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PCG'S FIRST LADY SEALED

*Worldwide
family
remembers
her impact*

By Sarah Leap

EDMOND—The last 14 years of Barbara Flurry's life as first lady of the Philadelphia Church of God will be what she's most remembered for. Her dedication and service to the end-time Work of God profoundly impacted the family—her own and the entire Church of God.

Barbara Jeanne Brewer was born on Jan. 17, 1944, in Houston, Tex. She came into the Worldwide Church of God in her late teens in St. Louis, Mo., and was baptized in the spring of 1964. Of the many single men in the congregation there, a man named Gerald Flurry was happy to see a nice young lady in an area starved of female prospects. On Nov. 15, 1964, the two were married.



Firsthand

**My mother:
an example
of service**

By Laura Turgeon

EDMOND—Watching a loved one die is not easy, as was the case with my mother, Barbara Jeanne Flurry, during the early morning hours of September 5. But after she took her last breath, she looked so peaceful. I was flooded with such wonderful memories of a mother who dedicated her life to God's truth, her husband and her children.

My mom didn't have the best childhood. Her father was an alcoholic. Her parents divorced before she was 10 years old, and in the early 1960s there was still a stigma attached to divorce. Because my grandma had to work such long hours, my mother and her siblings were basically left to raise themselves.

starved of female prospects. On Nov. 15, 1964, the two were married.

The young Mrs. Flurry developed into a woman that many will remember for the example she set as the wife of "that prophet." In the early years of the PCG, she did everything she could to support her husband in his commission—from helping mail the *Trumpet* magazine to working in accounting.

As time passed, she more personally helped her husband in his watchman Work. In 1998, when Mr. Flurry was receiving new revelation on Daniel, there was a Sabbath he debated whether to speak. His wife encouraged him to do so. "If you've never seen the warrior side of my wife, it's something to behold. She never lets up," he told the brethren



Barbara Jeanne Flurry 1944-2004

chuckling. "But I thought, well, sometimes God uses her to get to me, and I began to pray about it, and I thought, well, I felt very sure God did want me to talk about this subject today."

Mr. Flurry repeatedly commented on how his wife had brought key points to his attention. She was always on the lookout for news items to help him. In

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PERSONAL from the Editor in Chief

Gerald Flurry

Where we are NOW in prophecy!

September 5 marked a dramatic day in the history of God's Church. On that day—40 months after the beginning of the "last hour"—Barbara Jeanne Flurry died.

Since her death, my family and I have received an outpouring of cards, e-mails, flowers and kind words of encouragement from our brethren all over the world. I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support on our behalf.

Also since my wife's death, I have received new revelation about *where we are* IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN HISTORY! This new revelation—revolving around the death of my wife—should stir us to a more profound sense of urgency!

In John 21, Christ told the Apostle Peter that he would be martyred. This bothered Peter. Peter wanted to know why John was not to be martyred. Christ responded, "[W]hat is that to thee?" (verse 23). God has different jobs for all of us; we all serve a different function in the body.

I believe my wife was, in a sense, a MARTYR. Five years ago, God revealed more to me about the book of Ezekiel, now contained in *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet*. This booklet explained how Ezekiel's prophecies are specifically about OUR WORK TODAY.

Some of that revelation had to do with the death of Ezekiel's wife and how God instructed him to continue with the Work.

Ezekiel 24:16 reads, "Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes *with a stroke*: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down."

I will admit that my wife was bothered by that revelation, and so was I.

Now that my wife has died—after a series of strokes—I believe we must give urgent attention to these prophecies.

Verses 17 and 18 read, "Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men. So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded."

In verse 19, the people asked Ezekiel what it all meant. He responded with God's message: "Then I answered them, The word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitieth; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall FALL BY THE SWORD" (verses 20-21).

See EZEKIEL, page 8

her siblings were basically left to raise themselves.

Why do I mention this? Because my mother often told me I would do a better job with my family than she did (and I thought she did a good job) because I was reared in the truth.

My father and mother overcame great obstacles in their early years, but with God's help all things are possible. God used them mightily—as He continues to do with my father.

There are wonderful memories of my mom: the daily phone call of "What are you doing?", coming over at a moment's notice to babysit, helping me prepare a fancy meal, taking one of the kids to an extracurricular activity, giving me advice on rearing children.

But the memory that stands out above all else is her desire to serve others in need. This was especially true here at headquarters.

She helped elderly widows find housing. She found used furniture for singles and young married couples. She cooked meals for divorced dads and their children. She had extensive knowledge about health and often gave encouraging advice to those who experienced health trials. She helped furnish the buildings at headquarters and at Imperial College. And that's just to name a few.

Often my mom would say to me, "I just don't feel like I get to do much to help with the Work."

When she would say this, I would try to encourage her by reminding her of all that she did for others.

That point was made much more forcefully when we received card after card describing encouraging deeds my mother had done for many of the brethren.

I will miss my mother greatly, but she left all of us a wonderful example of service. I can't wait to see her again when she is restored to full health, ready to pitch in and help wherever it's needed.

My to-do list

DAVENTRY, England—About 20 years ago I heard a sermon at a Feast of Tabernacles that was given by a visiting minister. The subject was prayer. That sermon was one of the most effective I have ever heard on this subject. What made that sermon so effective was the example he gave of his prayer list. The minister reached into his jacket pocket and took out a small notebook, his “prayer to-do list,” and began discussing the various things he needed to pray about, especially for his congregations. This minister’s prayer list really impacted my mind and encouraged me to keep a detailed prayer list.

I have often been asked over the years, “What do I pray about?” Some say, “I don’t feel like praying,” or “I can’t pray



THINK ON
THESE THINGS
ALEX HARRISON

for more than 10 minutes.” These are very real problems for sure! What about you? Even Christ’s own disciples implored their Master, “Lord, teach us to

pray” (Luke 11:1).

The ability to pray is NOT INSTINCTIVE. In the case of a person who wants to pray but can’t think of things to say, we know that, as Christ said, “the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41). That is no excuse, however. Christ also said that “men ought always to pray, and not to faint [lose heart]” (Luke 18:1).

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, “Pray without ceasing.” How can we pray without ceasing, or pray without losing heart, or pray continually, if we are not able to sustain 10 or so minutes of earnest supplication before our minds go completely dry? The answer is simple: PLAN YOUR PRAYERS.

I am not addressing the mechanics of how to pray, such as what the best position is. I am talking about the simple

problem of trying to pray yet being unable to think of anything to say.

The solution is a simple one, yet ignored by many: Ponder what to pray about! MAKE A PRAYER LIST.

As you see a need or hear of a problem, write it down. Put your list in front of you when your prayer time comes. Your prayers are important to you and God, and they deserve to be properly planned.

Making a prayer list will force you to think about the needs of others, of your needs, and the needs of God’s Work and God’s Church. This will ensure that when prayer time comes, you will focus on the important things. Your list will serve as an automatic memory. Often I will say to someone after some very specific counselling, “I will pray for you.”

You don’t want to forget your promise; that’s where your *to-do list* of prayer comes in.

You may want to use a notebook with a separate page for each category. You may choose to divide your categories according to Matthew 6:9-13. Get *detailed*. Don’t write “pray about the Work.” Get out the *Philadelphia News* and write down specific details about the Work—e.g. *The Key of David* distribution, call center operators, literature requests, names of people involved, production, subjects for Mr. Flurry and his inspiration, etc. Focus perhaps on two or three areas of prayer, then move on to others.

Review your prayer list every week. Update it. Don’t be trapped in repetition; don’t just read out your list to God—that’s a pitfall to avoid. Your prayer list is for planning your prayers, but don’t think that you can *only* pray about what’s on your current prayer list: You can pray about spontaneous thoughts and ideas too.

God is a planner. To be effective, we should all plan to be mentally prepared in what to say to Him in prayer. For many this may be a small step, but you will find that your prayer life will take a giant leap!

If you don’t have a prayer list, begin now. You will find it a very effective way of planning your communication with God and improving the power of your prayers. Instead of asking, “What am I going to pray about?” you will be asking yourself, “When am I going to get the time necessary to pray about *all* these things?”

James 5:16 states, “The effectual fervent prayer of a right-

THE WORK IN BRIEF

Auditorium talks begin

On August 24, Church officials met with architects from Rees and Associates, the firm that designed the Hall of Administration, to discuss plans for an auditorium. Church representatives gave the architects an Ambassador Auditorium brochure as an example and a preliminary seating capacity of 700-800 people. The auditorium’s footprint should be about three times larger than the Hall of Administration. Discussions continued on how the auditorium would be placed on the land next to the Hall of Administration.

EDMOND—Last issue I gave you a challenge. It’s been a while since the Feast of Tabernacles, but there is a way to keep that Feast vision alive the rest of the year. The further into the past the Feast gets, the harder we have to work to ensure it remains vivid in our thinking.

The specific way we talked about to stoke the Feast vision was to *transform our families into little kingdoms of God*. That means having a dad at the head who is striving to emulate both Jesus Christ’s example as a husband and God the Father’s example as a dad. The more righteous and godly we are as



FAMILY
MATTERS
JOEL HILLIKER

hold! How terribly deceived and pitiful is the modern idea

in your child rearing: “[Hannah] saw that if she had a son, it would be a total waste to rear him without God’s truth and let the devil have him. Hannah realized God gives you a child as a *gift*, so you can give the child back to Him spiritually!”

Now note this statement: “HAVING A CHILD IS ABOUT BRINGING THE WHOLE WORLD AT ONE WITH GOD—one child at a time! We are supporting Christ in that effort. Why are we bringing them at one with God? So they too can be members of the God Family. That’s the only reason.” Wow!

It’s amazing to meditate on this. First, God has given us the

be placed on the land next to the Hall of Administration, and parking lot ideas for the area. Supplementary discussions centered around possible auditorium facilities and their features, including sizes of the lobby, stage, an audio-visual room and a balcony; as well as the orchestra pit, piano storage, dressing rooms, and other areas associated with the performances to be held there. Architects have begun conceptual sketches from ideas presented at this meeting.

Correspondence Course

On September 2, editor in chief Gerald Flurry met with Editorial officials to make decisions regarding the *Imperial College Bible Correspondence Course* (bcc)—evaluating the merits of the 58-lesson course of the 1960s as compared with the more-focused 32-lesson course revised by Mr. Armstrong between 1981 and 1985. Piecing together clues from coworker letters and articles, they tried to determine what Mr. Armstrong's intent was with the course. Mr. Flurry pointed out that, of the various arms of the Work, the bcc fit into the Great Commission to the world. The decision was made to produce a 32-lesson course specifically for the world, a number Mr. Flurry wants to remain flexible. The layout and text for the first three lessons is almost complete, and shipment of lesson one should begin in mid-January 2005.

example as a dad. The more righteous and godly we are as fathers, the more MILLENNIAL our family life will be.

This applies to *every member* of the family: Think about what life is going to be like in God's Kingdom, with God's government in place on a worldwide scale, and strive to put that way into practice within your specific role.

Now let's talk about some specifics for mothers.

Think about it: What sort of WIFE will Christ have in His Kingdom?

Above all, she will have tremendous respect and reverence for her Husband! She will be subject to Christ in everything (Ephesians 5:24). She'll be locked in to Christ's plans, passionately seeking to help Him succeed in His responsibilities. She will put Christ first in the Family.

This is the single, most important quality of a wife and mother. The more reverent of your husband you are, the more MILLENNIAL your family life will be. *Be a king's bride!*

Certainly there may be circumstances that make this difficult. Perhaps you have an unconverted mate or are a single mom. But mothers: This is the goal—the standard. This is what God wants you to be striving for. Challenge yourself to find ways to live life as it will be in the Kingdom of God.

The woman takes the name of her husband because she has become part of his household; she has become his helpmeet. She is portraying the beautiful fact that we are going to be caught right up into and made an intimate part of God's house-

hold! How terribly deceived and pitiful is the modern idea that marriage is something that oppresses the woman—that it is a type of bondage. No—in fact it is pointing to the highest honor and office that will ever be offered to human beings!

Because Christ's bride will respect her Husband above all, she'll be very industrious. She will be busily fulfilling His goals, expanding His empire under His direction. Surely she'll be keeping His headquarters organized and beautiful.

Mothers—can you approach your job with that zeal? Can we make our homes reflect the organization and beauty of God's headquarters temple?

Another major responsibility: Christ's bride will follow His lead in teaching and rearing the children—that is, all humanity! She'll be showing them how to honor their Father, Jesus Christ. (In Isaiah 9:6, Christ is called “the everlasting Father.”) And with Christ, we will also be pointing people toward God the Father. Christ's bride will teach the children all the ins and outs of becoming royal members of the Family of God (Isaiah 30:20-21).

The same should be happening in our physical families. Mothers need to spend regular, quality *time* with the children—even setting aside other responsibilities where necessary to focus on lovingly, patiently, cheerfully *educating* them like the royalty they are.

In “Hannah's Family Vision,” the second chapter of *The God Family Vision*, Gerald Flurry talks about the importance of turning your children to God

that's the only reason.” Wow! It's amazing to meditate on this. First, God has given us the job of physically creating more God beings in embryo. Then, as we rear them, we help God complete their spiritual creation! *We're helping God make more gods!*

God has so much concern for each of our children! 1 Corinthians 7:14 says they are *holy*. Jude 1 talks about our being first sanctified by God, before being preserved and called. When are *our children* sanctified? Well, if we're putting our lives in God's hands, *they're sanctified in the womb!* Most likely not in same way as the Prophet Jeremiah, for example. But surely we start praying for them the moment we know of their existence—or even before! God has already put them in a special category. He's working in their lives from day one.

Obviously the children have their part to play in fulfilling their potential. But as Mr. Flurry brings out in *The God Family Vision*, generally if we do our part as parents, we'll have great young people who really want to be part of God's Family.

This is the exalted job of our mothers!

Think of it: Building the Family will be our job—forever!

God is teaching us our eternal family-building business as Christ's helpmeet in a very practical, day-to-day way—so we'll be ready when it is time to do it!

Mothers—give your families a taste of what it will be like to live with Christ's wife and the royal queen mother. Do all you can to make the transition from *family life* to *God Family life* that much easier! *Be a king's bride!*

James 5:16 states, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

Work on your prayer list in order to develop effective, heart-rending, fervent prayer in this LAST HOUR!

Someone once said, “I don't feel like praying.” The answer to that statement: “Talk to God about it.” Remember, the more you pray, the more you will understand about how to pray and the more heartfelt and joyful it will be. *Think on these things.*

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Editor in chief: Gerald Flurry

Senior editors: Stephen Flurry, Joel Hilliker; managing editor: Ryan Malone; assistant managing editor: Philip Nice; news editor: Ron Fraser; church news editor: Sarah Leap; contributing editors: Donna Grieves; Wik Heerma; contributors: Lisa Godeaux, Jason Hensley, Mark Jenkins, Andrew Locher, Wayne Turgeon, Richard Williams; proofreaders: Amy Flurry, Trisha Locher; photography: Aubrey Mercado; production manager: Ryan Malone

Regional correspondents: Russell Williams (Australasia), Wayne Turgeon (Canada), Ron Fraser (Central and South America), Alex Harrison (Britain, Europe, Middle East and Africa)

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Brethren unite, rejoice; HQ plans for next year

EDMOND—From September 30 to October 7, about 4,500 brethren all over the world came together at 20 sites in 16 countries to celebrate God's Feast of Tabernacles.

New Feast sites brought different people together who would normally never meet. Many brethren also traveled internationally.

Many who attended the Feast in the Netherlands commented that it was the "perfect site," as all the attendees lodged in the same place, and church services, restaurants and grocery stores were all on the same property (for more, see report, page 5).

The new Western U.S. site in San Diego was similar in this regard. Convention planner Melody Thompson,

who attended there, was excited about the Feast site and how it was "conducive to fellowship and a family atmosphere." Brethren stayed at the Town and Country Resort and Conference Center—which included the meeting hall, four swimming pools, three restaurants, a sports bar, a walk-up deli, and a mall across the street. "Everybody was right there together," she said.

Mrs. Thompson was particularly excited about this site from a planning perspective. It was "the only time we have ever been in a new Feast site that we had no problems." Mrs. Thompson attributed this to the resort being privately owned. The average tenure for an employee at Town and Country is 16 years, and most of the upper management began as bell-

men, dishwashers or housekeeping staff. Mrs. Thompson said they've worked their way up through the ranks, "so they know the hotel inside, outside, upside-down." The family atmosphere among the staff itself was "extremely evident," Mrs. Thompson said, and it made for a better Feast for the Philadelphia Church of God. "Everybody just had a wonderful serving attitude."

Two worldwide satellite transmissions and one phone hook-up in the Western Hemisphere from Pastor General Gerald Flurry brought God's Family closer in unity.

Of special significance to the brethren were the *Behind the Work* film documenting the early years of the Philadelphia era, and the screening of Barbara

Flurry's memorial service. Two unique gifts at this year's Feast were also presented: *The Last Hour* book, and the 2004 *Imperial College Envoy*.

The festival department has already begun plans for next year's Feast. One thing that will make it easier on the department is that the North American sites will remain the same.

The boundaries for the sites might change, however, according to Mrs. Thompson. The Edmond site was "maxed out" this year, so more in the central part of the country might be encouraged to go to San Diego. This would also have another benefit. "The more hotel rooms reserved in San Diego, the less it's going to cost the Church for meeting space rental," explained Mrs. Thompson. *Ryan Malone.*

Festival Reports

NORTH AMERICA

EDMOND, Okla.—The Feast site located at God's earthly headquarters in Edmond provided a beautifully appropriate setting for the very special attention directed from God's heavenly throne room to 697 of His people. From the opening night exhortation of "come and let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18) to the final "amen" on the Last Great Day, the brethren were immersed in spiritual training that can only be described as that befitting royalty.

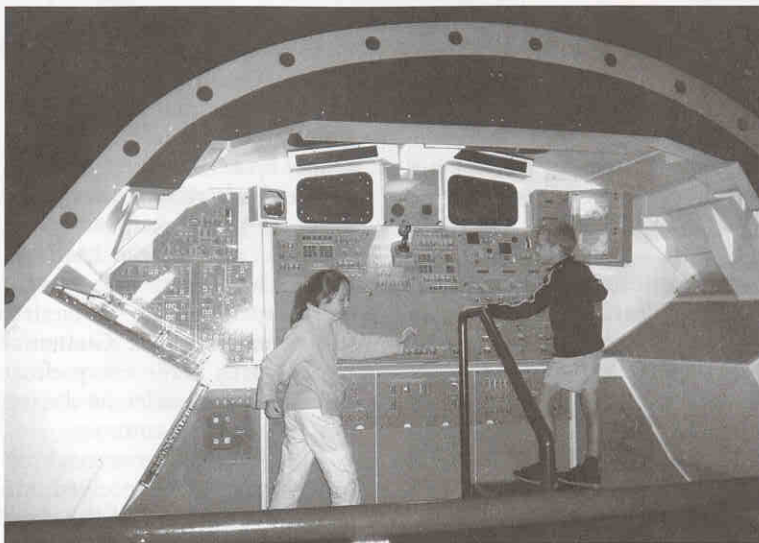
While the spiritual blessings were many, God's special



ings were many, God certainly poured out festival-grade abundance on the physical side of the ledger as well. Even our newly acquired Steinway piano was rolled out on the Last Great Day to help supercharge the hymn singing and special music.

The early fall weather in Oklahoma was mostly sunny and always comfortable, which set the stage for a very enjoyable Family Day at the Oklahoma City Zoo. In fact, all the planned activities for the children, teens, singles, seniors and families went very smoothly.

Of course, it was over far too quickly. However, brief as it seemingly was, everyone was able to take away a renewed sense of urgency for the Work, as well as a much deeper appreciation for the individual effort required in responding to the challenge put forth to the bride-to-be in Revelation 19:7. *Bryan Weeks.*



AT PLAY In Edmond (top), Feastgoers got a firsthand glimpse of headquarters' new Steinway piano, played by Imperial freshman Patrick Hogan. In San Diego (above) brethren enjoy Family Day. In Hull (left), Family Day was held at the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

GREENVILLE, S.C.—On opening night, Evangelist Marvin Campbell told us that “God desires to pour His heart out to His people.” God did so in a spectacular way, lifting us spiritually to new heights. The brethren were buzzing with excitement and wonder at how God wove everything together at the Feast like a tapestry. The special music reinforced the specially blended sermons. This, in conjunction with the spirit of unity evident among over 1,000 of God’s people, truly made this the greatest Feast ever!

The Feast was several notches up spiritually as well as physically. The beautiful weather in

the Piedmont city, nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, seemed to reflect the masterful spiritual picture God was painting right before His people. The many restaurants in Greenville made it possible for members to dine together in a kingly atmosphere and experience a taste of the Millennium.

Brethren took full advantage of Family Day by bowling, riding go-carts, roller skating and much more. The singles mixer and seniors luncheon provided great fellowship for all. Teens had a wonderful time bowling, ending with the four top teens bowling against the “Levites” (a team of mostly ministers).

Spiritually our cups overflowed with the wealth of spiritual knowledge given us. Starting with the opening night message right on through to Mr. Flurry’s crystal clear transmissions, we received meat in due season—hardly able to “gather all the fragments” of spiritual food. We left the Feast and embarked upon the coming year excited to finish the Work! *Cal Culpepper.*

HULL, Que.—The Salon de Nations Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Plaza la Chaudière, across the river from the Canadian capital of Ottawa, served as the meeting room for the

Feast in Hull.

On opening night, Festival elder Craig Winters said God had invited us to His Feast of Tabernacles to “serve in family unity and cooperation.”

God blessed the weather in Hull as temperatures were generally mild. As each day passed, the trees along the Ottawa River took on deeper and deeper hues of red, gold and brown. Several members encountered whitetail deer as they walked the trails of Gatineau Park.

The area offered enough eateries to accommodate a variety of tastes and budgets, ranging from the many local bistros within walking distance of the

Holiday Inn Plaza to the revolving Merlot Restaurant atop the Marriott Hotel in Ottawa.

Mr. Flurry’s eagerly anticipated satellite transmission messages were clear. Evangelist Wayne Turgeon’s Last Great Day message implored brethren to combine compassion with prayer in order to deepen their God Family vision and to see the need of hope for the billions who have never known God. The live phone hook-up from San Diego was clear, with only brief and intermittent moments of static, none of which detracted from the message provided through Mr.

See FEAST, next page

Feast *from page 3*

Flurry by the great I Am.

For eight days, God's people exemplified the unity, cooperation and GIVE WAY OF LIFE emphasized by many of the messages. Brethren cheerfully volunteered to serve in additional areas as needed. Many mentioned having met new people and expanding their sphere of family. In addition, there was good attendance at all of the scheduled festival activities. The conversations among the brethren primarily revolved around the messages God had provided and the joy of fellowship among the Family. *Reese Brown.*

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—The millennial setting for the Feast in San Diego, where approximately 600 brethren attended, was beautiful in every respect.

The speakers focused on the overall theme of the God Family vision in the many messages delivered during the Feast. Evangelist Stephen Flurry gave the opening night message and, along with two other messages, helped to set this theme.

Both satellite transmissions of Mr. Flurry's messages on the book of John were received flawlessly. The new revelation inspired and uplifted the brethren as Mr. Flurry expounded on the deeper understanding of what Christ has now revealed through John's Gospel. Mr. Flurry's two additional messages while visiting the San Diego site gave the brethren even more spiritual meat.

The Last Hour book was joy-



SIGHTS TO SEE Brethren in the Netherlands peruse the new Imperial Envoy (left). Colombian brethren (above) on a bus tour of Cartagena.



look to the Father just as Jesus Christ did.

After services, Mr. Flurry

English and Spanish translation was provided.

Cartagena offers a unique

Colombia.

Both satellite transmissions and the telephone hook-up were received perfectly. Brethren were also able to enjoy four downloaded sermons from the Internet given at Edmond during the Feast, in addition to sermons and sermonettes given live. Full

Flurry's memorial service and the *Philadelphia Singers* video. There were not many dry eyes at the end of the evening.

After the phone transmission on the Last Great Day, everyone scrambled to take group and individual photos as memories were captured of their special time in this city with God's beloved brethren. On this South American continent, God once again blessed His Feast with great spiritual messages, good weather, fine fellowship, wholesome activities and unity. *Larry Walker.*

RETALHULEU, Guatemala—

truly wonderful, peaceful and joyous afternoon. But when we arrived back at the hotel in the early evening, the manager told us that a great storm had swept the area while we were out, and a nearby river had overflowed, flooding the hotel grounds, except the rooms where God's people were staying. When we arrived, all was calm and normal again. We were grateful for the protection our God gives His children.

This year three children were blessed. By next January, we expect to have four more who may be present in next year's ceremony, a sign of real natural growth for God's remnant in Guatemala. *Juan Veloz.*

HUANCHACO, Peru—This year's Feast has revolutionized our lives. The meeting hall was spacious and inspiring in its colonial decor. For a small group of 15 adults and 10 children from Peru, Chile and Argentina, the enthusiasm for the commencement of the Feast of Tabernacles 2004 was evident during the hymn singing on opening night.

After this first service, we sat around a well-prepared dinner table to share a special welcome supper. The family ties began to strengthen. The Peruvian cuisine was delicious, and the Chilean wine served complemented it perfectly.

The next day, a sunny Thursday morning, the satellite reception technicians hurriedly made their connections and tests, installing their antennas by lunch time. Andrew Locher called us from Edmond. The hotel's telephones had failed to

The *Last Hour* book was joyfully received, and the brethren immediately began focusing on the deeper understanding God is revealing through "that prophet" and the events of the last hour. Many commented favorably on the *Behind the Work* presentation, the memorial service, and the *Philadelphia Singers* video.

A variety of activities was available to the brethren. San Diego is known for its zoo, wild animal park and Sea World.

Family Day was held at the Joan Kroc Community Center, with activities ranging from soccer to ice skating to rock climbing. The outing gave the brethren further opportunity to fellowship and enjoy the short-sleeve weather characteristic of Southern California. The singles activity, teen outing, seniors luncheon and Entertainment Night all added to the activities enjoyed by the Feastgoers. *Robert Locher.*

SURREY, B.C.—About 400 excited brethren convened at the tabernacle, Crystal at York, in the beautiful Canadian city of Surrey for God's Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day. Both of the satellite sermons by Pastor General Gerald Flurry came through loud and clear.

We were further blessed with a great sermon in person by Mr. Flurry on Monday. He demonstrated how much Jesus Christ pointed to the Father and how great the chasm is between God and men. He went on to describe Christ's effort to show the Jews that He was the I Am of the Old Testament. He challenged us to submit to and

After services, Mr. Flurry stood for 2½ hours talking to all who wished to speak with him. He then attended the remainder of the seniors luncheon and the DELS dinner that evening. The next day Mr. Flurry departed for San Diego.

Evangelist Wayne Turgeon attended in Surrey for the first half of the Feast. Evangelist Stephen Flurry joined us for the second half. The brethren were grateful for the opportunity to fellowship with these leading ministers and to hear their powerful sermons.

The weather in Surrey was nearly perfect for the entire Feast. It did rain a bit on Family Day; however, the activity was indoors, so the rain was not a problem. The activity was at an indoor sports arena and included a lunch of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, swimming, ice skating and fellowshiping.

Most of those attending the Feast in Surrey this year expressed a deep appreciation for the absolutely beautiful hall with adjoining rooms. It is hard to imagine a better-suited meeting place for services.

At the close of the Last Great Day, as always, departing involved many teary-eyed goodbyes accompanied with planning to meet again for next year's Feast. *Mark Nash.*

LATIN AMERICA

CARTAGENA, Colombia—Warm and tropical breezes greeted the 51 feastgoers from Colombia, Venezuela, the Bahamas, Canada and the U.S., as God placed His name for the fifth consecutive year at this Caribbean coastal city in

Cartagena offers a unique blend of the Old Historical City and also the more tourist oriented Bocagrande area. The brethren were taken on a bus tour of the Old City where they were able to shop at local markets and tour the massive Spanish fort that protected the city from foreign invaders 400 years ago, as well as other local spots.

The Feast site hotel in the Bocagrande area offered proximity to many restaurants and shops, and of course the beautiful view of the ocean and beach. Many brethren took advantage of the beach and ocean with early-morning swims and walks down the beach. Late afternoons were spent doing the same.

On Saturday evening, the hotel provided a traditional Cartagena barbecue on the hotel rooftop terrace—under the stars and surrounded by the night lights and vistas of Cartagena. The brethren shared their talents at the end of the evening with spontaneous singing and dancing.

The Family Day activity was enjoyed at the hotel pool. Games, prizes, drinks and ice cream were enjoyed by all, with a surprising cool breeze blowing off the ocean that day—a real treat for warm and humid Cartagena.

This year's special Gala Dance theme was "A Night of Unity" based on Psalms 133:1. Feastgoers were able to dance to quality Latin, big band and other fine music.

A highlight of the Feast, other than the obvious spiritual aspect of the messages, was the night everyone was able to see the film of Mrs.

RETALHULEU, Guatemala—We enjoyed a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles in the place God selected for the congregations of Guatemala, Costa Rica and Mexico to celebrate the Feast to Him. The 18 adults, 12 teens and 6 children attending stayed at the beautiful Hotel Costa Real. Luscious vegetation surrounded the hotel with a panoramic view that transports you to a World Tomorrow stage.

We enjoyed a lot of Christian fellowship, which made it possible for everyone to share the agape love that they brought to the Feast, and allowed the unity in the group to grow greatly. The Mexican brethren had great attitudes of service and contributed to all activities scheduled. The Guatemalan brethren made every effort to help all feel welcome during our stay in their country.

The powerful messages from Mr. Flurry were received via telephone link. All of the messages from Mr. Flurry and the other speakers were meat in due season for God's people.

We had the following activities during the Feast: Entertainment Night, a question-and-answer session with the youth, a formal dinner and family dance, and a trip to the Champerico Beach where we enjoyed Family Day.

At the return to the hotel from the outing at the Champerico Beach, the hotel staff told us something that filled us with a warm feeling for the protection God has for His people. We had left the hotel at 1:30 p.m. for the beach, about 20 miles away. At the beach it was sunny balmy weather—a

hotel's telephones had failed to connect our call, but member Alfonso Leon saved the day by letting us use his own cell phone, a rare find in these lands. Telephone, fax and Internet communications in this part of the world are somewhat of an endangered species. So after we watched and heard excellent and flawless satellite transmissions, we knew it had been a miracle!

Mr. Flurry's message mentioning how his wife, "Doña Bárbara" (Lady Barbara), glorified God was very revealing—as was his declaration afterward that oftentimes God's witnesses become martyrs.

The following Sabbath we heard messages very *à propos* the millennial atmosphere around us. The hotel inside has a huge patio with multiple tropical gardens, fountains and flower beds of exotic colors, sharing their exuberance through every window from every room.

Family Day saw the energetic participation of the children. Later that day, there were two tabletop sessions covering tithing, marriage, friendship, child rearing and relationships among brethren.

Entertainment Night was filled with animation in a variety of talents from children and adults. The family dance evening was enjoyed by everyone in the nicely decorated hall at the hotel, fomenting again our family unity.

The successful and clear telephone transmission (again through Mr. Leon's cell phone) of Mr. Flurry's message signaled the conclusion of the Feast with

the exhortation to submit ourselves to God with the humility of Christ, so we can attain the great honor of being the wife of our Savior. *Francisco Luna.*

CARIBBEAN

TOBAGO—Beautiful Tobago was home to 149 brethren attending God's Feast of Tabernacles in the Caribbean—represented by brethren from Trinidad, Barbados, Guyana, St. Kitts, the U.S., Canada, England and Austria. It was a welcome blessing to have our brethren from Grenada attend also. Having suffered a devastating hurricane that left them with serious damages, some with no roofs on their homes and one member without a home, they were all present at God's Feast rejoicing in the hope of the wonderful World Tomorrow (see sidebar).

Mr. Flurry's satellite transmissions were received perfectly as was his audio transmission on the Last Great Day. The brethren were all fired up from these messages; to complement that, *The Last Hour* book made

it to Tobago at the start of the Feast so all the brethren could receive a copy.

We also had live sermons from Preaching Elder Sam Seebran, Local Church Elder Sam Baxter and Regional Director Ron Fraser, who was there with his wife for the first half of the Feast. The brethren, including the children, were delighted to meet them. Mr. Fraser conducted a DELS meeting which discussed growth initiatives for the Work here as well as developing leadership in the region.

As expected, the Feast was full of the enjoyment of the physical blessings God showered upon us. A tour of one of Tobago's reefs was organized, and many enjoyed snorkeling amid the beautiful coral and different varieties of fish.

On Entertainment Night, we enjoyed varied performances from locals and internationals alike.

The memorial service for Mrs. Barbara Flurry, as part of the *Behind the Work* film, gave God's worldwide family a chance to partake of the ceremony and

to bid adieu to this exemplary woman. *Sam Seebran.*

EUROPE and AFRICA

NUNSPEET, Netherlands—Imagine living in a beautiful forest with no cars, with rabbits and squirrels hopping around outside your window, with brethren as neighbors all around you, and Church services just a short walk away in a hall on the shores of a lake. This millennial setting was enjoyed by 305 of God's brethren as the backdrop for this year's Feast of Tabernacles in the Netherlands.

Many at the Feast remarked how the feeling of family unity and love was stronger than ever. Both of Mr. Flurry's messages were received without a hitch and provided a focus for the whole Feast on the importance of seeing the vision clearly and the need for a last hour sense of urgency. Mr. Flurry's new book made a really special Feast gift.

Evangelist Alex Harrison was able to spend the majority of the Feast in the Netherlands, and

we were also privileged to be joined by Preaching Elders Eric Anderson and Wik Heerma, together with their families. Another visitor to the region was Local Church Elder Gunter Schlote, from Alberta, Canada.

With everyone living so close together, there were many opportunities for spontaneous fellowship. In addition to this, organized activities included catered holy day meals for over 200 Feastgoers and a formal dinner dance. The children's party and youth activities were able to take advantage of the extensive indoor and outdoor facilities at the site.

The Family was expanded with one baptism. Four children were blessed.

The Feast was complemented by the superb hospitality and organizational capacity of the Dutch brethren and the excellent level of cooperation and favor that we received from the management of the Feast facility. *Derek Palmer.*

GEORGE, South Africa—From the opening night ingathering

service to the end of the Feast "bring 'n' braai" evening, 124 brethren from the U.S., Australia, England and South Africa were in high spirits and spoke often one to another at this year's Feast at the Protea Hotel King George.

Every day was a royal occasion spiritually, with messages given by six ministers including Preaching Elders John Durrad from England and Joel Hilliker from Edmond and Local Church Elder Jim Cocomise from Chicago with their families, with two excellent satellite transmissions by Mr. Flurry. These messages were inspiring and encouraging. Urgency toward God's Work and the building of holy righteous character were evident themes throughout the messages.

Brethren were service oriented. Responsibilities were carried out enthusiastically and the activities generated further opportunity for interaction between brethren in fun and fellowship events. The weather was good, and rain fell on the Last Great Day.

One of the Feast's highlights was the banquet and dance evening when Regional Directors Alex Harrison and Eric Anderson arrived for a short visit.

Other activities were successful—Family Day was held at the Ebb & Flo Wilderness Resort with fine weather and facilities. Brethren played, ate and fellowshiped on the grassy verge of the Toews River, and some enjoyed a hike along its upper bank.

Brethren were treated to quality videos from headquarters, including the *Philadelphia*

Grenada attends Feast despite Ivan

By Sam Seebran

TRINIDAD—When hurricane Ivan battered the Caribbean island of Grenada, over 90 percent of the buildings on the island were damaged. The PCG has a congregation of 12 here and some of the brethren suffered extensive damage to their homes and other belongings.



Sam Seebran is a preaching elder serving the West Indies congregations.

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This hurricane striking just before the Feast of Trumpets left Grenadian brethren virtually cut off from the rest of the world for a few days. Power lines and phone lines were down—including cellular service. Consequently all my attempts to contact them were futile. After a few days I was able to reach member Mary Duncan. She reported on her family and one other member, Xavier Christopher, who had the roof of his home blown off. Ms. Duncan's home was not damaged. Neither Ms. Duncan nor Mr. Christopher could report on the others because the roads were impassable, and the government had enforced an island-wide curfew to minimize the crowding of the streets, as there was widespread looting.

It was not until many weeks later that we were able to verify that the brethren were all safe, but that quite a few sustained damages to their property. One prospective member, Martin Lett, had his home completely demolished. The home of another member, Alfred Phillips, was partially destroyed and almost all of his belongings either damaged or destroyed. The home of our contact person, Calkins Munro, was damaged and his roof blown off.

The day after the hurricane brought a reality that only few could imagine. What must it be like to wake up the morning after to find yourself without a home, electricity or drinking water and your entire country shattered? This is what our brethren had to face. Added to that, food was running out. Even though I could contact some of them intermittently, there was nothing I could do—there was no way to get food supplies or water to them. Through it all, though, we were thankful that they were all okay.

The Feast of Trumpets was coming up, and shortly before that I made contact with one member, Andrew Hosten. The building where he lived did not sustain any damages, and he had some food sup-



CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS *The Grenada congregation.*

plies. He assured me that he would do his best to contact everyone and to ensure that they had something to eat and drink. By this time fuel was being made available at some gas stations, and Mr. Hosten made contact with most everyone. He also arranged to have most of the brethren meet at the Munro home for Trumpets. They met in the lower floor of their home, since the roof was gone, and they did all they could do to secure whatever they had in case it rained. It literally brought tears to the eyes of some of the brethren in Trinidad when I told them that Mr. Hosten had even held choir practice, since a few were to be part of the Feast choir. These brethren demonstrated remarkable faith and attitude. They also met as a group and kept the Day of Atonement.

What was even more remarkable was that ALL OF THEM attended the Feast in Tobago. They simply boarded up and covered up what was left of their possessions after the hurricane and headed for the place where God had placed His name, and they came in high spirits. Those who practiced during their ordeal gave a sterling performance in the Feast choir. Mr. Hosten also volunteered to serve as a shuttle driver at the Feast. Mr. Munro had suffered a devastating car accident a little more than a year before this, and he too was at the Feast even though he had lost almost all of his Sabbath clothes. I had two extra suits that I gave him, and he looked sharp in them every day. The brethren from the Trinidad congregation had organized a collection of food and clothing prior to the Feast, which we took on the ferry over to Tobago. Added to this, some of the other

brethren, including some of the transferring brethren, brought in used clothing. The Grenadian brethren used what they could and then boxed up the remainder to take to back to donate to others.

The faith and vision of these brethren were an inspiration to all at the Feast. For eight days, they took their minds off this present world—a world that is a whole lot different than ours.

What remarkable faith from these brethren! They are indeed Abraham's children in faith. God's Word testifies of this type of faith among His people: "And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:15-16).

This example makes us wonder about the things that we allow to keep us away from Sabbath or holy day services. It also makes us see the role that others can play, like Mr. Hosten, in serving to keep the brethren together and in doing whatever possible to be a helper of the brethren's joy.

To date many of them are still trying to put their lives and homes back together again; most are still without electricity. Still they meet every Sabbath and are working on getting the Church's newsstand program up and running in Grenada. The great God who knows and sees all things will surely reward these brethren for their living faith in Him, and that faith will surely inspire all of us when we, too, are confronted with severe trials.

ers, including the Philadelphia Singers, *Behind the Work* and the sobering and encouraging memorial service for Mrs. Barbara Flurry. A children's party was held on Victoria Bay Beach with games and a treasure hunt. The youth met at the Three Chameleons for lunch and putt-putt. Seniors enjoyed meeting for tea and scones at the King George Hotel, fellowshiping in the beauty of the hotel gardens. Just off the coast of Mossel Bay, 30 singles and young marrieds went for a seal island trip aboard the motor-sailing boat *Romonza*. *Gerry Meaker.*

NYANGA, Zimbabwe—For seven years running, the Feast has been held in the beautiful and serene Nyanga National Park in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. This year, the Feast site had an international flavor with brethren from Botswana and South Africa.

The two satellite transmissions were a mighty success as the picture and sound were crystal clear.

Family Day started off with the weather threatening to be cloudy and windy. But our heavenly Father, as always, proved His faithfulness and mastery over all things, including weather, which turned sunny at mid-morning. Children enjoyed swimming, flying rings, a sack race and volleyball.

The children's party was blessed by beautiful weather. Children thoroughly enjoyed themselves in Mare Caravan Park with food galore and a wide variety of games.

See FEAST, next page

Feast *from page 5*

The fifth day, from morning to evening, was a free day awaiting the visiting minister, Preaching Elder John Durrad, so most brethren from Udu camp went mountain hiking. They conquered Mount Nyangani, Zimbabwe's highest mountain.

During the evening service, we witnessed a miracle from God and faithfulness in action. Just as the sermonette was coming to an end, the lights went off. While waiting for restoration of electricity, brethren applied resourcefulness by using car headlights, torches (flashlights) and candles to light up the hall. This did not deter the main sermon from commencing. Mr. Durrad described it as "a unique experience to give a sermon under candlelight." As Mr. Durrad started on the sub-point on the importance of writing notes to aid memory, God performed a miracle by restoring power. God proved faithful in driving the point home and from that time on, note taking resumed.

The family braai, or barbecue, was a feast of spiritual meat as well. After receiving special gratis copies of *The Last Hour* and selling out the *Imperial College Envoy*, a lot of discussion centered around God's Work.

Entertainment Night featured over 20 presentations including hilarious comedy, humorous drama, beautiful and sweet music, poetry, guitar music and the rhythmic gumboots dance. After the event,



boots dance. After the event, we bid farewell to our visiting minister.

The seniors enjoyed a delightful three-course meal at the historic Rhodes Hotel, and went to view Pungwe Falls via the scenic drive. The singles enjoyed an afternoon of cooperation in sports and games. That evening, we watched two videos: *Behind the Work* and the *Philadelphia Singers*.

For the final get-together, we converged into the Mare River caravan park under a black, star-studded sky. The potluck meal was truly delicious, capping off the best Feast ever. *Nelson Munyaradzi Nyamurowa*.

ASIA & PACIFIC ISLES

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines—For the fourth consecutive year, and for the sixth time since the PCG was established in the Philippines, Feastgoers went up to this city of pines, nestled in a mountain range more than 5,000 feet above sea level. It is sometimes called the “only air-conditioned city” in the country, which is a welcome change to the members who are used to warm and humid weather.

The meeting hall is surrounded by housing units where most of the members stayed. The city itself is a favorite destination of both local and foreign tourists, where most locations can be reached within 5 to 10 minutes by car.

More than 300 members attended the Feast here, joined by visiting ministers and guests from the U.S., New Zealand and Singapore. The satellite transmissions were successfully downloaded and were shown

ALL AGES Two sites in the Philippines offered a variety of activities and entertainment. Family Day and a formal dinner dance provided activities for young and old at the Baguio City site (above and right). The site in Davao City (top, right) featured a performance on entertainment night that highlighted the Mindanao culture.

a few hours later. The brethren received uplifting, enriching and sobering messages from Preaching Elder Pedrito Cara, Local Church Elder Francisco Villalon and visiting ministers Serafin Icasiano and Jim Hercus. They were reminded that the Feast of Tabernacles is a convention of future kings and priests who are receiving training to be leaders in the World Tomorrow.

Not a few of the brethren shed tears during the memorial service for Mrs. Flurry. Although saddened, members were encouraged by Mr. Flurry's statement that it is a time to do the Work, not to focus on our difficulties.

Family Day was memorable, with new and novel games participated in by practically everybody.

The dance night provided a royal setting. Members were encouraged to come in royal attire.

Our young people enjoyed an afternoon of bowling, and the singles participated in games designed to bring them closer together. Scattered brethren were treated to a two-hour showing of *Key of David* episodes.

The *Behind the Work* film provided additional encouragement and the *Philadelphia Singers* music video added to the rejoicing. Ministers, deacons and contact persons were treated to a dinner where Mr. Cara

discussed the need to improve communication. The need is even more pronounced for a country composed of more than 7,000 islands. *Silvino J. de Guzman*.

DAVAO CITY, Philippines—Sunny skies, a gentle sea breeze, the distant sound of the ocean's waves gently rushing to shore and the exuberant smiles of fellow brethren greeted feastgoers at Mergrande Ocean Resort in southern Philippines for the fourth year. Coming primarily from scattered areas across the main islands of Visayas and Mindanao, brethren 149 strong came together to rejoice before God.

The ocean resort proved ideal for receiving God's messages graciously served by God's local ministers, Mr. Flurry's satellite messages and taped messages from last year's Feast at headquarters. The messages focused on why and how we should keep God's Feast, our training now, and our awesome future.

After sunset on the first day, Feast activities kicked off to an enthusiastic start with a get-together under a huge canopy by the pool, where brethren shared snacks, fellowshiped and had a sing-along. Not even the rains seeping through the tent midway through the activity could dampen the spirits of eager singers.



Different age groups mingled and bonded together on Family Day with games like tissue-mummy wrap for senior-and-kid teams and a suspenseful egg toss for father-son and mother-daughter teams. Special prizes were given to the member who had attended God's Feast the most number of times and to the largest family attending the site.

Young Philadelphians and singles trooped to Eden Nature Park, a popular mountain resort in the area, wearing their colored turbans representing five different teams for their activity dubbed “Amazing Challenge.” Teams were given various clues and tasks as they went through ravine walks, boulder paths, riders and swings. It was an exhilarating adventure and a test of brain and brawn.

Entertainment Night ushers greeted attendees with a rousing “Welcome to the Millennium” and placed handmade crowns on their heads as they entered the venue. The audience experienced being in the Millennium that night and “looked back” to the cultures of “days gone by” with various musical performances and dances, highlighted by a Mindanao cultural tribal dance. Garbed in colorful ethnic costumes, the dancers gracefully moved on stage to the live music of local instruments like the gong and *kumintang*.

A heart-warming program was the highlight of the seniors' luncheon, where children and family members read out letters and messages for our beloved seniors showing them how much they are appreciated and loved.

Dance night was dubbed “A Dance Among the Stars”—an evening of ballroom dancing in a universe setting. Special drinks and cocktails were served for all, further contributing to everyone's rejoicing.

On the seventh day of the Feast, lunch was served *al fresco* style by the beach, where everyone savored bountiful fresh catch from the sea, mostly *sinugba* (grilled).

During free time, brethren used sports facilities at the site and played badminton, billiards, basketball, tennis and mini-golf.

Enhancing the spiritual rejoicing was the addition of five members to God's Family during the Feast. Baptisms were held at the beach.

Over and above the facilities, the activities and the spiritual meat that stood out at this Feast site was the appreciative attitude of the brethren. It has truly been another “best Feast ever” and everyone is filled with much anticipation to come back next year to keep God's Feast. *Aileen de Guzman*.

See FEAST, next page

Feast from page 6

SRI LANKA—This Feast for the Sri Lankan and the Indian brethren was the best Feast yet. It was also the most memorable so far with miracles and an abundance of spiritual and physical blessings bestowed by our heavenly Father. Our Father's divine intervention helped in getting the passports for our Indian brethren issued with necessary immigration clearance just a couple of days before departure in the midst of red-tape-ism and corruption at the passport office in India.

We had first planned to keep the Feast at the Hotel Sea Shells, but at the last moment the hotel cancelled the booking and transferred us to another hotel. That turned out to be a miracle from God and a blessing in disguise, for the conference facility, the rooms and the restaurant facility were better than the Hotel Sea Shells.

By the afternoon of September 29, all the Indian brethren had arrived, bringing our total up to 27. What a reunion of God's very elect once again for another Feast of Tabernacles at Hotel Golden Star Beach, Negombo, Sri Lanka.

The beautiful surroundings, the wonderful spiritual and physical foods, the fellowship with the brethren have inspired all of us very much.

The theme of the Feast, "millennial rule and beyond," encouraged all of us to overcome the evil one. When we see all the evils and the sufferings in this world, it makes us realize that only God's government can solve these problems.

ed to the defense of the Milne Bay area during World War II, where Japanese troops landed in August 1942. The same afternoon, the brethren also visited the new memorial to the young Australian and American soldiers killed defending the Alostau/Milne Bay area.

The evening of the fourth day of the Feast, the brethren held Entertainment Night, singing hymns and listening to the *Philadelphia Singers*. The Feast highlight for the brethren was to be able to view the *Behind the Work* and *Philadelphia Singers* films between services and after services on the Last Great Day and also to complete the Feast with all attending a great dinner together on the final evening. *Lance Wood*.

MT. HAGEN, Papua New Guinea—Seventeen brethren attended the Feast at Goldline Hotel, Mt. Hagen. Mt. Hagen is at the center of the Highlands of Papua New Guinea and is located at the heart of a great valley with mountains surrounding it. One of the great blessings in this part of the region is the nice cool weather with light winds.

God placed His name in this beautiful setting to help us grasp the glorious future awaiting us. The messages gave us a choice of whether to love this world or to take strides to overcome and serve in the imminent God Family government. We truly enjoyed a wholesome Feast and have come out with renewed strength and courage to rally behind God's end-time prophet and His ministry. *John Meli*.

NADI, Fiji—A convention of

rairie and the overseas visitors, took a day cruise to the Beachcomber Island. This was where picture postcards were brought to life—the endless aqua blue waters of the Pacific Ocean with tiny islands scattered here and there, pristine white sand beaches and swaying coconut palms. After a buffet lunch, activities included beach volleyball, fish and turtle feeding, coral viewing and swimming.

There was an array of Pacific Island songs and dances at the family Entertainment Night, which kept everyone applauding and cameras shooting. Generating much laughter was the surprise item, a skit-and-song to "Ya Better Not Run" performed by the single men and Mr. Woloszyn.

Family Day was again held at the picturesque First Landing Beach Resort, to which brethren traveled via luxury air-conditioned coach. To the tune of resort staff strumming their guitars and singing, a delicious barbecue lunch preceded sea kayaking, swimming and beach and reef walks.

The next day, the children spent an afternoon of fun and games at the Sandalwood Lodge—with balloon races, wheelbarrow races, limbo dancing, musical chairs and relays—followed by a dip in the pool. That evening, the singles offered their babysitting services so the marrieds and seniors could enjoy a sunset cruise along Nadi Bay to the First Landing Resort. The chance to see the sunset firsthand was breathtaking, especially for the visitors. At the marina, they

coming around to ensure that all was to our satisfaction, was overwhelmed by the setup. To the tune of a live band, young and old cha-chaed, waltzed, fox trotted, line danced and swung the night away.

Everyone was present at the *Behind the Work* and *Philadelphia Singers* screening. At sunset beginning the Last Great Day, the Fijian brethren hosted the visitors to a fine Sabbath evening dinner at the Sandalwood Lodge. Another potluck was held at the same venue on the last night. To say farewell to family is always hard, but all were exhorted and encouraged by the festival elder to keep the tempo of the Feast messages, stay focused and keep the vision alive to be able to meet again at the 2005 convention of God's royalty. *Sereana Dakuni*.

AUSTRALASIA

COFFS HARBOR, Australia—Sunny, resort-town Coffs Harbour, N.S.W., held the 2004 Feast with 306 brethren in attendance. There was much rejoicing in the family fellowship and inspiring messages.

Picture-perfect video and clear sound came through on both satellite transmissions from that prophet. Even though they began at 6 a.m. on Friday and Saturday morning, there was great joy and zeal in receiving them. Afterward, everyone was able to digest the spiritual meat received over the group breakfasts.

It was an honor to have Dennis Leap, visiting regional director for the Southeast U.S., along with his wife, for the second half of the Feast. The

which was accompanied by a live ensemble.

This year, the singles activity involved 16 laps on a speedy go-kart track, followed by a leisurely horseback ride through the forest. The teens went canoeing and built miniature rafts, and the children had a fun day in the park with games and surprises. Meanwhile, the senior citizens enjoyed a luncheon and talk by Mr. Leap, and a game of invigorating lawn bowling. *Nichole Macdonald*.

ROTORUA, New Zealand—Sparkling lakes, towering forests, bubbling hot springs, and green pastures covered with lambs were all part of the millennial scenery that greeted God's brethren as they arrived in Rotorua for God's Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast had an extra dimension this year for the New Zealand brethren due to 55 international visitors attending. This gave the brethren the wonderful opportunity to meet more of God's Family as they hosted the biggest PCG Feast ever held in New Zealand.

Mr. Flurry's satellite transmissions were received perfectly, allowing the brethren to join with God's Family around the world in hearing the Almighty's messages from His prophet. The brethren were excited to share the Feast with visiting ministers and wives Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Leap, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Williams and Local Elder Max Rumler. Stirring messages were given focusing on the urgency of these times, the need to deeply digest God's revelation

in this world, it takes us to realize that only God's government can solve these problems.

Activities included Family Day, a seniors get-together, singles and beach activities, a Bible quiz, sing-alongs, and a picnic at the picturesque botanical garden in Kandy. Teamwork and effort made it more remarkable while sharing and helping each other with agape love and concern.

Highlights during the Feast were watching the three videos—Mr. Flurry's first and second transmission and Mrs. Flurry's memorial service. The *Envoy* and *Last Hour* book came on time, giving all of us another spiritual boost to remain inspired. God indeed blessed us with sunshine and delicious food. In reality it was a foretaste of God's millennial rule on this Earth! *Newton Wickramasinghe.*

ALOTAU, Papua New Guinea—This year was the first that the brethren from the Alotau area were able to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast was held at the Alotau International Hotel, which overlooks Milne Bay. Nineteen brethren registered before the opening night service. The brethren had never been to a service before, so even the singing of the hymns was new to them. From the opening night to the Last Great Day, all the brethren attended every service, and did so with a zeal to learn God's truth.

The weather was very warm and sunny most days, with a cooling sea breeze blowing in the afternoons. On the afternoon of October 1, the brethren visited a local museum dedicat-

NADI, Fiji—A convention of royalty! A total of 42 kingpriests from Australia, New Zealand and Fiji kept this year's Feast of Tabernacles in Nadi at the Fiji Mocambo hotel where God placed His name.

Nadi enjoys a sunny, dry climate and is home to Fiji's international airport. It is mainly a tourist town, providing a wide variety of water and land activities for all ages. The Mocambo sits atop the Namaka hill, and even though just a 3-to-5-minute drive from the hustle and bustle of the Nadi International Airport, it still is "away from it all," being surrounded by a huge golfing green. This was the venue for services and holy day luncheons, the family dinner dance and showing of the *Behind the Work* and *Philadelphia Singers* films.

The stage had a backdrop of a gurgling waterfall cascading over stones and rocks into a beautiful garden. Flags of the countries represented, including the Stars and Stripes, hung from the ceiling beams. The festival choir, singles' choir, ladies' choir, men's choir and children's choir took turns in providing special music with the festival elder as choir conductor. Both satellite transmissions were received vividly. Messages were "meat in due season," providing topics for conversations.

The various planned activities were wonderful avenues for fellowship—renewing old friendships and making new ones. Teens and singles, accompanied by festival elder John Woloszyn, his wife Lor-

reanne, especially for the visitors. At the marina, they were greeted by Fijian warriors holding bamboo torches and a string band to guide them to the resort lawns where dining tables were laid out. Some even got up to line dance to the live music. The whole proceedings were recorded on camera by the resort management for use in their promotional videos and brochures.

The family dinner and dance was another reminder of being God's royalty. Upon entering, adults received corsages and boutonnieres from the young ladies while the young men guided them to their tables.

The hall décor and table settings were in the theme colors of purple and gold. Even the hotel manager, who was always

BIG FUN A children's party at the Australian Feast site (below); enjoying Fiji (right).



enjoying the Feast. The brethren were delighted to hear Mr. Leap discuss some specific details concerning the court case and appreciated his urgency in support of Mr. Flurry.

The hour-long family Entertainment Night was full of vibrant acts, which included a vocal duet by two young girls from Perth and a children's choir from the Sydney area, both singing the "World Tomorrow" song from the Philadelphia Singers.

Most brethren, adults and children, were in attendance to enjoy the famous and fabulous formal dinner/dance,



deeply digest God's revelation and vision, and building God's Family. The *Behind the Work* film was wonderful, and brethren were honored and inspired to be able to share Mrs. Flurry's beautiful memorial service. They are images that will continue to inspire and resonate with the brethren.

Many of the activities took advantage of the natural beauty and history of the Rotorua area. Family Day was held on the shores of picturesque Lake Okareka. On this morning, God provided a wonderful miracle by rolling away the cold rain clouds to give the brethren a warm, cloudless spring day, allowing everyone to take full advantage of fellowship and games in the afternoon.

The venue for the singles/young marrieds activity was the Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland, which revealed some of God's unique creation of volcanic hot-water streams, geysers and mud pools. Children were entertained at the 3-D Maze that delighted and challenged them, their parents and grandparents. Senior citizens lunched at the historic Blue Baths Tea Room nestled in the beautiful Government Gardens in the heart of Rotorua.

Entertainment Night was a special evening with many of the acts being provided by the children, including performances to the *Philadelphia Singers* "Animal Kingdom" and "Revealer of Secrets." Live music accompanied the family dinner dance as brethren enjoyed the evening in a formal setting. *Vicki Hercus.*

Ezekiel *from page 1*

God took away the desire of Ezekiel's eyes—and the desire of MY eyes—and it was a sign that God will soon take away the desire of Israel's eyes. Israel will FALL BY THE SWORD—A SWORD AS THIS WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN! Cities wiped out—without inhabitant! Major cities in the U.S., Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand will be obliterated by weapons of mass destruction!

God talks to Ezekiel about the SWORD in the context of his wife dying. This is something we must consider very seriously!

When Ezekiel's wife died, it was a signal to him that the sword was imminent. This prophecy is primarily for OUR DAY! It signifies a deadly turn for the worse. It's a signal that the sword is coming fast.

This prophecy is DATING the tragedy and the turn for the worse in this last hour!

These are not normal times—all flesh is about to be destroyed if Jesus Christ does not return to this Earth!

Verse 24: "Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I am the Lord God."

There are terrible times coming. But this all leads to Israel getting to KNOW God! This is what it takes to get all mankind to wake up!

We must take God's warning seriously. God tells Ezekiel—and us through

him—to stay focused even though his wife died. This is an urgent time in which we are living. The sword is about to fall on Israel! IT'S A TIME FOR URGENCY. IT'S NOT A TIME TO PITY OURSELVES WHEN WE HAVE TRIALS. IT'S TIME TO TELL THE WORLD WHAT'S COMING!

My wife GLORIFIED God in her death. She witnessed for Him.

Let's now examine ourselves and see how urgent we are. How much are we giving our lives for this Work? Time is rapidly running out!

Impact *from page 1*

a 2002 sermon, he called her his "watchman wife" for handing him an enlightening article. She also inspired him by reminding him of the important history of the Armstrongs and by their many discussions about fulfilled prophecy and comparisons of Old Testament events to those of today.

Pastor Dennis Leap, from Oklahoma, has known Mrs. Flurry since the Flurrys were transferred to Pasco, Wash., in 1975. Mr. Leap says he and Mrs. Flurry had a brother/sister relationship and that their friendship focused on the Bible. "My most memorable discussions with her were on Bible issues and especially things facing the Church. We went through the '70s and the time of *Malachi's Message* together." He said Mrs. Flurry really worked hard to understand new truth: "She wouldn't give up until she understood something." And once she grasped something, he said, she would be very excited about it.

This excitement for grasping

she wanted to be at home with her children.

Her unselfish and giving nature as a wife and mother allowed Mr. Flurry to concentrate on and spend a lot of time developing a relationship with God—because she was so good at taking care of the needs of the family. Mr. Flurry said once in a sermon, referring back to those early years, that he would drive through various parts of town and often spotted his wife and children riding bikes. "I hate to think what would have

"It was like she lived down the street."

happened with my children and where they would be if it weren't for my wife staying there with them and loving it. ... My wife could manage to get more things done with those children than I could even imagine myself."

Frances Smythe, a member who has also known the Flurrys since the Pasco church, noticed how much Barbara Flurry loved her children. "We sat in the back at services and

Mrs. Young was there on the Flurrys' first Sabbath at the Pasco church in 1975. Pasco was a small congregation that had been suffering problems during the '70s. She said that before they had arrived, she felt spiritually as though they had been invited to a banquet with no food to eat. When Mr. Flurry arrived, it was a focused spiritual banquet with plenty of food from then on.

The first lady of God's Church not only reached out to the adults but also to the youth. Local Church Elder

Donald Smythe, also from the Pasco congregation, noticed how involved Mrs. Flurry was with the youth. "She had a knack, a talent or gift from God that allowed the teenagers to relate to her. They knew she was interested and didn't just put on an appearance. A lot of teens confided in her."

Barbara Flurry wanted the brethren to know she was there for them in sickness. "I will never forget how you sat on

consistent. It never wavered. Everything she believed and felt she didn't compromise on. She would edify others to be the same way. I hope to one day aspire to a portion of that."

Barbara Flurry had a gift in conversation, remarked Cal and Tami Culpepper of Georgia. They said she had the ability to truly connect with people and referred to the uniqueness of how she held a person's hand when talking with them. Brethren from Manitoba, Canada, expressed how they were greeted with open arms from

her even though they had never met her.

In a card written to Mrs. Flurry, Patricia and Dean Pritchard from Oklahoma said, "You have been a fine example. I have watched you in Colorado Springs walking the aisles, talking and greeting the brethren with a beautiful warm smile. You greeted us one year. It made us feel so welcomed and loved."

Many brethren noticed how

still felt they knew her because of her impact on the Church. Local Elder Francisco Luna from Colombia says, "Here in Colombia we knew of her deep love, dedication, faith, integrity and patience, especially during trials."

Marilyn Leitch of Australia explains, "Although we never met Mrs. Flurry, all that spoke of her said she was a remarkable woman and very much loved."

"We feel we know her due to her warmth and caring nature," wrote Australian members John and Audrey Butterfield.

Even in her last few months after her stroke, she was still a great example. "In sickness you have not failed to set a great example to us on how to live in faith," wrote Local Church Elder Nick Antonio of the Philippines.

Her health was her fiery trial—but also one that the whole Church felt a part of. Mr. Flurry said in February of this year that this fiery trial was bringing God's Family closer together and making it more united.

Barbara Flurry's sweet smile did not wane even through this

Mrs. Flurry once got a job during the liberal 1970s because the women of the WCG were encouraged to do so. She only worked for a few months though, because she hated it;

"It was like she lived down the street," says Vicki Young from Washington. "When I started to get sick in 1997, she would call to encourage and comfort me and she even faxed a few materials to help me."

Mrs. Davis knew her well. She said they became good friends in 1994 when her husband was ordained. Mrs. Flurry called her because she was excited that they could come to the conference that year, which seemed out of the ordinary to Mrs. Davis. Mrs. Flurry called many times when Mrs. Davis was helping take care of her terminally ill daughter-in-law, Brenda. "We shared many intimate moments together that I will always treasure," Mrs. Davis said. "I admired the sincerity and the integrity that was

Though many brethren
never met Barbara Flurry, they

Barbara Jeanne Flurry died on September 5, but her memory and the example she set is eternal.

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Age	34.5	10.2	18	65
Gender	1.2	0.4	1	2
Marital status	1.5	0.5	1	3
Education	12.5	2.1	9	16
Income	1.8	0.6	1	3
Occupation	1.5	0.5	1	3
Health status	1.2	0.4	1	2
Stress level	2.5	0.8	1	4
Life satisfaction	3.5	0.9	1	5
Resilience	2.8	0.7	1	4
Optimism	3.2	0.8	1	5
Self-efficacy	3.8	0.9	1	5
Emotional stability	3.0	0.7	1	4
Prosocial behavior	2.5	0.6	1	4
Empathy	3.5	0.8	1	5
Agreeableness	3.2	0.7	1	5
Conscientiousness	3.8	0.9	1	5
Neuroticism	2.5	0.6	1	4
Extraversion	3.0	0.7	1	4
Openness	3.5	0.8	1	5
Intelligence	3.2	0.7	1	5
Memory	3.8	0.9	1	5
Attention	3.5	0.8	1	5
Problem-solving	3.0	0.7	1	4
Decision-making	3.5	0.8	1	5
Communication	3.2	0.7	1	5
Leadership	3.8	0.9	1	5
Teamwork	3.5	0.8	1	5
Conflict resolution	3.0	0.7	1	4
Stress management	3.5	0.8	1	5
Emotional regulation	3.2	0.7	1	5
Self-awareness	3.8	0.9	1	5
Empathy	3.5	0.8	1	5
Agreeableness	3.2	0.7	1	5
Conscientiousness	3.8	0.9	1	5
Neuroticism	2.5	0.6	1	4
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