cohesiveness

Biblical passages parents and children can enjoy together

Teaching children to pray

What values are television teaching my children?

Where is your congregation in making plans for your Year of the Child Activities? In the last issue of CONTACT I wrote about "Ten Steps to a Successful Year of the Child." Here is a checklist to see if you are on target. If not, it is a chance to begin your planning!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Select a chairperson | 6. Get Board Approval |
| 2. Form Education Committee | 7. Form Subcommittees |
| 3. Write a Vision Statement | 8. Publicity |
| 4. Set Goals | 9. Regularly Set Meetings |
| 5. Action Steps | 10. Celebrate |

For more information, refer to the February/March issue of CONTACT!

The author continued, "Even if you are not able to significantly engage the parents of the children who are attending your Sunday school, a series of adult forums is bound to engage your regular members in some important issues. It will help convince your adult members to invite their children to class while they are at it."

A final "what if" by Mr. Oswald. He said, "Yes, what if you really did build some extra energy in your Sunday school? It is bound to have a ripple effect on your entire congregation. The point is, we need to start somewhere, building some excitement in some part of our church life if we want to grow numerically. Starting with your Sunday school will probably produce more pay-off than starting with any other aspect of your congregation."

In agreement with what I have read about the statistics on church growth, Mr. Oswald stated, "One clear learning that came out of our research is that children bring their parents to church. It is usually upon the birth of their first child that parents who have not been affiliated with a congregation begin to think of church again. Out of a concern that their child have the best religious and moral upbringing, they begin to re-evaluate their lack of involvement in a local congregation. This is one reason why a growing church makes sure that its nursery is the most attractive room in the building, and that the nursery is always attended by qualified and caring people. After nurs-

ery comes the Sunday School. These days, parents approach their church affiliation like consumers. They will be looking for the local church that they feel offers their children the best possible Sunday school experience."

There is no room for doubt in my mind that the commitment of the Association of Unity Churches to move forward with the next stages of development of our "Living Curriculum" is on the right track toward a Sunday school experience of excellence to which families will respond!

For further information regarding the Year of the Child Project or to send articles about your special projects for children, please write to me at: Association of Unity Churches, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063; or call 816-524-7750, ext. 338.

God's love and mine!



Make Plans NOW!

**1993 Conference
Year of the Child
Unity Village, Missouri**

*Designed to help your ministry empower
the children of the Twentieth Century!*



Ray Wiggins
International Education
Services Consultant

Master Teachers are Master Students

Do you want to live long and prosper? Be a lifelong learner. Learning will not only enrich the years you have left, it will add to them. However, your success will depend upon linking yourself to excellent teachers. Mark Hopkins was an outstanding educator in the last century, and it was said that "education consists of Mark Hopkins on one end of a log and a pupil on the other." Take away the skilled teacher and the learner is just a bump on a log!

Do you want the church to continue into the twenty-first century as a vital institution? It will only if the children and youth now in our congregations learn to value Unity teachings and heritage. How will this happen? Only if there are teachers who *know* and *love* Unity.

Our excellence in teaching can make all the difference to us as individuals, to our church, and to our society. What makes teaching a job and a challenge? What is excellence in teaching? Reflect upon the teachers who have had a profound influence in your life; you will find that they had three characteristics in common.

First of all, **they were crazy about their subjects--** "crazy" as in, "Will you look at John? He sure is crazy about Mary." Excellent teachers of textiles are wild about weaving; excellent teachers of mathematics are nutty about numbers; excellent teachers of ornithology are obsessed with observing Orioles. You've got to be passionate about your subject to be an effective teacher.

To be crazy about a subject does not mean that you think yours is the only subject content that matters. It does mean, however, that you think that everything about your subject--no matter how small or insignificant--matters. Do you remember how it felt when you were first in love and got a letter from your significant other? You read and re-read every word. The use of a semicolon was thrilling (an ordinary person would have used a comma). And if the letter closed with "All my love," it was as if the heavens had opened and the Divine Voice had spoken a benediction!

To be similarly obsessed with every detail of a particular area of knowledge or skill is what it means to be crazy about a subject--and this is one of the essentials of a fine teacher.

Which teachers were a major influence in your life? They don't have to be public school teachers or choir directors or college professors. They might be church school teachers, a Scout leader, a piano teacher.

One of the best teachers in Monroe, Wisconsin, in the 1940's and 50's was Della Stauffacher--The Butterfly Lady. Although she had been forced to quit school at fourteen to help her father in a country store, she was an expert in the field of moths and butterflies. With her living room as her classroom, she taught several generations of children how to collect, classify, and enjoy butterflies.

In teaching, love matters more than money. You cannot be an excellent teacher unless you are passionate about your subject--whether you are paid a lot, a little, or nothing at all. The volunteer, the amateur, can be as good as any professional. The word amateur means lover; it is love that matters above all in teachings.

*You cannot be an excellent teacher unless
you are passionate about your subject.*

Again, when you think about the teachers who made a great impact on your life, you will discover a second characteristic: **They were not afraid to be loved.** They let us know them pretty much as they were--warts and all, wonders and all. They allowed themselves to be part of the curriculum. They risked our anger by disciplining us; they praised us when we did well. They were not ashamed to present themselves to us as real human beings, whom one could choose either to love or to hate.

In 1938 Johnny Powers returned to his hometown of Titusville, Pennsylvania, to become the music teacher in the high school and to organize a marching band. No one on the school board thought it a bit odd that a man who was lame in one leg could teach kids how to march! No one

Continued...

bothered to ask how a band might be clothed when there was no money in the budget for uniforms. No one counted up the number of kids who could play instruments (had they done so they would have discovered enough for a string quartet with a piano accompaniment). The high school principal didn't think music important enough to offer academic credit, so the band practiced after school.

Within three years Johnny Powers had his marching band--in uniform and with a drum majorette who could strut and twirl! It was like something straight out of "The Music Man," but there was no magic in it, nor any slick talk or sting operation. The kids simply loved Johnny Powers. He invited small groups of them to come together to learn to play on borrowed instruments. When the kids came to school forty-five minutes before class to rehearse, there was Johnny. Lamé leg and all, he got out on the football field and paced off the formations. On Saturday Johnny got into his old Ford and helped cart band members to out-of-town football games. Johnny did not have charisma; he was not charming in the accepted sense; he wasn't even a great musical interpreter. Even so, Johnny Powers taught a whole generation of kids in that small town to play instruments, to march proudly, and to think well of themselves. The secret? He was not afraid to get close to the kids, and they loved him for it!

Good teachers are not afraid to be loved; they dare to show both their best and worst sides to their pupils. Behind that lies an important truth about teaching and learning: *much of learning is imitation*. We learn because we want to be like our parents, or professor, or piano teacher! It is the most natural thing in the world for children to love their teacher; it is an unnatural teacher, a poor teacher, whom children do not love.

Don't misunderstand! Not being afraid to be loved is not the same thing as trying to make pupils like you. The movie, "Stand and Deliver," is based on a true story. It is about a Hispanic computer expert who quit his job to teach math in a high school in a barrio in East Los Angeles. He enabled Hispanic kids not only to learn calculus, but to get high marks on the college entrance exams. And he did not do it by being Mr. Nice Guy! He did not waste time trying to make the kids like him; he did not have time for that! Still, he was not afraid to be loved, to praise and reprove, and to show warmth and anger. Jamic--that was his first name--let himself be an essential part of the curriculum.

We teachers in the church have a natural advantage. Who are we? We are those whom Christ has set free to be our human selves. We do not have to pretend to a goodness or graciousness or patience that we do not have. We do not have to put on a teaching face, or learn a teaching voice, or acquire teaching manners. We may dare to be ourselves; we need not be afraid to be loved, because we know ourselves to be loved extravagantly, without reservations, without our first being required to make ourselves lovable!

Third, excellence in teaching is marked by **telling stories**. If you reflect upon those teachers who left a great impression on you, certainly you can remember some of the stories that they told--not the jokes told to break the tension, but the stories that captured in a few words the essence of a process, a concept, an event; the kind of stories that are windows, letting light through a solid wall; the kind of stories that keep on teaching long after the storyteller has left the scene.

Paul Lehmann was a young instructor in Christian Ethics at Princeton Seminary in the late 1940's and early '50s. He was a difficult and obtuse lecturer whose intellectual brilliance was blinding to his students. What saved Dr. Lehmann were the occasional stories he would tell, and it was these stories that made all the difference. When his former students get together, they can remember and tell his stories and admit to using his stories in their teaching and in their preaching. The stories have kept on teaching, as good stories will.

By way of illustration, here is one of Dr. Lehmann's stories:

There was an elderly German pastor who had a long career of success in youth work. Young people liked and trusted him. They came to him with their questions, and they tried to live out the truths he taught them. The old man smoked a pipe--in fact, he was seldom without it. One day, as he was puffing on his pipe in his study, a young man asked to see him. The young man, who was about sixteen, was obviously struggling with a serious spiritual problem. "Pastor," he said, "I've gone round and round about this. Help me."

"What is it?" asked the old man.

"Pastor, I'm of the age when most of my friends are taking up smoking. Should I smoke?"

And without hesitation, the old pastor said, "Of course not!"

The young man looked with some confusion at the pastor, whose head was wreathed in pipe smoke. "But sir, you smoke."

"Ah yes, my son, but I never asked the question."

Why do we associate excellence in teaching with the telling of stories? Well, if you want to teach someone anything, the most effective way is via storytelling. Suppose you wanted to teach people how to repair their own automobiles. The first and most important step would be to tell a story: what happens to the gasoline that goes from the pump into the tank? Until your learners know that story, how would they ever know how to repair a carburetor or replace sparkplugs or fix a distributor? An effective teacher is an effective storyteller.

The joy and the challenge of teaching is three-fold: it is allowing oneself to be crazy about a subject; it is having the courage to let oneself be loved; and it is cultivating the art of telling stories.

Teach on!

Are you interested in motivating others to learn and to become involved in the world? Four channels to learning, based on Carl Jung's ideas on consciousness, affect motivation; we can use this knowledge to increase our student's motivation for learning and involvement.

Four Channels to Learning

Sensation: All external information flows into persons through one or more of the senses: taste, touch, smell, sight, and hearing. They provide us with the first message of outside or external experience. They are the first sources of awareness.

They remain only concrete or specific facts, however, unless we are able to internalize them as thoughts or feelings. The sound of running water comes to us through the sense of hearing, but we may not even be aware of the sound unless it is unusual, such as the sound of water in an unheated basement. When we begin to ask why it's running and what its possible effects might be, we enter the realm of thought.

Thought: Thought as a source of awareness is the capacity to compare, generalize, differentiate, abstract, and specify. It is assisted by prior experience and memory. This source of awareness is analytical; it thrives on rationality and logical order and quite likely arises from the need we have to make sense or give meaning to what happens to us.

Thought is the primary organizing function of the human psyche. It takes sensory information and organizes it into meaningful relationships. For example, thought--added to the sound of running water and the sensation of freezing temperatures--may produce the conclusion that the pipes have burst in the basement. Thought gives meaning to sensory information.

Emotions: Feelings may be evoked by either sensory information or thought. Emotions cannot be adequately described because they are not part of the external, objective world but rather our internal, subjective world.

We are often aware when others experience feelings similar to our own, particularly if the feelings are in situations of danger, violence, sexual attraction, or love. But since feelings are subjective, we cannot be certain of another's feelings unless that person attempts to describe them to us. If the sound of running water signaled the filling of the swimming pool, for example, one person might feel joy and anticipation where another might feel distress at the thought of paying the water bill.

Teacher's, Want to Motivate Your Students?

*Four channels to learning based on
Carl Jung's ideas on consciousness.*

Intuition: Intuition is the fourth source of awareness. It is the antithesis of analysis. Analysis compares, contrasts, examines to find meaning; intuition is the direct knowledge of meaning. Intuition is the direct knowledge of meaning apart from analysis or sensation. Symbols often trigger a response at the intuitive level. The use of water as a symbol of baptism is an example.

Intuition is an insight into the events of life apart from the process of casual connection or reasoning. Sometimes it is a new understand-

ing or meaning that comes from a fresh perspective on a problem. For example, a theory may be based on intuition (a new gestalt or meaning), but later be proved true or false analytically. Some intuitive meanings may never be proven (life is meaningful; I have a purpose; God cares for me), but they are nonetheless understandings that shape behavior.

Effects on Motivation

Each level of consciousness can affect our motivation, increasing or decreasing it. The thinking level affects motivation in two ways:

1. Logical discord motivates us to seek consistency or cognitive balance. For example, when we see a ship "sink" into the horizon of the ocean we know from experience or other data that the ship has not gone below the surface of the sea. Experiencing discordant facts motivates us to explain them by some kind of logic or theory. We attempt to make experience fit a balanced scheme.

2. A need to make sense out of situations that have no apparent meaning also motivates individuals. When dad gets angry at the dinner table, mom and the kids may guess, "He must have had a bad day at the office," or "Dad hates macaroni and cheese."

People not only attribute meanings to human actions, but also to God's action. Some believe that the experience of trouble is punishment for past deeds or the experience of success is a reward for faithfulness. Because we are motivated to make sense out of what is happening, we seek answers or meanings to explain what is.

Emotions also affect motivation. I want to have a warm, close personal relationship with someone, so I ask that person to my home for dinner. You are afraid of

Continued...

failure, so you don't attempt a course in chemistry. A man cares deeply about his newborn child, so he keeps the child warm, feeds him regularly, and changes his messy clothing.

Not only logic and emotions but also our senses shape desires. The taste of a juicy hot hamburger motivates me to the lunch table when I'm doing an interesting job. The experience of a beautiful waterfall or cool, shimmering lake will entice me to drive hours from my home for that sensual pleasure.

Intuition also affects motivation. Many of us are attracted and excited by some form of adventure, a new idea, or opportunity for self-fulfillment. We are pulled onward by a dream or hope or faith that is beyond logic, something that has value and importance to us just because it is and it calls us to be and do more than we are now.

For some of us that call may be a mountain to climb, for others an organization to build, or a broken body to repair. These goals are the ones that push beyond survival and logic and give another dimension of meaning and purpose to life.

The intuitive dimension further includes an openness to and an appreciation of what is--just because it is--and does not have to assign meaning or reason to it. It is nonjudgmental awareness and openness to experience.

Implications for Teaching and Learning

The extent to which the various channels of inducting information are called into play will increase the probability of motivation and/or commitment. We learn through our senses; the more senses employed, the greater the learning and motivation.

For example, if I am told about the poverty of a neighbor in a sermon, I will be less likely to do anything about it than I would if I were told about it and saw the sunken eyes and swollen bellies with my own eyes and heard the pained groans of a hungry person with my own ears.

If my emotions were also called into play, my motivation would increase even more. This is my friend who is suffering; I am angry about what causes poverty; I am afraid this might happen to me.

Intuition could add even more power to the urge (motivation) to help. My intuitive sense could confirm that God has called me to be responsive to this person's needs or that I could be particularly helpful in this situation.

In other words, as the number of channels employed increases (from one to two or three or four), the likelihood of my motivation increasingly will grow. However, if

some channels are bringing positive motivation and others negative motivation, my interest in pursuing a particular matter may be neutralized. For example, a student might be attracted by a particular subject matter (the thought channel) but turned off (the emotion channel) by the teacher.

As a Sunday school leader or teacher, then, consider designing your work to tap as many of the four channels of absorbing information as possible. Certainly, you should use lectures, reading, and discussion; these help the participants use the logical parts of their brains.

Also encourage persons to share and explore their feelings with one another. As well as being a channel for learning, emotions can set up blocks to learning--especially for retaining learning--if they are not recognized and dealt with.

Direct sensory experience can also be a part of your teaching design. Experience-based learning techniques (exedacs--as we call it in our Unity teacher training program) help participants use their senses to enable them to grasp more fully what is going on. Experience-based learning also increases skill and confidence in living out the behaviors we believe to be useful and important.

Finally, you may want to build into your teaching design opportunities for the students to explore and develop the intuitive parts of themselves. Meditation is one good means for doing this. In meditation the key is listening: listening to yourself and listening to God. Through meditation, new insights and understandings of the learning experience may emerge.

Understanding the four channels to learning is a powerful tool for teachers and leaders in the Sunday school. With that knowledge you can motivate others to learn and to become involved in practicing the teachings of Unity.

Adults of Unity Conference

Monday, August 17

through

Sunday, August 23, 1992

Love To The Infinite Power
Unity Village, Missouri

Phone 816-524-7414, ext. 327 NOW
to receive registration information!

Helping Your Singles in Their Search for Significance

Values Clarification Exercise

Sydney Simon, in his book, *Getting Unstuck: Working Through Your Barriers* (pages 29-30), has developed a values clarification strategy that many single adults have found helpful in defining significance. Here is how to use this exercise:

1. Have your singles draw a straight line from right to left. On the far left, they are to write the year of their birth. On the far right, they are to write the year they "plan to die." (Simon noted, "It is not a random, casual choice of words to use the phrase 'plan to die' because at some subtle level we do indeed plan our deaths--by the way we plan our living.")
2. Have your singles address the following key questions that need to be confronted in determining one's significance. (This can be done by journaling alone or it can be done in small discussion groups.)
 - A. What do I want to do with the life I have left to live?
 - B. What do I want to experience?
 - C. What do I want to witness?
 - D. What do I want to learn?
 - E. What do I want to be part of?
 - F. What do I want to change, shape, leave better than I found it?
 - G. What do I want to do with the rest of my life?

Harold says: "I use this exercise almost every weekend when I'm speaking, and it is interesting to watch people's reactions. I encourage people to answer the questions now but I also suggest that they take this home and mull it over. Then come back to it in a week, two weeks, a month or six months from now, and answer again the same questions."

"Talk About Your Heroes" Night

According to Harold, "Our heroes are often an excellent barometer to help gauge our values and what we think is significant in life. I think it's very important to constantly ask our single adults who their heroes are, who they admire? In discussing our heroes, it challenges us to reflect on what qualities and characteristics are really important in life."

Here are some suggestion for how to have an effective "hero night."

1. Ask your singles to make a list of their heroes or the more significant people in their life. (One possible way to do this is by category--vocational hero, relational hero, spiritual hero, etc.)

2. Discuss in small groups why each person listed is a hero. Try to identify the specifics of that person's life or achievements that cause you to see them as a hero, that cause you to admire them.
3. Discuss what the difference is between being a hero, a celebrity, and a famous.
4. Discuss the question: If I were to ever be someone's hero, what would be the reason why? What are my qualities that are most likely to be admired?
5. Discuss the question: What would I need to change about my values and priorities to become more like the people I most admire?

Harold concludes, "Encourage your singles to be in a small group. A small group is a place where a person is free to verbalize their ambiguities about success and significance."

Ministering With Teens

(Uniteen and Y.O.U.)

CEP Session A
July 12-25, 1992
Unity Village, MO

10 hours elective credits

For: Adults who work with or would like to be trained to work with Uniteen or Y.O.U. groups in Unity churches and centers.

You will learn: age group characteristics, "x-edacs," whole brain learning teaching styles, developing leadership skills in teens and how to manage a teen group.

Taught by: Ray Wiggins
Int'l. Ed. Services Consultant

To register contact
Unity School of Christianity, CEP
(816) 524-3550

For information contact the

Children's Education Department
Association of Unity Churches
(816) 524-7414

Media Resources for Teaching/Learning

Catalogs and Periodicals

The virtual explosion of resources for use in church education in the past few years means that no single periodical or series of brief reviews can keep you up to date. Thus, I want to suggest several sources that will provide dependable reviews of available resources. Some of these are subscription items, and before you invest in a subscription, you may want to write or call to request a sample for review.

► Arts & Activities

Published ten times a year, Arts & Activities is aimed at the public school teacher. This creative and informative magazine has a different focus each month, and the articles and ideas can easily be used by church school teachers. The subscription rate is \$20 per year, with more economical rates for extended subscriptions. The address is:

Arts & Activities
P.O. Box 85103
San Diego, CA 92138-9959

Check with your local library, school library, or teachers in your local school. Maybe you can gain access to copies on a regular basis without having to subscribe.

► EcuFilm

This catalog is produced by an ecumenical group of nine sponsoring religious bodies. This free catalog has an extensive listing of videos and movies for rent. The preface of the present catalog states, "EcuFilm was created to increase customer convenience and service. The collection of several sources in a single, centrally located distribution center provides better service and selection. The cooperating members select the titles they wish to place in EcuFilm, which does not necessarily mean the approval of all members." The catalog is conveniently arranged, complete descriptive information is included, appropriate age levels for the resources are given, and the brief synopses are informative and reliable. You may obtain a copy of the catalog by writing:

EcuFilm
810 Twelfth Ave., South
Nashville, TN 37203
1-800-251-4091
In Tennessee, call collect: 615-242-6277

► Mass Media Ministries

Mass Media Ministries is an organization that has gained a well-deserved reputation through the years and continues to be on the cutting edge in reviewing and making available audio-visual resources. They have a

Continued...

Children's Ministry Seminar

CEP Session B
July 26 - August 8, 1992
Unity Village, MO

10 hours elective credits

The 1992 Children's Ministry Seminar is a training opportunity for those interested in working with children, serving their spiritual, mental, and emotional needs. The course material will cover program administration, teacher preparation, innovative teaching techniques and resource utilization.

Instructors:

Ray Wiggins	Robert Fortner
Int'l Education	SE Region Educ.
Services Consultant	Consultant for Children

To register contact

Unity School of Christianity, CEP
(816) 524-3550

For information contact the

Children's Education Department
Association of Unity Churches
(816) 524-7414

catalog that is available free of charge, plus a regular Video Bulletin, also free for the asking.

As a long-time customer of Mass Media, I have found their service to be dependable, the reviews to be reliable, and the listing of current resources to be comprehensive. The current Mass Media Ministries catalog has a free resource about starting a video lending library for your church or resource center. The 16-page booklet is free upon request from Mass Media Ministries.

For a copy of the catalog and more information about starting a video lending library, write:

Mass Media Ministries
2116 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218
301-727-3270

► Media & Values

This is a quarterly publication produced by the non-profit organization, Center for Media and Values. An individual membership is \$30 per year and an organizational membership is \$75. The organizational membership is intended for churches and other community organizations and offers several advantages. The organizational membership includes three copies of each issue, a leader's guide for using the articles in each issue, and license to reprint articles in newsletters and bulletins or for study groups. Each issue of Media & Values focuses on a specific topic, offering stimulating and helpful articles for study and discussion. Request information about this helpful resource by writing:

Center for Media and Values
1962 South Shenandoah
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Send \$4.00 for a sample copy for review. Because the Center is nonprofit and the magazines are of substantial size, review copies cannot be made available free of charge.

► Visual Parables

This monthly four-page newsletter, produced by The Reverend Ed McNulty, gives helpful reviews and good insights about current movies and video resources. I have found the reviews to be current, dependable, and insightful. In addition to indicating the movie-industry rating of films, McNulty offers a rating of his own related to

The James Dillet and Billie Freeman International Youth of Unity Creative Writing Scholarship Awards

\$1,000 College Scholarship - FIRST PRIZE

\$ 600 College Scholarship - SECOND PRIZE

**\$ 200 Y.O.U. Annual Conference Trip -
THIRD PRIZE**

PURPOSE:

To encourage youths of Unity to express their faith through the written word.

ELIGIBILITY:

Open to youths ages 14 through 18 who are members of a Youth of Unity Chartered Chapter.

PROCEDURE:

Submit poetry, short story, article, or meditation (not to exceed 1,500 words), doubled-spaced typewritten to:

**International Youth of Unity
FREEMAN Writing Award
Youth of Unity
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063**

Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for our use in notification. Material submitted will not be returned. Judges will be participating Unity Editors and the Freemans. Awards announced by Mr. and Mrs. Freeman at the annual Y.O.U. Conference. Funds disbursed directly to colleges and Y.O.U. Conference upon proof of registration.

violence, language, and sex/nudity. I consider the subscription rate of \$16 per year (\$20 in Canada) to be a good investment. For more information about the newsletter and a review copy, write:

Rev. Edward McNulty
Visual Parables
Northminster Presbyterian Church
301 Forest Avenue
Dayton, OH 45405

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES PHONE DIRECTORY

(816) 524-7414

Touch Tone Telephones:

When you reach our office and you hear "Thank you for calling..."; immediately enter the extension number for person or department desired; or enter "O" to reach a receptionist. AT ANY TIME YOU CAN RETURN TO THE RECEPTIONIST BY ENTERING "O".

Association Staff Extension Numbers

Bae, Young	322
Beach, Mae	350
Beard, Linda	345
Belton, Antuane	321
Coolidge, Ann	351
Craft, Carolyn	343
Dustin, Mick	333
Floyd, C.J.	332
Landreth, Joann	337
Lee, Ron	328
Montague, Julie	354
Moore, Myra	323
Mosley, Bud	342
Mosley, Glenn	352
Mosley, Martha	335
Nabors, Connie	320
Penrose, Marsha	330
Ratliff, Debbie	329
Robinson, Trish	346
Schreen, Nira	352
Sickler, Cindy	341
Smith, Jody	336
St. John, Shay	349
Thorpe, Tom	*
Turner-Bey, Deborah	355
Velasquez, Susan	324
Venturini, Judi	338
Vestal, Cheryl	326
Wiggins, Ray	327

*Tom Thorpe may be reached by dialing (816) 251-3535; or Unity School 524-3550, extension 3535.

Rotary Telephones:

When you reach our office, wait on the line and a receptionist will answer very quickly.

Organizational Structure/Functions/Ext. Numbers

Accounting	
Associate Director/Comptroller--Young Bae	
Accounts Payable--Susan Velasquez	324
Billing Information--Myra Moore	323
Insurance--Myra Moore	323
Orders - Regular (placing & shipments)	324
(Orders - Personalized--see Institutional Relations listing)	
Pension Information--Myra Moore	322 or 324
Production & Shipping	
Manager--Bud Mosley	
Assistant--Ron Lee	
Development/Fund Raising	
Director of Development--Shay St. John	
Assistant Director--Julie Montague	
Development Officer--Mae Beach	
Development Office Assistant--Deborah Turner-Bey	355
Education	
Associate Director/Director of Education--Mick Dustin	
Assistant in Education--C. J. Floyd	332
Children and Youth--Vacant	344
Intergenerational--Ray Wiggins	327
Liaison Information--Trish Robinson	346
Licensed Teacher Information	332
Radio/Media Coordinator--Carolyn Craft	
Radio/Media Assistant--Linda Beard	345
Year of the Child--Judi Venturini	338
All other questions	332
Executive Office	
Executive Director--Glenn Mosley	
Executive Assistant--Nira Schreen	352
Institutional Relations	
Associate Director/Director of Institutional Advancement--Martha Mosley	
Administrative Assistant--Cindy Sickler	341
Bylaws	341
Conference/Convention/Support Services Coordinator--	
Debbie Ratliff	329
Assistant--Marsha Penrose	330
Receptionist/Accounting Support--Connie Nabors	320
Receptionist--Antuane Belton	321
Ministry Services	
Associate Director/Director of Placement-Expansion--Joann Landreth	
Address Information/CONTACT/Yearbook--Cheryl Vestal	326
Expansion Assistant--Ann Coolidge	351
Placement Assistant--Jody Smith	336

Important Dates For 1992

Skills Demonstration Seminar
Board Member Seminar & Retreat
Pre-Conference (St. Charles, IL)
Unity People's Convention (St. Charles, IL)
Licensed Teacher Postgraduate Week
Skills Demonstration Seminar
Youth of Unity Conference
Adults of Unity Conference
Executive Committee Meetings
Board Member Seminar & Retreat
Skills Demonstration Seminar

April 25-May 1 (Sat.-Fri.)
May 16-21 (Sat.-Thurs.)
June 12-16 (Fri.-Tues.)
June 16-20 (Tues.-Sat.)
June 27 - July 3 (Sat.-Fri.)
August 8-14 (Sat.-Fri.)
August 10-16 (Mon.-Sun.)
August 17-23 (Mon.-Sun.)
Sept. 13-18 (Sun.-Fri.)
Sept. 19-25 (Sat.-Fri.)
Oct. 31 - Nov. 6 (Sat.-Fri.)

1992 Regional Conferences


Western	April 20-24	Tyee Hotel - Olympia Washington
Great Lakes	Sept. 20-25	Potawatomi Inn - Pokagon State Park Angola, Indiana
Southwest	Sept. 29-Oct. 4	Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau Ventura, California
West Central	Sept. 29 - Oct. 3	Asilomar Conference Grounds Monterey California
Eastern	October 4-8	Cavalier Hotel - Virginia Beach, Virginia
Southeast	October 12-16	
South Central	October 20-23	Ramada Inn - Albuquerque, New Mex.

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PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES®

August/September 1992

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Edie Skalitzky
Unity Church in the Rockies
Colorado Springs, Colorado

These are amazing, exciting, and interesting times to be alive on this planet! I'm sure you feel, as I do, the ever increasing push of all life to bring forth a new world based on the principles of love, compassion, and peace. Of course, if we look only at the surface message, we see an increase of violence, illness, drugs, war, and power over others; but the hidden message is that the Spirit within the individual, and the Spirit within the evolution of life in all its varied forms, is yearning to be expressed in new expansive ways. This yearning of our soul to connect more fully with Spirit may be uncomfortable and is often deeply painful, for we must release so much which has bound us to the old, known, acceptable forms of thinking, feeling, being, living. In our fear and uncomfortability we seek to ignore, hide, run away from the "still, small voice" of God nudging us to come up higher. Each of us has our own personal escape mechanisms.

As I observe myself, and my colleagues in ministry, along with people in our congregation, there is one escape mechanism which stands out above the rest. It takes the shape of incredibly "busy" lives, where we move from one important activity to another from morning till night. Our lives are so dedicated to others in assisting them on their journey and we are so dedicated to making certain each function and activity of our ministry or of our lives is in place and running smoothly

that all too often our own spiritual journey is given a back seat.

There are times when I use my busyness, my full schedule, as an excuse not to take enough time for prayer and quiet reflection which connects me with the Source that provides abundantly for me. Unless I remain conscious and vigilant, it is easy to allow my day off in the week to be eroded with church business, or to have some of our vacation time slip away unused. Sometimes I feel lost in the shuffle of business/busyness and wonder, "Where am I?" I know these thoughts and experiences are not unique to me for many of you have shared with me the same scenario.

We all hear frequently about friends and colleagues who are facing major challenges of one sort or another, and it may even be that we could count ourselves among those in a crisis of change. What we can do to aid ourselves and help those we love in these painful/wondrous times when life desires to give us new gifts?

There are many possible answers to this question. The one which persistently presents itself to me is the necessity of rearranging my priorities for the sake of my health and well being. In a sense, this reorganizing is done again and again each day. Each day I/we face lots of demands to do and be, this or that. In mercy, kindness and clear focus, we can remind ourselves frequently that nothing is more important than our relationship with God, and that relationship requires, as any relationship does, time, attention, and loving nurturing. Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all these things will be added unto you." I desire to hear and heed these words, as most certainly you do, too.

In contemplating this coming year in serving you as President of the Association, I wonder what I can be/do to assist you in your life and work? It is my deep desire to serve you in ways which may ease your journey, nurture you, and assist you. Do know that I commit myself to being as present to you when we meet or talk as I can be and to work with you in a spirit of cooperation and caring. Also know that in my early morning meditations you are held in my thoughts and prayers.

Remember, Dear Friend, how incredibly valuable, important, and wonderful you are. Remember to place loving the Lord of your Being and yourself as the most important thing in your life. Shall we make a pact to remind each other of these truths?

"Caring NOW!" VHS Video
17:40 minutes

Outlines our Living Curriculum
and the impact it will have on
our children, youth, and families.

Love Offering Requested
Suggested minimum: \$15.00

Perfect way to introduce your
church community to this
vital project of our
Association of Unity Churches

Volume 25, Issue 4
August/September, 1992

CONTACT STAFF

Editor-in-Chief Glenn Mosley
Managing Editor Cheryl Vestal
Graphics & Layout Cheryl Vestal
Circulation Glenn Mosley, Jr.

EDITORIAL PURPOSE

The Editorial purpose of CONTACT is the purpose of the Association: the Association of Unity Churches is dedicated to supporting and strengthening its member ministries by providing human resources, administrative and education programs.

Cover:

Unity Church of Practical Christianity
Phoenix, AZ
Minister: Richard D. Rogers

Deadlines: 1st of the month, two months prior to issue date

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Glenn R. Mosley
Executive Director

Alban Institute is an eclectic organization which studies problems of any/all denominations and suggests strategies for meeting those problems through publications and trainings. Excerpts from the following article speak to some of my needs; maybe they will yours.

When A Healer Needs Healing: Ministers Under Stress

One year ago on Sunday morning, April 14th, newspaper readers across the nation opened up PARADE Magazine to find an article about the heavy toll stress is taking on clergy. Alban Senior Consultant Roy Oswald and Referral Consultant Luther Kramer were interviewed and quoted in the article. At the end of the final paragraph Alban's address was given as a resource for further information. Staff members Julie King and David Sharpe coordinated the Alban response. Here is their story of what happened and how it affected our understanding of clergy stress.

Within 24 hours of the publication of the article "When A Healer Needs Healing: Ministers Under Stress," our entire Alban staff was mobilized to respond to an onslaught of telephone calls and letters. In the next eight weeks, 1,300 people called or wrote us. One year later, letters are still coming in! We were overwhelmed--not only by the volume of the response but by the personal pain con-

veyed in so many of the letters from clergy who had suffered in silence for years. Here is an example:

Though my faith is stronger than ever, and though my calling is no less diminished, the intense pressures and sense of loneliness brought to bear on me as a long-time pastor sometimes give way to thoughts of leaving it all. . . I suppose the best description of my feelings is the fact that often one feels as if no one in the world could possibly understand how you feel as a minister/pastor. I often remind myself that I have been called to listen to them and try to offer some guidance to those in need, and yet, often I find myself in need of support and advice, and no one seems to be there to listen.

There were also letters from clergy spouses and other family members:

My father is a minister suffering from severe burnout. Our family has been coping with this for years, and it has been eating away at us for far too long. My parents' marriage has been severely damaged. I think we all need help. But where to go?

And letters from lay leaders like this one:

We have a new pastor, our fifth in 17 years. I've watched our pastors burn out. When our Pastor Search Committee dissolved this time, the chairman quipped, 'Now it's time to form a Pastor Care Committee!' I think that's a great idea, and that's exactly what I want to do.

Long after the avalanche of inquiries, we continued to discuss what we had learned from this experience. Three key themes emerged:

- Those who wrote felt isolated and unclear about what to do--unable to de-

fine the boundaries between their professional and personal lives--unclear about ownership of problems--ill-equipped to deal with their own and others' unrealistic expectations.

- The need to deny or conceal severe problems had kept many of our correspondents away from readily available independent and confidential pastoral counseling resources, and few were using peer support groups as a back-up for themselves and their families.

- Although hundreds of laypeople wrote to us asking "What can I do to support my pastor?" it was evident that few congregations had processes in place for mutual review and renegotiation of roles and expectations.

Late in 1991 we had an opportunity to add to our understanding of clergy needs in four anecdotal personal surveys of clergy from metropolitan Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. These pastors came from small, medium, and large congregations and ranged from recent seminary graduates to pending retirees.

As expected, the typical clergy stress of juggling the demands of church administration, pastoral care, and spiritual development was high on their list of concerns, but new stressors were emerging in the world with which their parishioners were struggling: the breakdown and/or redefinition of the family unit, greater ethnic diversity, unemployment, and increased substance abuse. And they named stresses arising from shifts in the church system. Many told us that the homogeneous congregation of old had disappeared. This transformation had been difficult and stressful particularly when significant changes of congregational size had occurred.

An issue they described as particularly critical was pastoral care. With spread-out congregants, clergy were using more time and travel to accomplish less. In

Continued...

particular, visiting hospital patients and nursing home residents in so many different and widely spread institutions had become a major problem.

"I wasn't trained to be a CEO," was another comment. Some of our interviewees felt ill-equipped to provide direction for increasingly complex administrative, legal, and building management decisions. At the same time, societal changes were limiting the quality and amount of volunteer assistance. These clergy did talk about motivating parishioners to understand their commitment and call as more than Sunday service involvement. Those surveyed firmly believed that if they could stimulate a spiritual awakening in their congregations, it would lead to a more involved laity, a better definition of mission, and a foundation of growth. Our interviewees desperately wanted to find ways in which their own spiritual resources might be replenished, but we heard them say that tending to their own spiritual and emotional needs took a back seat to other pressures. Some of them said that continuing education events were the only way they could take time off.

The response to the PARADE article and our clergy meetings in Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia affected our staff deeply and have made an impact on decisions about Institute programs and services. As we completed a strategic plan to undergird Alban's research capacity, we highlighted several areas for study: (1) the ability of church structures to respond to conflict and transition; (2) ways to prepare people for the clergy role and to assist clergy in managing stress; and (3) ways lay boards sustain supportive ministries. . . .

These are important plans for coming years. For now, we can point to important resources currently, or soon-to-be, available.

Resources for Stressed Clergy

Confidential counseling assistance for clergy and family members:

The Network of Pastoral Counselors certified by The American Association of Pastoral Counselors. For assistance in locating a counselor, call (703) 385-6967.

Specialized assistance in assessing career options:

The twelve accredited Clergy Career and Counseling Centers. For the nearest center, call the Church Career Development Council at (212) 870-2144.

Spiritual renewal for individuals and congregations:

How Prayer Shapes Ministry by Jack Biersdorf--a book pointing the way to a grounding of the many-faceted aspects of congregational ministry in prayer (Alban)

"Nourishing Spirituality in Congregations," a course led by Tilly-Jo Emerson and Robert Morris, Nov. 9-12, 1992 in Minneapolis.

The Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, Mount St. Alban, Washington, DC 20016 can provide a personal program for spiritual direction.

A wholistic approach to clergy leadership and self-care

Clergy Self-Care: Finding a Balance for Effective Ministry by Roy M. Oswald--veritable encyclopedia of ways clergy can work for their inner health and their outer effectiveness (Alban)

"Strengthening Your Ministry: Leadership and Balance," a course led by Roy M. Oswald, Oct. 5-9, 1992 in Dayton

For information on a support system for women and men whose spouses are

clergy, write to SPICE, 485 Wellesley Dr., Muskegon, MI 49447.

How congregations and staffs function in the midst of change:

"Changing Congregational Systems" a course led by George Parsons in Sept. 25-26, 1992 in Indianapolis

"Pastoral Transition," a course led by Edward White, Oct. 12-15, 1992 in Atlanta

The Male-Female Church Staff: Celebrating the Gifts, Confronting the Challenges by Celia Allison Hahn and Anne Marie Nuechterlein--ways to deal with challenging staff issues and develop new collegiality (Alban)

Third party conflict management skills in your denomination:

"Consulting with Severely Conflicted Churches," a course led by Speed B. Leas, Sept. 14-18, 1992 in San Francisco

Alban regional training seminars custom-designed for your judicatory, led by Alban senior consultants

Strengthening review of mutual ministries:

"Clergy Self-Assessment" led by Roy Oswald, Aug. 3-7, 1992 in Estes Park, CO

Evaluating Ministry: Principles and Processes for Clergy and Congregation by Jill Hudson--how to avoid destructive outcomes and make the evaluative process more mutual and supportive (Alban)

For Publications orders, call 1-800-457-2674. For course information and education registration, call 1-800-457-8893.

Excerpts reprinted with permission from Alban Institute newsletter, inside information.



Barbara O'Hearne
Church Development and
Management Consultant

A New Look at Strategic Planning

During the past year in working with ministers and their boards in the field and with the Association Board of Trustees, I have evolved a highly participatory strategic planning model. I am very excited about this particular model and want to share it with you. It appears to work! The model is based upon my belief of inviting the participation by as many people as possible in creating a shared vision. As a reminder, the definition of a shared vision is a statement of the desired future state of the ministry at all levels of operations. Participation by many people in the planning process can serve as an energy source in the life of a ministry almost immediately and insures the implementation and ultimately the financial support of the overall plan.

The model is designed to examine the values, mission, internal strengths and weaknesses of a ministry, to conduct an external audit of opportunities and barriers, to chart a course of action for the future through the visioning process. Visioning involves listening to the dreams, needs and goals of many constituent groups within the congregation, the minister, staff, committees, volunteers, and board. In some instances perceptions of the role of the church in the community is examined.

Because planning committees involve the minister, key staff, board, and congregation members who are volunteers, I believe the process should be personally and spiritually rewarding and exciting. Research supports an increase in productivity in environments where people enjoy working together.

With these thoughts in mind, I would like to explain the strategic planning model diagram (shown on page 6). References to "the consultant" in the material is the role I have assumed. Some of the Unity churches have consultants and planners who have agreed to facilitate and guide the planning process after they have been part of one of my planning workshops in the field. They become "the consultant" for their own church and I have served as a resource person to them.

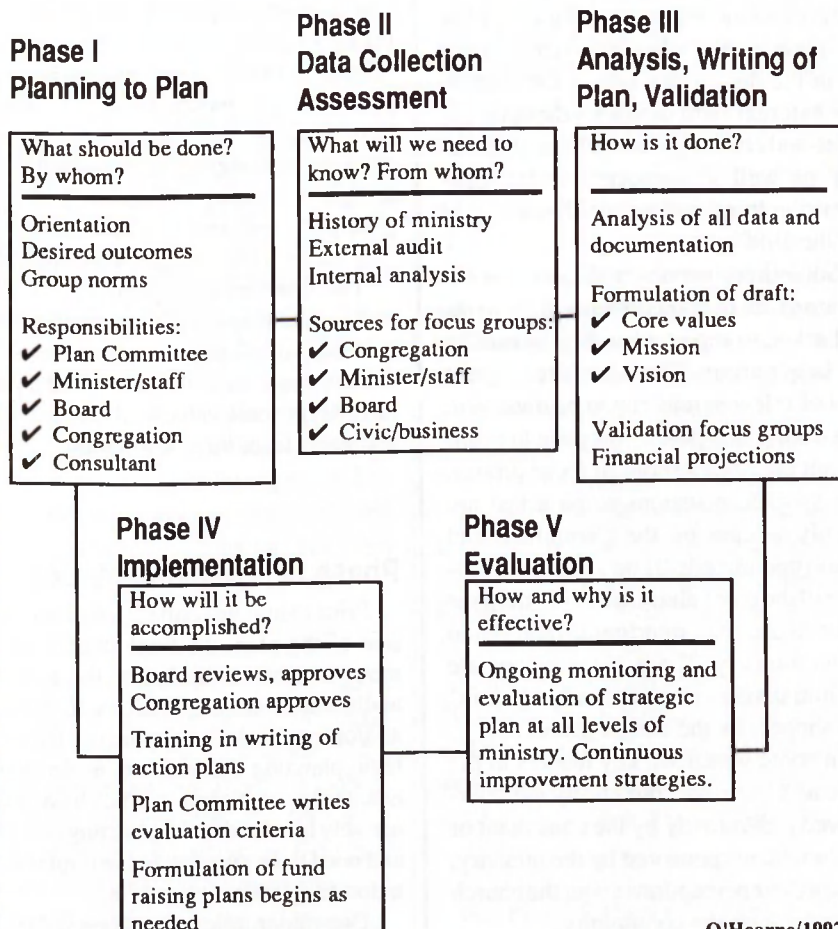
Phase I -- Planning to Plan

This phase addresses the question, "What should be done and by whom?" Keys to success in this phase are setting the ground rules or group norms for working together as a planning committee. Early agreement should be reached on the desired outcomes for our work and a commitment by individuals, the group, and the consultant concerning areas of responsibility. If there is any conflict between the group members it is important it be resolved prior to moving into Phase II.

I recommend developing a "briefing binder" for the Committee members so they will have key reference documents, previous planning meeting summaries,

Continued...

Strategic Planning Model



O'Hearne/1992

focus group results, etc., available as we work through the process. It is continually updated with additional information.

Also during this phase a work schedule is developed for the duration of the planning process. This may include one half-day work session per month or a couple of two- or three-hour sessions per month. Setting the meeting schedule in advance is recommended, people can get the dates on their calendars for the duration of the planning process. It also lets them know there is a beginning and ending date to their work.

Phase II -- Data Collection and Assessment

During this phase we examine the ministry through an internal audit and an external audit. The internal audit includes the history of the ministry, the strengths and weaknesses, attendance and giving data, previous planning documents, etc. We are conducting an assessment of what has gone on and what is currently going on in the day-to-day life of the church. The external audit examines the opportunities and challenges in the local community as well as projected social, economic, cultural and technological trends for the 1990's.

Sometimes members of the Committee are given readings or other documents and asked to report what they learned to the larger group. This allows for a great deal of relevant material to be reviewed. It is during this phase I propose the consultant facilitate a series of focus groups. The specific questions to be asked are usually written by the Committee and focus (pun intended!) on getting perceptions of the core values, mission, strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and vision of the ministry. These focus groups are the initial stage of input, early "buy-in" and support by the congregation.

In some instances, key leaders in the civic and business community are interviewed individually by the consultant or at a luncheon sponsored by the ministry, to gain their perceptions about the church and its role in the community.

Phase III -- Analysis, Writing of the Plan, Validation

Once Phase II has been completed the Committee does an in-depth analysis of the data, focus group results, and other documentation. The intended outcome of this phase is to write a draft set of core values, draft mission statement and draft vision statement. Note that the use of "draft" document is important when asking people for feedback. The congregation is invited to validate the Committee's draft documents through a second series of focus group meetings.

Because these focus groups have a different format from the first series mentioned above, all Committee members are asked to co-facilitate these groups with the consultant. Training is provided on how to do this to insure maximum participation and feedback from participants. It is during these focus groups each participant is asked to write two or three goals for the next three years. It is important to note the participants generate a listing of goals--not the planning committee. It has been my experience this process invites another level of participation, "buy-in" and increasing commitment by the congregation or stakeholder groups. Because they are the ones proposing the goals and they have an ownership stake in seeing them accomplished.

The members of the planning committee have the responsibility to analyze and prioritize all of the information from the focus groups. The final draft of the plan includes the core values, mission, vision, and goals from this information.

Phase IV -- Implementation

Prior to moving into full implementation of the plan, the final "draft" document is sent to the board for review, additional recommendations if needed and/or approval. Once approved the strategic planning document is made available to the congregation. They have been actively involved in the planning process and need to be enrolled in the implementation as quickly as possible.

Two major tasks are accomplished at

that phase. One, the consultant collaborates and facilitates the training sessions on writing action plans or annual operational plans for the minister, staff, board, committees and other stakeholder groups, for example, the Sunday school teachers, etc.

The writing of action plans becomes an ongoing process each year of the plan. For some ministries there is an annual review of the plan during their minister/board retreat followed by the development of yearly operational plans supporting the strategic direction of the church.

The second task the Committee needs to accomplish is to write evaluation criteria and strategies to monitor the plan, monthly, quarterly, or annually. This process is implemented in Phase V.

Phase V -- Evaluation

Evaluation and monitoring of the strategic plan is considered an ongoing process. Mid-course corrections and monthly discussions by minister, staff, and board are important to implementation and continuous improvement in the overall operations of the ministry. It has been my experience that clarity of mission and vision assist in the decision making process. Ideally the strategic plan is an agenda item at every board meeting and early in the meeting to insure implementation is moving successfully or changes need to be discussed and made.

The amount of time needed to complete a strategic plan varies with the size of the ministry, belief in the value of planning, the commitment of the board and planning committee to getting the job completed.

Without question those ministries that have undertaken planning are more focused on who they are, know what kind of ministry they would like to become and are moving toward that direction.

Please contact me if you need additional information about the planning process, I am happy to serve you in any way I can. I can be reached by telephone at (816) 531-3353; or FAX (816) 753-8200 or by letter at 4311 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110-1571.

PLACEMENT REVIEW



Joann Landreth
**Associate Director/
Director of Placement**

A good part of my day is often spent in communicating with board members of open churches and with ministers.

Many of the church boards and even ministers are not familiar with the Placement Policies and Procedures approved by the Association's Board of Trustees. Since this is the time of year when a great deal of activity in the placement process unfolds, I thought this review of policy could be helpful.

Following is the process to be followed by both ministers and the boards of churches seeking new ministerial leadership.

One of the major services of the Association of Unity Churches is to assist its ministries in the orderly succession of leadership. Over the years, policies have been developed which have proven effective. The purpose of this published information is to acquaint all concerned with these policies, that they may aid in facilitating an orderly change of leadership. Many steps are involved in the normal placement procedure and they normally take place in the following manner:

1. A call is placed to the Association office to the Director of Placement by the minister who is leaving or from the president of the board, indicating that an opening has occurred.

2. At this time, the caller is invited to prepare a short paragraph (150-200 words) giving general facts about the church or center, including such information as average attendance, size of Sunday school, seating facilities, number of employees in addition to the minister, whether or not the building is owned, and any other relevant facts. This information will be used to announce the opening in the next Minister's Letter.

3. The Minister's Letter is issued every other month and is sent to all active ministers and to all open churches and centers. The Minister's Letter will serve as notice to the ministers that a vacancy has occurred, and will also advise the boards of the manner in which we are presenting their opening. If the board members prefer to have the listing changed, they can then direct either the board president or secretary to notify the Association office of the changes they wish to have made.

4. A Church Vacancy Form is sent to each church or center seeking a new minister. This form should be completed and returned to our office as soon as possible, with a copy of the bylaws and the most recent financial statement. We will then list the ministry as open in our Minister's Letter. Such information will give us a clear picture of the ministry, and will enable us to provide accurate background to those ministers who express an interest in applying for this opening. Resumes will not be sent until the completed Church Vacancy Information has been received in the Association office.

5. A number of sources may be involved in assembling a list of candidates. Members of the congregation may suggest prospects to the board, and these names may be relayed to us as possibilities. Also, on receipt of the Minister's Letter, various ministers in the field may request additional information from our office and express an interest in the opening. Association policy states that all

open church boards work through this approved placement process. To bypass this office could result in employing a minister not in good standing. A minister, too, is required to work through the Association Placement Office. For a minister to bypass the approved placement process could result in the minister being placed by the Executive Committee "not in good standing status."

6. If a minister indicates that s/he would like to make formal application for an available ministry, s/he will be sent a possible resume form. Ministers will prepare an updated resume and forward to the Association office. Upon receipt, we will reproduce the forms and send them to the ministry which is seeking new leadership. Ministries are informed that all resumes are to come through the Association office.

7. The Board of Directors of the open church will review the resumes and will select three or four (maximum) for further consideration. Often telephone interviews are scheduled which help to narrow down the number invited to actually visit. Much can be learned from a one-to-one telephone conversation. The process should be handled as rapidly as possible for the best interests of both the candidates and the open ministry. Usually the candidates will be invited to speak on successive Sundays, beginning on the earliest convenient date. The cost involved for transportation and accommodations for the ministerial candidate to visit is the church's financial responsibility. While it is not required that a love offering be presented to the candidate, it is greatly appreciated by each one.

As soon as the list of prospective candidates has been selected, the board will call the candidates to work out a mutually agreeable time for the visit and also advise the Association office of their choices.

See PLACEMENT on page 8, col. 3



Shay St. John
Director of Development

Now Is The Time

Now is the time. . . . How well I remember these words from my beginning typing class. The sentence continued on, providing a pattern of key strokes that imprinted "touch typing" skills deeply into my fingertips.

Now is the time. . . . That thought took on greater meaning when Unity was discovered. Now. This very moment. Within it is access to the infinite potential of God. Only within this now moment can I fully experience life. Yes, these words provided a rich and wondrous pattern for the spiritual growth that would enfold and enrich my life's journey.

Now is the time. . . . These words expand into profound teachings for our heart and soul. They remind us to turn within, to listen to and to be renewed by "the still, small voice," as our revised standard Bible tells us, or "the sound of sheer silence" as the new revised standard version states it.

Now is the time. . . . In this now moment it is a joy to serve you, our beloved Association members, as your Director of Development. It is an exciting time, a time of growth and change. It is a time for "Caring NOW!"

If you were at our Chicago Convention, you know that "Caring NOW!" is the theme of our four year Capital Campaign. This Campaign has two major goals:

1. Funding the creation of our Living

Curriculum for children, youth, and families.

2. Retirement of the mortgage on our new World Headquarters.

These goals will be accomplished as we each express our "Caring NOW!" Take action to do what can be done by you to make this vital dream a reality. Affirm your personal financial support at whatever level feels right to you. Invite your ministry to prayerfully consider its support of this ambitious project. Seek creative ways to join our "Caring NOW!" team of dedicated and enthusiastic visionaries.

You are needed. Our Association of Unity Churches is a global organization, and we need your voice, your arms, your enthusiasm, to communicate your support of this project. If you are willing to serve within your community to let others know what this project will do for our future, contact our Development Office and let us know your interest.

Now is the time. Our Living Curriculum will be a transformative tool for every Unity ministry. If you have not seen a brochure that outlines its vision, call us today!

In closing, I share with you this short article from "Minister's Tips" sent to me by Rev. Scott McClintock.

Is the Church Preoccupied With Money?

We tend to be amused at the kind of things people say about money in the church. "Well, sure enough, we hadn't been to church in months, and the first Sunday we're back, the pastor talks about money." Or, "The reason we left our last church is that they were always talking about money."

Maybe that's because Jesus did. You know, 16 of his 38 parables are about money and possessions, and one tenth of all gospel verses are about money and possessions.

There are roughly 500 verses in the Scripture that have to do with prayer and little under that number that deal with faith. Yet more than 1,000 verses (about the number that discuss faith and prayer combined) are concerned with the subject of money and material goods.

Is it any wonder that the church, when she is faithful to the gospel, follows in that tradition and talks about money? from First Christ Church, Newton, KS

Blessings, dear friends. I celebrate our "Caring NOW!" that is expressing through every ministry in our Unity movement!

PLACEMENT

Cont'd from page 7

8. After the candidates have all been heard and the prayer work has been done by all those concerned, a decision is made by the board. When the agreement is reached on the succession of leadership, the board is encouraged to submit a letter of confirmation containing the details of the agreement to the new minister, and to the Association office.

9. The Board of Directors will notify all other candidates of the choice that has been made.

10. The next Minister's Letter will indicate the finalized placement.

11. The church or center will accept the responsibility for the cost of moving its new minister, his/her family and household goods to the new location, including reimbursement of minister's gas mileage and expenses for trip to new location. Should the minister choose to leave a ministry before two full years of service, it is the minister's responsibility to reimburse the ministry's percentage based on his/her length of service.

We recognize, in creating a placement structure of this kind, that it is not the Placement Committee, nor the minister/applicant, nor the Board of Directors of a ministry that bears the responsibility for the placement. All placement in the Unity movement occurs through the activity of Spirit, based upon the consciousness of all concerned.

Should you have any questions about this process, please give me a call. A full packet of placement information is available for boards and ministers.

BROADCASTING THE UNITY MESSAGE



Carolyn Craft
Radio/Media Consultant

Media Update

Recent Information from Religious Broadcasting Magazine on LPTV (Low Power Television)

LPTV is being called Local Power because it gives power to the given locality to cover community issues and events. From the Community Broadcasters Association; "When Congress and the Federal Communications Commission established the low-power television service to audiences that did not receive such service, new opportunities opened up for small business people and minority groups to own and operate television facilities."

To date, there are over 2,100 licenses or construction permits granted for low-power television stations. Some churches already have rooms available for studio offices. Low-power TV runs 18 to 24 hours a day. Programmers for these stations are seeking programs which appeal to their local community. Content includes children's, sports, home improvement, educational and often college credit courses are aired.

Find out more about LPTV in your area. This could provide an excellent opportunity for airing Unity classes and Sunday morning services in your community!

Winners of the 1992 Templeton Grant of \$5,000 each are:

1. Unity Ministries of Puget Sound (thirteen Unity churches and centers in the Puget Sound Area, Washington).
2. Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Grand Rapids, Michigan
3. Asociacion Unity de Cristianismo Practico, Santurce, Puerto Rico

The Second Annual 1992 Voice of Unity Award was granted to:
Unity Center of Tacoma
Tacoma, Washington

Preliminary Results of the April '92 Broadcast Survey:

Of the respondents currently using broadcasting, 25 percent are using radio; 20 percent of respondents have previously used radio; 5 percent are using television or cable.

Twenty-five percent utilize one-hour programs, 25 percent use 30-minute programs, 12 percent are 15-minute programs, 12 percent use 5-minute programs and 25 percent of the ministries use one-minute broadcast messages.

The most popular themes are: 1) Non-resistance; 2) Prosperity; 3) Love; and 4) Oneness.

With all respondents, equal value is placed on both increasing church attendance and tithing a message to the community.

The predominant age group that ministries seek through their communications plan is 35-55 years old.

Of those responding, the average size of the congregation on a given Sunday is 220 (from 700 to 30 in range).

The Radio/Media Department occasionally receives examples of music and song from artists eager to give their talent to Unity churches. While we do forward this information to our Special Services Department for possibly showcasing these artists at convention and conference, I want to share a couple of special talents experienced over the past few months and encourage you to invite them to perform: Don Eaton, 1164 N.W. Weybridge Way, Beaverton, OR 97006; (503) 645-6418

Tim Henry, %Prisma Inc., P.O. Box 12108, Wichita, KS 67209; 1-800-279-7342
Bob Kindler, %Jai Ma Music, P.O. Box 359, Pearl City, HI 96782; (808) 621-7948

If interested, call them for a sample tape and concert tour information.

New Messages are now available from the Radio/Media Department:

1. "Omnipresent Symphony" . . . a musical selection performed by Linda Holloway. There are four different arrangements to choose from and each includes space for your personal message.
2. "Come Home To Unity" testimonials. . . We now have ten sixty-second messages in this campaign and continue to add more. Call for a sample of these or any of the radio/media department's more than 200 produced audio messages. Many of these messages can be used as an audio track for your video spots. Photos, slides, or video can accompany these tracks to produce a first-quality television/cable spot. Call for details!

The enthusiasm expressed and the calls and correspondence regarding using the media are wonderful to acknowledge. More and more of you are realizing the benefit of reaching out via the electronic airwaves to seekers in your cities and communities. We feel your devotion and appreciate your effort in sharing a message of Unity with the world. Let us know where we can be of support. Your feedback ignites our passion and fuels our effort. Stay tuned!

Friendship Sunday

September 20, 1992

Join in the celebration of love and friendship of all humankind as hundreds of our churches and thousands of their members the world over join in consciousness to celebrate friendship. As a reminder of how our lives are blessed by friends, we recognize this special day by promoting "Unity in the community," knowing that Unity churches are places "where friends meet."

We affirm:

"Friends united in Christ love will last forever. We are friends in Christ."

Theme:

Celebrate the Beauty of Friendship

"The seeds of friendship planted today are the flowers of the future"

Please contact the Convention/Support Services Department, Debbie Ratliff (Ext 329), or Marsha Penrose (Ext 330), if you have any questions or need ideas to promote Friendship Sunday '92. Our previous Friendship Sundays were great successes, with reports of increased attendance due to this special celebration of friendship.

Below is an order form for new and existing Friendship Sunday promotional items which are available through the Association of Unity Churches to help your celebration be a success.

ORDER FORM

ORDER # _____ DATE _____ ACCOUNT # _____
SHIP TO: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY _____ STATE/PROVINCE _____
COUNTRY _____ MAILING CODE _____

☐ Payment Enclosed \$ _____
☐ Bill
BILL TO (if different) _____

PREFERRED SHIPMENT METHOD: ☐ UPS ☐ Next Day ☐ 2nd Day ☐ 1st Class ☐ Overseas Air ☐ Overseas Surface

Catalog Number	Description	Qty.	Unit Price	Total Price
2737	Banners-Royal blue & metallic gold 3'X8'			
2738	Invitational Posters-Flowered pathway		\$45.00	
2740	Bulletin Covers-Flowered pathway (50/set)		2.00	
2741/2742	Letterhead /envelope-(50/set)		7.50 set	
2722	Mailable Flower Seed Packets (10/set)		5.00 set	
2764	Youth Educational Lesson		4.00 set	
2763	Uniten Y O.U. Friendship Guide		1.75 ea.	
2762	Sunday Talks		1.00 ea.	
2761	Creating a Welcoming Committee		1.25 ea.	
			.75 ea.	

Make check payable to: Association of Unity Churches
or charge to your church account

Mail to: Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063



HEADQUARTERS

In This Issue:

- Association Evening Workshops: A Success Story
- Connections: News from the Field
- Caring Now! The Video
- Year of the Child Tip: Make A Treasure Box
- A Time of Anniversaries in Ministries
- Volunteers of the Year!

Assn of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414

Glenn Mosley, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Edie Skallitzky
President

Youth of Unity:



A Place to Grow in an Atmosphere of Unconditional Love

By Julie Montague

We often hear that in Unity we teach spiritual principles that transform lives. In 36 years of being involved with Unity churches and centers, I have been blessed to witness dramatic transformations unlike any others in the setting we know as Youth of Unity.

As a former Y.O.U.er myself, I remember my teenage years as a time of trying to sort out what I believed. I knew I wanted to believe passionately in something, and I went through a time of trying on belief systems like trying on new clothes; from wild to prudish. Now I am a Y.O.U. sponsor and mother of a seventeen year old Y.O.U.er. I am watching her go through some of the same feelings and passions. What I loved then is what I love now about Y.O.U. It provides the unconditional loving space to grow into your authentic self. It's a privilege to not only watch my children transform, but to watch countless other Y.O.U.ers come out of their cocoons and spread their wings and fly. Growth and spiritual unfoldment is such a wonder!

The first time I saw Brian and James (not their real names), they arrived at a regional retreat. Both were scared fourteen-year-olds. One oversized, the other under-tall (as he liked to call himself), both expressed their fear in opposite ways. Brian reminded me of one of those giant sweet farm boys and turned out to be so shy we could never get more than one word at a time from him, usually "yes" or "no." James, on the other hand, was leather jacket clad and covered his self-consciousness with being loud and boisterous. Like at the Saturday night dance, I physically placed myself between James, clenched fists and all, and another young male Y.O.U.er, all the while expounding the virtues of non-violent methods of conflict resolution. Through four years of Y.O.U. rallies, retreats, and leadership training, I watched as both scared boys transformed into calm, poised, self-assured, Christ-centered young men. Both were elected regional officers. The final rally the two of them led was one of the best weekends I have ever experienced.

See Y.O.U. on page 3, col. 3

HIGHLIGHTS

THE WAYS WE SERVE. . . What's new from us to you!

The Fourth Thursday, A Success Story

Evening Workshop Series

One of the blessings of our new world headquarters building is that it provides the space for our Association to hold monthly workshops. All workshops are geared to managing your church or other non-profit organizations more effectively. Our first three have been: Creating a More Effective Newsletter, Dynamic Resourcing, and Mobilizing Volunteers. All have received rave reviews, and have been a lot of fun, too.

Workshops are held on the **fourth Thursday** of each month from **7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.**, in the Association's board room, **401 SW Oldham Parkway, Suite 210, Lee's Summit, Missouri**. Join us! Call **524-7414, ext. 355**, to reserve your space.

August 27, 1992

Finding Them and Keeping Them

How to attract and keep more people coming to your church.

Joann Landreth

September 24, 1992

My Church Is ???

Creating a metaphor that works for your church and you.

Mick Dustin

October 22, 1992

Koinonia, Group Bonding in a Fun, Non-threatening Way

Ray Wiggins

November and December - no session

January 28, 1993

Stress, Stressors, and Their Management

Glenn Mosley, Ph.D.

February 25, 1993

Planned Giving

Deborah Turner-Bey and Shay St. John

March 25, 1993

How To Grow Your Ministry Through Broadcasting

Carolyn Craft

"Caring NOW!" The Video



Children participating in the "Caring NOW" video.

Our Association of Unity Churches premiered its newest video, **Caring NOW!** at the June People's Convention in Chicago. The subject of the video is the creation of our new Living Curriculum for Unity's children, youth, and families. Comments like "powerful impact," "compelling," and "it made me feel so proud of Unity and our Association," were heard. If you would like to have a copy of this important video for your church at a minimum love offering of \$12, please call the Development Department of our Association at (816) 524-7414, ext. 355. Let us join together and express our "Caring NOW!"

Volunteers of The Year!

On June 5, 1992, our Association held its first annual volunteer



Volunteer of the Year recipient Sue Edwards (center) with Glenn and Martha Mosley.

picnic at Unity Village picnic grounds. The staff of the Association prepared and served a scrumptious feast of fried chicken and fish, numerous salads, and a variety of wonderful desserts to the volunteers who helped us with their loving service over the last year.

The high point of the event was the presentation of Volunteer of the Year awards to Al Sears and Sue Edwards. Each received an inscribed plaque. A second plaque engraved with each recipient's name and the year they received the honor will hang in our world headquarters building.

Some interesting facts were shared by Martha Mosley, the creator of our new Volunteer Program. Here are some of the statistics:

Six thousand and thirty (6,030) hours of volunteer service have been given over the past year which is equivalent to 3.2 full-time staff positions. This does not include 250 volunteers who helped at convention in Chicago or 250+ ministers who serve on committees on a volunteer basis.



Volunteer of the Year recipient Al Sears (center) with Glenn and Martha Mosley.

We received professional services from a volunteer lawyer and a volunteer computer technician valued at \$3,500.

We thank all of our Association of Unity Church volunteers who served over the last year; we could never have come this far without you!

All About Me! Something Fun to Try With Your Child.

Each child's self-concept is made of his or her strengths, fears, likes, dislikes, happy moments, traumatic events, and so on. As children gain fuller pictures of themselves, they gain more confidence in their abilities and they feel better about themselves--they are building good self-concepts.



One way to help a child learn about their uniqueness is to have their own treasure box of memories. Buy, construct, or use a box you have that the child finds exciting. Tin boxes from popcorn or fancy boxes found in antique stores are fun. Help the child gather objects that are meaningful to them or that tell something about their interests, hobbies, and talents. Also, objects that represent significant events in their life--their first baby shoes, a picture of their first experience with a newborn brother or sister, a picture of a deceased pet, seashells from a trip to the sea, etc.

From time to time spend quiet time going through the box with the child. Use the objects as a time for them to share their uniqueness with family members. Different siblings will have their own unique collection. Be sure to add things as time goes on.

Blessings!

Judi Venturini
YOC Coordinator

Connections. . .

Oak Park, Illinois Richard Billings Celebrates 25 years as minister at Oak Park Unity

Unity minister Richard Dale Billings has completed twenty-five years with Unity of Oak Park, Illinois. They celebrated this important anniversary on June 14, 1992, with a special service, cabaret show, and a wonderful catered picnic. Rev. Albert Wingate, from Atlanta Unity Church was on hand to speak on this special day.

Columbia, South Carolina Ross L. Breakwell Celebrates 42 Years of Unity!

Ross Breakwell, minister at Christ Unity in Columbia, South Carolina is celebrating a spring full of "Unity" anniversaries. For example:

- June, 1950. . . He started working in Silent Unity.
- March, 1952. . . He went to Billings to become minister of his first church.
- June, 1954. . . He was ordained at Unity Temple by Lowell Fillmore and May Rowland.
- June, 1988. . . He began serving part-time at his current church in Columbia, South Carolina.
- April, 1990. . . He became full-time minister in Columbia, South Carolina.

We acknowledge Ross for the light that he is and has been over the last 42 years to our beloved Unity movement. We love him and see the Christ shining forth through the beautiful expression of God that he is.

Y.O.U.

Cont'd from page 1

Sometimes when I read the newspapers and watch TV, I feel young people today are expressing violence, pain, and fear in ever more frightening ways. But when I think of all the young people in Y.O.U., dedicating themselves to living the Truth and being the Christ, my faith is restored.

Youth of Unity has always encouraged our teens to give to God/Universe first, to practice the law of prosperity, sowing and reaping, giving and receiving. One way they are doing this is through our Tree of Life Project.

Tree of Life is our International Youth of Unity service project. It's an original sculpture of a tree with the children of the world playing around the base. We invite you to purchase a brass leaf, acorn or stone you may inscribe with your personal message or the name of a loved one. Prominently displayed, Tree of Life will be a permanent part of our World Headquarters building. Gifts to "Tree of Life" will support Y.O.U. International as well as creation of our Living Curriculum through "Caring NOW!" for Unity's children, youth, and families.

Did You Know?

It is important to specify the Association of Unity Churches by name when making your gifts, tithes, and any bequests. Our Association or any individual Unity church does not share in gifts made to Unity School, Silent Unity, or the overall Unity movement. Our Association of Unity Churches is a separate legal and financial organization whose focus is supporting our field movement. Unity School, Silent Unity, and our Association of Unity Churches share a common goal to help people the world over realize their divine potential.

Development Department
Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414, ext. 355

The Winners are. . .

The Education Service Committee is excited to announce the winners of the Year of the Child Sunday bulletin cover contest. They have also been made into a wonderful Year of the Child checkbook cover. The winners are:



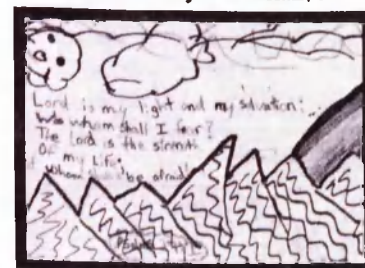
▲ Ivy Dames
Unity of East Valley - Mesa, AZ



▲ Melissa Terry
Unity Chapel of Light - Santa Monica, CA



▲ Ronnie Barrell
Montclair Unity - Montclair, NJ



▲ Samantha Cohen
Unity Temple on the Plaza - Kansas City, MO



▲ Jennifer Castle
Unity Church of Evansville - Evansville, IN



▲ Rachel Gaither
Unity Temple on the Plaza - Kansas City, MO



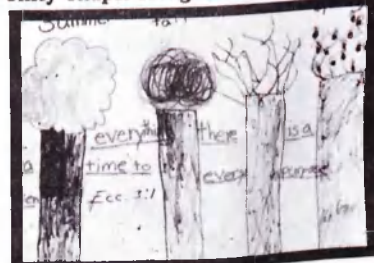
▲ Ayanna Bradley
Unity of Joplin - Joplin, MO



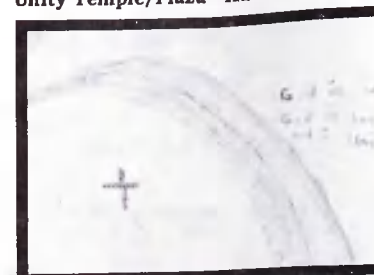
▲ Jess Johnson
Unity of Joplin - Joplin, MO



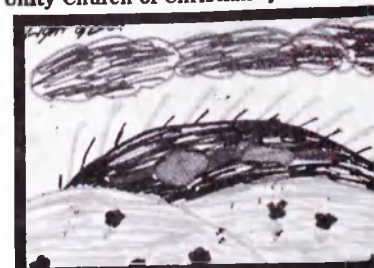
▲ Margaret Farris
Unity Chapel of Light - Santa Monica, CA



▲ Erica Taylor
Unity Temple/Plaza - Kansas City, MO



▲ Jeremiah Hahn
Unity Church of Christianity - Tulsa, OK



▲ Andrea Mitchell
Unity Chapel of Light - Santa Monica, CA

UNITY: POSITIVE, PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY FOR OUR TRANSFORMATIVE TIMES!

Association of Unity Churches

P.O. Box 610 • Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414 FAX: (816) 525-4020

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TIME VALUE PUBLICATION!

SENT WITH LOVE AND BLESSINGS TO:

Thank You!

Please accept our most sincere thanks for your continuing generous support of our Association of Unity Churches. Your love offerings allow us to reach out to our growing global community as we express ever-expanding Reflections of Service.

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OUR ASSOCIATION OF
UNITY CHURCHES
REFLECTS YOUR
COMMITMENT TO
EXPANDING THE GLOBAL
FUTURE OF OUR UNITY
MOVEMENT!

Partners in Ministry

a network of spouses of ministers



Al Sears

The following letter was sent to me by a great supporter of Partners in Ministry, Don McKee of Kerrville, Texas. The letter touches a lot of what we face as partners, and I thank Don for submitting it, and for wanting to share with all of us.

"Recently, I've noticed a similarity in a church congregation (that portion which collectively thinks it knows what is right in operating a church) and the national press corps (that portion, almost all of it, which thinks it knows how to run a country, a state, a city and/or all other people's families).

"The latter gives us the news, 'reporting' in a 'but/however' fashion. The first of the news story is given in the old time, 5-w's method, then the 'but' or 'however' comes in after the last 'w' with a three-to-one or as many as five-to-one-negative-interview-tag to complete the story.

"A minister gets 'I love you's' more frequently from the congregation than from his/her partner, although with some different meanings, implied and stated. From the congregation, the 'I love you' is often followed with a 'but' and a negative thought tagged on or a change is 'suggested.' Such as, 'I love you, but I wish you'd wear a different color.' 'I love you, but you should. . .', and a 'suggestion' is given with a how-to operate a portion of the church; or, 'I love you, however you really shouldn't smoke,' or 'you really shouldn't make personal remarks during

the lesson,' or. . .well, you add your own 'but/howevers.'

"That's where a Partner in Ministry can be a real partner in life and living.

"If you are a full-time Partner in Ministry, the 'I love you. . .but/howevers. . .'" are not reserved just for the minister. The thought is that a partner probably has the inside track to the thoughts and actions of the minister. (Most of us partners, though, know that ain't necessarily so.)

"The other appearance is that the member of the congregation knows more about operating a church than a minister OR the partner--ain't necessarily so. That member may be a manager of a large, successful business. That member may be an entrepreneur who has the Midas-touch in the material world. That member may be successful in many stations of life. However (I take literary license to use the word), that member usually has yet to understand that church is not a business, but (see above) there is a business to a church.

"A year after our church was pioneered/opened, four members of the original church family of fourteen presented a list of some 50 items they would like to have changed. These items ran the gamut from where I sat after finishing my duties as platform chairman to describing what my wife should wear on Sundays. BUT, 'THEY LOVED US.'

"After almost fourteen years, our church congregation still has members with 'suggestions' to make.

"Over the years we have, more or less, stuck to our guns, those sling-shots that shoot pellets of Spiritual love while carrying Spiritual lessons at the same time.

"The above-mentioned four-some are no longer with us. My wife wears a robe on Sundays. I still sit on the platform during the lesson. AND the church has grown, has prospered, and is still self-sustaining.

"Being a Partner in Ministry is a great joy; however, it is sometimes necessary for us to go within ourselves--as we teach--and to search and seek and find the True Meaning of the Congregations 'Buts' and 'Howevers.' "

Write Partners in Ministry, Association of Unity Churches, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.

Meet Your Association Staff

(The Management Team appreciates this opportunity; after the request was brought to our attention, we realized that we become so familiar with the work and educational background and prior work experience with our Association staff members that we overlook the fact that field ministers and church staff members would also like to become acquainted with the faces and voices at "the other end of the line." Thank you for asking.)



RAY WIGGINS

comes to us from First Church Unity of Nashville, Tennessee; his hometown. Now into his fifth year with our Association, Ray's background was in

Christian Education with the United Methodist Church where he served for 25 years as a professional, certified, Director of Christian Education specializing in youth ministry. An M.A. graduate from Scarritt College in Nashville, Ray was a student minister for seven years during college. His duties now with us are to provide guidance, direction and resources to enhance our churches' ministries with children, teens, and families. Ray is a single parent of two grown sons who enjoy life to its fullest.

CHERYL VESTAL

has been with the Association for a total of 16 years. She began in 1973 as secretary to the Public Relations Department. In 1975 she assumed the position of Graphics and Composition Specialist and has held this position since that time (except for a two-year leave from 1984-86).

Cheryl's duties include: graphics and layout design of all Association publications, manuals, promotional brochures, pamphlets, etc.; maintain Association mailing lists; and production and maintenance of Association yearbook.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

On behalf of the Association of Unity Churches' staff and Board of Trustees, we extend to you our deep gratitude and appreciation for your past financial support. The love and faith you incorporate into your gifts make them special.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES Statement of General Fund Operations Twelve Months Ended March 31, 1992

INCOME-OPERATIONS	<u>March</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Love Offerings	\$61,186.19	\$810,227.33
Other Income	<u>15,340.25</u>	<u>84,524.14</u>
	\$76,526.44	\$894,751.47
Less: Tithe Transfer	<u>7,210.42</u>	<u>86,375.00</u>
	69,316.02	808,376.47
Gross Profit Material	<u>(1,405.63)</u>	<u>67,492.44</u>
Total Income	<u>\$67,910.39</u>	<u>\$875,868.91</u>
EXPENSE-OPERATIONS	<u>\$94,834.82</u>	<u>\$881,871.56</u>
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES:	<u>\$ (26,924.43)</u>	<u>\$ (6,002.65)</u>

Unity School Contribution to the Association of Unity Churches Through Services Provided:

Month of March: \$6,900.58
Year to Date: \$126,261.05

1992 Participants in the Field Licensing Program

left to right: Jo Ann McClellan,
Betsy Salunek, Ann Marie Acacio,
Margaret Serenity-Fischer, Lois
Ryan, and Sandy Jasmer.



Sparkplugs

NEW--A Talking Book Cassette Series

Talk Topics and Sermon Starters from Unity Publications

This month: *Myrtle Fillmore's Healing Letters* by Myrtle Fillmore, read by Rosemary Fillmore Rhea, three cassettes, \$15

We are helping all who come our way to unite with us in the study of the Truth that enables each one to bring forth sufficient supply for daily needs, and to make good use of all the riches of God here in the earth as well as in the heavens of mind.

--From a letter by Myrtle Fillmore

In 1890 Unity's co-founder, Myrtle Fillmore, announced the formation of the Society of Silent Help. In the early years of the Society, which is now called Silent Unity, Myrtle personally responded to all requests for prayer. Her letters, immortalized in the classic Unity book *Myrtle Fillmore's Healing Letters*, are now beautifully read by Myrtle's granddaughter, Rosemary Fillmore Rhea.

In *Myrtle Fillmore's Healing Letters*, we glimpse the heart and soul of a woman

whose gentle spirit inspired so many. Myrtle offered unselfish assistance and sage advice to all those who wrote to her. Her thoughts on prayer, healing, aging, and prosperity reaffirm Unity's belief in the divine power inherent to us all.

Listening to this talking book cassette series is like taking a refresher course on the history of Silent Unity--and the Unity movement itself, for that matter. And that history is one of providing spiritual help to all those who seek it. The spiritual help that Unity offers today is rooted in the help which the "mother of Unity," Myrtle Fillmore, offered more than one hundred years ago.

Ms. Rhea's interpretation of *Myrtle Fillmore's Healing Letters* is touched with love and wisdom. Embrace the spirit of Myrtle Fillmore. Order copies of *Myrtle Fillmore's Healing Letters* today. To place your order, contact the Sales Department of Unity School of Christianity, Unity Village, MO 64065-0001. To order by phone, call: (816) 251-3571.

NOTICE!!

We are accepting photographs of Unity ministries for possible use as the cover of CONTACT. The ideal photo size is 10 X 12 (lengthwise). We are particularly interested in publishing photos of our ministries with members of the congregation included.

Send your photographs to: **Association of Unity Churches, ATTN: CONTACT Magazine, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.**

Agreement reached with Swaggart Ministries

reprinted with permission from April, 1992, edition of *NonProfit Times*

The IRS has reached an agreement with the Jimmy Swaggart Ministries concerning the church's involvement in political campaigns, reports the Association Press.

The ministry is a tax exempt religious organization. In 1986, Mr. Swaggart appeared with fellow tele-evangelist Pat Robertson and offered his support for Mr. Robertson's presidential campaign. The next month, Swaggart's newsletter contained an article written by Mr. Swaggart proclaiming the Ministries' support for Mr. Robertson.

The tax code prohibits exempt organizations from participating or intervening in political campaigns for or against any candidate. Officials of exempt organizations may take part in political campaigns on an individual basis but any endorsement by a minister at a public function or in an organizational publication constitutes an endorsement by the tax exempt organization.

Swaggart accepted the finding by the IRS and consented to the agreement which requires the ministry to set up a special compliance committee to ensure that no financial resources, personnel, or other facilities of the organization will be used in future campaigns.

In explaining why the IRS chose not to revoke the ministries' exemption, Marcus Owens of the IRS said, "Our goal is not to put folks out of business. We are interested in getting the organization to comply and in getting a message out to other charities that there is a downside to intervening in a campaign."



Ray Wiggins
International Education
Services Consultant

Teaching Is An Art

Teaching is an art, not a precise science that can be analyzed and pursued in the same way that one would carry on work in a laboratory. Teaching can be defined as an art for a number of reasons.

In the first place, good teaching depends to some extent on *native talent*. Certain people have a keen interest in and love of teaching, just as others have a love of music or painting. We all know persons with a natural bent toward teaching--they are artists in the sense that they have been given singular gifts.

Like any other art, however, teaching is also a matter of development and learning through *practice*. A good musician has to learn the tones of the scale, then practice them; a good painter has to learn about colors, textures, design, and perspective, then use this knowledge repeatedly. So it is with teachers: we can identify the key elements in the act of teaching, but we need to practice them to develop our ability at the art. It takes patience, a love of the process, and a clear vision of the desired outcome, to overcome any tedium involved in the development of skills needed for the expression of the art.

Teaching can also be considered an art in that it arises from the inner person, just as music and painting come from deep within the artist. Love of Truth, love of people, and the urge to share by expressing oneself more fully are ingredients in the art of teaching. It would be difficult to imagine an effective teacher who did not care about truth, about other persons, and about self-expression.

Teaching is an art because there is no limit to the creativity that is possible in this field of endeavor. Musicians have only a certain number of notes to work with, but they have an infinite number of possibilities for creating new melodies. Artists have only the colors of the spec-

trum, but they can find innumerable subtle uses of them. Teachers may cover the same material from year to year, but we are always seeing new ways to approach it, new questions to be pursued. Wherever teachers and students are together, creativity can thrive.

Another reason for defining teaching as an art is the fact that the *results* of our efforts are always *unique*. We can perfect a technique of teaching, but it will vary with the students we have. We can select carefully from curricular resources, but they will be perceived in new forms and fashions in different times and places.

Finally, teachers, like artists, are always learners. They talk with other practitioners of their art to find out what is new in the field. They listen for ideas. They read voraciously to find helpful suggestions. They do not hesitate to share freely with other teachers any ideas they have discovered to be of value.

What specific forms of assistance can we suggest that will enable church teachers to catch a new vision? Let us consider several possibilities:

First, we need *many models to follow*. Most beginning teachers tend to teach in the manner they themselves were taught. From the dim recesses of the mind, they call up the techniques and approaches they experienced in their own youth. These are sometimes valuable, but we need more than memory upon which to draw. We need to see effective teaching in action. Just as a music student listens to recordings of other artists; just as a painter visits galleries to see other painters' works, so the teacher needs to be in situations in which he or she can see *HOW* teaching is done by skilled persons in the field. Whenever possible, we need to locate the classrooms where creative teaching is occurring and invite beginning teachers to visit, to see for themselves, these models of effectiveness.

Second, we need *training events that go beyond mere talk* about the act of teaching. Indeed, participants must practice the skills involved. The continuing education of teachers should include a sincere effort to link discussion of teaching with demonstration and practice that involve real students in actual classroom situations. Evaluation in these settings leads to the ability to do self-evaluation on a recurring basis. Self-evaluation usually leads to self-improvement.

Third, we need to *share resources* by means of the printed page, the taped word, and in every other way we can. Communication keeps the art alive, causing people to question old practices, to try new approaches, and to generate enthusiasm.

Fourth, we must be *aware that teachers as artists thrive on appreciation*. How long has it been since you yourself expressed thanks to a teacher who meant a great deal to you or who taught you something valuable? Why not phone that person today, write a letter or make a personal visit? It would be a way of saying, "Thanks for being the artist you are!"

Continued...

A final note: Teachers, who are the backbone of the whole educational system, have something special to contribute to our churches and to our society as a whole. A predominant issue in education today is whether our schools and classrooms will merely follow a drift, giving the stamp of approval to whatever comes along, or whether they will offer new light, leading people to solve problems, to pursue what is right and good, and to bring about

peaceful change for the better. For Unity, this issue has the answer --Jesus Christ is our Teacher. He came to lead, to show us a new Way of Life. He said, over and over again, "You have heard. . . , but I say to you. . . ." He pointed the way to a different future. Our commitment is to be involved with Him in squarely facing the future. We choose to be Christ's artists, doing our best wherever we are.

Association of Unity Churches Spiritual Education Resources

by Ray Wiggins

Priority number one in my department is to publish new teaching resources for use in our churches. Following is a list of new materials written by Unity authors and published by the Association of Unity Churches:

THE PARABLES OF JESUS: A Learning Adventure for Children.

Thirteen Sunday school lessons on the parables of Jesus written for kindergarten through Uniteens with an emphasis on family home application.

Item #1750 \$16.95

MAKING CHOICES: Living in The Promised Land

Written by Joyce Culey, contains seven Bible-based lessons for Uniteens with metaphysical interpretation of the Exodus story.

Item #1372 \$9.00

MAKING CHOICES: I Listen to My Guidance, I Remain Calm and Poised, I Live in Harmony, I Believe in Me.

Written by Joyce Culey, these four lessons are Bible-based with metaphysical interpretation of the story of Noah and the Flood for Uniteens.

Item #1364 \$4.50

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY: The Art of Creating the "Perfect" Program.

Written by Joyce Culey, this item is a comprehensive manual for understanding the junior high teen (Uniteen), program administration, program development, and lesson planning.

Item #1373 \$10.00

JESUS THE WAY-SHOWER: A Course of Study for Youth of Unity.

Written by George Beshore this twelve session course covers the metaphysical meaning of many events and teachings in the life of Jesus.

Item #1369 \$9.95

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE'S HIDDEN TREASURE: A Course of Study for Youth of Unity.

By George Beshore, these five lessons explain and demonstrate the metaphysical way of interpreting the Bible, specifically, the three kings of Israel, the birth of Jesus, the Sermon on The Mount and the meaning of Easter.

Item #1374 \$7.00

MASTER TEACHINGS FOR UNITEENS

Written by Carolyn Kruhm, these thirteen lessons on The Sermon on the Mount are designed as active learning for Uniteens.

Item #1375 \$12.00

NEW DIRECTIONS IN SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

Written by Marelu Marson, this manual contains everything your Children's Education Director and/or Education Services Committee needs to create the "ideal" ministry with children. A MUST for every church!

Item #6029 \$13.00

AUNT ALICIA'S TALES ON THE LIGHT SIDE:

Five delightful stories, on cassette, illustrating five

Continued...

principles taught by Unity. A classroom teaching aid or for home use by parents for children. Consider placing in your bookstore.

Item #6026 \$10.95

THROUGH THE YEAR OF THE CHILD: Rainbows of Peace, Global Awareness Program

A free packet of ideas and resources for a church to use during 1993 Year of the Child.

Item #70 FREE

Y.O.U. WELCOMES YOU: Information Brochure

New, revised flyer which explains to parents, teens, and congregation Youth of Unity. Perfect for your visitor's packet.

Item #1350 \$.15 ea.

INTRODUCTION TO Y.O.U.: A Video

This 15-minute video shares with adults, potential sponsors, parents, and teens the nature, purpose, process and power of Youth of Unity.

Item #1370 \$15.00

UNITY'S CHILDREN TEACHER'S TRAINING VIDEO

A 25-minute training video for adults who teach children. Covers creative assemblies, lesson preparation, classroom environment and management, creative crafts and object lessons.

Item #6019 \$10.00

PATTERNS FOR HAPPY LIVING: Stories and Activities for Children

Contains 365 stories with affirmations and activities for children. Excellent for classroom or home use or for children's telephone story lines.

Item #1749 \$29.95

THE WORLD IS A SONG

By Linda Holloway, this cassette music tape with sheet music is an excellent resource for classroom or home use. Contains activities also.

Item #1751 \$16.95

JOYSONGS, JOYSONGS, JOYSONGS, JOYSONGS, JOYSONGS, JOYSONGS, JOYSONGS

This sheet music book of over 50 songs sung in Y.O.U. is a must for every Y.O.U. chapter member. Members can learn the joysongs most used at Y.O.U. rallies and confer-

ences. Order one for each Y.O.U. member in your chapter.

Item #1368 \$8.50

Y.O.U. MEMBERSHIP PIN and MEMBERSHIP CARD

The Y.O.U. logo lapel pin along with a billfold membership card are wonderful ways to acknowledge your teens as members of Youth of Unity. Order for each chapter member of Y.O.U.

Item #1371 \$6.00

IN YOUR EYES--PERCEIVE YOUR REALITY: Family Group Resource Book, Y.O.U. Conference 1992

Written by Bonnie Barron, this leader's guide provides active learning techniques to aid teens in exploring and knowing the Truth that it is our perception of events in our lives rather than the events themselves which most affect our lives.

Item #1376 \$12.00

LESSONS IN TRUTH FOR Y.O.U.

By Bonnie Barron, this 12-lesson series for Youth of Unity is based on the book by Cady. The material helps students internalize the concepts through experiential learning activities.

Item #1736 \$9.95

THE METAPHYSICS OF OZ

Written by Suzanne Cameron this 12-lesson series seeks to introduce and substantiate the Truth "secret" that all we ever need to succeed in life is right within us. Through the Christ Spirit within (the real Wizard), we can do all things. Interprets metaphysically the characters from the book, The Wizard of Oz.

Item #1747 \$9.95

HOLIDAY EXPERIENCES FOR UNITY CHILDREN

Written by Patty Ball Thomas, this booklet contains ideas for holiday activities in the home or church for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter.

Item #1746 \$9.95

ADULTS OF UNITY: The Formation and Management of Groups for Adults

A resource manual to aid you in establishing and managing any adult group; youth adult, single adult, young thinking adult, men's/women's groups, couples, etc.

Item #1057 \$8.00 (Due in October)

Association of Unity Churches

Order Form

ORDER # _____ DATE _____ ACCOUNT # _____

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☐ Payment Enclosed \$ _____

☐ Bill

Bill to (if different): _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROVINCE _____

COUNTRY _____ MAILING CODE _____

PREFERRED METHOD OF SHIPMENT:

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☐ Next Day

☐ 2nd Day

☐ 1st Class

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☐ Overseas Surface

Catalog Number		Description	Qty	Unit Price	Price
1723		Why Teenagers Act the Way They Do		\$15.95	
1728		Great Ideas for Small Groups		9.95	
1729		Clown Ministry		7.95	
1731		Involving Youth in Your Ministry		9.95	
1736		Lessons in Truth for Y.O.U.		9.50	
1737		Youth Ministry Cargo		18.95	
1738		Serendipity Youth Ministry Encyclopedia		19.95	
1739		Vol. I, Youth Led Meetings		12.95	
1750	NEW!	Parables of Jesus: A Learning Adventure for Children		16.95	
1372	NEW!	Making Choices: Living in The Promised Land		9.00	
1364	NEW!	Making Choices: I Listen to My Guidance, etc.		4.50	
1373	NEW!	Junior High Youth ministry: Art of Creating "Perfect" Program		10.00	

Continued...

Catalogue Number	Description	Qty	Unit Price	Price
1369 NEW!	Jesus The Way-Shower		9.95	
1374 NEW!	Discovering Bible's Hidden Treasure		7.00	
1375 NEW!	Master Teachings for Uniteens		12.00	
6029 NEW!	New Directions in Spiritual Education		13.00	
6026 NEW!	Aunt Alicia's Stories from the Light Side		10.95	
70 NEW!	Through the Year of the Child-Rainbow of Peace Program		FREE	
1350 NEW!	Y.O.U. Welcomes You		.15 ea	
1370	Intro to Y.O.U.--Video		15.00	
6019 NEW!	Unity's Children Teacher's Training Video		10.00	
1749 NEW!	Patterns for Happy Living Stories		29.95	
1751 NEW!	The World Is A Song (cassette & music)		16.95	
1368 NEW!	Joysongs x 8--Y.O.U. Songbook		8.50	
1371 NEW!	In Your Eyes, Perceive Your Reality - Y.O.U. Family Manual		12.00	
1747	Metaphysics of Oz		9.95	
1746 NEW!	Holiday Experiences for Children		9.95	
1057 NEW!	Adults of Unity Guidebook (Due in October)		8.00	

Total: _____

Postage (\$1.00 first item; .50 each additional item): _____

Grand Total: _____

Make check payable to: Association of Unity Churches
or charge to your church account

Mail to: Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES PHONE DIRECTORY

(816) 524-7414

During Working Hours (Monday - Friday):

A "live" receptionist's voice will greet you to direct your call when the regular number (816) 524-7414 is dialed. One line only (816) 524-7750 is on the automated system during the day and may be used to reach an extension without going through the receptionist.

Association Staff Extension Numbers

Bae, Young	322
Beard, Linda	345
Belton, Antuana	321
Coolidge, Ann	351
Craft, Carolyn	343
Dustin, Mick	333
Elliott, Nancy	355
Floyd, C.J.	332
Landreth, Joann	337
Lee, Ron	328
Michael, Lynn	344
Montague, Julie	354
Moore, Myra	323
Mosley, Bud	342
Mosley, Glenn	352
Mosley, Martha	335
Nabors, Connie	320
Penrose, Marsha	330
Ratliff, Debbie	329
Robinson, Trish	346
Schreen, Nira	352
Sickler, Cindy	341
Smith, Jody	336
St. John, Shay	349
Thorpe, Tom	*
Turner-Bey, Deborah	350
Velasquez, Susan	324
Venturini, Judi	338
Vestal, Cheryl	326
Wiggins, Ray	327

*Tom Thorpe may be reached by dialing (816) 251-3535; or Unity School 524-3550, extension 3535.

After Hours, Saturday, and Sunday:

The automated system is in place. Persons may call and leave a message on the receptionist's mail box. A touch phone is required to go to a specific extension number to leave a message.

Organizational Structure/Functions/Ext. Numbers

Accounting	
Associate Director/Comptroller--Young Bae	324
Accounts Payable--Susan Velasquez	323
Billing Information--Myra Moore	323
Insurance--Myra Moore	323
Orders - Regular (placing & shipments)	324
(Orders - Personalized--see Institutional Relations listing)	
Pension Information	322 or 324
Production & Shipping	
Manager--Bud Mosley	
Assistant--Ron Lee	
Development/Fund Raising	
Director of Development--Shay St. John	
Assistant Director--Julie Montague	
Development Officer, Planned Giving & Grants--Deborah Turner-Bey	
Development Assistant--Nancy Elliott	355
Education	
Associate Director/Director of Education--Mick Dustin	
Chairperson/Ministerial Studies--Tom Thorpe (see *at bottom left)	332
Assistant in Education--C. J. Floyd	344
Children and Youth--Lynn Michael	327
Intergenerational--Ray Wiggins	346
Liaison Information--Trish Robinson	332
Licensed Teacher Information	
Radio/Media Coordinator--Carolyn Craft	345
Radio/Media Assistant--Linda Beard	338
Year of the Child--Judi Venturini	332
All other questions	
Executive Office	
Executive Director--Glenn Mosley	352
Executive Assistant--Nira Schreen	
Institutional Relations	
Associate Director/Director of Institutional Advancement--Martha Mosley	341
Administrative Assistant--Cindy Sickler	341
Bylaws	
Conference/Convention/Support Services Coordinator--	
Debbie Ratliff	329
Assistant--Marsha Penrose	330
Receptionist/Accounting Support--Connie Nabors	320
Receptionist--Antuana Belton	321
Ministry Services	
Associate Director/Director of Placement-Expansion--Joann Landreth	
Address Information/CONTACT--Cheryl Vestal	326
Expansion Assistant--Ann Coolidge	351
Placement Assistant--Jody Smith	336

Important Dates For 1992

Skills Demonstration Seminar
 Board Member Seminar & Retreat
 Pre-Conference (St. Charles, IL)
 Unity People's Convention (St. Charles, IL)
 Licensed Teacher Postgraduate Week
 Skills Demonstration Seminar
 Youth of Unity Conference
 Adults of Unity Conference
 Executive Committee Meetings
 Board Member Seminar & Retreat
 Skills Demonstration Seminar

April 25-May 1 (Sat.-Fri.)
 May 16-21 (Sat.-Thurs.)
 June 12-16 (Fri.-Tues.)
 June 16-20 (Tues.-Sat.)
 June 27 - July 3 (Sat.-Fri.)
 August 8-14 (Sat.-Fri.)
 August 10-16 (Mon.-Sun.)
 August 17-23 (Mon.-Sun.)
 Sept. 13-18 (Sun.-Fri.)
 Sept. 19-25 (Sat.-Fri.)
 Oct. 31 - Nov. 6 (Sat.-Fri.)

1992 Regional Conferences

Western	April 20-24
Great Lakes	Sept. 20-25
Southwest	Sept. 29-Oct. 4
West Central	Sept. 29 - Oct. 3
Eastern	October 4-8
Southeast	October 12-16
South Central	October 20-23

Tyee Hotel - Olympia Washington
 Potawatomi Inn - Pokagon State Park
 Angola, Indiana
 Harbortown Marina Resort
 Ventura, California
 Asilomar Conference Grounds
 Monterey California
 Cavalier Hotel - Virginia Beach, Virginia
 Ramada Inn - Albuquerque, New Mex.

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Edie Skalitzky
Unity Church in the Rockies
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Last year I was given a couple of books written by Henri J. M. Nouwen, a priest and Catholic theologian. The titles of the books are *In the Name of Jesus* and *Wounded Healer*. They have profoundly touched me and I am often drawn back to them not only for inspiration but for the challenge they offer. The ideas in his books cause me to continue to evaluate exactly how I truly desire to interact with people in general, and specifically with people in my ministry.

Henri Nouwen in his book, *In the Name of Jesus*, writes, "Somchow we have come to believe that good leadership requires a safe distance from those we are called to lead." He then goes on to describe how vital it is that we NOT keep a safe distance from others, but that we share our lives--our hopes and dreams, our joys and sorrows, our courage and our fear.

When I first came into the ministry in the 1970's, and for many years thereafter, I kept a safe distance from the people in the church, and this attitude, I now see, carried over into my relationships outside the church as well. During those years there was a nagging, persistent sense that something major was missing in my life and in my ministry of serving others.

From this present vantage point, I know that what was lacking was a feeling of being really connected or at one with those I desired to love and serve. In counseling, in public speaking, in informal gatherings, my life and its challenges and processes were guarded, and if shared, were within a pretty positive framework of reference. Rarely did anyone know of my loneliness or pain for there was a part to play--the ministerial role. I don't mean to imply here that we spill our guts all the time either, but that we become more willing to share honestly our own pain and process of inner healing and transformation.

It is so easy to fall into the trap of role playing and mask wearing whether we be minister, spouse, licensed teacher, parent, or worker in whatever field of endeavor. We have been taught and have accepted that we are to act, speak, and be according to each role's dictates. But all too often we live out the prescribed role and forget the role of the heart.

At the South Central Unity Family Retreat in July, one of the speakers, Foster McClellan said that, "we just don't love each other enough." He said this in connection with what could help to turn the world and its people around. That evening and the next day, a number of people talked about how deeply that one statement of Foster's had impacted them. It also was another reminder for me to be aware of keeping my heart open in wisdom to whomever I am with in whatever context it appears, whether at the market, dentist office, while driving, in counseling, or giving a Sunday message, etc.

What might I mean by saying, "keeping my heart open"? In part, I mean that I desire to be with others as equals, as peers, that when I am with someone/anyone, we are both wounded and both with healing capacities. We are both capable of suffering and we are both capable of healing. My woundedness can evoke your healer and your woundedness can evoke my healer, and then we two healers can collaborate. Another way of saying it is, "The Christ in me greets the

Christ in you and we are one."

Attempting to live life this way has changed dramatically the way I interact with others and how they interact with me. Others see me as human, with human ups and downs (not on a pedestal knowing all the whys and wherefores of life), and, therefore, they feel freer and safer to relate their humanness and challenges. As a result, we are more open to being in the Christ consciousness together, which heals and makes us whole.

Releasing some of the masks we have been wearing does make us more vulnerable and open to analysis and criticism. Yet, we each know that when we have let down some of our barriers, what also can occur is a depth of love and healing that is wondrous beyond words.

My thanks to Henri Nouwen who reminds us that a whole new model of living, as well as leadership, is called for in the world today; a model that is based on the servant-leader-equality-oneness idea demonstrated by Jesus Christ whom we seek to follow.

Volume 25, Issue 5
October/November, 1992

CONTACT STAFF

Editor-in-Chief Glenn Mosley
Managing Editor Cheryl Vestal
Graphics & Layout Cheryl Vestal
Circulation Glenn Mosley, Jr.

EDITORIAL PURPOSE

The Editorial purpose of CONTACT is the purpose of the Association: the Association of Unity Churches is dedicated to supporting and strengthening its member ministries by providing human resources, administrative and education programs.

Cover:

First Church Unity
Nashville, TN
Senior Minister: Jimmie L. Scott

Deadlines: 1st of the month, two months prior to issue date

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Glenn R. Mosley
Executive Director

Do you know someone who "practices" law? Not long ago, I still at least smiled broadly, if not laughed, upon hearing that a physician "practiced" medicine or an attorney "practiced" law.

Sometimes I mused aloud and sometimes silently, but almost always I asked, "How long does one have to 'practice' a profession before one is proficient?" Then July 22nd came, the anniversary of my beginning to work in Silent Unity, and suddenly I realized I've been 'practicing' ministry for 35 years, and no end in sight.

Since ministry is a process that cannot be fixed in time or space or measured with precision, no one can do ministry perfectly. At least, I've not yet heard anyone make the claim that they could. It seems then that we are all "practicing" ministry.

I hear increasing numbers of care givers, particularly you, my minister/colleagues, giving themselves and one another permission to "color outside the lines." A sign I could post outside the door of my life: "Please pardon my dust and the inconvenience; my life (and my ministry) is under reconstruction."

Although I have been asked to "manage" the organization called our Association of Unity Churches on a day-to-day basis, my "ministry" is that of serving you, my colleagues, and thereby serving your ministry. I constantly seek to do both better and in the practicing, I sometimes "color outside the lines."

In such an effort, I recently learned of Hyler Bracey et al's book, *Managing*

From The Heart; I purchased the two-part audio cassette based on the book.* It's really "good stuff" for both managers and ministers. And since all ministers are managers, of volunteers as well as paid staff, and managers of relationships with those to whom they minister, Bracey's work seems especially appropriate.

The audio cassette takes the form of an allegory throughout. A fictional manager is allowed to relive his life based on the five management (ministry) principles being championed. The five principles form the acronym, "heart."

Hear and understand me. (When people feel they have been listened to and understood, they will be ready to hear what the manager [minister] has to say.)

Even if you disagree, please don't make me wrong. (People resent having their self-worth questioned. If they don't get mad, they get even.)

Acknowledge the greatness within me. (Everyone has the potential for growth. They tend to respond positively when that potential is recognized.)

Remember to look for my loving intentions. (Recognize positive motivations.)

Tell me the truth with compassion. (Talk to people respectfully, not about them disdainfully.)

HEART. I guess my life's sign might read: "...my life and my ministry are under PERPETUAL reconstruction."

*"Managing From The Heart" (Audio Cassette) Bantam Audio Publishing, 666 Fifth Avenue, New York City 10103

"Caring NOW!" VHS Video
17:40 minutes

Outlines our Living Curriculum and the impact it will have on our children, youth, and families.

Love Offering Requested
Suggested minimum: \$15.00

Perfect way to introduce your church community to this vital project of our Association of Unity Churches.

Meet Your Association Staff

(The Management Team appreciates this opportunity; after the request was brought to our attention, we realized that we become so familiar with the work and educational background and prior work experience with our Association staff members that we overlook the fact that field ministers and church staff members would also like to become acquainted with the faces and voices at "the other end of the line." Thank you for asking.)

YOUNG BAE is currently serving as Associate Director/Comptroller for the Association of Unity Churches. Before coming to the Association in 1985,



Young had a nine-year extensive career in Accounting and Data System Design (1976-1985) with: Convair Group as Comptroller; Black Economic Union (Accounting & Systems Consultant); Cookingham Institute and University of Missouri, Kansas City, as Computerized Research Instructor. Young has a B.S., M.P.A., and M.B.A. from Seoul National University, Korea, and University of Missouri, Kansas City.

Young immigrated to the United States for work and study in 1975 and became a U.S. Citizen in 1988.



NIRA SCHREEN, Executive Assistant to Glenn Mosley, began a second career with the Association in 1988 when she started as volunteer, next she moved

to part time, and then to full time in her current position. Nira has a long career in Accounting and Budgeting, having retired from State Government after 20 years service as Chief Accountant and Budget Officer. When Nira is not at work for the Association, she is active at John Knox Village where she lives and serves on their Board of Directors and Finance Committee. She was introduced to Unity in 1943 but did not become active in the movement until 1976.

PLACEMENT REVIEW



Joann Landreth
Associate Director/
Director of Placement

Conference was a joyous celebration of colleagues sharing in friendship and of experiencing inspiring, uplifting speakers. We thank God for the opportunity we had to come together and to grow spiritually.

In the Conference edition of *CONTACT*, I shared an interview I had with Wendy Craig, who leads one of our larger ministries. I want to share with you an experience with an average-sized church, but one that is just as vital and successful. In May, 1992, Michael Mullen, minister of Unity Church - Prayer & Practical Christianity in Wilmington, Delaware,



Michael Mullen, minister of Unity Church - Prayer & Practical Christianity, receiving the plaque from the Association of Unity Churches, recognizing this ministry as a member of the Association.



Michael Mullen, along with a member of the church, and **Betsy and John Salunek** (far right), accepting the wings given to Unity Church - Prayer & Practical Christianity by its sponsoring ministry, Unity Church of Christ, Philadelphia.

invited Joyce Kramer, John Salunek, and me to share in the celebration as Unity Church was recognized as a full status church. John Salunek, minister of Unity Church of Christ in Philadelphia, employed Michael upon his graduation and ordination in 1990 as assistant minister. One of Michael's responsibilities was serving the church in Wilmington. The group had seven persons attending at the time. With the nurturing from John and Betsy Salunek and the board of Unity Church of Christ, and Michael's loving, caring leadership, the church grew and was able to move forward in achieving full status church recognition. The church now has 50 members. Michael and key leaders from Unity Church - Prayer & Practical Christianity were able to move out of a hotel and rent a building. The feeling of a goal accomplished at the special occasion in May was rewarding. The members attending were excited and enthusiastic about hanging the wings presented by the sponsoring church, along with the plaque from the Association of Unity Churches, recognizing them as a member of the Association. The feeling of dedication and commitment of everyone present was easily felt and, of course, Michael now serves this church full time.

Sometimes we as ministers and congregants believe that bigger churches and more people attending are better and more successful than the average-sized church. What is important, however, is that all of us are serving God through serving humankind. The love and commitment each one has to learning the principles and practicing and applying them in daily living transforms the success of a church. Churches with 50, 100,

200, or 1,000 in attendance can all be equally successful if the persons attending are experiencing transformation and are growing spiritually.

It is important to set goals for the church, implementing them, setting more goals, and again striving for the accomplishment of these new goals. It is also important for ministers and congregants to believe in and feel the success of their church right where it is in attendance. Some churches may never break the 200 barrier, but these churches are still meeting and filling a need. If the minister and congregants want to grow they need to accept and give thanks for where the church is right now. They need to trust the activity of Spirit always working through each individual involved and through the church activities and functions. Spirit moving through each and every one will propel the church forward and will bring forth the achievements desired.

Recently, I talked with Michael Mullen and asked if he had any words of wisdom to share. He said, "The most important thing to remember is the building of consciousness. And, the building of consciousness happens by building a strong foundation through remaining Christ-centered and by teaching basic Unity principles and teachings."

Remember: The key element in a successful church is people experiencing transformation, learning and being better equipped to deal with and grow through the bumps and challenges on life's ever-unfolding journey.

God bless you, pioneers, ministers, teachers, lay leaders, as we expand our Unity movement by spreading the message of Unity and Truth.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE NEWS



Shay St. John
Director of Development

"Let us realize that Unity, as an institution, exists in two worlds: the world of Spirit in which we perform our principal services of healing and teaching and for which no charge can ever be made, and the material world in which we must deal with business entities, banks, vendors, and money. Unity's genius lies not in 'never asking for money,' but in a sane, loving, daring attempt to balance the needs of these two worlds for mankind's betterment." These words from Charles R. Fillmore, written in December, 1965, are the clearest expression of the work ahead for all of us in the arena of fund raising.

Our Development Department is creating a well-rounded program to insure the financial future of your Association of Unity churches and provide a workable pattern for use within our Unity field ministries. This is a pioneering venture in which we affirm that "sane, loving, daring attempt" to find the balance between prayerfully affirming, "God is our Source," and walking in our Way-Shower's footsteps who taught us, "Ask, and ye shall receive."

Some have questioned the various "campaigns" in which we are involved. The following overview outlines the various projects created within our Development Department, the purpose and the

goals each holds, and the specific ways funds are received. Each program is a model for use within our field ministries, and we have materials available to any group who requests them.

1. **Our Capital Campaign** is the first project undertaken by our Development Department. By definition, a capital campaign generates funds for a specific one-time project that has a beginning and an end point. Normally, capital campaigns are building projects. This was our initial focus.

However, this campaign shifted focus as we remained responsive to the guidance of God. Rather than building a \$5.5 million building, we purchased and remodeled a wonderful office space that will satisfy our needs for many years.

Critical to our mission of service is creation of quality teaching materials for our children, youth, and families. Therefore, a marriage of two very specific projects into our "Caring NOW!" campaign allows both goals to be fulfilled at a significantly lower cost.

"Caring NOW!" has a goal of \$4,000,000 over a four-year period. This will provide \$2,500,000 for curriculum development and \$1,500,000 to pay for and maintain our building.

Gifts may be *specifically designated* to our building costs or curriculum development. We encourage the vision of the importance of both projects, and gifts to "Caring NOW!" will bring both dreams into fulfillment.

2. **STARlight** is our **Annual Fund**. Its focus is on funding for the day-to-day operation of our Association of Unity Churches. Because we are a global organization, STARlight is operated almost solely as a mail campaign, inviting individuals to join our STARlight Team.

Our goal is a minimum of 500 individual donors contributing at least \$500 annually. In addition, we celebrate gifts of any size. All donations insure quality services to our field ministries.

Twenty-five percent (25%) of all STARlight funds goes to a designated project. This project is selected by our Resource Development Committee, recommended to our Board of Trustees, and

approved or revised by our Board.

For 1991-92, 25% of STARlight funds was designated to help international ministries and/or ministers.

For 1992-93, 25% of STARlight funds benefits our Year of the Child project.

Julie Montague is our Annual Fund coordinator. She delights in talking with you about the importance of an Annual Fund!

3. **Planned Giving** completes the development picture. This is an area in which much work is yet to be done. We have prepared an excellent wills brochure that is ready to be placed in our churches.

In addition, our **Pooled Income Fund** is an exciting way for donors to earn lifetime income on an irrevocable gift that may be designated to both the Unity church of their choice and your Association of Unity Churches. This Pooled Income Fund is especially attractive to donors with appreciated assets who would like to donate stock and receive appreciable tax benefits.

Deborah Turner-Bey is our Planned Giving and Grants Officer. She is available to answer your questions in either area.

4. Special projects create one-time opportunities for donors to benefit specific needs. **Our Tree of Life** sculpture is our International Youth of Unity service project for the next three years. It provides funds for our youth program and benefits our Living Curriculum development. Leaves, acorns, and stones may be donated at various costs. Engraving allows donors to honor loved ones and/or affirms a spiritual message on a permanent sculpture at our World Headquarters Building.

5. Memorial gifts are received through our **Celebration of Life Chapel Fund**. Gifts sent in honor of loved ones who have made their transition are inscribed in a permanent record book within our chapel. Donated funds are then allocated by our Board of Trustees for special projects.

Continued...

Basically, our Development Department has three major areas of focus: Capital Campaign, Annual Fund, Planned Giving. We are learning and growing every day. In addition to the financial support of individuals and ministries, we are researching foundations and corporations as potential grant makers. When Julie Montague, Shay St. John, or Deborah Turner-Bey works with a ministry, our successes and our lessons are both shared.

Our vision is to create the necessary resources which allow us to achieve that "sane, loving, daring" balance referred to by Charles R. Fillmore. In so doing, we freely share this process with any ministry willing to utilize the principles.

The following is a list of current resources available through our Development Department:

Available for love offering:

1. Resource Development Manual
2. Caring NOW! Capital Campaign Video
3. Wills brochures
4. Headquarters Highlights
5. Flat Caring NOW! and/or Vision in Prayer posters
6. Pooled Income Fund brochures

Available for specific cost, plus shipping:

7. *Give to Live* by Doug Lawson--\$12.95 less 20% for three or more
8. *Please Understand Me* by Kiersey and Bates--\$12.95
9. *Type Talk* by Krueger--\$10.00
10. Incredible Journey tapes (3 hrs.)--\$8.00

Call Nancy Elliott, Deborah Turner-Bey, Julie Montague, or me at (816) 524-7414, ext. 355 today. We are here to serve you!!

Sparkplugs

Unity proudly presents a delightful
NEW book for children of all ages!

Talk Topics and Sermon Starters from Unity Publications

This month: *Ted Bear's Magic Swing* by Dianne Baker, illustrated by Ronda Krum, hardcover, full-color illustrations, 32 pages, \$12.95

"Every day, just after lunch, Ted Bear went to swing in his swing."

Ted Bear's Magic Swing encourages children to take time every day to visit their own special place. There, they can dream or think or just enjoy the exciting world around them.

This new Unity children's book demonstrates to children that the best way to fix problems is to let go of them. When Ted Bear concentrates on letting go of his problems, the solutions to his predicaments have an amazing way of popping into his head while he is swinging contentedly in his swing!

As you know, the theme of this book is one of the basic premises of Unity thought. Letting go and letting God, rather than allowing our human selves to fight or resist the divine will of God that is natu-

rally present in our lives, is the way to truly prosperous living. Relating this truth to the children in your congregation and community is what this book will do best.

Full-color illustrations throughout the book, drawn by expert illustrator Ronda Krum, complement Dianne Baker's wonderful tale. The book has been printed oversize, inviting the reader to open and thumb through the richly colored pages. And the large, easy-to-read type makes it a delight for young and old eyes alike!

Let the children in your congregation discover the magic of the swing! Order copies of Unity's new children's book, *Ted Bear's Magic Swing*, today. To place your order, contact the Sales Department of Unity School of Christianity, Unity Village, MO 64065-0001. To order by phone, call: (816) 251-3571.

Church Growth Consultant Position:

Please note that Dick Connor is no longer a consultant to the Association of Unity Churches. During the past two years various committees have attempted to evaluate benefit ratio to cost of retaining a Church Growth Consultant. The Finance and Budget Committee, the Church Growth Committee, the full Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, and Management Staff have made the foregoing decision in an effort to continue the most effective use of available funds.

We offer two suggestions for those who feel they might want such a consultant's services: 1) We believe that between Barbara O'Hearne and Shay St. John we can provide needed Church Growth consulting, and 2) the Church Growth Committee continues production of excellent written materials very useful to any ministry, regardless of size.

Insurance for the Future

by Deborah Turner-Bey
Planned Giving & Grants Officer

Have you ever considered giving a gift of life insurance to support the work and services of our Association of Unity Churches and/or your local Unity ministry? Many of our friends never have, yet insurance policies can offer great opportunities to add flexibility in making a gift.

Life insurance is personal property and as such has value, is transferable, and can be given as a charitable gift. Many of us have experienced changes in the circumstances under which life insurance policies were purchased, rendering them "obsolete." If you would like to support

the STARlight Annual Fund, Caring NOW! Capital Campaign, or make a general love offering to our Association, check your life insurance policies. Compare your coverage with present needs. Then consider how your life insurance can be used to help you meet current, more appropriate goals.

Several options are available to you in making a gift of insurance.

- ▲ You can name our Association of Unity Churches and/or your local Unity church as beneficiaries of a policy you own in one of the following ways.

- a) As co-beneficiary, primary, secondary, or final beneficiary.
- b) As remainder beneficiary of an insurance policy settlement agreement.

- ▲ You can assign your annual dividends to the Association as a way to make regular gifts of tax-free income which may be deducted on your income tax return.

- ▲ You can give a paid-up policy you already own by changing the owner and beneficiary.

- ▲ You can give a policy on which you are still paying premiums, and under certain conditions, deduct each future premium as a charitable gift.

The following is a sample letter to request information from your life insurance company.*

Date _____

Name of Insurance Company _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Refer to Policy # _____

Please send me necessary papers to make a charitable gift of life insurance benefits to the Association of Unity Churches, a not-for-profit organization.

- () I would like to assign my policy dividends.
- () I would like to name the Association of Unity Churches as:
 - () Primary beneficiary
 - () Co-beneficiary with _____
(name of local Unity ministry)
 - () Secondary beneficiary
 - () Final beneficiary
 - () Recipient of a percent of proceeds
- () I would like to transfer policy ownership to the Association of Unity Churches and/or _____ irrevocably.
(name of local Unity ministry)
- () I would like to name the Association of Unity Churches and/or _____ as a remainder beneficiary in my
(name of local Unity ministry)
annuity should I die before receiving all payments guaranteed.

Sincerely

(signed)

You may also want to consider the convenience of a gift of life insurance. A gift of life insurance can be easy to make without buying a new policy. You can name our Association and/or your local Unity ministry as beneficiaries of policies you already own. You probably already have policies that have served their original purpose and are now available to give. Changing beneficiaries may be simpler than creating a trust, making a will or arranging other forms of giving. You can easily establish a gift of life insurance in ways to fit your exact giving desires.

Charitable giving and life insurance have gone hand-in-hand for many years. Today, as an asset owned by the vast majority of families, life insurance can be a great way for you to support our Association and our Unity movement as we seek to meet the evolving needs of our field ministries worldwide.

If this plan of giving appeals to you, check with your life insurance agent or financial advisor. If we can answer any questions you have regarding a life insurance gift or any current or deferred planned gift, please do not hesitate to call or write our Development Department.

*Please inform us should you choose to make a gift of life insurance proceeds to our Association of Unity Churches. A copy of the letter at left or some other form of notification for our records will be appreciated.



Barbara O'Hearne
Church Development and
Management Consultant

Utilizing Focus Groups in the Planning Process

In my CONTACT article, "A New Look At Strategic Planning" (Aug./Sept. issue), I included the concept of using focus groups in the planning model. In addition to the article, my consultations and training sessions in the field have resulted in a great interest and many questions about the use and value of focus groups.

In this article, I would like to explore the use of focus groups in gathering insight and information about a ministry. In his book, *Quality Management in the Nonprofit World*, Larry Kennedy makes a strong, but very practical case for implementing quality management through an organization. I believe this begins with planning. I would like to share one of his quotes that I believe supports the idea of focus groups.

One of the things that will become clear to you as you embrace these concepts (quality management) is the need to be aware of your environment. The attitudes, ideas, and philosophies of those around you must be clearly understood.

Your staff, volunteers, contributors, and clients all have valuable insight into the processes of your organization that can provide the critical adjustments you want to achieve.

Focus groups can be used in two different ways. First in the data collection and assessment phase of planning. This is the more traditional way of gathering perceptions or information about the ministry by asking a series of open-ended, yet "focused" questions about the church or center. For example, one question might be, "How is this church (or center) distinct or unique from other churches in our community."

The second way I have been using focus groups was described in the analysis, writing the plan, and validation phase. During this phase the congregation and staff are asked to give feedback or validate the *draft documents* such as the core values and mission and vision statement from the planning efforts of the strategic planning committee. By the time many you read this article, I hope you will have gone through this feedback or validation process at your regional meetings.

Kennedy makes an interesting statement, "Remember: ask, listen, think, and then do." This is sound advice for those ministers and boards wanting to grow, change, and continually improve the ministry.

Focus Groups

The use of focus groups have been part of market research for several years. These groups are used to gain insights and directional data. According to Jeffrey Davidson in *The Marketing Source Book For Small Business*, their primary effectiveness is in evaluating the attitudes and underlying beliefs held by respondents and identifying the key issues that must be dealt with.

One of the great values of focus groups is to take advantage of group dynamics and getting the participants to react to and build upon one another's ideas. Keeping in mind that all responses are "correct" because these are the individual's perceptions or experiences.

Regis McKenna in his book, *The Regis Touch*, states that focus groups can provide a type of qualitative information where potential customers directly express their ideas and opinions. It relies on an intuitive approach where decision makers look for patterns, trends, and connections. For some people relying on

intuition instead of theories and numbers is viewed as "soft." There are those who believe if it can't be measured it isn't valid.

I believe the qualitative information gathered during focus groups is valid. It is another form of knowledge. The key is to be sure you are interviewing or talking to the right people. In a church you have the "right" people. They include present congregation, those attending the classes and workshops, the volunteers, and former members or attendees if they are willing to participate.

Facilitator/Interviewer. To be effective, a focus group needs an experienced, trained facilitator or interviewer. This individual must have a good understanding of group dynamics and a knowledge of the subject matter or the organization.

Having worked with several ministries over the past year, I know there are many congregation members with excellent experience and skills in facilitating focus groups. Other churches have access to trained facilitators/interviewers in their communities. As always, I am willing to assist all ministries in a variety of ways should you be interested in learning more about conducting focus groups in your church.

When possible it is a good idea to have the same facilitator conduct the series of focus groups. This person has the opportunity to hear the "words" and the "music" from a variety of people within the church. By listening with their "third ear" to a variety of people and their comments they begin to get a real sense of the ministry--how people are feeling--and know when to probe a little more when the "words and music" do not appear to match or when the participants' comments are not clear.

Structure. A focus group usually consists of eight to twelve people and runs two to three hours. Ideally it is held in pleasant surroundings with some refreshments. It is important to make the environment inviting and informal. While the environment is important, it is not intended to be a challenge to the focus group process. I remember a dedicated

Continued...

group of Unity ministers and licensed teachers meeting in a very pleasant room at Asilomar near Pebble Beach in California. The roaring fire, hot coffee, and fresh rolls seemed to get this group going strong at 7:00 a.m.

In working with one church client recently, the issue of the board being present vs. not being present during the focus group became a major challenge. Some members of the board wanted to be there to "hear" what members of the congregation had to say, while others believed their presence would inhibit the comments and free-flowing discussion. While wishing to respect these differing viewpoints, my experience supports not having board members present during focus groups. There are several reasons for this. As stated above, the presence of board members often does inhibit the discussion; sometimes board members will react verbally or nonverbally to the comments being made which is not appropriate nor helpful. For some board members it is particularly frustrating to hear responses that appear to be the direct opposite from the information given to a congregation by the minister or board. There is a tendency to want to jump into the discussion and "correct" the person. Yet we must remember we are asking people to share their perceptions--which in their mind are right.

In addition, when a board member observes only one focus group they get a very limited view of what eight or twelve congregation members are thinking and feeling. If the board is serving as the planning committee, they will receive a summary report of all focus groups and spend a great deal of time reading, analyzing, and utilizing the data from the focus groups. When there is a separate planning committee consisting of board and congregation members, which I highly encourage, I make sure the board receives a separate summary of the focus groups so they are kept informed. Ultimately the key decision makers will see the information.

As part of the strategic planning process, I always make sure that the minister(s), board and/or planning committee are a focus group. Their perceptions and insights are important. By par-

ticipating in a focus group it helps them understand and, hopefully, appreciate the process.

It is interesting to note that traditionally people are paid to participate in focus groups. This has NOT been the custom in the churches or when I was conducting focus groups for the Association. I wonder what would happen if we did the reverse and ask people to make a love offering? Just an idea--not a recommendation.

Now that you know a little about focus groups--why they are useful, something about the structure--let's look at the types of questions that may be asked.

Focus Group Questions

The facilitator/interviewer usually begins with a broad open-ended question such as the one mentioned above or, "Who or what first brought or attracted you to the church? Why did you keep coming back?"

Free and easy discussion is encouraged hoping the group dynamics will bring out feelings, thoughts, and actions of participants. One of the key tasks of the

facilitator is to keep the discussion "focused" by keeping the comments on the question or topic and making sure everyone in the group is involved in the discussion.

There are many ways to record the discussion or comments: flipchart, audio tape recordings, or video tape recordings; some groups I have worked with provided a person to take notes, providing additional information. Whichever process is used is up to the individual church, the facilitator, and their financial resources. When I was conducting the first round of focus groups in the fall of 1991 with field ministers and licensed teachers, I found recording the information on a flipchart (often many, many pages) was effective and easy to transcribe for analysis and study by the Board of Trustees. This method provided the anonymity desired by many participants.

Listed below are a series of questions that could be used in a ministry. The more questions asked the more data that is generated and available for study and use in planning.

Continued...

Proposed Focus Group Questions

1. Who or what first brought or attracted you to (insert name of church or center)? Why did you return or keep coming back?
2. What is your perception of the mission of our church?
3. What do you believe to be the strengths of our church?
4. What are some of the weaknesses or challenges facing our church that concern you the most?
5. Should we enlarge our array of services, programs, classes, etc.? In what areas and how do you see this being funded?
6. What are you willing to do to assist the ministry in providing current or additional programs and activities?
7. What is your perception of what the minister, board of directors, and lay leaders do in the ministry?
8. Describe our church three to five years from now. What will it look like, who will be here, what types of activities will be going on, etc.

Analyzing and Using The Data

Dealing with all of the information or data resulting from focus groups can appear to be an overwhelming task for planning committees and boards. I have even talked with a few facilitators and consultants who have had brief feelings of being overwhelmed with focus group data. Organizing the responses from all the focus groups by question is most effective and efficient. The planning committee reads the entire focus groups summary and has an opportunity to ask clarifying questions of the facilitator and/or consultant. Depending upon the length of the summary or number of responses and the size of the planning committee, I usually break the committee down into smaller working groups to give them more time to really study and react to the information.

To assist the small work groups, I recommend using the questions at right. (My special thanks to Susan Everson at McRel Educational Labs for her input into these forms.)

Conclusion

To some this may seem like a lot of work and effort to get the answers to a few questions that could be done with "pencil and paper" type questionnaires. I agree that organizing and conducting focus groups is a lot of work. It is also exciting, stimulating, invites greater participation and connecting by congregation members, and generates a wide range of perceptions.

Written surveys do provide quantitative and qualitative information for planning committees. There have been instances when I have recommended their use with congregations. While the response rate is often less than desired, there are ways to increase this through additional mailings and telephone reminders.

My recent experiences with focus groups has been extremely productive and informative. (It is also fun!) I encourage you as the minister, board member, or leader of a church or center to consider using focus groups as part of your planning process. Please call me at (816) 531-3353, FAX your questions to (816) 753-8200, or write to me at 4311 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110-1571 if you have questions or need additional information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Analysis of Focus Group Information

Question # _____

The intended outcome of this process is for you to summarize the focus group question and to make recommendations for action.

- * Break into small groups of two or three persons per group.
 - * Before responding to the questions, please read the entire report. Then make your comments and responses to your specific question.
 - * Discuss your initial reaction to all comments. To argue with the responses is not the point.
1. Based upon your initial reaction, what are the obvious actions, behaviors, or things we ought to be doing?
 2. What responses come up most often?
 - *What are the top five?
 - *What are the bottom five?
 - *What are the easiest to do something about?
 - *What are the hardest to do something about?
 3. Where do we want to be by the end of 1993?
 4. Where do we want to be by 1996?
 5. Other recommendations or comments. . .

Name of: _____

Planning Committee or Board Member _____

Planning Committee or Board Member _____

Planning Committee or Board Member _____

?? Receive Two Checks Recently? ?

Our Association was recently able to distribute the assets to all participants of the now terminated Money Pension Plan. If you are one of the persons receiving this money, we want to remind you of the importance of the 60-calendar-day period in which you may roll-over to an IRA account. We have been advised that the IRS does not provide any extensions on this period so it is very important for you to take action within the allotted time period. If you miss the opportunity, you may have to pay a 10% pre-distribution penalty, as well as substantially higher income taxes this year.

Questions concerning this distribution may be directed to Young Bae (Association Comptroller--816-524-7414, ext. 322), Jimmie Scott (Group Services Committee Chairman--615-333-1323), or Vince Peyton (Association Advisor--913-422-7494).

If you have made up your mind whether you wish to roll-over into Wright or Principal, but wish additional information within these two choices, help is available. You may contact Rick Andrews at Wright toll free at (800) 232-0013 with any questions concerning available funds available to you, or how to complete the forms you received. Vince Peyton will assist you on available investment periods, current rates, and how to complete the Principal forms.

BROADCASTING THE UNITY MESSAGE



Carolyn Craft
Radio/Media Consultant

The Voices of Unity

During the June, 1992, Convention, the Radio/Media Department asked, "Are you currently broadcasting on radio or television and on what station/call letters/time/city are you airing?"

Below is a list of current programs being aired:

Christ Unity Church, Sacramento, CA:

"The Best Is Yet To Be" TV program- (out of Sacramento to much of northern California and southern Oregon)

- Sacramento, channel 40 at 9:00 a.m.
- Bay Area out of San Jose, channel 48 at 9:00 a.m.
- Seattle Puget Sound Area, channel 22 at 8:00 a.m.
- Arizona, out of Phoenix, Prescott, channel 27 at 8:00 a.m. (northern Arizona, channel 7)
- Monterey Peninsula, cable channel 22 at 9:00 a.m.
- St. Joseph, Missouri, channel 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Unity Pyramid, Santa Maria, CA:

- Cable TV channels 21 and 22

Christ Universal Temple, Chicago, IL:

- TV Station 4

Unity Ch/North Shore, Evanston, IL:

- Radio 750 AM

Unity of Indianapolis, IN:

- Radio WIUX 1350 AM, Sunday 8:15 a.m.

SPECIAL NOTE: Now is the time to secure your HOLIDAY advertising schedule. Many radio and television stations look for clients who are interested in sponsoring their special holiday programming. These range from storytelling to special music to mini-dramas. Most often the rates are very reasonable and the frequency higher than normal. Stations will also provide additional promotional mentions for sponsors when promoting these special programs. If print advertising is used, sponsors are showcased. Call your local broadcast facilities and ask about their holiday scheduling.

Detroit Unity Temple, Detroit, MI:

- Radio WQRS 105.1 FM, M-F 5:50 a.m., Sunday 8:00 a.m. (on air continuously for the last 30 years)

Unity Church of Muskegon, MI

- Cable TV channel 24

Church of Today, Warren, MI:

- TV Fox 8:00 a.m., Radio CKLW

Christ Ch of the Hills, Branson, MO:

- Local TV Channel 6

Unity Ch of P. C., St. Joseph, MO:

- TV KQTV, Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Associacion Unity, Santurce, PR:

- Radio WSJ 1560 AM, Sunday 8:00

Unity Ch of Christianity, Houston, TX:

- Radio KODA 99.1, Thur & Fri 7:00 a.m., Sat. & Sun. random

Ch of the Hill Country, Kerrville, TX:

- Radio KERV AM and KRVL FM, mornings and evenings

Unity Ch/NE Tarrant Cnty, Hurst, TX:

- Radio 97.9 FM, Mon-Fri 8:25 p.m., Sat & Sun 7:25 p.m.

Thirty-two additional surveys were completed that said "YES we are currently on radio or TV," but station, call letters, or time of broadcast were not listed.

If your church/center is using broadcasting and it does not appear on the above listing, please complete the form on page 11 and return to the Radio/Media Department. (Enclose a cassette tape sample of your broadcast--we showcase these tapes during seminars, classes, and workshops.) We'll add your name to our mailing list and publish the results in future issues of CONTACT. Let's share the Good News of Unity's broadcast ministry so those in your area will know where to tune in.

Continued...

Good News...

From Unity in the Seven Hills in Lynchburg, Virginia:

"The radio campaign is going exceedingly well. The most often repeated remark is the professional quality of the radio spots. The other day the mailman for the church came in to tell me how much he enjoys the spots. We have had several people come to church service as a result of hearing about us on the radio."

-Rev. Nancy Purcell

From Unity of Fort Myers, Florida

"Our churches are growing in deeper commitment and/or increased membership. . .partly due to our radio outreach."

-Rev. Kenneth Murdock

From Sunrise Unity in Citrus Heights, California

"We made the decision to continue with Motivation News Radio for the next 26 weeks."

-Rev. Billie Blain

Communication Committee Network

In January, 1992, the Radio/Media Department programmed a new system for your ministry to receive assistance for your media/advertising needs. This assistance comes to you in the form of a network of enthusiastic people eager to share the message of Unity with your community and the world. To date we have received notification from 23 ministries naming their Communication Committee Network Member. As noted in our CONTACT article from the April/May issue, this person could be serving as a board member, public relations person, publicist, media coordinator, etc. All media news from the Association's Radio/Media Department or the Media Committee will be sent to the attention of Minister *and* your Communication Committee Network Member. The member's commission and participation would require energies devoted to the following with respect to media (broadcast, print, internal communications, etc.): research, feedback, observation, inform, tabulate, community awareness, creativity, interfacing, expanding, consciousness, checking market pulse/church pulse, service, support, defining and holding your ministry's vision. (Our Communication Committee Network Members to date are listed at right.)

Send us your Good News--testimonials from those who respond, results from your messages, samples and details of your broadcasts so we may provide to all Unity ministries as we continue to bless the world by sharing a Message of Unity via broadcasting. You are making a difference. Stay tuned!

***"A symbol of God's
omnipresence."***

-Myrtle Fillmore's
definition of radio

Radio/Media Department Communication Committee Network Members

Kate Trelatsky--Unity Church of Merced, Merced, CA
John M. Bennett--Long Beach Unity, Long Beach, CA
Janet Meschi & Kristi Beckwith--Unity Ch of Brownsville, Brownsville, TX
Peggy Van Cleve--Unity Church of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI
Jack Kern--Unity of Naples, Naples, FL
Ken Kenyon--First Unity Church of Positive Living, El Paso, TX
Arthur Hammons--Christ Church Unity of El Cajon, El Cajon, CA
Ada Davis & Virginia Good--Unity Center of Bakersfield, Bakersfield, CA
Billie Blain--Sunrise Unity, Citrus Heights, CA
Pauline James--Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Buffalo, NY
Dean Leutscher, Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Grand Rapids, MI
Sandra Hymel--Unity in Blue Springs, Blue Springs, MO
Joan Phillipson--Unity Church of Christianity, Wauwatosa, WI
Mary Jo Ruten--Unity of Jackson, Jackson, MI
LeVonne Feller--Unity Church of Today, Omaha, NE
Frank Kaiser--Unity Church for Christian Living, Miami, FL
Brenda Windell--Christ Church Unity, Rochester, NY
D. Karen Wilkerson--Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Tyler, TX
Grace Luckscherte--Unity of Livonia, Livonia, MI
Bob Burns--Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Las Cruces, NM
Sue Smith--Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Buffalo, NY
Victor Rosencrans--Unity of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach, FL
Ward McCarey--Unity of Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, UT

Communications Committee Network Association of Unity Churches

To join in, complete this form and we'll add the name of your Network Member to this growing list.

Ministry _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Currently using:

- ☐ radio
☐ television
☐ cable

Previously used:

- ☐ radio
☐ television
☐ cable

Station/Program/Dates and Times Airing/Length of Program: _____

Name of person who handles media or publicity for your ministry: _____

*Communication Committee Network Member

☐ A cassette tape sample of our broadcast is enclosed.

Return to: Association of Unity Churches
Radio/Media Department
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Special Awards Given at Unity People's Convention

Congratulations to all!



A special highlight of the 1992 Unity People's Convention was the awards presentation at the banquet Friday evening.

Each year The Light of God Expressing Award is given to those individuals who have made significant contributions for the advancement of humankind. J. Sig Paulson and Johnnie Coleman were chosen to receive The Light of God Expressing Awards for 1992.



The Reverend Johnnie Coleman is the founder and minister of the 34-year-old Christ Universal Temple, Chicago, Illinois.

Reverend Coleman states, "That which I have achieved is the result of the principles that I learned at the Unity School of Christianity. I have applied them and proved that they truly work if you work them."

Johnnie Coleman is the recipient of numerous awards including The National Coalition of 100 Black Women's CANDACE AWARD for outstanding contributions and accomplishments in the area of Theology.

The Reverend J. Sig Paulson--world traveler, author, one of our most beloved Unity leaders--was for 16 years, along with his wife Jane, minister of Unity Village Chapel. Today, Sig and Jane travel extensively sharing love and Truth teachings worldwide.



Connie Fillmore (right), president of Unity School of Christianity, presenting the Light of God Expressing Award to J. Sig Paulson.

Sig is internationally known and loved as a speaker and retreat leader. He is the author of countless articles, poems, books, and cassette albums for Unity publications as well as international magazines.

This year, two special awards were created: The Charles Fillmore Award is intended to honor those who have demonstrated a visionary consciousness and dynamic leadership. The Myrtle Fillmore Award will honor those who exemplify the prayer consciousness, radiating in a loving, gentle way, the positive affirming ideas of the Christ.



The creation of these two awards provide a way to honor those of our movement who have "shown" in ways consistent with the consciousness of one or the other of our co-founders.

William L. Fischer, author and well-known lecturer, received the first Charles Fillmore Award. Bill currently serves as Retreat Director of the Unity School for Religious Studies and directs eleven retreats annually.



Glenn Mosley (right), Executive Director of our Association, presenting the Charles Fillmore Award to Bill Fischer.

He is the author of numerous books, articles, poems, and cassette albums. For many years Bill wrote and recorded "Words From Unity," which are brief inspirational messages that were aired

over radio stations throughout the United States.

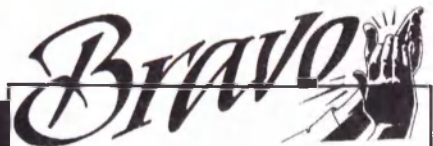
Bill, the word for today is thankful. We are thankful for all of your love and for your devotion of service given to the Unity movement.

The first Myrtle Fillmore Award was given to Jane Paulson. The Reverend Jane Paulson, affectionately known by all as Janie, truly exemplifies the prayerful and meditative consciousness of Myrtle Fillmore. She has touched thousands of lives through this consciousness of joy-filled love.



Dorothy Pierson (right), Unity minister, presenting the Myrtle Fillmore Award to Jane Paulson.

Janie, along with her husband, Sig, has served Unity centers in St. Louis, New York, Unity Village, and Houston. They continue to serve through their workshops and presentations as they travel all over the world.



We want to extend our special thanks to all the volunteers from the Chicago area churches for their loving support in making our '92 People's Convention such a success! Your time, talents, planning, and energies were appreciated so much in making the week go smoothly. We could not have done it without you! You are a blessing to us all.



Come Join in the Celebration of

Loving the Child

1993 Unity Minister's/Licensed Teacher's Conference



As a special highlight of the Year of the Child celebration we encourage all ministers to bring their Youth Education Directors to conference in 1993.

Special workshops and programs are being planned for this occasion. An excellent children's and infant's program is being coordinated, so make plans now to come and bring your children for a true family experience!

The conference will be held at The Hilton Plaza Inn, located on the beautiful Country Club Plaza, June 15-19, 1993. Reservations for your hotel may be made by calling 1-800-525-6321. (\$65 per night for single or double occupancy; rate for each additional person is \$10.

To receive a conference brochure with registration information, please complete and return the form below to:

Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
816-524-7414, ext. 330



Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610 • Lee's Summit, MO 64063
1993 Conference Information Request

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

- ☐ Minister
☐ Licensed Teacher
☐ Youth Education Director



HEADQUARTERS

HIGHLIGHTS

In This Issue:

- Youth of Unity Elects New International Officers
- Adults of Unity Holds Second Annual Conference
- Your Child's Report Card: How Does Your Reaction Score?
- Tree of Life: A Way To Honor Someone You Love, Forever
- Caring NOW! The Vehicle To A Dream
- Retired Unity Minister Celebrates 100th Birthday

"And a little child will lead them." Isaiah 11:6



Ray Wiggins (second from left) presenting plaque to lay representatives of Spiritual Unity/Moscow.

Youth of Unity Leadership Tour

"It is vital to them and to the Unity movement for us to remain connected in heart, in prayer, and in person."

By Julie Montague

A group of 36 adult and teen Unity members from all over the United States and Canada traveled to Russia to help establish Youth of Unity (Y.O.U.) in that country. This group was led by The Reverend David McArthur, Ray Wiggins (International Education Services Consultant, on staff at your Association of Unity Churches) and Regional Consultants Judy Lewis, Jackie Green, and Duncan Lewis.

The purpose of this trip was to provide leadership training and resources to adults and teens in Russia, helping them establish and strengthen YOUTH OF SPIRITUAL UNITY RUSSIA. A two-day seminar was conducted in Moscow with representatives from Spiritual Unity (the first Unity ministry in Russia). The seminar was in three sections: adults who wished to learn how to start and lead Y.O.U. chapters met with Ray and a team of Y.O.U. sponsors; Russian teens met with Y.O.U.'ers from the United States and Canada; and another group of adults met with David to learn the basic Unity teachings and organization. On the closing day, Ray presented a plaque recognizing the of-

ficial formation of Youth of Spiritual Unity in Moscow to representatives of that group.

The second leg of the trip took our travelers to the city of Ekaterinburg in the Ural Mountains. There they met with representatives of Spiritual Unity, the city's religious organization director and the mayor of the city. The first meeting was formal, followed by a very business-like discussion of Unity and Y.O.U. while our teens did joy songs and spiritual dancing with Russian teens. The second night they had a less formal program with music, a lesson by David McArthur, meditation by Alexandra Zykova (2nd-year ministerial student) and an exchange of gifts. During this program a document was signed by representatives of Spiritual Unity and Youth of Unity International officially establishing Youth of Spiritual Unity Ekaterinburg. This was done even before the Unity Church of Ekaterinburg is officially registered there as a church, which should be completed shortly.

Some of the highlights of the trip were:

* Participating in the first non-military Y.O.U.

Assn of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414

Glenn Mosley, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Edie Skallitzky
President

See Y.O.U. on page 3, col. 3

THE WAYS WE SERVE. . . What's new from us to you!

The Fourth Thursday Evening Workshops

If you are planning a trip to Unity Village, plan to attend one of the Fourth Thursday Workshops held at our new world headquarters in Lee's Summit. Participants describe them saying, "This was the best workshop of this kind I have ever attended," or "The tools I have learned will make a difference in my church. Thank you!"

Workshops are held on the **fourth Thursday** of each month (except November and December) from **7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.**, in the Association's board room, **401 SW Oldham Parkway, Suite 210, Lee's Summit, Missouri**. Join us! Call **524-7414, ext. 355**, to reserve your space.

October 22, 1992

Kolnonia, Group Bonding in a Fun, Non-threatening Way
Ray Wiggins

November and December - no session

January 28, 1993

Stress, Stressors, and Their Management
Glenn Mosley, Ph.D.

February 25, 1993

Planned Giving
Deborah Turner-Bey and Shay St. John

March 25, 1993

How To Grow Your Ministry Through Broadcasting
Carolyn Craft

Did You Know?

It is important to specify the Association of Unity Churches by name when making your gifts, tithes, and any bequests. Our Association or any individual Unity church does not share in gifts made to Unity School, Silent Unity, or the overall Unity movement. Our Association of Unity Churches is a separate legal and financial organization whose focus is supporting our field movement. Unity School, Silent Unity, and our Association of Unity Churches share a common goal to help people the world over realize their divine potential.

Development Department
Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414, ext. 355

Youth of Unity International Conference fills every room at Unity Village and then some!

Teens 15 to 18 years old gathered at Unity Village August 10-16 for their annual conference. The excitement and energy level at the Village goes up dramatically during this time. One of the high points of the week-long conference is the election of new International Officers. Officers for 1993 are:

Tara Johnson, President

Unity Church of Dallas, TX

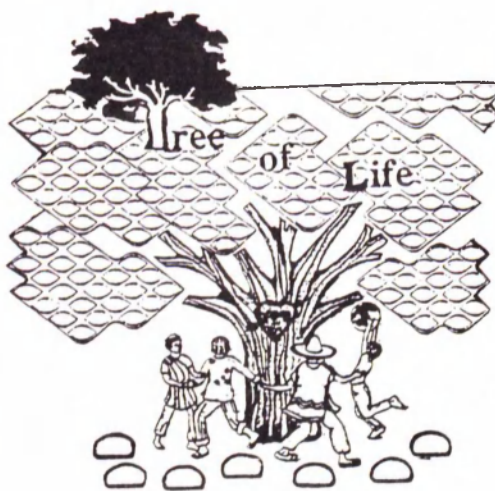
Dieter Schmelig, 1st V. President

Unity of Clearwater, Florida

Lauren Creamer, 2nd V. President

Unity Church of Chicago, Illinois

We know these newly-elected officers will guide International Youth of Unity into higher levels of service to our Unity movement through Y.O.U.



This original sculpture will grace the walls of our new world headquarters building. This will be a carved wood tree with children of different cultures playing around the base. Each leaf is brass and can be inscribed with up to five lines of writing. Gifts to Tree of Life will support Caring NOW! and International Youth of Unity. Caring NOW! is the vehicle that will bring the Living Curriculum into form. Now

is the critical time to make your commitment to this important project for the future of our movement.

Adults of Unity hold their second annual conference

Adults from all over America came together August 17-23 to "Love to the Infinite Power" at their annual conference at Unity Village. Sharon Poindexter was the Keynote Speaker for the week, along with music by Rudi Harst. The week included silent meditation, workshops, family groups, Comedy Sportz, and lots of prayer. The 1993 Conference is set for July 3-9, at Estes Park, CO.

Your reaction to your child's report card-- does it help or hurt? by Judi Venturini Year of the Child Coordinator

School has started and it is never too soon to think about report cards! Getting a report card can be a time of celebration or a time of stress and conflict! Self-esteem is closely related to success in school and the higher our esteem, the more success we will experience.

A failing grade can lower our esteem almost faster than anything else I have experienced. Think back to a time when you were challenged in school. I remember geometry my sophomore year of high school. I was an "A" student until then. That "D-" glared out on my report card. I almost ran away from home that day rather than face the humiliation and terror of showing it to my parents.

How can we support our children with their grades at the very beginning and increase esteem?

1) Never confuse the value you place on your child with the grade he/she receives on their report card. They need support and encourage-

ment. Try asking how they feel about their grades and how they would like to improve themselves. Then make a plan for how they can meet their goals. Ask how you can support them to help them succeed.

2) Look at alternative ways to study. Facts that have to be memorized can be recorded on a tape player with Adagio music in the background. This is called a "superlearning tape." The child can listen to the tape just before going to bed or in the car when traveling.

For spelling words, try making the list on large butcher paper and placing from a clothesline hung at the foot of the bed. The child will look up from the pillow, thus bypassing their feelings. (Most children study with the eyes down and this puts the person into their feeling nature.) Larger words can be divided in color-coded syllables. This is a visual clue.

3) Instead of pointing out their errors, point out what they did well. I am convinced that if more teachers highlighted what was correct with yellow highlighter, instead of marking what is incorrect with red marker, children would retain more. (Yellow increases intelligence and red brings up feelings of power and authority.)

God bless our children throughout this school year!

Connections. . .

Tampa, Florida Beloved Unity Minister celebrates 100 years young!

Louise Ramey, ordained in 1935, recently celebrated her 100th birthday with a few of her friends who also are retired Unity ministers. In fact, a total of five retired ministers live within a 100 mile radius of each other in sunny Florida! They are: **L. E. & Ethel Meyer** (ordained 1934 and 1937 respectively); **Carolyn**

Reithinger (ordained in 1938); **John Coulson** (ordained in 1939); and Louise.



Friends celebrating in honor of Louise's 100th birthday--l to r: Ross Goodman, Unity minister in Tampa, and wife Joan; Louise; John Coulson and wife Arline.

Nigeria, West Africa Unity World Outreach in Nigeria

Ron Tyson, World Outreach Department of Unity School, was visiting The Reverend E. A. Otisi of Unity Church of Practical Christianity in Lagos State, Nigeria, when the picture below was taken. It is nice to be reminded that there are Truth students all over the world, some of which may be reading or studying the same book or taking a similar class at their local Unity church as you are at yours. When we pray, remember to include these beloved brothers and sisters all over the world as they seek the Truth that will set them free. Unity IS making a difference on this planet.



Unity World Outreach in Niberia--l to r: Harry Kudlabor, Unity minister from London, England; Sr. Rev. Endless Otisi, Unity minister in Nigeria; Mrs. Oyedia Otisi; and Ron Tyson.

Correction to "The Winners Are..."

Margaret Farris, Melissa Terry, and Andrea Mitchell, winners of the Year of the Child bulletin cover contest, are from Unity Pyramid Chapel of Light in Santa Maria, CA. We apologize for the misprint in our last issue.

Cont'd from page 1

event in over 70 years in Red Square on July 4--a celebration of independence and ending the evening with our group singing the Unity Peace Song.

* Being the first Americans to be housed in a facility that had previously only been used for members of the Young Communist elite.

* Being the first to ever set foot on a Soviet military base and to fly by charter military jet.

* Being the first to sing the Peace Song while straddling the border of Europe and Asia.

Ekaterinburg has only been open to visitors for a year and a half, so they were among the first Americans to visit that city.

Upon his return, Ray Wiggins commented, "Beyond measure is the bond established. Truly a heart connection occurred. It is vital to them and to the Unity movement for us to remain connected in heart, in prayer, and in person. It is my goal to return with another leadership team in 1993." In a recent letter to Ray from the Russian Y.O.U'ers came these comments about the visit: ". . . thank you for coming here. . . I became to look on the world another eyes. . . I thought much about Unity and I decided that Unity is the best organization for me, because here I may be sincere and free. Thank you, for you wake up my feelings. . . Yesterday we met and decided to try to make our Unity the best organization for the youth. . . we hope we meet with you again and again."

The International Youth of Unity Service Project, TREE OF LIFE, will help support this type of important Youth of Unity International activity. If you would like to know more about the TREE OF LIFE and how you can help to spread Truth to the former Soviet Union, please call or write: **Association of Unity Churches, ATTN: Development Department, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063; (816) 524-7414.** Together, we in Unity are making an important positive impact on our world!!!

(Editor's Note: Thanks to Terry Gates and Ray Wiggins, who wrote reports on this trip. We have used excerpts from both reports for this article.)



**You're invited to be a
Unity Ambassador to Russia!**

Our Association of Unity Churches
Announces:

"Bridges To Oneness Tour"

led by
Glenn R. Mosley, Ph.D., Executive Director
and
Shay St. John, Director of Development

August 6 - 20, 1993

Join Glenn and Shay on this exciting trip and see history in the making. Yes, you can make a difference on this planet. All you have to do is reach out a hand, with love, to a Russian brother or sister.

*Love grows one by one, two by two,
four by four, love goes around in a
circle and winds up knocking at your
front door. (Y.O.U. Joysong)*

For more information call:
STARBRIGHT TRAVEL--1-800-798-1451

UNITY: POSITIVE, PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY FOR OUR TRANSFORMATIVE TIMES!

Association of Unity Churches

P.O. Box 610 • Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414 FAX: (816) 525-4020

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
TIME VALUE PUBLICATION!

SENT WITH LOVE AND BLESSINGS TO:

Thank You!

*Please accept our most sincere
thanks for your continuing generous
support
of our Association of Unity Churches.
Your love offerings allow us to reach out
to our growing global community
as we express ever-expanding
Reflections of Service.*

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OUR ASSOCIATION OF
UNITY CHURCHES
REFLECTS YOUR
COMMITMENT TO
EXPANDING THE GLOBAL
FUTURE OF OUR UNITY
MOVEMENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

On behalf of the Association of Unity Churches' staff and Board of Trustees, we extend to you our deep gratitude and appreciation for your past financial support. The love and faith you incorporate into your gifts make them special.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES Statement of General Fund Operations Four Months Ended July 31, 1992

INCOME-OPERATIONS	1992 1st Qtr	July	Year to Date
Love Offerings	\$179,637.90	\$72,025.20	\$251,663.10
Other Income	<u>18,304.27</u>	<u>14,556.52</u>	<u>32,860.79</u>
	\$197,942.17	\$86,581.72	\$284,523.89
Less: Tithe Transfer	<u>19,162.26</u>	<u>7,823.48</u>	<u>26,985.74</u>
	178,779.91	78,758.24	257,538.15
Gross Profit Material	<u>19,189.56</u>	<u>8,680.13</u>	<u>27,869.69</u>
Total Income	<u>\$197,969.47</u>	<u>\$87,438.37</u>	<u>\$285,407.84</u>
EXPENSE-OPERATIONS	<u>\$225,462.50</u>	<u>\$88,648.17</u>	<u>\$314,110.67</u>
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES:	<u>\$(27,493.03)</u>	<u>\$(1,209.80)</u>	<u>\$(28,702.83)</u>

Unity School Contribution to the Association of Unity Churches Through Services Provided:

Month of April: \$13,131.72

Month of May: \$8,236.59

Year to Date: \$21,368.31

Unity Church of Hawaii and The Hawaiian Island Ministries present

THE 1993 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM in conjunction with UNITY SCHOOL OF CHRISTIANITY February 22-28, 1993

Instructors: Rev. Toni Boehm and Rev. Jim Gaither from Unity School; and Rev. John Strickland, Rev. Carol Jean Wright, Rev. Carlton Buboltz, Rev. Judith Grimes, Rev. Janet Oliver, and Rev. Robert Wasner from the Islands.

For more information, a CEP Hawaii 1993 brochure is available on request from Unity Church of Hawaii, 3608 Diamond Head Circle, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815, ATTN: Suzanne Cameron, Director of Education.



Mick Dustin
Director of Education

Isn't it a delight to discover something that is simple, elegant, and works too?

Recently I came across three very simple techniques that are so full of common sense it makes them truly elegant. This is because they adapt to countless situations we encounter in our day-to-day ministries as well as the simple living of life. One technique deals with conflict resolutions, another with managing a meeting, and the third deals with selling a product or idea. (In ministry this is counseling, giving a talk, or teaching a class.)

Conflict Resolutions

In the book, *Building Productive Teams* (families, staffs, committees, etc.), Glenn Varney offers this outstandingly simple framework for conflict resolutions:

Bring the parties together and interview each in turn, as the others listen, asking the following questions:

1. What is the problem as you perceive it?
2. What does the other person do that contributes to the problem?
3. What do you want or need from the other person?
4. What do you do that contributes to the problem?
5. What first step can you take to resolve the problem?

After the questioning, the parties enter a discussion to arrive at a mutual understanding of the problem and to reach agreement on steps to resolve the problem.

The process works best if you:

- Allow the parties to vent blame--to get hostility out of their systems.

- Encourage each one of them to admit partial responsibility for the problem.
- Wind up with some sort of quid pro quo agreement that you specify and put in writing.

Managing A Meeting

Haven't we all found ourselves leaving a meeting where we knew for certain only one or two or maybe even none of the relevant issues were dealt with--either time ran out or the participants wore out!

Certainly not every meeting will avail itself to this technique but even if just a few do, it will be well worth keeping it in mind. In his book, *Interacting In Groups: Theory and Practice*, Donald W. Klopff offers these five simple steps to meeting management:

1. The person leading the meeting introduces the idea of the problem census and asks for responses.
2. The members briefly propose the problems or issues they want to talk about. (Controversial topics can be presented to the group leader in writing, rather than from the floor.)
3. Each topic is listed on a chalkboard or tablet on an easel.
4. By a vote, usually a show of hands, the members prioritize the issues.
5. Each issue is discussed in order until time is up. Leftovers can be addressed at the next meeting.

Selling A Product or Idea

Neil Rackham in his book, *SPIN Selling* offers an easily adaptable framework to help us stay on track in many counseling situations. His technique focuses upon four kinds of questions: *Situation Questions*, *Problem Questions*, *Implication Questions*, and *Need-payoff Questions*. The questions I will offer use the framework but focuses on counseling in the ministry. Keep in mind our attitude or the thoughts we hold about our clients have as much to do with how effectively we communicate as do any of the techniques we may learn and use.

1. **Situation Questions:** This is simply data gathering.
 - How long has this been going on?
 - What specifically do you see yourself dealing with?
 - What brought you here today?
2. **Problem Questions:**
 - What is this situation preventing you from doing?
 - Could you tell me more about how this situation is affecting your life?

Continued. . .

- What is the hardest part to deal with?
Help people define the problem and it will begin to come into perspective.

3. Implication Questions: These questions help the person explore the problems *effects* and *consequences*. This creates energy for change that can be focused for positive outcomes.

- How will this situation affect your future?
- How is this situation affecting those around you?
- Can you tell me more about how this situation has affected the quality of your life?

4. Needs-payoff Questions: These questions focus the individual's energies and begin the personal involvement in resolving the situation.

- If this situation were to be improved by 10%, what would be the effect? (Some problems are resolved in stages.)
- If a reasonable solution could be reached, how would this affect your life? (This helps one to move beyond the problem.)
- If you could have all the help you wanted in resolving this situation, what kind of help would you ask for? (This helps in gathering resources.)

Needs-payoff questions have a strong relationship to success. Rackham has found that the top performers ask more than 10 times as many of these questions as do average sales people. In one way we, too, are salespersons; we sell people on their ability to resolve situations in their lives.

Certainly none of these techniques is applicable in every situation. Yet, if one of these techniques helps you in just one situation, isn't it worth the time it took you to read this article? More often than not knowing the Christ within our counselees will provide the atmosphere in which positive resolution can occur. These questions provide a framework for the time we spend together.

Each one of these simple techniques came my way in "The Pryor Report," a monthly publication you can subscribe to for \$69 by calling 1-800-237-7967. The other resources:

*Glenn Varney, *Building Productive Teams*, Jossey-Bass, 350 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94104.

*Donald Klopff, *Interacting in Groups: Theory and Practice*, Morton Publishing Co., 925 W. Kenyon Ave., Unit 4, Englewood, CO 80110.

*Neil Rackham, *SPIN Selling*, McGraw-Hill, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020.

A Book Review

*The Spiritual Athlete:
a primer for the inner life*
compiled & edited by Ray Berry

Reviewed by Jules Evens

The Spiritual Athlete, compiled and edited by Ray Berry and illustrated by his son Niclas (Joshua Press, Olema, California \$14.95), is about fire--burning passion and consuming spirit. It portrays the fiery lives of 22 truth-seekers ranging through most of the major religious denominations of the world--Hinduism, Buddhism, Sufism, Christianity, Judaism, Taoism, and even Roman philosophy (Plotinus). But it seems that religion, or at least the literature of religion, is a fairly chauvinistic discipline. As Ray searched for his representative holy people, he noticed that they were mostly men. (Though eight of the chapters were written by a woman, short-story writer Nancy Pope Mayorga.) To remedy this inequity he sat down and wrote four more chapters, each describing the life of a woman with a burning soul.

These women are not your everyday Mother Theresas. For example, there was Rabi'a, a slave in Basra. "There was a fire in the desert at Basra in the eighth century; it burned for almost 90 years and illumined the way for many others." This fire was Rabi'a, a Sufi woman "on fire with love." Another slave, this one a black 19th century American, became "Soujourner Truth." As one can see from her picture on the cover her inner strength was formidable. Perhaps the first woman's rights activist in this country, she was so outspoken that people were afraid to let her talk. Another formidable woman is "Peace Pilgrim," the wandering nun who walked North America "like a leaf blown in the wind" until she was 73 years old.

The Spiritual Athlete dresses out its characters with flesh and bone. These are not easy aesthetes, but difficult humans struggling with doubt, temptation, and fear.

Thoreau is here, too. The American hero of action versus inaction, the wilderness refugee, the pioneer of simple living and high thinking who made his habitat, Walden pond, the habitat of the American psyche.

(reprinted with permission from Point Reyes Light)

"The threads of depth, insight, and quiet permeate *The Spiritual Athlete*, weaving together a carpet upon which the reader may walk through life." --Glenn Mosley

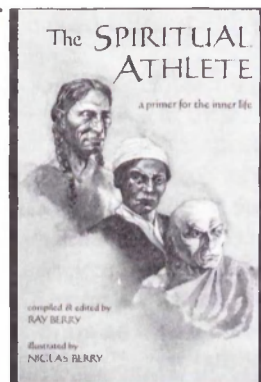
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Trish Robinson
Licensed Teacher Consultant

Some of you know Sue Edwards, licensed Unity teacher. She is a regular volunteer, and is currently giving a class on "The Seven Keys: The Bible Through Eastern Eyes," here at the Association Home Office. She is also a friend and we have some good discussions from time to time. She brought in the following article to share with me and after reading it I said, "This goes in *CONTACT!*" Enjoy! Remember to have FUN and be good to yourself!

Karma = Balance

Karma often gets a lot of bad press in Unity circles. I believe this is because the Western mind is not conditioned to absorb the Eastern concept. Karma is a matter of consciousness. Although it has been defined as "cause and effect," in the Absolute, there is no duality; cause and effect are one. There is only on presence and one power, God the Good. The idea that Karma is shaped by our actions is only partially true since what we do is determined by what we think. It is often thought that if in one life we were someone who put out people's eyes we would have to spend another lifetime blind. On the other hand, we might invent the Braille system!

Like blowing up a balloon, consciousness is an expanding sphere of light, attracting experiences to us which will provide opportunities for growth. Until we gain insight and understanding in a given situation we need to repeat the lessons. Once we have grasped a Divine Idea, we move on to the next "grade" and to new experiences designed to assist us in our continuing process of development.

Karma is all too often thought of as crime and punishment, when, in fact, it is a delicate balance. In the Aramaic language one of the words for religion is DINA which means balance. Whatever we sow, we reap. Jesus taught that the law of vengeance (an eye for an eye. . .) was to be replaced by the law of love (grace). The Aramaic word for grace means loving kindness. In that respect, the Law is grace. The loving kindness of Spirit has given us immutable Law upon which we can rely completely. If it were not so, the resultant chaos would be hell, indeed.

Many people speak of paying our Karmic debts and neglect to mention that there are also Karmic credits. Our awareness is the sum of everything we have ever thought, felt, been and done. This, then, is the influence that may be carried over from past lives. Whatever we do, whatever we learn, whatever growth we attain results in feedback from the Universe which neither approves nor condemns; it simply reflects. Guilt about the past is inappropriate and totally unproductive.

"Transcending" Karma does not mean that we can circumvent the manifestation of, or avoid responsibility for, our deeds. The law cannot break itself. But remember, the Law is Love. Henry Drummond, in his beautiful exposition on the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians, tells us that if only we loved enough we could not even think of committing the destructive acts forbidden by the Ten Commandments. We transcend Karma and the effects of past mistakes when our conscious awareness is in harmony with our true spiritual nature. Then our every motive and expressing bring only the highest good to ourselves and others.

Forgiveness, like prayer, is for us to learn; God does not need to forgive because God does not condemn. The sun shines and the rain falls on the just and the unjust alike. God never sees us as anything but the perfect expression of the Divine Idea that we were created. When Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do," he was setting an example for a people whose culture for centuries had been one of revenge and "even exchanges." It was necessary for his followers to hear those words from their beloved teacher so that they would not seek to avenge his death and so that they could be free of the bonds of hatred and vengeance. Jesus knew full well that God did not need to be instructed to forgive the perpetrators of his crucifixion. Had he not told his disciples to be perfect as the Father in Heaven is perfect? That word perfect in Aramaic means all inclusive. When we practice unconditional love for all our fellows we will be in a state of grace, perfect in our consciousness, balanced in all areas of our lives.

--Sue Edwards



Ray Wiggins
International Education
Services Consultant

Teaching For Reflective Thinking

by Geri Fields, Ed.D.
(a member of the Curriculum Task Force)

As a student of the Unity way of life for almost twenty years and a teacher of children and of teachers for over twice that many years, I have come to understand that Unity has much to offer the children.

However, we must not make the mistake of using traditional teaching techniques which have produced the dilemma of our current educational system. We must acknowledge that all true learning is a spiritual process in which each individual learns to nourish the "God seed" within them as Mr. Fillmore describes it. Buckminster Fuller says that every child is a potential genius and is innately programmed to comprehend the Universal Principles of the Universal Mind.

For each child to nurture his/her spiritual nature and to learn to develop his/her talents to the fullest requires learning reflective thinking. I use the term "reflective thinking" as a comprehensive term in order to avoid the limitations of ritualistic definitions often associated with such powerful reflective techniques as prayer, meditation, etc. I use reflective thinking in the same sense that we were advised in the Bible to "pray without ceasing," that is, a way to stay constantly in touch with the creative Source within each of us. Learning to think reflectively is a process of learning constantly to check our life situation with the "God Seed" within us to sense if there is spiritual enlightenment or a sense of disharmony.

Reflective thinking is a process of the mind--not just the brain. Buckminster Fuller says that the brain is the

physical "control room," while the mind is the spiritual center.

So the question becomes: "How do we help children tap into that creative, spiritual energy within each of them?" As David Elkind reminds us in his article in the *Holistic Education Journal*, Spring, 1992, the traditional school's educational philosophy is primarily that of "filling the pail." What we need to embrace is an education philosophy of "lighting the flame." This requires that the child reflect on his/her educational experiences; not just regurgitate information or worse yet, perform an activity that she/he has no motivation to engage in. The latter results in learning to dislike this particular activity. Many of our children have learned to dislike learning--to dislike school, even Sunday school.

There are, indeed, teaching techniques which cause a child to be reflective and which allow a child to choose to approach new learning situations from his/her spiritual/creative center. Back in the '60s there was considerable interest in teaching for creativity by persons who recognized the need to access the deeper nature of the mind. Most of this was sparked by E. Paul Torrance at the University of Minnesota.

The following are Torrance's five cardinal principles for inspiring creative thinking:

1. Treat all questions with respect.
2. Be respectful of imaginative, unusual ideas.
3. Show children their ideas have value.
4. Give opportunities for practice or experimentation.
5. Encourage self-initiated learning.

Some specific teaching techniques which Torrance discusses in his book are presented here briefly:

Brainstorming--This is spontaneous, free-wheeling reaction to an idea by a group of persons where all ideas are accepted and recorded. This is followed by combining some of the ideas and improving on them.

Props and Starters--This technique involves the use of an interesting conversation piece: a stuffed animal, a hug-a-world, an unusual piece of clothing, a toy, flowers, an unusual collection of items, etc., as a focus for presenting an idea for discussion. A starter for reflective thinking is to use an open-ended question. For example: What would happen if _____?

Another idea is to ask children to arrange a group of pictures so that they tell a story and ask them to share their story.

Developing Originality--Ask children to report unusual incidents which have special meaning to them. Encourage humor. Humor provides a healthy way to look at problems.

Developing Sensitivity--Tape recorders can be used to record spontaneous conversations. As children listen to the playback, ask them if they can think of a more constructive way of communicating the same ideas.

Developing Curiosity--Asking questions and guessing games stimulate reflection.

Continued...

Play Techniques

Play is the natural, reflective way children learn. Volumes have been written on children's play as learning. There are many play techniques such as "free play" in which children explore their environment freely. Children need more time to just play in the sand at the beach or take something apart and put it back together again. Then there is dramatic play where children act out a story from their point of view. Role play is still another technique which allows children to act out a problem situation spontaneously.

Fannie Shaftel, as a professor at Stanford University, created a technique which she called Sociodramatic Play. Children use real or make-believe props to play real life roles in spontaneous interaction. Since time immemorial children have played house, grocery store, etc. The idea is for the teacher to listen to the children's language and observe behaviors during the spontaneous play. After the playing, the teacher can bring the group together to reflect on the samples of language and behavior.

Storytelling and Children's Literature

Jesus gave us the model for reflective storytelling with the parables. perhaps we need to create some modern parables.

In the preface to his book, *From Wonder to Wisdom*, Charles A. Smith of Kansas State University says that "for a story to work its magic in reaching a child's mind it must entertain, not through the front door of logic, but through the back door of intuition and feeling." He groups stories into topics such as "courage," "friends," "loss and grief," "learning kindness," "awareness," "solving problems," and "self-esteem."

A story helps a child reflect on the quality of his/her life experiences. She/He deals with the essence of life--the spiritual nature of humanity.

Teacher As Resource

The teacher's roles in encouraging reflective thinking in children is to help children bring to a conscious level the results of their actions and as they grow older, to articulate these actions. A primary question is, as stated earlier, "What would happen if...?" The idea is to allow children to explore human experiences in a safe and loving environment and to learn access to their spiritual nature for guidance. The teacher's role is to interact with children in such a way that she/he sparks a sense of discovery in each child. Each child needs to discover universal Truths for him/herself through his/her life experiences. Through this process she/he learns to make choices more and more in harmony with all life.

Spiritual Techniques

We will, of course, teach our children to access their spiritual nature through rituals of prayer, meditation, affirmations, etc. These are powerful reflective techniques. What we, as teachers and parents, need to be aware of is that these spiritual experiences should be presented as a natural, reflective way to talk to God and to listen to God about everything in their lives. Children should be encouraged to access their spiritual Source from their own felt needs.

When an adult leads children in prayer, affirmations, or meditations, the words should be words that have special meaning to these children.

Most of all, spiritual teaching techniques must not create a gap between one's spirituality and one's everyday life. We need to teach children practical Christianity. We must help children to constantly operate from their spiritual center--at special times and in their everyday lives.

Summary

As the people of our nation look for ways to move out of our educational dilemma, I am suggesting that Unity already has established a universal paradigm for looking beyond our limited "left brain" traditional education system. This approach is based on nurturing the innate spiritual nature of the child through reflective thinking.

There are many teaching techniques which we can utilize and continue to develop such as meditation techniques, teaching for creativity, a wide range of play techniques, and the use of literature that appeals to the issues of life experience. The role of the teacher is to "light the flame" of eternal Truth within each child.

As Unity approaches the celebration of the Year of the Child and the development of a new curriculum, there is an opportunity to provide quality leadership in the solution of our education dilemma and a tremendous gift to the next generation.



Geraldine Frields, Ed.D., University of Southern California, was formerly a consultant for the California State Department of Education/Office of Child Development, a member of the faculty at California State University, Los Angeles, Southern Connecticut State College, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Southern Illinois University.

Dr. Frields is currently a private consultant in child development and early childhood education, dedicated to research in the practical application of synergy and systems theory to early childhood education, parent education, and teacher education.

She served as Dean of the Sacramento Office of the Union Institute.

Uniteen Retreat, 1992

Rites of Passage

by John Cook

I stood encircled by the six leaders of our three clans. We were in turn encircled by the 31 young men and women of the three clans, one tribe. Expectant eyes, trusting faces, confident young bodies all waiting. Wearing my medicine wheel shirt, carrying the talking stick, I clutched my medicine pouch briefly, feeling the familiar reassuring shapes therein. What would I say? Only God knew.

A breath. A silent prayer: "Here I am God. . . use me." I began. . .

"All the clans--the Hawks, the Turtles, the Ravens--are gathered here for an ending. . . and a beginning."

"You Hawks. Your color is red." *Taking a fresh finger-full of red paint from the bowl Jane carried I marked her and then Steve, one red slash each to the right cheek.* "Red is the color of the East, of the rising sun, of new light, of inspiration."

"You Turtles, your color is green." *And I marked Rik and Mary Joyce from the bowl she carried.* "Green is the color of the South, of new growth, of summer."

"You Ravens, your color is purple." *Terry and Sherry received their purple marks.* "Purple is the color of nobility, leadership, wisdom." *Pointing to my medicine wheel.* "I have placed the Raven at the North, the point of Wisdom."

Then I moved my finger to the figure of the black buffalo that marked West on my medicine wheel. "I am the only one among us who wears the emblem of the Buffalo clan. The Buffalo is a symbol of all the abundance that God provides for us. Black is the color of the West, of night, of darkness, of introspection. Today I am not a member of any one clan, but of all your clans. I ask the leaders of the clans to mark me as I have marked them, each with their own color." *One leader from each clan touched my face with a paint-filled finger. Then all six rejoined their groups in the large circle.*

I held up a piece of paper. "In the way of the West we will recognize each of your achievements here this week, on the challenge course and in all your activities, by giving you one of these certificates." *Holding up a soft deerskin pouch,* "In here I have clear quartz crystals, one for each of you, like the one I carry in my medicine pouch." *My hand covered the small deerskin pouch, pressing it against my heart. It felt right.*

I waited for the Hawks to circle around me within the larger circle. Steve and Jane went around the small circle, marking each Hawk with a dab of red paint. I handed out

their certificates, then held up the pouch of crystals. Taking one out I said to them: "Crystals have a special relationship to energy. Your energy and the energy within these crystals will know each other. Reach in without looking and know that the right crystal will attract your hand." They began taking out crystals, one by one around the circle as I continued, "Crystals are unique and beautiful. These crystals are perfect at one end, rough at the other. Each one is a miracle of time and place. Until they were removed from their origin, these crystals were still growing, getting more and more perfect with the passage of time. Each of you is like one of these crystals. Just as God is still growing these crystals, making them more perfect, He is still growing you. This week has been part of your process of growing."

When the Ravens gathered around me with Sherry and Terry touching their cheeks with Purple, I told them, "These marks will wash off but we have marked you with a mark that will never wash off." A murmur went through the circle as I continued, "You may forget this camp, these people, this marking, but you will remain marked by what you've done here. Always."

When the Turtles received their green marks from Rik and Mary Joyce, I continued, "The crystal transforms light into a rainbow. Each of you, touched by the light of God, casts a rainbow. At certain angles, the crystal appears dark. I can no longer see through it. I cannot see its rainbow. The crystal has not changed so much as my point of view has changed. When I turn it until a new facet is exposed, suddenly it blazes brilliantly again and I see a new and different rainbow. As you move from childhood toward full maturity, you are like the crystal, turning new facets to face those around you."

I continued to speak to them of crystals. How their nature is to be perfect. How their roughness, their brokenness masks this inner perfection.

When everyone had their crystal and the pouch came back to me, I reached into the soft deerskin, feeling the remaining crystals. As one came into my hand I said, "This crystal," holding it up for all to see, "which has touched all your crystals," fighting back the tears, "this one is mine." I clenched it in my hand. I could say no more. It was done.

Unitreat began Friday night, two days before the Uniteens arrived on Sunday afternoon. All the counselors gathered together to meet one another, some for the first time, and to make last minute changes to the plan. Returning counselors taught the others the games and warm-up activities that help the Uniteens get to know one

Continued. . .

another. We discussed last year's camp and planned how to avoid mistakes and repeat successes.

In less than two days we had to prepare to cope with 30 Uniteens, coming from churches from Beaverton, Oregon, (south of Portland) to Everett, Washington, (north of Seattle). We were expecting 21 girls, ages 11 to 13, and 9 boys, ages 10 to 14.

Saturday morning, the counselors met in the meadow to begin the challenge course. Over the next six hours we got to know one another by facing a series of increasingly difficult challenges. These were fun, sometimes wacky, sometimes very serious activities, all rich with the possibility of learning about yourself and your team. In this short time, these eight relative strangers became a solid team. They learned to trust one another, to support and be supported, to accept and work with their own and one another's strengths and weaknesses.

Toward the end of the day, I asked for a check-in. Everyone was in high spirits--self confidence and energy were both high.

Knowing what was coming next, my own energy was flagging. As I led the group to The Wall, I could feel the change in their energy level. Fourteen feet high, with no steps, ropes, handholds, no way over but by working together effectively, The Wall was all too real (and familiar) in its intimidating effect upon the group. The only way across is through real commitment, real energy, real trust, and real risk. It is hard work.

I asked for another check-in. Self-doubt and low energy: "I'm too small/short/overweight/out of shape." "I don't know if I can make it." "I didn't think it would be so hard." Serious discussion began. As each individual evaluated his/her own commitment, and shared feelings with the group, a plan emerged. Everyone committed to helping those who were sure they wanted to try. As momentum developed, even those who were frightened at the prospect made it over. "We made it!!!" Exhilaration, joy, pride, and boundless confidence left no room in the group for doubt. We knew there was nothing we couldn't accomplish together. We were ready for the kids.

The next day the kids arrived and we began with clan assignments, games, crafts, and agreements. Everything unfolded smoothly. All problems that came up were handled by the Uniteens in nightly family meetings. They decided that a positive consequence for everyone keeping the agreements was for the counselors to set tables and wash dishes for breakfast every morning. There was much groaning and complaining among the counselors, but they got up early and did their chores. Several counselors were heard to have encouraged some of the Uniteens to break an agreement, just a teeny one, but the Uniteens held firm for the whole week. I personally washed thousands of

dishes I'm sure. On Monday and Tuesday, some kids went to the challenge course while others made masks, drums, prayer sticks, and medicine pouches. We played large group games on Monday night, had skits on Tuesday night, and a talent show and dance on Wednesday night. Wednesday morning the whole tribe gathered to do community service work for Camp Cispus. Wednesday afternoon optional activities included hiking, swimming, crafts, and climbing on a rock climbers' wall. Thursday morning was final cleanup, then gather for a closing ceremony. Awards for completing the challenge course were handed out along with acknowledgment of the changes we all felt within us. Tears and smiles, hugs and waves, exchange of addresses, and it was over. . .until next year!

Special thanks to:

Rik Ehmann, Vancouver, Washington; Sherri Schultz, Mountlake Terrace, Washington; Steve Bedell, Tacoma, Washington; Mary Joyce, Terry vanMeter, Olympia, Washington; and Jane, Anwar Peace, Bellevue, Washington.

This article is a report on a special event for Uniteens in the Western Region. More of our regions are now holding such an event. Our thanks to John and the leadership team of the Western Region for their report and their excellent work.

Bits and Pieces

▲ 413 delegates attended our August International Y.O.U. Conference at Unity Village. Dates for 1993 are July 17-23. Location - Unity Village. Dates for 1994 are July 30-August 5, at Snow Mt. Ranch, Winter Park, Colorado.

▲ 40 attended our 1992 Sponsor's Conference which was led by Bonnie Barron and ran concurrently with our Y.O.U. Conference.

▲ Our Adults of Unity Conference conducted in August at Unity Village was well attended and received. Plans are underway for 1993. Dates are July 3-9 at Estes Park, Colorado.

▲ Kathy Kellogg and Ray Wiggins were awarded the Distinguished Youth Services Award during our recent Y.O.U. Conference. Kathy is the Southwest Regional Education Services Consultant for Children, Youth, and Families. Ray is our International Education Services Consultant.

Sunrise Unity Y.O.U.

Citrus Heights, California

by Sanford B. Kozlen

HELP!!! Lessons, fund raising, rallies, conference, medical releases, etc. . . What's a Y.O.U. Sponsor to do? In every Y.O.U. Chapter, there is a great deal to be done, but teenagers want to separate from their parents. It does not mean parents have to be left out. Here is one chapter's experience. I imagine our Y.O.U. is no different than many others. After two years we have a core group of six that attend regularly and ten to twelve on the roll. Being a newer Y.O.U. group all of our members are still under 16. But it is clear that they wish to separate from their parents. So during the first year we carried out our Y.O.U. program independent of parents, except for family activities such as picnics, etc. In the first 18 months we held three fund raisers and raised about \$1,500 to help pay for rallies and other events. We also enjoyed the support of our congregation and minister. As we finished our second year, three members were eligible to attend Conference '92 along with a sponsor, which required more money. We turned to the parents. Last April we had a potluck for parents, and anyone else interested in Y.O.U. Eighteen people came and expressed a great deal of interest in our group. After the meal, we had a short discussion of the teenage years that quickly became a discussion of clothes, manners, styles, etc. The evening was highlighted by our minister sharing that her daughter arrived at church one Sunday with her hair dyed purple. This set the group at ease. The group went on to decide:

- * They wanted a support group to share experiences.
- * They wanted to be involved with the Y.O.U.ers while recognizing the Y.O.U.ers need to separate.
- * They were willing to do the fund raising with the involvement of the Y.O.U.ers, and valued the community building that accompanies the fund raisers.
- * They named a president and agreed to meet every two months as an informal group.
- * They took over the next fund raising event.
- * OF most importance, they valued the Unity lessons for the Y.O.U.ers more than fund raising, and recognized the time conflict that both needs created for the Y.O.U.

With the support of the parents, the next fund raiser, an after church lunch and cake and pie auction, was a great success. The parents took care of the logistics, the Y.O.U.ers ran the event and I, the sponsor, collected \$500 for our conference registration. Our second group meeting of parents was held June 5th, as an ice cream social. We shared the Stop-Focus-Choose lesson from our Official Rally and let them play the Oh Skit game from the rally. The parents group decided to:

- * Hold a bazaar in September.
- * Explore a fireworks booth for 1993.
- * Set up a family day with a local restaurant on the last Sunday of the month for the next three months. We will receive 25% of the money spent for the Y.O.U.
- * Do a fund raising lunch before the next Sunday afternoon seminar speaker.

THESE PEOPLE ARE WONDERFUL . . .

While our experience with a parents group is new, it can be said that they enjoy being involved in a way that supports the Y.O.U. but still leaves the program to the Y.O.U.ers. In addition, we have made space for fathers, grandparents and even a single non-parent, who also became a sponsor, to support our Y.O.U. As our Y.O.U.ers reach their later teen years, 16-17-18, they will, even more than now, take over the Y.O.U. planning, logistics and leadership roles. At that time the contributions of their parents will still be welcome and appreciated by the Y.O.U.ers and sponsors.

God in Me Awards

Seven members of Unity of Fairfax, Oakton, Virginia, participated in the God in Me program as a community-sharing event. Group activities included a nature walk, cooperative games and activities and service projects to the church and greater community. The youth culminated the program with an award ceremony as part of the Sunday celebration service with visiting minister, Dr. Nicholas Griffin. Suzanne R. Lubkowski, Director of Youth/Family Services, and Anthony Aiken, a Scoutmaster, served as the group's counselors.



Front row: Garen Scribner, Justin Scribner, Jenine Turner, Ricky Goroum, Wendy Hickok. **Second row:** Suzanne Lubkowski, Youth/Family Director; Dean and Diane Scribner (parents); Larry and Joanne Turner (parents); Mr. and Mrs. Goroum (parents); John and Nancy Hickok (parents); and Anthony Aiken, Scoutmaster Counselor. The McDowell family (not pictured) also participated in the God in Me program and Jacob and Alex McDowell received the certificates and pins for completing the program.



Lynn Michael
Education Services Assistant

Five Characteristics of A Spiritual Educator

Have you ever wondered how so many people find themselves as spiritual educators in youth ministry? Who are these people who take care of our children and what inspires them? If I asked for characteristics of a spiritual educator, I am certain at least a hundred could be listed: patient, caring, creative, dedicated, and so on. While these are most certainly true, five characteristics seem to make up the foundation of service for children's spiritual educators.

Commitment

Every act of service has some degree of commitment involved, and youth ministry is no different. A commitment to children may seem like simply a given for a spiritual educator, yet this single commitment requires a plethora of commitments to support it. A commitment to Truth principles and to the teachings of Jesus Christ and a commitment for personal spiritual growth are essential, for as spiritual educators, we teach our own consciousness which is ever unfolding.

For me, my commitment to our children evolved from my commitment to Truth principles. Having grown up in Unity, I had first-hand experience of the blessings Unity offered me as a child. I never had to "unlearn" devils or sins or damnation in the literal sense; my God has always been of love and omnipotence. My commitment is to our children's growth in Truth, in freedom.

Heart Message

In various workshops I have facilitated with children's spiritual educators, I encourage them to get in touch with their heart's message--the strong desire within for the children to know whatever this message may be. One heart message may be that each one of us has the abilities needed to do or to be anything we want. One spiritual educator

who learned as a child a more traditional religious belief system had the heart message of "forgiveness without the guilt." My message is simply "I am a precious child of God, and so are you, and you, and you!"

Our message is our centering Truth which we share with the children in joy, with confidence and through experience.

Information Seekers

Spiritual educators seek to be knowledgeable concerning self, their lesson plans and the teachings therein, and the age group with which they work. As stated before, we teach our own consciousness, and spiritual educators are always learning about and awakening to Truth. Our children learn best by modeled behavior; and as we learn to live Truth better each day, we teach this Truth by demonstration as well as by our words.

Spiritual educators seek information for their lesson plans: the format, the content, the teaching style. We strive to involve every type of learner in the learning process--left brain, right brain, visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. We prepare our lessons so that we are comfortable enough with the content that we can be flexible and sensitive toward the children's attention spans and responses to activities.

Spiritual educators seek information about our class' age group so we may find or create age-appropriate activities to which our children can relate.

Love

The most apparent characteristic of spiritual educators is love. We love our children with acceptance, with discipline, with integrity, with joy. Jesus said, "In all your getting, get understanding." Our children may not always remember the words to the affirmation or to the Bible story, but they do remember the welcoming smiles, the safety of self-expression, the forgiving hug. The children get the love--and spiritual educators have lots of love to give!

Difference

What keeps spiritual educators coming back for more? The truth that we are making a difference in our children's lives. If we can give an abused child one hour of safety, we have made a difference. If one child learns that God is omnipresent, we have made a difference. If one child sings a song, prays a prayer, hugs a friend, or smiles a little, we have made a difference. Does this sound presumptuous? Next Sunday check out your children's spiritual education department; see the children now and watch them grow. There is a difference. You will also find true these five characteristics of spiritual educators in youth ministry:

Commitment
Hearth Message
Information Seekers
Love
Difference



Judi Venturini
Year of the Child Coordinator

*Divine love is a sacred flower,
which in its early bud is happiness,
and in its full blossom is heaven.*

--Hervey

How many times have you heard an adult proclaim, "What is wrong with the children of today?" This has probably been echoed throughout the entire existence of humankind. I say there is nothing wrong--except lack of love. We are all seeking to know love and any human problem is probably traced to the perception of lack of love. Lack of love is deadly and will kill. Not too long ago it was discovered that institutionalized mentally retarded youngsters actually died from not being loved.

I believe that every human being desires that all children have the opportunity to be raised in homes that are loving, nurturing and joy-filled. All children deserve to be held in high esteem and loved unconditionally. And I believe this is the intention every parent has within the heart; but somehow we have fallen short of this! However, this is not an impossible task. Every desire within our hearts is a seed planted by God and in time this seed will grow into full bloom. Next year, 1993, is our opportunity to bring this dream closer to being fulfilled.

I believe that we need to create a firm foundation for this to happen. Metaphysically, we know that four is the number that represents a firm foundation. Therefore, here are four steps to take to create the foundation that will support this vision. 1) We must make peace within ourselves; 2) we must be expressions of peace to our families and friends--our significant others; 3) when we

accomplish this, it will be a natural desire to extend this into our communities; 4) finally, this love and peace will be reflected into our world.

Peace Within Ourselves:

Every time we create a peaceful environment within our own hearts, we prepare the "soul" or soil to support the seeds of divine ideas implanted within. Also, we need to weed out the negative beliefs and ideas that have choked out the seedlings of love and joy that have sprouted and are trying to express themselves in our lives. We create this environment through the forgiving power of love.

As adults, we have to enter into the hero's journey to do this. Just like the fairy tales we listened to as children, we must make our way through the forest of tangled vines and thorns that keep us from finding the castle where our "princess is being held captive." Metaphysically, our heart is represented by the castle and the princess is our divine feminine or the receptive, loving part of ourselves. The prince or knight is the divine masculine or our thinking natures. The swords that cut away the vines and thorns that keep us from the "castle" are the law of mind action and the power of our affirmative word. When the masculine and feminine are brought together and reunited once again, love is reawakened in us and joy will be the natural result of this union.

But don't forget about the dragon! The dragon represents fear. The fear that keeps us from taking the hero's journey. But it is in facing the dragon and going past the fear that we find the love we seek. Then, and only then, will we know true peace.

Peace With Our Families and Friends:

When we make peace within ourselves, we become mirrors of the Christ in our families and friends. We will hold them in consciousness in a new way. Through the eyes of new understanding, we will create a new self-fulfilling prophecy that will empower others to know love and express joy in their lives.

John Bradshaw's work with healing the family is probably the most well-known work in this area. In John's first video series called "Bradshaw and the Family," he uses a mobile that demonstrates how a dysfunctional family operates. It can stay in balance only as long as everyone plays his/her role. When one member decides to leave that role, the entire mobile or family cannot stay in balance. At the end of the series John shows a second mobile. When a piece of that mobile was removed, the entire mobile stayed in balance. When one of us chooses

Continued...

to live in peace and harmony and be an expression of wholeness, such a person becomes a positive influence for change and the possibility of healthy family relationships. Then we can interrelate and function independently, yet be interdependent.

Jesus, our Master Teacher, taught us that the sins of our family are traced down at least four generations. When we make a choice for wholeness, we make it for all generations. When we make a stand for love, peace, and joy, we make it for all of humankind.

Peace Throughout Our Communities:

This breakthrough in consciousness will snowball into our communities. As we learn how to communicate and cooperate within our family units, we will learn how to be more cooperative with all of our "brothers and sisters" and communication barriers will come down. As we become more self-accepting and more accepting of our family and friends, the greater our understanding and acceptance will be for the greater community. A natural desire to serve within our community will emerge. We will lose a sense of personal power and come to understand how to use authentic power. We will find unity in community.

Peace Throughout Our World:

Just as a pebble thrown in a pond will ripple out, so will this movement of peace and love extend to the entire world. We cannot create anything for ourselves of lasting value, unless we want this for people of every color, race, and ethnic origin. This is the birthright of all of God's children.

*Happy is the man who finds wisdom,
and the man who gets understanding,
for the gain from it is better than
gain from silver
and its profit better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold on her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.*

--Proverbs 3:13-18

Our Unity movement has a wonderful opportunity to contribute to lasting peace for all people. The Year of the

Child, 1993, is a time to strengthen our families through surrendering ourselves to love. Let's open our hearts to bring lasting peace in our lives, so that our families are strengthened and joy-filled.

Jesus promised us peace. He said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27). Let the Christ within you show you the way to fulfill this promise.

The Year of the Child Program Pack--"Rainbows of Peace Global Awareness Program" has been mailed to you. This program will provide activities that will increase awareness of creating peace within ourselves, our families and friends, our communities, and our world. As we move through the year, let us join together in the vision of global world peace. But let us never lose sight that peace begins in our own hearts.

Paula and Foster McClellan Available for Field Ministry Retreats

In June, our Executive Committee approved a proposal of making Paula and Foster available for two or three-day retreats, sponsored by our Association. These retreats may be sponsored by Regional Conferences as add-ons before or after Regional Conference, by a sub-region during the year, or even by a single ministry. The only expenses would be travel, accommodations, and a love offering to the McClellans.

Because Paula and Foster are retired and do not wish "full-time jobs," they will do just a few each year, but they do want to keep active and they want to assist your field ministry.

The Retreats might be for ministers only, for licensed teachers only, for lay people, or any preferred "mix" of these three. For scheduling, please call Paula and Foster directly at (816) 524-7686; or write **The Reverends Paula and Foster McClellan, 13742 Lookout Drive, Kansas City, MO 64139.**

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES PHONE DIRECTORY

(816) 524-7414

During Working Hours (Monday - Friday):

A "live" receptionist's voice will greet you to direct your call when the regular number (816) 524-7414 is dialed. One line only (816) 524-7750 is on the automated system during the day and may be used to reach an extension without going through the receptionist.

Association Staff Extension Numbers

Bae, Young	322
Beard, Linda	345
Belton, Antuana	321
Coolidge, Ann	351
Craft, Carolyn	343
Dustin, Mick	333
Elliott, Nancy	355
Floyd, C.J.	332
Landreth, Joann	337
Lee, Ron	328
Michael, Lynn	344
Montague, Julie	354
Moore, Myra	323
Mosley, Bud	342
Mosley, Glenn	352
Mosley, Martha	335
Nabors, Connie	320
Penrose, Marsha	330
Ratliff, Debbie	329
Robinson, Trish	346
Schreen, Nira	352
Sickler, Cindy	341
Smith, Jody	336
St. John, Shay	349
Thorpe, Tom	*
Turner-Bey, Deborah	350
Velasquez, Susan	324
Venturini, Judi	338
Vestal, Cheryl	326
Wiggins, Ray	327

*Tom Thorpe may be reached by dialing (816) 251-3525 or Unity

After Hours, Saturday, and Sunday:

The automated system is in place. Persons may call and leave a message on the receptionist's mail box. A touch phone is required to go to a specific extension number to leave a message.

Organizational Structure/Functions/Ext. Numbers

Accounting	
Associate Director/Comptroller--Young Bae	324
Accounts Payable--Susan Velasquez	323
Billing Information--Myra Moore	323
Insurance--Myra Moore	324
Orders - Regular (placing & shipments)	
(Orders - Personalized--see Institutional Relations listing)	322 or 324
Pension Information	
Production & Shipping	
Manager--Bud Mosley	
Assistant--Ron Lee	
Development/Fund Raising	
Director of Development--Shay St. John	
Assistant Director--Julie Montague	
Development Officer, Planned Giving & Grants--Deborah Turner-Bey	
Development Assistant--Nancy Elliott	355
Education	
Associate Director/Director of Education--Mick Dustin	
Chairperson/Ministerial Studies--Tom Thorpe (see *at bottom left)	332
Assistant in Education--C. J. Floyd	344
Children and Youth--Lynn Michael	327
Intergenerational--Ray Wiggins	346
Liaison Information--Trish Robinson	332
Licensed Teacher Information	
Radio/Media Coordinator--Carolyn Craft	345
Radio/Media Assistant--Linda Beard	338
Year of the Child--Judi Venturini	332
All other questions	
Executive Office	
Executive Director--Glenn Mosley	352
Executive Assistant--Nira Schreen	
Institutional Relations	
Associate Director/Director of Institutional Advancement--Martha Mosley	341
Administrative Assistant--Cindy Sickler	341
Bylaws	
Conference/Convention/Support Services Coordinator--	
Debbie Ratliff	329
Assistant--Marsha Penrose	330
Receptionist/Accounting Support--Connie Nabors	320
Receptionist--Antuana Belton	321
Ministry Services	
Associate Director/Director of Placement-Expansion--Joann Landreth	
Address Information/CONTACT--Cheryl Vestal	326
Expansion Assistant--Ann Coolidge	351
Assistant--Linda Smith	336

Important Dates For 1992-93

Skills Demonstration Seminar

1992

Oct. 31 - Nov. 6 (Sat.-Fri.)

Mid-Year Meetings

Executive Committee Meetings

Skills Demonstration Seminar

Board Member Seminar & Retreat

Pre-Conference

Conference

Certification of Spiritual Educators

Licensed Teacher Postgraduate Week

Adults of Unity Conference (Estes Park, Colorado)

Y.O.U. Conference

Skills Demonstration Seminar

Executive Committee Meetings

Board Member Seminar & Retreat

Skills Demonstration Seminar

1993

Jan. 17-22 (Sun.-Fri.)

April 18-23 (Sun.-Fri.)

May 15-21 (Sat.-Fri.)

May 22-28 (Sat.-Fri.)

June 8-12 (Tues.-Sat.)

June 13-18 (Sun.-Fri.)

June 19-25 (Sat.-Fri.)

June 19-25 (Sat.-Fri.)

July 3-9 (Sat.-Fri.)

July 17-23 (Sat.-Fri.)

Aug. 21-27 (Sat.-Fri.)

Sept. 12-17 (Sun.-Fri.)

Sept. 18-24 (Sat.-Fri.)

Oct. 30-Nov. 5 (Sat.-Fri.)

1992 Regional Conferences

Eastern

October 4-8

Southeast

October 12-16

South Central

October 20-23

Cavalier Hotel - Virginia Beach, Virginia

Ramada Inn - Albuquerque, New Mex.

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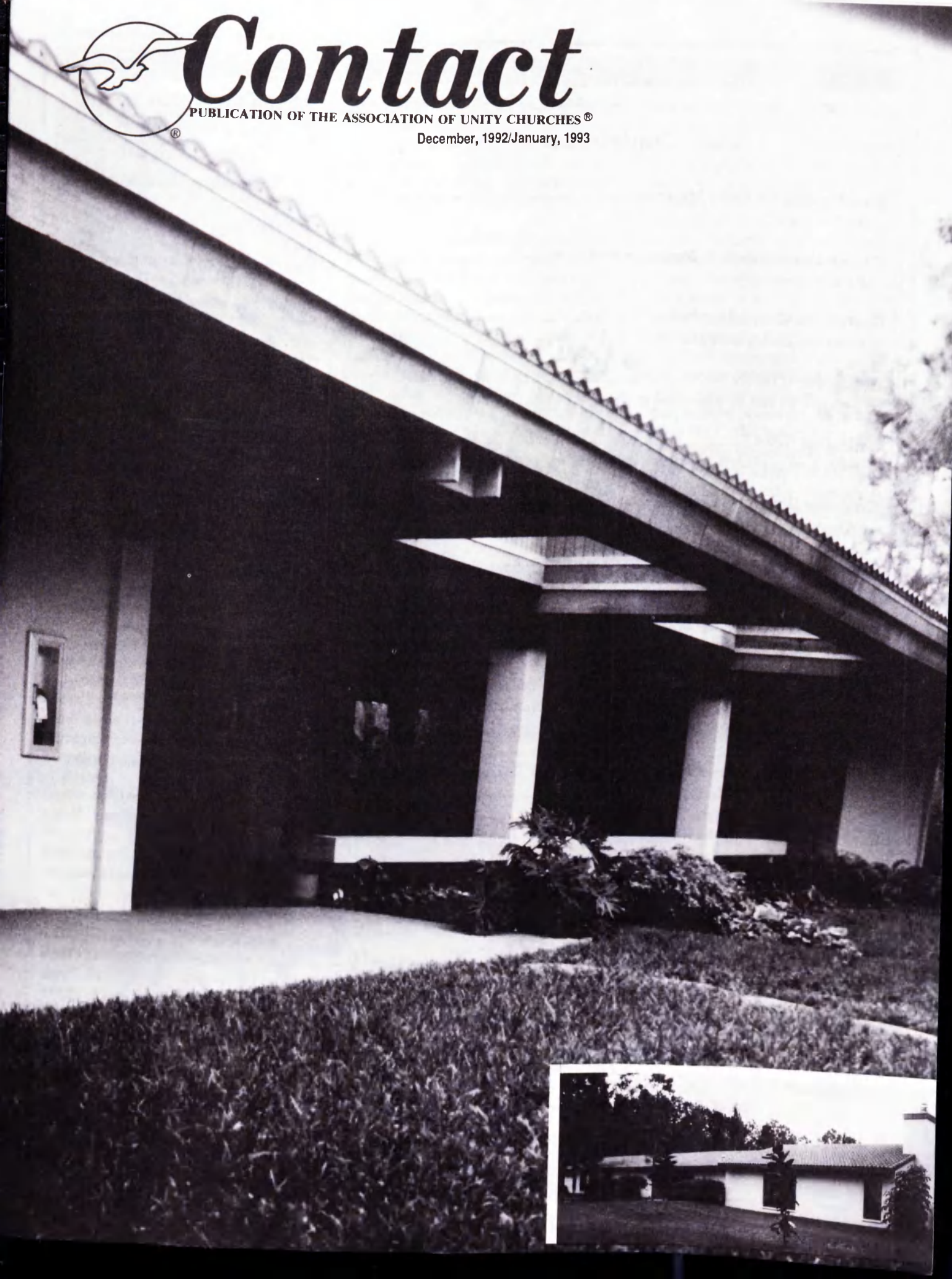
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PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES®

December, 1992/January, 1993



Contents

Broadcasting the Unity Message	12
<i>An Interview</i>	
Church Development & Management Issues	9
<i>Focus Groups</i>	
Conference/Convention News	15
<i>Celebrate Loving the Child</i>	
Development Office News	6
<i>Together we can do what none of us can do alone.</i>	
Education News	17
<i>What kind of church will meet the needs of our people?</i>	
Executive Director's Letter	4
<i>What's for breakfast?</i>	
Expansion News	5
<i>Salary Survey Results</i>	
Financial Statement	16
Intergenerational Education Ministry:	
To Be a Teacher	19
Y.O.U. Officers	20
Certification of Spiritual Educators Program	22
Inner-View	22
Y.O.U. Visionaries Club's Newest Member	23
Adults of Unity News	23
Successful Programs, Successful Uniteens	24
Year of the Child News	26
Light on the Path	18
Meet Your Association Staff	7
Partners in Ministry	11
<i>Reflections of love</i>	
Planned Giving News	8
<i>Year-end Giving</i>	
President's Letter	3
<i>The effectiveness of directed and non-directed prayer</i>	
Sparkplugs	7
<i>A Most Surprising Song...</i>	

An Invitation from Edwene Gaines Unity Minister Mentone, Alabama

Dear Friends:

I will be taking another group of 25 women to Glastonbury, England, on a spiritual pilgrimage June 1-9, 1993.

Cost of \$1995 includes airfare (departure city: Atlanta), lodging, tours, luxury coach, Stonehenge, Salisbury, and two nights in London. (Early bird discount if paid in full by Dec. 15, 1992, is \$1895.)

A \$495 deposit payable to The Masters' School will hold your place.

I particularly enjoy traveling with women ministers and teachers and would like to invite you to join me on this journey to this holy place, a power point which mystics call the heart-center of the Divine Mother.

Please call 1-800-741-6790 if you have questions, or write me at:

P.O. Box 294, Mentone, AL 35984

Love and blessings.
Edwene Gaines

Volume 25, Issue 6

December, 1992/January, 1993

CONTACT STAFF

Editor-in-Chief Glenn Mosley
Managing Editor Cheryl Vestal
Graphics & Layout Cheryl Vestal
Circulation Glenn Mosley, Jr.

EDITORIAL PURPOSE

The Editorial purpose of CONTACT is the purpose of the Association: the Association of Unity Churches is dedicated to supporting and strengthening its member ministries by providing human resources, administrative and education programs.

Cover:

Unity of Naples
Naples, FL
Senior Minister: Jack D. Kerns
Photos by David Hilton

Deadlines: 1st of the month, two months prior to issue date

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Edie Skalitzky
Unity Church in the Rockies
Colorado Springs, Colorado

The realization of each of us being God's Beloved, created whole and perfect is for sure, for all of us, one of the most important truths we have come to believe in and from which we live our lives. Our prayers, visualizations, and affirmations reflect our belief that we are meant to be happy, healthy, prosperous, and successful. Classes and workshops abound to help us open doorways to a more abundant life and to heal those perceptions which have kept us in the prison of limitation.

Having said the above, let us also explore some recent experiments done by a unique organization called Spindrift. You may have heard about their research and have found their findings very thought provoking and maybe even in a way disturbing. Some of the research concerned the effectiveness of directed and non-directed prayer. The Spindrift tests showed that both methods worked but unequivocally the non-directed technique frequently yielded results twice as great as the directed approach.

There is a distinct difference between these two forms of prayer. Directed prayer usually includes visualization, guided imagery, or specific thoughts used to help create a particular end result such as a cancer cure, pain going away, or prosperity made manifest. Non-directed prayer on the other hand does not use these

strategies and the prayer stays within a more open-ended consciousness, holding no specific outcome in mind. In essence it is an approach which singly says as Jesus did, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my Spirit," or holding the idea of "Thy will be done."

The experiments which the Spindrift organization conducted on rye seeds, soybeans, and other biological systems which had been stressed in some way, proved over and over that the non-directed prayer resulted in more germination and healthier plants. This non-directed form of prayer, demonstrated a trusting by the person praying that the "norm" or "what's best" or the "Thy will be done" approach would do the work in the best way possible, and this proved to be so.

What these findings confirmed for me was something which had been stirring within me and pushing me in how I was being led to pray. It had become increasingly difficult for me to pray for someone, including myself, to be healed of a physical challenge, financial lack or seeming inharmony. What feels like spiritual integrity to me is to know, ask, and see myself or someone else as being healed at a soul level of whatever has brought forth the particular challenge. It feels inappropriate for me to affirm for someone's

physical healing when I do not yet have the ability, as Jesus did, to look into a person's soul and know what is best for that soul's evolution at that time. I no longer wanted to pray simply for someone's outer conditions to change when maybe the soul is choosing some incredibly valuable lesson through the experiences which are before him or her. So prayer for myself and others has become a prayer for soul healing and divine illumination. For if the soul is brought back into harmony, love, and peace, then the soul will choose and manifest in the outer from its new understanding. Somehow my part is to hold the vision, the high watch, with the person for whom I pray, trusting the Christ in him/her to do the work as he/she surrenders to it.

This form of prayer has not always been easy for me nor for others who use it, because we have believed we know what the "spiritual norm" should be in health, wholeness, abundance, etc. Yet, the trusting of the holy process in our lives, and in the lives of those for whom we pray, appears to produce the most profound and long range, beneficial evolutionary changes.

May you have a joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with Divine Revelation and loving support.

South Central Unity Churches Association

and the
Unity Village Chapel
present
the

1993 Snow Mountain Family Retreat

July 18-23

Howard Caesar
Houston, TX

Don Jennings
Omaha, NE

Linda Holloway
Music

Richard & Mary Alice Jafolla
Directors of Silent Unity

Foster & Paula McClellan
Kansas City, MO

J. Sig Paulson & Jane Paulson
Light of God Expressing Award Recipient
Myrtle Fillmore Award Recipient

Hellen Saunders
President, S.C.U.C.A.

Ron Palumbo
Unity Village, MO

Tom & Edie Skalitzky
Colorado Springs, CO
President of Association

Shay St. John
Development Director of Association

Tentative Speakers

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Glenn R. Mosley
Executive Director

Christmas and New Year's Day are both upon us, representing both "birth" and "beginning again." In fact, I guess they represent "formation" and "transformation."

I've observed transformation and self-care (are they not similar?) as major themes in Regional Conferences during this Fall. I've seen these themes translate into actual "transformation" for some; I've been privileged to midwife the beginning of self-care for others.

Talking with you, one-on-one, is always enriching to me, professionally, and more importantly, personally. I trust that it is helpful to you. At least, Regional Conferences are increasingly relaxed and allow for sufficient free time to discuss large things and small, professional and personal.

The Pokagon State park near Angola, Indiana, offers serenity and beauty. Three of God's creatures are always willing to exchange admiring glances: deer, raccoons, and the biped, homo sapiens. The Potawatomic Inn on Lake James is both lodging and meeting space for the Great Lakes Conference.

Two central presenters at Great Lakes, though related, Janet and Wayne Manning, presented unrelated and unique workshops. Janet led an enriching workshop for increased understanding of and presentation of oral literature, Biblical and otherwise, through use of "Storytelling in Ministry." Wayne facilitated a Bible class with 10-12 people in a circle with

the rest of us watching from larger circles. Both workshops really helped give a "fuller body" to the skeletal structure of the literature being studied.

The Southwest Conference was again held at the beautiful Harbortown Marina Resort. Early morning and evening walks on the Marina's boardwalks were relaxing. Talking with colleague-friends about personal pleasures (or pains) and shaping either sunrises (when fog permitted), or sunsets made the beauty a double blessing.

Asilomar State Park in California was the site of the West Central Conference (on the Pacific rim). One hikes everywhere for scheduled activities, food, and lodging. Up and down hills and dunes and through woods with squirrels and deer, or on the beach alone. Even when I don't play in the water (much too cold in early October) having a body of water close by feels much like the healing touch of a velvet-like hand of a favorite masseuse or masseur. And laughing and talking (and sometimes crying) with friends is another healing touch--for the soul.

A new day. . . church management program with our professional consultant. . . second round of focus groups creating your Association's vision for the next 3,675 days (year 2000). . . licensed teacher luncheon meeting. . . a regional business meeting.

Looking back just a few years, which most of us can recall, conferences usually were business, educational program, business, educational program, business (an hour to tour), business, educational program, board and/or committee meetings.

Recently, regional and national conferences sometimes have had nearly half the time scheduled as retreat, free time, or entertainment and tours. This format feels good.

During the past several months minister-friends have invited me to speak and to share in a wide variety of celebrations; groundbreaking with Chad and Lyte O'Shea in Arden, NC; Martha and I both shared in Bernard Dozier's new building dedication on Easter, in Memphis (Cordova), Tennessee; new building dedications in Warren, Michigan, with Michael Murphy; with Julie Topa in Akron, Ohio; and Roger Goodwin in Madi-

son, Wisconsin; installation of Roger as the new minister in Madison; tenth anniversary with Bernice and Frank Ketchum in Warsaw, Missouri; Martha and me to the 80th birthday celebration of Sir John Templeton, at his family's invitation, in Philadelphia and over to York, Pennsylvania, to speak in their new building with Eva Gabrielle; install Ralph Lebkuether as new minister at Unity church of Dallas; to speak in Traverse City, Michigan, with Charlotte Carter; to install the new (and re-elected) officers of the Eastern Regional Conference; to speak at the recently reorganized church in Monterey, California, with Dorothy Pierson as the outreach minister; to speak at Overland Park, Kansas, for Mary Omwake; spoke at the Spanish Retreat in Spanish (sort of), and early this year, for the second consecutive year, I accompanied the MEP's on their class trip.

In most cases, there has been personal sharing as well as relaxing time. That has felt really good to me. Please take care of yourself. Let me urge you to build in relaxing time and do your "fun" things. If you want to talk and I will do, please call.

Back to the Fall Regional Conference schedule: Eastern Conference was on the Atlantic in Virginia Beach, Virginia; Southeastern in New Orleans on the Mississippi; and South Central in Albuquerque with breathtaking mountains in full view. I saw fish dancing in the Atlantic and on the Mississippi.

God is good; She creates such marvelous wonders. As co-creator, humankind does marvelous works too. Airplanes, airports, busses, automobiles, interstates, and ministries of caring people. Exciting to all of our senses and extra-senses.

In *Winnie-The-Pooh*, A. A. Milne looks at excitement through Pooh and Piglet: "When you wake up in the morning, Pooh," said Piglet at last, "what's the first thing you say to yourself?"

"What's for breakfast?" said Pooh. "What do you say, Piglet?"

"I say, I wonder what's going to happen exciting today," said Piglet.

Pooh nodded thoughtfully. "It's the same thing," he said.

With all the Christmas gifts all year long in the form of new and renewed relationships, I have to wonder, "What's for breakfast?" for 1993.



Joann Landreth
Associate Director/
Director of Placement

Thank you for completing the Salary Survey Form on Unity Church Staff Salaries which I included in CONTACT some months ago. The completed forms were to be returned to Barbara O'Hearne in order to maintain anonymity. The results represent salaries of paid staff who work 30 plus hours a week. The salaries of ministers represent about 15 percent of the ministries in the Association of Unity Churches.

Manford Hulk, Jr., who is a Lutheran minister, a certified public accountant, and publisher of the *Clergy Journal*, has published a booklet recently entitled, "Clergy Compensation Planning." If you are interested in purchasing a copy, write to:

Church Management, Inc.
P.O. Box 162526
Austin, TX 78716.

The National Church Staff Salary Survey, published by the National Association of Church Business Administration, also has other valuable information. If you are interested in purchasing this, please write:

National Association of Church
Business Administration
7001 Grapevine Hwy, Suite 324
Fort Worth, TX 76118-5103
or call: 817-284-1732.

Results of 1992 Salary Survey

Ministers' Salary by Region:

Region	Range	Average
Eastern	\$14,800 - \$79,000	\$38,762
West Central	12,000 - 69,600	30,818
Great Lakes	12,000 - 62,702	29,874
Western	17,739 - 64,700	29,528
Southwest	16,500 - 39,000	29,460
Southeastern	16,000 - 60,500	28,945
South Central	11,000 - 64,000	27,594
All Regions	11,000 - 79,000	31,444

Minister Salary Compared to Average Sunday Attendance:

Avg Attendance	Range	Average
Under 50	\$12,000 - \$18,000	\$15,310
50 - 99	12,000 - 40,840	27,846
100 - 199	16,744 - 62,702	32,151
200 - 299	32,000 - 79,000	49,430
300 - 499	24,000 - 70,000	51,500
500+	55,860 - 69,600	63,540

Ministers' Salary Compared To Total Budget:

(The larger the average Sunday attendance, the less percentage of the total budget is spent on ministers' salary.)

Avg Attendance	% of budget spent on ministers' salary
Under 100	36.1%
100 - 199	29.1%
200 - 299	20.0%
300+	12.8%

Other Paid Full-time Staff:

Position	Salary Range	Avg Salary
Music Dir./Organist/Pianist	\$6,000 - \$17,300	\$11,320
Office Staff:		
Business Adm./Exec. Sec.	10,000 - 38,700	22,768
Secretary/Receptionist	15,000 - 20,800	17,791
Bookkeeper/Financial Sec.	5,200 - 18,018	16,000
Youth/Child Director	12,312 - 15,860	11,993
Maintenance Staff	8,300 - 18,408	13,697

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE NEWS



Shay St. John
Director of Development

A general, on the eve of battle, sat before his computer to input his strategy. Upon completion of all relevant data, he asked the simple question, "Will we win, or will we lose?" The computer whirled and processed the information it contained. Finally, its answer flashed upon the screen: "YES."

The general, unhappy with the answer received, entered more data, and asked, "Yes, what?"

After a few moments more, during which time the computer processed the new information, it flashed its answer upon the screen: "Yes, Sir!"

We can dismiss this story as an amusing anecdote. Or we can recognize within its very simplicity a powerful gift. All too often we are like that general, demanding of life an answer: "Will we succeed, or will we fail?"

And life flashes its affirmative "Yes" before us.

This "Yes" reminds us that as we move forward in life, we are continuously making choices that impact the results we desire. These choices determine the success or failure of our goals.

Within our Unity ministries, there is a powerful vision awaiting fulfillment. When we ask, "Will we fulfill this vision

or not?" Spirit's answer is ever "YES!"

Your Association of Unity Churches holds forth a vision co-created by you, our member ministries. This vision includes the creation of our Living Curriculum to provide powerful, transformative tools for our children, youth, and families. Its creation requires of each of us a willingness to come together in our unity of purpose. As we support this vision with our prayers, our finances, our networking, and our caring now, we will experience the joyous "YES" of its success.

Together we can do what none of us can do alone.

At our regional conferences this fall, I heard many questions about the work our Development Department is doing; questions such as how funds are being utilized, what lies ahead as we continue to serve our expanding vision. Several of these questions were repeated in each region. Therefore, it feels important to respond to them in this article.

First of all, designated funds **MUST** be used as designated. This is the law. And this is the commitment of both our controller and our Development Department. Love offerings are placed into our General Fund, and these gifts are essential to the ongoing functioning of your Association. Building Fund gifts are used specifically for building costs. Living Curriculum monies go to the creation of this curriculum. Caring NOW! gifts are placed in our Capital Campaign, and these monies bless both our building and the Living Curriculum. Tree of Life gifts fund Y.O.U. projects and our Living Curriculum. STARlight gifts will be utilized for both our General Fund and the designated project for the year.

Second, we now have in place the basic projects of a fully functioning Development Department. Our Planned Giving arena will grow as we understand more ways we can utilize planned gifts to benefit both the work of your Association and you, our member ministries. However, we will not be presenting major additional "campaigns" to you.

Third, the entire Development De-

partment is committed to a "Win-Win-Win" for our donors, our member ministries, and the Association. Each project we begin has use within our member ministries. We are more than willing to share information with you regarding any of these projects. We invite and encourage you to begin a Development Department within your ministries. And we will come--at Association expense--to work with your Board and key people as you begin this vital work.

Each of us understands the importance of a united vision. Will our projects succeed or will they fail? The answer is "YES," and the focus of this yes depends entirely on how we come together in the support that our vision requires.

We love and support you in all the wonderful work you are doing. In whatever ways we can serve you, we are here for you. Your prayers, your encouragement, your ministry tithes, your personal love offerings, and your networking to potential visionaries who will share our affirmative vision will make the work before us abundantly successful!

"YES, YES, YES, YES, YES!"

Special Note to Computer Owners

Do you have Prodigy?

Several Unity ministers, licensed teachers, and church leaders have been using the bulletin boards and private E-mail (electronic mail) services of Prodigy to communicate with one another.

Prodigy has just added a "Religion" bulletin board. It is up to Prodigy members as to what subjects are discussed on the boards, but we are sure that Unity will be included.

Please advise Tom Thorpe at Unity School (816-524-3550), if you have questions regarding Prodigy.

Meet Your Association Staff

(The Management Team appreciates this opportunity; after the request was brought to our attention, we realized that we become so familiar with the work and educational background and prior work experience with our Association staff members that we overlook the fact that field ministers and church staff members would also like to become acquainted with the faces and voices at "the other end of the line." Thank you for asking.)

JUDY VENTURINI, Year of the Child Coordinator, was graduated and ordained a Unity minister on June 11, 1992. She lived in the Chicago area for her entire life, where Judi attended Unity of Oak Park since 1983. Judi brings a wide variety of experiences to her position as Year of the Child Coordinator. This wide variety of experience includes fourteen years as a spiritual educator of children and youth; twelve years in the public school system; group leader and guest speaker for LaLeche League International; lay ministry to juvenile felons; co-founder and facilitator of preschool play groups; and day-care provider. Her success with children who are frequently labeled "learning disabled, behaviorally disturbed, mentally retarded and developmentally delayed led to a desire to help adults to see new possibilities for healing their past so they can self-actualize and be joy-filled and, therefore, create safer, more nurturing environments for their own children. "Children are the best mirrors we could ever hope to have in our lives. Not only do children do an excellent job of mirroring our own unhealed inner child, they are reflections of the holy Christ Child within," says Judi. Judi is a single parent of two teenaged children--Laura and Michael. She says that they are her greatest teachers!

JOANN LANDRETH has been with the Association since September, 1978. She came to the Association from Unity School of Christianity where she began her career in April, 1969. She served the Education Department and Data Entry of



Sparkplugs

Talk Topics and Sermon Starters from Unity Publications

This month: **NEW! A Most Surprising Song: Exploring the Mystical Experience** by Louann Stahl
Softbound, 194 pages, \$11.95

"If you have had a mystical experience, if you would like to have one, or if you would just like to know what mysticism is, you will love this book...a vividly realistic sense of the transforming, liberating power of the mystical experience."

--James Dillet Freeman

Yes, you will love this new book for the very reasons Jim Freeman does. But you will also love it for the rich resource and inspirational catalyst that it can be for you. There is a wealth of ideas here for talks, series, even classes.

You'll find over 400 compelling quotations interwoven with penetrating insights and clearly articulated ideas. These are not just one-liners. Through these quotations Louann Stahl masterfully expresses the essence of the much larger works from which they come. These are the essence upon which you can build and expand.

Once you start reading *A Most Surprising Song*, you won't want to stop. Fortunately, it reads quickly. You will be drawn in, touched by the author's rich sense and vision of the mystical experience. "In each soul lies the potential for

union with God...the path is open to all."

More than eighty mystics describe in their own words their moment of spiritual revelation. Their incredible diversity is a talk in itself. Saints, shoemakers, merchants, doctors, housewives, children--all mystics. Emerson, Caldecott, Julian of Norwich, Brahms, St. Teresa of Avila, Bistami, Boehme, Lao Tzu, de Chardin, Sadat, Hammarkjold, Paramahansa Yogananda, Trevelyn--familiar and unfamiliar.

You may be surprised by Ms. Stahl's vision of the mystical experience in human evolution and world transformation. She explores case studies, patterns, triggers of the mystical experience, and steps to achieve it. Her comprehensive viewpoint unveils much of what has seemed a mystery.

The work is well annotated and indexed for quick reference. You will appreciate the extensive bibliography for use as a steppingstone for further research.

Order today. Call (816) 251-3571 or write to: Sales Department, Unity School of Christianity, Unity Village, MO 64065-0001.



Unity School. She also served as secretary/administrative assistant to J. Sig and Jane Paulson at Unity Village Chapel for five years.

Joann's responsibilities have grown and expanded in her work at the Association. She was ordained as a Unity minister in June, 1986. Joann's duties now include working with ministers and boards to assist in the facilitation of the placement process. She also

serves as Director of Expansion working with ministers, teachers, and lay persons as new churches are developed. Joann also serves as an Associate Director for the Association and as a member of the Management Team. Her Associate Director responsibilities include working with the Standards Committee on applications for Exception to Ordination and working with the President each year as committee appointments are made.

Joann also enjoys doing guest speaking in the field ministries.

Year-end Giving

by Deborah Turner-Bey
Planned Giving & Grants Officer

Time and again the question arises whether your Association of Unity Churches ought to be in the "business" of fund raising. The answer is "No." Our philosophy is that fund raising results from opening opportunities for Unity friends to give of themselves and their abundance to further the work of our Unity movement.

You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God; for the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God. . . . Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

(2 Cor. 9:11, 12, 15)

Generosity takes many forms. Giving is volunteering one's time, talents, and energy. Giving is donating one's material and financial resources. But most of all, giving is putting God's inexpressible gift of love in action to help someone else.

Your support provides more effective service to field ministries through the work of our Association. We are "people in churches, centers, temples, satellites, and study groups around the world in spiritual fellowship spreading the universal Christ message of love in action." From pioneering new ministries to cultivating our youth for leadership roles tomorrow, our Association is here to support field ministries with human resources, spiritual sustenance, educational materials and workshops, networking with other ministries, and global communications.

As we approach year's end, your gifts to support the work of our Association of Unity Churches are especially appreciated. It may surprise you to learn how the form and timing of your gifts can increase the benefits you, the giver, realize from your willingness to support our growing, evolving movement.

In this issue, we offer four ideas you may not have considered to help you make your gifts as productive as possible.

1. Give cash for convenience and tax savings.

Cash gifts offer you convenience and ease of record-keeping. Charitable gifts of cash are tax-deductible up to 50% of your adjusted gross income as long as you itemize your deductions when filing your federal income tax return. Any excess may be deducted over the five following tax years.

2. Give appreciated stocks and other non-cash assets for extra tax savings.

You can enjoy even greater tax benefits from making a gift of stocks, bonds, or other securities including mutual funds, than you would from an equivalent gift of cash. Generally, a charitable income tax deduction is allowed for the full value of the securities in the year they are given when they have been held at least one year. And since there is no sale involved when this type of asset is given, capital gains tax is not a consideration. Thanks to these two benefits working together, giving securities may result in an after-tax cost as much as 40% below a comparable gift of cash.

3. Sell depreciated securities and give the proceeds.

If you have securities that have dropped in value, by selling them and giving the cash proceeds as a charitable gift you may be able to take a capital loss on your tax return, as well as a deduction for the cash gift.

4. Give at the right time.

Gifts made in person or postmarked by December 31 are deductible on your 1992 federal income tax return. Check with your financial or tax advisor to determine how the form and timing of your charitable gift to our Association of Unity

Churches can make year-end giving a special blessing!

We gratefully acknowledge the love and support we receive from the field. This year, 1992, has been a monumental year as we have experienced your love in many ways; your calls, your letters, your responses to development workshops conducted in local churches, and your visits to our World Headquarters. Developing financial resources to provide ever-evolving and expanding services to our member ministries is our primary focus. Together, we seek to share with a receptive world the message of positive, practical Christianity which transforms our lives.

Pooled Income Fund is an excellent opportunity to receive a lifetime income on your donation! For a brochure on this special planned gift that will benefit you, your local Unity ministry, and our Association of Unity Churches, contact our Development Department today.

"Caring NOW!" VHS Video
17:40 minutes

Outlines our Living Curriculum and the impact it will have on our children, youth, and families.

Love Offering Requested
Suggested minimum: \$15.00

Perfect way to introduce your church community to this vital project of our Association of Unity Churches.



Barbara O'Hearne
Church Development and
Management Consultant

Using Focus Groups for Feedback and Validation

In the October/November issue of *CONTACT*, I described, in great detail, the use of focus groups in gathering the initial data for a strategic plan. A listing of stimulus questions was presented as well as a worksheet that could be used to analyze the raw data from the focus groups. I appreciate the interest this article has generated in the field to date. Many ministers have indicated an interest in using focus groups as part of their planning process as they believe the methodology presented in the article will help them.

This article will develop, again in great detail, ways to effectively utilize focus groups in giving feedback on the planning efforts of the board or strategic planning committee. I believe "going out and back" at least two times to the people you serve in a ministry is essential to enroll them in the planning process, to insure that they have a stake in the future of the ministry and more specifically in the implementation of the plan.

Let's fast forward a typical strategic planning process. We will assume the planning committee has conducted the initial focus groups, analyzed the data as

described in the October/November issue of *CONTACT* and has developed a series of draft documents that include: draft core values, a draft mission statement and a draft vision statement. The operative word here is DRAFT. Those of you who have done strategic planning know this takes a long time and is a very demanding and exacting task--it does not happen in just a few committee meetings.

For the second time the congregation is invited and encouraged to be active participants in the strategic planning process at an all congregation meeting. At this two to two and a half hour meeting they are asked to review these draft documents and give feedback to the planning committee.

Let me describe the strategic planning efforts at Pat and Jack Barker's church in Cincinnati, Ohio. The ministers and members of the Visioning Committee had worked for several weeks on their draft core values, mission, and vision statements. I had the privilege of serving as their consultant to facilitate a board orientation, planning session, and congregation meeting. On Friday night and Saturday morning the ministers, board members, key staff, and I reviewed the documents and "fine tuned" them for presentation at a congregation meeting to be held on Sunday.

Prior to this weekend a great deal of PR had been done to insure a high level of participation by the congregation. This included notices in the newsletter, the Sunday bulletins, and announcements from the platform for several weeks. Oh yes, I forgot, a large poster greeted me upon my arrival in the vestibule. Pat's lesson on Sunday was about visioning, and she once again invited all the congregation at both services to be participants in charting the future of the ministry. The youth group organized and provided a luncheon immediately after services to lend their support to the effort.

The meeting format was large group/small group process. The larger group was brought together at the beginning for prayer and meditation, introductory re-

marks on how the small group processing would be structured, the intended outcomes of the meeting, and again at the end of the work session to get their feedback on the overall experience, to express our thanks and appreciation, and to give the closing prayer.

The congregation was divided into small groups of 10 to 12 people in order to get as many people as possible involved in the discussions. The board members served as the facilitators of these small groups. I developed a facilitator's outline and conducted a training session with the board members to insure consistency in the small group process. My role then was timekeeper and to facilitate the feedback from each of the small groups to the larger groups.

How did it work? I would say great! The Visioning Committee at New Thought Unity Center in Cincinnati is currently in the process of conducting a survey to fine-tune the outcome of the visioning meeting.

Having set the stage for you, I would like to go into greater detail on the flow of a two-hour feedback/validation session. At the beginning of the session all participants need to receive a copy of the draft core values, mission statement and vision statement, as well as the response form. Having begun the session with a prayer and short meditation, the small group facilitators read the draft core values and ask the group to respond to the question, "Does this list reflect your view? Explain." He or she records the various responses of the group to this question. Then asks the question, "What changes would you make, if any (additions, deletions, modification)?"

This often results in lively and very thoughtful discussions. All other comments offered by the group are recorded under "Other comments." At the end of 10 to 12 minutes, the facilitators briefly (read what they recorded from their group) report out to the larger group. This gives everyone the opportunity to hear the dis-

Continued...

cussion from all the groups and note where there is alignment or divergent opinions.

Next the draft mission statement is reviewed and discussed. I remind the participants that a mission answers the question, "What business are we in or about?" Again the small group facilitators read the draft mission and ask their group participants to respond to two questions. "What are the strengths of this draft? Does it reflect your view? Explain." and "What changes would you make, if any (additions, deletions, modifications)?" and record "Other comments" made by the group members. This discussion period is approximately ten to twelve minutes and then the reporting out process mentioned above begins.

By now there is usually a great deal of energy and enthusiasm being generated by the participants and we are ready to look at the draft vision statement. Prior to reading the draft vision, sometimes I will ask the minister to do a brief meditation on visioning. Then I review the definition of a vision statement (it is a statement that describes our desired ideal future state as a church or center). The amount of time allowed for this small group work session is approximately 22-25 minutes. Vision statements are longer and invite more discussion. As before, the facilitators read the draft vision and begin the discussion by asking the questions, "What are the strengths of this draft?" "Does it reflect your view? Explain." "What changes would you make, if any (additions, deletions, modifications)?" and "Other comments." Once again the reporting out process gives everyone the opportunity to hear how the other small groups respond to the vision. I believe the members of the church or center need to become owners or stakeholders of the vision. Without ownership there is little commitment or interest in making the vision become a reality.

By the end of an hour and 45 minutes the minister, board, staff, and consultant will have a wealth of information from the congregation about the future of the

Groundbreaking Ceremony at Unity Center, Arden, North Carolina

More than 400 members and friends of the Arden, North Carolina, Unity Center turned out on a warm, early May afternoon to celebrate the unfolding of their collectively held dream: groundbreaking for a new center to be constructed on 22 acres of rolling, wooded hills intersected by a clear mountain stream.

Senior minister Chad O'Shea gave the honor of moving the first shovels full of earth to the children who, equipped with dozens of toy shovels, enthusiastically and playfully got the actual work under way.

Lending their much appreciated presence and encouragement were Glenn Mosley, executive director of the Association, and Gene Rainey, chairman of the Buncombe County, North Carolina County Commissioners.

Events of the day included music performed by the regionally acclaimed Unitic Band, copious servings of food, a maypole dance on the future site of the geodesic dome section of the church, the "Moonwalk" (a huge, inflatable pillow upon which celebrants bounced, cavorted and played throughout much of the afternoon), and many games both planned and spontaneous.

The celebration marked a milestone in the success and expansion of the Arden Unity Center which had 35 members eight years ago and now has 487 members of record and has evolved into a regional focal point for study, spiritual inquiry, and innovative approaches to conscious living.



Pictured (l to r): Standing--Glenn Mosley, Chad O'Shea; Seated--Lytingale O'Shea and Michael O'Shea.

church. The large group is brought back together and I ask for any comments or feedback from the participants: what they liked about the large group/small group process, what they would like to see done differently next time, and any other thoughts they would like to share relative to the future of the ministry. Following this, each participant is asked to write his or her three priority goals for the next three years for the ministry. I asked that they take time and reflect on the draft core values, mission, and vision statements that had been discussed prior to writing their goals. These goals will be collected for analysis and prioritizing by the planning committee and/or board. At the end of two hours, well maybe a few minutes over, the congregation members are

thanked and ready for closing prayer.

Once again the planning committee has its work cut out for it. During their next series of meetings they will review the results of the feedback/validation meeting to finalize the core values, mission statement, vision statement, and determine the priority goals for the next three years. Once this is done they begin the process of writing action plans to achieve the goals.

The process works! It is lively, involves the congregation and affords the ministers and board yet another way to hear from the people they serve. If I may be of service to you in guiding you through this process, please call me at (816) 531-3353 or fax your questions to (816) 753-8200.

Partners in Ministry

a network of spouses of ministers



Al Sears

As we move into this traditional season of Christmas and the beginning of a new year, I cannot help but reflect on this past year of 1992. It has been a truly growing and learning year for me. It has been a year in which I have had to face challenges that I have never faced before.

As many of you know by now, Shay's daughter Debbie made her transition in September of this year. I was not Debbie's real father but she called me Dad, and I had the privilege of giving her away at her wedding. My process in dealing with the month leading up to her transition is what I am going to share with you, and in this brief sharing, I hope it will help someone who may have to face a similar challenge.

When the doctor called to tell Shay that the cancer had moved into Debbie's lungs and she had at most six to nine weeks to live, I felt a very deep sense of compassion and caring for Debbie. What I discovered, as the process unfolded, was that these feelings were more for Shay than Debbie. It was much easier to talk about caring for Debbie than to express how I felt about my spouse. I kept trying to say to myself, "How would you feel if it were one of your kids?" What I realized was that I could not possibly know that because it wasn't one of "my" kids.

We were with Debbie two weeks before she made her transition and I watched all the emotion and feelings of a mother saying good-bye to her daughter. It was

this process that brought me to the realization that my feelings were really for Shay as much as for Debbie. Our lives were on hold for a month or more. Everything we did revolved around Debbie's day-to-day condition. I found myself getting angry and hurt that our lives were being controlled by this event. I had to tell Shay this and that seemed to hurt all the more. How could I tell her what I was feeling. After all, her daughter was dying. When I told her, my eyes were full of tears and my voice was a little shaky, but I told her that I loved her and that I loved Debbie. I said that it was Debbie who was dying, not us, and that we had to get on with our lives.

I came to realize just how much I cared for and loved Shay, and how very deep my commitment to our relationship is. I discovered that all of this was part of my own grieving process and that holding it back was making it worse. I had to let the tears flow and to express my feelings to Shay. I had to communicate. The longer I held back the worse I felt, and even my positive Unity teachings could not help if I did not communicate. How often in our lives when we look back at some challenge we have had, do we not say to ourselves, "If I had only said something,

it could have worked out better"?

Shay and I cried together, laughed together, and renewed our commitment to God, to ourselves, and to our relationship. I thank God for Debbie. I thank God for the gifts she brought me in her life, and I thank God for the gift she brought me in her transition. I love you, Debbie; God speed, and thank you for being my daughter.

I would like to thank all of you for your support for Shay and me through this challenge. We truly could feel your love and prayers with us. I would especially like to thank Glenn Mosley, Executive Director of our Association of Unity Churches, for his incredible caring and absolute support of Shay through this year-long process. Thank you to all the staff at our Association of Unity Churches. I love all of you. Thank you to Frank Giudici, chairperson of Biblical Studies and Skills at Unity School for Religious Studies, for giving me a better understanding of grief.

I wish all of you a very joy-filled Christmas and a new year filled with the miracles of God.

Write **Partners in Ministry, Association of Unity Churches, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.**

100th Anniversary

"We, Charles Fillmore and Myrtle Fillmore, husband and wife, hereby dedicate ourselves, our time, our money, all we have and all we expect to have, to the Spirit of Truth, and through it, to the Society of Silent Unity.

"It being understood and agreed that the said Spirit of Truth shall render unto us an equivalent for this dedication, in peace of mind, health of body, wisdom, understanding, love, life and an abundant supply of all things necessary to meet every want without our making any of these things the object of our existence.

"In the presence of the Conscious Mind of Christ Jesus, this 7th day of December, A.D. 1892."

December 7, 1992, marks the 100th anniversary of the Dedication & Covenant by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. This covenant was written in 1892, but was not made public until after the Fillmore's deaths, when it was found in their personal effects.

BROADCASTING THE UNITY MESSAGE



Carolyn Craft
Radio/Media Consultant

What's Working for Me

An interview by Linda Beard, Assistant Radio/Media coordinator, with Dean Leutscher from the Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Nat and Suzanne Cross are ministers. Dean also works with Unity Church of Peace in Grand Rapids where Jim Ashby and Ann Haveman-Ashby are ministers.

Linda:

Dean, you are one of our Communication Committee Network Members. How long have you worked with your church in this capacity?

Dean:

I made the first status report and recommendations to the Board on May 14th of this year.

Linda:

What media are you using in your outreach?

Dean:

We are using WLHT FM radio. It is the Number One *adult contemporary format* in the market with a husband and wife "morning team." We are on the air Monday and Friday mornings at 7:35 a.m. with one :60-second spot. We're using 100 of the spots in the "You Can Make A Difference" series (from the

Association's Radio/Media Department) and rotating six different tags (church identification, phone number, etc.).

Linda:

What results have you seen?

Dean:

We have *three goals for the radio ministry*. The first is to reach out to the community with Truth principles. Number two is to create awareness of Unity in metro Grand Rapids. And the third one is to increase attendance and membership. *I believe we are achieving these goals with every spot we air. I know we are making an impact.* We are reaching out to the community and sharing ideas with them. We are definitely creating an awareness in Grand Rapids and now that there are two churches, it's even more important. One of our tags refers to "these ideas being brought to you by the Unity churches (plural) in Grand Rapids."

I've heard a lot of very good feedback from people within the church. I was very heartened a couple of weeks ago to be introduced to a young couple who said *they were there for the first time because they heard it on the radio.* And they are coming back.

Linda:

Do you ask visitors how they learned about Unity?

Dean:

We haven't asked visitors yet, because our radio broadcasting is so new. In the future we will use surveys to ask that question. We are now asking people calling for the first time how they heard about Unity.

Linda:

What are some of your recommendations regarding broadcasting?

Dean:

I believe that you should not put your spot particularly on a religious station. I think it's best to run a schedule on a station where people are really listening to the format. In your area, if it's a country western station, consider it. We picked the station we felt was best, and they

offered a very good rate.

Linda:

Is your church interested in television broadcasting?

Dean:

We have considered public access, but that takes a fair amount of time and money to do it right. It can be a detriment if it's not done professionally. I don't think our church is in a position to do that yet. We're currently focusing on supporting our radio schedule.

Linda:

How did you prepare to apply for the Templeton Grant?

Dean:

In May *I put a plan together for our Board* and asked them to commit to my recommendation for a \$10,000 budget. I needed to know that the Board was committed to the radio ministry with or without the Templeton Grant money. I proposed a one-year schedule and a one-year budget. *They said: "No, we think it's important that we commit to three years!" We then applied for the June '92 grant.*

Linda:

When this plan was completed and approved by the Board, how did you share it with your congregation?

Dean:

The initial announcement came when *we heard that we had received the Templeton Grant.* We now give regular announcements and updates from the pulpit. We also encourage people to sponsor the spots. I shared our specific goals and that the *Board was committed to a broadcasting ministry.* I let the congregation know that they were going to be a very important part in keeping the program on the air and that I would be announcing details of the sponsorship program in the coming weeks.

Linda:

What kind of feedback did you get from the congregation?

Continued...

Dean:

They were very pleased. Many said they had hoped something would happen, that we needed to "get off the hill," so to speak. (Our church sits on a little hill.) *They felt we needed to "let the light shine"; that we've been too quiet.* There are still some people who think of Unity as a cult. We sometimes face that misconception. Creating an awareness of Unity in metropolitan Grand Rapids was a very important goal. The "You Can Make A Difference" spots really helped, because some of them use Biblical references, but not too "heavy-handedly." We are letting people know that Unity is a Christian organization.

Linda:

And because your congregation keeps current with your broadcast program, you have continual feedback?

Dean:

Yes. To help support this program, I designed a very nice display board where congregants can see the names of sponsors. It's the *"1993 Sponsors Board"* and the dates of the 103 Mondays and Fridays are up there. As people sponsor these dates, their names go up on the board.

Linda:

What does it cost to sponsor?

Dean:

Ninety-five dollars per spot and with a couple of months into the program we now have 20 percent sponsored. We want to have the board filled by the end of the year. Also, every week there is an insert in the bulletin for people to fill out for sponsorships. We let them know how many sponsorships are filled. The sponsor board is very visible, and when they first commit, we add their names immediately.

Some sponsor a radio message in honor of someone else, for their birthday or anniversary. One couple sponsored a spot in honor of another couple who had started a study group in a small town north of Grand Rapids. The honoree came up to me one day so delighted, so honored. I make up note cards on the PC showing the honorees' names and the date they are honored, and these are given to

Personal Letter III Mailing:

Have you received your Personal Letter III cassette mailing from the Radio/Media Department? Included were samples of new radio campaigns and excerpts from the '92 Convention broadcasting panel workshop. . . The Reverends Howard Caesar, Leona Stefanko, Phillip Pierson, Jim Schrotel, Ruth Mosley, and Linda Pendergrass sharing information on successful media usage. These cassettes were mailed in mid-November and if yours has not arrived, please call the Radio/Media Department of your Association of Unity Churches.

Good News:

Send us your good news--results from your messages, testimonies from those who respond, and samples and details of your broadcasts so we can share them with all Unity ministries. By sharing a Message of Unity via broadcasting, we continue to bless the world. You are making a difference. Stay tuned!

whoever wants them. As a sponsor they also receive a cassette with 50 of the messages on it. If two or more spots are sponsored, they receive two cassettes with all 100 spots on them.

We also *use the newsletter every month to promote sponsorships.* Beginning in January, Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters will list the sponsors for the month and week.

Linda:

You've been on the air for about seven weeks now. What are you planning for the fall of '92 and '93?

Dean:

This schedule is going to go just as it is indefinitely. We intend to run the 100 "You Can Make A Difference" spots and rotate them equally. It will be a year before listeners hear the same spot a second time. Hopefully we will increase our budget and add other radio stations. *Consistency* is important. In fact, one of the tags says, "These ideas are brought to you every Monday and Friday at this time by the Unity churches in Grand Rapids. Come grow with us in Unity." *People in*

our church have made a point of listening every Monday and Friday on their way to work.

Linda:

You have implemented some very creative ideas, Dean, and you have done a wonderful job in Grand Rapids.

Dean:

I think it is very *important that Unity start letting people know who we are. We are not going to grow unless we do.* I know there is an opposite philosophy in Unity. . . that people will find us when they are ready. *But I believe you can let people know who you are and where you are without proselytizing.* By using the "You Can Make A Difference" spots, *we are achieving our goals.*

My thanks to Dean Leutscher for visiting with me and sharing his "Good News" about broadcasting in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Write us in care of the Radio/Media Department about the "Good News" from your area. --Linda Beard

What is a Communication Committee Network Member?

- An enthusiastic person eager to share the message of Unity in their community and the world. The member's commission and participation would require energies devoted to the following with respect to media (broadcast, print, internal communications, etc.): research, feedback, observation, inform, tabulate, community awareness, creativity, interfacing, expanding, consciousness, checking market pulse/church pulse, service, support, defining and holding your ministry's vision. This person could be serving as a board member, public relations person, publicist, media coordinator, teacher, etc. Write us with the name of the person in your church/center who will be your Communications Committee Network Member.

We now have 25 ministries who have named their members:

Radio/Media Department Communication Committee Network Members

Kate Trelatsky--Unity Church of Merced, Merced, CA
John M. Bennett--Long Beach Unity, Long Beach, CA
Janet Meschi & Kristi Beckwith--Unity Ch of Brownsville, Brownsville, TX
Peggy Van Cleve--Unity Church of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI
Jack Kern--Unity of Naples, Naples, FL
Ken Kenyon--First Unity Church of Positive Living, El Paso, TX
Arthur Hammons--Christ Church Unity of El Cajon, El Cajon, CA
Ada Davis & Virginia Good--Unity Center of Bakersfield, Bakersfield, CA
Billie Blain--Sunrise Unity, Citrus Heights, CA
Pauline James--Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Buffalo, NY
Dean Leutscher, Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Grand Rapids, MI
Sandra Hymel--Unity in Blue Springs, Blue Springs, MO
Joan Phillipson--Unity Church of Christianity, Wauwatosa, WI
Mary Jo Ruten--Unity of Jackson, Jackson, MI
LeVonne Feller--Unity Church of Today, Omaha, NE
Frank Kaiser--Unity Church for Christian Living, Miami, FL
Brenda Windell--Christ Church Unity, Rochester, NY
D. Karen Wilkerson--Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Tyler, TX
Grace Luckscherte--Unity of Livonia, Livonia, MI
Bob Burns--Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Las Cruces, NM
Sue Smith--Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Buffalo, NY
Victor Rosencrans--Unity of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach, FL
Ward McCarey--Unity of Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, UT
Jo An Burt--Unity of Shreveport, Shreveport, LA
Olga Sparman, Unity Pyramid of Truth, Brooklyn, NY

Voices of Unity:

Christ Unity Church, Sacramento, CA:

"The Best Is Yet To Be" TV program-
(out of Sacramento to much of northern California and southern Oregon)

- Sacramento, channel 40 at 9:00 a.m.
- Bay Area out of San Jose, channel 48 at 9:00 a.m.
- Seattle Puget Sound Area, channel 22 at 8:00 a.m.
- Arizona, out of Phoenix, Prescott, channel 27 at 8:00 a.m. (northern Arizona, channel 7)
- Monterey Peninsula, cable channel 22 at 9:00 a.m.
- St. Joseph, Missouri, channel 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Unity Pyramid, Santa Maria, CA:

- Cable TV channels 21 and 22

Christ Universal Temple, Chicago, IL:

- TV Station 4

Unity Ch/North Shore, Evanston, IL:

- Radio 750 AM

Unity of Indianapolis, IN:

- Radio WIUX 1350 AM, Sunday 8:15 a.m.

Detroit Unity Temple, Detroit, MI:

- Radio WQRS 105.1 FM, M-F 5:50 a.m., Sunday 8:00 a.m. (on air continuously for the last 30 years)

Unity Church of Muskegon, MI

- Cable TV channel 24

Church of Today, Warren, MI:

- TV Channel 50 (Detroit) 8:00 a.m.
- TV Channel 33 (Cadillac) 10:00 a.m.
- Radio CKLW 800 AM 8:00 a.m.
- Radio WIFF 1570 AM 8:00 a.m.

Christ Ch of the Hills, Branson, MO:

- Local TV Channel 6

Unity Ch of P. C., St. Joseph, MO:

- TV KQTV, Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Asociacion Unity, Santurce, PR:

- Radio WSJ 1560 AM, Sunday 8:00

Unity Ch of Christianity, Houston, TX:

- Radio KODA 99.1, Thur & Fri 7:00 a.m., Sat. & Sun. random

Ch of the Hill Country, Kerrville, TX:

- Radio KERV AM and KRVL FM, mornings and evenings

Unity Ch/NE Tarrant Cnty, Hurst, TX:

- Radio 97.9 FM, Mon-Fri 8:25 p.m., Sat & Sun 7:25 p.m.

Are you currently broadcasting on radio or television? On what station/call letters/time/city are you airing? Write us about your broadcast outreach and we will add your church/center to the list. Stay tuned!



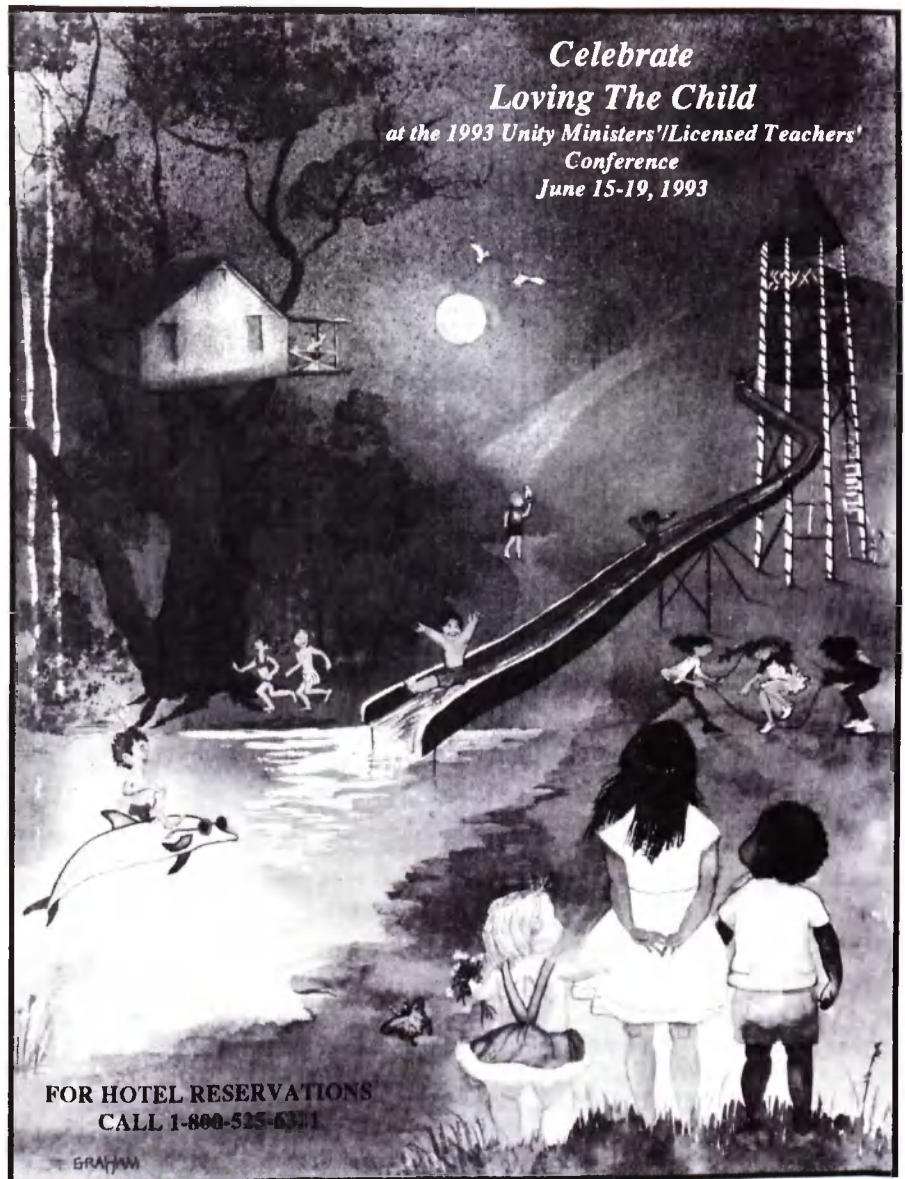
Debbie Ratliff
Conference/Convention Coordinator

A Special Conference Time

The Association of Unity Churches would like to invite you to a special celebration for the Year of the Child. The conference theme is, "Loving the Child." Special workshops and programs are planned to make this an exciting, fun-filled week! Come, bring yourself, your family, and your youth education directors to this wonderful joyous event!

The conference will be held at the Hilton Plaza Inn, located on the beautiful Country Club Plaza, June 15-19, 1993. Reservations for your hotel may be made by calling 1-800-525-6321. (The rate is \$65 per night for single and double occupancy; rate for each additional person is \$10.)

Exciting workshops and programs are planned for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Friday will be a day to let the child in you come forth at the VILLAGE FUN FEST which will be held at Unity Village. Joyous, fun-filled events are being planned for this festive day.



**Calling all children
hiding out in their grown-up bodies
who long to be joyful, funful,
freeful
come out, come out, wherever you are
and play in the now-sun
of your
life.**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

On behalf of the Association of Unity Churches' staff and Board of Trustees, we extend to you our deep gratitude and appreciation for your past financial support. The love and faith you incorporate into your gifts make them special.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES Statement of General Fund Operations Six Months Ended September 30, 1992

INCOME-OPERATIONS	August	September	Year to Date
Love Offerings	\$52,205.54	\$85,500.03	\$389,368.37
Other Income	<u>11,311.63</u>	<u>10,383.14</u>	<u>54,555.86</u>
	\$63,517.17	\$95,883.17	\$443,924.23
Less: Tithe Transfer	<u>5,540.84</u>	<u>9,286.73</u>	<u>41,813.31</u>
	57,976.33	86,596.44	402,110.92
Gross Profit Material	<u>8,004.10</u>	<u>4,606.24</u>	<u>40,480.03</u>
Total Income	<u>\$65,980.43</u>	<u>\$91,202.68</u>	<u>\$442,590.95</u>
EXPENSE-OPERATIONS	<u>\$88,175.77</u>	<u>\$89,098.44</u>	<u>\$491,384.88</u>
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES:	<u>\$(22,195.34)</u>	<u>\$ (2,104.24)</u>	<u>\$(48,793.93)</u>

*Unity School Contribution to the Association of Unity Churches Through Services Provided:

Month of July: \$7,288.32
Month of August: \$7,306.92
Year to Date: \$30,616.75

*This is a non-ledger item. It represents religious materials, book discounts, etc.

Unity Church of Hawaii and The Hawaiian Island Ministries present

THE 1993 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM in conjunction with UNITY SCHOOL OF CHRISTIANITY February 22-28, 1993

Instructors: Rev. Toni Boehm and Rev. Jim Gaither from Unity School; and Rev. John Strickland, Rev. Carol Jean Wright, Rev. Carlton Buboltz, Rev. Judith Grimes, Rev. Janet Oliver, and Rev. Robert Wasner from the Islands.

For more information, a CEP Hawaii 1993 brochure is available on request from Unity Church of Hawaii, 3608 Diamond Head Circle, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815, ATTN: Suzanne Cameron, Director of Education.



HEADQUARTERS

In This Issue:

- The Fourth Thursday Workshops Take A Holiday Break; Starts Again in January
- 1993 is The Year of the Child--Judi's Beadtime Tips For Parents!
- Unity's Own Ken Murdock Is Voted Best Minister in Southwest Florida!
- Retired Unity Minister Is Going Strong At 91
- Innerworks and Fireworks, A Vacation To Start Planning For Now.
- Take Your Place As A Unity Ambassador to Russia.
- Calling All STARlight Team Members!

Assn of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414

Glenn Mosley, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Edie Skallitzky
President

Unity Responds to Hurricane Andrew!



Association staff members with items donated to the victims of Hurricane Andrew.

*"When an idea is right,
God goes before us and prepares the way."*

By Julie Montague, Editor

How did you feel as you watched the news of Hurricane Andrew's devastation in Florida? It moved many Unity church members to immediate action. Here, in the office of your Association of Unity Churches, a group of staff members was expressing how much we wanted to do something. "It's hard to watch the suffering of Andrew's victims and not feel frustrated that we can't help somehow," said one staff member. "Why can't we help?" another responded. "Let's all donate clothing, food, and supplies and ship them to Florida."

As the words "Yes, let's do it" resounded through our office, the universe moved to make it happen. Within a few hours, we found a trucking company that donated its services to move the supplies to Florida. One ministerial student's spouse mentioned the project to him and word quickly spread. A few ministerial students began to organize other students as well as Unity Village staff. Within three days, the lobby of the new Association World Headquarters building held a truckload of supplies, ready to go. On Friday, United Van Lines people picked up our "CARE" package. When an idea is right, God

goes before us and prepares the way.

Joel, board vice president of Unity of Atlanta, Georgia, was also watching the news about Andrew and had an idea. He phoned his Unity minister, Albert Wingate, to enlist his help with the fulfillment of his plan. "Al was so patient with me. If Unity ever starts sainting people, Al should be made a Saint," Joel told me by phone. The idea was to call the local Unity church closest to Homestead, Florida, and get a wish list. The following Sunday, Joel and Al would share this list with the Atlanta congregation. If the congregation responded, they would rent a truck and drive the needed supplies to Florida personally. When it was time to go, Joel shared with me, "I rented too small a truck. Our board president volunteered his van and we still had to rent an additional trailer to move it all down there." Al Wingate drove the truck and Joel drove the van. Bill Cameron, minister of Miami Unity on the Bay, was there when they arrived with a group of volunteers to help unload. At one point, Bill unloaded a couple of jugs of bottled water. The giver had taken a felt-tip marker and written

See Hurricane on page 3, col. 3

HIGHLIGHTS

THE WAYS WE SERVE. . . What's new from us to you!

The Fourth Thursday Evening Workshops

In November and December our workshop series will be out on holiday vacation, but be ready to experience a fun, exciting, educational evening starting in January!

Workshops are held on the **fourth Thursday** of each month from **7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.** in the Association's board room, **401 SW Oldham Parkway, Suite 210, Lee's Summit, Missouri**. Join us! Call **524-7414, ext. 355**, to reserve your space.

January 28, 1993

Stress, Stressors, and Their Management
Glenn Mosley, Ph.D.

February 25, 1993

Planned Giving
Deborah Turner-Bey and Shay St. John

March 25, 1993

How To Grow Your Ministry Through Broadcasting
Carolyn Craft

Innerworks and Fireworks! Adults of Unity's vacation retreat in the Rockies!

Innerworks and Fireworks is a highly active, exciting week full of opportunities for fun and fellowship with persons of like mind. Featured activities are interactive workshops and small family groups, where one connects with others in an intimate atmosphere of unconditional love and understanding.

Bonnie Lee Barron will be the keynote presenter. She is an enthusiastic, dedicated student and teacher of the power and presence of Truth in our lives. She will provide participants opportunities to explore and experience for themselves effective and powerful methods of utilizing their inner energy in creating an explosive and dynamic

life. An experienced workshop leader, author, and creator of retreats for over 12 years within Unity, Bonnie now owns her own renewal retreat company, INNERSPACE.

Charles King, Unity minister, song leader, and musician has been invited to lead the music program. He is currently the minister of The Musical Church For All People in Bellevue, Washington.

For more information on registration and the early bird specials, call or write our Association of Unity Churches, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063; (816) 524-7414, ext. 332.

Have you ever thought of yourself as a foreign ambassador for Unity?

Here is your chance to extend yourself with love to someone in Russia. Glenn Mosley, Ph.D., Executive Director of our Association, and Shay St. John, Director of Development, will be leading a group of Unity ambassadors on "Bridges to Oneness" tour. You can experience history in the making as dramatic changes occur in this new country. Experience legendary landmarks, extraordinary people and very special art and culture as we share love and support through Unity teachings with our brothers and sisters in Russia. The tour will visit Moscow, St. Petersburg, and the Ural mountains close to the Europe-Asia border. For more information on this exciting trip call 1-800-798-1451.

1993 IS THE YEAR OF THE CHILD!

Editor's note: Starting with this issue, we will have an ongoing column in celebration of Unity's Year of the Child--1993. Judi Venturini, ordained Unity minister, school teacher, and Year of the Child coordinator, will be contributing most of these articles. We would also like news from you! How is your

church celebrating the Year of the Child? Write us with your stories: **Association of Unity Churches, Attn: Julie Montague, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.**

Bedtime Rituals by Judi Venturini

Bedtime rituals are different in every home. However, ask any parent: when the ritual is broken, bedtime can be anything but serene! I remember reading Mother Goose to my children every night. Sometimes when I was extra tired I would try to turn two pages at once, only to have my children playfully remind me that I skipped a page. Children like the structure and the bonding that occurs during these moments.

I believe that the more independent children become, the more there is a need to touch base with our children. Bedtime stories can turn into bedtime meditations and bedside chats. It is important to set aside time to communicate with our children, even our teenagers. For example, when things get tense or hectic in our home, we like to do massage or sometimes I try to sneak in the "old draw on the back" game. I can feel the shift in energy as my teenagers relax.

Teenagers are sometimes a little harder to keep open to this time of sharing. In a article in the Summer, 1992, issue of *Joyful Child Journal*, Joyce Vissell suggests sitting quietly on the bedside of your resistant teenager. "Even the most defiant of teenagers regain a sweetness in their countenance after they fall asleep. It will be easier at these times to feel your love for your child," says Joyce. She goes on to suggest that parents can whisper affirming words of love and support to their older children. It seems that parents who have tried this have seen "miraculous" changes in their relationship with their teenagers. As the teen is more open, the parent may progress to sharing some time together before bed.

As parents of younger children, you can set a foundation for nightly ritual in your home that can expand and change as the years go by. Meditation and visualization with children will enable children to have a more peaceful night. There are many side benefits also. Your child will show improved concentration and more vivid imagination. This will help them to express their creative potential and joy will be a natural outcome.

Recently, I found an excellent book that will benefit parents and teachers. *Starbright*

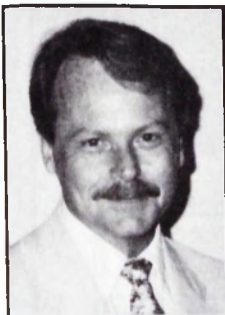
by Maureen Garth is a book of simple meditations and visualizations to help children sleep peacefully, awaken creativity, develop concentration, and learn to quiet themselves. Maureen's colorful and textual vocabulary paints wonderful, imaginative scenes that will delight your children, as well as the child in you. Through visualization, you can take your child on a journey through a tree, to a visit with a Panda, or onto becoming a fairy. This beautiful book is available from Harper, a division of Harper Collins Publishers, San Francisco, California.

I know that every parent dreams of the day that bedtime routines will fade away into a beautiful memory. After reading this inspiring book, I realize that I want to find new ways to spend those special moments with my teenagers. Maybe I have been too hasty. Maybe I can lead them on an imaginary journey! I can't wait to see their reactions! Oh well, Sweet Dreams!

Connections. . .

Fort Myers, Florida Unity minister Ken Murdock named "Best Religious Leader of Southwest Florida"

Each year the News-Press of Southwest Florida asks their readers to choose their favorite people, places, and things. Thousands of News-Press readers sent in their ballots for the Best of Southwest Florida. The Best winners, announced at a reception sponsored by the News-Press, received certificates of excellence to display in their businesses.



If you visit Unity of Ft. Myers, FL, ask The Reverend Ken Murdock to show you his Certificate of Excellence. Ken was voted the Best Religious Leader of SW Florida for 1992 in this annual readers choice poll. Congratulations Ken! It's great to have this confir-

mation that "Unity is on the move" in Florida. We love you, and are so proud of you! Keep up the good work!

Des Moines, Washington Noteworthy News About Retired Ministers

Did you know that retired minister Joseph K. Stiegler is 91 years young, hale and hearty, lives at the Masonic Home, 23660 Marine View Dr. South, Des Moines, WA 98198, and eagerly looks forward to receiving each issue of CONTACT and Minister's Letter which he reads "from cover to cover"? Joseph retired as minister of Harmony Hill Unity Church, Everett, WA, in 1975, after serving previously in Unity of Tacoma and Unity of Bellingham for twenty-three years.



Retired ministers like Joseph are precious members of our Unity family, filled with gifts of wisdom and love. Our lives are so enriched when we reach out and make a connection to one of these honored elder members of our Unity family.

Dayton, Ohio Unity minister celebrates 30th Anniversary

Our love and blessings go to Bette DeTurk, Unity minister, as she celebrates 30 years of service at Unity of Dayton.

Bette became a Unity minister in 1962 and began serving as minister of Unity of Dayton--her first and **only** ministry.

Thank you, Bette, for your dedicated service to Unity of Dayton, and to the Unity movement!

**Development Department
Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414, ext. 355**

HURRICANE Cont'd from page 1

the words, "GOOD LUCK." This, he told me, brought tears to his eyes. This simple action reminds all of us that we are truly our brothers' and sisters' keepers in Unity, one spiritual family.

Atlanta Unity Church wasn't the only church in our movement that responded. Dick Everts, minister of Unity of Indianapolis (Indiana), asked his church to give for Hurricane Andrew victims one Sunday. The church gave over \$2,500 which was sent to the Red Cross. In addition to gifts of supplies, food, and clothing, Unity churches everywhere sent their prayers.

We have heard people say, "Unity rarely responds in a physical way to people in crisis. We work mostly on a spiritual level." This is simply not true. Unity responds on whatever level is appropriate at the time. We are so proud to be part of this incredible, transformative movement for positive change on our planet. Unity churches are working on the spiritual and the physical levels to express positive, practical Christianity in our world.

God's Work Continuously Creates Opportunities For Us To Grow and Expand

Our Development Department is actively seeking foundation and corporate grants to enhance our services to our many friends, colleagues, and member churches. There are many among us who serve on the boards of businesses and organizations involved in charitable giving. Please let us know who you are. Your faith and commitment to the positive, practical message of Unity is, as always, a blessing.

1993 STARlight TEAM is now forming.

We want YOU on our team!

Editor's note: On October 28, over 14,000 STARlight letters were mailed to Unity friends all over the world. Some of you, though, may not have received your letter because you are not on our mailing list. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please call us at (816) 524-7414, ext. 355. We are reprinting this letter for you and inviting you to JOIN OUR STARlight Team today.

Dear Friend,

MIRACLES ARE HAPPENING EVERY DAY! Jim and Carol, their bright and beautiful five year old Sarah, and happy, energetic three year old Andy know this. Their story reflects a healing miracle for their entire family. Andy was always the first one up, greeting each day with songs and laughter. This morning only quiet came from his room. Barely able to arouse their young son, Carol and Jim rushed Andy to the hospital. While the doctors worked, Carol and Jim called their Unity minister. He was with them when they heard the ominous diagnosis--leukemia.

Over the next six months this family's world was turned upside down. Continuous prayer support, regular Unity counseling, affirmative faith, and an expanded Unity family provided strength to meet each challenge. Little Sarah was most disturbed. Her joyous, loving

family was in crisis. At one point she said, "I wish it were over so I could get my mom back." Carol talked with Sarah's Youth Education teacher, Ann. Ann understood. She took extra time with Sarah and created a safe, loving environment for Sarah to express her feelings.

Andy began his miraculous journey back to wellness. Their Unity church family remained constant in its spiritual support, providing many helping hands as well as loving hearts. Jim commented, **"Our Unity church gave us strength to hold our lives together and courage to hold on to our Unity faith in God's healing love."** Today Andy is an active, athletic teenager--free of any sign of disease.

Stories like Jim and Carol's are not uncommon in Unity. Perhaps you have a similar story to tell. Unity churches are here for you--just as your Association of Unity Churches is here for our member churches. Through resources, services and ongoing support, we help ministries provide your family with the spiritual inspiration and support services you have come to expect.

Your gifts to our STARlight Fund on an ongoing basis support the day-to-day services your Associa-

tion provides to the field. These include Youth Education materials, church management and development training, seminars, conferences and conventions, all with the goal of empowering excellence in Unity churches around the world.

Each year twenty-five percent (25%) of all gifts to STARlight are devoted to a special project. During 1992-1993, these gifts benefit our YEAR OF THE CHILD. Its mission is to support our children, youth, and families with spiritual tools that will transform their lives today and be instrumental in the transformation of our planet as we move into the new millennium.

Through your financial support for STARlight '92-93, you become a part of "God's hands in action blessing our world." Fill out and return your Statement of Intent today and join us in extending loving service to our Unity family. Your action now is making a positive difference in the world! Miracles are happening every day. We thank God for them. And we thank God for you as you help these miracles express!

In Oneness of Spirit,

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES

Glenn R. Mosley
Executive Director

Bert Pluymen, Chairperson
Resource Development Committee

UNITY: POSITIVE, PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY FOR OUR TRANSFORMATIVE TIMES!

Association of Unity Churches

P.O. Box 610 • Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414 FAX: (816) 525-4020

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
TIME VALUE PUBLICATION!

SENT WITH LOVE AND BLESSINGS TO:

Thank You!

*Please accept our most sincere
thanks for your continuing generous
support
of our Association of Unity Churches.
Your love offerings allow us to reach out
to our growing global community
as we express ever-expanding
Reflections of Service.*

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OUR ASSOCIATION OF
UNITY CHURCHES
REFLECTS YOUR
COMMITMENT TO
EXPANDING THE GLOBAL
FUTURE OF OUR UNITY
MOVEMENT!



Printed on recycled paper.



Mick Dustin
Director of Education

Questions, Questions, Questions

More and more I am finding that we have become separated from other religious denominations. Suppose we agree that our separation from other denominations was founded on good reason, logic, and for the highest of motives. Yet, today I am realizing that main line denominations are asking many of the same questions we are seeking answers to as well. Perhaps the questions are as old as time and we must seek new answers for our time.

Recently I was introduced to two new books that provide yet another answer to the question, "What kind of church will meet the needs of our people?" Though we may express our basic teachings in different ways, the research and insights gained in reading these two books can greatly benefit our thinking and influence our direction.

The first book was reviewed by Roy W. Pncuman, Senior Consultant for the Alban Institute, Inc. You will enjoy the review--and the book even more.

Rebuilding the Congregation--A Church Development Plan for a New Millennium

by Arlin Rothauge
(Cambridge: Cowley Publications, 1990, \$14.95).

"These three lectures recorded at the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in May of 1990

supply a rationale for the decline of mainline denominations in the past three decades, propose a paradigmatic shift in church development, and suggest two approaches to enable congregations of all sizes to make the shift.

"Rothauge argues convincingly that the church has experienced three valid and accepted models or paradigms in its history: the apostolic, the imperial, and the denominational. The denominational paradigm which rose out of nationality and ethnic origin is and has been in decline. The new fourth paradigmatic candidate is the missionary church wherein the people are the missionaries and the mission is at home.

"In order to enable the shift from the denominational to the missionary paradigm, he proposes two strategies. The first, he calls parallel development, which involves maintaining and ministering to both the group in the church bringing new life and the group conserving the old. The second, which he names new unit development, involves the formation and multiplication of small groups to further outreach and the sense of community.

"This is stimulating material. Rothauge's explanation of mainline denominational decline is compelling and free from the blame and guilt inherent in most other such analyses. The major value of these lectures is, however, a series of "how-to's" with accompanying rationale that any pastor concerned about growth and development will find practical and useful."

The Seven-Day-A-Week Church

by Lyle E. Schaller

Abingdon Press Nashville, ISBN0-687-38144-4
(Alk. paper)

This book briefly explores how our changing society has affected our churches, the training of ministers and the perceived direction we are moving in today. More than anything this book offers personal insight from those who have already made a shift in thinking and in so doing offers each one of us direction in choosing how we will change.

The Seven-Day-A-Week Church offers practical, "how to" examples for evaluating each facet of your church. The church and its many functions are viewed from numerous perspectives and offers insight for ministers, board, and other lay leaders.

This book also offers insight on how to address the issues that will arrive in the future for the increasingly complex system surrounding a seven-day-a-week church.



Trish Robinson
Licensed Teacher Consultant

I Love You!

As my ability to love increases, so does my love for you increase. For what you are, who you are, and however you choose to express yourself; and do; and learn; and grow.

You innately know that you. You alone are responsible for yourself and no one else.

Deep within you are all the answers to any and every question you will ever ask.

I have chosen to enjoy you--my thoughts of you--my warm feelings of love for you. To enjoy some of your actions and reactions with humor; others with love and understanding; and some with a new opportunity for my own growth because I do not understand.

I love you--not because of what you do or say that pleases me, although you do and say things that cause a welling up of pride and love within me. Certainly not because you love me or chose me. I drew you to me. I have earned you. You have, and are, contributing to me and helping me to have a fuller life. You continually help me to evaluate myself.

The fact that I am proud of you, I cannot explain to any one because other evaluations of you may not be the same as mine.

I love that you are learning "to thine own self be true,

and it follows as night the day, thou cannot then be false to any man."

If I could give to you anything, I would give you the awareness that you are beautifully unique; and life lived is a beautiful and rewarding experience of love, joy, and appreciation that often can only reach supreme heights when we appear to be selfish and sometimes cold. I cannot give this to you, or any other of the things I would like to give that are of value. But I can, and choose to, give you (first) my love; (second) my total acceptance of you; (third) my willingness to expect nothing--ever--but to (fourth) joyously accept and enjoy you as you are at any given time.

I send you love for when you need it.

I send you strength for when you need it.

I send you peace that opens you to divine guidance that can only lead you to your highest good, and therefore benefit all with whom you come in contact.

I love you because to me you are worth loving. When I feel love from you, that is a bonus--I would love you anyway!

Trish Robinson



HO! HO! HO!

Season's Greetings
From Your
Association of Unity Churches
Staff

*May the expanding vision of our unified
consciousness make of the new year a
harvest of bounty and plenty for all!*

This service represents a considerable investment in time researching the Christmas story. There are nearly thirty references from which it was compiled and I am certain some of you will find your original work represented. I regret that sources are not credited; much of the research was done in the early eighties and I can no longer separate my work from that of others. A small list of those from whom I have drawn would include the Revised Standard Bible, Charles Fillmore, Martha Giudici, Ed Rabel, Eric Butterworth, and Corriene Helene to name but a few. Very little of the material we have on file credits the original source; therefore, if you would include your research sources with anything you send to us, we will give proper credit.

A Christmas Blessing

Compiled by Mick Dustin

PRELUDE:

The Hallelujah Chorus by George F. Handel
(an organ and piano duet)

Hymn 1

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(Solo or congregation or choir)

Scripture:

Isaiah 9:2,6-7; 11:2-4
The Prophecy of Isaiah

Scripture:

Luke 1:26-33; 2:1-5
The Annunciation Story

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined. . .

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called
"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, prince of Peace."
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom,
to establish it, and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. . .

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity of the meek of the earth. . .

---Interpretation---

Some 700 years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed his coming. In you and me, Isaiah represents the earliest recognition, within our soul, of a higher self.

Isaiah represents that, within us, which is capable of discerning more to life than physical and material satisfaction.

The Isaiah of us holds to this realization throughout all time, until such time as we are capable of realizing and bringing into full light the expression of our true individual Christ identity.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

---Interpretation of Mary---

Mary, wife of Joseph and mother of Jesus.

In each of us, Mary represents the embodiment of spiritual love. Mary is that within you and me that expresses total willingness to God's perfect love filling our soul.

Perfect love, divine love, goes beyond all barriers and seeks only good for self and all of God's creation throughout the universe. Any mind and heart filled with God's love opens only to the eventuality of good coming forth in every aspect of life.

This love is unyielding in its expression of good for at its very foundation it has the power of God to overcome all adversity; yet it is the gentlest by nature because of the inner knowing that comes with seeking to let God be made manifest and the conscious realization: God approves of me!!

Out of this love is born the depth of your clear expression and understanding of your true self, your Christ-self; I AM: a child of God!

---Interpretation of Joseph---

Joseph, husband of Mary and father of Jesus.

Within each one of us is the strength and wisdom necessary to guide and protect the perfect expression of God's divine love seeking expression through our soul; the Joseph of you and me is the bearer of this strength and wisdom.

Sometimes others will suggest that this love is not good for you and its expression is making a fool of you. Deep within your own soul, you know, once this love is

Christmas Service

realized, the only true satisfaction in life comes when your mind is one with the love of your heart. Trust the Joseph in you to nourish, comfort, protect, and guide this love and the radiant good that is to come forth from this union.

---Annunciation Story Continued---

"And he came to her and said, 'Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!' But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

" 'He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.' "

"... In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinus was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary his betrothed, who was with child."

Hymn 2

O Little Town of Bethlehem
(Choir or congregation)

Scripture: Luke 2:6-7
Placed in the Manger

"And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

---Interpretation of the Manger---

*The manger, found in the stable, surrounded
by less than the finest luxuries of life.*

Time and again throughout our spiritual growth we are called upon to put forth the best that is within us. The manger is here to evidence the truth that wherever you allow God to work through you, you make of it a holy place.

No matter how humble the surroundings or unimportant the occurrence, God is there and he will protect you and bless you. God is in all and through all things, you can always trust God!

Think of the manger each time you are called upon to do your best in a situation that does not seem quite worthy of you!

Hymn 3

Away in the Manger

Scripture: Luke 2:8-14
The Angels' Song

"And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!'"

---Interpretation of the Angles---

Angels of God bearing tidings of great joy.

As we become willing to bear the Christ child within our own being, angels, messengers of God thoughts direct from the mind of God come to us bearing the truth of our being.

Angels are the messengers of Truth for you, they assure you that good and only good can be made manifest through you. They assure you that there is nothing to fear and what they have to share with you is indeed cause for joy and only joy. The angel of God is the still small voice of God within you that thunders in the silence.

The angel of God directs and guides you into the discovery of your true Christ self. The mighty realization allows you to drop the wall of separation between you and others and become one with all of mankind.

We are one in God. And God is one in us!

Hymn 4

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
(solo or congregation or choir)

Scripture: Luke 2:15-20
The Shepherds Response

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

--Interpretation of the Shepherds--

*The shepherds who watched over,
guarded and protected the flocks.*

The Twenty-third Psalm has often been referred to as the shepherd's prayer and Jesus would come to be known as the good shepherd. They shepherds of your mind are those thoughts that lead us in paths of righteousness; they guard, guide and protect us when thoughts of fear and anxiety would consume our energies. They restore our soul to peace and harmony.

Although the shepherds of our mind are not the highest within us, they are quick to acknowledge and joyfully surrender to our highest and best self. They are among the first to know when we have finally come to the joyful realization of who and what we really are.

Hymn 5

The First Noel
(choir, solo, or congregation)

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-2
The Quest of the Wise Men

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.' "

---Interpretation of the Wise Men---

*The three wise men who traveled from
the East to worship the newborn king.*

As long as we remain governed by the physical, , material self, the wisdom of our true spiritual self must remain far off and out of view, buried deep within our soul. For so long we have been completely unaware of these hidden powers of God within our being and as the Christ child is born, these powers can and do come forth.

As we come to recognize the truth of our being, these wise men, the powers of our spiritual self, come as further evidence, bearing gifts of the great spiritual resources that have always been within. These newly discovered truths about yourself are: The Gold which shows you the richness of your spiritual nature; the Frankincense which shows you the beauty of your true nature; and the Myrrh which reveals the eternal perfection of your life in God.

Hymn 6

We Three Kings
(choir or congregation)

Scripture: Matthew 2:3-8
Herod Begins to Realize

"When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will govern my people Israel.' "

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' "

---Interpretation of Herod---

Herod, the Roman ruler over Judea.

It is good to note that Judea means, "Praise Jehovah." Herod represents, to us, the ruling will of the physical. The ego in the sense consciousness. As long as Herod is in control, "Praise of God, the Source of all Good," is put aside and Herod worships the physical material pleasures.

Once the ego is born in the higher self, the Christ child, Herod still seeks to rule and will decree that the new born child be put to death. We know that with the protection of Joseph and Mary, Jesus does not suffer this decree but lives to grow and mature into the full expression of the Christ self.

The full understanding of life eternal is brought forth in the realization to the spiritual being's ability to lay the body down and take it up again as evidenced in the Easter miracle. Herod must release his control that this new born king may rule.

Scripture: Matthew 2:9-10
The Stars' Guiding Light

"When they had heard of the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy."

---Interpretation of the Star---

*The star in the East which shown over
the stable and guided the wise men.*

In us, this star represents the illumination of our intuitive faculty of mind. That within us which allows us to say, "I know that I know and this is all I need know!" Sometimes it will appear only as a dim flicker in the awesome sky of your mind, but as you recognize its inspiration and follow it, it becomes brighter and more familiar.

The gift of guiding light which leads you to your highest good is God's love leading you on. This light may shine through others, it may appear in books or places but it will always shine in you! Trust this light, follow this light; it will not fail you or lead you astray for it is attracted to only the good and the true.

NOTE: If it is going to take several minutes (5-8) to light candles, now is the time to begin lighting the candles. (Put candle-lighting instructions in your bulletin.)

Scripture: Matthew 2:11-12
Visit the Holy Child

"...and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way."

---Interpretation of the Holy Child---

*Jesus, son of Joseph and Mary,
descendant of the House of David.*

It is good to note here that David is the son of Jesse and in Hebrew the root meaning for Jesse is: Jah, Jehovah, or I AM.

When we are firm in our inner relationship with God, then is born David or Divine Love individualized and matures into the full realization of the inner Christ. From the lineage or expression of divine love is born the holy child to lift the spiritual consciousness of all mankind.

Behold, unto you is born, this day, the Son of God!

Hymn 7

Silent Night, Holy Night
(congregation/all)

NOTE: If it doesn't take more than a couple of minutes to light the candles, now is the best time. (Lower lights as Silent Night is sung and candles are lit.)

Scripture: Luke 2:10-14
Christ Is Born in You

"And the angel said to them, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' "

---Interpretation of the Indwelling Christ---

*The Christ child, son of God, Savior of self
is born of Mary and Joseph in you!*

In you and in me, the Christ child is the sum total of all the good; which is our true spiritual self. The Christ in you is born out of your very nature--just as God created you out of himself. The Christ of you is that within you which draws you in and dissolves all sense of separation between God and you. The Christ in you and me reaches beyond all sense of two people and draws forth the one presence in all the universe. We come to know and experience the eternal truth--we are one in God!!

---Conclusion of Scripture---

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!' "

Hymn 8

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
(Congregation)



Ray Wiggins
International Education
Services Consultant

To Be A Teacher

by Ray Wiggins

One of the most influential people in our community is the teacher, whether in the church or the public school. The teacher has the power to redirect a life and bring about change. As I think about the people who have greatly influenced my life, I have to go back to my teachers. They made a difference!

Within the church, teaching is a ministry, a talent, a special calling. It is something the church has historically depended upon as a source of power to bring change and redirection to life. This is exactly what happened in Jesus' life. His teaching produced change that influenced behavior, producing a community that affected history. First and foremost he was a teacher. His disciples called him "Rabbi," which means Teacher (John 1:38).

In Unity, Jesus is understood by us to be our Way-Shower. To those of us who teach in Unity he is also the Master Teacher. In Matthew's account, Jesus' public ministry begins with the words, "he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them" Matt. 5:1-2.

Jesus taught more than he preached. He was skillful and successful because first, he knew his subject: "He taught them as one who had authority" Matt. 7:29. Second, he went to his students, dealing with their interests and concerns.

The geographic location of Jesus' teaching brought him to the people. He taught them on a hillside, beside a well, at the foot of a sycamore tree, standing outside the temple observing the worshippers, at the beach, on a boat, in a house, and beside a pool.

His teaching also reached his hearers on an emotional level and seemed to be the most effective when he dealt with issues and events that were of the greatest importance

to them. He confronted the people amid their debate over taxes, upon the death of a child or friend, in the discussion about offering and giving, in the quarreling over church and state, in the confrontation with an angry crowd about capital punishment, and in the discussion about greatness and power. Jesus' teaching reached people at the pressure points of their lives--money, sex, and power.

Above all, Jesus' hearers understood him. They came to him because he spoke to their condition. He used phrases and illustrations they understood. When Jesus talked about salt losing its taste and being thrown out and trodden under foot, the masses clearly understood him. It was the common practice of the day to throw out the useless salt into the pathway to keep down the weeds. The masses understood him when he talked about birds of the air, flowers of the field, seeds, farmers, crops, soil, sheep and shepherds, and money and taxes. His skillful use of the parable presented to his hearers a vivid story that was easy to recall, thus making it possible to apply the lesson to a life situation.

Jesus' teaching made a difference in people's lives. His concern was not necessarily to convey information or knowledge, but to bring change in human behavior that was necessary for one to express the inner Christ presence.

Today, when I think about the good teachers I know they all seem to have several characteristics in common:

Good teachers personify their message. They teach what they are. They not only teach truth, they live it.

Good teachers make learning exciting, creating an atmosphere of enthusiasm.

Good teachers teach people, not materials.

Good teachers are open, receptive, and responsive to the leadership of Spirit. They practice prayer and meditation. The Spirit is their teacher.

Good teachers love people.

Both the thrill and challenge of teaching is for the teacher to realize that the student learns not only from the lesson but also from the teacher's demonstration of Truth.

Keep teaching!

The Ministering With Teens CEP Class Summer of 1992.

Contact Ray Wiggins for details about the 1993 session.



International Youth of Unity Officers for 1992-93

From Tara Johnson President:

Hello and blessings to you! My name is Tara Johnson and I am proud to announce that I'm the new International President of the Youth of Unity. I'm a freshman at the University of Texas A & M; and I am pursuing a degree in Physics Research and Development so I can help the world be a better place for everything to live. Now that you know what I am "up to" in everyday life, I'd like to tell a bit about what I intend to accomplish this year. Ray Wiggins, Lynn Michael, Lauren Creamer, Dieter Schmelig, and myself make up the fabulous International Team for 1993. Since 1993 is the Year of the Child, I sincerely hope that everyone in Unity will take the time to find out what the youth are all about. It is my personal goal to let the Unity congregation experience the wonderful spiritual unfoldment and enthusiasm for life that the Y.O.U. had to offer. I would also like for the Adults of Unity to be more closely associated with the Y.O.U. and see that where there is a Y.O.U. there is also an A.O.U. chapter.

I am honored to have gained this position and I am so excited about the upcoming year of Y.O.U. I know this year will hold a vision of growth in numbers and in teachings for all youth in the Unity movement.

From Dieter Schmelig First Vice-President:

Greetings! My name is Dieter, and I am the International Youth of Unity's First Vice-President. I am more than enthusiastic about the coming year of service to Y.O.U. and, through them, Truth. The Youth of Unity members have each exhibited a desire to know Truth, to have a real love for the Unity teachings, and an intellect that belies our years. These are the people who will fill your sanctuaries in the coming years, who will start families with Unity as their tradition. These minds will carry our religion into the next century, and into "...every town, city, and hamlet in the land" (in the words of our co-founders). For these reasons and others, I feel that the Youth of Unity deserves special attention, guidance, and



International Officers (l to r): Lauren Creamer, Second Vice-President; Dieter Schmelig, First Vice-President; and Tara Johnson, President.

instruction.

Without exception, Y.O.U. sponsors have shown a genuine love for this youth movement and a strong ability and desire to express Truth. It has, however, come to my attention that a number of sponsors have had some concerns about the depth of their understanding of Unity teachings, and their ability to teach these principles to others. At the same time I have been made aware that there are Youth of Unity members who share these concerns about their own understandings. Much has been and is being done to overcome this apparent challenge on an international and regional level, but I feel that the focus must

be on a local level, for this is where the education begins and continues. Much is being done here as well, but there is always more room for the Youth of Unity to grow in its understanding of its position in the church family and its link in this great educational movement. I celebrate your participation in this growth, and I know that we are all one in this, the noblest of all pursuits: the service of the Truth of omnipotent good.

Being a minister's son, I am aware that your time is a valuable commodity indeed, but I urge you to spend some of that time with your local Youth of Unity chapter, and to offer your Y.O.U. sponsor as much guidance and training as possible. You will be making an investment in your church, in this Unity movement, and in the future of our world.

As always, blessings and thank you for your interest, participation, and support.

*I have no greater joy than this,
to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

--3 John 1:4 (NRSV translation)

From Lauren Creamer International Second Vice-President:

It was my very first conference; I was fifteen, scared, insecure, and excited. The first day of conference I was four hours late for registration, I didn't know anyone, and

Continued. . .

I had never been to Unity Village before. I slowly walked into my new family group and as I turned the corner into the room, I saw ten faces staring back at me. They were all smiling. Then they started clapping and said, "The final member of our family is here!" It was then that I allowed myself to breathe, relax, and have fun. I saw the International Team that year and I thought they were gods. They were so comfortable with themselves and others and they knew so many people. There was one person in particular whom I saw, named Lynn/Mikki Michael. She was the International President at the time. Seeing her up on that stage, totally warm, fun, and loving, inspired me. It was then that I decided someday I wanted to run for international office. Well, four years later, here I am, Lauren Creamer, the International Second Vice-President. I am a freshman at Vassar College this year, so my life is definitely filled with continuous change and challenges. I am extremely excited about being given the opportunity to work with the international team this year. We have our

first planning session beginning October twenty-first. This should be a wonderful time for all of us to share our visions for the upcoming year. I hope that if there are any questions about what our thoughts are, or about the Youth of Unity in general, you will feel free to call or write to me or anyone else on the team. Outside of Y.O.U. I am interested/involved in politics, theater, and medicine. I have found that on this campus there are many free spirits who constantly remind me to look at life from many different perspectives. They also say, that the last exam is just another drop in the bucket of life. The Youth of Unity has given me the support to develop self-confidence, esteem, and acceptance. I hope that this year I am able to reach out and give the International Y.O.U. the ability to take life seriously enough to make a difference, but also the ability to laugh at life periodically in order to keep one's sanity and smile intact. The 1992-93 year is under way! This is where the adventure starts. Follow the yellow brick road!

1992 International Youth of Unity Conference



Delegates to International Y.O.U. Conference, 1992, at Unity Village. Conference '93 is set for the Village on July 17-23.

Certification of Spiritual Educators Program Begins

by Ray Wiggins

Now it is possible for a minister, licensed teacher, youth education director, children's teacher or Uniteen/Y.O.U. sponsor to become certified in their area of emphasis. An information/application brochure has been mailed to all ministries and to youth education directors in the Fall issue of The Year of the Child packet. Additional copies are available from your Association's education department.

One becomes "certified" upon completion of several requirements. Though different for each age group or work area emphasis, these requirements have in common some basic continuing education courses, some years of experience in designated area of emphasis, samples of one's work, letters of recommendation (one from one's minister) and attendance at a week-long intensive.

Our first "intensive" is scheduled for June 19-25, 1993, at Unity Village. It immediately follows the Ministers' Conference of 1993 held in Kansas City. The hope is that ministers will bring their youth education directors with them to the Conference and that they will remain the extra week to attend the "intensive." The Certification Intensive will not be offered again until 1995. A candidate may attend the "intensive" at the beginning, middle, or end of their efforts to fulfill the requirements for certification.



Inner-View Y.O.U'er of the Month

Serge Messina

Age: 16

Grade: 11th

Church: Unity Christ Church, Carlsbad, California

Chapter Office: Secretary

Family: Dad (Sergio) is a Vocational Educational Supervisor at Navy Brig, Miramar AFB. Mom (Terry), a native of Vietnam, is an accountant for Extreme Sports, manufacturers of Jet Ski clothing. Little brother Alex is five and the jewel of our church's Sunday school (or so they say).

Favorite Classes: Chemistry & English

Favorite Food: Pizza

Favorite Band: Motley Crue

Hobbies: Soccer, Karate, Reading, Computer Games

Why I like Y.O.U.: It's a good way to meet new people and have lots of fun!!

How I use Unity in my Life: It helps me to always strive to do better. Helps me cope with problems.

Affirmation or saying I use: If you want to do something, just do it.

Career Goal: Robotics Engineer

Prayer Life: I pray when something really important is happening or I need guidance.

Certification of Spiritual Educators Intensive

June 19-25, 1993

Unity Village, MO

Registration Fee: \$180

(room and board not included)



For registration forms
write to the Education Department of your Association of Unity Churches



Delegates to the 1992 International Y.O.U. Sponsor's Conference at Unity Village.



Participants in the Y.O.U. Leadership Tour to Russia July, 1992. Photo taken inside the Kremlin. For details on the 1993 trip, contact Bob Hebert at 313-756-9209.

Congratulations!!

Lori Mitchell, Associate Regional Representative of the West Central Region is the newest member of the Y.O.U. Visionaries Club.

The Visionaries Club is an International Y.O.U. program established in 1990 to encourage teens to gain a better understanding of Unity. Y.O.U'ers are required to read and report on twelve of fifteen recommended books to become members. For recognition of their effort, they will receive a pin inscribed with the new Y.O.U. logo. This pin will be presented to them before the congregation and/or chapter of their sponsoring ministry. For more information on this special program, write to the education department of your Association.

New Y.O.U. Chapter

Members of the newly formed Y.O.U. group at Unity of Louisville, in Louisville, Kentucky. Shaun Bishop, vice-president of the Louisville chapter, reports, "This photo was taken after we had finished painting our new room. We have attended the subregional retreat and have plans to attend the regional in Michigan."



Adults of Unity News

1992-93 Adults of Unity International Coordinators (l to r): Cheryl Knapp, Rick Meadows, and Pat Pearson.



Attendees at the 1992 Adults of Unity Conference at Unity Village. The 1993 event is set for July 3-9 at Estes Park, Colorado. Phone Ray Wiggins at 816-524-7750, ext. 327 to receive information.

INTERGENERATIONAL EDUCATION MINISTRY



Lynn Michael
Education Services Assistant

Successful Program, Successful Uniteens

"You're just a babysitter."

By subtle prosecution, how many times has someone plastered this label on you? Probably the answer is "plenty."

It is demeaning, but could it be true? Think about it. Babies need babysitters because they cannot take care of themselves. Does your Uniteen program treat junior highers as if they cannot take care of themselves?

Junior high programs that promote adult dependency --not self-reliance--are rightly labeled "babysitter services." This is why we need to guide students toward self-discipline and responsible decision-making. Our job is to facilitate the growth of confident, capable young people. We are not called to merely "contain" or "occupy" our kids. We are called to prepare them for a life of tough choices and wise decisions.

Respected sociologist and psychologist H. Stephen Glenn has done groundbreaking research into developing "self-reliant" young people. He has isolated several perceptions and skills that self-reliant people have. Here is how you can use Glenn's insights to nurture self-discipline in your Uniteens:

1. Help the Uniteens see themselves as capable people.

Young people in high school are working to develop an identity; but Uniteens are working on self-esteem and simply need to know they are competent. They are looking for something--anything--in which they may excel and utilize their natural strengths.

This is why Uniteen programs that build self-reliant young people offer them abundant opportunities for success. As Uniteens experience success in your activities, they will grow in their confidence. Therefore. . .

**Program for involvement.* Challenge Uniteens to get involved in every aspect of the class. Let them lead meditations, teach a Bible story, close in prayer, approach visitors, and plan activities.

**Program for experience.* Give Uniteens a chance to do things for people. Take them on regular service project experiences--raking lawns for the elderly in your community, helping at a soup kitchen, or collecting canned goods for a food pantry.

2. Help Uniteens develop their relational abilities.

Junior high programs that do not focus on relationships are simply school. Relational ministry means young people are developing significant ties to adults and peers. Do your Uniteens feel they are developing essential relationships in your group? Do they relate with adult helpers as more than casual acquaintances? When they go home, do they have a better understanding of how to talk with their parents or siblings?

**Make sure your Uniteen program encourages junior higher/adult relationships.* Recruit a diverse adult leadership team. Then develop a structure for building relationships between young people and adults. Ask each leader to spend time with three Uniteens a month, perhaps taking time before a Sunday lesson. Make sure your plan is designed for face-to-face contact.

**Stress strong peer relationships.* Plan activities that allow Uniteens to practice building one another up. Do a group-building exercise at every meeting. Plan for interaction times that go beyond surface issues.

**Remember to include families in your programming.* In addition to teaching about family relationships, give the Uniteens and their parents opportunities to open lines of communication and create memories. Plan family nights with fun and serious components. Offer a family retreat (one night keeps the cost down).

3. Help Uniteens understand that their choices can change their lives.

Self-reliance does not mean separation from GOD; but as Uniteens learn about their oneness with GOD, they need to practice responsible decision-making. We need to help them understand that they--as children of GOD--are responsible for their own decisions and the outcomes therein.

**Give Uniteens the chance to exercise their decision-making muscles in your group.* Offer a variety of programming and expect the Uniteens to choose their involvement. Provide opportunities for Uniteens to learn how to set priorities.

Continued. . .

4. Help Uniteens understand emotions and learn from experiences.

It is often difficult for junior highers to identify what they feel and to pinpoint "life lessons." But these skills are no less important for them to develop. Young people's emotions can resemble a teeter-totter: One minute Jessica is bouncing off the walls with excitement; the next minute she is in the depths of despair.

*Plan activities that will help your Uniteens experience and understand their emotions. Allow emotions to have a place in your group. Excitement, anger, disappointment,

fear, anticipation, joy, doubt, sadness, and pride should all be normal by-products of your lesson plans. Encourage Uniteens to examine these feelings by asking them judgment-free questions such as, "How did you feel when you...?" "Why did you feel that way? How is that feeling like...?" "How does this experience relate to emotions you feel every day?"

Uniteen leaders are not babysitters when we are purposeful about our programming. We are successful when we help even one junior higher to feel successful!

Taken from "4 Ways To Grow Responsible Kids." Reprinted by permission from *JR. HIGH MINISTRY Magazine*, ©1992, Group Publishing, Box 481, Loveland, CO 80539.

Day Camp News

The Youth Education Department at Unity of Roanoke Valley, Roanoke, Virginia, held its Annual Day Camp for children 3-12 years old in August. The camp, "Follow the Son" was a tremendous success. There were 47 children and 50+ volunteers. Thirty scholarship donations were received from members of the congregation.

Though many of the activities took place indoors, there was a real camp atmosphere with seven homeroom tents, plus a registration tent, game tent, and lunch tents. The children and volunteers were enthusiastic from start to finish. Many felt they would like the camp to continue for at least one more week.

Betty Hanbury, YE Director, comments, "Already I have volunteers for next year's camp! I call this 'divine order.' "



Pictured above are the children and some of the volunteers participating in this year's program.

YEAR OF THE CHILD NEWS



Judi Venturini
Year of the Child Coordinator

It Worked For Us!

After spending the summer exploring the "Metaphysics of Oz," children and teachers at Unity on the Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri, decided to share the fun and insight they gained with the entire congregation. Under the direction of Judy Cady, Children's Education Director, Oz came alive early one Sunday morning this August.

Nothing seemed to be very different to those who gathered at that morning's service. Any newcomer or guest would have no thought what would lie ahead. Duke Tufty, minister, delivered his Sunday message, which was both inspirational and motivational, but the atmosphere was soon to change quickly!



Then came the music! Instead of the Unity hymns one might expect, the music from the "Wizard of Oz" seemed to begin to increase the energy and set the mood for an

appearance by Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tinman, and the Lion. Just as everyone was "easing down the road" with them, the Wicked Witch of the West broke in, threatening to disturb this peaceful gathering! However, the warm, loving, affirmative energy of the guests melted that old hag into the ethers!

After Dorothy and her companions shared with the congregation how to find our way "home," bringing with us our gifts of courage, love, and wisdom, we were invited to an intergenerational celebration that followed the service.



Fellowship Hall was brightly decorated. The aroma of many interesting dishes brought to share at this potluck dinner filled the air. Young and old were dressed in character. Everyone from Glenda to the Munchkins settled in for a lovely meal and enjoyable conversation.

Music, games (such as pin the heart on the lion.), and a parade of characters made the afternoon fun and delightful for everyone. Judy Cady, Children's Education Director at the Plaza, called the characters to come forward as she gave a brief metaphysical interpretation of their part in the story. The festivities ended with a cake-walk down the yellow brick road.

This event is a wonderful illustration of how we can take our curriculum and create new fun-filled activities to enhance and expand our children's ministry into a family ministry. It was difficult to tell who had more fun--the children or the adults. One thing is for sure, everyone let his or her inner child out to play, thanks to Judy and her wonderful staff!



Continued...



Follow the yellow

brick road!



NOTE: You can order "The Metaphysics of Oz" from your Association of Unity Churches. It is Item #1747; Cost \$9.95. Phone 816-524-7414 and ask for the order department.

What works for you?

What are you doing that is creative and fun in your children's ministry? What intergenerational activities/programs do you offer? Drop me a little article and some pictures and share your ideas and inspire others to create a sense of joy and celebration within their church family.

Send your ideas to:

Judi Venturini
Year of the Child Coordinator
Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Important Dates For 1993

Mid-Year Meetings
 Executive Committee Meetings
 Skills Demonstration Seminar
 Board Member Seminar & Retreat
 Pre-Conference
 Conference
 Village Fun Fest
 Certification of Spiritual Educators
 Licensed Teacher Postgraduate Week
 Adults of Unity Conference (Estes Park, Colorado)
 Y.O.U. Conference
 Skills Demonstration Seminar
 Executive Committee Meetings
 Board Member Seminar & Retreat
 Skills Demonstration Seminar

Jan. 17-22 (Sun.-Fri.)
 March 29-31 (Mon.-Wed.)
 May 15-21 (Sat.-Fri.)
 May 22-28 (Sat.-Fri.)
 June 11-13 (Fri.-Sun.)
 June 15-19 (Tues.-Sat.)
 June 18 (Fri.)
 June 19-25 (Sat.-Fri.)
 June 19-25 (Sat.-Fri.)
 July 3-9 (Sat.-Fri.)
 July 17-23 (Sat.-Fri.)
 Aug. 21-27 (Sat.-Fri.)
 Sept. 12-17 (Sun.-Fri.)
 Sept. 18-24 (Sat.-Fri.)
 Oct. 30-Nov. 5 (Sat.-Fri.)

1993 Regional Conferences

Western April 19-22
 Great Lakes Sept. 19-23
 Eastern October 2-7
 Southeast (sometime in Oct.)

Kahnetah Resort in Oregon
 Potawatomi Inn-Pokagon State Park,
 Angola, IN
 Hamilton, Ont., Canada
 Lake Chatuge, near Hiawasse, GA

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