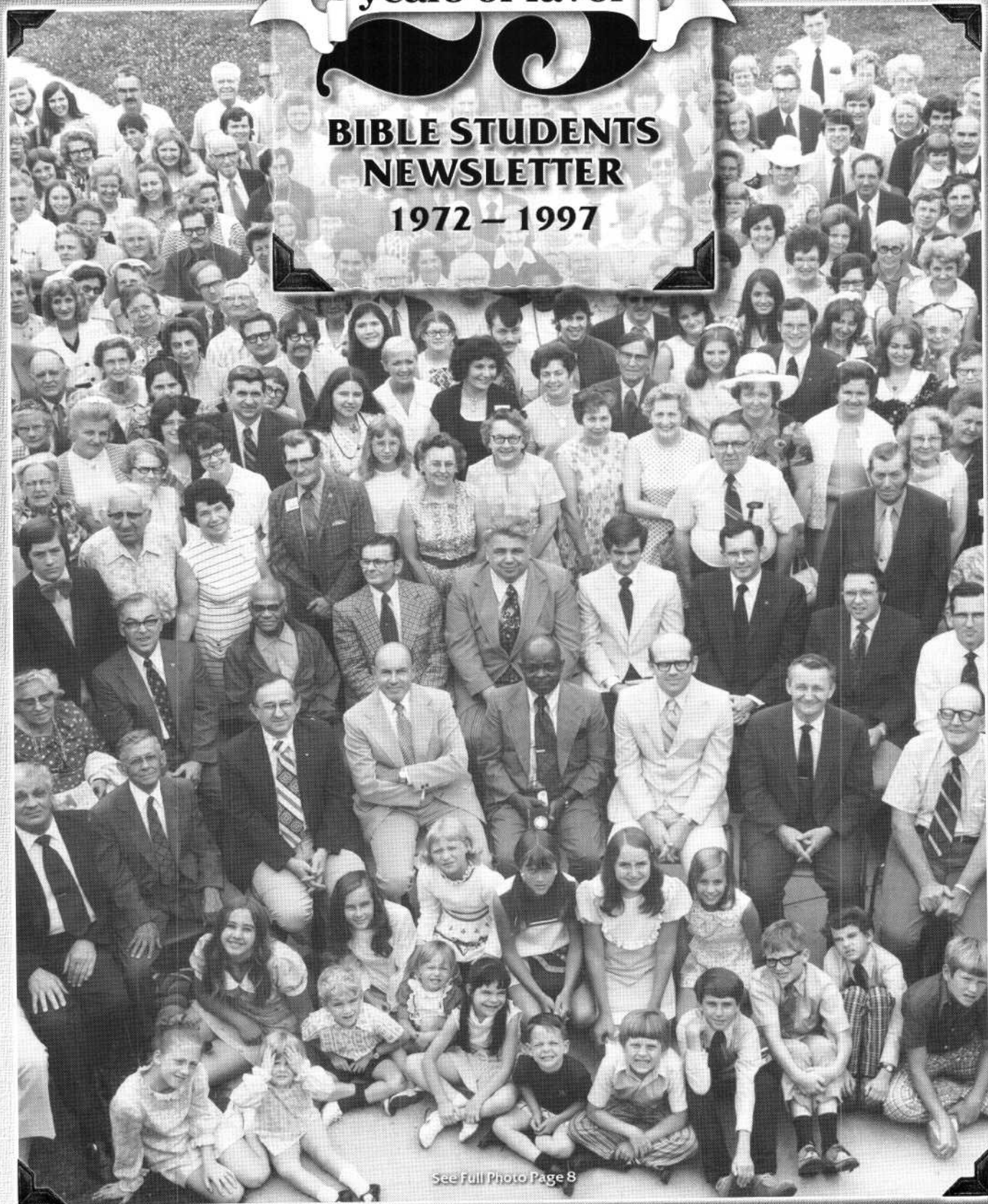


SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION

25
years of favor

**BIBLE STUDENTS
NEWSLETTER**

1972 - 1997



See Full Photo Page 8



“Call to remembrance the former days...”

Heb. 10:32

Greetings in the Lord

from the Editorial Committee: Br. Richard Peddemors, Br. Allen Springer, and Br. James Watkins

This Special Anniversary edition, “25 Years of Favor,” commemorates the period from 1972-1997. During this period the world has experienced many changes, knowledge has increased, governments and ideologies have come and gone. The increase of knowledge and the fall of Communism have had a profound change on the Bible Student movement. This anniversary issue features articles that have brought to the Lord’s people new opportunities for service, new technologies for communicating and for public witness, and new discoveries of brethren in foreign lands. The Centennial Convention picture on the cover reminds us of the brethren that are no longer on this side of the veil and the void they left, of the children who have grown into adults, that time marches on and that we are nearer to the Kingdom than we were then.

What a grand privilege has been ours to serve the Lord’s brethren through the *Newsletter* these many years! The title: “25 Years of Favor” came to mind after reviewing the Lord’s great favor in those years. Our hearts are humbled before him in wonder, love and praise as we remember all his good providences in the way.

When the Lord put upon our hearts to gather recollections of our brethren to celebrate this event, our first step was a review by the Anniversary Committee of the collection of *Newsletter* issues. The outline for this edition was envisioned by these dedicated brethren. An abbreviated history of brethren’s activities emerged by excerpts which would have made a fascinating issue. See *Gleanings* Pages 39-41.

This fuller account, however, of brethren’s recollections comprises a memorable record although we still feel some concern lest any part may have been overlooked (but which we must leave to the Lord’s overruling.) And, there may be a few discrepancies in accounts given, but there is harmony in the overriding spirit for the activities reported. Our request of many brethren to recall their activities over 25 years and then compress them into brief articles seems, in retrospect, to have been extreme. The marvel is that more than 30 brethren—all busy men—did just that! We

give you these recollections with minimal editing, that you may feel the personal warmth and enthusiasm of their words.

We owe a large debt of gratitude to everyone who assisted us in any way to make this project a reality: to all who manifested an interest in the project, both in and outside the ecclesia, whose spiritual insight assisted and whose talents and skills produced. To have included all the activities as we wished to

do would have meant a larger project than we were prepared to undertake. However, the ecclesia activities of the years and major related ones are the essence of the *Newsletter’s* total coverage over 25 years.

The brethren of the Miami Valley Bible Students Ecclesia are thankful to the brethren for their labor of love in providing material for this issue and we pray that all are blessed thereby. □

A Regathering of Eagles

by Br. Larry Davis



First Fort Collins Convention, 1970

They came from all parts of the U. S. and Canada, by every means, from large ecclesias and small, the isolated and the well known. Those who couldn’t attend called or sent cards and all were present through prayer. What prompted this gathering at the foot of the Rockies? The Lord said “Where the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.” Matt. 24:28

Changes had been taking place among the brethren for several years as many who accepted the message in all of the Volumes and who longed for a more active participation in the Harvest work began to separate into new ecclesias which were focused in these directions. As these brethren met in smaller, local conventions, there was a growing interest in a larger, general convention for a reaffirmation of faith in the Harvest Message and the Lord’s “faithful and wise servant,” Br. Charles T. Russell. Thus, through a series of providential events, the Ft. Collins and Northglenn Ecclesias began planning such a convention to be held in the summer of 1970 at Colorado State University (CSU) in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

All brethren who were in harmony with this convention platform effort, worked and cooperated together in a joint effort. The sponsoring ecclesias consisted of five brethren; three sisters and two brothers, but many of the services provided were performed by other ecclesias or brethren: Tape recording (the late Br. Art Newell), children’s programs, transportation, signs and banners, printing of the convention programs and other items. Brothers Ed Lorenz, Ludlow Loomis and Ralph Gaunt

A Regathering of Eagles *Concluded*

provided an initial speakers list of brethren they felt were upholding the Harvest Message. It truly was a cooperative effort.

The Colorado Bible Students Convention was held for five years at CSU and for three more years at the Colorado Women's College in Denver. Since that time, the Indiana-Ohio Convention has continued to uphold the same standards. To this day, when we travel, one of the first things brethren often mention and reflect upon is the blessings we all received from the conventions in Ft. Collins.



Above: recording and below: Love Feast for the First Fort Collins Convention



Memories of Fort Collins

1. At the first convention, the "Welcome to CSU" was given by Mr. Herb Manig. We had the privilege of meeting with Herb in his home and sharing the Truth. In his opening remarks he stated that groups come to CSU in search of truth in many different areas but he added, "your group is unique; you are here because you have found 'The Truth!'"

2. One week before the first convention, we had received eleven reservations. The local brethren were overwhelmed with joy and tears when the busloads began to arrive and between 300-400 brethren attended. During the vesper service at the end of the first day, there were few dry eyes in the audience.

3. Each year 40-50 elders attended the Elders meetings and from these

meetings were elected the committees which began the planning process for the *Newsletter*, printing, pilgrim, tape, and mass-media activities.

4. The opening paragraph from the invitation letter for the first convention read, "Plans are being made for a six-day convention to bring together brethren who are united, by faith, in the Harvest Message as provided in the *Studies in the Scriptures*, *Tabernacle Shadows* and other writings given unto us by our Lord at his return, through that 'faithful and wise servant.' Every effort is being made to assure the brethren of a sound platform, united by these writings." The program always featured elements of Present Truth that had become controversial among Bible Students. For example, the first year there was a panel on "The Wise and Faithful Servant" and symposia on the "Lord's Reign" and "Times of Restitution."

5. Every year there was a public witness, and in 1974, a couple came to hear Br. Rodney Hugelmann speak on "Israel." They had seen the ad which read, "7-8 p.m." and they came for the 8 p.m. lecture, just in time to see everyone leaving. They received a witness and went home with a First Volume. This couple was Gene and Charlene Homolka. They witnessed to Charlie and Marla Homolka, and the next year,

all four (and five from the Lakewood class) were immersed at Ft. Collins. In the 1980's Br. Gene and Sr. Charlene's two daughters, Sr. Linda Parsons and Sr. Gaylene Homolka, also came into the Truth. A total of six consecrated as a result of that "missed" public meeting!

6. Some of the speakers from those early conventions who have since gone home include: Brothers Art Newell, Leon Norby, Bruno Hack, Robert Seklemian, Ludlow Loomis, Robert Alexander, Peter Kolliman, Henry Kwolek, Irwin Doran, John Trzyna, Daniel Kaziak, Alvin Raffel, Robert Chastain, Henry Strickland, and, most recently, Edward Lorenz. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to these faithful brethren for showing us, by example, the importance of the Harvest Message.



Br. Sid Bruns



Sr. Pauline Deines

Two of the five brethren responsible for planning the conventions are quite elderly now. Br. Sid Bruns was 94 in March and lives in a retirement complex in Ft. Collins. His mind is clear and his love of the Harvest Message has not changed. Sr. Pauline Deines is 99 and lives in a nursing home near Ft. Collins. She is unable to remember clearly but was faithful until her health was taken. What a joy it will be when we are all joined together with our Lord and faithful brethren for the glorious work of blessing all the families of the earth! Rev. 2:10.

A Brother Remembers

by Br. Jim Marten

By way of remembrance, the first seed of thought was brought up by Br. Edward Lorenz at the Silver Creek Convention in the summer of 1969. It was suggested that we have a convention somewhere in Colorado to accommodate a larger group of brethren than was possible at the Strickland Farm.

The reason for this convention was that many brethren felt a need to gather those brethren who no longer supported the views of other large conventions and were looking forward to gathering with those who viewed doctrinal matters as they understood Br. Russell's Volumes to teach.

There was a large group of brethren from the Chicago Ecclesia and surrounding area that was very interested and excited at the prospect of this convention. We organized a group to fly together to Colorado, with a very reasonable airfare, and chartered two buses from Denver to Fort Collins. It was a joyous group looking forward to the fellowship of some who did not attend conventions for a number of years, particularly we remember Sr. Rose Hirsh, who with Br. Robert Hirsh, were personally with Br. Russell in the service.

This annual convention in Fort Collins became a reality for a number of years. □

"Call to remembrance the former days..."

Where and How It Began

by Chairmen Brs. Stanley Gorgas and Edward Borowiec

Some brethren may be wondering how the publication of the Newsletter was established. This summary may help to clarify most questions.

On August 3, 1971, the elders assembled at the Colorado Bible Students Convention in Fort Collins, appointed the first Newsletter committee to study the need and make recommendations for the implementation of a Bible Students newsletter as a cooperative effort of Bible Students who believe in the doctrines as presented in the Holy Scriptures revealed by our returned Lord through his faithful and wise servant, Pastor Charles Taze Russell, and promulgated through the six volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures*, *Tabernacle Shadows*, and other of the Pastor's writings.

Its purpose was to disseminate news and information, other than doctrinal matters, of interest among Bible Students who believe as aforementioned.

In addition the committee was to develop a preliminary newsletter as a trial publication. The Newsletter committee consisted of Brothers Ralph Gaunt of Jackson, Michigan; Stanley Gorgas, Chairman, of Phoenix, Arizona; Ted Jennings of Porcupine Plain, Saskatchewan, Canada; and Gilbert Rice of San Diego, California.

To ascertain the collective consecrated thinking of the Lord's people regarding the implementation of a newsletter, a questionnaire was prepared by this committee and mailed to brethren throughout the country and Canada.

This questionnaire was very comprehensive. In the replies received, preponderant views for each question were tabulated, along with ten other suggestions, which served to indicate the Lord's

direction for a newsletter. The brethren were asked for a continued interest in their prayers that the newsletter would be to the service of the Lord, the Truth, and the brethren.

In November 1971, the Newsletter committee met at the Bible Students convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Committee

preliminary issue of the *Bible Students Newsletter* was published and distributed to the brethren through the elders listed in the convention directory of elders.

Mail response indicated that it was appreciated by the brethren and it was concluded that the *Bible Students Newsletter* could be a useful medium of communication for keeping the brethren informed of the various Harvest Truth activities, exclusive of doctrinal matters.

The Newsletter committee gratefully acknowledged the contributions of the brethren who had participated in the successful pilot program for the *Bible Students Newsletter* and those who offered their prayers for its guidance. And, most of all, grateful acknowledgment was given to our heavenly Father and his beloved Son for this privilege of service.

It was truly a labor of love commensurate with the spirit and the zeal manifested by the brethren at the convention for the Truth, as served by our returned Lord through that faithful and wise servant, our pastor, Brother Russell.

At the next Fort Collins convention meeting of the elders in 1972, a new committee was appointed consisting of Brs. Ed Borowiec, Chairman, Stanley Gorgas, Ted Jennings, Alvin Raffel of Dayton, Ohio, and Lauren Stewart of Toledo, Ohio. (The committee was now seeking an ecclesia to sponsor it.)

When the Bible Students Ecclesia of Dayton was invited to become the *Newsletter's* sponsor, the privilege of service was heartily accepted in October 1972.

We are grateful to the Lord that he has blessed the efforts of the brethren in publishing the *Newsletter* to this day and that it will continue to be a rich source of blessing to all. □



Pilot issue: Bible Students Newsletter

member assignments to generate the preliminary newsletter were mutually agreed upon by the committee.

In January 1972, a rough draft of a newsletter was prepared and approved by the Newsletter committee. The Millennial Morning Bible Students of San Diego, California were contacted through Brother Gilbert Rice to ascertain their interest in printing the preliminary issue of the *Bible Students Newsletter*. They agreed, and in February 1972, the

History of The Dayton Ecclesia A Secretary's Reflection

First Newsletter Sponsor

When the Dayton Ecclesia accepted the invitation to sponsor and publish the *Bible Students Newsletter* it was just eleven years old. Br. Alvin Raffel was its elder and a member of the Newsletter committee. The Dayton Ecclesia was formed in 1961 when a small group left the Associated Bible Students of Dayton (ABSD) where Br. Raffel had been an elder for fifteen years, and Sr. Mildred Raffel was the secretary.

This group, ABSD, left the Watch

Tower Society in 1920 when its new president began departing from the Harvest Truths and embarked upon his declared intention to remove the "man worship" which, he said, was prevalent among the brethren. He declared that no individual was given authority over the Lord's goods but rather "that faithful and wise servant" was a group, a channel—the Society itself.

However, within fifteen years a few of the leaders in ABSD had been won over to the view of That Servant being a

group by some of the leaders and pilgrims of another organization. This attitude was manifested in an increasing criticism of Pastor Russell and his writings to the point that class Bible/Volume study was no longer edifying.

In retrospect, the history of the Dayton Ecclesia parallels to a degree the history of the Bible Students movement. By 1938 this controversy had pervaded the movement to the extent that some basic doctrines were affected, to name

See *History* bottom next page

Setting Type for the Bible Students Newsletter

by Br. Richard Kindig

Beginning in 1972, I began to have many opportunities to set type for Bible Students' projects. My employer, Kreber Graphics, was kindly disposed toward the projects we wanted to do, as long as we did the work on our own time. When the *Bible Students Newsletter* was undertaken, typesetting and paste-up were needed. This was 10 years before personal computers, laser printers, faxes, cellular phones, and FedEx! We used a paper tape keyboard. The tape was read by a photoelectric typesetter that had six whole kilobytes of ram! To add 8kb of memory, it cost \$4,000 (to add ten times that today would only cost \$15.00).

One of the treasures of those early days of the *Newsletter* was the proofreading process. Beth and I would keyboard copy on a flexowriter in our living room. Then, I would take the tapes to work and print out galleys. Then the Raffels would come and spend the day, or the weekend, reading and editing, while Beth and I pasted up the *Newsletter*. Br. Raffel's dry humor, and Sr. Raffel's careful rhetorical skills, were a strong influence and a spiritual oasis in our early Christian life.

Printing The Newsletter

by Br. Lauren Stewart

In 1972, wanting to serve the brethren, we bought a press—a 1250 Multilith—and placed it in our oversized garage at Cedardale Court in Toledo, Ohio. To create a comfortable press room, we bought a furnace from our neighbor—a heating and air conditioning contractor—for just \$200. The man installed it free of charge, “because the Stewarts were printing religious material.”

My wife, Sr. Debbie, remembers the hurried pace of the printing sessions which she dubbed, “the quarterly weekend marathons.” They began on Friday, anytime between 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.—when Br. Gary and Sr. Laura Norris arrived with the artwork from Columbus. Br. David Hauke, who lived in Toledo, was the press helper. David and I usu-

ally printed (David doing the big part) until 3:00 a.m. Saturday. We stopped for a few hours of sleep, then breakfast and started printing again about 8:00 a.m. Saturday—we printed all day until it was finished. The one recurring problem was static electricity. Sometimes we would place the papers in the kitchen oven after printing one side, to reduce the moisture in the paper.

“While the brothers worked,” Sr. Debbie said, “Sr. Laura and I prayed, and kept food and beverages coming to help them stay awake. The Norrises, who delivered the job to Dayton that same night, had a 7:00 p.m. deadline for leaving. It was always close but somehow the job was finished, and we all helped box up the printed pages, and off they went to the Raffels for the final mailing stages.”

This procedure was followed the first eight years when the typesetting was done in Columbus, Ohio. Ed.

The Printer's Helper

by Br. David Hauke

Br. David's account relates to later years when camera-ready copy was produced in Dayton and sent to Toledo for printing. Ed.

To those who look for them, there are opportunities to use or develop talents in the Lord's service that require a more “physical” input, and we should be glad of the privilege. One such privilege for a young brother was working as a helper in printing the *Newsletter*.

Of course, everyone was always pushing a deadline, so when the *Newsletter* copy was ready out of Dayton, it had to be “rushed” to Toledo. Next day delivery was too slow so the artwork would be put on a Greyhound bus. We would pick it up at the terminal in Toledo, quickly taking it to a print supply house that would make the negatives. That night would be “print night”, and the next day the printed material would make a return trip via Greyhound. On “print night”, we would first make the plates from the negatives, mount the plates on the small press, and run the pages. It tended to be a tedious job. The nature of the small press

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Br. Laddie Stewart at the press

History Concluded

a few: the Second Presence, the New Covenant future and the Church's part in the Sin Offering.

At that time a growing number of brethren arose to the defense of the Harvest Truth including the identity of Br. Russell as “the faithful and wise servant” of Matt. 24:45-47. A movement was underway to have a Bible Students Midwest Convention and two ecclesias, Chicago and Pittsburgh (both having left the Society within the previous ten years) became its sponsors. The Harvest Message was made the basis of the Convention Platform which disqualified some prominent leaders as speakers. This First

Bible Students Midwest Convention was held in the summer of 1939 at Webster Lake, Indiana. In 1940 the Second was held at Miami Valley Chatauqua, near Dayton, Ohio, which continued through 1942 as the Bible Students Midwest Convention. In 1944 the next Convention at Chatauqua was presented as the Bible Students General Convention, still on the original platform, which continued under this title at different sites: 1947 at Brooklyn, New York; 1948 at Chatauqua, Ohio; 1949–1952 at Bowling Green, Ohio and 1953 and onward at Bloomington, Indiana.

The Dayton Ecclesia left the fellow-

ship of ABSD in 1961 after a long association, and in 1969 it left a wider fellowship for the same reason. One year later in 1970 the First Fort Collins Convention based on the same platform as the original Bible Students General Convention began the period of activity reported in this issue.

The Dayton Ecclesia no longer exists as a body but continues in a few remaining members that joined with the Piqua Bible Students in 1988 to form the Miami Valley Bible Students Ecclesia. This ecclesia continues to sponsor and publish the *Newsletter* on the same basis of its Statement of Purpose. □

The Early Newsletter Years

recollections of Br. Jim and Sr. Bonita Heeg

When the *Newsletter* was finally printed and delivered to Dayton, Ohio, sometimes by the brethren and sometimes by a Greyhound bus, there was still a great deal of work to do, all of it done by hand. Since the Dayton class was very small in those days, the Heeg and McKee families, from nearby Springfield, would go to the Raffels' home over a three day period and assist with this work. A little later, baby Bethany would also go along.

All of the *Newsletter* pages were laid out in piles on a long table in order. The pages were printed on single sheets on both sides and all had to be collated by hand. Some of us would walk along the table and take one sheet at a time, being careful to look closely at both sides for printing problems. Some sheets were discarded, but there were always enough. Finally, all the sheets were gathered into one copy. This copy was placed in a pile and then we went back to the start and walked along, gathering another one.

The *Newsletter* was usually stapled in the upper left corner to aid in keeping all the pages together. Then it had to be folded for mailing. In those early years, it was printed so that it required two folds. Br. Alvin Raffel was always in charge of this and carefully instructed us on exactly which line to make the first fold in order for the final fold to create a neat and properly sized mailer.



Br. Alvin Raffel



Srs. Rochelle Pryor, Isabelle Baker, Mildred Raffel and Br. John Baker

To keep the *Newsletter* small for mailing, these folds had to be pressed down firmly. It was too much wear on the fingers and thumbs to crease so many copies so Br. Alvin provided a rounded piece of ivory, about the size of a six inch ruler, that Br. Rod Hugelman

donated for the “folders” of the *Newsletter*, and a letter opener served for a second folder. We always tried to get the ivory because it could really make a crease. If you had it, you didn't put it down because you would not get it back.

The next thing was to seal the *Newsletter* with a round sticker so it would not come apart in the mail. It was not quite done yet.

Of course, all these *Newsletters* had to be addressed. In those years, there was no such thing as a personal computer that could be used to print address labels. The method used was photocopy labels.

Master label sheets had names and addresses typed on them with a standard typewriter. The finished sheets were taken to the copy shop and copied onto special label stock. These labels could then be removed singly and placed onto single *Newsletters*. The problem with this technique was that the brethren moved and their addresses changed. The old label had to be crossed out and a new one added over it. Eventually, the number of crossed out labels on a given sheet got too large to justify copying it anymore, and all the names had to be transferred to a new sheet. In the end, though, the *Newsletters* had their address labels carefully applied which kept their appearance neat and orderly, something we all considered to be an important part of the work.

But, there was more still. In order to get the Post Office Bulk Rate, the items to be mailed must be sorted in a special sequence. A thousand or more *Newsletters* in large piles were hand sorted into states, cities, and so on until we finally arrived at the finished packages. Rubber bands and stickers were added, counts were made, the bundles were added to postal bags, and the report was completed. The next morning, Br. Alvin took the bags to the Post Office and the *Newsletter* was on its way.

This seemed like a lot of work, and it was, but it was a special time because it was the Lord's work and because it was a time of special fellowship among these brethren. Times have changed and a lot of this work is done outside now, but these memories remain, and, by the Lord's grace, so does the *Newsletter*. □

Newsletter Production Concluded

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we used was that either everything ran smoothly or everything would go wrong, creating very late nights and huge messes.

Once, after a particularly trying evening, we sent some of the mangled pages, including one with a diagonal gear track offset, back with the *Newsletter* and asked to be included in the “Afflicted” section. The editors did not honor our request. On another night, when it was getting very late and we desperately wanted to get to bed, I looked at an almost finished, long run of a page and shouted “What is page 15 doing on the back of page

13?” We groaned, backtracked, and made the corrections. However, it did afford wonderful opportunities of fellowship as we worked. Sr. Debbie would bring goodies and drinks and join our fellowship. Or, on the occasions when I would work alone, it afforded precious time for meditation and appreciating the brethren since we were doing something for the Lord's people.

Our operation was somewhat amateur, and as the *Newsletter* improved, it eventually was better to have it printed professionally, so one small chapter of service came to a close. □

Cub Reporter Becomes Co-editor

by Br. Glenn Pryor

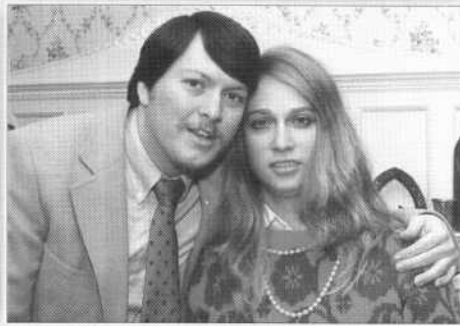
When I first came into the Truth in Wilmington, Delaware in 1974, I remember picking up a copy of the *Bible Students Newsletter* on the ecclesia literature table. As a newly consecrated young person, it was great to read about brethren from other places, their experiences, their work in the Harvest, and how they helped one another. I was interested in Bible Student history as well, and the *Newsletter* seemed to be one of the links to our heritage. Little did I imagine that, before long, I would have the privilege of helping to write for the *Newsletter* and later serve as co-editor.

It was a wonderful experience. In June 1977, my wife, Sr. Rochelle, and I moved to Ohio and started attending the Dayton Ecclesia. Sr. Rochelle told me, "I remember lots of Sunday afternoons collating and then hauling those big sacks to the post office. We used to paste the galleys up by hand. It wasn't computerized then."

Br. and Sr. Raffel asked me to serve as a "cub reporter" in 1978, and I started writing stories and seeking out news from brethren over the phone and at conventions. I wrote my first research article in 1978, an historical corroboration for the end of the Jewish Double and the 100th anniversary of the Berlin Congress. I served as co-editor starting in 1983 to 1989. From 1985 until 1988, I helped to write, edit and design the *Newsletter* from our new home in Connecticut. This was not always easy since it was all sent by "snail mail" to Dayton, Ohio.

In 1984, we gave the *Newsletter* a new look: we soon settled on a magazine format with special sections for regular features. We added bar graphics, more photos, started using headlines, and put top stories on the front page. This design is still in use.

During the 1980's, ever increasing news about our brethren in different parts of the world began to emerge. The *Newsletter* responded to this by making reports and stories of our worldwide fellowship a regular feature. This was exciting to me and I greatly appreciated the examples of our "long lost" and new brethren, some of whom I had the privilege of interviewing in person or by phone. We also relied on reports from dear brethren who sacrificed much by traveling to different parts of the globe to meet with and encourage our brethren. They brought back inspiring stories, letters, and photos for us to print from Nigeria, Japan, India, Israel, Poland, France, Greece, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, the Soviet Union, and other countries. We also reported on the newly formed International Convention.



Br. Glenn and Sr. Rochelle Pryor



Newsletter mailing activities

In early 1984, news came to us about a brother from the Soviet Union who had managed to break through the Iron Curtain with his family—the Bologas. I will never forget the night when I first spoke to our dear Br. Gregory Bologna on the phone to interview him. He brought astonishing news of a large number of brethren scattered and persecuted throughout the Soviet Union, but who continued to hold on to the Harvest Message as taught by Pastor Russell the best they could with the limited literature they had. This was before the fall of the Soviet Union and the Communist regime in Romania. Knowledge of our brethren in Russia, Siberia, Romania, Hungary, Moldova, and Ukraine is now something we almost take for granted.

From its start, the *Newsletter* reported on Harvest activities large and small of various ecclesias and brethren. Multi-image slide presentations, along with extensive advertising and news media relations, became a major means of presenting the Truth to the public in the 1980's and were

the subject of major reports. *For This Cause, The Great Pyramid: Ancient Wonder — Modern Mystery*, and later, *Israel: Appointment With Destiny*, all resulted in large public turnouts, sometimes by the thousands, along with public appreciation and controversy. We reported on radio and TV efforts, such as Fort Worth's "Divine Plan" program, and the Winnipeg, Manitoba Ecclesia's weekly cable TV show.

A couple of stories that stand out in my memory were about witness efforts of individual brethren. Rose Henning was a dear sister from Ohio who was 88 when I interviewed her. Amid stacks of witness literature that she had for mailings, she pulled out a scrap book that contained copies of her hand written letters and the often thankful responses she received from people. She told me that for years she had written personal letters to local people she read about in the newspaper. Some, though not all, had gone through some difficult or tragic experience, and she sought to comfort them through her personally written letters of Truth.

In 1984, I had the privilege of spending the weekend with Br. Norman and Sr. Linda Pedlar of Michigan. They told me about the phone follow up work they did, and we made a few phone calls together. Then, along with their little toddler, we went to a regular weekly study they had in the home of a woman who got interested through the fair booth and phone follow up. We later included this as part of a Harvest "how to" report.

Other stories that appeared in the *Newsletter* during those years included: conscientious objector workshops, a tribute to Sr. Rose Hirsch upon her death at 107 in 1984, Bible Students Youth Camps, the building of the Retirement Center in Gresham Oregon. For the 70th anniversary of Pastor Russell's death, we printed a special research article documenting the work and influence of "The Best and Most Widely Known Minister in the World".

As I reflect on the blessings I received while working on the *Newsletter*, I think the greatest was the privilege of working with and growing close to Br. Alvin and Sr. Mildred Raffel. We would often spend entire weekends together and work late into the night as we attempted to meet deadlines. I got to know Br. Alvin's gentle, fatherly nature, Sr. Mildred's patience, loyalty and wisdom, and their sense of humor, commitment to accuracy, and deep love of the Harvest Message and the brethren. I thank the Lord for this and pray for His grace that I might truly learn the lessons that He intended. □

Centennial Convention • 1974 — Richmond, Indiana

Some of the brethren assembled at the first Ft. Collins convention met to implement their hope for a convention in 1974 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Lord's return. There was a great deal of excitement at this meeting because the brethren were of one accord concerning the chronology of second advent prophecy as presented in the second volume of *Studies in the Scriptures*. This chronology had been under considerable attack in preceding years. With the nearness of 1974, it seemed only natural to plan a gathering to rejoice in the prophetic truths which form a great part of the foundation of "present truth"—a term coined by the Apostle Peter.

Plans did not work out to hold the convention in the Pittsburgh area (the cradle of the Harvest Message) but the Centennial Convention did materialize and was held in Richmond, Indiana.

Br. Robert Jones of the New Albany Ecclesia was chairman of the committee for arrangements which wonderfully anticipated all the needs of the convention. The public meeting was conducted by Br. Edward Lorenz on the subject: "Christ's Millennial Reign has Begun."

An outstanding feature of the convention was the large photographic exhibit "One Hundred Years of the Lord's Return," a history of the Truth movement, arranged by members of the Chicago Bible Students Ecclesia. This extensive selection was mounted on free-standing panels which wound up and around the lobby of the auditorium. The collection began with the early days in Allegheny on through the history of the Bible Student Movement to the year 1974, marking this 100th anniversary of the Lord's return.

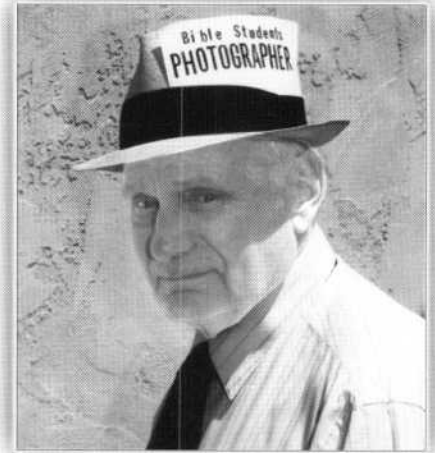
The brethren gathered in Richmond were clearly in favor of meeting annually. Seeing this, the brethren of the New Albany, Indiana Ecclesia wrote out a set of "Articles of Agreement" and invited other ecclesias in Indiana and Ohio to join in sponsoring an annual convention. Seven ecclesias initially joined forces to provide this event. The convention, now known as the I-O Convention, has taken place in many locations in Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Speakers for this convention are selected by a double-ballot system in which they are approved by a 75% vote on the first ballot. The second ballot is for the purpose of arranging an order of invitation. This convention has attempted to allow long intermissions for the benefit of fellowship. Currently, six ecclesias sponsor the I-O Convention. □



Bible Student Photographer

by Br. David Niemyski



Br. David Niemyski

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Solomon described it as "apples of gold in pictures of silver." I have been involved in photography since the mid 1940's with a purpose of recording the faces of the faithful and the occasions which encouraged our spiritual faith and growth. With this in mind, I feel privileged to have contributed photos for the *Newsletter* of brethren who were immersed, brethren who have completed their earthly courses, the different locations of the I-O conventions, and of those who have attended the conventions. We have also had the privilege of photographing other conventions when asked. These include conventions from California and Washington to New Jersey, Prince Albert, Canada to San Antonio, Texas and many other U.S. conventions in between. Our privileges were also extended to four International conventions in Europe and also Japan.

To some extent, our involvement with convention photos have to be credited to Br. Stanley Binda. At the 1970 Fort Collins Convention, he was instrumental in obtaining a commercial photographer. At that occasion, our son Mark who was also interested in photography, was permitted to take the convention photo along with the photographer. He then made a larger photo for the same price. The following year he was able to provide the photo in color and this continued for the next few years while he was attending Purdue University. During some of those years, his studies prevented him from attending the conventions, and so the brethren asked me to do this. I was glad to oblige and have had many enjoyable experiences doing so. It is written "to do with your might what your hands find to do" and this is what I intend to do with the help of the Lord. □



Republishing Harvest Truths

The Reprinting of the Reprints

observations by the Newsletter staff

Although the reprinting of the Reprints predates the *Newsletter's* birth, we include it in this anniversary edition because we believe it to be the antecedent leading to all the republishing work that has followed in this period under review.

As late as the early 1960's anyone possessing a set of Reprints had a rare treasure. From the 1930's those coming into the Truth could not hope to possess a set of their own.

This was the condition that motivated brethren of the Chicago Bible Students Ecclesia to consider reprinting the Reprints. Funds did not permit their doing this commercially, but the desire to bless their brethren with this rich, spiritual resource was so great that their collective ingenuity devised a way—and the project took off.

Here, we recount briefly the history of the Reprints for those unfamiliar with it. The Watch Tower Society in 1919 republished much of the contents of the *Watch Tower* magazines (1879–1919) which comprised a set of seven

volumes. Known thereafter as the "Reprints," they have been an inestimable source of grace, as well as history of the Bible Students movement.

In the 1920's when Joseph Rutherford began supplanting the Harvest Message with his own writings, the Reprints became irrelevant to the Society's purpose. Its inventory of these books passed to the Pastoral Bible Institute which made them available to the brethren for \$2.50 per set until the supply was exhausted.

In 1966, our Chicago brethren made the first reprinting of the Reprints—Br. Russell's original Towers of 1879–1916. Subsequent reprintings have made these treasures available to brethren worldwide.

We have obtained an account of the collating process from participants. Their enthusiasm for the project is reflected in their dedication to this work and the ingenious method used to accomplish it. Their account follows.

"Because They Had a Will to Work..."

Collating the Reprints *by Participants*

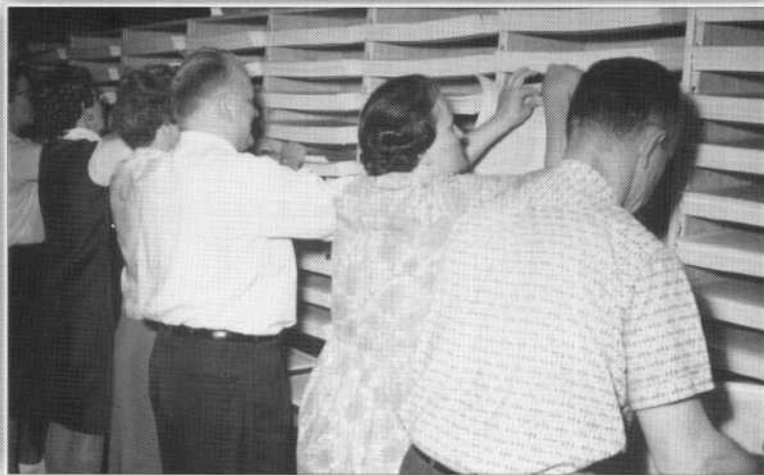
The year 1966 loomed as a banner year in the lives of a group of brethren to face up to the challenge the Heavenly Father opened up in reprinting the Reprints.

The faith and zeal of these energetic brethren was of such magnitude that they believed they would be able, with the Lord's help, to overcome all obstacles in order to produce the helps which are so valuable in the spiritual lives of the sanctified.

Since the original Reprints were printed in small print it was requested that the type size be increased 10 percent for easier reading. After much discussion on the matter and prayer for the Lord's guidance it was decided to undertake the project, since having it done commercially was cost prohibitive.

First, a place was needed to do the collating. Br. Albert and Sr. Anastasia Sheppelbaum offered the use of their basement and their garage, and also participated in the operation. Tables, skids and collating racks were needed. A brother, who was a carpenter by trade, volunteered to build 12 racks with 12 slots in each rack plus the tables and skids. A jogging machine was needed and soon a brother's ingenuity produced one from an old washing machine.

Another brother with organizational ability offered to take charge of the operation. He resolved with the Lord's



Brethren collating the Reprints in the Sheppelbaum's garage

help to see it through from start to finish.

Each Saturday for two years, 20 brethren would assemble to work for eight hours. The rules and regulations were posted on the bulletin board, start and finishing times, and morning and afternoon breaks. Each one brought a lunch and the beverages and dessert were supplied by the hosts.

Each collator had 12 sheets to gather then gave them to the one on his left, who then put his collated section on top,

and so on down the line. The twelfth collator, having all twelve sections, then passed it to the jogger. Now they were ready for quality check. Only selected brethren were designated for this operation of looking for smears, blank sheets and copy sequence. After the sections were checked, they were given to the machine jogger. After each section was jogged, it was then stacked on the skids and transferred to the garage ready for the commercial binder.

After the project was completed, participating brethren felt an enrichment, rejoicing greatly in having the blessed privilege of being part of this endeavor because so many brethren worldwide would be able to obtain these valuable helps. This undertaking of willing hearts was surely blessed of the Lord in a marked manner. □

by Br. George Tabac

Bible Students Publications was started in 1966 as a non-profit entity after the Chicago ecclesia had approved the reprinting of the Reprints and other writings by Br. Russell. Since the ecclesia did not want to become involved with purchasing equipment and renting space, the Bible Students Publications was set up—independent of the Ecclesia—to accomplish this objective. Brethren using their own capital purchased the necessary equipment, acquired the needed skills, and started the printing of the Reprints. Space was rented in a very old factory building for \$25 a month—heat and water supplied.

It was an exciting and blessed time as the brethren cooperated in this work. There were many steps that needed to be done: filming, plate-making, printing, cutting, folding, collating, binding, and last of all distributing the orders. The distribution work was handled by a committee set up by the ecclesia, now known as the Chicago Bible Students Republishing Committee.

After the completion of the Reprints, other of Br. Russell's writings were printed during this same time period—Comments, Covenant Book, Question Book and Overland Monthly. What a wonderful privilege this was for us.

With this work accomplished, the printing changed

to providing, at cost, tracts and booklets for classes in the United States, Canada, and Europe. During that time, printing was being done for 120 classes, and the work has continued ever since.

The work has now shifted to doing a lot of four-color work both on booklets and tracts, magazine covers, as well as our standard literature and video work. The Harvest work continues in so many ways as the brethren endeavor to put forth the beautiful message of Truth to the world while continuing to seek for the "true wheat."

The scope of the work could not be done without the help of brethren. To encourage those who have labored in the vineyard, a short recap follows of what was printed in the last year and a half:

Booklets—443,048;
Tracts—819,054; *The Dawn* covers—312,564; *Divine Plan Journal* covers (Fort Worth Bible Students)—32,800; *The Herald* magazines—9,136.

It is always with the strength of the Lord and the prayers of the brethren that this work continues as we endeavor to proclaim the Truth as the Lord answered Isaiah when he asked, "Lord, how long?...Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate." Isaiah 6:11. □



Br. Everett Scott working on early press activities

Chicago Bible Students Book Republishing Committee

by Br. Art Jezuit

The commencement of our activities date back to the year 1965 when our ecclesia concluded that it would be a beneficial project to the brethren at large to reprint the original *Bible Students Berean Manual* (Comments) by Br. Clayton Woodworth as the requests for this book and writings of Pastor Russell were on the increase. The first printing was for 750 copies which were absorbed very quickly. Then, 1,500 copies followed. Since then, we have reprinted the *Bible Students Berean Manual* five more times.

This project was such a blessing and assistance to the brethren, that our ecclesia decided to reprint the *Watch Tower* Reprints. In 1966, this project was undertaken. Bible Students Publications, who did the printing, had a press size that could only print a two-up sheet (four pages). Next came the collating and binding processes resulting in 1,000 sets of six volumes of Reprints plus an Index.

Since then, we have reprinted the *Watch Tower* Reprints commercially five more times, and presently, in the 12-volume edition. The quantity has been 500 sets of the hard-bound edition and 100 sets of the loose-leaf edition with eight binders to contain the sections. The cost has been maintained at \$100 or less due to the various donations from brethren which helped subsidize the costs even though the manufacturing costs have recently exceeded the selling price by 20 percent.

In 1983, the *Old Testament*, the first of three volumes of *Expanded Biblical Comments* was published. Some years later



the *Four Gospels and Acts thru Revelation* followed. The quantity printed was 500 each. Lastly, the three volume set of *Expanded Biblical Comments* were combined in one book on thin sheet termed "Bible Paper." The original printing was 2,000 which is nearly depleted.

Presently, the Reprints plus other writings of the Pastor, can be purchased for \$10 plus shipping, on a CD Rom which is created in just 20 minutes, as opposed to months of intensive labor, printing, collating, and binding. This, of course, hinges on your having a computer with associated software to run our *Harvest Truth DataBase* program.

We have expanded our stock to include almost all of Pastor Russell's writings, plus a variety of booklets and the added helps such as *Tabernacle Notes* by Br. Anton Frey and *Notes on the Bible* by Br. John Meggison. Currently, we are working on compiling the discourses of Br. Robert Seklemian into book form.

Summary of activity for 1997:
Books shipped—14,032 ❖ Inventory on hand—38,645 □

Printing Committee Appointed at Fort Collins

by Br. Kenneth Rawson

In 1970, a concept was advanced that stimulated many Bible Students classes. An elaborate network of committees was formed to inspire ecclesia-sponsored programs. The concept was not new. Chicago, New Brunswick, and other classes were already pursuing it in varying degrees, but this was the first time that so many classes accepted ecclesia-sponsored programs as a scriptural principle. Actually, that elaborate network of committees dissolved within three years time, but its concept of ecclesia level and joint-ecclesia level activities grew.

The Divine Plan Foundation, which was a non-ecclesia organization, soon recognized this principle and passed a by-law that stated The Divine Plan Foundation would no longer sponsor Bible Students activities under the Foundation's name; rather, it would assist classes who needed financial help in conducting Truth activities under a class name. The Foundation has been very blessed in following this procedure.

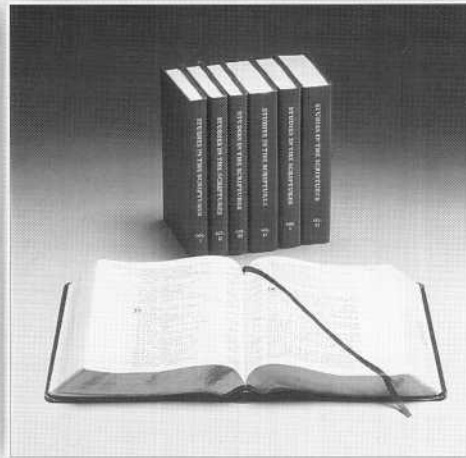
However, another dimension was involved. Many of the prophetic concepts of Volumes II, III and IV—such as, the beginning of the reign of Christ, the times of restitution, and the Jubilee—became points of controversy. This was more than an academic issue. It affected Bible Students literature for both public witnessing and Bible Students. Those that no longer believed these concepts deleted them from their literature. They certainly had this liberty. Those of us who still believed these concepts had the liberty to find printing sources that would include these concepts in their total printing service.

The New Brunswick class was asked to head the printing committee since it was already involved in printing. Our main printing project at that time was providing a set of the six volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures* and *Tabernacle Shadows* for the Harvest work that met the following criteria:

1. Typography

All new type was set to enhance eye appeal and readability. Also, the attempt was made to include all of Br. Russell's final changes in the Volumes. This was a first. The many changes Br. Russell made in Volume V concerning the mediator and the covenants were included. Also, his insertion of the word "tentative" into not only the foreword, but also in the actual text of Volume VI are contained in the New

Brunswick edition of the Volumes. Documentation that these were Br. Russell's changes can be provided on request.



Studies in the Scriptures

2. Publisher's Forewords

The purpose of any publisher's foreword is to provide the justification or the stimulus for presenting the book. This becomes even more important when presenting books written in the late 1800's (Vol. VI—1904). Our Publisher's Forewords attempt to turn the dated qualities of these books into an asset. Time has proven the validity of the Volumes. The Publisher's Forewords are not intended to interpret or clarify the Volumes to either the public or Bible Students. They serve only to stimulate and sustain interest in reading the books.

3. Publishers' Footnotes

In 1916, Br. Russell saw the need of explaining the lapse of time since 1914. This he did in the 1916 Author's Forewords. Most of our footnotes deal with this 1914 problem. Our footnotes offer no explanation. They solely refer the reader to Br. Russell's discussion of the 1914 problem in one of his forewords. A few of our footnotes give reference citations to historical works confirming statements by the author. The Publisher's Footnotes do not interpret, explain, or clarify what the author is saying.

Deluxe Set

After the green set of Volumes were printed, the brethren requested a deluxe set of Volumes for Bible Students use. A brown set of Volumes with a better binding, wide margins for notes, and better quality paper was manufactured. As one of the brethren observed—"the deluxe volumes just invite you to study." In that

the deluxe set was for Bible Students and not the public, the Publisher's Forewords and Footnotes were omitted. The deluxe set is now out of stock. If the brethren express a need, we will consider another printing.

The Green Set

The green set of Volumes is regularly reprinted. In 1998, we ordered a total of 25,000 Volumes I, IV, and VI. We are thrilled with the classes using so many Volumes in public work.

Printing Foreign Volumes

For a number of years, New Brunswick has been working with others interested in providing the most accurate edition of the Six Volumes and *Tabernacle Shadows* into modern foreign languages. Currently, we are working on the Polish, Romanian and Russian Volumes. The Romanian brethren have expressed their deep appreciation. The Polish Association stated that the new translation makes the Truth so clear and understandable.

Unfortunately, old foreign language Volumes that are inaccurate translations have unknowingly been reprinted and sent to Europe by others. This is why we insist all foreign translations be based upon the New Brunswick English Volumes which reflect all of Br. Russell's final editing.

Br. Gene Burns Remembers

Br. Burns participated in republishing the volumes while a member of the New Brunswick Ecclesia. See complete article Looking Back on page 30. Ed.

...Another significant thing was started there [Ft. Collins Convention]. There was a latent desire on the part of some brethren to republish the Volumes of Scripture Studies using newer processes and producing a better quality edition. Not only so, but it was known that Volume VI did not contain Br. Russell's latest 1916 corrections. While Volume VI, then being used, did contain the 1916 Foreword, it did not contain Br. Russell's last additions that went with the newly-added Foreword. This was known, as I was privileged to set the type for the Volumes that were then being used. There arose a desire to add these last changes for the brethren to share his latest thinking. The New

See Burns next page

by Br. Jerry Leslie

The Portland Area Bible Students have always been a small to moderate size class. In the early 1970's we were grateful for the work that larger and more experienced classes had done, especially with the reprints of the Towers and other of Brother Russell's writings.

In these years, brethren in our class were interested in studies on the Great Pyramid. We cherished the few, rare copies of the writings from John and Morton Edgar on the subject. Mentioning at a convention the scarcity of the books, a brother said, "Why doesn't your class print it?" The thought had not even occurred to us that we would have the resources, experience, or skill to do such a thing.

With prayer and some tentative inquiries, we found other brethren interested in this project. Some were willing to advance loans to start the project. Others had contacts with printers and some from our own class were willing to gather additional Edgar writings on the Pyramid. We made a survey among the classes in the country and determined that 1,000 copies would be an ambitious but reasonable number. It was determined to use a photo-offset process because of the large number of charts, pho-

tographs and drawings. Additional materials were typeset for the inclusion of a 1929 discourse and an appendix of pyramid measures. Brethren with typesetting resources in San Diego volunteered their services. Our class built an Index of Scriptures to the three main books to be printed under one cover, consisting of over 100 pages.

The project went to press in 1976. By 1980, our supply was exhausted and we printed 2,000 more. While printing the original version of *Great Pyramid Passages*, the class thought it well to print the other writings of the Edgars as originally released in small pamphlets. New type for these was entered on office computer equipment in Portland. The type was set in San Diego with volunteer labors of love. This book, *Faith's Foundations*, of eleven non-pyramid subjects was also printed and offered to the brethren in 1976. It, too, has had a second printing.

With these projects behind us and the loans paid off, the class looked to other printing projects that could be a service to the Household of Faith. The next major project was *Pilgrim Echoes*, a compilation of Br. Benjamin H. Barton's writings and discourses. Brethren around the country

submitted copies of these treasured lessons for us to use. The largest resource was the Chicago class's access to copies of the *St. Paul Enterprise*, a newspaper whose editor was a Bible Student. The Chicago class was extracting Br. Russell's sermons from the paper and put aside any copy with those of Br. Barton's for our use.

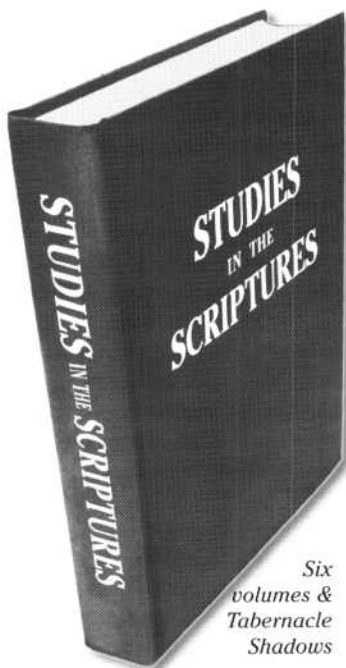
These were also keyed on office computer equipment by Portland brethren and, in turn, transmitted by modem to San Diego to be typeset. This book was printed and released in 1987. Its doctrinal and inspirational lessons proved of special interest to the brethren.

In subsequent years, the Portland class printed several of the study notes on various Biblical themes by Brother Anton Frey. Another project was resetting the type for two handbooks used by colporteurs originally released in 1905 titled, *Thy Word is Truth*. When we saw brethren using photocopy versions of these treasured references, we took the opportunity to provide a more durable and readable version.

One lesson our class has realized is, that, "if there first be a willing mind" the Lord can bless the ways and means to serve His people with the Words of Life. □

Volumes Reprinted in New Form

by. Br. George Wilmott



Six volumes & Tabernacle Shadows

For more than 30 years, many publications written by Pastor C. T. Russell and thousands of copies of *The Divine Plan of the Ages* have been printed and distributed by The Fort Worth Bible Students. Several years ago, there was a mass mailing of this magazine edition to people in many parts of the United States. The most recent printing was 50,000 copies. A copy of this wonderful book is sent to each one who responds to the "Divine Plan" program.

In 1970, the Fort Worth Bible Students voted to have the six volumes of *Studies In the Scriptures* and *Tabernacle Shadows* printed under one cover. This 800-page book has had a wide circulation. Eleven thousand copies were printed. The first edition was originally sold for \$3.75 postpaid. Presently, the book is sold for \$11.95 postpaid. The unit cost of postage currently is \$3.74. Only a few hundred copies of *Studies in the Scriptures* are left in our inventory. Will there be a need to have more printed? is a question which comes to our minds.

The editors have learned that the answer to this question is "Yes!" The reformatted book with easy to follow columns and weighing less is now in the typesetting stage. Ed. □

Burns Concluded

From page 12

Brunswick Ecclesia had some brethren with knowledge of typesetting and also printing. They volunteered to undertake the republishing of the Volumes which involved the difficult process of typesetting the whole set of *Studies in the Scriptures*. Br. Gilbert Rice had a state-of-the-art typography shop, and he volunteered to set the type with the help of Mrs. David and Robin Rice. New Brunswick undertook the proof reading by farming it out to volunteers while they did the final reading and processing. Miraculously, this work prospered. Br. Dick Lally volunteered to redo the art work, and he did much of the page makeup as well. Sr. Sharon Whittaker also helped paste up pages. It took several years, but soon the Volumes were completed, and Br. Kenneth Rawson contracted with a print shop to print the Volumes at a very good price.

The first edition which the New Brunswick brethren put out had footnotes to point the reader to the 1916 Forewords to help them understand where Br. Russell corrected his thinking, especially on matters of the 40 year harvest. When the brown edition was printed, these notes were omitted. This printing was done on beautiful paper with top quality binding, meant to be a real treasure for earnest Bible Students who intended to keep these Volumes for Bible study for the rest of their lives... □



Grand Witness Privileges

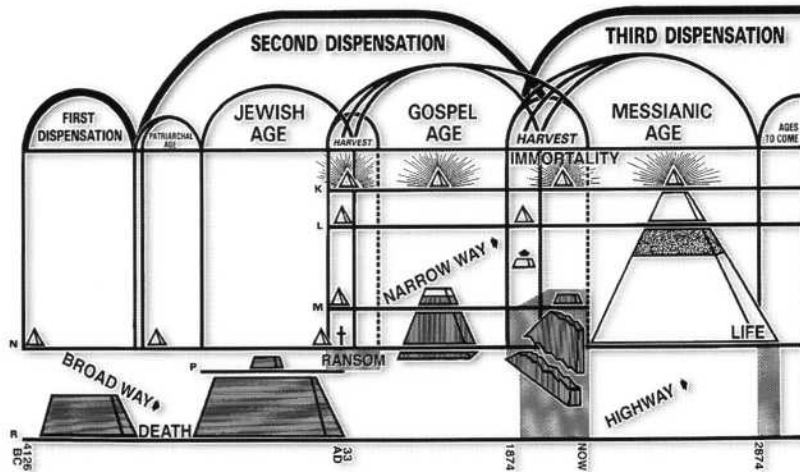
Harvest Truth on the Air: "The Divine Plan" Program

by Br. George Wilmott

Over 25 years have passed since the first radio broadcast of the "Divine Plan" program in January, 1973. At that time the cost for the weekly broadcast was \$30. This included use of the studio at the radio station for recording the program. One year and nine months later "The Divine Plan" program was being broadcast internationally over more than 70 stations. At present (1998) the program is still being broadcast over a few radio stations, but we have

found that more people now watch television. Therefore, efforts are concentrated on the television ministry.

The first "Divine Plan" television program was recorded in January, 1974, just one year after the first radio broadcast. In the beginning, some free time was given for televising the program by the station which did the recording. A few months after the first program was recorded, time opened up on a local television station on a paid basis. The local salesman asked us to bring an audition tape for the station to view. He had also requested a tape from another church interested in buying time. The "Divine Plan" program was accepted instead of the other church program since there was no solicitation for money on our program. Next we had to consider the length of the contract. The cost for each weekly program was \$200. At that time the Fort Worth Bible Students had only enough funds for approximately five weeks of broadcasting. The salesman thought the station would require at least a 13 week contract. However, the management gave approval to start "Divine Plan" for five weeks. In the heavenly Father's overruling providence, the program was televised over this station which had a wide coverage reaching several states—for approximately seven years. But the station kept increasing the unit cost, and when it reached \$1,000 for each broadcast, we had to cancel. Over the years, however, time opened up on



a number of other television stations.

Currently, "Divine Plan" has the potential of reaching more than 46 million households each Thursday—all across the United States and beyond—over the BET Cable Network. Each Saturday the program is heard all across Canada over the Vision Cable TV Network. Several other stations also televise "Divine Plan" each week.

The work of sending forth the Harvest and Kingdom Message continues to be one of faith. During the period of more than 25 years of broadcasting the Truth by means of radio and television, it has been the endeavor of the Ecclesia to use those funds available as they reached us. The heavenly Father has blessed this decision.

Currently, based upon the number of responses, there are probably more than one-half million viewers who hear the "old, old story" each month. Some respond for the first time after having been a listener for a year or more. Many express deep appreciation for the Truth they are learning. Many are working on prepared Bible lessons based upon *The Divine Plan of the Ages*. Quite a number have already finished studies based upon the first two Volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures*.

During the past 25 years, many have made a full consecration after having first heard the Truth on the "Divine Plan" program. Some of these have been used by the heavenly Father to introduce the

Truth to others who have also consecrated. At the time of this writing, we can think of three elders of Bible Students congregations who were first introduced to the Truth on "Divine Plan." The thousands who have responded and received Truth literature, but have not gone on to full consecration, will not forget what they have learned. It is also believed that the millions who have heard the Truth, but who have not responded, will also remember some of

the things which they have heard.

From the beginning of the Gospel Age until the present, the Adversary has opposed the proclamation of the Truth. But the work of proclaiming the glad tidings will continue until the Bride has made herself ready.

The fully consecrated still have golden opportunities of cooperating with others in the proclamation of the glad tidings. Our desire is to be faithful to the heavenly Father and his Word of Truth, which it is still our privilege to proclaim. □



The Old, Old Story

I love to tell the story
Of gracious heav'nly love
How Jesus left his glory
That wondrous love to prove.

I love to tell the story,
Because I know it's true;
It satisfies my longings,
As nothing else would do.

CHORUS

I love to tell the story!
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of gracious, heav'nly love.

Studies in the Scriptures on TV

A Full Ecclesia Effort *by The Winnipeg Ecclesia*

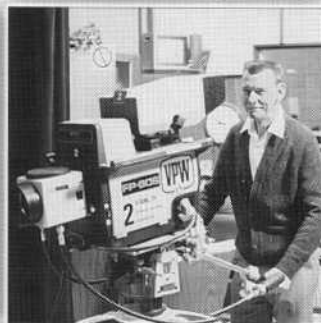
A new avenue for witnessing opened up to the Canadian brethren in 1972. A local cable station advertised for new programs. These would be shown free of charge. Br. Frank Boychuk and Br. Mike Gowryluk went to the station and were able to show some videotapes produced by the Chicago ecclesia on this station.

After a few programs were shown, the management required that all programs be produced locally. Although none of the brethren had any experience in TV production, all of them decided to learn in order to take advantage of this wonderful new opportunity. With the help of the cable management, various brethren learned how to operate the cameras, studio slide projectors, character generators, audio equipment, teleprompters and the camera switching panel. In addition to the studio work, some brethren were busy writing and typing scripts; others shot slides and built up a library of Scripture texts and suitable pictures. Once a week the brethren assembled at the studio and taped one half-hour program. The use of the studio was also free of charge.

The programs originally consisted of a monologue interspersed with slides of the Scriptures quoted and pictures. Soon



Brs. David Hrechuk & Frank Boychuk



Br. Fred Hrechuk

the brethren were able to expand into dialogues and then into three way discussions. At the end of the program people were invited to write for the offered booklet or volume. The ecclesia phone number was also shown and viewers were encouraged to call.

In the beginning, these programs were shown only on this station in Winnipeg, but within five years the brethren had personally gone to various communities surrounding Winnipeg and

arranged for the tapes to be shown on their local cable stations. Due to these efforts 10 stations carried these *Studies in the Scriptures* programs. Owing to the fact that a few of these stations had slots for foreign language programs, the Ukrainian brethren took advantage of this and asked the English brethren to help them produce Ukrainian *Studies in the Scriptures* programs.

This wonderful opportunity lasted for 23 years. Due to cut-backs at the station the brethren were unable to continue producing programs. They received many responses over the years and were able to send out much literature. Additionally, the brethren learned that there were many faithful watchers who never wrote in for literature. Neighbors, coworkers, students and families would often remark, "We saw you on TV again this week!" □

A New Ecclesia: Toronto Area Bible Students

by the Winnipeg Ecclesia

The "Divine Plan" program shown on the Vision TV Cable Network across Canada has produced a great number of responses. The vast majority of these have come from the province of Ontario, particularly in the Toronto area. Due to this interest, Br. George Wilmott suggested to the Winnipeg brethren (the nearest Canadian ecclesia, approximately 1,300 miles west) to hold a public meeting in Toronto.

Meetings were arranged for June 21 and 23, 1996 at a Salvation Army hall in Toronto. Br. George Wilmott advertised this public meeting at the end of his TV programs for a few weeks. The Winnipeg ecclesia took out an ad in the *Toronto Star* and sent out a special notice to 600 names in Ontario.

One week before the public meeting, the Salvation Army Captain cancelled the use of the hall. A viewer of the "Divine Plan" had called the Salvation Army inquiring about the beliefs of the Bible Students. When the Salvation Army looked into our background, they decided to cancel our meetings.

On Friday evening, one week before the first meeting, the Winnipeg brethren had to find a new hall in Toronto and arrange for advertising. The brethren immediately got on the Internet and within two hours had found a suitable hall at the Holiday Inn in Markham, a suburb of Toronto. They were able to place a corrected ad in the *Toronto Star* for a reduced price. This, too, was arranged via the computer. The Adversary had endeavored to stop this effort, but the Lord overruled.

Twenty-eight people attended the Friday meeting to hear Br. George Wilmott speak on "What Are the Signs of Christ's Second Presence and the End of the Age?" Br. Frank

Boychuk was also present and helped conduct a spontaneous one-and-a-half-hour question session. On Sunday, 35 attended and there was another discourse and question session. Many of the people present were highly interested and wanted more discussion. Many asked for another meeting in their area. The next meeting was scheduled for August 18.

Br. George served again, on the topic, "Where are the Dead?" At the conclusion of the meeting the 20 present requested yet another meeting. This developed into a monthly public meeting in Toronto.

See Toronto Ecclesia next page



Toronto Ecclesia shares blessings with visiting brethren



For This Cause

Audiovisual Presentation *article by Br. George Tabac*

The excitement of the first *For This Cause* showing will probably never be duplicated! It took almost one year to produce with many brethren participating. Finally the date came—it was on Palm Sunday, March 19, 1978. The auditorium capacity was 900. A week before the showing, one of the brethren in the class inquired as to whether the hall was large enough for such an effort. When told the capacity was 900, he said “Oh, well you don’t have to worry, there will be plenty of room.” There were two showings with standing room only at each. People came by bus loads. It actually created a traffic jam by the school so that one of the brethren spent his time directing traffic. What a thrill this was to the brethren!

For the first two years in particular teams of brethren traveled with the production up and down and across this continent. One time when brothers could not have time off to drive the van with the equipment to Colorado and Texas, two sisters, who had the time, drove the equipment and the brothers went by plane for set up and actual showing. Another time on an extended trip to the West Coast with a number of showings, two young Colporteur sisters were taught how to set up the equipment and run it. They left Chicago with fear and trepidation but they were successful at every showing. It was wonderful cooperation between all the brethren. The Lord gave the strength and overruled in all the arrangements.

The smallest class that arranged for a showing was a class of one brother in a small town in North Carolina. He arranged for the hall and did all the tracting and postering himself. When it came time for the showing, he asked two

of his Methodist friends to be ushers. The hall capacity was 325—there were 275 public in attendance.

You could never anticipate what would be encountered at each site. The usual time frame was to allow at least two hours for set up and to be ready one hour ahead of time. One time the



Before and after For This Cause showing



brethren arrived at the school in good time and waited for the custodian to open the school. As it drew near the time for showing, the brethren started to set up the equipment outside so they could then easily bring it into the auditorium. Still no custodian. Finally one of the brethren found a window that could be opened, crawled in, and let the brethren in. The public were already starting to come in as the brethren rushed to set

everything up. It seemed like the Lord put wings on everyone’s feet because the set up was done very quickly. The program went well. The brethren put everything away and closed up the hall. The custodian never showed up.

The program was not always received well. In two instances, people, claiming we were Jehovah’s Witnesses, locked arms in front of the auditorium doors so that others could not get in. The Campus Police had to be called one time to break up an angry crowd who said we do not believe in the Trinity. Another time they stopped each car coming into the parking lot handing them a tract that they had specially printed. The tract stated “Beware! Chicago Bible Students are not Christians. They are a cult, etc.” And once a man kept shouting derogatory remarks during the presentation. It was unique in that the audience got upset and in turn shouted at him and told him to be quiet or leave.

For This Cause continued to be used by the brethren on this continent but the Lord also opened the door for foreign lands. A single screen slide version was produced in time for the first International Convention held in Kufstein, Austria in 1982. At that time it was made into French, German and Polish. The German version was used as a public talk at that International Convention. All the equipment was carried over from here together with the slides and recordings in each language.

Making the program into these various languages presented a challenge since they were not narrated in English. You had to be sure that what was being spoken matched the correct picture. Polish was no problem. For the French and

See For This Cause next page

Toronto Ecclesia Concluded

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A six-month schedule was drawn up by the Winnipeg Ecclesia. Meetings were arranged on a monthly basis. The format included a discourse, a First Volume study (based upon Oakland County’s correspondence course questions) and a general question meeting. Various elders from Chicago (IL), some Indiana cities, Oakland County (MI), Ft. Worth (TX), and Winnipeg served. The average attendance was 20. An immersion service was held in March of 1997. One brother symbolized his consecration.

In July 1997, meetings were arranged to be held twice a month. The Oakland County elders took on the greatest share of the work due to their proximity to Toronto and willingness to serve. Interest in the meetings remained very high and those who attended these meetings progressed in the knowledge of the Truth. In September another immersion service was held. Four brethren were immersed. By this time a core group of 12 brethren had emerged. Some previ-

ously isolated brethren began meeting with those in Toronto. The nature of the meetings was gradually changing from public meetings to ecclesia meetings.

The Toronto Area Bible Students Ecclesia formally came into existence on January 25, 1998 at their first business meeting. Their first Memorial, held together as an ecclesia, was led by Br. Ric Cunningham. It has been a great blessing for all connected with this work to be able to assist their brethren in Toronto. □

The Great Pyramid: Ancient Wonder, Modern Mystery

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Audiovisual Presentation article by Br. Richard Kindig

While in Japan in 1977, Br. Owen Kindig met Takayosi Satoh, an ambitious young TV producer who was planning a TV documentary about the Great Pyramid. Through the Lord's providence, Br. August Tornquist and young Br. Todd Alexander were sent to Egypt to document the event and to photograph the Great Pyramid's interior and exterior. They returned in 1978 with a wealth of wonderful photographs.

Br. Todd soon moved to Columbus, Ohio and received several opportunities to give public presentations about his visit to the Pyramid. After one of them, both of us became committed to the idea of creating a Pyramid production along the lines of *For This Cause*.

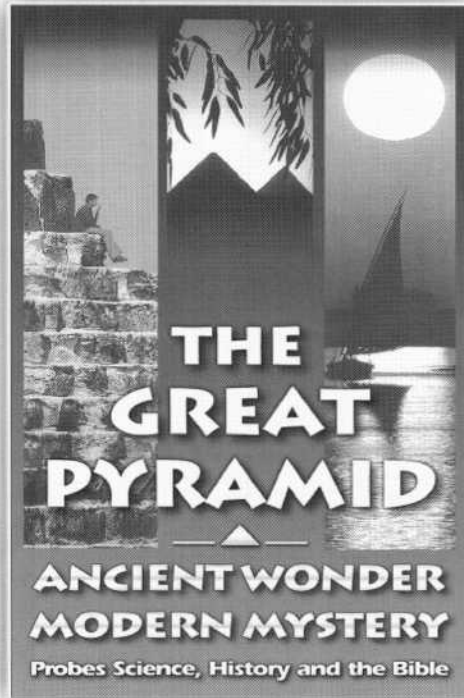
In the Lord's providence, several energetic young brethren had moved to the area: Br. Tim and Sr. Anna Alexander, Br. Paul and Sr. Joyce Lagno, Br. Bill and Sr. Estelle Gill, and Sr. Elneta MacAlister. An ad hoc committee was organized, and work began. Br. Todd and I went to New York to select music and do research.

We set up nine projectors in our spare bedroom, and for the next several months brethren began joining us for meals and long hours of work. I would write a segment, and then Br. Bill and Sr. Estelle would work at their studio to create a rough audio track. Back at our house, Br. Tim would program, and Br. Todd would work on visual selection from the mountain of slides in our bedroom. I flitted about, working through artistic problems, and helping Sr. Elneta, Sr. Joyce, and other volunteers create artwork and copy historic photos.

Side trips were conducted to gather

interviews of brethren to help tell the story: Brs. Frank Shallieu, Carl Hagensick, Edmund Jezuit, August Tornquist and Jerry Leslie. Br. Bill and Sr. Estelle then included all this material into the growing audio mix. Excitement grew as we synchronized the beautiful slides with the final sound track.

As our deadline, the Indiana-Ohio convention, approached, the hours got



longer and the pace more frantic. We finally finished, just in time to get to Toledo, Ohio for its premiere showing.

That first showing was a blur for me. I remember the excitement of many of the brethren. I remember that one newspaper ad attracted an over-

flow crowd and dozens came back an hour later! I remember noting the obvious fact that our system, though improved by the clever inventions of Br. Greg Mathewson, was inadequate. And so we went home and completely reprogrammed the show on a new nine-projector system.

While that work progressed, we turned our attention to promotion. I searched the Reprints, trying to glean principles from Br. Russell's operations. Perhaps most important was the question of charging admission. I talked to an older sister who told me that Br. Russell experimented with charging admission to the *Photo-Drama*, but found free admission to be better received in his day. We decided to charge admission, because of today's more skeptical mood.

Br. Paul Lagno worked tirelessly on promotion. *The Columbus Dispatch* ran a very sizable advance spread about the production. That article, written by the entertainment editor, had one alarming flaw: what we told him about the religious message did not find its way into the article.

We had wanted to make sure that a secular audience would not be scared away. So our zeal and naivete caused us to understate our religious intent: "Explores science, history, and the Bible".

The location we chose was The Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, a near-perfect facility for multi-image presentations, on the Ohio State University campus. We sent a four-color self-mailer invitation, which folded out into a poster, to 1,500 church pastors (here we were quite explicit about content), and placed

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For This Cause Concluded

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German the Lord provided brethren who knew just enough of each language to be able to oversee this and help the brethren who were doing the technical timing.

After the International Convention the program went to Poland where it has been used extensively with thousands in attendance. One time it was even shown in a Catholic church with full attendance. The priest commented after that he could not understand why his services were not attended in the same way.

The use of the slide version has diminished as technology has changed. Because of this, *For This Cause* was made into a one hour video version which has seen a variety of new usages. The video version has been used for public talks, placed in libraries, advertised in newspapers especially for the Christmas and Easter seasons, advertised through the mail with a specially printed four-color brochure, used as gifts for family and friends, etc. Best estimate of how many videos have

been placed with the public is over 5,000.

Even here the ripples have continued in that the video version has now been made into Polish, Spanish, Ukrainian, Romanian, Tamil (India dialect) and French. The Spanish version has been shown in Peru, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico with some coming into the Truth as a result. The Romanian brethren continue to use it in public efforts and are rejoicing in this. The Ukrainian brethren are endeavoring to make arrangements to have it broadcast on television as well as using witness efforts.

There were many unique experiences—too vast to enumerate. But the greatest joy for all was working together with the brethren throughout the United States and Canada and putting forth the beautiful message of Truth we have received through the Harvest Messenger. And also the joy of realizing that hearts have been touched and moved to consecration not only on this continent but in other lands. □

ISRAEL: Appointment with Destiny

Audiovisual Presentation *article by Br. Kenneth Rawson*

Comfort Ye My People. How?

After much prayer, the question still remained—how could one gain the confidence of the Jewish people so that they would come to hear a comfort message?

Anti-Semitism and Israel-bashing were at an all time high in the mid 1980's, so I decided to test the waters by submitting articles to Jewish Federation papers. At first they were printed as "letters to the editor." Then they appeared as articles—even front page articles. This was a miracle. Articles by Christian ministers just don't appear in Jewish Federation papers. Shortly after the Intifada began in 1988, I planned a trip to Israel. Editors of two Jewish papers accredited me with "press cards" to cover the latest happenings. More front page articles followed with a Truth perspective. Can you imagine a Christian minister representing two Jewish newspapers?

Doors Open

These press cards enabled me to impact important contacts in Israel. Dov Keinan, executive director of the Gush Etzion Council representing 10,000 West Bank settlers, opened the door to meetings with former Prime Minister Rabin and cabinet members. This in turn led to letters of commendation from the Minister of Religious Affairs and other cabinet ministers.

In the United States, Morris Abrams, famed authority on international law and President of the Committee of the presidents of Major Jewish Organizations was the top Jew to meet. But how? With the Lord nothing is impossible. Abrams was scheduled to speak to a select group at the synagogue of Rabbi Kroloff who was the president of the Zionist Organization of Reform Judaism. Another miracle: I ended up at the head table of this prestigious banquet seated with Morris Abrams and Rabbi Kroloff. Two full pages of pictures appeared in the next issue of the Central Jersey Federation paper. What better P.R. could you ask for?

Convinced of Lord's Will

The Lord, indeed, answered the question—How could we gain the confidence of the Jewish people? At this point we pushed ahead with the production of a multi-image audio visual. Back in the 1950's, the title of a



Jerusalem 1992 presentation of Israel video – over 1,200 present

booklet from England intrigued me—*Israel Born to Destiny*. This led to the choice of *Israel: Appointment With Destiny* for the title of our AV. We had been accumulating slides. Sr. Eleanor Rozmus and Br. August Tornquist were a rich source. In fact, Br. August took out much time from his trips to Israel to shoot scenes for us. All the music for the sound tract came from Br. O.B. Elbert's record library. After the script was written, Philip Rawson and Br. O.B. put the whole production together. In fact, Phil devoted two years after his graduation working on the AV. Actually, he made two versions. Jewish programs are one hour in length, including a question session. Phil's second version, produced on a CD recorder, had a crystal-clear sound track. It was longer time-wise, therefore, it would require greater effort to adapt it to the time frame of synagogue programs. Because of the time deadline we had to meet for our first showing, we used the shorter version. Yet we received continual acclaim for the professionalism of the music and sound tract.

How Would We Book Showings?

Three months before we planned to complete *Israel: Appointment With Destiny*, I received a phone call from the president of one of the largest chapters of B'nai B'rith. He had read my articles in a Jewish paper and asked if I would speak to their group. Of course, I told him about the AV we were producing, and he asked for a showing. This first showing at the B'nai B'rith in 1989 set the pattern for all

our showings. The Jewish people provided the hall and the audience and we gave the message of comfort. You can't beat it. There were 250 present and it climaxed with a standing ovation. The Executive Director of the Middlesex County Jewish Federation was present and invited us to show it to their Federation. Three hundred attended. Then we began to receive invitations from Reform and Conservative Synagogues. The ball kept rolling. *Israel: Appointment With Destiny* has been shown in synagogues throughout the country, including all the areas of major Jewish populations. Attendance has been as high as 600. In Jerusalem over 1,200 applauded us through our premiere showing. On a few occasions, less than 45 have attended. The continual acclaim has been, "I have learned more about our Bible in one evening than years under our Rabbi."

Ripples

Videos are sold at each showing, which in turn are shown to families, friends and at the synagogue Hebrew school for years to come. After one dynamic showing at an Orthodox synagogue on Staten Island with 300 present, the president of the synagogue said, "This evening hundreds saw *Israel: Appointment With Destiny*. In the coming weeks thousands will see it. Many principals of Yeshivas are now purchasing videos that will be shown in their Yeshivas throughout Brooklyn." We know for a fact that videos are purchased and sent to Rabbis of other synagogues who show it at their own programs. The ripple effect continues.

See Israel Audiovisual next page

Israel Audiovisual Concluded

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Lord Opens More Doors

During the first two years of showings, I was unable to access Orthodox synagogues. The president of the New York Zionist Organization suggested I call Julie Frank for an unrelated reason. Julie headed up the office of Andrew Stein, then President of the New York City Council. I called Julie Frank and told her I was a Christian minister. She said, "I've had it with Christians. Their bottom line is that nine-tenths of the Jewish people will be killed in their concept of Armageddon." I told her about Br. Russell's work and our video. She said, "Send me a copy of the video and if it is all you say it is, the doors of modern Orthodox synagogues across the country will be opened to you." Unknown to me, Julie was on the board of directors of the Young Israel National Council. This is one of the largest groups of Orthodox synagogues. By

the Lord's overruling, she did open the doors into the Orthodox community.

When we converted the audiovisual into a video, there was a need for video footage. The doors to video libraries of many Jewish organizations and agencies of the Israeli government were opened to us at no cost.

How to Reach Russia?

When we wanted to reach the Jewish Russia, I remembered Professor Branover's organization—Shamir. It has the most complete distribution network into the Jewish communities of the Soviet Union. I called his office in Israel and was told it was impossible for anyone from the United States to reach him by phone since he was continually on the move from 5:00 a.m. to midnight. Dr. Branover answered my first try at his home in Bersheva. I told him about Br. Russell's work, of our video *Israel: Ap-*

pointment With Destiny, and requested a meeting with him during my visit to Israel in two months. Dr. Branover responded, "I am a man of faith. I believe in miracles. No one can reach me by phone from the United States. It is a miracle that you reached me. The Lord is telling me something. You want a meeting with me? You will have a meeting next week in New York." We had the meeting, produced the Russian version of *Israel: Appointment With Destiny* and Professor Branover's organization is distributing the videos to Russian Jews in Russia and Israel. Another miracle.

The State of Israel is a miracle of history. This message of comfort to the Jewish people, by the Lord's grace, began by a miracle and has continued and expanded by miracles. Praise the Lord! We are currently involved in a comfort effort in Hungary, which has the third largest Jewish population in Europe. □

Great Pyramid Audiovisual Concluded

From page 17

hundreds of posters all over town. TV entertainment reporters announced the program on the nightly news. We planned 11 showings over 5 days, to allow word of mouth advertising to work in our favor, and we sold tickets through Tickettron, so that we would not have overflows. We ran a sizable ad on the entertainment page, and received write-ups and favorable reviews in several newspapers.

The stage was set and the work was done; all that was left was to see how the Lord would direct the results. On the first night, an eager crowd quickly filled the seats. It was an exhilarating moment when the lights dimmed, a hush fell upon the audience, and the production began. Two years of intense labor had culminated in a full house of enthusiastic listeners. I was standing in the back, thrilled at the Lord's blessing, when well into the presentation, a few people got up and left. I asked them what was wrong, and they were miffed at what they saw as an extreme fundamentalist Christian message. Everyone in the audience had been given comment cards, and when the presentation was over a quick tally revealed that 9 out of 10 were enthusiastic but 10 percent were very upset.

That night, we held a powwow. We had assumed that agnostics and atheists among the audience would be refreshed by a religious message that was framed

by logic. We were wrong. This group was irritated. We decided to place an announcement on the screen before each showing: "This presentation will give evidence that Jesus of Nazareth is the savior of the world." A few would leave before each showing, but those who stayed were noticeably more enthusiastic as the week progressed.

In all, 4,300 people attended; 630 left their names, and the gate receipts covered our one-time costs.

This left us with the funds to undertake another multiple showing. This we did in Toledo that June, at a movie theater multiplex, which dedicated one screen to the production. They collected the money, and gave us a percentage. An average of 100 people per showing attended—2,300 in all—and the event again broke even. It also attracted TV publicity.

That fall, Br. Tim and Sr. Anna Alexander took the show on the road. Classes in Denver and points west sponsored the production, with varying results but a general feeling of satisfaction. And I remember helping to stage the event in New Jersey. Only a handful attended, but one who did went on to make a consecration and still meets with the brethren in the area!

A year later, we scheduled a showing in Columbus again. The director of the Fawcett Center, himself an atheistic historian, called the Director of the Ohio Historical Center, and portrayed

us as fundamentalist religious fanatics. In his alarm, he canceled the event — after our ads were placed! We had the words CANCELED printed boldly across the ads.

Hundreds of phone calls that day completely jammed their switchboard! To one of the local TV news reporters, this was a religious freedom story, so she interviewed me on the steps of the Historical Center for the evening news.

Among the lessons I learned from these experiences were that it is important to state clearly what we are about; to present the truth with confidence, and that if presented professionally and enthusiastically, large audiences are still interested in hearing our refreshing message. I also learned that unbelievers are not our allies, and that the academic community will readily suppress Scriptural truth. Finally, I learned that if brethren work together with focused vision, we can hold forth the word of life. □

*Just as with the "ripple" effect of the **For This Cause** program when it was converted to a video format, the **Great Pyramid** production has continued to assist the brethren in their witness work by also being converted to a video format. To date, over 2,000 copies of the video version have been circulated through placement in libraries, magazine ads, public witness sales, cable television, and personal witness opportunities. Ed.*



Discovering Brethren Worldwide

The Divine Plan Foundation

A Short History

by Br. Edward Lorenz

It all began in 1969 as a result of the late Br. Robert Alexander, then of Palo Alto, California, being sent by his employer IBM on a special assignment to Japan. While there he noticed that many of the Japanese were reading books printed in English. He thought it would be great if they had Truth material to read. He recalled that in the days of Br. Russell there was a large class with several elders in Japan. He thought that some of those families might still be found. When he returned to the States he brought up the matter at a California convention. As a result, several of the brethren said they would work with him. I was among them.

Contact was made with a radio station in Japan and it was learned that they would deal only with a corporation, and that no less than a series of thirteen programs in Japanese would be acceptable. Nine brethren came together to work out a plan. The result was the present Divine Plan Foundation. Brs. Gilbert Rice, Bob Alexander and I filed to obtain a corporation status which was granted in March 1970 by the State of California. Then a Federal tax exemption from the IRS was obtained on July 13, 1970, making donations to the Foundation deductible for tax purposes. The State of California followed shortly with its tax exemption status.

A strong doctrinal statement of position, in harmony with the Harvest Truth, prepared by Brs. Alexander, Rice and Lorenz is included in the Articles of Incorporation. The Foundation today has fifteen voting members: of these Br. Allon MacAlister is President, Br. Lauren Stewart is Vice-President, and Br. Edward Lorenz Secretary-Treasurer [until his death on April 14, 1998].

With all the legal requirements in place the Foundation could begin the work in Japan. Br. Robert Seklemian prepared thirteen programs for our radio broadcast. Br. Gilbert Rice found



Third Annual Japanese Convention in Zuchi, 1980

two Japanese ministers in San Diego who translated the programs into Japanese. When Br. Alexander contacted the broadcasting company he found that the rate was very high because each broadcast covered the entire country of Japan. As a result of these broadcasts a Japanese minister contacted the few brethren in Japan, and read the First Volume that had been printed in the Japanese language. Br. Ishikawa consecrated, met with the little class and remained in the Truth until his death a few years later.

Sr. Junko Kamada was another one drawn to the Lord who raised her up for the work of translating several of the Volumes into Japanese. She has continued her consecrated walk faithfully laboring incessantly in the work of translating the Harvest Message.

With the start of this little class, some brethren from the States began serving it. Br. Owen and Sr. Peg Kindig made six trips to Japan over two and a half-years. Br. Homer and Sr. Grace Hamlin also made six trips in two years time. Sr. Mary Jane Burns, Brs. Richard Doctor and Robert Davis served there for a period of four months. All of these were supported by the Foundation.

Other Foundation Grants

The Divine Plan Foundation has assisted numerous classes that requested funds for class activities: printing tracts, certain books, or planning public meetings, all were helped when all factors were considered. The Winnipeg Ecclesia had a need when they undertook the printing of the Volumes in foreign languages.

Then there was the special project of Br. Kenneth Rawson's video *Israel: Appointment with Destiny*.

Many brethren will recall receiving the sermons of Br. Seklemian printed by the Piqua Bible Students [now Miami Valley Bible Students].

Another great need for Foundation funds was the plight of 150 brethren in Cluj, Romania who had no meeting place. A suitable building was for sale, but they had no funds. The Foundation was called upon and its treasurer arranged through his bank to transfer \$9,500 to Br. Gruhn in Paris to be paid him in cash (U.S. dollars) to take with him to Romania. The building was purchased and has provided an acceptable meeting place for the brethren. □

These reports were prepared by Br. Edward Lorenz in late February, less than a month before his terminal illness was discovered. He finished his earthly course on April 14, 1998. Ed.

Ministry in Japan

by Br. Owen R. Kindig

The Japanese work was covered extensively in the *Newsletter*, Volume 24, #1, *Spring* 1995. This overview covers the important aspects of the work which was conceptualized at a meeting held at the Fort Collins Convention.

Br. Robert Seklemian was used to write thirteen radio scripts which were later printed in booklet form for distribution in Japan. Ads were also placed in magazines and several public meetings were held using Br. Arthur Newell and Br. Carl Hagensick which attracted Br. Tadashi Ishikawa and Sr. Junko Kamada. American brethren served in Japan, and regular studies and translating work resulted, including the Tokyo Ecclesia. The Israel show offered by Brs. Robert Davis and Richard Doctor opened up the association with Sr. Emi Shirai.

Through Sr. Emi and her sister, contact was made with Nippon Television Network which resulted in an invitation to associate with NTV in the expedition of constructing a model of the Great Pyramid in Egypt. Br. August Tornquist and Br. Todd Alexander met them in Egypt and filmed the interior passages of Cheops as well as the Japanese construction. This resulted in a major Pyramid witness work in the U.S. by the Columbus, Ohio brethren. A slide show related the Pyramid and the Bible. This first showing was attended by more than 4000 at the Ohio State University.

A Pyramid tract mailing was made to all the ministers of Japan in April, 1978.

Other doors were opened in Japan for a series of Truth studies and a public meeting with Gideons and American missionaries in the Toyohashi area.

Frequent meetings were held throughout 1978 and 1979, sometimes eight meetings in one week. One blessing was the presentation of Handel's *Messiah* music accompanied by slides of the Chart of the Ages, relating God's Divine Plan of the Ages to the words expressed in the *Messiah*. They were quite familiar with the music and then learned what it meant.

It was the privilege of Br. Robert

Alexander to give the funeral discourse for Mr. T. Shimoda who was the president of the Christian Society in Japan. About 600 attended. Sr. Junko translated it into Japanese.

Br. Owen Kindig offered the Memorial services for Mrs. Matsuoka (age 104, a poet and friend of the Emperor) and her son who died several years later. Mr. Matsuoka was the landlord for the Kindigs.

It is a great blessing to have cooperated in the Japanese work and to realize that the few faithful saints gathered will help in restoring the Japanese people in God's due time. □



L to R, Back Row: Sr. Rachel Alexander, Kayoko Katsuno, Br. Tadashi Ishikawa, Sumiko Sugiyama, Yoshikazu Natsuoka, Ayako Usai, Br. Owen Kindig. Front Row: Sr. Peg Kindig, Sr. Junko Kamada, Michiko Matsuoka

Our Brethren Abroad

by Br. Carl Hagensick

Between 1970 and 1990 it has been our privilege to visit and interact with brethren in more than 30 countries. We have been asked to share some of the experiences of these brethren in the distant corners of the Lord's Harvest field.

German Brethren in Brazil

About a half century ago, Sr. Eva Dortmund (now Hensel) of Hannover, Germany gave a set of Volumes to her next door neighbors, the Graemers who shortly thereafter moved to Brazil. They took these books, in which they had no immediate interest. Over 20 years passed before Lisel Graemer, having raised a family, became seriously ill and was hospitalized for an extended time. She asked her husband to bring the books she had received in Germany. She

quickly accepted the message therein, wrote a letter to Sr. Hensel thanking her for the books, and began to receive weekly letters in return, guiding her in her search for truth.

Sr. Graemer began advertising in German-language newspapers in Brazil. One who read her ads was Br. Helmut Weiland and his wife Lene, who lived some 70 miles from Sr. Graemer in Balneario Camboriu. The Weilands had heard the Truth in Germany in the 1930's. Br. Weiland journeyed to Balneario and immersed Sr. Graemer in the Atlantic Ocean.

Soon a second weekly letter came to Brazil from Germany, this time to the Weilands. It was only a matter of time before Br. Weiland became convinced of the Second Presence and began adver-

tising that fact in the German papers, building up a small ecclesia in his area.

One by one, the members of the small class died leaving the Weilands alone with their two sons.

Meanwhile, in the city of Uniao Victoria, a hundred miles further inland lived Br. Erich Will who first heard the Truth from Judge Rutherford about 1918, a short time before moving from Germany to Brazil. He, his mother, and his brother, were consecrated. Shortly after his mother's death he and his brother searched for other Bible Students. The local Jehovah's Witnesses community told them that all the Bible Students had died out. They thought they were the last of the Bible Students alive in the entire world.

See *Brethren Abroad* next page

Brethren Abroad *From previous page*

Some years later, a German-language paper asked him to write an article on a herbal health cure which had healed his daughter. In it he mentioned some scriptures. Br. Weiland read the article and wrote a letter about the healings of God's kingdom. Br. Erich Will responded that this sounded like the teachings of Charles Taze Russell. [He had heard the message from Joseph Rutherford in 1908.] Br. Weiland acknowledged that they were, and Br. Will soon sought contact. He had been, in the interim, pastor about a year, in a Lutheran church. Since Br. Weiland was too old to travel, he contacted Br. Bertoldo Fonsaca of Curitiba, who made the initial contact with Br. Will. At this point, Sr. Hensel turned her weekly epistle into a circuit letter, to the three German families in South America.



Br. Helmut and Sr. Lene Weiland from Brazil

We were in Brazil a week after this contact and, along with Br. and Sr. Rick Buss, we made the trip over the mountains to meet him. About a year earlier, Br. Fonsaca had completed the translation of the First Volume into Portuguese, the language of Brazil, and we had a few with us. When Br. Will saw these, his eyes watered with tears, and he asked if he could get one for each of his former parishioners. These were sent in due course, from the Dawn.

About a year later, in response to a letter we had written to Br. Will, we had a reply from his daughter that he had just finished delivering the last of these Volumes to the members of his former church and had died the next day.

Finland

Many of the brethren who have had the privilege of attending International Conventions have enjoyed meeting Br. Timo and Sr. Sirpa Nordman from Oulo, Finland. On our last multi-week trip to Europe (in 1991) we spent several days with them in the home of Br. Timo's

father. Our little group consisted of Br. Sam and Sr. Annick Stalder of Germany, Br. Nicholas Charcharos of England and myself. We met with a group of about six Finnish brethren and enjoyed several studies and question meetings. There were no time limitations and our studies went on hour by joyful hour.

Although the number of brethren in Finland is small, their zeal is astounding. They produce a regular magazine which they circulate to speakers of the Finnish language in a number of countries. One of their contacts is a young sailor from Denmark, also with the first name of Timo. He also rejoices greatly in the message of the love of God for all mankind.

Behind the Iron Curtain

Today we know of active Truth movements in several of the countries formerly under the domination of Russia such as Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, and Siberia but we did not always know of them. A brother in the Detroit area, who died during those years of communist oppression, left a sum of money in his will for a witness to the Soviet Union. We were asked to assist in the utilization of these funds. An old Russian First Volume was located and reprinted with each section remaining unbound to make it easier to get through the borders. Thirteen of the radio scripts which Br. Seklemian had prepared for Japan were translated by a former radio announcer for Radio Moscow. He and an acquaintance then became the "Paul" and "Timothy" of the scripts, and programs were produced.

After attending a meeting with Br. Jim Parkinson on "Underground Evangelism," an exploratory trip was made to Europe. In four days we had seven appointments. The first stop was contacting a printer in Frankfurt, Germany, who specialized in the Russian language. We showed him copies of *Tabernacle Shadows*, *The Divine Plan of the Ages*, and "Truth About Hell" in Russian. He explained that it was an old Russian language which would not be readable by all, and recommended *Tabernacle Shadows* as having the best appeal. While there we found that he was the publishing source for the works of Aleksander Solzhenitsyn.

Our second stop was in Munich, Germany, where we had an appointment with the European representative of Underground Evangelism. When we checked in for our flight we asked the clerk to make us a hotel reservation in

Munich. She said this would be impossible since this was the first day of Oktoberfest and all rooms were booked for a hundred-mile radius. However, on the plane we met a gentleman from Munich. He contacted a friend who owned a hotel and we were able to stay in the heart of the city. The gentleman from Underground Evangelism could not be of extensive help because of our non-belief in the Trinity.

After seeing the books we had and learning that our next stop was Warsaw, Poland, he warned us not to take the books there for they would be confiscated. The next morning we went early to the airport to ship our books ahead of us to Copenhagen. However, because of the massacre of the Israeli athletes during the Olympics that summer, they refused to send baggage without the passenger. So we agreed to take the books with us to Poland and East Germany.

Our seat mate between Vienna and Warsaw was a silk salesman from India. He had traveled to Poland many times and volunteered to help us get the books through Polish customs. However, the customs inspector that day was unknown to him and made him open all his bags, even looking into the lining of his suitcase. We were nervous when our turn came next, but he just waved us on through without checking our bags.

Leaving Warsaw a few hours later we were going through security check at the airport with the books in our briefcase. The custom official asked us to open the briefcase but, just as she was about to look into it, the man behind us began talking to her in Polish. She was so busy answering him that she only felt into the bookcase without looking at the books.

The next stop was in East Berlin where I disembarked for a few hours to visit brethren in West Berlin. Once again we faced the customs inspection. At the airport we had previously conversed with a West German who traveled to Russia frequently, and we were behind him at the customs line. When the inspector asked us to open our bags, our new-found friend said to the inspector, "He's OK, Hans, he is with me." We were let through once again without inspection.

After visiting the brethren in West Berlin we had to cross once more to East Germany at Checkpoint Charlie in the Berlin Wall. It was about 11 p.m., and there was a long line ahead of us. The guard noticed me looking at my watch and beckoned me to come forward. "Are you in a hurry?," he asked. "Yes," I

Brethren Abroad

replied, "I have a train to catch." "Well, then, you go right on through," he said courteously and motioned me onward, once again not checking my baggage.

However, I did not know the way to the train station. In stumbling German, I asked a pedestrian who directed me to the station. Now, I did not know which direction to go. The only people I saw were soldiers, and none of them spoke English. However, I did see a couple with two small children and I approached them. Even though I was at the wrong station and it was the opposite direction from where they were going, they came with me to my station and saw me safely on my train. Since my daughter was the same age as theirs, we arranged for the two girls to become pen pals.

During the following year their friendship grew through their letters. Since we were going to Europe the following year, Sr. Cher-El asked if she could visit her friend. We arranged for her to do so. She crossed over to East Berlin with a number of other brethren who met the family. They became sufficiently interested in the message of the Truth to travel to Warsaw to meet us at the Polish General Convention.

An Idea Whose Time Had Come

During the summer of 1980 several brethren from Poland and Australia were visiting at our home. During this time Brs. Fred Binns and Bob Robinson passed through Chicago for a visit and came to see us. The remark was made, "Wouldn't it be nice if just once brethren from all over the world could meet for a convention." Br. Robinson's quick response was, "Why not?"

From that simple conversation came the idea that produced the first International Convention of Bible Students. The first simple gathering of some 250 at Kufstein, Austria, has grown over the years to nearly 1000 at Miskolc, Hungary. Here, for the first time, brethren were introduced from East Germany, Ukraine, Finland, Romania, and Moldova. Brethren have come from such far-flung lands as Brazil, Argentina, Nigeria, India, Australia, and Japan...

Memories

We still thank the Lord for the privileges of years gone by, before paralysis limited our activities, for the privileges we have had with the brethren throughout the world.

We will never forget:

- Br. Albert Hudson of England recounting how, as a teenager, he was assigned to hold the doors of the mammoth Royal Albert hall in London closed against the crowds pressing it to hear Br. Russell.
- Old Br. Bray of Wellington, New Zealand, poor and in an old yellow oil-skin coat, refusing social security because he considered it one of the restitution blessings he was to forego.
- The eager zeal of the small class in Perth, Australia, as they sought out Scriptural proofs for the answers to the questions that were being discussed.
- The elderly brother in Poland recounting how he received the Truth in World War II from a brother who, when the sirens summoned others to the bomb shelters, would resort to a space under the trees to meditate while the bombs dropped around him.
- Touring the Majdanek concentration camp with Sr. Henryka Wojczak, who had formerly been a prisoner in the death cells of this very camp.
- Listening to Br. Avel Lupsor (brother of Sr. Cristina Filicky's father, Br. Milo) excitedly break into our witness with a Jehovah's Witness who was studying with one of the brethren.
- Sitting in a coffee shop in Lausanne, Switzerland with Br. Mudespacher of Evian-les-Baines for a three-hour discussion of the Bible.
- Repetitive visits with Br. Peter and Sr. Esa Keetman on the shores of the beautiful Chiemsee, with daily studies that were never long enough.
- Hearing the Polish choir, "Sela," sing and being privileged to deliver a message between the songs to a public meeting in the oldest synagogue in Poland.
- Attending one of the continuing meetings at Br. Pawel and Sr. Teresa Dabek's home during the harsh days of martial law in Poland.
- Walking the streets of ancient Corinth with Br. Pantel Hatgis as our guide and hearing him, as a modern Paul, address us from the top of Mars' Hill.
- Seeing the zeal and long hours put into translating the Volumes into Portuguese by Br. Bertoldo Fonsaca, with his wife learning typing to help him in this work.
- Seeing the look of sheer joy of Br. Stuart Livermore in Israel as he welcomed brethren with whom he was unable to speak because of illness.

- Walking with Br. Jack Campbell through ancient Arad, Israel, an archaeological site he helped unearth.
- Witnessing the strong faith of Sr. Sophie Plewniak from Poland, as she expressed her joy for the suffering she went through on a sick bed where for years she could only move her head and hands.
- Having Br. Stanislaw Klimaszewski of Viadutos, Brazil, show us the treasure house of Truth literature and correspondence which has kept him so spiritually alive in almost total isolation from other brethren.
- Having as house guests on the same day the brethren Lupus from Tasmania and Sr. Margaret Olsen, formerly of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, representing the northernmost and southernmost brethren in the world. And the list goes on . . .



Br. Milo and Sr. Maruja Lupsor from Argentina

Over these years we were privileged to meet brethren from the following countries: Japan; New Zealand; India; Israel; Nigeria; Ghana; Greece; Italy; Switzerland; Austria; Romania; Moldova; Ukraine; Siberia; Poland; Finland; Sweden; Denmark; Germany; France; Belgium; Holland; England; Ireland; Northern Ireland; Wales; Scotland; Caribbean; Guyana; Peru; Argentina; Brazil; United States; Canada; Lithuania; Korea.

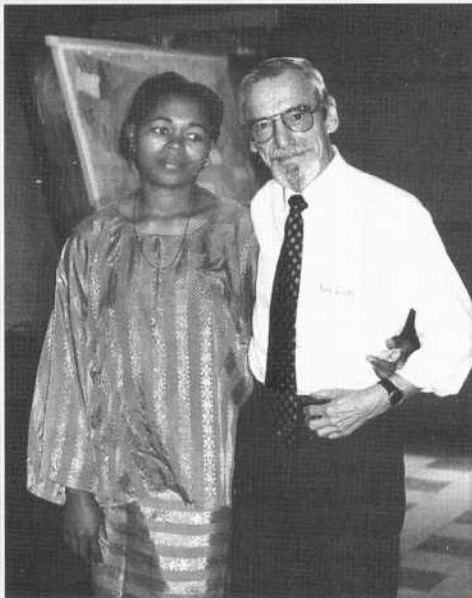
And there are those we have not met, from: Bulgaria; The Philippines; Chile; Mexico; Spain; Miramar; Pakistan; Nepal; Belorussia; Russia and elsewhere.

It continues to amaze me how the vision of truth seen by a meek haberdasher from Allegheny, Pennsylvania, has even today struck a responsive chord by brethren throughout the expanse of planet Earth. Surely this must be the Lord's work, and it is to him that we give all the thanks and all the praise.

None of these opportunities with my brethren would have been possible without the physical and emotional cooperation of my beloved wife, Sr. Marge. □

Ministry in Africa Begins

by Br. Carl Hagensick



Sister from Nigeria with Br. Ray Luke at a later visit

The first of five trips we made to Nigeria was at the behest of the Divine Plan Foundation to verify the degree of interest in a number of names supplied by Br. Peter Kolliman. On this trip I was accompanied by Br. Jim DeGroot and Sr. Shirley Bickel (now Evans). Initial interest warranted the founding of the Bible Student Committee for Africa. Early efforts bore mixed fruitage. There were always eager ears but frequently those of one year had lost interest by the following trip.

A change in approach to the work had resulted in regular Nigerian conventions being held. The incident I will relate is from the first of these conventions in Ibadan.

My roommate for the convention was Br. Moses Ashiegbu of Lagos. Each night, after we retired, we would discuss a number of Scriptural questions. One

night he asked me to explain Hebrews 9:27, "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." I explained why I thought this applied to the priesthood of ancient Israel, but he was obviously unconvinced. In the morning, when I arose, he was already studying his Bible. I asked him to turn to Hebrews nine, and we would go through it verse by verse. Midway through he saw the progression of thought and became excited. I went to breakfast, then I walked to the meeting hall. There was Br. Moses, sitting in a circle of perhaps eight Nigerian brethren, going over the ninth chapter of Hebrews, verse by verse. The enthusiasm for learning by many of the Nigerian brethren reminded me of what I imagine it was like in the days of Pastor Russell as the brethren proved together the truths of the Harvest Message. □

Ministry Broadens in Africa

by Br. Richard Evans

In the early 1970's there were several "leadings" of the Lord that indicated his will for a witness work in Africa. After considerable correspondence with a number of interested in West Africa by brethren in the U.S.A. and Poland, a short visit was made in January 1973. The positive outcome of that preliminary inquiry was immediately followed by a more extended trip in June 1973. As shown by the report of that trip the brethren were moved by what they found:

"... The four brethren who traveled to Nigeria in June of this year were convinced by what they saw and heard, during the very first days, that the heavenly Father had opened up a new opportunity for preaching the 'good news of the kingdom'. The eager listening, the sincere calls for help to bring this knowledge of God's plan to all their people, were clear evidence that our returned Lord was doing a work in that land..."

As a consequence the Bible Students Committee for Africa (BSCFA) was formed in July 1973. Its purpose was to coordinate the activity of the brethren in following this leading of the Lord: to setup a method so individuals or ecclesias could participate, to provide reports of the activity, and to provide a forum where brethren could obtain answers to questions concerning the work.

In the remaining months of 1973 and in 1974 there were a number of brethren, individuals and couples, that traveled to West Africa. This early frenzy of activity was followed by a period of organization, consolidation, and correspondence. Then in 1978-80 another series of trips was made. The main point of interest of all these visits was Nigeria and the "good news" was presented in nearly every part of that nation. In addition, it was carried in a limited way to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Togo, Cameroon, Kenya, South Africa, Transkei, S. W. Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. The reaction in Nigeria, however, was and remains more intense than elsewhere.

In 1979 a trip was made with the aim of encouraging the for-



Immersion candidates at Ibadan, Nigeria in 1997

mation of ecclesias. A follow-up trip in 1980 revealed slight progress though there was significant interest by several individuals. In an effort to acquaint the Nigerian brethren with one another, a new dimension was added to the work in 1983. The BSCFA organized a national convention. In the report of that convention it was stated:

"... Since most [of the American brethren serving] were meeting their Nigerian brethren for the first time there was naturally some anxiety. Also, because the work in Nigeria had a history of unfulfilled expectations, there was some skepticism. These feelings, these fears, rapidly disappeared, however, once the brethren came together. For instance, in the evening before the first day of convention, some American and Nigerian brethren were talking and a question was asked, 'In the message of the Bible Students, what was it that first impressed you?' Without any hesitation, a Nigerian brother responded, 'The hope of the high calling.' From that first night, until the last night, such was the content, the depth of the discussions. Almost every intermission turned into small inde-

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The Harvest Work in India

by Br. Ric Cunningham

In the days of Br. C. T. Russell, one Indian by the name of S. P. Devasahayam (R4895 in 1911) was actively dispersing the Truth message to all who had an alert "ear to hear." There seems to have been approximately 32 congregations in 1911 (R4898). Sr. D. Daniel's father personally knew Br. Devasahayam (called Br. Devy for short). Several of the existing ecclesias date back to those early days.

The next wave of serious activity was the nationwide pilgrim work performed selflessly by Brs. S. R. Gilbert, Barnabas, and Jayappa. Traveling by bicycle, bus and train, publicly expounding the Truth on street corners with "Divine Plan of the Ages" charts, they were instrumental in strengthening already existing classes and starting new ones. More long time servants are Brothers D. Daniel, C. George, I. A. Joseph, Alexander Kotian and G. A. Ligorious. As these become less able with age to travel as regularly, the current servants rise to the occasion—brethren such as Br. Prasad, Charles Suresh, Deva Kirupa, Varma Prasad, Maria Dass, Premraj, Joshua George, Udhaya Kumar, Jayaraj and many more.

I have been actively fellowshipping with our Indian brethren since 1984, fifteen years rich in blessings!

For me it all began at a Chicago convention when Sr. Alys Schneider, who had previously visited India herself, encouraged Br. Brent Hislop to travel to India. Br. Brent mentioned it to me and, after prayerful consideration, Sr. Ruth and I determined I should go along with Br. Brent. He brought this to the attention of Br. David Bruce who was a member of the Northwest Committee for India which had been helping the brethren in India for many years. Br. Brent and I were not interested in joining the committee, yet Br. Bruce gave us a number of addresses and a letter of introduction which we appreciated very much. So Br. Brent and I spent four and a half weeks touring some 14 or so ecclesias, meeting hundreds of brethren and assessing in what way we might be of assistance.

The brethren there had many requests for literature which we were glad to try to fulfill. Our home ecclesias supported our efforts and in the *Bible Students Newsletter*, Volume 14, *Winter/Spring* 1985, it was announced that we would accept any help to provide the

following to the brethren in India:

Br. Russell's writings, Bibles, various standard Bible aids (concordances, dictionaries, word studies, atlases, histories, devotional materials, etc.) as well as address labels for different ecclesias to help with public witness efforts. Furthermore, thousands of tracts and booklets were sent along. As a result, thousands of books were collected and shipped. We determined upon a policy of shipping directly to any and all ecclesias and individuals who had made requests instead of just several literature "depots." Although this was more costly, we believe this limited the possibility of offending any and also avoided the appearance of any favoritism or a central authority.

Since that time we also began ship-

living have been zealously discussed—the pure joy of sharing truths precious to us all.

- Visiting many, many homes of the brethren and breaking bread together.
- The grand privilege of participating in the immersion services of 28 brethren.
- Visiting with the sick and dying.
- Seeing firsthand the terrible poverty and gross pagan superstition with which our brethren there valiantly contend daily.

All these have helped me wonderfully to focus on trying to keep my consecration vows, "to be dead to the things of this world." We think of the brother who eventually lost his eyesight reading the Reprints year after year by candlelight. We think of the brother who came from

the hospital suffering with abdominal pain to be immersed, only to return to the hospital afterward; of the sister who painstakingly wrote out in English the entire Second Volume and used this to conduct meetings with various women in her neighborhood; of brethren riding their scooters hundreds of miles, stopping at every church to pass out tracts and sleeping by the road side; of seeing hundreds of brethren attend a convention by day and then roll out their mats and cheerfully sleep on the same concrete floor at night. We remember fondly the many housetop meetings under the stars, one in

which we were asked to explain the concept of the resurrection to dozens of Hindus; of outdoor and indoor meetings by candlelight; of seeing what had been inquisitive 15-year-old youths become mature 30-year-old brothers and sisters in Christ, diligently following the Lord, and believing in Present Truth—and being pleasantly surprised with how few have wandered away.

We cannot put into words the depth of love, nor the strength of the tie that binds our hearts together. To the brethren here who have opened their alabaster boxes and poured out their love offerings to share in this blessed privilege of service—we stand in amazement at such generosity and compassion for those they will probably never meet on this side of the veil. Yet we trust that the Lord knows and that the Lord rewards. □



L to R Back Row Center: Brs. Dan Monette and Ric Cunningham with our brethren in India

ping the *Bible Students Newsletter* and the *Divine Plan Journal* to fifty individual brethren to read and share with others.

Furthermore, several booklets and a number of tracts have been printed in the various local dialects for public witness there.

Subsequently in 1988, Sr. Ruth and I visited India for four weeks, visiting there with 15 or more ecclesias. In 1994 I spent four weeks visiting the brethren there, and Br. Dan Monette was able to join us for two weeks. In 1997 Br. Dan and I made another trip. This time we both spent three weeks visiting 18 ecclesias.

As I reflect on the precious memories, my highlights are numerous:

- The many meetings and periods of spiritual fellowship where sincere Bible discussions and questions of Christian

Traveling with Br. Peter Sunder Raj Gilbert

My only trip to India lasted a mere four days but saw us visiting seven cities and giving six discourses. The highlight of this trip was traveling in company with Br. Peter Sunder Raj Gilbert. Br. Gilbert came from an upper middle class family and was studying engineering at the university when he received the Truth. He immediately quit school and spent the rest of his life in full time service to the Lord. He traveled simply, with all his belongings in a simple carpet bag. India is subdivided into many different language groupings. He would travel to a city and find someone who would give him a place to stay and food to eat. He would quickly learn their language and translate a booklet or two into that language. Then he would begin witnessing and stay until he could start an ecclesia. By the time I met him, about five years before he died, he had mastered about 15 or 20 languages. Over half of the brethren we met in India on that trip (and we saw about 500 brethren) were either a direct or indirect result of his ministry.

He was a speed reader. On our 30 minute flight from Banga-



Many brethren in India were a result of Br. Gilbert's ministry

lore to Hyderabad he read the entire daily paper in about five minutes and quizzed me on the contents. He was expert at starting a witness. On our flight from Cochin to Bangalore we had a half-hour layover in Coimbatore. During that time we sat with the pilot, copilot and a stewardess and he gave them a complete chart talk. During the last leg of the flight the pilot invited our group of five to ride for a while in the cockpit while we flew over the Indian Bhats (mountains).

He was learned on a wide range of subjects, discussing archaeology, astronomy, and world history as easily as he discussed the Truth. But above all he was a man with a huge memory. For most of my discourses he would request that I give an entire 30 minute talk without stopping for translation, and then he would take his notes and translate the entire talk. The only exception was in Bangalore when I made a last minute switch from speaking on the Jubilees to speaking on the Gates of Jerusalem, and he broke the talk in the middle for translation. □ *by Br. Carl Hagensick*

From page 24

pendent Bible studies. Though it has been just a few years since they first heard the Truth message, the Nigerian brethren have a good grasp of it. Having studied the Bible from childhood, they were able to progress rapidly once the common misconceptions were taken away..."

The Nigerian brethren were so inspired by the convention they urged the BSCFA to sponsor one on an annual basis. Subsequently, they began organizing ecclesias and on their own held their first regional convention five months later (Oct. 1983).

At the first national convention none of the wives of the Nigerian brethren living outside the local area was present. At the second a small number of wives and children attended. At the third convention (1985), however, it became a family affair. Actually, there were two conventions going on simultaneously: a full and complete program for the young people at the same time as the adult program. These young people revealed not only a broad knowledge of the Bible, but a good understanding of the Divine Plan. It was apparent they were being included in their parents' studies at home.

The national conventions continued on an annual basis through 1990. Attendance usually numbered from 50 to 70 adults and 40 to 50 young people. Nearly all of these conventions had an immersion service and a considerable number of Nigerians was baptized. These annual gatherings were supple-

The Ministry in Africa Concluded

mented by two or three weekend regional conventions each year.

By 1990, however, the economic and political conditions in Nigeria had degraded to a point where it was no longer feasible to continue on an annual basis. The BSCFA decided to sponsor the national convention every other year, scheduling it so brethren serving could attend the International Convention in the same trip. There were conventions in 1992 and 1996. Unfortunately, the convention scheduled in 1994 had to be canceled when a labor strike in the oil refineries brought travel within the nation to a halt. Plans for a 1998 convention are presently underway (19-23 August; Ibadan, Oyo State). This will be the twelfth national convention and by God's grace it will be served by six Nigerian elders and three American brethren.

One of the blessings for American and European brethren that has derived from the work in Africa has been three trips that were made by Nigerian brethren. In 1986 Br. and Sr. Joseph Ajise were able to attend the International Convention as well as visit a number of brethren in England, France, and Germany. Br. Joseph's service was much appreciated by the brethren. In 1993 the Ajises also visited a number of ecclesias in the U.S.A. In 1996, two Nigerian elders, Brs. Moses Ashiegbu and Pius Monye, made an extended trip to the U.S.A., visiting and serving ecclesias and conventions

from coast to coast. They concluded their journey with service at the International Convention.

Though faced with many difficulties, the Nigerian brethren have responded to the Lord's "leading." In spite of the pagan background that is so much a part of their culture, the erroneous teachings of missionaries for over 150 years, the influence of Islam which is practiced by 45 percent of the population, the rising pressure of nationalism, and the ever-present poverty, they have overcome! They have an excellent grasp of the Truth, and they let their light shine under the most difficult of conditions!

There are at this time organized ecclesias in the cities of Ibadan and Warri, each with elected elders and deacons. In addition, there are a considerable number of isolated brethren scattered over the southern half of the nation. All are in contact with each other and are able to periodically assemble together at the regional conventions. A number of American brethren associated with the BSCFA maintain an active correspondence, not only with the Nigerians, but with those of many African nations who respond to the radio programs that have been sponsored by the Dawn for many years. Through these various efforts and by the active witness of the Nigerian brethren the "good news of the Kingdom" has reached into a meaningful part of Africa. □

Ukrainian Harvest Work at Home and Abroad

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by Winnipeg Bible Students

The Ukrainian Dawn brethren of Winnipeg, Canada had been translating Reprint articles into their journal *Zorinnia Novoyi Doby* (meaning Dawn of the New Age) since 1937. This journal was sent to Ukrainian people throughout Canada and the United States. The brethren were also active in producing Ukrainian and Polish radio programs which were broadcast over 36 radio stations in Canada, the U.S. and Europe from 1955 to 1985. By the late 1980's the Ukrainian speaking population in North America had dwindled, and the cost of printing the journal had risen sharply to the point where the brethren began thinking of ending the journal. At this point 150 issues were sent out every two months.

In 1988 the Canadian brethren first had contact with the brethren in Ukraine. Br. Frank Boychuck and his mother, Sr. Nettie Boychuk, went to Ukraine to visit relatives. They asked the brethren in Poland for the names and addresses of any brethren in Ukraine. They brought home many addresses and many requests for literature which they gave to the Ukrainian brethren in Winnipeg. In 1989 when the Iron Curtain fell, names and addresses started pouring in. The *Zorinnia* mailing list has now grown to 550 readers who have learned of it mainly by word-of-mouth.

To Bless Ukrainians, Brethren Learn Computer

In 1989 the only book that had been translated into Ukrainian was the First Volume. (The brethren in Winnipeg studied the Polish Volumes and discussed them in Ukrainian.) When Br. John Olchowy and Br. Walter Hrechuk saw the amount of responses coming from overseas they immediately seized the opportunity to translate spiritual food for the brethren in Ukraine. They did not even know how to turn on a computer, but for the Lord's work they were willing to learn. Soon they were passing diskettes back and forth at every meeting. Br. John and Br. Walter regularly spent 16-hour days in front of their computers.

In 1989-1990, the First Volume



1991 Convention at Lviv, Ukraine

was retranslated and printed along with the Sixth Volume, the *Manna and Tabernacle Shadows*. In 1991, the Fifth Volume and *God's Promises Come True* were translated and printed. The Second and Third Volumes followed in 1992. *The Photo-Drama of Creation* was printed in 1994. *People of the Bible* was translated and printed in 1995. Altogether from 1989 to 1996 the brethren have sent out over 6,500 books to Ukraine and Russia, not including numerous booklets and journals.

All the brethren in this little ecclesia contribute to this work with their various talents. The late Br. John Olchowy did the bulk of the translation work. Br. Walter writes a personal letter in response to every letter received. Translating articles, writing letters, proofreading, formatting *Zorinnia*, wrapping books to be sent, and preparing the envelopes is full time work for these brethren.

Due to their abilities on the computer and their knowledge of the Cyrillic alphabet, the Ukrainian brethren have been able to format into book form: the Russian First Volume and *Photo-Drama of Creation* and the Bulgarian First Volume. In the latter case this involved typing the Bulgarian text—letter by letter—into the computer as the brethren cannot read or understand Bulgarian.

The brethren also supplied computers for the brethren in Ukraine. The Fourth Volume has been translated by the brethren in Lviv and is currently being proofread and corrected. Now the corrections are sent in Ukrainian to Winnipeg for formatting via E-mail.

Most of the brethren have already received the available literature for their meetings and are requesting additional literature to pass out to others. In one week, in the month of April, 45 packages of books were sent to Ukraine. All the literature sent to Europe is free of charge. Many individual brethren in Canada and the United States have given generously to this work which has covered all the costs.

Visit to Ukraine Nets Large Literature Demand

The brethren from Winnipeg have been privileged to visit the brethren in Ukraine on numerous occasions. A few were able to attend, in 1991, the first convention in Lviv in 52 years. They have since established close ties of fellowship. Since 1989, the brethren in Ukraine have many annual conventions, regular young people's meetings, and weeknight meetings. This spiritual growth and strength of the Ukrainian brethren has been a great source of encouragement to all the brethren in Winnipeg and throughout North America. □

Group Visits Romanian Brethren

When word reached the United States that there were brethren in Romania, the brethren were excited. Who was this Sr. Beti Precup? Who were these brethren? How many were there and what were their beliefs? Quickly a trip was arranged for Br. Gregory Bologna, who spoke Romanian, and Br. Adolphe Debski of France. Their report was encouraging.

We had the privilege of being in the second group to visit Romania. There were about 15 in our group, including three elders—Brs. Allen Springer, Dan Larson, and myself. The entire time was most blessed, and we were all thrilled with what we found. The Romanian brethren (some 2,000 of them) were as surprised to find us as we

were to find them. Ground work was laid for future cooperation.

Of all the experiences of that trip, two stand out. Saturday and Sunday were spent in Cluj. A Saturday picnic pro-



Saturday picnic with brethren in Romania

vided much time for fellowship and questions on the Scriptures. Sunday a meeting was planned at a theater rented for the purpose. [Br. Allen Springer includes the details in his report.] That evening many brethren regathered for more meetings at the home of Br. Vasile Intea. Similar enthusiasm was shown in Baia Mara, Baia Sprie, and Sighet.

Four Romanian brethren joined us as we left the country to go to the International Convention in Willengen—Sr. Beti Precup, and Brs. Cornel Negrea, Ian Galis, and Cornel Brie. Our joy in traveling together was matched by that of the other brethren at the convention upon meeting these beloved friends. □

by Br. Carl Hagensick

East Meets West

by Br. Allen Springer

Christmas 1989 seemed like just another Christmas until my attention was drawn to the television reporting of the Panama invasion begun the night before.

The news bulletins about Panama were interrupted by breaking news from another quarter: Romania. The dictator Ceausescu and his wife had been captured and executed as a People's Revolution swept the country. This was an exciting development! The farthest thing from my mind was that somehow this event was going to change my life. That it did, and dramatically so.

It was several months before the impact of the revolution hit home. A letter from Sr. Elisabeta Precup, of Cluj, Romania had been received by the Dawn, and news began to circulate among the brethren that a large group of Bible Students existed there. Br. Carl Hagensick decided that our trip prior to the International Convention was going to take a small detour. Instead of trying to go to Russia, we would go to Romania.

There were 12 who accompanied Br. Carl on that trip in August, 1990. We journeyed from Germany, through East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary before coming to the border crossing near Oradea, Romania. Cluj was several hours away. All we had for directions was a short paragraph in a letter from Sr. Beti, "As you come into Cluj, you will see the first block of apartments on the left. Pull over near the first intersection. Brethren will be waiting for you." The city of Cluj is rather

large, and there are hundreds of apartment blocks. We tried to phone but never got through. Upon entering the city, we immediately saw apartment blocks on our left, pulled over to the side of the road, and waited—for less than two minutes. Soon we were surrounded by the smiling faces of strangers who somehow were not strangers.

The next few days were among the most memorable of my Christian experience. Our concerns beforehand were that such a large group must surely be Jehovah's Witnesses. But as we asked questions, and they asked questions, you could feel the electricity in the air. It didn't take long before both sides *knew* that we shared the same Truth.

My first night was in the home of a couple who spoke no English, and I spoke no Romanian. In the morning all I knew was that we were going to "a meeting." As we approached an area near the city center, I could see hundreds of people crowding around an old theater. The brother took me by the arm, into the building, and pushed his way through the crowded aisles to the front of the hall. These hundreds of people were all brethren! I will never forget the intensity of that moment. Hundreds of brethren were crammed into the hall, and hundreds more were outside trying to get in. By the time the other "Americans" arrived, arrangements had been made to obtain a larger facility. The brethren were given directions, and walked more than a mile to the new site.

Most of those present had traveled all night by train, and would travel all night to return home.

It was the love of Present Truth by our Romanian brethren that captivated my heart. How they cherished the few Volumes in their possession! Our first priority seemed clear: to help them obtain their own copies of Br. Russell's writings. When I originally accepted Br. Carl's invitation, I had no intention of ever going overseas again. By the end of the first few days in Romania, plans

See East Meets West next page



Hundreds of brethren (above) walk to new location (below)



Our Spiritual Family in Romania & Moldova

by Br. Jerry Leslie

From our first trip to Romania in the early 1990s, we saw that the spirit of Truth and consecration was still alive and well in this corner of the world. The brethren were eager to discuss and learn the details and beauty of the Plan and of events in the world today. Genuine and overt love was shown in every place. The villages were specially thirsty for fellowship. Their spirit was pure and simple. Questions abounded till early hours of the morning. Brethren sat for hours to savor the Truth and fellowship. Songs of praise overflowed with spontaneous vitality.

Surely some of this is related to their emerging from the oppression of a dictatorial government and discovering brethren of like precious faith. There was the excitement of having open meetings without fear of neighbors knowing, of conducting baptisms outside the secrecy of secluded forest rivers. There was now an opportunity to print and publish the Truth for brethren and as a witness. In all this we saw things we needed to learn and absorb from them. There is something reminiscent of the early Harvest simplicity and zeal. Our repeated travels to this region of the world is as much for us as for them.

In this new-found field, we are very conscious of the Lord's power and work among them. It is our sense not to impose the complications of our society on them but to assure them of consecrated companionship in this narrow way. It is the Truth and Plan in the Word of God so clearly represented through the Seventh Messenger that will sustain them in the trials of this "hour of temptation." Our endeavor has also been to caution regarding some of the tests and pitfalls brethren have experienced in freer, technological and liberal societies. It is not presumed that they will be exempt from these tests, but we

think it helpful to forewarn and forearm those who see these things now coming from the western world.

In the mid-1990's we also discovered the Moldovan brethren. Though they share the same Romanian language, they were isolated from Romanian brethren and others for many years. But like the Romanians, they tenaciously held to the Truth they had, mainly from the 1912 versions of the Volumes. We approached this newly discovered sector of our spiritual family as we did in Romania. Though even more economically stressed, the brethren in Moldova were proportionately spiritually alive. Their willingness to suffer for the Truth has been tested. Here too, we had much to learn from these brethren. They in turn, cautiously examined the truths clarified by Brother Russell after 1912 concerning the high calling, justification, Israel, covenants and prophecies, "searching the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Their minds, hearts and spirit are vitally and visually responsive.

A clear presentation and record of the Harvest Message is imperative. Cooperative efforts provided computer hardware and software resources for these countries. This has enabled them to compose and print Truth literature in their language and to maintain Internet contacts with brethren worldwide. Several computers in Romania are carrying on this work. With two computers now in Moldova, the brethren are translating the Volumes and *Tabernacle Shadows* into Russian. This work is done jointly with Ukrainian brethren as part of their desire to share the Truth beyond their borders.

Additionally, we found secure and economic ways to ship clothing, books, medications and almost any needed materials to Romania. Every month or two we are shipping between 3-30 boxes to Romania of donated goods. These in turn are shared with Moldova. But here too, we are cautious to send those things that will be spiritually and naturally helpful, and not to encourage continued dependency.

When traveling in these countries, we spend time with the youth. We desire that the vision, cost and commitment to the Truth will not be lost to a generation now exposed to temptations and distractions of the world. They have the strength and minds able to carry on the faith. They have the opportunity to learn from the wisdom of prior generations and to add the testimony of their lives to their corner of the world.

Brethren in Romania in turn share and reach out to help the Moldovan brethren in temporal and spiritual ways. Recently we are hearing of brethren in Siberia. This has specially touched the Moldova brethren. As they are also fluent in Russian, they are reaching out to these brethren that are even more remote. Perhaps one lesson is that we all can do something with other fellow soldiers of the cross to stand in solidarity in these last days of the Gospel Age. □



Sr. Viorica Rosca works at the first computer for Romania

East Meets West Concluded

From page 28

were already well underway for a return visit—with a computer. Today there are many computers in Romania and Moldova. The brethren have used these tools to make the Truth available in their own language.

Nearly a decade has passed since that first encounter. Many brethren have made dozens of trips to visit, encourage, and assist these dear ones. For decades they were isolated from brethren in the rest of the world. An Amish man known to Br. Stephen and Sr. Linda Koreny asked to speak with some of the Romanian young people when they visited the Wilmington area several

years ago. After many questions and much discussion, he asked the young people if after fifty years of isolation the Romanian brethren still believed the same as their brethren in other parts of the world. When the young people answered, "Yes," he paused for a moment in deep reflection, and said in a serious tone, "That was the hand of God." We say, "Amen," and stand in awe. The power of God kept the Truth intact during all those years.

Now another test, one felt by brethren all over the world, seems poised to accomplish what persecution and suffering could not. It is a far more difficult test. That test is liberty.

*...As shouts of freedom rend the sky,
And people start to question why,
Above the roaring crowd I hear,
A trumpet blowing loud and clear.*

*On clouds of trouble he's returned.
Our King has kingdoms overturned,
And soon his flag will be unfurled,
"Thy Kingdom come" throughout the world.*

*The best of times, the worst times too,
As winds of change come blowing through,
To sweep away both old and new,
Replacing them with tried and true.*

*And though the trouble's drawing near,
The trumpet still sounds loud and clear,
So lift your heads and voices high,
Deliverance is drawing nigh. A.G.S. □*



Ecclesia and Related Activities

Looking Back *by Br. Gene Burns*

Sometimes it is good to look back and see what the Lord has wrought among us. The past 25 years have been for me a rich experience in serving in the vineyard of the Lord. I am happy to realize that the brethren have not lost their love "for the Heavenly vision of truth." The fire that burned in the hearts of God's people is still aglow, and the resolve of the brethren to finish the work God has given us to do is still there.

Looking back to the Fort Collins Convention seems to mark a period when the Lord's people felt the need for ecclesias to assume greater responsibility for the work at hand. Changes were underway in which small bodies of the Lord's people could exercise the latent talents among them to further the Lord's work. The brethren wanted to have an organ that would follow the Lord's people and their activities in the Harvest time and made it clear that they wanted this publication to "follow the brethren and not try to lead them." From this decision, the Dayton Ecclesia arose to the occasion and, thus, was born the *Bible Students Newsletter* which has opened a window for the Bible Students to keep in touch with one another viewing the vineyard from a larger perspective than we could formerly. True to its mission, it has covered the Truth movement very faithfully.

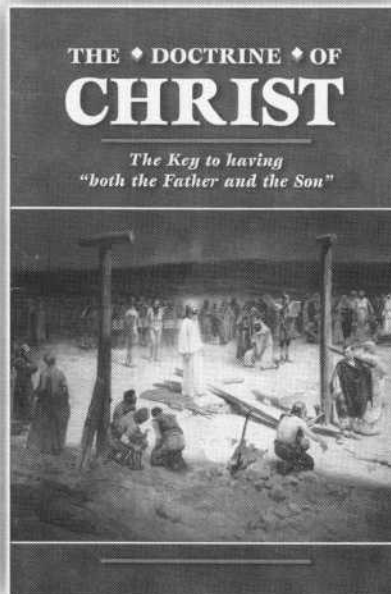
We owe these brethren our heartfelt thanks for providing this organ which keeps all the brethren in touch with the grass root movements in the service of the King. It lets us look in on ourselves in conventions, as well as the private circumstances of a large cross section of the Lord's people, not only in the States, but wherever the Lord's people are in foreign lands. Suddenly, we were awakened to all of our

brethren in foreign lands and the wonderful way the Lord was moving among them. This has gladdened our hearts and made us look at the Truth movement from a much larger window than heretofore...

The last 25 years have seen a change in technology which allowed brethren to use computers for word processing. This enabled ecclesias in Canada and overseas to begin reprinting the Volumes. The Chicago class helped here as well. New Brunswick also continued supporting and expediting the volume production in foreign languages.

Unloosing the latent talents of brethren in various ecclesias led not only to printing numerous tracts, booklets and Reprints, but also numerous other publications by Br. Russell, Br. Barton, the Edgar brothers' writings on the Pyramid, Br. Frey's notes and others. The latest advance has been the ability to color-separate in which Br. Todd Alexander has generously assisted, as well as Sr. Ruth Cunningham, and to publish in four-color process printing which has upgraded Bible Students publications. "The Doctrine of Christ," is an example of the latest advance. Without trying to catalog all that has and is being done, the point being made here is that new techniques enable brethren from everywhere to serve and contribute to the work. Decentralization is true in industry where companies farm out work. The same thing is happening within the Bible Students movement where brethren from all over contribute their skills and resources. The big danger, of course, is that as everyone begins publishing more and more, the

See Looking Back page 34



Colorado Bible Students Ecclesia

by Br. Larry Davis

Br. Sid Bruns traveled throughout Colorado for much of the 1950's and 1960's meeting with brethren, finding the isolated and doing the follow up work. These efforts, along with those of Br. Edward Lorenz and others, led to the establishment of the Colorado Bible Students Ecclesia (CBS) in about 1968. The nucleus of the ecclesia was formed during the period from 1965-68 and was added to in the 1970's by seven to eight brethren and in the 1980's and 1990's by six to eight more. Most traditional witnessing activities were used which have produced a mailing list of approximately 500. A bi-monthly newsletter is mailed to this list along with other public witness materials.

The annual CBS convention has always been a highlight for the Colorado brethren along with frequent visits by traveling speakers and vacationing families. We have always enjoyed close fellowship with other ecclesias and

brethren throughout the world. Several of our members travel to other conventions and via the recorded tapes all the members are kept current. The *Newsletter* is a welcome guest as it visits our homes and lets us share in Bible Students activities worldwide.

Recent activities include a planned Pilgrim Service, mini-conventions four times a year using a pilgrim service format, and regional meetings for Colorado and Wyoming brethren every one to two months.

Perhaps the most significant activity of our class has been its continued study of the Harvest Message and harmony therewith. These studies of the six Volumes and *Tabernacle Shadows*, the Reprints and other writings by Pastor Russell as well as regular testimony meetings have created a close, personal bond among us which we look forward to sharing for all eternity. □

by Br. Owen Kindig

The Columbus Bible Students Ecclesia of Ohio has experienced many blessings since the Fort Collins Conventions and the onset of the *Bible Students Newsletter* in 1972. Since 1970, the printing of the enlarged Chart of the Ages on plastic, the Recorded Lecture Service, the Six Volumes and *Tabernacle Shadows* recorded on tape were activities which the Lord saw fit to bless.

State Fair Witness

In cooperation with seven other ecclesias in Ohio, the Columbus Ecclesia was one of those making up the Ohio Bible Students who sponsored a booth each year at the Ohio State Fair. The first booth in 1961 celebrated the 75th anniversary of the *Divine Plan of the Ages*.

The Fair Committee meetings were held each year in Br. Owen Kindig's home. Br. Dick Kindig recalls: "Brs. Ian Cipperley and Alonzo Jarmon would come down from Cleveland, Br. Harry Grable and later Br. Craig Chamberlain came from Akron, Br. Alvin Raffel and Br. Bob Chastain drove from Dayton, and Br. Marion Schrock and Br. Dick Lally came in from Coshocton and Newark.

"Later, working with Br. Dick Lally on backdrops and brochures, his painstaking perfectionism was a good influence. And I remember the many friends from around the state who would come through our home, as they worked at the booth in those hot days of August."

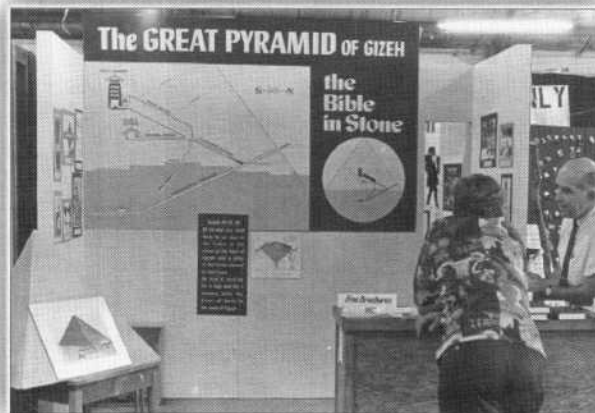
This activity continued until 1981. Two consecrations in 1971 and a third a few years later were a special blessing as a result of this witness. Tracts on the Tabernacle and the Great Pyramid were also a result of the Ohio State Fair Witness.

For This Cause Support

After seeing the first showing of *For This Cause* in Chicago, a few brethren in Columbus were inspired to set up a print shop to print the promotional tracts and posters. Br. Laddie Stewart bought a press, and Br. Dick Kindig's employer donated an old Graphic Arts camera and they began printing for Br. George Tabac and other brethren. They called the operation Vineyard Graphics Services.

Several brethren worked there during its heyday: Br. Roger Foucher, Br. David Waddell and Sr. Karen Baker (nee Winske). They usually printed 10,000 to 20,000 *For This Cause* tracts each week, and a few hundred posters. They also produced a two-color booklet with the full text of *For This Cause*. Br. Todd Alexander and Sr. Joyce Lagno helped copy photos and shoot halftones from the program, for the booklet which Sr. Ruth Cunningham (nee Koterba) had designed.

Other projects undertaken by Vineyard Graphics during the early 1980's were typesetting and printing "What is this World Coming To?" "Think on These Things", "What on Earth is a Kingdom?" and several tracts that are still in print, such as, "Israel" and "How to Study the Bible and Have it Make Sense." For a time the *Newsletter* was also printed there.



Br. Dick Lally witnessing at the Ohio State Fair

Audio Tape Efforts

Br. Dick and Sr. Beth Kindig began a duplication ministry, resurrounding old tapes by Brs. Meggison, Sundbom, Morehouse, and others. Later, the work was expanded to include current discourses, and shifted from reel-to-reel to audio cassette. Sr. Ildreth Vigar shouldered that load for many years.

One day the idea presented itself: Why not put the Volumes on tape? Br. Bob Brand of San Diego was selected as narrator. Br. Craig Chamberlain generously loaned a very expensive tape recorder. The

"Volumes on Tape" then became Br. Bob's personal project for the next several years.

Rebuttal of a Holocaust Denier

In 1992, C. Bradley Smith placed a full page article in the *Lantern*—a student newspaper published by Ohio State University—declaring the Holocaust a hoax. The ecclesia voted to send a reply which was a rebuttal to Mr. Smith's false statements. The Ecclesia's reply was placed as a full page ad in the *Lantern*. The article was shared with other ecclesias with many favorable responses. Christians and Jews appreciated the article.

The Columbus Ecclesia has supported the work in Japan through the years and is the sister ecclesia to the Tokyo Ecclesia.

What a joy to share the blessings and privileges with one another and to endeavor to let the light shine to others. This is our earnest desire. □

Jackson Bible Students

by Br. Edgar Buckley

As a member of the Jackson Bible Students, it has been a blessed privilege to work with the brethren in the witness work. The last twenty-five years bring back many memories. I would like to recount three.

(1) Two ads were placed in the *Grit* magazine. One in 1976, the other in 1978. Each ad featured the First Volume and the booklet, "How to Study the Bible and Have it Make Sense." By the Lord's grace, there were 2,230 responses the first year and 981 in 1978. Amazingly, we received a response from that same ad in 1994, sixteen years later.

(2) In 1984, we thanked the Lord that we were able to mail 2,277 magazine First Volumes in nine months. Un-

doubtedly, this was the time someone took a photo of my sister Leontine, sitting at a table with stacks of magazine First Volumes.

(3) In the last several years, we have had the opportunity to cooperate with the Oakland County Michigan class in operating a fair booth at the Jackson County Fair. Over 1,000 First Volumes, and other truth literature have been placed in the hands of the public. Many are the memories that have resulted from this effort. How true are the words of Solomon, "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whither shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." □



Bible Students of Metro Detroit

by the Ecclesia

Reflections on the Past 25 Years

The Associated Bible Students of Metropolitan Detroit was founded November of 1972 with 36 members. The first meeting was at the home of one of the members. Of the original 36 members, 19 are still with the class as of this date. None of the original six elders is with the class any longer. Five have finished their earthly course, one moved to another state. The class presently has approximately 45 members.

Over the years, many activities have occurred. Our class has been sponsoring a convention in the spring, each year, since 1973. The 1998 convention marks our 25th anniversary convention. In 1974, many members of our class chartered a bus to travel to the Colorado Convention in Fort Collins. Brethren from Jackson and Chicago traveled with the entourage. Our class has assisted other classes by sending elders on a regular basis to the Saginaw/Bay City, Michigan; Chatham, Ontario; and London, Ontario classes. Through the years, we have had 13 consecrations. We have given public talks in Michigan State University, Lansing; Ann Arbor, North Adrian and

Tecumseh, Michigan. *For This Cause* has been sponsored for showings in Dearborn and Allen Park, Michigan. Public booths have been set up at the Ann Arbor Art Fair, and at a Flea Market in Ypsilanti and Royal Oak, Michigan. □



First convention, Metro Detroit

North Seattle Bible Students

by Br. Don Canell

We have six consecrated members in our ecclesia who attended the Ft. Collins Convention when they were quite young: from 8 to 18 years of age.

We had started our new class about June 1970, with the name Divine Plan Bible Students. We later changed the name to Berean Bible Students, and still later, in October 1978, to North Seattle Bible Students which name we have retained to the present time. The Recorded Lecture Service was in operation for three years (1976–1979). We had public meetings for a number of years at our conventions.

We've had the privilege of doing follow-up from the Ft. Worth radio program, as well as the TV program. The TV program has been seen a few times over Seattle stations. In 1986, we ran an ad in *Prevention* magazine for several months. We received many requests for the first volume of *Studies in the Scriptures*, with only two requesting additional literature.

We have placed ads in the newspaper, particularly when a Biblical subject was highlighted in the news. Presently, there are individual members of this ecclesia who record the convention talks and outside speakers serving our class. Such recordings are available to all who request them. Some are doing voice recordings of the Reprints along with Pastor Russell's other writings.

We have a large quantity of cassettes of a discourse by Br. Adam Miskawitz, entitled "There Shall be a Resurrection." These tapes are handed out at appropriate times.

We are making every effort to maintain a sound platform at our conventions.

Recently, Br. Peter Kirkham put out a Web page (www.nsbible.org). He has received an average of four replies per month.

We have very much appreciated the arrival of the *Newsletter*, as do all the brethren in this area. □

"Work While it is Today"

A Short Report from Part of the Field in the Vancouver, BC Area
by Br. Charlie Chambers

We are pleased to report that interest continues to be seen as a fruitage of the "Divine Plan" program on television in Canada and tracting by brethren in many areas is bringing requests for the Six-in-One volume of *Studies in the Scriptures*. Also, many additional booklets requested and wonderful letters indicate that it is worthwhile to keep right on sowing the good seed of the kingdom. Hymn 245 says it all, "Seeking the wheat from dawn till night." Jesus said: "The field is the world." (Matt. 30:38). We are encouraged to keep on as we heed the counsel of the wise man (Eccl. 11:1-4), and the urgency of John 9:4, "The night cometh when no man can work" which lies ahead of us.

The television program really has been the spark which awakened many to a religious program different than most. The program has inspired many interesting letters and true interest for the Truth is from the Lord. World conditions have made a difference in society's thinking, and so the reasonableness of the Truth has great appeal to hundreds.

The *Newsletter* publication has formed a link with other workers in the vineyard. The reports of the well being of brethren respecting health and activities has been very much appreciated.

You have indicated by your policy your aim and practice to maintain a high standard of Truth. Hymn 23 deepens in the individual hearts. Thanks to all who labor in the preparation of the *Newsletter*. The benefits of its past 25 years of service have made a great contribution.

In closing, a word from the Pastor's pen, "No other work could be so grand as to make known to others God's character." R5357 □

Bible Students in Nebraska

by Br. Tom Gilbert

Early maps of the United States labeled the central part of the country west of the Mississippi River—the area that today includes Nebraska—“The Great American Desert.” Later, settlers found that the “Great Plains,” although sparsely populated, was far from a desert—it was a rich productive land.

In terms of Bible Students activities, Nebraska has been far from a desert. Though the number of brethren in Nebraska has been sparse over the years, those few brethren have been zealous, active, and productive in the Lord’s service. They have served the Lord and the brethren in a number of ways that have proven to be a blessing to many and a witness to the Heavenly Father’s character and plan.

In the year the *Newsletter* began publication, the Grand Island-Silver Creek Ecclesia was sponsoring its 12th annual convention at the farm of Br. Henry and Sr. Mary Strickland near Silver Creek, Nebraska. In the first year, the brothers slept in the hay loft of the barn and the sisters in the big farmhouse. Meetings were held in the house. Then, before the second convention, Br. Henry built a large Quonset hut. Thereafter, the brothers slept in the Quonset hut by night and the meetings were held there by day, or the meetings were held outside when the weather was nice. The farm atmosphere, the spirit of love, and the spiritual nourishment provided through the convention program made the “Silver Creek Convention at the Strickland farm” an annual favorite among those who attended. The convention continued for two more years, the last one being in 1975.

Br. Henry and Sr. Mary were not alone in their efforts to put on the convention; they were greatly assisted by their daughter, Sr. Harriet Strickland (now Tsimonis), then of Chicago, and by the Grand Island portion of the ecclesia, Srs. Marguerite and Rosalind Rosswick. They provided accommodations for some of the sisters in their home, and they were involved in preparing and serving meals.

Srs. Marguerite and Roz have reflected in their various services over the years their love, care, and concern for the brethren. Having consecrated their lives to the Lord in 1958, they looked for, and found, ways to serve the brethren,



Nebraska Bible Students

and, thus, the Lord, even though somewhat isolated.

About 1960, Sr. Roz saw a need for distributing tapes of convention talks to other isolated brethren, and they began circulating the spoken words of brethren serving at conventions. About 1970, Sr. Marguerite began to systematically and regularly write letters of spiritual encouragement to isolated, sick, and shut-in brethren. Later, they added monthly mailings of excerpts from Reprint articles to those on their correspondence list. The list of those to whom they send tapes and with whom they correspond has grown over the years to include brethren in several countries.

Br. Tom Gilbert, who along with his wife, Sr. Jan, and Br. Paul and Sr. Joyce Lagno all moved simultaneously to Omaha, Nebraska in the summer of 1981. At the 1993 Jerusalem Convention, Br. Tom recalls an experience at the Garden Tomb shop. He was standing behind a sister he had not yet met who did not have a sufficient amount of Israeli currency to purchase a book. After assisting her in the purchase of the book, they exchanged introductions and spent time in fellowship. The world, even the Bible Student world, quickly became smaller as Sr. Anita Wells from England stated she corresponds with two sisters in Grand Island, Nebraska, and asked if Br. Tom knew them. “Yes,” he said, “They’re part of our ecclesia.”

Though both in their eighties, Srs. Marguerite and Roz continue to carry on their services quietly and largely unnoticed except by those who benefit, and they prefer it that way. The only value they see in having any mention of what they do is that others who might desire and benefit from their tape service would learn of it and request it.

The arrival of the Lagnos and Gilberts in Omaha in 1981 resulted in the formation of the Nebraska Bible Students Ecclesia with the Rosswicks. Public witness activities in the 1980’s included showings of *For This Cause* in Grand Island (the Rosswicks and Stricklands had also shown it in the late 1970’s) and on two occasions in Omaha. The latter showing was attended by an estimated 1,600 people in the main civic auditorium on the Sunday before Easter. About 250 paperback First Volumes were purchased after the show by those attending.

On another occasion, the *Great Pyramid—Ancient Wonder, Modern Mystery* was shown eight times during a single weekend in the civic auditorium. A total of 800 attended. These activities resulted in a number of Christians sympathetic to Pastor Russell’s teachings on the Scriptures regularly attending weekly studies in Omaha during the years the Gilberts and Lagnos were there.

For about 10 years during the 1980’s and early 1990’s, the Nebraska Bible Students held annual conventions in Omaha. They ceased after both the Gilberts and Lagnos moved from Omaha. The Rosswick sisters, however, are still in Grand Island, actively and quietly serving the brethren. By their activity, the Bible Student heritage in Nebraska continues and links with the past—shortly after moving to Omaha, the Gilberts and Lagnos received a letter from Sr. Myrza Kolliman telling of the time when she and Br. Peter were part of the Omaha ecclesia. □



Sisters Marguerite and Roz Rosswick

Bellingham Washington Ecclesia

by Br. Richard Stewart



Br. Ted Smith

As Br. Theodore A. Smith was synonymous with the *Bellingham Bible Students*, we present this biography under *Ecclesias*. Ed.

Br. Smith was an elder in the Ecclesia which he served until his death. He also served several conventions across the United States and Canada. He recognized the responsibilities of his consecration (from 16 years of age) and accepted them as privileges of service to the Lord, the Truth and the Brethren.

He made them the focus of all his energy, time, money and possessions. Simply put, Br. Ted "lived the Truth." For the better part of his life, Br. Ted was able to maintain an income, and thereby devote most of his time to the Lord's work, by lending money on local home mortgages at 6 percent interest. Even in times when bank rates reached up to 20 percent, the most he charged was 7 percent interest. These mortgages provided for cancellation of the remaining balance due upon the deaths of Br. Ted and Sr. Bessie.

Services to the Lord: Br. Ted felt that the community in which he was an ambassador of God should be informed of the fact. Therefore, he placed a series of weekly ads in the *Bellingham Herald* newspaper that presented aspects of God's true character and of his plan of salvation for all. He also supported the printing of the magazine edition of the First Volume and undertook, with Sr. Bessie, to deliver a complimentary copy to every residence in Bellingham, knocking on the door if, perchance, he might speak a word in season. Br. Ted also addressed mailings to every address in Alaska and Hawaii so that the Truth message would be available where few, if any, brethren were known to live.

Services to the Truth: To encourage faithfulness to the Truth at a time when doctrinal understanding was wavering in the Bible Student movement, Br. Ted solicited discourses from well-respected elders holding firm

to Pastor Russell's writings, typed them from notes and recordings, and had copies printed for those who desired to receive them. These printed lectures were mailed to a list of 300 brethren.

Services to the Brethren: Br. Ted lived in a large home to provide a regular meeting place for the ecclesia. As he transported brethren to and from the meetings year after year, he needed a reliable car. This he found in "the Checker cab." The studies he led were always kept close to the content of the lesson's paragraph avoiding philosophy, and his discourses were often of a practical nature as well as on Christian living. Although the members of the ecclesia were mostly of advanced age, they possessed a clear understanding of the Truth which they could support effectively from the Scriptures. Few ever knew that Br. Ted provided such things as hearing aids, wheel chairs and tape recorders for brethren not able to afford them—and many other forms of assistance.

Hymns of Dawn no. 7, "A Little While", and no. 166, "Love of Jesus", were favorites, as were *Poems of Dawn* page 150, "The Watered Lilies" and page 152, "Heroism." □



THE WATERED LILIES



The Master stood in His garden, among the lilies fair,
Which His own right hand had planted, and trained with tend' rest care;

He looked at their snowy blossoms, and marked with observant eye
That the flowers were sadly drooping, for their leaves were parched and dry.

"My lilies need to be watered," the Heavenly Master said;
"Wherein shall I draw it for them, and raise each drooping head?"

Close to His feet on the pathway, empty, and frail, and small,
An earthen vessel was lying, which seemed no use at all;

But the Master saw, and raised it from the dust in which it lay,
And smiled, as He gently whispered, "This shall do My work today:

"It is but an earthen vessel, but it lay so close to Me;
It is small, but it is empty— that is all it needs to be."

So to the fountain He took it, and filled it full to the brim;
How glad was the earthen vessel to be of some use to Him!

He poured forth the living water over His lilies fair,
Until the vessel was empty, and again He filled it there.

He watered the drooping lilies until they revived again;
And the Master saw with pleasure that His labor had not been vain.

His own hand had drawn the water which refreshed the thirsty flowers;
But He used the earthen vessel to convey the living showers.

And to itself it whispered, as He laid it aside once more,
"Still will I lie in His pathway, just where I did before.

Close would I keep to the Master, empty would I remain,
And perhaps some day He may use me to water His flowers again." □

Looking Back Concluded

From page 30

brethren will be reading less and less. We will have huge amounts of unread publications and this will include Br. Russell's works. So we gain a little, and sometimes, lose a little.

Having associated with Northwest Indiana Bible Students for the past 19 years, this little class has tried to support the "Divine Plan" programs on television. We have endeavored to work our mailing lists having sent out a lot of literature through the years. We still do the obituary columns and find that we get good results in comforting the mourning ones. We have endeavored to have several pub-

lic meetings, the latest was a small showing of *For This Cause* in Hebron with about 14 public.

A little class that started meeting in South Bend, Indiana is still meeting—about seven years now. This is not a day of large and dramatic things, but slow and deliberate growth. We have been happy to cooperate in various ways with activities in proclaiming the Truth and serving the brethren. Let us continue to pray for the Lord to send workers in to finish the Harvest. May the Lord continue to bless all that is being done to glorify his name. □

Wilmington/Chesapeake City Ecclesia

by Br. Tim Armstrong

In the late 1960's and early 1970's the class in Wilmington, Delaware began to grow with some younger ones adding an influx of energy. The Harvest work was always important to Br. Peter and Sr. Myrza Kolliman and the Wilmington brethren, and as the new ones came into the class, it gave opportunities for Br. Peter to encourage each with the zeal he had for the Truth and spreading the Truth.

Colporteur

A number of brethren was introduced to the colporteur and follow-up work by the Kollimans. One of those sisters remembers the first time she had a door slammed in her face and how concerned Br. Peter was that she not be upset or discouraged by the experience, but rather to receive it in the proper spirit as not of re-



Br. Peter's early transportation while colporturing

jection of her, but as a rejection of the Lord and the Truth she was trying to share.

A very beneficial experience for the entire class occurred in 1976 when Br. George and Sr. Lori Duhaime (as newly-

weds) spent two months during their colporteur days with the Kollimans. Among Br. and Sr. Duhaime's memories of that time was not being treated as guests in the Kollimans' home but rather as "family"—like their own children. They remember Br. Peter's eagerness to have them share every detail of their colporteur day with them at dinner each evening and Br. Peter's encouragement to not neglect the poorer neighborhoods while colporturing. Br. George and Sr. Lori saw in Br. Peter the desire and practice of meeting all people "where they are," like the Apostle Paul, who was "all things to all people" for the sake of furthering God's cause. They also observed the strong and deep love the Kollimans had for their ecclesia. The Duhaimes thought they were able to place about one volume an hour during those two months.

Other Activities

Our ecclesia has been hosting a pre-Memorial convention for over sixty years and many of them incorporated a public speaker on the Sunday afternoon of the convention. Eventually, regularly-scheduled activity meetings were started, and in 1979, the *For This Cause* showings added a number of new names to the mailing and follow-up list, and a newsletter began to be mailed on a regular basis along with the obituary work. Additional public meetings were scheduled at times other than convention and preparation for those gave the ecclesia extra tracting opportunities.



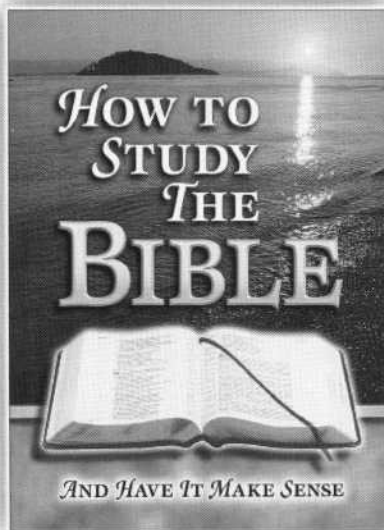
Br. Peter and Sr. Myrza Kolliman

In the last five years, two different ads in a publication called *Freebies Magazine* has swelled the newsletter list and afforded the opportunity to place 1,850 "How to Study the Bible..." booklets, almost 600 First Volumes, over 60 sets of *Studies in the Scriptures* and various other booklets and literature. Br. Mark and Sr. Suzanne Tribble from Starkville, Mississippi are a result of the "Freebie" ad. They and some others the Lord has privileged us with helping in some small way here and there have been a wonderful encouragement and blessing—"one plants, another waters, but God gives the increase." One thing is very evident, the door to the High Calling is still open, the Harvest continues on and the heavenly Father's hand is neither slack nor short in using his children to accomplish his purpose. □

The New Albany Ecclesia

by Br. David Doran

The New Albany Indiana Ecclesia has been functioning since the early days of the Harvest. Records show that the ecclesia was formed sometime in the 1880's and has functioned continually ever since. When the divisions came in the time of Joseph Rutherford, a part of the ecclesia, as was the case with many, remained with the Society and became amalgamated with what is now known as the Jehovah's Witnesses. However, unlike many ecclesias, a part of the group remained an independent ecclesia functioning autonomously as was the practice in Brother Russell's day. Back in the early days, the ecclesia numbered about 200 with another 300 brethren across the Ohio River in Louisville, Kentucky. The Louisville Ecclesia all remained with the Watch Tower which is why Bible students in this area now are all part of the New Albany Ecclesia although, for a number of years, no brethren resided in New



Albany. Today, the brethren here reside in a widespread area ranging from North Vernon, Indiana to Jefferson County, Kentucky.

The New Albany Ecclesia has not been unusual in its activities although we have surely had some fine opportunities such as beginning the I-O Convention, writing and publishing several kinds of tracts, booklets, and our "Notes on the Study of Revelation" which resulted from our two-year consideration of that book. (This large notebook will soon be made available on computer disc.) Additionally, brethren here have been blessed in serving outlying areas where a number of relatively isolated brethren live. We have varied greatly in number over the years and have also varied greatly in the ages and energies of our brethren. But, at each time and each circumstance, the Lord seems to supply richly the appropriate opportunities for service to Him and His. □

New Brunswick Bible Students

by Br. Ken Rawson

Yes, 1970 was an exciting year. New Brunswick was motivated to become more involved in printing projects. The Lord's blessing on these activities inspired the class to become involved in many different areas of ecclesia-sponsored Truth services.

Booklets

A current list of the booklets New Brunswick has published is as follows: "The Time To Favor Zion Has Come," "What Is This World Coming To?," "I Will Come Again," "Glossolalia or Speaking in Tongues," "Why Are You A Christian?," "The Lord Our God Is One" (is being updated and revised), "Israeli-Arab Peace Process and Bible Prophecy," "And God Cried," "Israel—A Nation of Miracles," "Bible Students Early Christian Advocates of Zionism."

Two of the new booklets to be published in 1998 are: "Creation Triumphs Over Evolution" and "The Making of The Anti-Christ."

Colporteur Committee

For many years New Brunswick headed up the colporteur committee that helped finance full-time/part-time colporteurs. Brethren have come into the Truth through this effort: Br. Fred and Sr. Gladys Winans, Br. Gene Simmons, and Sr. Sheri Raber. A partial list of full-time colporteurs over the years is as follows:

Srs. Deborah Stewart, Merrily Wesolowski, Alys Schneider, Rebecca Gray, Eleanor Rosmus, Linda Larson, Joy Thompson, Rhoda Ryba, Lori Duhaime, Dawn Shallieu, Donna Mathewson, Roberta Tabac, Ruth Cunningham, Janet Elbert; Brs. W. T. Baker, Eleos Mundell, and Jerry Leslie.

Each has his or her own precious memories of blessings and, certainly, the brethren that hosted them for varying periods of time have their own precious set of memories. And many who come forth from their graves in the Kingdom will have precious memories also.



Colporteurs: Srs. Alys Schneider, Rebecca Gray, Deborah Stewart and Merrily Wesolowski

Newspaper Ads

Over the years the New Brunswick class has placed many newspaper ads and, at times, jointly with other classes. Our specialty has been editorial ads instead of display ads. A display ad offers a piece of literature without expressing a view on the subject. An editorial ad explains in detail a position of Truth. Of course, there are fewer responses, but they reflect an interest. (By the way, Sr. Karen Buchheit is one of those who came into the Truth through one of our ads.) Think of the thousands who read the ads and received a witness. The most exciting ad was a joint effort challenging the

readers of the *New York Times* Op-Ed page with a quarter page ad on Israel and the land issue. It was entitled, "First Holocaust Revisionism—Now Land Revisionism." The responses included prestigious organizations, university departments, and research librarians. Recently, we worked with Huntsville, Alabama and other classes in reaching the tornado disaster areas in the south.

Conscientious Objectors Committee

For many years the New Brunswick class has headed up the Bible Students Coordinating Committee for Conscientious Objectors and related issues. We have basically served the younger brethren in the independent classes.

Reprint Cassette Tapes

In 1997 the New Brunswick class undertook the major operation of providing the Reprints on cassette tapes—starting with 1916 Reprints and working backward. Those involved with the project are very encouraged by the enthusiastic response. Reprint cassettes are available for all of 1916, January–September of 1915, January–April of 1914, and all of 1913.

Israel Work

Israel: Appointment With Destiny is not a class sponsored project; however, the New Brunswick class has been willing to cooperate in every way possible. For example, the New Brunswick class did sponsor the two "Comfort Missions" to Israel. □

And what great blessings came through these missions to Israel, and all the brethren who rejoice in its re-establishment as a nation! Ed.

Fort Worth Bible Students Activities

by Br. George Wilmott

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Isaiah 52:7

During the past 25 years, the *Bible Students Newsletter* has listed many conventions which were hosted by the Fort Worth Bible Students. During most of those years there were two and sometimes three conventions a year. These conventions, started in the year 1954, have been a source of encouragement to many brethren. Last November

(1997) a revival convention was hosted by the Fort Worth Ecclesia. It proved to be the "best" to date.

It will soon be 22 years since the first *Divine Plan Journal* was published as a follow-up for all responding to the "Divine Plan" program on radio and television. It contains subjects on doctrine and practice of deep interest to Christian people seldom, if ever, addressed by the denominational churches.

Over the years, much Truth literature has been distributed at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Exposition. This year—

from January 23 through February 8—20,000 tracts were distributed. Approximately 1,500 copies of *The Divine Plan of the Ages* were sold or given away. Many copies of *Studies in the Scriptures* and other Truth literature were also placed in circulation.

Many public meetings have been held over the years with excellent attendance. It is always encouraging to meet with others who express an interest in the Word of God. But, experience has proved that one of the best ways to reach those today who have a hearing ear is by means of radio and television. □

by Br. Ric Cunningham

Through various efforts the ecclesia manages to place between 1,000 and 2,000 First Volumes each year. These efforts include the following:

- Michigan State Fair booth (since 1986)
- The Wayne County Fair booth (1991-95)
- The Jackson County Fair booth, co-sponsored with the Jackson Bible Students (since 1992)
- This year, the City of Warren fair booth.

These fairs are class highlights and we find the experiences there to be stimulating and educational, both as regards keeping in touch with the thinking of the public, and ourselves! We like to think of it as stationary colporteur. In the early years Br. Doug Melville demonstrated how to use sales techniques to effectively approach people. Each individual who works the booth develops his/her own presentation to feel comfortable with it. This method still prevails. Four brethren are meeting with the class as a result of the fair booth efforts.

Other Ecclesia Witness Efforts

The ecclesia has also sponsored the "Divine Plan" program in our area on both public and cable television stations. Over the years, four brethren directly (and an additional five indirectly) are the fruitage of these programs. The class is involved also in mailing "Hope" booklets and comfort folders to obituary survivors, tracting, various public meetings, putting literature regularly in laundromats, used book stores, and funeral homes.

The class had one billboard displaying "What's This World Coming To?" Ads were placed in newspapers and magazines such as: *Biblical Archeology Review*, *Bible Review*, *Grit*, *Popular Mechanics* and *American Health*. We have purchased commercial time on a local TV station, and on another local TV station broadcasted *For This Cause* once on Palm Sunday.

Some write follow-up letters to out-of-state and out-of-country names from the list to stir up interest.

Also, a correspondence course is offered that goes through the Volumes.

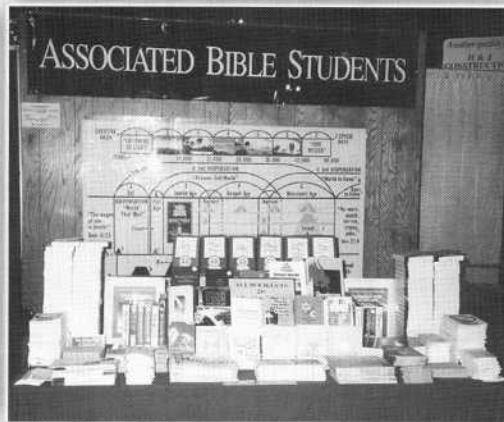
Its newsletter was changed to an illustrated format improving the response rate.

In another effort, sets of *Studies in the Scriptures* were donated to many libraries in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Promotional packets supplied by New Brunswick ecclesia were sent to all the synagogues in the metropolitan area and some copies of, *Israel: Appointment with Destiny* videos were placed with their rabbis.

The ecclesia has a business telephone, listed in the Yellow Pages under the heading *Non-Denominational Churches as Bible Students*. We have had phone calls with questions and requests for literature and, sometimes, prayers.

Brethren have regularly called in to local talk shows to witness on the air.



Oakland County fair booth exhibit

The class has had the privilege of working with the brethren in the newly-formed Toronto Area Bible Students Ecclesia.

Br. Dan Monette has perfected a colporteur schedule that is both efficient and effective. Weather permitting, he colporteurs between the hours of 4:30-6:30 p.m.—sometimes for only 15 minutes, sometimes for an hour or more. This is the time when people are most likely to be home. He uses a presentation similar to the fair booth approach and sells over 100 Volumes a year.

Last, but not least, is the telephone follow-up work which is done as a further effort to encourage those with whom we have had previous contact. Here, again, Br. Doug Melville was instrumental in organizing this activity. As a result, either directly or indirectly, 10 brethren have made consecrations to the Lord.

Many have been the class extension studies with new interest over the years as a natural outgrowth of all the foregoing.

In a class of 21, in which only two have been raised in the Truth, one can understand our joy in this privilege of light-shining.

Overseas Efforts

Along with witnessing, we have had numerous opportunities in serving our brethren overseas. The class established an Overseas Coordinator to facilitate these efforts. Among them are:

- Copying, binding, and shipping Volumes I, III and V in Hungarian for the Hungarian speaking brethren in Romania,

- Reprinting the Hungarian *Photo-Drama* (provisionally found in a used book store in the Detroit area),

- Printing a Romanian booklet using the last two chapters of Volume IV on Establishing the Kingdom,

- Printing a number of books and booklets in various Indian dialects,

- Also, sending English tracts, study books, Bibles, concordances, and children's Bibles in Russian and Romanian to Russia, Romania, Estonia, Moldova, Hungary, India, Ghana and Ukraine.

An interesting experience: In India, we sent tracts, upon request, to an organization called, "The Bible Tract Center." They apparently have distributed them in an area 1,000 miles away from any brethren and, as a result, we have had at least 100 responses from that area. These responses have been sent to brethren in India, and they are pursuing follow-up communications with them.

The Lord provided a Romanian tutor to teach one sister to read, write and speak Romanian so we could communicate with the brethren regarding these miscellaneous efforts.

The Lord also provided a Russian translator at a local Jewish Community Center so we could have some way to understand Russian letters and orders received.

Recently, we were able to find a very reasonable and reliable agency through which we can ship materials to Romania. They send us a snapshot of the brethren in Romania receiving the boxes sent them!

And, lastly, the class has supported the various activities of service regarding the Indian brethren.

The ecclesia sponsors three booklets:

- "How to Study the Bible and Have It Make Sense"
- "Church Union and the Antichrist" (formerly titled "The Ecumenical Movement in God's Plan")

- "The Doctrine of Christ."

We also offer two small booklets for the brethren's use:

- "Tips on Fair Booth Witnessing"
- "Telephone Follow-Up Hints"

In all of the foregoing, the Lord has been so gracious and mercifully patient with our humble efforts to glorify his name and serve his Kingdom cause. The help from many, many brethren outside of this little ecclesia has been extremely generous and has knit our hearts together. Certainly it is true that, "he that watereth shall himself be watered." □



Ecclesia and Related Activities

Associated Bible Students of Waterbury

by Br. Anthony Tsimonis

We have appreciated the service of the *Bible Students Newsletter* very much over the years. It has been a wonderful service to the brethren.

You asked us to review the activities of the ecclesia during the past 25 years. Of course, we have all aged in that time and had many of our number finish their earthly courses. We are thankful for their memories, examples of faithfulness, and love for the Lord, the Truth and the brethren.

The activities have changed somewhat in 25 years. We used to enjoy the service of having fair booths. However, the fair closed down so that avenue came to an end. It was a great blessing while we had the opportunity.

We have had the privilege of a monthly (10 times a year) newsletter for our public names. We usually use the New Brunswick newsletter a month later. We have had good response from that avenue. Many of our names are from out of state. These names came from ads in *Grit* and *Cappers*. As a result of the ads and newsletters, we have made contact with

at least two old-time Bible Students. One has since finished his course. This has provided the opportunity of encouraging them in their declining years.



Brethren of Waterbury Ecclesia

We have appreciated the opportunity of mailing out obituaries as a class effort. Our class is small but all participate as they are able in this

and in all the efforts of the ecclesia.

We have always enjoyed planning and having our annual convention. That is a blessing for all of us.

Another privilege was working on the *Harvest Truth Topical Comments* compiled by Br. Ludlow Loomis. The entire class had some part in the preparation of the book. We are not professional printers but did appreciate the opportunity of working on it. We all have loving memories of Br. Loomis. He was a humble brother. To be able to prepare his work (fully based on the Bible and the work of Br. Russell) for the brethren was a blessing. We are now working on his Revelation notes. This will be ready as soon as possible.

May the Lord bless you in your labors of love. You continue in our prayers. We also remember all the brethren laboring in the Harvest work as we long for the time when the Church will be complete, all the sin and suffering will be done away, and the Mediatorial phase of the Kingdom will begin for the uplifting of all the families of the earth. □

Miami Valley Bible Students

by Br. Allen Springer

The brethren here have been blessed with many rich opportunities of service over the past 60 years. The Piqua Bible Students was formed in 1938, partially due to the efforts of Br. Christian Zahnow. In 1988 the Dayton Bible Students merged with Piqua and formed the Miami Valley Bible Students Ecclesia (MVBS).

A current mailing list of over 2,500 names is primarily the result of obituary work and public efforts. Other public witness activities have included sponsorship of the "Divine Plan" program; showings of *For This Cause*; public meetings; newspaper ads; and more recently a Web Page—www.GodsPlan.org

Service to the brethren has sometimes overlapped with public witness activities. MVBS is the publisher of *The Biblical Flood* booklet, being reprinted with an attractive four-color cover.

Through a large print project assisted financially by the Divine Plan Foundation, all six Volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures; Tabernacle Shadows; Daily Heavenly Manna* and *Songs in the Night* are available in large print. This large print project began with the publication of Br. Robert Seklemian's sermons—some of which were created for public witness work.

Both Piqua and Dayton ecclesias were sponsors of the 1974 Centennial Convention, and subsequent Indiana-Ohio Conventions. MVBS continues to hold an annual convention as well—1998 representing the 60th.

With the merger of the Piqua and Dayton ecclesias, MVBS became the sponsor of the *Bible Students Newsletter*.

With the fall of communism in late 1989, another field of opportunity opened up, and the Romania Fund was started in 1990. The scope of this operation expanded to include

Moldova a few years later. During the past eight years, the fund has been responsible for placing numerous computers in both countries for use in publishing the writings of Pastor Russell. Humanitarian aid has become the primary focus recently as financial conditions in both countries have continued to deteriorate.

The brethren of Miami Valley Bible Students wish to express their gratitude to the Lord for all these privileges, and to all the brethren from other ecclesias that have given their assistance in so many ways. □

Hartford Bible Students

by Br. Dan Slivinsky

A personal observation from our home ecclesia:

Not all of our brethren are able to travel to conventions or meet with others of the "household of faith." The lives of some are limited due to physical infirmities or other obligations. The *Newsletter* helps to fulfill the spirit of Malachi 3:16 for these brethren when it arrives: "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another." Brethren join in the privilege of prayer for the body by reading the accounts of the afflicted and isolated. Others join in the spirit of group activities. One of our brethren said, "As I read the Israel report I felt like I was on the trip with you." The foreign reports enable us to have the fellowship of saints worldwide, as we read the activities of the brethren and even see their faces. The *Newsletter* has given everybody an opportunity to be "companions of them that were so used." Heb. 10:33. □

Gleanings from 25 Years of the Newsletter

A Few Special Items of Interest From The Years

The following highlights from 25 years of blessed memories is certainly a testimony of how the Lord has blessed the many ecclesias and individual brethren around the world. We have all benefited from the activities and experiences of the brethren throughout the years because of their willingness to share with us. Ed.

• February, 1972 — The Pilot issue is distributed under the auspices of the Committee chosen at the Fort Collins Convention to investigate such a publication.

• December, 1972 — The second issue is mailed which is the first issue under the Ecclesia sponsorship of the Dayton Bible Students, and later the Miami Valley Bible Students.

• September, 1974 — Of special interest is a report that 2,500 brethren attended a convention in Krakow, Poland. This information was printed several years before the fall of the Iron Curtain which opened eastern Europe for more regular visits by the western brethren.

• December, 1974 — An interesting article appeared in this issue titled "Witnessing By Word-of-Mouth." The introduction noted, "An investigation conducted by Brother Russell in the New York district many years ago revealed the fact that by far the larger number of those who came into the Truth were reached through personal contact with their friends, neighbors, or relatives. A survey among new brethren in the past year also reveals that many of these heard of the Truth through a personal witness." The Newsletter solicited written reports from many brethren on how they came into the truth. These were printed in a seven page report. Although these were not convention testimonies, they were a forerunner to the later testimony sections.

• December, 1976 — This issue contained an attachment. It was called "Services for Edification and Aids for Witnessing." For the brethren's edification was information on a Discourse Service, literature in braille, cassette tapes, open reel tapes, the Volumes on tape, a ministry of comfort, and a pilgrim service. For witnessing was information on radio

and television programs, film, three dimensional models, aid for colporteurs, and the Divine Plan Journal. (Video cassettes were not in general use at the time, and World Wide Web pages were still over 20 years away!)

• June, 1977 — An Ecclesia Directory listing was added as a supplement to this issue. Ecclesia names were listed for many cities with information on when and where their meetings were held and the current study topic. This was a nice tool for brethren who were "on the road" for various reasons and might not have known about a local meeting.



• June, 1979 — Copies of important documents from 1917 were offered to the brethren. Brother Russell's Will, "Light After Darkness", and "Facts For Shareholders" were reproduced in their original form and offered at no cost. These items explain much of the controversy at the time of Br. Russell's death. They are still available today.

• September, 1979 — An extra page was announced showing how the 1917 version of Volume VI contained the final changes authorized by Br. Russell before his death in 1916. These items clarify his views on justification and other items. The 1917 version was used in the New Brunswick reprinting.

• December, 1979 — An article called "Wheat Found in Minnesota" explains how Sr. Edna Durand of Minneapolis was alone for some time, but three interested women were now meeting with her as a result of hearing the "Divine Plan" radio program and receiving literature, including the Volumes.

• March, 1980 — The Divine Plan Foundation was trying a new witnessing effort called "Inspirational Syndicate." It was an effort to get small truth items into the hands of newspaper editors to be used as column filler. A sample article was included on why God permits suffering under the caption "Religion and the Reasoning Mind." A small "Bible Bits" item was also printed.

• September, 1980 — The Bible Students Coordination Committee for Religious Objectors and Selective Service Concerns was formed to aid the brethren in these matters. Its immediate goals were 1) rapport with Selective Service, 2) provide literature, 3) inform Elders and Ecclesias, 4) liaison with other committees, and 5) possible Ministerial exemption. Five Elders from around the United States were on this committee.

• December, 1980 — Information about the book *Kingdom of the Cults* by Walter Martin was printed since the book contained incorrect information identifying Bible Students with Jehovah's Witnesses. It was stated that in Wisconsin a showing of *For This Cause* received opposition from ministers couched in the language of this book stating the program sponsors were not followers of Jesus, but of a man, Charles Russell. Brethren were called anti-christ, Jehovah's Witnesses, and a cult, denying the divinity of Christ.

• June, 1981 — An announcement was printed that a committee had been formed to look into storing the volumes electronically. The statement was made that eventually the brethren might have all six Volumes and the *Tabernacle Shadows* available. This was the early stages of the work that has produced the Harvest Truth Database for personal computers.

• March, 1983 — The World Religions chart in the First Volume was updated with a 1982 chart from the *Encyclopedia Britannica: Book of the Year*.

• Spring, 1984 — The Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Bible Students were highlighted in this issue for their Christian Book Store. Br. Harley Yerkes reported that the class has always been active in witnessing. One effort was a booth in a farmers' market. When that closed they started a small store in the Yerkes' ga-

rage. It was not to sell books, but to get the truth into the hands of the people. After an informal start up time, they officially opened as the Bethel Bookstore, receiving press coverage in the local paper. Mailings were sent to all the local churches. Each visitor during the grand opening received a free copy of the *Divine Plan of the Ages* along with a cover biography of Pastor Russell. One volunteer worker at the store was Sr. Florence Roberts of Azusa, CA, who responded to a notice in the *Newsletter*. She said she never thought she'd end up as a cashier in a bookstore when she came into the Truth. The class has also had good success each year using a Lundquist Tabernacle model at a local mall's Community Day.

- Summer, 1984 — A lengthy and exciting article was printed about a persecuted Russian brother, Gregory Bologna, who had recently found the Bible Students in the United States. Born in the 1930's, he consecrated in 1946, a third generation Bible Student.

He told of Bible Students who had some J.W. ties, but mostly believed the teachings of Br. Russell. Cut off from normal communications in the 1920's, they thought the periodic reports of changes in the Society were just KGB propaganda. They were later told that the name change to Jehovah's Witnesses was to please the U.S. government, so they all accepted it, thinking the Society was still teaching present truth.

In the late 1930's, the Society tried to enforce centralized control. This created problems among the brethren which peaked in 1957 when about 75% of the brethren left the Society.

The main problem, though, was persecution by the government. This started during the war and in 1949 and 1953 nearly all the brethren were deported to Siberia. Br. Bologna's father was sentenced to death in 1952, but this was later changed to life in prison. Br. Bologna himself was arrested in 1954 and sent to Outer Mongolia where he formed a large class. This work, though, caught the eye of the police who arrested him as a Western spy and sent him to a concentration camp labor prison. He was isolated and worked very hard, but he at least had some brethren there. Many died at that place.

One brother there was from Germany and had been arrested in 1933 by the German authorities and sent to a concentration camp where he survived through 1945. When the Russians liberated the camp, they sent him to this camp in Russia where he labored until his



Br. Gregory Bologna

death in 1963.

The Bologna's were able to leave Russia in 1975 due to help from Israel. (They have mixed Jewish ancestry.) When they came to the United States, Br. Gregory went to Brooklyn to the Society, but was mortified to discover that it was not the KGB who had made all those doctrinal changes. He thought there might not be any true Bible Students left in the U.S. But in March, 1984, his wife, Sr. Gina, found truth literature in a hospital where he was recuperating from a stroke. She said, "This is what we've been looking for all these years!" They immediately contacted brethren and attended their first convention at Paterson, New Jersey.

- Fall, 1984 — An article appeared about the Midwest Bible Students Youth Camp which was held in western Pennsylvania. Pictures showed the children at play and study, at the nursing home, and around the campfire. This camp was started in 1981 and continues to this day.

- Winter, 1984 Spring, 1985 — Sr. Rose Henning, age 88, was featured in an article on what can the elderly do. She said, "I'd be willing to do anything I could to help serve the Truth because I think everybody should know it." She said she prayed for the brethren and the Harvest work, did mailings and follow up, entertained colporteurs, and

talked to neighbors over the fence.

- Fall, 1985 — "A Truth Heritage Recalled" was a special feature about the life of Br. Lester Hendrick, then 85 years old and in the Jackson Michigan class. His father had come into the Truth in 1908 when he went to a neighbor to borrow a book to read and got the first volume. His father was later dismissed from his job because he would talk the truth and would not heed calls to be silent. Br. Hendrick remembered many conventions in the Lake Erie area attended by up to 10,000 brethren. He helped with the *Photo-Drama* work in 1915. In 1918 many brethren were persecuted for refusing the draft; they had yellow paint thrown on their homes. Br. Hendrick liked the truth, but did not consecrate right away, doing so during the 1950's.

- Spring, 1986 — The new book by David Horowitz entitled *Pastor Charles Taze Russell: An Early American Christian Zionist* was featured. While many brethren were enthusiastic or generally supportive, there was concern over many inaccurate items reported in the book, including doctrinal confusion between Bible Students and Jehovah's Witnesses and prominent place given to the views of brethren who believe the door to the high calling is closed. The book was acclaimed by Dr. Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., and by Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Ambassador to the U.N. (and Israel's Prime Minister in 1998 as this is written).

- Winter, 1986-87 — The oldest running convention anywhere was called a "Spring of Refreshment." The convention is held in Siloam, Texas, and has been held there since 1912. This past August was the 75th convention, attended by 25-30 brethren. Sr. Loyce Watson was at the 1st and the 75th conventions. Also present at both were her sisters, Srs. Abbie Watson and Esther McCool. At the early ones, the brethren usually came in wagons. Those from San Antonio would take the train to nearby Waco first. There was a class in the area in years past. Sr. Watson's father, Br. Winfield Westmoreland, was one of the original members. Siloam is not a town, but a graveyard with a simple, un-

adorned chapel. Often it is 113 degrees in the shade when the convention is held.

- Winter, 1986-87 — Br. Anton Frey finished his course January 12, 1987, at the age of 91. He was the oldest, continuously licensed amateur radio operator in the world, having started in 1909. He used "dots and dashes" to preach the truth over the radio waves. Two sisters, Eulalia Thomas of Delaware, Ohio, and Joyce Anderson of Kingston, New York, came into the Truth as a result of this form of communication. He was known as the "Graveyard Chaplain". Every morning for the last 33 years from 4 to 7 a.m., he hosted the "Graveyard Net" giving sermons, Bible readings, prayer and wonderful witnesses. Many listeners liked his messages so much, they are now playing recordings of them on the Net since his death.

- Summer, 1987 — Perhaps the oldest convention running is London, England. Br. Hudson reported that the first London convention was held April 25-26, 1903, on the occasion of Pastor Russell's second visit to the country. Though attendance has declined in recent years, this June will be London's 85th convention.

- Spring, 1988 — Sr. Monica Paz was featured this month. As a young foreign exchange student from Panama, she stayed several months with the Larson family in Chicago and made a consecration while there. She had to return to Panama, the only Bible Student in Central America as far as anyone knew. She was living with her mother and sister, both opposed to the Truth, who would not allow her to study at home. Therefore, she had to study while at work. She was planning to take the Memorial alone while brethren in the U.S. tried to get her a visa.

- Fall, 1988 — The brethren at Piqua, Ohio, were joined by 175 brethren for a special 50th convention. The class had been formed in 1938 with the help of Pilgrim Br. Christian Zahnow. The brethren who met at that time were Br. Cliff and Sr. Mary Hewatt, Br. William and Sr. Edna Molhoek, Br. Forest and Sr. Laura Gilbert, and Br. John and Sr. Zoe Thomas.

Sr. Eva Peddemors of Piqua recalled her early years in the class. Her aunt was Zoe Thomas, one of the founding mem-

bers, who would visit with Sr. Eva in Detroit when she attended conventions there. She always asked Eva to attend a meeting with her and Sr. Eva would always try to find an excuse. Eventually she did go, and liked it so much she continued to attend. She attended meetings twice a week, riding to and from on a



In China: Miss Xi, Bishop, Br. David Jambor, and Priest

street car, and was finally immersed at the July 4 convention in 1940. She would visit the Piqua class when in that area and later moved there in 1944.

Others who later came into the class were her mother, Alta Hayes, Margaret Wiegman, John and Agatha Pearson, and Mae Rife. Then came Mary Jane Cole (Burns) and her sister Mina Lou (Byrum). Later Sr. Eva's son, Br. Richard, gave his heart to the Lord.

Br. W. H. Deming, a Pilgrim brother under Br. Russell, claimed Piqua as his class, too. He lived in Ada, Ohio, and since there was no class there, would meet in Piqua whenever he could.

- Summer, 1989 — Did you know that Israel had an Ecclesia in 1989? It was in Arad and consisted of Br. Jack Campbell, his wife Sr. Connie, daughter Mya, sons Jesse and Ian, and Br. Stuart Livermore. They heard and discussed English language discourses and had a *Tabernacle Shadows* study every Sabbath.

- Fall, 1991 Br. Russell had given a discourse in Seattle in September, 1916, heard by the editor of the Seattle Legal News. His editorial was a wonderful tribute to Br. Russell. It was first printed in the September, 1980 *Newsletter* and had been recently quoted in discourse. It was reprinted by popular

demand in this issue. After many good words about the Pastor, the editor closed with "Long live Pastor Russell."

- Winter, 1992 — The Israel Mission, a trip by a number of brethren to Israel in order to first present *Israel: Appointment With Destiny* there, was reported in a large supplement to this issue. It is not possible to condense 32 pages of details into a paragraph or two, but the Lord guided this trip and allowed the brethren to complete this mission with a number of blessings and a hope for a follow up mission in the future.

- Fall, 1993 — A special report was given on the onetime Jerusalem convention held in the Spring. It was the first known convention of the Lord's people there since the days of the Apostles. Brethren from around the world attended, with many able to continue to Egypt and a visit to the Pyramids afterwards.

- Winter, 1993 — Br. David Jambor spent some time in China attempting to see if there was interest there. A lady he met there on business before seemed interested in religion more and more and he took this as the Lord's direction. He was able to get a suitcase full of literature into the country since no inspector was available when he passed customs.

He could never contact the few names he had so he tried to call on any group that appeared to have a religious name. He was able to discuss the truth with a number of people, including nuns and priests. In one case, the priest did not know English any better than Br. David knew Chinese, but they discovered that both knew Latin well, so Br. David talked to him about God's plan for over 45 minutes in Latin, much to bewilderment of the translators who did not understand a word.

- Spring, 1994 — A short report on the World Parliament of Religions held in 1993 was printed. Representatives of a variety of religions were there. A photo was printed of a man called a neopagan. Native American blessings were given. It would appear that this conference was much like its predecessor in 1893, was certainly not a Christian event, and was full of disagreement and "explosions". A motley group was what Br. Russell observed of the meeting in his day. □



Benefits, Testimonies and Tributes

The Bible Students Aid Foundation

by Br. David Doran

The New Albany Ecclesia is not the originator of this foundation. It is merely the ecclesia chosen as the liaison between the Foundation and the brethren in general. We were chosen for this work apparently because the New Albany Ecclesia was already engaged in a similar work through its "Love Fund." Our "Love Fund" was a charitable function of the ecclesia through which brethren could donate anonymously and in a tax-deductible fashion to others in need. When the person responsible for the establishment of the Foundation decided to create The Bible Students Aid Foundation, the elders of New Albany were requested to function as information sources between all the brethren and the trustees of the Foundation. For the purposes of ease of communication as well as anonymity, a Louisville bank was chosen as the financial trustee of the Foundation. Thus, while the Foundation was established by a private individual, its resources are administered by a bank trust under the direction of a Board of Trustees composed of three elders from three geographic regions of the country.

Over the years of its existence, the Foundation has distributed many thousands of dollars to brethren whose experiences have placed them in dire need of economic assistance. The brethren have contributed generously to the initial amount of the trust which has always supplied an amount available to meet the requests of those in need. The trustees have remarked upon many an occasion how marvelously the Lord has planned income and outgo so closely. Faith need not doubt that His hand has directed the entire affair. Perhaps the largest problem in the Foundation's function has been its inability to work on the spur of the moment. Some brethren have expressed frustration that the process takes two to three weeks from the time of application. Unfortunately, with the logistics of the locations, time zones, and schedules of the trustees and the bank and the mail service, there has been no way to speed the process. The trustees regret this, but can only hope that brethren with needs not wait until the absolute deadline before requesting aid. □

Bible Students' Archives

by Br. Brian Kutscher

Since 1969, Br. Brian Kutscher has been recording discourses at conventions. He started with reel to reel tape, moving to cassettes in the early 1980's. In 1982, he started recording local and convention discourses on video tape. At present, there are about 600 video tapes, over 2,000 cassettes, and about 300 reels of tape in the "archives." The video tapes that are made of conventions are sent out regularly to about 10 brethren who, in turn, circulate them among the brethren in their areas.

Br. Brian writes:

In 1970, when I was about 17 years old, Br. Dan Kaziak showed the young people of the Detroit Bible Students class the old glass slides of the *Photo-Drama*. I was completely fascinated by the technology and the beauty of the images on the screen. At this time, I don't recall if any of the lectures themselves were read. The session's purpose was to illustrate the works that the Pastor carried out in his day and the slides served as an example of the beautiful presentation of the Truth.

I expressed enough interest that Br. Ed Bielecki let me borrow a reel of tape that Br. Chester Sundbom had recorded which contained the voice of Br. Russell from the *Photo-Drama of Creation*. I was amazed! Br. Russell's voice had actually been recorded.

In 1973, Br. Walter Wojcik gave me two frames of movie film that set me on a quest. There were two frames of Br. Russell speaking—frames of film from the *Photo-Drama*! Wow! There were movies too?! In 1974, Br. Lawrence Kirkham loaned and



Br. Brian Kutscher

later, gave me a spool of film of Br. Russell introducing Part Two of the *Photo-Drama*. In 1976, Br. Leon Norby gave me 16mm prints of films used for the intermission and conclusion sequences for Part Three—also of Br. Russell. In December 1982, while visiting the "old-timers" in the New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware areas with Br. Herman Hummel, and videotaping their recollections of Br. Russell's time, Br. Herman and I stopped at Br. August Tornquist's home to interview Sr. Bertha Schnebbe. After the interview, Br. August took me to the basement of his home where he found five reels of *Photo-Drama* motion pictures, a 35mm projector, and a 16mm camera. Br. August very generously allowed me to keep these on the grounds that they be considered "the Lord's" and to be used in His service. It turned out that these

reels of film had been Br. Norby's at one time.

Once home, I spent the next 42 days making a 16mm Kodachrome duplicate of all of the motion pictures. It was a laborious process. The workdays were 8 hours on weekdays, after my regular job, and 16 hours on Saturdays. I rested on Sundays. As a result, it has been possible to videotape the 16mm films and synchronize them to the original 78 RPM records, which I obtained in 1976 from Br. Anton Frey and in 1977, from Br. Wilbur Poe. I have obtained other sets, complete and partial, but their quality varies. The two sets mentioned are very clear and in very good condition.

In 1993, an unlikely source provided the introduction to Part Three. Alan Whitby, a Jehovah's Witness from South

Wales, allowed me to duplicate this segment of film. There are still two hours of motion pictures that have not become available to me. Some are in private collectors' hands, some in the hands of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, and some are probably lost to history.

The video version of the *Photo-Drama of Creation* has gone through two major revisions, each improved over the previous version. Another is in the works now using computer-processed still images and motion pictures. The soundtrack will also be enhanced to remove much of the record noise.

The effort will require several more years to complete, if I have to do it myself. Help would be appreciated in scanning the original motion picture films. Handled incorrectly, they could become hazardous materials, being on Nitrate stock. There are 25,000 frames to scan in the hour's worth of film! Contact me if you have a 600 dpi color scanner and want to put it to this use.

What motivates me in these efforts? I love and appreciate the Truth. Br. Russell served the Church as "That Servant"—the Seventh Messenger, so I want to do my part in preserving the work he prepared for our benefit and sharing it with the brethren. I want to serve the Lord, especially by helping the brethren make their calling and election sure. I'm not especially gifted in impromptu witness discussions with the world, so I try to apply the talents that I have in the directions the Lord has opened to me.

In addition to the *Photo-Drama*, I also have obtained originals or copies of every *Watch Tower* magazine the Pastor issued, along with most of the "Old Theology Quarterly," "Bible Students Monthly," "Everybody's Paper," and "Peoples Pulpit" tracts and many booklets. I also have copies or originals of the Convention Report books for every year from 1904 to 1916. Most of this material came to me from the Chicago Bible Students Republishing Committee as well as several individual brethren and a few "collectors" who have no Bible Student ecclesia connections. To list them all would take too much space.

The collection of print materials started in 1984 and continues to this day.

I also have a collection of about 150 photographs of Br. Russell. There are about 70 original negatives from 1909 to 1911 in the "archives," along with many glass plate slides of the 1912 Convention Tour and 1911–1912 Missionary World Tour.

In addition, I have a set of glass pyramid slides from the 1909 trip made by Brs. John and Morton Edgar. I borrowed and copied two other sets from later years and am working on reproducing a fourth set with even more unique images taken by Br. Morton Edgar.

All of the *Photo-Drama*, pyramid slides, and photos of Br. Russell have been transferred to Kodak Photo CDs to preserve the pictures in digital form.

I provide duplicates of the original print materials to brethren that have a research need. When time permits, I get into the darkroom to make prints of the photographs, as well, but this is a very rare occasion. Videotapes of the *Photo-Drama* are available for \$15. A videotape of Br. Morton Edgar's discourse and matching booklet on "The Great Pyramid Portrayal of Creation" (read by me), using Br. Edgar's 1909 slides, is available for \$15.

In 1985, I began the process of recording all of the Hymns in Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) files, then transferring these through a set of synthesizers to cassettes. The full set of hymns took several years to record, but they are available on 13-90 minute cassettes for ecclesias that do not have an organist/pianist to accompany them. A trial tape will be sent on request. A full set of 13 tapes costs \$30. These take a long time to make so, please, do not request them unless you really have a need. I do not have high-speed stereo copying capability. The MIDI files can be sent much more easily and used, if you have a sound card on your computer.

I am extremely grateful to all of the brethren and others who have made the "Bible Students' Archives" possible by their many contributions. It is a privilege to put my talents to use in service to the Lord, the Truth and the brethren. □

Testimonies

Br. Dick Lally, New Brunswick, NJ Ecclesia

The basic concept upon which the *Newsletter* was conceived is still very much appreciated—that of disseminating news of the brethren and their witnessing efforts, while avoiding discussions on doctrines. It was the *Newsletter's* policy to recognize the ecclesia arrangement as being scripturally sound. These policies and concepts appear to have remained intact today.

In the early days of the *Newsletter*, and for a number of years after, witnessing activities dealt primarily with the brethren in North America and, then, in Japan. In recent years, it has been learned through the *Newsletter* of the many efforts to support and encourage the brethren in eastern Europe, Russia, India, and Africa through the dispensing of Truth literature, humanitarian aid—and also comfort to Israel. Learning of the lives of these faithful brethren to uphold the Truth—the teachings of Br. Russell—and under primitive and often adverse conditions resulting, at times, in imprisonment and even death was an inspiring witness of self-sacrifice and faithfulness to the Lord. To learn of the experiences of these once little-known brethren truly energizes one to an increased zeal in the Lord's service. It is understood that the Volumes are now being printed and distributed in some of these eastern European countries.

In the early days of the *Newsletter*, witnessing efforts seemed to be limited to public meetings, newspaper ads, fair

booths, tracting, and some colporteur activity. Today, all of those methods are still utilized, however, new methods of communication are now being employed such as cable TV programming, and the World Wide Web computer network which seems to touch larger numbers of individuals resulting in some accepting the Truth and consecrating.

One of the important benefits of the *Newsletter* is that brethren, though aged, isolated, or ailing, are being made aware of these witnessing efforts among their brethren and are encouraged to enter into the work as they are able.

Over the years, the *Bible Students Newsletter* has added new features to its format—and continues as it was 25 years ago—to be a rich blessing, perhaps, even more so because of its broader range of news coverage.

Though my efforts were minimal, it was a personal pleasure and privilege to have had a small part in the *Newsletter's* production at its beginning. I have fond memories of collaborating in the Lord's service in years past. It is hoped that the Lord will continue to grant grace and guidance to all in continuing to serve him faithfully. □

Br. Leon Millin, Divine Plan Bible Students, CA

In recalling the convention at Fort Collins in 1970, we appreciated very much assembling with so many brethren of like

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precious faith. We also recall often many of those brethren who have since passed on: Br. Leon Norby, Br. Robert Seklemian, and, more recently, Br. Edward Lorenz, as well as many, many more. We appreciated their soundness in doctrine and the encouragement of their message—that we should strengthen our faith in and hold on to Present Truth, appreciating that “wise and faithful servant,” Pastor Charles Taze Russell, who was used by our returned Lord and Savior—Matt. 24:45-47: “Who, then, is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler [appoint him] over all his goods.”

We were encouraged to continue faithful during the troublous world events unfolding at the time before us, always being reminded that the time is short. We were exhorted to be at peace as we watched the fulfillment of Luke 21:26: “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth,” knowing that “...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” (Psa. 30:5) We were instructed to be faithful unto death that we might have part in that wonderful Kingdom when the great High Priest comes out in his garments of glory and beauty to bless all the families of the earth. Then will be the commencement of the resurrection of the dead, as the Mediatorial Kingdom takes control.

How thankful we are for these brethren who reminded and encouraged us to keep on in this narrow way of self-sacrifice on behalf of the Lord, the Truth, and the brethren. The encouragement of these brethren reminds us of the scripture in Phil. 3:17: “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.”

It was also a wonderful time for our daughters to make acquaintance with many of the children whose parents shared this beautiful Harvest Message. □

Br. Ed and Sr. Mollie Heidelberg, Milwaukee, WI

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus. We thank you for the *Newsletter*, it has been one of the richest blessings to us the last 25 years. It provokes us to love and good works. It encourages us to assemble together at conventions. It helps us to lay down our lives

Testimonies *Concluded*

for the brethren. It makes us appreciate the privilege of individual witnessing and assisting those who do it on a large scale. It encourages us to pray for one another and specifically by name. It has brought the Lord’s family in closer relationship. The obituaries and notices are so needful for our special prayers. It strengthens our faith to know our brethren are having the same difficulties and joys as we do. So thank you much for your labor of love.

The Milwaukee class has its 50th anniversary this year. In 1938 our English class began as Junior Bible Students: we were mostly children of Polish Bible students. We have always kept our studies in the Bible topically through the Volumes, the Harvest Message. We continue to appreciate “that faithful and wise servant,” Br. Russell—who is still the messenger of our present Lord and King. Our witness work is diminished but our little class in this area will still have two weekend fairs in our community. There are many people who come through. There are 650 booths.

We thank our loving heavenly Father for every privilege to serve him and his.

So once again you have helped us along the narrow way with the *Newsletter*. Our heavenly Father knew we needed it and so he provided it. The Milwaukee class thanks you and sends their Christian love to all of you. And we love you too! □

Sr. Mildred Raffel Miami Valley Bible Students

Having come to the end of this review of the Lord’s favor, I am moved to exclaim in the words of Solomon, “Not one word of all His good promises has failed.” (1 Kings 8:56) Br. Alvin and I were highly favored in this privilege of serving the Lord’s brethren and that I have been permitted to continue since his death in this service overwhelms me.

In October 1972, the Committee Coordinating Chairman, Br. Owen Kindig, asked Br. Alvin and me to accept the responsibility for publishing the *Bible Students Newsletter* on a quarterly basis. I noted that Br. Alvin had expressed a desire earlier to sponsor the *Newsletter*, but as we were retiring in the spring, we would be unable to finance it.

Br. Owen assured us that the major costly tasks of typesetting, layout and printing were already volunteered by his son Br. Richard for typesetting, and Br. Lauren Stewart for printing. He said further, that the *Newsletter* was to be sup-

ported by voluntary contributions instead of by subscriptions.

With these assurances we accepted the Committee’s invitation, and with the privilege came an exhilaration of spirit that has prevailed these twenty-five years. In early December 1972 we issued a six-page typewritten letter announcing the Dayton Ecclesia as the *Newsletter*’s sponsor. It was mailed first class to the 350 names furnished by the Newsletter Committee, who also turned over the balance in its fund of \$75 with the suggestion that the Dayton Ecclesia secure a Federal tax exemption to qualify for non-profit bulk mailing privileges, which we did.

This first issue was typed on an electric portable Smith Corona typewriter which was replaced with an identical



Sr. Mildred Raffel

one in the third year of the *Newsletter*’s operation. Between that replacement and the use of the computer locally, was an electronic typewriter with a memory and automatic correction — a big step forward. Funds for the typewriter and a lateral three-drawer filing cabinet came through a bequest in 1980 in the princely sum of \$18,000.

We bless the memory of our dear Br. Millard Ketchum of Carbondale, Pennsylvania who stated in the bequest that the *Newsletter* had been one of two papers he was able to hold in his weakness as he lay on his bed in his last illness. He expressed the joy brought to him to learn of Harvest activities the ecclesias were supporting, and that the full Harvest Message was being proclaimed far and wide. Br. Ketchum had attended the Dayton Ecclesia in the World War II years while stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

Accounts of typesetting and printing given earlier were donated to the *Newsletter* at much sacrifice by brethren

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Br. Loomis

Ludlow P. Loomis was born in the late 1800's and received the truth with other family members as a result of a showing of the *Photo-Drama of Creation*.

He was a deep student of the Scriptures and the Harvest Message and served many ecclesias over the years, both as a long-term visitor and as a travelling pilgrim. When brethren struggled with any teaching, he could always provide innumerable references to help in their study, often quoting them from memory. His love of the truth and firmness in its cause were put to good use in the original Fort Collins conventions where he served on a committee that selected speakers sound in the Harvest Message to serve the brethren.

At the I-O Convention in 1979, his last, he was robbed in his dormitory room. Not having much cash, he offered the thief a check, which was refused. What many don't know is that when a brother found Br. Loomis in the hallway just after the robbery, Brother Loomis hustled him upstairs to an empty floor in case the thief (with a gun) was still in the area. Thus in the middle of a frightening experience, he was still thinking of others.

He died in his chair in August, 1979, with his books open.

Br. Norby

Leon Norby was born in 1902 in Iowa and received the truth at age 12 when an aunt and uncle visited his family in Montana with a suitcase full of Bible Student books. He eventually found himself in Minneapolis in 1918 where he met with a small group of brethren who had already left the Society. He was later elected a speaking Elder in the class. In 1926 he married Mary Rogers who had moved from Iowa to St. Paul. Together they travelled to many Reunion Conventions in Pittsburgh and other General conventions in the Midwest.

In later life, Br. Norby lived in New Jersey and was an Elder in the Paterson Ecclesia. His opportunities for speaking services grew at this time and he was often in demand. He loved the "old" truth and always preached it. A trademark of his was to take the various views brethren held and place them on the Chart of the Ages. If the view fit, it was probably correct, but if something on the Chart had to be changed for the view, then it was not considered accurate. This simple method was a great blessing to many brethren and rekindled their interest in the Chart.

He last served at the I-O Convention in 1976, finishing his course in October of that year.

Br. Seklemian

Robert S. Seklemian was the child of Armenian immigrants who had tended sheep near Mt. Ararat and who were involved in the Turkish persecution of the Armenian people in the 1880's.

He first received the truth as a teenager in California. At the age of 20, in 1918, he went to the Bethel, by then under new leadership, and prepared and broadcast the weekly radio programs. In spite of constant doctrinal changes, Br. Seklemian kept the scriptures consistent with the truth. One day, after his broadcast was finished, the new president walked in and asked who wrote the

scripts. After replying that he did, Br. Seklemian was told that he should never preach a lesson again like that day and that someone else would write the scripts from that time on. Br. Seklemian replied that if someone else could write them, then someone else could read them, too. Br. Seklemian's lesson that day was in conflict with the book being prepared by the new president that denied that the Ransom extended to Adam.

He finally left the Society in the 1940's and, with his wife, was isolated several years until a class formed in his area. He served it as Elder many years, moving to San Francisco in 1962. Few of the Eastern or Midwestern brethren knew him when he lived in the East, and fewer still when he moved West.

They got acquainted at the early Fort Collins conventions when Br. Seklemian served the brethren with beautiful messages of truth.

In his later years, he participated in the early Japanese work, the *Expanded Biblical Comments*, and was on demand as a speaker due to his remarkable ability to make a variety of subjects simple.

Just before his death in 1984, Brother and Sister Lorenz visited and asked what was to happen to all his fine discourses. Since he did not have family in the truth, he gave them to the Lorenz's. A few days later he finished his course. The discourses were printed and distributed around the country where they still bless those who read them.

Sr. Hirsh

Sister Rose Hirsh was truly a consecrated child of God. Born in 1877 in Tiffin, Ohio, her family got the truth in 1897 from a public talk on the second presence. She consecrated in 1900 and, encouraged by Pastor Russell, entered the colporteur work, serving from 1902 to 1912. Br. Russell then called her to the Bethel where she worked hand-painting the colors

on glass slides for the *Photo-Drama of Creation*. She also ran the Bethel bookstore. On Christmas day, 1915, she married Brother Robert Hirsh, Br. Russell presiding over the service.

When the new leadership took control of the Society after the Pastor's death, Br. Hirsh and other Directors claimed that the election had been improperly done. This was used as grounds to dismiss them all, evicting them from the Bethel in July, 1917. The Hirshes moved to Philadelphia and met with other brethren who had left the Society. They worked as chiropractors for many years. Brother Hirsh died in 1949 at age 81.

Sister Hirsh retired from chiropractic work in 1970 at the age of 92. She heard that a new convention was being held that very year in Fort Collins, Colorado, and she made arrangements to attend. It was a great blessing for her to find brethren who still believed the same truth she did after all those years. And it was a rich blessing for the brethren to know her.

She died peacefully in 1984 at the age of 106 while a nurse read to her the 23rd Psalm. □

We wish to note that while many other brethren were worthy of tribute, these four made unique contributions to the blessing of the brethren at the Ft. Collins Convention. Ed.

Brs. Ludow Loomis and Robert Seklemian



Br. Leon Norby and Sr. Rose Hirsh

Immersion

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16) The Lord's people have been shining forth for nearly 2,000 years, and the reports in the *Newsletter* show that they have been as inventive as ever during the past quarter century in conveying the good tidings to those who have a hearing ear. God has blessed this work to stimulate some who hear the word and bring forth fruit and to gather the wheat.



Immersion service by Pastor Russell

It has been the privilege of the *Newsletter* to report on the fruitage of the work by listing many of the brethren who have symbolized their consecrations at gatherings around the world. Although we could only report names submitted to us, the following listing will serve as a wonderful reminder of how God's hand has been with us these many years. □

These names were gleaned from the years 1972-1997. An asterisk (*) indicates consecration following a personal or public witness. Ed.

A

Abernathy, Cyril, NC, 8/1/76
 Adams, Joy, CA, 5/29/82
 Adams, Roger, CA, 5/29/82
 Adams, Thomas D., CA, 8/74
 AFRICA, 14 immersed, 8/88
 AFRICA, 11 immersed, 8/92
 Aggreh, Vincent, Africa, 8/17/96
 Alexander, Laurie, DC, 3/15/80
 Alexander, Schuyler, MI, 7/29/89
 Alexander, Timothy, DC, 3/22/75
 Alexander, Todd, OH, 3/15/80
 Allard, Mark, CA, 5/84
 Allen, Christiana, NY, 7/31/84
 Allen, Earleine, OR, 8/3/80*
 Allen, Ethel, OK, 3/25/78
 Allen, Felicia, IN, 7/22/82*
 Allen, Ric, MI, 11/11/84*
 Allen, Sheri, MI, 11/11/84*
 Allen, Tim, OR, 1/22/95*
 Alstrom, Cassie, IL, 5/3/92*
 Anderson, Elva, MI, 8/74
 Andrews, Br., India, 2/27/94
 Aniamalu, Gregory,

Africa, 8/17/96
 Ariwodor, Sr. B., Africa, 8/2/92
 Armen, Blanche, CT, 6/17/79
 Armen, David, CT, 6/17/79
 Armen, Rosemary, CT, 6/17/79
 Armstrong, Brian, 3/26/88
 Armstrong, Lois, DE, 1972*
 Armstrong, Shawn, DE, 3/22/80
 Armstrong, Tim, DE, 1972*
 Artis, Patricia, IL, 8/23/81
 Asafu-Adjaye, John, Canada, 3/16/97
 Asay, Sharon, AL, 7/31/86
 Ashley, John, OH, 6/22/85*
 Askew, Mike, MD, 3/18/93*
 Atkinson, Debbie, MI, 2/3/85*
 Auer, Kathlyn, CO, 7/31/77
 Averil, James, OH, 7/28/79*
 Averil, Mary Ann, OH, 3/15/80*
 Avon, James, IL, 5/29/88*
 Azzolina, Debi, WI, 12/28/74
B
 B., Olga, Moldova, 1995
 Bach, Brad, MI, 2/10/80*
 Bach, Edele, DE, 4/19/86*

Baertson, Chris, MI, 8/17/97*
 Baertson, Cindy, MI, 8/17/97*
 Bain, Kathy, NC, 8/1/76*
 Baker, Isabelle, IN, 6/10/90*
 Baker, John, IN, 5/23/82*
 Balazs, Maria, Romania, 7/21/96
 Balko, Marjorie, 8/74
 Balko, Paula, CT, 5/22/88
 Balko, Victoria, CT, 8/74
 Banks, David, MD, 3/31/90
 Barnard, Kathryn, MI, 3/20/88*
 Baryla, Robert, IL, 8/25/85
 Beard, Ramona, MO, 7/5/74
 Bedwell, Christine, DE, 3/22/75*
 Beeler, Lucille, IN, 7/16/77*
 Belea, John, AZ, 7/29/97
 Bellingier, Marian, IN, 10/6/85
 Bender, Ruth, IL, 7/23/78
 Bender, William, IL, 5/27/79*
 Bennett, Bob, CA, 9/76
 Benson, Jonathan, CT, 4/19/86*
 Benton, Kenneth, NY, 8/18/93*
 Berkowitz, Suzanne, DE, 4/7/79
 Bidigare, Chris, MI, 8/31/86*
 Biggs, Betty, TX, 6/15/80

Bijak, Diane, IL, 5/29/88
 Blackwell, Brett, Canada, 4/88
 Blair, Grace, TN, 9/27/86*
 Blair, Max, TN, 3/28/87*
 Boaca, Maria, Moldova, 7/14/96
 Boaca, Vladimir, Moldova, 7/96
 Bockus, Matthew, IL, 8/74
 Bodareva, Olga, Moldova, 1995
 Bolt, Darla, 8/74
 Borowiec, Mary Lou, IL, 6/24/73
 Borzan, Rozalia, Romania, 7/96
 Bouchard, Andy, CT, 3/16/75*
 Bouchard, Gloria, CT, 3/16/75*
 Boychuk, Lillian, Canada, 2/23/91*
 Boychuk, Morris, Canada, 4/14/90
 Brand, Robert, CA, 7/73*
 Brent, Glenda, IL, 9/1/85*
 Brewster, Sharon, NY, 4/12/97
 Brie, Ligia, Romania, 7/21/96
 Britto, Anto, India, 2/97
 Brookover, Carrie, OH, 3/16/91*
 Brooks, Kathy, CT, 8/28/77
 Brown, Dave, WA, 11/22/87*

Testimonies Concluded

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supporting young families. But with the bequest we were able to purchase typography and layout commercially.

In the mid 1980's, Br. Gary and Sr. Laura Norris, then of Columbus, Ohio effected a major savings for the *Newsletter* of \$600 per issue when they began setting type and doing the layout on their Apple computer using "Pagemaker." When they moved to Chicago, Br. Todd and Sr. Marilyn Alexander took on the task for a short time. Then it passed to Br. Allen Springer who has performed the service continuously to the present.

Br. Allen soon served notice that I must begin typing the copy directly into the computer which he placed in my home. I approached this formidable task

with fear thinking it was beyond the capability of a senior citizen. However, after a short time at the keyboard I was converted by the magic of this electronic wonder — the wraparound type, no carriage return, unbelievable ease of corrections, editing, rewriting, etc. It nearly moved me to tears to realize that I had done everything the "hard way" so many years.

Another wonder was the gift of a copy machine — a table model with full capabilities — received from a brother whose office equipment was updated. Coming when it did made obvious the fact that it was from the Lord. I had been shopping for just such an appliance, needed to enlarge printed matter for my failing vision. Unable to find one within

our budget I was ready to abandon the search when the brother's gift came.

The curtain is now falling on my generation whose skills were adequate for the Lord's purpose at the time, but it has risen upon a generation better prepared to utilize the improved technology of this day, and the outstanding opportunities it offers to those desiring to serve the interests of the coming kingdom.

In sending this forth I can only hope the brethren can receive from it a portion of the blessings I have received working with it. The *Newsletter* privileges these many years have brought me into closer spiritual appreciation of the brethren worldwide than I would have otherwise experienced. □

- Brown, Marjorie, OH, 3/30/80*
 Brown, Rick, OH, 11/14/93*
 Brown, Susan, TX, 3/5/88*
 Buchheit, Karen, NJ, 3/22/75*
 Buchheit, Ray, NJ, 4/11/81*
 Buchheit, Sarah, MN, 9/4/88
 Bujor, Maria, IL, 3/24/96
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 Campbell, Maayan, ME, 3/26/88
 Canell, Tom, WA, 4/4/92
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 Carmer, Dennis, IN, 10/3/82*
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 Carnes, Nannette, MI, 4/10/76*
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 Carpenter, Mike, MI, 6/29/86
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 Castioni, Jane, NY, 10/12/86*
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 Civay, Wilbur, OH, 3/16/91*
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 Clark, Verna, 6/30/91*
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 Coffman, Allen, PA, 7/24/80*
 Coffman, Celeste, PA, 4/15/89
 Cole, Ernie, IN, 1/17/93*
 Coleman, Kathy, OK, 7/15/84*
 Colvin, Ruth, LA, 9/16/96
 Cook, Linda, OH, 4/1/90
 Cotton, Claudia, IN, 1/1/77
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 Crawford, Allen, IL, 5/3/92*
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 Friesand, James, Canada, 7/4/87
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 Gillette, Lisa, DE, 4/7/84
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 Griehs, Rachel, PA, 6/7/92
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 Heeg, Bethany Joy, OH, 7/28/90
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 Hilgenberg, Karen, IL, 2/23/86*
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 Hillyer, David, MI, 6/29/86*
 Hipp, Rosemary, LA, 9/16/96
 Hixson, Taze, OK, 12/17/77
 Hnatt, Debbie, OH, 3/9/91*
 Hohenacker, Linda,
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 Homolka, Charles, CO, 4/27/75*
 Homolka, Eugene, CO, 11/10/90*
 Homolka, Gaylene, CO, 1987
 Homolka, Gene, CO, 4/27/75*
 Homolka, Marla, CO, 4/27/75*
 Hopkins, Annette, MO, 1/30/77
 Horner, Greg, MI, 3/31/90
 Hosu, Melanie, Romania, 7/96
 Howard, Earl H., OK, 12/17/77*
 Howell, Bertha, WA, 9/5/88
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 Huggins, Connie, CA, 8/77*
 Huggins, Michael, CA, 8/77*
 Hughes, Barbara, TX, 10/16/76
 Hughes, Holly, TX, 7/28/79

- Hulett, Dave, MI, 9/72*
 Hummel, Bruce, 8/13/83
 Huseltine, Carol, MI, 5/5/79
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 Jackson, Alonzo, WV, 7/31/84
 Jackson, Joan, DE, 1972*
 Jackson, Clarence, DE, 1972*
 Jackson, Donna, NJ, 4/3/82*
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 Jay, Janeen, IL, 9/75
 Jensen, Debbie, WI, 10/13/74
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 Jeuck, James, CA, 5/84
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 Jezuit, Janet, IL, 2/28/82
 Jezuit, Valeree, IL, 2/23/86
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 Jordan, Harry, TX, 3/5/88*
 Joseph, Albert, NY, 7/31/84*
K
 Kahn, David, DE, 4/11/81*
 Kalson, Judy, TX, 4/27/96
 Kamada, Junko, Japan, 11/7/76*
 Kaminski, Antionette, IN, 5/1/93
 Kapel, Enza, IL, 5/28/89
 Karavas, Georgette, CA, 9/2/73
 Karavas, Peter, CA, 9/2/73
 Kavanaugh, Carolyn, KY, 4/29/81*
 Kavanaugh, Diana, KY, 11/29/80*
 Kavanaugh, Steve, KY, 2/11/79*
 Kavanaugh, William, KY, 3/15/80*
 Keaton, Gail, NC, 10/78
 Keaton, Pam, NC, 9/75
 Kelchner, Kristina, OR, 9/4/94*
 Kelly, Ella, CT, 7/16/96
 Kendall, Elizabeth, OH, 11/26/72*
 Kendall, James, OH, 11/26/72*
 Kendra, Chester, MI, 9/75
 Kepley, Dan, DE, 3/30/74
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 Kinion, Rob, CA, 6/1/77
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 Lamb, Nita, AL, 3/6/94*
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 Lange, Jerry, WI, 9/10/95*
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 Maurer, Lester Craig, DE, 4/19/86*
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 Mayforth, Tina, OH, 8/16/87*
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 Moran, Ray, IN, 11/29/80*
 Moroski, Randall, Canada, 4/14/79*
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 Morrison, Sandra, CT, 7/20/86
 Mosley, Phillip, AL, 4/13/96*
 Moss, Debbie, CO, 4/27/75*
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 Mossi, Peter, Africa, 8/17/96
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 Nguyen, Tiffany, MI, 10/4/87*
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 Nicolosi, Enza, IL, 5/29/88
 Nichols, Dale, Canada, 7/4/93*
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 Ogan, Walter, MI, 7/3/77*
 Ojakova, Patrick, Africa, 8/17/96
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 Okonta, Anthony, Africa, 8/17/96
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 Ostapovich, Don, Australia, 12/83*
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 Osterman, Sarah, MI, 5/29/88
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 Owens, Jay, IL, 3/24/96
 Owens, Pearl, IL, 8/23/81*
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 Palone, Robert, OH, 3/9/91*
 Panucci, Daniel, CT, 10/7/84
 Panucci, Lorreen, MA, 10/26/85*
 Panucci, Robert, MA, 10/26/85
 Panucci, Silvana, CT, 10/7/84
 Parinello, Joe, MI, 9/6/87*
 Paris, Joyce, IL, 7/23/78*
 Paddemors, Cindy, OH, 11/16/97
 Partridge, Richard, WI, 3/28/76*
 Parvathamama, Br. R., [India, 2/27/94
 Paschal, Audrey, NC, 8/1/76
 Paschal, Edward, NC, 8/1/76*
 Paschal, Roy, NC, 8/1/76
 Patrick, Michael, OH, 10/25/81*
 Paz, Monica, Panama, 5/23/87*
 Parsons, Linda, CO, 6/86
 Pedlar, Linda, MI, 2/10/80*
 Pedlar, Norman, MI, 11/2/75*
 Penedos, Carl, NJ, 3/22/75*
 Pennington, Clara, KS, 6/15/80*
 Pennington, Stanley, KS, 6/15/80*
 Perjovskaia, Maria, Moldova, 7/96

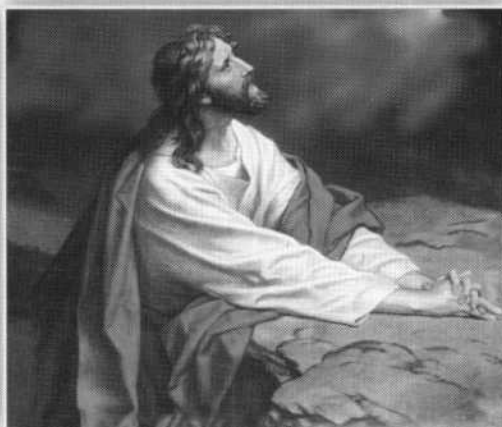
- Peter, Monday, Africa, 8/17/96
 Peter, Suresh, India, 2/97
 Peter, Titus, India, 2/97
 Phillips, David, TX, 3/5/88*
 Phillips, Evelyn, TX, 3/5/88*
 Phillips, Ivan, IN, 7/5/74*
 Pietrus, Henrich, Canada, 9/4/77
 Pittman, Norma, OH, 7/24/80
 POLAND, 41 immersed 7/74
 POLAND, 20 immersed, 7/97
 Pontarelli, Don, IL, 4/12/92*
 Pontarelli, Karen, IL, 4/12/92
 Poore, Martin, DE, 3/31/90
 Posey, Bonnie, WA, 10/9/90*
 Porter, John, WA, 4/12/97*
 Prichard, Gloria, MO, 10/78*
 Pryor, Glenn, DE, 3/30/74*
 Pryor, Rochelle, OH, 8/31/80*
 Pukus, Phil, IL, 6/24/73
 Pulios, Helen, IL, 8/23/81*
 Putnam, Clyde, OR, 6/21/86*
R
 Raber, Sherry, NJ, 4/12/87*
 Raines, Betty, IN, 9/18/83*
 Raju, Br. Radha Sundara,
 India, 5/74
 Raju, Br. S. Sundara, India, 5/74
 Rankin, Linda, IL, 5/74
 Rankin, Norman, IL, 5/74
 Rauch, Barbara, PA, 8/77
 Rauh, Linda, OH, 7/24/80*
 Ravihumar, Br. B., India, 2/27/94
 Rawson, Janet, NJ, 12/28/74
 Reeg, Catherine, MI, 11/22/87*
 Reid, Gracia Hope, IN, 8/27/78*
 Reithmeier, Hans, Germany, 5/89
 Restifo, Joseph, NM, 8/28/77*
 Ricci, Marina, NJ, 7/75*
 Rice, Ellanora, OH, 3/15/80*
 Richied, Dorothy, OH, 9/9/84
 Ricks, Percy, DE, 4/11/81*
 Rigdon, Margaret, AR, 3/22/86
 Ritter, Doug, OH, 4/6/86*
 Robb, Ron, MI, 2/3/91*
 Roberts, Florence, CA, 5/29/82
 Roberts, Larry, CA, 9/4/94*
 Robinson, Darlene, PA, 7/19/84*
 Robinson, Eric, PA, 7/19/84*
 Robinson, Kathi Forsythe,
 MO, 11/2/80
 Robinson, Perry, MO, 3/13/83*
 Rodgers, Florence, AZ, 9/5/76
 Rodriguez, Rolando, NJ, 3/19/94*
 Rodriguez, Marilyn, NJ, 3/94*
 Roguski, Claudia, AZ, 7/75
 ROMANIA, more than 50, 1992
 ROMANIA, 4 sisters, 8/29/93
 ROMANIA, 25 immersed, 1995
 Rose, Carl, CA, 8/21/93*
 Rose, Lauren, CA, 6/27/92
 Rosinski, Michael, PA, 10/11/80*
 Ross, Kathy, CA, 9/4/94*
 Rudins, Nancy, WI, 3/28/76*
 Ruggirello, Anna, IL, 12/28/74
 Ruggirello, John, IL, 9/4/76
 Ryba, Carolyn, MI, 9/3/78
 Ryba, Cheryl, MI, 1/3/76
S
 Saenz, Emily, MD, 8/18/93*
 Santiago, Bonnie, KY, 6/3/79*
 Santiago, Ray, KY, 2/11/79*
 Santos, Charlie, TX, 11/7/87*
 Sarandrea, Lawrence, CT, 12/5/76
 Sarandrea, Sherry, CT, 12/5/76
 Sarathi, Baratha, India, 5/74
 Sassaman, Kathi, FL, 10/9/82*
 Saudemont, Paula, Belgium, 4/89*
 Scarborough, Vera, TX, 3/20/76
 Schlacht, Walter, MI, 11/7/82*
 Scheel, David, WI, 1990*
 Schmitz, Karen Forsythe,
 MO, 4/5/81
 Schott, David, FL, 2/11/90
 Schroeder, Walter, OR, 8/73*
 Schultz, Harvey, MI, 6/19/83*
 Scott, Lillian, MO, 1/27/80
 Scott, Leonard, MO, 1/30/77*
 Scott, Walter, KY, 2/11/79*
 Seavitt, Perry, MI, 9/28/75*
 Seavitt, Susan, MI, 9/28/75*
 Sekar, Raja, India, 5/74
 Sellas, Yvonne, 5/5/96*
 Semion, Michael, DE, 4/12/97*
 Serio, Shanna, LA, 8/6/78*
 Selvam, Br., India, 3/27/94*
 Severs, William, OH, 3/30/80*
 Shell, Joseph, IL, 5/30/93*
 Sheppard, Evelyn, IL, 8/31/86*
 Sherban, Phyllis,
 Canada, 7/29/78
 Shirai, Emi, Japan, 5/13/79*
 Shultz, Kirsten, IN, 12/2/97
 Shultz, Susan, IN, 7/28/88*
 Sigelke, Viola, MI, 7/3/77*
 Simmons, Gene, IL, 5/74
 Simon, Russell, CA, 9/2/73
 Singleton, Rudolph, DE, 4/10/76*
 Sinowatny, John, MN, 7/75*
 Siwak, Benjamin,
 Canada, 10/28/84
 Siwak, Karen, Canada, 6/30/86
 Skruch, Gail, IL, 5/27/79*
 Skruch, Leonard, WI, 5/6/78
 Slivinsky, Jean, CT, 7/31/86
 Slivinsky, Julie, CT, 11/28/87
 Slivinsky, Ruth, CT, 3/16/75
 Smith, Judi, WY, 7/31/77
 Smith, Porter, IL, 2/28/82*
 Smith, Zona, IL, 5/19/84*
 Snyder, Peggy, TX, 11/7/87*
 Springer, Allen, OH, 4/4/76*
 Spruiell, William, VA, 3/25/95*
 Staebell Joyce, AZ, 6/2/96
 Staniec, Marjan, IL, 1/29/95
 Staniec, Mary, IL, 1/29/95*
 Stansberry, Dennis, IN, 6/10/90
 Stefan, Anuta, Romania, 7/21/96
 Stefan, Vasile, Romania, 7/21/96
 Stefanescu, Br. Florea,
 Romania, '95*
 Stein, David, AR, 6/75*
 Stein, Kathy, NJ, 4/15/78*
 Stein, Nathan, PA, 7/28/90
 Steinhauer, Millie, CA, 9/75
 Stephenson, Jimmy, LA, 10/1/94*
 Stevick, Joan, ND, 2/15/75
 Stewart, Janell, WA, 10/5/97
 Stewart, Rachel, OH, 8/31/86
 Stillwell, Rebecca, VT, 7/29/89
 Stillwell, Vanessa, KY, 7/10/77*
 Stocki, Aaron, Canada, 7/4/93
 Stocki, Myles, Canada, 7/28/88
 Stoikes, Donald, WI, 9/7/81
 Stoikes, Linda, WI, 9/7/81*
 Stout, John, OH, 4/4/76
 Stratton, Joyce, IN, 7/29/78*
 Stricker, Paul, MI, 2/10/80*
 Suraci, David, CT, 11/25/84
 Suraci, Joy, CT, 8/73
 Suraci, Richard, CT, 7/75
 Szczesny, Judy, IL, 12/28/74
T
 Tabac, Mark, IL, 8/15/76
 Tallent, Larry, GA, 8/1/76
 Tanta, Kathy, WA, 8/26/84
 Tarathi, Br. Baratha, India, 5/74
 Taylor, Evelyn, TN, 7/18/92*
 Tennant, Carol, MI, 6/15/80
 Tennant, Richard, MI, 6/15/80*
 Tettermer, David, PA, 3/30/85*
 Tevis, James, KY, 7/29/89*
 Theobald, Dina,
 Germany, 5/14/89
 Therese, Sr., India, 3/27/94*
 Thomas, Diane, TX, 3/17/84
 Thomas, Marilyn, KY, 4/29/84*
 Thomas, Rick, OH, 8/17/91*
 Thomas, V. A., India, 5/73
 Thompson, Freeman, TX, 11/5/88
 Thompson, Harold, DE, 1972
 Thorogood, Anne, DE, 3/22/75*
 Tiplia, John, CA, 7/29/97
 Titoc, Ioana, Romania, 7/21/96
 Tivador, Elaine, MI, 7/31/84*
 Tivador, George, MI, 8/74
 Tivador, Karen, MI, 5/23/87
 Tivador, Stella, MI, 7/31/84
 Tofte, Robert, SD, 7/20/95*
 Torluemke, Danny, LA, 3/20/82
 Tosa, Claudia, Romania, 5/7/95
 Tosh, Grieg, Australia, 7/73
 Tower, Stephanie, OR, 7/31/82
 Trestian, Aurora, Romania, 7/7/96
 Tribble, Mark, MS, 7/28/95*
 Trujillo, Sr. Mikel, MO, 9/14/74*
 Tryzna, Lorraine, IL, 5/19/84
 Tryzna, Wendy, IL, 8/83
 Tschappat, Douglas,
 OH, 12/22/74*
 Tschappat, Ellen, OH, 12/22/74
 Turner, Lana, CO, 8/15/76
 Tusia, Priscilla, FL, 7/20/86
 Tyk, Helen, IL, 1/1/77*
 Tyler, Peggy, NJ, 4/19/86*
U-V
 Um, Br. Sang Yong, KY, 3/27/82*
 Ulicini, George, IN, 7/31/84
 UKRAINE, 4 immersed, 7/7/97
 Valetta, Cynthia, CT, 4/73
 Valetta, Daniel, CT, 4/73
 Valetta, Sr., CT, 4/73
 VandeCasteyen, Terry, Canada, 2/74
 van Oosten, C. J., WA, 2/73
 Vickers, Mildred, DE, 3/20/83*
 Villasan, Ellen, TX, 6/15/80
 Vinson, Richard, DE, 3/30/74*
W
 Waddell, David, Canada, 12/74*
 Wagner, Robert, MD, 4/3/82
 Waisganis, Vernon, IL, 7/23/78
 Wake, Melina, CA, 4/14/79*
 Walker, Allen, MD, 4/19/86*
 Wallace, Marguerite, PA, 4/7/84*
 Wanley, Agnes, MI, 10/4/87*
 Ward, David, WI, 2/2/75*
 Watkins, Harry, OH, 7/30/87*
 Watkins, James, OH, 3/31/79*
 Watkins, Roberta, OH, 3/31/79*
 Watkins, Sr. Shawn, OR, 8/14/83*
 Watson, Helen, CO, 8/74
 Wazny, Eva, Canada, 4/80*
 Webster, Br. O'Neal, LA, 4/26/87
 Weeks, Andrew, NJ, 6/4/83
 Weeks, Lori, NJ, 1/3/76
 Weihe, Wilbert, PA, 3/20/83*
 Wesol, Dan, FL, 7/88
 Wesol, Leonard, FL, 5/5/96
 Westenkirchner, Laura, OH, 11/72*
 White, Kenneth, NY, 8/18/93*
 Whittaker, Donna, IL, 12/28/74*
 Whittaker, Jeff, IL, 5/29/88
 Whittaker, Tamara, IL, 5/23/87
 Wiggins, Robert, PA, 9/6/81*
 Williams, Annaliese, OH, 10/75*
 Williams, Donovan, AZ, 4/4/79
 Williams, Fred, CA, 8/73
 Williams, Joan, WI, 2/4/73
 Williams, Judith, AZ, 4/4/79
 Williams, Kay, NC, 8/1/76*
 Williams, Raymond, OH, 6/13/82
 Williams, Ruby, NY, 9/7/86
 Williams, Warren, NC, 8/1/76
 Williams, Wendy, CA, 9/76
 Willson, Doris "Dee", MI, 4/25/77*
 Wilmath, James, LA, 3/20/82
 Wilson, Patty, TX, 11/5/88
 Winans, Gladys, DE, 1972
 Wincz, David, FL, 7/26/96
 Wincz, Robert, NJ, 7/75
 Wincz, Terry, NJ, 7/75*
 Winske, Ed, MI, 9/75
 Winske, Karen, MI, 9/75
 Winske, Laurie, MI, 9/2/84
 Winske, Luann, OH, 11/11/84
 Winston, David, 8/74
 Winston, Estelle, 8/74
 Wittbrodt, Anne, MI, 4/19/81*
 Wittbrodt, David, MI, 2/8/81*
 Wojcik, Janice, IL, 8/74
 Wojcik, Sally, MI, 8/73
 Wolfenberger, Allyson,
 TX, 10/16/76
 Woods, James, NC, 11/29/80*
 Woolency, Al, CT, 6/17/79*
X-Y
 Yakes, Marcia, MI, 9/1/91*
 Yasinchuk, Becky, Canada, 10/13/86
 Yeo, Charles, IN, 9/18/83*
 Yerkes, Cheryl, IL, 12/28/74
 Yerkes, Matt, PA, 8/31/86*
 York, Lyn, MI, 11/7/82*
 Yost, Roberta, CT, 10/7/84
 Young, Barry, IN, 7/9/78*
 Young, Jennifer, PA, 4/12/97
 Young, Marilyn, IN, 7/9/78*
Z
 Zaboski, Joann, PA, 7/21/83*
 Zaboski, Ray, PA, 8/13/83*
 Zaboski, Sr. Sam, PA, 7/21/83*
 Zaboski, Steve, PA, 7/19/84*
 Zager, Petrina, MI, 4/22/89*
 Zak, Carole Jean, CT, 8/25/79
 Zak, Karen, NY, 11/25/84
 Zak, Margaret, VA, 3/26/88
 Zbik, Karen, MI, 7/28/90
 Zembik, Allen, Canada, 6/30/96
 Zembik, Michelle, Canada, 6/30/96*
 Zandler, April, MI, 7/31/86
 Zandler, Jeff, MI, 9/1/85
 Zandler, Jeremy, MI, 9/6/87
 Zandler, Keith, MI, 7/23/81
 Zimmerman, Frank, NJ, 3/31/90*

Entered into Rest

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psalms 116:15

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; for their works do follow them. (Rev.14:13) Many are the names of those "blessed dead" that have appeared in each *Newsletter* issue. As we reflect on each one, we weep, and yet we sorrow not as others who have no hope. I Thess. 4:13

Many of these dear ones lived long lives in the Lord, finishing their earthly courses at an advanced age. How well we recall their examples to us of faithful perseverance, love of the Lord, and fidelity to His truth. And yet others completed their walks at a much younger age, quickly being consumed on the altar of sacrifice. How we stood in awe of their great passion and zeal. We rejoice that although all these dear ones sowed in tears, they also reap in joy. Psalms 126:5



The older brethren still among us remember many older than themselves who lived during the time of Pastor Russell's ministry. Some were old enough to have known who he was, while others even served with him at the Bethel or in some other area of the Harvest work. These brethren were very special to those who followed. The *Newsletter* has always tried to recognize those whose lives touched the Pastor so that their experiences would be a special encouragement to all generations still walking in the Lord's steps. These brethren will have an asterisk (*) by their name. The

following names were gleaned from the years 1972-1997.

Yes, many have gone before. But that is good. Rejoice! Look up and lift up your heads, for your deliverance draweth nigh. Luke 21:28 □

A

Abrahamsen, Helen, CA, 5/23/79
Adair, John, KY, 12/6/83, 68 years
Alexander, Robert, OH, 1/21/88, 57 years
Alfano, Charles, MO, 10/24/81, 78 years
Allen, Debbie, CT, 3/11/97, 37 years
Alleyne, Archie, Canada, 1/20/96, 81 years
Anas, Joseph J., MI, 9/20/75, 89 years
Anderson, Amy, FL, 4/2/82, 94 years
Anderson, Henry, FL, 12/75
Anderson, Olive, RI, 1975
Apicelli, Adele (Lena), CT, 6/23/87, 82 years
Arlington, Frances, WA, 5/5/80
Arnold, Effie, OH, 7/11/82, 100 years*
Arnold, Mildred D., NY, 10/13/86
Ashiegbu, Charity, Africa, 7/14/95, 51 years
Aten, Amy, MI, 9/12/89, 86 years
Atkins, Melvin, IL, 1975, 87 years
Atkins, Ona, IL, 10/10/81, 87 years
Atkinson, J. Harold, IN, 3/7/79, 84 years*

B

Bacher, John, MI, 1/9/77
Baity, Ray, DE, 3/12/74
Baity, Virginia, DE, 8/25/76
Baker, Marjorie, IL & PA, 2/14/91, 84 years
Baker, Wilford, OH, 4/15/78, 65 years
Balko, James, PA, 10/6/83, 63 years
Balko, Martha, PA, 2/16/97
Balon, John, MI, 11/6/89, 93 years
Balon, Victoria, MI, 3/12/90, 89 years
Baltisberger, Lodi, IA, 5/24/84, 96 years
Banas, John, IL, 2/1/76, 88 years
Banas, Stella, IL, 9/25/94, 100 years*
Baracos, Mary, PA, 5/12/83
Baracos, Nick, PA, 2/2/77, 91 years
Barksdale, Larry, ID, 8/11/83, 48 years
Barnett, Sr. Jo, TX, 12/29/91
Barr, Otialia, MI, 12/2/76
Barrett, King, Canada, 4/8/84, 102 years*

Bartkus, Helen, IL, 7/13/83, 98 years
Barton, Helen, OR, 10/21/94, 68 years
Barzynsky, Catherine, IL, 9/12/81, 93 years
Bateman, Amy, CT, 1/4/93, 97 years
Bateson, Bety, Australia, 4/28/79, 84 years
Bateson, Br. Vivian, Australia, 11/27/93, 94 years
Baum, Anna, WI & FL, 5/17/85, 93 years
Baum, Dorothy, WI & FL, 6/28/95, 78 years
Bazilius, John, Sr., OH, 3/25/92, 80 years
Bazilius, Stefania, OH, 8/13/88, 83 years
Beal, Floyd, FL, 4/8/95, 91 years
Beal, Sr. Frankie, IN, 12/10/91
Beck, Linda, CA, 5/13/86, 92 years
Bednarzyk, Marie, OH, 2/10/77
Bednarz, Sue, IN, 2/13/89, 71 years
Beer, Edwin W., PA, 6/30/79, 90 years
Belush, Anna, IN & OH, 3/5/96, 88 years
Bertsche, William C., OH, 12/13/72
Bialek, Julian, Canada, 1977
Bialo, Justine, IL, 11/9/78, 66 years
Bibby, Mary, England, 2/5/90, 99 years
Bickel, Howard, Canada, 2/5/73
Biel, Mary, NY, 1/9/82, 81 years
Biluk, Helen, MI, 9/23/87, 65 years
Binda, Emil, IL & AR, 3/16/93, 82 years
Binda, Stanley, IL, 9/28/92, 79 years
Birner, Joseph, OH, 7/24/75, 84 years
Bishop, Helen, MI, 2/5/96, 78 years
Bitsikas, Jennie, NY, 9/26/77, 84 years
Bland, Bettie Lee, VA, 12/26/97, 88 years
Blicharz, Eugene, NY, 2/13/94, 62 years
Blicharz, Lois, W., MI, 4/27/85, 52 years
Blinn, Louella, OH, 12/18/73*
Bockus, Joan, NY, 12/31/85, 66 years
Bodia, Tanase, AZ, 5/3/79, 93 years*
Bodnar, Ernest, OH, 11/14/84
Bogart, Betty, MI, 6/30/79
Bogdancyk, Anthony, FL, 11/80

Bogle, Charles, MO, 3/19/79
Boley, Jennie, IL, 10/25/75, 87 years
Bolton, Berna, Canada, 8/30/90
Bolton, Lloyd, Canada, 9/22/85, 63 years
Bonczak, Edward, MI, 2/8/77, 79 years
Bonk, Stella, MI, 11/4/79, 92 years
Borowiec, John, NY, 6/8/74, 78 years
Borowiec, Katherine, NY, 5/12/79, 82 years
Borowiec, Stanley, NY, 8/10/86, 67 years
Bouton, Loyd, CO, 8/12/92, 104 years
Bowden, Orra, WA, 6/15/84, 88 years*
Boychuk, Nettie, Canada, 5/25/90, 86 years
Bradberry, Betty, CA, 4/2/93, 64 years
Bradberry, Wayne, CA, 2/20/83, 63 years
Bradford, Carl, TX, 3/3/78, 70+ years
Bradshaw, Anna, OH, 9/75
Branch, Esther, WA, 6/5/93, 71 years
Brandeis, Ruth, OR & WA, 11/29/97
Bratner, Judy, WA, 5/12/91, 45 years
Bray, Br., Australia, 1973
Brey, Sarah, ND, 1/7/76, 85 years
Brink, Leona H., MO, 11/21/72
Brisse, Marion V., NH, 10/14/77, 72 years
Brissette, Herbert, NY, 4/22/79, 90 years*
Brooks, Charles, FL, 12/7/81, 80 years
Brown, Dorothy, AZ, 6/20/96, 94 years
Brown, Ruth, CA, 1/4/88, 65 years
Bryant, Emma, AZ, 5/74
Brylas, Mary, IL, 9/15/96, 94 years
Brzostek, Czeslawa, OH, 3/18/82, 86 years
Buckley, Hazel, MI, 12/28/87, 84 years
Buckley, Herman, MI, 11/12/72
Buckley, Leontyne, MI, 4/23/87
Buckley, Roselyn, MI, 11/11/74, 44 years
Buczek, Louis, MI, 2/9/84, 94 years
Bulmer, Irene (Patti), WA, 3/16/91, 78 years
Buravich, Nellie, MA, 2/17/96, 90 years
Burdett, Henry, Canada, 8/12/82, 92 years*

Burns, Helen Church, ND, 6/6/96, 88 years
 Burns, Mary Jane, OH, 10/5/96, 83 years
 Burtka, Alexsky, MI, 12/5/76, 86 years
 Bushman, Helen, FL, 12/29/87, 71 years
 Butts, Laura, AZ, 6/7/83, 78 years
 Byrum, Mina Lou, IN, 10/26/97, 82 years

C

Caldwell, Chester, OR, 7/11/76, 86 years*
 Caldwell, Edith, OR, 6/26/78, 83 years
 Campbell, Clayton, Canada, 12/77, 70 years
 Campbell, Elizabeth, Wales, 5/29/79, 83 years
 Campbell, Jack, Israel, 4/16/92, 62 years
 Campbell, Joseph, TN, 12/10/94, 70 years
 Canell, Jane, WA, 4/9/94, 62 years
 Capuano, Genero (Jerry), MA, 5/7/86, 63 years
 Carlson, Ethel, WA, 7/8/96, 97 years*
 Carlson, Helen, AZ, 2/3/93, 81 years
 Carlton, Mary, DE, 1/21/78, 69 years
 Caster, Eva, MI, 3/12/91, 93 years
 Cason, Betty, TX, 12/10/96, 90 years
 Caudill, Dorothy, CA, 4/3/77, 54 years
 Caudle, Sr. Delight, CA, 4/11/88, 75 years
 Chandler, Charles A., KS, 1/14/80, 92 years
 Chandler, Marston, OR, 11/15/78
 Chastain, David E., IN, 11/1/91, 53 years
 Chastain, Keith, IN, 7/25/82, 48 years
 Chastain, Robert W., IN, 8/3/76, 44 years
 Chastain, Russell, IN, 2/18/96, 89 years
 Chmielewski, Antonia, IL, 4/26/88
 Christman, Jim, OH, 1/9/83, 77 years
 Christopher, Steven, Canada, 5/27/77, 88 years
 Chrzanowski, Stella, IL, 9/14/92, 95 years
 Chudzik, Herbert, IL, 2/7/94, 79 years
 Chupa, Charles, MI, 7/5/79, 65 years
 Cieslak, Alfred, IL, 2/74
 Cipperly, Ian, OH, 1/27/88, 91 years*
 Cipperly, Lucy, OH, 12/16/76, 81 years*
 Ciupik, Alice, IL, 4/11/88, 86 years
 Ciupik, Anthony Jr., IL, 9/5/78, 53 years
 Ciupik, Anthony Sr., IL, 1/11/82, 88 years
 Coats, Norman, TX, 10/20/95, 90 years
 Coats, Samuel, TX, 11/4/75, 97 years*
 Coe, Glenn, PA, 8/30/76, 88 years*
 Cole, Charlotte, CA, 12/2/76, 92 years
 Cole, Jane, OH, 2/21/74, 83 years
 Cole, Jesse, CA, 12/29/84, 76 years
 Cole, William, OH, 2/9/91, 76 years
 Colvin, Desmond, LA, 1/2/78, 65 years
 Comer, Howard, NJ, 6/23/87, 103 years*
 Comparato, Ignatius N., NY, 3/7/76, 84 years
 Comparato, Louise, NY, 3/19/89, 94 years
 Conard, Elizabeth,
 FL & PA, 12/28/79, 85 years
 Conrad, Christine, PA, 6/24/84, 87 years
 Conrad, Matilda, WI, 8/11/84, 88 years
 Cook, Cecile, OH, 12/13/81, 86 years
 Cook, Floyd C., OH, 6/12/75, 71 years
 Cook, Marjorie, OH, 10/26/89, 77 years
 Cook, Paul, OH, 3/17/87, 72 years
 Cooper, Ada, ID, 6/30/83, 91 years*
 Cooper, Myrtle, PA & FL, 7/84, 92 years
 Copeland, Marie, IL,
 FL & NJ, 10/11/76, 83 years
 Copersmith, Charlotte, IL, 10/19/88, 68 years
 Copersmith, Frank, IL, 10/27/85, 80 years

Corchidas, Andrew, IN, 1/5/78, 86 years
 Costas, Peter J., IN, 11/74
 Cousins, Herbert Wm. Robert,
 Canada, 4/11/82, 85 years*
 Covington, Mattie, SC, 8/27/77
 Cox, Gertrude B., MA & MI, 7/8/82, 97 years*
 Crawford, Luella M., MI, 4/19/82, 84 years
 Crisan, Gheorghe, Romania, 2/27/97, 49 years
 Crosby, Penny, CO, 10/13/83, 37 years
 Croucher, Louise, Canada, 6/22/90, 100 years
 Csutor, Stephanie, CT, 3/10/87, 24 years
 Culp, Esther, FL, 1/12/76, 80+ years
 Czajkowski, Ignatius IL, 3/4/84, 93 years
 Czarnecki, Helen, IL, 2/3/87, 83 years
 Czopor, Jean, MI, 12/21/93, 91 years
 Czuli, Rose, MI & AZ, 7/30/78, 89 years

D

Dabek, Juliusz, Poland, 7/4/77, 50+ years
 Dalmata, Henry, Australia, 11/85
 Dalmata, Janusz, Poland, 11/85
 Darfus, Pearl, OH, 11/21/79, 85 years*
 Darmokid, John, Canada, 10/73
 Darmokid, Pearl, Canada, 2/21/84, 79 years
 Dass, Immanuel, India, 1995
 Davies, Blanche, Canada, 8/12/94, 89 years
 Davis, Emmadelle, NJ, 2/11/97, 90 years
 Davis, Br. Laurel Vernon, NY, 12/16/87, 100 years*
 Davis, Robert, AL, 2/12/96, 89 years
 Deibert, M. Mae, IN, 1/6/83, 91 years
 Deifer, Orlando, PA, 1/77
 Dein, Marcella, FL & IL, 3/20/80
 DeKoyer, Henry, NJ, 4/17/88, 84 years
 Dembowski, Anna, IN, 10/7/92, 97 years
 Demchuk, Mary, Canada, 12/31/81, 62 years
 Dewys, Irene, MI, 6/7/87, 78 years
 Dickey, Alfred B., CA, 1976
 Dickey, Edith, CA & OR, 8/10/95, 83 years
 Dinwoodie, David, NJ, 11/12/88, 100 years*
 Dinwoodie, Mary, NJ, 3/3/83, 89 years
 Doland, Adelbert, MN, 12/31/82, 90 years
 Doland, Viola E., MN, 6/30/73, 76 years
 D'Onofrio, Nicholas, DE, 1974
 Doran, Irwin, J., KY, 5/2/82, 70 years
 Dorr, Clara, WA, 12/19/85, 95 years
 Dostal, Helen, WI, 9/2/87, 93 years
 Dowling, May, NJ, 10/29/79, 89 years
 Drevno, Harold, CA, 10/73
 Drummond, Grace, OH, 1/28/73
 Dubel, Ernest, OH, 2/78, 91 years
 Ducsay, Elizabeth, PA, 5/9/77, 92 years
 Dunajski, Joseph C. IL, 7/22/78, 87 years
 Dunajski, Victoria, IL, 11/6/83, 90 years
 Dupell, Eleanor, MA, 8/3/89, 50 years
 Durand, Edna, MN, 4/25/86, 83 years
 Dyll, Mary, Canada, 3/16/76, 80 years

E

Edney, Cecil C., NC, 11/28/89, 73 years
 Edwards, Ruth, FL, 11/15/97, 70 years
 Edwards, William J., FL, 6/17/86, 88 years
 Egger, Pearl, NY, 1/29/82, 80 years*
 Eidson, Paul, GA, 3/3/81
 Eidson, Beatrice, GA, 10/26/73
 Elliott, Gwen, Canada, 11/21/84, 88 years*
 Ellis, Margaret, KY, 12/9/76, 74 years
 Ellsworth, Marie Blanche, CA, 10/25/87, 96 years*

Emenhiser, Rosalie, TX, 7/13/77
 Emerson, Ella, MN, 1/11/76, 88 years
 Emmons, Wesley, MI, 1/75
 Englishman, Helen, CO & IL, 1/27/95, 86 years
 Eppley, Elsie, FL, 8/14/77, 83 years
 Erickson, Agnes, MI, 11/17/77, 85 years
 Erickson, Agda, MN, 7/7/82, 92 years
 Espenak, Jane, CT, 1/17/86, 100 years
 Evans, Nellie, England, 7/26/77, 69 years
 Ewing, Josephine, OH, 8/12/91, 83 years

F

Fager, Ada, IL, 4/22/74, 89 years*
 Farrell, Rex, IL, 7/14/89, 65 years
 Faulconer, Mabel, PA, 4/19/78, 92 years
 Fay, Edward, CA, 10/3/80, 72 years
 Fellenbaum, Earl, PA, 12/2/79, 71 years
 Ferlejowski, Paul, MI, 1/30/76, 89 years
 Fisher, Joseph, Germany, 8/19/73, 84 years
 Flinn, Sue, CA, 8/7/81, 85 years
 Flinn, Walter, CA, 1996
 Floyd, Grace, OH, 6/26/91, 96 years
 Folsik, Mary, AZ, 5/17/76*
 Forman, Amos, OH, 9/18/88, 98 years
 Foss, Irving, CA & IL, 11/20/83, 85 years*
 Foss, Hulda R., CA & IL, 12/22/74, 75 years*
 Foulk, Charles, PA, 6/2/77, 83 years*
 Fowler, Earl, CA, 12/12/72
 Fozkos, Julia, IN, 1/13/81, 93 years*
 Frago, Marie, CA, 1988
 Franco, Anthony, CT, 12/20/87, 55 years
 Fredriksen, Alvina, KY, 12/2/82, 89 years
 Freeman, Carrie, CA & AZ, 12/2/72
 Freeman, Sydnia, TX, 4/11/93, 80 years
 Fregin, Elizabeth, IL, 2/18/81, 91 years
 Freiberg, Herman J., PA, 6/22/86, 93 years
 Frels, Edwin H., TX, 1/27/86, 86 years
 French, Alvera, WA, 3/73, 82 years
 Frey, Anton C., NY, 1/12/87, 91 years*
 Frey, Louise, 9/4/94, 99 years*
 Fritz, Michael, WI, 9/30/80, 87 years
 Frzik, Mary T., MI, 2/21/85, 84 years
 Fuerst, Bernard, MI, 2/28/80, 86 years*
 Fuerst, Harriett, MI, 2/13/86, 92 years*
 Fundes, Helen E. PA, 6/6/80, 90 years
 Futyma, Maria, IL, 7/13/86, 53 years

G

Galecki, Chester, WI, 6/8/97, 84 years
 Galecki, John, WI, 6/27/76, 57 years
 Galecki, Margaret, WI, 3/4/97, 77 years
 Garbacz, Anna, MI, 1/7/89, 85 years
 Garbacz, John, MI, 1/5/79, 90 years
 Garrison, Charles (Garry),
 CA, 5/21/76, 68 years
 Garrison, Harriett, OR & IN, 8/21/74
 Garry, Mary, MI, 12/75
 Gaunt, Jay H., MI, 2/27/76, 85 years
 Gaw, Helen, NJ, 10/17/96, 75 years
 Gebarowski, Albert, MI, 3/14/81, 93 years
 Gebarowski, John, MI, 3/26/80, 64 years
 Gebarowski, Peter, MI, 10/19/83, 71 years
 Geils, Florence, WI, 8/5/76
 Geisinger, Ellen, PA, 12/27/86, 87 years
 Geisinger, William (Bill),
 PA, 5/22/95, 71 years
 George, Myrtle, PA, 9/24/76

Germane, Ralph, ME, 2/80, 73 years
 Gilbert, Forrest E., OH, 3/10/73, 73 years
 Gilbert, Laura, OH, 12/26/89, 85 years
 Gilbert, Sunder Raj, India, 7/12/84, 66 years
 Gilchrist, Janet, DE, 3/11/86
 Gilmour, David, Canada, 6/18/93, 89 years
 Gindroz, Theodore, PA, 6/10/84, 80+ years
 Glass, Naomi G., IL, 10/19/76, 83 years*
 Gleason, Clara, NJ, 11/14/75, 83 years*
 Gniadek, Sr. Josefa L., Poland, 12/18/97, 86 years
 Godenschwager, Hazel, OH, 2/74
 Goodbub, Nellie, IN, 6/15/80, 88 years*
 Goodley, Mary, DE, 4/7/75, 87 years
 Gorecki, Frank, MI, 11/23/75, 66 years
 Gorecki, Nellie, MI, 12/18/81, 69 years
 Gornicz, Stefania, MI, 12/12/87, 91 years
 Gotkowski, Angeline, MI, 10/26/81
 Gottfried, Marge, IL, 1/6/85
 Gowryluk, John W., Canada, 3/1/76, 91 years
 Gowryluk, Stephen, Canada, 4/4/84, 67 years
 Graber, Adrian, CA, 7/22/78
 Graboweczy, Frances, Canada, 1984
 Gramontas, Joseph, IL, 3/26/88, 92 years
 Grant, Anthony, Australia, 12/28/82
 Grant, Rose, PA, 7/8/74
 Greiss, Theresa, NJ, 7/30/81, 102 years
 Grenier, Evelyn, OH, 3/5/81, 93 years
 Grigalonus, Johanna, IL & AZ, 11/20/81, 92 years
 Guadenhutten, Anna W., OH, 9/26/75, 101 years
 Gustafson, Elizabeth, NJ, 12/31/76, 86 years*
 Guy, Mamie, NY, 11/21/85, 93 years*
 Gyenese, Julia, MI, 1/10/77, 83 years

H

Hack, Bruno, IL, 3/29/88, 69 years
 Hagan, Ruth Ellen, KS, 6/13/92, 93 years*
 Hagensick, Amos, IA, 8/26/86
 Hagensick, Ruth, IA, 9/29/95, 86 years
 Hake, Helen, WI, 12/6/77
 Hall, Ellie A., CA, 9/25/88, 98 years
 Halupka, Helen, IL, 6/4/89, 98 years*
 Harp, Clyde "Jack," OH, 11/14/84, 84 years
 Harp, Louise, OH, 7/25/85, 80 years*
 Harper, Dorothy, CO, 4/27/92, 78 years
 Harris, Constance M., PA, 10/3/74
 Harrison, Harriett, MD, 12/14/75
 Hart, LeRoy, CA & WA, 10/20/79, 90 years
 Harvey, Ola, IN, 11/25/96, 94 years
 Hasselgaard, Edith, Denmark, 2/13/95
 Hatgis, Pantel, NY, 9/1/87, 92 years
 Hawk, Vivian, PA, 8/19/91, 67 years
 Hawkins, Alfred, Canada, 9/5/79, 99 years
 Hayes, Alta, OH, 2/4/78, 86 years
 Hayes, Herb, WI, 4/20/78, 39 years
 Hazel, Ralph, DE, 10/4/77, 68 years
 Henderson, Nettie, CO, 12/30/95
 Hendricks, Lester, MI, 12/94, 94 years*
 Hendricks, Theodore, MI, 7/7/84, 92 years*
 Henning, Rose M., OH, 7/5/88, 92 years
 Henning, Vinnie, NE, 8/2/81, 94 years*
 Herrscher, Laura, AZ, 4/26/81, 99 years*
 Hewatt, E. C., OH & GA, 12/22/72
 Heyer, Bernice, AR, 4/1/89, 82 years
 Hildebrandt, Lulu (Jo), MI, 2/19/87, 71 years
 Hildebrandt, Roy, MI, 6/2/75, 86 years
 Hill, Anna, WI, 10/9/91

Hill, Myrtle, CA, 1/82, 93 years
 Hillhouse, Ora, TX, 11/87, 87 years
 Hilliard, Rose, VA, 6/17/93, 79 years
 Hillyer, Lillian, MI, 12/23/90, 66 years
 Hirsh, Rose L., PA, 4/5/84, 106 years*
 Hixson, Taze, OK, 7/24/92, 79 years
 Hnatowich, Mary, Canada, 10/1/88, 91 years
 Holbrook, Bernice, Canada, 1/10/93, 80 years
 Hollinger, Marie, Canada, 1/96, 98 years
 Hollister, Ariel H., OH, 12/24/72, 83 years*
 Hollister, Benjamin F., IL, 11/5/82, 94 years*
 Hollister, Robert, OH, 10/28/80, 96 years*
 Hooper, Mildred, NJ, 3/24/91*
 Hopstetter, Mary A., TX, 1997, 93 years
 Howe, Maude, NJ, 12/11/81, 84 years
 Howe, Olive, NJ, 10/27/81, 80 years
 Howington, Sr. Billie, TX, 12/28/93
 Howlett, Grace, Canada, 2/73
 Hrechuk, Pearl, Canada, 9/15/75, 72 years
 Hubacz, Katie, MA, 12/19/79, 88 years
 Hudak, Mary, MI, 10/21/80, 85 years
 Huffine, Alan, IN, 3/6/84, 47 years
 Huffman, Irma Reynolds, OH, 8/22/95, 82 years
 Hugelman, Sharon, IL, 10/24/96, 60 years
 Hula, Mary, MI, 6/18/78
 Hull, John, CA, 5/22/78
 Hutchison, Alice, FL, 10/31/73

I

Ignacac, Mary, CT, 6/19/83, 92 years
 Illiano, Amelia, NJ, 11/6/93
 Interisano, Carl, IL, 11/27/91, 78 years
 Interisano, Margaret, IL, 3/6/81
 Ishikawa, Tadasu, Japan, 7/6/84, 79 years
 Isobel, Mabel, FL, 1/22/77
 Iverson, Johanna, SD, 10/81
 Jackson, Clarence (Bus), DE, 1/8/89, 67 years
 Jackson, Joan, DE, 4/27/91, 59 years
 Jackson, Walter, CA, 10/25/96, 87 years
 Jacobs, Emily, Canada, 10/17/77, 91 years
 Jacobs, Levi, CT, 6/4/95, 77 years
 Jacobs, Mabel, NY, 5/7/83
 Jarmon, Alonzo, F., OH, 12/30/80, 62 years
 Jarmon, Arvella, OH, 8/29/96
 Jeffrey, George W., CA, 4/7/78, 86 years
 Jeffrey, Peggy, CA, 12/19/96, 96 years*
 Jensen, Elmer, WI, 10/8/84
 Jensen, Helen, WI, 10/21/90, 68 years
 Jeuck, George, FL, 2/8/78, 88 years*
 Jeuck, George M., NJ, 3/7/95, 70 years
 Jeuck, Marjorie, FL, 9/12/78, 79 years
 Jeuck, Stanley, FL, 1/2/84, 59 years
 Jezuit, Caroline, IL, 11/7/74, 78 years
 Jezuit, Eugene (Gene), IL, 2/1/86, 64 years
 Jezuit, John, IL, 11/26/82, 88 years*
 Jezuit, Leonard, IL, 12/21/96, 76 years
 Jezuit, Michael, IL, 11/16/79, 82 years
 Jinjoe, Janet, Canada, 11/5/96, 70 years
 Jinjoe, Stanley, Canada, 12/25/94
 Johnson, Eva, DE, 1/12/81, 103 years
 Johnson, Helen, MI, 4/5/87, 71 years
 Johnson, Hilda, MN, 3/83, 97 years
 Johnson, Mabel, MI, 11/16/84
 Johnson, Margaret, IN, 10/16/76, 80 years
 Johnson, Maxine, WA, 3/2/96
 Jones, Hattie M., NJ, 2/1/88, 89 years*

Jones, Helene, NY, 2/23/86, 101 years*
 Jones, Samuel H., NJ, 10/24/73, 85 years*
 Jordan, James C., PA, 8/31/86, 102 years*
 Josiah, William, NY, 3/2/78, 80 years
 Joslin, Alice Mondo, CT, 7/8/74
 Judkins, Horace, TX, 3/6/89, 71 years
 Jurek, Walter, IL, 8/19/94

K

Kabaker, Sylvia, IL, 1/29/92, 69 years
 Kalata, Helen, IN, 11/7/81, 79 years
 Kalata, John, IN, 6/21/86, 97 years
 Kaleta, Stanislaw, Poland, 12/9/96, 73 years
 Kalinski, Ignatz, MI, 6/79, 85 years
 Kamerauskas, Mary, IL, 1/14/91, 95 years
 Kaminski, Apolona, KY, 9/18/96, 97 years*
 Kandel, Edward, IL, 7/17/78, 61 years
 Kane, Laura, DE, 12/8/89, 91 years
 Kane, Morris, DE, 8/27/87
 Kane, Morris, Sr., MD, 1/25/76
 Karas, Peter, CT, 6/15/79, 80 years
 Karczmarzyk, John, IL, 4/25/80, 90 years
 Karczmarzyk, Victoria, IL, 3/28/80, 90 years
 Karedis, Alice, IL, 5/31/89, 92 years
 Karns, Raymond, OH, 3/8/78, 79 years
 Karoukis, Nick, OH, 7/2/81, 86 years
 Karr, Joseph, IL & WI, 5/6/97, 77 years
 Karr, Valaria, IL & WI, 12/30/96, 79 years
 Kasmer, Helen, IL, 4/4/93, 73 years
 Kasprzak, Michael, Canada, 2/11/82, 79 years
 Katsouras, Nicholas, DC, 5/3/75
 Kavanaugh, William, KY, 8/15/96, 42 years
 Kaziak, Dan, MI, 3/31/87, 61 years
 Kaziak, Frances V., MI, 6/24/83, 86 years
 Kaziak, John, NY, 6/29/81, 85 years
 Keaton, Dean Lester, NC & IL, 11/27/93, 76 years
 Kelps, Margaret, MI, 5/18/91
 Kempinski, Helen, MI, 1/6/85, 89 years*
 Kempinski, Stefan, MI, 4/7/81
 Kendall, Elizabeth, OH, 9/16/84, 70 years
 Kendall, Frank M., FL, 9/24/86, 86 years
 Kendall, James, OH, 9/11/80, 69 years
 Kendra, Walter, MI, 9/13/97, 84 years
 Kerney, Grace, OH, 4/2/91, 94 years*
 Ketchum, Millard, PA, 5/78, 83 years
 Ketko, Stanley, MI, 12/16/87, 99 years
 Keveza, Stephanie, Canada, 3/17/85, 82 years
 Kielan, Ann, MI & OR, 12/96, 95 years*
 Kikta, Ella, CA, 12/23/96, 95 years
 Kilbase, Joseph, IN, 5/14/81, 80 years
 Kimbler, Laura Jean, OH, 2/25/86, 81 years
 King, Ethel, CA, 12/27/76, 87 years
 King, Grace, CA & OR, 9/10/79, 62 years
 King, Stella, MI, 1/21/91, 89 years
 Kirchner, Lillie, IN, 10/2/77, 74 years
 Kiszla, Walter, IN, 5/26/82, 85 years
 Klingensmith, Cleo, PA, 12/29/78, 82 years
 Klinick, Nicklas, Canada, 6/20/97, 75 years
 Klug, Olga, IL, 10/31/90, 75 years
 Knapp, John, OR, 10/20/97, 78 years
 Kocak, George, PA, 7/5/92
 Koenemann, Gloria, MO, 10/27/86
 Kojas, Agape, NY, 2/11/91, 64 years
 Kolliman, Myzra, DE, 1/12/94, 92 years
 Kolliman, Peter, DE, 10/9/84, 87 years
 Komanowski, Antonina, Canada, 8/29/96, 86 years

- Konkol, Anna, OH, 4/13/77, 80+ years
 Koropchuk, Nettie, Canada, 1/6/82, 85 years
 Kosiek, Andrew, MI, 4/8/78, 90 years*
 Kosmach, Adam, Canada, 2/22/76, 74 years
 Kostelancik, Sam, IL, 10/14/94, 80 years
 Koszka, Stanley, NY, 7/3/75, 51 years
 Koterba, Anna, NJ, 2/25/77, 80 years
 Kotulah, Frances, MI, 2/85, 82 years
 Kotulak, John, MI, 2/24/83, 84 years
 Kowalczyk, William, IL, 7/10/86, 73 years
 Kozak, George, PA, 7/5/92, 76 years
 Kragerud, Palma, NM, 1/4/85, 92 years
 Krecher, Christa, Germany, 12/6/76, 83 years
 Kreivis, Mary, IL, 7/16/90, 94 years
 Krewatch, Ed, DE, 1986
 Krukowski, Antonia, Canada, 3/14/83
 Krumpholt, Ethel, NJ, 2/16/78, 89 years
 Krupa, Vernie, OR, 7/12/97, 81 years
 Kubala, Joseph, IL, 12/30/84, 92 years
 Kubala, Stella, IL, 4/19/87, 93 years*
 Kuchta, Victoria, MI, 9/16/76, 79 years
 Kuehmichel, Harold C., WI, 1/13/83, 62 years
 Kukevich, Hattie, WI, 3/16/90, 77 years
 Kulpa, Helen, MI, 4/8/82, 87 years
 Kumar, Peter Suriya, India, 10/5/97, 47 years
 Kupski, Rose, MI, 2/9/76, 90 years
 Kvetko, Sabina, MI, 9/15/92, 95 years
 Kwiatkowski, Sophia, MA, 5/8/86, 50 years
 Kwiatkowski, Tom, MA & FL, 8/8/93, 68 years
 Kwolek, Henry F., MI, 9/17/97, 82 years
 Kwolek, Joseph M., MI, 8/13/89, 72 years
 Kypros, Sam, IL, 5/13/89, 96 years
 Kyragakis, Magda, FL, 11/11/77, 79 years
- L**
 Lach, Anna, MI & PA, 6/27/80
 Laciak, Vincent, MI, 5/4/85, 92 years
 Lalik, Bernice, MI, 4/7/95
 Lalik, Paul, MI, 8/27/77
 Lambie, Freda, MI, 11/23/80, 79 years
 Lancaster, Dorothy Dean, FL, 10/24/85, 70 years
 Langer, Hannah, IL & OR, 7/30/97, 92 years
 Langer, Sidney, IL & OR, 2/13/89, 96 years
 Lankeim, Walter, FL, 9/3/85, 70 years
 Larson, Gilbert, IL, 5/24/96, 81 years
 Larson, Patricia Y., IL, 5/6/84, 69 years
 LaSota, Anastasia, IN, 10/31/94, 86 years
 Latina, Anthony, CT, 1974
 Latina, Lois, CT, 3/6/94, 72 years
 Lawrence, Carwin, CO, 4/27/86, 50 years
 Lechniuk, Marcis, WI, 2/1/79, 85 years
 Lee, Grace, IN, 4/73
 Lentocha, Walter, MI, 7/29/80, 80+ years
 Lenz, John, MI, 6/28/85, 90 years
 Leonard, Wilhelmina, FL, 12/3/82, 92 years
 Leslie, Dorothy, WA, 6/23/90, 70 years
 Leverett, Vera, PA, 3/8/93, 93 years*
 Lewicki, Vicki, MI, 4/27/90, 87 years*
 Lewis, Evelyn, England, 3/86, 73 years
 Lewton, Dagmar Hill, OR, 7/19/88, 76 years
 Lewton, Florence, OR, 10/27/84, 72 years*
 Ligocki, Florence Adamski, IL, 7/12/95
 Limper, Ernest, NY, 7/28/84, 94 years
 Lipowski, Katherine, IN, 5/14/93, 84 years
 Liskey, Paul, OR, 1/86
 Little, Alice M., PA, 5/25/82, 87 years*
- Litton, Lenore, OH, 4/13/85, 88 years
 Litwin, Florence, FL, 1/6/86, 81 years
 Litwin, Mary, IL, 8/4/91, 77 years
 Litwin, William, FL, 3/10/80, 84 years
 Livermore, Jean, Israel, 4/13/88, 71 years
 Locks, Grace, OH, 7/25/85
 Lockwood, Ora, MI, 3/7/91
 Lodbell, Lucy, IL, 1977
 Logan, Walter, FL, 12/12/82, 62 years
 Lomonaco, B. Angelo, NY, 2/27/81
 Lone, Gordon James, WI, 8/22/97, 68 years
 Longest, Clore, KY, 2/14/75, 97 years
 Loomis, Grace, OH, 9/2/73
 Loomis, Ludlow, OH, 8/8/79, 80 years*
 Lorenz, Mary, CO, 3/23/89, 96 years*
 Lowther, Adelaide L., TX, 8/23/83, 81 years
 Lowther, Bert, TX, 11/14/78, 82 years*
 Lunda, Louise, MI, 10/27/88
 Lunda, Myrl, MI, 11/9/84
 Luttermoser, Harold, MI, 1/4/85, 84 years
 Lympelopoulos, John, Greece, 9/80
 Lynn, Woodrow, CA, 9/25/79, 53 years
- M**
 MacAlister, Minnie, OH, 1/20/87, 94 years*
 MacAlister, Ollie, NY, 3/1/74
 MacJilton, Martha, PA, 5/14/88, 98 years*
 Macaitis, Mary, IL, 1/96, 95 years
 Mace, Irene, FL, 2/14/82, 74 years
 Magda, Anna, Canada, 9/20/84, 79 years
 Magda, Br. R., Canada, 12/20/77
 Maier, Martha, NY, 6/14/86, 79 years
 Majka, Angeline, IL, 6/26/96, 86 years*
 Malkauskas, Clara M., PA, 12/14/89, 92 years*
 Maloan, Alice L., Canada, 11/7/90, 101 years*
 Mammone, Emanuel, CT, 1/11/85
 Manuel, Gus, OR, 1/1/74
 Manuel, James, India, 11/3/97, 84 years
 Maples, Maud, OH, 12/1/90, 88 years
 Maples, Sanford, OH, 1/9/90*
 Marek, Nellis, IL, 7/18/81, 87 years
 Marjanowski, Rose, IL, 9/22/81, 86 years
 Markiewicz, Joe, IL & CO, 2/20/92, 83 years
 Markunas, Anna, IL, 4/8/78, 90 years
 Markus, Henry, MI, 11/22/90, 77 years
 Marzewski, Rose, MI, 10/11/76, 84 years
 Martens, Peter, Canada, 1/9/82, 74 years*
 Martig, Lucy, PA, 8/11/90, 81 years
 Martin, Ernest E., Australia, 6/28/88, 87 years
 Martin, Minnie, IN, 2/15/83, 98 years*
 Martyniuk, Mary, MI, 9/21/80, 64 years
 Marzewski, Rose, MI, 10/11/76, 84 years
 Mascalco, Dan, CT, 8/1/97
 Matuja, Lawrence, MI, 3/1/83, 90 years*
 Matusz, Nellie, NJ, 12/6/75, 80 years
 Mayberry, Anna, CA, 9/27/91, 85 years
 Maycock, Clifford, England, 1/18/87
 Mazurek, Eugenia, MI, 4/2/92, 92 years
 Mazurek, Paul, MI, 9/28/81, 90 years
 McChesney, Etta, OR, 3/2/79
 McClellan, Robert, IN, 10/8/90, 64 years
 McCoy, Jennie Ann, OH, 12/26/81, 48 years
 McCracken, Annie, CA, 3/10/84, 92 years
 McDaniel, Vallie, NC, 1/24/90, 82 years
 McElvaney, Fay, FL, 7/2/83, 98 years*
 McKee, William E. (Bill),
 OH, 11/15/94, 80 years
 McKinney, Appie, TX, 1/14/96, 80 years
 Meggison, Gladys, KS, 8/19/77
 Mershon, Delia A., CA, 5/18/85, 90 years
 Mesar, Steve, CA, 11/15/78, 90 years
 Meyer, Floyd, WI, 9/2/90, 77 years
 Michalyca, Dora, Canada, 5/6/93, 88 years
 Michalyca, Eugene, Canada, 2/22/93, 57 years
 Mikolitis, Mary, IL, 1/7/80, 91 years
 Minger, Eula, OH, 2/5/81, 81 years
 Mirku, David, MI, 1/10/90, 71 years
 Miskawitz, Adam, IL, 6/29/74, 62 years
 Mitchell, Martin C., NJ, 5/11/74, 78 years*
 Mitchell, Norma, NY & CT, 8/6/81, 81 years*
 Mitchka, Mary, NJ, 2/24/86, 88 years
 Mohr, Nellie, WA, 8/21/83, 94 years*
 Mokeski, Minnie, MI, 1/21/92, 90 years
 Mokzyska, Aniela, IL, 10/15/84, 97 years
 Molenaar, Nicholas, CA, 10/16/76, 89 years
 Molhoek, William John (Bill),
 OH, 8/21/87, 91 years
 Montague, Adeline, NY, 11/30/81, 88 years
 Moore, John, Canada, 7/4/77, 83 years
 Moran, Ray (Ronald), IN, 12/1/87
 Morehouse, Daniel J., IL, 4/26/74, 89 years*
 Morehouse, Leonora "Nodie",
 IL, 1/2/85, 90 years*
 Morgan, Jack, PA, 7/26/93, 72 years
 Morris, Myrtle A., AK, 7/31/83, 68 years
 Morros (Moroziewicki), Walter,
 PA, 7/28/82, 99 years
 Mount, L. E., TN, 10/71
 Mozee, Walter, FL, 2/1/78, 89 years*
 Muehlberg, Louise "Lula",
 OH, 10/16/76, 90 years
 Muhlenbruch, Adele, NJ, 3/26/80, 85 years
 Mundell, Fred, NY, 4/2/75, 88 years*
 Mundell, Irene, WA, 9/2/97, 91 years
 Muntean, Aurelia, IN, 2/23/76
 Murray, Everett, IN, 10/31/72, 94 years
 Murray, Lynne Mae, IN, 4/2/75, 94 years
 Musgrove, Alta Mildred, CA, 1/18/94, 90 years*
 Musgrove, Lloyd, CA, 11/8/78
 Musgrove, Mildred, CA, 1982
 Muthu, Br. Gnana, India, 3/97, 55 years
 Muzikant, John, NY, 12/24/80, 89 years*
- N**
 Nail, Kenneth, CA & NJ, 5/18/84, 74 years
 Nannini, Lawrence, PA, 7/73
 Nauman, Anna May, OH, 12/1/90
 Nauman, Richard, OH, 4/22/82, 85 years
 Nawrocki, Regina, IL & CA, 5/6/75, 93 years
 Needham, Victoria, MI, 6/18/92, 82 years
 Nekora, Michael, MN, 1/9/77
 Nelson, Eunice, MI, 11/9/87
 Nelson, Mollie B., CA, 8/31/97, 83 years
 Neunlist, Rudy, TX, 1/85
 New, Ruth, TX, 11/6/88
 Newell, Arthur, IL, 1/15/90, 89 years*
 Newsome, Evelyn, OH, 4/9/94, 89 years*
 Nicol, Blanche, OH, 5/4/74*
 Niemczak, Frank, MI, 4/12/83, 65 years
 Niemczak, Joseph, MI, 6/22/78, 83 years
 Niemczak, Katherine, MI, 2/6/86
 Niemyski, Joseph, IN, 7/27/90, 99 years

Nochta, Paul, OH, 6/5/77, 89 years
 Norby, Leon, NJ, 10/30/76, 74 years*
 Norby, Mary Rogers, NJ, 7/14/96, 103 years*
 Novak, Joseph, MI, 3/1/78, 62 years
 Nowak, Helen S., MI, 4/29/89, 94 years
 Nowakowski, Aniela, IL, 11/16/78, 90 years

O

Ochab, Harriet Babinski, FL, 4/6/75, 75 years
 Ogan, Walter, KS, 12/31/97, 86 years
 Olchowy, John, Canada, 6/15/97, 77 years
 Olchowy, Paul, Canada, 12/14/81, 24 years
 Olszanski, Mary, IL, 2/23/93, 99 years
 Onusko, Mary, Canada, 9/15/84, 99 years
 Osier, Mina, Iowa, 8/12/77, 93 years
 Osochowski, Julia, MI, 6/30/82, 86 years
 Ostrander, Gustin P., NY, 7/24/75, 95 years*
 Ostrander, Howard, CA, 4/21/76*
 Ostrander, Letitia, NY, 11/3/76, 94 years*
 Ostroski, Pauline, IL, 1982, 93 years
 O'Toole, Elealeh, CA, 8/1/74, 77 years
 Ott, Evalyn Siglin, CA, 6/8/74, 84 years*
 Overbey, Orvilla, IL & AR, 4/24/78
 Overton, Jean, IN, 2/8/95, 80 years
 Owczarski, Alice, WI, 5/29/85, 52 years
 Owen, Dorothy, CO, 2/3/86, 92 years

P

Pacek, Mary, IL, 4/3/79, 105 years
 Page, Tom, FL, 1996
 Pagels, Frederick, NY, 2/6/78, 91 years
 Pakulski, Kasimer, IL, 9/29/77
 Pamplung, Amy Faith, England, 9/1/93, 95 years*
 Panczyk, Caroline, IL, 1/29/85, 89 years
 Papajak, Antoine, France, 1995
 Paprocki, Rosalie, IL, 9/29/80, 83 years
 Pardue, William A., MO, 12/5/82, 94 years*
 Paris, Thelma, OH, 1/30/86, 83 years
 Parkinson, Marjorie, IL, 4/15/94, 88 years
 Parsons, Flora, OR, 1979, 95 years*
 Parsons, Frank, OR, 1/5/74
 Parsons, Br. Marmaduke, Canada, 10/3/89
 Paschall, Rosa, VA, 11/12/80, 91 years*
 Passios, Harry, PA, 11/8/82, 85 years*
 Passios, Theodore, MI, 1/19/91, 58 years
 Patterson, James, IL, 5/25/89, 100 years
 Patterson, Mary, Canada, 7/5/92, 94 years
 Paul, Willy, West Germany, 5/76
 Pawlikowski, Julia, OH, 2/2/77, 84 years
 Payton, Ben, OH, 2/4/84, 95 years
 Pazucha, Violet, WI, 9/24/95, 77 years
 Pazucha, Sr., WI, 9/77, 80+ years
 Pearson, Agatha, OH, 5/18/97, 91 years
 Pearson, John Enoch, OH, 5/5/90, 97 years
 Pease, Carrie, CA, 9/14/77
 Pee, Cecelia Ora, CA, 4/6/80, 95 years*
 Pennington, Ann, NJ & IN, 2/12/93, 100 years
 Penrose, Ernest (Bunk), OH, 8/11/92, 80 years
 Perry, Alma, CA, 8/11/74
 Petermann, Claire, IN, 6/18/95, 90 years
 Peters, John, IL, 3/25/96, 86 years
 Piekot, Jozefa, MI, 11/17/84, 96 years
 Pierson, Lewis I., SC, 3/2/77
 Pietrowski, Caroline, IL, 4/5/89, 103 years
 Pikula, Mae, IL, 5/22/90, 81 years
 Pilijan, Zuzanna, OH, 2/11/92, 98 years
 Pitner, Betty, CA, 1/5/90

Plaga, Amelia, NY, 9/24/78, 100 years
 Pocius, Margie, MI, 5/6/78
 Pockowski, Edward, CT, 3/8/95, 85 years
 Poe, Emilie T., OH, 10/8/74, 80 years*
 Poe, Wilbur N., OH, 11/26/81, 91 years*
 Poland, Roy, IN, 10/92, 100 years
 Poland, Ruth, IN, 10/31/77
 Pollock, G. Russell, CA, 4/15/76, 78 years
 Polly, Sr. Freddie June, CA, 6/82, 54 years
 Polniaszek, Zofia, IL, 3/1/84, 90 years
 Porter, Stanley, CA, 1974
 Post (Poskonka), Caroline, IL, 4/9/77, 86 years
 Post, James Clinton, Canada, 1/15/97, 106*
 Potts, Roxie, OH, 4/28/77, 83 years
 Pound, Flossa, IN, 8/11/77, 86 years*
 Pound, Harold, IN, 8/11/77, 89 years*
 Powell, Frank A. PA, 1/18/76, 89 years
 Price, Rachel "Rae", Australia, 10/25/85, 68 years
 Price, Wilf, Canada, 5/19/77, 85 years*
 Priest, Marion, CT, 10/23/97, 66 years
 Proffitt, Carrie, OH, 12/73
 Prokop, Stanley, NY, 3/15/76, 94 years
 Prosken, Sandra, IL, 12/26/92, 49 years
 Prout, Katherine M., AR, 11/7/81, 87 years
 Prutzman, Janie, MO, 9/29/95, 85 years
 Przeborowski, Rose, IL, 10/6/84, 97 years
 Pukas, Elsie, CA, 1/24/87
 Pulios, Angelos, IL, 6/2/81, 82 years
 Pyne, Sr. C. E., NY, 1985

Q-R

Raffel, Alvin R., OH, 4/24/87, 81 years*
 Ralick, Victoria, NJ, 7/17/75, 80+ years
 Ramey, May, IN, 8/7/75, 87 years
 Ranger, Irma, OR, 2/75
 Ranger, Stewart (Ned), OR, 8/14/76
 Rawson, A. Carl, MI, 1/5/80, 84 years*
 Read, John T., IL, 8/29/78, 101 years*
 Read, Percy L., MO, 2/20/80, 93 years*
 Reames, Dorothy, IN, 4/7/93, 71 years
 Redeker, Anna, CA, 4/16/84, 89 years*
 Regman, Melanie, IN, 10/20/72, 86 years
 Reid, Muriel, NY, 1/1/81, 84 years*
 Reidel, Ben, OH, 9/15/78, 87 years
 Reinhardt, Edna, MI, 6/18/94, 94 years
 Repoz, Irene, WA, 3/80, 64 years
 Rice, Ellanora, OH, 3/14/95, 87 years
 Rice, Esther, OR, 4/22/82, 38 years
 Richardson, Ben, Canada, 12/21/72
 Richardson, John, WA, 2/12/76
 Richardson, Sarah, Canada, 6/5/75, 91 years*
 Ridge, Emma, Canada, 2/25/77, 95 years*
 Riedel, Violet, NJ, 1/85
 Riker, Pearl, OH, 10/8/84, 82 years*
 Ritchie, Nellie B., DE, 12/13/81, 91 years*
 Ritchie, Robert, PA, 3/83, 65 years
 Roark, Don, FL, 1975
 Roark, Ruth, FL, 12/28/85, 85 years
 Roberts, Florence, NY, 3/6/90, 96 years
 Robinson, Pauline, OR, 4/21/87*
 Robinson, Rich (Dick) Frederick, OR, 4/19/95
 Roe, Walter, TX, 1/5/84, 67 years
 Roelke, Helene, CA & WI, 12/3/86, 83 years
 Rogers, Edna P., PA, 9/6/80, 94 years*
 Rogers, Jenny, IL, 1/15/85, 94 years
 Rose, Effie, MI, 6/12/75, 76 years

Rosinski, Michael, PA, 4/30/89, 61 years
 Roskiewicz, Frances, MI, 7/16/75
 Roskiewicz, Stephen, MI, 8/28/90, 77 years
 Rostad, Gundborg, IL, 2/6/80, 85 years
 Rostad, John, IL, 6/19/76, 83 years
 Roy, Julia, IN, 2/1/89, 76 years*
 Rubbert, Linea, NJ, 10/2/79, 84 years*
 Rudnicki, Marie, IL, 2/5/82, 64 years
 Ruddell, Clara, PA & FL, 6/19/74, 84 years
 Ruggirello, Leo, IL, 3/19/85, 68 years
 Ruggirello, Sara, IL, 5/8/96, 78 years
 Rushton, Frank, Canada, 11/19/90, 72 years
 Rutemiller, Tina, CO, 11/20/89, 89 years
 Rutkowski, Vincent, MI, 9/12/79
 Ryba, Julia, MI, 11/1/88, 92 years
 Ryba, William, CA, 9/73
 Ryll, Mary, MI, 1/3/78, 89 years

S

Sammons, Ben J., OH, 9/72
 Sampson, Anna, PA, 6/17/79, 52 years
 Sanders, Ella V., NY & AL, 10/19/78, 95 years
 Sanders, Helen, MI, 11/3/90, 71 years
 Sanoshis, Elizabeth, IL, 1/4/79, 89 years
 Saphore, Frieda, Israel, 1978, 90 years*
 Sarna, Anthony, MI, 3/3/85, 93 years
 Sawatske, Mary, Canada, 2/11/81, 97 years*
 Sawyer, Peter, CA, 6/5/76
 Schab, Antoni, Poland, 1995
 Schaeffer, Paula, CT, 7/75, 89 years
 Scheel, Elizabeth, WI, 4/5/80
 Schiffner, Wayne Russell, CO, 8/19/86, 70 years*
 Schilling, Virginia, MO, 5/2/74
 Schmidt, Albert A., TN, 5/83
 Schnee, Mary Katherine, IN, 3/22/95, 69 years
 Schnee, Roy, OH, 8/22/94, 77 years
 Schultz, John, MA, 5/16/81, 71 years
 Schultz, John, OR, 11/85, 90+ years
 Schurr, Lillian, NJ, 3/24/81, 84 years
 Schwartz, Ann, OH, 2/20/93, 99 years
 Scott, Ethel, OH, 8/15/90, 90 years
 Scott, Leonard, MO, 9/15/78
 Scully, Emily, CT, 1985
 Seikman, Mary, IL, 1/12/79, 78 years
 Seklemian, Robert, CA, 4/12/84, 85 years
 Seklemian, Ruth, CA, 9/2/81, 81 years*
 Selders, Carolyn, OH, 6/10/75, 56 years
 Seremak, Bernice, MI, 6/7/84, 86 years*
 Shaltis, Mary, IL, 4/20/83, 86 years
 Shanassey, Carl Herbert, Canada, 1/19/92, 71 years
 Sharp, Gladys, NM, 6/22/92, 83 years
 Sharpe, John "Hap", NC, 7/18/83, 70 years
 Sheline, William Delbert, OH, 11/19/82, 70 years
 Shumacher, Alex, TX, 1/78, 80+ years
 Siesky, Eva L., PA, 1/12/78, 89 years*
 Sievert, Mabel, WA, 7/6/84, 92 years
 Simcek, Victoria, IL, 2/16/95, 88 years
 Siwak, Julia, Canada, 1/2/89, 84 years*
 Skein, David, IL, 6/3/95
 Skibitsky, John, Canada, 12/76, 73 years
 Skruch, Helen, IL, 2/1/78, 62 years
 Skruch, Joseph, IL, 11/26/90, 78 years
 Skwierowska, Victoria, IL, 8/14/84
 Slavich, John, Sr., FL, 6/30/88, 66 years
 Slivinsky, Helen, CT, 1/19/79, 73 years*
 Slivinsky, Walter, FL, 9/13/83, 71 years

Smalarz, Walter, MI, 7/29/80, 68 years
 Smietanski, Filousa, IL, 1984, 94 years
 Smilsky, Nellie, Canada, 11/12/91, 84 years
 Smith, Bessie, WA, 5/19/79, 80 years
 Smith, Theodore A., WA, 2/21/83, 79 years
 Smyth, William, Canada, 3/23/90
 Snipes, Ida May McMillen, TX, 1/15/75, 78 years
 Snively, Grace, WA, 9/14/76, 94 years
 Snoes, John, Canada, 5/18/83, 89 years
 Snow, Dora, MA & MI, 1/5/89, 100 years*
 Snow, Lyman B., MA, 4/3/78, 95 years*
 Solowy, Stefan, OH, 7/12/96, 86 years
 Solum, Harold, CT, 12/7/78, 76 years
 Soper, Wanda, CA, 2/21/75, 82 years
 Southworth, Margaret, CA, 10/75
 Southworth, Tom, CA, 11/9/73
 Sowers, Stuart, PA, 11/7/79
 Speerbrecher, Marshall, WI, 1996, 82 years
 Spielman, Ray, OH, 1/1/76, 60 years
 Stanoslovitis, Vera, MI, 4/22/92, 102 years
 Stansberry, Harold, IN, 8/31/95, 81 years
 Stark, Sister, Canada, 11/72
 Stark, Tom, Canada, 8/3/77, 91 years
 Stasica, Joseph, IL, 4/4/86
 Staub, Arnold, CA, 9/7/81
 Staub, Winifred, CA, 8/21/80, 68 years
 Stec, Albert, IL, 11/25/76, 90 years*
 Stec, Katherine, IL, 12/31/77, 90 years
 Steinhauer, Walter, CA & WA, 4/9/91
 Stephens, Wesley, FL, 1977
 Stevens, Sr., Canada, 1996
 Stevens, Victor, Canada, 1996
 Stewart, Evelyn, MI, 4/2/74, 40 years
 Stiegemeier, Iona, IL, 7/15/91, 74 years
 Stocker, Carl, MI, 11/20/79
 Stocker, Henrietta, MI & OR, 10/26/92, 75 years
 Stocki, Ignace, Canada, 8/15/76, 80 years
 Strang, Charles (Bill), PA, 5/23/86, 59 years
 Stratton, David, 93 years
 Strawhince, CT, 9/13/87, 99 years
 Strickland, Henry, NE & CT, 1/25/81, 80 years
 Strickland, Mary, NE & CT, 7/10/89, 87 years
 Stromberg, Walfred, IL, 8/20/80, 87 years
 Sturm, Jane, MI, 10/1/76, 90+ years
 Sturman, Susan J., OH, 4/24/78, 82 years
 Suchanek, Czeslew, Poland, 1995
 Suchy, Alice, WI, 6/3/91, 75 years
 Suraci, Andrew, CT, 1/27/82
 Suraci, Domenick, CT, 9/7/80, 93 years
 Suttle, Grace C., OH, 10/10/76, 97 years*
 Svab, Charles, Canada, 12/5/73
 Sweet, Eveline, WA, 7/96, 97 years*
 Sweet, Joseph, MI, 6/13/90
 Swiderek, Frank, IL, 12/25/90, 90 years
 Swigart, Elmer, UT, 6/13/84
 Swigart, Mary, UT, 1/25/92, 91 years
 Sychta, Clara, IL, 2/5/85, 97 years
 Szafraniec, Stanley, IL, 9/30/81, 64 years
 Szczesny, Joseph, WI, 7/30/75, 81 years
 Szekely, Mathe (Br. Miklos),
 Romania, 2/13/96, 72 years
 Sziatiak, William, IL, 4/27/87, 91 years

T

Tabaczynski, Stella, IN, 4/16/83, 87 years*
 Tarnawski, Frank, NY, 9/1/81, 92 years*

Tarnawski, John, Canada, 9/9/89, 85 years
 Tarkowski, Maria, MI, 7/28/83, 89 years
 Teklinski, Alex, NJ, 2/10/86,
 Tench, Daisy, Canada, 1984, 93 years*
 Thackray, Lily, Canada, 12/1/77, 93 years*
 Thomas, Eulalia, OH, 11/82, 92 years
 Thomas, Grace, MO, 3/30/77
 Thomason, Jay D., TX, 4/2/82
 Thomson, Paul E., OH, 8/17/73, 95 years*
 Thornberg, Teresa, IL, 1/21/85, 75 years
 Thornberg, Weston, IL & OR, 2/94, 83 years
 Tivador, Elaine, MI, 12/10/84, 44 years
 Tolwinski, Mary, NJ, 12/29/93, 92 years
 Trice, Joyce, DE, 1/24/86, 50 years
 Trautfelter, John H., MD, 3/75, 86 years
 Tryzna, John, IL, 12/30/89, 70 years
 Tryzna, Theodore, IL, 9/2/90, 74 years
 Tschappat, Douglas W., OH, 1/16/96, 69 years
 Tsimonis, Stamatia, CT, 9/28/88, 91 years

U-V

Ukrainski, John, IL, 3/25/95, 85 years
 Ukrainski, Katherine, IL, 11/9/78, 88 years
 Ukrainski, Rose, IL, 1/23/86
 Ulicini, John, IN, 11/26/72
 Ulicini, John, IN, 3/11/95
 Urban, Joseph, MI, 10/31/85, 88 years*
 Uyrcki, Dorothy, IN, 2/13/89
 Vaile, Josephine, IL, 8/10/97
 Valentine, Mae L., KS, 12/12/82
 Vanagas, Mary, OH, 8/7/80, 84 years
 Vander Boegh, Pauline Winske,
 MI, 4/22/93, 76 years
 Van Horn, Bryon, PA, 1/17/80, 83 years
 Van Horne, Genevieve, FL, 11/6/78, 87 years
 Van Horne, Joseph I., FL, 8/15/78, 87 years*
 van Oosten, C. J., WA, 3/25/96, 88 years
 Villasana, Ellen, MO, 6/95, 43 years
 Voight, Helena, IL, 2/74
 Vrooman, Henry, FL, 1/11/77

W

Warywoda, Alex, IL, 6/8/92, 91 years
 Warywoda, Mary, IL, 5/31/80, 76 years
 Waschuk, Feodot, MI, 12/1/81, 90+ years
 Wachnicki, Edmund, MI, 6/18/77, 61 years
 Waytina, Helen, MA, 10/10/93, 75 years
 Weaver, Anna, CA, 10/25/88*
 Webster, Earl, CO, 11/21/85
 Webster, Madeline, WI, 3/76
 Webster, Rosina, CO, 7/10/95, 91 years
 Weeber, Gordon, New Zealand, 8/73
 Weida, Claude R., PA, 12/71
 Wendeln, Ethel B., IN, 7/87, 98 years
 Wennlund, Ruth, IL, 10/9/84
 Wesol, Lucille, IN, 7/16/86, 64 years
 Wesolowski, Carl, MI, 9/15/79, 87 years
 Wesolowski, Maria, IL, 10/11/74
 Wesolowski, Matthew, IL, 5/22/74
 Westfall, Ota, TX, 3/29/80, 79 years
 Westrup, Linda, IL, 11/23/74, 89 years*
 Wething, Palmer, MN, 8/17/86, 84 years
 Whiteside, Robin, LA, 4/24/74
 Widga, Catherine, MI, 8/22/85, 85 years
 Wiegman, Margaret, OH, 7/23/84, 63 years
 Wilcox, E. Roscoe, WA, 5/14/74
 Wilcznski, Bernice, MI, 1977, 80 years

Wilkins, Mary, AR, 2/3/86, 80 years*
 Willett, Nina, AZ, 1/5/73
 Williams, Kenneth, MO, 5/18/97, 82 years
 Williams, Lorita, NY, 9/12/90*
 Williams, Ora Mae, MO, 9/26/80
 Williams, Warren, NC, 10/5/84, 46 years
 Willox, Lucinda, CA, 5/80
 Wilson, George M., PA, 11/11/74, 85 years*
 Winans, Fred, DE, 3/4/96
 Wingo, Genevieve, TN, 5/7/80, 73 years
 Wingo, Br. J. L., TN, 3/4/88, 88 years
 Winske, Leo, MI, 11/12/77, 56 years
 Witt, John T., MO, 6/9/75
 Wnorowski, Sophie, FL, 10/14/87, 85 years
 Wnorowski, Stephanie, FL, 3/9/76, 75 years
 Wnorowski, Wallace, FL, 10/16/88, 94 years
 Wojcik, Ellie, MI, 5/1/85, 61 years
 Wojcik, Natalie, MI, 1/1/85, 96 years
 Wojcik, Walter, FL, 5/14/93, 74 years
 Wojtczak, Ronald, IL, 12/7/88, 56 years
 Wolczynski, Valeria, IL, 2/15/82, 89 years
 Woodard, Mary, CA, 3/13/89, 75 years
 Woodworth, W. Norman,
 NJ, 10/29/75, 84 years*
 Wozniak, Joseph, IL, 4/11/80, 86 years
 Wozny, Antonia, Canada, 1/6/82, 90 years
 Wraith, Jessie, OH, 4/29/84, 84 years
 Wylam, Ernest G., IL & IN, 12/15/81, 93 years
 Wynimko, Walter, MI, 3/8/78, 84 years
 Wynn, Jennie, AL, 8/14/92
 Wyskiel, Rosalie, MI, 11/28/92
 Wysocki, Anna Mae, PA, 12/24/77
 Wysocki, Marie, IL, 9/27/80, 80 years

X-Y-Z

Yaneski, John, CT, 4/24/86, 67 years
 Yakus, Marie, IL, 4/27/88, 73 years
 Yerex, Carleton K., OR, 12/12/81, 85 years
 Yost, Roberta, CT, 4/23/95, 54 years
 Young, Gladys, CO, 3/23/82, 83 years
 Young, Howard K., OH, 7/29/92, 90 years
 Zaboski, Steve, PA, 8/31/93, 62 years
 Zarzycki, Anna, IL, 1979, 89 years
 Zasadzinski, Stella, IL, 6/10/81, 85 years
 Zavist, Fred, IL, 1/28/80, 90 years
 Zawacki, Stanley, MI, 3/15/81, 88 years
 Zbrojski, Ben, MI, 11/14/94, 89 years
 Zebracki, Sophie, IL, 3/29/89, 94 years
 Zehner, Gladys, KS, 9/28/93, 96 years
 Zeigler, Grace, OH, 8/19/75, 83 years*
 Zembick, Vivian, Canada, 12/15/84, 41 years
 Zielinski, Gladys, MA, 2/26/91
 Ziembe, May Post, OH, 6/8/77, 78 years
 Zink, Katrina, IL, 4/13/82, 89 years
 Zirges, Willis, MO, 5/6/79, 86 years*
 Zolnierski, Stanley, 5/31/97, 81 years
 Zolniewicz, Sr. Xenia, WI, 8/18/91
 Zolynski, Katherine, NY, 12/1/84
 Zubowsky, Charles, IL, 5/17/97, 91 years
 Zubrey, Amelia, DE, 1/74
 Zubrey, Joseph, DE, 1974
 Zwahlen, Ann, IL, 5/2/89, 78 years
 Zwicki, Elizabeth, NY, 9/24/78, 78 years
 Zych, Edward, IL, 1/22/85, 68 years
 Zygodlo, Sophia, IL, 7/4/91, 95 years
 Zytkeiwicz, Anna, MA, 8/12/77, 96 years*



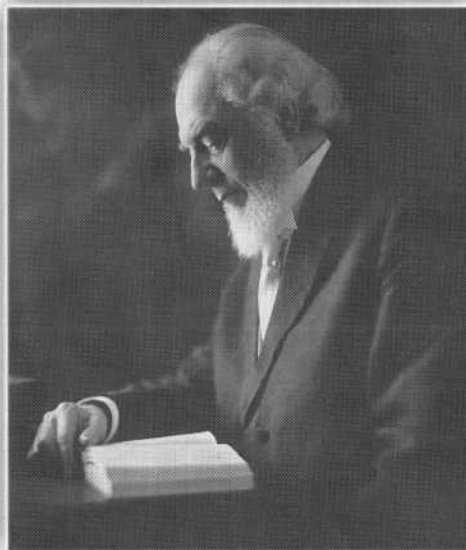
A Tribute to Pastor Charles Taze Russell

The following tribute was written by Br. A. I. Ritchie, Vice President of the Society at the time of Br. Russell's death. Shortly after Br. Russell's death, Br. Ritchie was one of the four directors, appointed by Br. Russell, to be dismissed by the new president. We give you excerpts from Br. Ritchie's observations:

"...In 1910 I went to the Brooklyn Tabernacle where I became Br. Russell's private secretary and vice president of the Society, and acting manager of the correspondence department for six years until the day of his death. These duties required almost daily conferences with him... during which we discussed thousands of Bible and related matters. I came to know him very well, and the more I saw of him the greater he seemed to me. I never met any one who knew his Bible so well, or who lived so good a life. He was an inspiration to better living to all who knew him.

"He was a very rapid and accurate worker with a philosophical mind and a deep sense of humor, which was a great help in points of distinction between truth and error. He accomplished what would have been a life work of half a dozen men, and his work was lasting. His tracts, books, and sermons were the most Scriptural and helpful ever published. For many years he was the teacher of multitudes; and largely helped to mold the best thought on Bible teaching. He corrected the old erroneous view about hell fire for the dead, apostolic succession, the claim that salvation was confined to this age and to members of some recognized church, the heathen idea of the trinity, higher criticism, evolution, etc. He clarified and set in order the Bible doctrine of the ransom, high calling, the steps of justification by faith and consecration, Christian liberty, and development of character, the hidden mystery of the Church's suffering with Jesus and later reigning with Him; the times of the Gentiles ending in 1914, the distinction of natures, the Millennium, Christ's kingdom and its near approach, the true meaning of the Tabernacle of Witness, the symbolism of the Bible, the witness of the great Pyramid of Egypt, etc. He startled the religious world by accepting no salary, taking no collections, and spending all of his personal fortune in the work.

"In his necessary exposures of prevalent error he accomplished it by making the truth so clear, convincing and attractive that the error was repulsive by contrast. He never spoke unkindly of those who tried to uphold and defend wrong doctrines. He felt and spoke kindly of them; and never resorted in kind for the multitude of cruel slanders and attacks made upon him. Naturally stern and severe, he endeavored to always show the spirit of his Master under all circumstances, and so succeeded in building Christian character that it showed in his face and general carriage so that men would stop and gaze after him as he passed—to his embarrassment.



"My impression of him was that he accomplished a thing, rare among Christians: the fulfilling of the 'first and greatest command.' 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind and strength.' He did not hesitate to promptly do what he thought to be God's will for him, at whatever might be the cost to himself. A favorite text was: 'Because thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips

shall praise thee.' He was a notable 'example of the believers in word and deed.' Doubtless his early love and zeal, absolute loyalty and natural and cultivated talents caused him to be chosen as that wise and faithful servant who would be made steward of his Master's goods, to give meat in season to the household, during the parousia of the Lord... As the harvest work progressed, it absorbed more of his wealth, time, thought and labor, until none of us knew him apart from the Lord's work...

"One great lesson we can glean from his life and from those of God's great men of the Bible and all time, is that to live near God, and merit His favor and blessing require that we shall in our hearts leave the multitude, who are always largely worldly-minded, and go to that quiet lonely place where we can listen to His voice, and serve Him without hinderance."

On October 31, 1916, our beloved Pastor, Charles T. Russell finished his earthly course on a train in Texas. The loss of that great spiritual leader left a void in the lives of a whole generation of Bible Students that never could be filled. □



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Statement of Purpose

The Bible Students Newsletter is sponsored by the Miami Valley Bible Students Ecclesia (Ohio) whose elders are its Editorial Committee. It is published as a cooperative effort of Bible Students who believe in the doctrines presented in the Holy Scriptures as revealed by our returned Lord through his faithful and wise servant, the late Pastor Charles Taze Russell, and promulgated through the Six Volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures*, *Tabernacle Shadows* and other of Pastor Russell's writings.

Its purpose is to disseminate news and information, other than doctrinal matters, of interest among Bible Students aforementioned.

Ecclesias and individual brethren are invited to submit authentic information for publication, subject to approval by the Editorial Committee. Please refer to Convention page in each quarterly issue for guidelines on the submission of convention listings. News items should be verified by sender, as the sponsors cannot assume responsibility for their accuracy.