

Michigan Church of God Family Lock-In

By Jeanne Umberfield

Saginaw - Spirits were raised but the bread was flat for the Second Annual Michigan Church of God Family Lock-in held during the Days of Unleavened Bread on April 11-12. The UCG-Saginaw congregation sponsored the lock-in including church services, seminars, dinner and games at Saginaw Valley State University's Ryder Center. Attendees came from several UCG congregations and many other Sabbath-keeping groups.

The Ryder Center includes several gyms, racquetball courts, swimming pool, dance studio, and many meeting rooms. "This is a beautiful facility. The Ryder Center was closed for the Easter weekend, so we had it to ourselves," said Craig Clark, UCG-Saginaw elder who organized the event.

Services were held in the main arena. Melvin Rhodes, pastor of UCG-Lansing, gave the sermon exhorting our young people to remain unspotted by the world. Song services were led and accompanied by Scott and Kevan Umberfield, brothers who attend UCG-Saginaw, both of whom are students at SVSU. Special music was performed by the UCG-Flint ensemble.

After services, more than 150 people stayed for a chicken dinner and unleavened brownie sundaes. Adults then attended two seminars presented by Mr. Rhodes entitled the *International Financial Crisis* and *How Superpowers Collapse*. Teens and young adults attended a separate seminar while the younger children made crafts and acted out the story of the Good Samaritan in another room.

After the swimming pool closed at midnight, Richard and Diane Beadle led an enthusiastic group of adults and teens in Novelty Olympics. Basketball, racquetball and volleyball were played throughout the night. A midnight snack of nachos, lemonade and popcorn fueled other activities such as rope climbing, dancing and a movie. About 45 hardy souls remained until the morning.

"We received many positive comments," said Mr. Clark. "Young people came from Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, and even Colorado. We hope to do this again next year."

Photos by Craig Clark



Ginny Martin eats a whole wheat Matzo for the cracker-whistle relay during the Novelty Olympics.



A few of the thirty-five teens enjoying a light moment during the teen Bible Study.



Say Cheese! Kacy Clark enjoys her nachos.