

United Church of God *an International Association*

Robert Dick
Chairman

Clyde Kilough
President

Home Office Update January 6, 2006

Warm greetings to everyone from Cincinnati,

The level of activity here at the home office has noticeably increased this week as the 54 incoming students for the 2006 Ambassador Bible Center program have been moving in and preparing to start classes on Monday, Jan. 8. We are delighted to have them here and look forward to a very good year in helping them become more grounded in the Bible and the ways of God.

You will be reading in the next *United News* details about this year's Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, held Dec. 23 to 27. Somewhere between 1,500 and 1,700 people attended (it was hard to get an exact head count with so many activities going on at different locations), and from the feedback we received it was an outstanding event. This is the largest church-wide event we host each year outside of the Feast of Tabernacles, and it is certainly the one with the greatest number of children, teens and young adults in one location. There was such a good blend of young and old and in between, making for truly a family atmosphere. On behalf of everyone present, I deeply thank Mark and Colleen Winner for all their work in heading up the WFW organization, and also thank the scores of volunteers whose efforts made all the activities flow so smoothly. We had no less than 200 to 250 more in attendance compared to last year, and we're already planning now for WFW 2006!

On the following pages you will read a number of different reports of the latest happenings in the Church. Of particularly encouraging note is the continuing trend for more and more people to be involved as donors and coworkers, evidence God is indeed working in people's lives to help them consider the gospel message! Let's never cease to pray for these individuals, that the seeds of truth that are being sown in their hearts and minds will grow more and more. This world needs God so desperately, and so do we; so let's stay close to Him and one another!

With kindest regards,
Clyde Kilough

~~Ambassador Bible Center Update~~

Most of the ABC students have now arrived here in Cincinnati for the 2006 year. Our seven-month biblical studies program begins with orientation on Sunday, Jan. 8, and classes begin on Monday, Jan. 9. We are all excited and ready to welcome the new class of 2006!

We will have our largest class ever with 54 students (30 women and 24 men). We have also updated the student computer lab with new computers, and we have nearly completed all the cataloging of the 2,500 volumes in our reference library. We are very thankful to the Blackwell and Hoeh estates for their contributions to our ABC reference library.

We already have five applications submitted for the 2007 ABC year! For any who may be interested in attending ABC next year, please consider sending your application early! We have just printed new catalogs that are available upon request. Applications are available online.

Dave Register

All-Ambassador Reunion—A Huge Success

The Farmington Room walls were bulging with Ambassadors from the '60s through 2005. Our largest gathering yet—over 250—attended this yearly event in connection with the Winter Family Weekend. After services the room began to fill as AC, AU and ABC grads and students fellowshiped with one another. Hugs, “war stories,” collegiate experiences and current happenings were shared with one another.

The finger foods were delicious, as was the pizza. A cash bar as well as coffee and brownies were available for consumption. The room was tastefully and hastily decorated by Kathy and Jorge de Campos, Marjolaine Meeker and Dave and Becky Johnson. There were two tables filled with *Envoys* and pictorials for any who cared to see how they looked in their earlier years. AC, AU and ABC mugs, T-shirts and sweatshirts were also on display. My wife, Barb, and I served as greeters.

Seven o'clock came all too soon as the event came to a successful conclusion. Before the evening ended, however, gifts were given in recognition of the earliest graduates and those who came the greatest distance. Richard Pinelli, class of '61, was the earliest graduate in attendance. Robert Fahey, class of '65, received the runner-up gift. Those who came the greatest distance were from California. Dan and Debbie Bates received one award and Jonathan Reimann received the second gift. The prizes were ABC mugs filled with Hershey's chocolates. Congratulations to all of them.

It has been a real pleasure to organize and coordinate this event. My wife and I truly enjoyed seeing and reminiscing with so many of you! My thanks to Kathy de Campos and the others who helped to make this event special for so many.

Next year, David Johnson will be coordinating this event since he is now working at ABC with Alumni Affairs and this event naturally fits into his job description. We look forward to seeing most of you again next year and others who desire to renew old acquaintances and make new ones at the All-Ambassador Reunion.

Gary E. Antion

Beyond Today Gathering Momentum

This week a “DVD sampler” of the first four *Beyond Today* video programs was mailed to all pastors. Enclosed was a letter from Clyde Kilough requesting pastors to show some of the programs to their congregations. A second document was also enclosed that outlined how U.S. members can work on getting the program on cable-access TV channels in their own town or city. Pastors should receive their copy by the end of the week.

On January 11 and 12 four more *Beyond Today* video programs will be recorded in the new media center, with Darris McNeely hosting. This will bring our total to 12 programs. To date, 105 local community cable TV channels across the United States are airing the program, plus our presence on the World Wide Web is gaining momentum. In the United States, if you are interested in hosting the program on your local town's community access TV station, please contact John LaBissoniere at john_labissoniere@ucg.org or by telephone at (888) 369-9940.

Our multimedia Web site, which hosts these programs, is adding more content each week at www.beyondtoday.tv. You can presently view material from the first four programs. Be sure to visit and watch the video clips! You can view broadband, high-quality clips, plus download dial-up versions if you have a slower Internet connection. QuickTime files are also available for download to video iPods so that *Beyond Today* can be viewed while on the road!

Please continue to pray for the men and women involved in production of our various media efforts, including this one, that God may grant us the ability to effectively reach this world with the good news of His Kingdom.

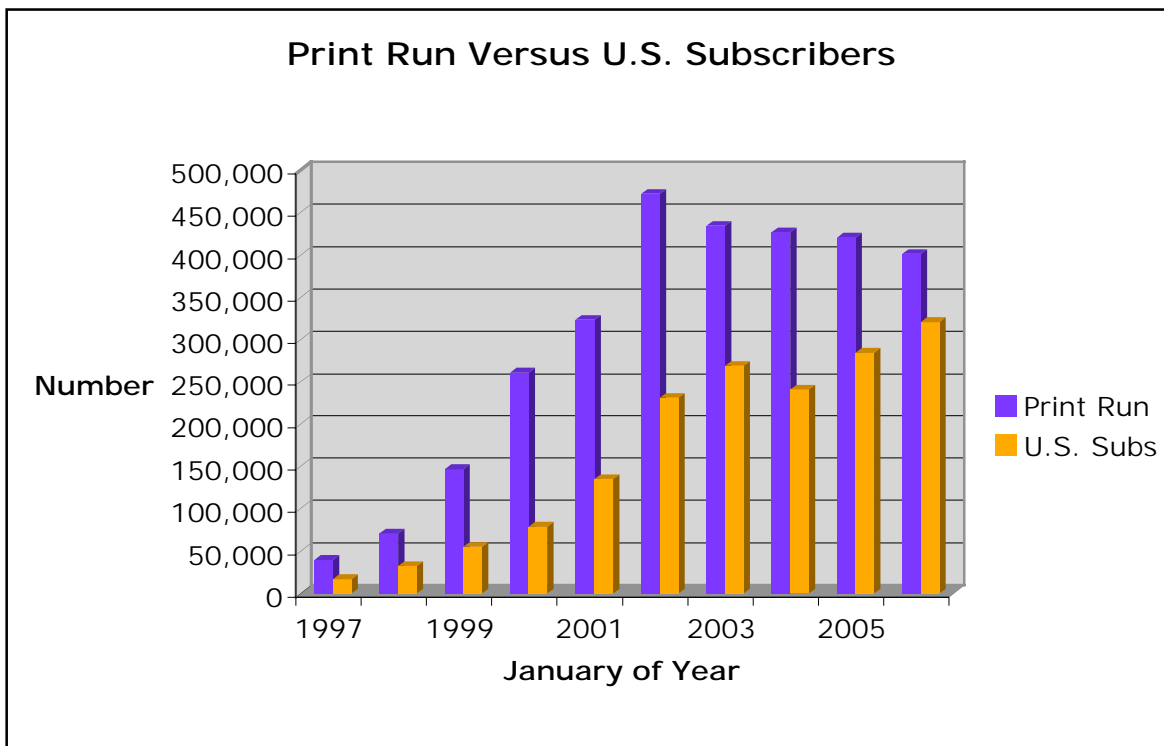
Peter Eddington

Good News Subscriptions Continue to Rise

The total print quantity of the January-February 2006 *Good News* magazine was 401,231. While this is less than our highest print run of 526,173 reached for the September-October 2002 issue, there is an encouraging trend—the number of actual “subscribers” is continuing to rise. Over the past three years, we have made a concerted effort in the United States to replace waiting room program and newsstand program copies with actual subscribers. Having actual subscribers’ addresses on file gives us greater opportunity to directly communicate with our readers with various offers and updates—something impossible to do with the publicly displayed copies.

In addition, putting less expensive advertising brochures and subscription offers on display in public venues is proving to be less expensive than tens of thousands of actual copies of the magazine itself. The following chart and bar graph show the growth of *GN* magazine subscribers over the past 10 years’ January-February issue.

January/February Issue of Year	Print Run	U.S. Subscribers
1997	39,742	17,000
1998	71,030	32,606
1999	146,883	55,000
2000	261,372	78,926
2001	323,568	134,900
2002	472,028	230,615
2003	434,419	269,304
2004	426,671	240,515
2005	420,520	284,501
2006	401,231	321,089



Peter Eddington

Good News Subscription Brochure Program

Since January 1, 2005, over 300 brethren and congregations have participated in our updated *Good News* subscription brochure program. In the past 12 months, members have distributed over 108,000 brochures on 1,500 clear acrylic display units. This is a large increase over 2004 when just 14,000 brochures were distributed on 300 displays. Congratulations to our brethren for their excellent effort in helping publish the good news of the Kingdom!

As you may know, this “take-one” distribution program has proven to be a very cost-effective means of reaching new people with the gospel. Brochures cost less than 4 cents each to print and distribute. Over recent years, subscriber response has reached an excellent 3.7 percent at only \$2.43 cost per response.

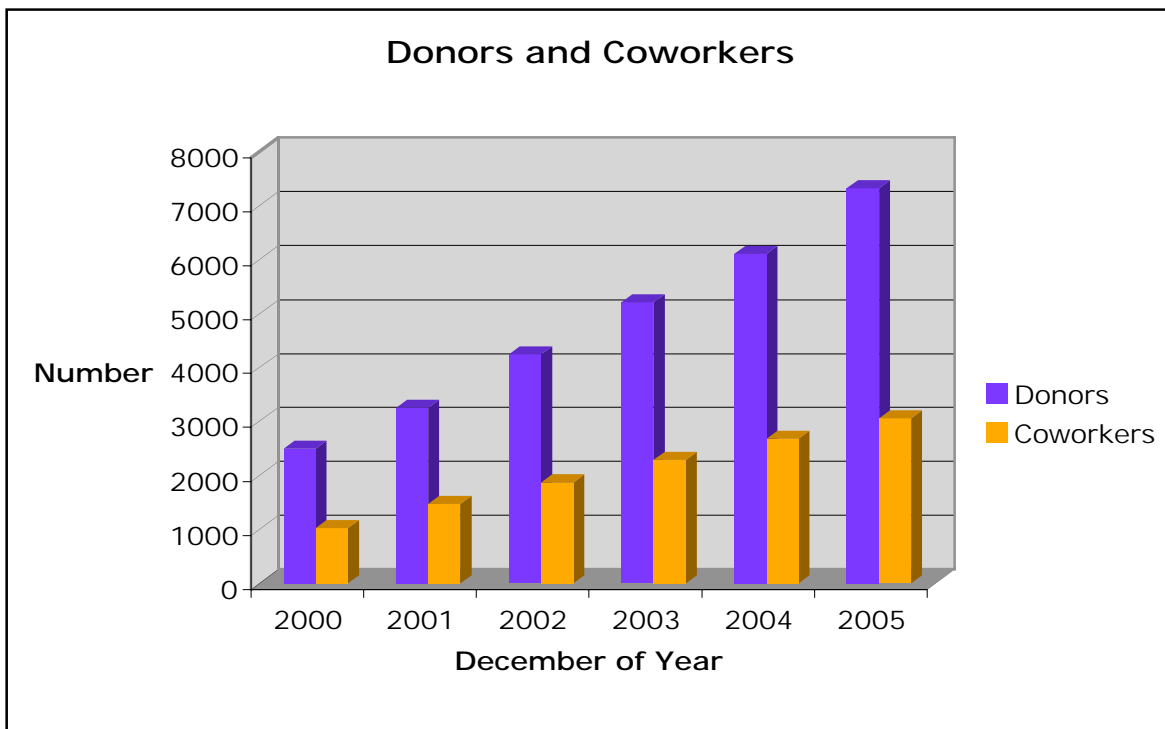
Currently we have about 95,000 subscription brochures in inventory awaiting distribution. We highly encourage many more brethren to become involved in the program. To request a supply of materials, please write to John LaBissoniere at john_labissoniere@ucg.org or call him toll-free at (888) 369-9940.

John LaBissoniere

Coworkers and Donors

Reports show that about 8 percent of United’s income has come from those people who do not consider themselves part of UCG. We currently have 7,323 donors and 3,055 coworkers on our file. It is very encouraging to see a continued increase from year to year in the number of people who want to contribute to the work of the Church!

Please continue to pray that God will send forth *more* laborers to assist with the massive work of preaching the gospel of His Kingdom around the globe. At this time, many of our readers may not make a lifetime commitment to the truth as baptized members; but as in years past, God can use coworkers and donors to play a key role in providing resources for the work of the Church.



Peter Eddington

Personal Correspondence

We sent 89 letters out from PCD in December, making a total of 1,063 for 2005, which represents a slight decrease from the previous year. Perhaps more subscribers are migrating to e-mail as their way of contacting us. Here are some of the highlights of the surface mail this month.

An inmate who has studied most of our literature and who appears to be a serious prospective member asked to start baptism counseling. Another inmate prospective member asked for prayers as he seeks God's help in turning his life around. Facing a possible divorce over coming into the Church, a subscriber asked us to pray for her. A reader who is in a Middle Eastern country on a two-year, 7-day-per-week work program in order to support his family thousands of miles away wants to keep the Sabbath and to tithe, but needs a miracle to do so.

The Question & Answer column in *The Good News* on the second resurrection stirred several questions. This truth is new to many, and it is therefore controversial. The Trinity is another hot-button issue that inspired some angry challenges to our teachings. And a subscriber questioned why we published a statement that South Africa was an Israelite country when it is a majority black nation. A reader thought that Judas told a mysterious secret in betraying Christ, and he wanted to know what it was.

A regular reader of our publications happened to come across a different Church of God organization, and he was taken aback by the fact that this other organization seems to be preaching the gospel of the Kingdom. He said that he would now split his tithe between the two organizations and wait for God to show him which one is *the* true Church.

Another of our subscribers proposed a contest to us. We would sponsor a competition on proving that the Bible has no contradictions and put up the cash prizes. He would be the quizmaster and he wants to receive the cash for stumping challengers. Another subscriber wrote that she is using our literature in Sunday school classes and that she appreciates it a great deal.

Cecil Maranville