

The Restitution Herald

& Progress Journal

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Dear Subscriber...

We are so happy you have been a faithful subscriber to the Restitution Herald! We are pleased to inform you that with this issue, the General Conference Board of Directors has decided to combine the Restitution Herald and Progress Journal into one magazine. The magazine will continue to be published six times annually. The Restitution Herald & Progress Journal will seek to promote the faith and heritage of the Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith, while continuing to provide you with updates on the work of Atlanta Bible College and the General Conference.

The Restitution Herald, published since 1911, is now in its 93rd year; a longtime tradition of Abrahamic Faith believers over the years. There have been many faithful writers, such as S.O. Ross, James Mattison, Hollis Partlowe, Michael Brown, Francis Burnett, Bill Wachtel, Joe Martin, C.E. Randall, G.E. Marsh, Harold Doan, Warren Sorenson, David W. Cheatwood, Aaron Wells, Rex Cain, Richard Alcumbrack, Jeffrey Fletcher, Steve Taylor, Michael Mattison, Paula Kirkpatrick, Susan Lapp, Cheryl Ross, Kent Ross, Gordon Landry, Mark Cain, Stephen Bolhous, Rachel Carr, Dick Eldred, Gary Burnham, Dennis Baldwin, David Krogh, Michael Hoffman, Darrell Delbert, and Russell Rankin, Robert Jones, Alva Huffer, Scott Deane, Vicki Pulling, Jack Hearp, Ray Hall, and Jan Stilson. We have enjoyed the many articles written and we will continue to seek writers interested in submitting material for publication. Please contact The Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College for submission of your article.

Since the magazine can be an important way of teaching biblical truths, we have chosen to broaden our horizons and reach thousands more homes. The Restitution Herald & Progress Journal will now be offered at no cost. The General Conference has historically made the publication affordable through a nominal subscription fee. However publication costs continue to rise. With the combined publication we will save on printing and mailing, while continuing to print articles which speak to the Abrahamic Faith.

The large increase in circulation for the Restitution Herald will benefit many more people than currently receive it. Your continued support is always welcome, but if you prefer to receive a refund of your subscription we will gladly refund your remaining paid subscription on a prorated basis. Send correspondence to The Restitution Herald, PO Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260 or Call 800-347-4261 X 107.

P.S. Please let us know if you are not currently receiving the Progress Journal. We do not want you to miss any future Restitution Herald issues.

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- THE ONENESS OF GOD (1 COR. 8:6);
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S POWER (ACTS 1:8);
- JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (MATT. 16:16), AND IS OUR MEDIATOR (1 TIM. 2:5);
- THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (2 TIM. 3:16);
- THE MORTALITY OF MAN (JOB 4:17; PSA. 146:4);
- THE NEAR RETURN OF CHRIST (ACTS 1:11), AND LIFE ONLY THROUGH HIM (COL. 3:3);
- THE LITERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (JOHN 5:28);
- THE IMMORTALIZATION OF THOSE IN CHRIST (1 COR. 15:53, 54);
- THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED (REV. 21:8);
- THE FINAL RESTORATION OF ISRAEL AS THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNDER THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST (LUKE 1:32);
- THE CHURCH TO BE JOINT HEIRS WITH HIM (ROM. 8:17), AND ISRAEL TO BE MADE HEAD OVER GENTILE NATIONS (ISA. 60:1-3);
- THE "RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS WHICH GOD HATH SPOKEN BY THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS HOLY PROPHETS SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN" (ACTS 3:21).
- IT ALSO FIRMLY ADVOCATES REPENTANCE AND IMMERSION IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS (ACTS 2:38), AND A CONSECRATED LIFE AS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.

About the Author:

John Horsch was born in Germany in 1867, and died in 1941 in Scottsdale, Pa. He was an editor, writer and historian, whose work helped to create an interest in Anabaptist history among North American Mennonites.

Luther, in the year 1520, wrote to his opponent, Dr. Johann Eck: "You say that I would give room to the peace-breakers and murderers, because I have taught that a Christian should abstain from violence and should not fight to recover his belongings of which he was robbed. Why do you not rebuke Christ who has taught this?" Again, in his booklet, "Why the Pope's Books Have Been Burned," written in the same year, Luther gives many reasons for committing these books to the flames. His twenty-fourth reason is, "Because the pope teaches that it is right for a Christian to meet violence by violence, contrary to Christ's teaching who says, 'Whoever will take thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.'"

Ulrich Zwingli also, in the first period of his reformatory labors, taught the principle of nonresistance. One of the editors of Zwingli's Complete Works, Professor Walter Koehler of Heidelberg University, concedes that Zwingli was in that period a pacifist. Zwingli wrote in 1522: "Considered from the Christian point of view it is by no means right to have a part in war. According to Christ's teaching we should pray for those who despitefully use us and persecute us, and if an aggressor smite us on the right cheek, turn to him the

other also." Again, in one of his largest books, published in 1523, Zwingli says: "Christ commands that we should not go to law nor engage in carnal strife, but if one take away our coat, let him have our cloke also, and He has taught this by His own example as well. He also forbids all oaths." How radical was the change in Zwingli's attitude toward war in a later period. He personally took part in war, and died on the battlefield of Kappel in 1531.

Johannes Oekolampad, the Zwinglian reformer of Basel, who, like Zwingli, in a later period renounced pacifism, wrote in 1524:

How can a Christian approve of lawsuits and war? The approval of war among Christians is a doctrine of devils. Christians abhor hatred and war. Or show me a war that is waged in love!...What shall we say about those whose lifework consists of shedding blood? We are bidden to give our life for the brethren, and to consider even our enemies as brothers. But we go to war and wound and kill those whom we have never known, yea, who may have done us some good service. How is it that there are so many who make less of taking the life of a man than of killing a goose!

The Beginnings of the Mennonite Church. The first Mennonite congregation was organized in January, 1525, in or near the city of Zurich in Switzerland, by Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz, George

Blaurock, and others. They were known as the Swiss Brethren, and spread within less than a decade over Switzerland, South Germany, and Austria. By their opponents they were called Anabaptists (re-baptizers), because they disowned the validity of infant baptism. Menno Simons' conversion and baptism took place in January, 1536, near Leeuwarden, Holland. The brethren in the Netherlands, with whom Menno united, at that time were known as Obbenites, since Obbe Philips was their organizer and recognized leader. Between them and the Swiss Brethren there was substantial unity in faith and practice. In the course of time they both adopted the name "Mennonites." The Hutterian Brethren, whose first organization dated from the year 1528, differed from the Mennonites by owning their property in common.

There were various other sects and groups which were called Anabaptists. In fact, all who disowned infant baptism and baptized only those who were instructed and believed, were given this name. The differences between some of these sects and the Mennonites were fundamental indeed. In certain instances these differences were as great as are the contrast between the Mennonites and the Mormons of our day, who also practice adult baptism. The Muensterite Anabaptists, for example, were revolutionists and rank fanatics. Among all the sects called Anabaptists the Swiss Brethren were the first or oldest; all others were of later origin. When we speak of "our Anabaptist forefathers," as some do, we

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should therefore not lose sight of the fact that the Mennonites did not descend from any other Anabaptist sect.

The Testimony of the Swiss Brethren. The earliest testimony against war by a leader of the Swiss Brethren is that of Andreas Castelberger of Zurich, Switzerland, dating from the year 1523, about two years before the first congregation of the Swiss Brethren was organized by Castelberger and others. Castelberger had held meetings for Bible study which were attended by Lorenz Hochruetiner and others who later united with the Swiss Brethren. Hochruefner, when asked what Castelberger had taught in these meetings, replied that he among other things "had said a great deal against war and had showed that the evangelical doctrine is radically opposed to it." [7]

Another important testimony to the point was given in September, 1524, by Conrad Grebel, the principal founder of the Swiss Brethren Church, in a letter to Thomas Muenzer who had taken the sword in the interest of the cause which he represented. Grebel wrote:

The Gospel and those who accept it are not to be protected with the sword, neither should they thus protect themselves. . . . True, believing Christians are as sheep in the midst of wolves. . . . They must be baptized in anxiety and trouble, tribulation, persecution, suffering, and death. They must be tried in the fire and

must reach the fatherland of eternal rest, not by overcoming bodily enemies with the sword, but by overcoming spiritual foes. They use neither the worldly sword nor engage in war, since among them taking human life has ceased entirely, for we are no longer under the Old Covenant. [8]

Felix Manz, one of the most influential leaders of the early Swiss Brethren, said: "No Christian smites with the sword nor resists evil." [9] In the death sentence pronounced over him on January 5, 1527, it was charged that Manz held that no Christian can carry out the death sentence on any person, nor put to death any one. [10]

The attitude of the evangelical Anabaptists as concerns this question was set forth by Hans Schlaffer who suffered martyrdom on February 4, 1528, at Schwaz in the Tyrol. In his last confession he replied to questions regarding their principles, and in particular whether he knew of any one who was to be their leader in an uproar against the government. He said:

Our faith, life, and baptism is founded on nothing else than the commandment of Christ, and all the days of my life has no uproar or sedition come into my heart. Yes, I have fled from a house whose inhabitants lived in discord. There is no plot or other intention among us except to amend our lives and to abstain from the vicious, unrighteous life of the world.

Not the least among our doctrines is that which enjoins subjection and obedience to the government in all that is good. I know of no other leader or beginner of my faith than Jesus Christ, the Son of God alone.

George Blaurock, who was burned at the stake on September 6, 1529, wrote in a hymn: "I pray thee, Lord, from my whole heart to forgive all our enemies and do not account unto them their transgressions."

The first confession of faith of the Swiss Brethren is the Schlatten Confession drawn up by Michael Sattler and adopted by a conference held at Schlatten in southern Baden near Schaffhausen, February 24, 1527. Sattler was, after the death of Grebel and Manz, the most prominent leader of the Swiss Brethren. He died a martyr, being burned at the stake on May 21, 1527, at Rottenburg on the Neckar. On the question of peace and nonresistance this confession contains the following articles : [11]

Jesus Christ has made us free from the servitude of the flesh and meet for the service of God through the spirit which He has given us. Therefore we shall surely lay down the unchristian, yea satanic weapons of force, such as sword, armor and the like, together with all their use, whether for the protection of friends or against personal enemies; and this in the strength of the words of Christ, "I say unto you that

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About the Author:

Curtis D. Rowden is the Provisional Pastor of East Peoria Community Church of God in East Peoria, Illinois

In a time when we are recognizing the onset of the last days as being ever closer, it is easy to see the evidence of how the great deception and drawing away of the faithful is taking place. We are more accepting of those “little things” that we used to stand firm against. The “ways of the world” from days gone by have become an essential part of the church environment. There was a time when contemporary worship was seen as an effort to infect the church with a virus that would only result in the church becoming less devoted to the Word of God. Now, you are not keeping pace with the explosion of new and revitalized worship if you do not have a worship band or something of that sort. I am not condemning the use of contemporary ideas in worship...I enjoy it as much as anyone. I use it as an example of how sometimes we see something as the onset of the downfall of the church and yet we miss the truest signs of the presence of that which draws us apart from God.

As I begin this article; or commentary if you will, I do so with the utmost respect for the life of the individual church. I am not trying to dictate what I think should be the norm. Quite frankly, I doubt that I know. I am not placing blame, and in a way I am actually asking questions rather than making blanket statements. I do so because I am try-

ing to sort out some of these issues myself. I find that when I sit down and write out my thoughts about a particular subject, I more often than not confront myself.

It is probably best if I address who I am so you might understand my perspective a little bit better. I am 53 years old with roots that go back in the Church

of God some 46 years. My great-grandfather, Elzie Robbins, was instrumental in the planting of the first Church of God in the Peoria, Illinois, area. I was an active youth member from about the time I was 7 until I graduated from high school. I then served 4 years in the Navy, got married, went to college and returned to the church about 10 years after high school. I have been an active member for the past 25 years, serving in many capacities. About 4 years ago, our pastor stepped down from the pastorate here and from the ministry completely. I am gratified to hear that he has returned to it recently. We went for awhile without a pastor until I approached the other Elders with the idea of my pursuing a provisional license from the General Conference to allow me to perform some of the more perfunctory obligations of a pastor. We needed someone to do weddings, funerals, and such; as well as someone to point to when new people wanted to meet the pastor. With their blessing and support that is what we did. I figured that after 50 years I might as well ac-

complish one thing that my mother had wanted me to.

I offer all of this to somewhat set the stage for my purpose. In those 46 years, our church has had at least 9 different men serving the church in ten different time frames. One served twice. That is an average of four and one-half years a piece. This trend

“Why would any young person with an intact ego and positive self-image want to subject themselves and a possible family to the undeniably stubborn, stiff-necked, and at times back-biting people who consider themselves a part of the Church?”

appears to be escalating throughout the Church. Just this week there is word of the ninth resignation in the Church of God this year. Some of these resignations were with no plans to move to another church, and some are considering leaving the ministry permanently. And while all this happens we continue to ask the same question we have for so many years. “Why can’t the college produce more pastors?”

I think I have at least a part of the answer, but let me first say once again that I am not targeting any particular church or even a majority of churches. This may not be applicable to your church at all, but I feel strongly enough about it that I hope it reaches at least one church that can do something to make the situation better. Some of my words may be strong, but I have a limited vocabulary at times.

That being said, I believe the question we must inevitably ask ourselves is this. Why would any young person with an intact ego and positive self-image want to

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subject themselves and a possible family to the undeniably stubborn, stiff-necked, and at times back-biting people who consider themselves a part of the Church? This is particularly disheartening in a Church that roots itself in the teaching of the Church as representatives of the coming Kingdom of God. How on earth can we ever expect to handle a Kingdom of many people, when we cannot even practice the principles of that Kingdom in a group of 50 or 60 people in our average church?

If you have not already quit reading and decided that this is not worth the time it takes to read, or maybe you have decided it is not your church I am writing about, then allow me a few points to examine in your personal mirror.

First, our church is not some sort of walled compound. It is not to be defended from all who may seek to work within its walls to develop it into that representative

of God's Kingdom. We are not a group of people who will not allow a new face and perspective to come in and work the ministry that God has called them to. It is God's Church, and if someone accepts the mantle of God's calling to serve, and we select them to fulfill that calling in our fellowship, then we should support them within the scriptural framework of their calling. That does not mean we follow blindly, but it does mean that we should consider that they may have a godly insight we are not seeing.

Next, the pastor is not a ready made Sunday school teacher, VBS director, or social coordinator, and neither is their spouse. They are first and foremost a spouse, and they will work to support and defend the pastor as a spouse should. Many times, especially in our smaller churches, the spouse may be the primary bread-winner and needs to be treated as an equal in the congregation.

In a majority of situations, the pastor is probably younger than most of the leadership element in the congregation, especially when first starting in the ministry. They need us to be a sounding board for them instead of them being a whipping post for us. For example, I sometimes wonder if we would tell Paul that we have always done communion this way when he told us it had turned into just another potluck like the Corinthian Church. Or would we tell Peter that we did not care how many people came to know the Lord, that kind of evangelism just did not suit our style.

So what do we do? I believe the primary thing we are learning in our church is that we are responsible for the earthly success of the Church. If we are going to be an example of God's Kingdom, it is up to us as individuals in the corporate body to do our part. Oh yes, God will bless it in whatever fashion He chooses, but just like Paul in the shipwreck, we have to find a plan to get to shore. Absolutely essential is that the selected leaders in the congregation need to be the chief supporters of the efforts of the pastor. We cannot allow that one congregation member who has an unsupportable dislike for the pastor to infect the entire congregation. That is not to say that the elders should not have an open dialogue with the pastor that includes those individual concerns, and it does not mean that the pastor has the right to run roughshod over any member of the congregation. What it does mean is that the pastor can not be a shepherd if he has no flock, and we have no need of a shepherd if we refuse to be a

What Does A Pastor Do?

"The pastor teaches, though he must solicit his own classes. He heals, though without pills or knife.

He is sometimes a lawyer, often a social worker, something of an editor, a bit of a philosopher and entertainer, a salesman, a decorative piece for public functions, and he is supposed to be a scholar.

He visits the sick, marries people, buries the dead, labors to console those who sorrow and to admonish those who sin and tries to stay sweet when chided for not doing his duty.

He plans programs, appoints committees when he can get them; spends considerable time in keeping people out of each other's hair; between times he prepares a sermon and preaches it on Sunday to those who don't happen to have any other engagements.

Then on Monday he smiles when some jovial chap roars, What a job – one day a week!"

anonymous

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Out of the Overflow of the Heart the Mouth Speaks

Author Unknown

Whatever happened to . . . ?” A group of friends and I had met for dinner, and the name of an author who'd been popular many years before came up. I'd read her latest book and found it disappointing. But instead of merely mentioning that I thought her earlier books had been better, I found myself launching into harsh criticism of the new book—and the woman who'd written it. I related incidents from the book that showed how shallow and out of touch she was. I told my friends that it seemed her husband and children had replaced God as the love of her life, and she no longer had anything helpful to say.

Suddenly realizing how unkind and unnecessary my comments were, I stopped myself. I even came up with a few words of praise for the now-maligned author. I apologized for my negativity. But it was too late. I had already damaged the reputation of a sister in Christ, and I could never take back those words. *Where did all that come from?* I found myself wondering as the conversation shifted to another topic. Why do we so often end up uttering words that make us sorry? Why do we find ourselves:

- Harshly criticizing someone from church?
- Grumbling bitterly over minor annoyances?
- Spitting out words intended to wound the people we love?
- Passing on information that makes someone look bad?
- Exaggerating in order to prove a point?
- Repeating confidences, perhaps rationalizing, *This person won't tell anyone?*

We know in our spirits these

things are destructive—and wrong. So why do we do them again and again, no matter how many times we resolve to “do better next time?” All too often we can relate to the Apostle James' assessment, “No man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison” (Jas. 3:8). Jesus explained why the best intentions to say good and helpful things often fail:

No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

Luke 6:43-45

No wonder our attempts at self-control when it comes to gossip, grumbling, or angry outbursts are destined for failure! The problem is not with our mouths, it's with our hearts.

Whenever we have a recurring “speech problem,” we need to look for its source. If we're perpetually complaining, it's likely we've never learned to be thankful, or to obey God's command to focus on the good and beautiful things around us (Phil. 4:8). On an even deeper level, we may be trying to wrest control of our lives from God, demanding that things go our way and resisting the circumstances He brings into our lives for our good.

Similarly, if we have a tendency

to brag, it's likely we're seeking to please people more than to please God. If we “stretch the truth” to cover our mistakes, we may be unrepentant about our sin. If we angrily broadcast the sins of people who have wronged us, we have probably failed to forgive. If our speech centers on ourselves or if we're prone to angry words, we may be lacking in love.

A Change of Heart. How we long to speak words that are good and true, loving and helpful! How we wish we could always respond with kindness and wisdom. There is a way! If we allow God to transform our hearts, the words that flow from within will *naturally* be the kind that bless those who hear. What kind of hearts should we seek?

Repentant Hearts. After each transgression of the tongue, we need to examine our hearts and confess the sinful attitudes at the root. If we fail to be genuinely grieved about attitudes such as self-centeredness and pride, if we don't see them as an ugly affront to God, we will inevitably fall back into the same old speech patterns. Only a truly repentant heart can be transformed.

Thankful Hearts. “Give thanks in all circumstances” is a command, not a suggestion (1 Thess. 5:18). As we begin to grasp all that God has done for us, and then decide to focus on those things daily, our hearts will overflow with gratefulness. Then, our words will point others toward God's goodness. Critical comments about people will disappear as we focus on their strengths. Complaints about our circumstances will give way to

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eager anticipation about how God will work in an unpleasant situation for His glory and our good.

Hearts that Know God's Love.

Our words will be transformed as we begin to “grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge” (Eph. 3:18-19). As we grow secure in God's unbounded delight in us, our need for others' approval will fade away. We'll no longer be tempted to boast of our accomplishments to impress people. As our hearts are transformed by God's love, we will gradually become more consumed with helping others experience that love than with trying desperately to get others to love us.

In his book *Life of the Beloved*, Henri Nouwen writes about learning to experience God's deep love for us. One key is grabbing hold of God's blessing--His affirmation of who we are. He describes how learning to see ourselves as God does--as blessed, not cursed--will enrich our interactions with others.

The characteristic of the blessed ones is that, wherever they go, they always speak words of blessing. It is remarkable how easy it is to bless others, to speak good things to and about them, to call forth their beauty and truth, when you yourself are in touch with your own blessedness.

Hearts that Love God. As we respond in love to God's love for us, our hearts will be filled with praise. Then the words that flow from a heart enthralled by God will naturally draw others to Him. We will be like David, who said, “My tongue will speak of your

righteousness and of your praises all day long” (Ps. 35:28). Not long ago I was awed by a series of events in which God clearly and dramatically worked to help me experience His love on a deeper level. I couldn't wait to tell the stories of His loving and perfect intervention to the friends who'd prayed these breakthroughs into my life. In those conversations, my joy overflowed when my friends began to rejoice with me over God's goodness. Imagine how rich we would be if we filled all our exchanges with the latest tales of God's greatness. As we grow to love Him, He will occupy more of our hearts, our thoughts, and our conversations. Our words will build up, encourage, and bless.

Hearts that Love People.

How many of our speech problems would disappear if we truly loved other people! All too frequently, I find myself complaining to anyone who will listen about someone I think has sinned against me. I've realized that if I truly love my offender, I will never seek to damage that person's reputation. I will forgive. I will be “not easily angered,” and “keep no record of wrongs” (1 Cor. 13:5). Just think about how our words would enrich our families, our workplaces, and our churches if we learned to love others the way Paul describes in 1 Cor. 13:4-7. Our words would be:

- patient
- kind
- free from jealousy
- humble
- considerate
- other-centered
- truthful
- protective of others

They would communicate that we believe in others, that we will never give up on them. Even angry words would be spoken for the benefit of others—to warn or

restore, not to wound. If our hearts are filled with love, our words will seldom go wrong.

Humble Hearts. In his book *Tongue in Check*, Joseph Stowell lists the many kinds of sinful speech that spring from pride: Proverbs 8:13 states that pride and arrogance result in evil behavior and perverse speech. Psalm 10 attributes boasting, reviling the Lord, cursing, lying, and contention to pride. . . . Psalm 59 indicates that those who are proud slander the righteous. Gossip is another product of a proud heart. Those who gossip are described as insolent and arrogant (Rom. 1:29-30). Scoffing, malice, and oppressive threats are catalogued with a proud spirit (Ps. 73:6-11).

Conversely, those with humble spirits will breathe life into every situation with their words. They will give credit for their successes to the true Source. They will be honest about their weaknesses, creating a safe environment for others to confess their failings. They will ask insightful questions rather than seeking to show off what they know. They will never throw stones at a fallen saint, because they are well aware that they, too, are capable of great sin. Finally, those with humble hearts will surrender their own agendas and allow their words to be directed by the Holy Spirit.

Straight from the Spirit. Psalm 12:6 says, “The words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.” As we learn to be filled with God's Spirit, our words, too, will be purified. He will speak His flawless words through us.

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Jesus promised His disciples that when they were arrested for His sake, they wouldn't need to prepare a defense. "At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you" (Mt. 10:19-20). Paul knew that His words would have eternal impact only when He was led by the Spirit. He wrote, "We speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words" (1 Cor. 2:13). He urged the Ephesians to "pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel" (Eph. 6:19). Our greatest hope of speaking life-giving words is to be in intimate fellowship with our Lord, learning to listen to His voice. Then we will be able to

say, with the prophet Isaiah, "The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary" (Is. 50:4).

A Tongue-taming God. A day I spent with a close friend recently gave me a vision for the kind of conversation that comes from transformed hearts. As I drove to meet her, I asked God to help me encourage my friend and to use me in her life that day.

God answered abundantly. As we hiked along a mountain stream that rushed through a canyon, we talked at length about my friend's frustration with her new job. I thought of some practical ideas that might help her, and I encouraged her to meditate on a Scripture passage that applied to her situation. As we began to discuss deeper issues, I listened and empathized with her feelings, but I

also felt led to ask some hard questions and to challenge some of her perspectives. She told me later that the Spirit had spoken truth to her through several things I'd said.

As we ended our time together by praying for one another, we praised God for our friendship and for how He had used us in each other's life. As I drove home, I felt "the thrill of victory." There had been times when we had gossiped, grumbled, and criticized others when we got together. But as we sought to surrender our lives to God, He was transforming our hearts. I think He smiled on the words we spoke that day.

No man (or woman) *can* tame the tongue. But God can! He can transform even a thorn bush into a fig tree—one that produces good fruit, in abundance. ■

Hidden Treasures

By Betsy Moore

About the Author:

Betsy Moore is a long-time Church of God member from Troyview Church of God in Ohio.

Michael shook as he heard howling outside. The howling sounded like an eerie choir. He jumped out of bed and jerked the curtains opened. He squinted his eyes desperate to see any movement in the darkness near the barn. In the distance, he heard an answering howl followed by yelps of what sounded like young pups. Suddenly, a light downstairs flashed on and Michael knew his parents heard the howling too. He flew downstairs and as he rounded the stairway corner

he collided into his dad. Michael was alarmed when he saw the gun.

"Did Scout's barking wake you, Michael?" his dad asked.

"What I heard wasn't Scout! It sounded like a shrill howl...Like nothing I've ever heard before! What was it?" Michael asked.

"It sounded like coyotes to me and I'm afraid they're in our sheep," his dad replied.

Michael froze in place as his father loaded the gun. What did this mean? Surely the coyotes wouldn't invade their barn and eat their sheep. He didn't even know there were coyotes anywhere around.

His dad opened the door and quietly slipped outside with Michael close behind. Michael could not believe the bleating sound and the panicked movement he saw when they opened the barn doors. The sheep were breathless from running in fear. Michael breathed a sigh of relief when he saw Ghost, his special lamb, scurry to him. Ghost rubbed against his leg searching for comfort and safety but continued to shiver in fright. Michael squatted down and rubbed the full length of Ghost's body trying to wipe away the fear. He talked calmly as his dad was doing to the other sheep. Slowly, the mother sheep calmed down and one by one

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

they began to lie in the fresh straw as their lambs began to drink their milk.

Michael and his dad walked back to the house in silence, hoping the invaders left for good. Rachel met them at the door and Michael felt bad when he saw her swollen wet eyes. She loved Ghost almost as much as he did and the thought of their special lamb being eaten by coyotes was more than she could handle. Dad reassured her that everything was safe now and they all headed back to bed.

“Dad,” Rachel called. “I’m still scared can you come tell me a story to help me go back to sleep.”

Michael could hear the low rumble of his dad’s voice next door in Rachel’s room. The low rumble changed to laughter and Michael knew the tickle torture had begun. He jumped out of bed and ran into Rachel’s room to join in the late night fun. Michael, Rachel, and Dad all lay on the floor with tears in their eyes from the laughter.

“Time to go back to bed now,” Dad said as he turned out the light.

Michael heard the alarm clock and covered his head with the sheet. He dreaded getting out of bed. It was gardening day and he dreaded hoeing and pulling weeds.

“Michael! Rachel! Time for breakfast!” Mom called from the kitchen. “We need to get started in the garden before it gets too hot.”

Michael finished eating and hurried to the barn to check on the animals. Luckily, everyone was safe he was happy to see. With the barn work done Michael kicked the dirt with the toe of his shoe as he slowly walked to the shed door to get the hoe. His dad was already in the garden, picking plump red tomatoes to make juice. Michael began hoeing weeds from the corn.

His dad broke the silence, “I got a call from the neighbor this morning. He caught a trespasser on his land. It wasn’t a coyote as we thought, it was a wolf.”

“A wolf,” Michael said in disbelief. “I didn’t know there were wolves anywhere around here,” Michael replied.

“No one has seen any in this area for years, but the Game Warden came out and confirmed that it was a wolf. It measured almost six feet long from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail. When they weighed it, I couldn’t believe it weighed almost one hundred pounds. The warden said it didn’t surprise him because they can eat as much as twenty pounds of meat at a time. We have to be on guard now, because wolves live in a pack or a group of seven or eight. They’ll be hunting for more food,” Dad said.

“Where do they live?” Michael asked.

“Most live in North America but there are also some in parts of Europe.” His dad answered.

“No, I mean where do they live around here?” Michael tried to clarify what he really wanted to know.

“Oh, Sorry, They live in woods and rocks. It’s kind of interesting that the female wolf burrows down in the ground to make a den for new pups. She digs a tunnel as long as a car and then makes a room at the end to keep her pups safe. The father of the pups doesn’t even go down there until the pups are a couple of weeks old. Then he brings food for the mother. When the pups are bigger, the father brings them food too. The wolves carry the food back to the den in their stomach. That way they aren’t dragging an animal through the woods and leaving a trail or scent for other predators to find their babies. It’s also easier for them to travel with the food in their stomach instead of dragging something heavy for a long distance. It sounds gross but when the pup licks the father’s mouth, it instantly brings the half-digested food back in their mouth and feeds the pups. Wolves are very good parents and protect their children.” Dad explained as he continued filling the second bucket with tomatoes. “They love their families and are very devoted to them.”

“Clink!” Michael hit something with his hoe. He leaned over and picked up the rock. He rubbed the dirt from the stone and couldn’t believe he had finally found his first arrowhead.

“Dad, Dad, Look!” he yelled as he jumped the two rows of corn to show the treasure to his dad. “Indians must have worked right here in our garden! How exciting!”

Michael proudly displayed his

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(Hidden Treasures continued from page 10)

arrowhead on the fireplace mantel along with his dad's collection. His mom began to tell him of the story of a loyal friend that used an arrow to warn his best friend.

"Jonathan said, 'I will shoot three arrows to the side, as though I were shooting at a target. Then I will send a boy.' Jonathan warned David by using his arrow and a secret code to save David's life," his mom said. Michael grabbed his arrowhead and stretched out on the couch to ad-

mire it when his dad walked to his recliner, sat, and began to relax.

"Do you remember what we talked about out in the garden today, Michael?" His dad asked.

"Of course, I do," Michael replied. "Why did you ask?"

"I was just thinking that the wolves providing for their young and feeding them the way they do reminded me of a Bible story," his dad replied. "The ravens brought Elijah bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat

in the evening, and he drank from the brook." (I Kings 17:6) "Isn't it amazing how God works things out!"

Michael relaxed and realized that while working with his dad he had discovered a treasure that he would value his whole life. He enjoyed the time he spent with his mom and dad reliving Bible stories that came alive because they were so similar to what was happening in his own life. This was one summer he would always remember. ■

(Reflection on the Ministry of Pastors continued from page 6)

flock.

Let me offer just a couple of examples of what I am talking about. We want our pastors to visit everyone that may be in the hospital, and non-members related to church members. Yet I know of situations where the pastor's spouse was in the hospital and no one went out of their way to visit. We want the pastor there for all the major holidays, but even though they are often far from their family, do we make sure they at least have a place to

go for a nice dinner? Lastly, we want the pastor to have those difficult counseling sessions with us or family members when they are dealing with strife in their life, but how often do the leaders of the church sit with the pastor and just talk about the needs that the pastor might have?

I said all that to say this: let us support the work of our pastors. Let us be there for them as we want them to be there for us. Let us all work to show the world what God's Kingdom will look like when all other kingdoms are put under the feet of Jesus. He is

our hope and our salvation, but how can we hope to be one of God's elect if we have not shown Him we are worthy of inhabiting such a glorious place.

If you would like to offer comments or thoughts you can address me at:

Curtis D. Rowden
P.O. Box 113
Metamora IL 61548-0113
Or email me at:
wowden@mtco.com

Thanks for your consideration of my thoughts. ■

(The Principle of Nonresistance continued from page 4)

ye resist not evil." The government using the sword to punish and put to death the wrongdoers and to guard and protect the good is an appointment of God outside the perfection of Christ. In the law of the Old Covenant the sword is ordained against wrongdoers for punishment and death, and to exercise it the worldly governments are

appointed.

In the perfection of Christ, however, church discipline alone is used for the correction and exclusion of those who have sinned, not indeed for the destruction of the flesh but as an admonition and injunction to sin no more.

Here it is asked by many who do not know Christ's will toward us whether a Christian may or

should use the sword against wrong-doers for protecting or defending the good, or for love's sake. Our unanimous answer is: Christ teaches and commands that we should learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly in heart and we shall find rest to our souls. ■

This two-part series is an excerpt from the complete article which can be found at:

<http://www.bibleviews.com/Nonresistance-Horsch.html>

Progress Journal

Traveling for the Gospel—Part 2

By Anthony Buzzard

About the Author:

Anthony Buzzard is an instructor at Atlanta Bible College and the founder of Restoration Fellowship.

This article is the conclusion of the two part series on Anthony Buzzard's travels this summer. He visited Korea, the Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand.

“Pastor, pastor, do you say that Jesus is God?” The implication was that if I did not repeat that definition I would be in bad trouble with her and with God.

There followed a four-hour session in which members of the audience popped up all over with “What about John 1:1?” “What about I John 5:7?” When I replied that I John 5:7 is known to be a forgery and not part of the inspired text of Scripture, the audience was appalled and seemed almost ready to dismiss me as teacher. It took some minutes to try to inform them of the overwhelming evidence that this verse does not belong in the Bible and has been omitted by all modern translations. (See companion article on page 16) I realized then how very blessed we are in the USA and the West to have good information available. The Philippines, under the heavy hand of a massive Roman Catholic presence, just does not have the resources to investigate the faith. It is our obligation as possessing a very great advantage in terms of study tools, to share this knowledge with them. Unless we do they will continue to be deprived

of a sound understanding of the Bible. The world is in a desperate state of hunger for a straightforward exposition of the Gospel of the Kingdom and of the destiny of man as needing the vital spark of new life imparted by the seed Gospel-Message of the Kingdom described by the master rabbi Jesus in his extraordinarily brilliant parable of the sower. Peter rehearsed this foundational fact about how to gain immortality by means of the words/spirit of Jesus imparted by that Gospel of the Kingdom (I Pet. 1:22ff). Reli-



The world is hungry for the gospel of the Kingdom!

gious television in Asia is dominated by a massive 24/7 presence of Seventh Day Adventism, characterized by vegetarianism, Trinitarianism, and a millennium in which, when Jesus comes, the earth will be totally emptied of human beings, leaving Satan alone on the earth. The text in Isaiah 24 of course does describe an alarming depopulation of the earth at the return of Jesus, but Ellen G. White, the “prophetess” of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, in her book the Great Controversy, omitted to tell us that “few men will be left” (Isa. 24:6).

That view of the Kingdom of God on earth is a very far cry from the repopulated and magnificently regenerated world which will come into existence as the “restoration of all things about which the prophets spoke” (Acts 3:21). Isaiah certainly never imagined what the Adventists are teaching—a world without people! Indeed there will be blessed nations Assyria, Egypt and Israel (Isa. 19) and peace will spread to the four corners of the globe as the Messiah and the saints take charge of a genuine New Era of untold prosperity and blessedness on earth. Truly, as my colleague Ray Faircloth reminded us on every occasion, the thief on the cross, even in the last hours of his life, was guaranteed a place in that future Paradise or Garden of Eden which will be the Kingdom of God inaugurated at the splendid “Parousia” or return of Jesus in glory at the end of

the present evil age. Thy Kingdom come! We were able to speak of that Kingdom and of the necessity of “accepting Jesus” by accepting his words and teachings and thus taking in his spirit, in many settings. We visited the home of one who had been listening to our daily radio program “Focus on the Kingdom” (the 15-minute sessions are all available at www.focusonthekingdom.org). We took part in the daily “chapel” at Cebu City prison, a truly grim place. We walked by a special caged area in which human beings, obviously the less tractable inmates, were squeezed like ani-

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

mals behind bars. Wherever we could we left literature for further reading, and we invited bookstores to take copies of our books and placed them also in the city library.

There is a mass of work to be done among the gentle Philippine people. They are teachable, yet vulnerable to the cult leader. One very large group with a single leader promotes a modalistic view of God on TV hour after hour. The leader considers himself to be somehow the anointed Son of God. Devoted followers hang on every one of his words. You would be amazed how their taxi drivers and colorful “jeepneys” negotiate the entirely too narrow streets, jostling for places with amazing planned near-misses (there seem to be no formal rules) and an absence of bad temper.

On to Australia. It was so good to see Greg Deuble (pronounced to rhyme with Bible) who had been with us at the Theological Conference in April. Greg is a fine exponent of Abrahamic Faith with an extensive Bible and pastoral training. He was there to welcome us at Brisbane airport, not too far from his home. Barbara and my youngest daughter, Heather, had by now made their way to Brisbane from the USA, braving the long time change and some 15 hours on the plane. Our time in Australia allowed for more sightseeing and getting close to the extraordinary animals and birds of that country. We visited Steve Irwin’s (of “by crikey” crocodile fame) celebrated Australia Zoo, saw the world’s most poisonous snakes (New Zealand by contrast has no poisonous snakes), and kangaroos, a casso-

wary, and the Australian wombat. Most unusual was Harriet, the oldest living animal on earth, a giant tortoise, 187 years old and brought to England by Darwin himself. When feeding time came for this gentle creature, she chewed on a mixed salad and then obligingly elevated herself to allow her keeper to stroke her belly, a daily routine. The keeper gave us an enthralling account of this animal’s history. Truly God’s creation is diverse, both at the level of the human as well as the animal species.

In New Zealand (the north island—the trip to Hamilton is about two hours from Brisbane) we had been invited by members of the Church of Christ, Life and Advent, who hold to the conditional immortality teaching planted there in the 20th century by British clergy who sometimes spent their whole lives in New Zealand. Conditional immortality is the belief, very biblical we think, which states that there is no such thing in the Bible as disappearing at death to “heaven” as a soul deprived of a body. The all-pervasive notion that when you die, you really are not dead, but merely change your address and survive as a soul in heaven or hell, has been constantly opposed as non-biblical by “conditionalists,” who can be found amongst leading thinkers in many denominations. Conditionalists also deny that God will torture the wicked forever and ever. They maintain that the “eternal fire” of Jude 7 which annihilated Sodom and Gomorrah and is clearly not still burning, is a model of the same “eternal fire” which will consume the wicked at the return of Jesus. “Eternal” in

other words is a mistranslation that promotes the Platonic, non-biblical idea that man has an immortal soul which is bound to live on somewhere. That fire which will put the wicked forever out of existence is really “the fire of the age to come” (aionion fire). It will eliminate the wicked as the refuse of the earth.

The Conditional Immortality movement in New Zealand struggles to maintain an identity and it was exciting to find wonderful Bible students evening after evening, engaging various topics, including the important teaching that God is one and that Jesus is the Son of God and not God the Son. This idea had taken root in New Zealand thanks to two visits in the 1970s by the late Sid Hatch who produced the magazine *Brief Bible Studies* and the book *Daring to Differ: Adventures in Conditional Immortality*. We are now in possession of an interesting video made at our first Theological Conference in 1991 in which Sid Hatch explained with an impressive simplicity and sincerity his belief in the One God of Israel and in Jesus as His unique Son, not God the Son. We can supply that video or DVD if you would care to email us (suggested cost \$3).

It is a remarkable experience to be exposed in some five weeks to such a variety of culture, landscape and language. We encourage our readers to prepare daily for whatever teaching ministry they are planning. I can say with absolute confidence that there is a huge vacuum of ignorance needing to be filled with basic lessons on the way to immortality in the coming Kingdom of God on earth. ■

From the CAO...

By Tim Jones

About the Author:

Tim Jones is the current Chief Administrative Officer and President of Atlanta Bible College.

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus! As we come to you in the first issue of The Restitution Herald & Progress Journal, I hope God is richly blessing you in many ways. It is so exciting to see the great works that He has in store for His people bearing fruit in the world today.

I hope you will be blessed by the combination of The Restitution Herald and Progress Journal into a single publication. Many more people will have the opportunity to benefit from the articles and writing than ever before. As you see from this issue, the magazine will combine articles on faith, theology, and ministry with updates on General Conference programs. Let us know how we can serve you with our magazine.

ABC Booster month is set for October. Students and staff will travel to different locations for promotions in September, October, and November for this special time. The ABC Booster campaign will highlight the important ministry of the College and encourage all members to get involved by donating extra money to support the College and its ministry. Get involved by praying for God's blessing and sending extra contributions to ABC.

Remember the Challenge Gift program highlighted in the last Progress Journal? The general membership and the OBC/ABC

alumni have been challenged to match a gift to the College of \$40,000. Each of the 3 groups will compete to see who will give the most. I promised to keep you informed on how we were doing. Please see the update below.

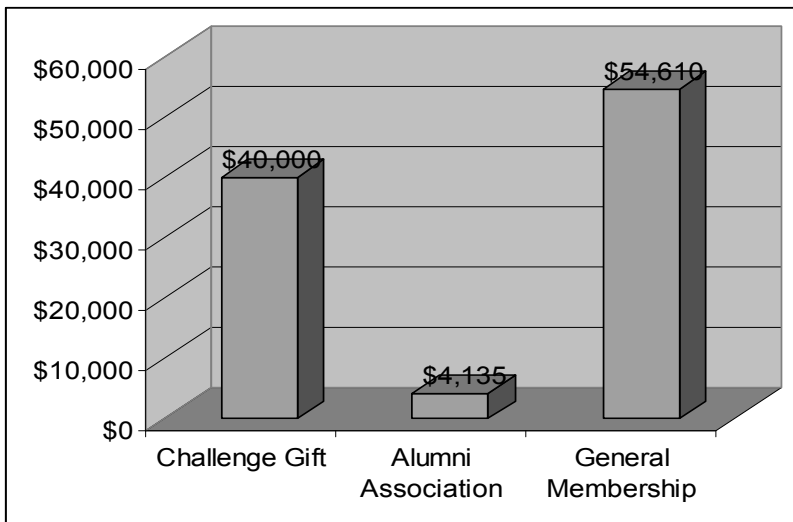
That's right – the general membership, because of some very special anonymous givers, have surpassed the initial goal of \$40,000! One giver said they want to “up the ante!” College Alumni, do you hear that challenge? Total giving for this program as of mid-September is \$98,745! It is so exciting to see these gifts come in. We know that God will use them in a special way. Please do not assume that the work is done – every dollar you contribute will go towards the continued support of the College. Thank you so much for your faithful support!

The Board of Directors will be meeting in Atlanta mid-October for a special time of planning. They will be seeking God's will for the strategic plans for the Conference and College. As they review the progress made toward our initial 5 Year Vision, they

will also be asking God to show us what He wants us to set as our next series of goals. As I have watched the College/Conference grow and change since 2001, I am in awe of what God has done. I am excited to see the next phase of our plans develop. The Board asks that all members of the General Conference remember these meetings in your prayers. Ask that God be present in all the decisions and planning.

This season we had an extraordinary series of tropical storms and hurricanes affect the southeastern US, especially the state of Florida. Our hearts go out to the people that have been killed, hurt, or lost their homes. Although Atlanta was affected by the remnants of several of these storms, except for minor leaks in the roof and several fallen trees, the College was spared any damage and was not forced to cancel any classes. We are thankful that the storms were not more destructive.

Enjoy the Restitution Herald & Progress Journal. May God bless you all! ■



I Need A Vacation!

By Tim Jones

May I ask how long has it been since you were on a real vacation? The kind where you and a special someone get away from everything and enjoy each other's company. I don't mean a few hours on Friday evening for "Date Night," or trip into the country for a day, or even a long, 3-day weekend. No, a real vacation—when you can focus on each other and on renewing the bonds that all relationships need to be vital and meaningful.

Before you hop on the Internet to check *Travelocity's* airfare to exotic places, perhaps I need to explain. That "special someone" I'm referring to is God. Although time with our spouse, family, or even time alone is critical, it is also important for us to schedule some time with God. How long has it been since you and God got away from it all for a while? If you're like me, it has probably been a lot longer than you would like to admit.

The world moves at a frantic pace. By the time we work, play, eat, and try to budget a couple of hours for sleep, we seem to have no free time at all. The hectic nature of our lives means that time away for recharging and relaxing is always at a premium. But the more difficult it is for us to find the time to be away with God, the more desperately we need it! One of the greatest things about our relationship to God is also a weakness when it is applied by imperfect humans. It is always there. We take our relationship with us wherever we go and therefore we take it for granted. God will be patiently

waiting when we finish that rush project at work, so we say we'll spend some time with Him after that. But then we need to get our backyard fence painted, so we'll take care of that first and then spend some time with God. Oops, we forgot that the kids have a soccer tournament this weekend, so maybe we'll get together right after that. But then...you get the point. Because God is always there, patiently waiting for us to clear our schedule, only discipline will enable us to spend time with Him.

But do we need to plan a "vacation" with God? Can't our spiritual life be squeezed in between all the other activities that we do? A vacation is defined as a "time of exemption from work for rest and relaxation." Even the most driven business person knows that an occasional period of time off makes a person more effective. If that is true, how can we dare not to spend some time with God? None of the other activities that consume our time, money, and energy are as important to us as that relationship to God. A former boss always said that if he could see our day planner and checkbook, he could tell us what we thought was most important. In other words, where we spend our money and time reflects what we really value. If we value our relationship with God, we will want to invest time to be with Him away from all the distractions we face.

Our spiritual lives can be devastated by the "tyranny of the urgent." All the urgent but not important things that fill our days keep us from focusing on the vital aspects of life. Having a spe-

cial relationship to God cannot be one of many things we place on a "To Do" list. In the book *Celebration of Discipline*, by Richard Foster, the author writes:

Shun anything that distracts you from seeking first the Kingdom of God. It is so easy to lose focus in the pursuit of legitimate, even good things. Job, position, status, family, friends, security – these and many more can all too quickly become the center of attention.

Our spiritual life must be a priority for us. We have to allocate time to spend in quiet communion with God, re-connecting on a deep and special level. To reach this level, we need to spend time with Him – listening to His Word, meditating on His majesty, and reflecting on the basic miracle that He loves us. With all our faults and imperfections, God still loves us enough to let Jesus die for our sins. What better way to renew our love for God than to spend time with Him away from the hassles of daily life. Psalm 46:10 reads, "*Be still, and know that I am God.*" If we can take the time to be still – to withdraw for a while from the clatter of everyday life – we can regain our focus on God. As a matter of fact, if you'll excuse me, there's a special someone waiting to go walking with me. Maybe we can talk about getting away for a few days – kind of a "mini-vacation!" We could experience the sights and sounds of nature together. We could invest some time in talking and listening to each other. Maybe we could share our hopes and dreams for the future. You know, I think I've kept Him waiting for too long already! ■

Understanding I John 5:7,8

By Anthony Buzzard

About the Author:

Anthony Buzzard is an instructor at Atlanta Bible College and the founder of Restoration Fellowship.

This article is a companion piece in relation to the article "Traveling for the Gospel—Part 2" on page 12.

A lady in a Philippine congregation was genuinely shocked when I told her that some words which appear in the King James Version in I John 5:7, but have been (rightly) omitted from modern translations, do not belong in the text of Holy Scripture. In various parts of the world and apparently also in the USA often, good information about the Bible is at a premium. People generally are not *studying* the Bible, though they may be reading it. There is a mass of help at hand. Take for example the study notes in the NIV Translation. Words found in the King James Bible are left out of the NIV translation of I John 5:7-8: The note says "Late manuscripts of the Vulgate [the Roman Catholic Translation of the Bible into Latin] read: '...testify in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. (8) and there are three which testify on earth: the....' The note then adds that the words in question are not found in any Greek manuscripts before the 16th century."

These added words could of course suggest the Trinity as "three Persons in the One God." In fact they do not speak of the Father, *the Son* and the Holy Spirit. But since many readers automatically treat the word "Word" as the equivalent to the Son, the inserted verses will give

the impression of the Trinity. But they are not part of Scripture, and all scholars are agreed that they do not appear in the early Greek manuscripts of the Bible. In fact they only appear in the KJV by a kind of accident. Erasmus did not want them included in the text underlying the KJV, but promised to insert them if they could be found in a Greek manuscript. One single very later manuscript was found and so the uninspired words were included. No one today could imagine that words missing from the some 5,000 Greek texts available (of part or the whole of the NT) are genuine. They first appeared in the margin of a Latin translation and later crept into the Vulgate.

The evangelical *Tyndale NT Commentary* reports of I John 5:7, "The whole verse must be regarded as a gloss (inserted text). Plummer calls the reading 'quite indefensible.'"

In our book on the whole issue of the Trinity, *The Doctrine of the Trinity: Christianity's Self-Inflicted Wound* (available from (800) 347 4261) we wrote:

"As is well known a famous spurious verse is found in I John 5:7. It speaks of the three witnesses "in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." These words "have no right to stand in the New Testament." They are omitted from modern translations of the Bible. Their first appearance in Greek is in 1215 and only as a translation of the Latin *Acts of the Lateran Council*. Not until the sixteenth century are the words found in any Greek manu-

script, and then only as a translation of a Latin version of the Bible."

A good modern translation of the Scripture is the New American Standard Updated Version. It leaves out the added words, and if you have an edition with good side-margin notes you will find information about this verse which is not part of the true Bible. ■

Selected Passages from the King James Version and the New International Version

⁶This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. ⁷For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. ⁹If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

(I John 5:6-8, KJV)

⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

(I John 5:6-8, NIV)

Finance

Income and Expense Budget Report for August, 2004

INCOME				EXPENSE			
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS:				STAFF:			
General Contributions	62,180	48,541	-13,639	Salaries & Wages	78,694	79,993	-1,299
Building Our Future Campaign	0	41,010	41,010	F.I.C.A. Tax	917	831	86
BOF Challenge Gift		(40,000)		Employee Benefits	16,919	14,984	1,935
BOF General Membership Response		(510)		Subtotal	96,530	95,808	722
BOF Alumni Association Response		(500)		SERVICES:			
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	833	814	-19	Assistance to Churches	6,317	5,900	417
ABC Boosters	3,117	765	-2,352	Ministerial Association	1,600	1,600	0
				Youth Program	833	833	0
Subtotal	66,130	91,130	25,000	Subtotal	8,750	8,333	417
SALES:				SALES EXPENSE:			
Christian Education Materials	6,050	3,935	-2,115	Printing & Binding	5,000	4,438	562
Books	7,000	10,522	3,522	Postage & Shipping	2,667	2,271	396
Restitution Herald	1,000	640	-360	Media Production Expenses	0	0	0
Age to Come Media Products	333	158	-175	Book Store	3,000	4,186	-1,186
Theological Journal	312	24	-288	Royalties	25	0	25
Sale of Assets	0	0	0	Subtotal	10,692	10,895	-203
Subtotal	14,695	15,279	584	ABC:			
ABC:				Clayton Rebate	333	0	333
Tuition	33,075	59,056	25,981	Advertising--Recruitment	167	887	-720
Korean Extension Tuition	13,117	38,038	24,921	ABC Korean Extension Support	3,917	8,812	-4,895
Lodging	9,792	29,680	19,888	Library Periodicals	250	128	122
Washers/Dryers	339	0	-339	Library Books	0	24	-24
Rentals - ABC Plant	770	410	-360	Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	67	285	-218
Late Fees/Rent	1,200	873	-327	Staff Training	167	695	-528
Fees	2,000	630	-1,370	Subtotal	4,901	10,831	-5,930
Subtotal	60,293	128,687	68,394	ADMINISTRATION:			
PROGRAM INCOME:				Travel	4,167	4,796	-629
Conferences & Workshops	5,000	46,799	41,799	Motor Vehicles	333	349	-16
Subtotal	5,000	46,799	41,799	Office Supplies & Expense	2,000	2,963	-963
MISCELLANEOUS:				Professional Services	1,667	453	1,214
Interest	167	0	-167	Telephone	3,500	5,014	-1,514
Transferred In	5,000	1,424	-3,576	Insurance - Non Plant	83	42	41
Subtotal	5,167	1,424	-3,743	Supplies & Expense	417	646	-229
				Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	3,333	1,941	1,392
Subtotal	151,285	283,319	132,034	Subtotal	15,500	16,204	-704
				PLANT EXPENSES:			
				Utilities	4,667	6,526	-1,859
				Insurance - Property	2,333	3,396	-1,063
				Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	500	852	-352
				Furniture & Equipment	500	0	500
				Supplies/Expenses Plant	1,000	556	444
				Subtotal	9,000	11,330	-2,330
				MISCELLANEOUS:			
				Interest	4666	4666	0
				Other	1,167	911	256
				Subtotal	5,833	5,577	256
				Expense Total	151,206	158,978	-7,772
				GRAND TOTAL	79	124,341	124,262

Building Our Future Campaign

Total contributions since inception (2003) 69,624

- These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2004 through June, 2005
- The 'Budget' column in each report shows the year-to-date portion of the annual budget for each line item.
- The 'Variance' column in each report shows the difference between the amount budgeted and the amount actually received (income) or spent (expense). A positive number in this column means the income or expense is better than budgeted. A negative number in this column means the income or expense is worse than budgeted.

Church News

Baptisms

Georgia

Simple Teachings – Malcolm Meyers, Annette Baldwin, Kelvin Baldwin, Keona Baldwin, Brian Williams, Lisa Williams, Virginia Acevedo (12/03); Kaiya Coffee, Shandale Grant, Jelicia Grant, Mondre Grant, Selisha Grant, Leon Grant, Brenda Garner, Dorothy Rainey (3/9/04); Chris Desue, Jawayne Coffee, Rick Garner, Randy Lewis, Ricky Gordan (4/20/04); Betty Robinson, Dana Smith, Taya Smith, Christina Wright, Darien Wright, Darius Wright, Nicey Wright, Richard Wright (9/14/04) by Pastor Rufus Meyers

Illinois

Macomb – Paul Parker (9/12/04) by Pastor David Cheatwood

Indiana

North Salem – Douglas Croy (8/31/04) by Pastor Stanley Lawrence

Louisiana

Happywoods – Joel Fletcher (9/26/04) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Michigan

Blanchard – Courtney Rose, Josie Benkert, Melissa Benkert (8/13/04), at Blanchard Church of God's 29th Annual Family Camp at Coldwater Lake, by Pastor Chris Seiders

Missouri

Farmington - Corina Jennings (9/12/04), by her father, Pastor Carl Jennings

Ohio

Columbia Christian Fellowship – Melissa Baker, Nydia Colon (6/27/04) by Pastor David Swartz

North Hills – Brianna Allen (5/2/04); Ricky Whitaker (8/1/04); Erik Blackburn (8/29/04); Zack Rice (9/12/04) by Pastor Seth Ross

Troy View – Emily Snyder (9/12/04) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman assisted by Kent Snyder

South Carolina

Bethel – David Rogers, Peggy Rogers, Tonya Rogers, Jeanette Howard, Paula Foster (8/15/04) by Pastor Alan Cain

Tennessee

Clarksville Korean Church of God – Deok Kwon Nam, Bok Soon Nam, Kyoung Hwan An, Eun Ji Park, Yeon Ju Nam, Yeon Kyung Nam, Eun Woo Lee, by Pastor Jea Hun Lee

Deaths

Illinois

Macomb – Hazel L. Prichard, 93, (9/13/04), long time member; Joanne Lippert, 74, long time member of the Dixon Church of God, by Pastor David Cheatwood

Indiana

Culver – Eldon Davis (8/8/04)

Louisiana

Happywoods – Lillian Richardson (8/04) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher; Mabel Ellen Watts (9/04) by Pastors Jeff Fletcher and Billie Kennedy; Eva Bottolfs (9/04) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

150th Anniversary

The Hedrick Church of God will be celebrating their 150th anniversary on November 13-14, 2004. Pastor Jim Graham will be speaking at the Indiana State Conference on November 13th on Church History and then at the church services on November 14th, with an afternoon of Hedrick history, etc. The weekend activities will be held at the Hedrick Church of God, Hedrick, IN. Housing is available for all that need it. Contact Myra Hamilton at 765-762-6395 for additional information. Everyone is invited. Please bring pictures or stories of the church building or people!

▼ 1854



▼ 1949



▼ 2004



Prayer & Praise

November 2004

- 1 **Pray for the St. Cloud, MN Church.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Kirby and Bonnie Davis and Pastor Merry-Peterson and the Wenatchee, WA Church.
- 3 **Pray for the Fair Oaks Church in VA.**
- 4 Praise God for a record number of students studying at Atlanta Bible College and Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension.
- 5 **Pray for the Badillo family in Labor Vieja, Mexico.**
- 6 Pray for Ruth Finnegan in her duties as Publishing Specialist for the General Conference.
- 7 **Pray that God will raise up workers to serve in mission fields in other lands.**
- 8 Pray for Myra Montgomery as she serves as coordinator of the Christian Education Department of the General Conference and teaches Christian Education classes at ABC.
- 9 **Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness.**
- 10 Pray for Judy Myers and the work of the Lord's Harvest International Mission Board.
- 11 **Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Gary and Glenda Turner and New Life Bible Church in Winnebago, IL.
- 13 **Pray for Pastor Wade and Kim Tierney and the Morse Mill, MO Church.**
- 14 Pray for the Ministerial Recognition Board as they encourage our pastors.
- 15 **Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.**

December 2004

- 1 Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Beloit New Life, WI.
- 2 **Pray for Pastor Seth and Stacey Ross and the North Hills, OH church.**
- 3 Praise God for the dedicated service of the staff for our College and Conference.
- 4 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Connie Ramsey and the Cool Spring Church in Virginia.**
- 5 Praise God for you pastor as he shares God's Word today
- 6 **Pray for contacts around the world produced by literature.**
- 7 Pray for Oaklawn Church of God at Kostza, IA
- 8 **Pray for Pastor David and Anne Riley and the Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA.**
- 9 Pray for Pastor Richard and Jan Alcumbrack and the Southlawn Church in Wyoming, MI.
- 10 **Pray for the Chapel Hill congregation in Urbana, OH.**
- 11 Praise God for the ministries of your local church.
- 12 **Pray that God would lead you in the way of righteousness.**
- 13 Pray for those who are leading the work in the Philippine Islands.
- 14 **Praise God for the beauty of creation.**
- 15 Pray for Dick and Carol Eldred and Tim and Cindy Eldred and the New Beginnings Church in Michigan.
- 16 **Praise God for His word.**
- 17 Pray for the Ripley, Illinois Church.
- 18 **Pray for retired pastors Francis Burnett, Jack Hearp, and Stan Lawrence.**
- 19 Pray for the Focus on the Kingdom radio broadcasts that are presenting God's truth.
- 20 **Pray for Pastor Steve and Young An and the Korean Church that meets in the ABC chapel.**
- 21 Pray for an individual you know who has not accepted Christ.
- 22 **Pray for Stepan and Tracy Zhykhovich as they work in Russia.**
- 23 Pray for ABC instructor and Academic Dean, Dr. Joe Martin.
- 24 **Pray for encouragement for those who are separated from family and friends at this Christmas season.**
- 25 Praise God for the gift of His Son, Jesus.
- 26 **Pray for preparations for the new semester at ABC that will begin after the first of the year.**
- 27 Pray for Pastor Darrell and Tara Cardwell and the North Salem, IN Church.
- 28 **Pray for the work of native workers in Malawi and Mozambique.**
- 29 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and their work in Minnesota.
- 30 **Pray for revival throughout the Church of God in the coming year.**
- 31 Praise God for the way He has blessed you in 2004.

Address Service Requested

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Atlanta Bible College Student Letter

By Oriliana Briganti

Oriliana Briganti is a Distance Learning student from New Jersey. She is currently translating Anthony Buzzard's "The Doctrine of the Trinity: Christianity's Self-Inflicted Wound" into Italian.

Dear Sir Anthony and Dr. Martin,

I just wanted to write you a note to express my gratitude.

What is Atlanta Bible College to me? It is not a religion, not a church, and definitely not a cult!

You think about God and Jesus, and you are free! You are encouraged to go directly to the Word and depend on the Holy Scriptures and God for all of your understanding. The professors are even open to receive what God might reveal through the students.

Atlanta Bible College has become a refreshing corner of paradise in these "last days" of corruption and decay. I like to think of it as the most beautiful, brilliant, valuable and precious stone, brought out, chiseled and polished into the biggest, multifaceted, colorful diamond, otherwise known as "The Truth of God." That truth has been buried for over 2,000 years under layers of different philosophical and pagan traditions, hidden under a thick coating of lies and deceit.

When I took Old Testament Survey, I learned that God is Jehovah. I learned of His character and His beautiful glory. I came to the knowledge of His love and care for His creation and His creatures. He guides, protects, punishes, and rewards His people. What a glorious, merciful, loving and just God He is. I learned why we were created and what our destiny is. I finally un-

derstood the plan of God, which everything centers around, is the salvation of the human race through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

I truly believe that ABC is part of the Bride of Christ. I thank God for leading me to this college and I thank Anthony, Joe, and all the staff at ABC for all that they have done and do to maintain the purity of this learning center. By the grace of God, keep up the good work, so that Jesus, at this second coming, will be able to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

In Christ's love,

Oriliana Briganti

The Restitution Herald

& Progress Journal

Songs of Rejoicing

By Mrs. F. L. Austin

This article was originally published in The Restitution Herald on December 15, 1961.

Christmas is a time of rejoicing because of the birth of a Saviour to redeem the world from sin. The familiar story of Christmas tells us of the angel's annunciation to Mary; the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; the birth of Jesus; the shepherds watching their flocks on that holy night; the glory light that shone about them; the angel's annunciation to them of "tidings of great joy which shall be to all people, for unto you is born...a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"—then a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men." The shepherd's no longer feared. They went to see that which the Lord had made known to them. They glorified and praised God. A new star appeared in the heavens. The astronomers of the day understood its significance, and they came later to pay homage to the newborn King. They rejoiced as they presented their gifts of gold (kingship), frankincense (deity), myrrh (death).

There are other characters who are not so often mentioned as a part of the Christmas message, but each one of them believed, rejoiced, and enlarged upon the tidings of salvation as they sang their several songs of rejoicing.

The angel told Mary that her cousin Elisabeth was also to have a child, a holy child, so Mary went to see Elisabeth. The journey took Mary from her home in Nazareth southward to Hebron, some thirteen miles. Here Mary greeted Elisabeth. Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she cried aloud with joy. She blessed Mary and her baby to come. She acknowledged Mary as the mother of her Lord. She blessed Mary believing what the angel had told her. She knew that there would be a performance of those things which had been revealed. Elisabeth believed that Mary's Child would be the Messiah, the long-expected King of Israel. *She rejoiced* in her belief that a Saviour would be born.

Mary answered Elisabeth with her soul's outpouring of joy in the "Magnificat" (Luke 1:46-55). She said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." She went further into the salvation message than did Elisabeth, for she said, "He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; as he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever."

Soon after Mary's return to her home, John was born to Elisabeth and Zacharias. The neighbors and cousins rejoiced, for they, too, believed. Zacharias, who had been dumb because of his unbelief, ex-

pressed his joy. The Holy Spirit filled him, and he prophesied, adding to what Elisabeth and Mary had told of salvation. He said, "The Lord God of Israel...hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; as he spoke by the mouth of his prophets which have been since the world began." *He believed and rejoiced.*

After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary remained in Judea until the time for Mary's purification. They came to Jerusalem, and went into the temple to present Jesus to the Lord. A "just and devout man, waiting for the consolation of Israel," was in Jerusalem. This was Simeon. It had been revealed to him "that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." He was led "by the Spirit into the temple." When Jesus was brought in, Simeon took the child in his arms and blessed God and said, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

Even the prophets of old did not understand the salvation of a people other than Israel. The Apostle Paul spoke of the "mysteries" of the gospel (Eph. 6:19).

There were certain secrets which God had kept until time to reveal them. In Matthew 13:17, Jesus told his disciples that many prophets and righteous men had

(Continued on page 3)



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 THE RESTITUTION HERALD ADVOCATES:

- THE ONENESS OF GOD (1 COR. 8:6);
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S POWER (ACTS 1:8);
- JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (MATT. 16:16), AND IS OUR MEDIATOR (1 TIM. 2:5);
- THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (2 TIM. 3:16);
- THE MORTALITY OF MAN (JOB 4:17; PSA. 146:4);
- THE NEAR RETURN OF CHRIST (ACTS 1:11), AND LIFE ONLY THROUGH HIM (COL. 3:3);
- THE LITERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (JOHN 5:28);
- THE IMMORTALIZATION OF THOSE IN CHRIST (1 COR. 15:53, 54);
- THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED (REV. 21:8);
- THE FINAL RESTORATION OF ISRAEL AS THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNDER THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST (LUKE 1:32);
- THE CHURCH TO BE JOINT HEIRS WITH HIM (ROM. 8:17), AND ISRAEL TO BE MADE HEAD OVER GENTILE NATIONS (ISA. 60:1-3);
- THE "RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS WHICH GOD HATH SPOKEN BY THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS HOLY PROPHETS SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN" (ACTS 3:21).
- IT ALSO FIRMLY ADVOCATES REPENTANCE AND IMMERSION IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS (ACTS 2:38), AND A CONSECRATED LIFE AS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.



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Celebration of Christmas

By Lydia A. Railsback

This article was originally published in The Restitution Herald on December 23, 1930.

Christmas, the feast of Christ's birth, is observed by the church annually on the twenty-fifth of December. At first, it was the custom of the church to celebrate the death of a noted person, rather than his birth. This being the case, the birth of Christ was not celebrated until the fourth century.

To me the birth of a great character means much more than his death, unless the death be that of a martyr to his cause. The birth is the beginning; life holds great possibilities. The death simply ends all so far as this life is concerned, unless it be the death of a martyr by which the cause for which he died is greatly benefited. Without the birth there could be no greatness, for death ordinarily is but the closing of the career.

Most Christian churches celebrate the great festival of Christ's birth in some way, and practically

the entire community in Christian countries, including Jews and non-church going people nominally classed with the Christian population, join in its social observance.

We prize the holly and mistletoe for decorations, not realizing they relate more to paganism than to Christianity. The custom of making Christmas presents is also derived from heathen usage; but both these have become consecrated by usage, and contribute much to the joy of the festival. The sending of Christmas cards is of comparatively recent date, not going back more than fifty years. The Christmas tree has been traced to the Romans, but many nationalities of our own country now use it.

So much for the history of Christmas. Now what does Christmas mean to the human family? It means that the first Christmas Gift is greater than any human can bestow upon another. It means that the world has a Savior if it accepts him. It means that the love of God has been shed abroad throughout the world. It

means that, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

What more could it mean than this? The one whose birth we celebrate died that we might live. Do we comprehend it?

Why do we celebrate Christmas? Is it to show our great love for the Master, or do we crucify him anew by our worldly lusts? Do we endeavor in our Christmas activities to bring those about us closer to the savior, or do we drive them away from him by our thoughtless actions? Do we teach by precept and by example what we have learned of the blessed savior?

Let us live the Christmas spirit, not for one short day only, but let us spread abroad throughout the year what Christmas means to all them who love and serve and obey him. ■

(Continued from page 1)

desired to see the things that they were seeing, and to hear the things that they were hearing, and had not heard them. The salvation of the Gentiles was one of the secrets which God had kept. It was revealed to Peter in his vision of the sheet let down from heaven (Acts 10). The Israelites "were astonished because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost." The teaching of Jesus was given to Israel, but he told his disciples, "Other sheep have I"—another fold which they knew

not. "All flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Simeon said, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation" and further, he knew when he blessed Joseph and Mary, and prophesied concerning Jesus, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (yea a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thought of many hearts may be revealed." Simeon *believed and rejoiced* in the peace of having seen the Lord.

Then came Anna, the prophetess

who "departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayer." She, too, believed, and spoke of Jesus as the One through whom redemption would come to Israel. Thus she rejoiced in answered prayer.

What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus to the physical earth in its return to Edenic beauty and peace (Isa. 35); to Israel in the re-establishment of the Kingdom of God (Luke 1:32, 33); to the Gentile nations (Psa.72); and to God's true church, Christ's bride, to be joint-heirs with Him (Gal. 3:39). ■



About the Author:

Anthony Buzzard is an instructor at Atlanta Bible College and the founder of Restoration Fellowship.

It is customary for students of the Bible to refer to Jesus as God. There are many churchgoers who make belief in what they call the Deity of Jesus a hallmark of true faith. This is both an amazing and puzzling feature of traditional Christianity. Recognized Biblical scholars do not think that Jesus is called God by the New Testament. In no text did Jesus ever say he was God.

“Apparently Paul did not call Jesus God” (Sydney Cave, D.D., *Doctrine of the Person of Christ*, p. 48).

“Paul habitually differentiates Christ from God” (C.J. Cadoux, *A Pilgrim’s Further Progress*, pp. 40-42).

“Paul never equates Jesus with God” (W.R. Matthews, *The Problem of Christ in the 20th Century*, p. 22).

“Paul never gives to Christ the name or description of ‘God’” (*Dictionary of the Apostolic Church*, Vol. 1, p. 194).

“When the New Testament writers speak of Jesus Christ, they do not speak of him, nor do they think of him as God” (J.M. Creed, *The Divinity of Jesus Christ*, pp. 122-3).

“Karl Rahner [leading Roman Catholic theologian] points out with so much emphasis that the Son in the New Testament is never described as *ho theos* (God)”¹ (A.T. Hanson, *Grace and Truth*, p. 66).

“The clear evidence of John is that Jesus refuses the claim to be God...

Jesus vigorously denied the blasphemy of being God or His substitute” (J.A.T. Robinson, *Twelve More New Testament Studies*, pp. 175, 176).

“Nowhere does the New Testament identify Jesus with God” (William Barclay, *A Spiritual Autobiography*, p. 50).

“We are not to suppose that the Apostles identified Christ with Jehovah. There were passages which made this impossible, for example Ps. 110:1 and Malachi 3:1. (Charles Bigg, D.D., *International Critical Commentary on I Peter*, T & T Clark, 1910, p. 99).

In sharp contrast to these unambiguous opinions, many others say that it is a grave mistake even to question whether Jesus is God. It is widely taught that he is, and that the suggestion that he is not strikes at the heart of true faith. Yet the stubborn facts remain: Paul and the other New Testament writers do not call Jesus God. They call only one person God — that is, the Father of Jesus. Jesus they call “Lord,” “Messiah” and “Son of God,” but never God (*ho theos*, used without qualification).² Indeed, “Jesus never calls himself God, but ever claims to be the Son of God” (*Hastings Dictionary of the Bible*, extra vol., p. 312).

The Biblical Facts

“Jesus never calls himself God.” So states the universally recognized authority, the *Hastings Dictionary of the Bible*. The inquiring Christian may take a concordance or an interlinear Greek/English translation of the Bible. Start with Matthew and trace the word God (*ho theos*) through the New Testament. Some 1325 times “God” describes the Father of Jesus Christ.

that God “was in Christ” (2 Cor. 5:19). The Father was working through his human Son to reconcile the world to Himself. Jesus therefore merits the title “God with us” (Matt. 1:23). (Proverbs 30:1 mentions a man whose name is “God is with me,” but that does not mean that he was God!). The character and authority of the One God, the Father, was displayed in Jesus so that the latter can say, “he who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). Yet “no one has seen God at any time” (John 1:18). Moses was no exception, for even he was not permitted to see God’s face: “You cannot see my face... My face shall not be seen” (Exod. 33:20, 23).³

God was not seen, yet Jesus was seen! This alone should convince the open-minded that Jesus was not God. Moreover, Jesus was tempted (Heb. 4:15). God cannot be tempted (James 1:13). Jesus, the Son of God, died. The one who alone has immortality inherent in himself obviously cannot die (1 Tim. 6:16). To speak then of “the immortal dying,” as one of Charles Wesley’s hymns does, simply destroys the precious meaning of words and obstructs intelligent communication, degenerating into nonsense.

Jesus increased in wisdom and knowledge (Luke 2:40), though even he did not know the day or hour of the Second Coming (Matt. 24:36). But God knows all things.

In view of these facts, something is seriously amiss with a system of theology which speaks of Jesus as “coequal and coeternal God” and therefore as entitled to be called God as his Father.

(Continued on page 5)

What emerges from this study is

(Continued from page 4)

The Unique Godhead of the Father

To emphasize the unique status of the Father as God, the New Testament (following the Old) uses several titles restricting the term “God” to one person only. These special titles are in addition to the numerous occurrences of the simple word “God” to describe the Father. The Father is “THE ONE WHO ALONE IS GOD” (John 5:44), “THE ONLY ONE WHO IS TRULY GOD” (John 17:3), “THE ONE GOD, THE FATHER” (1 Cor. 8:6), “THE ONLY WISE GOD” (Rom. 16:27), “THE ONLY GOD” (Jude 25), “THE ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL” (Eph. 4:6), THE GOD AND FATHER OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST,” “THE TRUE GOD” (1 John 5:20). Note in this last verse that “the true God” refers to “him who is true,” who is distinct from His Son. The word “this” in 1 John 5:20 does not refer to Jesus but to the Father. (Cp. 1 John 2:22 and 2 John 7, where “this” does not refer to the word immediately preceding.)

All these descriptions of the ONE GOD appear in contexts where the Father is meant, distinct and separate from His Son. Jesus is never given these titles, though according to traditional theology and the “binitarianism” of Herbert Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God Jesus ought to be designated as the Yahweh of the OT, thus having the same name as his Father. Mormons insist that Yahweh is Jesus and that the Father is not Yahweh. It would not have entered the heads of the New Testament Christians that two or three Persons could be God in an absolute sense. Such an idea would have meant the abandonment of their most precious heritage that “God is one and there is no

other” (Isa. 46:9). How could anyone imagine a duality in the “God Family” (Armstrongism) or a Trinity of Persons in the One God, once he has read Isaiah 43:10, 11; 44:6, 24; 45:5, 6, 21; 46:9? Professional scholars recognize how utterly foreign a plural Godhead would have been to the New Testament Christians: “No Apostle would have dreamed of thinking that there are three divine persons” (Emil Brunner, *Christian Doctrine of God, Dogmatics*, Vol. 1, p. 226). God was designated in the Hebrew Bible by thousands and thousands of singular personal pronouns, and he was “one,” (Deut 6:4), the Hebrew word *echad* meaning, as in English, “one single...”

The Origin of a Plural Godhead

If the Bible does not call Jesus God, what is the origin of the widely cherished belief that he is? The answer lies in the power of theological indoctrination, the persuasive influence of tradition. Very few sermons are ever preached on the Trinitarian theory that God means God in three co-equal Persons. Yet churchgoers are told to believe this or risk losing their salvation.

A very small number of texts, nearly all in John’s Gospel, have been misused to build a picture of an eternal being equal to the Father. Some of these verses (for example, 1 John 5:7; Eph. 3:9; the last phrase; and 1 Tim. 3:16 — “God” should read “he who,” NASB, etc.) were added to the original manuscripts to support tradition. Modern versions of the Bible should be consulted. These additions do not belong to the true text of Scripture. John’s Gospel is thought to contain material in support of a second member of an eternal Godhead, though John,

more than the other Gospels, describes Jesus as a human being and insists that he is distinct from the Father who is “the only true God,” “the one who alone is truly God” (17:3) and “the one who alone is God” (5:44). What John does say is that Jesus perfectly represents God, functions for God, without of course being God. As a unique human being Jesus “declares” or explains the Father (1:18). As with all sons, we see the Father in Jesus, who obeys the One God. This leaves the Father as the “one who alone is truly God” (John 17:3). As a leading NT specialist from Cambridge wrote: “John [and Jesus whom he reports] “is as undeviating a witness as any in the NT to the fundamental tenet of Judaism, of unitary monotheism” (Twelve NT Studies, p. 175). Neither John nor Jesus could possibly have subscribed to a creed other than that of Judaism. Jesus confirmed the unitarian creed of his Jewish heritage always (Mark 12:28ff.).

The shift from the Biblical idea that Jesus represents God to the notion that he is God occurred gradually after New Testament times when the original faith became distorted under the influence of Gentile paganism. The strict monotheism of Jesus and the Apostles — belief that the Father alone is “the only true God” — was slowly eroded and finally replaced at the Council of Nicea (325 AD) by a new, non-biblical conception of the Godhead consisting of three Persons, not one. In order to maintain an appearance of monotheism it was held that the three Persons comprised the one God. Most churchgoers have never examined the Scriptures carefully to see if what they have been taught is true. Since the creed of

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Nicea plainly represents a departure from the precious creed of Israel recited by Jesus (Mark 12:28f.; John 17:3, etc.), churchgoers should be alarmed that the roots of the faith of Jesus have undermined.

To be continued in the next Restitution Herald.

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¹Apparent exceptions are due to questionable translation or to the fact that Jesus is very occasionally called “god” in a secondary sense following Psalm 45:6’s use of “god” (see NAB) to describe the human king who represents God. The judges of Israel in Psalm 82:6 were also called

“gods,” as was Moses (Exod. 7:1). No Israelite, true to the biblical revelation, would have imagined that the Messiah was an uncreated being!

²Some translations apply the word God to Jesus, but for grammatical and syntactical reasons this application is entirely uncertain (see Rom. 9:5; Titus 2:13 and the commentaries). Thomas addressed Jesus as God (John 20:28), but immediately goes on to speak of Jesus having his own God. In the OT the angel of the Lord (Gen. 18:3) and other representatives of God are occasionally addressed as Jehovah, because they represent the One God. Over 1300 times in the NT the Father of Jesus is called God, or

the only God, or the one who alone is God (John 17:3). God is said to be “one Lord” in the creed which is central to the Old and New Testament and which was Jesus’ own creed (Mark 12:28ff. quoting Deut. 6:4).

³Isaiah’s vision of God, the Father (Isa. 6:1-6), is no exception and is similar to John’s experience in Revelation 4:1-11 and Ezekiel’s “visions of God” in Ezekiel 1:1. The one who spoke to Moses at the bush (Exod. 3:6) was actually an angel (Acts 7:35), bearing God’s name and speaking for Him (Exod. 23:21). Moses alone had a direct view of God, but not of His face (Exod. 33:23). ■

What is the Kingdom of God? – Part 1

By Sean Finnegan

He wiped the beads of sweat off of his forehead with his sleeve. His voice was hoarse from the tension in his vocal chords, “Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand!” Astonished, the onlookers stared at him captivated by his apocalyptic delivery. No one dared leave or make a noise because of the sense of urgency with which he spoke. Never had a rabbi spoken like this, with authority as if he were the very king of the Kingdom he was speaking about. No doubt, Jesus was the great herald of the imminent approaching Kingdom of God. This proclamation is what comprises the central theme of the synoptic Gospels. However there is much disagreement over the meaning of the term “Kingdom of God.” The definition of this term depends on who is consulted. Even so, it is generally agreed that the Kingdom of God is the main message of Jesus and by extension should be the main message of Christians today.

In order to illustrate the importance of the term “Kingdom of God,”

three men will be consulted: John the Baptist, Jesus the Messiah, and Paul the Apostle. John enters the biblical narratives shrouded with mystery. He was a desert dweller who wore camel’s hair and ate locusts and wild honey. As a result of his eccentric style, it would have been easy for him to attract attention. However, his message was even more piercing than his appearance, it demanded a response. He went throughout Judea declaring that all should repent: not just a half-hearted lip service, but serious, painful, confession and mourning for sin. Nevertheless, even repentance was not good enough. One must be publicly water baptized as an outward sign of the commitment followed by a life of moral living. There was no turning back after repentance. What could cause such a response from the masses? The message was simple: “the Kingdom of God is at hand.” It is certain that whatever the people understood of this term, it was sufficient to cause many people from all over Judea to be baptized by John (Mark 1:5).

The purpose of John the Baptist’s ministry was to prepare the way for the Messiah. Therefore it is not surprising that “‘The Kingdom of God’ is the dominant theme of the proclamation of Jesus of Nazareth in the synoptic Gospels, connected both with suggestions of the renewal of Israel and with the identification of Jesus himself as the anointed one, in varying degrees.”¹ In fact, the first words of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of Mark are “the time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). This simple statement sets the tone for the rest of the gospel account as the overall theme of his preaching ministry. In Jesus’ famous Sermon on the Mount, there are eight references to the Kingdom. He taught his disciples to pray “Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). He said to seek first God’s Kingdom rather than worrying about daily necessities. According to Luke 4.43, the heralding of the

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Kingdom of God is the purpose for which Jesus was sent. When Jesus sent out the twelve to preach, he told them “As you go, preach, saying, ‘the Kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matthew 10:7). Even after Jesus’ death and resurrection for forty days, he spoke to them “the things concerning the Kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3). Yet, the proclamation of the Kingdom of God did not end there.

One day a Pharisee named Saul was walking along the road to Damascus when suddenly Jesus appeared to him, blinding him. This event turned Saul the persecutor whose very breath subsisted of threatening to the church (Acts 9:1) into Paul the preacher who did all things for the sake of the gospel. Paul was commissioned by Jesus to bring his message to the Gentiles. During Paul’s three missionary journeys, he preached the good news in dozens of cities day and night. When he was at Ephesus he did what had become his custom, “he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the Kingdom of God” (Acts 19:8). Some years later, at his farewell to the elders of the Ephesian church, Paul said, “I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the Kingdom, will no longer see my face” (Acts 20:25). Additionally, when Paul finally made it to Rome he spent an entire day during which “he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the Kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening” (Acts 28:23). Similarly, the last two years of his ministry are consistent with what has been shown so far—“he was welcoming

all who came to him, preaching the Kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered” (Acts 28:30, 31). These three remarkable men had one great commonality—John, Jesus, and Paul each preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God. They were obsessed with the message. Like a fever, the gospel gripped them and they could not refrain from proclaiming the news everywhere. Scripture testifies that the Kingdom of God was of utmost importance to John, Jesus, and Paul. Yet, the million-dollar question remains for believers today, “What is the Kingdom?”

The Kingdom finds its fullest definition in the Hebrew Scriptures. It runs along the lines of the Messianic expectations of the Jewish nation during the time of Jesus’ ministry. The Old Testament predicts a glorious future of the people of God. The following is a brief sketch of the hope painted across the canvas of the Jewish Bible.

In the last days, the mountain on which Jerusalem sits will be raised above the other hills (Isaiah 2:2). The population of the city will swell (Isaiah 49:19, 20) as ransomed men arrive at Zion and are shouting for joy (Isaiah 35:10; 51:11; 60:4). The city will be greatly extended in size (Isaiah 54:3; Revelation 21:16, 17), built up by foreigners (Isaiah 60:10), and decorated with many different precious stones (Isaiah 54:11, 12; Revelation 21:18-21). The glory of Yahweh will be manifested in the city (Isaiah 60:1-3). All nations will stream to it (Isaiah 49:22) in order to be instructed by the word of Yahweh (Isaiah 2:3; 11:10). No longer will the inhabitants fear (Ezekiel 34:28) or be oppressed (Isaiah 54:14-17) but will be joyful continually (Isaiah

65:19). Kings and princesses will bow down to Jerusalem and lick the dust of her feet (Isaiah 49:23; 60:11, 14) in the restored city (Isaiah 52:8). The city will become very wealthy from the nations who come to it (Isaiah 60:5-7, 9, 11, 17; 61:6, 7). The gates of the city will never close day or night (Isaiah 60:11).

Jerusalem will not be the only city affected by the Kingdom. Judgment will be passed on the nations (Isaiah 2:4) in order to bring justice (Isaiah 42:1). The proud will be abased so that Yahweh will alone be exalted (Isaiah 2:12, 17). All nations will serve Jerusalem or else perish (Isaiah 60:12).

The physical earth will be restored (Acts 3:21) to its pre-fallen glory like an old junked car may be worked on for years and end up as the frontrunner in a parade. A new heavens and earth will be created (Isaiah 65:17). The desert will embrace rivers so that the chosen people may drink (Isaiah 43:19, 20). The land will be restored because of the servant of Yahweh (Isaiah 49:8). There will no longer be famine (Ezekiel 34:29). The mountains will be made into a road (Isaiah 49:11). No longer will the sun or moon be necessary for light because Yahweh will be an everlasting light (Isaiah 60:19; Revelation 21:23). The people of God will possess the land forever (Isaiah 60:21).

The weapons of war will be turned into the tools of agriculture (Isaiah 2:4) and violence will be abolished (Isaiah 60:18). There will be peace and righteousness in Jerusalem forever (Isaiah 54:10; 60:17). The animals will no longer be carnivorous or violent (Isaiah 11:6-8; 65:25). Even the beasts of the

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field, jackals and ostriches, will glorify Yahweh (Isaiah 43:20). People will be able to sleep in the woods (Ezekiel 34:25). In fact, nothing will hurt or destroy anymore (Isaiah 11:9). Sorrow will flee away (Isaiah 51:11; 60:20; 61:2, 3; 65:19) and death will be swallowed up for all time (Isaiah 25:7, 8). God will wipe the tears away from all faces (Isaiah 25:8). People will no longer hunger, thirst, nor be harmed by the scorching sun (Isaiah 49:10).

The knowledge of Yahweh will be as the waters that cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14). His people will know His name (Isaiah 52:6), be taught by Him (Isaiah 54:13), and live righteous lives (Isaiah 60:21). They will be called priests of Yahweh (Isaiah 61:6).

The agent of this new creation, expanded knowledge, and super

government will be the Messiah. He will be a son born of the lineage of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1). He will carry the government on his shoulders (Isaiah 9:6). Yahweh will empower him to accomplish this (Isaiah 9:7; 50:7, 9) by infusing him with His spirit (Isaiah 11:2). This man will cause peace to be over his Kingdom (Isaiah 9:7), be a light to the nations (Isaiah 42:6; 49:6), and have the very words of Yahweh in his mouth (Deuteronomy 18:18; Isaiah 51:16). He will sit on the throne of David and uphold justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore (Isaiah 9:7). He will open the eyes of the blind and free those imprisoned in dungeons (Isaiah 42:7; 49:9, 25; 61:1). He will always be fair to the disadvantaged and destroy the wicked (Isaiah 11:4; 49:26; 50:9, 10). One could even say that he wears righteousness and faithfulness as belts around his waist (Isaiah 11:5).

God will prosper him and exalt him greatly (Isaiah 52:13; Philippians 2:9, 10). Kings will pay homage to him (Psalm 2:10-12) having nothing to say out of astonishment (Isaiah 52:15). Jesus will rule for a thousand years with the faithful saints (Revelation 20:4) and then he will hand the Kingdom over to his Father (1 Corinthians 15:25-28). This brief description is typical of the understanding that the Jews of Jesus' time would associate with the proclamation, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the good news!" (Mark 1:14, 15).

To be continued in the next Restitution Herald.

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¹Jacob Neusner and William Scott Green, ed. Dictionary of Judaism in the Biblical Period, Kingdom of God, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1996), 371. ■

The Fair

By Betsy Moore

About the Author:

Betsy Moore is a long-time Church of God member from Troyview Church of God in Ohio.

Michael held his breath as the dust rolled over him when the carnival ride trucks sailed around the curve that led to the fair-ground. It was hard to tell what the pile of metal on the trucks would soon become. He rubbed his eyes as the caravan and the dust disappeared out of sight. He balanced himself and pumped the petals of his bicycle wanting to watch the people as they unloaded the trucks.

Mysteriously people moved in precision motion without speaking a word to each other as the tilt-a-wheel was jacked into the air and braced in place. One touch of a switch and like magic the ride began to whirl and shift and the red seats twirled as the machine moved in a clockwise motion. "Check on the tilt-a-wheel, complete," Someone yelled.

Michael turned as he heard another motor start. He looked upward in amazement as one wheel rotated high above the ground and a lower wheel revolved and rotated as it moved higher into the air and traded places with the first wheel. "Ferris wheel check complete," another man yelled.

He couldn't wait for all the rides to be in place and the official fair opening to begin. His dad told him of several experiences showing his animals and Michael was excited in anticipation of the judging that would start early the next morning. He checked his 4-H record books and made sure everything was neat and in order. All the immunization records were complete and Michael returned to the barn to check on Ghost before he moved his lamb to the fairgrounds. He entered Ghost in the Jr. Fair as well as Open Class competing against the big breeders.

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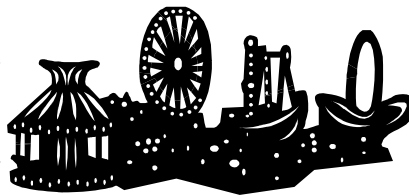
Michael brushed his closely trimmed lamb and blocked the wool as his dad had taught him for judging. He talked quietly to soothe his pet as he tried to calm himself as he waited for the judging to begin. Was it wrong to pray for Ghost to become the Grand Champion of the Sheep competition? Michael thought about it as he continued to stroke his lamb and suddenly he heard his name called to enter the arena. Quickly, he led Ghost into the circle and tried to position him to be judged. Ghost continued to dance his rear feet as if there was itching powder in the sawdust under his feet. He wondered if someone was playing a practical joke on him like they had done in the fourth grade when they told him it was slipper day and he wore slippers when it really wasn't slipper day. Michael rubbed Ghost's leg and tried to position his feet apart for the judging to continue. Before he even had Ghost in the proper position the judging was over and they had lost. He led Ghost out of the judging arena, disappointed and glad he still had another chance in Open Class to position his lamb correctly. Michael was hoping that Ghost would win Grand Champion but he had a lot to learn about showing sheep and fair competition.

A man entered the arena with the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion. The proud owners led their lambs around the outside of the arena in what seemed to be a ceremonial walk. The man called the owner of the Grand Champion to the center of the ring. Suddenly he began to auction off the

lamb to the highest bidder. The 4-H member smiled and quietly handed his lamb over to the new owner and they left the arena together. Next the auctioneer asked the Reserve Champion to move to the center of the arena. Once again, he watched as the Reserve Champion was auctioned to the highest bidder and relinquished by the 4-H member who had carefully raised the lamb.

Michael stuffed a puff of sugar in his mouth and the cotton candy melted on his tongue. He walked around the noisy fairgrounds in a daze as he realized what could have happened to Ghost.

"Michael," David yelled, "Do you want to play some games?"



He dug deep into his pocket and felt the five dollar bill and change his mother had given him. He thought for a minute before he answered David.

"How much money do you have to spend, David?" Michael asked.

"I have six dollars and I can't wait to play some games," David replied.

"I have six dollars too and it cost five dollars for an arm bracelet to ride the rides all day. I was thinking that would be more fun than playing games and I'd still have money left over to get something to eat or drink," Michael ex-

plained.

"But the games are so much fun and you can win prizes," David answered.

"Have you tried playing these games before? Your chances of winning are not very good and I heard it's like gambling," Michael said.

"Gambling, these are just fun games; it's not gambling," David tried to explain.

"I'd rather buy a ride bracelet and then think about what to do with the rest of my money. Come on let's go ride the Ferris-wheel. You can see the whole fair from on top of that ride," Michael said. They ran from ride to ride as if they were running out of time.

The wind blew in Michael and David's faces as they held on for dear life. They climbed down when the ride stopped and walked slowly away trying to get their balance.

"I've never spun around and upside down so much in my life. I'm glad we didn't eat before that ride. Aren't you, David?" Michael asked.

"Let's walk around for a while and I think we should wait before we ride another ride." David said.

"Maybe we should ride the carousel next. At least our knees won't be knocking when we get off of it." Michael replied.

The boys enjoyed the sights and sounds of the fair but the smell

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was more than they could stand. Food was everywhere and they were hungry. Funnel cakes, elephant ears, ice cream, hamburgers, pizza, and all they had left was one dollar each. They walked around the fair staring at the ground in hopes of finding some money.

"David and Michael!" The friends looked up as they heard their name called. "I could use your help over here for a minute." Michael's 4-H advisor was trying to load her feed box into her pickup but it was too heavy. Each boy got at one end of the box and easily lifted it into the truck.

"Thank you very much!" Mrs. Green said as she continued to load her truck. "If you two boys have a little time on your hands, I think you could help over in the rabbit barn."

Michael and David slowly walked over to the rabbit barn, not particularly wanting to help but going out of curiosity and consideration for Mrs. Green.

As they entered the barn they were surprised to see that all the rabbit cages had been removed and the barn was empty except for some hay, and the floor was covered with rabbit droppings and food pellets. An older man trying to sweep the barn was resting on the broom handle coughing as the two boys walked toward him. Michael asked if he could help and began sweeping. David grabbed the scoop shovel and began filling a garbage can with the rabbit evidence remaining. They joked as they worked.

"Knock, knock," Michael said.

"Who's there?" David answered.

"Justin," Michael said.

"Justin who?" David answered.

"Justin case you didn't know, I'm hungry," Michael joked.

David couldn't resist the game. "What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back for seconds." He laughed as he continued the fun. "Knock, Knock."

"Who's there?" Michael answered.

"Dishes," David said.

"Dishes who?" Michael responded.

"Dishes the police, Stick your hands up!" David laughed as he scooped up the last of the trash on the floor. Quickly, the boys cleaned the barn and placed the broom and shovel in the corner. The man stood in disbelief as the boys waved bye and walked out the door.

"How does a fish weigh itself?" Michael asked seriously.

"With its scales," David answered. "I've heard that one before. Let's go find something to eat."

They stood in front of the food aisle and scanned the area. What could they find that sounded, smelled and looked good that cost only one dollar? Michael walked toward the Pepsi machine and David stood in the Funnel cake line. The decision had been difficult but at least they could share

and have something to eat and drink.

Unexpectedly someone tapped on Michael's shoulder and announced, "Come with me!" Michael was afraid and remembered what his mother said about kidnappings. He saw another man walking David toward him without a Funnel Cake. The two men said the boys were wanted in the Fair Office. Michael thought of screaming but followed the uniformed man with David. They felt safe together but were concerned that they were being taken to the Fair office.

The fair office door squeaked opened and the elderly man from the rabbit barn greeted them. "I've worked here for thirty years and in all that time, no one has been as kind to me as you two boys were today. I see you both have ride bracelets on, and I'd like to return your money for the bracelets. You two can ride free for helping me in the rabbit barn."

Michael and David stood speechless each holding a crisp five dollar bill.

"Thank you, sir! Thank you, so much!" They both said as they left the office and dreamed of the food they could eat.

The ride home from the fair was a time of reflection for Michael. What had he learned from his fair experience? "The Lord watches over you" Psalm 121:5" How true, Michael thought. His thoughts shifted as he heard Ghost baaing in the back of the truck. It was good to know that God knows what's best for us! ■



A note from the Chairman...



For the past two years, many of the leaders of the Atlanta Bible College staff, members of the Board of Directors, and leaders at Rock River Christian College have hoped for more positive communication and interaction with each other. This desire for better communication was expressed last year by the previous Chairman of the Board, Mark Tschaenn. As a way to begin this process, Tim Jones, Jason and Gary Turner and I met on November 8, 2004.

The intent of the meeting was not to rehash the events or issues that may have arisen during the past two years, but to clarify issues that had developed between the Colleges and see how we could move forward in positive and constructive ways. After a brief devotional thought and prayer, the first question we discussed was, "Where did we go wrong?" In the sharing that followed, it became evident that from the very beginning, Tim, Jason, and the leadership groups from both Colleges were operating from completely different assumptions. Although both organizations were making good faith efforts to collaborate, these different assumptions made cooperation increasingly more difficult. Assumptions were different about the authority structure, fund raising responsibilities, and motivations for actions. Communication was not clear or effective enough to correct the faulty assumptions and resulting problems. Many regrets were expressed about these events and the actions that resulted from them. Regrets were also expressed

about the perception that there was a desire to do harm to either institution. At times that perceptions certainly existed, but no such intent was ever in operation by either group.

I want you to know this meeting was extremely positive and beneficial. The four of us expressed the desire to mutually affirm ABC and Rock River Christian College in the common mission of training pastors and leaders for ministry and teaching Biblical truth. We want to ease tensions and be able to celebrate the ministry of both schools. We did not discuss any formal agreements or partnerships between the schools, financially or otherwise. We believe this meeting was an excellent first step in bringing about considerable healing of some personal relationships. We wish all God's best for both schools. I hope this news gives you reason to express praise to God.

Craig Waggoner has served as Director of Church and Pastoral Services for the last 2 and a half years. Craig's ministry has positively impacted many people and has been deeply appreciated. He has decided to move on from this job. We wish Craig all God's best as he and Shirley move back to Missouri and pursue other ministry opportunities. Many asked if this position will be filled. I assure you it is a high priority to fill the position as soon as possible with the best person we can find for the job. Your prayers in that regard are appreciated.

On behalf of the Lord's Harvest International Board, let me express deep appreciation for your

loving generosity once again. The appeal for support for the seed starter packs for our brethren in Malawi and Mozambique was answered in wonderful ways. The expense for the appeal was \$23,388 and God has provided through all of you \$24,406. God is truly amazing and your generosity is too. A complete report is included in this issue.

The Board of Directors met at ABC October 20-23. The primary agenda was to do long range planning to build upon the vision statement from 2001. It was exciting to dream about what we want the College and Conference to look like in 2010. I was very pleased with the results of our time together: however, we are not finished with that work, so I would like to delay in sharing with you about some of the plans that have been developed. Please feel assured that the extension of our plans beyond the initial 5 Year Vision is very much just an extension of the paths that God has already been blessing so abundantly. The Board and the entire staff of ABC will continue that work and we hope to share it all with you at General Conference on July 11-12 next year. Stay tuned. I think it will be exciting.

Long ago God did some incredible long range planning. He planned to give all of us a Savior. When you read this we will be in the midst of celebrating the fulfillment of that plan in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We call it Christmas. Celebrate wholeheartedly. We have a Savior. Nothing matters more. Rejoice!

Much peace,
Pastor Michael Hoffman,
Chairman of the Board of Directors



Turning Point Youth Ministries

What is a Truth Seeker?

(Lessons from a Chocolate-covered Pantry)

By Jon Cheatwood

About the Author:

Jon Cheatwood is an instructor at Atlanta Bible College and the Founder of Turning Point Youth Ministries.

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”¹

“Veracity gets its hands dirty—it is truth being lived, expressed by what we do...If our ministries have veracity, we see the Christian life as a life of discovery, not as one lived through a dictated list of rules. Because the truth endures under the toughest scrutiny, people can think about it, challenge it, and discover it. In order to show students what it is like to live in the truth, we must teach them to think. If they don’t think, they won’t know the truth after they have left our groups.”²

The lid and container did not seem to be designed well. There was not a solid seal, and the lid was easy to pop off. Having known that, I should have been able to get the package out of the pantry without spilling. That didn’t happen.

Moments after the inspiration to have a glass of chocolate milk had sent me to the kitchen, I was staring angrily at a pantry covered in chocolate powder. Three or four shelves of small kitchen appliances, cookbooks, and supplies were covered in a light dusting of chocolate snow. Ugh!

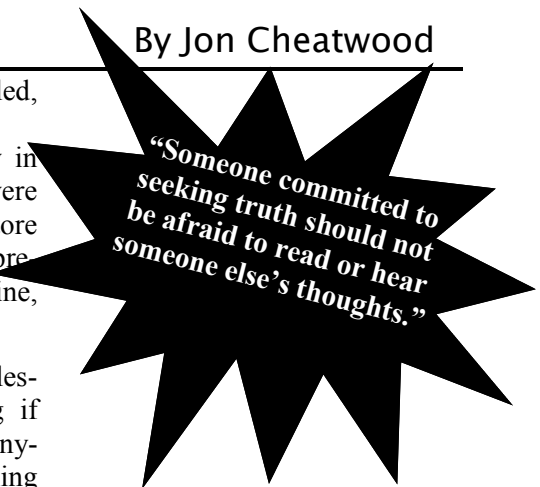
I angrily cleaned up the mess that I made, complaining about the container manufacturer, my lack of sense, and whatever else came to mind to lay blame on. Later in the week, Sarah said something about it being a good thing that

the chocolate powder had spilled, because the pantry looked a lot better. The food was now in some semblance of order, as were the other items that we store there. We could even see the previously hidden bread machine, which I started using again.

I have been trained to locate lessons in everyday life, seeing if those situations can teach me anything. It is a continuous training process, as it should be. I have to keep looking at my life and seeing where I need to change, improve, or retreat. We all must do that, or we settle into an indefensible life wherein we lazily go about routines without thought. That is, unfortunately, where many of us live.

Besides reminding me that I have to work on taming my anger, I got reminded that sometimes we get things settled in the way we like them, then we leave them behind. I had a discussion recently that reminded me of the phrase “truth seekers,” a phrase we have used a lot in the Church of God. A truth seeker should be committed to a lifelong search for truth, as opposed to settling in to one’s understanding, possibly inherited from someone else, and rarely—if ever—checking it out against another understanding, other evidence, or other opinions.

Many people refuse to re-examine their understanding of Truth. After all, they thought it through once (*hopefully*), and that was enough for them. I don’t think that is a good idea, and I don’t think it helps our students learn anything about discernment, Truth, or personal growth. In fact, it may teach them that it is best to keep your understanding of Truth



“Someone committed to seeking truth should not be afraid to read or hear someone else’s thoughts.”

to yourself, because someone else might be able to prove you are wrong.

Someone committed to seeking truth should not be afraid to read or hear someone else’s thoughts. Many would argue that there is no good reason to discuss Truth with people who don’t believe in it—it is as if we think that our job is to protect the truth because it is not strong enough to fend for itself.

Jesus told the people that if they held to his teaching, they would truly be his disciples;³ “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”⁴ Mike Yaconelli said living in that freedom means “...that we don’t have to try to protect the truth by hiding it from those who want to analyze it. Freedom means we can show truth as it is and know that it will stand on its own.”⁵ Truth does not have to be afraid of untruth. Truth can stand up to the challenge. Truth can take on all challengers.

Making a mess in my pantry was not a life-altering experience, but it did make the pantry a lot more useful. I worked through cleaning it up, got rid of some things I didn’t need, and rediscovered some old ‘treasures.’ Maybe we should

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From the CAO...

By Tim Jones

About the Author:

Tim Jones is the current Chief Administrative Officer and President of Atlanta Bible College.

Warm greetings to all readers of the Herald/Journal! The warm days of summer have come and gone and now the nights in Georgia are getting cooler. Thanksgiving is almost here, and for many of you, you will be reading this article as we move toward the Christmas season. May you have a blessed holiday season!

By the time we reach the holidays, we will also have reached the end of this Fall 2004 semester at ABC. It has been a very successful season for our staff and students. We are very thankful to God for all the blessings He has provided for this year. Our largest student body ever, the continued growth of the Korean program, and the success to date of our Challenge gift program of the Building Our Future campaign have been the highlights for this semester for me personally. Our staff has been pleased to see the memberships' response to the Church Builder's appeal for the

College, with \$17,280.71 given. Thank you to all who contributed to the appeal. In this issue, as always, you will see the most current financial reports for the College/Conference. We are working very hard to meet the budget goals and targets set for this year. It is such a challenge to keep expenses under control or even drop them from previous budgets even as the number of students and size of programs increase. May God continue to bless us as we work to achieve our Mission as we monitor the budget as well.

Asking for contributions and financial support is definitely the hardest aspect of the role I play for ABC and the Conference. Knowing that God wants His people to support the ministry He places before us does not make it easy to ask for that support. Your support and the support from our churches and conferences are so important that it is impossible to tell you how grateful we are that you continue to give generously. May God bless you richly. The current status of our Challenge program is included for you.

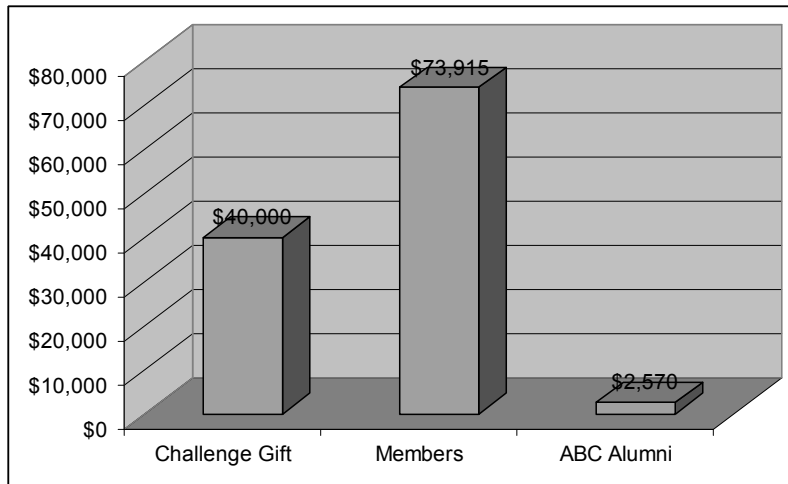
What will God provide for the new year of 2005? I have learned

to expect great blessings from God, though He may work in ways that we did not expect or anticipate! Please continue to pray for our College, Conference, and staff as we move forward into the coming year. We need God's blessings and wisdom to make our ministries effective.

Craig Wagganer has chosen to submit his resignation as the Director of Church and Pastor Relations for the General Conference. Craig has been a blessing to the staff and to many pastors and church leaders throughout the Conference. His care and attention for our pastors has provided a worthy role model for all candidates who seek to fill the job in the future. Thank you, Craig, for all the blessings you have provided over the last couple of years. We will be announcing plans for how we will fill this important job in the months ahead.

Booster "Month" became Booster Months this year! Visits from staff and students have included stops in Texas, Ohio, Illinois, South Carolina, Virginia, Michigan, Indiana, and Louisiana, to name a few! We appreciate the gifts and contributions, but we also value the opportunity to meet so many people that are praying for our ministries. Thank you all for your ongoing support. May God bless you and all your families during the end of 2004 and the beginning of the New Year.

Tim



Finance

Income Budget Report for October, 2004

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>September Variance</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS:				
General Contributions	124,360	85,556	-38,804	-26,773
Building Our Future Campaign	0	116,485	116,485	114,020
BOF Challenge Gift		(40,000)		
BOF General Membership Response		(73,915)		
BOF Alumni Association Response		(2,570)		
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	1,667	1,628	-39	-29
ABC Boosters	6,233	4,398	-1,835	-3,245
Subtotal	132,260	208,067	75,807	83,973
SALES:				
Christian Education Materials	12,100	10,893	-1,207	-917
Books	14,000	11,449	-2,551	801
Restitution Herald	2,000	841	-1,159	-722
Age to Come Media Products	667	158	-509	-342
Theological Journal	623	58	-565	-444
Sale of Assets	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	29,390	23,399	-5,991	-1,624
ABC:				
Tuition	66,150	59,551	-6,599	9,443
Korean Extension Tuition	26,233	37,588	11,355	18,363
Lodging	19,583	29,080	9,497	14,992
Washers/Dryers	677	404	-273	-508
Rentals - ABC Plant	1,540	2,525	985	640
Late Fees/Rent	2,400	873	-1,527	-927
Fees	4,000	1,218	-2,782	-2,240
Subtotal	120,583	131,239	10,656	39,763
PROGRAM INCOME:				
Conferences & Workshops	10,000	-7,772	-17,772	39,615
Subtotal	10,000	-7,772	-17,772	39,615
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Interest	333	0	-333	-250
Transferred In	10,000	4,272	-5,728	-3,228
Subtotal	10,333	4,272	-6,061	-3,478
Income Total	302,566	359,205	56,639	158,249
<u>Building Our Future Campaign</u>				
Total contributions since inception	145,099			

- These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2004 through June, 2005
- The 'Budget' column in each report shows the year-to-date portion of the annual budget for each line item.
- The 'Variance' column in each report shows the difference between the amount budgeted and the amount actually received (income) or spent (expense). A positive number in this column means the income or expense is better than budgeted. A negative number in this column means the income or expense is worse than budgeted.

Finance

Expense Budget Report for October, 2004

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>September Variance</u>
STAFF:				
Salaries & Wages	157,387	161,802	-4,415	-1,267
F.I.C.A. Tax	1,833	1,829	4	136
Employee Benefits	33,838	28,686	5,152	3,544
Subtotal	193,058	192,317	741	2,413
SERVICES:				
Assistance to Churches	12,633	11,200	1,433	875
Ministerial Association	3,200	3,200	0	800
Youth Program	1,667	1,667	0	0
Subtotal	17,500	16,067	1,433	1,675
SALES EXPENSE:				
Printing & Binding	10,000	10,821	-821	1,245
Postage & Shipping	5,333	4,489	844	1,346
Media Production Expenses	0	0	0	0
Book Store	6,000	6,073	-73	-622
Royalties	50	0	50	38
Subtotal	21,383	21,383	0	2,007
ABC:				
Clayton Rebate	667	0	667	500
Advertising--Recruitment	333	1,272	-939	-695
ABC Korean Extension Support	7,833	14,077	-6,244	-6,926
Library Periodicals	500	169	331	206
Library Books	0	24	-24	-24
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	133	585	-452	-401
Staff Training	333	1,108	-775	-445
Subtotal	9,799	17,235	-7,436	-7,785
ADMINISTRATION:				
Travel	8,333	9,486	-1,153	-496
Motor Vehicles	667	868	-201	-257
Office Supplies & Expense	4,000	5,152	-1,152	-1,402
Professional Services	3,333	4,373	-1,040	1,887
Telephone	7,000	7,312	-312	-145
Insurance - Non Plant	167	42	125	83
Supplies & Expense	833	1,282	-449	26
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	6,667	4,266	2,401	1,830
Subtotal	31,000	32,781	-1,781	1,526
PLANT EXPENSES:				
Utilities	9,333	11,032	-1,699	-3,562
Insurance - Property	4,667	6,717	-2,050	104
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	1,000	1,295	-295	-435
Furniture & Equipment	1,000	865	135	-115
Supplies/Expenses Plant	2,000	1,589	411	364
Subtotal	18,000	21,498	-3,498	-3,644
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Interest	9333	9,278	55	32
Other	2,333	1,627	706	749
Subtotal	11,666	10,905	761	781
Expense Total	302,406	312,186	-9,780	-3,027
GRAND TOTAL				
(Income less Expense)	160	47,019	46,859	155,222

Africa Starter Packs Delivered!

By Rebekah Martin

Warren Sorenson, Judy Myers, and Rebekah Martin traveled to Malawi, Africa Oct. 7-24 to deliver starter packs to our church members there. Thank you all for your generosity in providing money for these, as well as for your prayers! We were able to buy 1,680 starter packs for Malawi with your donations. The price had increased to \$12 per starter pack due to the increase of cost in fertilizer and increase in cost of fuel due to the war in Iraq (the fertilizer had to be transported into Malawi).

On Monday after our arrival, we met with 6 of the key pastors who oversee different districts to determine: drop off points, how many families were in each church, and how many bags were to be delivered to each church and ultimately, each drop off point.

To determine the number of families in each church, we gave them forms to be completed. Each church received a form that included the name of the church, name of the pastor, date, and country at the top, then had numbered columns down the page and on the back for each head of family to write their name and put the number of people in their family. After they signed in, they were to be given a ticket. To receive a starter pack, they produced the ticket. This would insure that all families were accounted for.

The churches to the south of the country, east of Blantyre (where the soil is more fertile) received ½ starter pack per family, plus each church was given a few ex-

tra full bags to use as they felt best. The churches to the north, slightly west of Blantyre (where the soil was less fertile) received a full pack for each family. It was necessary for us to purchase plastic bags for them to use when dividing the starter packs. Each pack that was divided required 5



Seed and Fertilizer bags being unloaded for distribution.



Malawians gathered to receive starter packs.

bags: 2 small ones for each kind of seed, 2 medium ones for each kind of fertilizer, and a large one to put them in. The total cost of all the bags for use in Malawi was a little less than \$200, which we felt was a good price.

We helped ~2,750 families with these starter packs, which consisted of 10 kg. each of two different kinds of fertilizer, and 2 kg. each of two different kinds of

seed (1 kg. ~ 2.2 pounds). In addition to the cost of the starter packs, we hired a truck to make the deliveries. There were 18 drop-off points, many of them great distances away, on very poor dirt roads. We were charged ~\$609 for the deliveries, which was a very good price considering the distance they had to cover, as well as the condition of the roads.

We followed the trucks making the deliveries. The people at each of the drop off-points met us with singing and dancing and great joy. They all expressed their thanks to you for this help.

In Mozambique, the government will not allow fertilizer to be used, because the soil is already fertile. These pastors asked us to buy them good quality seed to plant. We bought 75 bags of seed (50 kg./110 pound each) for 1,850 families in Mozambique. The cost of this was ~\$26/bag, which included delivery. In addition, we bought plastic bags for them to be able to divide up the seed. The cost for the bags was ~\$22. The pastors

thanked us profusely, and asked us to pass that thanks along to you.

God's hand was evident in all of our experiences. We are so thankful for His goodness and love to all of us! Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in these countries, as well as in other countries all over the world. Our prayer is that each one will be blessed as we serve God and follow his calling in our lives. ■



Church News

BAPTISMS

California

Pomona – Brian Suzuki (10/20/04) by Pastor Chuck Jones

Indiana

Country Chapel – Megan Davey (10/10/04) by Pastor Ken Howe

Minnesota

Eden Valley – Ashley Wendroth, Nicole Wendroth (8/15/04) by Pastor Russ Magaw at the Long Lake Bible Camp, Richmond, Minnesota

Hutchinson – Wade Drew, Dan Karl, Brad and Lisa McColley (7/18/04) by Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick

Verndale – Jessica Hoemberg (10/30/04) by Pastor Jeff Moore

Ohio

North Hills – Danika McCarty (10/3/04) by Pastor Seth Ross

Pleasant Hill – Sarah Bradley, Tiffany Stine, Rachel Deane, Anna Meadows, Ash Sweet, Adrienne Sweet (3/21/04); Michael Zizert (5/23/04); Greg Lambert (7/18/04); Jenna Bradley (8/15/04); Kyle Casey, Angie Vance (10/24/04). All were baptized by Pastor Scott Deane.

Troy View – Melissa Westcott (10/3/04) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman; Erin Burnside (10/3/04) by her father, Bruce Burnside

Virginia

Cool Spring – Terry Berry (6/20/04); Darlis Malone (10/3/04); Thom Lintner (10/17/04) all were baptized by Pastor Dale Ramsey

DEATHS

Illinois

Dixon – Kevin Slain, 47 (9/18/04), Captain in the Dixon Rural Fire Department, Elder and Church Board Chairman at the Dixon Church of God, by Pastor Hollis Partlowe

Ripley – Wayne Laning (9/26/04), long time faithful member, by Pastor David Cheatwood and Pastor Sherwin Williams

Minnesota

Eden Valley – Russell B. Parks, 86 (1/6/04), long time member, by Pastor Daniel Smead; Grace Donahue, 90 (2/4/04), long time member, by Pastor Daniel Smead; Arlene Mills (2/17/04), long time member, by Pastor Daniel Smead

Litchfield – Keith Housman, 48 (11/2/04) by Pastor Dale Swartz

MARRIAGES

Minnesota

Eden Valley – Trent Pauls and Crista Lieser (5/14/04) by Pastor Dale Swartz; Doug Kielty and Lacey Sogge (5/22/04) by Pastor Daniel Smead; Corey Sogge and Kimberley Neu (8/14/04) by Pastor Russ Magaw

Verndale – Shawn Hoemberg and Jessica Roller (8/7/04) by Pastor Jeff Moore

Simple Teachings Bible Church Prayer Request

Simple Teachings has started 2 new ministries that are geared toward those people who do not come to church on Sunday, which is the traditional church time. Well, since we are anything but traditional, we have begun to have church service during the week! On Tuesday mornings between the hours of 11am-1pm, which is the lunch hour for most workers, we are having prayer service. As of today, we have baptized over 40 people and have 48 members. These people are learning the truth about the Bible, and are reading it for themselves! Please join us in prayer that God will continue to bless Simple Teachings with Spiritual and Physical Growth. Thank You!

Booster Month Update...

October is the month designated as Atlanta Bible College's Booster Month campaign. To our great delight, Booster Month went beyond just the month of October well into November with staff and students traveling all over the country. We enjoyed the personal time spent with each congregation and thank you for your generous gifts and prayers. Your support helps the movement and furtherance of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's coming Kingdom, as well as prepares men and women for Christian ministry. Thus far, a total of \$5,406.53 has been given! Your help DOES make a difference and we are excited about doing the work of God! We know that the future is bright with promise and together we can change the world! Again, thank you for your generosity and abundant giving!

Prayer & Praise

January 2005

- 1 Pray that Jesus will return to the earth soon.
- 2 Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as they prepare for their second semester studies.
- 3 Pray for Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the Simple Teachings Bible Church in Jonesboro, GA.
- 4 Pray for outreach work in Lima, Peru.
- 5 Pray for the outreach ministries of your church.
- 6 Praise God that we can be a part of the family of God.
- 7 Pray for instructors as they teach Korean language classes at ABC this semester.
- 8 Pray for Pastor Warren and Irene Sorenson and the Simi Valley, CA Church.
- 9 Pray for Tim Jones, Chief Administrative Officer of the ABC/General Conference.
- 10 Praise God for a recent answer to a prayer.
- 11 Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and their ministry at Fort Valley, VA.
- 12 Praise God for Korean Churches of God in California.
- 13 Pray for Pastor Gary and Glenda Turner and the New Life Bible Church of Winnebago, IL.
- 14 Pray for the General Conference Technology Ministry under the direction of Steve Taylor.
- 15 Praise God for financial and prayer supporters of the College/Conference.
- 16 Praise God for the freedom to worship God.
- 17 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Jesus as Savior.
- 18 Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.
- 19 Pray for Pastor Dan and Amy Kennedy and their work at Winnebago New Life Church in Illinois.
- 20 Pray for the American and Korean congregations in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 21 Pray for your pastor and family.
- 22 Pray for teachers in your local church.
- 23 Praise God for those who give of their time and talents in serving on Conference advisory committees.
- 24 Pray for your nation's leaders.
- 25 Pray for the Board of Directors of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference.
- 26 Pray for Gary Burnham, Operations Manager of the College/Conference.
- 27 Pray for opportunities to start new churches.
- 28 Pray for Pastor Larry and Karen Mayberry and the Pennellwood Church in Wyoming, MI.
- 29 Praise God for the direction He provides for your life.
- 30 Praise God for the many students who are preparing for ministry at ABC.
- 31 Pray for "shut-in" members who cannot meet regularly with other believers.

February 2005

- 1 Pray for churches that are seeking pastors.
- 2 Pray for the students at Atlanta Bible College.
- 3 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ.
- 4 Praise God for your family and friends.
- 5 Pray for Anthony and Barbara Buzzard, Steve and Jill Taylor and the Restoration Church of God in Fayetteville, GA.
- 6 Pray for a renewed spirit of evangelism and revival in our churches.
- 7 Praise God for the work of those preparing Christian Education materials.
- 8 Pray that God will raise up many donors for the Building Our Future Campaign.
- 9 Pray for Stepan and Tracy Zhykhovich and their work in Russia.
- 10 Pray for the members of your church family.
- 11 Pray for Bill Wachtel and David and Lynne Krogh as they travel to Peru.
- 12 Praise God for the opportunities He has provided for outreach in Russia.
- 13 Praise God for the Board of Directors and its leadership.
- 14 Pray for the ministries of your local church.
- 15 Pray for youth and youth ministries in the Church of God.
- 16 Pray for Pastor Alan and Susan Cain and the Lawrenceville, OH church.
- 17 Pray for someone you know who is in need of healing (physical, emotional, or spiritual).
- 18 Praise God for a recent answer to prayer.
- 19 Pray for the brethren in the Philippines.
- 20 Pray for retired Pastor Richard K. Smith and his wife Dorothy Jean.
- 21 Pray for the pastors as they travel to Atlanta for their Ministers' Conference this week.
- 22 Pray for pastors at the Ministers' Conference being held in Atlanta this week.
- 23 Pray for the staff at the College/Conference.
- 24 Pray for safety for pastors as they return home from their Conference in Atlanta.
- 25 Pray for the church in Magazine, AR.
- 26 Praise God for the ministry of Pastor Beder Ucanay in Lima, Peru.
- 27 Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and earth.
- 28 Pray for the teachers in your local church.

Atlanta Bible College & Church of God General Conference

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 (T) 404.362.0052 (F) 404.362.9307 www.atlantabilecollege.com

January							February							March							April										
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				
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30	31																														

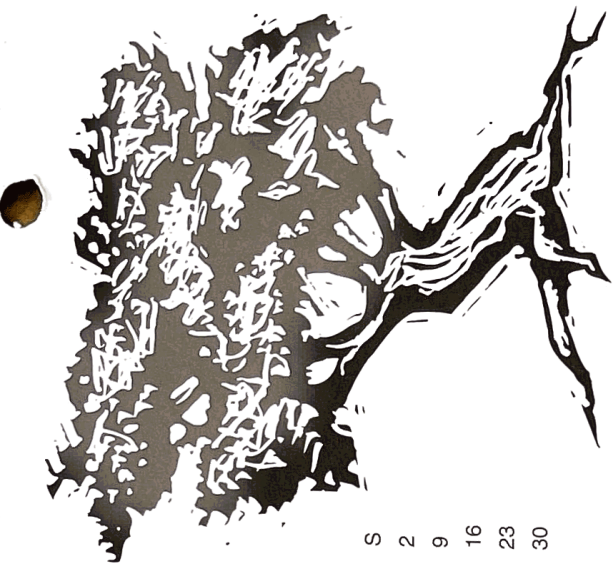
May							June							July							August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31					
29	30	31											24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				

September							October							November							December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
							30	31																			

- January 7-9 Mid-Winter Retreat (Syracuse, IN)
- January 22 Youth Worker Training Seminar (Winnebago, IL)
- January 28-29 Young Adult Retreat (Syracuse, IN)
- February 19 Youth Worker Training Seminar (Atlanta, GA)
- February 21-24 Ministers Conference
- March 3-5 ABC Invitational (Morrow, GA)
- April 10-15 Christian Workers' Seminar (Gatlinburg, TN)
- April 21-24 Women's Retreat (Panama City Beach)
- April 29-May 1 Theological Conference (McDonough, GA)
- May 13 ABC graduation
- July 11-12 General Conference (McDonough, GA)
- July 17-22 FUEL (Upland, IN)

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree {firmly} planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Psalms 1:1-3 NASB



Address Service Requested

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(Continued from page 12)

approach Truth in a similar way. Think about the many things you are 'sure' of and begin examining them again. Listen to new thought on the subjects, and re-read the Bible to see how it handles the subject. Read it from a fresh perspective in hopes of seeing it in new light. Try looking from the perspective of someone you disagree with; you may come away with a better understanding, or you may come away with a better way of handling that person's

argument. Either way, you will have grown. ■

Recommended reading for challenging some old assumptions:

Adventures in Mission the Point: How the Culture-Controlled Church Nurtured the Gospel by Brian McLaren and Tony Campolo

.....
¹Proverbs 27:17, New International Version. ©1973, 1978, 1984 by [International Bible Society](#).

²Yaconelli, Michael. (2003). *The CORE Realities of Youth Ministry: Nine Biblical Principles That Mark Healthy Youth*

Ministries (p. 20, 23). Grand Rapids, Michigan: Youth Specialties Books, published by Zondervan.

³John 8:31-41, New International Version. ©1973, 1978, 1984 by [International Bible Society](#).

⁴John 8:32, New International Version. ©1973, 1978, 1984 by [International Bible Society](#).

⁵Yaconelli, Michael. (2003). *The CORE Realities of Youth Ministry: Nine Biblical Principles That Mark Healthy Youth Ministries* (p. 21). Grand Rapids, Michigan: Youth Specialties Books, published by Zondervan.

Take Advantage of Block Classes at ABC!

- Jan. 3-8: Systematic Theology
- Feb. 21-25: Church History II and Hermeneutics
- May 2-4: Kingdom of God as Gospel
- May 23-June 3: Romans
- June 6-10: Biblical Archaeology Class
- June 20-24: Acts

Call 1-800-347-4261 to sign up NOW!

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& Progress Journal

ABC NEWS... enrollment update

By David Krogh

The second semester of this school year began with a pre-semester briefing for all students Friday evening Jan. 7 and Saturday morning Jan. 8. Regular classes began on Jan. 10.

We are pleased to welcome 23 new students this semester. This brings our spring semester enrollment to 135. Some of our students are able to attend only part time, but our full time equivalent for this semester is 100.

NEW COURSE...One of our senior students, Sean Finnegan, is teaching a new course this semester: Christian Apologetics. This course helps prepare students to defend the Chris-

tian faith as they present their faith to adherents of non-Christian religions, as well as to those who have different Bible interpretations.

Sean will receive his second Bachelor's degree when he graduates from ABC in May. He has applied to a Seminary to continue his theological studies.

HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the following students who received high honors (3.5 grade point average and above) and honors (3.0 to 3.49 GPA) during the fall semester:



In this issue...A letter from Russia, Mission Updates, and Don't Look Now! You're A Grandparent!

The Restitution Herald & Progress Journal

The ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE is eagerly seeking articles that will teach, inspire, and encourage our readers. If God has placed a subject on your heart, please send your submissions or any questions to the Publishing Department. We also encourage letters to the Editor in response to articles.

Atlanta Bible College
Attn: Publishing Department
P.O. Box 100,000
Morrow, GA 30260
rfinnegan@abc-coggc.org

The Restitution Herald and Progress Journal Submission Dates

- ▶March 4, 2005 – Articles due for April/May issue
- ▶May 6, 2005 – Articles due for June/July issue
- ▶July 22, 2005 – Articles due for Aug./Sept. issue
- ▶Sept. 16, 2005 – Articles due for Oct./Nov. issue
- ▶Nov. 11, 2005 – Articles due for Dec./Jan. issue

Congratulations Fall Semester 2004 Honor Students!

High Honors (3.5 - 4.2 GPA)

Ok Hyeon Choi
Sean Finnegan
Tom Fischhaber
Jasper Fletcher
Victor Gluckin
Hoon Kim
Hyo Shin Kim
Hyun Joo Kim
Kab Soo Kim

Amy Littler
Myung Joo Lyu
Anne Mbeke
Han Jin Oh
In Soon Park
Jin Sook Park
Mi Kyoung Park
Dustin Smith
Fleming Thompson

Honors (3.0 + GPA)

Sam An
Solomon Baddoo
Hyo Sun Chung
Elizabeth Egbe
Shaun Fewell
Bong Sung Kim
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THE RESTITUTION HERALD ADVOCATES:

- THE ONENESS OF GOD (1 COR. 8:6);
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S POWER (ACTS 1:8);
- JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (MATT. 16:16), AND IS OUR MEDIATOR (1 TIM. 2:5);
- THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (2 TIM. 3:16);
- THE MORTALITY OF MAN (JOB 4:17; PSA. 146:4);
- THE NEAR RETURN OF CHRIST (ACTS 1:11), AND LIFE ONLY THROUGH HIM (COL. 3:3);
- THE LITERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (JOHN 5:28);
- THE IMMORTALIZATION OF THOSE IN CHRIST (1 COR. 15:53, 54);
- THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED (REV. 21:8);
- THE FINAL RESTORATION OF ISRAEL AS THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNDER THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST (LUKE 1:32);
- THE CHURCH TO BE JOINT HEIRS WITH HIM (ROM. 8:17), AND ISRAEL TO BE MADE HEAD OVER GENTILE NATIONS (ISA. 60:1-3);
- THE "RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS WHICH GOD HATH SPOKEN BY THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS HOLY PROPHETS SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN" (ACTS 3:21).
- IT ALSO FIRMLY ADVOCATES REPENTANCE AND IMMERSION IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS (ACTS 2:38), AND A CONSECRATED LIFE AS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.



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The Addition of Jesus to the Godhead

The promotion of Jesus to the status of an uncreated being, co-equal with the Father, was possible only when a few verses in John's Gospel and in Paul's epistles were misunderstood. The massive evidence appearing consistently throughout the New Testament that only the Father is God was bypassed and suppressed, and a very small number of "proof texts" were brought into play.

John 1:1ff.

John 1:1 says nothing at all about a Son of God from the beginning. As a leading specialist in biblical doctrine declares: "It is a common but patent misreading of the opening of John's Gospel to read it as if it said, 'In the beginning was the Son.'" "What has happened here is the substitution of Son for word" (Dr. Colin Brown of Fuller Seminary, in his article "Trinity and Incarnation: Towards a Contemporary Orthodoxy" *Ex Auditu*, 7, 1991). John wrote about the word (no capital letter) of God from the beginning. There is no Son of God until he is first mentioned in v. 18, cp. v. 14). John, in typical Jewish fashion, reflected on the great Design and Purpose of God, his Mind, Wisdom and Intelligence and said that all things were made "through IT," not through him. That Plan of God was alongside the One God as His decree for the world, just as Wisdom had been with God in Proverbs 8:30. English transla-

tions of the Bible shortly before the KJV and several contemporary translations in French and German do not read, "All things were made through *him*," as though there is already a Son in existence, before v. 18. At Qumran, as we learn from the immensely important Dead Sea Scrolls, Jews typically spoke of God's purpose in this way: "By His knowledge everything has been brought into being. And everything that is He established by His purpose and without Him nothing is done." (I QS 11:11). John then tells us of the great new fact. That mind and wisdom of the One God has been made a human being. How this happened is described in Matt. 1:18 ("the *genesis* of Jesus"). He was begotten (v. 20) in the womb of his mother. That is, he was caused to come into existence by that miracle. There is no "eternal Son" in the Bible. The whole point of the Son of God, Jesus, is that he is a member of our human race, supernaturally generated as the second Adam and the beginning of the New Creation. The Son of God, Jesus, no more exists literally before his begetting in Mary than did the *first* Son of God (Adam, Luke 3:36) before God created him from the dust. And notice the chronological order in which Adam and the Son of God, Jesus, appear. First the physical Adam in Genesis and second, "the last Adam," Jesus. Churches have turned this simple scheme on its head. Paul wrote: "It is not the spiritual which is first but the physical, and then the spiritual" (1 Cor. 15:46).

We propose, then, with Dr. Caird of Oxford this restored version of John 1. He says that a "bold

translation would resolve the problem. 'In the beginning was a purpose, a purpose in the mind of God, a purpose which was God's own being.' It is surely a conceivable thought that God is wholly identified with his purpose of love, and that this purpose took human form in Jesus of Nazareth..." (The Language and Imagery of the Bible, 1980).

Because two or three NT passages spoke of the creation being "through" Jesus (never "by" Jesus, as wrongly rendered in some versions in Col. 1:16), the idea arose that Jesus was active in the Genesis creation. This was despite the fact that Jesus said that his Father, God, had "made them male and female" (Mark 10:6). And it was God, not Jesus, who rested after working the six days of Creation (Heb. 4:4).

Gradually, as the Jewish creed of Jesus and the New Testament was lost, it was argued that the Son must have however been the "LORD" of the Old Testament (although there is only "one Lord"! (Deut. 6:4) or perhaps the "angel of the LORD" who appeared to Abraham. All this speculation overlooked a fundamentally important fact: That the LORD (Yahweh) of the Old Testament is not His own Son! (Ps. 110:1; 2:4-7). All sons are "begotten," and to be begotten means that one is by definition *not God*, who has no beginning. Yahweh is never confused with Jesus, the promised Messiah. Certainly, activities which the Old Testament expects Yahweh to perform may be performed later by Jesus. This is because in Hebrew thought an agent may

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bear the title of his principal (cp. Exod. 23:21 where the angel of the LORD bears Yahweh's name). But this does not mean that Yahweh *is* the angel, or that the Messiah *is* God! The so-called "preexistence" of Jesus is confined in the Bible to the typically Jewish notion that God planned the Messiah before the foundation of the world and then brought him into existence by a supernatural conception in Mary. The Jews "were concerned with a kind of notional preexistence of the Messiah in so far as his name, i.e., his essence and nature, preceded the formation of light on the first day of creation...In Jewish thought the celestial preexistence of the Messiah does not affect his humanity" (Geza Vermes, *Jesus the Jew: A Historian's Reading of the Gospels*, pp. 138, 139).

As James Mackey says, the "existence" of the Messiah in the plan of God before his birth "is part and parcel of the revelation model in human imagining by which God...had in mind in eternity, or before anything else was created, the one who was the key to all existence...and for whom, in whom and through whom all could therefore be said to be created" (*The Christian Experience of God as Trinity*, p. 57).

Paul's statement in Colossians 1:15ff that all things were created *in* (not "by"), through and for Jesus means that Jesus was the central reason for God's creation. It does not mean that Jesus was actually alive before he was born in Bethlehem. Paul has in mind primarily the new

"Kingdom creation" (Col. 1:13) and not the Genesis creation. Jesus has been elevated to his supreme position over all other authorities, angelic and human, via his resurrection (Coil 1:18). He gains his preeminence only then. This would be untrue if from eternity he was supreme in the universe. The problem is that "representatives of all the Christian churches are really reading into the Bible doctrinal positions which they uncritically, and often unconsciously, assume to be contained in its pages, rather than reading out of it what is really in it" (*Ibid.*, p. 44).

Hebrews 1:1-2 expressly tells us that God did not speak of a Son until the New Testament period. God first sent prophets and finally His uniquely—begotten Son. This proves that there was no Son of God active in the Old Testament at all. He did not yet exist. But was begotten, that is brought into existence, as described in Luke 1:35 and Matt. 1:18, 20, I John 5:18, not KJV. One cannot exist before one exists, nor can a pre-human person be a human person. One is what one is, according to one's origin and descent. And Jesus "our Lord was descended from Judah" (Heb. 7:14) exactly as 2 Sam. 7:14 had predicted: "I will be his Father and he will be My Son." How very confusing this prophecy would be if in fact God was, at the time of His utterance in 2 Sam. 7:14, already the Father of the Son!

A leading commentary by the Roman Catholic scholar Raymond Brown says: "The New Testament does not predicate

'God' of Jesus with any frequency." His findings correspond with those of the scholars cited at the beginning of this article. Brown adds that "The way the New Testament approaches the divinity of Jesus was not through the title 'God' but by describing his activities in the same way as it describes the Father's activities" (*Anchor Bible on John*, p. 24). This is exactly what the biblical evidence will support. Jesus is not called "God" because he is not God. But Jesus, as the perfectly obedient Son of God, performs the acts of God and reveals the Father's nature and purposes. He is God's last word to the world (Heb. 1:2). God's self-expression, His plan for the universe, became flesh — a real human being — in Jesus (John 1:14). Just as Jews spoke of Moses as being the embodiment of the Law so Jesus was the embodiment of the perfect will of God, a living demonstration of a human being exhibiting grace and truth (John 1:17).

Phil. 2 has been misunderstood because readers imagined that it must teach what they have learned in church. Paul knows nothing in this passage of a pre-existing Son of God. He is discussing the historical "Messiah Jesus" whom he elsewhere calls "the Messiah Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5). He then invites his readers, in the context of an exhortation to behave in a humble manner, to observe and imitate the life and attitude of the human Jesus. He was indeed in the form of God. He enjoyed the status of God himself, and was in the image of

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God. (Cp. “He who has seen me has seen God”), but he did not use his Godlike status, his perfect functioning for God, as something to be exploited for his own advantage. Rather he emptied himself, as the suffering servant poured out himself (Isa. 53:12), and adopted the status of a servant. He appeared like any other human being and humbled himself to the point of going to his death on the cross. For this reason God exalted him to the right hand of majesty. There is not a word here about the Incarnation of a previously existing Son deciding to become a man. Paul is describing, as a practical model for us all, the human existence and behavior of the Son of God, who as God’s King could have exercised his divine privilege, but did not. Instead he acted as the servant of mankind.

One who is God, or an angel before his birth, is not a genuinely human person. Belief in a non-fully human Jesus is the warning signal given by John (1 John 4:2; 2 John 7) that anti-Christ is at work. The real Son of God *came into existence* (not from a preexistence) at his conception. This is what Luke tells us so concisely in Luke 1:35: “Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. *For that reason* the child begotten shall be called holy, the Son of God.” The angel Gabriel provides here a succinct theology of what it means for Jesus to be the Son of God. He tells us how, why and when the Son came into existence. It was by divine miraculous begetting and it was in the womb of a human mother who had no relations with a man.

It was six months later than the conception of John the Baptist, and the child was thus rightly called the Son of God. He was Son of God for these reasons and based on these facts and on no other.

Students of the Bible should give careful attention to the oracle provided for our learning in Ps. 110:1. This text is the prince of OT quotations and appears some 23 times in the New Testament. It prophesies (as Peter taught in Acts 2:34-36) the exaltation of the Messiah, Son of God, to the right hand of the One God, pending his return in the future to rule the world on earth in the coming Kingdom. The Psalm precisely defines the nature of the One God in relation to the Son. Yahweh (Jehovah) addresses David’s Lord (*adoni* [pronounced *adonee*] in Hebrew) and bids him remain at God’s right hand until his enemies are to be defeated. The One God of Israel and the Bible is Yahweh and he here addresses the Son and Messiah. The Son is called “*adoni*,” a title *never designating Deity*, but always, in all of its 195 occurrences, an address to a human (occasionally angelic) superior.

What a grand opportunity Scripture had here for informing us that there are two or more who are fully God! The text makes a definitive statement about the role and status of the Messiah. He is not *Adonai* (the Lord God, 449 times in the OT) but the Lord Messiah, a human superior. Elizabeth indeed visited “the mother of my lord,” (Luke 1:43) not as later post-biblical theology taught “the mother of God”!

May students of the Bible return

to belief in “the man Messiah,” the unique Son of the One God of the universe (1 Tim. 2:5). This is the great truth which God wishes all men to understand. Through it they may achieve salvation (1 Tim. 2:4). There is no single occurrence amongst 3,500 appearances of the word “God” in the Bible which could possibly mean “God in Three Persons, “the Triune God.” Meanwhile churches gather under the strict umbrella of that “God in Three Persons.” Is not the problem glaringly obvious and worthy of urgent investigation?

Christians claim to follow Jesus. This would have to mean following his example and teaching. What could prevent them then from insisting on Jesus’ unitarian creed found in Mark 12:28ff.): “The Lord our God is one Lord.” Jesus and the Jewish scribe were perfectly united in their understanding of who God is. It was this cardinal belief about the nature of the universe, of ultimate truth and salvation, which Jesus sets at the center of his personal model of faith for us. Are we going to follow him and declare that the “The Father is the only one who is truly God” (John 17:3) and that the Messiah is His uniquely commissioned Son, herald of the saving Gospel of the Kingdom (Luke 4:43)? Or are we to perpetuate a dangerous traditional view of God as “Three in One,” who gets not a single mention within the pages of the Bible? ■

About the Author:

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The Kingdom is not the church. The apostles went about preaching the Kingdom of God (Acts 8:12, 19:8, 28:23); it is impossible to substitute 'church' for 'Kingdom' in such passages.² It has just been shown what the Kingdom message entailed on the basis of the Old Testament. It is impossible to imagine that Jesus would have allegorized every one of these references in order to change the Kingdom of God from a physical reality to an abstract idea.

Some have asserted that when Jesus said to Pilate, "My Kingdom is not of this world..." he meant that his Kingdom is spiritual not physical. This would contradict the evidence just shown from the Hebrew Scriptures. "When Jesus said that his Kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36), he did not refer to his realm; he meant that his rule was not derived from earthly authority but from God and that his kingship would not manifest itself like a human kingdom but in accordance with the divine purpose."³ Jesus' Kingdom is coming from heaven with him when he returns. The Kingdom of God is Yahweh's dream for His creation. "The kingdom is not an abstract principle; the kingdom *comes*."⁴ He wants everything to be restored (Acts 3:21) to the way it was before sin entered the world through Adam.

The good news is that because of Jesus (the second Adam) man

can be reconciled back to God. But that is not where the story ends! The believer will be able to enjoy the amazing sinless fellowship that Paradise afforded its inhabitants when he enters the Kingdom of God. This simple truth is expressed beautifully in the book of Revelation. "And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are you to take the book and to break its seals; for you were slain, and purchased for God with your blood, men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a Kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth'" (Revelation 5:9, 10). Jesus has redeemed men with his blood for a purpose—to enter his Kingdom and reign with him upon the earth.

The Kingdom is not here yet. This can be seen through a careful study of several Scriptures⁵. One well-known passage that demonstrates that the Kingdom is still future is the Lord's Prayer: "Your Kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). "The petition Jesus taught his disciples in the Lord's Prayer, 'Thy Kingdom come,' also implies that the Kingdom is yet to come."⁶ The Kingdom will come at the Parousia, when Jesus comes in the clouds (Daniel 7:13, 14; Matthew 24:29-31; 25:31-34, 46). "In the Gospels, the eschatological [final] salvation is described as entrance into the Kingdom of God (Mark 9:47; 10:24), into the age to come (Mark 10:30) and into eternal life (Mark 9:45; 10:17, 30; Matthew 25:46). These three idioms are interchangeable. The consum-

mation of the Kingdom requires the coming of the Son of Man in glory."⁷ It is remarkable to consider that never does the Bible say that one is "going to heaven!" The bent of Scripture is toward the coming of Jesus in the clouds with his Kingdom.

Although it is true that the spiritual principles of the Kingdom of God may be tasted today, the Kingdom is primarily future. For example, there is a sense in which God is not reigning today. The devil is called the god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4) because he has power over the kingdoms of man (Luke 4:6). However, at the last trumpet blast, Jesus will return (1 Thessalonians 4:16) and the Kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of God and of His Christ (Revelation 11:15). God will take His power and begin to reign (Revelation 11:17). Obviously God is sovereign over all creation, He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. Even so, He allows Satan to reign during this present evil age. The Kingdom of God is the solution to the fall of Adam.

The early Christian church knew that the Kingdom was yet to come. They were persecuted and had to have a solid hope on which they could stake their lives. "While some of the more cultured Christians tended to spiritualize Christian hope, in the faith of the common people there was still the vision of a Kingdom that would supplant the present order, of a new Jerusalem where God would wipe away the tears of those who were suffering under the social order of the Em-

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pire.⁸” The people looked to the new material order in which Jesus would reign over the earth and cause justice and peace to replace the deception and violence with which they were so well acquainted. However, something happened when Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the empire. The persecutions suddenly stopped and many thought that if the empire was Christian, then the Kingdom of God had arrived. “Finally, the scheme of history that Eusebius developed led him to set aside a fundamental theme of early Christian preaching: the coming Kingdom of God. Although Eusebius does not go as far as to say so explicitly, in reading his works one receives the impression that now, with Constantine and his successors, the plan of God has been fulfilled...Since the time of Constantine, and due in part to the work of Eusebius and of many others of similar theological orientation, there was a tendency to set aside or to postpone the hope of the early church, that its Lord would return in the clouds to establish a Kingdom of peace and justice. At later times, many groups that rekindled that hope were branded as heretics and subversives, and condemned as such.⁹” This simple truth can no longer go unnoticed! These 4th century theologians and their successors are the reason that the Kingdom message has become spiritualized to this day. The original message of the Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul, and early Christians needs to be recovered! The everlasting gospel about the literal coming Kingdom of God

must be preached to all nations (Matthew 24:14; Revelation 14:6). “When the church has proclaimed the gospel of the Kingdom in all the world as a witness to all nations, Christ will return (Matthew 24:14) and bring the Kingdom in glory.¹⁰” The body of Christ needs to wake up and breathe life back into the proclamation, “Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand!”

Today Christians live between the two advents of Christ. Jesus has conquered Satan and sin through the cross. However, they have not been destroyed. Christians can live spiritual lives as citizens of the coming Kingdom and enjoy fellowship with God through the Holy Spirit in a remarkable manner today. “Jesus must have taught both present and future forms of the Kingdom. Thus the ‘mystery’ of the Kingdom consists in the open secret that before God fully imposes His rule on earth when Jesus comes back, believers enjoy its future blessings in advance.¹¹”

It is important to understand that the Kingdom is here in a sense today. “The Kingdom has come among men and its blessings have been extended in the person of Jesus. Those who now receive this offer of the Kingdom with complete childlike trust will enter into the future eschatological Kingdom of life.¹²” Many of the blessings of the Kingdom may be enjoyed presently, but there is a day coming when the Kingdom will literally be established. Then, the pure in heart will see God: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of

God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them’...they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads” (Revelation 21:3; 22:4). The hope of the coming Kingdom, when the gentle inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5), is the motivating power for every Christian to get through life today. True hope serves as an anchor to the soul (Hebrews 6:19). One is not run off course by the storms of this life if his anchor is both sure and steadfast.

The orthodox gospel/heaven system is everywhere. If it is a false system then perhaps the devil deserves more credit than he has been given. In the parable of the sower, Jesus said, “When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart” (Matthew 13:19). It is the devil’s job to deceive the whole world (Revelation 12:9). Deceptions are usually not a blatant lie, but a slight perversion of the truth. For example, counterfeit money has to look and feel just like the genuine or else no one will believe it is real. The truth must be revealed; the gospel that Jesus preached must resurface as the light in a dark place.

One day he will return and God will give him the nations and earth as his inheritance (Psalm 2:8). Jesus will break them with a rod of iron and destroy them like pottery (Psalm 2:9). There are only two options: (1) be part of the pottery and perish in the way or (2) do homage to the Son, take refuge in him (Psalm 2:12).

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Option two is rewarded to those who hold their faith firm until the end: “He who overcomes, and he who keeps my deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from my Father” (Revelation 2:26, 27). If you have ears then you should use them (Revelation 2:29). It is high time that the mass of

churchgoers awake from the haze of heavenly dreams and realize the poison that has made them so lethargic. Wake up because the Kingdom is coming!■

²Everett F. Harrison, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Carl F. Henry, 313.

³Everett F. Harrison, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Carl F. Henry, 310.

⁴Everett F. Harrison, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Carl F. Henry, 311.

⁵The following demonstrate that the kingdom is still future: Daniel 7:13, 14; Matthew 25:31; Luke 19:11, 12; Acts 1:6; 1 Corinthians

6:9, 10; Ephesians 5:5; 2 Timothy 2:12; 4:1; 1 Peter 1:11; Revelation 1:6; 5:9, 10; 11:15; 20:4, 6

⁶Robert H. Gundry, 120.

⁷Everett F. Harrison, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Carl F. Henry, 312.

⁸Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, (Peabody, MA, Prince Press, 1984), 92.

⁹Justo L. Gonzalez, 134.

¹⁰Everett F. Harrison, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Carl F. Henry, 314.

¹¹Robert H. Gundry, 120.

¹²Everett F. Harrison, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Carl F. Henry, 313.

Don't Look Now! You're A Grandparent!

By Myra Montgomery

Our family sat together watching the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece. Anyone who knows my father, Dr. Alva Huffer, would know how much he delighted in every minute, as the spectacular recreation of Greek history unfolded. The next morning, our daughter Jennie came running into the kitchen excited about her wonderful idea! “Mom, why don't we call Greece and ask them to come do that opening show for Grandy (my Dad) on his birthday? I bet they could do it over at the church!” Ever since my father has relocated to South Carolina, I have enjoyed watching his granddaughters getting the chance to know him better. We often can see how much grandparents delight in their grandchildren. But we often don't stop to think how much grandchildren delight in their grandparents!

“Mom...Dad...guess what? We're expecting a baby.” The news confirms it: a grandchild is on the way! And whether this is your first, second, or tenth grand-

child, the announcement comes as a powerful reminder of the dynamic family bonds you share. Expecting a grandchild is about accepting new roles and responsibilities that arrive regardless of our advice or consent. Our grandchildren are given to us ready to be unconditionally nurtured, cuddled, and cared for. And opening our hearts to them changes us for the rest of our lives.

“Getting ready for grandparenting is entirely different from getting ready for parenting,” explains Dr. Charmaine L. Ciardi. “There's no morning sickness or swollen feet, but there are changes. Our place in the family circle shifts, and subtle developments in our thoughts and attitudes are necessary to give birth to the grandparent in each of us.”

Grandparents in the Spotlight

Like most expectant grandparents today, you probably do not feel ready to sit quietly for hours in a rocking chair or on the front porch swing. As you look in the mirror, you may have a bit of difficulty calling yourself

“Grandma” or “Grandpa,” in spite of the new gray hairs you discover growing near your temples. Your life is busy, activity-filled, rewarding. Slowing down to savor the next generation may sound very appealing, yet you can't help but wonder: What will it be like to be a grandparent?

As our generation grows older, millions of us will be asking ourselves this key question. Perhaps this is why the grandparent role seems to be receiving more public attention than ever before. Grandparenting classes abound around the country; magazines and newspaper articles feature prominent grandparenting stories; movies and television shows depict intergenerational family sagas; states pass laws ensuring grandparents' visitation rights after divorce. But grandparents have always been special. Why all this fuss about a basic family tie that goes all the way back to Genesis? “A new generation of elders is appearing in the 'advanced' countries of the world,” explains Dr. Arthur

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Kornhaber in Between Parents and Grandparents. "The beneficiaries of social and medical progress, they are long-lived, healthy, educated, and more economically secure than at any other time in recorded history. Within a decade, their children will be grandparents. In the future, four-generation families will become more commonplace." For those of us who treasure our family relationships, this is truly good news. We look forward, with eager anticipation, to coming "full circle" embracing a brand-new generation. We view grandparent status as a matchless reward for the long years of parenthood. We believe that becoming grandparents will open up a bright horizon of premium opportunities to us. And upon hearing the mind-boggling news of our grandchild's future arrival, we already know in our hearts that the adventure is just starting. "Simply becoming grandparents can open creative floodgates for elders to use the gift of time, health, and vitality, and gain the love and respect they deserve," Dr. Kornhaber asserts. "Also, it can earn them a vital place in the hearts of their loved ones and an important role in their communities. Shared with parents, the linchpin of the connection between grandparents and grandchildren, their role enriches all their lives and assures the continuity of the family. This is the greatest gift of all."

What Only Grandparents Can Offer? Over the past decade, grandparents' involvement in providing effective birth and parenting support has significantly increased. As more couples realize

the benefits of grandparenting to their children—and themselves—they are inviting their parents to play a more active part in their children's lives from the very first moments. They understand that the presence of caring, considerate grandparents adds a rich dimension to family life that simply cannot be achieved by any other means. The reasons for today's renewed interest in reviving the grandparents' role include these:

- Grandparents' function as a priceless family-life resource. Grandparents' gifts of time, love, wisdom, practical support, and perspective significantly enhance, enrich, and enlarge family bonds.
- Grandparents create cherished opportunities for multigenerational get-togethers. Holiday traditions, birthday celebrations, memorable milestones, and other important events are passed from one generation to the next by grandparents.
- Grandparents offer the calming reassurance of continuity. The kind of love and tender care grandparents offer supplies a soothing balm in a stressful world, demonstrating that the family is durable in times of change.
- Grandparents provide a strong sense of history. Children learn about who their families are and where their families come from when grandparents share their stories, pictures, recipes, and memories with their family's latest additions.
- Grandparents' function as a back-up system in times of change and crisis. Families acutely appreciate knowing that there is "someone to fall back on" when exceptional events—such as childbirth, unemployment,

sudden relocation, remarriage, serious illness, or death—occur.

- Grandparents teach powerful truths about God. As grandparents' faith is lived out before an ever-watching younger generation, little ones see God's love displayed in many delightful forms.

"Becoming a grandparent is a deeply meaningful event in a person's life," confirm researchers Andrew J. Cherlin and Frank F. Furstenberg in **The New American Grandparent**. "Seeing the birth of grandchildren...is an affirmation of the value of one's life and, at the same time, a hedge against death. Grandchildren are also a great source of personal pleasure. Freed from the responsibilities of parenthood, grandparents can unabashedly enjoy their grandchildren." Thankfully, grandparents are waking up to the challenge of nurturing the next generation. Given current social challenges, our children and grandchildren appreciate our assistance. And, as Dr. Kornhaber reminds us, we have a higher level of education, better health, more resources, and a longer life expectancy than any previous generation has had. How are you sharing your faith and your relationship with Christ with your grandchildren?

I'm not going to be a grandparent anytime soon. But for now...I need to figure out how to "call Greece"! It's a great time to be a grandparent! Make the most of it!



Christian Workers' Seminar 2005 April 10-15, 2005

Enjoy a sweet time of relaxation and fellowship in Gatlinburg, TN! Every year Christian Workers' Seminar reconnects us with familiar faces and helps boost our faith. Inspiring classes and motivating worship speakers are just a few aspects to this unique time. Listed below are just a few of the many classes offered that we *know* you will enjoy!

Dangerous Wonder: The Adventure of Childlike Faith - In his 1998 book, *Dangerous Wonder*, Mike Yaconelli described his spiritual journey, including the loss of wonder in his younger years, and his return to chasing God in his later years. Using this book as a starting point, we will look at the church's unwritten assumptions that stifle curiosity, our tendency to try to explain Christ instead of experience him, and our repeated failure to simply listen to God. (Jon Cheatwood)

Mysteries from Daniel and Revelation - This class will ask questions about the mysteries of Daniel & Revelation. Who are the "Ten Toes?" What is the "Little Horn?" "Seventy-Sevens?" "2300 Evenings & Mornings?" The Dragon? Will we be here during the Trumpets? It will review the basic prophecies of the future beginning with Daniel chapter two and going through many parts of Revelation. (Dr. Joe Martin)

Apologetics: Defending the Faith - This course will cover how to defend a wide range of Christian truths. Otherwise said, the course will give the student the information necessary to be "always ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence. . ." (1 Peter 3.15). Topics to be covered include: "proving the Bible true," "defending against Evolution," "the problem of evil," "the earth is young," and others. (Sean Finnegan)

Worldviews - Secular vs. Biblical - The differences and the significances in our lives, our childrens' lives, our churches, the Nation and the World. What to expect from what is going on. What we need to do. (Dr. William Lawrence)

Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage - Video material with Mark Gungor, comedian and motivational speaker. This would be ap-

propriate for singles who may one day marry, as well as for married couples of all ages. It's a hilarious look at life, love, and marriage. You'll laugh and learn as Mark takes you on the journey of how to understand men and women. The topics include: How to Communicate with your Spouse and not go Insane, How to get your Spouse to do What you Want, How to Stay Married Without Killing your Spouse. Discussion will follow, as time permits. (John Railton)

It's A Guy Thing! - A class for men looking at real issues faced in their private and public lives. Discussion will be frank and honest. Answers will be scriptural and practical resources will be provided. Come grow together! (Michael Hoffman)

Sign Language for Worship - Basic sign language for the beginner. Enrich your worship experience with sign language. If you cannot sing, you can sign. If you can sing, sign language will still add to your ability to worship God. It can also open doors to new experiences. (Rob Bernheisel)

Woman. . . God's incredible creation! - An interactive discussion group regarding godly women facing today's challenges: health, the working mother, depression, finding time, renewal, inner joy, spiritual growth, etc. (Rebekah Martin)

The Christian Workers' Clothing - Explore being clothed with humility and robes of righteousness through Scripture and discussion. (Jamie Engelbert)

Counseling - This course focuses on the person as a whole using the Scriptures as a foundation for healing and progress. Sharing and healthy coping skills will be explored. (Joe James)

Progress Journal

From the CAO...

By Tim Jones

About the Author:

Tim Jones is the current Chief Administrative Officer and President of Atlanta Bible College.

As the **RH/PJ** went to press, we were very sorry to learn that Paul Overholser passed away on February 16, 2005. The Conference and College staff extend our sympathy to his family. Paul was truly a man of God. We decided to print the CAO column written after Paul's 100th birthday celebration just two weeks ago.

Once again I thank you for the opportunity to bring to you this copy of the Herald/Journal. Within the pages I trust that you will find something of value that will serve you well. Every member of the Conference/College staff feels we serve to enhance your ministries and those of your church. May God bless you all!

Another semester is underway at ABC! As we finalize the count of students for this term, the number of students is close to the number of students we had for the Fall semester. We are pleased that God continues to bless us with dedicated men and women studying to learn more about Him. We will continue to bring you updates on the students and the happenings at the College as the semester progresses. Graduation for this semester is May 13, 2005. We would love to have you come to Atlanta for this exciting event!

"The Longer I Serve Him, the Sweeter He Grows"

Two interesting events occurred

this past weekend. First, as I am sure you heard, Johnny Carson, long-time host of the "Tonight Show," died at the age of 79. A friend called me on my cell phone and told me the news. Even now as time passes, you still see tributes to Mr. Carson, and hear television personalities talking about the influence he had on their lives. I remember seeing Johnny and Ed McMahon every evening as I prepared to go to bed. According to published reports, after 30 years as host, as many as 50 million people may have watched the final episode in which he said goodbye. As an entertainer, he was truly remarkable, and had many loyal viewers and fans.

But the more remarkable event for me took place far from Hollywood. As mentioned, I was traveling last weekend from the special reception and celebration for the 100th birthday of Mr. Paul Overholser in Springfield, Ohio! 100 years! Can you imagine the changes and experiences that this wonderful man has seen through the years? What happened in 1905? Albert Einstein publishes a paper that first discusses special relativity. The site that would someday become Las Vegas, Nevada was purchased at auction. Henry Fonda and Greta Garbo were born. Oklahoma will not become the 46th state of the Union for another 2 years! And Paul Overholser was born.

In a Saturday reception and Sunday service at the Lawrenceville Church of God that celebrated Paul's life, we sang some of his favorite songs. Among them was

the hymn "The Longer I Serve Him, the Sweeter He Grows!" What a wonderful anthem for all of us, and for Paul it has certainly been true. Paul and his family have been strong supporters of the General Conference and the Bible College through the years. I counted it as a great privilege to represent the College and Conference in saying "Happy Birthday" as well as giving a heartfelt "Thank You" to Paul! However, the television crews were not in Springfield, Ohio this weekend – all their attention was focused on the



Paul & his living children

passing of Johnny Carson. However, when we think about the impact of these men, I think the impact of Paul's life will be by far the most important! He has touched lives and hearts with his example of a true follower of Christ. In his family, his friends, and those people that have been touched by his life, Paul's example of faith will have been of eternal significance. He has truly modeled the Scriptures that challenge us to "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." Thank you, Paul, for your faithfulness to God and your example of how a Christian should live.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

I am excited to let you know that Dave Riley has accepted a position on the Conference/College staff as the Director of Ministry Services (previously called the Director of Church and Pastor Services.) After much prayer and thought about this decision on the part of the Conference as well as Dave and his family, Dave has agreed to take the position and will begin work on February 1, 2005. By the time you read this, he will be serving in this position.

As many of you may know, Dave has been the pastor at Cornerstone Bible Church here in Georgia since the church was planted. During a sabbatical that began last year, Dave decided in December that at this time it was best for his family and the Cornerstone Bible Church that he resign from his position as the pastor. After he announced this decision to the elders and the members of the church, I talked with the members of the Board of Directors, as well as Gary Burnham, David Krogh, and Joe Martin, about the possibility of having Dave join the staff. Gary and David's opinion was particularly valuable because of their role not only as members of the General Conference/College staff, but also as the elders of the Cornerstone church. With Dave's experience as a pastor, the fact that Dave and his family would not be forced to relocate, and as a person with a great heart for pastors and their ministry, I felt that he was an ideal candidate. Before his decision to resign as pastor, it was not anticipated that he might

be available to fill the role at the Conference. The idea of discussing the job with Dave was unanimously applauded by the Board as a way of hiring a great candidate for this critical role.

Dave and I talked extensively about the position and its responsibilities. I believe that he will be a great asset to our pastors in this important position. I also believe that he will be a benefit to the staff and students with his upbeat personality and devotion to



Dave Riley, Director of Ministry Services

Christ. Dave comes to ABC/GC after spending over thirteen years in pastoral ministry in Atlanta including New Friends Bible Church and Cornerstone Bible Church that he helped plant in 1994. Dave graduated in 1992 from Atlanta Bible College and Ferris State University in 1987. Dave was employed as Controller at Atlanta Bible College from 1990-1992. He has served on several boards and committees for the General Conference including the Ministerial Association Leadership Team and the Youth Advisory Committee. Dave has also been involved in planning, teaching,

worship leading, and speaking at several events including General Conference, Christian Workers' Seminar, Fuel, and ABC Chapel Services. He has taught classes at Atlanta Bible College and is Chaplain for the local Hospice.

Dave grew up in Michigan in a pastor's home and gave his heart to the Lord at the age of 10. He has been actively involved in ministry for his entire life and has a heart for Pastors and the Church. Most importantly, he has been married to his wife Anne for 16 years and has two children, Brianna 12 and Brandon 9. They reside in McDonough, Georgia. Please join me in welcoming Dave to our team, and continue to pray that the Lord lead and bless us in our important work.

Hopefully you have detached the calendar from the last issue of the *Restitution Herald/Progress Journal* and it has been firmly affixed to your refrigerator! The detachable, perforated calendar allowed us to highlight special events and Conference/College programs, yet save a lot of resources when compared to the costs of printing and shipping the traditional Bible College calendar. Use the calendar to plan your vacations and other events in tandem with the dates of Conference activities. I hope to see many of you at our events in 2005. May God bless you all.

In Christ's service,

Tim

The Lord's Harvest International Mission Agency would like to update you on many things that are happening in mission fields around the world.

Malawi-Mozambique

Reports from Africa indicate that the starter seed-fertilizer packs that were delivered last fall are producing a bumper crop. Linda Khofi who helped our team with the distribution in October reports:

"I have been to Pastor Machemba, Katima, Namaona, Frazier, Chimlomo and many others under Frazier. . . . I have some photos of our visits and of the maize garden. Everywhere I have been so far, their crops are really promising a bumper yield."

1,680 starter packs were purchased and delivered in Malawi and 75 bags of seed (enough for 1,850 families) were distributed in Mozambique. We praise God for a bountiful harvest and your participation which made this project possible. Sufficient funds were given to successfully complete this project.

A short term trip is planned for July 23 to August 9. Anyone interested in serving on the team should contact Joe or Rebekah Martin at: jmartin@abc-coggc.org or Rrebrn@aol.com Interested individuals must fill out an application form and after being accepted by the LHI Board, must secure a passport, appropriate shots, and raise funds for the trip.

Russia

Tracy and Stepan Zhykhovich continue to use their lives as a Christian witness in Russia. The government has continued to place restrictions on religious activity so it is not possible to publicly announce Bible studies or religious services except by organized churches that were in existence more than 10 years ago. So Tracy has been able to only work on a one-to-one basis as she shares her faith with friends and neighbors. In light of these restrictions, Tracy has requested that her salary be discontinued so that the funds can be used in other mission fields. Funds will still be collected and used to assist Tracy and her family with insurance and also to help with travel expenses for them to come periodically to the United States to report on their work.

We are thankful to Tracy for her faithfulness in serving as a Christian influence in Russia. And we have appreciated all who have helped support her in the past and who will continue to provide limited support.

On page 15 is a recent report from Tracy.

Haiti

It has been decided to delay a planned spring trip to Haiti. The US State Department has released an advisory against US citizens traveling to the country. There continues to be serious political instability and the country is still trying to recover from hurricanes that caused much damage last summer.

We receive periodic reports from Pastor Lesly Bertrand regarding the work. Much progress has been made on the orphanage building. Many of you continue to provide monthly support of \$10 for a number of children connected with the churches under Pastor Lesly's supervision. Thanks for your faithfulness in helping these children who attend church sponsored schools.

Mexico

Reports from Mexico indicate that Roberto and Lupe Badillo are in much better health than they have been in the past couple of years. Roberto is doing limited work in the field and Lupe is excited about the way things are going with the Sunday School work. They are looking forward to a team coming the end of July to help them with their annual Bible School.

Peru

Plans had previously been made for a trip to Peru in February, however due to Bill Wachtel's surgery in December, the trip has been postponed to April. Bill and David Krogh will make this trip to teach classes and assist the congregation in securing their own facilities. The spring 2005 Church Builders Appeal has been awarded to the Peru congregation for this purpose. Contributions for this trip will be appreciated.

Thailand

Tom and Ann Colburn, David and Lynne Krogh, and Victor and Jodi Werhanowicz visited

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Thailand in November to explore the possibility of working with a couple of orphanages to provide Bible classes and some humanitarian assistance. Before traveling to the country, plans were made to visit two orphanages one of which had 70 children. When the team arrived for the first of several visits, it was discovered that one of the orphanages had closed and the remaining one had only 18 children.

Conditions at the orphanage were deplorable. Some of the children slept on the floor in a ramshackle house and in very crowded conditions. There was not much food available and the "kitchen" was a fire under a mound of dirt in the yard with black kettles for cooking.

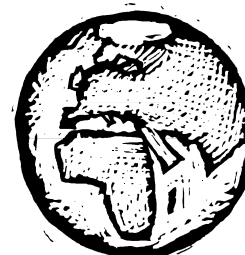
We had an opportunity to: share the basic plan of salvation with the children; distribute some

leaflets with information about the message of the Bible; and to distribute Bibles with lots of colored pictures written in the Thai language. A bag of rice and other food was also given.

It is the opinion of the LHI Board that God is not opening a door of opportunity to pursue the work in Thailand at this time. Further involvement in that area does not seem reasonable because there is no one present to provide ongoing Bible teaching; because of the lack of cooperation with the director of the orphanage; and because of uncertainties regarding the continuation of the orphanage and uncertainty about how many children can be served.

We are thankful for the members of the team who were willing to make this trip to explore the opportunities and to those who assisted with funding.

The recent earthquake and tsunami did not affect the area that was visited in the northern part of the country. But our hearts go out to the millions who were affected by the devastation. CAO Tim Jones has suggested that churches or individuals may send relief funds to the General Conference which will be forwarded in a couple of months to World Vision on behalf of the membership of the Church of God General Conference. ■



How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!" Rom. 10:15



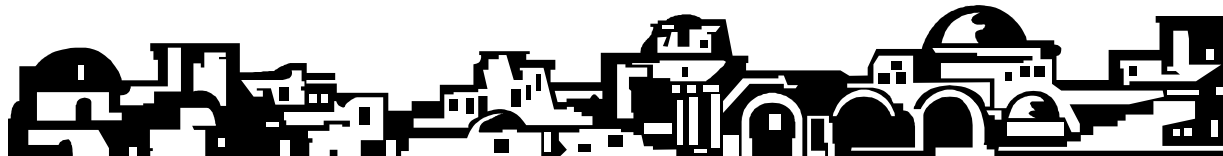
14th Annual Theological Conference

Our guest lecturer will be Harvard graduate Dr. Richard Rubenstein, distinguished author of *When Jesus Became God*. Please plan on attending our next Theological Conference, Friday, April 29-Sunday, May 1, 2005. This is an international gathering of enthusiastic Bible students and truth-seekers from many different backgrounds, meeting for mutual edification and encouragement. The nature of the conference as a "theological conference" definitely does not mean that it is a heavy "academic" exercise. Papers on important biblical topics are presented, there is opportunity for interaction with the speakers, and there is much scope for enjoying shorter "faith stories" from other participants. The event is held near Atlanta in a comfortable setting with easy access to the airport.

Intensive Class Offered

Atlanta Bible College will offer a three-day intensive course, "The Kingdom of God as Gospel," to be taught by Anthony Buzzard May 2-4, 2005 following the Theological Conference. The classes will be held at Cornerstone Bible Church, the same location as the Theological Conference. Times will be 9:00-12:30 and 1:30-5:00 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Tuition \$238 for credit, otherwise \$185, plus textbook.

A Letter From Russia



Greetings to all in the wonderful and powerful name of Jesus! How good it is to rest in His peace and be blessed with joy that He gives no matter of our circumstance. May this time of year be a time of choosing to remember the good and dwell in those thoughts, as well as a time to look forward to the future with hope and anticipation.

My family and I would like to take this time of year to thank each one who has been such a faithful supporter over the past year and for many of you the past years. We trust that God has been faithful in multiplying in your lives what you have sown into ours. We trust that some seed has fallen on good ground and in the end will reap a harvest. Please continue to pray over the coming year that good soil will come forth so more seed may be sown and take root.

God has blessed us over the past year and it looks as though Stepan will be able to financially provide for us more than in the past. As a result we have decided that we would like to cut back on the financial support that we receive from you through *Lord's Harvest International*. Please note that this does not include cutting back on prayer support! Even though we are able to do this, praise be to God, we are in no way cutting ties or changing ministry goals and desires. We just feel that some of those fi-

nances could be used in other mission fields and this is a way that we can do our part in supporting *LHI's* ministry into all the world. We trust God that He will continue to provide for us and allow us to be a blessing to others as well. May He continue to give us all direction in His big garden of this world.

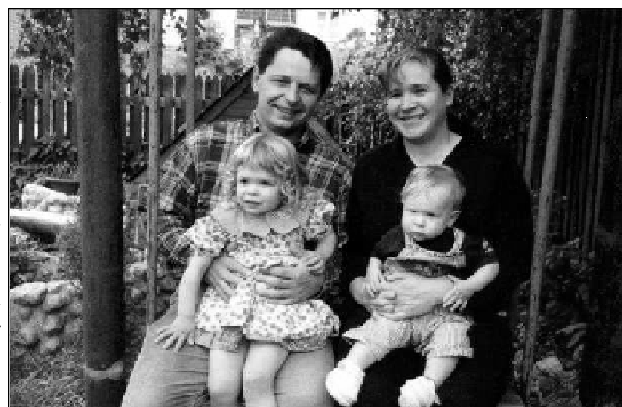
For those of you who have been praying for Lena, please continue to do so. As a result of some decisions on her part we have been led to use some 'tough love' with her. She needs a job and she needs to keep it. They just had the court hearing in regard to her room in the communal apartment and she was told to come back in

April. At this time they are living in that room, along with the drunkard (lady) who refuses to leave the room. It seems that in April that lady will be forced to leave but until then, Lena and her son will try to live there also.

Our children are growing so quickly. They are a true joy and blessing from the Lord. Misha just turned two in November and Liza is going on four in March. They are so inquisitive and it is evident why Jesus said that we must have faith like children in

order to enter the kingdom of God.

As my daughter said the other night, "Mama, I just want to be with Jesus and meet Him in the clouds when the angel blows the trumpet!!" May we all yearn for this day but be content with each day as we wait, rejoicing in and enjoying that day as a gift from the Father above. Jesus made it possible so that we could unwrap all the good and perfect gifts our



Stepan, Tracy, Liza and Misha Zhykhovich, 2004

Father so eagerly desires for us. As He said, He came so that we might have life and have it to the full. May each day of yours be lived to the fullest and may His goodness, mercy, grace, peace and JOY be abundant in each breath that you take.

Ears peeled for the trumpet call,
Stepan, Tracy, Liza and Misha

Finance

Income Budget Report for December, 2004

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	November <u>Variance</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS:				
General Contributions	186,540	132,452	-54,088	-49,236
Building Our Future Campaign	0	132,360	132,360	120,775
BOF Challenge Gift		(40,000)		
BOF General Membership Response		(78,150)		
BOF Alumni Association Response		(14,210)		
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	2,500	2,442	-58	-48
ABC Boosters	9,350	11,308	1,958	2,862
Subtotal	<u>198,390</u>	<u>278,562</u>	<u>80,172</u>	<u>74,353</u>
SALES:				
Christian Education Materials	18,150	17,208	-942	-1,943
Books	21,000	11,923	-9,077	-5,762
Restitution Herald	3,000	854	-2,146	-1,659
Age to Come Media Products	1,000	158	-842	-675
Theological Journal	935	244	-691	-721
Sale of Assets	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	<u>44,085</u>	<u>30,387</u>	<u>-13,698</u>	<u>-10,760</u>
ABC:				
Tuition	99,225	59,156	-40,069	-23,532
Korean Extension Tuition	39,350	35,938	-3,412	3,146
Lodging	29,375	29,080	-295	4,601
Washers/Dryers	1,016	404	-612	-442
Rentals - ABC Plant	2,310	3,155	845	915
Late Fees/Rent	3,600	1,734	-1,866	-1,477
Fees	6,000	1,863	-4,137	-3,357
Subtotal	<u>180,876</u>	<u>131,330</u>	<u>-49,546</u>	<u>-20,146</u>
PROGRAM INCOME:				
Conferences & Workshops	15,000	-7,958	-22,958	-21,438
Subtotal	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-7,958</u>	<u>-22,958</u>	<u>-21,438</u>
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Interest	500	0	-500	-417
Transferred In	15,000	27,671	12,671	-5,174
Subtotal	<u>15,500</u>	<u>27,671</u>	<u>12,171</u>	<u>-5,591</u>
Income Total	<u>453,851</u>	<u>459,992</u>	<u>6,141</u>	<u>16,418</u>

Building Our Future Campaign

Total contributions since inception (2003) 160,974

These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2004 through June, 2005

The 'Budget' column in each report shows the year-to-date portion of the annual budget for each line item.

The 'Variance' column in each report shows the difference between the amount budgeted and the amount actually received (income) or spent (expense). A positive number in this column means the income or expense is better than budgeted. A negative number in this column means the income or expense is worse than budgeted.

Finance

Expense Budget Report for December, 2004

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>December Variance</u>
STAFF:				
Salaries & Wages	236,081	240,027	-3,946	-3,691
F.I.C.A. Tax	2,750	2,598	152	43
Employee Benefits	50,758	42,218	8,540	5,348
Subtotal	289,589	284,843	4,746	1,700
SERVICES:				
Assistance to Churches	18,950	15,300	3,650	2,392
Ministerial Association	4,800	4,800	0	-800
Youth Program	2,500	2,500	0	0
Subtotal	26,250	22,600	3,650	1,592
SALES EXPENSE:				
Printing & Binding	15,000	14,584	416	-1,814
Postage & Shipping	8,000	6,853	1,147	992
Media Production Expenses	0	0	0	0
Book Store	9,000	7,055	1,945	1,427
Royalties	75	0	75	63
Subtotal	32,075	28,491	3,584	669
ABC:				
Clayton Rebate	1,000	0	1,000	833
Advertising--Recruitment	500	1,388	-888	-913
ABC Korean Extension Support	11,750	14,077	-2,327	-4,285
Library Periodicals	750	1,086	-336	-426
Library Books	0	24	-24	-24
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	200	585	-385	-418
Staff Training	500	1,108	-608	-691
Subtotal	14,700	18,268	-3,568	-5,924
ADMINISTRATION:				
Travel	12,500	14,991	-2,491	-3,635
Motor Vehicles	1,000	1,433	-433	-35
Office Supplies & Expense	6,000	7,589	-1,589	-1,840
Professional Services	5,000	4,873	127	-206
Telephone	10,500	11,394	-894	-671
Insurance - Non Plant	250	84	166	124
Supplies & Expense	1,250	1,664	-414	-583
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	10,000	15,633	-5,633	2,226
Subtotal	46,500	57,662	-11,162	-4,621
PLANT EXPENSES:				
Utilities	14,000	17,147	-3,147	-3,197
Insurance - Property	7,000	6,717	283	-884
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	1,500	2,041	-541	-358
Furniture & Equipment	1,500	5,550	-4,050	-3,344
Supplies/Expenses Plant	3,000	2,472	528	339
Subtotal	27,000	33,926	-6,926	-7,443
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Interest	14,000	13,948	52	-49
Other	3,500	2,117	1,383	1,185
Subtotal	17,500	16,065	1,435	1,136
Expense Total	453,614	461,854	-8,240	-12,890
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	237	-1,862	-2,099	3,528

Church News

Baptisms

California

Pomona – Sally Harris (11/24/04) by Pastor Chuck Jones

Canada

Freedom in Christ, Welland, ON – Sharon Thibeit (11/21/04) by Pastor Stephen Bolhous

Indiana

Timberland – Rosa Darr (12/19/04) by Pastor John Railton

Ohio

Troy View – Jeff Epley (10/24/04) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman and Jacob Darby; Larry Meyers (10/24/04) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman and Kent Snyder; Crystal Maurer (11/21/04) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman and Melanie Grote; Caitlin Grote (11/21/04) by Melanie Grote and Crystal Maurer; Matthew Jackson (11/21/04) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman and Kent Snyder; Basil T. Hughart,

(1/2/05) by Robert Hollopeter and Pastor Steve Zimbelman

Deaths

Indiana

Timberland – Florence Bullers, 97, (11/24/04) long time member, by Pastor John Railton

Ohio

Troy View – Eunice Randall, 83, (1/7/05), wife of Celaine Randall, by Pastors Jack Hearp and Steve Zimbelman

Minnesota

Litchfield – Keith E. Housman, 48, (11/2/04) by Pastor Dale Swartz

South Carolina

Bethel – Mike Anderson (9/7/04) by Pastor Alan Cain and Edward Bender; Edith Adams (12/12/04) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

NEW LIFE BIBLE CHURCH invites you to attend a Bible conference on

“Working Under the Influence of the Holy Spirit!”

The conference will start Thursday, May 12th through Sunday, May 15th 2005. Please call 815. 335.1405 for more information and a registration packet or go online to register at www.winnewlife.com



Come Join us!

US Route 20 & Hoisington Rd
P.O. Box 7
Winnebago, IL 61088



Pastor Wanted

THE BLOOD RIVER CHURCH OF GOD in Springfield, Louisiana is in need of a pastor. We have a dedicated Sunday congregation with a large outreach youth program on Wednesday night. We provide a complete package of benefits with a competitive salary. We have a very nice parsonage with 1900 sq. ft. living area and 2600 sq. ft. under roof. You will benefit from mild winters, southern hospitality, and good food.

If you are interested, please contact:

Rodney Childers
27464 Hwy. 1037
Springfield, LA 70462
Phone: (225) 294-5722

Or James Richardson
29278 Richardson Dr.
Holden, LA 70744
Phone: (225) 294-5532
E-mail:
edrjhr@yahoo.com



Prayer & Praise

March 2005

- 1 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**
- 2 Pray for those considering attending Atlanta Bible College in the future.
- 3 **Praise God for those who have provided spiritual instruction for you.**
- 4 Pray that God will raise up missionary candidates.
- 5 **Praise God for the faithful leadership of the Badillo family in Mexico.**
- 6 Pray for Pastor Tom and Debbie New and the work at McGintytown, Arkansas.
- 7 **Praise God for those who provide prayer and financial support for the College/Conference ministries.**
- 8 Pray for strength to overcome temptation and for power in the battle against sin in the world.
- 9 **Pray for someone you know who is discouraged or depressed.**
- 10 Pray for Pastor John Nelson and his work with Open Bible Church in Bolivar, MO.
- 11 **Pray for Pastor Michael and Diane Brown and the Glad Tidings Church, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Kent and Cheryl Ross and the New Friends Bible Church in Morrow, Georgia.
- 13 **Pray for Wally and Peggy Winner and the work at Joy Fellowship in Anderson, South Carolina.**
- 14 Praise God for all who have dedicated their lives to ministry.
- 15 **Pray for a spirit of unity in the bond of peace.**
- 16 Pray for a special need in your life.
- 17 **Pray for the contacts with churches and Bible colleges in South Korea.**
- 18 Pray for an opportunity to share God's love with someone
- 19 **Pray for those who are searching God's Word for answers to life's problems.**
- 20 Pray for the students and staff of ABCKE (Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension).
- 21 **Pray for the brethren in India.**
- 22 Pray for Steve and Pam Grant and their ministry in the Middle East.
- 23 **Pray for the leaders of your government.**
- 24 Pray for your neighbors.
- 25 **Pray for eyes to see those who are in need and a heart to reach out to them.**
- 26 Pray for the church work in Malawi and Mozambique.
- 27 **Praise God for the promise of Christ's soon return.**
- 28 Praise God for Marcy Cly, Jillian Ramsey and Jill Taylor who provide administrative support at Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference.
- 29 **Pray for Pastor Mike and Myra Montgomery and the Guthrie Grove Church, Pelzer, South Carolina.**
- 30 Praise God for new attendees or members at your local congregation.
- 31 **Pray for those preparing for the Christian Workers' Seminar next month.**

April 2005

- 1 **Pray for your pastor and family.**
- 2 **Pray for Pastor Vivian and Paula Kirkpatrick and the Hutchinson, Minnesota Church of God.**
- 3 Pray for retired pastor Jack Hearp.
- 4 Pray for Pastor Rex and Sharon Cain and their work in Bedford, Ohio.
- 5 **Pray for Anthony Buzzard's correspondence with truth seekers around the world.**
- 6 Pray for opportunities to witness to those without Christ.
- 7 **Pray for those whose eyes are blinded to the Gospel.**
- 8 **Pray for volunteers to be short-term missionaries this summer.**
- 9 **Pray for Sam An as he assists with the administrative work for the ABC Korean Extension.**
- 10 **Pray for those traveling to Christian Workers Seminar in Gatlinburg, Tennessee today.**
- 11 **Pray for retired Pastor Ed Goit and his wife, Viola.**
- 12 Praise God for new life in Christ.
- 13 **Pray for the churches in your state/district Conference.**
- 14 **Pray for the students and staff of Atlanta Bible College.**
- 15 **Pray for Pastor Lesly Bertrand and others who are preaching and teaching in Haiti.**
- 16 Pray for the soon return of Christ.
- 17 **Pray for the New Hope Church in Little Rock, Arkansas.**
- 18 Praise God for dedicated Church of God ministers.
- 19 **Pray for retired Chaplain Orville Westlund.**
- 20 **Pray for the ministry of the Badillo family in Mexico.**
- 21 **Pray for Tim Jones and the Board of Directors as they direct the work of the College/Conference.**
- 22 Praise God for His faithfulness.
- 23 **Praise God for the gift of His Son, and the resurrection of Jesus.**
- 24 Pray for Pastor Curt and Anita Rowden and the East Peoria, Illinois Church.
- 25 **Pray that God might use you to lead the lost to salvation.**
- 26 **Praise God for the Korean American Community Church of God that is meeting in the ABC facilities.**
- 27 **Pray for Pastor Steve and Young An as they lead the Korean congregation.**
- 28 **Pray for the Family of God Fellowship in Maple Grove, Minnesota.**
- 29 **Pray for those participating in the Theological Conference in Atlanta this weekend.**
- 30 Praise God for the ministry and service of your church leaders.

Address Service Requested

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Hello Atlanta Bible College;

Thank you for standing for one God and God's son, the only begotten son of the Father, who died and rose again to save us from our sins. Thank you for faithfully sending your newsletter; you will be in my prayers more in 2005. May God continue to bless and preserve our troops, our ministries, and our families this next new year!

We have much to be thankful for!

John G. Dudash

Take Advantage of Block Classes at ABC!

- Feb. 21-25: Systematic Theology II
- May 2-4: Kingdom of God as Gospel
- May 23-June 3: Romans
- June 6-10: Biblical Archaeology Class
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Call 1-800-347-4261 to sign up NOW!

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& Progress Journal

Finding

By Jon Cheatwood

Each spring, Atlanta Bible College invites high school students and young adults to its campus for a weekend we call ABC-I—The Atlanta Bible College Invitational. We try to give students a small taste of campus life, some time in a classroom, and a lot of time with others who are checking things out, too.

The event draws more than just those who are interested in attending ABC. Quite a few students attend for the fellowship, the fun, and times of worship and teaching. The program includes several chapel services (longer and louder than our typical chapel sessions), interviews with staff members, service projects, and what we call area tours.

The latest edition of the ABC-I hit town last month, and it has me thinking this afternoon. The event carried a theme of “Finding My Way” this year, and we had several viewpoints presented as to what that means. Today, as I stare out my window while in thought, my version continues to...percolate.

Quite a few jokes are made about men and their refusal to ask for directions. Asking strangers for directions is not something I particularly enjoy, either, so I cannot really disagree with the jokes basis in reality. It is not just driving, either. I sometimes

have trouble asking for *any* directions. I don't want to appear inferior in knowledge and experience, even when I am. Why is that? Like the beginning of so many of our troubles, this one seems to start with pride.

Pride says, “I don't need your help. I don't need your guidance, the benefit of your experience, or even your encouragement. Just let me find my way on my own.”



Worship at ABC-I!

While each of us must blaze our own trail in life, nothing should convince us that we must blaze that trail alone. We take with us the influence of parents, of teachers, of youth workers, of pastors. We also carry the influence of relationships, both “good” and “bad.” We carry the thoughts of those whose teaching we have taken in, those whose books we have read, those whose productions (movies,

music, television, web pages, etc.) we have consumed. The collective experiences of who we are through what we have taken in.

Hebrews 10:19-25 says, “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

This is clearly the way that I want to go, though it does not give me specific direction. Draw near to God. Hold to the Hope. Spur one another on. Some general instructions that we can each take with us as we find our way.

Happy trails! ■

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THE RESTITUTION HERALD ADVOCATES:

- THE ONENESS OF GOD (1 COR. 8:6);
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S POWER (ACTS 1:8);
- JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (MATT. 16:16), AND IS OUR MEDIATOR (1 TIM. 2:5);
- THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (2 TIM. 3:16);
- THE MORTALITY OF MAN (JOB 4:17; PSA. 146:4);
- THE NEAR RETURN OF CHRIST (ACTS 1:11), AND LIFE ONLY THROUGH HIM (COL. 3:3);
- THE LITERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (JOHN 5:28);
- THE IMMORTALIZATION OF THOSE IN CHRIST (1 COR. 15:53, 54);
- THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED (REV. 21:8);
- THE FINAL RESTORATION OF ISRAEL AS THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNDER THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST (LUKE 1:32);
- THE CHURCH TO BE JOINT HEIRS WITH HIM (ROM. 8:17), AND ISRAEL TO BE MADE HEAD OVER GENTILE NATIONS (ISA. 60:1-3);
- THE "RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS WHICH GOD HATH SPOKEN BY THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS HOLY PROPHETS SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN" (ACTS 3:21).
- IT ALSO FIRMLY ADVOCATES REPENTANCE AND IMMERSION IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS (ACTS 2:38), AND A CONSECRATED LIFE AS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.

The Restitution Herald & Progress Journal

The General Conference is eagerly seeking articles that will teach, inspire, and encourage our readers. If God has placed a subject on your heart, please send your submissions or any questions to the Publishing Department. We also encourage letters to the Editor in response to articles.

Church of God General Conference
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The Restitution Herald and Progress Journal Submission Dates

- ▶ May 6, 2005 – Articles due for June/July issue
- ▶ July 22, 2005 – Articles due for Aug./Sept. issue
- ▶ Sept. 16, 2005 – Articles due for Oct./Nov. issue
- ▶ Nov. 11, 2005 – Articles due for Dec./Jan. issue



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- June 20-24: Acts

Call 1-800-347-4261 to sign up NOW!

About the Author:

Tim Jones is the current Chief Administrative Officer and President of Atlanta Bible College.

Welcome to another edition of The Restitution Herald/Progress Journal. This publication fills a vital need for our fellowship. Through the articles we present and the update on activities at the College/Conference and in our member churches, we hope that a common bond of dedication and service is supported and strengthened. Our God is most certainly an awesome God, and I believe He works in a powerful way through His people. As we share together information on what is going on in our Conference, please take the opportunity to pray for each other, for our churches and General Conference, and for the ministries that God has entrusted to us. This issue of the Journal will contain a 3 month Prayer and Praise calendar. That will allow us to move our dates farther into the future to accommodate the new publication schedules with the combination of the Herald and Journal.

We are entering a very busy time of the year for the College and Conference. Graduation Day for ABC, May 13, 2005, is only 6 weeks away! We earnestly desire your prayers for the students as they face the increasing pressure to complete their assignments and maintain their hectic schedules. Also pray for the instructors and teachers – not only must they maintain their normal excellence in the lectures and class instruction,

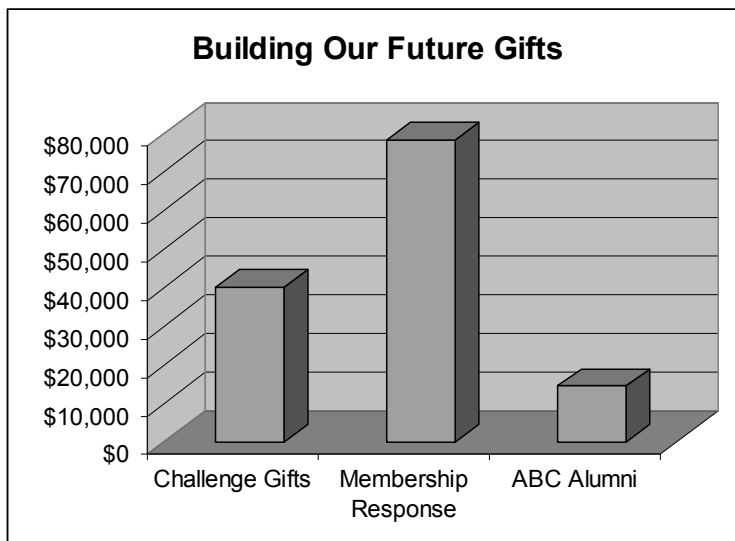
but also prepare and grade the exams, tests, and other academic requirements that come with the end of the school year. Your support is very welcome by staff and students alike.

The ABC Korean Extension is one of the greatest blessings God has provided to the College in our recent past. The excitement of the students and the dedication of the Extension staff to teaching the great truths of the Bible are great motivators. We now see additional instructors and teachers that were formerly students being equipped to assist Pastor Steve An in the delivery of the classes. We will continue to see this transition from students to teachers as we continue to grow this vital ministry.

Christian Workers' Seminar will be concluded by the time you receive this edition of the Journal. Look for coverage of this event in the next edition. We are also working to be ready for the annual Theological Conference to be held at Cornerstone Bible

Church on April 29 – May 1st, 2005. We hope you will have made plans to join us at both events. In this issue, you will find a proposed amendment to the College/Conference constitution. This will be voted on at this summer's General Conference session. Make your plans now to attend the Conference, also to be hosted at Cornerstone Bible Church July 11-12, 2005. As you make your travel arrangements, remember that there will be a cook-out at the church for Conference attendees Sunday afternoon, July 10th. Arrive early to enjoy this pre-Conference time of fellowship. We are having some major revisions to our Web site performed, and we look forward to unveiling the new site in the immediate future.

The graph of giving to The Building Our Future programs shows the current progress of our challenge gift effort. The membership response has been overwhelmingly positive. Total gifts through the month of February have been \$132,600! Okay



(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

alumni – remember the challenge! Can we rise to meet the tremendous efforts of the general membership? We are so thankful for your support to the Challenge gift program. In this issue we have provided the financial report for the year through February. As you see, we are working hard to keep our actual expenses and revenues in line with the budget. Pray that God will continue to provide the resources needed to maintain our ministries.

One of the most important tasks that the leaders of an organization must perform is to look ahead and try to envision what

the future will hold. Prayerfully considering what God would have the College/Conference be and do in the future is a critical need for the Board of Directors and the staff. The major reorganization of the Conference beginning in 2001 was undertaken as part of an effort to make sure the organization was focused on doing what God would have us do. The Vision and goals established by the Board at that time have been very important in guiding us in our daily work. However, the current Board also recognized that the 5 year timeframe initially addressed was rapidly drawing to a close. The Board, immediately following the elec-

tion at General Conference, made plans to address the important requirements for strategic planning.

The Board met in Atlanta in October. The vast majority of the time was spent in reviewing the previous Vision and goals, evaluating progress, and asking God to lead into the development of a new strategic plan. As the Board and Conference staff met, it was increasingly clear that a “new” direction was not necessary. Instead, the group felt led to articulate a Vision for the future that extended and expanded the original 5 Year Vision – not replace it. The results

(Continued on page 5)

MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE:

To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

VISION

A) Atlanta Bible College:

Atlanta Bible College provides excellent biblical education with spiritual development opportunities for a growing and diverse student body.

- ▶ Commit to excellence in academic affairs
- ▶ Attract and retain a highly qualified staff committed to personal and student development
- ▶ Develop expanding financial resources to fund current operations and future goals
- ▶ Increase our curriculum choices in areas of specialized ministry focus
- ▶ Continue educational programs for diverse cultures, races and generations
- ▶ Provide a physical and virtual campus appropriate to our curriculum and goals
- ▶ Commit to explore and implement effective avenues of communication in each ministry effort

B) Ministry Services Network (MSN):

Ministry Services Network provides supportive relationships, resource assistance, and ministry opportunities in partnership with Pastors, Churches, and individuals.

- ▶ Foster supportive relationships which strive to meet personal and professional needs
- ▶ Provide practical assistance for specific needs in areas of finances, service, materials, and publications
- ▶ Provide worldwide missions and outreach opportunities
- ▶ Provide youth ministry education and opportunities to grow students and the local church
- ▶ Develop expanding financial resources to fund current operations and future goals
- ▶ Expand ministry efforts toward diverse cultures, races and generations
- ▶ Commit to explore and implement effective avenues of communication in each ministry effort

(Continued from page 4)

of those prayers and meetings are presented to you for the first time.

As you can see, the Vision of the future represents the two areas of focus for the Conference. First and foremost, Atlanta Bible College will continue to work to prepare people to be more effective ministers for God. Our Vision encompasses a College that is dedicated to academic excellence, while teaching the truths of God's word. It means we will look to attract a dedicated staff and faculty with the gifts and skills to provide a diverse and ministry-oriented education. We envision the use of new or more effective ways of teaching to a multicultural student body. And we will work to ensure that while the ministry remains our top priority, we will also address the needs for adequate funding to support the College.

The second aspect of the Vision represents our commitment to support pastors, churches, and members in their ministry efforts. The Vision encourages us to try and support both the professional and personal aspects of being a pastor or a church leader. We want to support churches as they attempt to grow people through Christian education and youth programs. We will work to support mission efforts wherever God would direct us. We envision support efforts for churches and ministries that span cultural, racial, or generational boundaries. And we are committing ourselves to work for a future in which communication is a priority, so that we may work together as a united people of God.

I believe that all the members of the Board and staff that worked together to develop this Vision understand that it is a work in progress. God will work to provide

opportunities and challenges that we do not currently expect. Therefore, our Vision establishes direction and priorities, but much work and prayer must still be invested to make this plan become reality. Sharing the Vision with you through this preliminary look is an effort to begin the process. On behalf of the Board and the staff, I ask that you all begin to pray for God to show us His will as we move into our future. With God as our ever present help, we can accomplish miraculous things in this world. And to God be the glory for all that is accomplished! We will continue to discuss the Vision in the Journal and when members of our staff visit your church. We will also invest time at General Conference to discuss the Vision and build on our collective understanding of what it means for us. May God continue to bless us all as we work for him! ■

Tim

General Conference 2005 Constitutional Amendments

Process for Amending the Constitution, Article V, Section 1 –

The constitution and by-laws of the College/Conference may be amended, altered, or revised by a two-thirds majority vote of delegates present at any General Conference meeting, notice having been given of the proposed amendment or revision in at least three consecutive issues of the *The Restitution Herald* and/or the *Progress Journal*, the first appearance thereof to be at least thirty days prior to the convening of the conference by which it is to be considered.

Proposed Amendment

Article IV, Section 7 Current

The term of office for all College/Conference directors shall be for four years. No director shall succeed himself for a second term.

Article IV, Section 7 Proposed

The term of office for all College/Conference directors shall be for four years. A director may succeed himself for a second term.

Rationale for the Amendment

The Board of Directors received a recommendation that the current policy of a director being unable to serve more than 1 term be changed. After discussion, the Board recommends this amendment to the Constitution to the delegates. Reasons for the proposal are as follows:

1. In recent years there has been some difficulty getting enough

candidates to run for the Board. This proposal would allow Board members to run again if they so choose.

2. Allowing Board members to succeed themselves one time would add more stability to the Board. When two Board members change, 29% of the Board is changing. That percentage of annual turnover adds a unique challenge to the responsibility the Board already faces. Significant time and energy must be invested in orientating and educating Board members to "bring them up to speed".

3. Allowing Board members to run again gives delegates the opportunity to exercise accountability with their vote.

About the Author:

*Vince Finnegan is the pastor of Living Hope Community Church, also known as Christian Biblical Counsel in Latham, New York. This article and others can be found at this website under Glad Tidings:
http://www.christianbiblicalcounsel.org*

After Jesus confronts the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 5:19 and 20), he begins a series of teachings on six subject matters. The sect of the Pharisees boasted themselves as the vanguard and sole interpreters of the Mosaic Law. However, in reality, they were just the opposite. They developed an enormous, extensive system of oral traditions made up of commentaries and discussions about their interpretation of the Scriptures. They regarded this work equal to, if not more valuable than, the Word of God itself which was given to Moses and the prophets. They ruled Israel by their oral laws and demanded acceptance by all.

Jesus began each subject with the statement: "Ye have heard that it hath been said...but I say unto you...." He introduces each subject as such because he was providing clarity and insight to the Scriptures and correcting the wrong concepts introduced by the Pharisees. Had his concern been only the former, he would have said, "You have read or heard by Moses, or in the Law...."

Matthew 5:21

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill

shall be in danger of the judgment:"

God first spoke regarding killing to Noah after the flood, recorded in Genesis 9:5 and 6. At Mount Horeb God included "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13) within the ten commandments, and later qualified the difference between premeditated murder and accidental killing (Exodus 21:13 and 14). The phrase "whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment" was not recorded in the Old Testament; rather it was added with the oral law. Jesus follows with great insight.

Matthew 5:22

"But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hellfire."

Jesus is the master communicator and used many effective techniques to paint mind pictures of the truths he taught. Examples, comparisons, stories, fables, props, history, contrasts, and parables are some methods he employed. In the record at hand, he uses a figure of speech which exaggerates to bring home a very important point.

"Judgment" is referring to the local court, usually made up of three men; while "council" is referring to their supreme court, made up of 70 men, called the Sanhedrin. "Raca" is a term of reproach used among the Jews

in that day. We would say, "You, good for nothing...." The exaggeration is found in that while the offenses decrease, the consequences increase.

- Kill - Judgment (Small Court)
- Anger - Council (Sanhedrin)
- Fool - Hell fire

Obviously the ruling judicial body of Israel (the Sanhedrin) would not hear cases related to someone's anger, no more so than a person would receive hell fire for calling someone a fool. All civilized societies understand the severity of murder and have appropriate laws of retribution. However Jesus emphasizes that which is seldom acknowledged; that is, premeditated murder begins with lesser offenses such as speaking degradingly of another and having anger. If we deal with the lesser, the greater will never be an issue. All ungodly acting out against another should be avoided.

Apostle Paul was inspired to write regarding this same matter. Regarding evil speaking he penned:

Ephesians 4:29, 31

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:"

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

If we harbor good thoughts rather than evil in our hearts regarding others, then unwholesome words, clamor, or slander will never be a concern. However if we entertain bitterness, wrath, anger, etc., then evil speaking will follow.

On the subject of anger, Paul wrote:

Verse 26

“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.”

Variants from the same Greek root word, *orge*, were translated as "angry" and "wrath" in this verse. *Orge* most often refers to the mental state of anger. If we do not deal with mental anger, it will grow and eventually manifest itself in an aggressive outburst. In verse 31 the word "wrath" is the Greek word *thumos*, while "anger" is again *orge*. *Thumos* means an outburst of anger. Throughout the Scriptures, *thumos* anger is always condemned because it attacks others. We can have mental anger that is not sin; but if it lingers, indeed it can grow into sin. An outburst of anger is always sin. (See Psalm 37:7-9; Proverbs 15:1,18; 16:32; 27:4.)

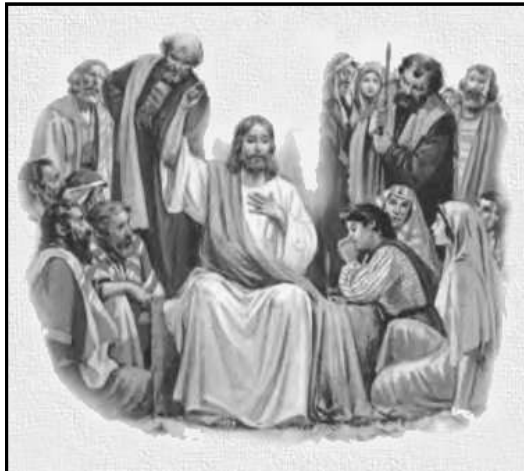
Jesus teaches us not to offend anyone by calling him a fool, degrading with words like *raca*, expressing anger, and, obviously, committing murder. He further communicates what we should do if a brother has something against us.

Matthew 5:23 and 24

“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”

We are not to think we can carry on a relationship with God, while we fail to live lovingly regarding a brother.



I John 2:10 and 11

“He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling [*skandalon*] in him.

But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.”

I John 4:20

“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

The phrase "occasion of stumbling" is the Greek word *skandalon* which literally means the trigger of a trap on which the bait is placed and which when touched by the animal, springs shut causing entrapment. *Skandalon* is also translated snare, trap, and offense. The parable of the sower and the seed reveals that offenses are one of the two primary ways in which the devil takes believers out. Belittling or disparaging words and anger offend people. When someone is offended, he becomes snared in the Devil's trap. An offended one is tempted to react with similar, ungodly behavior. The response can be returning evil speaking and reacting in anger, both of which are sin. The offended one may be baited into canvassing, division, strife, separation, isolation, and eventually walking away from the family of God and from God Himself.

Jesus warned that there would be offenses in the world (Luke 17:1; Matthew 18:1-6), and that in the latter days offenses would grow worse because the love of many would wax cold (Matthew 24:10-12). However, we do not want to be among those who cause offense (Proverbs 18:19; Romans 14:20 and 21; 1 Corinthians 8:13; 2 Corinthians 6:3).

When we are offended, we must realize that we are snared in Satan's trap. We should not respond in an ungodly way. The proper thing to do is to go to the

(Continued on page 8)

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person and do what is necessary to resolve the problem (Matthew 18:15-18); and then we are to forgive (Luke 17:1-4).

If someone is offended by something we have done or said, then we have the responsibility to "Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother..." (Matthew 5:24). The person may be offended because he or she misunderstood or read into something you said or did. Even if you did nothing wrong, it is still your love responsibility to

endeavor to reconcile the difference. The issue is not who is right or what is just. Rather, the real issue is that a brother has been baited and is in the Devil's trap, and if he does not get out of the trap, he will sin. We must die to ourselves, and with the spirit of meekness, save a brother (Galatians 6:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Go apologize; share your love and concern followed with an explanation, not a defense, of your actions.

Jesus' final point in this section is to act quickly, or things will grow worse and become nearly

impossible to resolve.

Matthew 5:25 and 26

"Agree with thine adversary quickly, while thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing." ■

Patience

By Rebecca Dauksas

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. James 5:7-8, 10

When I think of a Bible character that represents patience, of course Job comes to my mind. He withstood so much. He lost his servants, his wealth, his ten children, ... and yet he did not blame God. The Scripture states, "in all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing". (Job 1:22) Even in the face of great adversity, he

took refuge in God. Job's own body was afflicted with painful sores, yet he would not blame God. However, this is where we see a different reaction from someone very close to Job. His wife. She is the member of Job's household that is still alive and her advice to her husband is to curse God and die. But thankfully, he rejects her advice and says, "shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said. (2:9-10)

What an incredible example of patience and trust in God! However, I think it is also important to notice the difference in these two reactions. Both Job and his wife had lost a lot and they were in pain. Job's wife wanted to quit. She wanted to give up on God, because her circumstances just seemed too difficult. Yet Job drew his strength from the Almighty God. He knew that he

had a future and hope. Job looked beyond his circumstances and sufferings to the future promise of peace, eternal life and incredible joy that God offers His children. Job said, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" (Job 19:25-27)

How blessed we are. Our God does live and we have the hope of spending eternity with Him. Paul encourages us that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18) How wonderful it will be to experience that future glory with all the saints including our old friend, Job. ■

The Key That Unlocks the Bible!

By Steve Taylor

About the Author:

Steve Taylor is an instructor at Atlanta Bible College and elder of Restoration Fellowship.

"I can't understand the Bible!" is a common complaint voiced by many who open its pages. Yes, it is hard to understand IF you don't have the key that unlocks its mysteries. You are about to have in your hand the crucial but much-neglected key that Jesus offers to unlock the mysteries of the Bible:

"And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. "For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. "In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,

'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH

THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.' (Matthew 13:10-15)

The "scholars" of the day found the simple parables of Jesus offensive. His disciples were also perplexed by his use of these simple stories and asked for his reasoning in using them. His answer has profound significance. He states that those who are willing to hear his simple stories are given "the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven (or kingdom of God, as is used in



Mark and Luke). Everyone who refuses to hear and accept this basic truth is condemned to repeat the prophecy of Isaiah of hearing but never hearing; seeing but never perceiving.

Herein, then, lies the secret to understanding the Bible: TO UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS MEANT BY THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS THE KEY WHICH UNLOCKS ALL OF THE BIBLE. All who ignore this key truth are doomed to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy of hearing but not understanding; seeing but not perceiving. To be ignorant of the truth about the Kingdom of

God is to literally work against God in understanding the Bible. It's like turning out the lights in the house on the darkest night and trying to find one's way around.

Coming to terms with what Jesus meant regarding the Kingdom of God is a big topic—a subject all in itself. In fact, it is a lifelong quest. But all we need do is begin by grappling with the basic question of what Jesus meant when he spoke of the Kingdom of God. By starting with this question we are well ahead of those who seek to study the Bible in ignorance of it. We find ourselves studying the Bible with the assistance of God's Spirit whereas all others are literally working against God's Spirit in understanding.

Let me challenge you to begin with key Kingdom passages, such as Matthew 13 (quoted above). There are many kingdom parables in this chapter which give us insight into what Jesus meant concerning the Kingdom of God. From there do a word study of "kingdom of God/kingdom of heaven" and carefully consider what you read. Write down your thoughts and understandings. And from there begin to re-read the entire Bible in the light of your new understandings.

You are about to begin the adventure of a lifetime! ■

Church Planting News

By Pastor Mark Tschaenn

What a city of excitement! There is so much to do here and so much going on. Just before we moved here I sat in the grandstands and watched Jeff Gordon win his 4th Brickyard 400. I got free tickets to a Colts game, so my brother and I watched Peyton Manning throw a few of those historical touchdown passes. The city right now is gearing up for the NCAA Women's Final Four and the Indianapolis 500 is just around the corner. Yet, as exciting as all of these events are and the possibility to be a part of them is, there is nothing greater than what God has in store for us in Indianapolis.

I was asked to share a little of the history of how New Covenant Bible Church came about. It started with God planting a vision in several hearts. My journey to Indianapolis actually started back in 1995-1996 during my internship in Lafayette, Indiana. I was interning with Pastor Steve Taylor and we often talked of a plant situation in Indianapolis. I even researched it with the help of a few at the General Conference. God did not open that door at the time and instead I was off to Ohio. What I did not know was that that was the seed being planted in my head and it would take 8 years for God to prepare the soil and send in some workers. While God was preparing me for this type of ministry he was relocating a few families. Andrew Hamilton from the Hedrick Church and his wife Kalynda moved to the area because of work. Andrew placed several

resumes to different cities only to have all possibilities lead him to Indianapolis. Matt and Casey Kiel from the Timberland Bible Church also moved into the area and soon joining them was Ben Hollis from Hedrick and Jennifer



Indianapolis skyline.



New Covenant Bible Church Passover Gathering.

Kortya was already in the area attending school. This group started meeting for Bible Studies in Andrew and Kalynda's home. Dan Sideris from North Kent Church in Michigan and Allen Osborn from North Salem Church started attending School at Purdue University and also joined in on the study. In 2004 God brought my wife Terri, daughter Christina, and me back to Indiana and with this group New Covenant was born. I firmly believe God has been working the soil and relocating the workers to plant and harvest

here in Indy. There is still a lot of preparation that must be done. We are still searching for the proper location and for a facility to use as we build the finances to take the next steps. The road ahead will be a great journey for us but one with lots of unknowns and a lot of hard work. Indianapolis is a city with a population of about 784,000 and has a diverse mixture of cultures. Our vision is to reach out into the city into the different cultures to deliver the message of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. The plans are still developing and we are listening to God's desires while preparing to deliver this good news.

We are meeting regularly for Bible study with 10-15 attending, we also enjoyed a fantastic Friends and Family Christmas Celebration and recently a Passover gathering to study the meaning of Passover. It is a joy to work with the group here and we are all excited to see what God has in store for us at New Covenant Bible Church. We appreciate the prayers and encourage all to pray for us here. We look forward to you visiting us here in Indianapolis for one of our services. If you have any other questions or know of someone in our area we need to invite to join us let me know. My email is marktschaenn@sbcglobal.net ■

God Bless,

Pastor Mark Tschaenn

A Faithful Servant, Paul Hartman Overholser By Pastor Rex Cain

Paul Hartman Overholser of Lawrenceville died at age 100 on Wednesday February 16, 2005 in the Hearth & Home, Springfield. He was born on January 23, 1905 in Springfield the son of Alden E. and Nora (Hartman) Overholser. He retired as an Electrical Engineer with Ohio Edison and was a member of the Lawrenceville Church of God.

Mr. Overholser is survived by two daughters; Joyce Demmitt of Troy, and Mary Lou Culver of Arizona, one son and daughter-in-law, Dale and Barbara Overholser of Springfield, two sisters-in-law, Mim Overholser of California and Helen Linkhart of Springfield, thirteen grand-

children and their spouses: Rita and Steve Harwood of California, Greg and Karen Demmitt of Arizona, Kevin and Audrey Demmitt of Georgia, John and Brittany Demmitt of Georgia, Alan and Darcey Demmitt of Troy, David and Debora Demmitt of Troy, Jay Overholser of New York, Jayne and Scott Webb of New York, Eric and Rachel Overholser of Springfield, Pam and John Clarkson of Springfield, Elaine Brittingham of Springfield, Cheryl and Jeff Steinmetz of Springfield, and Lyda and Brad Tennant of Colorado, and thirty-two great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, two wives, Helen L. and Ruth T., one son, John Overholser, and two brothers, Howard and J. Homer Over-

holser.

A gathering of family and friends will be held on Sunday February 19, 2005 from 2-5:00 pm in the LITTLETON & RUE FUNERAL HOME. The funeral service will be held on Monday at 10:30 am in the Lawrenceville Church of God, 4444 St. Paris Pike, Lawrenceville, with Pastors Alan and Rex Cain officiating. Burial will be in the Lawrenceville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the church. You may express condolences at www.littletonandrue.com ■

My Grandfather

By Pastor Greg Demmitt

About the Author:

Greg Demmitt is the pastor at Lakeshore Bible Church in Tempe, AZ. He is the grandson of Paul. He shared some of these thoughts at the funeral and we asked him to provide them for publication.

One of my first memories of my grandfather, Paul Overholser, was riding with him in his little red Lark sedan. He shut off the engine before we turned into his driveway and we coasted to a dead stop exactly in his parking place. I don't know how long he had experimented to find just the right speed and the right spot to accomplish this, but he saved a few cents every day

on gasoline and brake pads because of his good timing.

I thought of that timing when I heard the news that Grandpa had fallen asleep in death, just 24 days after we had celebrated his 100th birthday on January 23rd.

"How can you feel sad when everything seemed to happen just as he planned," I said to a friend here in Arizona.

Paul Overholser liked to celebrate. At the previous Christmas I told him that our family would be in Ohio the next year for his 100th birthday."

"That's a big deal," I said.

"Ninety-nine's a pretty big deal, too," he replied.

Both at Grandpa's birthday celebration and his funeral, many people quoted his favorite verse, Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Hearing Grandpa quote that beloved verse, and he did so more than once on his birthday, I realized that he said it as a celebration and not so much as an admonition. Every time he said "and all these things" he would make an encircling motion with his hand to include all of his

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

family and friends, some of the many blessings that God had indeed given to him.

Grandpa enjoyed living a life of faith. He thought in terms of possibilities and the good things that could happen. He loved faith-promise giving and I heard him share many times with delight how that God had blessed him so that he could give toward the commitment that he'd made.

I've always thought of Grandpa as being adventurous, mostly because of one major event in my mother's childhood which she often talked about. In the 1940's, Grandpa quit a good job at Ohio Edison to move to California. We heard that the power company management told him to not expect to ever be able to come back but he went anyway. He went to work for California Edison and while there he

passed the test to become a registered professional engineer. After three years, he moved back to Ohio and bought a little grocery before finally being hired back at Ohio Edison.

That journey became a metaphor of his life to me. You live above your circumstances and we can make choices as to how we approach life.

As an engineer, Grandpa understood the technological changes that marked the 20th century. He said that he saw transportation move from the first automobiles to a man on the moon, yet he said that's not what life is about.

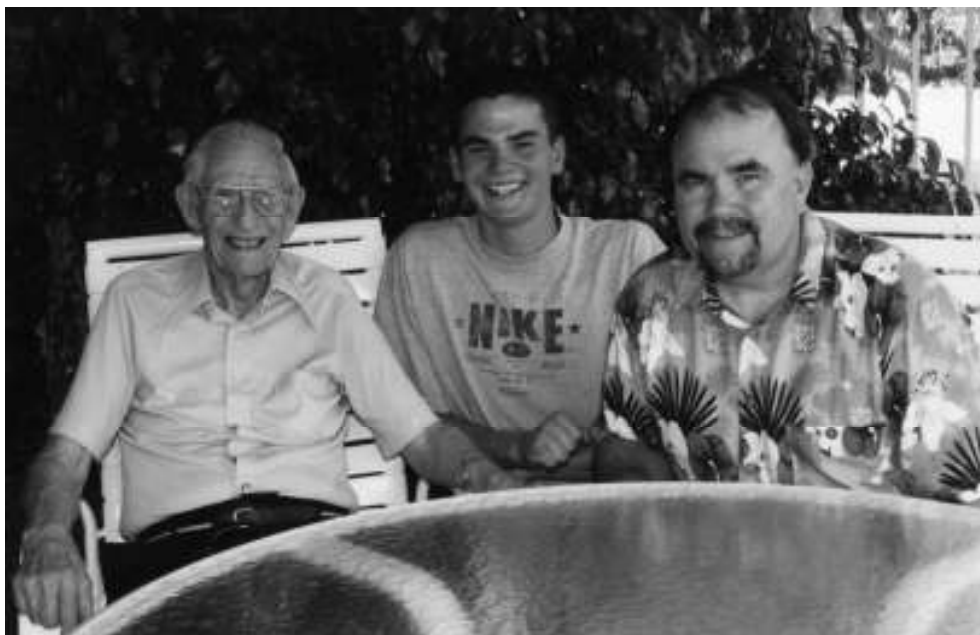
"It's the way you make it," he told my son Daniel who was doing a report on his life back in

1996. "You make your own happiness. There isn't any best time to live. At that time those people were just as happy as we are—women using washboards and all. That isn't what makes happiness.

"...he sought God's Kingdom first and celebrated his blessings."

"Love, getting along, good family—it's not these modern conveniences."

Paul Overholser didn't live a life free from sadness. His first wife Helen died in her early '60's. He married Ruth Tomlinson Halls and she preceded him in death four years ago, as did his oldest son, Johnny. But he sought God's Kingdom first and celebrated his blessings. ■



Paul Overholser, with his great-grandson Daniel, and his grandson Greg Demmitt.

About the Author:

Alain Cain is a member of the Ministerial Association Leadership Team and the pastor of Lawrenceville Church of God.

“Transitioning” Finding Practical Help Through the Changes of Both Our Personal & Professional Lives.

That was the theme of this year's Ministerial Conference held in Atlanta, February 21-24.

Our churches and pastors have gone through much transition over the past year or so through the numerous changes in pastorates. I myself was one of those changes. As the Ministerial Association Leadership Team (MALT) sat together working on this year's conference we felt it was a good time to deal with the issues surrounding our transforming Churches and ministries.

We decided to deal with the following issues:

To Be or Not To Be Their Pastor?

We wrestled with the real life questions, “Is it time to quit?”, “How do I know when I'm just running from problems or feel called out?”, “What are the signs that I need to stay?”, “How do You leave a ministry with grace?” and “How do you stay with grace?”, as well as many other issues. Seth Ross led this session using a good resource from Enjoy.

The MRB also shared some thoughts on pre-empting the destructive patterns of Church-Pastor conflict. They are beginning to look at some ideas that could be put in place up front that would greatly improve those difficult times.

Re-arranging the Totem Pole.

Dale Bliss led the group through this session where we wrestled with the democratic church government that most of our churches have, versus what seems to be a different leadership style in Scripture. We looked at different forms of government being tried and used in some of our churches.

Finding Strength in Broken Places.



Christy Ross “Finding Strength in Broken Places.”

Christy Ross dealt with personal transitions as she shared her heart about her battle physically and spiritually with M.S. It was a very helpful time of encouragement as well as a challenge to

be honest with God, our peers and ourselves.

“It's Not the Knots we wanted, but it is the Knots we've Got!”

Dale Ramsey led a group discussion of the following; How do we, in real life, Biblically, gracefully, effectively and practicality deal with those marital knots that come untied in our Churches? How do we? Or how do we not use these people in ministry? What are your Churches current practices and policies? Are they working?

This is always an issue that we are struggling with to be Biblically graceful and Biblically ethical.

The evenings were filled with great preaching by Jeff Fletcher and David Riley, two men who have gone through major transitions lately. They shared what God had been teaching them during their struggles and decisions.

We also spent a day out at the Calvin Retreat Center where we designed times of reflection as well as opportunities to share our hearts in small groups and to pray for each other. We also did quite a bit of laughing as well...that medicine always goes down well.

Overall it was a pleasurable time to get away and find support and encouragement from each other in ministry. It was a time to remind ourselves that we need to be there for each other throughout the year as well. I'm proud to be part of this group of Pastors. ■

We are very thankful for all who helped support the work of Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference during the past year.

IN MEMORIAM

Gifts were given in memory of the following individuals:

Lyle Crouse
 John Craig English
 Harvey U. Krogh, Jr.
 Wayne Laning
 Lucian Murphy
 Dorothy Scanlon
 Ward Tierney
 Dale Ward

IN HONOR

Gifts were given in honor of:

Juanita English
 Jennie Pryor

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS FOR ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE

The following grants and scholarships were awarded to Atlanta Bible College students during 2004. Other individuals, churches, and groups provided assistance directly to students in addition to these scholarships and grants administered by the college.

ABC/OBC Alumni Association
 Blanchard Missionary Society
 Burnham-Stadden
 Carolyn Brown
 Community Bible Fellowship, Culver, IN

Delbert Jones Memorial
 Francis and Lyla VanFleet Memorial
 Glen and Violet Booth Memorial
 Harold J. Doan Memorial
 Harry and Emily Berry Memorial
 Harvey U. Krogh, Jr. Memorial
 Hattie Bottolfs Memorial
 Helen Overholser Memorial
 Indiana Conference
 Iris Elton Memorial
 James A. Patrick Memorial -
 Northeast Conference
 Jean Elton Fortney Memorial
 John and Opal Hayse Memorial
 John and Ruth Lewis Memorial
 Lawrenceville/Overholser
 Lois Blakely Memorial
 Lucian Murphy Memorial
 Mary Helen Mattison
 Michigan Conference
 Mildred Schroeder
 Ministerial Association
 Missouri Conference
 Monroe Elton Memorial
 New Hope Church, Little Rock
 Ritenour Trust Fund - In Memory of
 Eliza Boyer Ritenour, Virginia
 Ritenour Kincheloe, and Seraphine
 Ritenour Cleek
 Orine Richardson Robinson
 Southwest Members in Memory of
 Norman McLeod, S. J. Lindsay, Harold
 J. Doan and C. E. Randall
 Stan Ross Memorial
 Treva Williams Memorial
 Troy View/Demmitt/Overholser
 Wenatchee Church
 William and Rhoda Hanson Memorial
 Zelma Weaver Memorial



I recently received a letter from Linda Khofi from Malawi regarding the seed & fertilizer distribution. I quote from the letter, because it tells the situation much better than I can.

"The people appreciated the gift of the starter packs very much, this I saw in the way they dedicated themselves in farming. Almost everybody worked harder in his or her gardens this time. They were all saying that they wanted you (*donators*) to be happy with the results."

"I could tell the difference between the gardens belonging to COGAF members and the locals. As a result they had beautiful crops growing in their gardens. However the sad news is that the

rains stopped too early, just after the maize fruit (before the grains had grown on it)."

"This is the third week now without any rains. Most of the maize crop has died, meaning that there will not be a bumper harvest like we predicted. Some of the people will not harvest anything at all, but one other thing I want to tell you is that almost everybody who received the seed you donated will be able to harvest at least something. It may not be enough, but at least something for a few days meal (which on its own is a blessing)."

Anthony Buzzard has just returned from Malawi, and saw that this situation is true. The public government well is not allowed to supply water for crops. The

area in the Balaka district is particularly dry, like a desert. We are appealing to everyone to pray fervently for rain for the remaining crops in Malawi. With all of us praying, if it is God's will the rain will come. .

Thank you for your love and support for these brothers & sisters in Christ. ■

Rebekah Martin

Pray for Rain in Malawi!!



<p>UPDATE ON MISSIONS</p> <p>The Lord's Harvest International Mission Board had a phone conference recently to discuss several issues including the drought affecting our church families in Malawi. As a result of the seed and fertilizer packs that were distributed last fall, the crops were growing well until a drought hit. Because of a lack of rain at a crucial time, what appeared to be a bumper crop will produce only a small harvest.</p> <p>In light of this situation, LHI would like to raise funds to accomplish the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide food in the fall for those whose crops are now failing from lack of rain 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Provide some additional seed/fertilizer packs for next year 3. Provide money to dig wells in strategic locations for irrigation <p>LHI is in the process of securing costs for these projects. As soon as details are finalized, our membership will be informed of the amount of funding needed to help accomplish these projects. Some who are aware of these needs have already offered to provide financial assistance.</p> <p>We also have received word from Haiti regarding serious conditions in that country. A friend of Atlanta Bible College who lives near Atlanta, Hein Vingerling, makes frequent trips to Haiti. He informs us that the</p>	<p>devastation in Haiti from the hurricanes last spring was as bad as the Tsunami in Southeast Asia, but the damage in Haiti received no attention and no financial aid has been given to help the people there. We have also heard from Pastor Lesly Bertrand that they are also experiencing a serious drought in the area of some of our churches. He could use some help in buying food for the children in the orphanage and some needy families. Also, when the rains come, he feels it would be helpful to have some fertilizer to assist the crops. A bag of fertilizer costs \$20 per bag. Those wishing to help with this need can send contributions immediately. ■</p>
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Finance

Income Budget Report for February, 2005

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>January Variance</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS:				
General Contributions	248,720	188,884	-59,836	-53,875
Building Our Future Campaign	0	132,600	132,600	132,565
BOF Challenge Gift		-40,000		
BOF General Membership Response		-78,270		
BOF Alumni Association Response		-14,330		
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	3,334	3,256	-78	-68
ABC Boosters	12,466	12,683	217	640
Subtotal	264,520	337,423	72,903	79,262
SALES:				
Christian Education Materials	24,200	23,621	-579	-3,763
Books	28,000	17,236	-10,764	-8,119
Restitution Herald	4,000	854	-3,146	-2,646
Age to Come Media Products	1,334	158	-1,176	-1,009
Theological Journal	1,247	268	-979	-847
Sale of Assets	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	58,781	42,137	-16,644	-16,384
ABC:				
Tuition	132,301	109,102	-23,199	-7,435
Korean Extension Tuition	52,466	115,448	62,982	69,540
Lodging	39,167	46,500	7,333	11,519
Washers/Dryers	1,354	404	-950	-781
Rentals - ABC Plant	3,080	4,195	1,115	460
Late Fees/Rent	4,800	3,430	-1,370	-1,711
Fees	8,000	3,438	-4,562	-3,637
Subtotal	241,168	282,517	41,349	67,955
PROGRAM INCOME:				
Conferences & Workshops	20,000	-3,321	-23,321	-21,881
Subtotal	20,000	-3,321	-23,321	-21,881
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Interest	666	0	-666	-583
Transferred In	20,000	28,896	8,896	10,696
Subtotal	20,666	28,896	8,230	10,113
Income Total	605,135	687,652	82,517	119,065
<u>Building Our Future Campaign</u>				
Total contributions since inception (2003)	161,214			

- These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2004 through June, 2005
- The 'Budget' column in each report shows the year-to-date portion of the annual budget for each line item.
- The 'Variance' column in each report shows the difference between the amount budgeted and the amount actually received (income) or spent (expense). A positive number in this column means the income or expense is better than budgeted. A negative number in this column means the income or expense is worse than budgeted.

Finance

Expense Budget Report for February, 2005

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>January Variance</u>
STAFF:				
Salaries & Wages	314,775	312,995	1,780	2,264
F.I.C.A. Tax	3,666	3,546	120	208
Employee Benefits	67,678	56,540	11,138	10,048
Subtotal	386,119	373,081	13,038	12,520
SERVICES:				
Assistance to Churches	25,266	19,600	5,666	4,608
Ministerial Association	6,400	5,600	800	800
Youth Program	3,334	3,334	0	0
Subtotal	35,000	28,534	6,466	5,408
SALES EXPENSE:				
Printing & Binding	20,000	16,959	3,041	541
Postage & Shipping	10,666	6,856	3,810	769
Media Production Expenses	0	0	0	0
Book Store	12,000	10,640	1,360	-101
Royalties	101	0	101	88
Subtotal	42,767	34,455	8,312	1,297
ABC:				
Clayton Rebate	1,334	0	1,334	1,167
Advertising--Recruitment	666	2,067	-1,401	-1,426
ABC Korean Extension Support	15,666	25,441	-9,775	-11,733
Library Periodicals	1,000	1,086	-86	-211
Library Books	0	24	-24	-24
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	266	585	-319	-352
Staff Training	666	1,357	-691	-774
Subtotal	19,599	30,560	-10,961	-13,353
ADMINISTRATION:				
Travel	16,666	16,260	406	-1,244
Motor Vehicles	1,334	1,433	-99	-266
Office Supplies & Expense	8,000	9,368	-1,368	-2,368
Professional Services	6,666	6,122	544	-289
Telephone	14,000	14,521	-521	-1,829
Insurance - Non Plant	334	127	207	208
Supplies & Expense	1,666	1,848	-182	-390
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	13,333	17,908	-4,575	-5,402
Subtotal	62,000	67,587	-5,587	-11,581
PLANT EXPENSES:				
Utilities	18,666	20,075	-1,409	-3,207
Insurance - Property	9,334	10,089	-755	-1,922
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	2,000	2,926	-926	-1,176
Furniture & Equipment	2,000	5,550	-3,550	-3,800
Supplies/Expenses Plant	4,000	3,305	695	720
Subtotal	36,000	41,945	-5,945	-9,385
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Interest	18,666	18,712	-46	196
Other	4,666	3,466	1,200	1,973
Subtotal	23,333	22,178	1,155	2,169
Expense Total	604,817	598,339	6,477	-12,924
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	318	89,313	88,994	106,141

Church News

Baptisms

Louisiana

Blood River—Mindy & Aaron Church (7/25/04); Ronnie & Desire Church, Michele LeBlanc (8/8/04); Joe Kennedy, Rusty McKinney (8/22/04) by Pastor Jim Shaull

Michigan

Blanchard—Jon Shaw, Joyanne and Jason Swanson (3/13/05), by Pastor Michael Cisler; Branden Baldwin, Ryan Baldwin (3/13/05) by Randy Baldwin and Amanda Musch

South Carolina

Bethel—Angel Burdette (1/05) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Guthrie Grove—Sarah Franco (12/25/04, her 16th birthday) by her uncle, Bobby Lee Partain, assisted by Pastor Mike Montgomery; Anne Pack (2/27/05), Bill and Mary Getgen (3/13/05) by Pastor Mike Montgomery

Virginia

Cool Spring—Tina Paulisch (12/5/04) by Pastor Dale Ramsey

Deaths

Indiana

Country Chapel—Deloris Wyrick (3/31/05) by Pastors Joe Astolfi and Ken Howe

Ohio

Springfield—Richard S. Dick, 67 (1/5/05), son of Otto E.

Dick, former pastor, gifted musician, teacher and writer, by Pastor John Hearp;

Chapel Hill—Dorothy Pensyl (3/31/05) by Pastor Jack Hearp

Michigan

Blanchard—Jack Compson (2/16/05) services were held at the church.

Minnesota

Eden Valley—Clifford Manuel, 75 (3/14/05) long time member, by Pastor Daniel Smead

Virginia

Fort Valley—Lillian Boyer, 99 (3/21/05) by Pastor Chris Seiders and Pastor Dale Ramsey

South Carolina

Bethel—Tony Couvillier (12/04); Janice Stephens (1/20/05), member; Louise Henderson (2/18/05), member, by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Guthrie Grove—Glenn Beckwith (1/15/05) by Pastor Mike Montgomery, assisted by Pastor Wally Winner; Clara Smith (2/27/05) by Pastor Mike Montgomery, assisted by Pastor Wally Winner; Douglas Sprouse (3/6/05) by Pastor Mike Montgomery and Pastor Terry Ferrell; William Campbell (3/13/05) by Pastor Mike Montgomery; Carrie Stone (3/24/05) by Pastors Mike Montgomery and Wally Winner

Youth News

Joseph Jeffrey "J.J." Fletcher was awarded Scouting's highest honor - Eagle Scout. In January, 2005 his troop, where he had been a scout for 7 years in Louisiana, held his court of honor at the Happywoods Church of God, Hammond, Louisiana. J.J. now resides in Pelzer SC and attends the Bethel Church of God where he helps lead worship and assists in teaching. He plans to attend Atlanta Bible College.

Bequest Received

Dr. Wilsey J. McKnight, of Dowling Park, FL died February 9, 2004 at the age of 89. A member of the Church of God, he pastored Church of God and Advent Christian congregations during his lifetime. He was long time financial supporter of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College and before his death he donated his book collection to the Atlanta Bible College Library. In his will, he left a gift to the General Conference. We are grateful for his service to the Lord and his financial support of our work during his lifetime and his decision to remember our work at the time of his death.

The following job announcement comes to us from Pastor Ozzie Pursell. While not affiliated with the General Conference, Pastor Pursell will be an attendee at the Theological Conference and is aware of Church of God doctrines. The pre-school is seeking to hire someone with a shared view of the teachings of the Bible.

Join Our Mission Team

Pre-school Director, Word centered with strong faith to lead Teachers and Students in a quaint New Jersey community. Must be able to meet State of NJ requirements, and have a BA in child development. Please contact Pastor Ozzie Pursell at PastorOzzie@earthlink.net or 610-982-5002, fax resumes to: 908-996-0948.

Prayer & Praise

May 2005

- 1 **Pray for the editors of our Conference publications.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Ray and Susan Hall and the Garden Park, Michigan Church of God.
- 3 **Pray for Pastor Charles and Carol Jones and the Pomona, California Church.**
- 4 Pray for the ministry of Pastor Ken and Eva Howe and the Country Chapel, Indiana Church of God.
- 5 **Pray for the planning for mission trips to Mexico and Malawi this summer.**
- 6 Praise God for students who are preparing for service at Atlanta Bible College.
- 7 **Pray for ABC students as they complete their Bachelor's Degrees at ABC.**
- 8 Praise God for your mother and her influence.
- 9 **Pray for Pastor Greg and Karen Demmitt and the work at the Lakeshore Bible Church, Tempe, Arizona.**
- 10 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Karen Fletcher and the Bethel Church in Pelzer, SC.
- 11 **Pray for believers who are in nursing homes and hospitals.**
- 12 Praise God for the strength He provides each day.
- 13 **Pray for the ministry of Pastor Michael and Linda Hoffman and the Oregon, Illinois Church of God.**
- 14 Pray for the congregation at Omaha, Nebraska, and Pastor Scott and Gayle Ross.
- 15 **Pray for Pastor Mark Good and his work with the Arkansas churches.**
- 16 Praise God for new attendees at your local church.
- 17 **Pray for God to raise up workers for our churches.**
- 18 Pray for those who are responding to the Focus on the Kingdom radio program.
- 19 **Praise God for the faithful work of retired Pastor Leon and Delores Driskill over many years.**
- 20 Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.
- 21 **Pray for Pastor David and Wanda Cheatwood and the ministry of the Macomb, IL Church.**
- 22 Pray for your family and friends.
- 23 **Pray for the ministry of Pastor Scott and Theresa Deane and the church at Pleasant Hill, Ohio.**
- 24 Pray for those who are preparing for Christian service.
- 25 **Pray for the work of Pastor Don and Joyce Ward and the Countryside Bible Church in Missouri.**
- 26 Pray for the Blood River Church in Louisiana as they search for a pastor..
- 27 **Pray for Elder Jim Davis and his wife Betty and the New Family Bible Church in Pueblo West, Colorado.**
- 28 Pray for Church of God members throughout the world as they minister to others.
- 29 **Pray for the brethren in India.**
- 30 Pray for Pastor Jon and Ren'e Welch and the Fredericktown, MO Church.
- 31 **Praise God for all that He has done and is doing in your life.**

June 2005

- 1 **Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as they make decisions for the future.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor John Nelson and the Open Bible Church, Bolivar, MO.
- 3 **Pray for believers in the Philippine Islands.**
- 4 Praise God for the beauty of His creation.
- 5 **Pray that God might speak to you through the services of your church today.**
- 6 Pray for boldness to share your faith.
- 7 **Pray for Pastor Dan and Charlotte Fyfe and their work at Anderson Chapel, Hendersonville, NC.**
- 8 Praise God for His power and knowledge.
- 9 **Pray for the ministry of your local church.**
- 10 Praise God for those who regularly remember our Conference and College with their prayers and contributions.
- 11 **Praise God for your pastor and his family and their dedication to ministry.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor James and Linda Hill and the work at Royal, AR.
- 13 **Praise God for your family and circle of friends.**
- 14 Pray for preparations for the summer General Conference next month.
- 15 **Pray for Pastor Gordon and Barbara Landry and the work at Flagg Center, IL.**
- 16 **Pray for Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the Simple Teachings Bible Church, Jonesboro, GA.**
- 17 **Pray for those who are listening to the Focus on the Kingdom Radio Program.**
- 18 **Pray for Pastor Christy Ross and her work at the Jaynes Street Church in Omaha, NE.**
- 19 **Praise God for your father.**
- 20 Pray for those planning the summer General Conference that will be held next month.
- 21 **Pray for Pastor Beder Ucanay and the believers in Lima, Peru.**
- 22 Pray for the Midwest Family Camp at Camp Mack this week.
- 23 **Praise God for the editors of our Sunday School curriculum and our printed publications.**
- 24 Pray for pastors who are changing pastorates this year.
- 25 **Pray for God's direction in future mission efforts.**
- 26 Pray for God's direction in the preparation for FUEL next month. (Youth Program).

Address Service Requested

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Prayer & Praise July 2005

1. Pray for Pastor Emory Macy and his work in Weiser, ID.
2. Pray for Pastor James and Rebecca Ritch and the work at Lenoir, NC.
3. **Pray that God might move the Church of God forward in new areas of ministry.**
4. Pray for Pastor Dan and Amy Kennedy and their work at Winnebago New Life Church in Illinois.
5. **Pray that many will hear God's call into full-time Christian service.**
6. Pray for the soon return of Jesus.
7. **Praise God for the leadership of your church family.**
8. Praise God for the abundant life you have in Christ.
9. **Praise God for efforts being made to plant new churches.**
10. Pray for those traveling today to the summer General Conference at McDonough, GA.
11. **Pray for the Business Sessions being held today at the summer Conference.**
12. Pray for the brethren in India.
13. **Pray for safety for those traveling home from the summer Conference.**
14. Praise God for the continuing opportunities to present the Gospel of the Kingdom over the radio, shortwave, and the Internet.
15. **Pray for a great hunger and thirst for righteousness in your church.**
16. Pray for Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the work of the Simple Teachings Bible Church, Jonesboro, GA.
17. **Pray for safety for those traveling to FUEL (former RYOT) today.**
18. Praise God for the many people in our churches who have been baptized recently.
19. **Pray for Pastor Hollis and Hilda Partlowe and the work at Dixon, IL.**
20. Pray for the staff of FUEL and the influence they are having on the young people.
21. **Pray for Pastor John and Alice Railton and the work at Timberland, IN.**
22. Pray for safety for those traveling home from FUEL today.
23. **Pray for the Malawi and Mozambique team as they travel to Africa today.**
24. Pray for those who are studying the Systematic Bible Study Course over the Internet.
25. **Pray for safety as the mission team travels to Mexico.**
26. Pray that God will lead many of our young people into ministry at home and abroad.
27. **Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ as Savior.**
28. Pray for the Badillo family and the work in Mexico.
29. **Pray for Freedom in Christ Ministries, Welland, Ontario and Pastor Stephen and Joyce Bolhous.**
30. Pray for your pastor as he prepares to share God's message tomorrow.
31. **Praise God for His great love shown to us by the sacrifice of His Son.**

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& Progress Journal

Reaching Out to a Hurting World

By Gary R. Turner

As a child growing up, I always said I was going to be a minister or missionary. Other kids were going to be policemen or firemen, but I knew that God had something special in store for me. But when the time came to make a decision about college, there was absolutely no desire to go to Bible college and pursue either of those vocations. For that matter there was absolutely no desire to go to college for any reason. I had started working in the grocery business three years earlier and that business became the love of my life. Little did I know what the next twenty-five years were going to bring into my life. God was about to show me some incredible lessons about life that I knew little about.

I started out as a stock clerk at age sixteen. By my 21st birthday I was headed halfway around the world with Uncle Sam. Three years later, I came home to manage a brand new supermarket for a national grocery chain. In two years, I made a move that made no sense to me at the time. I bought my own store in Winnebago, Illinois. By age 34, I was broke and defeated and couldn't find work. For the next six years I went from job to job. I drove 200 miles a day to and from Chicago to sell wholesale produce. I cut meat for another grocery store, and I sold real estate. I hated every minute of what I was doing.

I was so angry at God that I came to the point I didn't care if I ever went back into a church again. I had four kids at home, and a wonderful wife, but I was so deep into debt from the loss of my store that I gave up on myself and on God. I got deeper and deeper into sin. Because of that sin I came close to losing everything else that I had. In my anger at God and the world, I struck out in a way that almost ended with me going to jail. In the midst of my anger and frustration and defeat, God reached down and pulled me out of the mess that I was in. At the age of forty years, I felt God's touch on my spirit and His call into ministry.

“At the age of forty years, I felt God's touch on my spirit and His call into ministry.”

I felt every kind of emotion possible. Relief that I had been spared from the sin in my life and anger that God took twenty-five years to make that call. I felt forgiveness for my sin and fear of what I faced next. My finances were in shambles, and I was up to my ears in debt. My spirit was broken and defeated! I asked God, “Why now! I have nothing to offer!” My relationship with Jesus was almost nonexistent. But despite all of that, in the fall of 1987 I was off to Bible college and a new career. I didn't know what was going to

happen, but I knew that something big was on the way!

One of the things that I discovered in my years of heartache and pain was this: the church was there for me, and the church was not there for me! Figure that one out! Let me explain. In the years that we were losing the store, the church stepped in and helped us financially with small love offerings. In fact, when I felt God's call into ministry, our church had given us the money to go to Christian Workers' Seminar in Gatlinburg. It was there that God confirmed what I had been feeling for months before. But when I was hurting and broken in spirit, only one person in the church asked “What's wrong?” Then he asked my wife, and not me! I was dying inside and no one noticed. In my ministry, one of the major evangelistic forces behind it is the God-given ability to discern hurting people, and ask, “What's wrong?” I don't always have an answer to solve their problem. But I always have Jesus to share with them. People who are dying inside, who are broken and defeated by sin and bondage, don't care about doctrinal statements, church history or the Greek meaning of certain words. They care about the fact that someone loves them enough to share the Savior of the World! ■

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THE RESTITUTION HERALD ADVOCATES:

- THE ONENESS OF GOD (1 COR. 8:6);
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S POWER (ACTS 1:8);
- JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (MATT. 16:16), AND IS OUR MEDIATOR (1 TIM. 2:5);
- THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (2 TIM. 3:16);
- THE MORTALITY OF MAN (JOB 4:17; PSA. 146:4);
- THE NEAR RETURN OF CHRIST (ACTS 1:11), AND LIFE ONLY THROUGH HIM (COL. 3:3);
- THE LITERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (JOHN 5:28);
- THE IMMORTALIZATION OF THOSE IN CHRIST (1 COR. 15:53, 54);
- THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED (REV. 21:8);
- THE FINAL RESTORATION OF ISRAEL AS THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNDER THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST (LUKE 1:32);
- THE CHURCH TO BE JOINT HEIRS WITH HIM (ROM. 8:17), AND ISRAEL TO BE MADE HEAD OVER GENTILE NATIONS (ISA. 60:1-3);
- THE "RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS WHICH GOD HATH SPOKEN BY THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS HOLY PROPHETS SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN" (ACTS 3:21).
- IT ALSO FIRMLY ADVOCATES REPENTANCE AND IMMERSION IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS (ACTS 2:38), AND A CONSECRATED LIFE AS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.

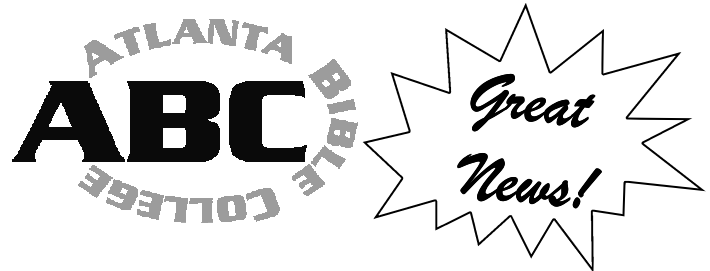
The Restitution Herald & Progress Journal

The General Conference is eagerly seeking articles that will teach, inspire, and encourage our readers. If God has placed a subject on your heart, please send your submissions or any questions to the Publishing Department. We also encourage letters to the Editor in response to articles.

Church of God General Conference
Attn: Publishing Department
P.O. Box 100,000
Morrow, GA 30260
rfinnegan@abc-coggc.org

The Restitution Herald and Progress Journal Submission Dates

- ▶ June 3, 2005 – Articles due
- ▶ Sept. 16, 2005 – Articles due
- ▶ Nov. 11, 2005 – Articles due



Check Out Our New Look and Updated Information at:

www.abc-coggc.org

Thank you Ben Collier of Cornerstone Bible Church for your dedicated effort to make our website more accessible to people across the globe!

About the Author:

Tim Jones is the current Chief Administrative Officer and President of Atlanta Bible College.

Spring came early to Atlanta this year with warm temperatures and bright sunny skies! Unfortunately the early promise of the season has given way to some cold weather and rainy days. But whether unseasonably warm or cold, we are happy in our service to our Lord! It is my hope that as the weather warms for us all, we can see in the promise of the new season that God is so good to us all.

Over 120 people gathered at the River Terrace in Gatlinburg for Christian Workers' Seminar April 10-15, 2005. I will say that from my perspective, it was a lovely week of fellowship and renewal. The only thing that we lacked was you! Start making your plans now for CWS 2006. The event will again be at the River Terrace April 2-7, 2006. You will be blessed by attending.

The 14th Annual Theological Conference convened at Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, Georgia. This yearly gathering of international Bible students always features learned lecturers as well as inspiring faith stories from the participants. The guest lecturer this year was Dr. Richard Rubenstein, author of the book **When Jesus Became God: The Struggle to Define Christianity during the Last Days of Rome**. Dr. Rubenstein is a professor of Conflict Resolution and Public Affairs at George Mason University, where he specializes in religious conflict. His book was re-

viewed by Jeff Fletcher in the February-March 2004 Restitution Herald. If you were unable to attend the Conference, you may order DVDs of any or all of the sessions. The DVDs are \$10 each (each DVD contains two presentations) or \$70 for the complete 8 DVD set. Please contact the General Conference if you would like to purchase materials or DVDs of the Conference.

In this issue, you will find for the 2nd time the proposed amendment to the College/Conference constitution. The amendment proposes that members of the Board of Directors may serve a second term on the Board. This amendment will be voted on at this summer's General Conference session. Make your plans now to attend the Conference to be held at Cornerstone Bible Church July 11-12, 2005. The event begins with a cook-out at the church for Conference attendees Sunday afternoon, July 10th. The Conference will begin on Monday, so all attendees should plan to arrive by midday Monday. The complete agenda for the Conference will appear in the next RH/PJ. The delegates to the Conference will evaluate the annual budgets and hear from the Chairman of the Board. Registration information is provided in this issue. Let our staff know as soon as possible of your plans to attend.

In this issue, the financial report through March has been provided. The Lord has blessed us with increased giving and by helping us maintain our budgets for expenses. The budget and actual costs for this year are critical inputs into the budgets we develop for future years. Continue to pray for God to bless our efforts. The

projected budgets for the next 2 years will be printed in the next issue for review before discussion and revision or adoption at General Conference. It is a great challenge to be able to handle a growing enrollment in the College and new programs for our Ministry Services while seeing a slower growth in available funding. However, we know that God can provide and we are grateful for the support and resources that we receive.

Our new website design is now live and on-line. If you have not visited www.abc-coggc.org recently, you need to check it out. The new design was developed by Ben Collier, a member of the Cornerstone Bible Church. Ben will continue to update the website and we appreciate his efforts. Millions of people across the world use the Internet as a gateway to information. We need to continually evaluate our efforts to reach this population on a regular basis. We can benefit from the Internet by allowing people to learn more about the College or our churches without regard to where they live or where we are. Hopefully our new design will facilitate peoples' efforts to learn more about the Church of God or Atlanta Bible College. Suggestions concerning the Website should be sent to info@abc-coggc.org.

Also in this issue you will see a notice concerning the need for candidates to run for the Board of Directors. By constitutional requirements, we need 3 candidates to run for the two available positions on the Board. Dale Brown and Larry Mayberry will have

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

their terms expire this year at General Conference. Do you feel God has equipped you to serve in this role? The Board is critical in its role of oversight of the General Conference and in charting long-term direction for our future. If you feel that this role is one that God would have you fill, please read the enclosed requirements for serving and take the appropriate steps today. We will publish information on the candidates in the next issue. The Visions for the General Conference are again provided for you to review. Sometimes I have heard from people that they believe the development of things like the Vision statements are of little value. They feel that these activities take our attention from the “real” work of running the College or ministry services. Although I understand this perspective, I must wholeheartedly disagree with these contentions. Visions of what can be, ar-

rived at by much prayer and deliberation aimed at perceiving what God would have us do, are the driving force behind our effective efforts. As we collectively work to achieve our desired goals, God can and does bless the efforts of His people. It has been said that no one wishes to board a train that is not planning to go somewhere. Likewise, as the General Conference and our leadership develop the Visions of what we hope to become, we are setting our train in motion. We are leaving the safety of the station because we believe God will take us to a better destination. The statements and focus areas you see were created by a dedicated group of people who came together and prayed for God to actively guide their efforts. Now, we ask that you join our efforts to reach these goals. We ask you to provide the financial resources needed to make these objectives achievable. We earnestly hope that you will

pray for the Board, the staff, and the General Conference. Ask God to continue to guide our path and bless our efforts to serve Him. You will have the opportunity to hear more and offer your insights at General Conference in July. I hope to see many of you in attendance. As mentioned in my last column, the work of making these Visions a reality is just beginning. However, a focus on them is an ever-present part of every day for me. The things I write in this column, or say in a staff meeting, or think about on the commute to or from the office, can do two things. They can either move us forward toward the Visions or make them more difficult to achieve. I want my efforts to further our progress toward the future. Join me in this worthwhile effort, and may God bless us. ■

Tim

MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE:

To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

VISION

A) Atlanta Bible College:

Atlanta Bible College provides excellent biblical education with spiritual development opportunities for a growing and diverse student body.

- ▶ Commit to excellence in academic affairs
- ▶ Attract and retain a highly qualified staff committed to personal and student development
- ▶ Develop expanding financial resources to fund current operations and future goals
- ▶ Increase our curriculum choices in areas of specialized ministry focus
- ▶ Continue educational programs for diverse cultures, races and generations
- ▶ Provide a physical and virtual campus appropriate to our curriculum and goals
- ▶ Commit to explore and implement effective avenues of communication in each ministry effort

B) Ministry Services Network (MSN):

Ministry Services Network provides supportive relationships, resource assistance, and ministry opportunities in partnership with Pastors, Churches, and individuals.

- ▶ Foster supportive relationships which strive to meet personal and professional needs
- ▶ Provide practical assistance for specific needs in areas of finances, service, materials, and publications
- ▶ Provide worldwide missions and outreach opportunities
- ▶ Provide youth ministry education and opportunities to grow students and the local church
- ▶ Develop expanding financial resources to fund current operations and future goals
- ▶ Expand ministry efforts toward diverse cultures, races and generations
- ▶ Commit to explore and implement effective avenues of communication in each ministry effort

Process for Amending the Constitution, Article V, Section 1 – The constitution and by-laws of the College/Conference may be amended, altered, or revised by a two-thirds majority vote of delegates present at any General Conference meeting, notice having been given of the proposed amendment or revision in at least three consecutive issues of the *The Restitution Herald* and/or the *Progress Journal*, the first appearance thereof to be at least thirty days prior to the convening of the conference by which it is to be considered.

Proposed Amendment

Article IV, Section 7 Current

The term of office for all Col-

lege/Conference directors shall be for four years. No director shall succeed himself for a second term.

Article IV, Section 7 Proposed

The term of office for all College/Conference directors shall be for four years. A director may succeed himself for a second term.

Rationale for the Amendment

The Board of Directors received a recommendation that the current policy of a director being unable to serve more than one term be changed. The Board recommends this amendment to the Constitution for these reasons:

1. In recent years there has been some difficulty getting enough candidates to

run for the Board. This proposal would allow Board members to run again if they so choose.

2. Allowing Board members to succeed themselves one time would add more stability to the Board. When two Board members change, 29% of the Board is changing. That percentage of annual turnover adds a unique challenge to the responsibility the Board already faces. Significant time and energy must be invested in orientating and educating Board members to "bring them up to speed".

3. Allowing Board members to run again gives delegates the opportunity to exercise accountability with their vote.

At General Conference we will be electing two Directors for the Board of Directors. Currently we have one nominee and are seeking two more nominees for the open positions. The qualifications for this position are listed below. If you are interested in running please contact Tim Jones by May 25, 2005 at 404-362-0052 or tjones@abc-coggc.org

**ARTICLE IV
Officers of the Conference**

Section 1. Seven directors shall be elected in General Conference delegate sessions; said directors shall constitute the Board of Directors of the College/Conference. The Board of Directors shall organize by the election of necessary officers at the first meeting following each annual Conference election. These officers shall be a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer, and three board members. The term of office of a director shall begin at the close of the Conference in which said director is elected.

Section 2. No elected director shall be a paid employee of the College/Conference for a period longer than two months in any one year.

Section 3. The qualifications of each director shall be those given in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and such other scriptures as teach the qualifications of church leaders. A director may be either male or female.

Section 4. Nominations for the Board of Directors of the College / Conference may be submitted by: State or District Conference Boards of the Church of God; Churches that are members of the General Conference; Ministerial Association of the Church of God General Conference. Name(s) of nominees and resumes will be submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer of Atlanta Bible College/General Conference by May 1 and will be printed in the General Conference issue of *Progress Journal*.

Section 5. Nominations printed in the *Progress Journal* will be brought to the floor of the business session by the Chairman at least one day before the day set for the election. Additional nominations will be received from the floor, and shall not be closed with fewer than one more nomination than the number of directorships.

Section 6. Nominations shall be made from the floor; but voting shall be

done by ballot, and no nominee shall be elected unless he receives a majority of the votes cast. The total list of all nominees shall be submitted to the delegates for election. If no majority is reached in the first balloting, the list of nominees shall be reduced to the three receiving the highest number of votes. When no majority is reached with the list of three nominees, the one receiving the fewest votes shall be removed from the list. Of the two remaining nominees, the one receiving the majority of votes is elected. If other directors are to be elected, all names, except the one(s) previously elected, shall be resubmitted, and the same election process repeated until all positions are filled.

Section 7. The term of office for all College/Conference directors shall be for four years. No director shall succeed himself for a second term.

Section 8. Any director who may become inactive through sickness, resignation, prolonged absence, or death, shall be replaced for the unexpired term by election at the next annual conference. Temporary appointment of such directors may be made by the Board of Directors.

About the Author: *Ken Howe is the Pastor of Country Chapel in Michigantown, IN.*

A woman who had been married for thirty years was sharing with her friend how she thought her husband wasn't paying attention to her like he used to. Her friend, also a wife of many years, responded, "I feel so sorry for you. To this day my husband is always telling me how beautiful I am." The first woman said, "Yes, but your husband is an antiques dealer."

Isn't it interesting how cycles play such important roles in life? Furniture goes from being beautiful to being stored in the garage, only to be reborn years later as a restored, highly desirable antique. Popular musical performers (Christian and otherwise) lose favor and lofty popularity as fresh, more marketable "stars" appear on the horizon. Churches go through detectable cycles of increase and decline in attendance. One step forward, three back, four forward, two back—life is dynamic, and so our own lives become indicators of movement, progress, decline.

My teen and secular college years were spent during the mid-1960's to mid-70's. Music I listened to back in those "BC" days is being recycled and replayed in all sorts of formats, gaining new popularity again. A while ago as I was walking through a grocery store, I caught the scent of a young woman before I ever saw her. She was enveloped in the aroma of incense. When she finally passed me from behind, I noticed she

was dressed just like the hippies of my college years. In most young persons' clothing stores these days, you can find fashions which were popular many years ago, as styles recycle themselves. Flashbacks—everything old is new once again.

On and on. Cycles. Our word "cycle" originates from the Greek word, "kyklos," meaning "circle." What goes around comes around.

We've seen the farmers and farm equipment in our area "awaken" to the call of Springtime and planting season as the weather warms. After the great flood, the Creator of all that is shares this promise with Noah: "As long as the earth lasts, the cycles of seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, will never stop."

But there are other cycles to consider as well. Read **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**.

All of God's creatures, humanity among them, must ultimately face the fact that life finally cycles down. We die. There is a time for birth and a time for death, as the author of Ecclesiastes reminds us. At virtually every turn in Scripture we find the reality of the life cycle stretched out before us. The Psalmist even asks God to continually *remind* him of the brevity of life, so as, we assume, not to waste a single moment of this dynamic existence we've been graciously given. We must acknowledge the cycles, and adjust accordingly, which brings us to the resurrection message.

Read **I Corinthians 15:35-44, 58**.

Keep up the good work(s), encourages Paul. The number of your mortal life days is shrinking with each new sunrise. The wheels are turning; the cycle of your existence is never still. But your faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ will mean that all your hard work, all your ups and downs and overs and unders, will not be in vain. Work through the cycles of good and bad, of plenty and of want, of health and of sickness, of joy and of sorrow. What cycles down will cycle up again.

Paul says that death in the faith is rather like a seed—it can't come to life (sprout and grow) unless it is planted in the soil first. The earthly body becomes a spiritual body because we believe these words from the angels of the Easter story: "He is not here; he is risen."

“Death doesn't need to be the last turn in the cycle of existence.”

Death doesn't need to be the last turn in the cycle of existence. Our own eternal hope hinges on the belief that the ONE who created us also has the power to re-create those who hold to the testimony, "He is not here; he is risen."

As the memory of this past Easter lingers on through the months ahead, I pray that, in whatever cycle of life you find yourself, you may feel the peace and hope of knowing that bad times give way to good, that the cycles of the earth bless us with new hope, and that death is not the final downturn for those who stand at the entrance to the empty tomb and marvel. ■

About the Author:

Stephen Bolhous is the Pastor of Freedom in Christ Ministries in Welland, Ontario, Canada

Easter Sunday is the observance of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The joyous celebration of this calendar day has come and gone. What difference has it made? How has it impacted your life? "As I See It" there are three bonuses that come to every open heart as a result of Easter—miracles, gifts, a witness account.

The miracle of Easter is that Jesus rose from the dead. The Bible records other resurrections; they were extensions of one's mortal life. The Father raised Jesus to immortal life. Jesus himself said, "I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades" (Revelation 1:18). This most amazing miracle gives us confidence that "with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). The miracles we may need in our lives are now within the realm of possibility because Jesus lives!

The gifts of Easter are the benefits that are guaranteed to receiving hearts. The gift of total, complete forgiveness is offered. "Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations" (Luke 24:47). Many persons experience torment in their lives because of unforgiveness. They cannot forgive others or themselves for a hurtful deed done; they cannot receive forgiveness. Jesus' death and resurrection give us positional forgiveness before God—the sacrifice for our sin has been received and accepted; now we are reconciled to God. Paul told the Ephesians that Jesus' mission was "to

reconcile...them to God through the cross" (2:16). We also can have a sense of forgiveness internally in our spirit. "The blood of Christ...cleanse[s] our consciences!" (Hebrews 9:14, *NIV*). "The blood of Christ cleans up our whole lives, inside and out. Through the Spirit, Christ offered himself as an unblemished sacrifice, freeing us from all those dead-end efforts to make ourselves respectable, so that we can live all out for God" (Hebrews 9:14, *The Message*). Another awesome gift of Easter is the promise of living forever with Jesus. "If Christ wasn't raised, then all you're doing is wandering about in the dark, as lost as ever...but the truth is that Christ has been raised up, the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries. Then the saying will come true: 'Death swallowed by triumphant Life! Who got the last word, oh, Death? Oh, Death, who's afraid of you now?' Now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!" (I Corinthians 15:17, 20, 54, 55, 57, *The Message*). The fact that humanity hungers for immortality is demonstrated by the growing trend of cryogenics (freezing the dead). The gift of Easter is far superior to this futile effort.

The reality of experience and interacting with the risen Christ give us a witness account. This is the third bonus of Easter impacting our lives. We are not eye-witnesses to Jesus' resurrection but are nonetheless witnesses. A. H. Ackley wrote "He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today...You ask me how I know he lives, he lives within my heart." We have "tasted the heavenly gift, [we] have shared in the Holy Spirit, [we] have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the

coming age" (Hebrews 6:4, 5). Jesus told his apostles (and by extension all of his disciples of the ensuing centuries) that they/we are witnesses of him. "You are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:48); "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8); "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21).

This past week Johnnie Cochran died; he gained international fame as the lead defense lawyer in the O. J. Simpson trial. His most famous witness was an inanimate object—a bloody glove allegedly left by the perpetrator of the murders for which Simpson was accused. With that 'witness' he argued his case using a syllogism, moving from a general premise to a specific point and then to a conclusion. The essence of his syllogism was "if it doesn't fit you must acquit."

Consider this syllogism: A) Jesus commissioned all who believe in him to be witnesses for him; B) I believe in Jesus and his resurrection; [therefore] C) I am a witness for Jesus. The question with which we need to grapple is: "What kind of witness am I?"

Everyone is an Easter witness. You either have a positive witness for Jesus or, by abstention, you're a witness against him. Has the miracle of Jesus' resurrection and its resulting gifts found a place in your heart and life? If you have experienced miracles and know the freedom of forgiveness and the power of his promise of life, then let the impact of Easter in your life be heard. Proclaim your witness account of Jesus' resurrection. To paraphrase Johnnie Cochran, 'If the bonuses of Easter fit, you must tell it.' Are you a witness 'for' or 'against'? ■

About the Author:

Dustin Smith is a student at Atlanta Bible College.

If this is not your first time picking up this publication, you are probably aware that Jesus was a full scale preacher of the Kingdom of God gospel. It was what drove him and energized him. You could almost compare it to adrenaline. What you may not be aware of is the correlation with the many healings that Jesus did in connection with his preaching. His many miracles backed up his bold preaching and teaching. Let's have another look at the ministry of our Lord Jesus...

We read in Matt. 4:23 that "Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people." In this initial summary statement, we are told what he was preaching, and what he was doing along with it. Verses 24-25 tell of the many kinds of people that were brought to him for healing, which he performed. When they came together as a large crowd, Jesus thus responded by giving the Sermon on the Mount. We can clearly see here that teaching and healing went hand in hand with Jesus. When he taught, people came with their sick loved ones. He healed them, and then he spoke the gospel to them.

In Mark 1:21-26 we see Jesus teaching in the synagogue. During the episode, a man with an unclean spirit comes forth and speaks to

our Lord. He immediately rebukes the demon and casts it out during the teaching. We read in v. 27 that "They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, 'What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.'" The students of the synagogue were amazed at the new teaching, but even more amazed at the healing that went along with it. These two factors led to the rapid spreading of the news about Jesus everywhere.

Isaiah 53:4 foretells that Jesus "Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases." The

“Jesus must mean more to us than a miracle worker, a healer, or someone who got up from the dead.”

Jews knew of this passage, as Mark quoted it of Jesus after he healed someone in Matt. 8:17. Healing was a big part of his 3 year ministry. The blind man in John 9 was healed first, then was asked by Jesus if he believed in the Son of Man (the foretold Messiah from the Old Testament who would come with the Kingdom of God). Luke 5 tells another story of how Jesus preached the Kingdom of God to the crowds. He then told Peter to throw his fishing nets out in deep water. At once, they caught so much fish, that the nets started to break. This miracle is what convinced Peter to leave everything and follow Jesus.

From the many accounts, we can see that people followed Jesus because he was a miracle worker. They wanted to see his signs and wonders. Jesus was afraid of this,

and spoke to them saying, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet" (Matt. 12:39). Jesus did not want people to follow him for his miracles only, but for who he was and what he spoke. We today cannot fall into the same trap. Jesus must mean more to us than a miracle worker, a healer, or someone who got up from the dead. This very problem Jesus addressed when the disciples came up to him after he spoke the parable of the sower. The true disciples were following Jesus for his teachings. They asked for an explanation. Jesus made a very significant reply, saying "To you has been given the **mystery of the Kingdom of God**, but those who are outside get everything in parables, so that while seeing, they may see and

not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, **otherwise** they might return and be forgiven" (Mark 4:11-12). Jesus makes it clear that the "in-group" of disciples understood the message Jesus was speaking, while the others just wanted to hang-out with Jesus. Our Lord wants his followers to not be following him because of his miracles solely, but for his teachings and Kingdom of God gospel also. From what Jesus explained to the true disciples, an understanding is a prerequisite to being forgiven. We also are called to be true followers of our Lord.

So today, how can we make this practical? You and I can go and speak to our friends and family about Jesus and the Kingdom of God, as the disciples did (Acts

(Continued on page 9)

About the Author:

Dave Cheatwood is the Pastor of the Macomb Church of God. (309.833.2835)

God gets hit on a lot. Have you noticed that when things go bad in man's life, that God gets blamed for it? The thing I don't understand is why doesn't He get our praise and thanks, when everything is going nice? Do we only pay attention to God when we think we need His help? If that is our attitude, we need an adjustment. Let's look at the Psalms and see what we can learn from the Word of God.

Psalm 22:19-24 declares: "But You, O LORD, be not far off; O You my help, hasten to my assistance. Deliver my soul from the sword, my only life from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth; from the horns of the wild oxen You answer me. I will tell of Your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You. You who fear the LORD, praise Him; all you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel. For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has He hidden His face from him; but when he cried to Him for help, He heard."

(Continued from page 8)

8:12, 28:23, 31). Yet, I personally cannot accompany my teaching and preaching with the raising of the dead, or the casting out of demons, or giving someone their physical sight back. Yet, we can open someone's *spiritual* eyes. We can show them what God has in store for them by explaining the Scriptures to them in a way to show them the

In order to be close to God we need to approach Him during the good times as well as the bad. We should not expect His favor if we are not in fellowship with Him and the Word of God. David knew God, because he spent time with Him on a regular basis. How about you? Are you spending time with Him and His people?

Why was David seeking God's help? He was facing death and destruction. The power of the dog, refers to the dogs cleaning up what is left after the battle. In other words, they ate the scraps found on the battlefield. The lion's mouth and the horns of the wild oxen indicate a violent end to life. It is clear that David was surrounded and there was little hope of survival unless God intervened. Sometimes our lives are like that. We are at wits end and have run out of options. We finally turn to God for His help.

Was David bargaining with God in verse 22? We sometimes get so desperate that we do that, don't we? Wouldn't it be better to walk with God in the present and trust Him with our life while all is well? David promises to declare his

salvation that is open for anyone. We can show the miracles that God has done in our lives by our changed behavior and lifestyles which live in light of the coming Kingdom of God. Our love we show to others cannot be worldly love, but supernatural love that only God can give to us. These miracles are much more than bodily miracles. Wouldn't you rather

praise for God in the sanctuary. He will call the people to praise and honor of God. That is good stuff. In fact it should be a regular practice in our lives. The doors of the church are open for all who will come. God desires your presence and His people will welcome you. The only thing missing is you. Won't you come? We stand in awe of our God and His great love for mankind. He is not only our Creator, but the one who sustains us in this life.

He is aware of our troubles and is waiting for us to seek Him. When we do, we will find help and direction for our lives. He wants us to

"Do we only pay attention to God when we think we need His help?"

learn how to fear and honor Him with our lives. He is listening. Have you talked with Him lately? Why not give Him a call. His line is never busy and it is a toll free number. Jesus has provided the way so that we can approach God at anytime, night or day. Why not hook up with our Great God and His Wonderful Son, Christ Jesus the Lord? Come and join us in worship. Get in touch with the one who loves you more than anyone else on earth! ■

have your eyes open to God's truths than to have your physical eyes opened? I know which one I would choose in a heartbeat. Let us today, as disciples in the 21st century, show what miracles we can accompany with our preaching of the Kingdom of God. Thy Kingdom Come! ■

Progress Journal

Christian Workers Seminar 2005 By Dave Riley, Dir. Of Ministry Services

The second week in April found many again in the mountains of Tennessee seeking retreat from a busy world. This year's Christian Workers' Seminar was one of the best weeks ever as people from all parts of the nation gathered at the River Terrace Resort and Convention Center for a week of fellowship, worship, relaxation, and spiritual renewal. "Sanctuary" was the theme of the week. This theme centered around our need to find God's presence in our lives, families, churches, and ministries. The theme of "Sanctuary" was divided into four areas:

Soul: *Finding needed rest from a busy life*

Shelter: *Seeking God's presence in the place of worship*

Sacrifice: *Being Kingdom People and sharing the Gospel*

Surrender: *Being willing to go wherever God leads us*

Fantastic sermons were brought

to us by Pastors Michael Hoffman, Mike Montgomery, Steve Taylor, and Jeff Fletcher. Each night was filled with uplifting worship led by Jon Cheatwood and some great encouragement by many others. Every morning opened with inspiring classes, prayer, and seminars. The afternoons offered a mixed bag based upon the individual's desires: great food, shopping, sightseeing, enjoyment of God's creation surrounding Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, and the Smoky Mountains National Park. And let's not forget the very popular option of taking a nap! Many attendees have been at CWS for years. For others, this was their first chance to attend. April and Kim Musch, students at ABC, were first timers. Although the girls were kept busy helping with the Kids program and other duties, they shared these thoughts about CWS:

I didn't expect it to be like a vacation. CWS was like an awesome va-

cation with all your friends and awesome songs. I liked it a lot!

April Musch

CWS was a beautiful blast. It's not just for the older generation-it's a great time for the young crowd as well. Worship was awesome and it's great to get to know different people especially during meals. I recommend CWS for everyone!

Kim Musch

The week ended with beautiful weather and a lot of people who headed home all over the country with a renewed sense of God's presence in their lives and a fresh look at His Sanctuary purpose. Take a look at the pictures that show just a little bit of what CWS is all about and consider putting next year's Seminar on your calendar and joining us. It's well worth the investment!

Dates for next year's Christian Seminar are April 2-7, 2006 at the River Terrace. We hope to see you there!



Jerusalem Marketplace: Where Jesus Walked to the Cross

By Linda Carlblom

How can we make Easter more meaningful to our churches? This question prompted members of the Lakeshore Bible Church in Tempe, Arizona, to explore Group Publishing's curriculum, "Jerusalem Marketplace, Where Jesus Walked to the Cross." Lakeshore immersed itself in biblical culture for two hours every Sunday morning the four weeks leading up to Easter.

Each family was placed in one of the twelve tribes of Israel and encouraged to dress in Bible costumes. A tribe leader guided them through daily Jewish family traditions. Tribes met in Gathering, where they sang Jewish songs, then were dismissed to one of three places: the marketplace, the village playground,

or the synagogue school.

The open-air marketplace consisted of ten shops including jewelry, basketweaving, carpentry, herbs and spices, pottery, and a bakery. Shopkeepers ex-



Kara Huffer and John Carr
(John as the Rabbi.)

pressed differing opinions of Jesus. Tribe members defended their faith to skeptics, or celebrated with fellow believers.

Each day in the marketplace, a drama let participants experience the emotional atmosphere in the days leading up to Jesus' crucifixion. At the village playground, participants enjoyed Bible-time games. Tribe members experienced Jewish education in the synagogue school and even tried their hand at Hebrew lettering.

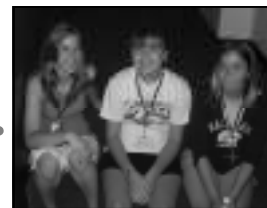
Jerusalem Marketplace provided a fresh appreciation for the time when Christ lived, died and rose again. Isn't that what we hope for at Easter? A new way to tell the old story. ■

Turning Point Youth Ministries presents:



FUEL 2005

Open waters



July 17-22, 2005

at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana

Student rate: \$320

Early Discount rate: \$280

Youth Worker rate: \$255

Early Discount rate: \$215

Must be postmarked by June 17 for the Early Discount rate

Turning Point Youth Ministries,

Box 100,000, 5823 Trammell Rd, Morrow, GA 30260

Visit www.tpym.com/fuel.htm for more information, or call 678-357-7693



Finance

Income Budget Report for March, 2005

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Feb. Variance</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS:				
General Contributions	279,810	204,096	-75,714	-59,836
Building Our Future Campaign	0	132,720	132,720	132,600
BOF Challenge Gift		-40,000		
BOF General Membership Response		-78,370		
BOF Alumni Association Response		-14,350		
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	3,750	3,663	-87	-78
ABC Boosters	14,025	13,093	-932	217
Subtotal	297,585	353,572	55,987	72,903
SALES:				
Christian Education Materials	27,225	25,592	-1,633	-579
Books	31,500	18,113	-13,387	-10,764
Restitution Herald	4,500	854	-3,646	-3,146
Age to Come Media Products	1,500	194	-1,306	-1,176
Theological Journal	1,403	268	-1,135	-979
Sale of Assets	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	66,128	45,021	-21,107	-16,644
ABC:				
Tuition	148,838	110,773	-38,065	-23,199
Korean Extension Tuition	59,025	115,448	56,423	62,982
Lodging	44,063	46,500	2,437	7,333
Washers/Dryers	1,524	404	-1,120	-950
Rentals - ABC Plant	3,465	4,905	1,440	1,115
Late Fees/Rent	5,400	4,387	-1,013	-1,370
Fees	9,000	3,743	-5,257	-4,562
Subtotal	271,314	286,160	14,846	41,349
PROGRAM INCOME:				
Conferences & Workshops	22,500	-3,561	-26,061	-23,321
Subtotal	22,500	-3,561	-26,061	-23,321
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Interest	750	0	-750	-666
Transferred In	22,500	29,685	7,185	8,896
Subtotal	23,250	29,685	6,435	8,230
Income Total	680,777	710,877	30,100	82,517

Building Our Future Campaign

Total contributions since inception (2003) 161,334

- These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2004 through June, 2005
- The 'Budget' column in each report shows the year-to-date portion of the annual budget for each line item.
- The 'Variance' column in each report shows the difference between the amount budgeted and the amount actually received (income) or spent (expense). A positive number in this column means the income or expense is better than budgeted. A negative number in this column means the income or expense is worse than budgeted.

Finance

Expense Budget Report for March, 2005

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Feb. Variance</u>
STAFF:				
Salaries & Wages	354,122	352,856	1,266	1,780
F.I.C.A. Tax	4,125	4,050	74	120
Employee Benefits	76,137	64,304	11,833	11,138
Subtotal	434,384	421,210	13,173	13,038
SERVICES:				
Assistance to Churches	28,425	21,700	6,725	5,666
Ministerial Association	7,200	6,400	800	800
Youth Program	3,750	3,750	0	0
Subtotal	39,375	31,850	7,525	6,466
SALES EXPENSE:				
Printing & Binding	22,500	19,876	2,624	3,041
Postage & Shipping	12,000	7,508	4,492	3,810
Media Production Expenses	0	0	0	0
Book Store	13,500	11,033	2,467	1,360
Royalties	113	0	113	101
Subtotal	48,113	38,417	9,696	8,312
ABC:				
Clayton Rebate	1,500	0	1,500	1,334
Advertising--Recruitment	750	2,067	-1,317	-1,401
ABC Korean Extension Support	17,625	29,455	-11,830	-9,775
Library Periodicals	1,125	1,086	39	-86
Library Books	0	24	-24	-24
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	300	585	-285	-319
Staff Training	750	1,357	-607	-691
Subtotal	22,049	34,574	-12,525	-10,961
ADMINISTRATION:				
Travel	18,750	18,608	142	406
Motor Vehicles	1,500	1,433	67	-99
Office Supplies & Expense	9,000	10,164	-1,164	-1,368
Professional Services	7,500	6,122	1,378	544
Telephone	15,750	15,948	-198	-521
Insurance - Non Plant	375	127	248	207
Supplies & Expense	1,875	1,999	-124	-182
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	15,000	18,732	-3,732	-4,575
Subtotal	69,750	73,133	-3,383	-5,587
PLANT EXPENSES:				
Utilities	21,000	22,859	-1,859	-1,409
Insurance - Property	10,500	10,241	259	-755
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	2,250	2,926	-676	-926
Furniture & Equipment	2,250	6,942	-4,692	-3,550
Supplies/Expenses Plant	4,500	3,460	1,040	695
Subtotal	40,500	46,428	-5,928	-5,945
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Interest	21,000	21,107	-107	-46
Other	5,250	3,780	1,470	1,200
Subtotal	26,249	24,887	1,362	1,155
Expense Total	680,419	670,499	9,920	6,477
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	358	40,378	40,020	88,994

Join us at
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2005
 July 11-12, 2005
 at
 Cornerstone Bible Church
 in McDonough, GA

Attend Business meetings, enjoy fellowship, get informed about changes in the COG General Conference and ABC, and learn more about our vision of the future. It will be a great time of working together to see God's direction in our body of believers!

General Conference Form—July 11-12, 2005 at Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, Georgia

1. Cut and fill out the following form (up to 4 attendees per form) Rates are per person.
2. If today's date is **June 10th or later**, please add \$50.00 to your total.
3. Mail this form to: **General Conference 2005 PO Box 100,000 Morrow, GA 30260**

Contact	Contact Name _____ Day Phone _____ E-mail _____
Address	Street _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Church	Pastor Discount? (10%) Y/N Home Church _____ Number attending optional Barbeque Sunday July 10th ____

If you wish to share a room with someone, please list them here

Your Name	Last _____ First _____
2	Last _____ First _____ Age _____ Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Last _____ First _____ Age _____ Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Last _____ First _____ Age _____ Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>

Please choose an option below (All rates are per person. For reduced rates persons sharing the room must be adults over age 16 paying per person charge)

Sunday Arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 per room (\$185) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 per room (\$205) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 per room (\$240) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 per room (\$355)
Monday Arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 per room (\$165) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 per room (\$185) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 per room (\$205) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 per room (\$275)

Transportation Needed from Airport **Please note:** Transportation must be in writing no later than July 1st, 2004.

Arrival Airline ____ Flight # ____ Arrival Time _____ Departure Airline ____ Flight # ____ Departure Time _____

Subtotal from above	\$
_____ Number of Children ages 5—16 sharing room/w parents X \$35.00	\$
_____ # of Commuters w/meals X \$70 _____ # of Commuters, no meals X \$15	\$
Subtotal	\$
Pastor Discount—subtract 10%	\$
Registration after June 10th, add \$50	\$
Less \$50 Deposit	- \$50.00
Total due at Conference	\$

- 1 Pray for the Mexico mission VBS team in Labor Vieja.
- 2 **Pray for the Africa mission team as they teach and preach in the churches in Malawi this week.**
- 3 Pray for Mark and Terri Tschaenn and the Indianapolis church planting.
- 4 **Pray for the mission team leaving Mexico today.**
- 5 Pray for new students as they prepare to attend Atlanta Bible College later this month.
- 6 **Praise God for the beauty of His creation.**
- 7 Pray for Pastor Connie Scott and her ministry at Pine Grove, Minnesota.
- 8 **Pray for the Africa mission team as they travel home today.**
- 9 Pray for the Board of Directors as they lead the ministries of the College/Conference.
- 10 **Pray for your pastor and his family today.**
- 11 Praise God for the faithful ministry of the ABC/General Conference staff.
- 12 **Pray for ABC instructors as they prepare to teach classes at Atlanta Bible College.**
- 13 Pray for the Focus on the Kingdom radio ministry.
- 14 **Pray for Jon Cheatwood in his work as Youth Coordinator for ABC and the General Conference.**
- 15 Praise God for the faith of the brethren in the Philippines.
- 16 **Praise God for the challenges He sends your way.**
- 17 Pray for God to raise up more pastors.
- 18 **Praise God for His love and faithfulness.**
- 19 Pray for Dave Riley as he works for ABC/General Conference as the Director of Ministry Services.
- 20 **Praise God for His kindness and mercy.**
- 21 Pray for individuals who feel led by God to pursue mission careers.
- 22 **Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as classes begin today.**
- 23 Pray for the leadership of your local church.
- 24 **Praise God that He is sufficient to meet every need.**
- 25 Pray for spiritual renewal for yourself and your church.
- 26 **Pray that the financial needs of the Conference and College will be met.**
- 27 Praise God for your heritage of faith.
- 28 **Pray that God might speak through you to someone who is hurting.**
- 29 Pray for someone you know who needs to make Christ Lord.
- 30 **Pray for an opportunity to share your faith this week.**
- 31 Pray for Pastor Sydney and Dee Kirkpatrick and their ministry at Pine Grove, Minnesota.

Church News

Baptisms

Georgia

Cornerstone—Sarah Henson (4/24/05) by Pastor Andy Cisneros

Ohio

Bedford—Daniel and Jordon Onderdonk (4/17/05) by Pastor Rex Cain

Troy View—Basil T. Hughart, (1/2/05) by Robert Hollopeter and Pastor Steve Zimbelman

South Carolina

Bethel—Jeff Bright (3/27/05); Tyler Cunningham (4/10/05) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Deaths

Illinois

Oregon—Marjorie Grace Bolhous, 79, see next page

Ohio

Troy View—Eunice Randall, 83, (1/7/05), wife of Celaine Randall, by Pastors Jack Hearp and Steve Zimbelman

Virginia

Cool Spring—Wilfred Baggarty, 85, (3/18/05) by Pastor Dale Ramsey

Fair Oaks—Eunice Keyes, 93, by Pastor Dennis Baldwin; Helen Thompson, 87, (3/5/05) by Pastor Dale Ramsey

Fort Valley—Richard (Sonny) Grim, 64, (2/10/05); Lillian Boyer, 99, (3/21/05) by Pastor Chris Seiders



Several of the Ohio Pastors and their wives joined Joe and Rebekah Martin and Dave and Anne Riley for an evening out together in April.

Present were Mike and Julie Gallagher, Jack Hearp, Steve and Pat Zimbelman, Seth and Stacey Ross, Scott and Theresa Deane, Alan and Susan Cain, Joe and Rebekah Martin, and Dave and Anne Riley

Church News continued on page 16

Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
P.O. Box 100,000
Morrow, GA 30260

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2ND ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE
Church of the Open Bible, Pomona, CA
May 21-22, 2005

“Life of Faith”

Speakers:

Jamie Engelbert ■ Dan Mages ■ Paul Derho ■ Steve An ■ Chuck Jones

For More Information Call 909.593.3411
chuck@openbiblepomona.org / www.openbiblepomona.org

Church News continued

Honoring the life of Marjorie Grace Bolhous

Marjorie Grace Bolhous, 79, longtime Oregon resident, died Sunday, April 24 in KSB Hospital, Dixon. Born May 4, 1925 in Brown County, Illinois, the daughter of Loren and Mary Cooper Burnett, married to Walter L. Bolhous, May 19, 1946 in Oregon; he died April 24, 1987. Marjorie was employed as a playground supervisor at Nash School and secretary at Nash and Jefferson Schools for many years. She was an active member of the Oregon Church of God and actively involved with the Caring & Sharing widows group, Ogle County Senior Center and CHUMS mentoring program. Survived by: son Stephen (Joyce) Bolhous of Welland, Ontario, Canada; daughter, Paula

(Vivan) Kirkpatrick of Hutchinson, Minnesota; 5 grandchildren, Marcee (Jason) Turner, Adam (Colleen) Bolhous, Aaron (Wanda) Bolhous, Vivian P. (Gaylene) Kirkpatrick, Melissa (Kenneth) Shull; and 9 great-grandchildren; Levi and Samuel Turner; Jeremy, Danielle, and Andrew Bolhous; Luke and Riley Bolhous; Kevin and Trevor Shull; brothers: Francis Burnett of Oregon, and Lozelle (Julia) Burnett of Mt. Sterling; and sister, Helen (Melvin) Jones of Grand Detour. Also preceded in death by her brother, Harold Burnett. Funeral service at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 27 at Oregon Church of God with Pastor Michael Hoffman officiating. Burial in Riverview Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Oregon Church of God.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

Atlanta Bible College's & Progress Journal 62nd Graduation Ceremony

Atlanta Bible College celebrated its 62nd graduation May 13, 2005. It was an evening of blessing and achievement as eleven students received their Bachelor of Theology Degree. This represents the most Bachelor Degree recipients in one year in OBC/ABC history! Seven received their Associates in Theology & Ministry Degree, and four received the Foundation Certificate. The evening was filled with wonderful music from the new orchestra of ABC Korean students, Amy Littler from New York, and Nicholas Kalonda from Africa. ABC continues to praise God for our diversity as graduates were from North America, Africa, and Korea. Amanda, Kim, and April Musch represented the first time three people from the same family

received credentials in one year! The commencement address was by Rev. Vince Finnegan from Living Hope Community Church. Rev. Finnegan is from Latham, New York and is the father of Graduate Sean Finnegan! He challenged the graduates to show Christ's love to those to whom they minister. Other addresses came from CAO Tim Jones, Dr. Joe Martin, Steve An, with David Riley and Pastor Jeong bringing the Invocation and Benediction. The evening concluded with a reception hosted by the ABC Staff. Several of the students will be continuing their ministry by entering their internship programs and then continuing into full, part-time, and volunteer ministries. Thank you for keeping ABC in your prayers and for your continued support. ■

Bachelor of Theology

Solomon A. Baddoo
Elizabeth N. Egbe
Sean Finnegan
Thomas J. Fischhaber, Jr.
Jasper Fletcher, Jr.
Mi Kyoung Jeong
Seong Kon Jeong
Kab Soo Kim
Amanda S. Musch
Fleming Thompson, Jr.
Andrew Stephen Weaver

Associates in Theology and Ministry

Melinda Cisler
Shaun Fewell
Nicholas M. Kalonda
Kimberly J. Mayberry
April M. Musch
Kimberly J. Musch
Dustin Smith

Foundation Certificate

Neisha Davis
Ernest McMillon, Jr.
Willie Pippins
Shannon Sanders



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THE RESTITUTION HERALD ADVOCATES:

- THE ONENESS OF GOD (1 COR. 8:6);
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S POWER (ACTS 1:8);
- JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (MATT. 16:16), AND IS OUR MEDIATOR (1 TIM. 2:5);
- THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (2 TIM. 3:16);
- THE MORTALITY OF MAN (JOB 4:17; PSA. 146:4);
- THE NEAR RETURN OF CHRIST (ACTS 1:11), AND LIFE ONLY THROUGH HIM (COL. 3:3);
- THE LITERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (JOHN 5:28);
- THE IMMORTALIZATION OF THOSE IN CHRIST (1 COR. 15:53, 54);
- THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED (REV. 21:8);
- THE FINAL RESTORATION OF ISRAEL AS THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNDER THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST (LUKE 1:32);
- THE CHURCH TO BE JOINT HEIRS WITH HIM (ROM. 8:17), AND ISRAEL TO BE MADE HEAD OVER GENTILE NATIONS (ISA. 60:1-3);
- THE "RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS WHICH GOD HATH SPOKEN BY THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS HOLY PROPHETS SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN" (ACTS 3:21).
- IT ALSO FIRMLY ADVOCATES REPENTANCE AND IMMERSION IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS (ACTS 2:38), AND A CONSECRATED LIFE AS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.

The Restitution Herald & Progress Journal

The General Conference is eagerly seeking articles that will teach, inspire, and encourage our readers. If God has placed a subject on your heart, please send your submissions or any questions to the Publishing Department. We also encourage letters to the Editor in response to articles.

Church of God General Conference
Attn: Publishing Department
P.O. Box 100,000
Morrow, GA 30260
rfinnegan@abc-coggc.org

The Restitution Herald and Progress Journal is published 6 times a year.

Articles are accepted on a continuous basis and will be published as space and magazine topics allow.



We've updated our Web site. Check out our new look and updated Information at:

www.abc-coggc.org

About the Author:

Tim Jones is the current Chief Administrative Officer and President of Atlanta Bible College.

Welcome once again to the pages of the *Herald/Progress Journal*. As this issue goes to the printer for production and mailing, our summer Conference is only seven weeks away. You may consider this your official "General Conference" issue! We believe that the information you will need for this year's General Conference is included. We are looking forward to the event. If you need any assistance or additional information concerning General Conference, please do not hesitate to contact us. In this issue you will find the schedule for the two days of Conference as well as the registration form. You will also see the required third printing of the proposed constitutional amendment from the Board of Directors. This amendment would allow members of the Board to be elected to a second consecutive term. Also, on pages 16 & 17, you will see the proposed budgets for the next two fiscal years for the College and the Conference. The delegates will be asked to approve a modified budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. They will also be asked to approve the preliminary budget for the fiscal year 2007.

As you can see from the proposed budget, the *Building Our Future Campaign* is a critical part of the budget for the General Conference. The Board has set an ambitious goal of reaching a total in contributions to this Campaign of \$500,000 by General Conference

in 2006. This represents gifts in addition to the current level of contributions to the General Fund. These funds will be needed to hire the needed staff and provide the resources to support the growth of the College. Just as we must invest in seeds and fertilizer before the garden is ready for harvest, we must have the financial support now that will allow for a greater harvest in the future. The growth and development of the College has been a tremendous blessing from God over the past several years, and with the support we request from you that growth can continue. Make your commitment to this growth a regular part of your prayer life. If God is so leading, please become a financial supporter of the College today.

The Board of Directors will have two members with expiring terms of service. Pastor Larry Mayberry of Michigan and Dale Brown from Missouri will be completing their service on the Board. I want to personally thank them for their support and assistance as members of the Board. Two new members will need to be elected at General Conference. By our Conference constitution we must have at least three candidates for the two available positions. Jeff Fletcher has been nominated by the Ministerial Association for the Board. A biography for Jeff is published in this issue. Nominations for the Board will be open until General Conference and nominations may be made from the floor. Make the selection of the Board of Directors a matter of prayer as well. Although serving on the Board can be a lot of work, it can also bring great satisfaction

and a sense of accomplishment. We pray that God raises up the leaders of the Conference that He would have in place.

Many changes are taking place with the Conference staff. As you will see in the accompanying articles and announcements, many of our staff are on the move! Steve Taylor, after serving at the General Conference for almost six years, has felt God leading him to return to the pastoral ministry. He has been called to serve as the pastor of Cornerstone Bible Church here in Georgia. I am actively working with Steve to coordinate his transition back to the pastor's ministry that he loves to fill. In addition to media work, Steve has also been very involved in supporting our computer systems and teaching. He will be missed, and I thank Steve for his dedicated service.

As you will see from the interview on page 13, Tom Fischhaber will be leaving the staff to take a pastorate in Virginia. Tom has been a wonderful student and has served as a great Maintenance Supervisor. His commitment to learning and dedication to the Lord has been an inspiration to the staff. We wish him well, but we will miss him and his delightful wife Karen as they move away.

Sean Finnegan graduated this month from ABC, and will be moving to New York to take a pastor's position with his father's ministry. With Sean and Ruth's departure, we lose not only two great friends, but our Apartment Managers. Also, Ruth has been

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

...serving as our Publishing Specialist and Sean has been teaching classes for the college! Their relocation is a true triple whammy for the College. I am working with them to ensure that they remain involved with our ministries. The Apartment Managers position, which requires that the candidates live in the residence building, will be open this summer as we look ahead to the Fall Semester. A notice concerning this position can be found in the Church News section of this Journal.

How do we cope with changes in almost 1/3 of the staff at once? Sometimes I myself wonder at that question! But consider the joy of knowing that each of these three situations exist because people are being called to serve God as pastors! In addition to Steve, Tom, and Sean, our Graduation Ceremo-

...nies are emphasized on page 1. Eleven people worked to achieve the requirements necessary for their degree! Look at the other ministries that are being impacted as well. Graduate Amanda Musch is continuing her ministry in Michigan. Andrew Weaver will begin his internship in Ohio. Mi Kyoung Jeong is teaching multiple courses for the ABC Korean Extension as well as being music director for Pastor An's church. Her father and husband are core members of the ABCKE staff. God is using all these people as well as all the other graduates and students to accomplish His work. We celebrate with them in their accomplishments. We will work to coordinate all the changes in our staff to ensure that the College continues to fulfill its role in developing leaders for God's people. God will help us in keeping our commitments to our students and to you as members of

the Conference.

We have again included the Vision statements developed by the Board and staff late last year. These Visions are more than words on paper. They capture the ideas and hopes of people about what the Conference can become. They paint a picture of how glorious the future can be for us if we work together and seek God's blessings. I look forward to our time together in July at General Conference. I hope we can join in the excitement of sharing a Vision of our future. That future can become a reality if we are committed to making it happen. God will give His people the talents, abilities, and resources they need for success. We supply the willingness to work for Him. May God bless us all as we work toward the time of Jesus' return.

In His Service,
Tim Jones

MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE:

To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

VISION

A) Atlanta Bible College:

Atlanta Bible College provides excellent biblical education with spiritual development opportunities for a growing and diverse student body.

- ▶ Commit to excellence in academic affairs
- ▶ Attract and retain a highly qualified staff committed to personal and student development
- ▶ Develop expanding financial resources to fund current operations and future goals
- ▶ Increase our curriculum choices in areas of specialized ministry focus
- ▶ Continue educational programs for diverse cultures, races and generations
- ▶ Provide a physical and virtual campus appropriate to our curriculum and goals
- ▶ Commit to explore and implement effective avenues of communication in each ministry effort

B) Ministry Services Network (MSN):

Ministry Services Network provides supportive relationships, resource assistance, and ministry opportunities in partnership with Pastors, Churches, and individuals.

- ▶ Foster supportive relationships which strive to meet personal and professional needs
- ▶ Provide practical assistance for specific needs in areas of finances, service, materials, and publications
- ▶ Provide worldwide missions and outreach opportunities
- ▶ Provide youth ministry education and opportunities to grow students and the local church
- ▶ Develop expanding financial resources to fund current operations and future goals
- ▶ Expand ministry efforts toward diverse cultures, races and generations
- ▶ Commit to explore and implement effective avenues of communication in each ministry effort

Process for Amending the Constitution, Article V, Section 1 – The constitution and by-laws of the College/Conference may be amended, altered, or revised by a two-thirds majority vote of delegates present at any General Conference meeting, notice having been given of the proposed amendment or revision in at least three consecutive issues of the *The Restitution Herald* and/or the *Progress Journal*, the first appearance thereof to be at least thirty days prior to the convening of the conference by which it is to be considered.

Proposed Amendment

Article IV, Section 7 Current

The term of office for all Col-

lege/Conference directors shall be for four years. No director shall succeed himself for a second term.

Article IV, Section 7 Proposed

The term of office for all College/Conference directors shall be for four years. A director may succeed himself for a second term.

Rationale for the Amendment

The Board of Directors received a recommendation that the current policy of a director being unable to serve more than one term be changed. The Board recommends this amendment to the Constitution for these reasons:

1. In recent years there has been some difficulty getting enough candidates to

run for the Board. This proposal would allow Board members to run again if they so choose.

2. Allowing Board members to succeed themselves one time would add more stability to the Board. When two Board members change, 29% of the Board is changing. That percentage of annual turnover adds a unique challenge to the responsibility the Board already faces. Significant time and energy must be invested in orientating and educating Board members to "bring them up to speed".

3. Allowing Board members to run again gives delegates the opportunity to exercise accountability with their vote.

At General Conference we will be electing two Directors for the Board of Directors. Currently we have one nominee and are seeking two more nominees for the open positions. The qualifications for this position are listed below. If you are interested in running please contact Tim Jones at 404-362-0052 or tjones@abc-cogc.org

ARTICLE IV

Officers of the Conference

Section 1. Seven directors shall be elected in General Conference delegate sessions; said directors shall constitute the Board of Directors of the College/Conference. The Board of Directors shall organize by the election of necessary officers at the first meeting following each annual Conference election. These officers shall be a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer, and three board members. The term of office of a director shall begin at the close of the Conference in which said director is elected.

Section 2. No elected director shall be a paid employee of the College/Conference for a period longer than two months in any one year.

Section 3. The qualifications of each director shall be those given in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and such other scriptures as teach the qualifications of church leaders. A director may be either male or female.

Section 4. Nominations for the Board of Directors of the College / Conference may be submitted by: State or District Conference Boards of the Church of God; Churches that are members of the General Conference; Ministerial Association of the Church of God General Conference. Name(s) of nominees and resumes will be submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer of Atlanta Bible College/General Conference by May 1 and will be printed in the General Conference issue of *Progress Journal*.

Section 5. Nominations printed in the *Progress Journal* will be brought to the floor of the business session by the Chairman at least one day before the day set for the election. Additional nominations will be received from the floor, and shall not be closed with fewer than one more nomination than the number of directorships.

Section 6. Nominations shall be made from the floor; but voting shall be

done by ballot, and no nominee shall be elected unless he receives a majority of the votes cast. The total list of all nominees shall be submitted to the delegates for election. If no majority is reached in the first balloting, the list of nominees shall be reduced to the three receiving the highest number of votes. When no majority is reached with the list of three nominees, the one receiving the fewest votes shall be removed from the list. Of the two remaining nominees, the one receiving the majority of votes is elected. If other directors are to be elected, all names, except the one(s) previously elected, shall be resubmitted, and the same election process repeated until all positions are filled.

Section 7. The term of office for all College/Conference directors shall be for four years. No director shall succeed himself for a second term.

Section 8. Any director who may become inactive through sickness, resignation, prolonged absence, or death, shall be replaced for the unexpired term by election at the next annual conference. Temporary appointment of such directors may be made by the Board of Directors.

General Conference—Board Member Nomination

Nomination for Position on the Church of God General Conference Board of Directors

The Church of God Ministerial Association nominates Jeff Fletcher to serve on the Board of Directors.

Jeff was born in Northern Virginia where he attended Eternal Hope/Fair Oaks Church of God. He was baptized in 1975. After attending George Mason University, Jeff experienced a strong call to pastoral ministry and entered Oregon Bible College where he graduated in 1986. Jeff has 22 years of pastoral ministry experience as a Youth Pastor, and Pastor of Churches in Oregon, IL; Milton Keynes, England; Hammond, LA.; and currently at Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC. Jeff has been married to Karen (Burnham) Fletcher since 1984 and God has blessed them with ten children ages 1-18.

Jeff has received additional train-

ing in Clinical Pastoral Education from the MacFarland Institute and completed a 2 year Internship in Spiritual Direction through the Spirituality Center of New Orleans Seminary. He has served as a Hospice and Hospital Chaplain and on the Local Executive Board for Habitat for Humanity and as a mentor to "At Risk" Children through Kids Hope International. These experiences have provided him with a broad range of experience in doing ministry in cross cultural settings and learning new ways of reaching out to the lost and broken of our world with the Good News of Jesus Christ and his Kingdom.

Jeff served the General Conference for ten years as Editor of the Restitution Herald and is on the Editorial Board of the Journal From the Radical Reformation and has written extensively for Church of God publications. He has preached and led workshops at General Conference, Christian Workers' Seminar,

Ministerial Conference and FUEL as well as numerous state conferences and youth camps.

Jeff will bring to the Board of Directors a wide range of ministry experience, a deep love and appreciation for the truth of Scripture coupled with a drive and passion to see us continue to grow in our mission of empowering and equipping local Churches in ministry, encourage new ministries, expanding missions, training and supporting pastors and workers in the local church, equipping and inspiring students using all available means and methods and broadening the range of people impacted by our message and ministries. ■

By constitutional requirements, two additional candidates must run for the positions available on the Board. Contact the General Conference or Board members for more information.

2005 General Conference Schedule

Sunday, July 10, 2005 (all Sunday activities are optional for attendees)
Board Meeting – Time to be established
Cookout at Cornerstone – Begins 5:00 p.m.

Monday, July 11

9:00 – 11:30 Optional Morning Classes

11:30 Lunch

Delegate Session Agenda – 1:00 pm

Opening Prayer

Chairman's Welcome

Chairman's Message

Nominees for Director – 2 Directors will be elected. At least 3 nominees are required for election.

Annual Report – Tim Jones,

President and CAO

Presentation of Budgets and

Discussion – Tim Jones

Reports from Departments

College Report

Ministry Services Report

Korean Initiatives

African Initiatives

LHI Initiatives

Christian Education Program

Turning Point Youth Ministries

New Business Proposals

Constitutional Amendments:

These amendments are proposed by the Board – published 3 times in the Restitution Herald or Progress Journal.

Other Business

Adjourn with Prayer – 5:00 p.m.

Dinner – 5:30

Evening Service – 7:00 Dale Bliss, speaker

ABC Alumni Association meeting— immediately following the service

Tuesday, July 12, 2005 9:00 a.m.

Reading of the minutes of the

Tuesday Session – approval required

Election to the Board of Directors

- Election for the Board of Directors for 4-year terms. A simple majority

is required.

Adoption of Budget - A motion is in order to approve the proposed revised budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year and the proposed budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. A simple majority is required for passage.

Constitutional Amendments – approval required.

Other Business

Reading of the minutes of the Session – approval required

11:30 – Lunch

1:00 Delegate Session Continued (if required)

Board Meeting - TBD

ABCDF Board of Trustees

Meeting - TBD

2:00 – 5:00 Classes, workshops, or free time

5:30 Dinner

7:00 Evening Service – Alan Cain, speaker
Commissioning Service

Join us at
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2005
 July 11-12, 2005
 at
 Cornerstone Bible Church
 in McDonough, GA

Attend Business meetings, enjoy fellowship, get informed about changes in the COG General Conference and ABC, and learn more about our vision of the future. It will be a great time of working together to see God's direction in our body of believers!

General Conference Form—July 11-12, 2005 at Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, Georgia

1. Cut and fill out the following form (up to 4 attendees per form) Rates are per person.
2. If today's date is **June 10th or later**, please add \$50.00 to your total.
3. Mail this form to: **General Conference 2005 PO Box 100,000 Morrow, GA 30260**

Contact	Contact Name _____ Day Phone _____ E-mail _____
Address	Street _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Church	Pastor Discount? (10%) Y/N Home Church _____ Number attending optional Barbeque Sunday July 10th ____

If you wish to share a room with someone, please list them here

Your Name	Last _____ First _____
2	Last _____ First _____ Age _____ Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Last _____ First _____ Age _____ Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Last _____ First _____ Age _____ Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>

Please choose an option below (All rates are per person. For reduced rates persons sharing the room must be adults over age 16 paying per person charge)

Sunday Arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 per room (\$185) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 per room (\$205) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 per room (\$240) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 per room (\$355)
Monday Arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 per room (\$165) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 per room (\$185) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 per room (\$205) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 per room (\$275)

Transportation Needed from Airport **Please note:** Transportation must be in writing no later than July 1st, 2004.

Arrival Airline ____ Flight # ____ Arrival Time _____ Departure Airline ____ Flight # ____ Departure Time _____

Subtotal from above	\$
_____ Number of Children ages 5—16 sharing room/w parents X \$35.00	\$
_____ # of Commuters w/meals X \$70	\$
_____ # of Commuters, no meals X \$15	\$
Subtotal	\$
Pastor Discount—subtract 10%	\$
Registration after June 10th, add \$50	\$
Less \$50 Deposit	- \$50.00
Total due at Conference	\$

About the Author:

Dr. Joe Martin is a teacher and the Academic Dean of Atlanta Bible College.

This article was excerpted from an evening service message given at CWS in 2004.

As I was growing up and starting to date Rebekah, we went to Oregon Bible College. A gentleman came up to preach a series of sermons. I just fell in love with his preaching, because he painted a picture of the Kingdom of God that was beautiful and real. I could see it because he believed it, felt it and preached it. Most of you know who I am talking about, Z. B. Duncan. One time at a General Conference, maybe 20 years ago, I was passing him in the hallway. I said, "Z.B., I want you to pray for me; I want you to lay your hands on me. I want to feel the message as you feel the message". I shouldn't have asked that! While walking down the hallway and he pulled me into a room with no one in it. He laid his hands on my forehead. I think I know what Elisha felt when he thought about "What will it take to follow Elijah?" Elisha stuck with him. Z.B.'s hand was stuck on my forehead for what felt like 30 minutes. In a beautiful moment that can't be put in words he poured out his heart in prayer for me and my ministry. I felt that's the kind of message we ought to have.

The Kingdom of God is represented by "Red and Yellow, Black and White, they are precious in his

sight." In Revelation 5:9-10 we have a picture of the different people that will be in the Kingdom of God. I think we as the body of Christ ought to represent the Kingdom of God as it will be in the future. Amen? Verse nine says, "And they sang a new song, 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seal because you were slain and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe, language, people and nation. And you have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God and they will reign on the earth.' "

"And they sang a new song, 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seal because you were slain and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe, language, people and nation. And you have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God and they will reign on the earth.' " Rev. 5:9-10

The scenario in Revelation 5 is the scene in heaven starting with the throne of God in chapter 4. There is a scroll that no one can open. It represents the scroll of human destiny, humanity's future. It represents OUR future. Everyone is upset in the scene. John gets upset. In 5:3, it states "But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside." "I wept," John says. "I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and the seven seals.' "

Verse 6 is where I want to sing! "Then I saw a lamb, looking as if it had been slain." Jesus "endured the cross for the glory that was set before him." Do you know him? Have you ever asked where did we get the idiom, "hang in there?" From this! Jesus did hang in there! If you've seen the movie "The Passion," Jesus hung in there! Verse 5:7 says, "**He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne**". This is Daniel 7:13, 14. This is where he "Son of Man" approached the Ancient of Days and received this authority and power and dominion and the kingdom. This is the Son of Man going up to God Almighty, the one who is, and was, and is to come, and receives the kingdom. This is the Lord Jesus Christ receiving the destiny of humanity, the future, the Kingdom of God. I like that.

THEN they sang a new song, "You are worthy to take the scroll and open the scroll because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men from every tribe, nation, and tongue!" With your blood! Anyone who enters the kingdom of God is going to enter through the blood of Jesus Christ! Abraham who did not know his name is going to enter the Kingdom of God by the obedient sacrifice of Jesus. He had faith that God would provide—God provided through the sacrifice of Jesus. Revelation 6:9 calls it "...a great multitude that no one could count."

O Lord have mercy! Have you
(Continued on page 9)

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ever seen children dance and sing? Of such is the Kingdom of God. I'm not being mean. I just want to talk to you. What did it take for us to unlearn rejoicing in the Lord? The Bible says, "don't let your hands hang limp, the Lord, he is God." (Zeph. 3:16,17) We need to rejoice in the diversity of the Kingdom of God. It's good to see the Kingdom represented here tonight in the diversity of the Koreans, Africans, and all of us.

The Kingdom of God ought to excite us with all those folks that are going to be there. Continue the verse, "you have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God and they will reign on the earth." (Rev.

5:10) Everyone say "Hallelujah, Praise God, Amen!" This is the message we've been trying to get out. The world has been missing half the message for two thousand years! We've got the message. Should you hide it under a bushel? No! We have to reach out with this message. Remember the woman with the issue of blood for years? She crawled to Jesus, just to touch the hem of his garment. She was healed. We have to do whatever it takes to start reaching and being like these verses say!

The beautiful part – **It's the same message!** The Davidic Covenant says there's going to be a kingdom on earth. "The saints receive a kingdom under the whole heavens." (Daniel 9:27) Abraham's descendant blesses the "whole earth."

(Genesis 12:3). It's too small a thing, Isaiah says, for you to still save little Jacob. Your light is going to the world for the Gentiles. (Isa. 49:6) This is God's message, folks. We are those Gentiles, representing Christ, that must go forth. He has the keys of the Kingdom. We need to celebrate. I think we can celebrate. I want to tell you, I think we are headed in the right direction! We were talking about this in our General Conference session the other day. Brother Dennis Baldwin said, "You know I never seen anything like

The world has been missing half the message for two-thousand years!

this." Brother Francis Burnett at the same meeting at this Christian Workers' Seminar said "I've been in the General Conference since 1935; I've never seen anything like this."

I want us to see how these verses lead us into a ministry and Kingdom direction. Now what are we supposed to do? They have the new song, but it's the same message. They sang it, "they will reign on the earth." It's an answer to Jesus' prayer "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." But we need to get it out there.

I want us to go home, and put in our prayer bulletins "Pray for Red and Yellow, Black and White!" I want us to pray for Steve An, and the Korean work. I want us to pray for Rufus

Myers, and Simple Teachings Church. I want us to pray for those going to Africa. Pray for the pastors there. I want us to have them on your list. If you do not have them on your list, shame on you, I say!

I also want us to think about funding. I'm talking for our Board of Directors. I'm plugging this for them because we have a major fund-raising campaign going on. It is called "Building the Future." If this verse isn't the future, I don't know what is. If these verses aren't that, what is it? We ought to give our "due portion." We ought to go to our church and ask ourselves individually, am I supporting my church? All

right, let's pass that; that's a given. Then we ought to ask our church, is my local conference and the General Conference being supported as they are supposed to be. The "due portion" according to the Hezekiah story (2 Chron. 31:4) says we need to be doing our part. If not, why don't you start something?

Do you remember the movie about our first astronauts "The Right Stuff?" Do you remember the astronauts and the monkey story. German scientists were trying to get a monkey placed into space before the astronauts. The astronauts said, "No way!" The German scientists started talking among themselves, "Was ist das?, Amerikaner!" Basically the astronauts said they were backing out of the

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What is God Doing?

By Pastor Dave Cheatwood

For over 40 years I have had a dream. It is not very spiritual, but it was still a dream of mine. Last May God granted me the fulfillment of that dream. Wanda and I purchased a 2000 Corvette. I never dreamed what this would lead to. God had something more in mind than what we expected.

Matthew 6:33 says: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." During the years of our life there were more important things than this car to take care off. There was a family to raise, bills to pay, etc. Yet God was gracious enough, in His time, to grant our wish. After purchasing the car, Wanda and I became a part of the local Corvette Club. We usually go out to eat together once a month. The other day we drove in a caravan for about 45 miles to go to supper. It was a lot of

fun, and watching the people watch us is always a kick!

A couple of months ago, at one of the suppers, the group was kicking around some ideas of where we might visit together. I suggested that they all come to church some Sunday. They thought it was a great idea. One lady suggested we have a tail-gate party after church. Things



kept building from there and June 5, 2005 will be Corvette Sunday at the Macomb Church of God. The church is furnishing hotdogs, hamburgers and beverages and we are asking everyone to bring some food to share with

our guests. The club also wants to bring food.

We would appreciate your prayers for that Sunday. The local paper will be here to take pictures. We will have an ad in the paper the week before the event. I will be speaking on "Chariots of Fire", and Lord willing, we will have about 20 to 30 guests that morning.

May God use this event to be a blessing to those who come and help them to see that Christians don't have to be strange and weird. We want the day to be a positive experience for them, and pray that God will touch their hearts and draw them back again.

Who knew that purchasing a Corvette would open doors to new folks and give us an opportunity to witness to others of God's goodness and grace.

Praise His name! ■

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program and going to the press unless they go first. If the people didn't have their heroes, the money would stop. The line that I remember is "No bucks, no Buck Rogers". The astronauts got to be the first ones to journey into space. In our quest for a glorious future, diversity, support, prayer, and financial giving are all key ingredients.

Folks, I'm not begging for God. God doesn't need your money to accomplish the tasks He has set before us. But He wants to see our faithfulness when we under-

stand the true picture of the Kingdom. At Valley View, where Jim Graham is pastor, he gets up and asks that visitors NOT give. Jim has a line that says "it would be like inviting you over for supper, and then saying, 'here's your bill!' We don't do that!" I don't do that either, but I'm talking to the choir; I'm talking to members; I'm talking to folks who have been to Christian Workers' Seminar for many years. We have a job to do. That job is the job of God to sing a "New Song" with the "Same Message." We need to sing the new

song by reaching out in a **NEW** way. Would you support it? Everybody say, "Halleluiah, Praise God, Amen!" It's not an old song with a different meaning since he's been gone. It is a new song; with the same wonderful message. But let me tell you he's coming back. Jesus is coming back to this earth to establish the Kingdom of God! Let us each fulfill our part in the work to be done.

God bless you, as you support the changing face of the Church of God as it represents the Kingdom of God. Amen! ■

Let the Walls Come Down

By Pastor Stephen Bolhous

About the Author:

Stephen Bolhous is the Pastor of Freedom in Christ Ministries in Welland, Ontario, Canada

The Berlin Wall was a significant part of the history of the close of the last millennium. It was built by the communists on August 13, 1961, to surround and contain free West Berlin which was situated in communist East Germany. The Wall was a concrete and barbed wire barricade that was 96 miles in length (155 km) with an average height of 11.8 ft. (3.60 m). It was the intention of the communist regime to divide, separate, and end the free interaction between east and west Berliners.

The Wall was more than a tangible division of territory; it was also a division of ideologies, economies and life-styles. It imposed an emotional tension and division on the Berlin family

and severed the previously free contact that relatives in the East and West sectors had with each other. With the construction of the Wall came an invisible wall that separated people.

Recently someone in our church was speaking to me about an estranged relationship. The individual said, "I feel like there's a wall between us." Walls can exist in our lives. They're not made of concrete and barbed wire; they're invisible, constructed from pride, prejudice, anger, ultra-sensitivity to of-

fences, and unforgiveness. How can those invisible walls that separate you from another individual) be broken down? Consider these five wall-destroying steps:

Forgive. Examine your own heart and forgive any offences you may be carrying. Sometimes the responsibility for a wall's construction lies more on our property than we realize.

Pray for God to soften hearts. Ask God to condition the hearts of the separated parties to desire reconciliation and renewed friendship.

Exhibit friendliness. You may have been re-fortifying the emotional separation wall by giving

there any way that I have offended you?"

Expect positive results. Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart." God is eager to do good things in our lives and restore broken relationships. Anticipate His working to break down separating walls.

It seemed impossible that the hated Berlin Wall would ever be removed, but on November 9, 1989, it was opened by the East Germans. By the end of 1990 it was torn down as Communism collapsed and the Cold War ended. Since that time East and West Germany have been reunited as one nation.

Walls can exist in our lives. They're not made of concrete and barbed wire; they're invisible, constructed from pride, prejudice, anger, ultra-sensitivity to offences, and unforgiveness.

the wrong signals; make sure you're sending the right signals. A smile and a friendly word of greeting can quickly pulverize a lot of emotional concrete. To have friends, a person must first be friendly.

Speak directly to the issue. At an appropriate time, after the careful preparation period of forgiveness, prayer and friendliness, talk with the distant individual. Kindly share your heart with phrases like these: "I feel as though there is some barrier between us; do you feel it?" "Is

In 1997, when my son went to Europe with his university friends, he asked me what I would like to have as a souvenir. I immediately answered, "I want a piece of the Wall!" It sits prominently in my office in a plexiglass case. I look at it often. It reminds me that even the most impossible barriers—tangible and intangible—can be broken down. Nothing is impossible!

What are you going to do with the walls in your life that separate you from others? You can maintain them with impossibility thinking, or you can begin today to bring them down. ■

14th Annual Theological Conference

By Sarah Buzzard

About 120 people from four nations attended the 14th Theological Conference at Cornerstone Bible Church, April 29-May 1. It was a full weekend, with 12 main speakers as well as many shorter “faith stories” from participants. There was rich fellowship, with many new people to meet as well as familiar faces from previous years.

The conference opened with two presentations on the importance of honesty toward God. Dan Mages of California pleaded for “Intellectual Honesty and Authenticity Among the People of God,” and Mark Ideta spoke about honesty and integrity in the book of Job. He reminded us that “God-talk matters”: what we say about God is vitally important. Eddie Garrett of Florida spoke about his journey of faith as a minister in the Baptist, Church of Christ and Pentecostal churches. He also gave a PowerPoint presentation of key biblical unitarian Scriptures.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Richard Rubenstein, the author of *When Jesus Became God*, who



Bill Wachtel

laid out clearly the struggles in theology between Bishops Arius and Athanasius and their followers in the 4th century which led to the acceptance of the doctrine of the Trinity by orthodoxy. Dr. Rubenstein presented a second lecture on the revolutionary spirituality of the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah. He is also a jazz pianist, and delighted us with an impromptu performance of “Georgia on My Mind.”

Several of the speakers focused on issues of Christology. Greg Demmitt of Arizona presented



Dr. Richard Rubenstein

extensive quotations from Barton Stone and Alexander Campbell, founders of the Church of Christ, proving that they were not Trinitarians. Ray Faircloth of England showed us from the Bible why Jesus cannot be Michael the Archangel. His paper is a useful tool for talking to Jehovah’s Witnesses. Dustin Smith, a student at Atlanta Bible College, presented a biblical view of the opening verses of the book of John. Bill Wachtel of Washington gave a paper on the passage in Philippians 2

where Jesus is said to be in “the form of God.”

Steve Taylor reminded us of the power of “The Message-Driven Church,” focused on the foundational message of the Kingdom of God and the things concerning Jesus. Robert Hach of Florida spoke on “The Biblical Concept of Mediation,” arguing that the “word,” the Gospel of the Kingdom, mediates God’s presence on the earth. Anthony Buzzard examined “The Revolutionary Words of the Angel Gabriel to Daniel and Mary” in the prophecy of Daniel 9 and the description of Jesus in Luke 1:35.

We had many “faith stories,” when people presented their journey of faith thus far, and described where their search for truth had led them. It was exciting to have John Mevik from Norway, who has translated Anthony Buzzard’s book *The Doctrine of the Trinity: Christianity’s Self-Inflicted Wound* into Norwegian. We were blessed to meet Linda Limbe, who traveled from Malawi and gave a moving account



Pastor Ozzie Pursell

(Continued on page 13)

Tom Fischhaber came to Atlanta Bible College in 2003 following his retirement from a 23-year Air Force military career. He was last stationed in Spokane, Washington prior to his move to Atlanta.

A native of Michigan, Tom was brought up in a different denomination and remembers feeling a faint but growing call to the ministry. But as he approached high school and adulthood he “fell away.” While still in the Air Force, Tom attended a non-trinitarian home fellowship with his wife Karen. But while he agreed with their position on that issue, there arose various questions in his mind regarding other beliefs of the group. Sadly, the fellowship leaders were not open to discuss and study these issues.

Tom and Karen felt they needed more, so they moved on in search of another Unitarian group. Ultimately, they heard Anthony Buzzard’s radio program and were very intrigued. They looked up the statement of faith for the Church of God and found themselves very much in agreement. The website also spoke of a college in Atlanta, Georgia – Atlanta Bible College. They felt God moving decisively from that point.

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of her work with the ladies at our churches in the villages there. Alex Hall and Delroy Gayle of London gave a report on their work in England. There was a lot of laughter as well as serious interaction. The conference concluded with the Sunday service.

Tom graduated from Atlanta Bible College in May, 2005 with a Bachelor of Theology degree. During his time at the Bible college he also has very ably served as Maintenance Supervisor. Tom will be moving to Virginia to pastor the Fair Oaks Church near Washington, D.C. in June. We recently asked Tom to reflect upon his time at Atlanta Bible College.

1. What are your plans for the future?

“I graduated but am not finished with learning. There is so much yet to learn and experience. I am excited and apprehensive all at the same time. I am not sure what to expect; I just plan to let the Lord guide me. I think we have a very good core group at Fair Oaks Community Church. They have been very good and faithful servants, without a pastor, for a long time. There are some challenges we will have to work out. For instance, we are going to be a pretty small group. We have no youth and therefore no youth group for new families coming in. That will take time and the Lord’s leading to work out. I have a good support group in the pastors and churches in the valley. There is much experience there that I hope to draw from, so I am excited about that as well.

Kent Ross preached an inspiring sermon on “Finishing Well and Thriving” from Jesus’ final prayer in John 17.

The Theological Conference is a time of encouragement and fellowship, interaction and biblical discussion. Everyone is welcome.

All in all, I am ready to go. Strangely, I have never formed an attachment to my home here or the Atlanta area. I have been without my wife - my better half – for four months because of her employment in the Washington, D.C. area. This has caused me to feel incomplete for some time, so I am looking forward to getting re-acquainted.”

2. How do you see your ABC experience helping you in what lies ahead?

“Overall, Atlanta Bible College has been a good experience for me. I have met a lot of good people from all over the world. I have gained some fresh insights, and new perspectives on things. I have learned a tremendous amount—not just from my studies, but from the people I have studied under and with. Seeing different people and how they act and react has been helpful in building a mental model of who I want to be and how I should handle different situations. I have also gained a better understanding of how other people think, what they esteem, and their catch-phrases and idiosyncrasies. If I had just stayed home and studied on my own I would never have had these insights or experiences.” ■

We hope to see you next year!

DVDs of the sessions are available from Steve Taylor at

staylor@abc-coggc.org.

The papers are available for \$10 for the set from Jill Taylor. Contact her at jillt@abc-coggc.org. ■

Finance

Income Budget Report for April, 2005

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>March Variance</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS:				
General Contributions	310,900	234,171	-76,729	-75,714
Building Our Future Campaign	0	174,155	174,155	132,720
BOF Challenge Gift	0	-80,000		
BOF General Membership Response	0	-79,785		
BOF Alumni Association Response	0	-14,370		
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	4,167	2,849	-1,318	-87
ABC Boosters	15,583	13,758	-1,825	-932
Subtotal	330,650	424,933	94,283	55,987
SALES:				
Christian Education Materials	30,250	25,792	-4,458	-1,633
Books	35,000	19,491	-15,509	-13,387
Restitution Herald	5,000	854	-4,146	-3,646
Age to Come Media Products	1,667	230	-1,437	-1,306
Theological Journal	1,559	268	-1,291	-1,135
Sale of Assets	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	73,476	46,635	-26,841	-21,107
ABC:				
Tuition	165,376	112,504	-52,872	-38,065
Korean Extension Tuition	65,583	115,448	49,865	56,423
Lodging	48,959	47,210	-1,749	2,437
Washers/Dryers	1,693	1,022	-671	-1,120
Rentals - ABC Plant	3,850	5,220	1,370	1,440
Late Fees/Rent	6,000	5,301	-699	-1,013
Fees	10,000	3,883	-6,117	-5,257
Subtotal	301,460	290,588	-10,872	14,846
PROGRAM INCOME:				
Conferences & Workshops	25,000	29,342	4,342	-26,061
Subtotal	25,000	29,342	4,342	-26,061
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Interest	833	0	-833	-750
Transferred In	25,000	30,400	5,400	7,185
Subtotal	25,833	30,400	4,567	6,435
Income Total	756,419	821,898	65,479	30,100

Building Our Future Campaign

Total contributions since inception (2003) 202,769

■ These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2004 through June, 2005

■ The 'Budget' column in each report shows the year-to-date portion of the annual budget for each line item.

■ The 'Variance' column in each report shows the difference between the amount budgeted and the amount actually received (income) or spent (expense). A positive number in this column means the income or expense is better than budgeted. A negative number in this column means the income or expense is worse than budgeted.

Finance

Expense Budget Report for April, 2005

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>March Variance</u>
STAFF:				
Salaries & Wages	393,469	393,015	454	1,266
F.I.C.A. Tax	4,583	4,511	71	74
Employee Benefits	84,597	71,762	12,835	11,833
Subtotal	482,648	469,288	13,360	13,173
SERVICES:				
Assistance to Churches	31,583	23,800	7,783	6,725
Ministerial Association	8,000	7,200	800	800
Youth Program	4,167	4,167	0	0
Subtotal	43,750	35,167	8,583	7,525
SALES EXPENSE:				
Printing & Binding	25,000	20,540	4,460	2,624
Postage & Shipping	13,333	8,985	4,348	4,492
Media Production Expenses	0	0	0	0
Book Store	15,000	12,265	2,735	2,467
Royalties	126	0	126	113
Subtotal	53,459	41,790	11,669	9,696
ABC:				
Clayton Rebate	1,667	0	1,667	1,500
Advertising--Recruitment	833	2,183	-1,350	-1,317
ABC Korean Extension Support	19,583	29,455	-9,872	-11,830
Library Periodicals	1,250	1,125	125	39
Library Books	0	68	-68	-24
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	333	585	-252	-285
Staff Training	833	2,180	-1,347	-607
Subtotal	24,499	35,596	-11,097	-12,525
ADMINISTRATION:				
Travel	20,833	20,687	146	142
Motor Vehicles	1,667	2,004	-337	67
Office Supplies & Expense	10,000	11,455	-1,455	-1,164
Professional Services	8,333	6,941	1,392	1,378
Telephone	17,500	18,003	-503	-198
Insurance - Non Plant	417	127	290	248
Supplies & Expense	2,083	2,075	8	-124
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	16,667	20,372	-3,705	-3,732
Subtotal	77,500	81,664	-4,164	-3,383
PLANT EXPENSES:				
Utilities	23,333	27,508	-4,175	-1,859
Insurance - Property	11,667	13,613	-1,946	259
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	2,500	2,522	-22	-676
Furniture & Equipment	2,500	6,942	-4,442	-4,692
Supplies/Expenses Plant	5,000	4,112	888	1,040
Subtotal	45,000	54,697	-9,697	-5,928
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Interest	23,333	23,422	-89	-107
Other	5,833	4,343	1,490	1,470
Subtotal	29,166	27,765	1,401	1,362
Expense Total	756,021	745,967	10,054	9,920
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	398	75,931	75,533	40,020

Finance—Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 adopted by the delegates at the 2004 Summer Conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

Income

1. **General Contributions** – non-specific giving by individuals, churches, and conferences
2. **G. C. – Devises & Bequests** – the College/Conference is the recipient of annuity payments on a contract of a deceased member
3. **ABC Boosters** – an annual giving program that raises funds for the College
4. **Christian Education Materials** – includes all sales of Quarterlies & Kingdom Quest materials
5. **Restitution Herald** – the *Restitution Herald* has been combined with the *Progress Journal* and is no longer subscription based
6. **Age to Come Media Products** – video products and study aides being produced by the Conference
7. **Theological Journals – A Journal From the Radical Reformation** is currently \$24/year
8. **Sale of Assets** – non-recurring sales of property or assets
9. **Tuition** – income is based upon growth in enrollment and increased tuition rate
10. **ABC Korean Extension Tuition** – income is based upon growth in enrollment and increased tuition rate
11. **Lodging** – rent received from residential properties of the College
12. **Washers/Dryers** – income from laundry facilities in apartment building
13. **Rentals – ABC Plant** – rent received from use of the administration building
14. **Late Fees/Rent** – interest income, registration and other fees from students
15. **Fees** – charges for specific programs for college students, such as seminars or educational events
16. **ABCDF Transfer In** – transfer of investment income from the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation. *This transfer will be suspended in FY 2004-2005 because of declines in the stocks, bonds, and other assets that make up the Foundation. Transfers will be suspended until asset values recover to \$1,000,000 level*
17. **Interest** – money earned on checking account through the year
18. **Other** – miscellaneous income and revenues from seminars or training events
19. **Transferred In** – amounts transferred in from Restricted Funds for Missions Support & income from the Church Builders Appeal designated for Atlanta

Bible College

Expenses

1. **Salaries and Wages** – compensation for all full-time and part-time staff, student employees, paid committee staff, and some writers/editors for publications. Full-time staff in the Atlanta area are co-employed by ADP, an employment service that provides tax compliance, legal compliance assistance, employment services, and benefit provisions
2. **FICA Tax** – required payment of employer taxes on all employees not covered by ADP.
3. **Employee Benefits** – tax coverage, health insurance premiums, Workers compensation, and other charges for co-employed ADP employees, as well as conference premiums for Ministers' Voluntary Retirement Association for some employees
4. **Assistance to Churches** – funds provided to churches granted Church Development Aid
5. **Ministerial Association** – support for programs and expenses of the Ministerial Association
6. **Youth Program** – funding to subsidize the cost of Turning Point Youth Ministries and the summer FUEL event
7. **Printing and Binding** – includes all materials printed by the College/Conference, such as Kingdom Quest, and the binding of permanent materials for the Library
8. **Postage and Shipping** – shipping charges for the Progress Journal, the Restitution Herald, A Journal from the Radical Reformation, tracts, books, and all correspondence
9. **Media Production Expense** – costs of consumable supplies used by media operations – these costs are being paid out of other budget line accounts
10. **Book Store** – textbooks and other materials, which are purchased for resale
11. **Royalties** – fees paid for copyrighted material used in our publications
12. **Clayton Rebates** – during the first three semesters of education, ABC students who attend Clayton College and State University are eligible for a rebate to help offset the out of state tuition until they can establish residency
13. **Advertising – Recruitment** – includes newspaper, television, radio advertising (Telephone calls, travel, printing, and postage are included under other line items)
14. **ABC Korean Extension Support** –

expenses associated with the providing for the expense budget of the ABC Korean Extension

16. **Library Periodicals** – journals and other magazines for the Library collection
17. **Library Books** – newly published books are acquired to keep the Library collection up to date
18. **Staff Periodicals, Books & Dues** – a small allowance is provided to staff to purchase resource material for classes and to participate in professional organizations
19. **Staff Training** – staff members are provided opportunities to enhance their skills in areas associated with their responsibilities
21. **Travel** – includes travel for Board members, advisory committees, special boards and committees, student groups, and staff
22. **Motor Vehicles** – license plates, insurance, and maintenance for vehicles
23. **Office Supplies & Expense** – paper, printer cartridges, stationary, envelopes, etc., and includes supplies for Kingdom Quest and other products
24. **Professional Services** – costs of annual audit, as required by the Constitution and annual fees to accrediting association
25. **Telephone** – basic and long distance service, including the cost of all “800” number calls which are provided toll free to the caller; also includes internet data lines
26. **Insurance – Non-Plant** – liability insurance for employees and directors
27. **Supplies & Expense** – printing supplies, paper products, and other operational expenses
28. **Repairs & Maintenance – non-plant** – maintenance agreements and repairs for office and library equipment, Kingdom Quest printers
29. **Utilities** – costs of electricity, water, etc.
30. **Insurance – Property** – costs of insurance for facilities
31. **Repairs/Maint/Plant** – costs for plant support and maintenance
32. **Furniture and Equipment** – includes all furniture, software, computers, and office machines
33. **Supplies/Exp Plant** – cleaning supplies, restroom supplies, etc.
34. **Interest** – interest paid on funds borrowed from Restricted Funds
35. **Other** – miscellaneous charges

Proposed Budgets for General Conference

Expense	Adopted Budget	Amended Budget	Proposed Budget
	FY '05-'06	FY '05-'06	FY '06-'07
STAFF:			
Salaries & Wages	\$495,769	\$484,320	\$474,320
F.I.C.A. Tax	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500
Employee Benefits	\$118,985	\$88,152	\$94,152
Subtotal	\$620,254	\$577,972	\$573,972
SERVICES:			
Assistance to Churches	\$37,900	\$29,000	\$24,000
Ministerial Association	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600
Youth Program	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$59,500	\$50,600	\$43,600
SALES EXPENSE:			
Printing & Binding	\$35,000	\$28,000	\$29,000
Postage & Shipping	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$16,000
Media Production Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Book Store	\$22,000	\$14,000	\$16,000
Royalties	\$150	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$77,150	\$57,000	\$61,000
ABC:			
Clayton Rebate	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Advertising--Recruitment	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$4,000
ABC Korean Extension Support	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$35,000
Library Periodicals	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Library Books	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	\$400	\$700	\$702
Staff Training	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Subtotal	\$39,400	\$42,700	\$47,702
ADMINISTRATION:			
Travel	\$27,500	\$30,000	\$32,000
Motor Vehicles	\$2,200	\$2,800	\$2,000
Office Supplies & Expense	\$14,400	\$15,000	\$16,000
Professional Services	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,500
Telephone	\$23,000	\$22,500	\$23,500
Insurance - Non Plant	\$600	\$600	\$600
Supplies & Expense	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,200
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	\$21,000	\$25,000	\$26,000
Subtotal	\$102,700	\$109,900	\$114,800
PLANT EXPENSES:			
Utilities	\$29,400	\$32,000	\$33,000
Insurance - Property	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$16,000
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Furniture & Equipment	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,000
Supplies/Expenses Plant	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$60,400	\$62,000	\$63,000
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Interest	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000
Other	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$7,000
Subtotal	\$35,000	\$34,000	\$35,000
Expense Total	\$994,404	\$934,172	\$939,074
Income less Expense	\$4,265	\$65,011	-\$61,287
80% Previous Year Surplus/Deficit		\$15,534	\$64,436
GRAND TOTAL		\$80,545	\$3,150

FY2005-2006 & FY2006-2007 Budgets	Adopted Budget	Amended Budget	Proposed Budget
	FY '05-'06	FY '05-'06	FY '06-'07
Income			
CONTRIBUTIONS:			
General Contributions	\$410,388	\$300,000	\$375,000
Building Our Future Campaign		\$297,231	
BOF Challenge Gift			
BOF General Membership			
BOF Alumni Association			
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
ABC Boosters	\$20,570	\$13,000	\$15,000
Subtotal	\$435,958	\$615,231	\$395,000
SALES:			
Christian Education Materials	\$36,300	\$33,852	\$37,237
Books	\$50,400	\$22,000	\$25,000
Restitution Herald	\$6,000	\$0	\$0
Age to Come Media Products	\$2,000	\$300	\$1,000
Theological Journal	\$2,057	\$300	\$800
Sale of Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$96,757	\$56,452	\$64,037
ABC:			
Tuition	\$238,140	\$125,000	\$156,250
Korean Extension Tuition	\$88,900	\$115,000	\$161,000
Lodging	\$64,625	\$52,000	\$59,800
Washers/Dryers	\$2,437	\$1,200	\$1,400
Rentals - ABC Plant	\$4,852	\$5,600	\$6,500
Late Fees/Rent	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$5,000
Fees	\$13,000	\$4,400	\$6,000
Subtotal	\$416,954	\$308,700	\$395,950
PROGRAM INCOME:			
Conferences & Workshops	\$30,000	\$11,000	\$15,000
Subtotal	\$30,000	\$11,000	\$15,000
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Interest	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Transferred In	\$18,000	\$6,800	\$6,800
Subtotal	\$19,000	\$7,800	\$7,800
Income Total	\$998,669	\$999,183	\$877,787

Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College Proposed Budgets

The document on this page is displayed for Church of God delegates to review for voting during the annual summer General Conference.

How to Read:

	This column presents originally adopted budget for 2005-06	This column presents changes to adopted budget finances for 2005-06	This column presents proposed budget for 2006-07.
	Adopted Budget	Amended Budget	Proposed Budget
General Contributions	\$410,388	\$300,000	\$375,000

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown – Thelma Davenport (4/05) by Pastor Tom New

Georgia

Cornerstone – Amy Littler (5/1/05) by Sean Finnegan

Ohio

Troy View – Jacob Darby (2/13/05) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman; Natalie Green and Justin Green (4/3/05) by Joe

Martin and Greg Green; Jeff Greer (4/17/05) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman

Deaths

Indiana

North Salem – Marguerite White, 92 (12/2/04)

Ohio


Bedford – Helen Calahan, 85 (5/6/05), member from the former Glad Tidings Chapel (Dayton), and later, the Brush Creek Church (Tipp City), by Pastor Rex Cain

Job Opening This Fall...

The position of Apartment Managers) is available for Atlanta Bible College. These important people are key members of our College staff. A couple is preferred where one or both are enrolled in the College. If you are interested in the position, please contact Gary Burnham at 404-362-0052 or send an e-mail to info@abc-coggc.org


Church Builder News Update ...The Fall Church Builder's Appeal that was designated for Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN was one of the most successful appeals ever with \$20,000 given. A special thanks to all who contributed to this appeal and a challenge to others to contribute to this important support ministry. Our current appeal is a Mission's Appeal for the work in Peru. Thank you for your continued support in this ministry.

Turning Point Youth Ministries presents:



FUEL 2005


Open Waters



July 17-22, 2005
at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana

Student rate: \$320 **Early Discount rate: \$280**
Youth Worker rate: \$255 **Early Discount rate: \$215**

Must be postmarked by June 17 for the Early Discount rate
Turning Point Youth Ministries,
Box 100,000, 5823 Trammell Rd, Morrow, GA 30260
Visit www.tpym.com/fuel.htm for more information, or call 678-357-7693



Prayer & Praise

September 2005

- 1 **Pray for the youth of your local church and the General Conference.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor John and Gayle Guthrie and their work at East Oregon, Illinois.
- 3 **Praise God for the growth of the Maple Grove congregation in Kokomo, Indiana.**
- 4 Pray that God might be praised through your worship today.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Cheryl Swartz and the congregation at Litchfield, Minnesota.**
- 6 Praise God for the faithful ministry of Pastor Emory Macy in Weiser, Idaho.
- 7 **Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.**
- 8 Pray that God would continue to financially bless the work of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College.
- 9 **Praise God for the gift of His Son.**
- 10 Praise God for His daily mercies.
- 11 **Pray for the outreach of Beder Ucanay in Lima, Peru.**
- 12 Praise God for the beauty of each season.
- 13 **Pray for retired pastors and their spouses.**
- 14 Pray for spiritual renewal and growth for students preparing for ministry.
- 15 **Praise God for the prayer partners and financial supporters of the General Conference.**
- 16 Pray for your church family and for spiritual growth.
- 17 **Praise God for Tracy Savage Zhykhovich and her ministry in Russia.**
- 18 Pray for your own personal desire to love God more.
- 19 **Pray for mission work in the Philippine Islands.**
- 20 Pray for your family and your friends.
- 21 **Pray for ABC students as they prepare for ministry.**
- 22 Pray for all the faithful pastors and workers in Malawi.
- 23 **Pray for those who are seeking God's will for their lives.**
- 24 Pray for church workers in India.
- 25 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Connie Ramsey and the Cool Spring Church in Virginia.**
- 26 Praise God for His Word which provides guidance for your life.
- 27 **Pray that you will let your light shine for Christ.**
- 28 Praise God for new believers in your church family.
- 29 **Pray for the faith to stand firm when temptation comes.**
- 30 Pray for the soon return of Christ and that you will remain faithful.

Church News

Elder Paul Holden of the Resurrection Hope Church in Lenoir, North Carolina prayed for many years that he would see the Lord grant our College, Atlanta Bible College, 100 students, and he did. Brother Holden fell asleep on March 16, 2005. This poem is printed in his honor as he quoted it word for word and cried with joy while doing so one Wednesday evening at Bible Study when the topic was the Kingdom of God. Paul is missed greatly. Our hope to see him again is all the more reason to pray "thy kingdom come!"

I climbed the brow of a loft hill
On a beautiful summer's day
And gazed on the lovely landscape
That smiling before me lay;
On the verdant and blooming meadows
And the woods with their deeper green,
On the richly waving cornfields
And white cottages between.

I saw through the peaceful valley
The winding river run,
With its waters flashing like silver
In the rays of the morning sun;
And far in the distance lending
"Enchantment to the view,"
The misty hills were blending
With the sky's ethereal blue.

Then I saw on the banks of the river
Half hidden among the trees,
The gleam of marble tombstones,
Death's silent witnesses.
And I thought of my loved ones sleeping so calmly and peacefully there.
And I said, "The trail of the serpent is over the landscape fair."

Then I thought of a land of promise
In the prophet's vision seen,
And the beautiful river flowing
Through fields of perennial green;
The River of Life whose waters
The Golden city have,

Where Life's Tree with its leaves of healing waves over
no loved one's grave.

A beautiful realm of glory!
A Paradise restored!
Prepared for the saints immortal
At the coming of Christ our Lord;
I hope to stand with thy
blood-washed throng whom Jesus died to save,
and join in the glad triumphant song
In that land without a grave.

Geo. A. Collins

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Church News continued

Simple Teachings Bible Church Update...

It has been two years since Simple Teachings Bible Church has been planted as a new church plant, and the only thing that I can say is that everything is going the way that God wants it to go. If anyone asks how the ministry is going, I would say that things are going well. Even though things don't always go the way you plan for it to go, I have learned to accept what the Bible says, "many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is God's plans that ultimately prevail." At Simple Teachings we understand that "everything works for the good of those who love the Lord and who are called by His name".

Since the start of this ministry, the church has grown from five people to over 50 members and has seen 150 visitors at one time for several months. That's progress! We have come from a one room section of building, having church service then breaking down and setting up for

Wednesday night Bible Study and dinner to setting back up again to have family night and then setting back up again to have Sunday service. Now, God has blessed us with a three room section of a building with a nursery, a classroom for our youth and a sanctuary for church service. God is good!

God has done this for us without any help from Simple Teaching's members, so we can't take credit for any of it. Most of our members when they came to Simple Teach-



ings did not have a job, which means they didn't have any money either, and within six months of being involved with this ministry, they all have jobs. Most of the members did not have a relation-

ship with Christ: now they do and are involved in the ministry in every way. To show you how God has blessed this ministry, the members' financial contribution to this ministry on a monthly basis is about \$1200, and our rent is \$1595.00 a month. This does not include a partial salary or other things that we need. Ask how we do it all, I'll say "GOD DID IT!"

Simple Teachings has developed several ministries one of which is an outreach ministry which invites non-Christians to church functions such as fun night, movie night, BBQ parties or poolside parties to encourage the youth to come to church. I must be honest and tell you that it is not easy and the results don't come quick and it's challenging, but also so rewarding. The members enjoy witnessing to others and they get a chance to see how much the world needs God.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Pastor Rufus Meyers ■

RESTITUTION HERALD

Atlanta Bible College's Fall Semester Begins!

& Progress Journal

From the CAO

According to the calendar, summer won't be over until 3 weeks from now, but school is back in session! Atlanta Bible College has begun our Fall Semester! We have a large number of new faces from new places among this semester's student body. From the pictures on these surrounding pages, you can see that we have a great looking group of new and returning students eager to learn more about God and the Gospel. Our pre-semester Orientation sessions were held Friday night and Saturday morning August 19 and 20, 2005, and classes began on August 22, 2005.



An international student body! Left to right: Dorcas from Kenya—Josh, Jenny, Nikki, and Daniel from Ohio

As we have previously reported, we had our largest ever graduating class last semester, with 11 students receiving their Bachelor's degree. We also had more than 20 students that decided or were unable to return to school for various reasons this fall. That number of departing students leaves a big hole to fill. At this time we have 47 students in our regular program and 60 students in the Korean Extension program. Although we have fewer students than last year, the number of hours taken by the average student has increased. These numbers will change as students change their status during the semester and as additional students register for block classes and the second half of the Bible survey courses. We continue to be disappointed by the number of foreign students that are denied permission to enter the United States to attend class. Of the 29 students accepted by ABC, only 2 were granted visas by the State Department. Continue to pray for God to work in this area. It has been my pleasure to speak in the first chapel

service of each semester here at the College. A brief excerpt is provided from that message to the students in the space below.



These books must be read by Monday!

Our facility is now used for class and/or church services 7 days a week, with the building frequently in use from 8:00 a.m. till 9:00 p.m. Accommodating all these various activities in our facility is an increasing challenge. However, these types of issues resulting from growth and the addition of new ministries are problems we are glad to have! This

(Continued on page 3)

Excerpt from Chapel sermon:

Are you confident that God is at the helm of your ship on the sea of life? As you begin your time here at the College or return for another semester, I challenge you to seek God's direction for this semester and beyond. Look for His guidance in what you should do. Each one of you will hopefully have the opportunity to ask yourself "What does God intend for me?" "Where does God want me to be?" "How

have I been equipped to work in the body of the church?" Providing our students the opportunity to ask these questions is critical to the work of the College. I am more and more convinced that the educational activities of ABC are only a part of the mission that God has given to the staff to accomplish. The other portion of our ministry is to provide each student—each one of you—the opportunity to ask the questions of "Where does God want me to be?" or "How has He

gifted me to work for Him?" When you feel you have the answers to these questions, the College and the staff stand ready to deliver the education and training you need to flourish in the ministry to which God is leading you. I believe the members of the staff will be most true to God's calling and best meet the needs of the students when our primary concern is not "How much do you know?" We need to focus on the question "How much can you grow?" ■

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THE RESTITUTION HERALD ADVOCATES:

- THE ONENESS OF GOD (1 COR. 8:6);
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S POWER (ACTS 1:8);
- JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (MATT. 16:16), AND IS OUR MEDIATOR (1 TIM. 2:5);
- THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (2 TIM. 3:16);
- THE MORTALITY OF MAN (JOB 4:17; PSA. 146:4);
- THE NEAR RETURN OF CHRIST (ACTS 1:11), AND LIFE ONLY THROUGH HIM (COL. 3:3);
- THE LITERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (JOHN 5:28);
- THE IMMORTALIZATION OF THOSE IN CHRIST (1 COR. 15:53, 54);
- THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED (REV. 21:8);
- THE FINAL RESTORATION OF ISRAEL AS THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNDER THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST (LUKE 1:32);
- THE CHURCH TO BE JOINT HEIRS WITH HIM (ROM. 8:17), AND ISRAEL TO BE MADE HEAD OVER GENTILE NATIONS (ISA. 60:1-3);
- THE "RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS WHICH GOD HATH SPOKEN BY THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS HOLY PROPHETS SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN" (ACTS 3:21).
- IT ALSO FIRMLY ADVOCATES REPENTANCE AND IMMERSION IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS (ACTS 2:38), AND A CONSECRATED LIFE AS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.

The Restitution Herald & Progress Journal

The General Conference is seeking articles that will teach, inspire, and encourage our readers. If God has placed a subject on your heart, please send your submissions or any questions to the Publishing Department. We also encourage letters to the Editor in response to articles.

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Articles are accepted on a continuous basis and will be published as space and magazine topics allow.



We've updated our Web site!
Check out our new look and
updated Information at:

www.abc-coggc.org

About the Author:

Tim Jones is the current Chief Administrative Officer and President of Atlanta Bible College.

(Continued from page 1)

issue of the Herald/Journal contains information about the people that are diligently working to make our Korean Extension a success. God has truly blessed us with the growth of the program, both in number of students and the numbers and dedication of the staff. To make our facility look its best, the staff took one day this month and cleaned, scrubbed, and polished our campus and buildings. The place looked really great as a reward for our efforts. It also provided some memorable moments, such as

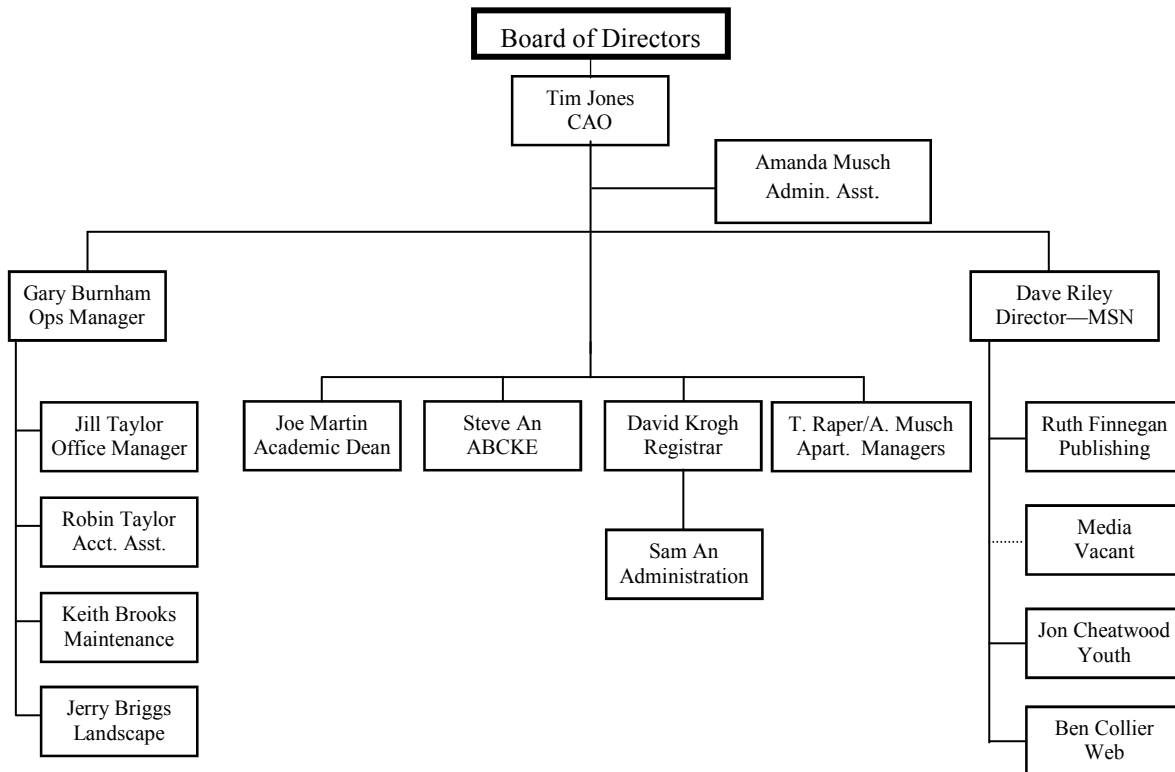
watching the height-phobic CAO clinging to a ladder some 18 feet in the air, while trying to get all the streaks off the newly cleaned windows!

This issue of our magazine contains information and pictures from the summer's major events for the General Conference/College – FUEL for our young people in Upland, Indiana, and the Annual Conference meeting held in Atlanta. You may also visit our web site for additional information on the College program and other activities. Many of you have had the pleasure of working with Marcy Cly during the last 5 years. Marcy decided to accept a job with the US Census Bureau and gave her notice effective the end

of July. She still drops by to visit us regularly! We will miss Marcy and her contributions, and wish her well in the new job. Two new employees that have joined our staff, Robin Taylor and Amanda Musch, are introduced in this issue. We have included our current organizational chart that shows you the members of the staff and their roles and responsibilities. Please let us know how we can be of assistance to you in your local community. We are greatly saddened by the great damage and destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. We pray for our members and churches, and hope that you pray regularly for us. May God continue to work with us all. ■

In His Service,
Tim

General Conference Organizational Chart – August, 2005



General Conference Minutes

Minutes from the Delegate Session—July 11, 2005

Chairman Michael Hoffman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Pastor David Cheatwood offered opening prayer. Chairman Hoffman welcomed first time delegate Diane Richardson and then offered his Chairman's message.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Chairman Hoffman opened the floor for nominations to the Board of Directors. The following individuals were nominated to fulfill two upcoming vacancies on the board:

- 1) Pastor Jeff Fletcher by the Ministerial Association
- 2) Rob Helenburg by the Virginia Conference
- 3) Charles Bottolffs by the Louisiana Conference

Joe James moved the nominations for the Board of Directors be closed. Pastor Dale Swartz seconded. The motion carried.

CAO Tim Jones presented the annual report and the budget report. Of note, is that the total giving for the 2004-2005 fiscal year was \$468,326.00, the largest amount of contributions to the General Fund in the history of the organization. CAO Jones next reviewed the budget for 2005-2006. He noted that the previously adopted income budget was for \$998,669. He asked that the delegates approve an amended income budget for \$999,183.

After a break for refreshments, the meeting resumed with reports about the previous year from the various departments within the General Conference. Dr. Joe Martin reported on the progress of Atlanta Bible College. Pastor Steve An

reported on the progress of Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension. David Krogh reported on the progress of Lord's Harvest International. Rebekah Martin reported on the progress of the African Initiatives. Dave Riley reported on the progress of the Ministry Services Network. Jon Cheatwood reported on the progress of Turning Point Youth Ministries.

Chairman Hoffman then read a constitutional amendment proposed by the Board of Directors. The proposed amendment would allow a member of the board of directors to succeed him or herself for a second term. Currently, a director may not succeed him/herself. Pastor David Cheatwood made a motion for the delegates to discuss the proposed amendment. Pastor Alan Cain seconded and the motion carried. Chairman Hoffman then opened the floor to discussion. Discussion of the amendment then followed. Rob Helenburg made a motion to table the amendment until the delegate meeting on July 12, 2005. Pastor Jeff Fletcher seconded, and the motion carried.

Pastor Alan Cain made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Roger Crocker. Chairman Hoffman reminded everyone that the delegate meeting would reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on July 12, 2005 and closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Anders
Board Secretary



Minutes from the Delegates Session— July 12, 2005

Chairman Michael Hoffman called the meeting to order and asked Pastor Ray Hall to open the session with prayer. After the prayer, David Riley made a brief announcement about airport transportation for the conference attendees, and reminded everyone in attendance that the LHI auction would be closing for bids at 6:30 in the evening on July 12, 2005.

The minutes from the delegate meeting on July 11, 2005 were then read to the delegates by Andrea Anders, Board Secretary. After some corrections were made to the minutes, Carolyn Smead moved for approval of the corrected minutes. Pastor Alan Cain seconded and the motion to approve the amended minutes from the July 11, 2005 delegate meeting carried.

Chairman Hoffman then called for the delegates to vote to elect two of the three gentlemen who were nominated as candidates for the Board of Directors. Pastor Jeff Fletcher and Rob Helenburg were elected to the Board of Directors.

Chairman Hoffman then noted that the delegates needed to vote on the 2005-2006 amended budget and the 2006-2007 proposed budget. Paul Duncan moved that the delegates accept the 2005-2006 amended budget and the 2006-2007 proposed budget. Roger Crocker seconded the motion. Discussion followed and the motion to approve the 2005-2006 amended budget and the 2006-2007 proposed budget carried.

Pastor Greg Demmit then moved that the motion to table the discussion of the proposed constitutional amendment be taken

(Continued on page 16)

Delegates and members from around the Church of God joined together on July 10-12 for the 85th Annual General Conference held at Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA. The Conference started with a cookout followed by two days of great fellowship and important business sessions. Conference attendees joined together in



worship in the evenings as God's people shared in a theme of "Purpose and Unity." Pas-

tor Dale Bliss and Pastor Alan Cain gave messages during the evening services encouraging the delegates and their churches. Both Rob Helenburg and Pastor Jeff Fletcher were elected to the General Conference Board of Directors and will serve four year terms. During the delegate sessions, both the Board Chairman Michael Hoffman and CAO Tim Jones delivered messages and annual reports on key ministry areas in the Church of God. Reports from Atlanta Bible College, Ministry Services Network, Korean and Africa Initiatives, The Lord's Harvest International, and Turning Point Youth

Ministries were given. The annual operating budget was adopted. The Atlanta Bible College Alumni Association held their annual meeting on Tuesday evening. There were excellent classes that began the Conference taught by Scott Ross, Bob Jones, and Jeff Fletcher. Outgoing Board of Directors members Pastor Larry Mayberry and Dale Brown were both recognized for their faithful years of service. Several Pastors were recognized for their years of service.

Conference next year will be in South Bend, IN. with Timberland Bible Church as the host. ■

Chairman's Address

By Michael Hoffman

Picture with me, a great big guy, a passionate believer in Jesus Christ, in full leather, bandana, beard and tattoos who sat proudly at a traffic light on his absolutely gorgeous Harley-Davidson bike. This was one of the most beautiful motorcycles in town, not to mention fast. Everything about it displayed power. It was at that moment an older man in his 80's drove up on a moped. He commented on what a beautiful bike the Harley was. "Mind if I take a look?" said the older gentleman. "Go ahead," was the grunted reply. "This sure is a beautiful bike," said the older man. He got within inches of the bike and went over it from top to bottom. "I bet it's fast, too." "You bet," said the owner.

With that the light turned green and the biker popped a wheelie, racing off down the road zero to a hundred in no time flat. Grinning, he looked back to see the old man was just a speck in his mirror. Suddenly, however, the speck grew

larger and larger until the man on the moped went flying past him at incredible speeds. It was amazing. The older man kept going until he was just a speck in the distance and then turned and headed back right toward the Harley. Again, he went zooming past the Harley, this time in the opposite direction until he was just a speck. The biker brought the Harley to a screeching halt, deciding he was going to wait for the old man. The moped came from behind him with amazing speed and slammed right into the back of the Harley crushing both vehicles. The man was thrown from the moped onto the ground and lay there, stunned. The biker started to say, "What is going on?" but stopped, realizing the man might need help. "Old man, are you okay? What can I do to help?" To which the old man replied, "You could start by unhooking my suspenders from your Harley!"

The moral of the story is simply this: Who we are connected to determines, to a great extent, where we are going in life. I must credit

Pastor John Guthrie for giving me that story.

It may appear to you at times that the Board is just a speck, either way out in front of you or way behind. At times it may seem that we have crashed and burned. In our journey along the way, we see some absolutely amazing things. The past year has been amazing to me to see God at work among us. You will better understand the Board and the direction we are headed if you know that our suspenders are connected to the vision statement of 2001 and the new one beginning next year. You will see both of them later as Tim Jones reports to you. We have adopted, accepted and strive to apply those vision statements in our thinking, planning, decision-making and spending. As Delegates, we tend to hear about the vision statements at Conference and then forget about them. The vision statements truly guide the

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

actions of the Board, so I would highly encourage you to become far better informed about them, share them with your churches and ask us often about progress being made to fulfill them.

The Board last year publicly committed to you as Delegates, as a matter of integrity and good stewardship, to have a balanced budget. The efforts of the staff to control costs were successful in keeping expenses less than the budgeted level. But unfortunately a low level of income in the last month of the year caused us to miss our balanced goal by \$8900. This is less than 1% of our total budget of over \$900,000. Although we were disappointed that we were slightly out of balance, especially since we were projecting a positive surplus as the month of June began, I am excited to tell you that our contributions were the highest in our Conference history. All the credit and compliments go to you the membership and the entire staff for their consistent efforts in reducing costs and operating efficiently. Finances are not the only priority of the Board, but they are a major one with long-term impact. We will recommit ourselves to meeting our budget in the upcoming fiscal year. We want the staff to be able to concentrate on their ministry, not be constantly concerned about money. So, as a Board, we have committed to major fund-raising efforts. Obviously you are a big part of that effort with your regular giving and special donations to the Building Our Future campaign. Thank-you for your giving and please do keep it up. God deserves our praise.

We have wrapped up the fourth year of the reorganization. I have the feeling that we have finally leveled off and are operating far more smoothly than in the last 3 years. The learning curve was large. The reorganization created several new positions and a new structure for everyone on staff to learn. We have experienced some incredible growth in student numbers, had to make huge adjustments, faced some daunting challenges and at the same time strived to effectively serve our churches and their needs. That has not always been done perfectly but I sense we are improving weekly. Most recently we are faced with the challenge of a significant turnover in support staff. At least 6 people have moved on through graduation or finding "their dream job." If you do not notice any interruption in service, Tim Jones and the staff again deserve compliments. If you do notice a glitch or two, please be patient as they do their best in this transition time.

I felt led to comment on one complaint I have often heard in the past years. It is often said, no matter what number of students we have enrolled, that we are not graduating enough pastors for the Church of God. I whole-heartedly agree, but I also do not believe for a moment that fact is the fault of anyone at Atlanta Bible College. Though the reasons are no doubt complex, I do not believe blaming the college staff is productive. Blaming them diminishes their ministries which I think is tragic and demoralizing to them. It also diminishes what God is doing through many others who came to

us without a Church of God heritage. I would rather say, probably too bluntly, that we all need to take a hard look at how attractive we make ministry to others, especially our young people. We do that by the ways we treat our pastors; the love and respect we show them, the support we give them, the teamwork we share with them and the prayers we offer on their behalf. They minister in an ever changing world where pastoral ministry has become very different and much more difficult than in the past. We want and need more pastors. May the job be seen as highly attractive, deeply significant and joy filled in the ways we interact with our pastors. Dave Riley will share some good news with you about internships and churches hiring pastors.

As a Board we share in your joys. We also share in your heartaches when there is church conflict or closings. We see God at work in wondrous ways in many different places. You are about to hear some terrific reports. Give praise to God and please do share the good news when you return home. Please keep the Conference and College staff in your prayers.

I'll close with 2 Corinthians 9:8 from the NIV, "*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*" God is able. God be praised. God bless each of you.

Michael Hoffman, Chairman ■

On February 1st of this year, I accepted the position of the Director of Ministry Services at the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed the last five months after being in Pastoral Ministry for 14 years. Although, I still consider myself a Pastor at heart.

To make you aware of what my job description includes, I spend about 50% of my time in Pastoral and Church Support Functions, 20% of my time in College and Teaching Functions, 20% in Management, Administration/Planning and Coordinating, and finally 10% handling whatever may come my way. I work closely with Tim Jones and Gary Burnham and have a passion to offer positive



Dave Riley & Tim Jones at General Conference.

encouragement and spiritual direction to our staff and students. Not that they forget, but I often try and remind everyone on the Staff that we are a spiritual organization with spiritual battles that require spiritual solutions. That is why I spearhead our prayer ministry for pastors, churches, and students as well. I also serve as chairman of the Ministerial Recognition Board, travel as needed to churches, make a lot of phone calls, and attempt to plug the holes that need plugging.

Sounds pretty important doesn't it? Well...I think it is, but in the scope of our Kingdom work, it's ALL important. Your ministry is important and our ministry is serving you and the ministry of the College. And I can honestly say that the staff at ABC/COG works hard to serve you and your churches.

One of my pet peeves is when people refer to the General Conference as "them." The truth is, you are us, and we are you. The General Conference exists to serve Churches, but in reality, we exist to assist churches serve churches.

In the past five months I have been involved in several areas, including the following:

1. Church, Conference, and seminar visitation including Georgia, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Louisiana, and Hawaii. (Oh, actually that one hasn't happened yet.. Church planting possibilities?) My plan will be to travel to Virginia soon, Ohio, and I'm available to come your way if we determine it would be beneficial.
2. Staff Involvement including a Position Description revamping, staff meetings, staff retreats, and prayer days.
3. Assistance with CWS, General Conference, Theological Conference.
4. I have also been in contact with virtually all of our pastors via phone, internet, visits, and mailings. I would also remind you that Clergy Appreciation month is coming up in October, so please remember your pastor and his demanding role in the body of Christ.

5. I also try and support issues such as Church Builder's appeals, Church Planting Ventures, and Church Aid programs.

6. Our Mentoring Programs and Internship Programs are also in better shape today than when I came in February and I'm encouraged by the feeling of renewal there.

7. I'm currently preparing to teach the Basic Bible Doctrine Class at ABC along with the 300 level Church Leadership Course.

To report on specific individuals and their new church locations:

Rob Bernheisel is currently Pastoring the Happy Woods Church of God. Tom Fischhaber is Pastoring at Fair Oaks Community Church in Virginia, John Wincapaw will begin pastoring the Blood River Church of God in Louisiana, Steve Taylor is now Pastoring at Cornerstone Bible Church in Georgia, and Dave Hixon will be Pastoring at the Brush Creek Church of God in Ohio. Sean Finnegan, Andrew Weaver, and Brian Froehlich are all in the beginning stages of their Internships.

This report wouldn't be complete without an assessment of the state of the pastors and churches in the organization. To put it bluntly, there are some great things happening, some okay things happenings, there's a good bit of apathy, and there are a few not-so-good things that have happened. I wish I could tell you that we are growing by leaps and bounds and that all of the pastors are loving their jobs. But I can't, so I won't.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

The work of the Church is filled with blessings and joys, but because there are people associated with that work, there are also challenges and obstacles. I've laughed, cried, experienced frustration, and leaped with enthusiasm in my role so far and I guess that's par for the course. Frankly, the feeling of apathy prevails all too often and I wonder why when someone steps

forward with a God-given vision that they are shot down before even beginning to share it. We have got to stop shooting our wounded and we must start developing a heart for the lost. We must stop worrying about what someone else is doing in their ministry and start becoming passionate about what God is calling us to do. The staff at the Ministry Services department of your Conference and Conference

stands ready to assist you in any way that we can. We need to stop doing things the same old way, and start taking a relevant gospel to a culture and generation that is dying without the truth to set them free. ■

Academic Dean's Report

By Dr. Joe Martin

We had a very good year with over 150 students, 90 students attending Atlanta Bible College and 50 students attending the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension (ABCKE). We also had the largest graduating class with 11 Bachelor degrees awarded, which included 3 Korean and 2 other international students.



General Conference meeting in session.

In the Fall of 2004, there were 30 regular classes taught plus 10 ABCKE and 9 Distance Learning classes. In the Spring of 2005 there were 30 regular classes plus 10 ABCKE and 10 Distance Learning classes. Therefore about 50 classes were taught!

Teachers in order of scheduled

appearance were:

Steve Taylor, Joe Martin, Jon Cheatwood, Gary Burnham, Jogi Mauger, Craig Waggoner, David Krogh, Anthony Buzzard, Rufus Meyers, Myra Montgomery, Alva Huffer, Tim Jones, Rebekah Martin, Scott Deane, Bill Lawrence, Jim Graham, Sean Finnegan, Paul Cook, Gloria Brown.

ABCKE Teachers—Steve An, Bong Jeong, Sun Young Cho, Mi (Amy) Park

NOTE use of Adjuncts. (23 total teachers, ~½ not on ABC staff)

Considerations:

- We are a little crowded for space on Mondays due to all the students.
- We need to enhance the Distance Learning process now that Steve Taylor is gone.
- We will need someone to organize, master, duplicate and coordinate that effort.

Blessings:

- We had a number of students come from New York: Sean & Ruth Finnegan, Victor & Jessica Testa, Amy Littler.
- Several black students are

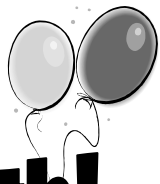
showing promise for possible teaching.

- Dr. John Roller of the Advent Christian church is to teach a class this fall on Church Fathers and Conditional Immortality
- Tim Jones has a good handle on the budget.
- David Krogh is doing a great job with recruitment
- Jill Taylor is on top of managing the student files and overseeing monetary issues.
- Sam An is working with his father, Steve An in the ABCKE Dave Riley will be teaching several courses this year too!

Our Vision Is: To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ...

1. Reach further into the Atlanta community of churches and people
2. Expand Distance Learning for marginal lay pastors and others
3. Enhance spiritual development of all students.

We need to preach and teach the WORD! ■



October is Clergy Appreciation Month!

What is Clergy Appreciation Month?

Clergy Appreciation Month is a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings provided by these special people. It is typically scheduled in October, but can be held at any time that is convenient for the church and the community. It is also important to remember that appreciation and affirmation of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the entire year.



Why is CAM necessary?

The nature of the service provided by pastors and their families is unique. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious of assignments — the spiritual well-being of His flock. When a pastor becomes ineffective, the very souls of his or her parishioners are endangered. When eternity is in the balance, we should all be concerned.

Pastors and their families live under incredible pressures. Their lives are played out in a fishbowl, with the entire congregation and community watching their every move. They are expected to have ideal families, to be perfect people, to always be available, to never be down and to have all the answers we need to keep our own lives stable and moving forward. Those are unrealistic expectations to place on anyone, yet most of us are disappointed when a pastor becomes overwhelmed, seems depressed, lets us down or completely burns out.

That's why God has instructed us to recognize His servants.

The elders who direct the affairs of the church are well worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Timothy 5:17).

The good news is that we can make a difference! Clergy Appreciation Month is one way we can counter the negative erosion in the lives of our spiritual leaders with the positive affirmation they need.

What can we do?

There are two ways to help your pastors and their families feel appreciated.

Figure out what you can do personally to recognize and honor these leaders. A simple card, an invitation to lunch, a promise to pray for them or an offer to babysit, wash a car or mow a lawn make wonderful statements.

Share the concept of CAM with others in your congregation and challenge them to join you in some kind of formal planning. You might consider a special service of affirmation, a potluck event or planting a tree in their honor. The sky is the limit!



FOR MORE IDEAS, VISIT: www.clergyappreciation.org

The Restitution Herald & Progress Journal has permission to print this material taken from Focus on the Family website at: <http://www.family.org/pastor/cam/>

“Sometimes you have to watch somebody love something before you can love it yourself. It is as if they are showing you the way.”¹

Ever thought about what it was like for early explorers to go out to sea? To borrow a phrase, to boldly go where no one has gone before? It intrigues me, because it is somewhat hard for me to imagine here in the 21st century. Let’s try it.

First, you would have tried to prepare yourself for the journey. Not knowing where you will end up, you would want provisions for any known possibility. Your clothing, transportation, food, seed, and shelter would need to be chosen to cover a wide array of possibilities.

Even with careful research, you are not likely to have provisions or the equipment that might be required for every outcome. No one has been there before you, so you are on your own. You can only rely on your training, your preparation, your wits, your strength, your crew, and your God. So off you go into the unknown.

Your departure may well be on a beautiful day, with the sea inviting and welcoming. On such a day, it is harder to imagine that the trip will have any troubles. Dolphins approach your ship as it reaches the open waters and picks up speed, their voices in a chorus of greeting. The wind has caught your sails,

and you are well on your way. What a day!

Seems pretty nice, doesn’t it? I bet that many journeys started like that. The explorers could have congratulated themselves at that point, deciding they had done well, so they could go back to the comforts of home now. But they would not be explorers if that was the case; they would be day-trippers.

“Sometimes you have to watch somebody love something before you can love it yourself. It is as if they are showing you the way.”

Explorers go through unknown territory. They face dangers, troubles, and death. They go through good days and bad. They experience great ups and downs, and they know that both are part of their journey.

Day-trippers are less likely to make great discoveries, because the exploration is not their main commitment. They are just visiting. They see charted territory, the already known.

You know, many of us act like day-trippers in our faith. Rather than going to new places, we are content with visiting faith and visiting God. We go through life doing what we see those around us doing. If a statement about faith does not match our own experience, we stay away, preferring the familiar. If an idea seems counter to our thought, we prefer to ignore it (or argue against it) instead of exploring

it. Author Don Miller tells of having watched a jazz musician playing the saxophone one night. Though Miller did not like jazz, he was able to see the absolute love that the musician had for jazz. After that, he liked jazz.

A spiritual explorer is really a truth seeker. If you are committed to exploring, you see each day as an opportunity to connect with God in new ways. You see each obstacle as a

part of your journey, and you hope that after getting through the trial you will have learned something. You face the open sea, yearning for the endless possibilities instead of staying in the harbor, tooling around in circles.

FUEL 2005 took place in July, and we spent a lot of time exploring the Open Waters. We hope to inspire a generation of faithful explorers. ■

Pictures from this year’s FUEL are printed on the facing page.

¹*Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality* by Don Miller. 2003. Thomas Nelson, Inc.



Fuel Pictures!



Worship, recreation, and a little sumo wrestling! ▶



Memories of FUEL will last a lifetime



◀ 2005 Quizzing Champions 'Bago B.R.A.T.S.



Quizzing All-Stars ▶



Mexico Missions Trip Report

By Rachel Cunningham

A group of ten (Rachel Cunningham, Brian Froehlich, Hope Kirkpatrick, Crystal Moore, Lee Moore, Melody Moore, Amanda Musch, Kim Musch, Judy Myers, and John Tuttle) left from Oregon, Illinois, on Monday morning, August 25, en route to Mexico. (Rachel Carr, the translator, flew in to meet us in Texas). We spent the next few days heading toward Mexico, visiting with other sister churches along the way.

On July 29 we set foot in Mexico. Border crossing went incredibly smoothly (praise God!). The following five days were spent holding a Bible School for the Mexican children at the church in Labor Vieja. After Bible School we would have lunch with Roberto Badillo, the pastor, and Lupe, his wife. A few evenings we had a service as well. We would then return for the night to our motel in Rio Verde.

A few of the team members had some experience with the Spanish language and were able to communicate decently, but I think

we all wished that communication could be better. However, the children seemed to simply enjoy our spending time with them even though communication was not easy without Rachel Carr always present!

The week was very successful.



Roberto and Lupe Badillo with Judy Myers and Rachel Carr

There were some 45 kids every day at Bible School, very eager to learn. Our only real setback for the week was the Mexican food that irritated the tummies of many members, some more than others, but we all

had made full recoveries by the end of the week.

It was so encouraging to see people in another country who worship the same God we do. Roberto and Lupe are so passionate about the ministry and so faithful to the Lord's work. They seemed in fairly good health this summer.

Please pray for the ministry in Labor Vieja, that the Lord will raise up a new leader for the church when Roberto and Lupe are unable to carry on the work. Pray for the children, that they will remember what they were taught and will choose to follow Christ.

Every one of the team members left Mexico feeling richer than when we entered. It was an incredible experience, and I'm sure any one of the team members would be happy to share their personal experiences and pictures with you! Thank you so much for your prayers for this ministry. ■

Please join us in offering praise to God for a successful trip to Mexico again this year. We were sorry that two team members had to drop out at the last minute due to health issues. Aric Rager and Dean Moore were both unable to go and were missed by the rest of the team. The generosity of many made the trip financially possible and we are grateful for that support as well as the prayers offered on our behalf. We could certainly see God at work as we traveled to and from Mexico.

Thanks also to our brothers and

sisters at Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, Missouri, members at Gatesville and Harlingen, Texas and Little Rock, Arkansas for the meals and housing that they provided for our team. We only hope that we provided a blessing to them as they ministered to our needs. It is always good to visit with our church family along the route!

The Badillos ask that we express to everyone how much these trips mean to them and how thankful they are to have "family" here in the States who lift them before the

throne of God. Both of them seem to be in better health this year for which we are also thankful.

One of our team members, Rachel Cunningham is providing a bit more detailed report for your reading. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call me or e-mail me and I will try to answer them. My phone number is 815-732-2751 and my e-mail is jmlhi@aol.com. ■

Judy Myers

Missions Report

Lima, Peru 2005

By David Krogh

A cheering, clapping group of twelve individuals met Bill Wachtel and me when we arrived at the Jorge Chavez Airport in Lima, Peru in April. Even though it was late in the evening, the airport was bustling with much activity. A taxicab was secured and we were driven to a modest hotel in the city.

There were three reasons for this visit: to encourage Pastor Beder Ucanay and his congregation; to provide a series of special Bible classes on 1 Thessalonians and a series of sermons on signs of the end times; and to look for a permanent meeting place for the congregation.

Bible classes were held each afternoon for two hours with much follow-up discussion after the teaching was completed. Church members are serious Bible students and they asked many questions as the classes were conducted. Each evening, the enthusiastic congregation joined in a rousing time of singing, followed by messages on signs in Israel and the nations leading up to the return of Jesus to the earth. Each service lasted two hours. Since the current meeting place is quite small, a large canopy was erected each night outside the entrance of the building to accommodate the many who came.

Our search for a permanent meeting place was rewarded when we found a suitable building that is approximately 70' by 25'. The seller was asking \$18,000 but after securing the approval of the Lord's Harvest

International Mission Board to make the purchase, an offer was made and the final selling price is \$17,000. Though the building may not appear to be attractive according to standards of North America, it is a very nice and superior building compared to other buildings in the area. The structure which was built in 1979 is on one floor, but the zoning and land policies will permit an additional 3 floors to be added to the building. The building is very



Five people were baptized during the trip.



A group from Lima church who gathered for the baptism.

well built. Approximately \$4,000-\$5,000 will be needed to remove walls and to remodel to make the building appropriate for the needs of the congregation.

The new building is nearly 4 times the size of the present space that is being rented for \$200 per month. It has an excellent location. It is located on a corner lot about 7 city blocks from the current location. Its location will

be much quieter since it is about 3 blocks from the main busy street that runs in front of the current building. The new facility will have good accessibility since most of the people in the congregation live in the area and walk to church or they can use public transportation that will take them very close to the church. A main highway leading out of downtown Lima is about 2 blocks away. The pastor also lives only a few blocks from this location.

The Board of Directors of the Church of God General Conference has approved a request for funding for this project through the Church Builders League. An appeal was recently sent to our membership and we are praying that through the generous response of each of you, \$22,000 can be quickly raised to fund this project. *(editors's note: as of 9/6/05, giving to this cause was \$21,239!)*

Each time we visit Lima, it is a pleasure to see many faithful members whom we have met on previous visits along with many new attendees. In fact there were five baptisms held on our first full day in Peru. Pastor Beder is loved and respected by his congregation and he has a passion for reaching the lost. A good solid ministry is being carried on by this congregation and it is our privilege to be partners with these folks in ministry.

Again this year, Bill and I are thankful for your prayers and financial support that made our trip possible. ■

As many of you may know by now, the summer trip to Africa was cancelled. We felt that God was directing us in that decision due to several things that happened. We had been praying, and asked several others to pray for direction and guidance as to what God wanted us to do. When the calls of concern kept coming in, we felt like God was warning us not to go. This reminded me of Acts 16:6 when Paul and his companions were kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. The final confirmation to not go was when South African Airlines went on strike. No SAA planes were flying anywhere! We felt very much at peace with not going, and felt God's love, guidance and protection for us.

Thank you all for your prayers. God does answer prayer; never doubt that! We do not feel like God is closing the door on the work in Africa, we just feel like He did not want us to go on this particular trip.

As mentioned in a previous mission report, the starter seed-fertilizer packs delivered last fall were joyfully received. The people planted them, worked hard in their gardens, and it looked like they were going to have bumper crops. Unfortunately, the rains stopped just as the grain came to a head, and their crops died. The people are facing famine again. If they don't have a crop, they don't eat. We would like to repeat the process of giving out seed-fertilizer kits again this fall. So that they don't have to depend on rain for their living, we

would like to put in several wells in places where the most people can benefit from them to irrigate their crops. If you desire to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in this way, please send your contribution to LHI Africa Starter Kits/Wells, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, Ga. 30260. All help is greatly appreciated. God willing, in October we will plan to make a trip to Malawi. The purpose of this trip will be to distribute the seed-fertilizer kits, have wells dug, and preach. Please pray for this proposed trip, and pray for the work over there. We know that God is in control.

May God continue to richly bless you as you serve Him. ■

In Christ,
Rebekah Martin

The Glad Tidings Church of God Youth...The Glad Tidings Church of God youth, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada, are participating in the Adopt-A-Road program in the community. The program consists of organizations that volunteer to adopt a section of road and keep it clean. Three times



throughout the year, these organizations pick up litter to maintain a clean road. For participating in the program, organizations such as the Glad Tidings youth group will have their names recognized on a sign erected by the town on the road or street they adopted. Pictured is the Glad Tidings youth group that set out for their first clean-up on May 21, 2005, during the church's 101st Annual May Meetings. ■

◀ Glad Tidings Church of God youth wearing their safety vests and holding their equipment as they set out to clean up the road where the church is located on Pancake Lane, Fonthill.

A Letter from the Blanchard Church of God...

Dear Church Family and Friends,

We the Blanchard Church of God thank you for your continued prayers and support. We have been through some challenging and difficult times recently. With your support and prayers we were able to continue on and grow spiritually. We have seen God's hands bless and protect us continually through these recent happenings.

The Blanchard Church of God remains a member of the Church of God General Conference and Michigan State Conference. We will continue to support the Conference. We regularly meet on Sundays for Sunday School, Worship service and a meal! Over the last few months we have been feasting weekly after church, following our meal with a Bible Study. We meet weekly on Wednesdays for prayer. A family that prays together stays together! We continue to face trying matters and difficult times but we know that with God's strength we can accomplish anything. (Philippians 4:13) Continue to pray for the Blanchard Church of God.

We have been through a lot of changes recently! We recently had a Work Bee Day to clean up the yard and outside of the building. We still have a lot of work to do. Our roof needs a lot of attention before the winter comes! The past few winters we have experienced water damage. We have started a building fund to reach this need. If you feel it in your heart to contribute, please do. We have made changes to our website, too! Please check it out at <http://blanchard.homestead.com>.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. May God bless you and the Church of God General Conference.



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“The End-Time Timeline”

By Jim Mattison

An exciting new book that covers end-time prophecies in order of occurrence, starting with Antichrist's seven year covenant with Israel and his placing the Abomination in the Temple in Daniel 9, then looking at Jesus' Matthew 24 outline, including this abomination and the following Great Tribulation. Immediately after the signs in the sky, Christ comes in glory, then sends the angels out with a trumpet sound to gather His people. There is a careful study of the Book of Revelation and the events before, during, and after the Day of the LORD, concluding with Christ's 1000 year reign on Earth and the turning over of the perfect Kingdom to God that God may be all in all. Enjoy!

“A very sincere and hopefully truthful attempt has been made to “rightly divide the word of truth.” I offer to you this honest attempt to bring to you a deeper understanding of prophecy and a renewed zeal to seek the way of God. If this book causes this to happen, praise God.”



General Conference Minutes (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

off the table so that the floor could be opened for discussion of the amendment. Pastor Dale Swartz seconded the motion. The motion carried and the floor was open for discussion of the proposed constitutional amendment. Discussion then occurred followed by a vote on the amendment. Chairman Hoffman noted that a two-thirds majority was required to approve an amendment to the Constitution. The amendment received a 59% vote in favor so it failed for lack of a two thirds majority.

Chairman Hoffman then asked if there was any other business. Dr. Joe Martin came forward and made a motion that the phrase "and God's kingdom" be added to the end of the mission statement of the General Conference. Without this addition the

mission statement reads as follows "To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of Jesus Christ". Dr. Martin's proposal added "and God's Kingdom after the words "Jesus Christ". Pastor Larry Mayberry seconded the motion. Discussion then followed.

Rob Hellenburg made a motion to allow the Board of Directors to have the flexibility to modify the wording of the mission statement. Pastor Alan Cain seconded. Rob Hellenburg then withdrew his motion and Pastor Alan Cain withdrew his second.

Pastor Daniel Smead then moved to amend Dr. Martin's motion so that the phrase added to the end of

the mission statement be "Jesus' gospel of the Kingdom", so that the complete mission statement would read " To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of Jesus' gospel of the Kingdom." Pastor Ray Hall seconded. Discussion followed and a vote to approve the amendment was taken. The amendment failed. Chairman Hoffman then directed the discussion back to Dr. Martin's motion. Discussion followed and a voting occurred. Dr. Martin's motion was approved and the mission statement for the General



Board Members (Andrea Anders not pictured)

Conference now reads as follows:
To serve churches and individuals in the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom.

A question was then raised from the floor concerning whether a church elder could serve as a delegate in a situation in which a church does not have a pastor. Chairman Hoffman explained that the answer to the question was no, since the constitution does not specify that an elder could serve as a delegate in place of a pastor in a situation where a church does not have a pastor.

Chairman Hoffman announced that the 2006 General Conference would be held at the Timberland

Church in South Bend, Indiana. The dates of the conference are still in the process of being finalized.

Chairman Hoffman shared with the delegates that the Board had passed a motion to appoint a committee to examine the purpose, structure and effectiveness of General Conference activities and events. Discussion followed this announcement.

CAO Tim Jones thanked Larry Mayberry and Dale Brown for their service on the Board of Directors. CAO Jones presented each gentleman with a plaque of appreciation. The Delegates gave the gentlemen a standing ovation.

Pastor Dale Ramsey requested prayer for Robert Coverstone who will be undergoing a prostatectomy in order to treat prostate cancer on July 19, 2005. A prayer request was also made for Casey Kiel for a safe delivery of her daughter.

Pastor Alan Cain moved that discussion of new business be concluded. Keith Williams seconded. Prayer then followed.

The minutes of the day's meeting were then read aloud by the secretary and approved. Pastor Russ Magaw moved to adjourn the meeting. Roger Crocker seconded and the business meeting then concluded. ■

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Anders
Board Secretary

Atlanta Bible College's Newest Members!

Hello, my name is Amanda Musch. I am a proud 2005 graduate of Atlanta Bible College! My family is from Rockford, Illinois. They have continued to attend the East Oregon Chapel Church of God. I recently served as the Blanchard Church of God Youth Director. I am now the Administrative



Assistant and co-apartment manager for the women students. As an Administrative Assistant I will help with our mailings, College recruiting and Distance Learning course management. I am honored to be an Atlanta Bible College/General Conference team member! I look forward to serving you in any capacity possible!



My name is Robin Taylor and I am serving as the Accounting Assistant. I am a Georgia native. I have been married almost 24 years to Jackie, and we have two adult children, Rusty and Ashley. We have attended

Cornerstone for several years and I worked as Dave Riley's (Cornerstone) secretary part time for 3 years. I love the people that I attend church with, and now I get to work with them - how great is that?! Also, I love meeting new people, which working at the Bible College/General Conference allows me to do.

Atlanta Bible College Block and Distance Learning Classes

Take advantage of these exciting opportunities! For academic credit, the cost is \$129 per semester hour. For non-credit, the cost is \$64.50 per semester hour. In addition, there is a charge for the textbook and in some cases there is a charge for the DVDs for distance learning courses. For additional information about the courses or to register, please contact Registrar David Krogh at dkrogh@abc-coggc.org or 800-347-4261.

Block Classes:

- #2 - Oct. 17-21 - B345 **Non Pauline Epistles** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Scott Deane) - M-F 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 Oct. 17-22 - G271 **Church History I** (From the Book of Acts to the Reformation) (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Jim Graham)- 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 22, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- #3 - Dec. 12-16 - B/G461 **Church Fathers and Conditional Immortality** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Dr. John Roller) M-F 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 Dec. 12-17 - B271 **Systematic Theology I** (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Dr. Alva Huffer) - M-F 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and Saturday Dec. 17, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Distance Learning:

- B111 – **Old Testament Survey I** (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - Self Directed Internet Study w/full notes & syllabus.
 B112 – **Old Testament Survey II** (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - Self Directed Internet Study w/full notes & syllabus.
 B161 - **Basic Bible Doctrine** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard)--Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation
 B221 - **Pentateuch** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - DVD/E-mail Presentation
 B222 - **History and Major Prophets** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin)—DVD or Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation
 B224 - **History and Minor Prophets** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin)—DVD or Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation
 B242 - **Gospel of John** (2 Sem. Hrs) (Buzzard)--Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation
 B342 - **Acts** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) - Reading/Writing Assignments
 B470 - **Evangelical Theology** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - DVD/E-mail
 M141 - **Principles of Church Growth, Evangelism and Discipling** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Video/Workbook
 M/B230 - **Apologetics** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Finnegan) - DVD/E-mail Presentation
 M242 - **Evangelism and Missions** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) - Videos/Internet/E-mail Presentation
 M281 - **Mission Perspectives** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - Reading/Workbook/Assignments
 M384 - **Small Group Ministry** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Videos/Workbooks/Reading/ Assignments
 M473 - **Pastoral/Church Leadership and Administration** (Martin) (2 Sem. Hrs.)
 G181 - **Personal Finance** (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation

Atlanta Bible College Booster Month is October!

Each year in October the Bible College celebrates Booster Month. Members of the staff and student body travel to churches across the country to promote the Bible College and its critical mission of training men and women for ministry leadership. It is also a time when we encourage our members and supporters to dig deep and contribute to the work of the College financially.



We encourage you to contact the College and arrange for someone to visit your church or state conference. The popularity of this program has become so great that Booster "Month" extends from late September to late November. We will work with you to accommodate your church or conference meetings. Contact Dave Riley to learn more about how your church can become a College "Booster!"

CONGRATULATIONS

to the following Atlanta Bible College and Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension students for their outstanding academic performance during the Spring semester 2005!

HIGH HONORS <i>(12+ Hours, 3.50 OR HIGHER)</i>	HONORS <i>(12+ Hours, 3.00 to 3.49)</i>
Jasper Fletcher	Hyun Joo Kim
Seong Kon Jeong	Kab Soo Kim
Amy Littler	Soon Hi Kwen
Myung Joo Lyu	Mi Sook Lee
Anne Mbeke	
Kim Musch	
Jin Sook Park	
Dustin Smith	
Fleming Thompson	
Bong Sung Kim	

Hurricane Relief Efforts

The Church of God General Conference is committed to assist the relief efforts due to the recent catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina. Our hearts and prayers go out to those victims of this disaster as well as to the churches in the area that are a part of the General Conference: Blood River Church of God in Springfield; Happy Woods Church of God in Hammond; and Open Bible Fellowship in Baton Rouge. We also want to offer the

General Conference as a clearinghouse of any relief funds that can be sent to help those in the area either through the Louisiana churches or that may be passed on to relief organizations such as the Red Cross or Salvation Army. Any donations can be made to the General Conference earmarked "Hurricane Relief" and then we will make certain they get distributed appropriately. Joe Martin and David Riley will be in close contact with our churches working to assist them

in the distribution of aid directly or indirectly through a major relief organization.

We also recognize that General Conference churches may choose to do something completely different than this suggestion and of course we support that wholeheartedly as well. It's been encouraging to see many of the churches throughout the Church of God respond with such a sense of urgency. May God's grace continue to be with us all as we await the Lord's return. ■

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension Staff!

One of the greatest blessings God has poured out on the College in the last couple of years has been the initiation and development of the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension. We begin this semester with approximately 60 students in this program alone! We are now planning for the goal of opening a second Korean Extension in the Los Angeles, CA. area by the Fall 2006 semester. This program is possible only through the dedicated efforts of a wonderful staff. We would like you to meet the Extension staff below.



Mi-Kyoung Park: Instructor
BA Theo. ABC/ BA Che. Korea/
Music Conservatory

- Teaching Music since Fall 03
- Music II Fall 05



Seung-Kwang Lee:
Librarian since Fall 2004

- Pursuing BA Theo. in ABC



Seong-Kon Jeong:
Website technician & Instructor
BA Theo. ABC/ BA Che. Korea

- Working KE website since Fall 03
- Media Technology



Soo-Young Kim: Instructor
M. Theo. Korea

- Bible Reading Class



Sam An: Assistant coordinator
since Fall 04

- Pursuing BA Theo. in ABC



Young An: Kitchen Master since Fall 2003

- Provides Korean Style Lunch & Snack



Bong-Ki Jeong: Instructor
M. Theo./ Korea

- Pastor for 5 years in “The Light Bible Church of God in Korea”
- Teaching in KE since Fall 03
- Bible Reading Class, Old Testament, Church History



Steve An: Coordinator & Instructor
BA Theo. ABC/ M. Theo.
Teaching since Fall 03

- Pastor of “Korean American Community Church of God/ Morrow GA”
- Romans, Basic Bible Doctrine, Christian Philosophy



Jong Youn Lee: Instructor
M. Theo./ Korea

- Pastor for 19 years in “The True Light Bible Church of God in Korea”
- Hebrew & Greek, New Testament Survey

Finance—Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 adopted by the delegates at the 2004 Summer Conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

Income

1. **General Contributions** – non-specific giving by individuals, churches, and conferences
2. **G. C. – Devises & Bequests** – the College/Conference is the recipient of annuity payments on a contract of a deceased member
3. **ABC Boosters** – an annual giving program that raises funds for the College
4. **Christian Education Materials** – includes all sales of Quarterlies & Kingdom Quest materials
5. **Restitution Herald** – the *Restitution Herald* has been combined with the *Progress Journal* and is no longer subscription based
6. **Age to Come Media Products** – video products and study aides being produced by the Conference
7. **Theological Journals – A Journal From the Radical Reformation** is currently \$24/year
8. **Sale of Assets** – non-recurring sales of property or assets
9. **Tuition** – income is based upon growth in enrollment and increased tuition rate
10. **ABC Korean Extension Tuition** – income is based upon growth in enrollment and increased tuition rate
11. **Lodging** – rent received from residential properties of the College
12. **Washers/Dryers** – income from laundry facilities in apartment building
13. **Rentals – ABC Plant** – rent received from use of the administration building
14. **Late Fees/Rent** – interest income, registration and other fees from students
15. **Fees** – charges for specific programs for college students, such as seminars or educational events
16. **ABCDF Transfer In** – transfer of investment income from the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation. *This transfer will be suspended in FY 2004-2005 because of declines in the stocks, bonds, and other assets that make up the Foundation. Transfers will be suspended until asset values recover to \$1,000,000 level*
17. **Interest** – money earned on checking account through the year
18. **Other** – miscellaneous income and revenues from seminars or training events
19. **Transferred In** – amounts transferred in from Restricted Funds for Missions Support & income from the Church Builders Appeal designated for Atlanta

Bible College

Expenses

1. **Salaries and Wages** – compensation for all full-time and part-time staff, student employees, paid committee staff, and some writers/editors for publications. Full-time staff in the Atlanta area are co-employed by ADP, an employment service that provides tax compliance, legal compliance assistance, employment services, and benefit provisions
2. **FICA Tax** – required payment of employer taxes on all employees not covered by ADP.
3. **Employee Benefits** – tax coverage, health insurance premiums, Workers compensation, and other charges for co-employed ADP employees, as well as conference premiums for Ministers' Voluntary Retirement Association for some employees
4. **Assistance to Churches** – funds provided to churches granted Church Development Aid
5. **Ministerial Association** – support for programs and expenses of the Ministerial Association
6. **Youth Program** – funding to subsidize the cost of Turning Point Youth Ministries and the summer FUEL event
7. **Printing and Binding** – includes all materials printed by the College/Conference, such as Kingdom Quest, and the binding of permanent materials for the Library
8. **Postage and Shipping** – shipping charges for the Progress Journal, the Restitution Herald, A Journal from the Radical Reformation, tracts, books, and all correspondence
9. **Media Production Expense** – costs of consumable supplies used by media operations – these costs are being paid out of other budget line accounts
10. **Book Store** – textbooks and other materials, which are purchased for resale
11. **Royalties** – fees paid for copyrighted material used in our publications
12. **Clayton Rebates** – during the first three semesters of education, ABC students who attend Clayton College and State University are eligible for a rebate to help offset the out of state tuition until they can establish residency
13. **Advertising – Recruitment** – includes newspaper, television, radio advertising (Telephone calls, travel, printing, and postage are included under other line items)
14. **ABC Korean Extension Support** –

expenses associated with the providing for the expense budget of the ABC Korean Extension

16. **Library Periodicals** – journals and other magazines for the Library collection
17. **Library Books** – newly published books are acquired to keep the Library collection up to date
18. **Staff Periodicals, Books & Dues** – a small allowance is provided to staff to purchase resource material for classes and to participate in professional organizations
19. **Staff Training** – staff members are provided opportunities to enhance their skills in areas associated with their responsibilities
21. **Travel** – includes travel for Board members, advisory committees, special boards and committees, student groups, and staff
22. **Motor Vehicles** – license plates, insurance, and maintenance for vehicles
23. **Office Supplies & Expense** – paper, printer cartridges, stationary, envelopes, etc., and includes supplies for Kingdom Quest and other products
24. **Professional Services** – costs of annual audit, as required by the Constitution and annual fees to accrediting association
25. **Telephone** – basic and long distance service, including the cost of all “800” number calls which are provided toll free to the caller; also includes internet data lines
26. **Insurance – Non-Plant** – liability insurance for employees and directors
27. **Supplies & Expense** – printing supplies, paper products, and other operational expenses
28. **Repairs & Maintenance – non-plant** – maintenance agreements and repairs for office and library equipment, Kingdom Quest printers
29. **Utilities** – costs of electricity, water, etc.
30. **Insurance – Property** – costs of insurance for facilities
31. **Repairs/Maint/Plant** – costs for plant support and maintenance
32. **Furniture and Equipment** – includes all furniture, software, computers, and office machines
33. **Supplies/Exp Plant** – cleaning supplies, restroom supplies, etc.
34. **Interest** – interest paid on funds borrowed from Restricted Funds
35. **Other** – miscellaneous charges

Church News

Baptisms

Illinois

Blessed Hope – Deanna Espinosa (6/26/05) by Pastor Neal Bryant

Oregon – Rob Bucey (5/15/05) by his father-in-law, Elder Larry Bolhous; Bernadine (Sis) Mack (6/16/05); Cody Buse (8/21/05) services by Pastor Michael Hoffman; Forrest and Joel Cheatwood (7/31/05) by Dennis Cheatwood

Ripley – Casey Hendricks, Robert Bobblitt

Indiana

Timberland – Glen and Belinda Wolke (6/12/05) by Pastor John Railton; Karlee Miller, at Midwest Family Camp (Camp Mack, Milford) (7/1/05) by Pastor John Railton. Karlee attends Maple Grove Community Church in Kokomo, IN.

Minnesota

Litchfield – Erin Wegner, Emily Wood, Laura Wood, Anna Wood (7/17/05) by Pastor Dale Swartz

Missouri

Farmington – Chris and Candy Weddle (5/21/05) by Pastor Carl Jennings; Tonia Whitaker, Brittany Coleman (5/21/05) by Loyd Cooper

Morse Mill – Tonya Gerullis (7/2/04) by Fred Gerullis; Dakota Floyd, Apache Floyd, Marcus Brown, Travis Brown (7/9/05); Miles Brown (7/10/05), all by Pastor Wade Tierney

Ontario, Canada

Glad Tidings – Franklyn Olmstead (5/29/05) by Pastor Michael Brown

South Carolina

Bethel – Lee and Jeannie Gillam (8/7/05) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Guthrie Grove – Karsen Pack, Harold Davis (7/24/05) by Pastor Mike Montgomery

Deaths

Illinois

Macomb – Laura Lea Hotchkiss (7/12/05). Service by Pastor David Cheatwood

Oregon – Toney Withers, 60 (7/13/05). Service by

Pastor Michael Hoffman; Mary Patrick, 88, (8/8/05), mother of Gayle Guthrie, faithful member. Service by Pastors Michael Hoffman and Russ Magaw

Indiana

Timberland – Marian Mastain, 93 (7/3/05), long time member. Service by Pastor John Railton

Nebraska

Jaynes Street – Shirley Karnett McNew (2/27/05), following heart surgery. Shirley was an active member of the Jaynes Street Church in Omaha, serving in many teaching positions and often sharing her musical gifts. She attended one of the first summer Bible training courses that preceded the founding of Oregon Bible College. She will be greatly missed by her family, church, and community as she awaits her Lord's return.

New Mexico

Roswell – Victor J. (Jerry) Reeves (7/2/05). He was a licensed pastor in the Church of God for several years, serving pastorates in Rockford, IL. and Dayton, OH.

Ohio

Bedford – Doris Whaley, 76 (6/9/05) by Pastor Rex Cain; Dick Richter, 80 (6/29/05). He attended the Church of God (Golden Rule and Bedford) for 75 years. Services by Pastor Rex Cain

Ontario, Canada

Glad Tidings – Laura Lee Rose (1/5/05); Brian Eggleton (4/2/05). Services by Pastor Michael Brown

South Carolina

Bethel – Edna Hammond, 86 (6/22/05), member of the Guthrie Grove Church. Service by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Marriages

Illinois

Oregon – Andrew Rager and Jennifer Ley (7/9/05), by Pastor Michael Hoffman

Indiana

Timberland – Vince Rials and Molly Schmal, Thorton, IL (6/25/05), by Pastor John Railton

South Carolina

Bethel – Lee and Jeannie Gillam (7/16/05)

Guthrie Grove – Reginald Hall and Ashley Smith (8/6/05) by Pastor Mike Montgomery

Job Opening This Fall... The Minnesota State Conference is looking for a mature person or couple to assume the duties of Camp Caretaker at Long Lake Campground, Richmond, MN. For job description, application and additional information contact Conference President Gaye Wood at 320-593-3917 or email her at gwood@andersonchemco.com. Position will be vacant Oct. 1, 2005.

Prayer & Praise

October 2005

- 1 **Pray for Atlanta Bible College during ABC Booster month.**
 - 2 **Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and a new earth in His coming Kingdom.**
 - 3 **Pray for a personal hunger to know God and Jesus better.**
 - 4 Pray for the Restitution Church in Eldorado, Illinois.
 - 5 **Praise God for your church family and the strength that you receive through it.**
 - 6 Pray for Pastor John Nelson as he pastors in Missouri.
 - 7 **Pray for a church planting vision for Church of God members.**
 - 8 Pray for the Board of Directors as they direct the work of the Conference.
 - 9 **Praise God for retired Pastor Billie Kennedy and his wife Irene.**
 - 10 Pray for Community Bible Fellowship in Culver, Indiana.
 - 11 **Pray for Tim Jones, College/Conference CAO.**
 - 12 Pray for Pastor Daniel and Carolyn Smead and the Eden Valley, Minnesota congregation.
 - 13 **Pray for the financial needs of the Church of God General Conference.**
 - 14 Praise God for new contacts who are seeking the truth around the world.
 - 15 **Pray for Pastor Beder Ucanay as he works in Lima, Peru.**
 - 16 Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and the Fort Valley, Virginia Church.
 - 17 **Pray for the work that is being done in India to proclaim God's truth.**
 - 18 **Pray for retired Pastor Jim Mattison and his wife Martha and their Africa mission work.**
 - 19 **Pray for your pastor and his leadership during Clergy Appreciation Month.**
 - 20 Pray for Pastor Jonathon Wincapaw at the Blood River Church in Louisiana.
 - 21 **Praise God for those who are preparing for ministry.**
 - 22 Ask God to help you love Him and His Son more.
 - 23 **Pray for Pastor Steve Taylor as he pastors the Comerstone Bible Church.**
 - 24 Pray for retired Pastor Linford Moore.
 - 25 **Pray for the Hedrick, Indiana Church, and Pastor Joe and Karla Astolfi.**
 - 26 Pray for Pastor Dennis and Rachel Baldwin and the Grace Fellowship Church in Front Royal, Virginia.
 - 27 **Pray for the youth of your local church.**
 - 28 Pray for Pastor Tim and Shelly Spickler and their work with Winnebago New Life youth.
 - 29 **Pray for Pastor Chuck and Gloria Currier and the Waterloo, Iowa Church.**
 - 30 Praise God for His constant care.
 - 31 **Pray for God to send workers into the fields that are ready for harvest.**
-

November 2005

- 1 **Pray for the St. Cloud, MN Church.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Kirby and Bonnie Davis and Pastor Merry Peterson and the Wenatchee, WA Church.
- 3 **Pray for for the Fair Oaks Church in VA and Pastor Tom and Karen Fischhaber.**
- 4 Praise God for the students studying at Atlanta Bible College and Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension.
- 5 **Pray for the Badillo family in Labor Vieja, Mexico.**
- 6 Pray for Ruth Finnegan in her duties as Publishing Specialist for the General Conference.
- 7 **Pray that God will raise up workers to serve in mission fields in other lands.**
- 8 Pray for Rebecca Dauksas and the youth ministry at Guthrie Grove Church.
- 9 **Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness.**
- 10 Pray for Judy Myers and the work of the Lord's Harvest International Mission Board.
- 11 **Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Gary and Glenda Turner and New Life Bible Church in Winnebago, IL.
- 13 **Pray for Pastor Wade and Kim Tierney and the Morse Mill, MO Church.**
- 14 Pray for the Ministerial Recognition Board as they encourage our pastors.
- 15 **Pray for a chance to share Christ with someone this week.**
- 16 Pray for the Burr Oak, IN Church.
- 17 **Pray for Pastor Travis and Kristen Ramsey and the work of the Gatesville, TX Church of God.**
- 18 Pray for the boldness you need to share Christ with an unbelieving friend.
- 19 **Pray for Jon Cheatwood, Youth Coordinator for the College/Conference.**
- 20 Pray for the outreach efforts of your local congregation.
- 21 **Praise God for His daily blessings of shelter, food, family and friends.**
- 22 Pray for Pastor Jim and Charleen Graham and the Valley View Church in AZ.
- 23 **Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life.**
- 24 Pray for Pastor Jon and René Welch and the Fredericktown, MO Church.
- 25 **Pray for the ministries of Ralph and Iona Childs in OH.**
- 26 Pray for the churches within your state or regional conference.
- 27 **Thank God for His goodness to you.**
- 28 Praise God for many baptisms in our churches this fall.
- 29 **Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation.**
- 30 Pray for new contacts through the distribution of literature and our website.

Address Service Requested

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December 2005

- 1 Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Beloit New Life, WI.
- 2 **Pray for Pastor Seth and Stacey Ross and the North Hills, OH church.**
- 3 Praise God for the dedicated service of the staff for our College and Conference.
- 4 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Connie Ramsey and the Cool Spring Church in Virginia.**
- 5 Pray for the Oaklawn Church of God at Koszta, IA.
- 6 **Pray for contacts around the world produced by literature.**
- 7 Praise God for your pastor as he shares God's Word today.
- 8 **Pray for David Riley and his ministry at the College and Conference.**
- 9 Pray for Pastor Richard and Jan Alcumbrack and the Southlawn Church in Wyoming, MI.
- 10 **Pray for the Chapel Hill congregation in Urbana, OH.**
- 11 Praise God for the ministries of your local church.
- 12 **Pray that God would lead you in the way of righteousness.**
- 13 Pray for those who are leading the work in the Philippine Islands.
- 14 **Praise God for the beauty of creation.**
- 15 Pray for Dick and Carol Eldred and Tim and Cindy Eldred and the New Beginnings Church in Michigan.
- 16 **Praise God for His Word.**
- 17 Pray for Pastor Brian and Hannah Froehlich as they intern at the Ripley and Macomb churches in Illinois.
- 18 **Pray for retired pastors Francis Burnett, Jack Hearp, and Stan Lawrence.**
- 19 Pray for the Focus on the Kingdom radio broadcasts that are presenting God's truth.
- 20 **Pray for Pastor Steve and Young An and the Korean Church that meets in the ABC chapel.**
- 21 Pray for an individual you know who has not accepted Christ.
- 22 **Pray for Stepan and Tracy Zhykhovich as they work in Russia.**
- 23 Pray for ABC instructor and Academic Dean, Dr. Joe Martin.
- 24 **Pray for encouragement for those who are separated from family and friends at this Christmas season.**
- 25 Praise God for the gift of His Son, Jesus.
- 26 **Pray for preparations for the new semester at ABC that will begin after the first of the year.**
- 27 Pray for Pastor Darrell and Tara Cardwell and the North Salem, IN Church.
- 28 **Pray for the work of native workers in Malawi and Mozambique.**
- 29 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and their work in Minnesota.
- 30 **Pray for revival throughout the Church of God in the coming year.**
- 31 Praise God for the way He has blessed you in 2005.