

# RESTITUTION HERALD

## & Progress Journal

### Oh No! Not Another Christmas Article!!

By Curt Rowden

How about this for a dreaded question? "Say would you be interested in writing a Christmas article for the December Restitution Herald?" You know, it is an honor to be asked to write for a magazine with such a discriminating readership. But for Christmas?!

I mean what can be said about a holiday that has had 2,000 years of comment, and had much more distinguished and learned authors than me writing about it. How often and how many ways can we say we tend to forget the true meaning of Christmas, or that the humble birth of the baby Jesus points to his fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy? Don't you get a little tired of discussions about the true time frame of the visit of the Magi to the family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus or whether it was a cave or a stable? So what do we say now? I'll tell you. I don't know. However, never being one to turn down an opportunity to expound on my own thoughts, we press on.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21, NIV)

Have you read that one? Of course you have. However, think about this. The angel came to Joseph with astounding news that needed to be proclaimed by a special messenger. The same thing

happened when Mary was told she would give birth to this baby, and when the angels appeared on the night of the birth proclaiming the arrival.

Announcements that carry this level of importance are often accompanied by some level of fanfare. When the King of some particular monarchy wants a

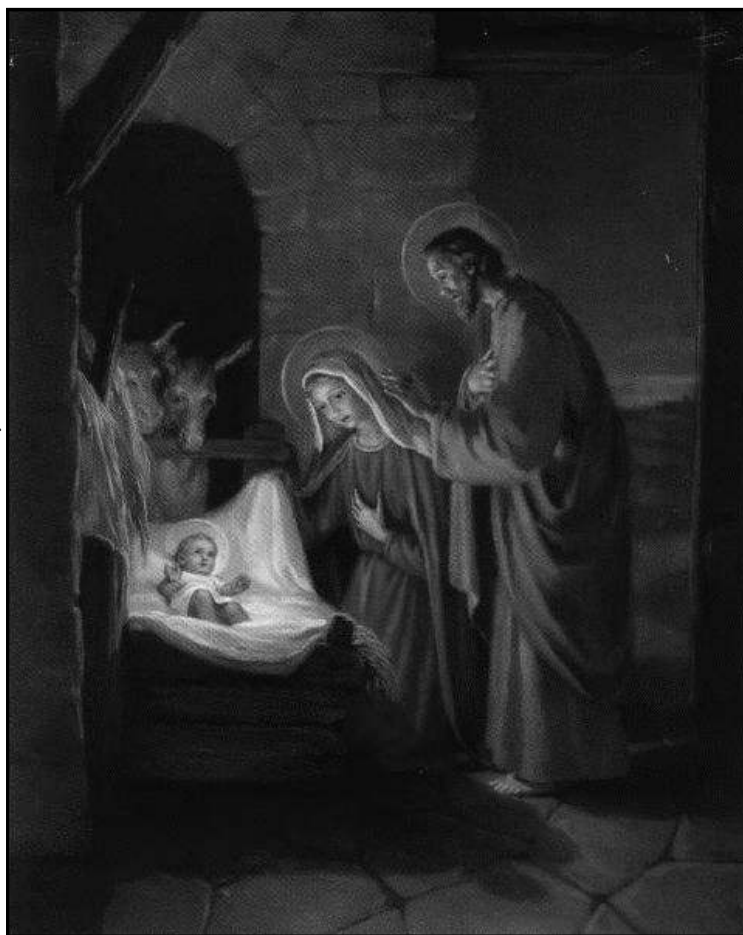
or fanfare. The person delivering the message is called the herald. During this season we sing a carol that uses that very word to describe the angels who delivered the message.

All right, just what did the angel in Matthew 1:21 say. In a court of law, when someone has committed a crime

that resulted in a loss for someone else, the convicted wrongdoer is often required to make some payment to the plaintiff. In this case, our wrong-doing or sin is our crime and it has as its payment plan death. Our crime, our sin, is against God, and a repayment is required. The only way to avoid paying that price is having someone paying it for us. Jesus did that. He made the restitution for our sin.

Hey, look at that. The angels came announcing, proclaiming, or heralding, the arrival of man's restitution. They were actually the first Restitution Herald. Now here we have the opportunity to continue that great tradition. We have a venue for doing the same thing that the angels did. Remember though, the angels were telling people who did not know. We

know. So you as a believer reading this will learn nothing new. To truly make this a continuation of what the angels heralded, we must pass the news on to those who do not know. ■



special announcement to be made he will use a person with special authority. When this person speaks, it is with the full status of the monarch himself. In some settings the announcement is preceded by a trumpet or drum flourish

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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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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 DVS for distance learning courses. For additional information about the courses or to register, please contact Registrar David Krogh at [dkrogh@abc-coggc.org](mailto:dkrogh@abc-coggc.org) or 800-347-4261.

### Block Classes:

- Jan. 2-6 - M351 **Women in Ministry** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Rebekah Martin) - M-F 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Jan. 2-7 - B272 **Systematic Theology II** (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Huffer) - MON.-FRI. 6:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Feb. 20-24 - G272 **Church History II** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Graham) - M-F 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
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**About the Author:**

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

Greetings to you all, and Happy Holidays! I pray that this issue of the Herald/Journal finds you and all your loved ones enjoying the blessings of our Lord.

The holidays are always a busy time for us all. It is ironic to think that for Atlanta Bible College and the Conference, as we are between the Fall and Spring Semesters, this may be like the eye of our hurricane! As we prepare for the beginning of the Spring 2006 Semester, we ask that you remember the College and Conference in your prayers. We also ask to consider making a financial gift before the end of the year. Your generous support is critical to continuing to support the ministries God has entrusted to us.

The month of October has taken on strong significance for the College in the last few years. In addition to its designation as Atlanta Bible College Booster month, it also marks the annual meetings of the Board, staff, and other members that are dedicated to long-term planning for the College and Conference. This year was no exception. In fact, this year the Board commissioned a study group (see picture on page 2) to assist in the planning activities. This group consisted of the following people:

- Janice Hart      Scott Ross
- Gary Turner     Charles Bottolfs
- Joyce Knapp

I want to thank these individuals for their participation in the planning process for 2005. Their wise counsel will be of great benefit to the Board

and the staff as we implement the long term plans. I have included below the basic information I sent to the participants, the Board, and the staff as we prepared for these meetings:

**Study Group Pre-work**

*After you've done a thing the same way for two years, look it over carefully. After five years, look at it with suspicion. And after ten years, throw it away and start all over.*

**Alfred Edward Perlman, *New York Times*, 3 July 1958**



Study Group meeting at Atlanta Bible College for long range planning.

To set the stage for this process, you may want to read the quotation above from Alfred Perlman. Though there may be some hyperbole involved in his statement, the truth involved is important for us to consider.

Few of us would argue that the world we live in today is vastly different from the world we inhabited 10 or 20 years ago. And we would likewise accept the premise that we ourselves may be different in opinion and perspective from ourselves of 2 decades ago. But have we seen the same degree of change within our churches? And as for the General Conference, are we

adapting and changing ourselves as required to remain relevant in the world today? Our purpose and mission was re-defined by the Board last year, and further refined by the delegates at General Conference last year:

**To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom**

This is a timeless mission, just as the truths of Scripture remain unchanged. But the way we attempt to live out this mission must change as the world around us changes. Yet if we look at the General Conference, Atlanta Bible College, and our relationships with our members and member churches, I fear that we may remain wedded to the past. And our churches may feel that they do not receive the service and support from the Conference that is appropriate in the communities in which they must minister. Many of the Conference programs or services have proceeded largely unchanged for decades. Many are embedded within the Constitution of the Conference itself. This group is being called together by action of the Board of Directors to evaluate Conference programs and services, to offer differing perspectives on how the Conference could be of greater value to the local pastor and/or congregation, and provide input and guidance on the necessary structural changes required (i.e., Constitutional amendments, program adoption or termination, etc.) to make these changes a reality.

The idea that change is necessary for any organization is not so radical that we reject the suggestion. However, in the last 2 years of

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General Conference, proposed amendments to the Constitution from the Board have been voted down by the delegates. We must address this reluctance to accept changes or modifications to our structures and methods of governance if we are to be successful in moving forward. We have made few changes beyond cosmetics ones to the Constitution in many years. Some of the requirements of the Constitution, such as the presentation of candidates for the Board on one day and their election on the next day, prevent us from conducting Conference business as quickly and effectively as possible. We are restricted to having Conference in July or August, and yet each year attendance gets smaller as fewer members choose to attend the sessions that are predominately designed to vote for Directors and approve budgets. Some who attend lament the cost involved for such a short event, even as others in the same groups ask that Conference be lengthened, which would drive the costs even higher. And given the requirements of the Constitution for notification of proposed changes a year in advance, quick action is rendered impossible. The Constitution calls for publication of amendments in the Restitution Herald or the Progress Journal, yet these are no longer independent publications. The Board authorized this study group to assist in the decisions for beneficial change, as well as ensure that the decisions represent the wisdom of the Board, the staff, and all our members at large. And this wisdom is essential to address how to make the recommended changes acceptable and desirable to the delegates and member churches or

Conferences that they represent.

The Board selected the members that were invited to be group members very carefully. You were chosen because you care about the mission of the Conference and the service provided to the membership. You have been and are very involved in the ministries within your church and/or the Conference. Yet the Board also respects your capacity to accept new ideas and approaches to the way things are done. You were also selected in the hopes that through dialogue and discussion agreement, compromise, and consensus can be reached. By the afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, we need to have actionable plans in place that will allow the Conference to move forward with our goals for the future. The Board believes that all of us, working in the Spirit of God for the common good of the Conference, College, and membership, can accomplish great things.

***End of memo***

As you can see from the information above, this planning process is very important for us to understand and perceive the direction that God is leading. As part of our planning meetings, we looked at information about how the culture of the U.S. is changing, and how that might impact the ministry of the local church. This impact on the church, in turn, means that we must examine how the College is training men and women that are planning to enter the ministry. For example, here are some of the statistics we looked at that indicate that fewer and fewer young people are being brought into Jesus:

- **People 18 to 32 are the least likely to describe themselves as**

**religious, Christian, or committed Christian**

- **Church attendance is declining with each new generation**

- **Young adults are most open to faiths other than Christianity**

- **A large, high profile church that thought it was attracting the unchurched, in a recent survey, found only 3% of their young adults were from an unchurched background – all others only transferred their membership from other churches**

- **More than 80% of Americans say religious faith is very important in their life, but only 41% attend church on a typical Sunday**

***Clegg & Bird, in the book Lost in America, say the unchurched population in the US is the largest mission field in the English speaking world & the 5th largest globally***

How does this kind of research impact *your* local church? How should the General Conference help local churches in this changing culture? We also discussed the importance of Spiritual Development to our churches and to the staff and students of the College. One very memorable statement we talked about extensively was from the celebrated author Brian McClaren: “Too many of our most educated Christians are some of the meanest. They may know the most information about the Bible but are the least Christ-like.” (Leadership magazine) The College must ensure that the graduates and students that attend are educated not only in the truths of God’s Word but also in how to be more like Jesus.

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The Board and study group discussed these issues at length. From this global perspective, we also discussed the issues of giving the General Conference greater flexibility in how and when the annual meeting would occur. These changes, listed below, require that the Constitution and By-Laws be amended. I will be providing you with additional information from the study group and our long-range planning efforts as we move forward in our plans. By the way, the Board set the dates for the annual meeting for August 10-11, 2006 in South Bend, Indiana. May God bless you in the coming New Year!

Tim

Amendments to the Constitution – Annual Meeting, August 10 & 11, 2005

**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.

**The following amendments have been proposed by the Board of Directors.**

Article I, Section 2

**Current Version: Section 2.** The General Conference shall meet

once each year at such time and place between June 1 and August 31 as may be determined by the Conference or its Board of Directors. Announcements of the time and place shall be made by the Board of Directors at least six months in advance by publications of the General Conference or other means of general communications available to the General Conference. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.

**Amended Version: Section 2. The General Conference shall meet once a year. Announcement of the time and place shall be made by the Secretary of the Conference at least 6 months in advance by the most effective means of general communications available. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.**

**What the Amendment Does:** The annual meeting of the General Conference may take place at any time of the year, instead of only during July and August. The notification of the time and place must take place a minimum of 6 months in advance of the meeting.

**Anticipated Change to Current Practice:** At the 2006 Conference in South Bend, if the amendment to Article I, Section 2 is approved, sufficient time will be scheduled to allow the delegates to discuss their preferences for the time and place to hold the annual meeting. Various proposals will be

considered, and the delegates asked to consider them all and conduct a non-binding vote on the various options that they would prefer. The Board would take this information into account in setting future Conference dates. This would not go into effect until 2007 at the earliest.

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Article IV, Section 4

**Current Version: 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*.

**Amended Version: 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 and will be published by the most effective means of

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# The Simplicity of Christmas: John 3:16, Jesus, The Only BORN Son of God

By Dr. Joe Martin

When thinking about the holiday season, all the glitz and glamour, maybe we can break it down to one verse to bring some sanity to Christmas. Some have suggested that because of materialism, pagan origins, and more that we just give up the holiday. Maybe an alternative might be even better. Let's focus on the very basic notions of one simple verse, John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son..." as a beginning to understand the REASON for the Season.

The FIRST lesson is that it begins with God, "For God so loved the world..." Pages could be written on this. James 1:17 says that "every good and perfect gift" is from God. Isn't Jesus one of those perfect gifts of love? I like Exodus 34: 6,7 that describes who God is by God. Some Jewish writings call these the thirteen words from God, but I like to call them the eight attributes of God by God. He is "compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love, abounding in faithfulness or truth, maintains love, forgives wickedness, rebellion and sin, yet does not leave the guilty unpunished." From the "existing one," God, comes the ultimate plan of salvation through Jesus. Jesus is going to come into existence and do the will of God. Now that is Christmas in my mind. The birth of Jesus originates with God.

John simply describes what the SECOND lesson of Christmas might be and says God, "... so LOVED the world." This lesson

is that God loves and is going to do something about our situation through Christ. This is also found in the simple quote "God is love." (I Jn. 4:8,16) That is Christmas at its most fundamental element, LOVE! Dr. David Hubbard, deceased president of Fuller Seminary said in class that the greatest Hebrew word is *chesed*. It



means the "unfailing or covenantal love of God." The NASB often translates it "lovingkindness." Without God loving, we wouldn't have a celebration at Christmas!

Through Jesus' life, after his birth, we have the hope of eternity. Jesus said in Mark 10:45 "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (NIV) As Jesus' purpose was to preach the Kingdom (Luke 4:43), it was also to give his life as THE ransom for us to enter the Kingdom. What LOVE! "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for

his friends." (Jn 15:13) The love of God and the love of Jesus inspires us to appreciate the celebration of the birth of God's Christ.

The THIRD lesson is that THE WORLD and all of us in it, are loved. That's another reason for celebration! In his new book, *Heaven*, by Randy Alcorn, the author insists "God has never given up on his original creation. Yet somehow we've managed to overlook an entire biblical vocabulary that makes this point clear." (p. 88) He wants us to refocus from going to heaven to God working with the earth and heaven coming down, the Kingdom of God. He wants us to think about the words: reconcile, redeem, restore, return, renew, etc. What a novel thought! Most folks that are reading this are aware that "thy kingdom come" has been a focus for us. THAT is what God is doing through the birth of His Son! Why not celebrate that birth even if we don't know the exact date? Loving the world is the basis for Jesus being born. Isaiah says, "He created it not in vain." (KJV 45:18)

The whole notion of the Kingdom of God centers around what God is doing with us, the world, through Christ. "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done" is not a mute, dreaming prayer. It is the WILL of God. Brian McClaren in article "The Strategy We Pursue"<sup>1</sup> says that the FIRST strategy of the church should be to "Admit we may not actually understand the good

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news , and seek to rediscover it.” Amazingly, he goes on to say that a number of Christians are suggesting “perhaps the gospel has something to do with the Kingdom of God, and perhaps the Kingdom of God is not equal to going to heaven after death, but rather involves God’s will being done on earth... .” That is what Christmas ought to be. As Gabriel told Mary, “He will reign...his kingdom will never end.” (Luke 1:33)

The FOURTH lesson we can gather trying to simplify Christmas is that God has an “ONLY BEGOTTEN” Son. The Greek here is simply “*monogenes*”<sup>2</sup> pronounced as “*mon o ge nes*” with an accent on the “nes,” with a long e. Any one that has ever played Monopoly understands “mono.” Your goal is to become the one and only ruler of the board. “*Genes*” can be compared to and is the root of “Genesis” the book of the beginnings! I love the verse in Psalm 139:13 “You knit me in my mother’s womb.” I also love the fact that DNA is based on the simple compounds A, C, T, and G. How about that for an “ACT of God!”<sup>3</sup>

In this fourth lesson of understanding *monogenes*, we ought to pay careful attention because “Orthodoxy” tries to do a dance around it.<sup>4</sup> It simply means, ONLY BIRTHED, coming into existence. The Bible calls Adam a “son of God” (Luke 3:37), but Adam is a dirt created son of God! Jesus is the only BORN Son of God. He comes into existence

at “Christmas!” THIS is the fulfillment of what many call the *protoeuangelion*, First Gospel, Genesis 3:15, where the seed of the woman, would crush the serpent’s head! Jesus is not an “angel” come down, nor like the Greeks thought a “god” come down, he is the only begotten Son of God! A SEED of the woman created in her by God. Compare I Tim. 2:5, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.” Jesus’ favorite term for himself though he was the Son of God, was Son of Man. What a time of celebration even without the materialism, glitz and glamour!

We may not fully know (cp. Mt. 11:27 greek, *epignosko*) the details of how important Jesus is, but we ought to understand his birth. In Kittel’s Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (TDNT)<sup>5</sup> there is an attempt to say that Jesus is “unique” without, to my opinion, the proper notion of simple birth, coming into being. (p. 337 ff) He does acknowledge the beauty of “unique, unparalleled, incomparable” but says that “Josephus has *monogenes* in the usual sense of ‘only born.’” NOTICE that the *usual* sense of the word is simply “only born!” ONLY BIRTHED, to me is what the real Christmas is all about. Yes, Jesus was planned from the foundation of the world; yes, he was in the mind and plan of God; but, when God knit Jesus in Mary’s womb by the power of the Holy Spirit and BIRTHED HIM, NOW THAT IS CHRISTMAS!

Our family tries to “put the CHRIST back into CHRISTmas” by reading the story of Jesus before opening presents. What if we all focused on the four simple lessons for Christmas based on John 3:16. God is the Father and starts it. He loves and causes it to happen. The world’s salvation and restoration and regeneration is the purpose. And finally He birthed His only Son in the womb of Mary to eventually bring us individually and the world into the Kingdom of God! No wonder Jesus is the only necessary ransom, redemption, payment for our sins. THAT is the REASON for the SEASON.

God bless us as we understand the importance of the birth of Jesus! ■

<sup>1</sup>My appreciation to Dr. Bill Lawrence for sending this to me and listing the website where this may be read: <http://www.nextreformation.com/html/resources/mclaren-strategy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Strong’s 3439, *monogenes*, from 3441, “*mono*” and 1096 “*ginomai*,” 1) to become, i.e. to come into existence, begin to be, receive being 2) to become [notes from BibleWorks software]

<sup>3</sup>The letters ACTG represent the basic four chemicals within DNA: adenine (A), cytosine (C), thymine (T), guanine (G)... and with that God makes all of us PLUS His Special Perfect SON!

<sup>4</sup>Compare D. Moody, JBL (Journal of Biblical Literature) 72 (1953) 213-219 ; Ray Brown, The Anchor Bible, Vol. 29 Page 13.

<sup>5</sup>TDNT, Vol. IV, P. 739, Kittel notes the Josephus references, Ant., 1,222 and Ant., 5, 264

Great expectations come with every pregnancy. An expectant mother-to-be is not just anticipating a baby, but a child who will grow up to be somebody and accomplish great things.

This has been true since the first human birth. Eve said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD" (Gen. 4:1, NKJV). She was thankful that after her sin, the LORD still blessed her and gave her hope. How great her hope was, is explained by Paul in I Tim. 2:14,15: "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived fell into transgression. Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control." Eve expected Cain to somehow restore their family's relationship with God. Great disappointment came when Cain killed his righteous brother. Eve's hope burned bright again when another child was born. She named him "Seth" and remarked, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." "Seth" means "appoint" or "compensate."

Indeed, the LORD compensated Adam and Eve for their lost expectations when Seth's family "began to call on the name of the LORD" (Gen.4:26). Seth's descendants included righteous leaders such as Enoch, Noah,

Abraham, David, and Jesus Christ! Eve's yearnings for a restoration with her heavenly Father were shared by thousands through the years and were finally fulfilled in Jesus. That pattern was repeated in many ways in ancient times. A disappointment would create a desire. That was often followed by a promise or prophecy from



God that the desire would be fulfilled, but it took the birth of Jesus for it to come true. Every pregnancy seems to last an unbearably long time.

Only the anticipation of the new life coming makes it endurable. The hopes and dreams of the Old Testament people were like a gestation that lasted for generations!

David, the soul-stirring singer of

Israel, desired God's closer presence so much that he originated the idea of building Him a temple close to his palace. The Lord responded that He had never asked for a house and what he preferred was to build David a house! David already had a palace. But God meant it differently. "Your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." (2 Sam. 7:16, NKJV.) Can you imagine David's amazement and joy at this promise? It implied that his children and grandchildren forever would be close to God. Another part of the prophecy stated that more explicitly. "I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son." (2 Sam. 7:12-14, NKJV.)

A dream house often takes years to plan and build. Some people have to settle for building a basement first and living in it while they save and prepare for the completed upper story. David's "house" was like this. Solomon started as a wise and intimate friend of God, but the royal line of David's heirs was more base than basement for the

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I don't find a lot of peace during the Christmas holiday. I try to avoid malls and department stores because I know that I'll find way too many people pushing and shoving to snatch up that 'perfect' Christmas gift. And the holiday traffic is anything but peaceful – tempers flaring over bumper-to-bumper traffic and in trying to find a good parking spot.

Now I don't mean to sound "bah humbug!" about Christmas, but up against that backdrop comes a Christmas card in the mail from a friend or family member proclaiming the angels' message of "peace on earth, goodwill toward men." Are you kidding? Where's the peace? Where's the goodwill? Not at the mall. Not in the traffic. Not in the world, for that matter. The season for celebrating the coming of the Prince of Peace reminds us of how very far we are from experiencing that peace in the world.

While it's easy to lament the lack of peace in the world, it's more disquieting to come to terms with the lack of peace in our own lives. Shouldn't disciples of Jesus experience firsthand the peace that only the Prince of Peace can bring? If so, how do we account for the stress, anxiety and distraction that we too often experience? Are Christians less stressed than non-believers? Does the world take notice of our peace and calm amidst the natural and man-made crises that seem to continually rock the world?

Now I don't mean to send anyone on a guilt trip; especially since I experience those same "nonpeaceful" feelings too often as well. But doesn't it call each of us

to reexamine our relationship with the Prince of Peace if our lives are often characterized by a lack of peace?

There is a great deal of truth in the words of a song that is often heard during this season: "let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." Perhaps the peace that "begins with me" is something different than the songwriter envisioned. We need to come to the peace negotiating table of the Lord ourselves before we can bring anyone else there.

The Beatitudes of Jesus begin with the blessings of poverty of spirit, mourning, gentleness, and a hunger and thirst for righteousness. From there they progress to peacemaking (Matthew 5:1-9). We cannot become a peacemaker until we have come to terms with our own brokenness and experienced peace firsthand. We cannot negotiate a peace with others that we have not experienced ourselves.

I'm learning that the qualities of the coming Kingdom of God – in particular, peace – must be evident in my life as a witness and example to others that I hope to influence to become Kingdom citizens. Individual believers and the church collectively must experience and model those qualities that will be commonplace under the earthly reign of Jesus. That's the message that seems abundantly clear in the Book of Acts – the Early Church experienced and modeled Kingdom qualities that had a major impact on their world.

The real challenge is in knowing how to truly experience these Kingdom qualities on a daily basis. How do we have the kind of relationship with the Prince of

Peace that produces the quality of peace that is a witness and example to others?

Philippians 4:6 holds an important key: "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*" (New American Standard Version). It may sound trite to say "why worry when you can pray" but it really is true. The more we respond in prayer to "anxiety-inducing" circumstances the more prevalent peace is amidst these circumstances. We allow the Prince of Peace to intercede on our behalf.

Jesus says in John 14:27, "*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*" (New American Standard Version). A few years ago I experienced some circumstances that caused me a great deal of anxiety. It was a very unpleasant time. In the midst of these circumstances Jesus' words in John 14:27 became much more real to me. In fact, I found that by reading and reciting these words I could immediately experience peace in a very real way. I came to realize and experience the peace that the Prince of Peace wants each of us to have.

We celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace this season. It is my prayer that each of us experience that peace firsthand, and that the presence of that peace in our lives will be a compelling example and witness to a world that so desperately needs peace. ■

I love cradling a baby. My own children are ten and thirteen, but I'd keep them little if I could. There's a special pleasure in snuggling an infant, inhaling that baby-fresh newness and absorbing their warm toastiness, a tiny heart beating against mine.

However, children do grow up. They are preprogrammed by God to mature into people gifted with the abilities and talents He's given them. Where we see a tiny version of mom and dad, God sees the mature follower of Christ they will be, and the wonderful things He designed them to accomplish, and the lives they will touch.

With each birthday, we celebrate not only the day when our child came into the world, but the growth they have experienced in another year's passing. We remember the events surrounding the day they were born, delight in how much they have changed and get a glimpse of the person into which they are blossoming.

In the same way, the Son of God was not meant to stay an infant. While the story of his miraculous conception and birth is inspiring, it didn't end in Bethlehem. God had a unique plan and a specific motive regarding Jesus.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16, NIV)

Jesus was born for a reason, one he wouldn't have accomplished had he stayed a baby in a manger. It was only after he grew into a man that he could fully understand and fulfill his

heavenly Father's plan of dying on a cross, rising up in victory over death and ascending into immortality at God's right hand to someday come again in glory.

Think about all the miracles that would have gone undone, the parables untold, the life lessons untaught and the love undemonstrated, had Jesus never gotten any further than his cradle.

This holiday, as you set up your

**“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”**



nativity scene in preparation for Christmas, take an extra long look at the infant figurine and remember that he didn't remain a child.

Remember that he matured into the purpose for which God prepared him. As Luke 2:52 reads, "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

Similarly, God has plans for each of us. He wants to save us from our sin and from death, but He also wants us to grow. He wants

us to know all the joys of life and the delight of being uniquely His.

We are born again through the waters of baptism and it is an exciting new beginning. However, we Christians sometimes fall into the trap of believing and living as if our acceptance of Christ is the end. It is the end, but it is the front end.

With each year God wants our relationship with Him to deepen into a more intimate friendship; He wants us to stretch our spiritual wings, bear fruit for Him, and reflect His light to a dark, dying and lonely world.

It is not enough that we were reborn. God wants His children to grow "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13, NIV).

This Christmas, and every one to come, let the crèche be a reminder that we are to be another year more like Jesus. Another step nearer to God. Another mile further down the road of spiritual maturity. Another year closer to Christ's return.

And with the New Year as you put away the nativity scene, keep in mind that Jesus didn't stay in the manger; he didn't remain a baby. By the grace of God and with His blessings, neither will we. ■

About the author:

Jeff Bull lives in Arizona with his wife Becky and two children, Charissa and Nathan.

It's that time of year. We hustle and bustle about trying to find the perfect presents, try to come up with the perfect meal. We see the beautiful manger scenes. We can't help but walk up to the little "cradle" and see the precious baby Jesus born in a manger. This single event fulfilled many Bible prophecies about our coming Messiah. What many fail to recognize is that only a small part of the prophecies about Jesus Christ were fulfilled at his birth! The greater majority of the prophecies about Christ are yet to be fulfilled!

The Jews at the time of Christ had a similar problem. They knew the prophecies concerning their Messiah. They were students of the Bible. Sadly, their King was right before their eyes and what did they do? They crucified him. They were looking for a King. They wanted their Messiah to "save them now" as was evident from their chants on what we know as Palm Sunday. They shouted "Hosanna!" which means save now. What they failed to realize was, Christ had a job to do first. He first had to reconcile mankind to God through his ultimate sacrifice! They looked at the prophecies, but failed to see them as more than one part. They could not differentiate between his first and second coming. They wanted out from under Roman control then and there.

Similarly today, most fail to realize the prophecies of Christ's second coming. They want to leave him as the cute baby in the

manger. They fail to realize he is now our King! Yes Christ did fulfill part of the prophecies. He died a horrible death on the cross for the sins of you and I. He spilled his innocent blood on the cross. He didn't deserve to die. He was the only perfect human being ever to walk on the earth! He did this willingly so that you and I could have part in something so wonderful that words can hardly describe it. He, through his blood, gave us access to the throne of God! But what



we need to look at is the wonderful promises that are yet to be fulfilled.

To get a glimpse of these prophecies we need to take a look at the REAL Christ, as he appears today. John on the isle of Patmos, a prisoner of Rome, was given a vision of the real Christ. Take a look at Revelation 1:12-16. *"I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow,*

*and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance."* This is the TRUE Jesus Christ! The way He appears today sitting at the right hand of God Himself. He is our King now, not a baby in a manger any longer.

Elsewhere in Revelation, Christ is pictured as "The Lion from the tribe of Judah". This is the image of our coming King of King and Lord of Lords. He will return to take what is rightfully his. He is returning to fulfill the prophecies the Jews looked for at his birth. He will establish the Kingdom of God on this earth, a Kingdom that will last throughout all eternity!

Where will you and I be? If we still have the image of the cute little baby, we may miss the glorious return of our Messiah and King. We can have a part in all the wonderful promises of the Kingdom. We can be "Kings and Priests" in the Kingdom of God. We must first open our eyes and our hearts and we will see our King coming in all his glory in the clouds, and usher in the glorious Kingdom of God on this earth. Then there truly will be "Peace on earth and goodwill towards men". ■

# The Birth of Jesus, Unvarnished

## Why I Believe in the Human Jesus

By Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Christmas is coming. Family gatherings, bright lights, colorfully wrapped gifts under a tree.

Christmas is coming. Long lines at the store, running too many different directions to attend parties and trying to please all the family, credit card bills to be dealt with in January.

Christmas is coming. Joy to the world! O Little Town of Bethlehem, What Child is this?

In the midst of it all, all the activity, all the glitz and marketing, and materialism, all the sentiment, all the joy and all the stress, there is a simple story of a birth.

That story has been largely overshadowed by layers of tradition. Like a piece of antique furniture that's been repeatedly varnished and painted by generations of owners, there is a beautiful piece underneath, but first you must strip away some of the layers added by man to get to the genuine original.

The fact that the story has been altered and amended in the telling and retelling should not surprise us. We are all familiar with the ways that stories change in the telling. Each teller tells the story from his or her perspective adding elements from their viewpoint with their particular audience in mind. No two people experience the same event in exactly the same way.

This is why the Bible tells us that in court there should be a minimum of two or three eye witnesses. Each witness sees and experiences the event from a different perspective and together they can provide a picture of what really occurred.

As we listen to the story as it's told our minds help the story along. We add in our own assumptions. We picture in our minds what the events being described look like. Who hasn't



had the experience of reading a novel's description of a character and forming an image in our minds based on the description given, but also drawing from familiar people in our experience? If the novel is made into a movie, an actor is chosen to play the role, and it is quite likely that the appearance of the actor playing the character will be very different than the one we imagined.

As the story of Jesus was told and retold, it began to be changed. With each generation

of retelling, another layer of varnish was added. We need to carefully, lovingly strip away the varnish to get to the beautiful original underneath.

There is cultural varnish. Jesus was not a white baby. Go into any museum and look at the European Renaissance paintings of Madonna and child and you would believe that Jesus was a little Italian boy, or perhaps German, French or English.

Jesus was an olive complexioned Hebrew boy. His parents were followers of YHWH. They believed that there was only one true God, creator of heaven and earth. They would have grown up reciting the Shema Israel in their synagogue services "Hear O Israel, YHWH is God, YHWH alone". They would have understood that the one and only God entered into a Covenant with their ancestor Abraham to make them a great nation and to give them the land as an inheritance.

They would have understood that the Kingship of Israel was granted to David and his heirs. And they would have been living in the hope that an heir to David's throne would emerge who would unite the kingdom and grant them freedom from generations of oppression by a succession of dominating world empires from Babylon to Rome.

They would have been familiar with such passages as:

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## The Birth of Jesus, Unvarnished Why I Believe in the Human Jesus

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“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” (Micah 5:2)

They may never have imagined that events would unfold in the way they did, but they would have shared a common background, common language, common perspective, common world view that would have helped them understand and interpret the events as they unfolded. And the same was true for the first generations that heard the story who shared their Hebrew background. So when Matthew tells the story he was able to refer back to these shared texts and understandings to interpret Jesus’ birth to his audience.

But as the story began to be told to different cultures, they didn’t share the same worldview. The story began to be shared with people who didn’t believe in one God, YHWH, but multiple gods. The story was told to people who were more familiar with the legend of Mithras, who was a

god who came down to earth in the form of a baby, a god whose birth was celebrated at the time of the winter solstice, December 25. And for these people, as the story of Jesus was told to them, they began to add elements of their stories. Jesus, a baby, the son of God, born of a virgin... that sounds a lot like another story... and the stories merged, and eventually the story was retold that Jesus was God or member of the godhead who was incarnated as a child and born of Mary in a manger in Bethlehem on December 25th. And the layers of varnish began to build up. Political Varnish, Theological Varnish, Ecclesiological Varnish.

For years there were parallel accounts of the story being taught and as the world of politics began to mix with the telling of the story of Jesus strong divisions emerged. For some, Jesus was the human messiah, born of a virgin. For some he was an angel come to earth. For others, Jesus was God the Son, Incarnated in the virgin Mary. When the controversy reached the ears of the emperor, who had already determined that the Christian Religion could be used as a tool to bring unity to his empire, he acted to stop the controversy and ordered the two sides to get together. In the process of much political chicanery, those who taught a Hebrew human messiah were silenced, killed, or driven underground, their writings were destroyed or hidden away, and the varnished version of Jesus became predominant.

However, with the advent of the printing press making books available to not only scholars but to the common man, and reformers such as Martin Luther and William Tyndale daring to translate the ancient Latin, Greek and Hebrew texts into the common spoken languages of the day, people began to be able to read the story of Jesus for themselves. Now, many still read the texts with the preconceptions still firmly in their minds, so that when they see Jesus, a human baby born of Mary, they imagine it to be God the Son incarnate, not because that’s what’s written in the Bible, but because that’s what they’ve been trained to see. At the same time others have worked to strip away the layers of varnish to see underneath the original, unvarnished Gospel of Jesus, the human child of God, born of Mary, a young woman who was chosen by God to bear God’s anointed King.

One might rightly ask the question, what difference does it make? Does it matter if Jesus was a human, or if Jesus was God appearing as a human, or as a hybrid God-Man?

While to some it may seem to be theological hairsplitting, I do think it’s important. If Jesus is truly God in a human suit, as many imagine, then he wasn’t really tempted in the same way as we are tempted. One of the characteristics of God is that He cannot be tempted by evil. If Jesus is God then it’s not at all remarkable that he was “tempted in every way just as we are-yet

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## The Birth of Jesus, Unvarnished Why I Believe in the Human Jesus

By Pastor Jeff Fletcher

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was without sin” (Heb. 4:15) If Jesus only appeared to be human than it stands to reason that he only appeared to be tempted. Which is to say that we don’t really have an advocate with the Father who understands what it is really like to be tempted, which means there is no sympathetic mediator between us and the father, which means that it impossible for us to “approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” as Hebrews 4:16 tells us we can do through faith in Christ.

So the person of Jesus, whether he is a God-Man or the human son of God, does make a very practical difference in our daily experience of temptation. As I face the struggles against sin that are common to man and I appeal to Jesus for help, and mercy and grace, can I do so with confidence? That’s a big deal to me. If you take that away from me by presenting a god incognito in place of a human messiah, you’ve robbed me of a major piece of armor in my struggle against sin.

Apart from very personal and practical reasons why it’s important to understand the humanity of Jesus, I believe there is an important Faith issue at stake. God has revealed himself in scripture to be “the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was, and who is to come the Almighty.” (Revelation 1:8) By this God is saying, I am, I always have been and always will be. God is God, and as God he is eternal. It is in the nature of one who is eternal that he is not subject to

death. Put quite succinctly, God cannot die.

At the heart of the story of Jesus’ birth is his death. Among items brought to him by the Magi was myrrh. Under normal circumstances this was a bizarre if not entirely inappropriate gift for a young child. In the ancient world myrrh, a highly aromatic resin was used in embalming the dead. It had no place in the celebration of a birth of a healthy boy. It’s use in this instance was as a prophetic foreshadowing of Jesus’ death carrying a special significance. Not only was Jesus to be the Messianic King (gold) and High Priest (frankincense) but he was also to be the Sacrificial Lamb. He fulfilled not only the messianic prophecies of David, but also promises of the Suffering Servant, the “lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.”

In order for Jesus to fulfill the role of the sacrificial lamb, he had, by necessity, to suffer a real death. While there have always been conspiracy theorists who claim that Jesus didn’t really die but that he faked his death, the Biblical accounts are unanimous, Jesus died on the cross and God raised him from the dead and there were numerous eye witness accounts of a post-resurrection Jesus. So the salvation hope upon which all Christians base their faith is a real death of Jesus and a real resurrection. If Jesus was not a real human being, but God masquerading in flesh, then in what sense could he have actually died? If Jesus was God in flesh who went on a 3 day preaching revival in hell and then came back up to the tomb on Sunday

Morning, then he didn’t die in the same way that humans die. He wasn’t really dead. And as Paul clearly states, if there is no death of Jesus and no resurrection from the dead then our faith is “futile” (I Corinthians 15:17).

As you celebrate the birth of Jesus, take time apart from the parties and presents, to give serious thought to the essential story underneath it all. A story of God’s love, who allowed his human son, the baby born in Bethlehem, to experience all of the fullness of life, including it’s temptations, and then to die on the cross for our sins. God raised up His dead human son, and granted him everlasting life. Jesus, who by virtue of his obedience to the father and great humility, has been raised up and exalted and given a name that is above all names, he has been given all authority in heaven and earth, he is the bridge between God and people. Jesus is our man in heaven. And when Jesus returns to establish God’s government on earth and bring an end to sin and death, he will raise us up to be like him.

The babe born in Bethlehem who’s life began in the womb of Mary has become God’s son and when we trust him and follow his path, we too become Sons and Daughters of God who will live and reign forever with Christ. That is the best present anyone could ever receive. Receive it and share it this Christmas. ■

Most of you that will be reading this might know that I am a native of Louisiana, specifically Pumpkin Center, a little community north of New Orleans and east of Baton Rouge. I would like to give you a ground level perspective about the situation I found on a recent visit.

Traveling from Atlanta there, as I reached Biloxi, all the trees had fallen to the north indicating the counterclockwise swirl of the tremendous winds of Katrina. I found it extremely profound that many of the Casino signs along I-10 were "bowing" to God. By the way there are over a hundred of those signs. As I reached the Pearl River and entered Louisiana around Slidell, the trees and signs were fallen towards the south from the opposite side of the hurricane. As I crossed the main bridge listening to WWL radio an old New Orleans station, the Governor was at a ceremony at the opening of one lane of I-10 that comes out of New Orleans. There will be one lane going and one lane coming. The other section will not be ready for a long time. The water surges from the hurricane wiped many of the sections into Lake Ponchatrain.

Our two main churches in the area are the Happy Woods Church between the towns of Hammond and Ponchatoula, and the Blood River Church, southwest of Springfield. I graduated from Ponchatoula High and went to Southeastern University which is in Hammond. Pumpkin Center is about seven miles due west of the Happy Woods church and 7 miles north of the Blood River church. I

met with both Rob Bernheisel, pastor at Happy Woods, and Pastor John Wincapaw from Blood River. It looks like the evacuees will be an opportunity for ministry over the next two years.

An example of this is that the 30 acres at the end of the Pumpkin Center Road and I-12 has been leased by FEMA. The land is cleared and they are to put 10 trailers per acre (300 families). My sister in law, a teacher at Ponchatoula Elementary said they



Pastor Rob Bernheisel showing Hurricane Katrina damage.

had an additional 100 + students (600 originally). Some estimate that 30% will NOT go back to New Orleans. That may be both a blessing and a curse to the area in terms of economics. John suggested and I concur that some of the money collected by the General Conference be kept in reserve to be used by the churches in the area as needs arise. John had met and talked with five families that week. He said at one place they had an apartment but no furnishings.

The Happy Woods church sustained close to \$10,000 worth of damage. An oak fell on the classroom wing of the church

building. I suggested to Rob that the spirit of those giving would possibly make money available to cover any deductibles necessary. The church sustained other tree and minor property damage. Rob is ministering to several who are displaced. Some young people were students in the New Orleans area and were being housed "back home."

All in all, most of the church families feel blessed compared to the people of New Orleans and Mississippi. My brother, who is doing insurance adjusting in New Orleans, showed me his personal video of homes around the levee break. It was bad. We need to pray for the churches and all in the area for years to come. It will be a challenge. Thank you for your generous contributions. May God bless you and them.

One final funny, Jay Leno in his comedy routine noted the hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc. and kindly asked, "Is this any time to be considering taking 'under God' out of the pledge of allegiance?" I concur with that also. We are living in times of birth pain if I read Matthew 24 correctly. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

We'd like to thank those who contributed to the needs of those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Total giving through the General Conference was \$24,188.00. Below are some excerpts from thank you notes written for assistance. ■

Enjoy the Splendor of the Great Smoky  
Mountains at

# Christian Workers' Seminar 2006

New Date!

## March 26-31

"Building a Better Believer"

Gatlinburg, Tennessee

For more information contact Robin Taylor @ 404.362.0052 or [rtaylor@abc-coggc.org](mailto:rtaylor@abc-coggc.org)

(Continued from page 5)

### general communications.

**What the Amendment Does:** The current requirement that the names of nominees be sent to the General Conference by May 1 is removed, and reference to publication in a specific issue of the Progress Journal is removed.

**Anticipated Change to Current Practice:** This would allow the submission and publication of the names of nominees for the Board of Directors at the appropriate time, especially if the annual meeting date was changed by Board or delegate action. No other change is anticipated.

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Article IV, Section 5

**Current Version: 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.

**Amended Version: Section 5.** Nominations will be brought to the floor of the business session by the Chairman before the time 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.

### What the Amendment Does:

Nominees for the Board must be introduced to the delegates prior to the election, but there would be no mandatory delay for a full day before the election could then take place.

### Anticipated Change to Current Practice:

This change does not necessarily mean that the length of the annual meeting would be changed in any way. Instead, it means that the mechanics of the election do not require that the annual meeting take 2 days for the election alone. The length of General Conference would be based on the wishes of the delegates and the Board. ■



*(Continued from page 8)*

house that God was building for David. That basement was often cold and damp, with very little presence of God allowed. But through the years of the Old Testament, a remnant always yearned for that intimacy with God that brings inner peace. And promises were always being made to them.

A song by David that is often quoted in the New Testament put those promises and yearning together. Psalm 2 was sung millions of times by those seeking God.

Part of it goes like this: "Yet I have set My King on my holy hill of Zion." "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance..." "Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son...Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him." While quoting from this song in Hebrews 5, a New Testament writer confirms that "Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'...And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." (Heb. 5:5-9, NKJV.) All the wishing in the world could not have made this happen. But by God's incredible insight into our needs and His ability to satisfy our deepest longings, Jesus was conceived and born and glorified. That special birth, which had built up

such great expectations, exceeded every heart's desire and longing!

And it still does. Gloria Gaynor relates how it happened to her." It was 1982 and I was the 'Queen of Disco,' with more success as a singer than I could ever have dreamed of. My single 'I Will Survive' had been a hit, topping charts around the world, and yet I still felt empty....(Then) my mother--my closest companion--died. With her gone I became more and more aware of a great emptiness at the center of my life. I was looking for something to fill the ache inside me, yearning for something I couldn't even identify....For the first time, I was really ready for whatever God told me. At home I sat at my dining room table with my study Bible. I prayed, God, I want to know who Jesus is. I'm listening. I want to hear from you...My Bible fell open to a chapter titled 'Harmony of the Gospels.' Verse by verse it showed how the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled. I wrote and studied and read. The verse that really spoke to me, a verse I had sung in Handel's Messiah as a schoolgirl, came from Isaiah: 'Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel' (7:14). At that moment, the Good News spoke to me.

Gloria was reading about a dark period in Israel's history, with invaders threatening. God continued His promise a few chapters later: "Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her

who is distressed...In Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy, they rejoice before you...For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (Isa. 9:1-7, NKJV.) Once again, it is promised that no human effort will bring about this great cluster of blessings, but the zeal (excited enthusiastic efforts) of the Lord will bring this to us! There could be no greater guarantee!

**Merry Christmas and Happy Forever! ■**

Rebekah Martin, Warren Sorenson, and I left on October 10 for Malawi, East Africa. Our mission was to provide assistance to the nearly 4,000 families who attend our Association of churches in Malawi and Mozambique. At our Lord's Harvest Mission Board meeting in early September, we discussed the great need to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ who are facing the prospect of starving to death in the months ahead. As a Board we recognize there are no easy solutions to the recurring famine crises in Malawi, but after doing research, we developed a three pronged approach to provide long term assistance. Our plan included: digging or drilling wells in places where there are no streams or rivers; distributing seed/fertilizer starter packs; and providing bucket irrigation kits. Rather than providing food, our mission board feels that it is vital to help the people help themselves.

Here is what we did to implement our plan:

Wells – Contrary to what we had been told on previous trips, we learned that the people CAN use the wells in their villages for water. They are not allowed to put pipes into them but they can draw water and carry it to their plants. We discovered that hand dug wells, in the southern portion of the country, cost \$100-200. However, most of our church families have fairly easy access to either the village well or to the river in this area. The areas where there is a greater need, the wells would have to be drilled at a cost

of between \$2000-3000 each. Since water is available to many of our members, and because of the major cost of drilling wells, we decided not to provide wells at this time. We would like to raise additional funds in the future to assist with some wells where there is a greater need. We also learned that some groups are providing a reservoir for use in some areas. We will get more information on this.

Bucket Kits – The twenty kits that were ordered prior to our trip did not arrive. But we made arrangements for them to be



Malawi children celebrating the arrival of starter packs.

provided by a local company. We are providing 10 kits to go to the Pastors in Mozambique and 10 to the Pastors in Malawi. We instructed them to give the kits to families who would use them and then report back to us and to the others on their success. Our desire is to provide more of these in the future if the trial ones work well. We took the Pastors who serve on the Malawi Board of Directors to a place where they were being used so they could see them at work. They seemed very excited about the possibility of using them.

Starter Packs - We purchased two different sized packets. The lower portion of the country seems to have more fertile soil than the section to the north of Blantyre. For the lower districts we purchased 7 kilogram packets which contained two kinds of fertilizer and maize seed. We purchased 2,444 bags for distribution in Malawi and 556 bags for Mozambique. This number was based on the number of families using last year's attendance records plus a few extra. However, we discovered that the numbers of families attending our churches had increased from last year. We prorated the bags among the churches and encouraged the pastors to select those with the greater need to receive the packets.

When we delivered to one area, 7 of the Pastors refused the packets. They complained that the packets were too small and that there weren't enough so they would not accept them. We explained that we had done the best we could but that they had every right to refuse them. We were very sad to see the non-Christ-like spirit of these seven pastors.

Last October when Warren, Rebekah and I went to Malawi, the Pastors asked for guidelines and discipline procedures for their Pastors. We put those together and presented them to the Pastors. They were very appreciative. The policies are based on the same guidelines for ministerial

*(Continued on page 19)*

recognition which govern our Pastors here in the States.

We were pleased with the Spiritual growth we saw in the Malawi Board of Directors. They seem to be working well together. They spoke very appreciatively about each other and the way they were pulling together in ministry.

We praise God for the generous support from churches and individuals in the amount of \$16,131.61 for this project. We spent \$16,395 for the

seed/fertilizer packets and the bucket irrigation kits. This is a remarkable response to this need in light of the funds that were contributed for Katrina relief and other projects this fall and the short notice we gave to raise these funds. If any additional funds are contributed for this project, we will hold the money to buy additional bucket kits if it is determined that they are beneficial to the people and/or provide some wells.

Special thanks to all for your prayers for the trip as well as the money that you have so generously provided to assist our brothers and sisters in Africa. May God richly bless you as you continually reach out as blessings to others. ■

--Judy Myers, LHI Chair.



Malawi Board  
Back Row: Pastors Moyo, Matwary, Frazier  
Front Row: Pastor Namaona, Daud, Maxwell



Africa Team distributing bucket kits and starter packs.

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Tel: 800.347.4261**

## **“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 that 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.”**



# Income Budget Report for October 2005

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>September Variance</u>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>				
General Contributions	100,000	92,710	-7,290	-3,782
Building Our Future Campaign	99,077	20,505	-78,572	-78,833
BOF Challenge Gift	0	0		
BOF General Membership Response	0	-20,400		
BOF Alumni Association Response	0	-105		
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	1,667	1,628	-39	-29
ABC Boosters	4,333	9,324	4,991	-640
Subtotal	205,077	124,167	-80,910	-78,284
<b>SALES:</b>				
Christian Education Materials	11,284	5,914	-5,370	-2,553
Books	7,333	10,933	3,600	4,418
Age to Come Media Products	100	72	-28	-3
Theological Journal	100	24	-76	-51
Sale of Assets	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
Subtotal	18,817	17,943	-874	2,811
<b>ABC:</b>				
Tuition	41,667	36,244	-5,423	4,607
Korean Extension Tuition	38,333	97,500	59,167	68,750
Lodging	17,333	20,940	3,607	7,530
Washers/Dryers	400	624	224	-300
Rentals - ABC Plant	1,867	2,490	623	775
Late Fees/Rent	1,833	3,588	1,755	1,411
Fees	1,467	1,940	473	635
Subtotal	102,900	163,326	60,426	83,408
<b>PROGRAM INCOME:</b>				
Conferences & Workshops ***	3,667	-24,521	-28,188	-26,933
Subtotal	3,667	-24,521	-28,188	-26,933
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>				
Interest	333	0	-333	-250
Transferred In	2,267	2,092	-175	-125
Subtotal	2,600	2,092	-508	-375
Income Total	333,061	283,007	-50,054	-19,373

### Building Our Future Campaign

Total contributions since inception (2003) 225,477

\*\*\* Actual 'Conferences and Workshops' net income shows as a negative number partially because some FUEL and General Conference income was received in June, 2005, prior to the start of this fiscal year.

- These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2005 through June, 2006.
- 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.

# Expense Budget Report for October 2005

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>September Variance</u>
<b>STAFF:</b>				
Salaries & Wages	161,440	148,025	13,415	14,398
F.I.C.A. Tax	1,833	2,053	-220	-10
Employee Benefits	29,384	30,203	-819	-564
Subtotal	192,657	180,281	12,376	13,825
<b>SERVICES:</b>				
Assistance to Churches	9,667	4,900	4,767	3,350
Ministerial Association	3,200	3,200	0	0
Youth Program	4,000	4,000	0	0
Subtotal	16,867	12,100	4,767	3,350
<b>SALES EXPENSE:</b>				
Printing & Binding	9,333	9,807	-474	1,464
Postage & Shipping	5,000	4,456	544	-181
Book Store	4,667	7,480	-2,813	-2,250
Subtotal	19,000	21,743	-2,743	-967
<b>ABC:</b>				
Clayton Rebate	667	0	667	500
Advertising--Recruitment	1,167	715	452	331
ABC Korean Extension Support	10,333	13,500	-3,167	-5,750
Library Periodicals	500	99	401	276
Library Books	333	0	333	250
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	233	481	-248	42
Staff Training	1,000	831	169	-1
Subtotal	14,233	15,626	-1,393	-4,352
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>				
Travel	10,000	11,057	-1,057	2,375
Motor Vehicles	933	457	476	251
Office Supplies & Expense	5,000	3,188	1,812	1,053
Professional Services	3,667	1,159	2,508	2,391
Telephone	7,500	7,805	-305	-367
Insurance - Non Plant	200	43	157	107
Supplies & Expense	1,000	1,690	-690	-510
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	8,333	4,925	3,408	2,362
Subtotal	36,633	30,324	6,309	7,662
<b>PLANT EXPENSES:</b>				
Utilities	10,667	14,705	-4,038	-4,208
Insurance - Property	5,000	6,745	-1,745	378
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	1,667	5,658	-3,991	-2,974
Furniture & Equipment	1,667	9,991	-8,324	-8,741
Supplies/Expenses Plant	1,667	2,371	-704	-632
Subtotal	20,667	39,470	-18,803	-16,177
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>				
Interest	9,333	9,486	-153	-102
Other	2,000	1,587	413	342
Subtotal	11,333	11,073	260	240
Expense Total	311,391	310,617	774	3,581
<b>GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)</b>	<b>21,670</b>	<b>-27,610</b>	<b>-49,281</b>	<b>-99,057</b>

# Church News

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## Baptisms

### Georgia

*Simple Teachings*— Jimmy Hughes, Jamala Wilson (9/20/05) by Pastor Rebekah Martin; Aquelia Gleaton (9/20/05) by Pastor Rufus Meyers; Chrystal Wright (9/25/05) by Pastor Rebekah Martin

### Illinois

*Oregon*— Nathaniel Zachary Hall (9/4/05) by Kerry Hall

### Indiana

*Country Chapel*— Rory Nelson (8/21/05) by Shaun Fewell, with Erin Weikle and Ken Howe assisting

### Michigan

*North Kent*— Dan Siderius, Nicole Siderius (10/2/05) by Pastor Michael Cisler

### Minnesota

*Litchfield*— Jacob Thomas Housman (8/21/05) by Pastor Dale Swartz

### Ohio

*Lawrenceville*— John, Mary & Wendy Kibler, Hannah Evans, Rachel Bevan (9/11/05); Andrew and Kaitlyn Hedges, Zane Martin (10/2/05) by Pastor Alan Cain

*North Hills*— McKenzie Koons (8/28/05) by Pastor Seth Ross

*Troy View*— Ralph Underwood (7/24/05) by Kent Snyder; Katlyn Lucas (7/31/05) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman

### Ontario, Canada

*Freedom in Christ*— Kevin Barbosa da Silva, Brian Barbosa da Silva, Lily Barbosa da Silva (8/21/05) by Pastor Steve Bolhous

### South Carolina

*Bethel*— Kayla Hammond (10/23/05) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

*Guthrie Grove*— Wayne Picklesimer (10/2/05) by Pastors Mike Montgomery and James Mattison

### Texas

*Gatesville*— Jimbo Russell (10/30/05) by Pastor Travis Ramsey

### Virginia

*Cool Spring*— Phillip Culley, Jamie Culley (8/14/05), Chris

Paulisch (10/2/05); Ronnie Beall (10/30/05) by Pastor Dale Ramsey

*Fort Valley*— Jamie Shell (7/24/05) by Pastor Chris Seiders; Tyler Simpson (8/12/05) by Pastor Chris Seiders at Blanchard Family Camp, Coldwater Lake

## Deaths

### Illinois

*Dixon*— Jean Slain, 86 (8/6/05); Fredrick Zbinden, 107 (10/24/05), born in Switzerland and came to the United States in 1920. Services by Pastor Hollis Partlowe

*Oregon*— Richard Fridley (1/8/05). Service by Pastors Michael Hoffman and Russ Magaw; Edna Alvey, 84 (8/28/05). Service by Pastor Michael Hoffman

### Ohio

*Bedford*— Howard Cramer, 90 (10/30/05). He, along with his wife, began the Bedford Church in 1952 with G. E. Marsh as Bible study leader in their home. Service by Pastor Rex Cain

### Ontario, Canada

*Glad Tidings*— Reta Harrod, 91 (11/5/05), longest serving member of the Glad Tidings Church of God. Service by Pastor Michael Brown

### Minnesota

*Eden Valley*— Mildred Parks, 90 (8/5/05). Service by Pastor Daniel Smead

*Litchfield*— Vivian Mills, 91 (10/6/05); Elaine Roepke, 75 (10/9/05). Services by Pastor Dale Swartz

### South Carolina

*Bethel*— Clarage Guthrie (9/17/05), member of the Guthrie Grove church. Service by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

*Guthrie Grove*— Cora M. (Corine) James (10/21/05), long time member. Service by Pastor Mike Montgomery and Elder Joe James; Wyman Harris (9/24/05). Service by Pastors Mike Montgomery and Wally Winner

## Marriages

### Missouri

*Fredericktown*— Billy Dunn and Lacey Belli (7/15/05) by Pastor Jon T. Welch

# Prayer & Praise

January 2006

---

- 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 Morrow, 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 Amanda Musch - staff member at ABC.**
  - 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 2006

- 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 and the Restoration Church of God in Fayetteville, GA.**
- 6 Pray for the Pastor's Conference this week in Atlanta.
- 7 **Pray for our Ministerial Association Leadership Team.**
- 8 Pray that God will raise up many donors for ABC's financial needs.
- 9 **Pray for safety for pastors as they return home from their Conference in Atlanta.**
- 10 Pray for the members of your church family.
- 11 **Pray for a renewed spirit of evangelism and revival in our churches.**
- 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 the Young Adult Retreat and Jon Cheatwood as he leads it.**
- 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 someone you know who is in need of healing (physical, emotional, or spiritual).**
- 22 Praise God for the work of those preparing Christian Education materials.
- 23 **Pray for the staff at the College/Conference.**
- 24 Pray for Stepan and Tracy Zhykhovich and their work in Russia.
- 25 **Pray for the church in Magazine, AR.**
- 25 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.

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Church of God General Conference  
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## Please Pray that These Students Will Secure a Visa to Come to ABC

### International Students Admitted for January 2006 (do not have visas yet)

Adegboyega, Kunle - Nigeria  
Amwata, Damaris - Kenya  
Ayieko, Lilian - Kenya  
Babere, Julius - Kenya  
Basil, Saint Kelvin - Nigeria  
Bean, Andre - Bermuda  
Chacha, Sammy - Kenya  
Chilobwa, Fredrick - Zambia  
Jodo, Pauline - Kenya  
Juma, Samuel - Kenya  
Kaliti, Meshack - Kenya  
Kegode, Fredrick - Kenya  
Khadambi, Sheila - Kenya  
Koske, Chebet Caroline - Kenya  
Lucheli, Tundo - Kenya  
Mkoga, Amon - Tanzania  
Muduya, Laighdon - Kenya  
Mukoya, Daniel - Kenya  
Mulugeta, Mehretab - Malawi  
Mwanje, Ssemujji William - Uganda  
Mwita, Oliver Robi - Kenya

Ndung'u, George - Kenya  
Nwokenna, Phina - Nigeria  
Nyaghoa, Violet - Kenya  
Nyumu, Aphiah Wangui - Kenya  
Obayo, Teresah - Kenya  
Ogato, John - Kenya  
Ogueri, Victor - Greece  
Okumu, Moses Wafula - Uganda  
Okungu, Sabatatu - Tanzania  
Owuor, Celyne - Kenya  
Owusu-Boardi, Frank - Ghana  
Renzaho, David Yared - Kenya  
Semberya, Daniel - Tanzania  
Wainaina, Job - Kenya  
Wanyonyi, Godfrey - Kenya

**Total : 36 Students**

### International Students Admitted but Have Not Been Able to Come to ABC Yet (they need their visa application renewed)

Adedeji, Aderonke Rebecca - Nigeria  
Ibidapo, Ogunbodede Samuel - Nigeria

Mulao, Gerald - Zambia  
Nyaronga, Flora - Tanzania  
Nyaronga, Noel - Kenya  
Nyaronga, Reagan - Kenya  
Nyawade, Philly - Tanzania  
Olugboyega, Tayo - Nigeria  
Onyinkwa, Bernard - Kenya  
Sirare, Grace - Kenya  
Tseyah, James - Cameroon  
Tongwa, Fritz - Cameroon

**Total: 12 students**

### Admitted for August 2006

Nyaronga, Alfred - Tanzania  
Ogwor, Erick - Kenya  
Seda, Silvia - Kenya

**Total: 3 students**

**Total International Students Accepted:  
51 from 10 Countries**

**“We praise God for these students who wish to prepare for ministry at Atlanta Bible College. What a blessing it would be for them to come here, learn, and return home to minister. We would be overwhelmed if they all came, but we would be glad to deal with that problem if God opens the door for them to come!”**

**—David Krogh, Registrar**



# RESTITUTION HERALD

& Progress Journal

## ABC Begins Spring Semester, 2006!

Greetings to everyone from an unseasonably warm Atlanta! I hope you have had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to a new year of blessings from our God! With yesterday's temperature of 72 degrees, it feels as if Spring is already here in Georgia. However, we won't boast too much about our weather—we'll probably be scraping our windshields again within the week.

While we enjoy the weather, another semester is now underway in Atlanta! I can hardly believe that it has been 4 years since my family relocated to Atlanta from Arizona. The start of a new semester at ABC is always a busy time, filled with challenges as we try to get everything done in a timely fashion. However, it is also an exciting time, as new students filled with hopes and dreams register for their classes. Returning students have an opportunity to continue their success from the



The Friday evening pre-semester orientation meeting

previous semester; OR the opportunity to start anew if needed! The teachers now face the challenge of turning lesson plans and syllabi into engaging educational opportunities.



Amanda, Jill, and a LOT of textbooks!

In the midst of all this activity, we have to publish quarterlies, prepare book orders, return phone calls, plan for upcoming events like Christian Workers' Seminar or Ministers' Conference, and take care of all the other activities that make the Conference work. You can see why we ask you to pray for

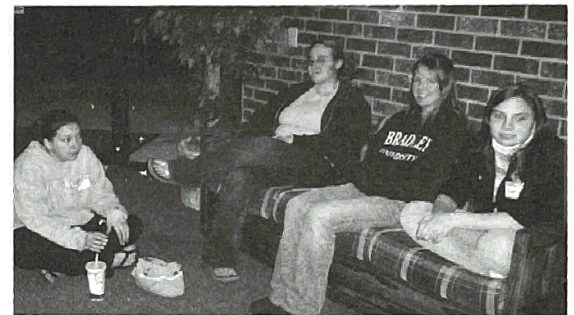
us on a regular basis!

The blessings of God continue to be poured out on ABC. We begin this semester with approximately 60 ABC students (28 new and 32 returning) and 60 students of the ABC Korean Extension.

These numbers will change as we complete registration week. In addition, some students join the College at the mid-semester point. God be praised! We do have some additional international students attending the College this semester. However, a large number of accepted students still have been unable to secure the required governmental permission to enter the United States to study, even though ABC has accepted them. Please continue to pray that God will open the doors necessary to allow these students to attend our College. We are excited by the number of prospective students and interested people that call the College on a constant basis. Jill Taylor said "I am amazed at the number of calls we're receiving for information about the College!" One exciting opportunity to promote the College was a repeat appearance for me on WATC-TV, "Atlanta's Channel 57." The program that aired



Jill prepares a registration packet for a possible student!



ABC Student Life



Tim Jones on Atlanta Live TV

(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.

## 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 DVS for distance learning courses. For additional information about the courses or to register, please contact Registrar David Krogh at [dkrogh@abc-coggc.org](mailto:dkrogh@abc-coggc.org) or 800-347-4261.

### Block Classes:

- Feb. 20-24 - G272 **Church History II** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - M-F 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Feb. 20-24 - M/B230 **Apologetics** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Finnegan) - M-F 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
April 24-26 - B226 **The True Messiah** (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) M, T, W 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 1:30 to 5:00 p.m.

### Distance Learning:

- B111 - **Old Testament Survey I** (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - Self Directed Internet Study with full lecture notes & syllabus.  
B112 - **Old Testament Survey II** (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - Self Directed Internet Study with full lecture 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

**About the Author:**

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

(Continued from page 1)

Friday evening, January 6, is called *Atlanta Live*. This was my second opportunity to be a guest on the show to talk about Atlanta Bible College and our educational programs. David Krogh also appeared last year as a guest for a segment on church planting. These guest appearances give us a zero-cost opportunity to reach over one million households in the Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia region. Many of the calls and contacts made now will possibly result in students of the future.

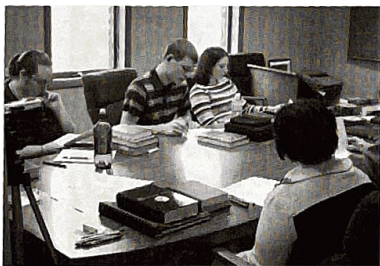


Dr. Alva Huffer & Dr. Joe Martin

The semester began with block classes that met on January 2, 2006. That's right—even before the college football bowl games were

completed, ABC was back in session! Classes were taught by Rebekah Martin and Dr. Alva Huffer. The pre-semester orientations were Friday evening or Saturday morning. The regular classes and the KE classes began January 6, 2006. The semester will end with graduation planned for May 12, 2006.

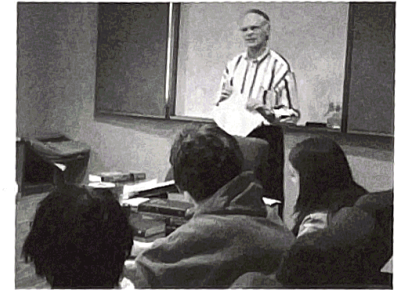
By this time, you should have received your *General Conference 2006 Calendar*. If not, please call our toll-free number 1-800-347-4261 to request a copy. On the back of the calendar, you will find a current list of Saturday classes, block classes, summer sessions, and distance learning courses being offered by ABC. You do not need



It's Greek to me! Students in G261—Introduction to Greek

to leave your home to become an ABC student! These classes can improve on your ministry abilities in your local church, or give you the confidence and training you need to become a leader for Christ. You will enjoy the feeling of

accomplishment as you learn more about the Word of God. The distance learning courses in particular are designed to give you the highest degree of flexibility in taking College courses. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Together we can accomplish great things for our Lord.



First day of class!

Christian Workers' Seminar is coming up in March. Planning is well underway for the event, and we will have one of the best complements of classes ever offered! This year our theme will be **"Building a Better Believer."** As we work for God and wait for the return of Jesus to establish the Kingdom of God, we are called upon to grow and develop spiritually. Yet in today's fast-paced and ever more secular world, knowing how to develop spiritually and finding the time to work at it is very difficult. That is the thrust of this year's Seminar. Registration information has been mailed to all of our members and is enclosed within this issue. If you haven't yet registered, why not take care of that right away? If you have not planned to attend CWS 2006, please give the matter prayer and perhaps reconsider your springtime plans. You will benefit tremendously by being in Gatlinburg March 26 - 31, 2006!

On a personal note, as many of you may have learned, my family suffered a tragic loss with the death of my sister, Melody Ballard, from ovarian cancer on December 28, 2005. Melody was a wonderful woman, a dedicated wife and mother, and a great sister to Rebecca and me. She was also a willing worker, especially with the children, of the Guthrie Grove church. She leaves behind her husband Robert, her sons Sam and Jacob, and her daughter Cayce, as well as my mother, Martha Mattison, and my sister Rebecca Dauksas. She touched the lives of so many people with her cheerful spirit and energy. I want to thank all of you for your prayers on her behalf during her illness. I also thank you for the love and support you have shown our family since her death. She will be forever missed, but we are thankful for the promises that Jesus will come again and that the dead in Christ will rise first. May that day come soon. ■

In Christ,

Tim

# Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution – Annual Meeting, August 10 & 11, 2006

**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.

**The following amendments have been proposed by the Board of Directors.**

Article I, Section 2

**Current Version: Section 2.** The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place between June 1 and August 31 as may be determined by the Conference or its Board of Directors. Announcements of the time and place shall be made by the Board of Directors at least six months in advance by publications of the General Conference or other means of general communications available to the General Conference. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of

the member churches.

**Amended Version: Section 2.** **The General Conference shall meet once a year. Announcement of the time and place shall be made by the Secretary of the Conference at least 6 months in advance by the most effective means of general communications available. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.**

**What the Amendment Does:**

The annual meeting of the General Conference may take place at any time of the year, instead of only during July and August. The notification of the time and place must take place a minimum of 6 months in advance of the meeting.

**Anticipated Change to Current Practice:** At the 2006 Conference in South Bend, if the amendment to Article I, Section 2 is approved, sufficient time will be scheduled to allow the delegates to discuss their preferences for the time and place to hold the annual meeting. Various proposals will be considered, and the delegates asked to consider them all and conduct a non-binding vote on the various options that they would prefer. The Board would take this information into account in setting future Conference dates. This would not go into effect until 2007 at the earliest.

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Article IV, Section 4

**Current Version: 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 the *Progress Journal*.

**Amended Version: 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 and will be published by the most effective means of general communications.**

(Continued on page 5)

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**What the Amendment Does:** The current requirement that the names of nominees be sent to the General Conference by May 1 is removed, and reference to publication in a specific issue of the Progress Journal is removed.

**Anticipated Change to Current Practice:** This would allow the submission and publication of the names of nominees for the Board of Directors at the appropriate time, especially if the annual meeting date was changed by Board or delegate action. No other change is anticipated.

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Article IV, Section 5

**Current Version: 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.

**Amended Version: Section 5. Nominations will be brought to the floor of the business session by the Chairman before the time 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.**

**What the Amendment Does:** Nominees for the Board must be introduced to the delegates prior to the election, but there would be no mandatory delay for a full day before the election could then take place.

**Anticipated Change to Current Practice:** This change does not necessarily mean that the length of the annual meeting would be changed in any way. Instead, it means that the mechanics of the election do not require that the annual meeting take 2 days for the election alone. The length of General Conference would be based on the wishes of the delegates and the Board. ■

### 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

We invite everyone to come to Georgia April 21-23, 2006 for our 15th Theological Conference. It begins at 9:00 a.m. on Friday 21st, ending on Sunday at lunch time. This is a unique gathering of Abrahamic believers, bringing people together from various countries. Many have come to embrace Abrahamic persuasions after careful study of the Bible. Sometimes this has been at considerable cost.

A number of speakers will present papers on subjects of interest to us all, with time for questions following. The conference is a rich time of learning and fellowship, and an opportunity to meet and encourage others of "Abrahamic" persuasion. There will be opportunities, as usual, for shorter "faith story" presentations. This is positively not an "academic" occasion, for specialists only! It is a meeting for Christian education and fellowship to further the great truths of Scripture. Many of the participants have newly discovered the Abrahamic faith and are excited to meet others of similar persuasion. The conference will be greatly blessed by your presence at this weekend.

Accommodation is available as usual at the Hampton Inn in McDonough, GA where the telephone number is 770-914-0077. A block rate of \$75 per night is available (up to four in a room). This includes continental breakfast. Transportation from the hotel to the meeting place at Cornerstone Bible Church will be provided free, as also transport from Hartsfield Airport, and the conference fee is \$105, which includes five meals.

## Conformists or Non-conformists?

By Merry Peterson

*Merry is Co-Pastor at Wenatchee Church of God in Wenatchee, Washington*

It is amazing to me how often working with children can bring to light in one's mind Scriptures and the importance of their meaning. This year I have been privileged to work as a para-educator in a Kindergarten classroom. These children are at the very beginning stages of their academic and social behavior learning skills. Our job in working with these children is to help them not only learn their numbers, sight words, and ABC's but also to help them learn how to interact with one another in appropriate ways and how to be a good citizen. These are the basic concepts that they will use throughout the rest of their lives.

Teaching children socialization skills is very important and it is one of these skills that have brought a particular Scripture to my mind numerous times. Although the children we deal with are only five and six years old we have several non-conformists among our class. One little girl in particular is a non-conformist. She is definitely artistic – no telling her how to make a scarecrow out of paper – she has her own idea of how to do it and she will do it that way regardless of what the instructions may be. She also works on her own time schedule. You would think that by seeing all the other children doing what the teacher asks of them she would get a clue and

follow along and do what is expected also. This is not the case. I can't count how many times I've told this young girl: "See what everyone else is doing? You need to do the same thing as everyone else." It is these words that I have spoken over and over which remind me of a particular Scripture. The Apostles Paul's words: "Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1, 2.

So how does this relate to us? This situation and Scripture reference have me thinking about conformists and non-conformists. The Scripture says to not be conformed to this world – that would be the unbelief, disrespect, and selfishness of our present culture. Do not follow that pattern of thinking or behaving. But be transformed by the renewing of your mind. How are we transformed? By conforming ourselves to the likeness of Christ: Romans 8:29 "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." Then one might ask: How do we renew our minds in the process of conforming to the likeness of Christ? Following the advice of

Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." It is so easy to fill our minds with just the opposite: immoral thoughts, greedy desires, many less than admirable and noble thoughts for sure. We are bombarded by these everyday in our society. However, if we are not filling our minds with undesirable thoughts or intentions then we will be on a good road toward renewing our minds and being able to fill our minds with good, positive, Christ honoring thoughts. Thus not conforming to our world and present day culture but being transformed into the best kind of non-conformist. The kind that conforms to the likeness of Christ.

In the situation that initially brought this Scripture to mind this little girl at this stage in life must learn to conform. She must be able to follow directions and take part in the same activities that the rest of the children are taking part in. Failing to conform could mean repeating Kindergarten. I sometimes wonder if down the road when she is being urged by another teacher or counselor to not follow the wrong crowd or do things just because 'everyone else is doing it', if she will simply reply; well in Kindergarten they spent a lot of time telling me that I should be

*(Continued on page 7)*

Another year is gone. Are you a better person today than you were a year ago? Has your life gotten better or worse? What do you want for the New Year? Do you have any hopes and dreams? Is God part of that dream? Some people seem to think that God doesn't want to bother with them. They feel they don't have anything to offer Him and their life is too far gone to save. Maybe you should see what He has to say before you give up.

Psalm 25:8-11 "Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in justice, and He teaches the humble His way. All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth. To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great."

Does this sound like an uncaring God? It seems to me that His desire is to spend time with you and that He is willing to work with you if you want the help.

Because God is "good and upright" He wants to help us who are down and out. He has some instructions for us that will change our lives. If 2006 is going to be different than 2005 it will be because we have put a

deeper trust in God. It will be because we admit that we need Him and that He is in the business of restoring the sinner to righteousness and forgiving us.

One of the big needs of man is that we must learn to be humble. One of the definitions of humble is this: courteously respectful. Any relationship with anyone will get better if we can learn to practice this kind of humility.

**"If 2006 is going to be different than 2005 it will be because we have put a deeper trust in God."**

When we start to care about God, our spouse, our child, our relatives, etc., and show them respect, a lot of relationships will be fixed. God especially likes it when we humble ourselves before Him, acknowledge our need for Him and let Him teach us a better way. Will 2006 be the year to accept His help?

Where does God want to lead you? I hear people who are afraid to trust God because they think He will send them to who knows where and their lives will be ruined. Take another look at our text. The path He has for you is one of lovingkindness and truth. I know that the idea of an absolute truth is not

politically correct, but it will transform you for the better when you accept it and follow that truth. The secret to this positive way of life is to keep His covenant and His testimonies. God offers you a contract that leads to eternal life on a perfect restored earth. He shows the way in the Bible and those who find it, accept it and live it will rejoice at the coming of Jesus. They will be "changed in the twinkling of an eye" and that change will be from a sinner to perfection. Come Lord Jesus! 2006 will be a blessing for you if you will admit that you need God's help. If you continue to try to fix yourself, and believe you can, not much is going to change in your life. Putting your life in God's hands and trusting Him with your life will bring the changes that are needed. This is especially important for anyone who has started their spiritual journey and haven't given complete control to God. We need His help and His name will be glorified when we humble ourselves before Him and let Him have control. It is a tough decision. With it He will bring the changes to our lives we need. Without it we will go another year and nothing much will be different. What is your decision? ■

*(Continued from page 6)*

doing what everyone else is doing! I hope she decides to be a non-conformist at that point in life when going against the crowd may be the right thing to do, but for now I hope she becomes a conformist so that

she won't drive her teachers or their helpers insane!

As for us I hope that each one of us becomes one of those wonderful non-conformists who decide to follow in the footsteps of Christ and his way of love for

God and others. That we will be non-conformists to the world but rather conformists to Christ for the glory of God our Father. ■

## Remembering Columbia Station Church of God (1963-2004)

by Pastor Dave Swartz

Birth brings joy and celebration and with it comes anticipation of what the future holds. Death brings tears and sadness and sometimes questions of why for those who are left. There are memories with which to reflect, but with them there can be joy again as we trust in the Lord to guide each step. We usually associate these thoughts with the lives of people, but the same holds true in the life of a church. Our church was one of those churches.

Columbia Church of God, later named Columbia Christian Fellowship (CCF), was organized in 1963 by a group of dedicated workers who branched off from the Golden Rule Church of God in Cleveland, OH. We held our first service in September of that year in a school adjacent to the property that had been purchased to build a church. There were 5 acres of land

that had an old one room school house on it dating back to 1876. The school house was listed as a historical landmark of Lorain County during the country's bicentennial year in 1976. It was first thought that the school house could be used as a sanctuary, but we quickly realized that it would be too small and to add on to a historic building would be too costly, so plans were developed to construct a new building next to the school house. With the help of a Mission Builders appeal in 1964, the church was built and dedicated in December of 1965. A fellowship hall and additional classroom space was added in 1975, and a final addition in 1987. A three bedroom house was moved 27 miles from a highway construction site onto the property as we prepared for our first full-time pastor in 1967.

CCF was blessed to have strong Pastoral leadership over the years.

The pastors who served were: Cecil Patrick, 1963-67; C. Jesse Pestle, 1967-72; Russ Magaw, 1972-79; Steve Taylor, 1979-83; Michael Brown, 1983-87; Joe Fletcher, 1987-88; Michael Brown, 1988-92; and Dave Swartz, 1992-2004.

The Columbia Station church became known for having a strong vibrant youth program because of the efforts of Ed & Joyce Schroth and Russ & Gayle Reye in the 70's, and Dan & Diane Benton and Dave & Karen Swartz in the 80's. Many young people gave their lives to Christ through the youth programs. Sadly, like so many churches, the young people drifted away when they finished high school.

In 1979, we started a bus ministry that brought in many children throughout the area. The van was a real help with Sunday school and Vacation Bible School.

*(Continued on page 9)*





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In the early 80's we brought Sr. Doris Brown to Columbia to be a full time Christian Education director. She was a significant influence on our children for a number of years. It was through her leadership that our youth program grew again in the mid 80's. One of the highlights in 1986 was the Noah's Ark Musical production called Rainbow Express. From that production, 12 teenagers gave their lives to Jesus that summer.

The church had a strong community presence over the years with participation in the local ministerial association and combined services for the National Day of Prayer, the July 4<sup>th</sup> Service in the Park, and at Thanksgiving.

We were instrumental in coordinating the first softball league between area churches in the early 80's. I can't begin to count the number of people who came into the church and ultimately gave their lives to Christ as a result of the sports program at the church.

There were a number of couples who were leaders at Columbia in its early years who became workers with the General Conference or Oregon Bible College. They included, Charles & Lois Pryor, Russ & Gayle Reye, and Bill & Marion Burnham. Young people who left to attend Oregon Bible College or Atlanta Bible College and then into areas of Christian ministry include, Dale Swartz, Gary Burnham, Tim Trammell,

Phyllis (Prussack) Umburger, Carolyn (Swartz) Smead, & Tracy Swartz.

Over the years we were blessed to have a number of summer workers through the General Conference including Joe Duncan and Lee McMinn. Karen Mitchell Shaw served as an OBC intern under Sr. Doris Brown in the field of Christian Education.

As years went on, many of our key members were called to further ministry in other areas of the country. As many of the remaining members grew older

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**“Columbia Christian Fellowship was blessed to have strong Pastoral leadership over the years.”**

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and eventually fell asleep in death, the core group was not easily replaced. When the church faced some serious problems in which a number of members left and went to other churches, we found it increasingly difficult to attract new people and all of the responsibilities fell upon a few.

The handwriting was on the wall. But those who were left still kept trying, perhaps because we couldn't imagine anything else. As the condition of the building began to deteriorate and attendance dwindled into the single digits and teens, we began to realize the end was near. We sought the advice of trusted friends and former pastors and diligently prayed for wisdom and guidance from God as to our future as a church.

We conducted three campaigns attempting to draw new people from the community. We contacted twelve families who had previous ties to the church inviting them to come to be a part of a revitalization effort. We received nine of twelve responses back, all of which were negative. Next, we canvassed the neighborhood and distributed 300 fliers receiving no response. Finally, we put it totally in God's hands praying that He would send us one person or family a month for five months. When absolutely no one new came during this five month period, we knew that it was

His will for us to close. As our last Sunday drew near, we encouraged our people to remain faithful to His Word, find a church, and get involved in ministry.

As we look back, we can see that our church was too inwardly focused and concerned about survival rather than being outwardly focused caring about the lost.

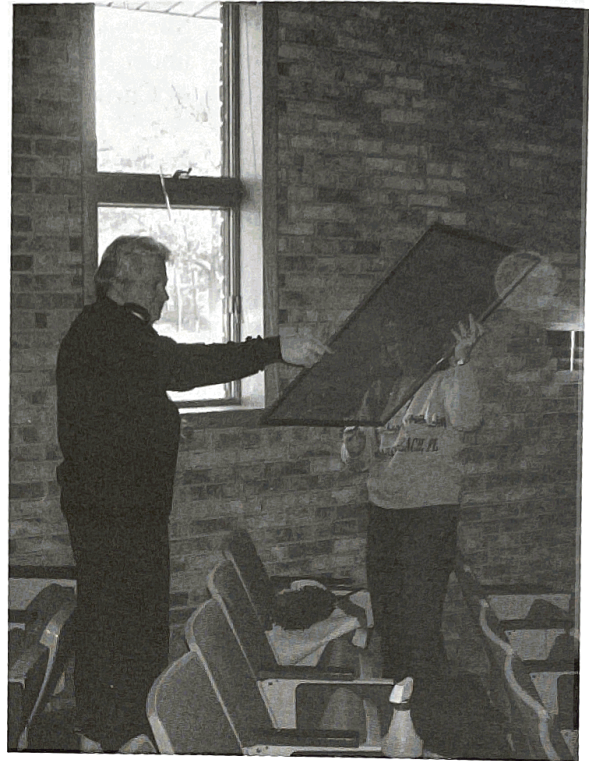
We thank God for those who diligently served over the years in this church. The seeds that were sown and the lives that were changed as a result of the ministry in Columbia Station are immeasurable. We are thankful that we were able to sell the property to another church and the proceeds have been given to various ministries to further the work of the gospel. ■

## ABC Staff Work Day!

A special Staff Work Day took place at Atlanta Bible College between Semesters. About 25 people pitched in including some much appreciated assistance from Simple Teachings Bible Church.



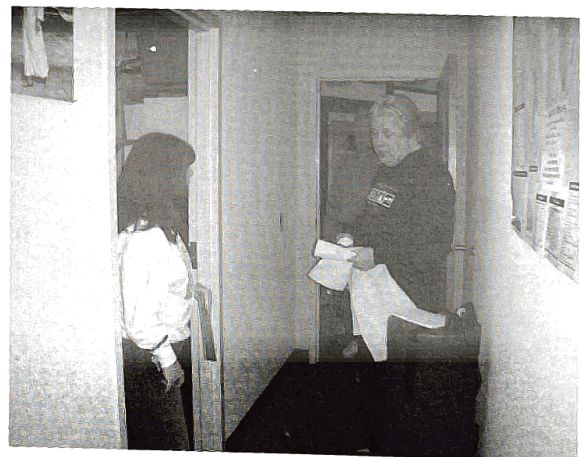
Sam An getting rid of that dust!



Tim Jones and Jill Taylor cleaning windows



Dr. Joe Martin replacing a much needed light!



Robin Taylor doing some reorganizing

*Atlanta Bible College  
and  
Turning Point Youth Ministries  
Present:*

**ABC INVITATIONAL 2006**



**transformation**

**March 2-4, 2006 in Morrow, Georgia  
9th grade and up**

**Visit [www.tpym.com](http://www.tpym.com) for more details**

## **ABC News!!**

We are thankful to have 29 new students enrolled for Atlanta Bible College classes this semester. Four international students were able to secure student visas; 3 are from Kenya and 1 is from Bermuda. We invite you to continue to pray for the additional 47 international students who have been admitted to ABC but have been unable to secure a visa.

Also join us in praying for our annual College Invitational that will be held on campus March 2-4. The theme of this year's event is "**transformation.**" Prospective students will attend ABC classes, tour Clayton State University, participate in service projects, sightsee, and be inspired by messages from students and staff. We hope you will provide assistance for young people from your church to attend this special weekend.

ABC is also looking forward to hosting the annual Ministers' Conference February 6-9.

## New ABC Student Bios...Check it Out!!

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**Name:** Jaymin Cheatwood

**How did you find Atlanta Bible College?**

My parents went to OBC and my uncle works here.

**Why did you decide to attend?** I felt God wanted me here.

**Where are you from?** Mt. Morris, IL

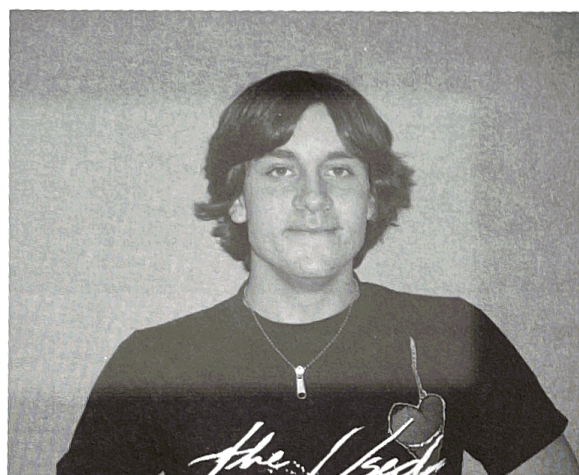
**What are some of the ministries you are involved in?** Nursery, Youth Worship Team

**What are your favorite moments here at ABC?**

Pizza at Fellini's, and the moment after a test

**How has ABC helped you to grow spiritually?**

I've memorized Scripture and found a lot of guidance. I would recommend ABC because you learn more than you can ever imagine.



**Name:** Josh Deane

**How did you find Atlanta Bible College?** My parents went to OBC.

**Why did you decide to attend?** I knew I needed to be here!

**Where are you from?** Ohio

**What are some of the ministries you are involved in?** Music

**What are your favorite moments here at ABC?** It has given me greater knowledge.

**Why would you recommend ABC to a friend?**

Because of the instructors.

**Name:** Sylvia Ball

**How did you find Atlanta Bible College?**

A member introduced me to ABC from my previous church.

**Why did you decide to attend?**

I decided to attend because I've always wanted to go to a Bible College but did not want to attend one that was too large. I believe this school will fit my needs and it's close to my home.

**Where are you from?**

I am from Atlanta (one of the few)

**What are some of the ministries you are involved in?**

I am currently involved in the teaching ministry and the song ministry at my church.

**What are some of your favorite moments here at ABC?**

I am hoping this will be an experience and a wonderful journey as I follow the course that God has ordained for my life.





## Simple Teachings Bible Church Update

December was a very busy and exciting month for us, we ministered to over 100 people, fed 50 families and gave toys to over 150 children. God blessed Simple Teachings to witness to many new people and even after the Christmas season, many have continued to come back and visit with us. We gave away bikes, scooters, games and toys which excited many kids and it seems to have been our most productive year reaching new people who

have decided to come back at our new location, the Atlanta Bible College. This makes our 3<sup>rd</sup> year doing this Christmas event.

For the New Years', we had a New Years' Eve service which started at 9 p.m. and ended around 12:30 a.m. We had a variety of foods to feast on which the members supplied themselves for our many guests that came out. There were around 60 in attendance that night. God is still blessing Simple Teachings Bible

Church. Also during the month of December, we had four people get baptized and we were able to combine Sunday service with the baptism.

Please continue to pray for all of us here at Simple Teachings Bible Church. God bless you all!

Pastor Rufus A. Meyers



Pastor Meyers performing a baptism



Mrs. Meyers with Christmas toys to give away



Simple Teachings Girls' Night Out!



Pastor Meyers checking out the food!

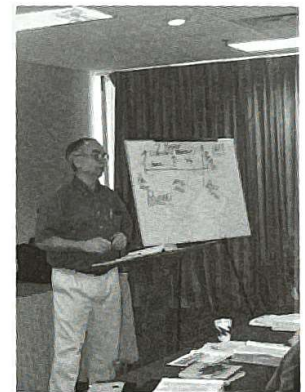


Lots of toys to give away!

Enjoy the Splendor of the Great Smoky Mountains at  
**Christian Workers' Seminar 2006**  
**March 26-31**

Do you ever feel as if you are ready for a closer walk with God? Do you ever wonder how exciting it can be to know that God is at work within you, making you the person He would have you to become? Do you ever wonder how to grow to be more like Jesus every day? Personal spiritual development should be the goal of every Christian. Yet in this modern world, we are often left wondering where we should focus our attention to become better followers of God.

Join us this year at Christian Workers' Seminar as we focus on how God works in His people to help us grow and minister to others. Whether you are a preacher, a teacher, new to the faith, or have been a Christian for many years, our classes and programs will help you learn more about developing a deeper and more mature spiritual life.



# Classes and Sessions

(No need to select your classes now—choose at CWS!)

Prayer and Fasting - Dale Ramsey  
 Post-Modern Roundtable - Tim Jones  
 Foundation Stones - Jamie Engelbert  
 What are the Chances - Wally Winner  
 Standing on the Promises - Joe Martin  
 Missions - David Krogh  
 Spiritual Disciplines - Tim Jones  
 Financial Workshop - David Krogh  
 A Glimpse into Culture: Discussing the Big Screen - Amanda Musch & Jon Cheatwood  
 Grace & Strength from the Holy Spirit - Dale Bliss  
 Lessons in Leadership - Scott Ross  
 Giggles and Smiles at CWS JJ - Carol Ring  
 A Closer Walk (for women) - Rebekah Martin  
 Never the Same: Encounters with Jesus - Jon Cheatwood  
 Inside Out and Upside Down - Dave Riley  
 Discussion Group - Christy Ross Weibel  
 Pathway to the Kingdom - Steve Taylor  
 Building a Better Body - Tom Fischhaber  
 And More to Come!

**Morning Devotions with  
Dale Ramsey and Scott Ross**

Evening Speakers

<b>Tim Jones</b>	<b>Jamie Engelbert</b>
<b>Gary Burnham</b>	<b>Dale Bliss</b>

## Christian Workers' Seminar March 26-31, 2006

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# The Last 3 1/2 Years of this Age (The Great Tribulation)

By Jim Mattison

Daniel the Prophet spoke of a final “week” of seven years before everlasting righteousness would be “brought in,” or, the Kingdom of God would be established here on earth at Christ’s second coming. He is speaking of the last seven years of this “present evil age” (Gal. 1:4).

He said “the prince that is to come” “will make a firm covenant with the many” (Daniel’s people, v. 24). This Antichrist, who is also called Little Horn in Daniel 7 and 8, will make a covenant with Israel for a duration of seven years. This treaty with Israel by this “prince” will begin the last seven years of this age.

Daniel then divided this week in half, showing us two periods of three and one half years in each. Nothing is mentioned about the first three and a half years. Evidently there will be no spectacular happenings. Possibly in this period the Jewish Temple will be rebuilt.

Daniel concentrates on the last three and a half years. He says, “In the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering (9:27), and “set up the abomination of desolation” (11:31). We studied this coming abomination in Chapter 3.

This same time period, described in several various ways—time, times, and half a time; in the midst of the week; 1260 days; 42 months—is predicted in seven places in the Scriptures. They all describe the period of time Antichrist shall rule over the earth before he is destroyed by Christ at His coming. This 3½ year period is called by Jesus “the great tribulation” (Matt. 24:21).

## Daniel 7:25

In this passage, Little Horn shall

subdue three kings of ten. He shall speak against God. He shall wear out the saints of God. He shall change times and laws. The saints shall be given into his hand for “a time and times and the dividing of time.” Then his judgment will take place, and his dominion will end. The Kingdom of God will then be given to the people of God.

In the vision of the tree stump in Daniel 4, which referred to Nebuchadnezzar and his insanity for seven years, it says, “Let seven times pass over him,” meaning seven years. In that passage, a time would be one year, times—two years, and the dividing of time a half year, or 3½ years.

The Little Horn Antichrist shall have power for 3½ years before his dominion is taken away. Christ will then rule earth in righteousness a thousand years (Rev. 20).

## Daniel 9:27

Daniel 9:24-27 speaks of 70 weeks of years. After 69 weeks of years had passed, Messiah was to be “cut off,” or, crucified. This leaves the last, or 70<sup>th</sup> week of years, or seven years. A wicked prince shall confirm a covenant with God’s people Israel for seven years, but in the midst of the week, or after 3½ years, he shall cause the sacrifice to cease and the abomination of desolation shall be placed in the Jewish Holy Place.

We have seen before, in Jesus’ statement in Matthew 24, that the abomination causing desolation was still future in Jesus’ day, and also that it will begin the Great Tribulation, which will “immediately” be followed by the darkening of the heavens and Christ’s coming.

## Daniel 12:7

After Daniel’s prediction (from God) in chapters 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12 about a last day powerful wicked king called Little Horn, the last great “time of trouble,” and the resurrection of the dead, one angel said to another, “How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?”

The answer given by God’s angel was, “It shall be for a time, times, and a half.” Again, we understand this refers to a time element of 3½ years.

## Revelation 13:5

Revelation 13:1-10 pictures LITTLE HORN in the last days (check on him in Daniel 7 and 8). Here he is called the “Beast.” This powerful “beast” Leader will have great authority, and will speak blasphemy against God and His angels. He will “make war with the saints” and “overcome them.”

Power will be given him over all the world. “The dragon gave him his power, and his throne, and great authority” (v. 2). His power comes from Satan. “All who dwell on the face of the earth shall worship him, everyone whose name has not been written . . . in the book of the Lamb who has been slain.”

He will continue 42 months (v. 5). That’s 3½ years.

Who will stop him? Christ, at His coming (Rev. 14:1). This, once again, shows a 3½ year period of time just preceding Christ’s return.

## Revelation 11:2, 3

The “holy city” (Jerusalem) shall be trodden under foot “for forty-two

*(Continued on page 17)*



## The Last 3 1/2 Years of this Age (The Great Tribulation)

By Jim Mattison

(Continued from page 16)

months" (3½ years). In this same time period, God will give power to His two witnesses, and they shall prophesy 1,260 days—another way of saying 42 months, or, 3½ years.

Throughout the Bible, Israel's calendar was based on the moon, not on the sun, as ours is. Israel's year was based on the moon, 360 days in a year. Adding 360, 360, and 360 we get 1,080 days. Half of 360 is 180. Add 180 to 1,080 and the answer is 1,260 days, or 3½ years.

These witnesses for God shall use God's power "to shut up the sky, in order that rain may not fall during the days of their prophesying." "And they have power over the waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they desire."

Notice that God's two witnesses ("two prophets," v. 10) preach in a 3½ year period of time, the same time that Jerusalem shall be trodden under foot. They will be killed by the beast, but then they will be resurrected. This will complete the "second woe," of which we will

study in a later chapter.

So we see this event predicted in this passage will happen in the ending of this age.

### Revelation 12:6, 14

In this chapter, the great red dragon is the enemy of a woman who brought forth a man child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. This child was caught up to God and to His throne. This is describing our Lord, Jesus Christ. The woman that brought forth Christ was Israel.

In this last great persecution of Israel (Jacob's time of trouble, Jer. 30:7), "the woman fled into the wilderness where she has a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days," or 3½ years. The fourteenth verse expresses this time as "a time, and times, and half a time."

This means to this writer that the remnant of Israel will be sheltered of God from complete annihilation in the last 3½ years. Remember, this will be a time of trouble such as the world has never seen (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21). Then Daniel says, "At

that time thy people shall be delivered," and he immediately speaks of the resurrecting of the dead, which we know will occur at Christ's Second Coming (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

### Conclusion

By studying these passages and their time period carefully, we have to conclude that the last 3½ years will be that period of time Jesus called the Great Tribulation. During it, such terrible trouble as the world has never seen before will cover the earth.

This is the period of time LITTLE HORN shall have power over the saints. This is the last half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of seven years. This is the time when the abomination of desolation shall be placed in the Holy Place. It will occur just before Christ returns.

No man knows the day or hour of Christ's return. Yet the signs of His coming that Christ has given, and this 3½ year period at the ending of this age do help the watchful to know that Christ's coming is near. ■

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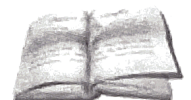
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**By Jim Mattison**

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# Church News

## Baptisms

### Georgia

*Cornerstone* – Patti Williams (11/20/05) by Pastor Steve Taylor

*Simple Teachings* – Melinda Fuller, Khalil Fuller, Tonia Hall (12/4/05) by Pastor Rufus Meyers

### Illinois

*Blessed Hope* – Brenda Stewart, Emily Stewart (1/1/06) by Pastor Neal Bryant

*Macomb* – Penny Self (11/13/05) by Pastor Dave Cheatwood

### Indiana

*Timberland* – Zackary Dylewski and his grandmother, Sue Dylewski (12/23/05) by Gene Dylewski and Pastor John Railton

### Ohio

*Lawrenceville* – Deb Cypryla (1/8/06) by Pastor Alan Cain

### Minnesota

*House Light Ministries* – Jared Hoemberg (9/18/05) by Pastor Jeff Moore at the Minnesota Church of God Campground

*St. Cloud* – Jon Janku (8/21/05) by Pastor Russ Rankin at the Minnesota Church of God Campground

## Deaths

### Arizona

*Phoenix* - C. Lee McQuinn of Phoenix, 71 (8/4/05). He married Shirley Huffer of Michigantown, IN in 1953. He received a degree in Theology from Oregon Bible College in 1966, then pastored in Lombard, IL from 1966-1969. During that time he also traveled as a missionary to Ghana and Nigeria. He and his family moved to Tempe, AZ in 1969 where he pastored the Lakeshore Bible Church until 1972. He owned and operated McQuinn Apothecary for

nearly 20 years in Tempe, AZ. Lee is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Shirley Huffer McQuinn, a son and daughter-in-law Steve and Mary McQuinn of Tampa, FL, a daughter Marsha Crockett of Phoenix, and daughter and son-in-law Linda and Rollin Carlblom of Chandler. Service conducted by Pastor Greg Demmitt, Pastor Jim Graham, Joe Myers, Steve McQuinn, and Mary Harman.

### Illinois

*Blessed Hope* – Colleen Marie Cave (12/24/05). Service by Pastor Neal Bryant

### South Carolina

*Guthrie Grove* – Frances Pack Martin (12/6/05); Peggy Durham (12/7/05). Graveside services by Pastor Mike Montgomery and Edward Bender; Melody Jones Ballard (12/28/05), a lifelong member of Guthrie Grove, and a youth worker in the church. A memorial service was held December 31 with Pastor Mike Montgomery officiating.

### Texas

*San Angelo* – Wanda Helweg, 92 (7/17/05), long time member and mother of former OBC student Duane Helweg

*Shertz* - Jenny Lee Sensabaugh Williams, 94 (12/5/2005), long time member, baptized by James Mattison and Emory Macy, originally a member at Harlingen, TX

## Marriages

### South Carolina

*Guthrie Grove* – Jonathan York and Amy McMinn (12/10/05) by Pastor Terry Ferrell

### Minnesota

*St. Cloud* – Jon Janku and April Vierzba (8/28/05) by Pastors Russ Rankin and Jeff Moore at Eden Valley Church of God

## Ministry Update From North Hills Church of God...

We kicked off a new college ministry on Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> called Wired. It's for college students by college students. We're hoping to connect college students from our area OH churches in such a way that we keep in touch while everyone's away at school.... creating an online community.

In addition, we plan to have a monthly worship service followed by hangout time at a local restaurant, so the students can also come home for face to face interaction/worship together. These services will be on Saturday nights, so kids can come home for the weekend & get back to school on Sundays, and we want to give them a reason to come home & connect. We'll also try to be active over breaks when students are already home anyway. We're simply trying to combat the trend of students leaving for college & leaving the church in the process. We had 17 students attend our first service.

Pastor Seth

# Prayer & Praise

March 2006

---

- 1 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**
  - 2 Pray for those considering attending Atlanta Bible College in the future.
  - 3 **Pray this weekend for prospective ABC students at ABC-Invitational.**
  - 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, Missouri.
  - 11 **Pray for Pastor Michael and Diane Brown and the Glad Tidings Church, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada.**
  - 12 Praise God for those who have provided spiritual instruction for you.
  - 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 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 as missionaries.
  - 23 **Pray for the leaders of your government.**
  - 24 Pray for the new church called "The Park" led by Terrence Raper, in Morrow, GA.
  - 25 **Pray for those traveling to Christian Workers' Seminar.**
  - 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 Robin Taylor, Amanda Musch, 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 attenders or members at your local congregation.
  - 31 **Pray for eyes to see those who are in need and a heart to reach out to them.**
- 

## April 2006

- 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 **Give God praise as you celebrate Palm Sunday.**
- 10 Pray for Sam An as he assists with the administrative work for the ABC Korean Extension.
- 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 Praise God for a risen Savior, Jesus.
- 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 **Praise God that His mercies are new every morning.**
- 30 Praise God for the ministry and service of your church leaders.

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### **Married Couple Seeks Church in Need of a Pastor...**

Interning Pastor Brian and Hannah (Hoffman) Froehlich are currently seeking dialogue and/or an interview with any church that is considering the need for a pastor or associate pastor. Brian graduated from The Atlanta Bible College in May 2003 with a Bachelor of Theology degree. He also graduated from The Art Institute of Atlanta (with a degree in Video Production). Brian has experience and feels gifted in a variety of areas including door-to-door outreach, Short term missions, Preaching, Teaching, Visiting the sick and shut-in, Audio/Video projects, and many other exciting areas. Hannah is a graduate of Clayton College and State University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and is currently working as a full time Registered Nurse.

Since graduation Brian has served in two pastoral internships. One under Pastor Dave Riley at Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA. and is currently serving under Pastor David Cheatwood at the Macomb Church of God in western IL. Intern Pastor Brian was also recently elected for the position of Illinois State Youth Director and is in the process of planning the state summer youth camp. Brian and Hannah currently reside in the Ripley Church of God Parsonage (approximately 35 miles south of Macomb, IL) where Brian also ministers and serves in a preaching rotation. This current internship is nearing its end so Brian and Hannah are eager to talk with any church who may be interested in a pastor or associate pastor in the near future. If your church fits that description please contact:

Intern Pastor Brian at home (217) 322-6161 or on his cell phone (404) 213-3721.

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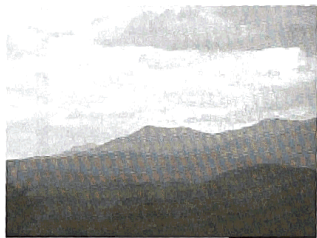
## Christian Workers' Seminar — Another Great Week in the Smokies!!

## & Progress Journal

By Ruth Finnegan

Sean and I were very excited to embark on our journey to our 3rd Christian Workers' Seminar, in the midst of the Smoky Mountains of Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Sean, my husband, said that we were going to leave at 9 a.m. sharp. "Lord, help me," was my immediate thought. Our son, Noah, was just 6 weeks old and he is our first child, and our ability to leave the house on time has altered drastically. And this was going to be no short trip! We were driving from Albany, NY down to Gatlinburg, TN, about 850 miles. Sean revised the plan to leave at 12 p.m. and our actual departure time was 2 p.m. He has learned quickly that having a baby around changes things!

The drive was surprisingly easy and we pulled into the main strip of Gatlinburg around 6 p.m. slowly inhaling the familiar smells of fresh mountain air mingled with funnel cake and fresh fudge. Our excitement mounted and we



rejoiced as we spotted the River Terrace. The Bible College staff welcomed us warmly and it was good to

see many familiar faces! One reason we enjoy CWS so much is that it is the one place we know we will see old friends from around the country and are sure to meet new ones.

This Christian Workers' Seminar was filled with lots of yellow construction hats and orange tape, helping to reinforce the theme of "Building A Better

Believer." The evening speakers all focused on this subject. CAO Tim Jones opened up the week talking about the importance of spiritual development as we grow as believers, Jamie Engelbert discussed our access to God through Jesus Christ using the text of Ephesians 2, Gary Burnham used his grandfather's tools to remind of us of the spiritual tools that God gives us to help us grow, and Dale Bliss helped us to see the need of a clean conscious and encouraged us to deal with any clutter (mental or physical) that might be hindering us.



As it is every year, we faced the difficult dilemma of which class to go to during each of the three morning slots. There were just too many good classes to choose from!! Sean and I are often attracted to different classes which is nice because we get to share our experiences over lunch. Meal times are also a highlight at



Christian Workers' Seminar because we get to learn more of the intricate Church of God family trees...and how they often overlap! We are quite proud of our COG family tree



knowledge and love to make new connections.

This year Sean particularly enjoyed the early morning devotions led by Dale Ramsey and Scott Ross. Unfortunately, Noah and I did not make it out of our room that early. The weather was fabulous and for us New Yorkers, it felt like summer. I believe God was truly smiling upon this gathering of saints.

If you have never been to Christian Workers' Seminar or know of someone who hasn't gone, I highly recommend it. A week away from the world and surrounded by the family of God does the heart and mind good. We left feeling refreshed and ready to face the world once more.

Sean and I did not grow up in the Church of God Abrahamic Faith but we embrace your truths and are fellow kingdom believers. We are so thankful for all of your lives and are always empowered after meeting so many of you at CWS. Please know that if you are ever headed north, you always have a place to stay in New York.

God willing, see you next year!

Love,

Ruth, Sean, and Noah Finnegan

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- 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 HIS 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 LIFE OF CONSECRATED LIFE AS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.

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- 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

**About the Author:**

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

in South Bend, Indiana in August.

We have had some changes to the staff. Amanda Musch left the staff to return to Oregon, Illinois at the end of March. She has been a great member of our team and we will miss her. Many of you may have heard that Dave Riley will also be leaving this month to become the full time chaplain at Sacred Journey Hospice. I know this is a ministry that touches so many and has been a part of our family for the last couple of months, and Dave truly has a heart and calling to minister in this way. We will miss him a great deal, but join me in wishing



Dave Riley

him well in this new role. Lacey Dunn has joined the staff in a part-time support role. Lacey and her husband Bill came to Atlanta



Lacey Dunn

from Missouri and will be in their second year with the College in the fall. Welcome to the team Lacey.

I wrote to you last issue about the loss to cancer of my sister. The tragedies in our family continued into the New Year with the death of my mother in January less than three weeks later. In February, Melody's husband Bob died from a massive heart attack while playing basketball with the church team, leaving their children without father or mother. I was unable to be with my mother in her final hours because of being hospitalized for an emergency appendectomy. Rebecca, her husband Dave, Jim Mattison, the Ballards, and my family have never imagined that such a turn of events could strike our family all at once. We want to thank you all for the cards, letters, support, and prayers you have offered on our behalf. We thank God for His promises and the comfort He only can provide. May God bless all of you in all areas of your life.

Tim

Greetings to you all from Atlanta! By the time this reaches you, we will have completed our semester with graduation at the Bible College. It is hard to believe that the semester has come and gone, although the students may say that they are looking forward to some well-earned vacation time. Things will continue to be busy during the summer. We will be conducting summer session classes, and for the first time the ABC Korean Extension will be conducting classes this summer as well. When you add FUEL and General Conference to the mix, it is clear we are looking ahead to a busy summer season.

Speaking of General Conference, in this issue you will find the initial information you will need to register. Please note that this year you will be responsible for making your own lodging arrangements, so we encourage you to plan early for your travels. I look forward to seeing many of you

## Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution – Annual Meeting, August 10 & 11, 2006

**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.

**The following amendments have been proposed by the Board of Directors.**

Article I, Section 2

**Current Version: Section 2.** The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place between June 1 and August 31 as may be determined by the Conference or its Board of Directors. Announcements of the time and place shall be made by the Board of

Directors at least six months in advance by publications of the General Conference or other means of general communications available to the General Conference. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.

**Amended Version: Section 2. The General Conference shall meet once a year. Announcement of the time and place shall be made by the Secretary of the Conference at least**

*(Continued on page 4)*

*Amendments to the Constitution continued...*

(Continued from page 3)

**6 months in advance by the most effective means of general communications available. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.**

**What the Amendment Does:** The annual meeting of the General Conference may take place at any time of the year, instead of only during July and August. The notification of the time and place must take place a minimum of 6 months in advance of the meeting.

**Anticipated Change to Current Practice:** At the 2006 Conference in South Bend, if the amendment to Article I, Section 2 is approved, sufficient time will be scheduled to allow the delegates to discuss their preferences for the time and place to hold the annual meeting. Various proposals will be considered, and the delegates asked to consider them all and conduct a non-binding vote on the various options that they would prefer. The Board would take this information into account in setting future Conference dates. This would not go into effect until 2007 at the earliest.

\*\*\*\*\*

Article IV, Section 4

**Current Version: 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 the *Progress Journal*.

**Amended Version: 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 and will be published by the most effective means of general communications.

**What the Amendment Does:** The current requirement that the names of nominees be sent to the General Conference by May 1 is removed, and reference to publication in a specific issue of the *Progress Journal* is removed.

**Anticipated Change to Current Practice:** This would allow the submission and publication of the names of nominees for the Board of Directors at the appropriate time, especially if the annual meeting date was changed by Board or delegate action. No other

change is anticipated.

\*\*\*\*\*

Article IV, Section 5

**Current Version: 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.

**Amended Version: Section 5.** Nominations will be brought to the floor of the business session by the Chairman before the time 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.

**What the Amendment Does:** Nominees for the Board must be introduced to the delegates prior to the election, but there would be no mandatory delay for a full day before the election could then take place.

**Anticipated Change to Current Practice:** This change does not necessarily mean that the length of the annual meeting would be changed in any way. Instead, it means that the mechanics of the election do not require that the annual meeting take 2 days for the election alone. The length of General Conference would be based on the wishes of the delegates and the Board. ■



# General Conference 2006

**August 10-11, 2006**

**Timberland Bible Church in South Bend, Indiana**

The summer General Conference returns to the Mid-West! 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!

**PLEASE NOTE: The fees for General Conference DO NOT include lodging. You must arrange lodging by contacting a hotel directly. The fees for the Conference cover the costs of the General Conference meeting and the meals. A list is provided of some of the closest hotels to the Timberland Church, but you may choose any hotel you desire in the South Bend area or make other arrangements. The three listed are less than 1 mile from the church—many others are available in the area. There is no special rate or room block for General Conference attendees.**

1. Cut and fill out the following form . Rates are per person.
2. If today's date is **July 14th or later**, please add \$25.00 to your total.
3. Mail this form to: **General Conference 2006 PO Box 100,000 Morrow, GA 30260**
4. Or register online at [www.abc-coggc.org](http://www.abc-coggc.org) (contact Robin Taylor 800-347-4261)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor Discount? (10%) Y/N Home Church \_\_\_\_\_

Fees: Adults—\$85.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_ Children 12 and under—\$35.00 per child \_\_\_\_\_

Commuters: No Meals—\$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (We encourage you to enjoy the meals with other attendees!)

Transportation Needed from South Bend Regional Airport

**Please: Requests for transportation must be in writing no later than Aug. 1, 2006.**

Arrival Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Time \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Time \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>South Bend Area Hotels</b></p> <p><b>Super 8 574-247-0888</b></p> <p><b>Fairfield Inn 574-273-2202</b></p> <p><b>Holiday Inn 574-277-2520</b></p> <p><b>Call the hotel of your choice directly.</b></p> <p><b>Please make reservations early.</b></p> <p><b>Church Address:</b>  <b>16623 State Road 23,</b>  <b>South Bend, Indiana 46635</b></p>	Adults at \$85 per person	\$
	Children 12 and under at 35.00 per person	\$
	Commuters, no meals X \$25 per person	\$
	<b>Subtotal</b>	\$
	Pastor Discount—subtract 10%	\$
	Registration after July 14, 2006 add \$25	\$
	Less \$50 Deposit	- <b>\$50.00</b>
	<b>Total due at Conference</b>	<b>\$</b>

*Author's Note: At Christian Workers' Seminar I taught a class on the effects of postmodernism on our churches and mission to the world. Several class members asked me to share some of this information with the readers of the Herald. This is the first of a two-part article on this vital topic.*

## “Postmodernism” “Abductive” “Emergent”

Begin any discussion by using words like those listed above, and you run a very good chance of immediately losing your readers to another article in the *Herald*! Wait—don't turn the page yet! What do ideas concerning “postmodernism” have to do with your church? Maybe a lot more than you realize!

Before we talk more about postmodernism, it is very important to stress that this article is NOT intended to encourage readers to adopt postmodern thinking. Furthermore, postmodernism is not good or bad—it simply is. If I enter a room and deliver an excellent sermon on the Gospel in English to a congregation that understands only French, my ministry is in vain. These articles are intended to help us understand what postmodernism is and how to better communicate God's truths in a world that is changing. These topics are rarely considered by people when they are talking or thinking about their church or their faith. We do not think about cultural changes and how they may be impacting our ability to carry out the Great Commission. But if people studying our culture are correct, the future of our churches and their ministries may be impacted by these ideas.

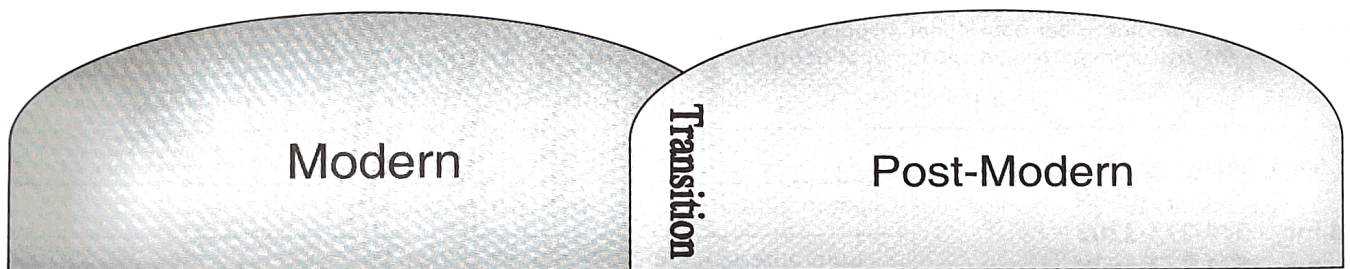
even people that think of themselves as being postmodern have a very difficult time telling you what postmodernism is all about. If the postmodern “thinkers” themselves don't understand the concept, what chance do the rest of us have to understand the concept? Why should we care?

These philosophical themes may seem far removed from the health of our churches. However, I would like to challenge the idea that we can safely ignore the ideas and challenges that a cultural shift in our world creates. Let me share a quotation with you from Dan Kimball, author of a book called The Emerging Church:

**I believe we are at a point in church history where we need to rethink some of our assumptions and reexamine some of our presuppositions about church and ministry.**

It is true that to understand “post” modernism you must first understand what we mean when we speak of modernism. Although people will argue the specific dates, modernism has been the predominate way of viewing the world for us, our parents, and all our ancestors since A.D.1500! What is this view?

Here are some of the underlying assumptions of modernism. Analysis and scientific inquiry are the ultimate forms of thought. Objectivity and intelligibility are assumed to be true of the universe—what we don't know yet, we will ultimately discover. It is the age of the machine. There are absolute truths, and it is possible to know



What is “postmodernism?” In a very simple definition, it means what comes after “modernism.” Of course, that tells us little about this new way of viewing the world. If you look at books and articles written about postmodernism, you will find that

what they are. When a person speaks of God, they are almost certainly referring to a form of the Judeo-Christian God (Jehovah.) We can state that the Bible is authoritative, because it shares God's ultimate truth with mankind. Secular science has reigned

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Postmodernism *continued...*

(Continued from page 6)

supreme, and belief in God is less important. Organizations and nations have become the dominant forms of control over most of mankind. Yet at the same time, the focus of modern thought moved from “we” to “me” as a dominant idea. Never before have people demanded so much freedom to set their own standards while rejecting social restraints. Families and other relationships among people have suffered as this individual focus has led to divorce, broken families, and acceptance of “alternative” lifestyles. Religion is increasingly institutionalized and in some ways is indistinguishable from patriotism or politics.

It is almost impossible for us to understand how far-reaching and important these assumptions are about how we view the world. It is even more difficult to understand that these assumptions are completely different from those that were in place when Jesus walked the Earth and the Scriptures were inspired. Cultural shifts have occurred before, but if many experts are correct, we stand now at a period in which all the assumptions and pillars of modernism are breaking down. In other words, all the ways of thinking about our world listed above are being challenged.

The illustration above shows how the change takes place. It is not a sudden or dramatic shift, although when we consider the centuries between shifts the several decades of the transition are brief in comparison. As the old “world-view” gradually disappears, the people that view the world differently gradually begin to out-number and finally replace the original culture completely. In a span of several decades, the dominant cultural perspective has disappeared and a new view of reality is now accepted as correct.

If that shift is occurring around us in America today, what will postmodernism look like? As previously mentioned, there is little agreement on how people will view the world under a new cultural paradigm. But here are samples of a few beliefs or assumptions that characterize a postmodernistic world view:

1. There is no such thing as absolute truth. A person’s view of the world is based on emotions and personal experience, not an objective reality.
2. When a person says “God” in postmodern America, they may mean Jehovah, but they may

also mean Allah, Buddha, or any one of many different forms and concepts of God present in the world today.

3. The Bible is just one of many religious books, and is no more authoritative or significant than many other religious writings, like the Koran.
4. Postmodern ethics are not based on an objective or biblical standard of what is right and what is wrong. Ethics are based on what the media and other people think is right or wrong.

Can this type of mind-set really be the type of world view that is becoming more prevalent? Do more and more of the people with whom we work, play, and minister think in these terms. Think about the implications of point #4—The media and other people set the standards of right and wrong. The following quotations below are examples of famous statements by celebrities from the book “The Emerging Church.”

**I believe in God. I just don’t know if that God is Jehovah, Buddha, or Allah.**

Actress Halle Berry

**Eastern thought, Western mysticism. I really dig the whole Hindu pantheon. And I just pull from all kinds of different things.**

Actress Meg Ryan

**I go to synagogue, I study Hinduism...all paths lead to God.**

Madonna

When we are presented with some of the information above, we may feel it is tantamount to blasphemy to voice such thinking. We disagree completely (and should!) with some of these statements. However, that type of reaction is counter-productive in learning how to present Christ to the world. **It is critical for us to understand that although we might “wish” it were not occurring, that will not stop the shift of the world toward the concepts and beliefs of postmodernism.** The challenge that the Church of God must face is how to hold fast to the truths of God and yet minister to the people that need to hear the Gospel. In the next issue we will consider some additional aspects of postmodernism and suggestions for how to minister in this changing world. ■

# The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Theological Conference Update

by Anthony Buzzard

Over 100 people came from three countries to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> Theological Conference April 21-23. Greg Deuble, a former Church of Christ pastor from Australia, launched his new book *They Never Told Me This in Church! A Call to Read the Bible with New Eyes*. Greg challenges his readers to a careful reexamination of their faith in the light of our Hebrew heritage. Anthony Buzzard's new book *The Amazing Aims and Claims of Jesus* is also available. This book provides a simply-written introduction to the Gospel of the Kingdom message of Jesus.

With these two new books, one theme of the conference began to emerge: publishing truth to the world. Robert Kelley from Ohio kicked off the weekend with his talk on "Delivering Truth to a Satanic World," including tips for publishing and publicizing books. His son Nathaniel Max Rock later gave a short presentation on book distribution.

Dan Gill, a pastor in Tennessee, gave a clear account of "The One Indivisible Gospel of Jesus Christ." Ray Faircloth from England demonstrated that "Christians Await the One-Time

Return of Jesus." Ray was a Jehovah's Witness for 36 years and is now dedicated to using Scripture to point out that organization's errors.

Lee Greer from California gave

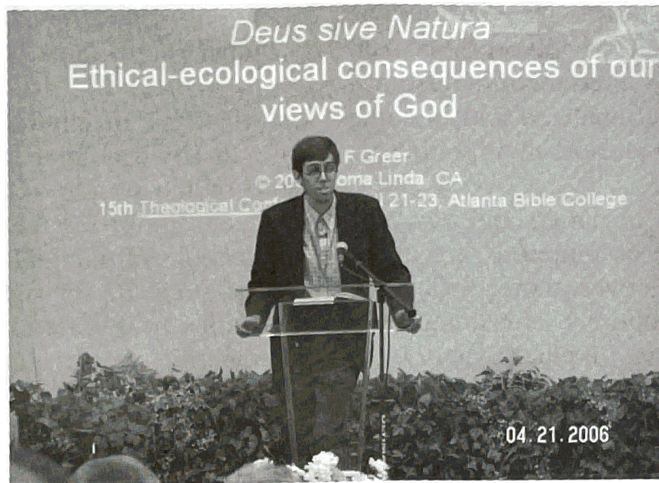
Important Is Conditional Immortality?" emphasized the importance of this doctrine to all areas of our Christian faith. Robert Roberg of Florida challenged us to look at "The Root of Pacifism in the Hebrew Scriptures."

Alex Hall from England presented his research on "When the Saints Go Marching In: God's Roadmap to Peace in the Middle East." Alex focused on the Scriptures that describe the Messianic march from the wilderness when Jesus returns. Anthony Buzzard closed the day on Saturday with "Equivalency as the Key to Making Sense of the Bible."

Throughout the weekend we had fascinating 10-minute "faith stories" where people told about their journey of faith — many of them "ex'es" from a variety of different groups.

On Sunday morning Dan Mages of California delivered a paper on "The Gospel of the Imminent Kingdom of God." Dan is currently a student at Fuller Seminary. Kent Ross led the worship service and preached on "Test All Things! Hold Fast to the Good!"

(Continued on page 9)



Lee Greer speaks to the conference.



a presentation entitled "Deus sive natura: Ethical-Ecological Consequences of Our Views of God." Lee is a Seventh-Day Adventist who has recently come to the biblical unitarian position. He is currently finishing his PhD in Biology at Loma Linda University.

John Roller's presentation "How

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Theological Conference *continued...*

(Continued from page 8)

We closed the conference with a moving baptism ceremony. Eight people chose to be baptized to wash away their former associations and begin their new life in Christ.

Alex Hall from London wrote: "I came to the Theological Conference for the first time four years ago. Since then I've made it my policy not to miss it, and it's become one of the highlights of my year. I first came to embrace the Abrahamic faith around April 2001..."

"Very few people go to church in London, and those who do are often hostile toward us on account of our beliefs. Because of this it has been a tremendous blessing to us to find out that there are others who share this precious faith. I find the papers extremely stimulating and many of the issues raised in them give me food for thought through the rest of the year...Another major benefit of the conference is the



In depth discussions take place at the conference.

fellowship which we enjoy during the break times and evenings. It's a chance to form links with people, which are often continued via e-mail. I now have friends across the United States and other parts of the world. Many of these people don't have the opportunity to fellowship locally, so they gain

as much from the correspondence as I do."

Everyone is invited to next year's Theological Conference. DVDs and papers from this conference are available from the college. ■

**"They Never Told me *THIS* in Church"**

By Greg S. Deuble

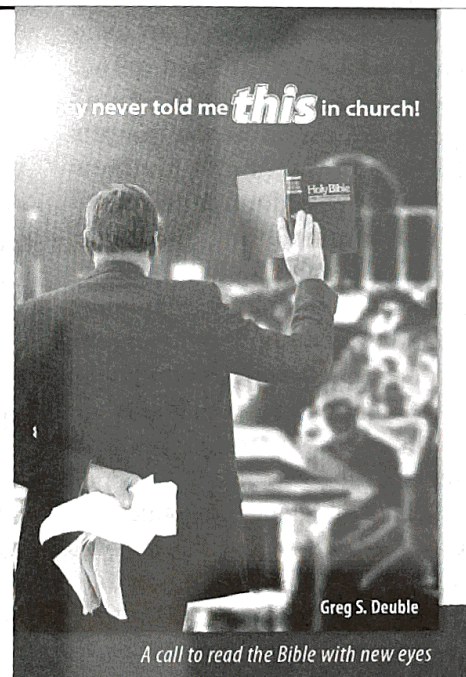
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## Jesus' Favorite Topic in the Gospels

By Joe Martin

I have a new toy. It's almost as good as the cap guns and cowboy hats I used to get at Christmas when I was a kid. My new toy is a Bible software program called "BibleWorks." It does practically everything for you except read, meditate, and pray. It can search for words in milliseconds. For example, the word "the" in the N.I.V. occurs 5,024 times in the gospels. I found that out in .22 seconds. It can search for key phrases at the touch of a button. It has Hebrew and Greek as well as twenty, yes twenty, English translations. That's besides the Finnish, Russian, German, etc. foreign translations.

An interesting question came to my mind, according to single word or phrase occurrences, which ones appear most in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I may have gotten this not only from my new toy, but also in the new television series Numbers, where they figure out everything mathematically. Of course a favorite of mine showed up quite a bit, the Kingdom of God. That phrase, "Kingdom of God" appears 52 times in the gospels (N.I.V.). Since Matthew preferred "Kingdom of Heaven" for his initial Jewish audience, hence avoiding abusing the third commandment and the "name" of God, we need to add this number to our kingdom discussion. The phrase occurs 32 times and only in the gospel of Matthew. Therefore, the Kingdom of God/Heaven occurs 84 times, in the gospels. We know that God's Kingdom is critically important. The word kingdom, occurs a total

of 121 times. I remember making a Matthew 6:33 "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God" picture in a frame and giving it to every church member back in the '80s. It's on my door now. One could say, that the major *kerygma*, preaching, and teaching of Jesus revolves around the Kingdom of God. I was puzzled though if there were other single topics that showed up.

Who Jesus is and the word or words that relate to that is always an interesting topic. Peter's, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God," Matthew 16:16 tops my list in terms of verses. It is interesting that Jesus preferred the title "Son of Man," 82 times in the gospels while "Son of God" occurs 23 times in the gospels and 40 times in the entire New Testament. Later, "*Christos*" obvious Greek for Christ becomes Paul's dominant preference, 332 times in the Pauline letters. Another verse on the top of my list in this area is from John 10:36, when the Pharisees accused Jesus of blasphemy, he said, "Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son?'"

What about "love" you may ask? As Paul said, "faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love." (I Cor. 13:13) Love, occurs 63 times in the gospels which I found out in 0.01 seconds! John 3:16 is near or on top of my list of verses though it is used a lot, "For God so loved..." Also there is Jesus' statement "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (Jn. 15:13) In Mark 12:29-31, Jesus quotes the *Shema*

(Dt. 6:4) "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one." He continues in verse 30, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Obviously love is critical.

"Lord" occurred 184 times. The Greek, *kyrios*, for Lord can be for God, Jesus, or an earthly master. This is unlike the Hebrew name of God *YHWH*, which is translated "LORD" (note the capitalization) in most Bibles. (Jews will not pronounce *Ha Shem*, the name) The lesser term *adonee*, used by Sarah to Abraham, Joab to David, and the second Lord in Psalm 110:1, etc. is also translated "Lord" (note the lack of all capitals in the Old Testament).

The word "Spirit" occurs 88 times, while "spirits," usually evil ones, occurs 13 times in the gospels. The Spirit of God descends on Jesus as a dove at his baptism (Mt. 3:13). Jesus' primary discussion with Nicodemus (Jn. 3) centers around the Spirit.

I thought I had a pretty good list going until I thought about Kingdom OF GOD, Son OF GOD, Love OF GOD, Spirit OF GOD, the Lord GOD, etc. I wondered how many times that "God" occurred in the Gospels? The answer is 293 times (in 0.01 seconds). Interesting! "Jesus" occurs 883 times in the gospels but that's what the gospels are about. However, my question is related to what *Jesus* talked about. Maybe the **most** important

(Continued on page 11)

## Jesus' Favorite Topic in the Gospels *continued...*

(Continued from page 10)

thing that Jesus talked about was his Father? Jeremiah 3:19 sadly states the words of God, "I thought you would call me 'Father' and not turn away from following me." I searched the phrase "my Father." In the gospels, 43 times the phrase comes up. I checked the entire New Testament. It showed up only 47 times (including the gospels.). Only one time does it occur in Acts, and then it is still on the lips of Jesus. Out of the 47 times, in the entire New Testament, 44 "My Father" statements are by Jesus, 40 in the gospels, once in Acts, and three times in Revelation, all from Jesus.

Therefore, since it is the Kingdom of, Love of, Son of... GOD, maybe the favorite subject in the Gospels by Jesus is **GOD**? Maybe Jesus uniquely tried to get us on the right track in discussing "My Father" and "our Father." As I thought about that I thought about my favorite verses from Jesus and the New Testament gospel writers regarding "God." They are:

- Mt. 4:10- Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.
- Mt. 19:26- With God all things are possible...
- Mk. 10:18- No one is good but God alone... (Jesus speaking)
- Lk 1:32- The Lord God will give him the throne of his father

David

- Lk 18:7- Will not God bring about justice...
- Jn. 3:17- For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world
- Jn. 14:1- Trust in God, trust also in me...
- Jn. 20:17- I ascend unto My Father, and your Father, and to My God, and your God (KJV on this one)

Well, that's it, by the "numbers," God wins :), His Kingdom, His Love, His Son, His Christ. ■

Joe

## Please Pray that These International Students Will Secure a Visa to Come to ABC

**The following International Students have been admitted to ABC to begin classes in August 2006 but they do not have a visa yet to come to the United States.**

Adegboyega, Kunle - Nigeria  
Amwata, Damaris - Kenya  
Babere, Julius - Kenya  
Basil, Saint Kelvin - Nigeria  
Chapurukha, Samuel - Kenya  
Chilobwa, Fredrick - Zambia  
Jodo, Pauline - Kenya  
Kaliti, Meshack - Kenya  
Karime, Arthur - Kenya  
Kegode, Fredrick - Kenya  
Khadambi, Sheila - Kenya  
Kithimba, Geoffrey - Kenya  
Kosgei, Joseph - Kenya  
Koske, Chebet Caroline - Kenya  
Lucheli, Tundo - Kenya  
Mitiga, Peter - Kenya  
Mkoga, Amon - Tanzania  
Muduya, Laighdon - Kenya  
Mukoya, Daniel - Kenya  
Mulao, Gerald - Zambia  
Mulugeta, Mehretab - Malawi  
Mwanje, Ssemujji William - Uganda  
Mwihaki, Sarah - Kenya  
Mwita, Oliver Robi - Kenya

Ndung'u, George - Kenya  
Ndungu, Simon - Kenya  
Nwokenna, Phina - Nigeria  
Nyaboga, Richard - Kenya  
Nyaghoa, Violet - Kenya  
Nyaronga, Alfred - Tanzania  
Nyaruba, Johnny - Tanzania  
Nyumu, Aphiah Wangui - Kenya  
Obayo, Teresah - Kenya  
Ogato, Jones - Kenya  
Ogueri, Victor - Greece  
Ogwora, Erick - Kenya  
Okumu, Moses Wafula - Uganda  
Okungu, Sabatatu - Tanzania  
Opiyo, Morphine - Kenya  
Owuor, Celyne - Kenya  
Owusu, Beatrice - Ghana  
Owusu-Boardi, Frank - Ghana  
Renzaho, David Yared - Kenya  
Rotich, Geoffrey - Kenya  
Seda, Silvia - Kenya  
Semberya, Daniel - Tanzania  
Soita, John - Kenya  
Sylvester, Gloria - Tanzania

Wanyonyi, Godfrey - Kenya  
Yeboah, Richard - Kenya

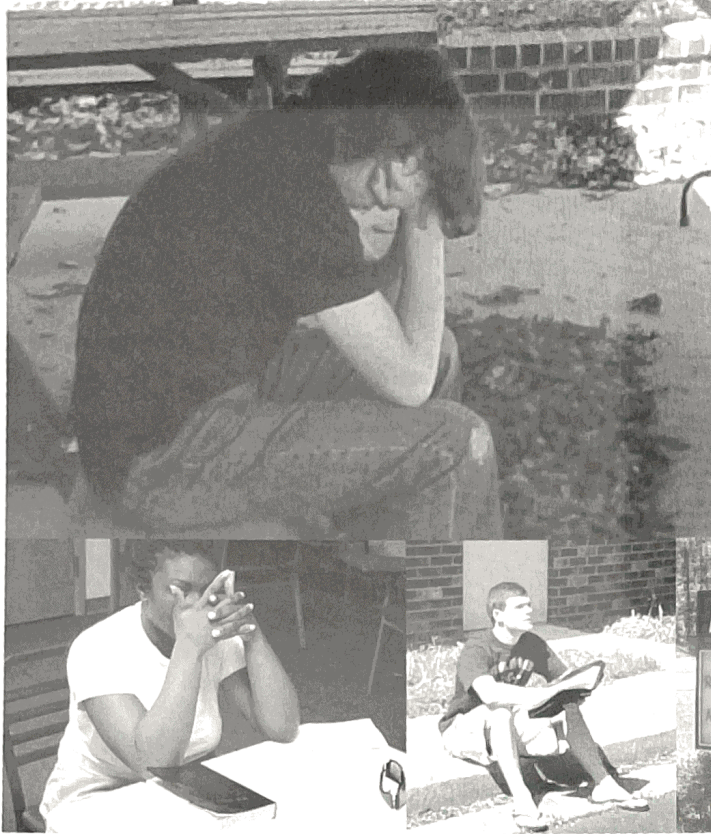
### 50 Students Accepted from 8 Countries

This is a new updated list of International students who have been admitted to ABC for the August 2006 semester. Thank you for your prayers last semester. We are delighted that the following international students were able to secure visas to attend ABC during the spring 2006 semester:

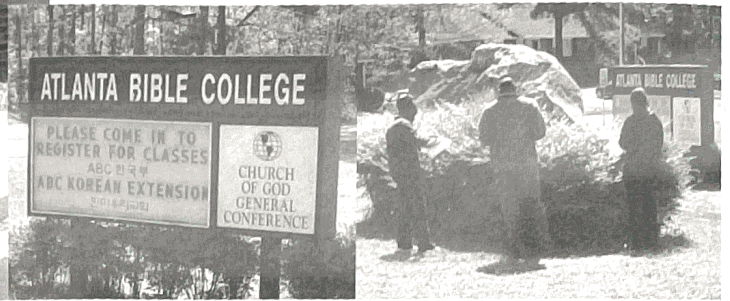
Lilian Ayieko - Kenya  
Andre Bean - Bermuda  
Sammy Chacha - Kenya  
Job Wainaina - Kenya

These students join our many Korean students, 5 students from Kenya, and 2 from Tanzania.

## Atlanta Bible College Students in Campus Prayer Walk



“The Atlanta Bible College Staff and Student body took part in a Campus Prayer Walk in a recent College Chapel Service. Students prayed for their home churches, home pastors, ABC Students, ABC Staff, Our surrounding Community, Government, Leaders, as well as many other things. Several students commented that this was one of the best chapels of the year. ABC Chapels continue to be an integral part of the experience at Atlanta Bible College.”



## Misson News

by Judy Myers, LHI Chair

The Lord's Harvest International Board would like to update you on information that we have from our mission fields.

### Mexico

A work trip took place February 6 to 15. The purpose of the trip was to encourage the Badillos, finalize plans for the summer ministry trip, paint and repair the benches in the church and paint and clean the interior of the church. Judy Myers led the team of Kayla Andrew and Randy Hall from the Oregon Church of God; Pastor Sydney Kirkpatrick from Pine Grove Bible Church in Minnesota; and Dean Moore from the Dixon, IL Church. All of these individuals have been on previous trips to Labor Vieja.

The team traveled straight through from Oregon to Harlingen, a trip of about 23 hours.

Roberto and Lupe Badillo asked that we express to you their deep appreciation for your prayers and for your support which allows teams to come down and work with them. This is of great encouragement to them and helps them to feel part of the church family.

Anyone interested in the summer ministry trip should contact me as soon as possible for an application or an application update if you have been on previous trips. Projected dates are July 24 to August 7. We will be leaving from and returning to Oregon, Illinois so

the beginning and ending dates are from that location.

### Peru

Pastor Beder has been experiencing trouble with one of his eyes. We have sent money to assist him in having some corrective surgery. He thanks all for making this possible for him.

The remodeling on the new church building that was purchased with the Church Builders appeal has been completed. A dedication of the facility was held the end of February.

Plans are being made for David Krogh and Bill Wachtel to visit

*(Continued on page 13)*



## Misson news *continued...*

(Continued from page 12)  
Lima in a few months.

### Haiti

The orphanage construction has now been completed. Because of the political turmoil in the Port-au-Prince area, much of the ministry that took place in Haiti this past year was done in local areas so that the Pastors did not have to move around. The turmoil continues and because of that, we have not, at this time, scheduled any future trips to Haiti. For those of you who have been sponsoring children, that need is certainly still necessary for their schooling. If you wish to continue to support your child, please contact me for a new giving booklet. My address is: 6898 E. Brick Rd., Oregon, IL 61061. Many have chosen to discontinue this assistance since we cannot provide additional information on the sponsored children.

### Russia

I spoke with Tracy Zhykhovich recently. They are all doing well and send their greetings to each of you. They continue to minister to those around them in whatever ways they can.

### Malawi

We deeply appreciate the

financial support given to assist with bucket kits, seed and fertilizer. As mentioned to you earlier, any money over the need is being put aside for additional bucket kits if those being used are successful. At the time of

that list, please send them to me at [jmlhi@aol.com](mailto:jmlhi@aol.com) or [jmlhi@yahoo.com](mailto:jmlhi@yahoo.com). We would like to be able to provide the chairs of the committees as well as the Pastors with current information and needs as they



this writing, I have not heard whether or not the rains came as needed.

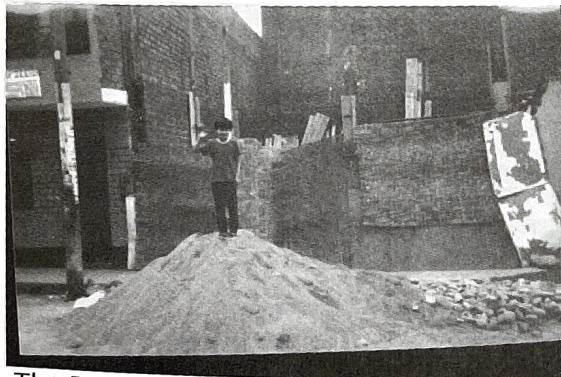
A team will be going to Africa July 12-26.

### E-mail Addresses Needed

We would like to set up an e-mail address group for all mission committee chairpersons. Currently we do not have the information to put that together other than the addresses in the recent directory. If other e-mail address are available and not on

become known to us.

Anyone who would like to have updates at any time may write to me at either my home address or either of my e-mail addresses or call me at 815-732-2751 and request those updates. Several chairpersons do that when they are getting ready to give a report. I am very happy to supply what information we have. ■



The Restitution Herald & Progress Journal



June 2006

**FUEL: ONE**  
**JULY 16-21, 2006**  
**AT TAYLOR UNIVERSITY IN UPLAND, INDIANA**  
**STUDENT RATE: \$340 EARLY DISCOUNT RATE: \$290**  
**YOUTH WORKER RATE: \$275 EARLY DISCOUNT RATE: \$225**  
**MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JUNE 12 FOR THE EARLY DISCOUNT RATE**



Turning Point Youth Ministries, Box 100,000, 5823 Trammell Rd, Morrow, GA 30260  
 Visit [www.tpym.com/fuel.htm](http://www.tpym.com/fuel.htm) for more information, or call 678-357-7693.



**Available through the General Conference on a pre-publication basis:**

**THE LIFE OF A COUNTRY-BOY PREACHER**

**THE MEMORIES OF JIM (JAMES HENRY) MATTISON (1924-20--)  
 PASTOR, MISSIONARY, RADIO PREACHER**

**PLUS**

**MEMORIES OF HOME LIFE BY HIS EIGHT CHILDREN**

**A NEW BOOK BY JIM MATTISON. THIS BOOK SHARES THE MEMORIES AND EXPERIENCES OF ONE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD'S LONG-TERM AND WELL-TRAVELED PASTORS. THE BOOK CAN BE ORDERED FROM THE CONFERENCE FOR \$10.00 PER COPY PLUS SHIPPING AND HANDLING. CALL ROBIN AT 800-347-4261 TO PLACE YOUR ORDER. PLEASE ORDER YOUR COPY BY JUNE 30, 2006.**

**Church of the Open Bible Conference Update...**On April 1-2 Church of the Open Bible in Pomona, Ca. held its third annual spring Bible Conference. This year's theme was "Issues of Life". Our main speaker was Pastor Michael Cisler from the North Kent Bible Church in Rockford Mich. Michael spoke three times teaching about the issue of purity in many areas of our lives. Other speakers were Pastor Warren Sorensen from the Simi Valley Bible Church. Bro. Paul Derho from Escondido Ca, Bro. Jim Winchester from Orange Ca, and Pastor Chuck Jones from the Church of the Open Bible. CD's are available. We are giving consideration to expanding this conference to include more workshops, and be held over more days.

The King's Corner could be described as a Christian Resource Center focused on encouraging and strengthening disciples for Christ. Our desire to proclaim the glorious Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has moved us from a Home Bible Fellowship to a storefront setting within the crossroads of our community. The King's Corner is conveniently located in the heart of Long Island-Ronkonkoma, New York steps away from planes, train, and automobiles. Since opening our doors in June of 2003 we have been able to distribute hundreds of Bibles and share the gospel with many a wayfaring stranger. Presently we offer opportunities for prayer, Bible study, worship, and fellowship throughout the week. We also have a weekly Bible/Sing Along Fellowship at Lake Shore Adult Home. The King's Corner is designed with a cafe/ living room setting that encourages moments of respite (slow down), refreshment, and renewal in approaching the never ending business of Urban living.

We also have a lending library that we are slowly building. Each month we have an Open Mic Night where believers in the body of Christ can share their gifts (music, poetry, art, exhortations, etc.).

We have also hosted a number of small conferences and classes directed toward equipping believers for service. One of our goals is to have our doors open six days a week shining forth the light of the Gospel in this present Day of Salvation'. We pray the Lord of the Harvest will send forth laborers. *The Kings' Corner was recently accepted as a member church in the Church of God General Conference.*

God Bless you -  
In Christ's love,  
Jamie & Lori  
Engelbert  
and your  
friends at 'The  
King's Corner'



June 2006

# Income Budget Report for March 2006

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	February <u>Variance</u>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>				
General Contributions	225,000	213,793	-11,207	-7,168
Building Our Future Campaign	222,923	22,920	-200,003	-175,349
BOF Challenge Gift	0	0		
BOF General Membership Response	0	-22,560		
BOF Alumni Association Response	0	-360		
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	3,750	93,663	89,913	89,516
ABC Boosters	11,917	15,962	4,045	3,845
Subtotal	463,590	346,338	-117,252	-89,156
<b>SALES:</b>				
Christian Education Materials	25,389	17,363	-8,026	-8,047
Books	20,167	20,965	798	374
Age to Come Media Products	225	144	-81	-56
Theological Journal	225	198	-27	-2
Sale of Assets	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
Subtotal	46,006	39,670	-6,336	-6,731
<b>ABC:</b>				
Tuition	114,583	83,286	-31,297	-27,379
Korean Extension Tuition	105,417	196,950	91,533	91,533
Lodging	47,667	42,880	-4,787	-5,347
Washers/Dryers	900	785	-115	-177
Rentals - ABC Plant	4,200	7,305	3,105	2,857
Late Fees/Rent	4,125	6,871	2,746	3,303
Fees	3,300	6,151	2,851	2,033
Subtotal	280,192	344,228	64,036	66,824
<b>PROGRAM INCOME:</b>				
Conferences & Workshops ***	8,250	-23,167	-31,417	-33,752
Subtotal	8,250	-23,167	-31,417	-33,752
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>				
Interest	750	881	131	-667
Transferred In	5,100	5,239	139	-72
Subtotal	5,850	6,120	270	-739
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>803,887</b>	<b>713,189</b>	<b>-90,698</b>	<b>-63,555</b>

## Building Our Future Campaign

Total contributions since inception (2003) 227,892

\*\*\* Actual 'Conferences and Workshops' net income shows as a negative number partially because some FUEL and General Conference income was received in June, 2005, prior to the start of this fiscal year.

■ These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2005 through June, 2006.

■ 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.

# Expense Budget Report for March 2006

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>February Variance</u>
<b>STAFF:</b>				
Salaries & Wages	363,240	348,342	14,898	-6,320
F.I.C.A. Tax	4,125	5,415	-1,290	-1,063
Employee Benefits	66,114	70,650	-4,536	-5,233
Subtotal	433,479	424,407	9,072	-12,617
<b>SERVICES:</b>				
Assistance to Churches	21,750	9,200	12,550	10,933
Ministerial Association	7,200	7,200	0	0
Youth Program	9,000	9,000	0	0
Subtotal	37,950	25,400	12,550	10,933
<b>SALES EXPENSE:</b>				
Printing & Binding	21,000	20,693	307	312
Postage & Shipping	11,250	9,984	1,266	2,171
Book Store	12,833	13,690	-857	407
Subtotal	45,083	44,367	716	2,890
<b>ABC:</b>				
Clayton Rebate	1,500	0	1,500	1,333
Advertising--Recruitment	2,625	2,840	-215	-507
ABC Korean Extension Support	23,250	35,202	-11,952	-13,974
Library Periodicals	1,125	1,005	120	-5
Library Books	750	26	724	667
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	525	1,038	-513	-342
Staff Training	2,250	1,062	1,188	1,111
Subtotal	32,025	41,173	-9,148	-11,717
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>				
Travel	22,500	24,882	-2,382	-476
Motor Vehicles	2,100	1,075	1,025	792
Office Supplies & Expense	11,250	9,096	2,154	1,646
Professional Services	8,250	5,997	2,253	1,336
Telephone	16,875	14,528	2,347	2,084
Insurance - Non Plant	450	127	323	323
Supplies & Expense	2,250	3,893	-1,643	-1,321
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	18,750	18,387	363	2,151
Subtotal	82,425	77,985	4,440	6,535
<b>PLANT EXPENSES:</b>				
Utilities	24,000	26,799	-2,799	-2,487
Insurance - Property	11,250	11,131	119	695
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	3,750	12,896	-9,146	-4,867
Furniture & Equipment	3,750	9,991	-6,241	-6,658
Supplies/Expenses Plant	3,750	3,820	-70	-32
Subtotal	46,500	64,637	-18,137	-13,348
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>				
Interest	21,000	21,268	-268	-65
Other	4,500	5,779	-1,279	-823
Subtotal	25,500	27,047	-1,547	-888
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>702,962</b>	<b>705,016</b>	<b>-2,054</b>	<b>-18,212</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)</b>	<b>100,925</b>	<b>8,173</b>	<b>-92,752</b>	<b>-81,766</b>

# Church News

---

## Baptisms

Arkansas

*McGintytown* – Herb Evans (1/29/06) by Pastor Tom New

Illinois

*Oregon* – Evan Froehlich (11/27/05) by his brother, Pastor Brian Froehlich

Indiana

*Hedrick* – Mike Jernagan, Theresa Jernagan, and Jenny Jernagan (3/19/06) by Pastor Joe Astolfi

Michigan

*Garden Park* – Antonio Parker, Kim VanBeek, and Josh Korreck (1/8/06); Anjela Straight (1/15/06) by Pastor Ray Hall

Minnesota

*Eden Valley* – Roger Fyle, Susie Fyle, and Nick Fyle (3/12/06) by Pastor Daniel Smead

Ontario, Canada

*Glad Tidings* – William Cherwinsk (10/2/05) by Pastor Michael Brown

South Carolina

*Bethel* – James Lowry (3/5/06); Zach Howard, Wanda Howard, and Richard Saucier (4/30/06) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

*Guthrie Grove* – Fae Smith (4/16/06) by Mack Durham

## Deaths

California

Dr. Malcolm G. McLeod, 82, (4/7/06). He was a noted botany professor and native plant preservation advocate. He made significant contributions as an advocate for the documentation and protection of California's native flora. His father, Norman McLeod, was pastor of the Los Angeles Church of God. He leaves two daughters, Cynthia (Keith) Huffer and Nisan McLeod.

Fonthill, Ontario, Canada

*Glad Tidings* – Howard D. J. Shute, 78, (3/14/06). Howard was a fourth generation member of the Glad Tidings Church. He was an elder and chairman of the church Board. He had served as President and Vice President of the Northeast Conference. He also served on the General Conference Board of Directors, as trustee for the Canadian Development Fund, and as a member of the Ministerial Recognition Board and the Investment Fund Board. Services were conducted by his son-in-law, Pastor Michael Brown.

Illinois

*Oregon* – Edith Hill (2/5/06). Service by Pastor Michael Hoffman

South Carolina

*Guthrie Grove* – Martha Jones Mattison (1/16/06), long time member and was active in youth work for over 40 years. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Mike Montgomery. Robert "Bob" Scott Ballard (2/6/06). He was very active in the Church Media Ministry and was a former deacon. He served as Vice President of the Atlanta Bible College Foundation in Morrow, GA. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Mike Montgomery. Memorial gifts may be sent to Atlanta Bible College for the special scholarship fund in memory of Bob and Melody Ballard, and Martha Mattison.

Virginia

*Cool Spring* – Carol Smedley, 64 (2/06). Service by Pastor Dale Ramsey.

Washington

Alta Rose, 87 (2/6/06), long time member of the Church of God in the state of Washington. Service by Ray Corbaley.

## Marriages

Minnesota

*Eden Valley* – Brian Varholdt and Christina Johnson (1/14/06) by Pastor Daniel Smead; Walter Coulter and Sheree Twedt (4/1/06) by Pastor Daniel Smead

---

### Pastor needed: *Chapel Hill Church of God*

is in need of a pastor. We are searching for a part-time pastor to work with our dedicated members. Chapel Hill is a country church and has access to community Colleges. Please contact:

Shirley Wood                      E-Mail- [sandwood@bright.net](mailto:sandwood@bright.net)  
16093 Maple Ave.  
Belle Center, Ohio 43310  
1-937-842-2803

**The Blanchard Church of God in Blanchard, Michigan is currently seeking a growth oriented pastor. We are an established church with approximately 40 dedicated people with great growth potential in the surrounding area. Interested pastors may call Elder/Chairman of the Board Terry Kunst at 989-560-1268 or e-mail him at [terry@mtpleasantagency.com](mailto:terry@mtpleasantagency.com).**

# Prayer & Praise

June 2006

---

- 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 the Midwest Family Camp at Camp Mack this summer.**
  - 4 **Praise God for the beauty of His creation.**
  - 5 **Pray that God might speak to you today.**
  - 6 Pray for boldness to share your faith.
  - 7 **Pray for Pastor Daniel 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 the summer General Conference in August.
  - 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, Morrow, 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 Praise God for the beauty of His creation.
  - 21 **Pray for Pastor Beder Ucanay and the believers in Lima, Peru.**
  - 22 Pray for believers in the Philippine Islands.
  - 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).
  - 27 **Praise God for your church family.**
  - 28 Pray for Bible Schools being held at many churches this summer.
  - 29 **Pray for the Board of Directors as they lead the College/Conference.**
  - 30 Praise God for the dedication of the College/Conference staff.
- 

July 2006

- 1 **Pray for Dustin Smith and his pastoral internship this summer.**
- 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 God's blessing on our country.
- 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 students considering enrollment at Atlanta Bible College.
- 11 **Pray for Pastor Jamie Engelbert at King's Corner Church in New York.**
- 12 Pray for the Mission Team leaving for Africa today.
- 13 **Pray for Jon Cheatwood and the Youth Advisory Committee.**
- 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 students arriving at FUEL today.
- 17 **Pray for God to bless the staff at FUEL.**
- 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 safety for those traveling home from FUEL today.**
- 22 Pray for your pastor as he prepares to share God's message tomorrow.
- 23 **Pray that God will lead many of our young people into ministry at home and abroad.**
- 24 Pray for those who are studying the Systematic Bible Study Course over the Internet.
- 25 **Pray for Pastor Dan and Amy Kennedy and their work at Winnebago New Life Church in Illinois.**
- 26 Pray for the Malawi and Mozambique team as they travel home today.
- 27 **Pray for the brethren in India.**
- 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 Bolhaus.**
- 30 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ as Savior.
- 31 **Praise God for His great love shown to us by the sacrifice of His Son.**

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Church of God General Conference  
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**Jereme Bliss** from Maple Grove Community Church in Kokomo, Indiana spent some time at Atlanta Bible College assisting in some maintenance and repair this past Spring. What a blessing it was to have Jereme give some much needed assistance. Pictured is Jereme working in the ABC Chapel. Jereme is the son of Pastor Dale and Julie Bliss. We encourage anyone who has time and would like to help in this area of ministry to come to ABC. **Thanks Jereme!!**



### The Columbia Station story can help your church

A presentation of the Columbia Station story is now available to help your church grow and to become an active part of your community. Pastor Dave Swartz has put together a presentation that shares the church history from its beginning in 1963 until it closed in 2004. The presentation shares the strengths and weakness of the church, and most of all, the lessons learned in closing and beyond. Pastor Dave is interested in sharing this information with you. For more information, contact him at: (440) 327-6816 or e-mail him at [DaveSwartz@aol.com](mailto:DaveSwartz@aol.com).

**Jim and Charlene Moore**, from Brush Creek Church of God, Tipp City, OH, **will be celebrating their "Golden" 50th wedding anniversary on May 18th.** They were married by Pastor Terry Ferrell in 1956. They have four sons, Glen (Kelley), Daryl (Kim), Dave (Judy) and Tom (Sheryl), ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Their children would like to extend an invitation for you to join Jim and Charlene in their celebration at an open house to be held on May 14th at Newton Hall in Pleasant Hill, OH from 2-5. p.m. If you are unable to attend and would like to send a card, their address is 5380 Weavers-Ft. Jefferson Rd., Greenville, OH.





# THE RESTITUTION HERALD

Budget ■ Postmodernism-Part 2 ■ General Conference Info & Progress Journal

## Final Destination By Dr. John H. Roller

By Dr. John H. Roller

*Dr. Roller serves on the staff of the Advent Christian General Conference. Last December he taught an Atlanta Bible College block class called "Church Fathers and Conditional Immortality." Dr. Roller's e-mail address is [rollerjh@aol.com](mailto:rollerjh@aol.com).*

On the way home from a much-needed vacation trip, I listened to the flight attendant's familiar phrase: "We hope you enjoy your stay in Orlando, or wherever is your final destination." It got me thinking. Orlando definitely wasn't my "final destination" that day. For reasons totally unknown to me, my ticket said I was only there to change planes for Washington, D.C., only to change again, this time for Charlotte, N.C. It would be several hours before I was "home" in Concord. But even Concord wasn't my "final" destination! North Carolina is the eleventh state I've lived in, and there is no way to predict how many more times I may move before I reach my "final resting place." Is it even over then? What will happen to me after I die? Where (if anywhere) is my absolutely "final" destination, forever?

For one-tenth of my life (during my teenage years), I was an atheist. I was absolutely convinced that all religions were wrong; God didn't exist; the world and everything in it (including human beings) were nothing but

atoms in various combinations; it had all come about by chance and evolution; and nothing would ever happen in the future that would change those basic facts (or my beliefs). I was certain that all talk of "afterlife" was nonsense and wishful thinking. I knew I would die someday, whether by accident, by violence, by disease, or by the decay brought on by old age, and at that moment, I would cease to exist and would never exist again. The only "comfort" in that belief is that I knew I would never even realize it had happened.

Religion teaches a different view. One of the oldest religions in the world (Hinduism) teaches that there are over 300,000,000 gods (and goddesses); the world and everything in it is permeated by them and their activities; everything that happens is under their influence; and the future will consist of endless repetitive cycles of what has happened in the past. For Hindus, every individual person has lived before and will live again, the soul migrating from body to body to body in an endless round of birth, life, death, and rebirth. Furthermore, this is not perceived as a "good" thing! It's our punishment for not pleasing the gods and goddesses. If we please them, our next life might be somewhat better than this one; but if we displease them, it will certainly be worse. In this scenario, my "final" destination would be to suffer the punishment of living forever. I didn't

find this idea very attractive.

Buddhism, developed out of a Hindu background by Siddhartha Gautama, offers a solution to this problem: if one achieves enlightenment, one can escape the cycle of death and rebirth by being absorbed into the "World Soul," thus having one's candle of suffering (life) extinguished. The reward for living a good life would be to not have to live another one. To me, this sounded like we were back to atheism. My final destination would be non-existence. Enlightenment would literally gain me – nothing!

I had some Christian friends (you know who you are!), and over a period of a few months, they convinced me (in this order) that the life they were living was better than the life I was living, that the only way to have that life was to receive Jesus as my Savior, that God really does exist, and that after my death – which could happen at any time – my "soul" (the real me) would go to heaven (if I was a Christian) or hell (if I wasn't). Deciding to act on that information was very difficult for me; it meant revising my entire worldview; but on December 29, 1968, I took that "leap of faith" and it was (as one of them predicted it would be) a decision I knew I would never regret.

Christianity is not a monolithic religion (not all Christians believe the

*(Continued on page 8)*

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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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**About the Author:**

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

Greetings to all from Atlanta, Georgia! We are in the middle of a busy summer here at the College. All of our summer activities are concentrated into a season that has been shortened by expanding public school calendars, etc., into a period of about 8 weeks. Jon Cheatwood and his advance staff will be departing for FUEL tomorrow morning before daylight, and by the time you read this column the entire event will be only happy memories in the minds of the attendees. You will receive this issue of the Restitution Herald/Progress Journal around the time that General Conference will convene in South Bend, Indiana. I hope that many of you are making your plans to join us there for our meetings. And it will not be many more weeks before the fall semester will be under way. Add a few state camps, Vacation Bible Schools, and family vacations to the calendar, and it's clear that lazy, hazy days of summer are now just urban myths!

The General Conference fiscal year ends on June 30, so the final financial report for the year appears in this issue. Our total revenue for the year was \$931,883. Your contributions and revenues from our operations exceeded expenses by approximately \$23,000 – giving us a balanced budget for FY 2005-2006. Praise God! You may review the entire budget, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions. I want to thank you, on behalf of the staff, Board of Directors, and the students of ABC, for all your financial support during the year. But it is

impossible to thank you enough for the even more important prayer support that our members provide. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. May God richly bless you all.

The budgets for the next 2 fiscal years are also presented. These budgets will be reviewed and approved by the delegates at General Conference. As part of this column, we are presenting a message from Michael Hoffman, Chairman of the Board. It will provide you with insight into the plans for an exciting year at ABC.

I also wanted to share with you a story that came to me from Pastor Steve An, the coordinator of the ABC Korean Extension. There is no doubt that the Korean Extension has been one of the biggest and greatest blessings God has provided to the Bible College. But the impact of the students in ministry for God is the real story. I shared this testimony with our pastors and others via e-mail, but I wanted all of you to hear of the ministry of Yeoill Jang and the fruit it is producing. I hope you enjoy reading it. Until we see each other again, may God richly bless you and your loved ones.

*Tim, here is the story about Yeoill Jang, one of the graduates from last May. I met him when I was teaching at Korean Presbyterian Bible College and he joined Korean Extension from the beginning. Since then, he has studied very hard. He participated in CWS and other Bible study meetings held by the Korean Church Conference.*

*About six months ago, he came to me and asked for some suggestions about his situation. He had an offer from one of the biggest supermarkets in Korean*

*town (this area, near Doraville, GA., is a northeast suburb of Atlanta and is where most of the Koreans in the Atlanta area live & work. It is about 35 miles from the college—editor) working as a manager with a relatively high salary, but the offer required him to work on Sunday. The total number of Korean employees in the supermarket was more than 70 and many Korean employees working on Sunday could not attend the Sunday service. I advised him to ask the owner to allow a Bible study or service, whatever it could be called, in the work place on Sunday before opening for business. And it was granted. Then, he recruited other people who were also working on Sunday. They started to have the meeting at 8:30 every Sunday morning and he has been teaching what he learned in ABC.*



Yeoill Jang

*This morning, he came to me and handed me an envelope and said that the people who have been learning biblical truth from him appreciate ABC and the conference so much that they all agreed to continually support the college and the conference. As I listened to this story, I almost cried. Praise God!* ■

Steve An

# Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution – Annual Meeting, August 10 & 11, 2006

## **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 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.

**The following amendments have been proposed by the Board of Directors.** Article I, Section 2

**Current Version: Section 2.** The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place between June 1 and August 31 as may be determined by the Conference or its Board of Directors. Announcements of the time and place shall be made by the Board of Directors at least six months in advance by publications of the General Conference or other means of general communications available to the General Conference. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.

**Amended Version: Section 2.** The General Conference shall meet once a year. Announcement of the time and place shall be made by the Secretary of the Conference at least 6 months in advance by the most effective means of general communications available. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.

**What the Amendment Does:** The annual meeting of the General

Conference may take place at any time of the year, instead of only during July and August. The notification of the time and place must take place a minimum of 6 months in advance of the meeting.

## **Anticipated Change to Current Practice:**

At the 2006 Conference in South Bend, if the amendment to Article I, Section 2 is approved, sufficient time will be scheduled to allow the delegates to discuss their preferences for the time and place to hold the annual meeting. Various proposals will be considered, and the delegates asked to consider them all and conduct a non-binding vote on the various options that they would prefer. The Board would take this information into account in setting future Conference dates. This would not go into effect until 2007 at the earliest.

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Article IV, Section 4

## **Current Version: 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 the *Progress Journal*.

## **Amended Version: 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 and will be published by the most effective means of general communications.**

**What the Amendment Does:** The current requirement that the names of nominees be sent to the General Conference by May 1 is removed, and reference to publication in a specific issue of the *Progress Journal* is removed.

## **Anticipated Change to Current Practice:**

This would allow the submission and publication of the names of nominees for the Board of Directors at the appropriate time, especially if the annual meeting date was changed by Board or delegate action. No other change is anticipated.

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Article IV, Section 5

## **Current Version: 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.

## **Amended Version: Section 5.**

**Nominations will be brought to the floor of the business session by the Chairman before the time 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.**

## **What the Amendment Does:**

Nominees for the Board must be introduced to the delegates prior to the election, but there would be no mandatory delay for a full day before the election could then take place.

## **Anticipated Change to Current Practice:**

This change does not necessarily mean that the length of the annual meeting would be changed in any way. Instead, it means that the mechanics of the election do not require that the annual meeting take 2 days for the election alone. The length of General Conference would be based on the wishes of the delegates and the Board. ■

## Message From the Board Chairman

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Life is good. I have had much to celebrate recently. My daughter and son-in-law purchased a home and moved in. I was able to participate (in other words, I worked like a dog!) My son married, and I was privileged to officiate. General Conference is just around the corner. We get to meet with each other for some significant business. I hope to see many of you in South Bend. The Board also uses our fall meeting, usually in October, for long-term planning and strategy development. In preparation for these meetings, I would like to share a little of the Board's current thinking with you.

The Board is guided by our Vision Statement which I'll include for your review. We have made a concerted effort in the past couple of years to bring a long-term focus to our planning; not just considering the next 6 months for example, but looking ahead for 3 to 5 years. The Board strives to operate from an oversight position (we speak of the view from 50,000 feet) and not enter into the daily details and minutia. We trust our highly capable staff to handle those details. At our latest meetings, we agreed to the following developments in our planning:

1) The Ministry Services Network Director (the position previously held by Dave Riley) will be a part-time position for this fiscal year. We will continue to strive to meet all of the expressed needs of our churches. We anticipate restoring that position to full-time status sometime in the following year.

2) We will pursue the hiring of a full-time "Development Director" to improve our programs for resource development for our ministries. The year-end financial report is included in this issue of the Progress Journal. Giving has been up - this year's contributions represent a new record for general contributions - thanks to all of you and praise to God! In addition, this year we were able to deliver a balanced budget in our operations. This is truly an area to celebrate. However, giving levels do not meet the needs we have for our current operations and planned growth. Tim Jones and the entire staff are to be highly commended for holding the line on expenses extremely well. We believe God can and will provide additional funding as we pursue additional sources of it in a consistent and systematic way through a staff member dedicated to that task. As God blesses the efforts of that person and resources are made available, our priorities will be to hire one additional full-time faculty at ABC, retain additional administrative help as needed, and to split the CAO and College President into two separate positions. We are thankful for the work of the original reorganization task force in developing a new structure for leadership in 2000-2001. In all of our discussions, the work of the original reorganization committee (consisting of Norman Chandler, Donna Deane, Jim Ring, Tim Jones, and Larry Johnson, Chair) was affirmed and appreciated. We felt the only missing piece was a Development Director to help raise needed resources.

3) The Board will be meeting

with a consultant to continue analyzing our structures, staffing and procedures to be as effective as possible as a Board, College, and service organization. The result of this analysis will be delivered to the Board immediately after General Conference.

4) We will continue to place our primary emphasis upon Atlanta Bible College as a life transforming institution. We are excited about the ways God is working at ABC and look forward to many more reasons to give Him praise for what takes place there in the lives of the students and staff. You will hear some wonderful reports at General Conference.

The Board recommendations for General Conference constitutional amendments are straightforward and fairly simple, yet have tremendous significance. I would urge you to ask questions, discuss them, and pray about approving each of them.

Effective communication is always a challenge. I hope this information is helpful to you. I look forward to the opportunity to share much more at General Conference and to hear your questions and feedback. We serve a wondrous and faithful God. We have many reasons to celebrate. Do so daily as you share Christ and the Kingdom. Lord willing, I will see you in South Bend. ■

Peace to each of you,

Pastor Michael Hoffman  
Chairman of the Board

# Process for Board Elections and Qualifications for Nominees

At General Conference we will be electing one director for the Board of Directors. Andrea Anders' term expires this year. Currently we have two nominees. Article IV of the constitution directs the process for nominating and electing directors.

## 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 Tim-

thy 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.

## 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

## General Conference-Board Member Nomination

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### **ROBERT (BOB) SEE**

Robert (Bob) See was born in Grand Rapids, MI and attended the Pennellwood Church of God and was baptized by Bro. Mylan Hall in 1952. He has been married for 51 years to the former Sara Savage of St. Cloud, MN. After graduating from Godwin H.S. he attended Oregon Bible College for one year and was drafted into the Army. While serving his country in Taiwan for 14 months he completed two correspondence courses from OBC. After completing his hitch in the service he returned to OBC and graduated in 1961. He then attended St. Cloud State University completing both a BS and a MS and ministered to the Minneapolis Church during that time period. He taught school in Calif. and attended the Pomona Church of God. During the 30 years in California he served as Associate Pastor with Pastor Delbert Jones. In times of trouble he worked as the pastor of one

part of the split San Gabriel Church. He also pastored the Pomona Church for 18 months when they were without a full time pastor.

He also served as the guest speaker for both the Eden Valley and the Litchfield Churches of God until a full time pastor was found, conducting funeral services and baptisms. Bob has served as President of the Minnesota Conference for almost 6 years. He has been active in the Southwest Conference as camp director. While attending OBC he and his wife both worked with the East Oregon and Flagg Center churches. Bob has served in just about every office in the church. He presently is serving on the board of directors of the Indiana State Conference and has been recently elected as an elder of the Timberland Bible Church.

In the secular field Bob has been president of So Whittier Teachers Assoc. four times, and President

of the Whittier Area Federal Credit Union. Serving on the Board of Directors of a Federal Credit Union has given Bob a true perspective of what a board member's responsibilities are and what they are not. A board member's job is to give direction and set policies that will advance the cause of the organization. It is not to run the conference by everyday hands on or micromanage. Micromanaging is the job of the employees hired by the conference. Directors set the policies; the employees set up the process whereby they can be carried out or implemented.

The Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith has come a long ways in the last few years. With proper leadership it can and with the Lord's help will make further progress in bring others to what Jesus the Christ meant concerning the Gospel of the Kingdom and what the future holds for those who answer His calling. ■

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### **PASTOR DANIEL SMEAD**

Pastor Daniel Smead is nominated by the Ministerial Association as a candidate for the Board of Directors. He has served the Eden Valley Church of God in Minnesota since 2003. Daniel is chairman of the Ministers Voluntary Retirement Association, and Vice President of the Minnesota State Conference.

In his youth, Daniel learned and grew as part of the Raymore Church of God in Missouri. His college years were split between two years at OBC and two at ABC, giving him perspective on the changes which took place in the move to Morrow, Georgia.

That perspective was continued as Daniel worked in the publishing department of the General Conference from 1993 to 2002. He also edited the Adult Truth Seeker's Quarterly from 1999 to 2002.

While serving with the Conference Daniel began his studies toward a Master of Divinity degree at Columbia Theological Seminary, which he received in 2003.

Daniel values prayer and God's grace in healing and growth. He desires for God's people to have better mutual understanding and communication, in the knowledge

of God's great commandments and great commission, and to seek joy in their lives.

Daniel has been married to Carolyn (Swartz) Smead for 12 years, and on May 23 their second child, Deborah, was born. Their son Jeremiah turns six in August.

Daniel appreciates the opportunity granted him by the Ministerial Association to seek a position on our Board of Directors. He trusts that if selected his experiences as a student at OBC and ABC, a General Conference worker, and a pastor will be of help in his service to the Conference. ■

*(Continued from page 1)*

same things), and I soon discovered that the picture of the afterlife my friends had given me was not believed by all the Christians I ever met. For example, Roman Catholicism (the oldest and largest “branch” of the Christian religion) was teaching that there are four possible places to which a person’s soul can go when death occurs: heaven (for saints), hell (for non-Catholics), purgatory (for Catholics who aren’t saints), and limbo (for children who die before being baptized). (Limbo has recently been eliminated, by a decree of Pope Benedict XVI, so it’s unclear to me, at this point, where those unbaptized babies are supposed to be going.)

The denomination I was saved in had simplified this complicated system somewhat. Everyone was either saved or unsaved; the saved went to heaven; the unsaved went to hell. Heaven was pictured as a “real” place where people would recognize each other, have conversations, sing, eat delicious food, and enjoy life forever – though I was a little confused by this description, since it was taught that it was my “soul” (NOT my body) that would be going there. If the soul is immaterial, I thought, how can it enjoy all these material pleasures?

But it was the picture of hell that bothered me the most. Hell was also a “real” place – a “lake of fire” – in which those who had never accepted Jesus would burn forever, in unbelievable pain, screaming, and “gnashing their teeth,” but would never burn up! Furthermore, all this was going to

take place WITHIN EARSHOT of heaven, as vividly described in the “true story” of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). No matter that it was also taught that it was “souls” (not bodies) that were going there: these “souls” had eyes (v. 23), bosoms (v. 23), voices (v. 24), fingers (v. 24), and tongues (v. 24)! As far as I could tell, the “soul” was nothing but a different kind of body: a kind that couldn’t be destroyed, even by an unquenchable fire.

I want to pause, at this point, to offer a suggestion. If this is what you believe, and if you are satisfied with believing it, and you don’t want to think about changing that belief, put this away, and come back to reading it some other day. It’s not my purpose to upset you, or to get you to leave your church, or anything like that. But I want to warn you: if you keep reading, you’re going to have that view challenged. So don’t keep reading and then write to me to say you’re upset with me. I’m giving you a fair warning! I also want to say this: if this is what your church teaches, I feel very, very sorry for you. I vividly remember what it was like to believe that this was the fate of my unsaved loved ones – and to think that I would have to “spend eternity” listening to their screams.

Billy Graham, among many others, has (after several decades) quit preaching this view of the final destination of the unsaved. He still says, “You have a soul that will live forever somewhere” – and he still talks about heaven as the final destination of the saved – but he now describes hell as “eternal

separation from God” and claims the “fire” is merely a figure of speech whose purpose is to describe the “mental anguish” of the realization that one has missed out on the joys of heaven. But this view troubles me as well. Nearly every theologian I’ve ever heard of teaches that God is “omnipresent” – He’s EVERYWHERE. If He’s everywhere, then how can I be “separated” from Him? Psalm 139:7-12 asks (and answers) that very question. In the King James Version, verse 8 specifically states that hell is NOT “a place where God is not.”

Furthermore, I also worry about the impact this kind of preaching will have on the unsaved. Had I heard Billy preaching this when I was a teenager (back then he was preaching the literal fire and brimstone), I might have responded, “Great! If I don’t accept Jesus as my Savior, I’ll get to live forever, in a place where there is no God. It sounds like you’re promising heaven to the atheist and hell to the Christians!” I don’t think any atheist will ever be drawn to faith in Jesus by the “threat” of being “separated from God.”

Another “modern” solution (though it’s really not modern at all; it was preached over 1,700 years ago) is to say that while it’s true that all souls live forever, and only Christians go to heaven when they die, it’s not true that the souls of non-Christians burn forever in hell. They burn only until their sinful natures are burned away (in a process that reminds me of the purification of gold or silver); then

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

they are transferred to heaven and enjoy eternal life right along with the saved. This process might take longer for some than for others, but eventually everyone (or, in some versions of this theory, ALMOST everyone) will be saved. This theory goes by the name of Restorationism, or, sometimes, Universalism. While it's usually affiliated with the "liberal" wing of Christianity, it's gaining more and more adherents among the "conservative" wing as well. It troubles me, too, though. It doesn't seem to leave me much motivation for holy living here on earth. My final destination will be heaven no matter what I do in this life! In that case, why not "live as the heathen do" – enjoying the pleasures of sin for this "season" of 70 years (or so) – knowing that hell will be only another "transfer point" like Orlando or Washington, D.C.?

Not long after I joined the church where they described hell as "25,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and not a drop of water in sight" I met some Christians who held another view, one I haven't mentioned yet. When they first described it to me, I thought, "It sounds great, but it isn't what the Bible teaches, so what good is it?" This new group didn't try very hard to convince me they were right. They simply suggested, "Read the Bible and see for yourself." So I did.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY about my "final destination"?

For starters, the Bible doesn't say that "souls" are immortal. The Bible doesn't actually say very

much about "immortality" at all. The word only occurs half a dozen times.

What it DOES say about "souls" is that they are MORTAL (capable of dying, and of being destroyed). Take a look at Ezekiel 18:4 (and 18:20), and Matthew 10:28, and I don't see how you can come to any other conclusion.

The Bible speaks of "living souls" (Genesis 2:7), and it also speaks of

**My final destination will be heaven no matter what I do in this life! In that case, why not "live as the heathen do"?**

"dead souls" (Numbers 19:13). This is not immediately obvious, unless you can read Hebrew. The word translated "body" in the latter verse is the same word ("nephesh") that is translated "soul" later in the same verse!

Furthermore, the "soul" (in the Bible) is not a "part" of the human being (distinct from the "body"): it is simply a name for the human being himself (or herself). The same word ("nephesh") is also used to describe non-human beings, such as fish (Genesis 1:20), cattle (Genesis 1:24), and God Himself (Matthew 12:18, quoting Isaiah 42:1). Saying "my soul" is just another way of saying "I."

So what is MY final destination? It is the same as the final destination of my "soul." Where does the "soul" go? What becomes

of "it"? This is just another way of asking, "Where do 'I' go? What becomes of 'me'?"

Hundreds of verses, throughout the Bible, make it perfectly clear that the final destination of the saved is eternal life in the presence of God, and the final destination of the unsaved is complete nonexistence. Here are just a few:

"Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:19) – "thou" (you), not "thy body" (leaving "thy soul" free to go somewhere else).

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12) – "not life" at all, not just "not a blessed, happy life in heaven."

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23) – the word "but" clearly shows that "death" is a different thing from "life," not just life in a different place.

"For 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). Here is the most-quoted verse in Christendom. It contrasts the destiny of the unsaved ("perish") with the destiny of the saved ("life"). What could be plainer? The destiny of the saved is to live forever. The destiny of the unsaved is to not do so.

The final destination of the unsaved is always, in the Bible,

(Continued on page 13)

*This is the second part of a discussion on the effects of culture change on the Church and how we need to be open to God's leading in dealing with the changes.*

**“Many people will feel uneasy about this close connection between faith and culture; some may even argue that their faith is based on truth unaffected by culture. But nowadays, such a naïve view is impossible to sustain; nearly all scholars, evangelical or not, argue that our whole perception of the world—including our faith—is deeply influenced by culture and language...The implications of these cultural differences for spirituality and theology are enormous.”**

**Dave Tomlinson**, author of *The Postevangelical*

In the first portion of this two part article, we looked at the issue of what changing cultural paradigms might mean to the work of the Church and Christians. In particular, if the world is moving towards an increasing level of acceptance of a “postmodern” paradigm, what do we need to do to remain true to God’s call to spread the Good News? After considering some of the ways of viewing the world that might be characterized as “modern,” we examined some of the characteristics that were descriptive of a postmodernistic world view. (See the previous issue of the RH/PJ for more details.) To briefly recap, some of these characteristics might include modes of thinking like these:

1. An unwillingness to accept the concept of absolute truths. (Some things, like the fact that it is wrong to murder someone, may still be accepted as absolute.)
2. Great diversity of thinking and acceptance of ambiguity in matters of spirituality, faith, and theology.
3. No agreement that the Bible is authoritative.
4. Standards of what is right, wrong, or ethical are based on culturally defined parameters and the individual’s opinions.

This, of course, is not a complete or even exhaustive list of the types of assumptions a person might make. But even these few may serve to illustrate the important point—people with a postmodern

world view will see every aspect of their lives, as well as the world around them, differently from the perspectives of “modern” people.

A postmodern perspective does not necessarily identify or define what a person actually believes. For purposes of this discussion, postmodern is more of a description of the methods, assumptions, and processes we use to think about and evaluate our world to reach our beliefs. In other words, it is possible to be a “postmodern” Christian. You may see in your own thinking an affinity to some of the ways of viewing the world through a postmodern lens. You can believe with all your heart that God loves the world, that He gave His only begotten son, and that our hope is the coming Kingdom of God. However, the way that you reached this faith may be radically different from the “modern” way of believing and accepting the Gospel message. During the modern age, many people who have chosen to follow Jesus did so based on logically presented, well-researched and developed arguments. In our changing world, an ever-dwindling number of people will respond to this same model of evangelism.

This is not a new issue for the Church. We need to remember that Christ ministered in a non-modern world. Each time we read the Bible, we are being taken back to an age very different from our own. Jesus lived and taught, and God inspired His servants to write the Scriptures, in a world completely different from “modern” America. There were no PowerPoint five-point sermon outlines projected on a screen for the Sermon on the Mount. Prayer concerns of the disciples were not transmitted via an electronic phone tree system. The Church was founded and grew in a world completely different from the one we inhabit today. If we are not succeeding in winning others to Jesus, the failure is not because God, Jesus, or the message of salvation are any less compelling. At least some of the failure must be attributed to the way we are delivering the message. God, through His Holy Spirit and a people willing to serve, can reach through any culture or worldview. God will not abandon His people as they reach out to the world. But His people must be willing to let God show us the way to minister in the new era.

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

As discussed in Part 1, this shifting set of assumptions and perceptions could have enormous impact on the Church. Our testimony to others about how they need God in their lives and Jesus as their Savior may not be understood. If we do not heed God's leading to change the way we share the message, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God may not resonate with those who need to hear. Too often, we insist that people accept the truths of Scripture and God's teaching in the *same way* that we ourselves accepted it. This insistence that "My way is the only way" keeps us from taking the message of salvation into the world effectively. God and Christ are needed by every person, but we may allow our own prejudices about the world and how we view it to dominate the gospel.

### **Impact of Changing Culture on the Church**

- ◆ **People 18 to 32 are the least likely to describe themselves as religious, Christian, or committed Christian**
- ◆ **Church attendance is declining with each new generation**
- ◆ **Young adults are most open to faiths other than Christianity**
- ◆ **A large, high profile church in a recent survey found only 3% of their young adult members were from an unchurched background—all others simply moved from another church**
- ◆ **More than 80% of Americans say religious faith is very important in their life: however, only 41% attend church on a typical Sunday**
- ◆ **Clegg & Bird, in the book *Lost in America*, say the unchurched population in the US is the largest mission field in the English speaking world & the 5<sup>th</sup> largest global mission field.**

(source: Researcher George Barna)

As part of this article, you see a series of research findings that seem to indicate that Christians are not winning others to the Gospel message. The Church and its influence in our country are fading. We know that there is much more to being a follower of Jesus than just attending church. Nevertheless, the number of people in the US attending church is declining. The younger the age of the group studied, the more pronounced the decline. But it is very important to realize that this is not an issue of age or a "generation gap" phenomenon. An octogenarian from Cleveland can be thoroughly postmodern in viewpoint. By contrast, the 23-year-old from Los Angeles with body piercings and black leather clothing can be totally modern in their world view. However, the dynamics of culture change means that the shift towards postmodernity and its perceptions is most pronounced in the younger age groups of the population. The later that people are born, the more they will know only a postmodern world. As a result of this type of change, although 4 out of every 5 Americans surveyed say that "religious faith" is important to them, more and more people are not looking to Jesus to find the spirituality they feel is important and lacking in their lives. As the research shows, even the modern "mega-church," with thousands of members, tremendous resources, and program variety, is not attracting new followers to Christianity. Their growth is coming from existing Christians moving from one church to another.

So what should we do as Christians to adapt to a world that is changing? There are a number of possible ways that we could cope with an increasingly postmodern world. The following quotation is taken from the book called *Adventures in Missing the Point*, written by Brian McLaren and Tony Campolo:

**As apologetics is changing—as we move from a modern, familiar environment to a new, less familiar one—our apologetic also needs to change. Modernity constrained us to operate in a rationalistic framework—that is, based on reason alone—and our apologetic accordingly focused on logic, evidence, proof, answers, scholarship, reasons, arguments, and appeals to authority.**

**As we move into the emerging culture, however, our apologetic will focus more and more on beauty, goodness, experience, questions, mys-**

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

**tery, community, and humility...As cultures change, as new questions arise, we get to keep growing in our understanding of the faith and in our ability to make it clear to others.**

Brian D. McLaren

So if Mr. McLaren is correct in saying our efforts in evangelism must change, what options can we identify?

**Do nothing.** This is always an option. After all, for many of us, the change to a postmodern society will not have a major impact on our lives or perhaps even the lives of our families and children. We see examples of postmodern perspectives like those of the Hollywood actresses quoted in Part 1, and thank God that we have homes, friends, and churches that still hold to the truths of the Bible. Most, if not all, of the people in our existing churches are modern in their perspective and will not challenge us to change. It is likely that the people of God will become more and more isolated and irrelevant as time passes, but we will hold on to the truths we value.

However, I think God has made it clear that He wants more from His people. Jesus said “*This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples*” (John 15:8). The servant in Luke 19 who buried the money and did not produce for his master was called “wicked” because he did nothing with the treasure he was given. God wants us to take what He has given us and, with His guidance and blessing, produce fruit in this world.

**With God’s help, seek to understand the postmodern culture.** It is important to remember that learning to understand does not mean we also have to adopt! We need to realize that producing a list of Bible verses to give a person to prove that the Bible is authoritative is not effective. To act in such a way that we know we will hinder someone’s ability to hear the message of salvation is contrary to the will of God. This does not mean that we, in any way, lessen our faith that the Bible IS authoritative and is the inspired Word of God. It does mean that we need to learn new ways to share this belief with others.

Just as important, as part of understanding how to better share our faith, we must be careful that we are sharing God’s truths—not our own opinions or cultural values. Our faith is often buried underneath

“modern” cultural beliefs and customs. We are to share the Gospel with others and let God perform a transforming work within them. When we share our message, we should not require the listener to be someone they are not (and cannot be) to hear, understand, and accept Christ as their Lord.

**Find fresh ways to communicate the Gospel of the name of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God to the postmodern world.** After understanding comes the truly difficult part of the task. This is where learning to depend on God’s Spirit will be necessary for the Church to bear fruit. The necessary changes to the way we teach, preach and minister will be difficult for all of us. Paul advocated this willingness in I Corinthians 9:

*1Co 9:19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.*

*1Co 9:20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.*

*1Co 9:21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law.*

*1Co 9:22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.*

*1Co 9:23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

Can the Church of God be as bold as Paul? Even though he was not under the law, he was willing to act like he was so he could save people. If he was with the weak, he became weak to win them to Jesus. God has called us to go into the world to preach the Gospel. But this commission is to do more than preach to little effect and hold fast to our faith. We are called by our Lord to glorify God and show we are the disciples of Christ by producing much fruit. Like Paul, this might be the testimony of the Church of God today:

To the postmoderns we became postmodern, to win the postmoderns. To obey God, we have become all things to all men so that by all possible means we might save some. We do all this for the sake of the gospel, that we may share in its blessings. ■

## Final Destination *continued...*

(Continued from page 9)

described in terms such as “die,” “death,” “perish,” “destroy,” “burned up,” “consumed,” and so on. Such concepts as “ultimate restoration to heaven,” “eternal separation from God,” “burning forever and never burning up,” and “eternal life in hell” (which I found on a tract published by a prominent disciplinemaking ministry), are never once hinted at in any of its 31,173 verses.

I don’t mean to brag, but the fact is, I’ve read the Old Testament cover-to-cover in 11 different translations, and the New Testament cover-to-cover in 19 different translations. It simply isn’t in there.

God certainly has a plan to punish those who refuse His generous offer of eternal life. The punishment consists of the fact that they will not get what they didn’t ask for. No harsher punishment than that is needed, and none is promised in the Bible. To me, this is a far more

comforting belief than to think of my now-deceased, never-saved loved ones as burning forever, screaming in pain, within earshot of my heavenly mansion. How would I be able to enjoy eternity in a scenario like that? But that is precisely what most Christians believe. I’m glad I “discovered” what the Bible says!

### **So what is MY final destination?... “Where do ‘I’ go? What becomes of ‘me’?”**

I didn’t really “discover” it, though, and neither did the small denomination I now serve as a minister. It’s been there all along. Every Christian writer before the year 177 taught it (I’ve proved this in my doctoral thesis, which became my “book,” “The Doctrine of Immortality in the Early Church”; I’d be happy to send you

a copy by email if you ask me to.) It was “buried” under the traditional view for several centuries, but there were always “heretics” who believed it, often at the cost of their lives. It “reappeared” during the Reformation and was held by such “greats” as Martin Luther, John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, John Milton, and others – though later rejected by the “mainline” churches they founded. It’s been preached in America, under the label “Conditional Immortality,” since at least the year 1795. I, myself, have held to it for 35 years now, and have never found a “flaw” in it, though many of my friends have shared with me the “flaws” they believe it has. I’ll be writing about some of those “flaws” in future e-tracts. I hope you’ll study them with an open mind. But I don’t ask you to believe ANYTHING unless you become convinced it’s what the Bible teaches. ■

## THE LIFE OF A COUNTRY-BOY PREACHER

THE MEMORIES OF JIM (JAMES HENRY) MATTISON (1924-20--)

PASTOR, MISSIONARY, RADIO PREACHER

PLUS

MEMORIES OF HOME LIFE BY HIS EIGHT CHILDREN

*“This is the story of a country boy who loved God and wanted to serve Him. It recounts his life’s adventures through childhood, Bible College, marriage, pastoring for 40 years and African mission work for 12 years. It shows how, as he sought God, God blessed him and made him into a servant whom God was able to use. I think you will really enjoy this book!” --Jim Mattison*

THE BOOK CAN BE ORDERED FROM THE CONFERENCE FOR \$10.00 PER COPY PLUS SHIP-

## Income Budget Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2006

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	June, 2006 <u>Variance</u>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>			
General Contributions	300,000	277,088	-22,912
Building Our Future Campaign	297,231	67,794	-229,437
BOF Challenge Gift	0	-40,000	
BOF General Membership			
Response	0	-22,560	
BOF Alumni Association			
Response	0	-5,234	
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	5,000	130,141	125,141
ABC Boosters	13,000	17,767	4,767
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>615,231</b>	<b>492,790</b>	<b>-122,441</b>
<b>SALES:</b>			
Christian Education Materials	33,852	23,160	-10,692
Books	22,000	30,198	8,198
Restitution Herald	0	0	0
Age to Come Media Products	300	180	-120
Theological Journal	300	216	-84
Sale of Assets	0	1,300	1,300
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>56,452</b>	<b>55,054</b>	<b>-1,398</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Tuition	125,000	100,882	-24,118
Korean Extension Tuition	115,000	201,450	86,450
Lodging	52,000	47,428	-4,572
Washers/Dryers	1,200	1,340	140
Rentals - ABC Plant	5,600	9,750	4,150
Late Fees/Rent	5,500	9,141	3,641
Fees	4,400	7,876	3,476
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>308,700</b>	<b>377,867</b>	<b>69,167</b>
<b>PROGRAM INCOME:</b>			
Conferences & Workshops ***	11,000	-2,118	-13,118
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>-2,118</b>	<b>-13,118</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	1,000	1,186	186
Transferred In	6,800	7,104	304
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>8,290</b>	<b>490</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>999,183</b>	<b>931,883</b>	<b>-67,300</b>

### Building Our Future Campaign

**Total contributions since inception (2003) 272,766**

\*\*\* Actual 'Conferences and Workshops' net income shows as a negative number partially because some FUEL and General Conference income was received in June, 2005, prior to the start of this fiscal year.

■ 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.

■ These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2005 through June, 2006.

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

# Expense Budget Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2006

	Budget	Actual	June, 2006 Variance
<b>STAFF:</b>			
Salaries & Wages	484,320	453,879	30,441
F.I.C.A. Tax	5,500	7,065	-1,565
Employee Benefits	88,152	93,841	-5,689
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>577,972</b>	<b>554,785</b>	<b>23,187</b>
<b>SERVICES:</b>			
Assistance to Churches	29,000	12,200	16,800
Ministerial Association	9,600	9,600	0
Youth Program	12,000	12,000	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>50,600</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>16,800</b>
<b>SALES EXPENSE:</b>			
Printing & Binding	28,000	25,708	2,292
Postage & Shipping	15,000	12,747	2,253
Media Production Expenses	0	0	0
Book Store	14,000	18,919	-4,919
Royalties	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>57,374</b>	<b>-374</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Clayton Rebate	2,000	0	2,000
Advertising--Recruitment	3,500	4,840	-1,340
ABC Korean Extension Support	31,000	36,524	-5,524
Library Periodicals	1,500	1,084	416
Library Books	1,000	71	929
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	700	1,532	-832
Staff Training	3,000	1,733	1,267
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>42,700</b>	<b>45,784</b>	<b>-3,084</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>			
Travel	30,000	32,852	-2,852
Motor Vehicles	2,800	1,625	1,175
Office Supplies & Expense	15,000	13,649	1,351
Professional Services	11,000	5,997	5,003
Telephone	22,500	21,181	1,319
Insurance - Non Plant	600	169	431
Supplies & Expense	3,000	5,904	-2,904
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	25,000	22,157	2,843
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>109,900</b>	<b>103,534</b>	<b>6,366</b>
<b>PLANT EXPENSES:</b>			
Utilities	32,000	35,271	-3,271
Insurance - Property	15,000	14,981	19
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	5,000	13,046	-8,046
Furniture & Equipment	5,000	10,711	-5,711
Supplies/Expenses Plant	5,000	5,140	-140
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>79,149</b>	<b>-17,149</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	28,000	28,801	-801
Other	6,000	5,601	399
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>34,402</b>	<b>-402</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>934,172</b>	<b>908,828</b>	<b>25,344</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)</b>	<b>65,011</b>	<b>23,055</b>	<b>-41,956</b>

# Finance—Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 adopted by the delegates at the 2005 Summer Conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

## 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. **Books** – cost of books purchased for resale
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. **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 has been suspended from FY 2004-2005 forward because of declines in the stocks, bonds, and other assets that make up the Foundation. Transfers will remain 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 Restitution Herald & Progress Journal*, *A Journal from the Radical Reformation*, tracts, books, and all correspondence
9. **Book Store** – textbooks and other materials, which are purchased for resale
10. **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
11. **Advertising** – **Recruitment** – includes newspaper, television, radio advertising (Telephone calls, travel, printing, and postage are included under other line items)
12. **ABC Korean Extension Support** –

expenses associated with the providing for the expense budget of the ABC Korean Extension

13. **Library Periodicals** – journals and other magazines for the Library collection
14. **Library Books** – newly published books are acquired to keep the Library collection up to date
15. **Staff Periodicals, Books & Dues** – a small allowance is provided to staff to purchase resource material for classes and to participate in professional organizations
16. **Staff Training** – staff members are provided opportunities to enhance their skills in areas associated with their responsibilities
17. **Travel** – includes travel for Board members, advisory committees, special boards and committees, student groups, and staff
18. **Motor Vehicles** – license plates, insurance, and maintenance for vehicles
19. **Office Supplies & Expense** – paper, printer cartridges, stationery, envelopes, etc., and supplies for Kingdom Quest and other products
20. **Professional Services** – costs of annual audit, as required by the Constitution and annual fees to accrediting association
21. **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
22. **Insurance – Non-Plant** – liability insurance for employees and directors
23. **Supplies & Expense** – printing supplies, paper products, and other operational expenses
24. **Repairs & Maintenance – non-plant** – maintenance agreements and repairs for office and library equipment
25. **Utilities** – costs of electricity, water, etc.
26. **Insurance – Property** – costs of insurance for facilities
27. **Repairs/Maint – Plant** – costs for plant support and maintenance
28. **Furniture and Equipment** – includes all furniture, software, computers, and office machines
29. **Supplies/Exp – Plant** – cleaning supplies, restroom supplies, etc.
30. **Interest** – interest paid on funds borrowed from Restricted Funds
31. **Other** – miscellaneous charges.



# Proposed Budget for General Conference

<u>General Conference FY 06-07 &amp; 07-08 Budgets</u>	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Proposed Budget
<b>Expenses</b>	FY '06-'07	FY '06-'07	FY '07-'08
<b>STAFF:</b>			
Salaries & Wages	\$474,320	\$492,673	\$517,306
F.I.C.A. Tax	\$5,500	\$8,000	\$8,400
Employee Benefits	\$94,152	\$84,029	\$96,633
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$573,972</b>	<b>\$584,701</b>	<b>\$622,339</b>
<b>SERVICES:</b>			
Assistance to Churches	\$24,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Ministerial Association	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600
Youth Program	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$12,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$43,600</b>	<b>\$32,600</b>	<b>\$33,600</b>
<b>SALES EXPENSE:</b>			
Printing & Binding	\$29,000	\$29,000	\$30,000
Postage & Shipping	\$16,000	\$15,000	\$17,000
Book Store	\$16,000	\$18,000	\$19,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$61,000</b>	<b>\$62,000</b>	<b>\$66,000</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Clayton Rebate	\$2,000	\$0	\$0
Advertising--			
Recruitment	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
ABC Korean Extension			
Support	\$35,000	\$22,000	\$24,000
Library Periodicals	\$1,500	\$1,600	\$2,000
Library Books	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500
Staff Periodicals,			
Books, Dues	\$702	\$750	\$800
Staff Training	\$3,500	\$1,000	\$1,500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$47,702</b>	<b>\$30,350</b>	<b>\$34,800</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>			
Travel	\$32,000	\$33,000	\$34,000
Motor Vehicles	\$2,000	\$0	\$0
Office Supplies & Expense	\$16,000	\$14,000	\$15,500
Professional Services	\$11,500	\$8,000	\$8,000
Telephone	\$23,500	\$22,000	\$24,000
Insurance - Non Plant	\$600	\$300	\$400
Supplies & Expense	\$3,200	\$5,500	\$6,000
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	\$26,000	\$25,000	\$26,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$114,800</b>	<b>\$107,800</b>	<b>\$113,900</b>
<b>PLANT EXPENSES:</b>			
Utilities	\$33,000	\$37,000	\$39,000
Insurance - Property	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,500
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	\$6,000	\$17,000	\$18,000
Furniture & Equipment	\$3,000	\$14,000	\$15,000
Supplies/Expenses			
Plant	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$63,000</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	<b>\$95,500</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	\$28,000	\$27,300	\$28,000
Other	\$7,000	\$7,800	\$8,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$35,100</b>	<b>\$36,000</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>\$939,074</b>	<b>\$942,551</b>	<b>\$1,002,139</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$877,787</b>	<b>\$942,811</b>	<b>\$1,006,072</b>

## General Conference FY 06-07 & 07-08 Budgets

<b>Income</b>	Original Budget FY '06-'07	Amended Budget FY '06- '07	Proposed Budget FY '07-'08
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>			
General Contributions	\$375,000	\$416,411	\$437,232
Building Our Future Campaign			
BOF Challenge Gift			
BOF General Membership Response			
BOF Alumni Association Response			
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
ABC Boosters	\$15,000	\$16,000	\$17,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$395,000</b>	<b>\$437,411</b>	<b>\$459,232</b>
<b>SALES:</b>			
Christian Education Materials	\$37,237	\$25,400	\$27,940
Books	\$25,000	\$27,000	\$29,000
Age to Come Media Products	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
Theological Journal	\$800	\$0	\$0
Sale of Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$64,037</b>	<b>\$52,400</b>	<b>\$56,940</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Tuition	\$156,250	\$114,000	\$125,400
Korean Extension Tuition	\$161,000	\$230,000	\$253,000
Lodging	\$59,800	\$54,000	\$52,000
Washers/Dryers	\$1,400	\$900	\$900
Rentals - ABC Plant	\$6,500	\$10,000	\$10,000
Late Fees/Rent	\$5,000	\$9,000	\$8,500
Fees	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$6,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$395,950</b>	<b>\$424,900</b>	<b>\$455,800</b>
<b>PROGRAM INCOME:</b>			
Conferences & Workshops ***	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$3,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$1,100
Transferred In	\$6,800	\$22,000	\$30,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$7,800</b>	<b>\$23,100</b>	<b>\$31,100</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$877,787</b>	<b>\$942,811</b>	<b>\$1,006,072</b>

### 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 2006-07

This column presents changes to adopted budget finances for 2006-07

This column presents proposed budget for 2007-08.

	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>
General Contributions	\$375,000	\$416,411	\$437,232

**TOTAL (Income - Expenses)**      **-\$61,287**      **\$260**      **\$3,933**

# Church News

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## Baptisms

Georgia

*Cornerstone* – Jesse Acuff, Anthony Black, Sharon Black, Mark Clarke, Carol Faircloth, Ray Faircloth, Ann Roes, Marcy Turley (4/23/06) following the annual Theological Conference, by Pastor Dale Swartz and Dustin Smith; Allen Walden (6/11/06) by Pastor Andy Cisneros

*Morrow* – Lucinda Chisman (4/06), at Atlanta Bible College, by Anthony Buzzard and Mike Chisman

Illinois

*Oregon* – Kayla Noel Magaw, Kristen Brianna Magaw (7/9/06) by their grandfather, Pastor Russ Magaw

Indiana

*North Salem* – Pat Leatherman, Sarah Watson, Bob Croy, Krista Webb, Molly Bailey (4/06) by Pastor Darrell Cardwell

Minnesota

*Eden Valley* – Kelsey Schneider, Claire Kirkpatrick (7/9/06) by their grandfather, Eddie Kirkpatrick, and Pastor Daniel Smead at the Minnesota Church of God Campground

South Carolina

*Guthrie Grove* – Michael and Jasara Finnegan (5/7/06) by Jasara's father, Pastor Jamie Engelbert; Kaitlyn Walters (6/25/06) by her father, Kenny Walters

## Marriages

South Carolina

*Bethel* – Richard Saucier and Wanda Howard (5/6/06) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

## Deaths

Alabama

*Jacksonville* – Dr. Milo Magaw, 75 (6/8/06), long time faithful supporter of the college and conference. Service by Pastor Russ Magaw

Arkansas

*Clark Chapel* – Willard "Bill" Downs, 80 (6/5/06), long time faithful member and elder. Service by Pastor Roy Humphreys

Georgia

*New Friends* – Mary Krogh, 93 (5/24/06), mother of

Rachel Carr and David Krogh and wife of the late Pastor Harvey U. Krogh, Jr. She was a former housemother for women students at Oregon Bible College and volunteered for many years as a helper in the Conference mailing department and as a proofreader for the publishing department. Service at Oregon, IL Church of God by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

Illinois

*Ripley* – L. Ellouise Wells (3/29/06), long time faithful member. Service by Pastor Brian Froehlich

Michigan

*East Lansing* – Lila Guiles, 93 (6/30/06), long time faithful member, baptized by Press Sweaney in 1926. Service by Pastors Rex and Alan Cain

Ontario, Canada

*Glad Tidings* – Glynn High, 82 (6/13/06). Service by Pastor Michael Brown

South Carolina

*Bethel* – Richard Hammond (6/5/06). Service by Pastor Jeff Fletcher. Bobby Hammonds (6/8/06). Service by Pastors Jeff Fletcher and Alan Cain

Texas

*Corinth* – Betty Jean Doan, 81, (6/10/06), wife of the late Pastor Harold Doan.

**Church Name Change** – Fair Oaks Community Church of God, Herndon, Virginia, has changed their name to "Oak Hill Community Church of God – Abrahamic Faith." The new website is [www.oakhillchurch.homestead.com](http://www.oakhillchurch.homestead.com). Address: 3309 W Ox Rd, Oak Hill, VA 22701.

**The Blanchard Church of God in Blanchard, Michigan is currently seeking a growth oriented pastor. We are an established church with approximately 40 dedicated people with great growth potential in the surrounding area. Interested pastors may call Elder/Chairman of the Board Terry Kunst at 989-560-1268 or e-mail him at [terry@mtpleasantagency.com](mailto:terry@mtpleasantagency.com).**

# Prayer & Praise

August 2006

---

- 1 Pray for the Mexico mission team in Labor Vieja.
  - 2 **Praise God for the beauty of His creation.**
  - 3 Pray for Mark and Terri Tschaenn and the Indianapolis church planting.
  - 4 **Pray for your pastor and his family today.**
  - 5 Pray for new students as they prepare to attend Atlanta Bible College later this month.
  - 6 **Pray for the mission team traveling home from Mexico.**
  - 7 Pray for Pastor Connie Scott and her ministry at Pine Grove, Minnesota.
  - 8 **Pray for the Board of Directors as they lead the ministries of the College/Conference.**
  - 9 Praise God for the faithful ministry of the ABC/General Conference staff.
  - 10 **Pray for the folks meeting for General Conference at Timberland Bible Church.**
  - 11 Pray for God to guide and direct business conducted by delegates at General Conference.
  - 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 Lacey Dunn as she works for ABC/General Conference in various areas of staff support.
  - 20 **Praise God for His incredible power.**
  - 21 Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as classes begin today.
  - 22 **Pray for individuals who feel led by God to pursue mission careers.**
  - 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.**
- 

## September 2006

- 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 **Pray that God might be praised through your worship today.**
- 4 Praise God this Labor Day for the work and ministry He has provided to you.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Cheryl Swartz and the congregation at Litchfield, MN.**
- 6 Praise God for the growth of the Maple Grove congregation in Kokomo, Indiana.
- 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 VA.**
- 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.

Atlanta Bible College  
Church of God General Conference  
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Morrow, GA 30260

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## **SEARCHING...**

### **FOR A CHURCH TO SERVE!!!**

My name is Terrence Raper and I am a personable and eager leader looking for a church to serve and grow. I have attended Atlanta Bible College off and on since 1999, and I am currently the apartment manager (dorm parent) at ABC. I have served at four COG/GC churches in some capacity since 2000 (Southlawn, North Hills, Blood River, and Beloit New Life—mostly Youth Ministry). I am interested and excited about finding a church located in a rural community to eventually start my own family.

Contact information  
[Peyton87@hotmail.com](mailto:Peyton87@hotmail.com)  
(404)363-0512 home  
(404)931-1724 cell

## **The Columbia Station story can help your church!**

A presentation of the Columbia Station story is now available to help your church grow and become an active part of your community. Pastor Dave Swartz has put together a presentation that shares the church history from its beginning in 1963 until it closed in 2004. The presentation shares the strengths and weaknesses of the church, and most of all, the lessons learned in closing and beyond. Pastor Dave is interested in sharing this information with you. For more information, contact him at: (440) 327-6816 or [DaveSwartz@aol.com](mailto:DaveSwartz@aol.com).

## **Pastor needed:**

### ***Chapel Hill Church of God***

is in need of a pastor. We are searching for a part-time pastor to work with our dedicated members. Chapel Hill is a country church and has access to community colleges. Please contact:

Shirley Wood  
16093 Maple Ave.  
Belle Center, Ohio 43310  
1-937-842-2803  
E-Mail- [sandwood@bright.net](mailto:sandwood@bright.net)

# RESTITUTION HERALD

## & 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.*

After several rainy days greetings from a beautiful and sunny Atlanta, Georgia! With September the heat of summer is beginning to give way to really nice weather, and we are all enjoying the change.

Many events have taken place since I last wrote to you from the RH/PJ. The 2006 FUEL took place in Indiana, the 2006 General Conference meeting was held in South Bend, and the new school year is under way at ABC. This issue will provide you with a lot of information about the events and their outcomes. For example, in this issue you will see the final budgets for the current and next fiscal year that were approved by the delegates at General Conference. If you were unable to attend these events, I hope the



summaries will help you feel informed. We especially want to thank the members of the Timberland Bible Church in South Bend, Indiana for their great hospitality in hosting the 2006 General Conference. All the attendees, especially the staff, were

made to feel right at home. Thank you all!

The new school year at the College marks another exciting time for us. The current enrollment marks another record year for the College! The total number of students is 141. We are very pleased that the enrollment of the Korean Extension is 80 students! Our growth in enrollment continues to be hampered by the difficulty our foreign students have in obtaining permission to enter the U.S. Virtually none of the more than 50 foreign students the College has accepted were able to secure student visas this year. I hope each one of you makes this concern a regular part of your prayer life. We know that God can accomplish anything, and we would love to have the opportunity to meet and educate these eager learners from other lands.

All of the College staff are very busy with larger classes than ever. The building is constantly busy with classes that begin early in the morning and run many nights until 9:30 p.m. Mondays are particularly busy with approximately half or more of the Korean Extension students on campus. The full parking lot on Monday, with cars parked all over the campus under the trees or wherever they can find a space, is an exciting scene every week! I am very impressed with the quality of the students in this semester's enrollment. They have demonstrated a strong desire to learn more about the Bible and also are very active in



Bong Ki Jeong, Tim Jones, and Steve An

the local churches and other ministries. This whole life approach to ABC is what we are striving to promote.

Dr. Joe Martin continues to be the leader of our faculty. From the Old and New Testament surveys to their final senior year preaching classes, Dr. Joe is a mainstay of the curriculum for all our students. We continue to invite adjunct professors and teachers to teach block classes, Saturday classes, and even regular weekly classes to give our students a rich and diverse learning environment. I am committed to making the College experience an opportunity that will benefit any student, young or old. Our local churches benefit from leaders and members who have had an opportunity for education and growth at the College.

I am very pleased with the excellence of the program developed every year by Jon Cheatwood and the staff he assembles for FUEL. The program is dynamic and challenging each year, and the stories of young people growing and learning what it means to live a life for Christ are the reward

*(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.

## Bible College Block and Distance Learning Classes

Take advantage of these exciting opportunities! For academic credit, the cost is \$139 per semester hour. For non-credit, the cost is \$69.50 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](mailto:dkrogh@abc-coggc.org) or 800-347-4261.

### Distance Learning:

B111 - **Old Testament Survey I** (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - DVD or Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation

B112 - **Old Testament Survey II** (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - DVD or Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation

B113 - **New Testament Survey I** (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) - DVD or Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation

B114 - **New Testament Survey II** (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) - DVD or Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation

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

# Minutes from the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference

## MINUTES FROM THE DELEGATE MEETINGS AT THE 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE

August 10, 2006

At 1:05 PM, Chairman Hoffman called the meeting to order. He expressed appreciation to Timberland Bible Church for hosting General Conference and asked any first time attendees to identify themselves to the other delegates. Dustin Smith, Valdean Shetterly, John Wincapaw, and Robin Todd all stood and introduced themselves. Chairman Hoffman congratulated David Krogh on the fact that this conference marked his attendance at his 61<sup>st</sup> General Conference. David Krogh received a round of applause from the other delegates.

Chairman Hoffman reminded all delegates to see Jill Taylor about obtaining delegate cards if they had not already done so. He announced that there were 41 delegates, 26 pastors and 6 members of the Board of Directors in attendance. He also announced that he had asked Pastor Greg Demmitt to serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting. Pastor Alan Cain officially opened the delegate session with prayer.

Chairman Hoffman gave his chairman's message, which

highlighted the success of the past year and discussed the challenges ahead for the coming year. After he concluded his remarks, he called for nominations for the Board of Directors. The two names which were put forward were Robert See by the Indiana Conference and Pastor Daniel Smead by the Ministerial Association. Chairman Hoffman noted that there was one seat to be filled. Bob Coverstone moved nominations be closed; Roger Crocker seconded and the motion carried.

CAO Tim Jones gave his annual report and discussed how the General Conference staff is changing and evolving in order to meet the needs of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College. He explained that Gary Burnham will be overseeing the Ministry Services network and that he is in the process of hiring an individual who will focus on development and fundraising. Next, he reviewed the budget. He noted that the General Conference achieved a balanced budget for 2005-2006. He reviewed the amended budget for 2006-2007, as well as the proposed budget for 2007-2008. Copies of these budgets were included as Exhibits 1 and 2 in the delegate packets. The budgets were also printed in the July/August 2006 *Restitution Herald and Progress*

*Journal* on pages 14-17. At the conclusion of CAO Jones' remarks the delegates took a break from 2:20 p.m. until 2:40 p.m.

The delegate meeting resumed at approximately 2:42 PM. Chairman Hoffman noted that another delegate and board member had arrived so that there were now 42 delegates and 7 board members present, making a total of 70 attendees at the delegate meeting. Chairman Hoffman also welcomed Pastor Jamie Engelbert from The King's Corner in Ronkonkoma, New York.

Next, reports were presented from various departments:

Dr. Joe Martin gave the report for Atlanta Bible College. He characterized the past year at Atlanta Bible College as "outstanding." Dr. Martin noted that 122 students (61 at ABC and 61 at ABCKE) attended classes during the spring semester. He stated that there are approximately 140 students expected to attend classes in the fall of 2006 (70 at ABC and 70 at ABCKE).

Pastor Steve An gave the report for the Korean initiatives. He said that four students had graduated from ABCKE in May 2006. He talked about how one of these graduates had

*(Continued on page 4)*

## From the CAO...continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

for the FUEL staff. The dedicated volunteers provide a tremendous opportunity for our young people every summer, and planning for the next year's event begins the day this year's FUEL ends. Jon and his staff deserve a tremendous amount of praise for offering so much to our youth.

Have you ever wanted to visit us in Atlanta during the school year? If so, we welcome anyone to arrange a visit. Even if it is just as you pass through the Atlanta area, come by our College and see for yourself what God is doing. I know you will be blessed, and the staff will enjoy the opportunity to welcome you.

May God bless you all in the months ahead. ■

Tim

## Minutes from the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference *continued...*

*(Continued from page 3)*

already begun planting a new church. He also noted that ten more individuals had expressed interest in enrolling in ABCKE which would bring the total fall enrollment up to 80 students. Pastor An also talked about how he is spreading word of our faith in Korea. He had recently been asked to write a monthly column in a Christian newspaper that is published throughout Korea.

Rebekah and Joe Martin discussed the African initiatives. The Martins and Jamie Engelbert had recently returned from a trip to Africa. They expressed to the delegates that the work in Africa is going better than ever. They gave a brief video presentation of their recent trip. A condensed DVD of their trip is available to be sent to the churches. They noted that the twelve dollar bucket kits were still needed as well as eyeglasses. We have a new missionary contact in Tanzania, Jerome Chembe who is working with Anne Mbeke, an ABC student, to translate our materials into the Swahili language. Finally, they noted that the Malawi board is working well together.

David Krogh shared the LHI initiatives with the delegates. Mission work continues in Mexico. Judy Meyers recently led a group to Mexico where they conducted Bible School. In Peru, a building was purchased and remodeled with funds received from a church builders' appeal. Mission work also continued in Haiti, although the political unrest there has made it increasingly difficult to safely conduct mission trips and engage in mission work on a consistent basis.

Pastor Seth Ross shared the

highlights of Turning Point Youth Ministries from the past year. He noted that 300 young people attended FUEL 2006. He noted that Turning Point Youth Ministries will continue its partnership with the Indiana Conference. Midwinter Retreat will be known as "REFUEL" and the Young Adult Retreat will be renamed "Refuge."

The next item on the agenda was new business. Chairman Hoffman reviewed the amendments to the



Constitution which are being proposed by the Board of Directors. Chairman Hoffman called for a motion to suspend the rules so that discussion could take place concerning the amendments. Pastor Jeff Fletcher moved that the rules be suspended to allow discussion of the proposed amendments. Pastor Alan Cain seconded and the motion carried. A discussion concerning the proposed amendments then occurred. At the conclusion of the discussion, Chairman Hoffman asked the delegates if there was any new business. No new business was introduced.

Chairman Hoffman then called for a motion to adjourn until 9:00 AM on August 12. Bob See made a motion to adjourn. Alan Cain seconded and the motion carried. After closing prayer the delegate session concluded for the day.

August 11, 2006

At 9:15 am, Chairman Michael Hoffman reconvened the delegate meeting. Pastor Steve Taylor opened the session with prayer. Chairman Hoffman asked Andrea Anders to publish the minutes from the session on August 10, 2006. After minor corrections to the minutes were made, Pastor Dale Bliss moved that the delegates approve the corrected minutes. Bob See seconded and the motion to approve the corrected minutes passed.

Chairman Hoffman reported that there were 43 delegates, 23 pastors, and 7 Board of Directors in attendance for a total of 73 voting participants.

Chairman Hoffman entertained a motion to adopt the amended 2006-2007 budget and the proposed 2007-2008 budget. Rob Helenburg moved that the delegates adopt the amended 2006-2007 budget and the proposed 2007-2008 budget. Bob See seconded and the motion carried.

Voting for the open seat on the Board of Directors occurred next, and Bob See was elected to the Board of Directors to fill the seat being vacated by Andrea Anders at the conclusion of General Conference.

Joe James moved that the delegates adopt the Board of Directors' first proposed amendment to the Constitution. The proposed amendment reads as follows: "The General Conference shall meet once a year. Announcement of the time and place shall be made by the Secretary of the Conference at least 6 months in advance by the most

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Minutes from the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference *continued...*

(Continued from page 4)

effective means of general communication available. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of the majority of the churches." Basically, this proposal eliminated the mandate that General Conference be held between July 1 and August 31.

Bob See made a motion to amend the proposal to say that the General Conference meets "once a calendar year." Keith Williams seconded and the amendment to the proposal carried.

Discussion of the proposal as amended followed. The delegates voted by written ballot and the motion to approve the amended proposal was defeated. The proposal failed to garner the 2/3 votes needed to amend the constitution. 65 individuals voted and there were 40 "yes" votes and 25 "no" votes.

While the votes were being counted in reference to the passage of amended proposal 1, Tim Jones made the daily announcements to the delegates. He reminded the delegates about the travel pool, the LHI silent auction, and the T-shirts and books from Atlanta Bible College available for purchase in the lobby.

Chairman Hoffman next directed the delegates' attention to Board proposal no. 2. This proposal states: "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. Names(s) of the nominees and resumes will be

submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer of Atlanta Bible College/General Conference and will be published by the most effective means of general communications." Basically, this would remove the requirement that names be submitted by May 1 and it removes reference to names being published in a specific publication.

Bob See moved that the delegates adopt Board proposal no. 2. Carolyn Smead seconded. Discussion followed and voting occurred. Once again, voting



occurred with a written ballot. The motion won the 2/3 majority needed for passage. The breakdown of the votes was as follows: 58 "yes" votes and 6 "no" votes with a total of 64 delegates voting.

Next the delegates turned their attention to Board proposal no. 3. Proposal number three reads as follows: "Nominations will be brought to the floor of the business session by the Chairman before the time 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." This proposal took away the restriction that the annual meeting take two days for the election of new board members alone.

Pastor Greg Demmitt moved that the delegates adopt Board proposal no. 3. Pastor Alan Cain seconded. Discussion followed. The delegates voted using written ballots. The proposal failed to garner a 2/3 majority. The voting broke down as follows: 33 "yes" votes and 30 "no" votes with a total of 63 delegates voting.

Joe James opened up the floor for discussion concerning how to increase participation at General Conference. Unfortunately, in changing the venue for Conference to the midwest, the conference only gained eleven more attendees. The following suggestions were made by the delegates:

- Increase the number of delegates allowed to be sent by the smaller churches.
- Locate GC at a popular family vacation spot.
- Include more worship opportunities in the GC schedule.
- Add GC to the end of FUEL.
- Have a Homecoming at Camp Mack.

After the discussion concluded, Chairman Hoffman asked the delegates to stand and give a round of applause to the ladies at Timberland Bible Church who had provided the wonderful meals and great hospitality to the delegates.

Chairman Hoffman asked Andrea Anders to publish the minutes. After minor corrections were made, Chairman Hoffman asked the delegates to approve the minutes. Bob Coverstone moved the delegates approve the corrected minutes. Pastor Jeff Fletcher seconded, and the motion carried.

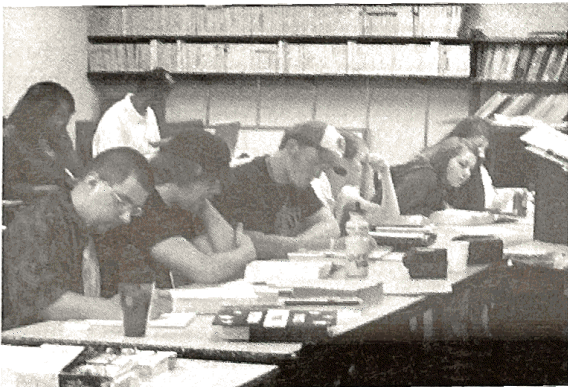
Chairman Hoffman concluded the meeting with prayer. ■

Atlanta Bible College is off to a super semester. We have the largest enrollment in the history of the college with a total of 141 enrolled. Our previous high enrollment was 129. A few additional students are planning to start taking classes in October.

Just before the semester began, we had a seminar presented by the ABCKE (Korean Extension) staff who dressed up in their native dress and



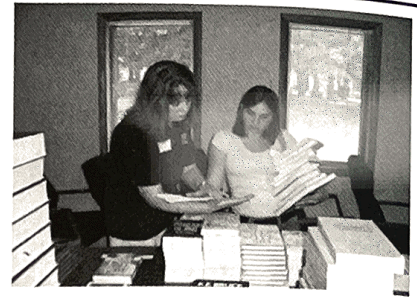
taught us some of the customs and history of Korea. Pastor Steve An reminded us of the close ties of the Korean language with the Chinese language. He also discussed reasons why within Korean society, there is more attention



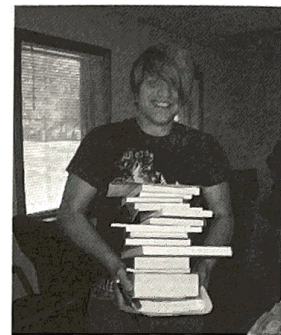
to class. Not only that, but we were also treated to a meal by the ladies. They didn't spice it up as they normally do!

The students have been active in social activities. They have already made trips to Stone Mountain and an Atlanta Braves game, and participated in work days around the campus. You might recognize some of the new folks on campus from some of the churches affiliated with the Conference: Miranda Baldwin (MI), Shawn Cooper (AR), Ashley New (AR), Nathan Benkert (MI), Hope Kirkpatrick (MN), Jon Fletcher (SC), etc. We also have a great group of students from the community. One, Charles Byrd, was married September 9, and after his honeymoon, continues his studies.

Classes are also a mixture of old and new. One teacher who can be highlighted is Jogi Mauger. Jogi continues to teach in the area of counseling. Her class this semester, M383, Marriage and Family, is one of the largest we have had in a



long time. She works in a private counseling office with her husband Dr. Paul Mauger. The block classes are coming in October with Scott Deane and Dr. Bill Lawrence. Scott is



teaching B441, the Synoptic Gospels, while Bill is teaching B350, Christ and Culture. Dr. Alva Huffer will be teaching a Systematic Theology block class in December. ■



# Korean Extension

The Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension is having another great semester! Eighty students are registered for the fall term. They are very hungry for the Word of God. A faculty of 9 instructors is teaching 20 classes to meet the needs of a growing student body. Please pray for the whole Korean Extension, particularly for the work load being carried by Steve and Sam An.



## Staff changes/updates:

**K**im Musch was recently employed to assist us in several areas. Kim's primary responsibility will be event planning. She will help coordinate the planning, promoting and carrying out of our college and conference events. Kim will help monitor the use of our library. She will

serve as a member of our support staff, assisting us in a variety of daily tasks. In addition she will live in the campus apartment building and serve along with Terrence Raper as one of our apartment managers.

Kim has been an Atlanta Bible College student for several semesters. She already has relationships with our staff and students, and is familiar with many of our events. We are pleased to have Kim join our staff.

After Dave Riley's departure from our staff, Gary Burnham requested the opportunity to work more closely with our pastors and churches. His work responsibilities are being altered to allow him time to coordinate our Ministry Services Network, helping us provide support, resources and encouragement to our pastors and churches. Gary pastored in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C. for 13 years before moving to Atlanta. He knows the struggles, joys and sorrows of pastoral ministry. He is looking forward to communicating with our pastors, to serving our pastors and churches and to traveling for on-site visits with our pastors and churches. ■



# FUEL: One

One. How can such a singular word bring up so many thoughts? There is the U2 song, "One," recently voted number one all time in a lyric survey in England. There is the advocacy group, The ONE Campaign, which aims to "make poverty history" through political advocacy. There is the Genesis text, so often used in wedding ceremonies, telling us that a man and woman are no longer their own when they marry; they become one. Deuteronomy 6 certainly comes to mind, too: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." 1 Corinthians 12 tells us that we were baptized by one Spirit into one body, and that we were given one Spirit to drink.

And those were just a few quick thoughts that go along with the idea of one. One text that stands out in my mind is Ephesians 4:1-6 (NASB):

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and

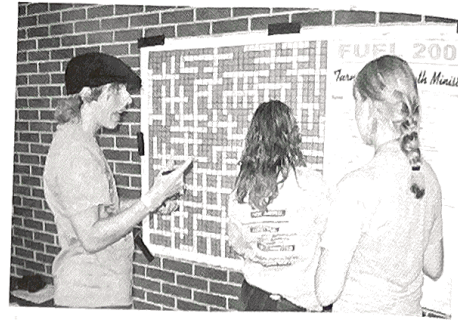
Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.<sup>1</sup>

Paul urged believers to live right and well with each other—to keep the unity of the Spirit through peace. The goal was to prepare God's people for works of service (v. 12) so that the body of Christ may be built up, reaching toward unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God. This is the path to maturity and the fullness of Christ.

In July, Turning Point Youth Ministries presented FUEL: One at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, and one was everywhere. Speakers and Bible study leaders took on topics centered around one, with underlying themes of One Authority, One God, One Thing, One Love, and One Life. Speakers and leaders included current Atlanta Bible College students, FUEL staffers, young adult program participants, and a few COG leaders (CAO Tim Jones and board member Dale Bliss).

FUEL was again blessed with the New Life Praise Band as worship leaders for the week. Several student-led worship bands played during the week, too, which was great to experience. It was part of the focus on students in ministry. Guest band Freshmen 15 performed on Monday night.

The R.O.C. drama group (from the Pleasant Hill COG in Ohio) presented a drama in what has become an annual tradition. Always strong, this year's drama took a hard look at death. Group leader Theresa Deane told



the story of her own brother's death, which happened shortly before FUEL, and the personal connection to the drama made it difficult to ignore.

Bible quizzing is a much older tradition at FUEL, and it is gaining strength again. This year, The Justified (from Louisiana) won the championship. A.C.E.S. (from South Carolina) and the Illinois team took 2nd and 3rd respectively. With many well-studied students involved, the All Star team was solid. Regina Bernheisel took first chair, followed by Rachel White, Sarah Franco, Michelle LeBlanc, and Shylow Floyd.

One would guess an article about FUEL: One would be a bust if it didn't mention the highest price I have ever heard of for a haircut. The director arrived at FUEL with about



(Continued on page 9)

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8 inches of curly hair, and a plan was soon hatched to get that hair cut. After naming my charity of choice (One Life Revolution) and a price (\$1500.00), it was announced that there would be a 24-hour challenge to reach that goal. A counter fund to save the hair was created as well, and when the voting with cash ended, haircut won by a landslide. Over \$3000 dollars was raised in those offerings, which later became \$6200 with

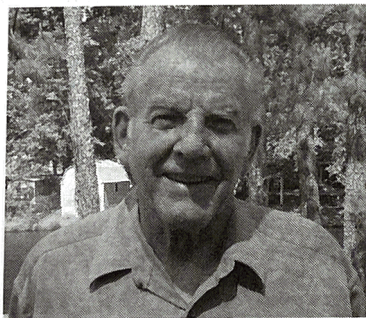
a matching offer. A few hundred people gathered later that night—after a great jambalaya snack—to watch the haircut.

FUEL 2007, RenoSaic (think Renovation and Mosaic, and you should be able to pronounce that), is set for July 15-20, 2007 at Taylor University. I hope we will see you there! ■

<sup>1</sup>Ephesians 4:1-6, New American Standard Bible. Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

### Testimony of one FUEL attender....

**“This was my first time at FUEL since my eighth grade year and it was better than I remember. This year I really felt closer to God than I can ever remember. I went in with a less than optimistic viewpoint of the whole thing and was kind of anxious to be home, but then I saw all of the other teenagers and how they really felt about God and that they weren't ashamed to show it. I can't think of much else to say. This pretty much sums it up.”**



## THE LIFE OF A COUNTRY-BOY PREACHER

THE MEMORIES OF JIM (JAMES HENRY) MATTISON (1924-20--)

PASTOR, MISSIONARY, RADIO PREACHER

PLUS

MEMORIES OF HOME LIFE BY HIS EIGHT CHILDREN

*“This is the story of a country boy who loved God and wanted to serve Him. It recounts his life's adventures through childhood, Bible College, marriage, pastoring for 40 years and African mission work for 12 years. It shows how, as he sought God, God blessed him and made him into a servant whom God was able to use. I think you will really enjoy this book!”*

--Jim Mattison

THE BOOK CAN BE ORDERED FROM THE CONFERENCE FOR \$10.00 PER COPY PLUS SHIPPING AND HANDLING. CALL ROBIN AT 800-347-4261 TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.

## Mission News

### Lord's Harvest International

The board of LHI met in Atlanta September 11 and 12. Among the items discussed were future mission trips:

**Peru** - The board authorized a trip this fall to Peru for a team of 2 or 3 to review the Lima work with Pastor Beder and to see the newly remodeled church facility. David Krogh will be the team leader.

**Malawi** - A short-term trip will be made to Africa in July 2007. Applications are now being accepted for this trip. The dates are approximately July 10-26 (depending on when we can get flights into and out of Malawi). The purpose of this trip is to encourage our African brothers and sisters in Christ by traveling around the country to different villages, meeting with them and teaching and preaching the gospel. The estimated cost is \$4,000 per person, subject to change according to the cost of the airline tickets. The team

size will be 6-7 people. Joe and Rebekah Martin will be team leaders, and Jim Mattison may go, so 4 people will be selected from the applicants to complete the team. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow Christians in another country, as well as to enjoy an enriching experience traveling and experiencing other cultures. We are excited about the spiritual growth and unity in Malawi. Come share this experience with us!

**Mexico** - a team will go to Labor Vieja in July 2007 to conduct a Bible School. The estimated cost is \$500 per person. We would like to receive applications for this team. Up to 12 team members can be used. (See report of the July 2006 trip in this issue of *Progress Journal*.)

**Applications** - Individuals who would like to apply for a team may find a copy of the application on the LHI section of the General Conference website at: [abc-coggc.org](http://abc-coggc.org)

**Other Items from Board Meeting:**  
The death of Roberto Badillo in La-

bor Vieja on August 21 was noted with sadness. He has been very faithful to the work there for over 40 years.

The death of Pastor Noel in India was also mentioned with sadness. The congregations in Bangalore are working on securing new pastoral leadership.

Depending on security issues, a trip may be planned for Haiti next year at the request of Pastor Lesly Bertrand.

We wish to continue to support the ministry in Africa by providing cement for foundations and mortar and tin for roofs in addition to providing bucket kits to help the church families raise their food. Additional information about the cost of these projects will be provided later.

We are grateful for the generous prayer and financial support by many individuals, groups, churches, and conferences for the ministries being carried on around the world. ■



### Death of God's Faithful Servant

After a courageous battle with cancer, Pastor Roberto Badillo, 76, fell asleep in Christ on Monday, August 21. Roberto became acquainted with the Church of God while working in the cucumber fields near Blanchard, Michigan in the early 60's. He returned to Mexico following that summer and began to learn to read so that he could study his Bible. When the Moore family moved to Mexico in September of 1963, Roberto moved his family to Saltillo so that he could study the Bible and learn more of the truths of God's Word. He later returned to his village and began a work there. His ministry and Christian example have touched many lives. When the team was there in late July and early August, he was very weak but still strongly desiring to have Bible studies with Dean. Shortly after our arrival they asked that Sydney do an anointing service for them and that we have a Communion service together. This we did on Sunday evening. Following a very beautiful service, Pastor Roberto spoke some of his final thoughts to the team. He thanked everyone for all the years of assistance that teams have been to their ministry. He asked that people here be told how thankful they were for prayer support, for financial assistance and for all the love shown them by their brothers and sisters in the Lord. He went on to encourage the team to continue to study and grow in their faith and to live their lives in service to others.

Over 200 people came to the house and to the gravesite to express their love for Roberto and Lupe and offer their sympathy. Roberto is survived by Lupe, his wife of over 55 years, three sons and their wives, six grandchildren, several brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. A small daughter preceded him in death. Pastor Roberto looked forward to the return of the Lord and for the establishment of God's kingdom. He died in that hope and now awaits the trumpet sound calling him forth to eternal life. ■

## Mexico Mission Trip Report

From July 26 to August 7, twelve individuals gave of time and talent to travel nearly 5,000 miles to minister in Mexico. Along the route we were blessed with meals and/or housing in Peculiar, Missouri, Gatesville, Texas, Harlingen, Texas and Little Rock, Arkansas. Team members were: Judy Myers, team leader; Dean Moore, Mexican liaison; Sydney Kirkpatrick, driver; Rachel Carr, translator; Margene Rager, nurse; David Blanchard, Jordan Dimmick, Miranda Foster, Amanda Homewood, Hope Kirkpatrick, Kim Musch, and Aric Rager. The purpose of the trip was to provide a Bible school, to encourage the Badillo family during this very difficult time in their lives, to do some work for them on their house, and to fellowship with members of the Church of God along the route. The following has been written by the young people on the trip.

—Judy Myers

The mission trip to Labor Vieja this summer was an amazingly fun and rewarding experience we will never forget. Our days visiting Labor Vieja began in the town of Rio Verde where our hotel was located. All the women shared a room with four regular-sized beds, two toilets, one sink and one shower. Other than being eaten alive by mosquitoes and not being able to flush the toilet paper, we were blessed with wonderful living conditions. We



joined the men of the group in the restaurant for breakfast each morning. Some of us dared to try new things like corn flakes and eggs, while others stuck to hot cakes and toast. After finishing our meal we loaded up in the van and drove about 13 miles to Labor Vieja (usually with a minor pit stop for gas or ice). Upon arriving at the Badillos' residence we were always greeted with a smile and a hug by Lupe. Her grandchildren, Eric, Dante, and Rubi, usually came soon after, also offering warm greetings. We took an hour to prepare for the day's activities and began VBS, "Arctic Edge, Where Adventure meets Courage," at 10. Rachel (our Spanish speaking extraordinaire)



started with a brief greeting and the memory verses, and Amanda led the children in singing the songs and doing the movements. After going outside for the Bible story, the children split into two groups, one going to games and the other returning to the church for crafts. Hope, David, Kim, and Amanda led the crafts. Aric, Jordan and Miranda were in charge of the games. All the crafts and games were arctic related. It was wonderful to see the enjoyment on the faces of the children as they created simple things that most people in the United States would take for granted. After a short

closing, the team cleaned up and ate together. We then segued into our free time, which consisted of



painting the house, cleaning, playing with the kids, or just conversing with each other. We spent much of our free time playing with Lupe's granddaughter Rubi. The great thing about Rubi is that she is great at making up games. She doesn't need electronics or even toys to entertain herself; she uses anything that is available and imagines the rest. At the end of the day we departed from the Badillos' and headed back to the hotel where we had authentic Mexican and enjoyed each other's company. We ended each day with devotions and then went to bed. Everyone on the team bonded and got along really well throughout the trip. We all felt so blessed to be able to share this trip with this particular team. Everyone brought something different to the group and together we hope we were able to plant a few seeds. Along with what we accomplished, we were also taught and encouraged by the immense faith that we witnessed through Roberto and Lupe Badillo. Their love for the Lord and their desire to serve Him spoke to each of us despite our language barrier. The love and kindness they have for God's people is truly an encouragement. Thank you all for your financial and spiritual support. May God continue to bless you. ■

—The Mexico Mission Team

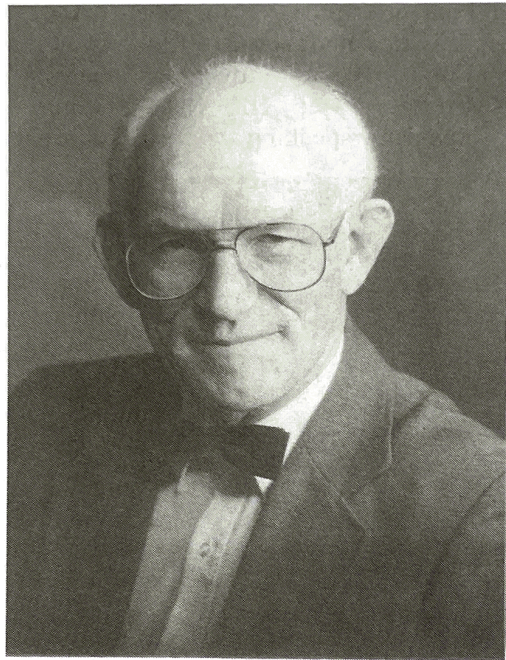
## My Journey of Faith: 65 years in the Ministry by Terry Farrell

I was born January 20, 1922 in Pomona, California, the ninth child (four of whom died in infancy) of Chester A. and Marjorie McLeod Ferrell. They were members of the Williams Street Chapel, affiliated with the Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith. My paternal great-grandfather, Wesley H. Ferrell, and my grandparents on both sides were of our faith.

I was brought up at the feet of Great-uncle J. E. "Uncle Jack" Adamson and Uncle Norman J. McLeod. They were great students of prophecy, and dedicated Christian men. Uncle Jack had limited education, but accomplished a great deal as an engineer and fruit rancher. Uncle Norman came just short of receiving his doctorate from Stanford University. They, along with George Lichty, served as pastors of the church.

Upon graduation from high school in June, 1940, I was sent by the church to the Summer Bible Training School at Oregon, Illinois, a life-changing experience. The six weeks of intensive study, and the wonderful fellowship, seemed to jell what I had learned in Sunday school and church all those years. S. J. Lindsay, L. E. Conner, and Otto E. Dick were the instructors. There were 12 girls and 8 boys in the class, many of whom went on to become pastors and church leaders.

Following Summer School I was named a delegate to the General Conference for California. At that time, every member in attendance had a vote, and the delegate voted for those not in attendance. I had the largest bloc of votes at the Conference, and was a popular fellow with those needing votes! I met the leaders of the church; it was a golden age in our church history: Conner and Lindsay (already mentioned), Austin, Marsh,



Siple, McLain, Krogh, Lapp, Lyon, Denchfield, Randall, Gordon, Goekler, Morgan, Drinkard, Magaw, Giesler, Jones, Rankin, LeCrone, Johnson, Cooper, Anthon, and others.

At the insistence of E. Richard Smith, I enrolled in the Winter Training School, the second

year of its revival under Sydney E. Magaw. Bro. Magaw and L. E. Conner were the instructors. Bro. Magaw was the fairest of Bible teachers, showing all sides of a subject, and then telling why he believed in a certain view; he was sound. Our classroom was behind the offices on the second floor of the print shop. Classes ran from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and we completed four years of study in three years. The students lived at the student home, 403 South 3rd Street. Edna Brewer was the matron, and a real "Mom" she was. The total cost for room, board, and tuition was \$30 per month, but at 15 and 25 cents per hour that was quite a lot of money. We were thankful for outside help.

In June, 1941 I went home with fellow student Barbara Fish, older daughter of Lee and Vesta Fish, of Colo, Iowa. With the help and encouragement of parents, the young people cleaned up and painted the Hickory Grove church inside and out.

The church had been built by Levi Marsh at Irving, Iowa in 1870. When no longer in use, it was dismantled and moved by railroad flatcar to Hickory Grove. On June 8, 1941 I preached my first sermon as a minister. (I had been licensed by the California Conference.) The subject was "The Nature of Man," and there were 20 in

*(Continued on page 13)*





Make Plans to Join Us in Gatlinburg, TN  
April 15-20, 2007  
Christian Workers' Seminar  
Theme - Sharpening The Axe  
More Details Coming Soon!

### My Journey of Faith *continued...*

*(Continued from page 12)*

attendance. I preached there regularly until WWII came along and dispersed the people, and gas rationing hindered travel. I also preached at Waterloo, Iowa part-time. I had my first wedding at Hickory Grove on April 25, 1942, when Margaret Fish married Robert "Duck" Mead. They celebrated 50 years of marriage, the first of seven couples I married to celebrate a golden wedding anniversary that I know of, including my daughter Diane and Bob Huddlestun.

In my senior year I pastored the Hillisburg, Indiana church. I traveled by train, but also rode with Emory Macy, who was pastoring Kokomo Church.

After graduating in June, 1943, I was guest speaker at the

Virginia Conference, along with J. R. LeCrone. I was called to be pastor of the three churches that fall. I returned to Oregon, Illinois, and Orpha Hoskins LeMasurier and I were married in the Oregon Church by Sydney Magaw on September 7, 1943—the best thing I ever did in my whole life! She was a 37-year-old widow, and I was 21, and we raised quite a few eyebrows! We were happily married 54 years. While on a trip to Minnesota, we learned the Virginia churches had a change of mind, and we were not to come. Some members thought our preaching was "too dogmatic."

We wintered in Minnesota, helping with Orpha's mother's sorghum mill, and working at a custom sawmill.

In April, 1944 we were called to Holbrook, Nebraska, our first full-time pastorate. While there we also held services at Cozad and McCook. Our son, Stephen, was born there on March 2, 1945. We organized and led a troop of Boy Scouts, and helped build a parsonage. We worked in hardware stores and the post office. We presented a paper at Ministerial Conference on the "one phase" coming of Christ, at a time when most of our people believed in a secret rapture. We held special meetings at Brush Creek, Ohio, during Celaine Randall's pastorate in June, 1949.

In the fall of 1949 we moved to South Bend, Indiana to serve the Morning Star Church, now a part of Timberland. Daughter Diane graduated from high

*(Continued on page 14)*

## My Journey of Faith *continued...*

(Continued from page 13)

school, married, and settled there. We took a course at I.U.S.B. under Rabbi Schulman, installed furnaces, and worked in camera and men's clothing stores. Harvey Krogh was pastor at Hope Chapel, and we got together often.

In September, 1951 we moved to Morristown, Tennessee. Bro. James McLain, as National Evangelist, helped plant the church there, and envisioned it as an evangelistic center, with an "open plan." That was changed, and the building enclosed. The two Holt families were faithful. While there we worked for a newspaper, and in a furniture factory.

In the fall of 1952 we were called to Brush Creek, Ohio. Under Eddie Demmitt's leadership, the church sanctuary was reversed, and the church greatly enlarged. In 1956 we directed the first youth camp held in Ohio, at Camp Chaffee, near Tipp City. We helped with a weekend retreat the year before at the same place. We were involved in an August meeting at Guthrie Grove, South Carolina, along with C. F. Pryor in 1956.

In the fall of 1956 we moved to Los Angeles, California. While there we held Bible classes in three locations each week: Compton, Glendale, and the San Fernando Valley. We directed youth camps at Prescott, Arizona, and Wrightwood, California. Orpha and I were on the staff at National Camp at Reynolds Wood near Dixon, Illinois in 1959 and 1960. Milon Hall was director. This was the only time in my ministry that I lived near my father and mother.

In the fall of 1961 we were called to Eden Valley, Minnesota., Orpha's home church. While there we directed camps on Long Lake, and assisted Bro. Glen Hoskins in building the beautiful new church. It was a reward for Orpha to be near her mother, Sister Ruth Hoskins Bulthaus, one of the dedicated workers in the early history of the Minnesota churches. While at Eden Valley, we attended a seminar at Wilmar on "The Problem of Loss" under Elihu Howland and Granger Westberg. Westberg is well-known for his book *Good Grief* on the grief process.

In the fall of 1963 we were called to Guthrie Grove, South Carolina We directed camps at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina. The parsonage was built by Bro. Zeke Durham during our pastorate. We helped revise the constitution, and we introduced the members to tithing. This is the largest church we served during our ministry. We held special meetings in Virginia while there. We got insight into alcoholism while spending a week in the alcohol rehabilitation center at Florence, South Carolina, through Bro. Joe James. We also attended a course on leadership at Furman University.

In 1967 I was elected to the General Conference board of directors, a post I relinquished when I became editor of *The Restitution Herald* in May, 1968, following Bro. Harold Doan. I considered that work a pastorate, and received considerable criticism for speaking my mind on issues. I was especially proud of the special Israel issue in March, 1969, which went through three printings, the most ever. Many copies went to the Israeli government, which distributed them through its embassies and consulates.

In the fall of 1971 we returned to South Carolina, where we helped organize the Greenville Church of God, an outreach of the Guthrie Grove Church. We published 21 issues of *The Honest Truth*, republished Harry Whittaker's *Revelation: A Biblical Approach*, Bullinger's *Two Natures in the Child of God*, and published *The Promises of God* by Beth Briggs. We directed camps again until 1977 at Black Mountain, North Carolina. Except for short-term pastorates by Charles Durham and Kenneth Milne, I have served the Greenville Church until the present. As you know, I lost my dear Orpha in March, 1997 in her 92nd year.

I am not much for statistics, but during my ministry I have baptized 119, married 68 couples, and had 63 funerals. I have no record of how many sermons I have preached, classes I have taught, or Sunday school lessons or articles I have written.

In late years I have been active in collecting and selling antiques, along with my son Stephen. We have received acclaim for collecting and researching pottery of the Edgefield District of South Carolina. I have had articles or write-ups in *Country Living*, *Southern Living*, *American Patchwork and Quilting*, *At Home*, and many newspapers. This is an interesting avocation, but my true calling is ministry, and collecting people. There are roses and thorns in life, and mine has been mostly roses. Thank you, God! ■

★ October ★  
is  
**Clergy Appreciation Month**

**"The elders who direct the affairs of the church  
well are worthy of double honor,  
especially those whose work is preaching and teaching"  
(1 Timothy 5:17)**

How will **YOU**  
and your **CHURCH**  
show your pastor  
**DOUBLE HONOR**  
this month??

**Conger Street Church of God** is in need of a pastor. We are looking for a part-time pastor to work with our small group of dedicated members. Housing for pastor and family is available. We are located in a medium sized city of 61,000 people, with many local businesses and colleges in the area. Please contact:

Danny McGowan  
2672 Logan Ave.  
Waterloo, Iowa 50703  
1-319-234-1954  
E-Mail [dantheman5169@aol.com](mailto:dantheman5169@aol.com)

# Income and Expense Reports for August 2006

## Income Budget Report for August, 2006

	Budget	Actual	This Month Variance
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>			
General Contributions	69,402	37,590	-31,812
Building Our Future Campaign [Gen Contrib & BOF combined]	0	140	140
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	833	814	-19
ABC Boosters	2,667	200	-2,467
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>72,902</b>	<b>38,744</b>	<b>-34,158</b>
<b>SALES:</b>			
Christian Education Materials	4,233	5,484	1,251
Books	9,000	9,417	417
Restitution Herald	0	0	0
Age to Come Media Products	0	0	0
Theological Journal	0	48	48
Sale of Assets	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13,233</b>	<b>14,949</b>	<b>1,716</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Tuition	47,500	55,567	8,067
Korean Extension Tuition	57,500	67,200	9,700
Lodging	22,500	23,655	1,155
Washers/Dryers	150	134	-16
Rentals - ABC Plant	1,667	2,250	583
Late Fees/Rent	1,500	1,426	-74
Fees	2,917	4,750	1,833
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>133,733</b>	<b>154,982</b>	<b>21,249</b>
<b>PROGRAM INCOME:</b>			
Conferences & Workshops	833	49,987	49,154
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>49,987</b>	<b>49,154</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	183	0	-183
Transferred In	3,667	4,213	546
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,850</b>	<b>4,213</b>	<b>363</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>224,552</b>	<b>262,875</b>	<b>38,323</b>

## BUILDING OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN

Total contributions since inception (2003): **272,906**

- These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2006 through June, 2007.
- 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.

## Expense Budget Report for August, 2006

	Budget	Actual	This Month Variance
<b>STAFF:</b>			
Salaries & Wages	81,930	70,368	11,562
F.I.C.A. Tax	1,333	1,149	184
Employee Benefits	14,005	14,356	-351
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>97,268</b>	<b>85,873</b>	<b>11,395</b>
<b>SERVICES:</b>			
Assistance to Churches	2,000	2,600	-600
Ministerial Association	1,600	1,600	0
Youth Program	11,000	11,000	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>15,200</b>	<b>-600</b>
<b>SALES EXPENSE:</b>			
Printing & Binding	4,833	5,954	-1,121
Postage & Shipping	2,500	1,379	1,121
Media Production Expenses	0	0	0
Book Store	3,000	4,030	-1,030
Royalties	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10,333</b>	<b>11,363</b>	<b>-1,030</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Clayton Rebate	0	0	0
Advertising--Recruitment	667	525	142
ABC Korean Extension Support	3,667	1,783	1,884
Library Periodicals	267	0	267
Library Books	167	0	167
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	125	127	-2
Staff Training	167	600	-433
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5,058</b>	<b>3,035</b>	<b>2,023</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>			
Travel	5,500	8,015	-2,515
Motor Vehicles	0	42	-42
Office Supplies & Expense	2,333	2,203	130
Professional Services	1,333	3,354	-2,021
Telephone	3,667	3,246	421
Insurance - Non Plant	50	42	8
Supplies & Expense	917	955	-38
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	2,083	550	1,533
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>15,883</b>	<b>18,407</b>	<b>-2,524</b>
<b>PLANT EXPENSES:</b>			
Utilities	6,167	6,717	-550
Insurance - Property	4,000	3,886	114
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	2,833	243	2,590
Furniture & Equipment	2,333	3,050	-717
Supplies/Expenses Plant	1,000	357	643
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>16,333</b>	<b>14,253</b>	<b>2,080</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	4,550	4,649	-99
Other	1,300	448	852
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5,850</b>	<b>5,097</b>	<b>753</b>

Expense Total **165,326** **153,228** **12,098**

**GRAND TOTAL** (Income less Expense) **59,226** **109,647** **50,421**

# Approved Budget for General Conference

<u>General Conference FY 06-07 &amp; 07-08 Budgets</u>			
	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Approved Budget
<b>Expenses</b>	FY '06-'07	FY '06-'07	FY '07-'08
<b>STAFF:</b>			
Salaries & Wages	\$474,320	\$492,673	\$517,306
F.I.C.A. Tax	\$5,500	\$8,000	\$8,400
Employee Benefits	\$94,152	\$84,029	\$96,633
Subtotal	\$573,972	\$584,701	\$622,339
<b>SERVICES:</b>			
Assistance to Churches	\$24,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Ministerial Association	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600
Youth Program	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$12,000
Subtotal	\$43,600	\$32,600	\$33,600
<b>SALES EXPENSE:</b>			
Printing & Binding	\$29,000	\$29,000	\$30,000
Postage & Shipping	\$16,000	\$15,000	\$17,000
Book Store	\$16,000	\$18,000	\$19,000
Subtotal	\$61,000	\$62,000	\$66,000
<b>ABC:</b>			
Clayton Rebate	\$2,000	\$0	\$0
Advertising-- Recruitment	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
ABC Korean Extension Support	\$35,000	\$22,000	\$24,000
Library Periodicals	\$1,500	\$1,600	\$2,000
Library Books	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500
Staff Periodicals,			
Books, Dues	\$702	\$750	\$800
Staff Training	\$3,500	\$1,000	\$1,500
Subtotal	\$47,702	\$30,350	\$34,800
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>			
Travel	\$32,000	\$33,000	\$34,000
Motor Vehicles	\$2,000	\$0	\$0
Office Supplies & Expense	\$16,000	\$14,000	\$15,500
Professional Services	\$11,500	\$8,000	\$8,000
Telephone	\$23,500	\$22,000	\$24,000
Insurance - Non Plant	\$600	\$300	\$400
Supplies & Expense	\$3,200	\$5,500	\$6,000
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	\$26,000	\$25,000	\$26,000
Subtotal	\$114,800	\$107,800	\$113,900
<b>PLANT EXPENSES:</b>			
Utilities	\$33,000	\$37,000	\$39,000
Insurance - Property	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,500
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	\$6,000	\$17,000	\$18,000
Furniture & Equipment	\$3,000	\$14,000	\$15,000
Supplies/Expenses Plant	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,000
Subtotal	\$63,000	\$90,000	\$95,500
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	\$28,000	\$27,300	\$28,000
Other	\$7,000	\$7,800	\$8,000
Subtotal	\$35,000	\$35,100	\$36,000
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>\$939,074</b>	<b>\$942,551</b>	<b>\$1,002,139</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$877,787</b>	<b>\$942,811</b>	<b>\$1,006,072</b>

**TOTAL (Income - Expense)**      **-\$61,287**      **\$260**      **\$3,933**

## General Conference FY 06-07 & 07-08 Budgets

	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Approved Budget
<b>Income</b>	FY '06-'07	FY '06-'07	FY '07-'08
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>			
General Contributions	\$375,000	\$416,411	\$437,232
Building Our Future Campaign			
BOF Challenge Gift			
BOF General Membership Response			
BOF Alumni Association Response			
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
ABC Boosters	\$15,000	\$16,000	\$17,000
Subtotal	<b>\$395,000</b>	<b>\$437,411</b>	<b>\$459,232</b>
<b>SALES:</b>			
Christian Education Materials	\$37,237	\$25,400	\$27,940
Books	\$25,000	\$27,000	\$29,000
Age to Come Media Products	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
Theological Journal	\$800	\$0	\$0
Sale of Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	<b>\$64,037</b>	<b>\$52,400</b>	<b>\$56,940</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Tuition	\$156,250	\$114,000	\$125,400
Korean Extension Tuition	\$161,000	\$230,000	\$253,000
Lodging	\$59,800	\$54,000	\$52,000
Washers/Dryers	\$1,400	\$900	\$900
Rentals - ABC Plant	\$6,500	\$10,000	\$10,000
Late Fees/Rent	\$5,000	\$9,000	\$8,500
Fees	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$6,000
Subtotal	<b>\$395,950</b>	<b>\$424,900</b>	<b>\$455,800</b>
<b>PROGRAM INCOME:</b>			
Conferences & Workshops	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$3,000
Subtotal	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$1,100
Transferred In	\$6,800	\$22,000	\$30,000
Subtotal	<b>\$7,800</b>	<b>\$23,100</b>	<b>\$31,100</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$877,787</b>	<b>\$942,811</b>	<b>\$1,006,072</b>

**Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College  
Approved Budgets**

**How to Read:**

This column presents originally adopted budget for 2006-07

This column presents changes to adopted budget for 2006-07

This column presents approved budget for 2007-08.

	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Approved Budget</b>
General Contributions	\$375,000	\$416,411	\$437,232

## Church News

### Baptisms

Illinois

*Flag Center* – Kyle Gay, Joshua Foster (8/26/06) by Pastor Gordon Landry, assisted by Dan Foster

*Oregon* – Brittany Corcoran, Sarah Corcoran (8/13/06) by their uncle, Pastor Richard Alcumbrack

Indiana

*Timberland* – Valerie Sharp (8/13/06) by Pastor John Railton, and her father, Dennis Sharp

Minnesota

*Litchfield* – Garrett Housman, Joy Housman (8/20/06) by Pastor Dale Swartz

Ohio

*North Hills* – Nicole Rowell (8/13/06) by Pastor Seth Ross

South Carolina

*Guthrie Grove* – Evan Durham (8/13/06) by his father, Mack Durham; Lara Franco (8/27/06) by her grandfather, Bobby Partain; Ian Walters (8/27/06) by his father, Kenny Walters; Brittany McCoy, Brandon McCoy (8/27/06) by Bobby Lee Partain

Virginia

*Cool Spring* – J. J. Barnett (6/25/06) by Pastor Dale Ramsey

### Marriages

Illinois

*East Oregon Chapel* – Matthew Jacinto and Amanda Musch (5/27/06) by Pastor John Guthrie

*Oregon* – Nickolas Hoffman and Jennifer Peters (6/10/06), Jerome Powers and Julia Kraft-Hall (6/24/06), Tony Sadowski and Malinda Rager (7/22/06). All by Pastor Michael Hoffman

Minnesota

*Litchfield* – Scott Ahl and Sondra Mengelkoch (8/12/06) by Pastor Dale Swartz

Ohio

*Troy View* – Joshua Deane and Jennifer Snyder (5/21/06) by Pastor Jon Cheatwood

South Carolina

*Guthrie Grove* – Jeff Simpson and Beth Durham (8/12/06) by Pastor Mike Montgomery

Virginia

*Hume* – Chris Johnson and Jillian Ramsey (6/24/06) by Pastor Jon Cheatwood

### Deaths

Indiana

*Timberland* – Marilyn Haisley, 79 (7/29/06), long time

member. Service by Pastor John Railton

North Carolina

*Anderson Chapel* - Jennie Pryor, 89 (7/15/06). She was an originating member and faithful worker in the Anderson Chapel Church of God in Hendersonville, North Carolina. She was active in the Southeast and General Conferences of the Church of God. She was the sister of Pastor C.F. Pryor who preceded her in death and the sister of Juanita English and Freeman Pryor. Services were conducted by Pastor Dan Fyfe and Pastor Scott Ross.

South Carolina

*Guthrie Grove* – Clarence Fuller (8/27/06), member. Service by Pastor Mike Montgomery and Bobby Lee Partain; Hazel Hughes (8/31/06), member. Service by Pastors Terry Farrell and Mike Montgomery

## ★ Churches Seeking a Pastor



The congregation of the **Macomb Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith** is seeking a full-time pastor. Macomb, population of approximately 20,000, located in beautiful west central Illinois, offers its residents a wonderful quality of life and is the home of Western Illinois University. Our congregation is dedicated to preserving the truths of God's word for future generations and sharing the good news with our community. For more information, please contact Elder Don Haley at 309/837-5201 or [haleys@macomb.com](mailto:haleys@macomb.com) or search committee chairperson Bonnie Gaddis at 309/837-4576 or write to 7 Prairie Rd, Macomb, IL 61455

**The Ripley Church of God** in Mt. Sterling, Illinois is actively searching for a pastor to serve both the church family and the surrounding community. Ripley is offering a part-time position. The church will provide a parsonage and some additional compensation. Currently about 20-25 people meet together on an average Sunday morning. If you are considering a pastoral change and would be interesting in serving in the more relaxed setting of a rural ministry, please e-mail ([gburnham@abc-coggc.org](mailto:gburnham@abc-coggc.org)) or call Gary Burnham (Atlanta Bible College; Ministry Services Network (MSN) Director) at 800-347-4261 for more information.

# Prayer & Praise

October 2006

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- 1 **Pray for Atlanta Bible College as we celebrate 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 vision for Africa mission work.**
  - 19 **Pray for your pastor and his leadership during Clergy Appreciation Month.**
  - 20 Pray for John Wincapaw and his pastoral role at Blood River, 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 Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA.**
  - 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 2006

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and 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 God to provide you with "thankful" eyes this month.**
- 4 Praise God for a record number of students studying at Atlanta Bible College and Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension.
- 5 **Pray for the family of Roberto Badillo who recently died 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 Pastor Andy Cisneros and his new ministry to youth at Maple Grove Bible Church in Kokomo, IN.
- 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.**
- 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 Rene 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.

Atlanta Bible College  
Church of God General Conference  
P.O. Box 100,000  
Morrow, GA 30260

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## December 2006

- 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 your pastor as he shares God's Word today.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Dale and Connie Ramsey and the Cool Spring Church in Browntown, Virginia.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Paul Moore and the Oaklawn Church of God in Koszta, IA.**
- 6 Pray for contacts around the world produced by literature.
- 7 **Praise God for the dedicated service of the staff of our College and Conference.**
- 8 Praise God for the promise that Jesus will come a second time.
- 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 Philippines.**
- 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 serve the church in Macomb, IL.**
- 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 understanding for those around the world who are taking the Systematic Bible Study Course in print and on-line.**
- 30 Pray for revival throughout the Church of God in the coming year.
- 31 **Praise God for the way He has blessed you in 2006.**



### The Mystery of Jesus' Advent, TWO ADVENTS!

By Dr. Joe Martin

“Get behind me Satan!” (Mt. 16:23).<sup>1</sup> Wow, what a shock that must have been to Peter! He missed a major part of Jesus' job description from the Old Testament. Peter also missed important aspects of what we now know as the First Advent of the Messiah. Jesus was proud of him when Peter said, “you are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God” (Mt. 16:16). Jesus then quickly responded, “on this I will build my church.” Maybe, impetuous Peter lost a little humility and got a “big head.”

Could we have done any better? Probably not. I don't believe that any of us would have had the guts to take Jesus aside and begin to rebuke him (v. 22) for saying he had to go to Jerusalem and die. I think I would just get Thomas over to the side and say, “What in the world is he talking about? You know I have my doubts, and I'm not sure about THIS plan either!”

The plan of God for the coming of the Messiah to preach the Kingdom message and deal with sins, the First Advent, and the coming to establish the Kingdom at the Second Advent, may now be clear to us. However, we won't get an “A” in the course, God's Plan 101, until we review Jesus' job descriptions from the Old Testament.

Since Adam and Eve, our true relationship with God was severed, by our poor choices. God must deal with sin, since “the wages of sin is death” (Rm. 6:23). In the Garden of Eden,

(Gen. 3:15) we have an obscure passage where God promises to the serpent, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” Deuteronomy 18:18 says, “I will raise up for them a prophet...” (God speaking). Great anticipation could be felt in the nation of Israel. Just as noted in Isaiah 9:6, “for to us a child is born, to us a son is given...,” the expectant advent, coming, presence of the future Messiah/Prophet/Leader was hoped for, longed for and prayed for.

Evidently Peter had overlooked a major aspect of Messiah/Christ's first advent, some of which have come to be known as the “Suffering Servant Songs” found in Isaiah (42, 49, 50, and 52/53). Chapter 42 begins, “here is my servant...” These “*Ebed YHWH*,” “Servant of the LORD,” passages contain things the Messiah was to do FIRST:

- ★ “...bring forth justice...” (42:3).
- ★ “...be a covenant for the people...” (42:6, 49:8).
- ★ “...bring my salvation to the ends of the earth” (49:6).
- ★ “...offered my back” (50:6).
- ★ “...mocking and spitting” (50:6).
- ★ “...disfigured...marred” (52:14).
- ★ “...he took up our infirmities” (53:4).
- ★ “...pierced for our transgressions” (53:5).
- ★ “...crushed for our iniquities” (53:5).
- ★ “...cut off from the land of the living” (53:8).

Verse 11, of chapter 53 says, “after the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied.” That was about the resurrection! Maybe Peter was caught up in the “pomp and circumstance” of what the Second Advent could look like if he could not see the First?

According to the technical use of the term *parousia*/advent in the New Testament times, it meant the visit of a ruler. Quite often, the coming of the emperor, or one of the emperor's family, was celebrated by the minting of “advent coins.” When Nero came to Corinth, they celebrated with a coin, “*Adventus Augusti*.”<sup>2</sup>

We might encourage Peter to “not get caught up in the hype” and to focus on “first things first.”

Maybe he wanted to bypass the “Suffering Servant” portion of Jesus' job description and go directly to the “big” stuff, smashing the kingdoms of the world (e.g. the Romans). Dr. George Ladd suggests there are three words in the New Testament to describe the second advent: *parousia* (coming, arrival, presence), *apokalypsis* (revelation, compare our apocaplypse) and *epiphaneia* (manifestation).<sup>3</sup> It IS going to be a BIG event. “The kingdoms of the world will become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ” (Rev. 11:15). Obviously, that is our “blessed hope”— Jesus' coming and the establishment of the Kingdom in preparation for the ultimate Advent of

(Continued on page 8)

## From the CAO...

**G**reetings to you all once again from Atlanta! The entire community of staff and students from the General Conference and College extend their wishes for a wonderful holiday season. I write to you prior to the Thanksgiving weekend, but I realize that many of you will not receive the PJ/Herald until you are well into the Christmas season rush and bustle. May God bless you all in this most special time of the year.

December brings us to the end of the Fall Semester at the College. It has been a rewarding and eventful semester. It is always hard to imagine how rapidly the days and weeks will pass by for both staff and students. The final day of the semester will be December 8, 2006. I am very proud of the students at the College this semester, and pleased with the commitments they have

made to academics and participation in school and local ministries. This semester's record attendance was truly blessed by God.

You should have received an informational flyer from the General Conference Board of Directors letting you know of some of the important events occurring. (A copy of this letter is printed on pages 4 and 5.) One of the very positive events is the hiring of Pastor Dale Bliss to become part of the General Conference staff as the Director of Development. This important role will serve as the spearhead for continuing to seek new and increased funding and resources for the General Conference. Financial giving to ministry is truly a God-ordained opportunity. Dale brings a focus on the spiritual importance of giving and a great deal of energy to this new job. We all welcome him to the

staff.

The flyer also gave you some preliminary information on a very exciting possibility – the potential relocation of the College facility! This is an option currently under review by the Atlanta Bible College Board of Directors and the College staff. This idea was suggested by the staff and then evaluated by the Board of Directors in their Fall Strategy meeting in Atlanta. The decision was to move forward with the evaluation of its feasibility.

The College is not exploring this option because we face some type of crisis or threat. The possibility of relocation is being considered because of the great number of blessings God has provided to ABC. As our enrollment has continued to increase, we are outgrowing our current facility. God has provided a potential way of allowing our ministry to 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.

even more as we look to serve existing students more effectively. As described in the letter, the most likely option if the College were to relocate is in Henry County, approximately 20 miles southeast of our current location. We plan to locate a new College/Conference facility on property adjacent to the Cornerstone Bible Church facility located in McDonough, Georgia. The staff is excited about this possibility, although much more work needs to be done prior to making such a decision. Here are some of the important facts involved in determining to study this option.

As mentioned, the College is rapidly outgrowing the current facility. With our current enrollment, we have been forced to use all available space, including the Conference Room, Chapel, and even the Library to conduct classes. These alternatives to classrooms were not designed to best meet the needs of instructors or students. In the next two semesters, we anticipate even more growth in the student body and the Korean Extension, and the current building is not large enough to accommodate all the proposed classes. Expansion of the current structures would be difficult and expensive, and would require that the construction be financed. If God blesses the planning for relocation, the new larger site could be paid for without external financing being required.

We have also seen a change in the community in which we are located. The demographics of the area around the College have

changed a great deal in the past 15 years, and our community does not provide fertile ground for recruiting students. The College studied the current student enrollment and found that only a small percentage of current students actually live within 10 miles of the current location. As explained more fully in the flyer, a possible move to the south, coupled with inclusion of leased or rented classroom space to the northeast of Morrow, would make us more accessible to many of our current and potential students.

As we look to the future, we feel that Morrow will continue to grow, but we will not recruit most of our potential students from the immediate vicinity of the College. However, Henry County is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. This growth offers great potential for recruiting, as well as employment opportunities for students. Being located by the excellent facilities of Cornerstone would offer the students new chances to be involved in local church ministry. The church also has a gymnasium and other welcome options that could benefit the students and staff. The time to make this decision may be upon us. If we decide to relocate, the time required is considerable. We asked some professional realtors from Henry County for estimates of the time required to get approval from the proper authorities to build a new site. These estimates were 18 to 24 months before construction could start. Therefore, a realistic time frame for relocation could be as late as Spring or Fall of 2009. In other words, if relocation is approved, it could take up to 3

years before we would be ready for the physical transition.

Atlanta Bible College exists to train men and women to be more effective ministers for God and His son Jesus. The only reason we would choose to relocate would be if such a move increases our ability to fulfill this mission. We are also committed to each and every student – if the Lord leads us to relocate the College, we will not abandon our efforts to provide Bible-based higher education for all of our current students.

I think it is important to realize that so many of the hoped-for reasons to relocate OBC to the Atlanta area almost 2 decades ago have come to pass. The largest numbers of students in our history, growing enrollment, academic achievement, and the development of new local churches (Cornerstone Bible Church, New Friends, the Park, Restoration Church of God, Simple Teachings, and the Korean American Community Church) have all been realized as God has led and blessed the efforts of His people. This potential new opportunity can be another significant challenge that also brings great promise. We need to carefully consider the wisdom God can give us as we look to the future. I will continue to keep you informed of the status of this process. Join us in praying that God will lead us and direct us to know His will for our College.

In Christ,

Tim

## From Michael Hoffman, Board Chair

**A**s a spokesman for the Board of Directors, it is a great privilege to let you know of our plans for the future. This letter is intended to provide information on our recent strategy meetings, to highlight some of the plans developed, and to let you know how excited the Board is about our future opportunities. The Board met mid-October, and the meetings were the most fun I have had in my term on the Board. Since 2002, the Fall Board meetings have been devoted to long range planning. Many times this has included reviewing or re-focusing our Mission and Vision statements. These items are provided to you below. However, this year the Board and staff focused on HOW to achieve the Vision—the practical steps necessary to move forward with our plans for the future. Please note that three (3) of the focus areas are in bold and italicized print. These are the areas that the Board concentrated on during this year's planning sessions. The opportunities that God has placed before us are what gives

us such a strong sense of excitement for the future.

To address the expansion of our financial resources, I am pleased to announce that Pastor Dale Bliss has been hired to serve as the Director of Development for the General Conference. In simple terms, Dale's responsibilities will be



aimed at building the financial, relational, and other resources required to support the ministries of the College and Ministry

Services Network. Much more than just fund-raising, development programs are efforts to coordinate our gathering of resources into a spiritually-led and God-directed program to support our ministries.

This will mark the first time that such a position has been created by the General Conference. Dale has the personality and desire for the job, and he will continue to

develop the skill-set required. He is already well on his way. He will work in this position full-time from his current home in Kokomo, Indiana. He will continue to serve, as he currently does, as part-time pastor of Maple Grove Church in Kokomo. He began this job Monday, October 30, 2006. The biggest downside to Dale accepting this job is losing him as a member of the Board of Directors. The Constitution and By-Laws of the Conference do not allow a person to be a member of the Board and serve as a Conference employee.

The Board has appointed Bob Morrison to fill Dale's position until General Conference next year. At the Conference, we will elect three people to the Board. Two positions will be full-terms to replace Joe James and myself; one will be for a one-year term to complete Dale's unexpired term. Serving on the Board has been an incredible privilege and pleasure for me. It is time-consuming at times and a challenge always, but it has

### **MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE:**

**To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom**

#### **VISION**

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

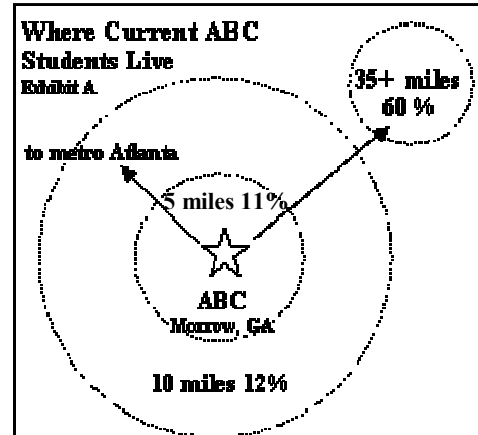
1. Commit to excellence in academic affairs
2. Attract and retain a highly qualified staff committed to personal and student development
3. ***Develop expanding financial resources to fund current operations and future goals***
4. Increase our curriculum choices in areas of specialized ministry focus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

also been very gratifying and significant to me to be a part of guiding our ministries. I enjoy working as a partner with the entire staff in accomplishing the Mission listed above. I hope many of you will consider running for this important ministry.

Much time was devoted to talking about how the College has grown and future campus development. God has been so faithful and is blessing our ministries beyond our dreams of just a few years ago. We are facing many of the right kind of problems in terms of space, parking, facility upkeep, etc. With this semester's record enrollment of approximately 140 students, we frequently find our facility to be inadequate to support our level of ministry. The Board and College staff discussed some potential solutions to solving these problems while moving towards our ultimate Vision for ABC. The most advantageous proposal may be to move to a new location in neighboring Henry County, Georgia. The

Board and staff feel that a replacement College administrative/classroom facility could be constructed on property recently offered for sale adjacent to the Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, Georgia. This is approximately fifteen miles from the current location, in one of the nation's fastest growing counties (see Exhibit B). The Board authorized continuing investigation of this exciting prospect. To prevent the loss of service to existing students, the College is investigating how to use leased facilities to offer classes in areas closer to the homes of the students. Exhibit A shows that a large majority of students live more than ten (10) miles from our existing location. Many live south of Morrow and would find the new site to be ideal. However, more than 50% of students are concentrated in the northwest area of the Atlanta region. A leased classroom facility in this area would allow regular and Korean Extension classes to attract students that are currently unable to commute the long distance to Morrow. Some preliminary estimates by realtors familiar with both counties, indicate that the College could benefit financially from selling the current site. Annual operating costs would be reduced by the new location. Cornerstone

Bible Church would be an ideal neighbor and would benefit by sharing portions of its excellent facility with the College.

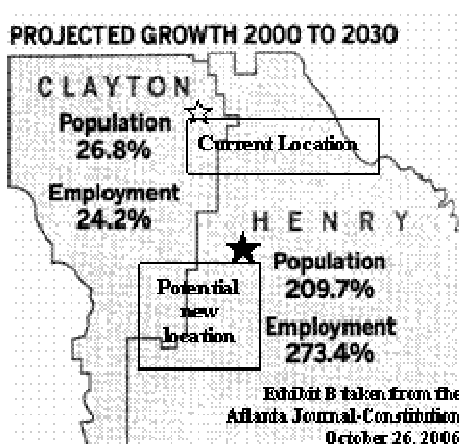


Much more work remains to be done before we will be ready to make this decision, but the Board and staff continue to explore this option. Financial benefits or even increased opportunities for staff and students are very important, but the most important question to be answered is, "Is this what God wants us to do?" Please pray for God's wisdom and guidance in this matter, as well as, in all the ministries of the General Conference. We plan to keep you regularly informed as we investigate further into these opportunities, and also plan to provide updated information on our website. May God bless you in all His ways!

In Christ,



**Michael Hoffman**



**I**n an effort to serve the Church of God General Conference, through Atlanta Bible College and the Ministry Services Network, a new Development Office has been created. The Development Office, or The Ministry of Development, was launched October 30, 2006. Actually, the work of Christian development is not at all new to the General Conference. From the days of Stan Ross, our Conference and College leaders have worked diligently to raise millions of dollars to support and expand the mission of the Abrahamic Faith. Likewise, Development Ministry is not new to any local church or ministry organization.

Every ministry seeks and to some degree of success, finds the resources needed to thrive. What is new is the very intentional, professional, and strategic approach to securing the significant amount of resources needed to accomplish the life-saving work that God has called us to do in Christ.

As the Director of Development, I will continue to address the powerful topic of Ministry Development. For now, I'd like to introduce a few ideas that may help you better understand the purpose and passion of the new Development Office.

The Ministry of Development is a process of **creating opportunities to connect God's Kingdom people with God's Kingdom work.** This

connection is in the form of giving talents, time, possessions, and gifts of money. This development process links the ones who believe in God's Kingdom work on the earth, to the work itself.

There is no shortage of ministry ambition in the people of the Church of God. In every corner of the country, I know people who dream, design and carry out wonderful, life-changing ministries: Christian camps for inner-city youth; retreat centers for pastors and leaders to renew and refresh; mission efforts to take the gospel around the globe; new and not so new churches seeking a pastor to lead them into the future. While each ministry is different, they all have one thing in common, they need money and support to make them happen. The work of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College share the same passions and needs. The Ministry of Development is formed to **create the opportunities to connect God's Kingdom people with God's Kingdom work** throughout our network of churches, conferences, college and ministries.

Sometimes Development (a.k.a.. fundraising) is viewed as a necessary evil. On the contrary, the Ministry of Development has always been a very exciting tool that God has used to provide for His people and help them succeed. Everything from funding the

Exodus, to building Solomon's Temple, to rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, to providing lunch for 5,000 of Jesus' seminar guests, have required a connection between those who *have received* the resources and those who *need it* next.

You've heard it said that we are blessed to be a blessing. The very purpose of God's blessing in our lives is to grow in God's character. God's character is one of creating, giving and blessing. Our Father loves to pass on everything in His universe to His children. He wants nothing more than to watch us follow His example and pass on the blessing throughout the Kingdom work. God wants His blessings to come *through you*, not just come *to you*. It's a concept of *dynamic vs. static* blessing. God's abundance is intended to flow, lest it become stagnant and lose its usefulness. The Ministry of Development is based on this powerful concept.

Development is not just about raising money, however. Raising money is the end result, but not the priority. While a farmer's end result is the harvest, sowing the seed is the priority. The priority of the Ministry of Development is the spiritual maturity of the giver or donor.

Remember the widow who gave her last two small coins to the temple treasury? (Luke 21:1-4; Mark 12:41-44). Jesus knew it was her last two copper

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

coins, worth less than a penny. If giving was first about the gift, why was this pittance so impressive to Jesus? If giving was more about the raising of funds, why did he proclaim her to the greatest among all donors? If the priority of giving was about wealth and riches, why didn't he give her coins, and perhaps some extra, back to her? Because Jesus knew what they witnessed was not just her act of giving, but her relationship with God. In the same way, the Ministry of Development is first about the giver and the opportunity for faithfulness in our relationship with God.

The goal of the Development Office is to connect those who wish to give of the blessing they have received, with those who need that blessing next. I will work with donors of all kinds: develop gifts large and small, immediate and deferred; seek foundation grants for major projects and growing operations; design signature

event fundraisers; develop a team of volunteers to assist the work and provide counsel; and most of all, do my best to increase the flow of resources *to* and *through* our network of ministries.

Clearly, communication...and lots of it, will be important. We need to know who currently has the resources, and who needs those resources next. While the needs of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College are the obvious agenda, we will also provide development service for our local churches, conferences and individual ministries. I'd love to hear from you and discuss development strategies to meet the needs of your ministry goals.

King David once proclaimed, "but who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given only what comes from your hand" (I

Chronicles 29:14). What a great and clear understanding of both his relationship with God and *dynamic*, generous giving. The goal of the Ministry of Development has always been, and will always be, to celebrate the accomplishment of God's work through the faithfulness of his people "not for man, but for the Lord" (I Chronicles 29:1). I am grateful for the opportunity to support and encourage your Kingdom work as we seek to give generously and confess boldly, "we have given only what comes from your hand."

Blessings *Through* You,

**Dale Bliss**

Development Director  
Atlanta Bible College  
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## 2007 Theological Conference

**March 29 - April 1, 2007**

**Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross, GA**

The new venue (see [www.simpsonwood.org](http://www.simpsonwood.org)) will provide many advantages in terms of the convenience of being all together at one location.

The registration deadline is March 8.

Please register at the college/conference website – [www.abc-coggc.org](http://www.abc-coggc.org)

If you need more information,  
please call Atlanta Bible College @ 800-347-4261 or 404-362-0052

## The Mystery of Jesus' Advent. TWO ADVENTS! *continued...*

(Continued from page 1)

God! (Rev. 21:3, Rev. 22:3-4).

However, the first coming, or advent of Christ, had priorities as well. Jesus said, "for even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk. 10:45). Jesus also said "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God...because that is why I was sent" (Lk. 4:43). Have you ever wanted something badly enough to forget in the process what it takes to get there?

My present "coveting/lust" is a new Toyota Tundra, access cab (for the kids), with a V8! I pursued it some. I went to Hank Aaron Toyota in McDonough, Georgia and test drove three. "Oh what a feeling!" (The Toyota advertising slogan). However, as I sat down and they presented the numbers (over \$XX,000, my first house cost

less), I seriously began to count the cost. I almost signed! I said, "Let me take a day and think about it." They were so disappointed! That night I got on the Internet to check insurance costs on such a vehicle. It was around \$100 a month, plus the note... that is a LOT of money! I could see the "glory" of me driving around in a new truck. However, I came down to Earth and wasn't willing to pay that price.

The glory of the Second Advent could not happen without the faithful submission to the will of God by Jesus in the First Advent. I would encourage all of us who chose in some way to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, not to profane it. Profane means to take something holy and make it unholy, even dirty. If you exchange presents, read the account of the birth narrative before you open gifts. When

our children were growing up, Rebekah, my wife (for those who don't know us), and I decided we would not "teach" our children about Santa Claus. In no way is this judgmental for those who celebrate the season differently. However, for those of us who know the whole story of the true Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ, we need to think more deeply and carefully. Let us honor him as much as possible, now for his First Advent, and especially for his coming Second Advent. ■

<sup>1</sup> New International Version used in quotes.

<sup>2</sup> Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Eerdmans, 1967, Vol. 5, p. 859 ff.

<sup>3</sup> The Last Things, Eerdmans, 1978, p. 50 ff.



### THE LIFE OF A COUNTRY-BOY PREACHER

THE MEMORIES OF JIM (JAMES HENRY) MATTISON (1924-20--)  
PASTOR, MISSIONARY, RADIO PREACHER  
PLUS  
MEMORIES OF HOME LIFE BY HIS EIGHT CHILDREN

*"This is the story of a country boy who loved God and wanted to serve Him. It recounts his life's adventures through childhood, Bible College, marriage, pastoring for 40 years and African mission work for 12 years. It shows how, as he sought God, God blessed him and made him into a servant whom God was able to use. I think you will really enjoy this book!"*

--Jim Mattison

**THE BOOK CAN BE ORDERED FROM THE CONFERENCE FOR \$10.00 PER COPY PLUS SHIPPING AND HANDLING. CALL ROBIN AT 800-347-4261 TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.**



# Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

**“We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”**

## **Romans 8:28**

We know that for those who love God, all things work together for their spiritual and eternal good, even to those who have chosen righteousness, His divine purpose for us.

God’s glorious assurance has only been given to those who truly love and obey Him. This principle does not apply to unforgiven sinners (true Christians are forgiven sinners), for God cannot cause sin to work for good, unless it is the repentance of it.

This working together for the good by the devout follower, is a natural result of God’s special love for those who truly love Him. The devout follower knows that “He Who gave His own Son,” for them, only desires them well in whatever He has allowed to come into their life. However, trying as those circumstances may be there is hope. . . by accepting afflictions and trials in a spirit of continuous faith, humility, resignation and patience, they assuredly will work for the follower’s spiritual and eternal well-being. The present life is not our real goal. It is a proving ground to see if a believer is accounted worthy of life in the coming Kingdom of God. Remember that “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18). Paul says that the whole creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God. No matter

how trying the circumstances in flesh and blood can be, by our faith in our God Almighty and our Lord Jesus Christ, “we know” all will be well in the long run.

God will not allow His Purpose for us to fail. His purpose is to give His people everlasting life in His Kingdom when Jesus returns. Sometimes we cause our own troubles. Sometimes God chastens us. Some ask themselves, “why did this happen to me?” Ecclesiastes 9:11 says, “time and chance happen to all.” “But if we choose to bear our troubles patiently, we will find favor with God” (1 Pet. 2:20). Psalm 37:7 says, “rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him.” There is an old saying, “grin and bear it,” which has a lot of wisdom and truth in its meaning. We may not understand why certain things happen to us. We do not really need to know. All we need to do is endure it with grace. We may not know how our patient endurance in trial may be uplifting to other suffering individuals. My daughter Betsy, confined to a wheelchair these past 36 years, has a bright sunny disposition, which makes us feel better. The way we face our trials can strengthen others.

When we think “poor me,” remember our dear Lord, who suffered all things for us. Hebrews 12:3 says, “consider Him who has endured...lest you be wearied and faint in your minds.” If we have not shed tears after considering His terrible sufferings for us, is our love for Him really true? We deserved the suffering and death He took for us to save us. Greater love has no man but to give his life for another. How great is God’s love for His own children. If we fit into that category, we believe this verse that clearly states, “God will cause everything to work together for our good. “

Nothing is greater than His word. ■

## Korean Extension Report

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**T**he student Jung Eun Ahn, who had an automobile accident about a month ago, has been quickly recovering since she had neuro-surgery. She called me November 11th and thanked everybody.

Sam An visited her November 15th and talked to her and handed \$1,422 donated from the churches and the students. Presently, her memory and speech is normal, and she wanted to come back to

the classroom as soon as possible.

Steve and Young An will travel to Korea from December 6th to December 19th to introduce the Abrahamic Faith to the Christians in Korea: local churches, Bible Colleges and other Christian groups. Also, Steve An will preach in the commencement service at the Yongso Uri Church of God in Korea, which has been established by pastor Kab-Soo Kim.

Pastor Kab-Soo Kim graduated from the Korean Extension in 2005 and went back to his hometown and has been spreading the biblical truth, which he learned at ABC.

The Korean Extension is preparing for the spring semester of 2007. There will be 22 classes offered by 9 instructors for a little more than 80 students. ■

Steve An



**RECORD-BREAKING DAY FOR BAPTISMS.** On August 20, 2006, the Glad Tidings Church, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada, rejoiced with the angels in heaven as 11 persons were baptized in Christ by church pastor, Michael Brown. This is reportedly the most baptisms in one day since the church in Fonthill was organized in 1904. Names of the newly baptized members are as follows: (Top Row, L to R:) Justin Bilokryli, John Rocheleau, Glen Bilokryli, Lee Gordyn; (Bottom Row, L to R:) Martine Proulx, Kaitlyne Walford, Skye Carter, Hope Carter, Alex Gordyn, Phillip Proulx, and Joshua Boulard.

## Bequests Received

**E**arlier this year, Atlanta Bible College received a bequest from the estate of Clifford Manuel, a long time member of the Eden Valley, Minnesota Church of God. This gift has been very helpful in advancing the work of the College.

The Atlanta Bible College/Conference recently received a final distribution from the estate of Troy and Geneva Morgan. Geneva died in 1991 and Troy died in 1996 leaving a sizeable bequest to Atlanta Bible College. We are grateful for the decision of Troy and Geneva to

advance our work through their estate.

A gift also was recently received from the estate of Mary Krogh. She and her husband, Pastor Harvey U. Krogh, Jr., were life-long supporters of the College and Conference. We are thankful for this gift which is to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

### **New Tax Break for IRA Holders**

The Pension Protection Act was recently passed by Congress and signed by the President which includes tax savings for Individual

Retirement Account holders. Donations of up to \$100,000 made directly from an IRA to a charity can now count toward the required minimum distribution for IRA owners ages 70 1/2 or older. Depending on a person's tax bracket, the tax savings could be substantial. This provision of the tax law is only in effect for 2006 and 2007. ■

For additional information on deferred giving or gift annuity possibilities, please contact David Krogh at [dkrogh@abc-coggc.org](mailto:dkrogh@abc-coggc.org) or 800-347-4261.

## ABC News

**A**s this semester comes to an end, we continue to rejoice in the largest enrollment in the history of the college with 141 students enrolled. Ten new ABC students have already registered for the next semester that begins in January with a number of other new students anticipated, which will boost the enrollment to another record!

We currently have 64 new international students who have been accepted into the ABC program: 52 for the January semester and 12 for August 2007. These students come from several countries: 47 from Kenya; 4 Zambia; 5 Tanzania; 3 Uganda; 1 Greece; 1 Zimbabwe; 1 Ghana; 2 Nigeria. We continue to pray earnestly that God will open the door for them

to receive student visas, so they can come to study. Please join us in this prayer.

We are grateful for the prayer and financial support from our membership as a result of our annual Booster campaign. Students and staff appreciated the opportunity to visit many churches during the fall. If you have not yet responded to this campaign, please send your contributions to: ABC Booster Campaign, Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260.

Students and staff and their families recently enjoyed a staff versus student volleyball game at the gym at Cornerstone Bible Church. The staff won three games while the students won two. We understand that the students would like a rematch. The college family also enjoyed the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Death by Chocolate Party hosted by David and Lynne Krogh in mid-November.

Pastor Jamie Engelbert will be teaching our "Introduction to Worship and Music" class during a week-long block class in January. Jamie is a 2003 graduate of ABC.

In addition to Jamie's class, during our January block, we are glad to welcome back to our campus Dr. Alva Huffer, who will be teaching Systematic Theology II and Sean Finnegan, who will be teaching "Why We Believe (Apologetics)."

Two new classes have been added to our curriculum next semester. One is "Child Development and Christian Education." This course will enhance our Christian Education ministry track. Rebekah Martin will teach this class. The other class will be taught by Anthony Buzzard. It is "The Destiny of the Righteous." This class will be offered April 2-4, immediately following the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Theological Conference.

# How Pastors Can Keep Youth Workers

by Mike Yaconelli

One difficulty in youth ministry is the high turnover rate. Youth pastors do not last long in one church, it seems, and that has a negative affect on students AND the church. The following article, written by Mike Yaconelli, comes from the March/April 2003 issue of Youthworker Journal.

I have a solution for the long-held belief that youth workers average about 18 months in a church before they move on or are moved out. I guarantee if pastors implement my suggestions, the average stay of a youth worker could triple or even quadruple. We're talking miracle here.

Believe that your primary job as pastor is to care for the spiritual life of your youth worker. Support the youth worker at any cost, because it will cost you.

Explain to the church that you expect the youth worker to be "out of the office" most of the time because a youth worker's office is his car, McDonald's, football stands, band hall, and surfboard.

Remind the church that when your youth worker's at camp, she's working.

When your youth worker makes a mistake, come to his defense. Help the church understand that mistakes are part of the job and that you couldn't be more pleased that you have a youth worker who's taking risks and pushing the envelope.

Keep pushing to increase the youth worker's salary and the youth budget.

Once a year, encourage church members with means to provide a weekend getaway at a cabin or beach house or condo for the youth worker and her family. Stock the refrigerator with food, arrange baby sitting, and tell her to take the weekend off—she deserves it.

Support his family. Encourage the youth worker to divide the day into three parts and work only two of them. Check on his marriage, and give him plenty of slack when the new baby arrives.

Before the job even starts, meet with the youth worker and then the board to make sure everyone's on the same page when it comes to expectations and results. Whatever you do, make sure that numbers and attendance are not the sole or primary success markers.

Don't expect that, now that you've hired a youth worker, she'll do all the youth work. Expect the congregation to volunteer to help the youth worker, and if there's no response, go with the youth worker to personally invite others to help. Believe that, for every five kids in the junior high or high school youth group, there should be one volunteer adult meeting with those kids on a regular basis.

Include the young people in the total life of the church, not just youth night. In fact, don't have youth night. Put them on boards, have them participate in the services and as greeters, and encourage the senior citizens to adopt someone in the youth group so each kid has an older mentor, friend, pen pal, and wise sage. Encourage both the kids and the seniors to exchange letters, tiny gifts for birthdays and special moments, and have the students put on a dinner once a year for their pen pals.

Spend a lot of your time working with parents, providing them resources and seminars

(Understanding Your Teenager, for instance) to help families sift through what's important at this critical stage.

Part of the youth worker's job description should be the expectation that she takes one day a week on silent retreat, three days every three months, and one week a year just for working on her soul. Also, give her a restricted budget for books that are just about our souls.

Meet with the young people on a regular basis, and have open question-and-answer sessions so they can get to know you as a person. Let them know your struggles, your flaws and your passion for them.

Ask the wisest elder in your church to attend the youth meetings and report back each month what he saw.

Plan service projects for both youth and adults.

Continually affirm and encourage your youth worker.

.....


There you have it. A happy youth worker is a long term youth worker. Woo Hoo! ■

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The Dangerous Wonder column is a regular feature in Youthworker, the contemporary journal of youth ministry—produced by Youth Specialties; published by CCM Communications. For more information on subscribing and how to get a free trial issue, visit the official Youthworker Web site or call 800/769-7624; outside the US and Canada, 815/734-1217.


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# TURNING POINT YOUTH MINISTRIES



(FORMERLY KNOWN AS MIDWINTER RETREAT)  
8TH GRADE - COLLEGE + YOUTH WORKERS

**JANUARY 26-28**  
CAMP MACK  
1113 E. CAMP MACK RD., MILFORD, INDIANA  
AN INDIANA STATE YOUTH & TURNING POINT YOUTH MINISTRIES EVENT



(FORMERLY KNOWN AS YOUNG ADULT RETREAT)  
18 YEARS OLD AND UP

**FEBRUARY 16-18**  
CLARION INN & SUITES NORTHWEST  
7001 CORPORATE DR., INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
AN INDIANA STATE YOUTH & TURNING POINT YOUTH MINISTRIES EVENT



**ABC**

9TH GRADE AND OLDER  
**MARCH 1-3**  
ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE INVITATIONAL  
5823 TRAMMELL ROAD, MORROW, GEORGIA



**FUEL**

8TH GRADE TO AGE 30 + YOUTH WORKERS  
**JULY 15-20**  
TAYLOR UNIVERSITY  
236 WEST READE AVE., UPLAND, INDIANA

## 2007 EVENTS

**Conger Street Church of God** is in need of a pastor. We are looking for a part-time pastor to work with our small group of dedicated members. Please contact:

Danny McGowan  
[dantheman5169@aol.com](mailto:dantheman5169@aol.com)  
2672 Logan Ave.

The congregation of the **Macomb Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith** is seeking a full-time pastor. For more information, please contact Elder Don Haley at (309) 837-5201 or [haleys@macomb.com](mailto:haleys@macomb.com) or search committee chairperson Bonnie Gaddis at (309) 837-4576 or write to 7 Prairie Rd, Macomb, IL 61455

### churches seeking pastors...

**Ripley Church of God** in Mt. Sterling, Illinois is actively searching for a pastor to serve both the church family and the surrounding community. Please e-mail ([gburnham@abc-coggc.org](mailto:gburnham@abc-coggc.org)) or call Gary Burnham (Atlanta Bible College; MSN Director) at 800-347-4261 for more information.

**Happywoods Church of God** is beginning the process of searching for a new pastor. If you would like to indicate your interest in pastoring the church, please contact Charles Bottolfs - (985) 542-1555, or [cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net](mailto:cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net)

**Coming Soon...**  
**"Maggie Seeks the Kingdom of God!"** ©



**A delightful and heartwarming resource for your children, grandchildren, friends and family that will explain to the special people in your life what you believe!**

In this enchanting children's book, *"Maggie Seeks the Kingdom of God"* ©

God's Kingdom is captured in our imaginations like never before!

As our eyes are captivated by the illustrations that aim to portray how the Bible describes what the Kingdom will be like, our ears will be caught up in the simple story of a mommy teaching her little girl named Maggie, about what Jesus preached.

We pray for God's Kingdom to come and this charming book brings home this simple Gospel message to its readers.

-----  
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*Angela Moore*

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**Make Plans to Join Us in Gatlinburg, TN  
April 15-20, 2007  
Christian Workers' Seminar  
Theme - Sharpening The Axe  
More Details Coming Soon!**

4/room - \$299
3/room - \$329
2/room - \$399
1/room - \$529

**HOW CWS BEGAN...**

You have heard these sayings: "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade." "You can't teach an old dog new tricks"; or "necessity is the mother of invention." You may choose which one fits the situation by reading how Christian Worker's Seminar began.

At a meeting of the old Sunday School Board, quite a discussion was held about the problems we could see the Church of God was experiencing. Two major problems held our attention. The first one was the major unrest and distrust of our General Conference delegates, who seemed to be at war with one another during business sessions. The second problem was how our churches were treating the pastors who had recently graduated from Oregon Bible College, to the point of them giving up the

ministry in despair. We felt something had to be done. It was suggested that our churches needed to know first hand what our college was teaching, so they could be the supportive help God intended them to be.

The first effort to correct these two problems was to invite any or all of our churches to attend a week long seminar at the Bible College. It was a great week, but still did not meet the goal that was being sought. After more discussion, it was decided to hold the seminar away from the college at Camp Mack, Indiana, with courses which would teach specifically what was being taught at the college, to bring about the understanding needed. A doctor of psychology, Dr. Dallas Demmitt, was included on the staff to help with personal problems.

Did it work? Yes, yes, yes! It was learned that church members from distant locations saw things in a different way from one another, and that was okay. The General Conference business sessions have become more tolerant and loving again. The courses being taught, our newer ministers have been much better received because of a new found understanding. Men have decided to become ministers. Teachers have become better equipped. New friends have been made that tie us together in our service to God and His son Jesus.

Now you can decide which of the old sayings best describes the phenomena, but give God all the glory for the victories won. May we ever learn how to better serve! ■

## Income Report for October 2006

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>This Month Variance</u>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>			
General Contributions	138,804	87,721	-51,083
Building Our Future Campaign	0	1,865	1,865
[Gen Contrib & BOF combined]		89,586	
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	1,667	25,248	23,581
ABC Boosters	5,333	2,213	-3,120
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>145,804</b>	<b>117,047</b>	<b>-28,757</b>
<b>SALES:</b>			
Christian Education Materials	6,350	5,646	-704
Books	11,250	11,375	125
Restitution Herald	0	0	0
Age to Come Media Products	0	0	0
Theological Journal	0	264	264
Sale of Assets	0	204	204
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17,600</b>	<b>17,489</b>	<b>-111</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Tuition	57,000	51,891	-5,109
Korean Extension Tuition	115,000	131,800	16,800
Lodging	27,000	22,821	-4,179
Washers/Dryers	300	223	-77
Rentals - ABC Plant	3,333	3,785	452
Late Fees/Rent	3,000	3,362	362
Fees	2,917	6,705	3,788
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>208,550</b>	<b>220,587</b>	<b>12,037</b>
<b>PROGRAM INCOME:</b>			
Conferences & Workshops	1,667	-16,400	-18,067
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>-16,400</b>	<b>-18,067</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	367	0	-367
Transferred In	7,333	5,008	-2,325
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>5,008</b>	<b>-2,692</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>381,320</b>	<b>343,731</b>	<b>-37,589</b>

### BUILDING OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN

Total contributions since inception (2003): **274,631**

- These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2006 through June, 2007.
- 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.



# Expense Report for October 2006

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>This Month Variance</u>
<b>STAFF:</b>			
Salaries & Wages	163,859	152,653	11,206
F.I.C.A. Tax	2,667	2,579	88
Employee Benefits	28,010	29,797	-1,787
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>194,536</b>	<b>185,029</b>	<b>9,507</b>
<b>SERVICES:</b>			
Assistance to Churches	4,000	3,800	200
Ministerial Association	3,200	3,200	0
Youth Program	11,000	11,000	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>18,200</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>SALES EXPENSE:</b>			
Printing & Binding	9,667	7,448	2,219
Postage & Shipping	5,000	2,664	2,336
Media Production Expenses	0	0	0
Book Store	9,000	8,800	200
Royalties	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23,667</b>	<b>18,912</b>	<b>4,755</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Clayton Rebate	0	0	0
Advertising--Recruitment	1,333	1,632	-299
ABC Korean Extension Support	7,333	5,490	1,843
Library Periodicals	533	15	518
Library Books	333	0	333
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	250	528	-278
Staff Training	333	1,651	-1,318
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10,117</b>	<b>9,316</b>	<b>801</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>			
Travel	11,000	21,767	-10,767
Motor Vehicles	0	42	-42
Office Supplies & Expense	4,667	4,486	181
Professional Services	2,667	3,354	-687
Telephone	7,333	8,377	-1,044
Insurance - Non Plant	100	42	58
Supplies & Expense	1,833	1,837	-4
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	4,167	2,246	1,921
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>31,767</b>	<b>42,151</b>	<b>-10,384</b>
<b>PLANT EXPENSES:</b>			
Utilities	12,333	13,764	-1,431
Insurance - Property	6,667	7,842	-1,175
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	5,667	6,634	-967
Furniture & Equipment	4,667	11,020	-6,353
Supplies/Expenses Plant	2,000	961	1,039
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>31,333</b>	<b>40,221</b>	<b>-8,888</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	9,100	9,359	-259
Other	2,600	1,366	1,234
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>10,725</b>	<b>975</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>321,319</b>	<b>324,354</b>	<b>-3,035</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)</b>	<b>60,001</b>	<b>19,377</b>	<b>-40,624</b>

# Church News

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## Baptisms

Ontario, Canada

*Glad Tidings* – see page 10 for more information!!

Indiana

*North Salem* – Jim Leatherman and Emily Tanner (8/20/06) by Pastor Darrell Cardwell

*Timberland* – Caleb Schmal and Elleigh Wolke (9/17/06) by their father, Glen Wolke and Pastor John Railton

Minnesota

*New Hope* – Jacob Forcier (9/18/05) by Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick at Long Lake Bible Camp; Tanner Sehr (8/13/06) by Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick and Jennifer Drew (8/13/06) by Melissa Shull, both at Long Lake Bible Camp

Missouri

*Farmington* – Josh Prather (8/27/06), Randa Gregory (10/28/06) by Pastors Donna Cooper and Carl Jennings

North Carolina

*Anderson Chapel* – Jerome Chembe (11/19/06) by Herschel Lyda, John Fyfe and Pastor Jim Mattison. Jerome lives in Tanzania. While pastoring a church there, he studied himself into new doctrinal understandings and then discovered the Church of God Abrahamic Faith.

## Deaths

Illinois

*Eldorado* – Charles W. “Bill” Collins (3/8/06), long time member and former trustee. Service by Dr. Brian J. Atra and Elder Jack L. Wiggins. Connie L. Collins (10/18/06), long time member and widow of Bill Collins. Service by Dr. Brian J. Atra and Elder Jack L. Wiggins

*Flagg Center* – Grace “Peggy” Huntley, 90 (11/7/06), long time member. Service by Pastors Sandra Graber and Gordon Landry

Missouri

*Farmington* – Marcus Dennison (5/22/06); Dorothy Evans (7/13/06); Glenda Skiles (9/13/06). Services by Pastors Donna Cooper and Carl Jennings

Ontario, Canada

*Glad Tidings* – Levi B. Rose (9/12/06). Service by Pastor Michael Brown

South Carolina

*Bethel* – Arthur “Art” Fletcher (7/19/06), beloved husband for 50 years of Ruth (Leighton) Fletcher. Art was a lay preacher for a number of years and helped found the Fox Valley Church of God in Illinois. Service by Pastors Jeff Fletcher, Mike Montgomery and Wally Winner

Virginia

*Grace Fellowship* - Samuel Wiley Carroll, 92 (8/5/06). Sam was a faithful member of Fair Oaks Community Church in Herndon, Virginia; and later of Grace Fellowship Church of God in Front Royal, Virginia. He actively supported the Virginia and General Conferences of the Church of God. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Fay. Service by Pastor Dennis Baldwin.

## Marriages

Missouri

*Farmington* – Dale Boyd and Penny Wilson (9/14/06) by Pastors Donna Cooper and Carl Jennings

The following individuals from the North Salem Church of God, Plymouth, Indiana, recently completed the Systematic Theology Bible Study Course: Steve Osborn, Phyllis Reaker, Dale Reaker, Roxanne Croy, Robert Croy, Shirley Pearson, Lucille Bradley, Molly Bailey, Patricia Leatherman and Jim Leatherman.

Members of the Restoration Church, which meets in Fayetteville, Georgia, ordained Anthony Buzzard as elder. The church is entering into its seventh year as an Abrahamic congregation, and its members decided to recognize Anthony’s leadership as Bible teacher. A service of laying on of hands was conducted by: Brian Wright, Tom Cox, Stan Denzinger and Carl Gibson. Also, a plaque was given to Anthony in recognition of his dedication to “the Gospel of the Kingdom as Jesus preached it.” A tree was planted at Southern Oaks to mark the sixth anniversary of the church. Services are held Sundays at 10 am.

# Prayer & Praise

January 2007

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- 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 Simple Teachings Bible Church in Morrow, 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 the 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 in 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 Kim Musch - staff member at ABC.**
  - 15 Praise God for financial and prayer supporters of the College/Conference.
  - 16 **Praise God for the freedom to worship Him.**
  - 17 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Jesus as their 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 **Praise God for the work of those preparing Christian Education materials.**
  - 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 teachers in your local church.
  - 26 **Pray for the re:FUEL 'Retreat' in Indiana and Jon Cheatwood as he leads it.**
  - 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 2007

- 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 and the Restoration Church of God in Fayetteville, GA.**
- 6 Pray for Pastor Alan and Susan Cain and the Lawrenceville, OH church.
- 7 **Pray for our Ministerial Association Leadership Team.**
- 8 Pray that God will raise up many donors for ABC's financial needs.
- 9 **Pray for the brethren in the Philippines.**
- 10 Pray for the members of your church family.
- 11 **Pray for a renewed spirit of evangelism and revival in our churches.**
- 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 the Pastors/Spouses Retreat this weekend in Florida.
- 17 **Pray for the Refugee 'Retreat' in Indiana and Jon Cheatwood as he leads it.**
- 18 Praise God for a recent answer to prayer.
- 19 **Pray for safety for pastors/spouses as they return home from their retreat in Florida.**
- 20 Pray for retired Pastor Richard K. Smith and his wife Dorothy Jean.
- 21 **Pray for someone you know who is in need of healing (physical, emotional, or spiritual).**
- 22 Pray for the Board of Directors of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference as they begin meeting today in Atlanta.
- 23 **Pray for the staff at the College/Conference.**
- 24 Pray for Stepan and Tracy Zhykhovich and their work in Russia.
- 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  
P.O. Box 100,000  
Morrow, GA 30260

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## March 2007

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- 1 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**
- 2 Pray this weekend for prospective ABC students attending ABC-i.
- 3 **Pray for those considering attending Atlanta Bible College in the future.**
- 4 Pray that God will raise up missionary candidates.
- 5 **Pray for Gary Burnham, Operations Manager and Ministry Services Network Director of the College/Conference.**
- 6 Pray for Pastor Tom and Debbie New and their work in 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 in Fonthill, Ontario, Canada.**
- 12 Praise God for those who have provided spiritual instruction for you.
- 13 **Pray for Wally and Peggy Winner and their 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 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 the "The Park" Church, being led by Jon Cheatwood and Terrence Raper.
- 25 **Pray for preparations being made for next month's Christian Workers' Seminar.**
- 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 Lacey Dunn, Kim Musch, Jill Taylor, and Robin Taylor who provide administrative support for Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference.
- 29 **Pray for the Theological Conference beginning today in Atlanta.**
- 30 Praise God for new attendees or members in your local congregation.
- 31 **Pray for Pastor Mike and Myra Montgomery and the Guthrie Grove Church in Pelzer, South Carolina.**