

Transformation



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BOARD ELECTS NEW GENERAL SECRETARY



UCAI Board Meeting, April 24, 2003
l-r: Rev. Jimmie D. Pyles, Bishop James
K. Mathews,
Mrs. Lynette M. DeLaune

At the thirty-fifth meeting of the Board of Directors of the United Christian Ashrams, International held on April 24-26, 2003 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the Search Committee, comprised of the members of The Four, Sister Dorothy Davis (Chairperson), Brother William Berg, Brother Allan Barnes, and Brother Roberto Escamilla, reported that many persons were considered for the position of General Secretary. After dialogue, prayers, and many discussions, the Search Committee's decision was to nominate Rev. Jimmie Pyles as the next General Secretary. Rev. Pyles met with the Board members, expressed his hopes and plans for the Christian Ashram ministry, and subsequently was elected by the Board for a five-year term. Upon election, he presented Mrs. Lynette DeLaune as his choice for Administrative Assistant. (See related article on page 3) The Board approved. He stated that one of the highlights during his years of ministry was to meet and hear Dr. E. Stanley Jones in person. Rev. Pyles' tenure officially began May 1, 2003, and the Central Office was moved to Ruston, Louisiana on June 6, 2003.

A United Methodist ordained Elder and Member in Full Connection with the Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, Rev. Pyles currently is completing his eighth, and final, year as District Superintendent of the Ruston District. He has had numerous active roles in regional, national, and

international committees of the United Methodist Church. For the past twenty-five years he has been an active participant of the Committee of the Twelve for planning and implementing the North Louisiana Christian Ashram, has held several one-day Ashrams, and served as an approved leader Evangelist for several other Ashrams in Texas, Michigan, and Florida.

Brother Jimmie has completed two pulpit exchanges to Northern Ireland and was elected to the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council in Brighton, England in 2002. He also represented the Louisiana United Methodist Conference at the World Methodist Council meeting in Oslo, Norway in the same year.

Brother Jimmie and his wife, Dessie, reside in Quitman, Louisiana. They have one son and three grandchildren. He has an active hobby of collecting and repairing clocks, and displays many of his collection in his home, as well as his office.

Visit us on the web! <http://www.christianashram.org>

RELOCATION OF CENTRAL OFFICE

Upon election of Rev. Jimmie Pyles as General Secretary, the Central Office of the United Christian Ashrams International was relocated to Ruston, Louisiana in June of 2003. The new offices are housed in the newly refurbished James Building on the forty-acre campus of the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home in Ruston. Brother Jimmie is a member of the Board of Directors for the Methodist Children's Home, which is a residential program that meets the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of abused and at-risk children. They have graciously offered four large offices for our use at a nominal fee. We also have access to the reception area and meeting rooms, which can be utilized for Ashram meetings. It is a wonderful facility in a beautiful location, and your staff welcomes you to visit at any time. Ruston is located in the rolling hills of north Louisiana on Interstate 20, between Shreveport and Monroe.

Please address all future correspondence to:

United Christian Ashrams International
901 South Vienna Street
Ruston, LA 71270

Telephone: (318) 232-0004 • Fax: (318) 232-0300
Email: uca@christianashram.org



New Home of the Central Office • Ruston, Louisiana

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TRANSFORMATION

Official Organ of United
Christian Ashrams International
901 South Vienna Street
Ruston, Louisiana 71270
<http://www.christianashram.org>
Telephone: 318/232-0004
Fax: 318/232-0300
Email: uca@christianashram.org

Transformation promotes the Christian Ashram ministry under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God spoken of in the New Testament. Christian Ashrams are international, interracial, and inter-denominational. The motto is "Jesus Is Lord!"

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Administrative Assist.....Lynette DeLaune

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the E. STANLEY JONES CORNER

The Christ of the Mount

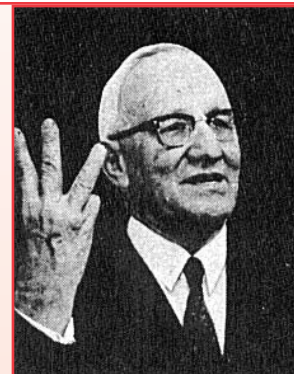
The Christian is asking with increasing anxiety, and I believe with increasing sincerity, "What is the Christian's working way to live?"... I have come to the conclusion that what we call the Sermon on the Mount is the way a Christian will act, that it constitutes the technique of being a Christian - it is his working philosophy of life.... It was a liberating experience to find one's faith becoming simplified and centered in a Person. For years I have walked in that liberty...

The greatest need of modern Christianity is the rediscovery of the Sermon on the Mount as the only practical way to live.... The first time you read it you feel that it is impossible, the second time, you feel that nothing else is possible. The more I have pondered on this way of life, the more I am persuaded that instead of all the moral impossibilities lying in the Sermon on the Mount, as we often think, the fact is that all the moral possibilities lie here, and all the impossibilities lie outside....

Years ago when I asked Mahatma Gandhi what we could do to naturalize Christianity in India so that it would cease to be a foreign thing, among other things he replied: "Practice your religion without adulterating it or toning it down" - and he had in mind the Sermon on the Mount....

The Sermon on the Mount...finally put Jesus on the cross, and it will do the same for his followers who follow it in modern life. But it would not end there. There would be a resurrection so great, so transforming in human living that we would know by actual experimentation that it that is the only way for us to live....

The Christ of the Mount, Introduction, excerpts pages 11 - 20.



JESUS IS LORD

GIFTS

In Memory of
Bishop Joseph Lance
by
Mrs. Faye Hackney-Lance

To E. S. Jones Foundation
by
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Waters

IN MEMORIAM

Mildred Albertson

Charlotte Jean Davis

Junichi Fuchie

Bishop Joseph Rockwell Lance

Mrs. Bryan (Miriam) Phillips

Book of the Year for 2004

The Book of the Year for 2004 is *The Christ of the Mount*, which provides a wonderful interpretation of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Please refer to the E. Stanley Jones Corner for a passage from the introduction of this book. This book is available to local Christian Ashrams for \$1.00 each, plus postage and handling, by contacting the Central Office. Please be sure and reserve your copies.

Editor's Note: Just recently, while in another country, I asked some young adults, while discussing the Christian faith, if they had read the Sermon on the Mount. They had never heard of such a thing. One young lady asked, "What is a sermon?" I was amazed that not only had she not heard of the Sermon on the Mount, but that she did not even know what a sermon was! I said to them that the Sermon on the Mount was the recipe for living and it was not made for television!

If you would like to receive future issues of *Transformation* by email or if you prefer to view *Transformation* on our website, only, please notify us at uca@christianashram.org.

A Word From Your New General Secretary

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

You probably know by now that the Central Office of the United Christian Ashrams, International has moved from Montgomery, Alabama to Ruston, Louisiana. I am your new General Secretary and have accepted this new position with some reluctance, not because I didn't think it important, but quite the contrary. Being reminded of the big shoes I would need to fill and the challenge to adequately represent our founder, Dr. E. Stanley Jones seemed like a mountain to climb. The embers from the fires set aglow by Brother Stanley are still burning because he represented so well the Christ who continues to make all things new, beginning with the heart.

I am indebted to Dr. Bill Pickard and his wife Mary Ann, whose love and devotion to this ministry cannot be diminished by time. Mrs. Joan McLeod, former administrative assistant, was a very capable and committed leader to the work as was her assistant Mrs. Susan Haupt. In fact, Mary Ann and Joan are still receiving phone calls and emails from us as we, of necessity, contact them often, pleading for assistance in many areas. My sincere thanks to both of them for their constant support.

Mrs. Lynette DeLaune, our new administrative assistant here at the Ruston office, has already proven to be a valuable asset to me and our work. Her commitment to Christ and this work has already endeared her to many of you who have had contact with her.

Any suggestions you may have which will have a positive effect on the Ashram ministry will be appreciated. I have already made contact with several churches, ministers, and lay people who would be open to new Ashrams in their areas. This also includes two college campuses.

I covet your prayers, for both Lynette and me, as we continue to say to the world, Jesus is Lord!

Brother Jimmie

Central Office Hires Administrative Assistant

TheUCAI Board of Directors endorsed Rev. Jimmie Pyles' recommendation to employ Mrs. Lynette DeLaune as administrative assistant for the Central Office in Ruston, Louisiana. Lynette and Brother Jimmie Pyles have known each other for years, as her father, Rev. Carey Martin, and Brother Jimmie served together as ministers in the Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. Her father, now deceased, and mother, Bobbie, have been a part of the Ashram family in Louisiana. Lynette comes to us with a degree in Marketing from the University of New Orleans. Before her move from south Louisiana to north Louisiana, she and her husband, Jim, a licensed professional engineer, owned an architectural/engineering firm for fifteen years. They have two children, Michael and Rachel, and are active in their local church, the First United Methodist Church of Minden, Louisiana.

Lynette has enjoyed meeting and speaking with many of our Ashram brothers and sisters since June, and looks forward to continuing to be of service to the Ashram ministry. Please let her know if there is any way that she may assist you.

Contact Us! Telephone: (318)232.0004 • Fax: (318)232.0300 • Email: uca@christianashram.org

Mary Ann Pickard Honored for Service toUCAI



The following is a resolution presented by Brother Jerry Vogt, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, at the Oklahoma City Board Meeting. "Be it resolved: Thanks be to God for the ministry of Mary Ann Pickard for the many years of Christian service to the Kingdom of God through the United Christian Ashram movement, working alongside her husband, Bill, and for her fifteen months of leadership as our General Secretary." On behalf of the board, Brother Steve Strother, Western Regional Coordinator, presented to Mary Ann a book of poems illustrated by Thomas Kincaid and a crystal sculpture of an angel with a message engraved on a mirror behind it saying, "You Are An Angel Who Made a Difference in the Lives of Those You've Touched."

We want to thank Mary Ann for continuing to serve the United Christian Ashram by maintaining our Website. She also is working full time as the archivist for the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, and remains active in the Blue Lake Christian Ashram

Following is an appropriate tribute, authored, read and presented by Louise Snow to Mary Ann at the board meeting.

"Woman of God"

A Tribute to Mary Ann Pickard

The Woman of God is wondrously clothed
In garments gold has not bought.
Her dress is honor, and strength her cloak;
Her jewels the wise have sought
Through all the ages. How great their price!
Wisdom and kindness and sacrifice.

The woman of God is amply paid
In wages more dear than gold.
Beloved, respected – by one and all
Her praises shall be extolled.
With grace in the face of life's demands,
The woman of God in beauty stands.

by Louise Snow

THE 2003 CHRISTIAN ASHRAM CIRCUIT

ALBERTA

James River Bible Camp
Sundre, Alberta
Trudy Downey, Director

Our twelfth Ashram took place in the foothills of our beautiful Canadian Rockies. About 70 people attended, which included 24 children and youth. Praise God that the young people are coming. Our Ashram will keep going!

Tim & Darlene Croker did an excellent job of leading the singing. We appreciate their ministry to us. Our teens were fed by Kathy and Allan Irion. The glow on our teens faces at the overflowing heart said it all. Our children's ministry was blessed by two young couples from Venture Teams International. They had their hands full with many little ones.

Our speaker set the tone so the Holy Spirit could work freely among us.

Our evangelist, Dale Long, who lost his son in a school shooting, spoke on forgiveness even when the situation is very personal and difficult. He also reminded us that God will heal our land if we will humble ourselves and pray and seek his face and turn from our wicked ways (II Chronicles 7:14). Dale, with help from others, has started a special ministry in Taber. They have bought an old Safeway store and are in the process of converting it into a community outreach. They are reaching people that perhaps would not feel comfortable in a regular church setting.

Our church-in-action speaker was raised as a Muslim in the Sudan. His life was dramatically changed, after he accepted Jesus Christ as Lord. He was due to be executed for his faith, but God miraculously rescued him. He hasn't forgotten his Lord and he is telling everyone about Him.

Our Bible teacher, Dave Harder, is the National Director of Victory Campus Ministries Canada. He has helped plant numerous campus chapters all across Canada. This young man is being used mightily by God. We hope to have him back again to hear how God has further used him and his lovely wife, Kari and young family.

God has seen fit to add two new people to The Twelve. I know we will be thankful for their willing hands and they will be blessed by the work they do for the Lord.

The most important result of the worship of the Holy Spirit was that two people accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Praise be to God!

We left the Ashram challenged to go out and make a difference in the world. We will change the world by changing one heart at a time. God can heal our land!

BRIDGEWATER

Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, VA
Delores Monroe, Director

The Lord tremendously blessed the 2003 Bridgewater Christian Ashram participants through the Evangelistic messages and the Bible teachings! Bro. Hervin Green, the Evangelist, and Sister Evelyn Laycock, the Bible Teacher, were well prepared, very organized, and highly anointed. The Prayer Vigil hours were covered throughout the Ashram. The Work Hour Fellowship and the Family Meeting were productive. We thank the Lord for the Church-in-Action sessions, the Prayer Groups, and the Youth and Children sessions – the leaders and participants were blessed.

The Lord blessed us by adding two new members to the Council of the Twelve and by adding new participants to the Bridgewater Ashram.

New Members of the Council of the Twelve: Sis. Pearl Minick and Sis. Vanessa Copeland.

New Ashram Participants: Sis. Vertelle Anderson, Bro. Cordell Barrett, Sis. Tasia Daigs, Bro. Billie Keeler, Sis. Nancy Porter, Sis. Schewron Robbins, Sis. Breh Steven-Mitchell, Bro. Ezekiel Thomas, Sis. Daize Thompson, Sis. Susie Tucker, and Bro. Vernon W. Williams, Jr.

Finally, I thank the Lord for His presence and blessings throughout this Ashram! I pray that the Lord will continue to direct our paths in meeting the needs of His people and in carrying out His plans for the Bridgewater United Christian Ashram.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Alexandra Camp
Crescent Beach, BC
Ed and Janice Hird, Directors

It is now a tradition to hold our Christian Ashram at Camp Alexandra in Crescent Beach. We had wonderful fellowship, food and good weather as always. Since there were forest fires burning throughout BC we even prayed for rain. This year we met the last weekend in August but next year it will be in July again.

We had three new families and all of them had a set of twins! It was good to have several new people and especially good to have the new families and children. We had 15 children from toddler up to 11 years old and 8 teenagers. The two older girls helped out in the mornings with the children, which our children's worker really appreciated. This year we had both the Bible teacher and the evangelist spend some special time with the children. Christine

MacIntosh, the children's worker and Brad Madu, the youth worker did a fine job. Catherine Morris inspired us with her wonderful story of her salvation and wholeness through Jesus as the lay speaker at the camp.

Once again, we had Bob Henning do our Bible teaching for us. He taught us the traditions of the Old Testament to explain some of the New Testament meanings. It was very excellent teaching. John Roddam was our evangelist and he emphasized the importance of forgiveness of ourselves and others. Many people were changed by Jesus for the better at this camp.

We had excellent performers and skits at our talent show. Our caterer was late for dinner so we had several stand up comedians (Ashram brothers and sisters) telling very amusing puns and stories while we waited for our dinner. I haven't laughed that much for a long time.

The healing service was the highlight of the camp, with many people saying their pain had gone away by the next day or that they could walk much better than before.

Our numbers were similar to last year with a total of 76 people at the camp. Next year we will have more room so we expect a really good turnout.

CALIFORNIA SPRING

Idyllwild Pines Camp
Idyllwild, CA
Steve Strother, Director

Every Christian Ashram I have attended has been different, yet similar. 2003 for the California Spring Christian Ashram was no exception. The obvious difference is the people that attend. The different mix presents different situations and opportunities. Again this year, we missed several "alumnae." However, we had several "freshmen" with us experiencing their first Christian Ashram. It was encouraging to have more young families participate this year.

The obvious similarities are the format, God's grace and benevolence. The format of the weekend with Morning Watch, Evangelist, Bible Teacher, Praise and Worship, Youth programs, and Children's programs is a common thread running through Christian Ashrams. God's grace and benevolence are also. With attendance low again this year, our financial situation was not optimistic. By the end of the weekend, God provided substantial gifts and we were able to adjourn with a good financial position.

A consensus was that God planted seeds this year and it will be our responsibility to nurture those seeds into thriving and abundant blossoms and fruits in 2004.

FLORIDA WINTER

Life Enrichment Center
Leesburg, FL
Whitney Dough, Director

"This Ashram is what every Christian Ashram should be!" so enthused Louise Snow as our Ashram ended. For several years Louise has traveled from California to Florida to be a part of our Ashram. We also enjoyed others from California and other states this year.

We had a fantastic leadership team. Bishop Richard Looney was our evangelist. He is a tremendous speaker. Dr. Evelyn Laycock taught Bible. Both Evangelist and Bible teacher used the Book of Colossians. Action leader was Rev. Marty Martinson, chaplain of "Give Kids the World". Many tears were shed as he told of this beautiful ministry near Disney World to terminally children and their families. Youngsters from all over the world come for a week, free of charge, at the "Give Kids" facility.

Our music was outstanding. Trumpeter, Gerry Frederickson was our song-leader. His gifted wife played accompaniments for some solos, and our regular pianist was the wonderful Betty Buice. Trumpeter, Jack Hoover, joined Gerry for duets. We even had a brass trio joined by Whit Dough's trombone. Gerry woke us up every morning with a hymn on his trumpet outside the dormitory, but everybody still loved the bugler. Actually, it as a beautiful wake-up experience.

Hilarious fun was had at the Talent Nite concert. A ladies trio, "The Ding-a-Lings" sang and several others.

Brother E. Stanley Jones spoke to us on film to open the Ashram with his message, "Jesus is Lord". His sayings were posted on walls surrounding us. Louise Snow spoke several times as we listened to beautiful recordings of her poetry with music. Our regular Ashram soloist, country singer, Al Witherow, was in fine voice and blessed us throughout the Ashram.

Since we meet Monday night through Thursday noon, we cannot draw young adults, teens, or children, but we had 59 persons enrolled.

Thursday morning, before Bishop Looney spoke and we had the marvelous Overflowing Heart sharing, we experienced a heart-stirring Hymn Drama, "Amazing Grace," the story of John Newton's life. Many were moved to tears.

We gave each participant a copy of Brother Stanley's book, Conversion, the Book of the Year. Prayer groups and the Prayer Room enjoyed wonderful participation.

Building on this, we are planning a tremendous Ashram for next February.

LAKE JUNALUSKA
Lambuth Inn
Lake Junaluska, NC
Bill Laycock, Director

Beautiful Lake Junaluska was the site of a spirit-filled, energizing 2003 Christian Ashram. The number of participants was more than doubled from previous years. Many were first-time attendees.

Brother Richard Looney, our evangelist, stressed the importance of understanding what God has done for us and challenged us to go beyond "keeping the aquarium" to becoming "fishers of men."

Our Bible teacher, Evelyn Laycock, focused our thoughts on the Kingdom of God. "The church," she said, "is not here to propagate a view but to be the Kingdom of God on earth." Throughout the session, she encouraged us to be the visible expression of this Kingdom of living God's love in our human relationships. Using the parable of the talents, she invited us to invest in the Kingdom to make it grow.

Brother Charles Dennis was more than our "song" leader. Throughout the Ashram, we were spiritually lifted as he proclaimed by his solos and hymn celebrations that Jesus is, indeed, Lord.

Rob Fuquay shared with the group examples in his church, which made it a "church-in-action." He stressed the importance of lay involvement in planning and carrying out ministries.

At the Hour of the Overflowing Heart many witnessed to the fact that the needs they expressed in the Hour of the Open Heart were met or eased as a result of the Ashram.

"We'll be back, and bring others," was heard from several; some who had come to an Ashram for the first time. We held an Ashram at Lake Junaluska, but the most significant thing was not the Ashram, its great leaders, or the many attenders, the most significant thing was in and through it all, we came to know anew the importance of proclaiming in our lives.....JESUS IS LORD!

MIDWEST
Christ the King Retreat Center
Henry, IL
Kay Kuder, Director

God provided us with a new meeting site for 2003. Christ the King Retreat Center in Henry, Illinois, was the location for our Ashram vacation with God. King's House is located high above the east bank of the Illinois River, with a panoramic view of the river valley and surrounded by 50 acres of woods. Just perfect for a get away with Jesus. It was, for us, a mountain top experience. Not only was our location in a high place, but the loving spirit that each of our speakers and the Ashram family brought with them lifted Jesus even higher.

Evangelist, Father Gary Dalmasso's ministry to the family exalted Jesus above all else. With a warm and humble spirit, and a heart open to serve, he truly was an Ashram brother. We praise God that Father Gary could be with us.

Pastor Mary Allsup Kenyon served as our Bible teacher. Mary and her husband, Jerry, had been very active in the Ashram years ago. Jerry went to be with the Lord in 1999. Mary's love for God's Word was expressed as she taught with authority, great insight into human nature, and a wonderful sense of humor. We were blessed to have Mary as our Bible teacher.

Layperson, Jennie Nunn served as our Church-in-Action speaker. Jennie came to our Ashram with her heart already overflowing with God's love. She shared with us a powerful testimony to God's saving and healing grace. God has gifted her with a beautiful singing voice and a joyful spirit that was contagious to the entire family. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

The highlight of the week was on Friday morning as we celebrated Holy Communion. God graced us with His manifest presence of love and mercy. We can indeed proclaim that "Jesus is Lord." Alleluia!

MINNESOTA
St. John's University
Collegeville, MN
William Berg, Director

As the Interim Director of the Minnesota Christian Ashram, I want to report that this Ashram is making me richer every year. But please do not include me as another "profiteer" in the company with corporate business leaders who legally or otherwise reap great sums of money in their enterprises. With each passing Ashram, I am getting richer in spiritual values, in divine inspiration and in the challenge to carry on in His work until He comes. I call this "Kingdom Wealth," and at my age of 93, I need all of this kind of enrichment that I can get.

The Christian Ashram is not a human enterprise; it is a divine adventure in which we will get richer even as we are always getting nearer to Heaven and to Home. The attendance at our Minnesota Christian Ashram at St. John's University at Collegeville, Minnesota was 93. Of this



leaders for our youth and children. In addition, our Minnesota Christian Ashram has a committed group of leaders who prepare during the year for this great event.

Great as every Ashram is in its inspiration and nurture and motivation to carry on in our Lord's work, I have to add that the greatest and best Ashram will always be the next one. On August 5 - 8, 2004, we will observe the 20th Anniversary of the Minnesota Christian Ashram. The Anniversary Banquet and special program will be among the highlights. Our theme for the Anniversary Ashram is "Thy Kingdom Come In Us Today". Our goal for attendance is 130 persons. What happened long ago can happen again. We find a Biblical key to growth in Acts 6:7 "And the word of God increased; and the number of disciples multiplied greatly..." We pray that our Lord will provide divine power and guidance for all Ashrams to grow spiritually and numerically.

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR
Burry Heights U.C. Camp
Burry Heights, Newfoundland
Sylvia Trickett, Director

The majority of the 37 people that I chatted with really felt like, "The Kingdom in miniature form" was with us. Great fellowship and friendships were made that will be everlasting.

The prepared food was great!

A couple from South Carolina attended this Christian Ashram. They were vacationing in Newfoundland for the summer. They were "one" among us.

OKLAHOMA
United Methodist Canyon Camp
Hinton, OK
Peggy Fox, Director

Our Evangelist gave awe-inspiring messages on the Goodness, The Greatness, and Nearness of God. Our Bible teacher complimented the messages with the love of God using Scriptures from 3:16 in various books of the Bible scriptures. Our music was enthusiastic and uplifting and from the very first evening we felt the sweet Holy Spirit enfolding us with a close and one fellowship. Again, we felt it was one of the best Ashrams we have had. Though small in number, we agreed we need to continue having the Ashrams. Our date for 2004 was set for October 3 - 5.

CENTRAL ONTARIO
Salvation Army Conference Center
Jackson's Point, ON
Jean Marshall, Director

It was an encouraging time of laughter and fellowship when we met on the shores of Lake Simcoe in July. Rev. Gordon Ross, our evangelist, and his wife Judy, with their realness, honesty and humour gave us much to ponder and encouraged us to grow. Rev. Diane Walker, young and vibrant, left us proud that she is in the United Church of Canada. She lifted up Jesus Christ and gave us reason to believe. Leila Springer, our witness and church-in-action advocate, with her clear strong voice, a survivor of breast cancer, her passion and self-esteem, and freedom in Jesus Christ, encouraged and inspired us all. Louise Clarke, our music leader had great talent and ability to entertain us in concert with much laughter. Cassandra McCarthy, a young capable leader for the children was able to encourage and make their time together meaningful. Cassandra is caring and brings together strangers who immediately become friends. Jean Marshall, our first time Director, with her friendly and honest role as leader



made our time together very special.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
Jummonville Retreat Center
Kristine Swaney, Director

It seems impossible, but every year our Ashram is better than ever. We experienced powerful preaching, teaching, and prayer times. God is Good!

TRI COUNTY
Warsaw Township Fire Hall
Brookville, PA
Kathryn Raybuck, Director

We enjoyed a very uplifting weekend. Prayers for an increased attendance were answered. We saw several new faces this year as well as those who are faithful attendees. We enjoyed enthusiastic praise and worship times, meaningful prayer and share groups, and a very moving healing service. We received much encouragement that the new attendees will come again next year.

SASKATCHEWAN
Arlington Beach Camp
Linda Sullivan, Director

The Holy Spirit was truly felt at our 2003 Ashram. One comment was how special the Ashram is because people come to be with the Lord, not just time away from home. Another person noted that he, too, saw the Ashram as something different from other Christian retreats because of focus and closeness of Christians at the Ashram. We need to bring more people to our Ashram to experience the blessings that always happen when people come together to worship our Lord!

SHENANDOAH
Massanetta Springs Conference Center
Harrisonburg, VA
Albert Harvey, Director

Praise God for a wonderful Ashram and for Massanetta Springs Conference Center. They are a wonderful group of people, especially Ms. Ann Pauley. As a result of Hurricane Isabel, we had 14 people unable to attend.

Brother Robert Moore and Sister Evelyn Laycock made a great team to lead our Ashram. Brother Robert and his wife, Tillie, were great examples of Christ and his messages were great, as well. Evelyn's Bible Study was informative and enlightening, as usual. To me, Evelyn is a bundle of love. We had so much fun singing with Sister Elizabeth Taylor. No words can describe the blessing we received listening to her sing and accompanied by Sister Julianne Smith on piano. These four individuals did an excellent job leading us in Christian fellowship during the Ashram and God's presence was truly on us.

Jesus is Lord.

SIERRA
Camp Sierra
Big Creek, CA
Jackie Jansen, Director

I, personally, felt that this Ashram was one of the best experiences I've had in the over 35 I've attended. The atmosphere from the very beginning was one of openness to each other and to the presence of the Holy Spirit. The messages by the Evangelist and Bible Teacher built on each other and gave us meat to chew on as well as being entertaining. The church-in-action hour was done in such a remarkable way that both youth and adults bonded quickly. I'm including some of the comments from our participants:

- "I had an awesome Ashram. The Holy Spirit was here. I'm so happy that I came this year."
- "This was my first Ashram and I definitely intend on coming back. Thank you so much for everyone's kindness and openness!"
- "John and Mike were awesome! This was an incredibly moving Ashram!"
- "I think it's been the best Ashram that I've attended – the speakers, prayer groups, leadership have all been God inspired – A wonderful week."
- "This was one of the best of many great Ashrams!"

"The freedom to allow the structure to open doors to the Holy Spirit was wonderful. During the 'Open Heart' there was unusual and blessed openness as tears fell and vulnerability was obvious. That attitude continued throughout the week as we started where many Ashrams end. Marvelous!"

WESLEY WOODS
Wesley Woods Christian Education Center
Grand Valley, PA
Clyde Faust, Director

This year's Wesley Woods Ashram had the special privilege of a great father and son team,

Evangelist Virgil Maybray and Bible Teacher Tim Maybray, bringing a spiritual transformation into Christ likeness. The lay witness, Susan Perry, gave a testimony of her faith and the calling into a ministry to the deaf. Church-in-Action gave us a heart-warming experience of a dedicated, love giving, Christian led hospice nurse, Polly Welcheck. All this was intertwined with praise and worship music by Jeff Harmon and Brenda Cochran. What an uplifting, spiritual life renewal at this year's Wesley Woods Christian Ashram.

WESTERN ONTARIO
Pearce Williams Christian Centre
Fingal, ON
Peter Kumpf, Director

This year's Ashram was again excellent. Each year's Ashram is different but just as uplifting; this seemed to be the general consensus. Our Evangelist, Rev. Bob Whalls, spoke on how Jesus fought temptation and evil with prayer and scripture and used examples of how we can do the same.

The Bible Teacher, Dr. Don Meecha, Director of "Chosen People Ministries" Canada, a Jewish Messianic Organization was outstanding in his teaching of Old Testament scripture and how it was fulfilled in Jesus in the New Testament. He also explained the interaction between Jewish believers and Christian believers in Bible prophecy.

Our Lay Witness, Brad Kivell, deeply touched and encouraged many as he shared in a simple, honest manner his life as a carefree, self-centered truck driver, fighting, drinking and engaging in the sex and drug scene, until a simple prayer and the answer from Jesus changed his life. Brad and his wife Kim are now serving the Lord by sharing his testimony with various groups. They have now started their own wood-working and furniture making business. Brad was also recently elected president of the local chapter of the Christian Motorcyclists.

The Music Leaders were part of the gospel group "Crystal River," a husband and wife team of Greg and Susan Hamilton. Their anointed music was again one of the highlights of the retreat causing many to sense and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as the name of Jesus was lifted up.

Our youth and children leaders were Melissa Rayson and Nicole McKilican who did an excellent job with the youth and children. The children did a skit on the names and personalities in the Bible.

The Ashram attendance increased by five percent due to an increase in first time attendees. We all missed Sister Mary Ada Trill, a past director of the retreat, who was promoted to Glory just a day before the retreat.



A Birthday Celebration

A delightful evening was enjoyed by all during the April 2003, Board Meeting, celebrating the birthdays of Brother Jim, who was ninety years old on January 14, 2003 and Sister Eunice, whose birthday was April 28, 2003. Following a banquet and the enjoyment of birthday cake and ice cream, the group gathered in the chapel for an evening of entertainment by Christine Vogt and Russell Gregory



accompanied by Charles Mallory. Opportunity was given for expressions of appreciation to the Mathews for their outstanding contributions in the service of Christ. Anne Mathews Younes' presentation of special gifts and a tribute to her parents was touching and very much appreciated by her parents, as well as by all who were in attendance.

A Tribute to Bishop Joseph Rockwell Lance

On November 2, 2003, at the meeting of the College of Bishops, our own Bishop James K. Mathews was recognized to give tribute to Bishop Joseph Rockwell Lance, a long-time Ashramite and supporter of the Sat Tal Christian Ashram in India, whom Bishop Jim met some 50 years ago in the Great Indian Desert. Bishop Lance, a former member of the Council of Bishops, entered into eternal life on May 28, 2003, in Asheville, N.C. after a long and effective career as Bishop, administrator, and evangelist.

A highlight of the remembrance was this account given by Bishop Mathews:

"In 1976 Eunice and I journeyed from Kathmandu and Benares (Varanasi) to Allahabad where the Lucknow Conference was in session. Bishop Lance invited me to preside for a short while, after which he presented me with a sterling silver cross, crafted by a skilled Lucknow artisan. For years I wore it with pleasure. Then, in about 1978, during a trip to Gulmarg in Kashmir we were staying in Nedu's Hotel. The Muslim proprietor invited us one afternoon to tea with the Dalai Lama. Nedu suggested to us that it would be appropriate to give some gift to His Holiness. The only gift I had was that cross, and at Nedu's suggestion, I very reluctantly parted with it.

The Dalai Lama received it with great warmth and graciousness, then put it around his neck. His assistant told me that it would indeed be worn occasionally by this revered figure. What is one to make of this: a Christian urged by a Muslim, to present a precious religious possession to a leading Buddhist figure? God alone knows, but surely a gift given in love is never lost.

You will allow me to add that only last week in India, my daughters presented me a replacement – a silver cross – which I am now wearing. Joseph Lance would have understood all this, for to the Christian all life is a gift.

Thanks be to God for his gift to us for a season – Joseph Rockwell Lance."

Editor's Note: Bishop and Mrs. Mathews, accompanied by their daughters, Jan and Ann, recently returned from a trip to their beloved India and the Sat Tal Christian Ashram.

E. Stanley Jones Foundation Meets

The E. Stanley Jones Foundation met during the 2003 Board Meeting and elected the following officers: President – Tom Nisbett; Vice-President – Russell Gregory; Secretary – Mary Ann Pickard; Treasurer – Dale Boyd. Also serving on the Foundation board are Denton Florian, Robert Miller, Mary Lou Stallsworth, Jan Stromsem, Anne Mathews Younes, Ex-officio – Bishop and Mrs. James K. Mathews, Jimmie D. Pyles, and Jerry Vogt.

The articles of incorporation state: "The purpose of the foundation will be to preserve and extend the legacy of the late E. Stanley Jones who blessed millions of people around the world. This will be done by supporting and extending the Christian World Mission primarily in India, republishing and reprinting his books and other writings, and supporting the growth and extension of the Christian Ashram ministry, which he founded in 1930." The board will develop a strategic plan to promote the Foundation. It will work closely with the UCAI Board but also reach out to those who have never attended a Christian Ashram, but who have been impacted by Brother Stanley and his books.

Many calls are received in the Central Office regarding requests for books written by Brother Stanley that are currently out of print. Dr. Tom Nisbett, President, states, "The Foundation is a public support organization and will depend upon general contributions and personal donations in order to fund this work. Please consider a current gift at year-end to fund the endowment of the Foundation. The E. Stanley Jones Foundation can also be the recipient of testamentary gifts through wills and bequests." The contribution form on page 8 can be used to send tax deductible donations to the Foundation. For more information, please contact the UCAI Central Office or Dr. Tom Nisbett, 322 Roy Green Rd., Longview, TX 75602, (903) 668-2832.

"Evening at Sat Tal"

By Stanley E. Downes

Composed October 6-7, 2002 at Sat Tal Ashram

Slowly sets the sun behind the western hills
Darkening in outline against the golden glow;
Bright in the azure sky above, the evening star fills
My soul with wonder. Somehow I begin to know
That He who enfolds the sun and sets the star on high
Is nigh, close by!

My senses are alert: I see a spark –
Headlights of a car flit through the forest trees
Along the winding hill road in the dark.
I feel a gentle breath. Is it the breeze
That fans my face or has the Lord most High
Come nigh, close by?

Listen! The bark of deer echoes through the air;
Call of bird; crickets begin their nightly chorus.
I smell fire smoke ascending like a prayer
Before the evening meal soon set before us.
God's not in Heaven, far away, on high;
But nigh, close by!

Awake my soul, be not withdrawn and still;
Sense windows of the soul are open to the Lord.
Did He not say: "come, see, hear, touch, eat"; and will
He not reveal Himself again through flesh and word.
Come Lord into my heart, abide in me, I cry –
'Tis not enough for you to be, only close by.

2003 Japan United Christian Ashram Board Members



Front row l-r: Rev. Atsuhiko Okayama, Rev. John Tsuguo Oishi, Rev. Bokko Tsuchiyama, Rev. Osamu Furukawa

Back row l-r: Rev. (Ms.) Setsuo Wakabayashi, Mrs. Tsunee Iijima, Rev. Yoshinari Shimazu, Rev. Yoshinari Yokoyama, Rev. Yasuki Kibe

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2004 Winter United Christian Ashram Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Registrar</u>
Jan. 15-17	North Louisiana	Ruston Ramada Inn P.O. Box 1189, Ruston, LA 71273	Ms. Sue Carroll—318/435-3505 scarroll@entergy.com 390 Gaither St., Gilbert, LA 71336
Feb. 16-18	California Winter	Camp Maranatha 54162 Maranatha Dr. PO BOX CC Idyllwild, CA 92549	Ms. Mary Beth Hebert—909/487-0943 chenobi@earthlink.net 1462 Sunsept, San Jacinto, CA 92582
Feb. 23-26	Florida Winter	Life Enrichment Center Box 2107, Leesburg, FL 32748	Mrs. Karen L. Wenck—941/255-1158 kwenck2@comcastnet 2359 Fintonrod St., Port Charlotte, FL 33948

2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Catholic Pastoral Center, in the beautiful city of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was the setting for the spring Board Meeting of the United Christian Ashrams International, April 24 – 26, 2003. There were thirty-three persons in attendance, including members of the Board and guests. The days and evenings were dedicated to intense attention given to the work at hand, including the election of the new General Secretary, while following the Ashram format of beginning with the Open Heart and ending with the Overflowing Heart.



The Board expressed deep appreciation to beloved Brother Bill Pickard posthumously for his outstanding leadership over the years, as well as to his wife Mrs. Mary Ann Pickard, who served as Interim Director following his death. Mrs. Joan McLeod and Mrs. Susan Haupt were also commended for their excellent service rendered in the Central Office.

An induction ceremony was held for Rev. Jimmie Pyles. Bishop Jim Mathews asked the Four and Steve Strother, Regional Coordinator

representative to the Board, to join him in laying hands on Brother Jimmie while he charged Brother Jimmie to fulfill the duties of the office of General Secretary. Following the induction ceremony, Brother Jerry Vogt led the memorial service in which the names of deceased Ashramites were read, followed by an opportunity for brothers and sisters to pay tribute to those mentioned. The service closed with the sharing of the Lord's Supper by those in attendance.

Thanks were expressed to Lew and Dorothy Davis for taking care of all the details leading up to and during the days in Oklahoma City. Complete and detailed minutes of the board meeting are available in the Ashram Central Office upon request.

Reports were given from various committees as they related to the Ashram work both in the United States and abroad: E. Stanley Jones Foundation (see related article on page 7), Executive Committee, President, Interim General Secretary, Treasurer, Search Committee, The Four, Regional Coordinator's Workshop, Bylaws Committee, Finance Committee, Communication Committee, Overseas Committee, and the Personnel and Nominating Committee. Bishop James Mathews gave a welcomed report on a new book, a biography of E. Stanley Jones, written by Dr. Stephen Graham, and soon to be published by the Methodist Publishing House.