

THE Restitution Herald

& Progress Journal

CAO UPDATE . . . By Tim Jones

If there is one topic that has constantly been under discussion in the United States during 2008, it has been the topic of change! By the time you read this article, many of the political matters of this year will be completed. There is political turmoil in our nation and abroad, uncertainty about our economic systems, and many people are genuinely frightened about what the future may hold. In the midst of this confusion, people are looking for places of stability for themselves and their families. No matter where we place our attention, someone has declared that now is the time for change and that they are the one that can lead it. However, as I look around at the world of today, I sometimes wonder if all the “changes” people are calling for will change the world for the better. If you look in a different direction while standing on a mountain of garbage, the view is different – but you’re still in the landfill! Imagine the following fictional scene and see if it seems familiar:

Welcome to the First American Presidential Candidate Debate!

Politician A: “Now is a time for change, and I am the person to elect to make these changes happen!”

Politician B: “My worthy opponent is correct, but only I am the person who can lead the changes we need. I have worked for change even when change is not popular.”

Politician A: “Nonsense! I am t h e

one who will change things.

The changes my opponent proposes are not change – it is more of the same. I will lead us through true change!”

Politician B: “You will not change things! Only by changing the changes proposed by my opponent will true change take place. Change is not change when you don’t truly believe change is necessary. I will change this pseudo-change into true change as we change our nation . . .”

Husband, watching the debate at home with his wife: “Sweetheart, can I change the channel?”

In the midst of all the developments in our country, our Conference is also changing! I want to take this opportunity to tell you of the changes that are underway for the General Conference. We are changing our organization for the better. The changes at the College are intended to make us a better ministry partner for you and your local church. I am very excited over the opportunities God has placed before us and thankful for His blessings and your support. I would like to summarize our plans and efforts to date.

We began to see the necessity for sweeping changes, like relocation, during our annual planning programs for the College in the fall of 2006. The Board of Directors authorized continued study for potential changes to the College and MSN programs,



Students attending a teleconferenced class

resulting in a final decision that relocation was the most advantageous option for our future development. We immediately initiated conversations with Clayton State University about selling the existing campus to them. The process of selling the campus to a state government entity proved to be a long process, but it was successfully completed in May, 2008. We also continued to develop additional plans and strategies for actions beyond a simple relocation.

These planning activities have resulted in some very important strategies for the College and MSN. I would like to highlight the initiatives and provide an update on progress in each area.

1. Teleconferencing Initiative
2. General Conference Development Initiative
3. Northeast Atlanta Campus
4. Southeast Atlanta Campus and Cornerstone Bible Church Partnership
5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation Initiative
6. Master’s Degree Partnership with Southwest Christian University

1. Teleconferencing Initiative: This is a very exciting opportunity to expand our ability to teach classes to new

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CHECKING THE CALENDAR

January 5-9, 2009—Block Classes at Atlanta Bible College

January 12, 2009—first day of regular Spring Semester Atlanta Bible College classes

January 16-18, 2009—reFUEL—Milford, Indiana

February 6-8, 2009—Refuge—Indianapolis, Indiana

February 16-21, 2009—Block Classes at Atlanta Bible College

February 19-20, 2009—Board of Directors Meeting—McDonough, Georgia

March 5-7, 2009—Atlanta Bible College Invitational

March 16-20—Ministerial Conference—McDonough, Georgia

April 26-29, 2009—Theological Conference—Norcross, Georgia

June 1-5, 2009 (Mon-Fri)—Christian Workers Seminar—Black Mountain, North Carolina

July 8-10, 2009—89th General Conference—Oregon, Illinois

July 19-24—FUEL—Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana

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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.

(Continued from page 1)

students across the country or around the globe! Using special equipment, cameras, and microphones, a class can be conducted in Atlanta at either of our two planned campuses. Students will be able to take these classes in other locations in real-time. The class is fully interactive—distant students can hear and see the instructor as well as other participants—the instructor sees the participating students in the class and perhaps even in their own home!

2. General Conference Development Initiative: With God's blessings, the General Conference has functioned since its inception because of the prayers, efforts, and financial support of loyal members. To improve our service and capability for ministry, the Conference has created a Development Office, headed up by Pastor Dale Bliss. In partnership with the Board of Directors, the other staff, and the membership, this office will work to ensure our resources are matched with our plans for current and future ministries. A development focus also seeks to ensure we are working with you to support your growing and changing needs.

3. Northeast Atlanta Campus: By the time this magazine goes to print, we hope to have concluded the negotiations for a leased facility in the city of Duluth, a northeast suburb of Atlanta. This location will be the site of one of our two campuses, and will serve the most of the ABC Korean Extension program.

4. Southeast Atlanta Campus and Cornerstone Bible Church Partnership: The College has agreed with Cornerstone Bible Church to enter into a long-term partnership which will allow

sharing of facilities and ultimately provide for College facilities that will be constructed on the church's property in McDonough, Georgia. The new location will also provide for Conference offices in a nearby office park and residence opportunities for students in an adjacent apartment



Future General Conference Office,
Avalon Business Center

complex. The offices and a classroom, located on the 4th floor, will offer an ideal setting for classes.

5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation (SACS) Initiative: One of the most important goals of our planning efforts is to prepare the College to apply for academic accreditation by SACS. This organization is the regional association that, in cooperation with the US Department of Education, governs the accrediting process for colleges and schools in the southern region of the country. Accreditation (or lack thereof) in no way determines the quality of a schools education. However, federal guidelines prevent students from obtaining grants or other federal aid to attend a college that has not been accredited by one of their recognized associations. Accredited status can also increase the transferability of credits from one school to another. The process for seeking accreditation will mean several years of preparation before we would be prepared to apply, and

the application process can take several more years. Nevertheless, I believe the potential benefit to our future students and members churches makes the investment worthwhile.

6. Master's Degree Partnership with Southwest Christian University: As ABC has studied the potential to offer a Master's program, at this time we feel a more prudent course is to seek a partner with an existing program already accredited. Recently, Dr. Martin traveled to Oklahoma to continue the process of evaluating a cooperative arrangement with SWCU to offer their accredited Master of Ministry degree (governed by the North Central Association, the regional association that accredits mid-western universities as SACS oversees the south) on our campus. We will provide additional information as we explore this partnership in more depth.

As you can see from the list above, we are pursuing an aggressive program of new, exciting developments for our Conference. All these plans are founded on the belief of every staff and Board member that God is at work in our efforts. Please join us in several important ways:

1. Pray that God bless our plans and efforts to follow His will.
2. Share with us the needs and opportunities you have to minister in your churches and communities and how we can help.
3. Join us as financial supporters in shaping the future of our College and Conference, churches, and families.

May God bless you all!

Tim Jones

Campus Development Committee

Following the decision in 2007 of the Board of Directors to sell the present 12 acre campus of Atlanta Bible College to Clayton State University, the Campus Development Committee (CDC) was established by the Board. As an outgoing Board member, in order to maintain some continuity with the Board, I was asked to serve as Chairman of this committee. Also serving on the committee is: Dave Kizer, with expertise as an architect, Chris Ramsey, a developer and builder by trade, Dale Bliss as Director of the Development Office and Tim Jones as President and CAO. The committee was essentially asked by the Board to fulfill its name.

The Board's decision, in line with its vision statement, was to establish one new campus as the headquarters of the General Conference and ABC and a satellite campus somewhere northeast of the metro-Atlanta area.

The satellite campus would be used primarily but not exclusively by the ABC Korean extension. The Campus Development Committee has the responsibility of researching sites for establishment of a new campus in both locations. When appropriate sites are identified, recommendations will be made to the Board for action. (Significant steps have already been taken in establishing the main campus on the property of Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, Georgia, partnering with them in some joint facility use. No specific northeast sites have been identified yet.) Further responsibilities include: developing site plans and then architectural drawings, securing the necessary permits, overseeing construction through completion of both projects, and enlisting qualified and willing people to help with each of these areas. The option of purchasing existing facilities and remodeling or updating as needed is being

considered and researched.

All of that is being done under the auspices of the Board of Directors and must be done within both the financial and calendar constraints demanded by the lease back agreement with Clayton State University. The existing plans allow the College to lease the current campus for a maximum of 36 months.

This Committee has a monumental task before them. It is a task vital to the future ministry of Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference. Your prayer support is highly valued and appreciated. Your financial and physical help will also be crucial in this complex project. If you have questions or comments about the status of the project, I welcome your contact. ■

In His service,

Pastor Michael Hoffman, CDC

Atlanta Bible College Honor Roll

To be on the Honor Roll, a student must be a full time student enrolled in 12 or more semester hours of classes. Congratulations to the following students for their academic accomplishments during the spring 2008 semester:

High Honor Roll – 3.5 grade point average and above

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Young Hee An | Mi Sook Lee |
| Andre Bean | Sae Hyun Lee |
| Erica Fitzsimmons | Han Jin Oh |
| Ruth Gutu | Ok Oh |
| Eun Jung Han | Hae Won Park |
| Andrew Jung | Aquella Plakaris |
| Hyuk Joon Jang | Eugenia Roberts |
| Ki Young Jang | Jae Soon Son |
| Jin Chul Kim | Ephantus Taiti |
| Seong Hee Kim | Annette Williams |
| Yeong Beom Kim | |

Honor Roll – 3.0 to 3.49 grade point average

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Chae Yun Baik | Young Hwan Kong |
| Ok Hyeon Choi | Hak Keun Lee |
| Hyo Sun Chung | Ji Won Lee |
| Seung Oh Ha | Joo Chan Lee |
| Ju Li Hwang | Jung Soon Lee |
| Kyong Ok Hyon | Seung Kwang Lee |
| Jim Hee Joung | Sun Young Lee |
| Hyo Ju Jung | Terence Lester |
| Eun Jung Kim | Hyung Sook Park |
| Moon Sik Kim | Ju Young Park |
| Geoffrey Kithimba | David Smith |
| Festus Kirui | Kyoung Man Yoon |

Attention Church of God Members— We Need Your Talents!

A new internet broadcasting ministry for all of our members and churches began in June 2008. The ministry is known as COGcast and can be found at www.cogcast.org. From a high-speed online connection, the broadcasts can be heard all around the world!

The programming is on the air virtually around the clock, updated daily, and sounds much like listening to a radio station. The play format currently includes: songs, hymns, music, prayers, poems, Scripture readings, announcements, radio programs, and sermons, with all content exclusive to Church of God members and churches. That's right—the programming features your pastor, your choir, and maybe you! You submit your material to us, in any format, and, after reviewing your material, we'll do the rest. Whether you have cassettes, CDs, digital media, or even records and reel-to-reel recordings, we can convert it into the play format and add it into the streaming playlist.

By simply going to the website (www.cogcast.org), you can begin listening anytime today. And since the programming loops throughout the day, if you missed any part of the program, you can catch it again. While at the website, you can also go back and listen to and download all of the previous messages on

demand, and even download and enjoy some Church of God recorded music, all as mp3s. On Sunday broadcasts, we turn back the clock and play historic recordings, some from as far back as 60 years, including messages, music, and c o n c e r t s f r o m O B C commencements, OBC Chorales, General Conferences, special events, and special meetings. There's something for everyone.

We encourage all of our churches to use this ministry opportunity in advertising in your bulletins, church signs, cards, church websites, etc. This is YOUR ministry. Mention it to your friends and anyone you are witnessing to. God has blessed us all so richly. Now is our time to proclaim His gospel to the entire world!

The objectives of COGCAST are simple:

1. To broadcast the Gospel of the Kingdom into all the world.
2. To reinforce the teachings of the Church of God among the membership.
3. To reach isolated members and keep them in contact with the church and Church of God material.
4. To provide a communication outlet for the Church of God

General Conference and its members.

5. To preserve the history of the Church of God by transferring old recordings into digital formats and files.

6. To allow the people in our churches to be involved in a world-wide ministry.

7. To encourage and promote the creativity in the Church of God, and give it an outlet.

COGCAST has been an exciting adventure, and we're glad you're taking the time to read more about the work and goals of the broadcasts.

Maybe you have a closet full of cassettes at your church, a programming idea, an event or an announcement you'd like to share, or you're just looking for a way to be involved. If so, you can contact us at:

sharethemessage@cogcast.org, or write to: COGCAST c/o Joy Fellowship, 492 Bessie Road, Piedmont, SC 29673.

Remember, the content is only limited by our own involvement and creativity. We hope you too will join with us as a part of this global ministry, and help others to share in this vision! ■

christianmonotheism.com

Have you ever wanted to recommend a site to a friend who is questioning the Trinity? Have you ever wanted to look up "difficult texts" to get answers to hard questions about God and Jesus? Introducing christianmonotheism.com: a website hosting more than 60 One God resources including articles, mp3s, and videos. Stop

by and check it out! And if you have any materials to contribute to the site, be sure to email Sean Finnegan (sean@kingdomready.org) so we can upload them. Also, please link to christianmonotheism.com on your church site. Together we can have a strong web presence to share the truth with others.

Chairman's Address to the Delegates

Chairman's Address to the Delegates of the General Conference of the Church of God, July 31, 2008.

Jeff Fletcher, Chairman

Welcome to the 88th General Conference. I count it an honor and privilege to be a part of the Church of God General Conference. What a joy it is to gather with brothers and sisters who share a common love for the truth of God's word and a common mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ to all the world. It is an exciting time to be a part of the Church of God as we now possess the means to bring our message to a wider audience than ever before. As we daily get closer to the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on this planet, we are entering a period of what I believe will be unprecedented opportunity to proclaim the Kingdom and train others both here and around the world in ministry.

Around 30 A.D. a teacher named Jesus invited a number of individuals to follow him and join him in his mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God and inviting others to follow him and join him in his mission of proclaiming the same Good News and inviting others to follow him and so on and so on.

Jesus used the methods and tools available to him that were best suited for the time and place in which he lived. He traveled from place to place by foot and his

small band of students accompanied him wherever he went and listened to his teaching and observed his actions. In time, they were commissioned by him to teach the same message and do the same works . . . only they would **not** be limited to the same narrowly defined geographic region of Galilee, Nazareth and Jerusalem . . . they would eventually take the Good News to all the world—Ta Ethnos, all peoples. This was their mission and Mandate from their Teacher and King, Jesus.

Nearly 2,000 years later, the message of Jesus—the Kingdom of God and the means of entry into that Kingdom, following Jesus, have not changed. The mission to take this message into all the world has not changed either and the mandate from Jesus to do so is still in effect. The only thing that has changed are the methods and tools available to successfully achieve the proclamation of the message and fulfill the mission.

We are no longer limited to traveling on foot from town to town. We can now travel by way of car, train, airplane . . . means of transportation that were unimaginable to those 1st century disciples. Imagine the places Peter would have gone had he had access to air travel.

We are no longer limited to the means of communication that the disciples of the first century used. We are grateful that many of their teachings and letters have been preserved by the providence of God and transmitted to us today so that we have access to them in the Bible. But just Imagine what

Paul would do today if he had access to the Internet? What if Paul's audio messages could have been recorded and placed on the Internet so that they could be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time? How might he have used radio and DVD's and other visual media?

In John 14:12 Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." Jesus told his students that they would do "greater" works than he did. I've wrestled to understand the meaning of this verse. Jesus did some pretty great works from healing the sick to feeding thousands with a few fish and some bread and raising a man from the dead after he was in the grave four days . . . so it's hard to imagine us doing greater works than those in terms of their quality . . . so I think Jesus may have meant greater in their scope . . . he was limited to a small area of land...but as his students spread out and preached and ministered his works through us can potentially touch the entire planet.

What an exciting privilege it is to follow in the footsteps of our great Rabbi and King Jesus and his students like Peter and Paul and to join in proclaiming the message of the Kingdom and the name of the King, Jesus to all the people of the earth. To be his voices of instruction, to offer his words of warning, and to extend his open arms of forgiveness and to offer his healing touch of compassion.

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And what a tremendous responsibility, a sacred trust it is for us to be stewards of that great message and mission. God always calls people who are uniquely suited to carry out His purposes at his time, whether it be Noah building the ark to save a remnant of his people from destruction or Abraham to leave Ur and come to the land of promise, or Moses to lead his people out of captivity or Daniel to boldly defy the kings command to bow in idolatry or Esther's courage to approach the King to save her people . . . has God chosen us "for such a time as this" to be the stewards of His message in, what is quite probably the generation that will see the return of Christ in their lifetime?

Twenty-five years ago this fall I was a new student at, what was then called Oregon Bible College. I came to the campus in the beautiful little town along the banks of the Rock River and was given an excellent foundation of training in ministry that has served me well through my years of pastoral service. A lot has changed in the world in these 25 years. My first sermons were typed on an IBM Selectric typewriter and it took hours and hours to do the research into the background and meaning of Hebrew and Greek words, Bible geography and customs and all that goes into preparing excellent Biblical sermons and Bible lessons.

Today, I type my sermon on a laptop using software that automatically corrects my spelling and grammatical errors and with the push of a button I can see any

text in the Bible in its original Hebrew and Greek language and compare it in over 50 different translations allowing me to arrive at a level of precision in my ability to accurately discern the original meaning of a text and make a modern day application . . . in minutes what used to take hours . . . and hours what used to take days.

Twenty-five years ago as a Bible college student, I had no option but to relocate to Oregon, Illinois for four years if I wanted to become a licensed pastor in the Church of God. Today, we have multiple options and recognize various levels of ministry and various paths to service.

Atlanta Bible College exists today because of a vision of F.L. Austin and others to form a Bible Training Institute that would prepare pastors and workers for our churches. My great uncle, Charles Fletcher, was in that first class of six men who learned under brother Austin's direction at the National Bible Institute, which later became OBC which later became ABC. Since that time, our college has been guided by men and woman of vision and faith who have continued to faithfully teach the truth of God's word and train for ministry.

Many things have changed over the years—tools of instruction, changes in location first in Oregon, Illinois, then to Morrow Georgia. We've been served by outstanding instructors. I give credit to those who taught me. Kent Ross, Anthony Buzzard, Eugene and Janet Stilson, Charles Pryor, David Krogh, and Cheryl Ross. The quality of my Biblical instruction was among the upper

echelon of all Bible colleges. When I went on to continuing education where I worked alongside people from other traditions they were continually amazed by the breadth and depth of Biblical understanding that I possessed . . . I give much of the credit to those who instructed me. I truly love and value the heritage of faith that has been invested in me.

Now I've been tasked by God and by you the delegates to act, along with the rest of the board, faculty, and staff to steward this sacred trust. We want to be faithful to the legacy given to us from those men and women of vision who went before us, and I believe we best honor their vision, by ourselves being men and woman of vision.

With God's help we are looking to the future and imagining what God will be doing in and through Atlanta Bible College in the next five years and beyond.

Imagine Dr. Joe Martin standing in a classroom in McDonough, Georgia teaching a group of students, joined by additional students in Springfield, Ohio, Springfield, Louisiana, Pomona California, as well as Texas, Oregon, and Michigan . . . as students sit in front of a laptop computer in each of those locations fitted with a camera where they are able to both see and interact with Dr. Joe.

And imagine at the same time Pastor Steve An standing in the North Atlanta Campus with 300 live Korean American students teaching Systematic Theology while at the same time

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simultaneously broadcasting in two locations in Korea with 100 Korean students at each location?

Imagine Atlanta Bible College offering a fully accredited Bachelor's Degree program that is nationally recognized by the #1 accrediting body in the United States. As Bob Jones teaches Old Testament Survey in one classroom, next door Dr. Jim Graham is teaching Church History to a group of existing pastors in the Church of God in the fully accredited Master's Program offered by Southwestern Seminary in partnership with Atlanta Bible College. We're talking about a Master's program where all OBC/ABC credits are fully transferable into the Master's program and where students can come on campus for one week a semester and graduate with an accredited Master's Degree.

Meanwhile, adjunct professor, Pastor Scott Deane, is teaching a 1-on-1 intensive class via the Internet from his office at Pleasant Hill to a student in Hawaii.

It is all possible and if the Lord wills, this could be in place by this time next year.

We are entering into a time when what is possible is only limited by our imagination and creativity and willingness to join in a God-sized vision.

Today, we are encouraging you to join us in envisioning what we are in the process of becoming. We have the tools and ability to bring the gospel to places we've never gone before. Together we are going to celebrate the future that God is swiftly bringing into the

present.

We also recognize that the General Conference is all of us . . . it's not a building in Georgia. The General Conference is you. I rejoice in being able to tell you that today we can celebrate the vision that God has given you for bringing the message of the Kingdom and the name of Jesus Christ to the lost. We celebrate the vision of Wally and Jesse Winner and Joy Fellowship Church in South Carolina that has introduced COGCAST . . . the 24 hour Internet radio station of the Church of God which daily brings us original music, messages, and news from the Church of God. We'll hear about people hearing the Gospel of the Kingdom proclaimed in places like Australia and the Philippines.

Of course, technology can't replace personal relationships and the need to sometimes physically go into various places in the world where technology alone can't reach. We'll hear of mission trips to Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, as well as others to Tanzania where a young pastor is adding new congregations to the faith, and training men to pastor those churches and teach the truth of the Abrahamic Faith message.

We celebrate with these people who have a vision for doing church "outside the box" of traditional church. We welcome two brand new congregations into the Church of God—Abundant Life Community Church and Knightstown Family Fellowship.

And speaking of thinking "outside the box," we will catch a vision of how we are moving from a single campus to a multi-campus college and how we can avoid making unnecessary major capital outlays right away and keep our ministry

more flexible and able to easily shift to the needs of the organization.

We hope that you will take away from this conference, not only a passion for bringing the message of the Kingdom and Jesus to the lost, but with a renewed enthusiasm for joining us in what God is doing and that you will share that enthusiasm with the people of your local churches and conferences. We also hope that you will be inspired by the initiatives of other churches and individuals with a vision . . . that you might be challenged to expand your vision and begin thinking outside the box for better methods of getting our message out to the lost.

We also believe that when God grants His people a vision, He also grants the resources to achieve that vision. We believe that there are abundant resources available to help us achieve this vision. We will share with you our vision for a development program that will ensure that ample funds are raised to achieve each phase of the vision. We know that you will leave here so excited that you will want to partner with us, both in your prayers and from your means, but also in soliciting the prayers and financial support from those who will share in our ministry goals.

Again, this is an exciting time to be part of the Church of God. We are on the verge of seeing Jesus' promise that we will do "greater things than these" fulfilled within our lifetime . . . and so we pray, "Come Quickly, Lord," but until you come, may we continue to faithfully steward the message of the Kingdom, with the same vision and passion with those who went before and made it possible

2008 General Conference Delegate Session Minutes

2008 General Conference
Delegate Sessions
88th Annual General
Conference
North Hills Church of God,
Springfield, Ohio

The July 31st meeting opened with songs at 3:00 p.m.

Alan Cain gave the devotional talk about how the building is only a temporary place and that the important thing is the people and who we are.

Wilma Brewer displayed a quilt to be raffled off with the proceeds to be used to buy supplies for the children's classes.

Chairman Jeff Fletcher welcomed the delegates and asked Gary Burnham to introduce the list of people for which we need to pray. Gary led the group in prayer.

Gary gave the report on the number of credential delegates: 5 board members, 25 pastors, 37 members representing churches and conferences for a total of 67.

Chairman Jeff Fletcher proclaimed that this is the time when we can now reach the most people with the message of the Kingdom of God. We now have the technology to do that. He indicated that Jesus was limited to the area in which he lived. Jesus said that we would do greater works than he. Jeff feels that Jesus was talking about being able to

reach a greater portion of the world than he was able to in his day. Tools of instruction have changed over the years as well as the places of instruction. The vision hasn't changed nor has the message. Jeff talked about distant learning programs and the possibilities that will happen within the next few months. He stated that visions don't start with buildings but with the delegates of the conference, those who were present.

Nominees for the Board of Directors: Bill Gaspar, representing the Litchfield Church, nominated Dale Swartz; Michael Hoffman, representing the Oregon Church of God, nominated Larry Bolhous; the Korean church nominated Gregg Demmitt; and the Indiana Conference nominated Dan Siderius.

Joe James moved that nomination be closed, seconded by Charles Bottolfs. Motion passed.

Youth advisory counsel: Rebeca Daukaus was nominated. Charles Bottolfs moved to close nominations, seconded by Gerald Brewer. Motion passed. Rebecca Daukaus was elected.

Tim Jones, CAO gave the annual report including a presentation of the ABC Development Project, and the five (5) year College Improvement Initiatives. The report included a visual slide

presentation. He explained the various aspects of the five (5) year plan to the delegates.

Accreditation of ABC is being sought through Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. When this is in place, it will allow students to transfer their ABC credits to other colleges to work on higher degrees of education.

Tim Jones explained why the 2007-2008 showed a deficit \$120,534. The General Conference does not have any outstanding debts as of this delegate meeting.

A revised budget was distributed to the delegates for their review. Tim Jones presented the revised budget and explained to the delegates the reasons for this updated budget was to show more realistic projections in line with the five (5) year plan.

Chairman Fletcher announced the new churches accepted for membership into the General Conference: Abundant Life Community Church and Knightstown Family Fellowship.

Dr. Joe Martin reported on Atlanta Bible College. He announced that ABC had 95 ABCKE students and 46 ABC students in the '07 Fall Semester with a total of 141 students. In the '08 Spring Semester there were 98 ABCKE students and 56 ABC students for a total of 154

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students. In the '06 Spring Semester there were only 122 students. The numbers are increasing. He is working toward having a Master's program for the ABC students in partnership with the Southwestern Christian University with a 36 semester hour requirement. Distance Learning classes are available at this time on various subjects.

Gary Burnham reported on his visitation with pastors and churches. At FUEL he was able to visit with numerous pastors. He is developing plans to visit with churches and pastors approximately two weekends each month.

Dale Bliss explained that "development" is "placing people and resources needed" together at the appropriate time to get God's work done that He has led us to do. He is willing to meet with anyone who wants to know more about the program.

Joe and Rebekah Martin reported on their Africa Mission trip. They covered more areas than they had on prior mission trips. Joe was so glad and tired when he returned to the states that he felt like kissing the ground.

The LHI report was given by David Krogh. He reported that there was a group on a mission trip to Mexico. He also reported on his trip to Peru. Contacts have been made in other South American countries.

Wally Winner reported on COGCast. There were a lot of

things they did not know, but he put some of it in the hands of younger people who knew how to set up the program. They have had almost an immediate response from others around the world. The first response was from a person that was home bound. He said that he wanted the following materials from the churches: sermons, church news, etc. to be a part of the COGCast. He wants to expand this means of getting the message out to the world.

Herschel Lyda gave a report on his trip to Tanzania and his visit with Jerome Chembe.

Scott Ross reported on the isolated members of the Church of God and his concern about them. Dale Bliss and Scott rented a room at North Place and they met with 27 persons at this first meeting. It was a true revival meeting with those isolated members.

Robert Coverstone moved for adjournment and Michael Cisler seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:22 PM

The August 1 meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Jeff Fletcher.

Pastor Michael Cisler opened with prayer.

The four nominees for Board of Directors were presented to the delegates: Mr. Larry Bolhous, Pastor Greg Demmitt, Dr. Dan Siderius, and Pastor Dale Swartz.

Delegates voted by ballot. No clear majority was reached on the first ballot. Dale Swartz was dropped from ballot.

Delegates voted again. No clear majority was reached on second ballot. Larry Bolhous was dropped from the ballot.

On third ballot Dr. Dan Siderius was elected to serve a four year term on the Board of Directors.

While votes were being counted, Steve An gave a report on the ABC Korean Extension.

Delegates voted for the second position on Board of Directors choosing between Mr. Larry Bolhous, Pastor Greg Demmitt, and Pastor Dale Swartz.

Delegates voted by ballot. No clear majority was reached. Dale Swartz was dropped from ballot.

Mr. Larry Bolhous was elected to serve a four year term on the Board of Directors.

While votes were being counted, Jon Cheatwood gave a report on Turning Point Youth Ministries and the recent FUEL at Manchester University.

Motion was duly made and seconded to adopt the revised budgets for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010.

Discussion.

Point of order was made, budget should not be adopted until all new business discussed in case new items might impact the

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budget.

Upon a motion made by Scott Ross and duly seconded, the delegates tabled the motion until it could be acted upon in new business.

Motion and second were made to amend constitution Article I, Sec. 2 to replace July 1 with April 1 and to add the words "or by other suitable means of communication."

A motion to amend was duly made and seconded to change the wording "or by other suitable means of communication" to "and by other suitable means of communication." Following further discussion the proposed amendment was defeated by delegate vote.

The original motion as un-amended was then passed by 2/3 majority of delegates.

A motion was duly made and seconded to Amend the Constitution Article IV, Section 4 to change (by May 1) to "at least three months before the meeting" and to include words "or disseminated by other suitable means of communication at least one month before the meeting."

Following a discussion the motion passed by 2/3 majority of delegates.

C.A.O. Tim Jones reported on Christian Worker's Seminar 2009. It will be May 30-June 5, 2009 at Blue Ridge Assembly in

Black Mountain, N.C.

Tim Jones also reported on the use of teaching via Tele-Conferencing for classes where students need not be in attendance at a campus. This same means can also be used to teach Korean students who live in the home country and need not travel to the United States. He also told the delegates that the ABC staff is working towards accreditation and a Master's Degree program.

Greg Demmitt reported on the Adult Quarterlies, that a new format was being used. The writers are using new material that is up-to-date with the times rather than reusing the old quarterly comments. Several new writers are being use as well as some of the writers of the past.

Scott Ross reported on the meetings that he and Dale Bliss had with the isolated Church of God members. He reported that they all met at a rented room in Nebraska. The meeting was refreshing and well received by those in attendance.

The motion to pass the revised budget was removed from the table by the chair. There was further discussion of Revised Budgets 2008-09 and 2009-10 as presented to the delegates by Tim Jones on Thursday afternoon. After some discussion the budget was approved by vote of the delegates.

There was no further new business.

Minutes from Thursday July 31, 2008 and Friday, August 1, 2008 were read. One correction of Thursday's minutes: Herschel Lyda's report on Tanzania and Jerome Chembe's ministry there were added. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved by the delegates as corrected.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and passed the second delegate session and the 2008 General Conference meetings were closed in prayer.

Submitted by Bob See, Secretary

NOTE: The original minutes of the August 1 session, as approved by the delegates, were lost due to a computer hard drive crash that occurred before they could be archived or printed out. The foregoing minutes were re-created by members of the Board and Staff based upon hand written notes and their collective memories. Unfortunately some details, such as the names of delegates making and seconding motions, are no longer available. These minutes are, to the best of our knowledge and belief, a true and accurate summary of the meeting events and the business conducted therein.

In WITNESS thereof, I set my hand and seal: Woodrow R. Helenburg, Board Chairman. ■

Board Notes

This is my first opportunity to communicate with you since the elections at General Conference in Ohio. At the follow-up board meeting, I was selected to be the new chair of the Board of Directors. I am both honored by this and a little in awe of the responsibilities of the job. I ask for your prayers and support as we go forward into this next year wherein we expect great changes as we transition to two new college campuses. In the past, whenever I have been in an organization leadership position, my goal has been to leave that organization better than I found it. My pledge to you is that this is my objective once again.

Regarding the delegate meeting in August, I have bad news and good news. The bad news is that the minutes of the August 30th session, which was approved by the delegates that day, were lost due to a computer hard drive crash. The modern day equivalent to the "dog ate my homework" story or in this case a "computer virus ate my hard drive." While the dog story is fiction, the computer version was, sadly, very real. The good news is that the board and staff have been able to recreate a summary of these minutes from our collective memories and notes. Details such as who made and seconded motions was lost; BUT we sincerely hope as you read these minutes you may remember who performed these actions and if so, please share that with us by e-mail. Unlike with humpty-dumpty, together we CAN put things back together again.

There was a second problem

related to delegate actions during the recent General Conference sessions wherein the approval of constitutional changes has been negated by an administrative error. This was discovered while the approved changes were being posted to the Constitution. That is to say, the wording used for the Amendments were based on an older version of the Constitution and therefore they were rendered invalid. The motion to change will have to be re-stated based upon the proper wording of the current Constitution and voted on again next year. While there were many opportunities to catch the error, no one did. A system is now in place to prevent that from occurring again.

This year the Board decided to hold our fall meeting in Omaha at the Jaynes Street Church. Christy Ross, who is a member of the Board since the 2007, was eight months pregnant at the time of the meeting and unable to fly to Atlanta. Since she could not come to us, we went to her. The best part of this was that we had a great opportunity to spend some time with the church congregants and share fellowship with them and become less of the "those people on the Board." Future boards may decide to do it again. It is cost effective to do this because the number of people traveling is roughly the same and in some cases they do not need to travel as far.

One of the best things to come out of this meeting was a training session with a Professional Consultant whose ministry for the past 20 years has been to work with faith based

organizations such as ours. The COGGC staff in Atlanta had already undergone a similar training session. The Board learned that in comparison to many other similar organizations, we were in better shape insofar as our basic organization is concerned. We also learned we have some areas regarding written Board documentation that need improvement. We self-assigned Board Members to undertake the tasks of improving our program according to these recommendations.

As a spin off of the training, we learned that our Church of God, Mission Statement was too general. It did not adequately specify what our objective was. Previously the Mission Statement read, "TO EQUIP CHURCHES AND LEADERS FOR MINISTRIES." The ultimate goal of the Church of God is to successfully reach the Kingdom of God when Jesus returns. We also want to reach as many others as we can so they will be able to join us. Therefore, the Mission Statement was revised as follows: "TO EQUIP CHURCHES, PASTORS AND LEADERS FOR MINISTRIES THAT LEAD PEOPLE INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD." The Vision Statements for ABC and COGGC were reviewed as well and found to still be valid and supportive of the revised Mission Statement. ■

Yours in Christ,

Rob Helenburg

Isolated Members Ministry

The Isolated Members Ministry (IMM) is a project of the Church of God General Conference that seeks to identify and minister to people with a tie to the Church of God and its teachings who do not live near to any congregation holding to these truths.

The IMM's Case Statement is:

“There have always been a significant number of isolated members that share a like precious faith and common heritage with the Church of God. They have spiritual needs that cannot all be met by churches of other denominations that may be in their area. The Isolated Members Ministry purpose is to identify isolated members of the Church of God, discover their needs, and develop strategies for meeting those needs. The Isolated Member Ministry invites pastors and churches join with the IMM to seek out and bless the lives of isolated Church of God people.”

This project is in its infancy. We are seeking now to develop a list of people who are isolated members. These might include people who have relocated in an area where there is no church of like precious faith, people who

were a part of a church that has had to close or no longer affiliates with the Church of God, students who are away from their home churches to attend college, and people who have come in contact with the faith we hold dear but are not located near any active church.

Upon identifying these people, we hope to discover how we can best help them in their spiritual journey. This might include such things as:

1. Making them aware of other people in their area who are also isolated members of which they might be unaware and helping such people connect.
2. Making sure people are aware of resources that are available to them including such things as publications, Cogcast, seminars, blogs, and web sites.
3. Helping isolated members discover their gifts and talents and give them opportunity to use those gifts to the glory of God.
4. Hosting Church of God gatherings when appropriate to give them an opportunity to worship and meet others in a similar situation as theirs. (We have already held to such gatherings in western Nebraska that have been a blessing to all

involved.)

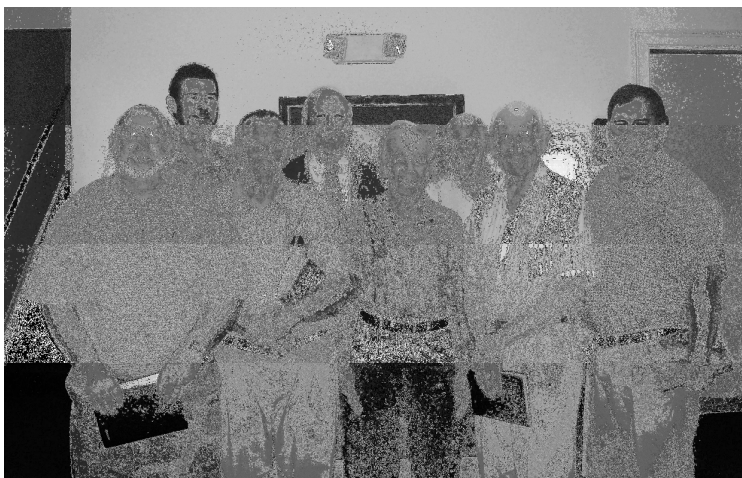
5. Aiding them to be able to attend Christian Workers' Seminar, Church of God General Conference, and other such national gatherings.

6. Linking them to pastors and churches who are closest to them geographically so these pastors can minister to them in times of need such as sickness and funerals, and so these isolated people might feel a connection to a church they can occasionally attend.

As we identify and meet with isolated members, we will discover how we can best minister to them.

People can help the IMM by letting us know of isolated members and by offering suggestions as to what this ministry can do to most effectively help Church of God people who find themselves isolated from Church of God congregations. Names, addresses (including email addresses), and suggestions can be sent to:

IMM,
Church of God General
Conference,
Box 100,000,
MORROW GA 30260.



Pictured are eight pastors (from left to right . . . Wally Winner, Jim Shaull, Jim Mattison, Scott Ross, Alva Huffer, Mike Montgomery, Terry Ferrell, Jeff Fletcher) in attendance one evening during Guthrie Grove's special meetings earlier this year. An another night, all living Guthrie Grove pastors were in attendance, with the presence of Pastor Ed Bender. Guest speaker for this annual event was Pastor Scott Ross of Omaha, Nebraska. On Homecoming Sunday over 230 attended.

CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS . . .

BLANCHARD

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.

CONGER STREET CHURCH OF GOD

The Conger Street Church of God in Waterloo, Iowa 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 at: dantheman5169@aol.com; 2672 Logan Ave., Waterloo, IA 50703

GATESVILLE CHURCH OF GOD

The Gatesville Church of God in Gatesville, Texas is currently without a pastor. We are a hard working and dedicated church in a growing community, but we know that a pastor is needed to flourish and grow. Come visit us at our expense and see what we are all about. Call Mark Henson at 254-865-8452 or Stephen Burkett at 254-865-5780.

HAPPYWOODS CHURCH

The congregation of the Happywoods Church is seeking a full-time pastor. We are a relatively small congregation and are located in the community of Hammond, LA. This area is in the southeast tip of Louisiana and currently has a population of approximately 100,000 people within relatively easy driving distance of the church. Our area is located in the center of the I-12 corridor, which is predicted to grow to over 2.5 million people within the next 30 or so years. We have a new and newly renovated facility of 12,000 sq. ft. of space that needs lots of people to serve.

Our congregation has been involved with our community in the past and looks forward to growing in the community and in faith. If you are interested in pastoring in an environment, which is both challenging and invigorating, where you and the church can grow both numerically and spiritually through outreach, please think of us.

For more information, please contact Elder Charles Bottolfs at 985-542-1555 or via e-mail at: cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net. Or you may contact Elder John Fauntleroy at 985-345-7134. Both phones take messages and you will be contacted. You may also write to us at the following address: C. G Bottolfs, 43137 Happywoods Road, Hammond, LA 70403.

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, Mo. is recruiting an energetic, gifted, and dedicated pastor. A progressive church of traditional values and sound doctrines, Countryside is committed to being a beacon of truth in our community. Interested individuals may contact the elders - Dale L. Brown, at (816) 550-2085 or email DaleBrown@aol.com or John Smead at (660) 747-8571 or email JSmead@iland.net for an application.

FREDERICKTOWN CHURCH OF GOD

Fredericktown Church of God is searching for a part-time minister who could later become full time. Please contact Harold Thomas at P.O. Box 188, Fredericktown, Missouri 63645; or Elsie Cooper at 10026 Weber Ln. Potosi, Missouri 63664, 573 438-4990.

Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

WHAT HAPPENED TO ELIJAH ?

“And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them asunder, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven” (2 Kings 2:11).

After reading Pastor Jim Schaul’s excellent article “Where’s Elijah” in his paper Chokmah (wisdom), I wondered . . . What really happened to Elijah? Where did he go?

As Jim reminds us, Jesus said, “no man hath ascended up to heaven (John 3:13). Peter told us even David, a man after God’s own heart, “is not ascended up to heaven” (Acts 2:34). And as Jim continues to bring out, Paul says, “In Adam all die” (1 Cor. 15:22). In the list of faithful people in Hebrews 11, Elijah is included in the phrase “and of the prophets” (v. 32), of which it is said in verses 39 and 40 that although they received a good report through faith, they did not yet receive the promise. God has planned something better, “that they without us should not be made perfect.”

So if Elijah didn’t go to heaven, and is not yet dead at this time as we will find out shortly, where did he go?

Notice that Jehoshaphat was king when Elijah “went to heaven.” Jehoshaphat died. His son, Jehoram, took his place. And guess what? Jehoram received a letter from Elijah (2 Chronicles 21:9-12) warning Jehoram of coming judgment because of his wickedness! Elijah was still alive and on Earth after he “went to heaven.”

So what happened? Where did he go and how did he get there? First, let’s find out what this word “heaven” means. It’s the Hebrew *shameh*, which means “lofty, the sky as aloft, the visible arch in which the clouds move, as well as the higher ether where the celestial bodies revolve” (Strong). It is also translated “air,” and many times the Bible uses this word when speaking of the fowls of the air, or, birds flying through the air. So, if Elijah didn’t “go”

to heaven, did he fly through the air? It appears that he did.

Notice what Obadiah believed would happen to Elijah, in 1 Kings 18. There were now three years of famine in Ahab’s kingdom, for Elijah had predicted this because of the wickedness of the king (1 Ki. 17:1). Things had become desperate. Ahab called Obadiah, who was over his house, and said, “Let’s go separate ways through the kingdom and try to find some grass, so our animals won’t die.” So off they went.

As Obadiah went his way through the land, guess who he met? That’s right, Elijah. God had told Elijah to meet Ahab and that’s where he was going. Elijah’s presence scared Obadiah, for Elijah said, “Go tell Ahab I’m here.” Obadiah was afraid for his life, and he asked what wrong he had done that Elijah would ask such a thing, for when he brought the king, and Elijah had vanished, he would be killed. This is what he was afraid would happen: “It shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not, and when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he will slay me” (18:12). He was afraid the Spirit of God would carry Elijah away and he would not be there.

This is what happened to Philip in Acts 8:39 and 40. After he had baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, “the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip” from the eunuch and “Philip was found at Azotus.” God transported, or, carried, Elijah and Philip to another place, and they were not found where they had been.

Ezekiel, in Babylon, was caught away in vision to Israel and saw the Millennial Temple Christ will build just north of millennial Jerusalem (Ezek. 40-48), which gave such hope of the future to his people.

When Christ comes, his people will be caught up in the air to meet him (1 Thess. 4:13-17). So what happened when Elijah was caught up into the air where the birds fly? It is apparent that the Spirit of God carried him to another spot on Earth not too far away, for in the process of time he wrote a letter of judgment to Jehoshaphat’s son, Jehoram. Later he died as all men do (Heb. 9:27). But, according to Hebrews 11, he will receive the promise of eternal life in God’s Kingdom when Jesus returns. ■

—Jim Mattison

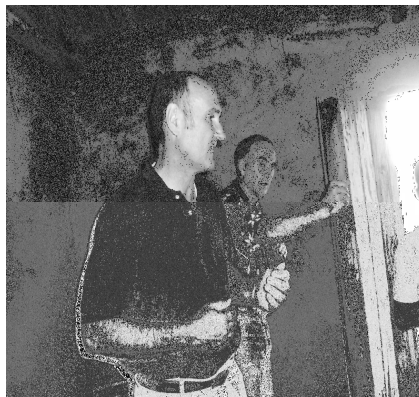
The trip to Africa this summer included five countries: Congo, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, and Kenya. It also took up five weeks of time. It makes me want to kiss the ground when I get home to the “good old USA.” But it also makes me wonder, what else can be done for such beautiful people that have such a hard time?

The trip started for me in the DRC, Democratic Republic of Congo, also formerly, Zaire, also formerly the “Belgium Congo.” It is the third largest country in Africa by area. You might remember it from Joseph Conrad’s classic book the “Heart of Darkness.” The flight from London was fittingly on a Brussels Airline, since Belgium and France still have connections with the Congo. I traveled from New York with Pastor Vince Finnegan of Living Hope International Ministries. Vince had been in the Congo some twenty-five years ago as part of a former ministry.

The capitol of the DRC is Kinshasha, very near the equator, and very near the Atlantic ocean. It’s a city of six million people where 200,000 should be very crowded. However, the people were extremely gracious to us. We were met at the airport and taken to the V.I.P. lounge since one of the church members worked at the airport. We waited for our luggage and were introduced to our hosts. Pastors Kael, Kennedy, and Bayunga were the main leaders. Pastor Bayunga is elderly and in failing health, but considered the “bishop” of the group.

We did individual counseling with Vince taking the lead since a major

part of his ministry is counseling. However, with many lined up to counsel, I participated as well. Vince and I each had a translator, and usually someone from the church to learn as we counseled with families, couples, and individuals. Babi, Kael’s wife, was my translator for these sessions (there was a key dialect plus the official language, French). She would flow from one to the other fluently depending on the key language of the person coming in. The issues presented were often overwhelming. Topics counseled over were being H.I.V. positive, full blown A.I.D.S., poverty, witchcraft, sorcery, family



Vince dancing, me trying!

problems, barrenness, abandonment, men 30-45 years old wanting to get married but having no jobs to pay a marriage dowry (\$500-\$2,000) etc. After one session, I was overwhelmed and told Vince, “It’s too much.” He said, “we just have to put them in God’s hands.”

We had several large outdoor meetings. The largest had 540 in attendance. It was at the city fairgrounds in a substantial rented building. The music was fantastic. A modern French translation of the Old Testament uses “Yahve” instead of “the LORD,” which is very biblical. Many of their

choruses here and in Zambia did the same. We need to have more worship choruses about Yahweh. One current artist in the U.S., Bethany Dillon, in the song, “The Kingdom,” has the chorus, “Help me see the light, I’m reaching through the fight, Yahweh show me the Kingdom . . .” Vince preached on the covenants of God with Abraham, David, and Jesus. We also took a “road trip” to Matadi, a city on the coast. The church rented a 25 passenger bus and the “band” and choir went with us. We did counseling and had meetings there also. Our hosts were very gracious and met our every need.

I left for Malawi after about ten days, and Vince crossed the Congo river to Brazzaville, the capitol of the Congo Republic (another country). My intention was to go to Malawi and try to catch up with the rest of the group, including my wife in Mozambique. The road to Mozambique through Blantyre, Malawi was interesting because I lost all my luggage at Kinshasha while leaving. Finally, I made it to the Namiwawa Lodge on the outskirts of Blantyre at 8 p.m. I was pleased to see our friend Charles, the manager, and he asked, “where’s your luggage?” I said, “I lost it, I have nothing with me.”

Well, what do you do with nothing (but some kwacha [money])? Jesus did say, “take nothing . . .” (Luke 9:3). I decided to try to go native and make it to Mozambique. I started out on foot about ten a.m. walking into downtown Blantyre. Natives generally travel by minibus, “15” passenger, four cylinder hand me downs from Japan. A “conductor” yelled at me . . . “downtown”? That costs 60k

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(150 kwacha = \$1) or about 35 cents. I sat next to a guy whose shirt said, “Yahweh’s Lamb.” I thought, “maybe a sign”? Practicing my theological Chichewa (the local language), Mulungu Modzi (one God), Yesu Christu Mwana Wa Mulungu (Jesus the Son of God), and Ufumu Wa Mulungu (The Kingdom of God), I then asked how I could get to Mozambique. I was told to catch another minibus to Limbe, which is the eastern outskirts of Blantyre, and pick up the main minibus to the border. Downtown to Limbe costs were 40k or about 25 cents. Then I got into the big bucks, 550k to the border, about 70 miles away, was \$3. What a deal! However, the conductor had to fill the minibus. I thought we were full at twelve, plus the conductor and driver, but after the 22nd passenger got on the 15 passenger minibus, we left. I chose the back seat in the right rear near the window for “air.”

What if I starve? No problem, at every stop, vendors with baskets circle the bus. From my spot, I could buy out the window, tomatoes, bananas, mangoes, sugarcane, donuts, macadamia nuts, apples, etc. I went for the macadamia nuts, which are dominant in the area. Each little plastic bag with about twenty nuts was 10k so I bought 10 bags and shared with my fellow passengers. That was 100k or 75 cents. With chickens on the minibus (did I mention the chickens?), they were o.k. until the baby in the seat in front started plucking the feathers of the chicken his mother was holding and throwing the feathers into the air. I started thinking about bird flu. But we made it to the border crossing about three hours later with all the stops.

Hopping off the bus, a man approached, “Carry you?” Did I look that old? I started walking, but he was persistent, “carry you!?” He then pointed to his bike with a giant seat on the back. A taxi! It was three or four miles, uphill through the Malawi/Mozambique border with two stops for visas and paperwork. How much? His price was 200k. That’s \$1.33 to ride uphill four miles! I gave him three bucks. Then found the Pensao Lily, the motel in Milange, Mozambique, where everyone was staying.

Let’s summarize:

- Two small minibus rides: 100 k or \$.75
- One large minibus ride: 500 k or \$3.00
- Snacks 100 k or \$.75
- Bike taxi (not including tip) 200 k or \$1.33
- Forrest Gump feathers in the air free or free

Total 900 k or about \$6!

Surprising my wife—wonderful!

Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom in Mozambique—PRICELESS!

Sorry for the commercial for the Kingdom, I couldn’t resist. The “Road to Mozambique” cost less than ten dollars! I did buy clothes off the street in Mozambique. It had been four days with “nothing!” It was great to see Bishop Fabiano Bango and the others of the board. They are overseeing some 150 churches or prayer houses in Mozambique. Village churches in this poor area are stick frames and a weakly thatched roof. We are trying this year to build three buildings in Mozambique and three buildings in Malawi. Thanks to those who have donated for this purpose.

Some may want anonymity so I will not mention their names. It is a noble cause. God bless you.

After concluding the Mozambique visit, we concentrated on our church in Malawi. There are about 65 churches in Malawi under the direction of the board chaired by Pastor Daud Chiwaya, our brother for many years. There is a seven member board that oversees the work with members from different areas of the country. Pastor Frazier, north in Balaka, Pastor Namaona, east, Pastor Maxwell, southeast, Pastor Daud, south, and Pastor Moyo, Thyolo (just outside of Blantyre). In the middle of this visit, Vince made it in from the Congo Republic. Also, I finally got my luggage after about a week!

Linda Limbe in Blantyre helps coordinate the contacts and distributes the funds. Once the board recommends an action or



Pastors Chakka, Maxwell, Jim, Linda (translator), Bishop Bango and Pastor Neva Sande

church building and funds come in, they are sent to her to distribute to pastors and leaders. She has a ministry focused on teaching the women and helping them to better themselves. A part of that is funding for churches that do work with orphans. With a positive H.I.V. infection rate of around twenty percent, orphans are in

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every village. Bro. Jim Mattison focused his teaching on the signs of Jesus' coming. Vince Finnegan focused on teaching the pastors as well as other topics. Rebekah and I preached on Kingdom themes and Christian living. Local preachers also taught as well.



Pastor Frazer and a new building and village church

We flew to Johannesburg where Vince went back to New York, and we were on an adventure to Zambia. One of the students at Atlanta Bible College, kept talking about his "new church." We decided to stop for a few days to check it out. "BIGOCA" churches are very interesting. The name comes from Bible Gospel Churches of Africa. Bishop Peter Ndlovu started his own group just four or five years ago



Momma Esther & Rebekah

group he was with did not want them doing certain things in worship (raising hands, etc.). He has 26 churches in the capitol city of Lusaka and several in the nations nearby. They were having a conference and I preached to over 2,000 people. I preached from Luke 4:43, Jesus' purpose, which became the Apostle's purpose, which became the seventy's purpose, which is now OUR purpose; PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and help as many folks as you can! They are not associated with us except through students who are attending or desire to attend Atlanta Bible College, but it is a very interesting group.

We then flew to Kenya, our final country on this trip. We've had about 12 international students from Kenya! Becky Onyango and Anne Mbeke Fischhaber, were two of the first. Their eldest brother was killed, many years ago, and we stayed at Terry Onyango, the widow's home in Nairobi. What a gracious host! We visited Kisumu (near Barak Obama's father's home), where the matriarch, "Momma Esther" of the Onyango family lives. After visiting several churches in the area we attended the dedication of Sammy Chacha's church on Sunday. Sammy is an ABC graduate who went home and started a new church near Kitale, northwest of Nairobi. We also met two new people, Pastor Johnson, that Anthony Buzzard had worked with, and Pastor Isaya Owak who has an orphanage in Migori, Kenya near the Tanzania border. Pastor Owak wants to associate with us. He met us at Momma Esther's home and spent the day talking over beliefs.

I want to personally thank all who have supported the Africa mission's effort. Pastor Jim Mattison, at 84, says this was his final visit. A little miracle is that at Christian Worker's Seminar Jim and Carol Ring brought a lot of zippered "tool

holders" (you know Carol and her stuff!). They make a perfect Bible holder and EXACTLY fit the Chichewa Bibles we buy for the people in Africa! Africans have few material possessions yet have a joy of life that we don't always see here in our abundance. The ground is fertile and will grow anything as the rains come. Please continue to pray for your brothers and sisters there. Many have donated for these trips, for buildings, and for teaching materials. After supporting your local church, remember the opportunities for "regions beyond" as well. I strongly feel that our efforts coincide with Matthew 24:14, "the gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world . . . and then the end will come." ■



Bishop Peter, Wife, Pastor Sakala, Jim, Rebekah and Joe

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ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

- B111DL – Old Testament Survey I (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – DVDs
B112DL – Old Testament Survey II (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – DVDs
B113DL – New Testament Survey I (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) – DVDs
B114DL – New Testament Survey II (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) – DVDs
B161DL – Basic Bible Doctrine (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) – Video/Internet/E-mail
B221DL – Pentateuch (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – DVDs/E-mail
B222DL – History and Major Prophets (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – Videos/Internet/E-mail
B224DL – History and Minor Prophets (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – Videos/Internet/E-mail
- B242DL – Gospel of John (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) – Videos/Internet/E-mail
B342DL – Acts (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Reading/Writing Assignments
B461DL – Church Fathers and Conditional Immortality (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Roller) – DVDs
B470DL – Evangelical Theology (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – DVDs/E-mail
M112DL – Introduction to Ministry/Leadership (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Cheatwood) – DVDs
M121DL – Christian Education Principles/Practice (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Rebekah Martin) – DVDs
M141DL – Principles of Church Growth, Evangelism and Discipling (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh)
Videos/Workbook
- M/B230DL – Why I Believe (Apologetics) (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Finnegan) – DVDs/E-mail
M242DL – Evangelism and Missions (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Videos/Internet/E-mail
M281DL – Mission Perspectives (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – Reading/Workbook
M362DL – New Testament Preaching (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – DVDs
M372DL – Church Leadership (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Riley) – DVDs
M384DL – Small Group Ministry (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Videos/Workbooks/Readings
M443DL – Church Planting (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Tapes/Workbook
M473DL – Pastoral/Church Leadership and Administration (Martin) (2 Sem. Hrs.) – DVDs
G181DL – Personal Finance (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Videos/Workbook/Internet/E-mail
G261DL – Greek I (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) – DVDs
G271DL – Church History I (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Graham) – DVDs

To enroll in a distance learning course, please request an application form (info@abc-coggc.org or 800-347-4261). Distance learning courses can be taken for academic credit. The cost is \$160 per semester hour. Or they can be taken as continuing education courses. The cost is \$80 per semester hour. There is a \$20 postage and handling fee for the use of the DVDs which are returned when the course is completed. Textbooks are also available with differing prices depending upon the course. For additional information, please contact Registrar David Krogh at: dkrogh@abc-coggc.org; or at 800-347-4261.

In the *New American Standard Bible*, Matthew 10:28 says, “And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul, but rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

The Greek manuscripts are interpreted this way: “Be not afraid of those who kill the body, but cannot destroy the [future] life; but rather fear Him who can utterly destroy both Life and Body in *Gehenna*.” (*Emphatic Diaglott*.) See the context: Matthew 10:26-33.

“Be not afraid.” Jesus tells the disciples not to be afraid of those who can do them physical harm. Rather, God is the one who is mostly to be feared since He is the ultimate Judge. The trials and tribulations of this life are not worthy to be compared to the triumphs and joys of the future immortal life.

“Do not be afraid of those” compare with verse 26: “Do not be afraid of them” is found verbatim in the Greek *Septuagint* (Greek translation of the Old Testament), Numbers 14:9, “. . . do not fear the people of the land . . .” God will bring justice to those who are persecuted by the evil people of the land for all things will be revealed when God’s future judgement takes place. (Mark 4:21-23; Luke 8:16-17.)

“Be not afraid of those who kill the body . . .” This hearkens

back to those in the Old Testament to the present time of Christ who killed innocent persons for their faith.

On “kill the soul” (v. 28) see Ezekiel 13 where God expresses anger against His corrupt and perverted people, who “kill souls” of people who should not be put to death, but keep alive those who should be executed. For example, Ezekiel 13:19 says, “And for handfuls of barley and fragments of bread, you have profaned Me to My people to put to death *some* [literally, “souls”] who should not die . . .” (*The Bible Knowledge Background Commentary*).

This affirms the fact that “soul” (Hebrew, *nephesh* and Greek, *psuche*) means “life” and “living, breathing persons or creatures who possess that life.” As it says, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die,” in reference to the present mortal life (Ezek. 18:4, 20). Souls live; souls die.

The phrase “. . . but rather fear Him” is referring to God, the Creator not only of this mortal life but the future eternal [Greek, *aionian*] life. “Life” and “soul” are interchangeable, including the future, immortal life that believers will “put on” when Jesus comes: Matthew 10:39 speaks of finding one’s life or soul. Matthew 16:25 speaks of saving and losing one’s life or soul. It stands to reason, therefore, that if you have an immortal soul already, you have no need to be

c o n c e r n e d over whether you’ll save it, find it, or lose it. This is not speaking of possessing a soul in this life but in being changed at the future resurrection when all believers will receive immortality at that time: 1 Cor. 15:50-59, “put on” means we don’t have it yet, but will become “immortal souls or creatures” at that time. Resurrection, not death, is the time of our reward when dead souls [the faithful] will be raised from the sleep of death to become immortal, never-dying living souls [ref. eternal life] (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:5-6).

In Matthew 10:28, Jesus is referring to the future life. But what about those who “do not fear Him”? That is, what about the people doing the persecuting, who do not obey and revere God’s Word? They, too will be raised from the dead, to face God’s judgment (Dan. 12:2): “Fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” This refers to God’s future judgment upon the unjust. God is able to destroy not only the body but the [future] life of such persons. Revelation 20:11-15 gives a vivid description of the fiery judgment of these unbelievers.

Jesus infers this fiery judgment when he says, “. . . utterly destroy both life and body in *Gehenna*” [also called “hell”]. *Gehenna*. Several times “*Gehenna*” hell is mentioned in the Gospels (Matt. 5:22, 29, 30;

(Continued on page 21)

McGintytown Church of God's Homecoming

Sunday, August 24th was McGintytown Church of God's Homecoming Sunday during which time we celebrated and dedicated our new building. For several years now, McGintytown Church of God had been in great need of new classrooms, offices, and wheelchair accessible bathrooms. Last year, being approximately \$60,000 short of the expected amount needed to complete the building project, the church stepped out in faith and broke ground on the project. One year later, not only did we have enough money to pay for the

building project, but God provided funds over and above for other much needed projects. (Remember: “. . . your Father



knows what you need before you ask Him” (Matthew 6:8). “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his

power that is at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20). Special guest speaker, Dale Bliss, representing the Church of God's General Conference, and former Associate Pastor Mark Good joined us. Services were followed by a potluck lunch and then at 1:30 p.m. we had our act of dedication along with a lot of special music.

McGintytown Church of God is located on Hwy 225, 6 miles east of Greenbrier.

The church is served by Pastor Tom New & Associate Pastor Lonnie Craig. ■

(Continued from page 20)

10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5 and once in James [3:6]). The Valley of Gehenna or Hinnom was the city garbage incinerator outside of ancient Jerusalem. Rubbish, refuse, and dead animals were thrown into this valley to be consumed by the fire. The fire continued to burn as long as there was material for it to consume. The rubbish itself was consumed, but the fire burned continuously as long there was additional rubbish to burn. It's also known as “the lake of fire” mentioned in Revelation 20:11-15. Notice they will be resurrected from death (Greek: hell, in this case, is hades, the grave where all dead “souls” go at death: Ecclesiastes 3:20: “. . . ALL go to the same place . . .”) (*Systematic Theology, Huffer*).

Gehenna represents the final destruction of the wicked in which they will lose all chances of ever living again (Psalm 37:18, 20; 145:20; Isa. 1:28; Mal. 4:1; Obadiah 16; Phil. 3:19; 2 Thess. 1:9; 2 Pet. 2:12; Matt. 3:12). Wicked souls (persons or creatures) will lose not only their lives (body) but any chance of inheriting eternal life (soul, or future life). Rev. 21:8 gives a list of who these persons will be. See also Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 1:28-32.

Contrary to traditional teachings, a soul is not a separate being apart from the body. Many have been misled concerning the soul and the nature of man down through the ages. Matthew 10:28 says nothing of possessing an immortal being. There is no such

word as “immortal” found in the verse. Immortal beings are not subject to death. But souls that are able to be destroyed are subject to death, and therefore, are not immortal. Immortality can only be received [i.e., future life] upon the condition that one accepts Jesus as his Lord and Saviour: John 3:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:1-11 [notice: resurrection just as Christ was resurrected].

Romans 2:7 says that we “seek for..immortality,” which means we must not have it yet. But we look forward to that blessed day of Christ's return: Romans 8:24. We are eagerly waiting to become immortal souls [ref. eternal life] when we receive “redemption of our bodies” at the coming of Christ. This is our hope. ■

I have known Joe White since about 45 or 50 years ago when he and Jeanette and family joined the church which my father pastored, the New Hope Church of God in Little Rock, AR. He subsequently became an elder of the church, a role he held for the remainder of his life. His house was a favorite place for the young people of the church to go. It was a place of laughter, of playing ping pong, and just plain fun.

When my father retired and I was in my late twenties, Dolena and I moved back to Little Rock from Oregon, Illinois and I took over as pastor of the church. Although I had served as a student pastor in Oregon, this was my first real pastorate and Joe was my first encounter with a functioning elder.

An Elder's Elder

Although I have known many wonderful men serving as elders in the many churches I have been associated with over the years, I have never known one that is a better example of what an elder should be than Joe White. I think of him as "an elder's elder." He was "the husband of one wife"; wise, fair, apt to teach, spiritual and biblical." He modeled the wisdom that is from above, which is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

A Man of the Scriptures

There are not many people that have walked this earth that are impossible for me to think about or describe without biblical phrases coming to mind

... a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

... rich toward God.
... a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
... a man after God's own heart.
... and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.
... the disciple whom Jesus loved.

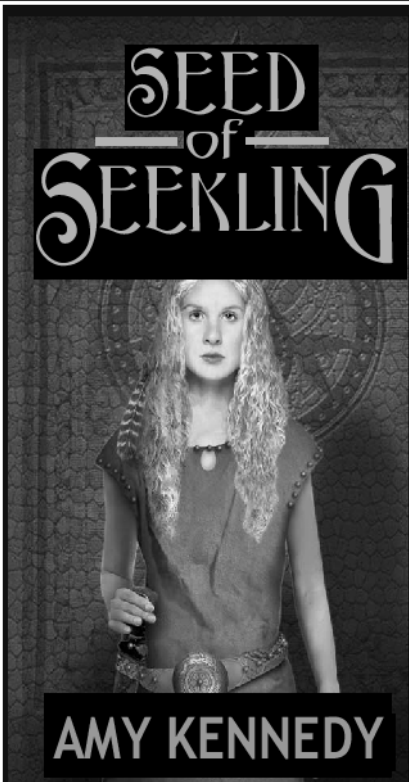
Joe could certainly say with the apostle Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all those also who love His appearing."

A Lonesome Place Against the Sky

It could be said of Joe White what was said of President Lincoln at his funeral, "He went down as when a lordly cedar, green with boughs, goes down with a great shout upon the hills and leaves a lonesome place against the sky."

I knew Joe as a friend, mentor, elder, and beloved brother in Christ. In my life there'll always be that "lonesome place against the sky" when I think of Joe, but on the other hand my life is infinitely richer for having known a man whose life truly made a difference.

October 9, 2008



Showing an act of compassion in her childhood turns bad for Astril and several of her fellow Seerlings who are all forced into slavery by their enemies in Harkan. Once she finds that her new owner is taking her to Augur, a priest in the service of the One True God, Astril seizes the opportunity to fulfill a promise to her beloved grandmother. Augur teaches her of true sacrifice and helps her to see clearly the horrors of her family line. Her new passion and belief push her further from her destiny to become the next High Priestess of the evil Great Goddess and into the saving arms of her new God. Meanwhile, Astril is haunted by her past and shocked to find out what her future as the Seed of Seerling will require.

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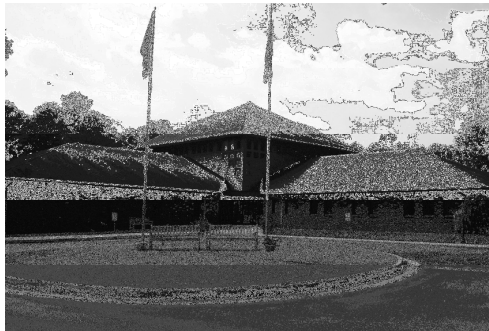
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As I entered the chapel, my eyes went left and I saw a mini slide show of ABC's future. The first slide said "Atlanta Bible College—New Campuses, New Challenges, New Ministries." The second slide showed the building for the new northern campus of ABC in Duluth, GA. The final slide showed the building at 2020 Avalon Parkway in McDonough, GA where the ABC south campus will be locating on December 20, 2008.

My eyes turned right, and I saw a still slide projected on the wall. It was a snowy scene, more reminiscent of the roots of Atlanta Bible College in Oregon, Illinois. I told myself how happy I was to be in Atlanta where the temperature was 50 degrees, and the forecast was for light rain instead of the several inches of snow in my beloved northern Illinois. The words overprinted said, "Atlanta Bible College—Final Chapel." The stage was set for some serious nostalgia.

Jon Cheatwood, Ashley Taylor, and Jerry Briggs led us in some choruses that drew us out of nostalgia into a spirit of worship. David Krogh gave us a five-minute capsule history of the college's history from days of

the Bible Training School in 1923 to the official founding of Oregon Bible College in 1939 to the decision to relocate to Atlanta, a process that was completed in 1991. Yes, indeed, that brought back memories for me! From the building on Third Street in little Oregon, Illinois to the renovated Golden Rule Home on Seventh and Franklin. More nostalgia and sweet memories!



Then Dr. Joe Martin had the privilege of delivering the final sermon from the stage of Atlanta Bible College's chapel. Joe spoke on "Please, Don't Take Away My Daddy," with a focus on the unfortunate loss of the name Yahweh, our heavenly Father's real name. Wherever we go and whatever we do, let's not lose Yahweh, our "daddy." Of course, if you know Joe, we had a couple of Pumpkin Center, Louisiana stories to spice it all up in fine style. And Joe just needs to get enthused as he speaks. Ha! Ha! (In case you didn't

catch it, that was a total understatement!)

Finally, Tim Jones, President of ABC, called all people to stand on the stage. He reminded us all that we have memories of this room. Whether they are of chapel services attended or sermons delivered or graduations attended, those memories will never leave us. Sure, we're moving on, but the Morrow campus will always be so very dear to us in memory. Personally, having only been here four months so far, there are far too few memories for me.

Dr. Joe led us in a closing prayer, and we adjourned with another chorus before enjoying a wonderful lunch. To make your mouths water, we had pulled pork, barbecued ribs, chicken, pork and beans, cole slaw, baked macaroni and cheese, green beans, and delicious mini cheesecakes for dessert. A wonderful tribute it was to the chapel and the building that has been our home for 17½ years. Thank you, Lord, for blessing us here, and we ask your continued blessing as we divide and continue to serve in two new locations. ■

Robert L. Jones, Professor

Income Report for September 2008

| | 9-30-08 <u>Budget</u> | <u>Actual</u> | This Month <u>Variance</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| CONTRIBUTIONS: | | | |
| General Contributions | 95,150 | 57,840 | -37,310 |
| Development Plan Increases | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| [Subtotal of Contributions] | 132,650 | 57,840 | -74,810 |
| G.C. - Devises & Bequests | 3,750 | 35,371 | 31,621 |
| ABC Boosters | 4,500 | 1,605 | -2,895 |
| Subtotal | 103,400 | 94,816 | -8,584 |
| SALES: | | | |
| Christian Education Materials | 6,038 | 6,209 | 172 |
| Books | 12,596 | 8,114 | -4,482 |
| Theological Journal | 0 | 26 | 26 |
| Sale of Assets | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Subtotal | 18,634 | 14,349 | -4,285 |
| ABC: | | | |
| Tuition | 55,550 | 54,200 | -1,350 |
| Korean Extension Tuition | 177,506 | 184,635 | 7,130 |
| ABCDF Support | 13,125 | 13,125 | 0 |
| Lodging | 20,835 | 14,015 | -6,820 |
| Washers/Dryers | 150 | 0 | -150 |
| Rentals - ABC Plant | 686 | 400 | -286 |
| Late Fees/Rent | 2,500 | 2,733 | 233 |
| Fees | 3,000 | 3,062 | 62 |
| Subtotal | 273,352 | 272,170 | -1,182 |
| PROGRAM INCOME: | | | |
| Conferences & Workshops | 500 | -16,818 | -17,318 |
| Subtotal | 500 | -16,818 | -17,318 |
| MISCELLANEOUS: | | | |
| Interest | 2,000 | 1,201 | -799 |
| Transferred In | 39,958 | 37,164 | -2,794 |
| Subtotal | 41,958 | 38,365 | -3,593 |
| | | | |
| Income Total | 437,844 | 402,882 | -34,962 |

- These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2008 through June, 2009.
- 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 September 2008

| | 9-30-08 <u>Budget</u> | <u>Actual</u> | This Month <u>Variance</u> |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| STAFF: | | | |
| Salaries & Wages | 154,266 | 148,841 | 5,425 |
| F.I.C.A. Tax | 2,250 | 3,001 | -751 |
| Employee Benefits | 35,666 | 33,698 | 1,968 |
| Subtotal | 192,181 | 185,540 | 6,641 |
| SERVICES: | | | |
| Assistance to Churches | 1,875 | 2,100 | -225 |
| Ministerial Association | 2,400 | 2,400 | 0 |
| Youth Program | 12,000 | 12,000 | 0 |
| Subtotal | 16,275 | 16,500 | -225 |
| SALES EXPENSE: | | | |
| Printing & Binding | 8,500 | 3,589 | 4,911 |
| Postage & Shipping | 3,750 | 1,832 | 1,918 |
| Book Store | 6,042 | 5,053 | 989 |
| Subtotal | 18,292 | 10,474 | 7,818 |
| ABC: | | | |
| Advertising--Recruitment | 1,500 | 1,657 | -157 |
| ABC Korean Extension Support | 8,750 | 10,067 | -1,317 |
| Library Periodicals | 375 | 245 | 130 |
| Library Books | 3,000 | 21 | 2,979 |
| Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues | 400 | 1,156 | -756 |
| Staff Training | 3,750 | 2,061 | 1,689 |
| Subtotal | 17,775 | 15,207 | 2,568 |
| ADMINISTRATION: | | | |
| Travel | 14,250 | 18,682 | -4,432 |
| Office Supplies & Expense | 3,000 | 3,314 | -314 |
| Professional Services | 3,125 | 5,165 | -2,040 |
| Telephone | 4,500 | 6,377 | -1,877 |
| Insurance - Non Plant | 75 | 0 | 75 |
| Supplies & Expense | 1,250 | 2,999 | -1,749 |
| Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant | 6,250 | 2,123 | 4,127 |
| Development Travel & Support | 7,175 | 2,312 | 4,863 |
| Subtotal | 39,625 | 40,972 | -1,347 |
| PLANT EXPENSES: | | | |
| Utilities | 5,000 | 12,106 | -7,106 |
| Insurance - Property | 2,500 | 1,637 | 863 |
| Repairs/Maintenance - Plant | 875 | 2,013 | -1,138 |
| Furniture & Equipment | 9,250 | 0 | 9,250 |
| Supplies/Expenses Plant | 250 | 503 | -253 |
| Subtotal | 17,875 | 16,259 | 1,616 |
| MISCELLANEOUS: | | | |
| Interest | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Campus Lease | 39,371 | 36,249 | 3,122 |
| Other | 2,750 | 127 | 2,623 |
| Subtotal | 42,121 | 36,376 | 5,745 |
| Expense Total | 344,144 | 321,328 | 22,816 |
| GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense) | 93,700 | 81,554 | -12,146 |

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown – Jim and Helen Johnson (8/10/08) by Pastor Tom New; Glyn and Nancy Craig welcomed by transfer of membership; Herbie Evans and Gena Goodrich (8/17/08) by Pastor Tom New

Georgia

Cornerstone – Elizabeth Sutton (5/25/08) by Pastor Joe Myers

Indiana

Country Chapel – Earl Cripe (8/10/08) by Pastor Ken Howe; Brandon Ostler and Courtney Ostler (8/10/08) by Pastor Ken Howe, assisted by Earl Cripe

Hedrick – Kyle Cheatwood (6/15/08) by Pastors Joe Astolfi and Dave Cheatwood

Knightstown Family Fellowship – Adrianna Moore (8/10/08) by Pastor Scott Deane

Minnesota

Eden Valley – Cheyenne Sogge (6/20/08) by Pastor Daniel Smead

Missouri

Morse Mill – Jesse Gerullis (7/30/08) by Lacey Dunn; Cassy Fox and Alex Harper (8/3/08) by Alicia Dunn

Ohio

North Hills – Anita Lehman (8/3/08), Maddie Hart, Andrew Hart and Ashley Miller (8/10/08), Marilyn Blackburn and Michael Daugherty (8/17/08) by Pastor Seth Ross

Ontario, Canada

Freedom In Christ – Colton Haynes (7/13/08) by Pastor Stephen Bolhous

South Carolina

Bethel – Austin Impson (7/19/08) by Pastors Jeff Fletcher and Jim Ritch

Guthrie Grove – Skye Valentine (2/24/08) by Pastor Michael Montgomery; Tammy Smith (7/20/08) by Bobby Lee Partain; Kaitlin Stansell (8/3/08) by Pastor Michael Montgomery; Cayce Ballard (8/31/08) by her Uncle, Tim Jones; Levi Walters (8/31/08) by his Father, Kenny Walters; Morgann Alcumbrack (9/7/08) by her Father, Bob Alcumbrack; Caroline Walters (9/7/08) by her Grandfather, Bobby Partain; Amber Kopytin (9/28/08) by her Father, Bobby Lee Partain; Peggy Bohannon (10/5/08) by Pastor Michael Montgomery

Virginia

Fort Valley – Leah Adams (8/3/08) by her Father, Stephen Adams

Marriages

South Carolina

Guthrie Grove – Austin Tyler Moss and Lori Nicole Brannon (5/10/08) by Pastor Michael Montgomery; Ryan Robinson and

Wendi McMinn (6/28/08) by Lee McMinn

Deaths

Arkansas

Little Rock – Joe White, Sr., 77 (7/26/08), long time faithful member and elder for 44 years in the New Hope Church

Michigan

Blanchard – Sarah Shaw (7/19/08)

Minnesota

Eden Valley – Edith Mae Burr, 98 (12/25/07); Shala Hamilton, 96 (3/17/08); Barbara (Barb) Johnson, 77 (7/8/08). Services by Pastor Daniel Smead

North Carolina

Hendersonville – Guy Freeman Pryor, 93 (6/16/08), long time member who faithfully trusted his God, loved his family, and served his community. Service by Pastor Scott Ross

Ohio

Troy – Celaine R. Randall, 86 (7/30/08). Service by Pastor Steve Zimbelman. Celaine, son of Clyde Randall, graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1942 and was licensed by the Minnesota Conference and the General Conference. He was an evangelist in the state of Indiana and served as a pastor to churches in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Celaine married Eunice Zollinger in 1941. Eunice died in 2005. Celaine is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, David and Joan Randall of Pleasant Hill, and Mark and Cindy Randall of Troy; two daughters and a son-in-law, Lynda Randall, and Carol Randall and John DeWolf of Westchester, PA; nine grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

South Carolina

Guthrie Grove – Virginia James Paxton (7/21/08). Service by Elder Joe James; Jessie Belle Leopard (8/31/08). Service by Pastors Mike Montgomery and Wally Winner; DeWitt Stone (10/1/08). Service by Pastors Mike Montgomery and Jim Shaull

Emory Macy

(Through an oversight, we regret that this obituary was delayed in publication)

Pastor Emory Macy died in Springfield, OH on November 17, 2007 at the age of 96 after a brief illness. He married Mildred Puterbaugh in 1933. She preceded him in death after 59 years of marriage. They attended the Brush Creek Church in Tipp City, OH until they moved to Oregon, IL where Emory attended Oregon Bible College and graduated in 1944. Over the next 64 years, the Macys served the following churches and conferences: Kokomo, IN; Texas state evangelist; Gatesville, TX; Litchfield and Minneapolis, MN; Glad Tidings Church in Fonthill, Ontario; Omaha, NE; North Salem, IN; and Weiser, ID. He is survived by four children: Joyce Nordstrom of Dassel, MN; Cheryl Ross of Springfield, OH; Emory of Dixon, MO; and Karla Biggar of Phoenix, AZ; seven grandchildren, 8 step-grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and his sisters June Routson, Betty Schweir, Lorna Pearson, Mary Ellen Jones, Juanita Smitley, and Carol Schmidlapp.

He was buried in the cemetery at the Brush Creek Church.

Prayer & Praise

January 2009

- 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 ABC students taking block classes this week.
- 6 **Praise God that we can be a part of the family of God.**
- 7 Pray for the outreach ministries of your church.
- 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 **Pray for ABC students and staff beginning regular new semester classes today.**
- 13 Pray for instructors as they teach Korean language classes at ABC this semester.
- 14 **Praise God for Korean Churches of God in California.**
- 15 Praise God for financial and prayer supporters of the College/Conference.
- 16 **Pray for the Re:FUEL 'Retreat' in Indiana and Jon Cheatwood as he leads it.**
- 17 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Jesus as Savior.
- 18 **Praise God for the freedom to worship Him.**
- 19 Pray for Pastor Jon and Rene Welch as they help plant a new church in Missouri.
- 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 an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.**
- 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 2009

- 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 Refugee 'Retreat' in Indiana and Jon Cheatwood as he leads it.
- 7 **Pray for our Ministerial Association Leadership Team.**
- 8 Pray for Pastor Alan and Susan Cain and the Lawrenceville, OH church.
- 9 **Pray for the brethren in the Philippines.**
- 10 Pray for the members of your church family.
- 11 **Pray for a special need in your life.**
- 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 ABC students taking block classes this week.
- 17 **Pray that God will raise up many donors for ABC's financial needs.**
- 18 Praise God for a recent answer to prayer.
- 19 **Pray for the Board of Directors of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference as they begin meeting today in Atlanta.**
- 20 Pray for retired Pastor Richard K. Smith and his wife Dorothy Jean.
- 21 **Pray for Joe and Dana Myers and their ministry at Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, Georgia.**
- 22 Pray for someone you know who is in need of healing (physical, emotional, or spiritual).
- 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 taking place in the dozens of African churches connected to the General Conference.
- 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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Prayer & Praise

March 2009

- 1 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Tom and Debbie New and the work at McGintytown, Arkansas.
- 3 **Praise God for those who provide prayer and financial support for the College/Conference ministries.**
- 4 Pray that God will raise up missionary candidates.
- 5 **Pray for this weekend's gathering of prospective ABC students attending the ABC-Invitational.**
- 6 Pray for Gary Burnham, Operations Manager and Ministry Services Network Director of the College/Conference.
- 7 **Pray for those considering attending Atlanta Bible College in the future.**
- 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 God's blessing on ABC students and staff at the half-way point of this semester.
- 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 our pastors who are beginning their annual Ministerial Conference on the ABC campus.
- 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 seaching 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 God's blessing on your family.
- 23 **Pray for the leaders of your government.**
- 24 Praise God for your pastor.
- 25 **Pray for preparations being made for Christian Workers Seminar to be held in June.**
- 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 Kim Musch, Ashley Taylor, and Robin Taylor who provide administrative support at Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference.
- 29 **Pray for preparations being made for next month's Theological Conference.**
- 30 Praise God for new attendees or members at your local congregation.
- 31 **Pray for Pastor Mike and Myra Montgomery and the Guthrie Grove Church, Pelzer, South Carolina.**

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& Progress Journal

CAO UPDATE . . . By Tim Jones

Salutations to everyone from the new South Campus location of Atlanta Bible College! The official move-in date for the new campus was December 20, 2008. However, the process of unpacking and organizing is still underway even as we reach the end of our fourth week of the new semester. Through the diagram of the floor plan, I hope to give you a feel for the new campus. Of course, you are welcome to visit us at any time. The new location is approximately 18 miles from the Morrow campus. For visitors to our College, there are 11 hotels within 1.5 miles or less from our offices. Stores and restaurants are plentiful and conveniently located for staff and students.

Looking out at the world from an ABC office window located on a 4th floor is still a new and exciting experience. I have personally tried to make taking the stairs a regular experience to get the benefits of exercise. However, since this may leave me out of breath for a while, I have to make sure no important conversations are necessary as soon as I reach the top! One of the great blessings of the Avalon location is that the costs of the construction (well over \$200,000) were paid by the landlord as part of the lease agreement. The South Campus is located approximately 2 miles from the Cornerstone Bible Church by the winding Georgia roads.

The Spring 2009 semester is underway. We have all classes scheduled either in the Avalon building or at the Morrow campus. Although the Morrow campus is now owned by Clayton State, the College has the option of continuing to lease the facility for up to 3 years from when it was sold in 2008. The ABC Korean Extension has all of their classes at the Morrow campus.



Dr. Joe Martin at his desk

Almost all of our current College classes have international students as part of the class enrollment. To obey US immigration laws, we must have our new campus inspected by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) program. ICE will certify that our College is real and allow us to continue to register international students. Until that inspection, most of the classes containing international students will meet at the Morrow campus, previously inspected and certified by the government agencies.

The College is partnering with the

Cornerstone Bible Church for most of our Chapel Services. Chapel is usually held on Thursday morning from 11:20 to 12:15 and is open to the church and community as well as the College staff and student body. I am thrilled with the quality of the worship and teaching of our Chapel services so far this semester. Students and staff are also taking leadership roles in the services at Cornerstone, benefitting the membership with their God-given talents and preparing them for future service in their home churches.

As we have previously reported, an available room of the Cornerstone Church was rented, renovated and provided with climate control equipment. This new room is now the home for the Church of God Archives. Precious materials, books, and documents—some 200 years or more old—are now safely stored in this location. The archives provide a

tremendous opportunity to explore the history and development of the Church of God and other aspects of religion in the US or even abroad.

Adjacent to our new offices and classrooms, current and future resident students will have the exciting opportunity of living in the *Trees of Avalon* apartment complex. This large and still expanding apartment complex offers our students beautiful apartments fully equipped with all kitchen appliances, gated security, and lots of recreational amenities that include a

(Continued on page 3)



CHURCH CALENDAR

February 19-20, 2009—Board of Directors Meeting—McDonough, Georgia

March 5-7, 2009—Atlanta Bible College Invitational

March 16-20—Ministerial Conference—McDonough, Georgia

April 26-29, 2009—Theological Conference—Norcross, Georgia

May 15—Atlanta Bible College Graduation

May 19-29 & June 1-6—Atlanta Bible College Summer Class Sessions

June 1-5, 2009 (Mon-Fri)—Christian Workers Seminar—Black Mountain, North Carolina

July 8-10, 2009—89th General Conference—Oregon, Illinois

July 19-24—FUEL—Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana

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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.

(Continued from page 1)

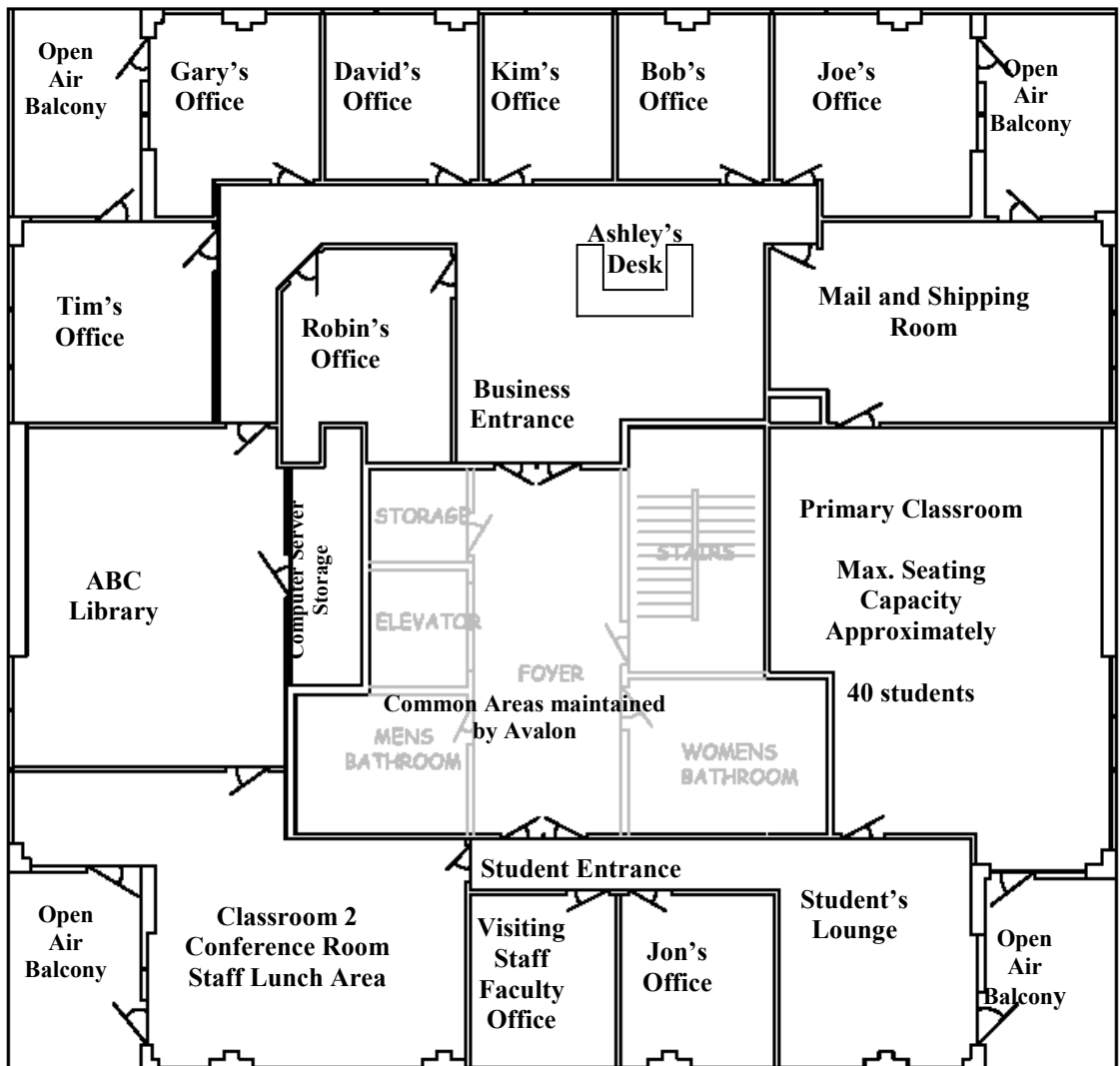
pool, hot tub, tennis courts, and a fitness room. The current apartments have been furnished with beds and other furniture from our old apartment building. The students are only a four minute walk from the classroom! Currently housing 4 students, the *Trees of Avalon* apartments offer the College the flexibility of housing a virtually unlimited number of students without the expense and on-going overhead costs of building and maintaining a housing facility. Students pay their semester lodging expenses to ABC at registration. The College issues the monthly rent checks, pays the apartment complex security deposit, and pays for all required apartment utilities. The cost for Lodging this Fall Semester 2009 will be \$1,100 per student per semester plus a one-time \$150 lodging deposit. We encourage students planning to attend to contact us as soon as possible so we can make plans for your lodging requirements.

The South Campus is only one of the two new campuses taking shape for ABC. The North campus will primarily house the Korean Extension programs. The facility will be fully renovated and will also require an inspection from the Custom Service after it is completed but before classes begin. The architectural plans are being

finalized at this time and the demolition of walls and rooms not part of the new floor plan is underway. The College is pleased to be partnering with the same construction team that designed and delivered our Avalon facilities for the construction of the North campus. Unlike the South campus, the College is responsible for the construction costs of this campus. Since this is a renovation rather than initial construction we believe the costs will be much less than the South campus construction. We hope to have the construction well underway very soon and will have the final floor plan for you to see on-line as soon as possible and printed in the next Progress Journal.

Many thanks are due to all the members of our staff for the extra efforts required to keep our offices open and functioning during the preparations for the move. A very special note of appreciation goes to David Krogh for serving as the overall coordinator for the relocation project. Jerry Briggs was also instrumental in the huge number of tasks and projects involved, including the renovation of the Archive location. We feel the new locations will enable us to serve our faith, members, students, and staff better. Please let us know how we can better support you and your church. God bless us all!

Tim



From the Board

We hope that everyone enjoyed the seasonal celebration of our Lord's birth and that you are looking forward to a new and exciting 2009. Our Conference and College has completed their move to the new facilities in McDonough and the NE Campus is being readied for occupancy. This new NE facility will have to be inspected and approved by the Federal Immigration Service before our foreign students can be relocated. That being said, the Board is looking forward to completion of all these facilities to better serve our customers;

i.e. You, the Conference members and our ABC students.

The Board is currently completing the planning of our February Board meeting; wherein we will finalize the plans for the upcoming 2009 General Conference Meetings to be held in July, at Oregon, IL. In addition, we will be reviewing our efforts to develop detailed strategic plans which will guide us and future Boards in meeting the positive objectives outlined in the adopted Conference and College Vision Statements. We will also review and hopefully adopt a new Board Governance

Plan. For those of us that have lived through more than one management cycle, this is the modern day version of Standing Operating Procedures (SOP) and very similar to Policies and Procedures. The purpose of which is to provide a basis of consistency for the governance of the Board as the personalities of the Board of Directors continually change over time. I'll provide you an update of our efforts after the meetings are concluded. We believe these documents will help us and future Boards to serve you better. ■

Rob Helenburg, Board Chair

Constitutional Amendments for 2009 General Conference

Constitutional Amendments for 2009 General Conference

Last summer the Michigan State Conference proposed two constitutional amendments that were approved by the delegates at the 2008 General Conference. Unfortunately the wording adjusted a previous constitution rather than the current constitution. As a result, the Michigan State Conference is proposing revised amendments for the delegates consideration:

ARTICLE I

Section 2. The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place between (June 1) April 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.

ARTICLE IV

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 at least three months before the meeting, and will be published by the most effective means of general communications at least one month before the meeting.

Present language that would be deleted is enclosed by parenthesis and additions are underlined. ■

Attention Church of God Members— We Need Your Talents!

A new internet broadcasting ministry for all of our members and churches began in June 2008. The ministry is known as COGcast and can be found at www.cogcast.org. From a high-speed online connection, the broadcasts can be heard all around the world!

The programming is on the air virtually around the clock, updated daily, and sounds much like listening to a radio station. The play format currently includes songs, hymns, music, prayers, poems, scripture readings, announcements, radio programs, and sermons, with all content exclusive to Church of God members and churches. That's right – the programming features your pastor, your choir, and maybe you! You submit your material to us, in any format, and, after reviewing your material, we'll do the rest. Whether you have cassettes, CDs, digital media, or even records and reel-to-reel recordings, we can convert it into the play format and add it into the streaming playlist.

By simply going to the website (www.cogcast.org), you can begin listening anytime today. And since the programming loops throughout the day, if you missed any part of the program, you can catch it again. While at the website, you can also go back and listen to and download all of the previous messages on

demand, and even download and enjoy some Church of God recorded music, all as mp3s. On Sunday broadcasts, we turn back the clock and play historic recordings, some from as far back as 60 years, including messages, music, and c o n c e r t s f r o m O B C commencements, OBC Chorales, General Conferences, special events, and special meetings. There's something for everyone.

We encourage all of our churches to use this ministry opportunity in advertising in your bulletins, church signs, cards, church website, etc. This is YOUR ministry. Mention it to your friends and anyone you are witnessing to. God has blessed us all so richly. Now is our time to proclaim His gospel to the entire world!

The objectives of COGCAST are simple:

1. To broadcast the Gospel of the Kingdom into all the world.
2. To reinforce the teachings of the Church of God among the membership.
3. To reach isolated members and keep them in contact with the Church and Church of God material.
4. To provide a communication outlet for the Church of God

General Conference and its members.

5. To preserve the history of the Church of God by transferring old recordings into digital formats and files.

6. To allow the people in our churches to be involved in a world-wide ministry.

7. To encourage and promote the creativity in the Church of God, and give it an outlet.

COGCAST has been an exciting adventure, and we're glad you're taking the time to read more about the work and goals of the broadcasts.

Maybe you have a closet full of cassettes at your church, a programming idea, an event or an announcement you'd like to share, or you're just looking for a way to be involved. If so, you can contact us at:

sharethemessage@cogcast.org, or write to: COGCAST c/o Joy Fellowship, 492 Bessie Road, Piedmont, SC 29673.

Remember, the content is only limited by our own involvement and creativity. We hope you too will join with us as a part of this global ministry, and help others to share in this vision! ■

christianmonotheism.com

Have you ever wanted to recommend a site to a friend who is questioning the Trinity? Have you ever wanted to look up "difficult texts" to get answers to hard questions about God and Jesus? Introducing christianmonotheism.com: a website hosting more than 60 One God resources including articles, mp3s, and videos. Stop

by and check it out! And if you have any materials to contribute to the site, be sure to email Sean Finnegan (sean@kingdomready.org) so we can upload them. Also, please link to christianmonotheism.com on your church site. Together we can have a strong web presence to share the truth with others.

2009 Theological Conference

April 26-29, 2009

Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross, GA

Registration Deadline: March 30, 2009

Please make plans to be with us for this conference. There will be ample opportunity for you to offer the group a "faith story," and these are perennially interesting. In addition some 10 speakers will present encouraging and edifying material based on subjects close to their hearts. Our aim is to solidify our faith in the One God of Israel and His Kingdom plan through the virginally begotten Son. It is customary for us to have some baptisms at the conference and this can provide a welcome opportunity for those seeking that aspect of the obedience to the commands of Jesus (Heb. 5:9; Matt. 28:19-20, etc). I am thinking, too, of the text in Hebrews which encourages fellowship, "not forsaking," and the conference does offer such an opportunity. Your excitement over the faith is a tonic for the other participants! You will make new friends and hear how God has brought them through varied faith journeys to their present understanding.

To register call Atlanta Bible College at **800-347-4261** or **404-362-0052** or mail the form **by March 30**. The minimum deposit is \$50 per room.

Conference Cost: Includes 3 nights, all meals, snacks, conference fee, and tax

Single--\$275 Double--\$227/person Triple--\$222/person Quad--\$195/person

Transportation

We will provide transportation between Atlanta airport and Simpsonwood for \$25 round-trip or \$15 one-way, at the following times:

Airport to Simpsonwood – Sunday, April 26 – 1:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Simpsonwood to Airport – Wednesday, April 29 – 1:00 p.m.

Please arrange your arrival time on Sunday early enough to catch one of the two shuttle runs. On Wednesday, April 30, we will provide one (1) shuttle run. In order to allow you enough time to catch your return flight, we suggest you not book your return flight prior to 3:30 p.m.

The conference begins with registration at 4 pm on Sunday and ends with lunch on Wednesday. Driving directions to Simpsonwood Conference Center are at www.simpsonwood.org

Post-conference Class

Anthony Buzzard will teach "From Abraham to the Kingdom, in Christ: God's Marvelous and Largely Unknown Story" from Wednesday afternoon, April 29 to Friday, May 1. The cost for the class is \$320 for credit and \$160 for continuing education. The total cost for room/meals at Simpsonwood for Wed. and Thurs. nights is \$170 single, \$138 double (per person). Please call Atlanta Bible College at 800-347-4261 or 404-362-0052 **before March 30** to register.

Theological Conference • April 26-29, 2009 • Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross, Georgia

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone-Home _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Conference rates per person (includes room, meals, breaks, fee, and tax):

Single: \$275 Double: \$227 Triple: \$222 Quad: \$195

Room type: Single ___ Double ___ Triple ___ Quad ___

Roommate's name(s) _____

Do you need transportation to/from Atlanta airport? _____ \$25 round-trip, \$15 one-way

If so, Date & Time of Arrival _____ Departure _____

Airline & Flight Number _____

Shuttle on Sun. to Simpsonwood (Circle one) 1:00 pm 3:30 pm

Are you taking the after-conference class? _____

Send with minimum deposit of \$50 per room by March 30 to:

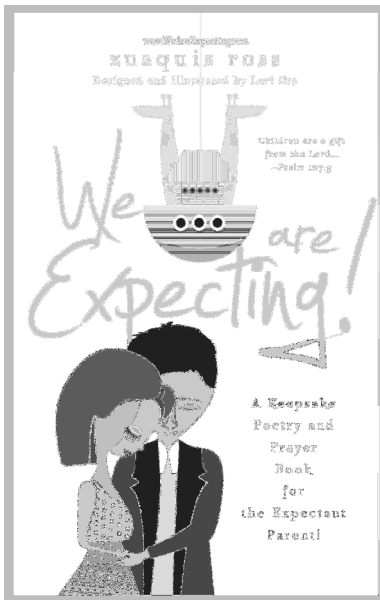
Atlanta Bible College, PO Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260

New Book!!

WE ARE EXPECTING!

Zuaquis Ross, or Pinky as some of you may remember her as, has recently published a book titled, *We Are Expecting!* The book is a unique keepsake poetry and prayer book for the expectant parent!

This prayer book leads expectant parents on a prayer journey from the time of conception, to their baby's birth and through adulthood using Bible verses, a lyrical poem and sweet illustrations.



our lifelong hopes for our children and helps us see the big picture that God sees for our little ones," wrote a mother of three in a recent email. "What a blessing!" wrote Michelle Duggar, super mom of the hit television show, "17 and Counting" who recently received the book for their 18th child.

There are so many unknowns during pregnancy. Every expectant parent worries about the health of his or her baby. At the age of 29, author Zuaquis (pronounced Za-quis) Ross and her husband experienced a traumatic miscarriage. Although, they suffered the turmoil of losing their first child, they continued to pray to God for understanding and the ability to procreate again. *We Are Expecting!* was written while the Ross' nervously expected their second child, Abigail who was born in 2008. Zuaquis and her husband learned to lean on God during this exciting but also stressful time.



Zuaquis' prayer is that this book will be a support for expectant parents and that it will encourage them to pray to God every day for their developing baby.

This is a truly unique keepsake book, a special gift for a baby shower. There are spaces to note milestone dates such as birth, baptism, wedding, etc., scripture references for each verse of the poem, a place to keep your child's first ultrasound picture, a place for you to include a favorite picture of your child, a section to write down your child's information at birth and space for parents to write down special prayers of their own.

You can purchase hardcover (\$21.65) and paperback (\$10.95) copies of the book on [WeAreExpecting.com](http://www.WeAreExpecting.com). There is a discount given to all Church of God of Abrahamic Faith members. Visit this link (www.WeAreExpecting.com/cog.html) to receive \$1.50 off the purchase of a hardcover and \$2 off a paperback copy of the book.

Zuaquis' hope is that parents will want to give this keepsake book to their adult child, possibly after their child reveals to them, that they are now expecting! Thus, the parents can reveal to the child that they've been praying for them for a lifetime. In this way a tradition of passing this book on is begun.

Please visit [WeAreExpecting.com](http://www.WeAreExpecting.com) and send your feedback to the author!

Zuaquis Ross
Author of *We Are Expecting!* Also seen on Amazon.com <http://www.WeAreExpecting.com>

**YAHWEH,
The
INELUCTABLE,
THE God,
Ho Theos,
The God and
Father of our
Lord Jesus
Christ**

By Dr. Joe Martin

I confess. I had to look up “ineluctable” when I first read it in an article about Yahweh. It means “not to be avoided, resisted or changed.”¹ Well, if that’s the case, I’m a little “ticked,” perturbed, bothered. We’re losing God’s identity, my Abba, my Father by hiding him with another tradition. In a letter from the “Congregation for Divine Worship,” dated June 29, 2008 and signed by Cardinal Francis Arinze and Archbishop Malcom Ranjith, the Vatican no longer wants the name of God, *Yahweh* used in liturgy, that is songs, preaching, or other parts of formal service.² As Charlie Brown would say, “Good grief, whose idea was that!”

In II Chronicles 7:14 God says, “If my people, who are called by **my name**, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” How can we be called by a name if it’s not

used? Exodus 3:15 God tells Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD (YHWH, Yahweh), the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ This is **my name** forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.” How can it be remembered from generation to generation unless we use it?

The Tetragrammaton, four letter name of God given by God, YHWH, hwhy, is used some 6,828 times in the Bible. Two hundred times God says, “I am Yahweh.” Sixty-eight times God says, you will “know that I am the LORD (YHWH). “The form ‘**Yahweh**’ is now accepted almost universally.”³ However, tradition has become the enemy again! The Bible says for the third commandment “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain!” (Ex. 20:7) The N.I.V. says “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.” It DOES NOT SAY you shall not use the name of the LORD thy God!

Jesus was a little perturbed at tradition as well. They had taken the sixth commandment, “Honor your father and mother...” and twisted it also. He says “Thus you nullify the word of God by your **tradition** that you have handed down” (Mk. 7:13). Some took the money to help their parents in their old age and put it in a fund “for God.” (or so they said!) Paul told

the Corinthians in 1 Cor. 4:6 “I have applied these things ... so that you may learn ... do not go beyond what is written.” In two MAJOR (the Big TEN!) commandments we’ve gone from what is written to tradition!

Where did the idea of not EVER speaking the name of God come from? The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament says “Use of the name disclosed...an ineluctable demonstration of divine reality.”⁴ In the context of the Vatican letter, and the Jewish tradition of not using the name of God, why are many submitting to tradition rather than the word of God? If ineluctable means “NOT TO BE AVOIDED, C H A N G E D , O R RESISTED,” why are some proposing that we avoid, change and resist the use of the proper name. As they say in the south, “that’s a crying shame!” Jesus used the phrase “Lord our God” and the “Lord your God” several times that go back to the name of God. Nine times the “Lord God” is referred to in Revelation.

Evidently as Hellenism, Greek influence, was growing between the testaments, 400 b.c. until Jesus, some Jewish religious folk, decided that since the name could not be well translated into Greek (note Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament), and possibly abused, it should

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“In two MAJOR commandments we’ve gone from what is written to tradition!”

(Continued from page 8)

not be used at all. It does not say that in the Torah/Pentateuch, or the Tanakh/entire Old Testament.⁵ It became part of a tradition! Evidently, tradition becomes more important than the WORD! This is also part of the problem with Catholic/catholic traditions.⁶ We let tradition overrule the Word of God. Good examples of this are the illogical, unbiblical, unreasonable points in the Creeds of Christianity. Many feel they must be accepted because church tradition to them is just as valid as the Word of God. I’m a “Bibletarian,” if it’s not in the Bible lighten up. If it is in the Bible, tighten up. Why not just quote scripture on what we believe? For example, “You are the Christ, the son of the living God!” (Mt. 16:16, Peter speaking)

If Jesus says “You nullify the word of God by your tradition,” shouldn’t we be very careful obeying the rules, laws, or traditions of man rather than God? Check out Peter and John in Acts, “We **must obey God** rather than men!” (Acts 5:29) In the transition from the WORD to TRADITION, the Jews came up with a “novel” idea, *Qere and Ketib*.⁷ *Ketib* is what is written, such as the name of the LORD/YHWH/Yahweh.

Since they didn’t want the name said, they would put a “Q” in the margin and have different vowels surrounding the

tetragrammaton and as they were reading would say a different word such as *Adonay* (the Lord) or *HaShem* (meaning “the name”). This “Q” or *Qere*, became WHAT IS SAID. Afterwards, in some cases, they just wrote the *Qere*, what was to be said, instead of the actual word! It also seems we are cautioned against that in Revelation 22:18,19 “If anyone adds... or if anyone takes words away... .”

A prime example of this is in the “Shema” of Israel, Deut. 6:4. It is the foundational verse of both Judaism and Christianity according to Jesus in Mark 12:29 and following. In Hebrew there are only 6 words: *Shema Yisrael YHWH Elohinu, YHWH Echad* or Hear Israel, YHWH Our God, YHWH One. In English, it is, “Hear O Israel, The LORD our God, the LORD is one.” However, Jews say, “*Shema Yisrael Adonay Elohinu, Adonay Echad.*” They substitute the *Qere: Adonay*, for the *Ketib: YHWH*. Now it is mostly WRITTEN, *Adonay*!

SO...what’s the point?! We’re losing God, THE God, Greek

Ho Theos. Of course Jesus teaches and stresses God/YHWH as FATHER. One hundred and seventy times he tells of his and our father’s nature. His prayer, our prayer, “Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...” is our standard. He also said in Matthew 23:39 (from Psa. 118:26) “For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’” (Hebrew, *BeShem YHWH*) Jesus will return in the name of the LORD/Yahweh, his Father and hopefully our Father, HIS God, and hopefully our God.⁸ Later, the Arabic *al Lah* originally “...simply meant ‘the God,’ [and] was identical to the God worshipped by the Jews and the Christians.”⁹ That statement from Karen Armstrong would be hotly contested by many today.

If the LORD/Yahweh is the ineluctable God, not to be avoided, resisted or changed, let’s continue to fight against “tradition” when it goes against the word of God whether we find this in the Jewish traditions, the Catholic/catholic traditions, in our creeds and traditions, or in MY traditions. Hallelujah! Hallel U Yah! Praise the LORD! Praise Yahweh the

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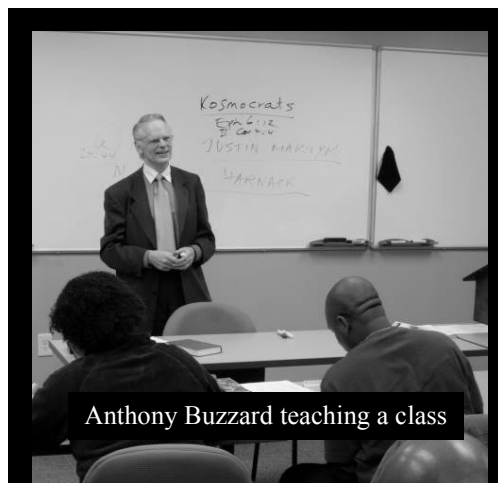
ABC Report Winter/Spring 2009 Semester David Krogh, Joe Martin

We began this semester moving boxes, books and bodies to our new location. While the block classes of January 5-10, taught by Dr. Alva Huffer (Systematic Theology) and James Engelbert (Worship) were being held at the Morrow campus, many of us were diligently organizing offices at the new "ABC South" campus in McDonough, Georgia. The Korean extension will remain in the Morrow location at this time. The Korean classes began on January 26.

In the interim, January 12-15, the Atlanta Bible College, Morrow campus hosted our first Master's class from Southwestern Christian University. It was "Biblical Theology" taught by Dr. Garnet Pike of Bethany, Oklahoma. Rebekah Martin visited the class during his presentation on the Kingdom of God and said it was great. Dr. Joe Martin taught the Wednesday afternoon session on the nature of God as the basis for ministry. There were eighteen students from all over the southeast including some from Texas.

The campus in McDonough is a beautiful place. We have two main class rooms plus the library, a student lounge, mailing room, and the offices of the General Conference. Regular instructors this semester include Bob Jones, David Krogh, Jon Cheatwood, and Joe Martin. Adjunct teachers this semester include James Engelbert, Alva Huffer, Sean Finnegan, Jogi Mauger, and Anthony Buzzard. One of our adjuncts, Anne Mbeke Fischhaber moved with her husband Tom to New York. We will miss her.

The INS has approved Atlanta Bible College to accept international students. In our working with them to meet their requirements we will continue to have classes for all international students at the Morrow campus as well as a few in the McDonough campus. With the ABC North campus construction in these next months,



Anthony Buzzard teaching a class



Student Elvis Singleton
Preaching in Chapel

Lord willing, in the Fall semester, both the ABC South (McDonough) and the ABC North (Duluth) locations will be up and running.

Two new international students joined us this semester: Robin Tota from Bermuda and Vyenna Gowa from Kenya. We have many additional international students who have been admitted but have been unable to secure visas.

Since we are still adding new Distance Learning students and some campus students who will take our February block classes, we don't have a final count on our enrollment. However, it is likely that our total enrollment will be down slightly from last semester. Some students face serious financial struggles with job layoffs and reduction in hours. We continue to receive many inquiries from Henry County where we have done extensive advertising over the past several months.

We appreciate your prayer and financial support

KOREAN EXTENSION UPDATE

Greetings behalf of the Korean Extension!

Fall of 2008 was a great blessing to all of us. It was long and tiresome, but keeping our eyes focused on the cross and keeping our hearts tuned to the message carried us through. I've learned and experienced a great deal this past semester and GOD continually blesses us semester after semester. Spring 2009 kicked off without a hitch! Students are racing to classes as well as racing to feast on the lunch provided. It is good to know that the Korean students' appetites have not diminished during the break! Prayers are always appreciated and I, as well as the Korean Extension staff, thank you for all your support. Please do not hesitate to give us a call, email, or stop by if you are in the neighborhood!



Sam An
Korean Extension Administrator



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ineluctable God of heaven and earth, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father! ■

¹ Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, 1995.
²

http://www.catholic.org/international/international_story.php?id=28949

³ *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, Eerdmans, Vol. 5, p. 500.

⁴ *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, G. Kittel, ed., Eerdmans, Vol. 3, p. 1063.

⁵ Tanakh is an acronym for the Torah (Law or Pentateuch), Neviim (Prophets), and Ketuvim (writings) hence T N K =Tanakh. It's our entire Old Testament.

⁶ The Roman Catholic church, and the church universal, the catholic church.

⁷ One of the best places to review this phenomenon is http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qere_an

d_Ketiv (there is an underscore between Qere_ and_Ketiv) and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yahweh>

⁸ Compare "The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," Rom. 15:6; 2 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 11:31; Eph. 1:3; Eph 1:17; 1 Peter 1:3. Jesus says "My Father" 40 times! "My God" 10 times. Yahweh is His God and Our God. cp. Jn 20:17.

⁹ Karen Armstrong, *A History of God* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1993) p. 135.

So I'm wondering how many reading this article can tell me what Article 2, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution contains. I'll tell you. Article 2 is about the Executive Branch. Section 1 is about the President. In Section 1 we read about the length of term for the President and Vice President. We are told the age requirements (35). We discover that the President must be a natural born citizen and have resided in the U.S. for at least fourteen years. Section 1 continues to tell us that the President's compensation shall neither be increased nor diminished during the term and that the President shall not receive any other form of "emolument" from the U.S. during the term. Section 1 concludes with the oath which the President states upon entering the office. "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." George Washington added the words, "So help me God" after taking the oath and most Presidents have since followed his example.

On January 20th of this year, President Obama placed his hand on a Bible once owned by President Lincoln as he was administered the oath of office. Many presidents actually placed their hands on a Bible opened to

a specific verse in the Bible. I thought it would be interesting to examine some of the verses which former Presidents singled out to place their hands on the Bible during their taking of the oath of office. I discovered this information while reading: *The American Patriot's Almanac* by William Bennett and John Cribb.



"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;" (James 1:22, 23) this president was elected in 1904 and sworn into office in 1905. Some quotes he is credited to have said include. "I am only an average man but, by George, I work harder at it than the average man!"....." "I don't pity any man who does hard

work, worth doing. I admire him. I pity the creature who does not work, at whichever end of the social scale he may regard himself as being."....." A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education."

Is it any surprise then that after reading these quotes that President Theodore Roosevelt would choose the Book of James in which to place his hand? Here was a man who believed in self-reliance, but who also at the same time recognized the importance of the Scriptures and what they contained. Bully for him!

"God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1) This son of a Presbyterian minister lived in Augusta, GA from the age of 1 until the age of 13. He was first elected president in 1912 and then re-elected in 1916. His campaign slogan in 1916 was, "He kept us out of war". That would be WWI, of course. But alas, even Woodrow Wilson realized that the United States would be forced into that terrible conflict. I can just picture President Wilson sitting in his office agonizing over the participation of the U.S. in the war and calling to mind Psalm 46:1. Perhaps he even remembered a sermon or lesson his father taught on Psalm 46. It was Wilson who said, "At every crisis in one's life, it is absolute salvation to have some sympathetic friend to whom you can think aloud without restraint

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or misgiving.” Evidently, God was one such friend to President Wilson.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5, 6) The hands which were placed on this Scripture were of the man who was never elected to either the Vice President or Presidential office, Gerald Ford. Gerald

my public and private acts as your President, I expect to follow my instincts of openness and candor with full confidence that honesty is always the best policy in the end.” He also was quoted saying, “For millions of men and women, the Church has been the hospital for the soul, the school for the mind and the safe depository for moral ideas.”

“He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you, But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk

unborn. Then truly, he can be known as a champion of human rights.

“And My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14) This president is largely credited with ending the “Cold War.” He said, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.” As a young man he was credited with saving the lives of many would be drowning victims at Lowell Park outside Dixon, Illinois. He would go on to become an actor in Hollywood and governor of California. It was Ronald Reagan who said, “Without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure.” Another time he was quoted as saying, “If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under.” On a lighter note this political conservative and graduate from my very own High School once said, “The most terrifying words in the English language are: ‘I’m from the government and I’m here to help.’”

We are instructed in Scripture to pray for our leaders. Good advice. My prayer is that whoever holds the office of President will seek wisdom from above. So help him God. ■



Ford was appointed Vice President on December 6th, 1973 when Spiro Agnew resigned after pleading “no contest” to tax evasion and money laundering while governor of Maryland. Eight months later Vice President Ford became President Ford replacing Richard Nixon who resigned due to the Watergate scandal. Little wonder as to why President Ford chose these verses to lay his hands on while taking the oath of the office of President of the United States. Other notable quotes from President Ford include, “In all

humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8) This president wanted (and still wants) his legacy to be remembered as one who championed human rights. He was the 2002 award winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1979 he helped broker the Camp David Accord between Israel and Egypt. Jimmy Carter also stated, “I hate to see complacency prevail in our lives when it’s so directly contrary to the teaching of Christ.” It is my opinion that President Carter’s legacy on human rights will gain legitimacy when he also champions the rights of the

CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

BLANCHARD

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.

CONGER STREET CHURCH OF GOD

The Conger Street Church of God in Waterloo, Iowa 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 at: dantheman5169@aol.com; 2672 Logan Ave., Waterloo, IA 50703

GATESVILLE CHURCH OF GOD

The Gatesville Church of God in Gatesville, Texas is currently without a pastor. We are a hard working and dedicated church in a growing community, but we know that a pastor is needed to flourish and grow. Come visit us at our expense and see what we are all about. Call Mark Henson at 254-865-8452 or Stephen Burkett at 254-865-5780.

HAPPYWOODS CHURCH

The congregation of the Happywoods Church is seeking a full-time Pastor. We are a relatively small congregation and are located in the community of Hammond, LA. This area is in the southeast tip of Louisiana and currently has a population of approximately 100,000 people within relatively easy driving distance of the church. Our area is located in the center of the I-12 corridor, which is predicted to grow to over 2.5 million people within the next 30 or so years. We have a new and newly renovated facility of 12,000 sq. ft. of space that needs lots of people to serve.

Our congregation has been involved with our community in the past and looks forward to growing in the community and in faith. If you are interested in pastoring in an environment, which is both challenging and invigorating, where you and the church can grow both numerically and spiritually through outreach, please think of us.

For more information, please contact Elder Charles Bottolfs at 985-542-1555 or via e-mail at: cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net. Or you may contact Elder John Fauntleroy at 985-345-7134. Both phones take messages and you will be contacted. You may also write to us at the following address: C. G Bottolfs, 43137 Happywoods Road, Hammond, LA 70403

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, Mo. is recruiting an energetic, gifted, and dedicated pastor. A progressive church of traditional values and sound doctrines, Countryside is committed to being a beacon of truth in our community. Interested individuals may contact the elders - Dale L. Brown, at (816) 550-2085 or email DaleBrown@aol.com or John Smead at (660) 747-8571 or email JSmead@iland.net for an application.

FREDERICKTOWN CHURCH OF GOD

Fredericktown Church of God is searching for a part-time minister who could later become full time. Please contact Harold Thomas at P.O. Box 188, Fredericktown, Missouri 63645; or Elsie Cooper at 10026 Weber Ln. Potosi, Missouri 63664, (573) 438-4990.

Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

DEATH & RESURRECTION

“If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men to be pitied.

“But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who are asleep.

“For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.

“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.

“But each in his own order.....”

1 Corinthians 15:19-23

Unfortunately, or fortunately, every one of us humans dies. Paul said, “It is appointed to men once to die, and after this the judgment.” (Heb.9:27). Solomon said, “The living know that they shall die...also their love, and their hatred, and their envy is now perished...there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest” (Eccl. 9:5-10). He also said, “The fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same. As one dies so dies the other; indeed they all have one breath and there is no advantage for man over beast...All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust. Who knows that the breath (spirit) of man ascends upward and the breath (spirit) of the beast descends downward to the earth?” (Eccl. 3:19-21). Is that the end, then? Have we no hope?

Jesus Himself said, “I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I

have the keys of death and of Hades (the grave)” (Rev. 1:18).

The passage at the top shows that as Adam brought death upon all men, so Christ will make all men alive (resurrect them) “but each in his own order.” As God raised Christ from the dead (Acts 2:32), so Christ will raise the redeemed at His second coming (John 5:21-29; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

Resurrection is the key to our living again. But remember, “each in his own order.”

Revelation 20 shows two resurrections, like the above passage in John, one called the “first resurrection” and the other named “the rest of the dead.” Of those in that “first” resurrection we are told “Blessed and holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him a thousand years” (v. 6).

The rest of the dead will not live again until the thousand years are over (v. 5). But when they stand before the throne to be judged, the “books” shall be opened, and the book of life also.. They will be judged “according to their deeds,” and if anyone's name is not found written “in the book of life” he will be “thrown into the lake of fire”. “This is the second death.” (vs. 12-15).

These are the two “orders” of the resurrections. The first is for Eternal Life. The second is to the Second Death.

But, thanks to God's grace in sending Christ to die for us. If we believe the gospel of the Kingdom and in the name of Jesus Christ, are baptized into Him for forgiveness, and live for God, we shall be made alive when Christ returns! This is our glorious hope! ■

—Jim Mattison

SEED of SEEKING



AMY KENNEDY

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Showing an act of compassion in her childhood turns bad for Astril and several of her fellow Seerlings who are all forced into slavery by their enemies in Harkan. Once she finds that her new owner is taking her to Augur, a priest in the service of the One True God, Astril seizes the opportunity to fulfill a promise to her beloved grandmother. Augur teaches her of true sacrifice and helps her to see clearly the horrors of her family line. Her new passion and belief push her further from her destiny to become the next High Priestess of the evil Great Goddess and into the saving arms of her new God. Meanwhile, Astril is haunted by her past and shocked to find out what her future as the Seed of Seerling will require.

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To enroll in a distance learning course, please request an application form (info@abc-coggc.org or 800-347-4261). Distance learning courses can be taken for academic credit. The cost is \$160 per semester hour. Or they can be taken as continuing education courses. The cost is \$80 per semester hour. There is a \$20 postage and handling fee for the use of the DVDs which are returned when the course is completed. Textbooks are also available with differing prices depending upon the course. For additional information, please contact Registrar David Krogh at: dkrogh@abc-coggc.org; or at 800-347-4261.



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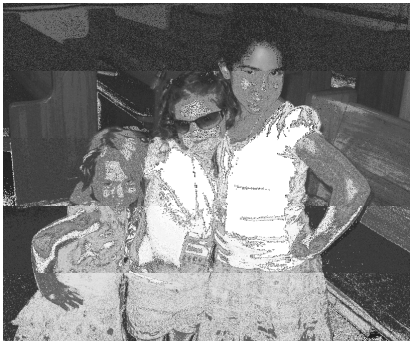
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Cool Spring Church of God Awarded Fall 2008 Grant!

We are pleased to announce that the next Church Builder's Grant has been awarded to the Cool Spring Church of God in Browntown, Virginia. Membership appeals will arrive in late November.



Due to successful outreach this church has outgrown its current facility. The sanctuary is full each Sunday. The new sanctuary will seat 130 people. Classrooms, fellowship hall and restrooms are also scheduled for renovation.



The church has moved forward with the project using up their available funds. While fundraising campaigns are underway, the immediate need is \$23,000 to complete the roof and phase one of construction.

With the current membership of the Church Builder's League, we can expect to provide a \$15,000 grant. However, if the league grows in membership we will be able to meet this \$23,000 need.

Please join with Christians across the country to make our private foundation even stronger. Simply send in your pledge to: **Church Builder's League, 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253** Or go to www.abc-coggc.org/cbl to pledge online. Or call **1-800-347-4261**

***Cool Spring
Church of God
New Sanctuary
and Classrooms***



Income Report for January 2009

| | 1-31-09 <u>Budget</u> | <u>Actual</u> | This Month <u>Variance</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| CONTRIBUTIONS: | | | |
| General Contributions | 222,017 | 217,156 | -4,861 |
| Development Plan Increases | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| [Subtotal of Contributions] | 222,017 | 217,156 | -4,861 |
| G.C. - Devises & Bequests | 8,750 | 36,999 | 28,249 |
| ABC Boosters | 10,500 | 1,705 | -8,795 |
| Subtotal | 241,267 | 255,860 | 14,593 |
| SALES: | | | |
| Christian Education Materials | 14,088 | 11,997 | -2,091 |
| Books | 17,635 | 13,039 | -4,596 |
| Theological Journal | 0 | 607 | 607 |
| Sale of Assets | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Subtotal | 31,722 | 25,643 | -6,079 |
| ABC: | | | |
| Tuition | 101,000 | 93,016 | -7,984 |
| Korean Extension Tuition | 221,882 | 225,225 | 3,343 |
| ABCDF Support | 30,625 | 30,625 | 0 |
| Lodging | 19,888 | 17,008 | -2,880 |
| Washers/Dryers | 350 | 387 | 37 |
| Rentals - ABC Plant | 1,601 | 400 | -1,201 |
| Late Fees/Rent | 5,833 | 8,347 | 2,514 |
| Fees | 7,000 | 6,547 | -453 |
| Subtotal | 388,179 | 381,555 | -6,624 |
| PROGRAM INCOME: | | | |
| Conferences & Workshops *(see note) | 1,167 | 0 | -1,167 |
| Subtotal | 1,167 | 0 | -1,167 |
| MISCELLANEOUS: | | | |
| Interest | 2,000 | 1,249 | -751 |
| Transferred In | 167,825 | 167,696 | -129 |
| Subtotal | 169,825 | 168,945 | -880 |
| Income Total | 832,160 | 832,003 | -157 |

- These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2008 through June, 2009.
- "Conferences & Workshops" - are now tracked separately in Escrow funds to help us better manage and match income and expense
- 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 January 2009

| | 1-31-09 Budget | Actual | This Month Variance |
|--|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| STAFF: | | | |
| Salaries & Wages | 359,953 | 365,872 | -5,919 |
| F.I.C.A. Tax | 5,250 | 7,143 | -1,893 |
| Employee Benefits | 83,220 | 81,747 | 1,473 |
| Subtotal | 448,423 | 454,762 | -6,339 |
| SERVICES: | | | |
| Assistance to Churches | 4,375 | 6,770 | -2,395 |
| Ministerial Association | 5,600 | 5,600 | 0 |
| Youth Program | 12,000 | 12,000 | 0 |
| Subtotal | 21,975 | 24,370 | -2,395 |
| SALES EXPENSE: | | | |
| Printing & Binding | 19,833 | 14,954 | 4,879 |
| Postage & Shipping | 8,750 | 8,100 | 650 |
| Book Store | 8,458 | 8,764 | -306 |
| Subtotal | 37,042 | 31,818 | 5,224 |
| ABC: | | | |
| Advertising--Recruitment | 3,500 | 5,131 | -1,631 |
| ABC Korean Extension Support | 20,417 | 15,474 | 4,943 |
| Library Periodicals | 875 | 988 | -113 |
| Library Books | 7,000 | 63 | 6,937 |
| Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues | 933 | 1,803 | -870 |
| Staff Training | 8,750 | 6,737 | 2,013 |
| Subtotal | 41,475 | 30,196 | 11,279 |
| ADMINISTRATION: | | | |
| Travel | 33,250 | 39,736 | -6,486 |
| Office & Misc Supplies & Expense | 9,917 | 11,109 | -1,192 |
| Professional Services | 9,375 | 9,920 | -545 |
| Telephone | 10,500 | 18,494 | -7,994 |
| Insurance - Non Plant | 175 | 0 | 175 |
| Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant | 16,667 | 15,410 | 1,257 |
| Development Travel & Support | 16,742 | 18,124 | -1,382 |
| Subtotal | 96,625 | 112,793 | -16,168 |
| PLANT EXPENSES: | | | |
| Utilities | 15,000 | 23,132 | -8,132 |
| Insurance - Property | 5,833 | 5,768 | 65 |
| Repairs/Maintenance - Plant | 2,042 | 3,270 | -1,228 |
| Furniture & Equipment | 21,583 | 6,381 | 15,202 |
| Supplies/Expenses Plant | 583 | 2,123 | -1,540 |
| Subtotal | 45,042 | 40,674 | 4,368 |
| MISCELLANEOUS: | | | |
| Interest | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Campus Lease | 157,483 | 166,781 | -9,298 |
| Other | 6,417 | 3,479 | 2,938 |
| Subtotal | 163,900 | 170,260 | -6,360 |
| Expense Total | 854,481 | 864,873 | -10,392 |
| GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense) | -22,321 | -32,870 | -10,549 |

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown – Ryan Leggitt (11/2/08) and Rachel Jones (1/11/09) by Pastor Tom New

Minnesota

Pine Grove – Anders Craig Johnson (9/7/08) by Pastor Syd Kirkpatrick

South Carolina

Bethel – Candace Bender (2/1/09) by Pastors Ed Bender and Jeff Fletcher

Marriages

Minnesota

Pine Grove – J.J. Fletcher and Hope Kirkpatrick (May, 2008) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher; John Brooks and Katie McLane (August, 2008), and Jeremy Kirkpatrick and

Jessica Alexander (September, 2008) by Pastor Syd Kirkpatrick

Deaths

Minnesota

Pine Grove – Gaylene Kirkpatrick, 32 (5/15/08); David Otto, 73 (5/31/08)

Ontario, Canada

Glad Tidings – Phyllis May Mires (11/1/08). Service by Pastor Michael Brown; Kenneth Ross Anger (12/6/08). Service by Pastors Michael Brown and Steven Taylor



2009 CHRISTIAN WORKERS SEMINAR

June 1 (Monday) through June 5 (Friday)

NEW LOCATION!

YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly near
Asheville, North Carolina

Please see the website for
a look at the wonderful
conference/housing facilities and scenery -
www.blueridgeassembly.org

The website begins its description by saying,
"Nestled in the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains
near Asheville, North Carolina, YMCA Blue Ridge
Assembly is a full-service conference center
situated on 1200 acres of woodland beautified
by mountain streams, wildflowers, ridges, valleys
and spectacular views."

Look for detailed price and program
information soon!

Prayer & Praise

April 2009

- 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 Praise God for new life in Christ.
- 7 **Pray for those whose eyes are blinded to the Gospel.**
- 8 Pray for volunteers to be short-term missionaries this summer.
- 9 **Pray for opportunities to witness to those without Jesus as their Savior.**
- 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 His Resurrected Son! Today is Easter Sunday!
- 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 new day.
- 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 Pastor Michael and Melinda Cisler and the North Kent Bible Church in Rockford, Michigan.**
- 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 Pray for the Theological Conference that begins today in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 27 **Pray for Pastor Steve and Young An and the Korean American Community Church of God in Morrow, Georgia.**
- 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.

May 2009

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

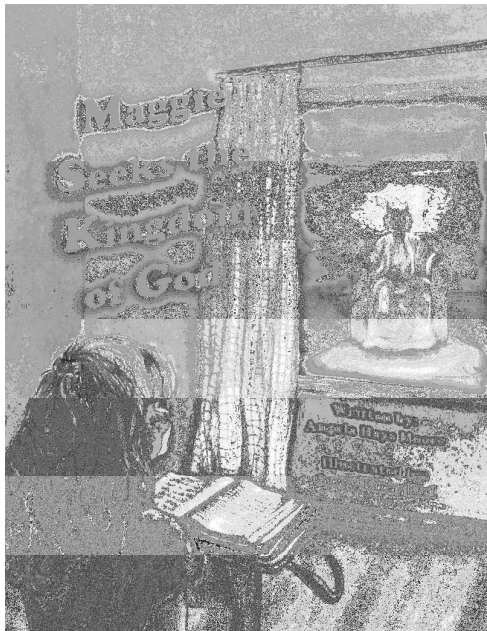
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Church of God General Conference
P.O. Box 100,000
Morrow, GA 30260

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“Maggie Seeks the Kingdom of God!”[©]



Written by Angela Moore; Illustrated by Casey Kiel

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.

Only a few copies are still available through the Church of God General Conference.

Please order copies through:

www.amazon.com



www.walmart.com



www.barnesandnoble.com

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& Progress Journal

CAO Update . . . By Tim Jones

Greetings to all from the General Conference!

We see the new green leaves and flowers of spring everywhere, and will soon be moving into the heart and heat of summer. I pray that all our readers are blessed and protected by God.

I am writing to you just before the beginning of our Annual ABC Booster Campaign. However, because of the time required for publication and mail delivery, we will be well into the Booster Campaign when you receive your Progress Journal. Have you participated yet? I hope you have!

The Booster Campaign is a time of the year in which we like to focus on the special ministry of Atlanta Bible College and our ABC Korean Extension. Today the opportunities for people to engage in ministry are almost limitless. Churches need inspired leaders to carry their message to their communities. In many parts of the world, there is a growing hunger for a message to give sense to people's world. God calls us to meet that need. Particularly in the US, many people feel their lives are spinning out of control. Economic troubles multiply, job losses impact many families, and their savings for retirement have been decimated by market downturns. In times of crisis and uncertainty, we have a message that should be heard. The Kingdom of God is where our hope, and the

hope of this world, rests. How can people gain this hope without workers to spread the good news?

ABC's ministry is to help God's people gain the knowledge and the confidence to use the talents God has given them to serve Him. We seek to provide the support for workers to go into ministry. Our programs are designed to teach our students what the Holy Bible – God's Word – says to us. We seek to provide an environment that aids in learning and spiritual development. We provide skilled instructors and teachers that care about the students and seek to help them grow. We provide practical experiences so our students can move into the service of our local churches immediately. We are implementing new technology to allow more people than ever before to include an ABC education in their lives. All these exciting opportunities are focused on making our members and churches more effective in spreading the Gospel.

Your gifts to the Booster Campaign provide the resources we need to support our work. This year we have established a goal of \$25,000 for the Booster program. These funds will be invested in the ministry of the College. And we also ask for your prayer support. Make the ministries of ABC and the Korean Extension a regular part of your prayers. Lift up the staff members of the Conference and College as you pray. We want to be

partners in this work of God with our members and our churches. The Booster Campaign will last until May 17th, but the benefits of our work together will be eternal!

Many of you should have received the inaugural edition of the *Progress Journal On-Line*. This new publication will appear at least monthly and will provide a channel for keeping you informed about events and people within the Church of God. A national COG calendar of events, an update on the recent Board meetings, and an update from the Development Office were among the items in the first issue. Did you receive your copy? If you did not, it means that we currently do not have a valid e-mail address for you. You can sign up to receive the *PJ On-Line* by sending an e-mail to online@abc-cogc.org. If you received the e-mail with the attached pdf file and do not want to receive it in the future, you may send an e-mail to this same address requesting that you do not receive it in the future. Please ensure that you specify the correct e-mail address that you wish us to remove.

You can also go to our Web site and review the current edition – the choice is yours! Electronic publication will provide the quickest way available to get the information on General Conference happenings to you.

(Continued on page 3)



T H E C H U R C H O F G O D C A L E N D A R

May 15—Atlanta Bible College Graduation

May 18-29 & June 1-5—Atlanta Bible College Summer Class Sessions

June 1-5, 2009 (Mon-Fri)—Christian Workers Seminar—Black Mountain, NC

July 8-10, 2009—89th General Conference—Oregon, Illinois

July 19-24—FUEL—Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana

August 17-21—Atlanta Bible College - pre-Semester Block Class

August 24—Atlanta Bible College - Fall Semester begins

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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.

(Continued from page 1)

What is next in the technology advances? Beginning with this issue, we will be making the RH/PJ available in an electronic version as well! The same magazine that has been sent to you in hardcopy will be made available via e-mail attachment. As with the *PJ Online*, simply send an e-mail to online@abc-coggc.org and request that your subscription to the RH/PJ be converted to an electronic edition. Since this implementation will be on a trial basis, if you subscribe to the electronic version, you will still receive the hard copy version as the conversion

takes place. If you don't have e-mail or prefer to continue to receive the RH/PJ in print, you need do nothing.

Electronic publishing will cut production and mailing costs for our publications as well as make information available to you in a more timely fashion. Programs such as the Booster Campaign are important to provide resources to deliver ministry. Saving dollars by cutting costs are just as important. We will continue to search for ways to provide the support and programs our membership requires as effectively as possible. God bless you all as we work together. ■

.....
"Beginning with this issue, we will be making the RH/PJ available in an electronic version as well!"
.....

Constitutional Amendments for 2009 General Conference

Constitutional Amendments for 2009 General Conference

Last summer the Michigan State Conference proposed two constitutional amendments that were approved by the delegates at the 2008 General Conference. Unfortunately the wording adjusted a previous constitution rather than the current constitution. As a result, the Michigan State Conference is proposing revised amendments for the delegates' consideration:

ARTICLE I

Section 2. The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place between (June 1) April 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.

ARTICLE IV

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 at least three months before the meeting, and will be published by the most effective means of general communications at least one month before the meeting.

Present language that would be deleted is enclosed by parentheses and additions are underlined. ■

As promised in the last edition, here is a brief summary of some of the major items discussed by the Board at the meeting in February.

Significant time was spent discussing how to effectively improve communications so more of you are informed in a timely manner. We will continue to use printed materials such as the RH/PJ since there are those who are not plugged into the internet and I personally know at least two households that don't even own a computer. That being said, we know there are many that are very much plugged in, and we are seeking ways to link articles such as this one to other sites that COG congregants frequent. If you have a website or know of one that could link to the COG website, let us know.

The Board, like everyone else, is impacted and cognizant of the effects of our nation's and the world economy. The Board invited a local (McDonough) banker that works with other local not-for-profit organizations that are impacted much the same as are we. Basically we were told that the Church of God investments were where they need to be to maximize safety while minimizing loss. Because we had anticipated making capital expenditures, funds have been in liquid type investments. They are earning at least some interest, while most other funds are losing. While the reason for investment in liquid assets was not in anticipation of bad times, it was the best thing. I like to think that God knew and guided us the right way, even if not for the right reasons.

You may have heard we are still holding classes in Morrow. It seems the INS changed the rules this past fall regarding the steps in obtaining approval of new locations. Their changes were in response to a tightening of immigration laws by Homeland Security to slow down illegal immigration. Student visas are one area being monitored more carefully. So we are now changing horses in midstream so we can obtain our approvals as soon as possible. What was a simple process has become more detailed and will take more time to accomplish.

Income for the coming year is not currently expected to significantly fall off. Much of our income is from student tuition and the remainder is from your giving. Historically, those that give during good times, tend to continue when things get rough. The Church of God is no exception to this. While we have discussed areas for cut back if it is needed, we anticipate the Church of God will function at nearly the same level of activity in the next fiscal year. Expensive items such as travel will be monitored very carefully.

The Board Governance package discussed in my last message was approved and much progress was made on developing strategic plans to meet our Mission and Vision. By the time the new Board takes over, the plans should be in place, ready for implementation.

It was a lot of effort and long sessions, but a lot of good work was done that will benefit us all.

Rob Helenburg, Chair



Join us for

General Conference 2009

July 8-10, 2009

at

Oregon Church of God, Oregon, IL

Enjoy...fellowshipping and worshipping with believers. . . .
 exploring the vision for the future of the General Conference
 and Atlanta Bible College...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 the hotel directly. The fees for the Conference cover the costs of the General Conference meeting and the meals. Local hotel contact numbers are provided that are relatively close to the Oregon Church of God, but you may choose any hotel you desire in the area or make other arrangements.

1. Fill out the following form. Rates are per person.
2. If today's date is June 15th or later, please add \$25.00 to your total.
3. Mail this form to: General Conference 2009 2020 Avalon Parkway McDonough, GA 30253
4. Or register online at www.abc-coggc.org (or contact Kim Musch 800-347-4261)

Name _____ Day Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Fees: Adults—\$99.00 per person _____ Attending July 8 Barbeque? Y ___ or N ___

Children 6 to 12—\$35.00 per child _____ Age (s) _____

Commuters: No Meals—\$35.00 _____ (We encourage you to enjoy the meals with other attendees!)

Do you give COGGC permission to put your information in event directory? Y _____ or N _____

The program will begin July 8th with a late afternoon Barbeque and evening service. Thursday and Friday will include a complete schedule of interactive classes/workshops and delegate sessions. The Conference will conclude after the Friday evening service.

Childcare provided for those age six and under.

Hotel Information

Paddle Wheel Inn in Oregon
815-732-4540

Quality Inn & Suites in Dixon
815-288-2001

Comfort Inn in Dixon
815-284-0500

**Call the hotel directly, and please
make reservations by June 1st**

Church Address:
860 W. Oregon Trail Road
Oregon, IL 61061

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Adults at \$99 per person | \$ |
| Children ages 6 to 12 at \$35 per person | \$ |
| Commuters, no meals X \$35 per person | \$ |
| Subtotal | \$ |
| Pastor Discount—subtract 10% | \$ |
| Registration on or after June 15, 2009 add \$25 | \$ |
| non-refundable Less \$25 Deposit | - \$25.00 |
| Total due at Conference | \$ |

ABC Booster Campaign

Preparing Christian Servants • April 19 - May 17, 2009

Our world is changing! The need for Christian servants is ever increasing. Jesus said to the original disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field." (Matt.9:37-38) His request is just as urgent today!

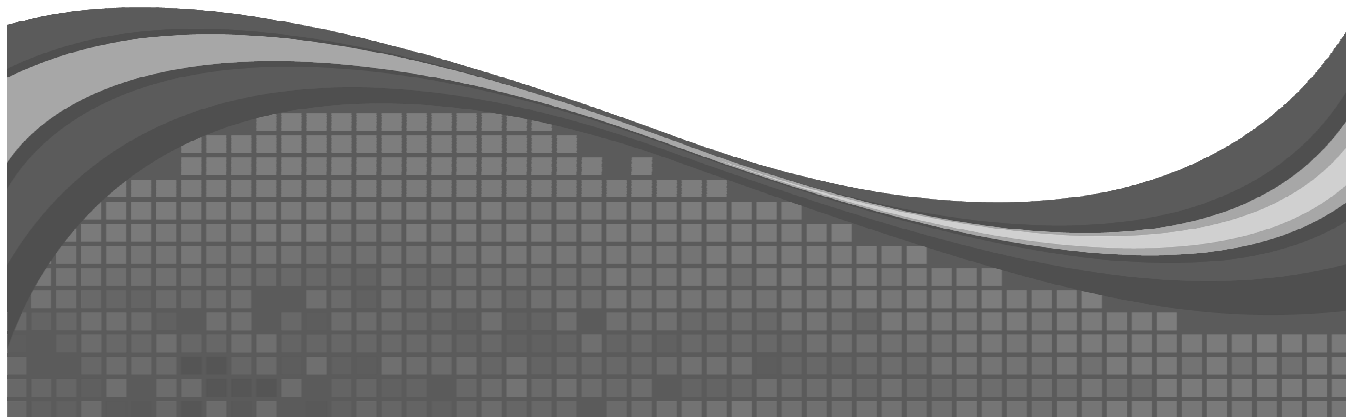
Welcome to the 2009 ABC Booster Campaign. These goals are designed to work closely with Jesus' counsel and will help send out workers into the harvest field. The 2009 Campaign goals are:

- 1. Introduce ABC to potential students of all ages across the country. We are distributing 5000 brochures to help people like you to know more about what ABC has to offer.**
- 2. Connect ABC students and faculty with churches through open dialogue and prayer support. We hope that you will use the response envelope to share your thoughts and give us the privilege of praying for you and your church.**
- 3. Recruit 25 new students from Church of God churches. Feel free to give a brochure (available in the foyer) to someone you would like us to contact. You can also send their name to us and we'll be glad to introduce them to the training opportunities at ABC.**
- 4. Raise \$25,000 in support for college operations, equipment and supplies. This support helps keep our tuition cost as attractive as possible for students. Your financial support will help us recruit, train and then send students back to our churches to serve. You can mail your support or give online at our website, www.abc-coggc.org/booster.**

Any of the ABC staff and leadership would welcome the opportunity to visit with you. We look forward to your reply and the success of this exciting campaign.

**Dale Bliss
Director of Development
dbliss@abc-coggc.org
800-347-4261 (ext. 1852) - Atlanta, GA office
765-236-1979 - Kokomo, IN office**

**ATLANTA
BIBLE
COLLEGE**
Preparing Christian Servants



2008 Memorials

We are very thankful for all who helped support the work of Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference during the past year by giving gifts in memory of friends and loved ones.

Gifts were given in memory of the following individuals:

Flora Anthon
Pastor Francis Burnett
John Craig English
Juanita Pryor English
H. B. Hathaway
H. D. and Lena Hathaway
George Jones

Scholarships and Grants for Atlanta Bible College

Grants and scholarships provided assistance to Atlanta Bible College students during 2008 by the following individuals, churches, conferences, and groups and in memory of many individuals. Other individuals, churches, conferences, and groups provided assistance directly to students in addition to these scholarships and grants administered by the college.

ABC/OBC Alumni Association
Bob and Melody Ballard Memorial
Burnham-Stadden Memorial
Burr Oak Scholarship
Cecil Smead Memorial
Delbert Jones Memorial
Francis and Lila VanFleet Memorial
Glen and Violet Booth Memorial
Harold J. Doan Memorial
Harry and Emily Berry Memorial
Harvey and Mary Krogh Memorial
Hattie Bottolfs Memorial
Helen Overholser Memorial
Indiana Conference
Iris Elton Memorial
James A. Patrick Memorial -
Northeast Conference
Jean Elton Fortney Memorial
John and Opal Hayse Memorial
John and Ruth Lewis Memorial
Lawrenceville/Overholser
Lois Blakely Memorial
Lucian and Thelma Murphy Memorial

Mary Helen Mattison Memorial
Martha Jones Mattison Memorial
Michigan State Conference
Minnesota Conference
Ministerial Association
Monroe Elton Memorial
New Hope Church, Little Rock
J. O. and Mary Lou Pack Memorial
Orine Richardson Robinson Memorial
Ritenour Trust Fund - In Memory of
Eliza Boyer Ritenour, Virginia
Ritenour Kincheloe, and Seraphine
Ritenour Cleek
Southwest Members in Memory of
Norman McLeod, S. J. Lindsay, Harold
J. Doan and C. E. Randall
Stan Ross Memorial
Treva Williams Memorial
Troy View/Demmitt/Overholser
William G. and Nina G. Hicks Memorial
William and Rhoda Hanson Memorial
Zelma Weaver Memorial

A Review of Our LIES and... A Counseling Process to Find Them

By Vincent Finnegan

Vince Finnegan is pastor of Living Hope International Ministries, Latham, New York. His church and fellowship of churches has sent several students to Atlanta Bible College including his son Sean and wife Ruth Finnegan, Victor and Jessica Gluckin, James Engelbert, Amy Littler, Erica Fitzsimmons, etc. In Africa, we partnered in the Congo and Malawi in preaching, teaching and counseling. He's been a tremendous blessing to me, and while we were together in Africa, he walked me through the counseling procedure prescribed in this article. It renewed my perception of life, and the truth God revealed to me was Jeremiah 31:3... "I have loved you with an everlasting love, and I have drawn you with my lovingkindness." God bless you as you apply this teaching.

Dr. Joe Martin

Sincere Christians are deceived by a common wrong belief: that is if we learn to manage our anger, refocus our thinking, and control our behavior, we can be whole. Such discipline is indeed a vital part of our walk with God. However, true healing is only realized when the pain which causes the anger or wrong behavior is eliminated. ***The pain most often is connected to lies we believe.*** Most people are troubled with dark thoughts about themselves that are never talked about because they are too painful. Thoughts such as "I am no good, I am a loser, ugly, stupid, unlovable, undesirable, guilty, inferior," and such like are prevalent with Christians and cause unspeakable pain.

Unpleasant feelings such as sadness, loneliness, hopelessness, isolation, fear, apathy, aloofness, and others invade our minds and influence our behavior. We try to ignore them or change our thinking, but they keep popping up. We are afraid to talk about these things because then others

will find out what we are "really like" and label or discard us.

Biblically knowledgeable Christians are really torn by this inner turmoil because we know that Jesus Christ paid the price for our freedom; therefore, these things should not still live within us. Scriptures such as the following greatly challenge us because on one hand we acknowledge their truth; yet, on the other hand, we still harbor our contrary, dark beliefs.

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.

Ephesians 1:4, 5 NASB

Someone who is deliberately chosen by Almighty God should feel very, very special; yet, these other thoughts still linger. How

can this be so? In Christ, we have been made to be holy and without blame; nevertheless, we still feel unholy and guilty. Why do our beliefs about ourselves contradict the truth of the Scriptures? The answer is:

WHAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED IS WHAT WE BELIEVE.

Jesus said, "If you continue in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." The "*knowing*" Jesus referred to was by experience, not just intellectually. To "*continue in his word*" means to do his word, then we will know experientially the truth that sets us free. When we do his word, it becomes our experience, and that which we experience is what we believe. We struggle with the thoughts about ourselves that contradict the written Word because our feelings are based on our past experiences and what is written has not yet been our experience. The great

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principle to understand is: what we believe is based upon what we experience, not on just what we **intellectually know**.

Most of what a person believes about himself is formulated in childhood and stays with him throughout life. Children think the world revolves around them, so they often misinterpret what they are experiencing. Therefore, they end up believing lies about themselves. The unholy beliefs and feelings mentioned earlier are the direct result of what we experienced as children and are based upon lies we believed.

In grade school, the other children laughed at him because he did not know the answer. As a result, he began to believe he was stupid. She was molested by a family member and somehow concluded it was her fault. Hence begins her lifelong belief that she is dirty and always the one at fault. The parents fight with each other, and the child concludes he is the cause of the conflict. So throughout life, guilt and condemnation are central to his beliefs about himself. She was born out of wedlock and was never really wanted as a child. Therefore, she believes that there is something wrong with her, which is why she is unlovable. All of the above mentioned thoughts live within people because of their experiences and are most often based upon a misinterpretation or on lies. When we learn the Scriptures which contradict these unholy beliefs, we struggle because of our experience. Until we experience the truth which overrides the lies, we will not be free.

By applying the Scriptures, we can develop new experiences that will override the lie-based experiences. Honesty regarding our negative feelings and seeking God's help in prayer are also necessary in order to change. God can provide supernatural inner transformation if we are willing to confront, rather than to run from, our negative thoughts and feelings.

- IDENTIFY THE CURRENT ILL FEELING AND EMBRACE IT. Let yourself feel the full emotion of your pain. It is important to feel the pain so that you can use it to uncover the root of the pain. We follow the pain to discover the cause.
- PRAY TO REMEMBER THE ORIGIN OR SOURCE OF THE FEELING (WHICH MAY BE THE FIRST TIME YOU EVER FELT IT). There may be several instances or events which cause this feeling to stand out. Pray and ask for guidance to remember as many as possible, especially the first time.
- GO TO THE MEMORY, FEEL THE PAIN, AND ASK GOD TO HELP YOU IDENTIFY WHAT YOU BELIEVE WHICH CAUSES THE PAIN. What you believe is usually different than what you feel. Find what it is that you believe that is causing the pain.
- ASK GOD FOR THE TRUTH REGARDING THE LIE YOU BELIEVE. Maybe the Holy Spirit will recall a verse to offset the lies we've come to believe.
- LET GOD COMMUNICATE TO YOU.
- LOOK AROUND IN THE MEMORY AGAIN TO SEE IF

THERE IS PEACE AND NO PAIN. IF THERE IS NOT, IDENTIFY ANOTHER BELIEF, AND AGAIN ASK GOD FOR TRUTH.

- REVISIT THE CURRENT MEMORY TO SEE IF THE PAIN IS GONE.
- KNOW THAT GOD'S TRUTH WILL PREVAIL IF WE LET IT.

When God reveals the truth, the lie no longer controls our believing. We are trying to help people dig down to the "root" to see what is producing the "fruit." Acknowledge the fruit, but don't focus on that. Let the Spirit work. Do not rush the people in remembering the occasion of the first feeling.

The key is God's truth for each of us. "If you want to get rid of rats, get rid of what they're feeding on." We must deal with what's letting them in. The devil works in secret things. Jesus exposes things. (Col. 2:15) Demons don't just come in, people allow them to come in, whether they are aware of that or not.

We must exercise our free will. Many are unwilling to take responsibility for their behavior. Blaming others will NEVER work. Every sin in our life is OUR responsibility. Adam blamed his wife. He could have asked for forgiveness. It is absolutely impossible to change without taking responsibility. Let God be your change agent and reveal His truth to you. You CAN do all things through Christ who strengthens you! ■

ABC NEWS

David Krogh & Joe Martin



The 66th Graduation Service of Atlanta Bible College will be held in the chapel at the Morrow campus on May 15 at 7:30 p.m. Pastor Jeff Fletcher, who is the father of graduate Joseph J. Fletcher, will present the message. Additional information and photos of the graduation will be available in the next issue.

The Alumni Association of ABC/OBC has set a goal of raising \$25,000 to help fund teleconferencing equipment which will enhance our Distance Learning capabilities. This equipment will permit instructors in Atlanta to deliver live courses to personal home computers of students around the United States and around the world.

Members of the Association have been listed by the decade in which they attended and/or graduated, and captains have been assigned to contact each member to invite them to participate in this special project. Each decade will have a goal based on the number of Alumni members in that decade.

Recruitment efforts for the next semester that begins August 17 are underway. As a result of this year's ABC-I in March, a number of students from Conference churches have indicated their plans to attend. We continue to receive daily inquiries and requests for information packets from community students. And we continue to accept international students primarily from African countries. These students continue to face serious challenges in securing student visas to come to the United States to attend college. Please keep our recruitment efforts in your prayers.

More exciting news is that Southwestern Christian University held its first class at our new south campus. Dr. Garnet Pike of SWCU and Dr. Joe Martin were the key professors with Tim Jones presenting a class session one morning. The class was LEAD 5552, Organizational Leadership Principles. It met March 2-5, Monday through Thursday. Students, from many different areas and states, had to do preclass assignments and pre-read

several books including *Church That Works*, by Gary McIntosh, and *Can We Do That?* by Andy Stanley and Ed Young. This will be the

format of SWCU's blocks in the Atlanta area. There are currently no ABC graduates or Church of God students actively enrolled in the program. However, several graduates have expressed interest in enrolling as perhaps as early as the upcoming fall semester.

Chairman of the Board Rob Helenburg said, "This cooperative program with SWCU is a mutually beneficial arrangement. ABC graduates have unrestricted access to an accredited Masters Degree Program and the SWCU has access to classroom facilities in the Atlanta area for their program. It is a win-win situation." Of course, the school is from a different denominational background, but Dr. Pike, the Dean of the Graduate School, has assured us that doctrinal statements will not be required and this will not be the focus of the Master of Ministry degree. Dr. Joe Martin emphasizes that this degree is intended to enhance the practical aspects of professional ministry. David and Joe have reviewed with Dr. Pike our main teachings. Rob further adds of those who may choose to pursue this Master's option: "Our ABC graduates, staff, pastors... should be experienced and knowledgeable enough to hold their own." ABC is particularly pleased that Dr. Joe has necessary credentials to teach at the Master's level and has taught in all the SWCU classes held to date at ABC facilities.

We believe this is a good opportunity that allows any Atlanta Bible College graduate who is capable, to pursue a fully accredited master's degree in ministry. SWCU offers several areas of focus including Pastoral Ministry, Chaplaincy, Leadership, Pre-Doctoral Studies, etc. They are accredited by the North Central Association. Dr. Pike has said, "To strengthen our relationship, we are happy to have some of the classes taught by Dr. Martin or other professors that you recommend." A report of this activity was presented to the Ministerial Conference that met the week of March 16. It was emphasized that this is one of several options for our pastors to further their education for ministry. ■

Atlanta Bible College Honor Roll

In order to be on the Honor Roll, a student must be a full time student enrolled in 12 or more semester hours of classes. Congratulations to the following students for their academic accomplishments during the fall 2008 semester.



HIGH HONOR ROLL (3.5 AND ABOVE)

Young Hee An
Chae Yun Baik
Rachel Carlson
In Wu Chea
Kue Cheol Choi
Hyyo Sun Chung
Mark DeYoung
Young Ran Eum
Ruth Gutu
Eun Jung Han

Moon Joung Hong
Hyun Jung Kang
Simon Kang
Eun Jung Kim
Yeong Beom Kim
Sae Hyun Lee
Sang Kyung Lee
Han Jin Oh
Hyun Ju Park
Bok Soon Sung

HONOR ROLL (3.00 AND ABOVE)

Sung Woong Cho
Denise Cooper-Paige
Kum Run Hong
Kyong Ok Hyon
Ki Young Jang
Jung Sim Ji
Hee Sun Jun
Andrew Jung
Hyo Ju Jung
Young Min Kil
Chin Soo Kim
Jin Chul Kim
Geoffrey Kithimba
Jung Seok Kang
Myoung Seok Kim
Tae Yeon Kim

Seunghyun Ko
Young Hwan Kong
Calvin LeBlanc
Nam Yi Lee
Sung Hyun Lee
Hellen Mbugua
Il Gi Moon
Mi Ok Moon
Ok Oh
Hae Won Park
Mi Na Park
Aquelle Plakaris
Mitchell Raper
Jung Sook Won
Eo Jin Yi



Atlanta Bible College Invitational (ABC-I), 2009

“I want to be a missionary/electrician after I graduate”. This is one person’s ministry dream for after their graduation.

This is exactly what Atlanta Bible College is all about, encouraging students to seek God’s direction for their life and to find a place where they can serve with their talents! ABC isn’t just a place for aspiring pastors and church leaders. It’s for anyone with heart and passion for ministry. Whether you dream of being an astronaut, an entrepreneur, a pastor, a teacher, or anything else, Atlanta Bible College is the perfect place to get the foundation you need to help you spread the Word to the entire world.

For those of you who would like an opportunity to experience ABC life first hand, Atlanta Bible College Invitational (ABC-I) is a weekend that offers an all-inclusive view of the happenings at Atlanta Bible College. ABC-I includes sitting in on a New Testament class, worship services, opportunities to serve, and time to hang out with friends!

In March, over fifty students and group leaders made the trip down to Atlanta to be a part of ABC-I. The New Testament class, taught by Dr. Joe Martin, was packed full with over 50 students. Students were able to spend time at the Morrow campus as well as visit the Avalon campus, Trees of Avalon housing, and spend significant time at Cornerstone Bible Church. Each student spent with time with a College staff member for an interview and an opportunity to ask questions about the school.

The group leaders joined the students for worship services, outreach projects, and a special surprise Saturday night, which was

taking the group downtown to experience an Atlanta Hawks vs. Detroit Pistons basketball game. We also spent some time serving the community by conducting two service projects—a landscaping project at Centennial Park and spring cleaning at Cornerstone Bible Church.

It was nice to have several Atlanta Bible College alumni bringing potential ABC students to join us for this event. Thank you, ABC alumni! ■



We hear a lot about philanthropy these days. Not many people understand the difference between giving to a charity and acting as a philanthropist. A philanthropic act is very different and, quite frankly, much more powerful than charitable giving. The word *philanthropy* comes from two words: *phil* – meaning love and *anthropo* – meaning human. Philanthropy is the love for humanity and the desire to help improve the human condition. Thus, philanthropy, on any scale, is giving with the long-reaching goal to impact more than just one person or single need. Instead, it is giving so that a culture of change, improvement, or blessing increases.

Charity, on the other hand, is between one person and one need. It's one gift that meets one need. Charity is very important. Thank

God for those who give out of charity. Charity meets important and immediate needs. However, the giver and the receiver never actually change places. Philanthropy meets a need too, but goes on to change the culture. By doing so, philanthropy can actually help the receiver, those who once lived in need, to become empowered to begin meeting the needs of others. In a philanthropic culture, the receiver becomes the next giver.

You will begin to see that nearly every opportunity to give in our General Conference of churches and ministries is philanthropic. For example, when someone joins the Church Builder's League, they are not just helping one church improve their facility. They are providing a grant that empowers a ministry to thrive and change lives in their community. This will lead to more servants, which leads to more leaders, which leads to more pastors, who may one day lead

another church through the same exciting process of growth and outreach.

Likewise when you give to the ABC Booster Campaign, you are giving more than a charitable gift. You are a philanthropist who is investing in a culture of training, discipleship and recruitment that will prepare Christian servants to serve around the world. This is a demonstration of your genuine *love for humanity*, both the saved and the lost.

I'm glad that we share in a ministry network that provides plenty of opportunities for givers and receivers to be blessed. May you embrace the philanthropic culture and give with the confidence that you are not just meeting a need but empowering an everlasting mission in Christ. ■

“To the left is a sample page from the soon-to-be-released update to our website...see the updated site soon @ www.abc-coggc.org”

The screenshot shows the Atlanta Bible College website. At the top, it says 'ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE'. Below that is a navigation menu with links for 'About ABC', 'Students', 'Calendar', 'Academics', 'ABC-KE', 'COGGC', and 'Contact Us'. The main banner features a photograph of a building and the text 'Preparing Christian Servants'. Below the banner is a section with a photo of students and text describing the college's focus on practical ministry. A sidebar on the left lists dates for 'Spring Break through 10-Apr-2009 No Classes', 'Last day of Classes', 'Graduation @ 7:30pm', and 'Summer Session 1 Begins'. At the bottom, there are links for 'ABC News', 'Current Class Schedule', 'Request Info packet', 'Distance Learning Courses', and 'Request copy of transcript'. The footer contains copyright information and a repeat of the navigation menu.

CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

BLANCHARD

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.

CONGER STREET CHURCH OF GOD

The Conger Street Church of God in Waterloo, Iowa 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 at: dantheman5169@aol.com; 2672 Logan Ave., Waterloo, IA 50703.

GATESVILLE CHURCH OF GOD

The Gatesville Church of God in Gatesville, Texas is currently without a pastor. We are a hard-working and dedicated church in a growing community, but we know that a pastor is needed to flourish and grow. Come visit us at our expense and see what we are all about. Call Mark Henson at 254-865-8452 or Stephen Burkett at 254-865-5780.

HAPPYWOODS CHURCH

The congregation of the Happywoods Church is seeking a full-time pastor. We are a relatively small congregation and are located in the community of Hammond, LA. This area is in the southeast tip of Louisiana and currently has a population of approximately 100,000 people within relatively easy driving distance of the church. Our area is located in the center of the I-12 corridor, which is predicted to grow to over 2.5 million people within the next 30 or so years. We have a newly renovated facility of 12,000 sq. ft. of space that needs lots of people to serve.

Our congregation has been involved with our community in the past and looks forward to growing in the community and in faith. If you are interested in pastoring in an environment which is both challenging and invigorating, where you and the church can grow both numerically and spiritually through outreach, please think of us.

For more information, please contact Elder Charles Bottolfs at 985-542-1555 or via e-mail at: cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net. Or you may contact Elder John Fauntleroy at 985-345-7134. Both phones take messages, and you will be contacted. You may also write to us at the following address: C. G. Bottolfs, 43137 Happywoods Road, Hammond, LA 70403.

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, Missouri is recruiting an energetic, gifted, and dedicated pastor. A progressive church of traditional values and sound doctrines, Countryside is committed to being a beacon of truth in our community. Interested individuals may contact the elders - Dale L. Brown, at (816) 550-2085 or email DaleLbrown@aol.com or John Smead at (660) 747-8571 or email JSmead@iland.net for an application.

FREDERICKTOWN CHURCH OF GOD

Fredericktown Church of God is searching for a part-time minister who could later become full-time. Please contact Harold Thomas at P.O. Box 188, Fredericktown, Missouri 63645; or Elsie Cooper at 10026 Weber Ln., Potosi, Missouri 63664, (573) 438-4990.

Explore our Distance Learning opportunities with these classes!

ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

- B111DL – Old Testament Survey I (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – DVDs
B112DL – Old Testament Survey II (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – DVDs
B113DL – New Testament Survey I (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) – DVDs
B114DL – New Testament Survey II (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) – DVDs
B161DL – Basic Bible Doctrine (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) – Video/Internet/E-mail
B221DL – Pentateuch (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – DVDs/E-mail
B222DL – History and Major Prophets (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – Videos/Internet/E-mail
B224DL – History and Minor Prophets (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – Videos/Internet/E-mail
- B242DL – Gospel of John (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) – Videos/Internet/E-mail
B342DL – Acts (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Reading/Writing Assignments
B461DL – Church Fathers and Conditional Immortality (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Roller) – DVDs
B470DL – Evangelical Theology (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – DVDs/E-mail
M112DL – Introduction to Ministry/Leadership (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Cheatwood) – DVDs
M121DL – Christian Education Principles/Practice (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Rebekah Martin) – DVDs
M141DL – Principles of Church Growth, Evangelism and Discipling (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh)
Videos/Workbook
- M/B230DL – Why I Believe (Apologetics) (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Finnegan) – DVDs/E-mail
M242DL – Evangelism and Missions (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Videos/Internet/E-mail
M281DL – Missions Perspectives (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – Reading/Workbook
M362DL – New Testament Preaching (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) – DVDs
M372DL – Church Leadership (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Riley) – DVDs
M384DL – Small Group Ministry (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Videos/Workbooks/Readings
M443DL – Church Planting (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Tapes/Workbook
M473DL – Pastoral/Church Leadership and Administration (Martin) (2 Sem. Hrs.) – DVDs
G181DL – Personal Finance (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Videos/Workbook/Internet/E-mail
G261DL – Greek I (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) – DVDs
G271DL – Church History I (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Graham) – DVDs

To enroll in a distance learning course, please request an application form (info@abc-coggc.org or 800-347-4261). Distance learning courses can be taken for academic credit. The cost is \$160 per semester hour. Or they can be taken as continuing education courses. The cost is \$80 per semester hour. There is a \$20 postage and handling fee for the use of the DVDs which are returned when the course is completed. Textbooks are also available with differing prices depending upon the course. For additional information, please contact Registrar David Krogh at: dkrogh@abc-coggc.org; or at 800-347-4261.

SEED of SEERLING



AMY KENNEDY

This Christian Fantasy is written by Amy Kennedy and is currently available online and in most book stores.

To order your copy for \$13.99 plus shipping, write to Amy Kennedy, 422 S. Elida St., Winnebago, IL 61088 or order at www.seerling.com

Showing an act of compassion in her childhood turns bad for Astril and several of her fellow Seerlings who are all forced into slavery by their enemies in Harkan. Once she finds that her new owner is taking her to Augur, a priest in the service of the One True God, Astril seizes the opportunity to fulfill a promise to her beloved grandmother. Augur teaches her of true sacrifice and helps her to see clearly the horrors of her family line. Her new passion and belief push her further from her destiny to become the next High Priestess of the evil Great Goddess and into the saving arms of her new God. Meanwhile, Astril is haunted by her past and shocked to find out what her future as the Seed of Seerling will require.

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Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

THIS IS THE DAY

*This is the day that the LORD has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Psalm 118:24

All my life I've thought that this favorite verse of mine referred to every new day that came along. But Sunday night at church service our pastor, Mike Montgomery, suggested a new and more accurate meaning that I had never seen. And he's right!

This verse is the final statement concluding what is said in the verses before. Let's read them.

*The stone which the builders rejected has become
the chief cornerstone.
This is the LORD's doing; It is marvelous in our
eyes.*

Psalm 118:22, 23

By reading this verse in context, it is so clearly referring to the day when Christ our Lord became the cornerstone of God's church at His resurrection. This is the day being referred to here. This is God's doing, and it is marvelous.

This passage is quoted in the New Testament of Christ in Mark 10:10-11, Acts 4:11-12, and 1 Peter 2:6. Christ being the cornerstone is mentioned in Romans 9:32-33, Ephesians 2:20-21, and 1 Peter 2:6. David was foretelling Christ as being the Head of God's family. He uses the picture of God building a building for Himself.

The builders (the Jewish religious leaders of Jesus' day) rejected Jesus "as being too poor and mean to be acknowledged for their expected Messiah; an enemy to Moses, a friend of sinners, and a blasphemer against God, and therefore deserving death" (Benson). They rejected the chief stone in the Temple of God that God was building.

Jesus is the cornerstone and headstone of the household, the family of God, the Church of God Jesus is building today (Matt. 16:18). Christ has joined together both Jews and Gentiles into people of God as is wonderfully set forth in Ephesians 2:14-22. All of us who were far off have been brought near to God by the blood of Christ. We are no longer strangers and aliens, but fellow citizens of God's household. We have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone. In Him all the building is growing together into a holy temple for God. In Him we too are being built with all the rest into a dwelling of God by the Spirit of God.

This is God's doing, and how marvelous and wonderful it is! Not only has God done this without the help of men, but also He has done it in spite of their rejection of their own Savior. Another rendering of this verse is, "This is from the LORD. It was impossible in our eyes" (Mudge). Notice what Benson has to say about this: "What can be more truly marvelous, than that a person, put to death as a malefactor, and laid in a grave, should from thence be raised immortal, and become the head of an immortal society, should ascend into heaven, being vested with unlimited power, and crowned with ineffable glory; and should prepare a way for the sons of Adam to follow him into mansions of eternal bliss" (the Kingdom).

This is what God has "made" or brought forth (Strong). This is the "day" or light that God as brought forth to offer us salvation. When Christ rose from the dead immortal, He became the key stone in God's building, to prepare us as stones in His Father's house. Then it was that He became the head of the corner. A morning had dawned on the world, a brighter day came that will never end. Easter day is consecrated by Jesus' resurrection when He triumphed over death. This is the Day of which David spoke. The rejected stone became God's chief cornerstone in the spiritual house God is building! We can rejoice and be glad because of "this day God made", the day when Christ became Savior for all who will believe.

—Jim Mattison

Income Report for March 2009

| | 3-31-09 <u>Budget</u> | <u>Actual</u> | This Month <u>Variance</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| CONTRIBUTIONS: | | | |
| General Contributions | 285,450 | 253,073 | -32,377 |
| Development Plan Increases | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| [Subtotal of Contributions] | 285,450 | 253,073 | -32,377 |
| G.C. - Devises & Bequests | 11,250 | 37,813 | 26,563 |
| ABC Boosters | 3,000 | 1,705 | -1,295 |
| Subtotal | 299,700 | 292,591 | -7,109 |
| SALES: | | | |
| Christian Education Materials | 18,113 | 17,680 | -433 |
| Books | 22,673 | 14,441 | -8,232 |
| Theological Journal | 0 | 703 | 703 |
| Sale of Assets | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Subtotal | 40,786 | 32,824 | -7,962 |
| ABC: | | | |
| Tuition | 111,100 | 93,810 | -17,290 |
| Korean Extension Tuition | 355,011 | 363,858 | 8,847 |
| ABCDF Support | 39,375 | 39,375 | 0 |
| Lodging | 20,835 | 19,568 | -1,267 |
| Washers/Dryers | 450 | 387 | -63 |
| Rentals - ABC Plant | 2,059 | 1,200 | -859 |
| Late Fees/Rent | 7,500 | 11,611 | 4,111 |
| Fees | 9,000 | 6,982 | -2,018 |
| Subtotal | 545,330 | 536,791 | -8,539 |
| PROGRAM INCOME: | | | |
| Conferences & Workshops *(see note) | 1,500 | 0 | -1,500 |
| Subtotal | 1,500 | 0 | -1,500 |
| MISCELLANEOUS: | | | |
| Interest | 18,000 | 18,014 | 14 |
| Transferred In | 191,800 | 201,262 | 9,462 |
| Subtotal | 209,800 | 219,276 | 9,476 |
| Income Total | 1,097,115 | 1,081,482 | -15,633 |

- These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2008 through June, 2009.
- "Conferences & Workshops" - are now tracked separately in Escrow funds to help us better manage and match income and expense.
- 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 January 2009

| | 3-31-09 Budget | Actual | This Month Variance |
|--|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| STAFF: | | | |
| Salaries & Wages | 462,797 | 468,889 | -6,092 |
| F.I.C.A. Tax | 6,750 | 9,849 | -3,099 |
| Employee Benefits | 106,997 | 110,333 | -3,337 |
| Subtotal | 576,544 | 589,071 | -12,527 |
| SERVICES: | | | |
| Assistance to Churches | 5,625 | 10,035 | -4,410 |
| Ministerial Association | 7,200 | 7,200 | 0 |
| Youth Program | 12,000 | 12,000 | 0 |
| Subtotal | 24,825 | 29,235 | -4,410 |
| SALES EXPENSE: | | | |
| Printing & Binding | 25,500 | 25,418 | 82 |
| Postage & Shipping | 11,250 | 12,001 | -751 |
| Book Store | 10,875 | 9,680 | 1,195 |
| Subtotal | 47,625 | 47,099 | 526 |
| ABC: | | | |
| Advertising--Recruitment | 4,500 | 4,976 | -476 |
| ABC Korean Extension Support | 26,250 | 18,300 | 7,950 |
| Library Periodicals | 1,125 | 1,003 | 122 |
| Library Books | 9,000 | 150 | 8,850 |
| Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues | 1,200 | 2,218 | -1,018 |
| Staff Training | 11,250 | 7,379 | 3,871 |
| Subtotal | 53,325 | 34,026 | 19,299 |
| ADMINISTRATION: | | | |
| Travel | 42,750 | 40,478 | 2,272 |
| Office & Misc Supplies & Expense | 12,750 | 13,337 | -587 |
| Professional Services | 9,375 | 7,903 | 1,472 |
| Telephone/Internet - Office/Cell | 13,500 | 23,079 | -9,579 |
| Insurance - Non Plant | 225 | 0 | 225 |
| Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint | 18,750 | 18,210 | 540 |
| Development Travel & Support | 21,525 | 18,863 | 2,662 |
| Subtotal | 118,875 | 121,870 | -2,995 |
| PLANT EXPENSES: | | | |
| Utilities | 15,000 | 30,151 | -15,151 |
| Insurance - Property | 7,500 | 6,330 | 1,170 |
| Repairs/Maintenance - Plant | 2,625 | 3,365 | -740 |
| Furniture & Equipment | 27,750 | 7,221 | 20,529 |
| Supplies/Expenses Plant | 750 | 2,909 | -2,159 |
| Subtotal | 53,625 | 49,976 | 3,649 |
| MISCELLANEOUS: | | | |
| Interest | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Campus Lease | 171,800 | 204,119 | -32,319 |
| Other | 8,250 | 4,589 | 3,661 |
| Subtotal | 180,050 | 208,708 | -28,658 |
| Expense Total | 1,054,869 | 1,079,985 | -25,116 |
| GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense) | 42,247 | 1,497 | -40,750 |

Church News

Baptisms

Illinois

Oregon – Ben and Heather Kraft (10/5/08) by Pastor Roy Humphreys; Edie Matheson (11/30/08), Phillip Conner Young (2/1/09) and O'Lyvianna Matheson (4/5/09) by Pastor Michael Hoffman; Bryce Morris and Morgan Withers (2/1/09) by Pastor Dan Cain

Missouri

Peculiar – Donald Marshall and Sydni Dilbeck by Dale Brown and Pastor Don Ward

South Carolina

Bethel – Caroline Moore (4/12/09) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Marriages

Illinois

Oregon – Ben Kraft and Heather Hobbs (10/4/08) by Pastor Roy Humphreys

Indiana

Goshen – Caleb Mast and Amanda Dylewski (11/15/08) by Pastor John Railton

Deaths

Florida

Lakeland – Pastor Ernest E. Graham, 89, (2/26/09). Ed was born in Fredericktown, MO June 7, 1919 to Ernest Edwin and Maude Graham. He married Lois Johnson on Oct. 23, 1944. She died April 20, 1973. He graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1949. Their surviving children are Steven in Bradenton Beach, FL; Judith in Hot Sulphur Springs, CO;

David in Denver, CO; Joseph in Farmington, MN; Elizabeth Long in Lakeland, FL. In addition to Lois, he was preceded in death by his son, Mark and son, Daniel.

He pastored churches in Holbrook, NE, Graytown, WI, Denver, CO, Golden Rule in Cleveland, OH, and Dixon, IL.

He was buried in Chapel Hill Cemetery in Dixon, IL.

Illinois

Oregon – Genniel Anderson, 93 (3/4/09), long time faithful member. Service by Pastor Gordon Landry

Indiana

Culver – Leona Zechiel, 96 (2/5/09), long-time member, married to Ferris who is 100; celebrated 75th wedding anniversary October, 2008. Service by Bob Huddlestun and Bob Collier

South Carolina

Bethel – Donnie Foster (2/22/09). Service by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Guthrie Grove – Robert Joe Hood, Sr. (2/22/09). Service by Pastor Mike Montgomery and Elder Joe James; John Henry Stone, Sr. (2/28/09). Service by Pastors Mike Montgomery and Jim Shaul

Texas

Harlingen – Beryl Williams, 88 (3/30/09), long-time member; he and his wife, Dean, provided hospitality to the teams traveling to Mexico each summer for many years.

Prayer & Praise

June 2009

- 1 **Pray for the Christian Workers Seminar beginning today near Asheville, North Carolina.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor John Nelson and the Open Bible Church, Bolivar, Missouri.
- 3 **Pray for the Midwest Family Camp to be held at Camp Mack later this month.**
- 4 Praise God for the beauty of His creation.
- 5 **Pray that God will speak deeply into your heart today.**
- 6 Pray for boldness to share your faith.
- 7 **Pray for Pastor Dan and Charlotte Fyfe and their work at Anderson Chapel, Hendersonville, North Carolina.**
- 8 Praise God for His power and knowledge.
- 9 **Pray for the ministry of your local church.**
- 10 Pray 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, Arkansas.
- 13 **Praise God for your family and circle of friends.**
- 14 Pray for the summer General Conference to be held at the Oregon Church of God in Illinois in July.
- 15 **Praise God for your church family.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the Simple Teachings Bible Church, Morrow, Georgia.
- 17 **Pray for Pastor Gordon and Barbara Landry and the work at Flag Center, Illinois.**
- 18 Pray for Pastor Christy Ross and her work at the Jaynes Street Church in Omaha, Nebraska.
- 19 **Pray for those who are listening to the Focus on the Kingdom Radio Program.**
- 20 Pray for believers in the Philippine Islands.
- 21 **Praise God for your Father—your earthly father, and your Heavenly Father.**
- 22 Pray for the Midwest Family Camp being held in Indiana this week.
- 23 **Praise God for those who write lessons for our Adult Sunday School curriculum.**
- 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 (Youth Program) next month.
- 27 **Pray for the believers in Lima, Peru as they minister under the leadership of Pastor Gaston Ucanay.**
- 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.

christianmonotheism.com

Have you ever wanted to recommend a site to a friend who is questioning the Trinity? Have you ever wanted to look up "difficult texts" to get answers to hard questions about God and Jesus? Introducing christianmonotheism.com: a website hosting more than 60 One God resources including articles,

mp3s, and videos. Stop by and check it out! And if you have any materials to contribute to the site, be sure to email Sean Finnegan (sean@kingdomready.org) so we can upload them. Also, please link to christianmonotheism.com on your church site. Together we can have a strong web presence to share the truth with others.

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“Maggie Seeks the Kingdom of God!”[©]



Written by Angela Moore; Illustrated by Casey Kiel

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.

Only a few copies are still available through the Church of God General Conference.

Please order copies through:

www.amazon.com

■ www.walmart.com

■ www.barnesandnoble.com

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

CAO Update...

By Tim Jones

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord Jesus! Summer has arrived across the country, and the 2008 – 2009 school year of ABC has come to a close. It has been a momentous year for staff and students, as the mid-year relocation of the administrative offices to the new south campus of ABC was accomplished in December. The newly remodeled north campus, located in the Atlanta suburb of Duluth, should have all the required construction completed by the end of May. We continue to feel blessed by the way the new campuses are being integrated into our operation. Continue to pray for all the necessary activities to move forward in the future.

Our ABC Booster Program is reaching its conclusion as I write to you. In fact, this CAO update comes to you from Illinois, as I will be visiting the Oregon Church and East Oregon Church tomorrow. This week I will also be visiting a “Career Day” in South Carolina to let students know how Atlanta Bible College can be an important part of their life, regardless of the ultimate career they may choose. What about you – have you considered that ABC can help you make the most of the gifts and talents God has given you? The college continues to broaden the ways we can help you get addi-

tional education and training. With our existing distance learning classes and block classes, you can pursue your education, or even a degree, from your home. And in the near future we will be bringing even more of our classes to you via internet-based training. So you



can participate in ABC classes from the comfort of your own home. We will be providing you with much more information on these opportunities in the weeks ahead. It is certainly exciting to explore new options to expand the college ministry while helping members and our churches minister to their communities.

Remember that this year’s General Conference will meet in Oregon, Illinois. For all who have been students at OBC or remember all the meetings and gatherings in Oregon though the years, I am sure this will be a nostalgic trip! We ex-

press our thanks in advance to all the members in Illinois and especially to the membership of the Oregon Church of God for serving as hosts for this year’s Conference meeting. Much of the information concerning the event is part of this issue of the RH/PJ.

I hope many of you are receiving the Progress Journal On-Line. This new publication come to your e-mail at least once a month, and is the fastest way for you to know about events and people-happenings in the Church of God. If you are not currently receiving the PJ On-Line, a simple e-mail request to info@abc-coggc.org will place you on our distribution list. And you can also request that you receive the *Restitution Herald & Progress Journal* via e-mail as well! The General Conference will benefit by the reduction in printing and postage, and you will benefit by getting the RH/PJ hours after the magazine is completed. We will continue to mail the printed copy until we verify that you are receiving the PDF e-mail version.

God bless you all as we work to serve Him. I hope to see many of you at Christian Worker’s Seminar, General Conference, FUEL, and all the other events of this very busy time of the year. ■

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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.



CHECKING THE CALENDAR

July 8-10, 2009

89th General Conference
Oregon, Illinois

July 19-24

FUEL—Manchester College
North Manchester, Indiana

August 17-21

Atlanta Bible College
pre-Semester Block Class

August 24

Atlanta Bible College
Fall Semester begins

September 17-20

Atlanta Bible College
Christian Emphasis Weekend

October 12-16

Atlanta Bible College
Block Classes

Board of Director Nominations

At General Conference we will be electing two (2) directors for the Board of Directors. The terms of Rob Helenburg and Jeff Fletcher expire this year. Neither of them may be nominated. Currently we have two (2) nominees. One additional nominee will be required. 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 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and such other Scriptures as teach the qualifications of

church leaders. A director may be either male or female.

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

(Continued on page 4)

Constitutional Amendments for 2009 General Conference

Last summer the Michigan State Conference proposed two constitutional amendments that were approved by the delegates at the 2008 General Conference. Unfortunately the wording adjusted a previous constitution rather than the current constitution. As a result, the Michigan State Conference is proposing revised amendments for the delegates' consideration:

ARTICLE I

Section 2. The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place between (June 1) April 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.

ARTICLE IV

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 at least three months before the meeting, and will be published by the most effective means of general communications at least one month before the meeting.

Present language that would be deleted is enclosed by parentheses and additions are underlined. ■

(Continued from page 3)

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.

MYRA I. HAMILTON

The Hedrick Church of God nominates Myra Hamilton for election to the General Conference Board of Directors. Myra I. Hamilton was born in Williamsport, Indiana. She attended the Hedrick Church of God while it was still meeting at the Hedrick School and continues to be actively involved at the Hedrick Church of God. Myra was baptized by Pastor James Watkins after returning home from the Indiana State Family Camp. Myra is married to Jim Hamilton. The Lord blessed them with two wonderful sons, Andrew and Travis, and two great daughters-in-law. Andrew is treasurer of the Indiana State Conference, and he and his family are faithfully working at the New Covenant Church in Indianapolis. Travis is the CFO of OMS, a mission sending organization. They have each blessed Myra and Jim with a grandchild in the last fifteen months, Joseph and Kaitlyn.

Last May, Myra and Jim retired from their librarian positions in the Metropolitan School District of Warren County. Myra's first teaching position was at the Indiana State Laboratory School in Terre Haute. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana State University. Myra served as an officer of the local teacher association and belonged to the library association. Myra is a board member of the Warren County Com-

munity Foundation and is treasurer of the Friends of the Williamsport-Washington Township Public Library and Learning Center. She is a family advocate for the Habitat for Humanity of Benton, Fountain and Warren Counties.

Myra has served the Hedrick Church of God as Sunday School teacher, superintendent, treasurer, secretary, youth leader, and has filled in wherever needed. She has served on the Indiana State Conference Board as a board member and as secretary. Myra has taught at the Indiana State Camp and Midwest Family Camp for many years. While in college, Myra was chosen to go on a missionary trip to Mexico. Myra continued to have a passion for those less fortunate and went to Haiti on a missionary trip. This trip convinced her that the Lord was not calling her to the foreign mission field, but she still has a passion to see that the work continues.

Myra believes in the Church of God doctrines and wants to see them spread throughout the world. Myra feels that this is being done, but she has a desire to see that our smaller churches are being supported in their special work, helped with resources, and encouraged to have their opinions heard. Being from a small church, she would like to see that they are visited by members of the General Conference staff and/or the General Conference board. She and Jim would love to visit some of

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

these churches and learn from them. Myra also has a passion for the Sunday School programs. Myra feels that many of our youth have not been taught and/or shown God's Word in such a way that they are passionately seeking to serve Him wherever they are. She would like to see the General Conference provide resources or at least lists of good educational resources and guides to help individual churches. She would like to revisit the Kingdom Quest materials, possibly adding technology.

JOE MYERS

It is an honor and pleasure to be nominated for the Board of Directors by the Church of God Ministerial Association. Those who know me best would probably describe me as a visionary. I get energized when I look to the future and ask, "why not?" or "what if?" or "when can we begin?" I believe the role of any board is to prudently look to the future and make plans on how to best expand the effectiveness of their organization. If elected by the Church of God delegates, I would seek to define what it is that the Church of God wants to accomplish in the future and then aggressively go after that vision. In my opinion, any such vision must include a proactive approach to recruiting men and women in the Church of God for training and work in the ministry. Atlanta Bible College must be an organization that not only instructs students in theology, but one which also actively encourages implementing such

knowledge in the roles of pastors, missionaries, youth, and local church workers.

My personal walk with Christ began when I was baptized at Camp Mack in the summer of 1970 by Pastor Ed Graham. Pastor Graham also officiated over my marriage to Dana Eckerd, and I am thankful to say that this August will mark our 37th wedding anniversary. After graduating from Oregon Bible College in May of 1973, I served as an associate pastor under the guidance of Pastor Kent Ross at the Pennellwood Church of God in Grand Rapids, MI. I have served as pastor in Colorado, Arkansas, Illinois, Michigan, and Arizona. Currently I have the honor of being the pastor of the Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA. I have approximately 16 years of pastoral experience. I also served as a counselor for 9 years for what is now known as FUEL.

In addition to my pastoral experience, I have nearly 20 years business experience. I was the national sales manager for Abbott Aluminum from 1989-1994, traveling extensively across the country attending various trade shows and establishing new relationships with dealers in the machining industry. From 1994-2007, I worked in sales and management in the automobile industry.

My wife and I have two adult children. Our daughter Bethany continues to reside in Mesa, AZ. She has served on staff for FUEL for nearly 15 years and is

currently the Dean of Women for the camp. Our son Sam is married to the former Ashley Taylor, and they are active members of the Cornerstone Bible Church.

For several years in Arizona, I was a member of a Toastmasters organization and served as president. I also competed in many speech contests sponsored by Toastmasters Intl. While in the automobile industry I competed in a national contest sponsored by Ford Motor Company, finishing runner-up in a contest that represented over 4,000 dealerships and over 40,000 sales personnel. And, while I don't play as often as I once did, I still consider golf a hobby.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you. If elected, I will do my best to honor your trust. ■

Lawrenceville Church of God

Awarded *CBL* Grant for Spring 2009!

We are pleased to announce the Church Builder's League Grant has been awarded to the Lawrenceville Church of God, Ohio. Membership appeals were mailed in late May.

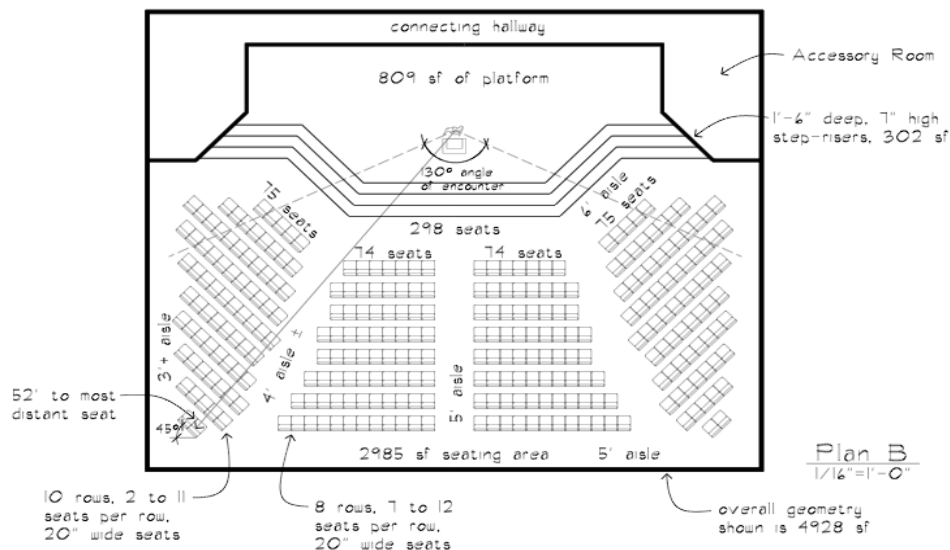
Due to the successful community outreach, this church has grown from 35 to 135 people. They continue to welcome visitors every week. In order to make room for everyone, a new church building is needed. The total cost of the project is not yet determined, however, the church has moved forward with the project using up their funds available. While development campaigns are underway, the immediate need is pay for architect and survey work.

With the current membership of the Church Builder's League, we can expect to provide a \$15,000 grant. However, if the league grows in membership we will be able to meet this \$25,000 goal.

Please join with Christians across the country to make our private foundation even stronger. Simply send in your pledge to: **Church Builder's League, 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253.** Or go to www.abc-coggc.org/cbl to pledge online. Or call 1-800-347-4261.



New Site Location





Dr. Joe Martin

ABC NEWS

The Atlanta Bible College 2008-2009 school year came to a conclusion with the 66th graduation ceremony on the evening of May 15. Pastor Jeff Fletcher (class of 1986), father of one of the graduates, Joseph Jeffrey Fletcher, gave a rousing challenge to the graduates and attendees from 2 Timothy 2. He stressed the importance of enduring to the end.

Receiving the Bachelor of Theology degree were Ok Choi, J.J. Fletcher, and Eugenia Roberts. Associate degrees in Theology and Ministry were awarded to Johnny Colquitt, Mark DeYoung, and Ji Won Lee. Dietrich Carroll, Ruth Gutu, Andrew Jung, LaMuriel Ojo, and Aquelle Plakaris received Foundation Certificates.

The ceremony was held in the chapel at the Morrow campus. A reception was held to honor the graduates following the service.

Ok Choi has returned to her home in Korea and is serving in ministry. J. J. Fletcher is a pastoral intern at the Pine Grove Church in Brooklyn Park, MN under the supervision of Pastor Sydney Kirkpatrick. Gina Roberts will pursue her Masters degree with Southwestern Christian University in the fall.



Professor Bob Jones



President Tim Jones

CHURCHES

SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

BLANCHARD

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.

CONGER STREET CHURCH OF GOD

The Conger Street Church of God in Waterloo, Iowa 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 at: dantheman5169@aol.com; 2672 Logan Ave., Waterloo, IA 50703.

HAPPYWOODS CHURCH

The congregation of the Happywoods Church is seeking a full-time pastor. We are a relatively small congregation and are located in the community of Hammond, LA. This area is in the southeast tip of Louisiana and currently has a population of approximately 100,000 people within relatively easy driving distance of the church. Our area is located in the center of the I-12 corridor, which is predicted to grow to over 2.5 million people within the next 30 or so years. We have a newly renovated facility of 12,000 sq. ft. of space that needs lots of people to serve.

Our congregation has been involved with our community in the past and looks forward to growing in the community and in faith. If you are interested in pastoring in an environment which is both challenging and invigorating, where you and the church can grow both numerically and spiritually through outreach, please think of us.

For more information, please contact Elder Charles Bottolfs at 985-542-1555 or via e-mail at: cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net. Or you may contact Elder John Fauntleroy at 985-345-7134. Both phones take messages, and you will be contacted. You may also write to us at the following address: C. G. Bottolfs, 43137 Happywoods Road, Hammond, LA 70403.

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, Missouri is recruiting an energetic, gifted, and dedicated pastor. A progressive church of traditional values and sound doctrines, Countryside is committed to being a beacon of truth in our community. Interested individuals may contact the elders - Dale L. Brown, at (816) 550-2085 or email DaleLBrown@aol.com or John Smead at (660) 747-8571 or email JSmead@iland.net for an application.

FREDERICKTOWN CHURCH OF GOD

Fredericktown Church of God is searching for a part-time minister who could later become full-time. Please contact Harold Thomas at P.O. Box 188, Fredericktown, Missouri 63645; or Elsie Cooper at 10026 Weber Ln., Potosi, Missouri 63664, (573) 438-4990.

Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

**“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.”
Psalm 46:1**

It is a major Bible truth that God loves people, and especially those who love Him. Peter said Christians should cast all their cares on Him, “because He cares for you” (1 Pet. 5:7).

Why did David, in the Psalms, ask God so many times to deliver him from this or that trouble? Because he found out that the above verse is absolutely true. God delivered him out of all his troubles.

Since our God cares for us (He made us, didn't He, and the Bible says He has a desire for the work of His hands), He gave us promises, and statements like, “I will be with him in trouble” (Psa. 91:15). “The LORD will deliver him in the day of trouble” (Psa. 41:1). “Call upon Me in the day of trouble” (Psa. 50:15).

Many are the troubles we get ourselves into, caused by our own poor decisions sometimes. Other times troubles just come. We had nothing to do with their coming. Yet we find ourselves confronted with some great problem over which we have no control.

The natural “worldly” reaction is panic. How are we going to get out of this mess? But the man of God has help, help from above. The song says, “Be not dismayed what e'er betide, God will take care of you.” The chorus goes, “God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way; He will take care of you. God will take care of you.”

That's exactly what the above verse says. Let me give you an example from our mission work in Africa.

On one of our earlier trips into Mozambique, near the border we rented rooms in a motel there for the night before going into the interior to teach at a conference. We did our work and came back after dark to the motel. We found that the mother who had rented the rooms to us had gone out, and while she was gone, her children, who did not know this, rented out the rooms to someone else.

So we had no place to stay the night. At that time it was still dangerous to be in Mozambique after dark. The civil war had just ended. We drove to the center of town by the two-story bank where there was a street light, parked, and sat there, wondering what to do. We hadn't been there long when a man walked over and asked us if we were in trouble (he could speak English). We told him our problem. He said, “Why don't you go across the street to that mattress store (WHICH WAS STILL OPEN) and ask the lady if she can help you.” We went over. She found out we were missionaries with no place to sleep. She said, “I own the second floor of the bank building and have just renovated it for my daughter, who is soon to be married. You can stay there.”

She led us across the street, opened the door of the building, and we went up to the second floor, where she turned on the lights. Most of the mission team slept on the floor in a large room freshly painted. But seeing I was an old man, she led me through the hall where a bomb had taken out the floor and wall, but it was now repaired, to a small bedroom with a bed. She brought me a hot water bottle for my feet, pulled down the window shade, telling me that in the morning the sun would be in my eyes. She brought covers, and left. There was a real bathroom beside my bedroom and everything worked (the natives all have outhouses).

In the morning, this lady, Beatrice Peres, and another lady came over to see how we made out in the night. (I forgot to mention she would take no pay.) Of course we thanked her profusely. I will be forever grateful to that woman for that kindness. I wrote her a couple times, but now do not know how to contact her, for her address has changed.

I am convinced GOD was behind it all, taking care of us as we tried to do His work. To me, she was one of His angels. God protected us from roving bands of terrorists still operating after the civil war. They stopped cars and took them away from the people in them, especially 4-wheel drive vehicles. The Mozambique Embassy in Washington D. C., where we get our visas every year, told us to beware of certain roads, that they do not allow their own people to drive on these roads lest their people be killed and their vehicle stolen.

Was this God taking care of us or what? I still choke up when I think again of that incident.

—Jim Mattison



Join us for

General Conference 2009

July 8-10, 2009

at

Oregon Church of God, Oregon, IL

Enjoy...fellowshipping and worshipping with believers. . .
exploring the vision for the future of the General Conference
and Atlanta Bible College...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 the hotel directly. The fees for the Conference cover the costs of the General Conference meeting and the meals. Local hotel contact numbers are provided that are relatively close to the Oregon Church of God, but you may choose any hotel you desire in the area or make other arrangements.

1. Fill out the following form. Rates are per person.
2. If today's date is June 15th or later, please add \$25.00 to your total.
3. Mail this form to: General Conference 2009, 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253
4. Or register online at www.abc-coggc.org (or contact Kim Musch 800-347-4261)

Name _____ Day Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Fees: Adults—\$99.00 per person _____ Attending July 8 Barbeque? Y ___ or N ___

Children 6 to 12—\$35.00 per child _____ Age (s) _____

Commuters: No Meals—\$35.00 _____ (We encourage you to enjoy the meals with other attendees!)

Do you give COGGC permission to put your information in event directory? Y _____ or N _____

The program will begin July 8th with a late afternoon Barbeque and evening service. Thursday and Friday will include a complete schedule of interactive classes/workshops and delegate sessions. The Conference will conclude after the Friday evening service.

Childcare provided for those age six and under.

Hotel Information

Paddle Wheel Inn in Oregon
815-732-4540

Quality Inn & Suites in Dixon
815-288-2001

Comfort Inn in Dixon
815-284-0500

**Call the hotel directly, and please
make reservations by June 1st**

Church Address:
860 W. Oregon Trail Road
Oregon, IL 61061

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Adults at \$99 per person | \$ |
| Children ages 6 to 12 at \$35 per person | \$ |
| Commuters, no meals X \$35 per person | \$ |
| Subtotal | \$ |
| Pastor Discount—subtract 10% | \$ |
| Registration on or after June 15, 2009 add \$25 | \$ |
| non-refundable Less \$25 Deposit | - \$25.00 |
| Total due at Conference | \$ |

Finance—Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 adopted by the delegates at the 2008 Summer Conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Income

1. **General Contributions** – non-specific giving by individuals, churches, and conferences
2. **Development Office Programs** – additional contributions secured by the work of the Development Department
3. **G. C. – Devises & Bequests** – the College/Conference is the recipient of annuity payments on a contract of a deceased member; other estate gifts are also received each year
4. **ABC Boosters** – an annual giving program that raises funds for the College
5. **Christian Education Materials** – includes all sales of quarterlies & Kingdom Quest materials
6. **Books** – cost of books purchased for resale
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. **Korean Dormitory Revenue** – net rental income from Morrow/Duluth apartment rentals
12. **ABCDF Support** – transfer of investment income from the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation
13. **Lodging** – rent received from residential properties of the College
14. **Washers/Dryers** – income from laundry facilities in apartment building
15. **Rentals – ABC Plant** – rent received from use of the administration building
16. **Late Fees/Rent** – interest income, registration and other fees from students
17. **Fees** – charges for specific programs for college students, such as application fee, seminars or educational events
18. **Conferences & Workshops** - net income is tracked separately for each event; together, all events are

to be self-supporting

19. **Interest** – money earned on checking account through the year
20. **Other Income** – miscellaneous income
21. **Transferred In** – amounts transferred in from Restricted Funds – primarily for support of lease payments

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 adult quarterlies, *The Restitution Herald & Progress Journal*, 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. **Advertising–Recruitment** – includes newspaper, television, radio advertising (telephone calls, travel, printing, and postage are included under other line items)
11. **ABC Korean Extension Support** – expenses associated with the providing for the expense budget of the ABC Korean Extension
12. **Library Periodicals** – journals and other magazines for the library collection
13. **Library Books** – newly published books are acquired to keep the library collection up to date
14. **Staff Periodicals, Books & Dues** – a small allowance is provided to staff to purchase resource material for classes and to participate in professional organizations
15. **Staff Training** – staff members are provided opportunities to enhance their skills in areas associated with their responsibilities
16. **Travel** – includes travel for board members, advisory committees, special boards and committees, student groups, and staff
17. **Office & Misc. Supplies & Expense** – paper, printer cartridges, stationery, envelopes, printing supplies, and other office expenses
18. **Professional Services** – costs of annual audit, as required by the Constitution and annual fees to accrediting association
19. **Telephone/Internet/Web/Data** – basic and long distance service, including the cost of all “800” number calls which are provided toll free to the caller; also includes cell phones, internet data lines and website fees
20. **Insurance – Non-Plant** – liability insurance for employees and directors
21. **Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint.** – maintenance agreements and repairs for office and library equipment
22. **Development Travel & Support** – travel, printing, and other expenses of the Development Office
23. **Utilities** – costs of electricity, water, gas, etc.
24. **Insurance – Property** – costs of insurance for facilities
25. **Repairs/Maintenance – Plant** – costs for plant support and maintenance
26. **Furniture and Equipment** – includes all furniture, software, computers, and office machines
27. **Supplies/Exp – Plant** – cleaning supplies, restroom supplies, etc.
28. **Interest** – interest paid on funds borrowed from Restricted Funds
29. **Campus Lease** - monthly payments to lease our campus sites
30. **Other** – miscellaneous charges

Income Reports

Income Budgets for FY 2009-2010 And FY 2010-2011

| | <u>B</u> <u>FY 2009 - 2010</u> <u>Previously</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u> | <u>C</u> <u>FY 2009 - 2010</u> <u>Amended</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>Request</u> | <u>E</u> <u>FY 2010 - 2011</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>Request</u> |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| CONTRIBUTIONS: | | | |
| General Contributions | \$420,600 | \$356,916 | \$374,762 |
| Development Office Programs | \$0 | \$85,000 | \$105,000 |
| [Subtotal of Contributions] | \$420,600 | \$441,916 | \$479,762 |
| G.C. - Devises & Bequests | \$25,000 | \$75,000 | \$35,000 |
| ABC Boosters | \$19,000 | \$14,000 | \$14,000 |
| Subtotal | \$464,600 | \$530,916 | \$528,762 |
| SALES: | | | |
| Christian Education Materials | \$26,565 | \$24,576 | \$25,804 |
| Books | \$33,254 | \$15,535 | \$16,311 |
| Theological Journal | \$0 | \$738 | \$738 |
| Sale of Assets | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Subtotal | \$59,819 | \$40,849 | \$42,854 |
| ABC: | | | |
| Tuition | \$138,000 | \$130,000 | \$141,700 |
| Korean Extension Tuition | \$532,516 | \$363,858 | \$436,605 |
| Korean Dormitory Revenue | \$0 | \$6,000 | \$0 |
| ABCDF Support | \$77,000 | \$52,500 | \$52,500 |
| Lodging | \$41,249 | \$10,000 | \$10,500 |
| Washers/Dryers | \$900 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Rentals - ABC Plant | \$4,529 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Late Fees/Rent | \$10,000 | \$11,000 | \$7,000 |
| Fees | \$12,000 | \$10,000 | \$11,000 |
| Subtotal | \$816,194 | \$583,358 | \$659,305 |
| PROGRAM INCOME: | | | |
| Conferences & Workshops | \$4,500 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Subtotal | \$4,500 | \$0 | \$0 |
| MISCELLANEOUS: | | | |
| Interest | \$12,000 | \$16,000 | \$5,000 |
| Other Income | \$0 | \$4,000 | \$5,000 |
| Transferred In | \$128,747 | \$360,320 | \$210,321 |
| Subtotal | \$140,747 | \$380,320 | \$220,321 |
| Income Total | \$1,485,861 | \$1,535,443 | \$1,451,242 |
| Expense Total | \$1,347,091 | \$1,510,991 | \$1,416,870 |
| Grand Total | \$138,770 | \$24,451 | \$34,372 |

Expense Reports

Expense Budgets for FY 2009-2010 And FY 2010-2011

| | <u>B</u> FY 2009 - 2010 <u>Previously</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u> | <u>C</u> FY 2009 - 2010 <u>Amended</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>Request</u> | <u>E</u> FY 2010 - 2011 <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>Request</u> |
|--|---|---|--|
| STAFF: | | | |
| Salaries & Wages | \$647,916 | \$643,420 | \$656,288 |
| F.I.C.A. Tax | \$7,000 | \$13,404 | \$13,404 |
| Employee Benefits | \$156,928 | \$161,852 | \$178,037 |
| Subtotal | \$811,844 | \$818,676 | \$847,730 |
| SERVICES: | | | |
| Assistance to Churches | \$8,000 | \$13,882 | \$13,882 |
| Ministerial Association | \$9,600 | \$9,600 | \$9,600 |
| Youth Program | \$13,000 | \$14,000 | \$14,000 |
| Subtotal | \$30,600 | \$37,482 | \$37,482 |
| SALES EXPENSE: | | | |
| Printing & Binding | \$38,000 | \$36,098 | \$37,181 |
| Postage & Shipping | \$17,000 | \$16,300 | \$16,300 |
| Book Store | \$16,000 | \$10,753 | \$11,291 |
| Subtotal | \$71,000 | \$63,151 | \$64,772 |
| ABC: | | | |
| Advertising/Recruitment | \$6,000 | \$7,000 | \$7,000 |
| ABC Korean Extension Meals | \$36,000 | \$24,000 | \$24,960 |
| Library Periodicals | \$1,500 | \$1,311 | \$2,623 |
| Library Books | \$3,000 | \$468 | \$3,000 |
| Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues | \$1,700 | \$2,741 | \$3,016 |
| Staff Training | \$5,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Subtotal | \$53,200 | \$45,521 | \$50,598 |
| ADMINISTRATION: | | | |
| Travel | \$65,000 | \$58,000 | \$63,800 |
| Office & Misc Supplies & Expense | \$15,000 | \$18,849 | \$19,602 |
| Professional Services | \$21,000 | \$11,092 | \$12,201 |
| Telephone/Internet/Web/Data | \$33,000 | \$26,000 | \$28,600 |
| Insurance - Non-Plant | \$300 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint | \$8,400 | \$21,128 | \$21,973 |
| Development Travel & Support | \$28,000 | \$25,000 | \$27,500 |
| Subtotal | \$170,700 | \$160,068 | \$173,677 |
| PLANT EXPENSES: | | | |
| Utilities | \$30,000 | \$27,364 | \$15,364 |
| Insurance - Property | \$8,000 | \$8,112 | \$8,112 |
| Repairs/Maintenance - Plant | \$4,000 | \$3,814 | \$3,814 |
| Furniture & Equipment | \$35,000 | \$10,000 | \$12,000 |
| Supplies/Expenses Plant | \$4,000 | \$2,482 | \$2,000 |
| Subtotal | \$81,000 | \$51,772 | \$41,290 |
| MISCELLANEOUS: | | | |
| Interest | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Campus Lease | \$108,747 | \$323,320 | \$190,321 |
| Other | \$20,000 | \$11,000 | \$11,000 |
| Subtotal | \$128,747 | \$334,320 | \$201,321 |
| Expense Total | \$1,347,091 | \$1,510,991 | \$1,416,870 |
| Income Total | \$1,485,861 | \$1,535,443 | \$1,451,242 |
| GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense) | \$138,770 | \$24,451 | \$34,372 |

Church News

Baptisms

Georgia

Cornerstone – Michael Osborne (3/22/09) by Pastor Joe Myers

South Carolina

Bethel – Sami McCarson (5/3/09) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Peru

Lima – Miguel and Madeleine Suarez Pellanne (4/7/09) by William Wachtel; Meche Ucanay, Soledad and her granddaughter Neli (4/8/09) by Pastor Gastón Ucañay Ortiz and his brother Joaquin

Spain

Madrid – Juan Jesús Muñoz (3/12/09) by William Wachtel

Marriages

Illinois

Flagg Center – Micah Aaron Foster and Jacqueline Corpuz Dacunoz (11/15/08) by Pastor Gordon Landry

Books by Jim Mattison

To purchase *Words of Truth*, and other books by Pastor Jim Mattison, please visit www.malloybooks.com/mattison.html

Estate Gifts Received

2008

- Following her death, we received a General Fund estate gift from Charles and Dorothy Robertson
- Following her death, we received a College Development Fund estate gift from Delbert and Bernedene Jones

2009

- Following his death, we received a Mission Department estate gift from Vernon F. and Jean L. (Sorenson) Sullivan

christianmonotheism.com

Have you ever wanted to recommend a site to a friend who is questioning the Trinity? Have you ever wanted to look up "difficult texts" to get answers to hard questions about God and Jesus? Introducing christianmonotheism.com: a website hosting more than 60 One God resources including articles, mp3s, and videos. Stop

by and check it out! If you have materials to contribute to the site, be sure to email Sean Finnegan (sean@kingdomready.org) so we can upload them. Additionally, please link to christianmonotheism.com on your church site. Together we can have a strong web presence to share the truth with others.



UPDATE... christianmonotheism.com has doubled the number of resources to more than 130! If you have questions about difficult verses, take advantage of the media center's Scripture index which links verses to explanations by one God experts. Also, thanks to Jesse Winner, quite a few Church of God pastors and teachers now have their one God audio sermons on the site including: Roger Cupp, Tony Dart,

Z.B. Duncan, Terry Ferrell, Jeff Fletcher, Jack Hearp, Dave Hixon, Chuck Jones, David Krogh, Russ Magaw, Kenneth Milne, Mike Montgomery, John Railton, Jim Rankin, Scott Ross, Dustin Smith, Robin Todd, William Wachtel, Walter Wiggins, and Wally Winner. Stop by and check out christianmonotheism.com and recommend to your friends who are questioning the Trinity. Also, don't forget to join our facebook group.

Prayer & Praise

July 2009

- 1 **Pray for the Africa Mission Team as they continue to minister in several African countries.**
- 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 Praise God for the blessings of freedom we celebrate today in the United States.
- 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 **Pray for God's leadership and blessing on those attending General Conference in Ohio today and tomorrow.**
- 10 Pray for God's blessing and direction on the delegates during General Conference business sessions.
- 11 **Pray for your pastor as he prepares to share God's message tomorrow.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Jamie Engelbert at King's Corner Church in New York.
- 13 **Pray for students considering enrollment at Atlanta Bible College.**
- 14 Pray for Jon Cheatwood and the Youth Advisory Committee.
- 15 **Praise God for the continuing opportunities to present the Gospel of the Kingdom over the radio, shortwave, and the internet.**
- 16 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ as Savior.
- 17 **Pray that God will lead many of our young people into ministry at home and abroad.**
- 18 Pray for those who are studying the Systematic Bible Study Course over the Internet.
- 19 **Pray for students arriving at FUEL today.**
- 20 Pray for the Mexico mission team as they prepare for their trip into Mexico in a few days.
- 21 **Pray for God to bless the FUEL program at Manchester College (North Manchester, Indiana) this week.**
- 22 Pray for a great hunger and thirst for righteousness in your church.
- 23 **Pray for the staff of FUEL and the influence they are having on the young people.**
- 24 Pray for safety for those traveling home from FUEL today.
- 25 **Praise God for the many people in our churches who have been baptized recently.**
- 26 Pray for Pastor Dan and Rachel Cain and their work at Oregon Church of God.
- 27 **Pray for the brethren in India.**
- 28 Pray for the Badillo family and the work in Mexico.
- 29 **Pray for the Mexico Mission Team members that begin traveling toward Mexico today.**
- 30 Pray for Freedom in Christ Ministries, Welland, Ontario and Pastor Stephen and Joyce Bolhaus.
- 31 **Praise God for efforts being made to plant new churches.**

August 2009

- 1 Pray for Pastor Dustin Smith and his ministry at Timberland Bible Church.
- 2 **Pray for the Mexico mission team in Labor Vieja.**
- 3 Pray for Pastor Connie Scott and her ministry at Pine Grove, Minnesota.
- 4 **Praise God for the faithful ministry of the ABC/General Conference Staff.**
- 5 **Pray for new students as they prepare to attend Atlanta Bible College later this month.**
- 6 **Praise God for the beauty of His creation.**
- 7 Continue your prayers for the ministry of the Mexico mission team.
- 8 **Pray for Mark and Terri Tschaenn and the New Covenant Bible Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.**
- 9 Pray for the Board of Directors as they lead the ministries of the College/Conference.
- 10 **Pray for your pastor and his family today.**
- 11 Pray for the mission team and their return from Mexico.
- 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 the ministry of the Blanchard Church of God in Blanchard, Michigan.
- 20 **Pray for spiritual renewal for yourself and for your church.**
- 21 Pray for individuals who feel led by God to pursue mission careers.
- 22 **Praise God for His love and faithfulness.**
- 23 Pray for the leadership of your local church.
- 24 **Pray for Atlanta Bible College students and staff as classes begin today.**
- 25 Praise God that He is sufficient to meet every need.
- 26 **Pray that the financial needs of the Conference and College will be met.**
- 27 Praise God for your heritage of faith.
- 28 **Pray that God might speak through you to someone who is hurting.**
- 29 Pray for someone you know who needs to make Christ Lord.
- 30 **Pray for an opportunity to share your faith this week.**
- 31 Pray for Pastor Sydney and Dee Kirkpatrick and their ministry at Pine Grove, Minnesota.

Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400
McDonough, GA 30253

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THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

CAO Update...

By Tim Jones

North Campus Completed!

Greetings to all as a busy summer comes to a conclusion for the General Conference! June began with Christian Workers Seminar in North Carolina. After all the state and local camps across the country, we had General Conference in Oregon, Illinois and FUEL began one week later in North Manchester, Indiana. Look for pictures and highlights for these events in this and later issues of this publication as well as in the PJ Online.

As we have been busy planning and attending our summer events, a very important achievement was completed in Duluth, Georgia—a north-east suburb of Atlanta. On July 1, Gwinnett County issued a Certificate of Occupancy for the ABC North Campus! With the completion of this facility, ABC officially has 2 different campuses to better serve the needs of our current and future students. The North Campus will house the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension (ABCKE) classes and administration. As part of this update we have included a view of the facility floor plan and a few snapshots of the interior. The staff of the ABCKE have completed the relocation of most of the furnishings and equipment from the Morrow campus to the new location. The staff members also have moved their residences to the Duluth area as well. The new location is forty-one

miles from the Morrow campus and fifty-four miles from the South Campus location in McDonough. The staff is continuing the process of setting up the North Campus and getting it ready for the beginning of classes for the ABCKE on September 14, 2009. The facility features three independent classrooms, a carry-in kitchen, and a library for the students. Approximately \$40,000

has already been invested to ensure adequate books and materials are available in Korean for the new library. The facility will also serve as the meeting location for the Campus Bible Church, a newly forming Korean church in this part of the Atlanta metropolitan area.

Clayton State University (CSU) has proceeded with their plans to make



(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.



CHECKING THE CALENDAR

August 31 - September 4
(revised dates)—
Atlanta Bible College
Pre-Semester Block Class

September 7 (revised dates)
Atlanta Bible College
Fall Semester begins

September 17-20
Atlanta Bible College
Christian Emphasis Weekend

October 12-16
Atlanta Bible College
Block Class

November 2-3
Board of Directors
meeting in Atlanta

(Continued from page 1)

use of the Morrow facility this semester. ABC has negotiated an addition year of use through June 2010 with CSU should this be necessary (more on this in a moment.) However, CSU decided to jointly operate the facility with ABC. The classroom wing and library wing of the Morrow administration building has been completed remodeled and re-equipped by CSU for classes to occur this fall. As of this writing at the end of July, they are nearing completion on this remodeling. CSU has made no alterations to the Chapel or office wings of the building. The joint use agreement allows full use of the building by ABC on Sunday, Monday until 6:00 p.m., and Tuesday mornings—the times that we use the building for classes. The other times of the week CSU can use the facility for their classes. We will provide pictures of the re-modeled structure in the next issue. CSU has been a very easy partner to work with in determining how we may jointly use the facility.

You may wonder why we may need to continue to hold classes at Morrow even though both new campuses are ready for use. The answer continues to be the requirements of the federal government concerning schools that accept international students. God has blessed ABC with the ability to minister to international students. This includes students from Africa, the Caribbean, and of course many students from South Korea. However, all colleges with international students must follow the guidelines of the federal government concerning student visas and other regulations. One of these requirements is that any physical location where international students are accepted and attend class must be inspected and approved by the Immigration and Naturalization Ser-



Classroom and Kitchen at the North Campus.



Front entrance of the North Campus.

vice (INS) before classes can be conducted. These inspections are intended to ensure that international students are actually entering the US for the purpose of attending an actual school. The Morrow campus was approved by this type of process years ago when we first began accepting international students. In the past, the delay from when an inspection was requested to the time of the visit was approximately 90 days. Because of modifications for the program instituted by the federal Department of Homeland Security, the delay has increased enormously, and INS will no longer estimate how long the delay might be. The process also will not permit a school to have more than one request in the “system” at one time. You may not request inspection until the location’s certificate of occupancy is issued.

The South Campus of ABC is considered to be a new branch location, and the request to INS for approval was submitted April 2009. We are still waiting for notification of exactly when this inspection will take place, as INS will not supply any college with an estimate. However, we were assured by INS officials that it should occur no later than mid-September. After the South Campus is inspected, we can “move” the completed status from the Morrow Campus to the North Campus. This allows the North Campus to function normally until it also receives the required inspection at a later date.

Until these requirements and inspections are completed, all classes that include non US citizens must be conducted at the Morrow location. ABC has set the starting date for South Campus classes to September 7 (Labor Day) to allow the greatest possible time for INS action. The ABCKE classes will begin one week later on September 14, 2009. If INS has not completed their inspection by this time, the classes with international students will meet at the Morrow campus until approval is received.

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Seed & Harvest Report



the Lord. In faith, Larry began sowing seeds of faith.

Pastor Mayberry decided that the “*whatever*” that he would sow in order to celebrate a harvest of musicians was the instruments they would need to play. That’s right—Larry sowed a brand new bass guitar and a new set of drums. With what he calls his “*faith money*,” he purchased the guitar and drums and proceeded to set them up on the platform in the sanctuary. Of course, with no one to play them, many asked him what-on-earth he was doing. His reply, “*I’m sowing seeds of faith and believing that God will send musicians for the worship team.*”

That was nearly two years ago. On the second Sunday in July, there was Larry on the platform with his guitar just like the last 20 years. However, he was joined by a piano player, keyboard player, bass guitar player, and yes, even a drummer! Larry tells me that when the worship team meets midweek to practice and plan together, it is common to see over a dozen people involved.

“Whatever a man sows, this will he also reap.” Praise God for his faithfulness and the blessing of Pastor Larry Mayberry’s faith and testimony. ■

*** What is your “whatever?” If you have a story of seed and harvest in your life, we’d like to encourage others with it. Please write, call or email Dale Bliss to submit your story to the Seed & Harvest Report.*

As the Director of Development for our college and network of churches, I have the privilege to travel and meet with pastors and ministry leaders all around the country. Time and time again I hear great reports of how God is faithful. Due to the nature of my ministry—resource development—most stories reflect how the Lord is faithful to his promise that we reap what we sow. I’d like to begin sharing some of these great stories with you in this new column, ***Seed & Harvest Report***.

In Galatians chapter 5 the Apostle Paul makes it clear that God’s system of seed and harvest will not fail. God will not be mocked or proven wrong, “*whatever a man sows, this will he also reap*” (Galatians 5:7 NAS). That word “*whatever*” is a powerful and limitless term. Paul uses it to help us see that the seed and harvest principle reaches far beyond the realm of farming into the supernatural world of destruction and eternal life. In fact, Jesus himself used the same principle to explain the eternal significance of his

death on the cross when he compares himself to a seed that falls to the ground and dies, but produces many seeds (John 12:24). So we see that “*whatever*” is a wide open door for us to enjoy the system that God created, Jesus acted upon, and is now passed on to us through the Word. Let’s see just how well this promise works.

Pastor Larry Mayberry was recently celebrated by his congregation for 20 years of pastoral service at the Pennellwood Church of God in Wyoming, Michigan just outside Grand Rapids. The church continues to thrive, and even during the typical summer slump, new faces continue to enter the church. The reason—seed and harvest!

For most, if not all, of Larry’s pastoral ministry the worship team included himself and one or two other people—typically a guitar and piano. All along his desire has been to enhance the worship ministry by including other musicians, such as a bass guitar player, drummer, etc. The harvest Larry wanted was musicians with a heart for worshipping

(Continued from page 3)

The staff of ABC and ABCKE are hoping and praying that the federal agencies will move forward before the beginnings of the semesters with their requirements. Although the Morrow campus remains available for use if necessary, it will be much less disruptive for students and instructors if the new campuses are cleared

for use. I would like to request your prayers for this process as well. Our ministry of recruiting, training, and sending out workers for God and the Gospel is so important. Your support financially and via prayer is essential for the ministry to move forward. I pray for God’s blessing on us all as we work together. ■

Tim Jones, CAO

I've been reading some new books and listening to some mostly new songs that I want to share with you. First I want you to consider three recent books. The first is ***The Only True GOD, A Study of Biblical Monotheism*** by Eric H.H. Chang (can be ordered through Xlibris books). From the book cover, Chang was born in Shanghai, China. He studied in Scotland and London and ministered in a church in Liverpool. Later he moved to Montreal. This book is the story of his quest to come out of current orthodoxy to a more biblical faith. The website given on the back of the book is www.ChristianDisciplesChurch.org. I believe he is extremely biblical in his stance FOR early orthodoxy (the first three centuries after Jesus) versus current orthodoxy. He continually emphasizes Jesus as Son of God, the agent of God and the perfect sacrifice. My favorite chapter is chapter five, "Yahweh in the Hebrew Bible." His question is... What will orthodoxy do about Yahweh? Good question!

The second book I recommend folks to consider is from someone I have met and come to respect very much. It is Joel Hemphill's ***To God Be The Glory***. Joel states, in discussing the book, that he didn't write the book from visions, voices or dreams but from the Word of God. (He is from a "oneness" background.) He presented some of his thoughts and some songs to our recent minister's conference. He makes an excellent case distinguishing the glory of God compared to the glory of Jesus. He notes that Je-

sus' glory is a given glory (Jn. 17:22,24). Compare this to Jesus' words in Mt. 25:31, "When the Son of Man comes in **His** glory." He often uses questions to initiate chapters such as "Where is Jesus Now?" and "Does Jesus Have a God?" Known as a singer/songwriter (8 Dove Awards) with his wife LaBreeska, Joel can add biblical writer to his job description. I would encourage most everyone to get the book and use it as an evangelistic tool. The book can be ordered through the General Conference or from their website www.thehemphills.com.

The third book you may wish to consider is somewhat strange because we do not know the author yet, but I love the title—***The Restitution of Jesus Christ***. The author is using a pseudonym, Servetus The Evangelical, until September 29, 2011 (the 500th anniversary of Servetus' birth), when he will reveal his identity. On his website (www.servetustheeangelical.com) he says he's an "Evangelical involved in Christian public ministry almost all of his adult life...Years later, I studied this subject (oneness of God) in much depth and changed my belief about it. I have largely kept this theological change a secret all of these years mostly to avoid persecution from my Christian brethren." He has ten chapters with about 300 footnotes per chapter! That is about three thousand references from noted scholars pointing out the issues of orthodoxy and calling us to return to a biblical faith. Here are some clues given on the website to his identity: A born-again Evangelical Christian all his adult life; has been a Bible student since his

teens; was water baptized as an adult; has a Ph.D; is called "the Professor." You can download his tract, "The Real Jesus" from the website (see the sidebar/button, "The Tract").

Now, besides books and since I've been on a LORD/YHWH theological kick lately, I looked up on YouTube, Yahweh songs. What a surprise! U2 (yes Bono!) has one on called ***Yahweh***. I like the "*Chicago Live*" performance which is about two years old. Great words and a great performance from old man Bono! I will not list all of the websites for each of these, but just go to www.youtube.com and do searches for the titles and authors. Also, Michael W. Smith has a beautiful song with an African children's choir, "***When I Think of You***." To me it has the catchiest chorus, "There is no one like, there is no one like my Yahweh, my Yahweh." I even downloaded it as my ringtone on my cell phone! A longer and more "worship" oriented song, sure to be great, is Chris Tomlin's, "***EXALTED (YAHWEH)***." The chorus is a very moving "Yahweh, Holy is Your Name" repetition. Hillsong has also done a recent song at their Conference 09, "***Yahweh***." It too is more of a worship song. Finally, having heard the phrase "Nimwe Yahweh" in Lusaka, Zambia last year, I found a Zambian group, Mt. Sinai Choir, singing "Nimwe Yahweh" (meaning, It is you Yahweh/Lord). I think God is even working in musicians to fulfill, "They shall know that I am the LORD/Yahweh." Check some of these out! ■

PRAYER REQUEST

One of the major activities that still needs to be accomplished for our successful relocation to the two new campus sites of the Bible College is the necessary approvals to come from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) needed to accept foreign students. Under the guidelines of the Homeland Security Department, a new branch location, such as the Bible College south campus, must be approved before it can conduct classes with non-citizen students.

We submitted the request for the south campus approval to INS several months ago and must now wait for them to act on that request. The INS has many schools and colleges to oversee and does not provide clear direction on how long the process can take for action and approval. The construction on the north campus has been completed and the Morrow, Georgia of-

fices have been relocated to Duluth, Georgia. The rules specify that one request must be completed before another can be submitted. Therefore the INS must act on the south campus first, and after that approval, we can request approval for the north campus.

We would appreciate it if our membership would make this process with the INS a part of their prayers and petitions to God. Pray that the South Campus approval be accomplished as soon as possible, and that the preparations for the North Campus approval be successful as well. The prayers of our people will ensure that the ministry of ABC to domestic and foreign students continues to be blessed. Thanks for your participation in this prayer effort. ■

2009 General Conference Delegate Sessions 89th Annual General Conference ■ 9-10 July 2009 Oregon Church of God, Oregon, Illinois

Note: The minutes of the Delegates Sessions that follow have been reformatted for publication in the Resurrection Herald-Progress Journal. Original, unformatted minutes are available upon request to the Board (BoardofDirectors@abc-coggc.org).

The July 9 Delegates Session of the General Conference was called to order at 3:18pm by Chairman Rob Helenburg. Brother Joe James opened the meeting in prayer.

Chairman Rob Helenburg welcomed the delegates and specifically recognized churches supplying delegates for the first time (New Beginnings Church of God, Desloge, Missouri and Abundant Life Community Church, Rockford, Illinois), newly licensed pastors (Kyle Casey and Deborah Bryant), and first time delegates.

Nola Jones reported from the number of credentialed delegates: 32 pastors, 47 church and regional con-

ference delegates, and six directors of the General Conference, for a total of 85 delegates.

Chairman Rob Helenburg gave a report on the operations of the General Conference from the perspective of the Board of Directors (available on the www.abc-coggc.org website or upon request to the Board of Directors). He praised the completion of the new North and South Campuses of the Atlanta Bible College and also requested prayer for the speedy approval of the South Campus by the INS so that the old Morrow facility can be vacated and the North Campus put to full use. He praised the churches of the General Conference for their support and stability during uncertain and difficult economic times. The Chairman pointed out that the Church of God General Conference is expanding internationally, such that the majority of its members are outside the U.S. He also shared initial information about new church affiliations in Pakistan.

He reported that Atlanta Bible College will soon have real-time distance learning capabilities, which should be in place by the 2010 meeting of the General Conference. Finally, the Chairman pointed out that effort has been made to improve communication between the membership and the General Conference, while acknowledging that much work is still needed.

The floor was opened for nominations for the election of Directors of the General Conference. The Hedrick Church of God nominated Myra Hamilton. The Ministerial Association nominated Pastor Joe Myers. The Minnesota State Conference nominated Pastor Daniel Smead. The Arkansas State Conference nominated Pastor Tom New. The Michigan State Conference nominated Carrie Briggs. Bob See moved that nominations be closed, and Joe James seconded. Motion carried.

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CAO Tim Jones gave an Annual Report on General Conference operations. He pointed out that this year counted 27 years since he first came to Oregon, Illinois and the Oregon Bible College, and acknowledged that OBC changed his life in many ways and that he will never regret the training he obtained there. He considers the mission of Atlanta Bible College and the General Conference a sacred mission. Tim Jones reported on the Ministry Services Network, Atlanta Bible College, and the current organization of the Atlanta Bible College and General Conference operations. He discussed delays in relocating the facilities of Atlanta Bible College, and requested that we pray for speedy inspection of the South Campus. He reported that the certificate of occupancy of the North Campus was obtained earlier in the week. Tim reported that, despite the national economic recession, contributions from the membership have remained faithful and that the General Conference is in a strong financial position. He reported the General Conference assets as:

Restricted Funds: \$685,000
ABC Development Foundation: \$1,033,000

Campus Development Fund: \$658,000

Total Assets: \$2,376,000

Tim gave some details regarding new distance learning initiatives, with three online classes beginning Fall Semester 2009. He reported on new communications efforts that will be more timely and effective and reduce some printing and mailing costs.

The budget was presented for discussion by the Chairman, the CAO, and the Operations Director Gary Burnham. The CAO showed that in-

come for FY 2008-09 was higher than FY 2007-08, but lower than the budget anticipated. In response to questions, the CAO reported that "Transferred In" income was taken from the Campus Development Fund (proceeds from the sale of the Morrow Campus), but that Atlanta Bible College and the General Conference are currently debt free. He also pointed out that there is a projected increase in tuition from the Atlanta Bible College-Korean Extension and through the Distance Learning Program.

Amendments were proposed for FY 2009-10. The first amendment increases the "Assistance to



Recognition of newly licensed pastors

Churches" expense line in BY 2009-10 to \$44,682 to allow for more Church Development and Planting Aid and increases the "Transferred In" income to \$372,320 to accommodate the extra expenses. Motion made by Bob Morrison, seconded by Joe James. Motion carried. The second amendment increases the "Assistance to Churches" expense line in BY 2010-11 to \$49,982 to allow for more Church Development and Planting Aid and increases the "Transferred In" income to \$215,321 to accommodate the extra expenses. Motion by Bob Morrison, second by Karl Froelich. Motion carried. Charles Bottolfs moved to accept the amended budgets as pre-

sented, seconded by Daniel Smead. Motion carried.

Chairman Rob Helenburg publicly recognized newly affiliated churches: Campus Bible Church in Duluth, Georgia and New Beginnings Church of God in Desloge, Missouri.

David Krogh gave a report on Atlanta Bible College. He thanked all who participated in the ABC Boosters campaign. He reported that enrollment declined slightly due to relocation of the main Atlanta Bible College campus, but anticipates new students from the McDonough area. Seven COG students are enrolled for Fall 2009 and enrollment should increase following the FUEL event in July. Atlanta Bible College has five international students from Kenya, Laos, and the Philippines. Atlanta Bible College also enrolls community students, some of which work to begin new churches, and that these students help pay for the operation of the college.

Steve An reported on the Atlanta Bible College-Korean Extension. He thanked the delegates for assisting in his mission of training students and pastors. The Atlanta Bible College-Korean Extension had 94 student enrolled at the beginning of Spring Semester 2009 and completed the semester with 92 students. The course schedule included seven Bible courses, two ministry courses, and five general education courses. The beginning of Fall Semester 2009 will be delayed until September 14 to allow time for the INS certification of the South Campus. Courses will be held in Morrow until INS certification is complete. He reported that the Korean Extension students are excited about the move

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to the North Campus in Duluth, Georgia. The Fall Semester 2009 will have seven Bible courses, two ministry courses, and four general education courses. Steve reported that there have been 15 graduates from the Korean Extension and that they are planting churches, working in existing churches, and teaching. One graduate is attending graduate school at Fuller Seminary and has received a full scholarship. This helps validate the quality of education offered by Atlanta Bible College-Korean Extension.

A report from Turning Point Youth Ministries was given by Seth Ross on behalf of Jon Cheatwood. He reported that TPYM is partnering with the Indiana State Youth Ministry for the re-FUEL and Refuge retreats. He reported that the ABC-I event will change in upcoming years due to the new campus arrangement. The main FUEL event is two weeks following General Conference, but this will be the final year at Manchester College. TPYM is now searching for a new long-term site for the FUEL program.

Gary Burnham reported on the Ministry Services Network. He announced that Joe and Rebekah Martin returned safely from Africa on July 9. Gary said that he spends a great deal of time communicating and spending time with our pastors, and that he is scheduling visits for Fall 2009. A new program, coaching and mentoring of pastors, is being developed and Greg Demmitt will provide some assistance.

Judy Myers reported on the activi-

ties of the Lord's Harvest International. She thanked those who offer assistance for their generosity. Joe and Rebekah Martin reported to Judy that there were over 500 baptisms in Malawi and Mozambique this past year. She reported that Haiti has had multiple difficult years due to numerous hurricanes and that there is mass starvation as a result. The LHI is sending \$1500 per month to help buy food for children at the orphanage. Thirteen COG members are traveling to Mexico on July 29 to assist churches and run a Bible School. In Tanzania, LHI has provided assistance to complete a



Installation of 2009-2010 Board of Directors

building. Only the floor remains to be completed. David Krogh reported on a trip to Peru in April. He also reported that we have new (confidential) contacts in Pakistan. Three groups wish to affiliate with the General Conference and the Board of Directors has approved LHI to go forward to discuss affiliation of churches and licensure of pastors.

Pastor Joe Myers moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Charles Bottolfs. Motion carried. The July 9 meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm.

The July 10 meeting was called to order at 9:45am by Chairman Rob Helenburg. Pastor Ray Hall opened in prayer. The minutes of the July 9 meeting were read by Secretary Jeff Fletcher. Bob See moved to accept

the minutes, seconded by Dan Siderius. Motion carried.

Dale Bliss reported from the Development Office of the General Conference. He said that Development work is not about fundraising, but developing new ways to accomplish ministry, and that it is biblical by giving members an opportunity to participate in things that God is involved with. Dale announced that there will be four written communications from the Development Office to the membership as part of the annual campaign. In the future, all gifts from membership will be acknowledged with a letter of thanks. Members may opt out of these letters upon request.

Pastor Dale Swartz gave a report from the Ministerial Association. He began by noting that the calling from God to be a pastor is the greatest calling one can have, but that it brings many responsibilities and its

share of heartaches. The new Ministerial Association Leadership Team is composed of Pastors Jon Winca-paw, Jon Welch, Dale Swartz, and Russ Magaw (Pastor's Pastor). Dale announced that the 100th gathering of the Ministerial Association will be a cruise with pastors and their spouses February 19-22, 2010. He asked that churches and members consider supporting their pastors in this trip. Finally, he reminded members to listen, respect, and follow the pastors of the General Conference, and asked for prayers for all pastors. If a church fails to support its pastors, the church often suffers.

Jan Stilson reported on a new project to write a biographical encyclopedia of pastors and evangelists in

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the Church of God. It will be completed by March 2011, and members may still submit material they wish to include. She thanked the Board of Directors for supporting this project. The next COG History Conference will be October 15-17, 2009 at the North Hills Church of God in Ohio.

Nola Jones gave an updated count of delegates: 49 delegates, 32 pastors, six directors for a total for 87 delegates.

Candidates for election as Director of the General Conference were presented to the delegates. Three Directors were to be elected: Two for full four-year terms and one for a three-year term to complete the term of Larry Bolhous. In the first election Carrie Briggs was elected to a four year term after three ballots. In the second election, Pastor Joe Myers was elected to a four year term after three ballots. In the third election, Pastor Tom New was elected to a three year term in a single ballot.

During the counting of ballots, several reports were given:

Pastor Alan Cain reported on the building project of the Lawrenceville Church of God.

Pastor Jon Welch reported on the planting of the New Beginnings Church of God.

Pastor Michael Hoffman gave a report from the Campus Development Committee. He pointed out that the Board of Directors does not deal with the day-to-day decisions that affect the General Conference. He reminded the delegates that the directors' decisions concerning property ownership were driven by the principles of good stewardship of God's gifts to us. Michael noted that our current philosophy is to not own property, and that the decision to do so was made by the Board of Directors, not the CAO or staff.

Dale Bliss gave a report from the Church Builders League. We will continue to place two appeals per year. The goal is 1000 members that provide \$25,000 for two appeals.

Seth Ross shared some news about the death of Sarah Callaway in the past year, pointing out that the word "FUEL" is included on her headstone to indicate the impact it had on her life.

Dale Bliss reported on opportunities for grants for churches, especially through the Oldham Small Church Foundation. The Development Office is available to assist churches in writing these grants.

Greg Demmitt reported on his activities as the Editor of the Adult Quarterly publication. For two straight years, the Quarterly has had volunteers for all lessons and no delays. He thanked Jill Taylor and Daniel Smead for their assistance in editing and proof-reading the lessons. He thanked numerous volunteer writers in attendance at the General Conference.

Pastor Dale Ramsey gave a report on the Cool Spring Church. He thanked the Church Builders League and all who contributed.

Dale Bliss reported on the Higher Ground Campground in Ohio and how its ministry goes beyond traditional church ministries.

The amended budget for FY 2009-10 and 2010-11 was distributed. Pastor Rob Bernheisel moved to adopt the budget for FY 2009-10 and Pastor Alan Cain seconded. The motion to adopt the budget was carried by delegate action. Pastor Michael Hoffman moved to adopt the budget for FY 2010-11 and Charles Bottolfs seconded. The motion to adopt the budget was carried by delegate action.

Constitutional Amendments proposed by the Michigan State Conference were reviewed. Keith Williams moved to adopt the amendments to the constitution, Joyce Knapp seconded. The vote was 72 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion to amend the constitution carried as the majority was at least two-thirds.

The Michigan State Conference requested that future appeals for contributions clearly indicate to whom a check should be written.

Pastor Wally Winner requested that the Board reassess the process for evaluating and distributing Church Planting Aid and Church Development Aid. He asked if the amounts were sufficient and whether changes to the application should be made. Chairman Rob Helenburg noted that the Board of Directors is currently reviewing these issues.

The 2010 meeting of the General Conference is intended to be held in Atlanta, but the dates and location have yet to be determined. No date for the 2010 Christian Workers Seminar has been selected. Delegates requested that CWS be held earlier in the year as compared to 2009 (held in June).

Secretary Jeff Fletcher read the minutes and made corrections as noted by the delegates. Jim Hamilton moved to accept the minutes, Dale Swartz seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned. Pastor Dale Ramsey closed in prayer. ■

Submitted by Jeff Fletcher, Secretary.

ABC NEWS

We continue to recruit Church of God and community students for the fall semester. We are pleased to see an increase in the number of **new** Church of God students who are registered for the fall. They are: Evan Darby and Michelle LeBlanc from Blood River, LA; Eric Blackburn from North Hills, OH; Jake Ballard from Guthrie Grove, SC; Jaysen Zea from Cornerstone, GA; Shane Martin from Kokomo, IN; and Shane Lloyd from Eldorado, IL recently started a Distance Learning course.

In addition to these 7 students, 11 **new** community students are signed up for classes. As a result of FUEL, we may have picked up one additional Church of God student and there was quite a lot of interest among those who will be in the 11th and 12th grades this fall. We are also working with 10-12 prospective community students for this fall.

We appreciate your prayers for our recruitment efforts. We also appreciate your efforts to encourage young people and mid-career people in your church to consider ABC. If you would like to give us the names of potential students, we will be sure to work with them. We are glad to talk with those who can come

for campus classes or with those who would like to take Distance Learning courses.

The fall semester will start August 31 with a week-long intensive course for new students--Bible College Survival, taught by Rebekah Martin. A pre-semester briefing for all students will be held Sunday afternoon September 6 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Regular classes will start on Monday, September 7.

By the time you receive this issue, we trust that the Immigration Department will have taken action on our petition to have our new South Campus in McDonough, GA approved so that international students can be taught there. As soon as our South Campus is approved, we will also be able to begin teaching international students at our new North Campus in Duluth, GA.

A new course will be taught this semester by ABC President Tim Jones. It is entitled "Christianity and Church for Twenty-Somethings." Here is the course description: "After centuries in which people seem to share a common view of the world and their faith, there are occasional periods of very rapid change. We are living in just such a time! This class will discuss changes in our culture and in the way twenty-something young people view the world. It will cover how these changes in people will or should change the way our churches worship and minister." ■

Atlanta Bible College Honor Roll

In order to be on the Honor Roll, a student must be a full time student enrolled in 12 or more semester hours of classes. Congratulations to the following students for their academic accomplishments during the winter/spring 2009 semester.

HIGH HONOR ROLL (3.5 AND ABOVE)

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Young Hee An | Sae Hyun Lee |
| Mark DeYoung | Mi Ok Moon |
| Young Ran Eum | Hyun Sook Park |
| Eun Jung Han | Eugenia Roberts |
| Moon Joung Hong | Bok Soon Sung |
| Yeong Beom Kim | Robin Tota |
| Hyun Jung Kang | Hyuk Joon Yang |
| Young Hwan Kong | |

HONOR ROLL (3.00 AND ABOVE)

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Young Hak An | Simon Kang |
| Chae Yun Baik | Hae Young Kim |
| Dietrich Carroll | Geoffrey Kithimba |
| In Wu Chea | Eldrick Lal |
| Jae Hyun Cho | Calvin LeBlanc |
| Sung Woong Cho | Jon Seung Lee |
| Hyo Sun Chung | Nam Yi Lee |
| Jin Suk Han | Sang Kyung Lee |
| Kum Run Hong | Sung Hyun Lee |
| Ju Li Hwang | Hellen Mbugua |
| Kyong Ok Hyon | Hae Won Park |
| Ki Young Jang | Hyun Ju Park |
| Jung Sim Ji | Soung Jun Pyo |
| Jin Hee Joung | Misuk Rodgers |
| Andrew Jung | Eo Jin Yi |
| Dong Ho Kang | |

Some have wondered why so many ABC Korean Extension students are on the honor roll compared to ABC students. First, the Korean Extension students are very good students. Second, the Korean Extension students out number ABC students more than two to one. Third, about 95% of the Korean students are in the United States on student visas. Department of Immigration policies require international students to take a full time course load. Many ABC students only take two or three courses. To be on the honor roll one must be full time.

David Krogh

**PRAYERS
and PRAISES:
Chairman's Address
to the 2009 General
Conference
Delegates**

The Board of Directors and I would like to welcome you to the 89th meeting of the General Conference held here in Oregon, Illinois. We hope that you will enjoy the Conference and for those that attended OBC, that you have pleasant memories of your time here.

"I am not a lifelong member of the Church of God, having been associated with you for about 18 years beginning at about age 48. Yet I have always felt that I had the full love, support, and encouragement from the COG members and pastors. I thank you very much for this; it has made my service to God and this Conference these past four years, much easier. I am proud to have been able to serve you these past four years and to have served during this period of growth and transition. We have been able to make some changes in our methods of communication by taking advantage of new technologies, without throwing away the old. My desire was to see the General Conference do a better job of getting information to those of us out there in "Church of God Land". I think we have made some improvement in that regard.

In my local church in Virginia we, as I am sure many of you also do, have a session of Prayers and Praises during the Sunday Service to celebrate the good things that have happened and ask for assistance and intercession for the trials

that we face. I would like to use that theme here today.

1. ABC & ABC-KE Campuses

We offer praises for the successful completion of the facilities for the two new campuses located in McDonough and Duluth, GA. This will give the College the ability to better serve their customers who are the students that wish to grow and learn the Word of God and about his promised Kingdom which is coming. The McDonough offices located in Avalon Business Park house the Church of God business offices and classroom facilities for many American, local and out-of-state, and some international students. The facilities at the Northeast campus in Duluth have been approved for occupancy and it provides a church sanctuary, offices for the Korean Extension and the Korean Conference of Churches and, most importantly, classroom and library facilities for the Korean international students.

But full use of these facilities requires approval by the INS. We need prayers for a timely and speedy review and inspection of these facilities by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to put the facilities into use. Tim, David, Steve and Sam, along with the Board, have worked diligently to put into place the plan to best accomplish this goal. We have even delayed the start of the coming school year to allow more opportunity to allow the inspections to be completed. Now we need to "Storm the Gates" with prayer that the INS powers that be will do their job in a timely manner.

2. Church Stability

The entire country and our own members, churches and confer-

ences are feeling the effects of the recession and the tough economic times. We offer praises to God that our churches and conferences are continuing to accomplish their missions and programs. Our youth programs are still in place at the regional and national levels and that church giving has not sharply fallen off. We pray that it will continue to be so.

3. International Missions Growth

We give praise for the fact that our evangelism and missions outreach continues to grow and to overcome adversities. We lost Pastor Bader in Peru, but the church he started is continuing on and even experiencing growth. The efforts in Haiti are providing help and support in one of the poorest areas in the world. Our members there are better off than many of their fellow countrymen. The African churches and conferences are growing and are now larger than the parent Church of God organization. We have over 200 churches combined into two conferences, located in three countries, including Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania with the possibility of new churches in Kenya, which may grow from our ABC international students. Other venues such as Mexico, Philippines, and Russia continue to thrive and grow. The Korean Conference under Steve An continues to grow with two churches in Korea as well as two in the United States.

Very recently we have learned that there is an inquiry by a collection of existing churches in Pakistan, who are interested in investigating the possibility of joining the Church of God, as we best represent their belief structure, which is influenced by the Moslem beliefs

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of Unitarianism. We seem to best fit in with their doctrine. Within this next year there may be a Pakistani Conference. We pray for a continuing development and future alliance with those believers.

4. Real Time Distance Learning

One year ago Jeff Fletcher asked us to imagine ABC classes taught to students located all around the US by Dr. Joe or classes taught to students in Korean by Steve An, all while in the classroom in GA. We do not have that technology in place as yet, but the classrooms at Avalon and Duluth have been constructed with the basics required so they are ready to be outfitted to accept the technology. We praise God that we have within the COG family, individuals with the technical knowledge needed to bring this remote teaching to fruition. Currently there are two approaches each of which have distinct advantages. Both Jason Railton and Lee McMinn have the expertise to guide us in our approach to these new technologies and I personally hope that we will have something in place at our campuses by the time we meet again in 2010.

5. Communications

One of the greatest problems that any organization must deal with is communications, both internal and external. This past year the Board and Staff have worked and, at times, struggled with these issues. We offer praises that we made contact with a management consultant that specializes in helping faith-based organizations such as the Church of God. She showed us the need for the Board to have an organized and integrated approach to the standing documents, policies, protocols, committees and so forth, that govern

the actions of the BOD. These governance documents are vital to consistent management and for the orderly transition between each new yearly Board makeup as the individual members change. I praise God that we were able to accomplish this in the past year. Also this year, the Board undertook the project of developing detailed strategic plans to guide us and the staff in reaching the goals stated in the ABC and MSN Vision Statements. This project helps greatly to communicate and clarify the Board's plan to the staff and the staff's ability to respond. These plans should be completed and underway by this fall.

As we are moving to a college structure that encompasses two separate campuses occupied by two different cultures, we are discovering areas that need clarification and the need for better internal communications. The Church of God has functioned, since our very beginning, in an environment in which everyone is "just down the hall" and coordination was relatively easy. But with separation, both physically and culturally, we have learned that misunderstandings can occur and feelings can be hurt and suspicions can develop. This spring the Board and staff have worked together to attempt to resolve these communications issues so as to keep us strong and focused on God's business of educating our students to be the future leaders in our churches and conferences. We praise God that we are making positive progress in resolving these vital issues.

Finally, we have started to find ways to use the technology available to better reach the members out there in "Church of God Land". For those more comfortable with the internet, you now have the option of

receiving the Restitution Herald-Progress Journal by computer rather than in paper form. For those not so inclined, the standard paper mail-out document is and will remain available. We started a Progress Journal "Lite", an e-mail version that can provide more topical, newsy materials in a more current monthly format. In the past sometimes the items reported were dated by the time the printed Restitution Herald-Progress Journal was distributed. This e-mail publication can allow us to provide to you, time-sensitive materials while they are relevant. We praise God that we can find ways to use these things for His service and ask for your prayers that we can continue to improve our communications at all levels.

In summary, I would like to thank the other Board members, the College and Conference staff for their support to me and to each other and for their dedication to the General Conference. I also thank the pastors and especially to the members of the General Conference for their interest and support. I would like to thank the delegates of the Church of God that elected me four years ago and who never failed to support me with their prayers. All these individual members are our constituency, and they are who this is all about. Without the support and cooperation of the individual Church of God members, our efforts are in vain. I praise God for the strength He has given me this year and for the support I have received and I pray that He continues to give strength to this Conference and to the new Board, so that we can continue His work. Again, thank you all very much for your love and support these past years. ■

CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

CONGER STREET CHURCH OF GOD

The Conger Street Church of God in Waterloo, Iowa 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 at: dantheman5169@aol.com; 2672 Logan Ave., Waterloo, IA 50703.

HAPPYWOODS CHURCH

The congregation of the Happywoods Church is seeking a full-time pastor. We are a relatively small congregation and are located in the community of Hammond, LA. This area is in the southeast tip of Louisiana and currently has a population of approximately 100,000 people within relatively easy driving distance of the church. Our area is located in the center of the I-12 corridor, which is predicted to grow to over 2.5 million people within the next 30 or so years. We have a newly renovated facility of 12,000 sq. ft. of space that needs lots of people to serve.

Our congregation has been involved with our community in the past and looks forward to growing in the community and in faith. If you are interested in pastoring in an environment which is both challenging and invigorating, where you and the church can grow both numerically and spiritually through outreach, please think of us.

For more information, please contact Elder Charles Bottolfs at 985-542-1555 or via e-mail at: cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net. Or you may contact Elder John Fauntleroy at 985-345-7134. Both phones take messages, and you will be contacted. You may also write to us at the following address: C. G. Bottolfs, 43137 Happywoods Road, Hammond, LA 70403.

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, Missouri is recruiting an energetic, gifted, and dedicated pastor. A progressive church of traditional values and sound doctrines, Countryside is committed to being a beacon of truth in our community. Interested individuals may contact the elders - Dale L. Brown, at (816) 550-2085 or email DaleLBrown@aol.com or John Smead at (660) 747-8571 or email JSmead@iland.net for an application.

FREDERICKTOWN CHURCH OF GOD

Fredericktown Church of God is searching for a part-time minister who could later become full-time. Please contact Harold Thomas at P.O. Box 188, Fredericktown, Missouri 63645; or Elsie Cooper at 10026 Weber Ln., Potosi, Missouri 63664, (573) 438-4990.

Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

**"Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness; and all these
things shall be added unto you."**

Matthew 6:33

Matthew 5, 6, and 7 is the record of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

In these chapters Jesus teaches us how to deal with various situations in life, and He gives us attitudes of Christian conduct, such as "Be reconciled to your brother," and, "love your enemies, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that spitefully use you; that ye may be the children of your Father in heaven."

The verse above is Jesus' conclusion about what is most important in life, the guiding principle for our life. It is: to seek first the Kingdom of God and righteousness.

He begins this line of thought by telling us not to put first the laying up of treasures on earth, but lay up treasure with God in heaven. Have a relationship with God of faith and trust in Him. Get close to Him. Return His love. Live by spiritual principles so that when Jesus comes back you will be allowed to enter God's Kingdom over earth, which is the Christian's goal.

Jesus said we can't have two masters. We can't serve God with all our heart and also serve an earthly desire to accumulate treasures in this life. We can't do both. Either our attention is focused on God or "mammon," which is, putting the things in this life first. In our lives something will become the most important thing. We need to pay attention to what it is. Where should our focus be? Our

focus needs to be God, His righteousness, and His coming Kingdom on earth.

So, Jesus says, don't worry about what you are going to eat or drink, or what clothes you will put on. Your life focus will determine your eternal destiny, either eternal life or the second death in the lake of fire.

Think about the birds. They don't plant or harvest crops. They don't store up food. They don't worry about what they are going to eat. Why? Because God takes care of them. Jesus' point is that God will take care of us and supply every need we have. So we don't have to have our attention centered on how to keep alive and do well. Thus we can direct our attention on desiring to know Him and His righteousness and how we can live in order to have Him accept us as His people.

If we are willing to center our attention on God and His promises, to seek to have His Spirit in us to meet the problems of life, we don't have to worry about life's needs. He has already taken care of them, or will take care of it when we pray.

Take the grass and the flowers God has created. Do they worry? No, they just grow and give forth beauty to please our eyes and glorify God. Solomon was dressed in gorgeous robes, but a lily or rose has more breathtaking beauty than any clothing of man. Why do some people overly worry about how they look? God is taking care of them.

God knows what we need. He ought to, for He made us. He gives all men everything they need to live and be content in this life.

Why, then, should we worry about what we are going to eat or drink, or what clothes we need to wear? Being able to enter the Kingdom of God, and have GOD'S righteousness is the most important thing. That's what we need to put our attention to. ■

—Jim Mattison

Africa Report 2009

Praise God for a victorious trip to Africa! We felt His leading and safety the entire trip, and much was accomplished. Upon arrival in Malawi, we looked for a vehicle to buy, but did not find one that was suitable before leaving for Mozambique, so we rented one to start with.

Before starting the services in each country, we met with the boards to discuss what was going on currently, baptisms, funerals, marriages, concerns, and needs. Over 500 baptisms were reported for both countries combined! Unfortunately, death still ravages the country mercilessly.

Heavy storms with winds of hurricane force were reported by both countries, which caused the destruction of several homes and 5-6 churches. We saw several places where trees were blown down also. Only the tin blew off the roof of some churches, but some of that was salvageable and re-used. We hope to assist in re-building the downed churches.

At their suggestion (which we believe is excellent!) they will now start building their churches with double brick walls so they will be stronger and last longer. Several churches have fallen down in the past for various reasons. Since they make their own bricks with mud, then 'burn' them for strength and durability, the only added expense for us is to supply more cement for mortar. This will add ~ \$200-\$300 to the \$1800 a church has cost in the recent past.

There is a need for land each church

is on to be owned by the Church of God Abrahamic Faith in Africa. The chief is the one who usually decides where a church can be built in the village, and can either donate or sell the land for it. There will be several copies of the bill of sale for



Bales of sweatshirts and sweaters for orphans.

proof of ownership; one for the chief, for the treasurer and also chairman of the board, and for us. The cost for the land varies from \$50 to ~ \$200.

Several churches have organized taking care of orphans in their villages. They have them come to the church every morning, play with them and teach them basics, like the alphabet, writing & reading, and Bible stories. They feed them lunch, then in the afternoon send them back to homes that keep them for the night. This is a wonderful, but costly service for the churches. We are helping to offset their cost through your generous contributions.

We bought six 100-pound bales of really nice warm hooded sweatshirts and sweaters to give to each church for orphans. The cost was ~\$100 for each bale. We

bought plastic bags to separate them into and put ~ 10 items in each bag. They were greatly needed and appreciated!

We also bought towels, wash cloths, nice soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, flip-flops, school exercise books, and took with us crayons, coloring books, color pages, and toys that we were able to give out to orphans at several churches. They were so excited!! Also, at one of the churches that has the most orphans, Erica and Kaitlyn played with the children for a couple of hours. They played dodge ball, Frisbees, and blew huge bubbles. What a hit!! The kids will remember this for the rest of their lives!

Another blessing to the people was to give out ~ 235 Bibles. The leaders decide who can have a Bible, based on if the person can read. Women have typically had no (or little) education, so not many have received Bibles. Sister Linda, who has been freely helping us for several years, has a passion for helping these women. She has been going to the villages and teaching them to read, among other things. As a re-



Erica and Kaitlyn playing with the children.

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sult, we gave some Bibles specifically for these women. They were ecstatic! And, it encourages other women to learn to read!

Pleasant Hill Church and Troy View Church in Ohio both donated money for eye glasses that we bought and took with us. You can't imagine how much they were appreciated! We were able to give out ~ 250 pairs. Thank you, both churches!!!



Dr. Joe and Rebekah Martin

Scott Ross sent a couple of boxes of men's suits that arrived when we were there. We gave them to the pastors on the Malawi board. It was like Christmas for them! They loved them! Thank you, Jaynes St. Church!!!

When we returned to Malawi from Mozambique, we were blessed to find a truck to buy! Some of the members of the Guthrie Grove Church donated money to buy an African Missions Vehicle. What a blessing!!! We go over long, dusty, bumpy dirt roads, some of the time having to travel off the road to get through. The truck we bought is a 2000 Mitsubishi 5-speed, 4-door, 4WD with a camper shell. It's per-

fect! Total cost was \$11,482. We could not have traveled to some of the churches without the 4-wheel drive. Thank you, G.G.!!!

We preached at 10 different churches in Mozambique, and 11 different churches in Malawi, having a couple of days off every once in a while. We traveled 3,000-5,000 miles on these terrible roads going to churches. I can truly say we've been to the end of the world and back! One church we visited in Mozambique, we drove 4 ½ hours, then parked the truck and walked an hour before having a two-hour service. Then we walked the hour back to the truck and drove the 4 ½ hours back to where we were staying. Most days we were gone 8-10 hours, which was plenty long enough!

About midway through the trip we took a couple of days R & R at Lake Malawi (which was gorgeous!) and the Liwonde Game Preserve. It was a much needed rest! We didn't see a lot of animals at the game preserve, but it was still quiet and peaceful to go through. We took a boat ride on the Shire River and saw many hippos and a few crocodiles. Elephants were seen (finally!) in the marshy area on the way out of the preserve.

The services were well attended most places. In Mozambique we went to a church in the Mocuba District, which is the farthest south we've ever been. The people were thrilled to have us come teach them! This is the place we were going to go to in 2005, when the trip was cancelled.

The people in these countries are very poor, but generous with giving what they have — vegetables they grow in their gardens. We were given some of the best rice I've



Pastors with bicycles.

tasted anywhere in the world! Also, some chickens!

At one of the churches in the Thyolo District, the people were so excited and thankful that we had come to teach them. This is a quote from their pastor: "From the creation of the earth until now, no mzungu (white person) has ever set foot here until you! I think this is a dream I'm having, that you're here!" After the service his mother came up singing LOUDLY, and shook our hands and hugged us.

Joe and I spend several days in South Africa, meeting with Bishop John Alli and his wife, Grace. Their church is 'All Grace Ministries', which is affiliated with Kingdom Covenant Ministries. He is very interested in having Joe come over next year to teach ~ 200 pastors for a week's seminar. They have access to a great facility for the meetings. It is a conference center that provides housing and meals, as well as large meeting rooms and a beautiful, grassy campus.

There are so many things that happened, I can't write about them all. This is just a sampling of what happened on our trip. Thank you all for your love and support, and especially your prayers. ■

Rebekah Martin July 2009

150th Anniversary!

On the weekend of July 24-26, the Brush Creek Church of God near Tipp City, OH celebrated its 150th anniversary! Activities began with a concert by Robin Todd on Friday evening and ended with a Sunday afternoon service which included a tribute to those who have been members of Brush Creek from 40 to 77 years! Other events included a history presentation by Kent Ross; messages from former pastors Michael Gallagher, Michael Hoffman, David Krogh, and Dale Swartz; other messages by Pastor Bruce Reye, who was a former member of Brush Creek, Pastor Dan Gill from Nashville, and Dr. Joe Martin from Atlanta Bible College; a presentation of a plaque to the church by Northeast Conference President Kent Ross; the Sunday morning message from current pastor Dave Hixon; written messages from many; remarks by General Conference Board Chairman Bob Morrison; special music; a pig roast; lots of good food; and lots of reminiscing. A history of the church was prepared and a large display of photos and articles was available for perusal. A CD of the photos, along with other mementoes were given to each attendee.

The church building was constructed in 1859 a few feet north of where the present building stands. The building was moved to its present location in 1926. The building was enlarged in 1954 and in 1983. Over the years the church has produced three daughter churches. Glad Tidings Chapel was started in Dayton in 1953. In 1960, the Troy View Church was started in Troy. In 1973 a new work was started in Pleasant



Hill. A total of 67 members and families have transferred over the years to help other churches in southern Ohio.

The church has also generously supported the Northeast Conference and the Church of God General Conference throughout the years. The Church has produced nine graduate ministers from Oregon Bible College. Two other members have received ministerial licenses from the General Conference Ministerial Recognition Board. The church has produced nine minister's wives.

We are grateful for the long and successful ministry of the Brush Creek Church of God, and we pray God's blessing upon its ministry in the years to come until Jesus returns.

—David Krogh



Vickie Brewer honoring those who planned the celebration: J. R. Brown, Frances Pearson, Vickie, Allen Smith, John Huston, and Pastor Dave Hixon.



Individuals were honored who have been members at Brush Creek 40 years up to 77 years.

Every church leadership board has a chief responsibility of reviewing the income and expenses of the ministry they lead. At times this task requires a simple review and then move on. Other times matters of finance can engulf the entire meeting. Either way, let me encourage you to remember your attention to stewardship and finances is a noble and highly spiritual facet of your leadership.

Unfortunately, many church leadership councils view the financial report as a “necessary evil”—a problem that has to be addressed or an ongoing need that continually demands attention. Even though all the resources which are available empower a great deal of ministry, when the desire to do more is held up by the funds needed, suddenly money becomes “a problem.”

Of course not all leadership teams feel down when faced with a financial challenge. Some view it as a great opportunity. Others find wisdom and insight into the character of the church—good and bad. No matter how you frame it in your mind, the moment a need for funds stands in the way of your mission, you are at an obvious fork in the road. In the apostle’s second letter to the Corinthians, Paul gives us a few powerful examples of how to navigate such a fork in the road. (see 2 Corinthians chapters 7-9)

First, Paul wasn’t afraid of the economy. Paul understood that there was “extreme poverty” and “severe trial” going on in the Macedonian churches, but he did not let that overshadow the privilege of giving to the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Times are tough all over. Trust me. I live in a town that recently hit 20 percent unemployment. Still the economy of this world is no match for the supernatural power of stewardship. Paul’s greatest example is Jesus. Jesus, the Son of God, gave up (donated) the wealth of heaven to the cause. The result was “that you through his poverty might become rich.” For Jesus, the reality was that poverty was a brief leg of the journey to glory. To the world the illusion was that he was forever poor and defeated. Don’t let the illusion of poverty stop you from bold generosity.

Second, Paul didn’t materialize giving. It’s easy to let money and giving be reduced to just that—money and giving. Yet, Paul demonstrates that the “grace of giving” is as spiritually significant as faith, speech, knowledge, and even love. (2 Corinthians 8:7-8). Giving is an esteemed part of discipleship. It is an expression of faith, love and gratitude for one’s own salvation from God. It is also a reflection of the mind of Christ. Giving should be as joyful and exciting as singing God’s praises, baptizing a new believer, or teaching a new believer to pray for the first time.

Don’t let tithes and offerings be reduced to a worldly business transaction. Instead let it reflect the very giving nature of God himself.

Finally, Paul was not concerned with the amount. You will often hear me talk about a “meaningful gift.” This is simply a way of saying that the amount of money in the gift is not as important as the amount of heart in the gift. Paul threads his letter with words like desire, willingness, privilege, concern, overflowing joy, earnestness, and sincerity. Using Titus as an example, he makes it clear that such concern is “put into the heart.” We often use an image of a thermometer to reflect the success of giving to a goal or campaign. Perhaps we should replace that icon with one of a beating heart. Paul doesn’t raise money by measuring amounts in the offering plate, but by checking the pulse of believer’s heart for the ministry.

My prayer for you and your ministry is that you will experience joy and victory at every financial fork in the road. If the Church of God Development Office can serve you in any way, please don’t hesitate to call or write. Until then remember this promise, “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8) ■

The Shema: The Creed of Jesus

by Sean Finnegan

A few weeks ago, I shared on the “Shema.” In preparation for this teaching, I researched the various Jewish traditions surrounding the central creed of Israel. But before we go any further, do you know what the “Shema” is? The word “Shema” is the imperative form of a Hebrew word meaning “hear” or “listen,” and it is the first word in Deuteronomy 6:4. Here is the section from the Bible:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

4 Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The first point is that “**the LORD is our God.**” The words “the LORD” are how most translations indicate the name of God – Yahweh, as opposed to “the Lord,” which is a title, not God’s name. Because of sensitivity to the Jewish

people who believe the name should not be pronounced (though I have never found their arguments convincing), the translators of nearly all English Bibles translate God’s name – Yahweh – as “the LORD” with all capitals. So, this is step one: *our* God is Yahweh, not Apis, Hathor, Ra, Nut, Set, Issis, Baal, Asherah, Dagon, Chemosh, nor even Jesus, but Yahweh. Yahweh is the only God for Israel – there are no other gods for us other than Yahweh “our God.” Paul, the Rabbi, confirms this when he says:

1 Corinthians 8:4-6

4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that **there is no God but one.** 5 For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, 6 yet **for us there is but one God, the Father**, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we exist through him.

In other words, there may be other “so-called gods,” but *for us*, there is only one God – the Father. Furthermore, there is one lord – Jesus the Messiah. Thus, Paul amends to the Shema a statement about Jesus,

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד:
בְּרַחֵם שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מְלֻכוֹתָו לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:
וְאֶתְהַבֵּת אֶת יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ, בְּכֹל לִבְבְּךָ, וּבְכֹל
גַּפְשְׁךָ, וּבְכֹל מְאֹדְךָ: וְהָיוּ
הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה, אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוֶּה הַיּוֹם, עַל
לִבְבְּךָ: וְשָׁנַנְתָּם לְבָנֶיךָ וּדְבַרְתָּ בָם, בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ
בְּבֵיתְךָ וּבְלִכְתְּךָ בַדֶּרֶךְ וּבְשֹׁכְבְּךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ:
וּקְשַׁרְתָּם לְאוֹת עַל יָדְךָ, וְהָיוּ לְטַמְּפַת בֵּין
עֵינֶיךָ: וּבְתַבְתָּם עַל מְזוֹזוֹת בֵּיתְךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ:

but not in such a way that infringes upon the simple declaration of Yahweh’s oneness as our God but as a separate office – lord. In other words, we have one God and one lord. Our God is the Father, and our lord is Jesus the Messiah.

Back to the Shema, the second point is equally simple. “**The LORD is one!**” Yahweh is one. Yahweh is indivisible. He is a singular being who cannot be fragmented. When Jesus quoted the Shema, he said, “Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord” (Mk 12:29). Many theologians have tried unsuccessfully for many years to make the word “one” mean “three.” Fortunately, the word “one” is not at all a fuzzy word, for it is the cardinal number – the word that someone would start with when counting. Yahweh is one, not two, not three. This simple irrefutable point is highlighted by the tens of thousands of singular pronouns and verbs used of God. God is a “he” not a “they.” When He speaks, He does not say “we,” but “I.” This point is emphatic in Deuteronomy and Isaiah.

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Deuteronomy 4:35, 39

35 To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him...39 Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.

Isaiah 44:24

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone."

Isaiah 45:5-7, 18

5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; 6 That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, 7 The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these...18 For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), "I am the LORD, and there is none else.

Isaiah 46:9

Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me.

The Scriptures are unmistakably clear on this point (and there are many more verses that could be quoted to demonstrate the case). Yahweh alone is God. He is an "I," not a "We," and He is very particular to get this point across to His people. He wants them to know, "I am Yahweh, and there is none else." But the Shema does not end in Deuteronomy 6:4, it continues to verse 5 which says:

Deuteronomy 6:5

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Just as Deuteronomy 6:4 tells us who our God is and how many He is, verse 5 tells us what our proper action is towards Him. We are to love Him with *everything*, not just our heart and strength, but with our very lives! We love Yahweh our God with our emotions, our actions, our entire beings. In fact, this second part of the Shema is *impossible* without the first part. For if there were three who are God, then we can never love any of them with everything. At best, we could love each of them equally (one third to each). However, the advantage of *strict* monotheism is that one can fix his single-hearted focus on Yahweh and love him single-mindedly—with every fiber of his being.

In my research into the Shema and how the Hebrew people have clung to this simple, central creed, I came across an incredible story about a second century Jewish martyr. His name was Rabbi Akiva, and he may be familiar to you because he hailed Simon Bar Kokhba as the Messiah in the second Jewish revolt which

ended in disaster in A.D. 135. Well, anyhow, after the failed revolution of the Jews against Rome, the policy was set that the Torah (the Law) could no longer be taught on pain of death. Rabbi Akiva loved God so much, that he taught Torah despite the Roman law forbidding it. When the Romans found out, they sentenced him to a painful death. They took a large iron comb and began to scrape off his 90 year-old flesh. When Rufus condemned the venerable Akiva to the hand of the executioner, it was just the time to recite the Shema. Full of devotion, Akiva recited his prayers calmly, though suffering agonies; and when Rufus asked him whether he was a sorcerer, since he felt no pain, Akiva replied, "I am no sorcerer; but I rejoice at the opportunity now given to me to love my God 'with all my life,' seeing that I have hitherto been able to love Him only 'with all my means' and 'with all my might.'" With the word "One!" he expired (Yer. Ber. ix. 14b, and somewhat modified in Bab. 61b). Akiva wanted to be able to love God with everything, which included the idea of loving God to the point of pouring out his soul to death.

Jewish Encyclopedia of 1906

"It [the Shema] is the last word of the dying in his confession of faith. It was on the lips of those who suffered and were tortured for the sake of the Law. R. Akiva patiently endured while his flesh was being torn with iron combs, and died reciting the "Shema'." He pronounced the last word of the sentence, "Echad" (one) with his last breath (Ber. 61b). During every persecution and massacre, from

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the time of the Inquisition to the slaughter of Kishinef, “Shema’ Yisrael” have been the last words on the lips of the dying.”

Indeed, the Shema is the precious confession of faith that Yahweh is our God, that He is one, and that we are to love Him with everything, even if faced with torture and death. But, that’s not all! The Jewish understanding of the Shema includes not only Deuteronomy 6:4-5, but also verses 6-9.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

6 These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk

by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The Shema is to be on the Israelites’ hearts; it is to be taught to their children. In fact, Jewish children are taught the Shema as soon as they can learn it. Furthermore, the Shema is said at least twice daily, in the morning and in the evening. The Shema is contained in the tefillin, which are black, leather boxes worn on the head and arm during prayer. In this way the commandments are bound as a sign. Lastly, the Shema is written on a scroll and placed in the mezuzah, which is installed on the door post of the house. Suffice

it to say that the Shema was and is the central creed of Judaism. But, then what about us? Should Christians adopt the creed of Israel as our own creed? To this question, I have two responses: one from Jesus and one from Paul.

In Mark 12:28-34, we find a scribe asking Jesus a serious question, “What commandment is the foremost of all?” Jesus replied by quoting the Shema, “Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” Jesus then added to the Shema a second commandment (from Leviticus 19:18) when he said, “The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The Shema is the central

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Truth Matters

fearlessly exploring biblical truth

Six months ago we began airing Truth Matters on our local Christian talk radio station here in greater Albany, NY area. In that time we were able to air 24 shows before we were given the “left foot of fellowship” by the station manager for questioning the doctrine of the Trinity. Even so, each of the shows is available for free download on our website: www.TruthMattersRadio.com. Each 30 minute show is hosted by Sean Finnegan and features a different guest each week. Topics covered include The Kingdom of God, The Sleep of the Dead, Salvation and Perseverance, The Oneness of God, The Rapture, and much more. Guests include Sir Anthony Buzzard, Greg Deuble, Ray Faircloth, Vince Finnegan, Delroy Gayle, J. Dan Gill, Victor Gluckin, Alex Hall, Dr. Joe Martin, Dr. John Roller, Dustin Smith, Steve Taylor, and several others. These shows can either be downloaded for **free** from the website or purchased on CD by contacting Living Hope Community Church by phone (518-785-8888) or email (info@kingdomready.org). They are useful for training youth who are becoming acquainted with Church of God doctrines or they can be distributed to family and friends who are hungry for truth.

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown – Jeremy Linn (7/19/09) by Pastor Tom New; Kim Linn welcomed via membership transfer

Indiana

Knightstown – Elizabeth Moore (6/28/09) by Tony Moore

Minnesota

Pine Grove – Christian Nordberg (2/21/09) by Pastor Syd Kirkpatrick; Marin Nordberg (June, 2009) by Pastor Jeff Moore; Morgan Burke (June, 2009) by Hope Fletcher

Marriages

South Carolina

Bethel – Kevin Davis and Tonya Rogers (6/20/09) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Deaths

Indiana

Culver – Marguerite Zechiel, 95 (6/20/09), long time member

Louisiana

Happywoods – Julie Dee Harper, 48 (2/5/09). Julie attended Oregon Bible College 1979-1980; Cora Sullivan Hutchinson, 90 (6/6/09), long time faithful member. Service by Pastor Vernis Wolfe

Minnesota

Pine Grove – Darlene Bormes, 83 (4/6/09), long time active member. Service by Pastor Syd Kirkpatrick

South Carolina

Bethel – Jerry Hicks (6/3/09). Service by Pastor Jeff Fletcher; David Rogers (7/23/09). Service by Pastor Jeff Fletcher and Associate Pastor Bill Vaughan

Ontario, Canada

Glad Tidings – Melvin Haines, 92 (5/25/09), long time member. Service by Pastor Michael Brown; George William (Bill) Mires, 89 (6/8/09), baptized member. Service by Pastor Michael Brown

Other News

An Arkansas State Conference Rally Day will be hosted by the McGintytown Church of God September 25-27, 2009. The guest speaker will be Anthony Buzzard.

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creed for Jesus! This should not be too shocking after all because Jesus was a Jew who lived the commandments contained in the Hebrew Scriptures. If the Shema is the creed of Judaism, then of course Jesus would adopt it as his own personal creed. So, if the Shema was Jesus' central creed and Jesus is our lord and example, should we not adopt it as our own creed? Should we not worship the same God that Jesus worshipped? We may adopt other truths in addition to the creed of Jesus and Israel, but we may not contradict the truth contained within the Shema. In

other words, we may not say God is three since the Shema asserts that our God is one individual – Yahweh. However, we may add to the Shema, as Paul did in 1 Corinthians 8:6, that Jesus is our lord, Messiah.

The second response to the question of whether or not we should adopt the Shema as *our* foundational creed concerning God can be aptly summed up by these words:

Romans 3:29-30

29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also?

Yes, of Gentiles also, 30 since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.

If the God of the Shema – the God of the Jews – is our God, then we do well to believe the way the Jews have regarding his identity, oneness, and our love of Him. If we are the people of God, then we worship the same God as the Jews do, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Indeed, He is also the God of Jesus who worshipped Him alone. May we be like our master. ■

Prayer & Praise

September 2009

- 1 **Pray for the youth of your local church and the General Conference.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor John and Gayle Guthrie and their work at East Oregon, Illinois.
- 3 **Praise God for the growth of the Maple Grove congregation in Kokomo, Indiana.**
- 4 Praise God for the faithful ministry of your local church pastor.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Cheryl Swartz and the congregation at Litchfield, Minnesota.**
- 6 Pray that God might be praised through your worship today.
- 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 the church 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 ABC 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 teachers as they instruct our students.**
- 22 Pray for all the faithful pastors and workers in Malawi.
- 23 **Pray for those who are seeking God's will for their lives.**
- 24 Pray for church workers in India.
- 25 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Connie Ramsey and the Cool Spring Church in Virginia.**
- 26 Praise God for His Word which provides guidance for your life.
- 27 **Pray that you will let your light shine for Christ.**
- 28 Praise God for new believers in your church family.
- 29 **Pray for the faith to stand firm when temptation comes.**
- 30 Pray for the soon return of Christ and that you will remain faithful.

October 2009

- 1 **Praise God for your pastor during October's Clergy Appreciation 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 retired Pastor Jim Mattison and his vision for Africa mission work.
- 9 **Pray for the youth of your local church.**
- 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 the ministry of the church 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.**
- 18 Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as they reach the half-way point of this Fall Semester.
- 19 **Pray for all of the College/Conference Staff as they serve us each day.**
- 20 Pray for John and Lila Wincapaw and the Blood River Church in Springfield, 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 and Jill Taylor and the Lakeshore Bible Church in Arizona.**
- 24 Pray for Pastor Mark and Sandy DeYoung and the Blanchard, Michigan church.
- 25 **Pray for the ministry of the ABC Korean Extension in reaching students in the Duluth, Georgia area.**
- 26 Pray for Pastor Dennis and Rachel Baldwin and the Grace Fellowship Church in Front Royal, Virginia.
- 27 **Praise God for retired Pastor Billie Kennedy and his wife Irene.**
- 28 Pray for Pastor Tim and Shelly Spickler and their work with Winnebago New Life youth.
- 29 **Pray for the Hedrick, Indiana Church, and Pastor Joe and Karla Astolfi.**
- 30 Praise God for His constant care.
- 31 **Pray for God to send workers into the fields that are ready for harvest.**

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