

# United Church of God *an International Association*

Clyde Kilough  
Chairman

Roy Holladay  
President

## **Letter from the President September 10, 2004**

Dear Brethren,

Immediately after Ambassador Bible Center graduation this year, I had the opportunity to visit the West African nation of Ghana along with Melvin Rhodes, Jim Servidio and seven United Youth Corps volunteers who went to serve at the summer camp. There were 110 campers and 30 staff members at the summer camp. I would like to personally thank all those who volunteered to make this camp such a wonderful success. Most young people in Ghana and Nigeria never have this opportunity.

We visited an orphanage that the local congregation helps to maintain. Our hearts went out to dozens of young orphans who literally swarmed us and wanted to be loved, touched and held. Two of the Youth Corps volunteers did some practical work on the facilities used by the orphanage.

While there, Melvin had the opportunity to speak to over 300 young adults in the Virgins' Club—an organization dedicated to maintaining virginity until marriage. He spoke on the subject of AIDS. Melvin Rhodes, Jim Servidio and I also had the opportunity to conduct seminars for 20 elders and later for the 12 pastors of the United congregations in Ghana.

Here in the United States, Florida has been hit with two major hurricanes in the last month and Hurricane Ivan is lurking in the wings at this time. Most members in Florida came through these first two violent storms with minimal damage. One member in Punta Gorda had his trailer destroyed. Kingsley Mather reports that the island nations in the Caribbean region were hard hit by Hurricane Frances. Ivan has already destroyed 90 percent of the homes in Grenada and is threatening more damage. With the Feast of Tabernacles right around the corner, please pray for the protection of God's people and also for the Feast sites. Several of our Feast sites are vulnerable if Ivan continues on its present course.

Can you imagine a world without violent weather or other natural disasters—without floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes and volcanic eruptions? We will shortly be observing the fall Holy Day season that pictures the return of Jesus Christ to this earth to establish God's government over the nations and to finally extend peace to all peoples. As Isaiah 9:7 states: "Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Not only will Jesus Christ return to rule all nations in peace, but He will also control the weather. Over the last 6,000 years, millions of people have lost their lives due to severe weather and what we like to term "nature." Are these catastrophic conditions going to continue dominating the headlines in the world tomorrow? Absolutely not! Mankind has been subjected to all of these calamities because of his sins and the rebellion of Satan and the demons. Both

Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26 explain that good weather and blessings from God result from obedience to Him. Conversely, bad weather and curses come from disobedience.

Zechariah 14:16-19 explains that any nation that refuses to come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles in the Millennium will be plagued with bad weather every year that they rebel. The inescapable conclusion from the Bible is the simple fact that *God controls the weather*. Devastatingly bad weather is not inevitable. During the Millennium the environment and the elements will be man's friends. When all nations repent of their enormous rebellion against God's law, dependable and consistently good weather will return.

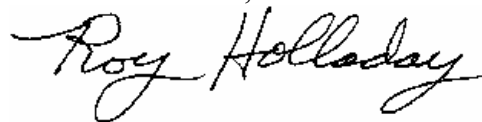
Notice Romans 8:20-22: "For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption [decay] . . . For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now." Figuratively speaking, even the environment cries out for deliverance from the bondage of sin.

Truly the world of the future will be a time of both spiritual and physical blessings. God will control the environment for the good of all mankind. Gone will be the fear of bad weather when a person attends the Feast. Mankind will have supreme confidence in God's protection and blessings. However, the world today is still in rebellion against God and suffering from the consequences of that rebellion.

As we make plans to attend the joyous Feast of Tabernacles, don't forget to pray for the safety and protection of all God's people worldwide. Satan would love to disrupt the observance of the Feast for as many people as possible. Many of us remember God's protection from hurricanes at the Feast sites in Jekyll Island and Jamaica, and how God protected the Feast site in Mt. Pocono the first year from a tornado.

Norma and I wish all of you a wonderful fall Holy Day season. Pray for God's protection, blessing and peace upon all the different Festival sites. We will be observing the Festival this year in Panama City Beach with around 1,800 other brethren.

In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Holladay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roy Holladay