



# United Church of God *an International Association*

Roy Holladay  
Chairman

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Interim President

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Dear Beloved Members,

June has been a most busy month here at the home office, and I have the privilege today to write to you about exciting developments.

First, I invite you to consider this: If you were to read about a possible new “United States of Europe as a strongest guarantee of stability,” you might think that these words came straight out of our own *Good News* magazine. *The Good News* of course publishes much about end-time prophecies, including a European-based superpower that will appear shortly before Christ’s return. On this particular occasion, potentially significant comments came not from our publication, but from the cover story of a recent issue of *Bloomberg Businessweek*, a major international business magazine. When mainstream business publications begin to reflect certain biblical prophecies, what should we think?

The European debt crisis and its global impact threatens all economies. Stronger European nations have pledged nearly \$1 trillion to fix the crisis. But *Businessweek* said that there was only one way the present solution would work: The Continent must collaborate in ways never before achieved. The same coverage stated that a real “United States of Europe” was presently “politically unthinkable,” but that economic realities could drive unusual alignments. What does that mean?

We in the Church know that for decades the same “politically unthinkable” label was widely accepted about a possible reunification of East and West Germany. Back then most political writers thought German reunification was all but impossible. Suddenly in the 1990s that reunification unexpectedly came to pass at lightning speed. Will the same be true of a politically unified Europe?

With these possibilities in mind, how much more do we need to think deeply about what Paul wrote to a European congregation some 1,900 years ago? “Now, brothers, about [prophetic] times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, New International Version throughout).

Paul’s comments underscore an urgent part of our mission as a Church: We must do our part to deliver the good news of the coming Kingdom of God. In this we have dual responsibilities. We are to proclaim that these prophecies of the end time will come to pass as a direct consequence of the willful breaking of God’s royal law of liberty (James 2:8). We are also

here collectively and individually to demonstrate how humanity can embrace that same law. In doing so, we prepare ourselves to serve in the coming Kingdom of God. Both our message and our example communicate this critical biblical information.

These are daunting and sobering responsibilities. But we have the promise of Christ's direct aid. Jesus told His Church that He would personally place before us "an open door that no one can shut" (Revelation 3:8).

Today I have the happy duty to inform you that Christ has indeed opened a door for us to proclaim that message of the Kingdom of God! Since the beginning of the United Church of God some 15 years ago, this new development has been talked about. Now it is finally reality!

Beginning on July 11, the *Beyond Today* television program will begin airing on superstation WGN America! What adds to this great news is the fact that the program will air at the very good time of 8:30 a.m. (Eastern Time) every Sunday, delivering a potential audience of 75 million households in 209 TV markets. This time slot was also requested by another program sponsor, but because of our history with the agency we were given first rights. When this opportunity presented itself, it was brought before the Church's Council of Elders, where it was received enthusiastically.

As you have read previously on our *Inside United: Realtime* blog (<http://realtimeunited.wordpress.com>), the *Beyond Today* presenters and production staff have been working with different content and formats to determine how God's truth can be most effectively presented. That includes how to best integrate our online media together with traditional television and print media. To that end, our recent experience on our pilot program of five commercial television stations has been invaluable. We will now use this experience and the improvements it helped generate to reach a dramatically expanded audience.

The responsibility of preparing these television messages carries a sober weight. I ask for your prayers and support that our presenters, production team and everyone involved in all elements of our media outreach will receive an extra measure of God's Holy Spirit. All are excited about this new opportunity, and they also realize that we must take full advantage of this new open door. (More details will be forthcoming on our *Inside United: Realtime* blog.)

You, as a member, possess a critical part in this living work. Over time we expect that this new media opportunity will generate important new national awareness of God's truth. Think about how this heightened awareness will give your personal example a greater impact.

At the same time the news of this open media door came to the home office, many were deeply engaged in preparations for the coming Feast of Tabernacles, which is but a few short months away. In addition to spiritually refreshing us with hope of God's plan for humanity, the Feast of Tabernacles is also the time when we as a body are most visible to the world at large. Regardless of their level of biblical understanding, people living at or near the sites see us up close and personal. The Feast represents a time when we demonstrate just how God is working in us as individuals and families.

We expect that our new television presence will heighten awareness of both our message and us as a Church. In today's Internet age, it is easy for many to become curious about the United Church of God—whether by personal example at the Feast of Tabernacles, by being exposed to God's message on television or by other means—and then decide to investigate further. If someone who became interested in the truth of God came in contact with you, are you prepared to fulfill what the apostle Peter directed? "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15).

We as a Church go to great lengths to publish information about where and when our congregations meet. If someone new happened to show up at services as a result of our media outreach or wanted to know more because of an experience he or she had during the Feast, what would the person find? Will visitors find happy and fulfilled people united together in seeking the Kingdom of God? Will they want to be a part of what they see and hear? Will they find a people who truly love one another in "complete unity" (John 17:20-23)?

Brethren, much of that depends on you. How we individually yield ourselves to God's will is the ultimate key to successfully fulfilling *all* of our efforts.

In other news of the Church, the Council of Elders continues to make good progress toward the selection of a new president for the Church. Let me review with you the process that the Council has been following. We asked the entire ministry to submit their recommendations for president, which produced a list of 39 nominees. All of the ministers whose names were submitted were contacted about their interest in serving. This narrowed the list down to 19 who agreed to be considered. Those who wished to be considered subsequently submitted their qualifications and statements of interest, and the Council chose 12 of these nominees. From this list of 12 men the Council selected the final four nominees to be interviewed on Wednesday, June 23. The final four nominees for president are Gary Antion, Bill Bradford, Roy Holladay and Dennis Luker.

I would also like to note that our Church camps are fast approaching. This is an important task of the Church, as our camps enable our young people to experience God's way of life in a different setting, learning and experiencing critical truths in action. Please ask God to bless our efforts with our youth at these camps once again this summer.

This is an exciting time to be a part of the Church that Christ Himself founded! Let us truly reflect the way of life that we have been called to, preparing ourselves for service and fully following the direction of our soon-coming King and elder Brother in "bringing many sons to glory" (Hebrews 2:10).

In deep Christian love,

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

Roy Holladay