

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

CAO Update...

By Tim Jones

The first Thursday in May is officially designated as the National Day of Prayer. This day, intended to call all Americans to pray as they see fit, has been in place since the 1950s. It was first established as a floating holiday by the United States Congress in 1952. President Reagan gave it a permanent home on the calendar during his term in office on the first Thursday in May. For the last eight years the day was marked, as always, by a presidential proclamation and a reception at the White House in honor of the occasion.

However, this year the White House declined to participate in the National Day of Prayer beyond the release of the proclamation. Indeed, the President and the staff of the administration declined repeated requests to have any member of the administration participate in formal recognition of the National Day of Prayer.

Asked why the administration was downplaying the National Day of Prayer, the President's press secretary Gibbs said "I think the president understands, in his own life and in his family's life, the role that prayer plays," Gibbs said. "And I would denote that the administrations prior to the past one did proclamations. That's the way the president will publicly observe the national prayer day. But, as I said, privately, he'll pray as he does every day."

This column is not intended to explore

the issue of separation of church and state, or any of the other issues that arise in our country whenever matters of faith are discussed. However, it is disconcerting to see the increasing marginalization of faith in the life of our nation. Every day it seems we are presented with new instances in which God's children move farther and farther away from the Creator. In our modern world, even when Christianity is not attacked, it is viewed as quaint, ineffective, or only for the "unenlightened." Mankind has decided that only humans themselves have a say in our future. God is no longer relevant to so many people today. Why should we stir ourselves to pray to an irrelevant God?

In 1933, a group of intellectuals, and sadly, multiple religious leaders, solidified their "enlightened" world view in the Humanist Manifesto I. This document proposed 15 statements that represented the views of the group of the position of religion in human affairs. Raymond B. Bragg, the Secretary of the Western Unitarian Conference, said

"The importance of the document is that more than thirty men have come to general agreement on matters of final concern and that these men are undoubtedly representative of a large number who are forging a new philosophy out of the materials of the modern world."

Thirty men bonded together to refute and deny the truths of Scripture and the testimony of the creation to the glory of the Creator. The entire manifesto can be viewed at this web address:

http://www.americanhumanist.org/who_we_are/about_humanism/Humanist_Manifesto_I

However, the excerpt below of three statements of the fifteen published shows the view of the group concerning God and man.

FIFTH: *Humanism asserts that the nature of the universe depicted by modern science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values. Obviously humanism does not deny the possibility of realities as yet undiscovered, but it does insist that the way to determine the existence and value of any and all realities is by means of intelligent inquiry and by the assessment of their relations to human needs. Religion must formulate its hopes and plans in the light of the scientific spirit and method.*

SIXTH: *We are convinced that the time has passed for theism, deism, modernism, and the several varieties of "new thought".*

SEVENTH: *Religion consists of those actions, purposes, and experiences which are humanly significant. Nothing hu-*

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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

October 19-24
Atlanta Bible College
Block Class

November 2-3
Board of Directors
meeting in Atlanta

February 19-22, 2010
Pastors/Spouses Retreat

March 18-19
Board of Directors Meeting

April 25-28
Theological Conference
(Norcross, GA)

July 7-10
General Conference
(location to be announced)

July 18-23
FUEL, Manchester College
North Manchester, IN

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man is alien to the religious. It includes labor, art, science, philosophy, love, friendship, recreation--all that is in its degree expressive of intelligently satisfying human living. The distinction between the sacred and the secular can no longer be maintained.

Other manifestos have followed throughout the decades, as men elevate themselves, and their weaknesses, to the level of God. The delusion that swayed Adam and Eve – the desire to be like God – lives in the world today. Christians should be alarmed at the efforts of culture to destroy the place God rightly holds in the hearts of men and nations.

Our nation has not always been so hostile to belief in our God and Father. Reprinted in this article is a proclamation from President Abraham Lincoln, issued March 30, 1863. Observe the clear call to the nation to recognize and repent of our sins and ask for forgiveness:

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

Whereas, the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and just Government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation.

And whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

And, insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole People? We

have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th. day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer. And I do hereby request all the People to abstain, on that day, from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite, at their several places of public worship and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and the restoration of our now divided and suffering Country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty seventh.

*By the President: Abraham Lincoln
William H. Seward, Secretary of State*

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Seed & Harvest Report



Here's just one example. While Ken and Shirley work their fingers to the bone on the camp buildings and grounds, Tim and Julie Driskill focus on the ministry strategy and mission. (Of course these lines cross often as everyone works together.)

For years this team has poured out wisdom, support and energy to others. So, what would be the logical harvest? Of course—wisdom, wisdom, support and energy. In the last several months not one or two, but many significant people have come alongside—not to receive, but to give to the mission of Higher Grounds. They now have a team of board members with skills in fundraising, mentoring, strategic planning, non-profit management, board leadership, and so much more.

Needless to say, Ken, Shirley, Tim and especially Julie are thrilled with the flood of knowledgeable and influential people who will take Higher Ground Camp to a whole new level.

“Whatever a man sows, this will he also reap.” Praise God for his faithfulness and the testimony of Higher Ground Camp's seed and harvest! ■

*** 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.*

I am truly blessed with 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 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.

The Higher Ground Camp is located near Springfield, Ohio. The camp is hidden in the woods that overlook the beautiful Lake Kaiser. Every time I drive up the steep hill that opens into the meadow above, I feel my spirit retreating from the world below. What a great place to escape. It certainly lives up to its name: Higher Ground!

Ken and Shirley Vance and Tim and Julie Driskill have run the camp grounds and program for over a decade now. I can't begin to describe all the seeds of faith and love they have planted over the years. Countless children and adults from all walks of life have received teaching, recreation, friendship, love and acceptance at Higher Ground Camp. With all these seeds sown, wow, what a harvest is on the way!

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In these beautiful phrases, President Lincoln spoke to a nation suffering a civil war, and asked the people *“to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.”* This call should go forth from the people of God to our world today. May each one of us walk daily in these truths. May we pray for our country and our leaders daily,

and not just one day a year. More than anything, may we recognize that it is the promised Kingdom of God that offers a renewal for our troubled world. May Jesus come soon! ■

In His Service
Tim

“It’s not quite a full moon.” I remember this comment not because of the moon, but because of the company I enjoyed under the moon. While Kim Musch harvested the slime and seeds from a pumpkin just outside my apartment at the Trees of Avalon (new ABC housing), students who were out enjoying the cool evening stopped by to say hello. What’s the big deal? Under the almost-full moon I gathered with students from Ohio, Indiana, Louisiana, Illinois, Georgia—even Pakistan and Kenya. It was thrilling to be in the company of men and women who have made such noble commitments to prepare for ministry.

They talked about projects, reading assignments, maps and the high energy of instructor Bob Jones. But they also talked about the struggle finding jobs, low wages, minimal

hours and trying to make it financially. I was impressed by their personal responsibility to quality and cost of their ABC education.

The ABC Staff and Board of Directors have also observed the character of these students and asked me to provide some help. Introducing TAP! The new Tuition Assistance Program.

Tap [taep] noun, verb, tapped, tap, tapping. 1. Verb—to penetrate, open up, reach into, etc. for the purpose of drawing something off; begin to use: to tap into one’s resources. 2. Verb—to open outlets from (power lines, highways, pipes, etc.) 3. Verb phrases—informal—tap into.

TAP is a strategic program to help students gain financial support from a core base of donors who will commit to bi-annual contribu-

tion to ABC on behalf of the student. Students are provided with a plan, coach and resources to approach people from their personal network to raise the funds to complete their studies at ABC. Funds raised can be used for tuition, books, housing and living expenses (if needed).

Each TAP participant is to receive financial counseling and a budget analysis to ensure that a healthy balance of personal initiative and outside support is accomplished. An application process and weekly coaching provide the accountability needed for success.

For more information or to participate in the TAP, please contact Dale Bliss at the ABC Development Office at 765-236-1979 or dbliss@abc-coggc.org. Please pray for God to open up streams of support for these incredible students of ministry! ■

Tuition Assistance Program

How can you help?

On January 21 of this year, I was contacted by two church groups in Pakistan who hold the same biblical beliefs as the Church of God General Conference. Four days later, on January 25, a man from Pakistan who lives near Memphis, TN (a former pastor) enrolled in the 29 lesson on-line Systematic Bible Study Course through the Hutchinson, MN Church of God website. As more information has been gathered over the past nine months the Lord's Harvest International Mission Board has seen God's hand at work in opening a door for the Gospel in Pakistan that we never would have imagined before.

One of the groups in Pakistan has been using Dr. Alva Huffer's Systematic Theology book and also an Urdu translation of Anthony Buzzard's Doctrine of the Trinity book in their Bible studies. The other group became aware of the Church of God through Sean Finnegan's Kingdomready.org website.

One of these groups has 35-40 pastors and hundreds of people in their churches with hundreds more on their contact lists who are likely to be interested in doing Bible studies. The other group has 22 pastors. This group started in 2002 with 10 individuals and it has

grown to over 800 now through the efforts of two evangelists!

The contact near Memphis, TN successfully completed the Systematic Bible Study course and has since read Dr. Huffer's book and all of Anthony Buzzard's books.



He has become convinced of the truths of Scripture and feels badly that he taught error to his congregations in Pakistan in the past. He feels a burden to return to Pakistan to help guide people into Bible truth. He and his wife are making plans to travel to Pakistan at their own expense early next year for two months to teach and preach these newly discovered truths.

The LHI Board sees a remarkable convergence of these contacts and groups, and it appears that the hand of God is working in a won

derful way in Pakistan and in the Muslim world. In fact, a few months ago in "Washington Update" by Joel Rosenberg, he mentioned the following:

"The Prince of Peace is steadily ... drawing more Muslims to faith in Jesus Christ than at any other time in human history. More than 100,000 Muslims in Saudi Arabia alone have received Christ in recent years. More than 1 million Muslims in Iran have, as well. **There are now more than 2.5 million followers of Jesus in Pakistan.** How is this happening? Why is it happening? And how can we be praying for Christ to draw even more Muslims into His kingdom?"

The questions that Mr. Rosenberg asks are the same questions that we are asking. Because of our belief in the oneness of God, Muslims seem to be much

more open to our teachings than they are to Trinitarian teaching. Muslims are strongly Unitarian and many refuse to accept the idea of the trinity.

The LHI Board spent considerable time this week at its annual meeting discussing the work in Pakistan. It is the belief of the LHI Board that we definitely need to pursue this matter. It appears that God is at work in Pakistan. Rather than asking God to bless what we want to do, it is our thinking that

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we need to join God in what He is already doing and what He is already blessing. We believe that we could help bring these groups and individuals together to cooperate in advancing Christ and the Kingdom in Pakistan. So we propose that we should encourage these believers and invite them to become affiliated with the Church of God General Conference.

It is our understanding that if one of these groups decides to join our association of churches, that they will possibly lose up to \$1,600 per month of support that they have been receiving from others. This money currently is used to provide support for two persons who travel throughout Pakistan, leading Bible studies and helping to start new congregations. It provides rent for an office, printing of literature and to rent meeting rooms for seminars in new areas.

LHI would like your prayerful input on the following items:

1. If you see God's hand at work in opening this door, do you agree that we should invite these groups to join our association of churches?
2. If yes, will you personally, your Sunday School class, Mission Department, or church help support this work?

We would like to hear from you by **November 15** if possible regarding this matter. If you are willing to help support this work, please indicate **how much** you can give as a **one time gift, a monthly amount, or an annual amount.**

If a majority of respondents say "yes" to the first item, and if we are able to secure financial commitments, we will proceed to invite these groups to join our association of churches. Each church

would have to affirm their desire to affiliate and their agreement with the doctrinal statement of the Church of God General Conference. The Church of God General Conference Board of Directors would take action on each individual church request. Pastors who wish to be licensed by the Ministerial Recognition Board would be required to meet requirements established by the MRB.

Please give prayerful consideration to this matter. Below is a form for you to use to indicate your response to this opportunity, or you can e-mail your responses to: dkrogh@abc-coggc.org ■

—David Krogh for LHI Board



Pakistan Opportunity

___ Yes ___ No I believe we should invite these churches in Pakistan to join the Church of God General Conference.

(If Yes) I (we) will financially assist this effort. Amount _____

check one: ___ monthly; ___ annually; ___ one time gift

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address (if available) _____

Phone number _____

Please mail to:

Atlanta Bible College
2020 Avalon Parkway,
Suite 400
P.O. Box 2950
McDonough, GA 30253

ABC NEWS

We are about a third of the way through our semester at the time of this writing. We have 53 students enrolled in campus and distance learning courses. Regular classes began September 7 and will end December 19 for this semester. Rebekah Martin's "Bible College Survival" class was held during the block of August 31-September 4.

Our Pre-Semester Briefing was held Sunday afternoon, September 6 with many new and returning students attending. We reviewed with students the new schedule, use of the Morrow and McDonough campuses until I.N.S. approval, and the new handbook for students.

This semester, Bob Jones is teaching the main introductory course for freshmen, B111/112, Old Testament Survey, which is six semester hours. A new instructor, Deborah Manson, who also teaches at Clayton State University, is teaching our Basic English classes, G100/101. Block and Saturday classes include David Riley doing M372, Church Leadership; Alva Huffer doing B271, Systematic Theology I; and Scott Deane teaching B345, Non Pauline Epistles. Of

course the regulars, Jogi Mauger, Annette Williams, Tim Jones, Jon Cheatwood, Anthony Buzzard, David Krogh, and Joe Martin are also teaching various classes.

A bright spot is the number of on campus Church of God students: Jacob Ballard, Erik Blackburn, Evan Darby, Michelle LeBlanc, Calvin LeBlanc, Shane Martin, Mitchell Raper, and Jaysen Zea. Some Church of God distance learners are Mark DeYoung, Bill Dunn, Shain Lloyd, and Robert Storts. PLUS many international and community students, praise God! We are blessed!

Staff member Kim Musch and a number of ABC students traveled to the west side of Atlanta for two days in late September to provide assistance to families affected by floods. They helped haul furniture, drywall, and insulation out of damaged homes.

As of this writing, we have not heard from the Immigration Department about approval for our South Campus. Please continue to pray for a response from INS. We will let you know as soon as we hear from them. ■

—Joe Martin and David Krogh

Korean Extension Report

September 14, 2009 was the first day of class for the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension. Preparing for this day took much effort and these efforts paid off exceptionally well. We had an enrollment of 91 students with 6 instructors teaching 15 classes. All the KE students were impressed as well as the staff members to see a newly renovated building. The classrooms are very impressive and the lobby area is very college oriented.

We have continually prayed for a smooth and prompt adjudication of the relocation process. These same prayers are a number one priority for the Korean Extension. We continually ask God for guidance and patience.

The North campus has been prepared and is fully

functional to handle all administrative business including classes. All KE students have visited the North campus for the purpose of registration. The Systematic Theology class is already underway at the North campus since September 15th. This class has played a key role in acquiring prospective students who are currently attending nearby Bible schools. The North campus is located in the heart of Korea town, so many students have no trouble locating the campus.

Presently, the Campus Bible Church (Pastor Steve An) has been holding a combined Sunday service with the Korean American Community Church (Pastor Kab Soo Kim) in the Morrow campus. But the Campus Bible Church's Wednesday night Bible study has been held at the North campus. The North campus is also home to Logos Bible Church (Pastor Yeo Il Jang) for Sunday morning service.

The Korean Extension appreciates everyone's support and prayers in this time of transition. ■

Thank you
Pastor Sam An
Atlanta Bible College

IS that a strange title for an article? The phrase has multiple uses, one of which is to interrupt a chain of thought. That is what I would like to do. I would like to interrupt a chain of thought with something different to consider. The thought I intend to interrupt seems more like a train than a chain, but I intend to do my best.

I returned to a religious organization that I had been away from for over 20 years. It was interesting to notice what had changed and what was the same. Methods had changed, but the teaching was the same and solid.

There was one thing I noticed was different that took me a while to figure out what was going on. Some people kept using the phrase “Kingdom of God.” They seemed quite excited about it. I could not discern any change in the teachings, but they were really fond of this phrase.

I must confess that I listened and read about this for a few years before I took enough interest to investigate it. It is said that Jesus went about preaching and teaching the Kingdom of God. So I opened a concordance and began to examine everything that Jesus said about the Kingdom of God.

After reading and studying every verse in the New Testament with the word “kingdom” in it, I made the following observation. *The vast majority of the messages that I had heard and read did not preach or*

teach what Jesus said about the kingdom of God. I think they said what Jesus basically believed about the kingdom, but not what he taught.

Jesus assumed his audience understood the Kingdom foundation that was laid in the Hebrew Scriptures. The Abrahamic Covenant, Davidic Covenant, the nature of death and immortality are all important, but Jesus appears to assume his audience was already well grounded in such.

Jesus took it to the next level. His preaching and teaching about the Kingdom of God, which is also referred to as the Kingdom of heaven (a phrase that appears to be a taboo), went beyond the basics to the application.

This brings me to a question. If people are grounded in the basics of what Jesus believed, should they not move on to what he taught? Even when his disciples taught about the Kingdom, they appear to me to be teaching more about what Jesus taught rather than what he believed (i.e. Romans 14).

In my study I found at least seven significant categories about the Kingdom of God that Jesus taught. When it would be, it is at hand, the duration of it, the value of it, character, authority, and citizenship.

I simply want to ask or challenge you to take a look at what Jesus said and ask the question “What did Jesus teach about the Kingdom of God?”

Most of what I have heard and read is not what Jesus taught. Before anyone tries to refute what I am saying, please take a fresh look at the gospels and ask the question “What did Jesus teach about the Kingdom of God?”

An example of what I am saying can be quickly found in the book of Matthew. In chapter five Jesus begins the sermon on the Mount. In the beatitudes the Kingdom is mentioned twice but clearly inferred multiple times. I think Jesus is teaching about the Kingdom. Some times, in the Scriptures it simply says that Jesus taught about the Kingdom. This is one set of verses which is telling us what he taught about the Kingdom.

So what is Jesus teaching about the Kingdom? He is teaching about the importance of humility, holiness, and mercy. He is teaching about the difficulties the citizens of the Kingdom would endure. He is teaching about the rewards those citizens would receive.

I think it is clear that in the beatitudes Jesus is teaching about the Kingdom of God. The beatitudes is one of the things that Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God. Would it be safe to say that when Jesus teaches about the topics in the beatitudes it is Kingdom of God teaching?

So then I go on to ask the question, *where in the Sermon on the Mount did Jesus stop teaching about the Kingdom?*

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Jesus continued in his teaching by talking about salt and light (5:13-16). I think the greatest salt and light we can be would be by letting Jesus live through us. If Jesus is living through us, we will exhibit the characteristics of the beatitudes. Not because they are a law which we seek to perform, but a nature we have from Christ. So this is still Kingdom of God teaching.

Jesus again mentions the Kingdom of heaven twice in his discussion of the law(5:17-20). The Kingdom of God teaching is not in opposition to the law but rather fulfillment of it.

Not only does he continue to mention the Kingdom of heaven throughout the Sermon, but I see a continuous thought prevailing through the entire message. Jesus gave this sermon to teach his disciples how they were to live if they expected to be in the Kingdom of heaven. The message, to me, is about character in relationship to the Kingdom.

From my own study, which at first I did by examining every Scripture in the New Testament with the word "Kingdom" in it, I then went on to study the gospels and ask the questions:

In this text, is Jesus teaching about the Kingdom of God (heaven)?

If so, what is he teaching?

I found one of the seven categories I mentioned earlier to be very predominant in his teachings.

So I wonder: Are we dwelling on the basics and not moving on to what Jesus taught? If we understand what he said but do not apply it, we fail him.

So I challenge you. Do not read what I write and simply try to defend if you think your position has been attacked. Take a fresh look at the gospels and ask the question: What is Jesus teaching about the Kingdom of God? ■

Christian Women's Tropical Retreat April 22-25, 2010

Come enjoy fellowship with other Christian women in a beautiful setting... gorgeous turquoise water lapping gently on the beach where sugar white sands sparkle in the sunshine!

This is a wonderful get-away for you to get closer to God and get to know each other better. Plan on joining us; you'll be glad you did! Just \$130 per person covers lodging and meals!

For registration or information, contact:

Rebekah Martin
6790 Wendy Jean Dr.
Morrow, GA 30260

E-mail: rrebrn@yahoo.com
Phone: 770-961-6746



CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

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

**"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 humbly with your God?"**

Micah 6:8

There are three ways of living here that God requires of His people given to us by the prophet Micah in the above verse.

Let's catch the background behind this statement in Micah 6. God has a controversy or quarrel with Israel His people. He asks, "O My people, what have I done to you? Where have I wearied you?"

The problem is, Why do you not do what is good? Why do you not do what I require of My people? He recites to them again how He brought them out of Egypt, how He sent Moses to lead them, what all happened to them on the way to His promised land, reminding them of His righteousness to them.

Then God lets one of them ask the question, "How shall I come before the LORD?" How shall I bow before Him? Shall I come with thousands of sacrifices to please Him, or give rivers of oil, or even my firstborn? Will any of those material things make Him happy?

Micah steps up and gives this verse above, that God has already told them the right way to live, and what His holiness requires. It is to live by these three qualities: justice, kindness, and humility.

Do justice. The King James says, "Do justly." How does a person live a "just" life? This is talking of just dealing with other men, not cheating them, not lying to them, not being a hypocrite, but rather thinking of their advantage as well as yours in a business transaction. Don't try to "put anything over" on them, but be fair, do what is right.

Let it be a two-way street where each of you has some profit. Don't think only of yourself and what you will gain. Think of him, too. As Steve Taylor says in one of his devotions, this is really applying Jesus' second commandment, to love your brother as yourself, or like Paul said, don't act unbecomingly, don't seek your own, be kind and humble (1 Cor. 15:4-6).

Love kindness. The King James says "Love mercy." How can we be merciful to other people? By being kind to them. Everyone has lots of troubles. An encouraging word does wonders for a troubled heart. Do things, say things, that will lift up a person that will soften that face, make life a little more enjoyable. Sometimes when I'm in the grocery store and pass a lady I don't even know who has a nice hairdo I say, "Nice hair." Almost always it brings a smile and a warming of the face. And I have to smile, too. I notice after I do this that a smile remains on my face, observed by other customers. I suppose they wonder what I'm so happy about. You know it's so much easier to smile than to frown. Smiling should take up a lot more time than frowning. People would like to see a happy face anytime rather than a gloomy face. Use kindness to others. It's part of the fruits of the Spirit of God (Gal. 5:22, NAS).

Walk humbly with God. Imagine yourself walking beside the ALMIGHTY GOD! I think it would be an awesome, humbling experience. HE is so great, so wise, so powerful, and who are we? It is right to be humble before GOD. We have every reason to be humble before Him. He has made us, given us every good thing, loves us, gave His only Son to die for our sins, answers our prayers, given us precious promises of resurrection and eternal life in a paradise. What more could we ask of Him? Asking Him for something is only a small part of our relationship with Him. Most of it should be our praise, our thanks, our gratefulness for His kindness, and to bless His name, as David did.

If we will live in the bounds of these three virtues: righteousness, kindness, and humbleness before God and men, we will be pleasing in our God's sight, and will be living as He requires His people to live. ■

—Jim Mattison

50 Golden Years



The Church of the Open Bible, Bedford, OH, celebrated its 50th anniversary on the weekend of September 12 and 13. A dinner, fellowship, and viewing of pictures of the church's history were held on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning, former pastor David Cheatwood led the adult Sunday school class. Former pastor Stephen

Bolhous spoke during the morning worship that was led by current pastor, Rex Cain. David Krogh, representing Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference, congratulated the church and encouraged the church to look to the future with optimism. Vickie Brewer, representing the Northeast Conference, presented a plaque to the church commemorating their 50 years of faithful service. After a bountiful dinner, a new organ was dedicated, and Pastor Dale Ramsey presented a concert. Visitors from several states and churches attended during the weekend.

Members of the Cramer, Humphrey and Marsh families from the Golden

Rule Church in Cleveland, organized Bible studies in the Bedford area in 1952. In 1959 a building was purchased at 689 Adams Street and the members consider this as the official beginning of the church. Over the years the church has been led by Arlen Marsh, Frank Perkins, Jack Hearp (intern), Rex Cain – two times (1964-1969 and 1992 to present), Stephen Bolhous, Dave Cheatwood, Alan Shaw, Ken Howe, Austin Railton, and Tom Schmitt.

Our congratulations to this congregation and best wishes for God's continued blessing upon its ministry. ■

—David Krogh

The God of Change

Rick Wilson, a fine Elder who serves with me at Maple Grove Community Church, often reminds me, "There's only one thing that never changes. That is—everything changes." He continues to enlighten me by saying, "Change, in and of itself, is neither good, nor bad. Change just *is*. Whether it is good or bad is up to you."

For some time now things at Atlanta Bible College and Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension have been changing. While much has been smooth and good, sometimes it's hard to tell because of the overshadowing dilemma with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). We wait day-after-day, week-after-week only to find we are still waiting. We spend additional funds we did not intend—seemingly wasting money on waiting. We face the challenge of commuting from the north and the south to remain in compliance with the permitted locations. As time goes on it seems that change has gone from *just is* to *all bad*.

But wait. Is it really all bad, or is it, in reality, our choice to call it bad? What Rick Wilson said earlier was not just philosophical musing or psychobabble—it was biblical counsel. The Bible states, "God works all things for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28 NIV) The question that begs to be asked is, "does *all things* include *this change*—slow, fast or otherwise?" Is this promise true in spite of the INS, the budget, the commute? Of course it is!

Recently I had the pure joy of hearing a few of the staff and students give testimony that this promise from God is true. He is working all things—even *this change*—to the good for us. Kim Musch realized the commute was giving staff and students unexpected time to get to know each other and build relationships. Tim Jones has found an opportunity to discover some fine technology and craftsmanship from the new owners of the old campus. Sam An reports that even with the commute (and a tough economy) they are only 2 students less this semester. And these are just a few that were sparked by everyday conversation.

These are not just casual optimistic comments. They are words of faith and truth that God is in control. He is working this delay *for the good*. And there's much more where that comes from!

He is at work and we are finding *the good*. As you pray for the final favorable decision from the INS and our relocation is complete, please join with us in celebration that God is for us! ■

Dale Bliss
Director of Development

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ~ James 1:2-4.

ABC Spiritual Emphasis Weekend

Nearly 50 staff, students and their families gathered at the Laguna Beach Christian Retreat, on the beautiful north shore of the Gulf of Mexico for 4 days of spiritual renewal, friendship and rest in September.

This “retro” event was originally a part of the school calendar years ago at the Oregon Bible College. President Tim Jones reinstated the event to help our staff and students start the year with strong relationships and spiritual momentum. With the great diversity of student in age, nationality and culture, this was a perfect opportunity to truly get to know each other.

Each day included worship led by Jerry Briggs and Bible devotions with Pastors Joe Myers and Dale



Bliss. The small group format opened up valuable dialogue that is often lost in the midst of a busy academic lifestyle.

Tim Jones served everyone—not as college president, but as chief cook and bottle washer! That’s right. While most of us were walking on the beach and enjoying the sun, Tim was planning and preparing all the meals.

As we arrived on Thursday the clouds parted to give us perfect sunshine the whole weekend. We enjoyed long walks in the surf, volleyball on the beach, and casual conversation around the camp. By day three plenty of aloe vera lotion was provided for those who enjoyed a little too much sun. On the last night we took a long moon-lit walk on the city pier to enjoy one last look at the beauty of God’s open sea.

The event was an outstanding success and very much appreciated by all. We returned to Atlanta Sunday night with a little sun and sand to spare. Next year we hope to encourage more staff and students to attend as we rekindle the fine tradition of Spiritual Emphasis Weekend. ■



Truth Matters
fearlessly exploring biblical truth

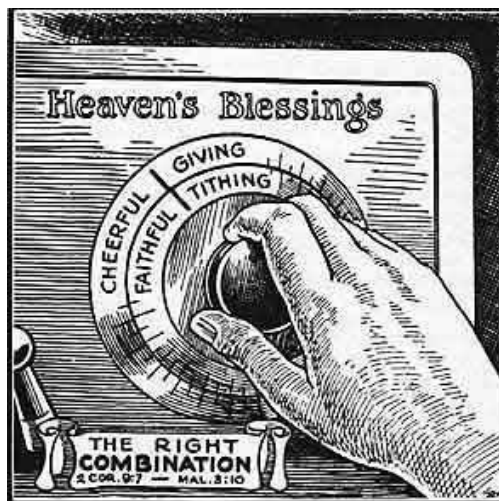
Six months ago we began airing Truth Matters on our local Christian talk radio station here in greater Albany, NY area. In that time we were able to air 24 shows before we were given the “left foot of fellowship” by the station manager for questioning the doctrine of the Trinity. Even so, each of the 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 distributed to family and friends who are hungry for truth.

God will provide. . .after you take action. One of the great examples Jesus provides us is the need to take action—before God provides. Time after time, Jesus proves that miracles are a result of faith and not the cause of faith. Jesus found the fish and loaves, then God provided for food for the multitude. Jesus sent Peter off to go fish, then God provided the money for taxes. Jesus called for the water, then God provided the good wine. God will provide every financial resource you need for life and ministry, but not until you take action.

Here are some suggestions on action you can take to begin to orchestrate the financial miracle you need in your ministry.

- Encourage your pastor to preach on the supernatural identity of giving. Not only is giving is the greatest reflection of God we can provide, but it also increases our capacity to receive. The volume of water that flows through a small stream is often greater than the largest of reservoirs. Your ability to receive from God is directly related to your ability to give. Encourage teaching on giving.
- Study stewardship principles. Not every book and speaker on the topic of stewardship

will wow you with great insight, but collectively you will broaden your understanding of the power of biblical stewardship. Financial wisdom is an undeniable aspect of Christian discipleship. By studying stewardship principles, you help yourself and others understand that money is intended to be a powerful blessing, not a necessary evil.



- Talk about money. It is okay, really. Jesus talked about money often. In fact he stood at the door of the temple and watched people give their offering. How rude! No. Jesus knows that money is a reflection of the heart. When you talk about money, you talk about the heart. Could it be that this is why we don't want to talk about it? Discuss what you have. . .what you need. . .what others need. . .what other have. How else do you think the Acts 2 church was able to accomplish the task of equality and meeting everyone's needs? Note: I sug-

gest discuss, not boast or beg. In the same way that the apostle Paul speaks of the church with many parts, but forming one body—so is the church with many resources, but one account.

- Raise more than money—raise vision. I recall asking a foundation for several thousand dollars to replace a gravel parking lot with asphalt. My request spoke very little about the dimensions of the parking lot, the thickness of the pavement, or the improved parking capacity. Instead, I spoke of how Daniel, a handicapped neighbor of the church struggled to ride his three-wheeled bike through the gravel and slush. I told of Retha who had to maneuver her walker through the loose stones. The gift was promptly received because the vision of helping people arrive to worship was clear.

If giving is low, so is vision. Raise the vision and the support will follow.

The Development Office is here to support and encourage you in the effort to secure the resources you need to accomplish your God-given mission. If we can help, please don't hesitate to contact us. May God prove His abundance to you over and over again! ■

Dale Bliss
Director of Development

Income Budget Report for August 2009

	8-31-09 <u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	This Month <u>Variance</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS:			
General Contributions	59,486	34,879	-24,607
Development Office Programs	14,167	0	-14,167
[Subtotal of Contributions]	73,653	34,879	-38,774
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	12,500	1,221	-11,279
ABC Boosters	2,333	750	-1,583
Subtotal	88,486	36,850	-51,636
SALES:			
Christian Education Materials	6,144	5,268	-876
Books	7,120	7,884	764
Theological Journal	123	48	-75
Sale of Assets	0	0	0
Subtotal	13,387	13,200	-187
ABC:			
Tuition	54,167	57,190	3,023
Korean Extension Tuition	60,643	51,315	-9,328
Korean Dormitory Revenue	1,000	0	-1,000
ABCDF Support	0	0	0
Lodging	1,667	13,800	12,133
Washers/Dryers	0	0	0
Rentals - ABC Plant	0	0	0
Late Fees/Rent	1,833	2,911	1,077
Fees	1,667	2,740	1,073
Subtotal	120,976	127,956	6,979
PROGRAM INCOME:			
Conferences & Workshops *(see note)	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Interest	2,667	0	-2,667
Other Income	667	0	-667
Transferred In	31,027	34,210	3,183
Subtotal	34,360	34,210	-150
Income Total	257,210	212,215	-44,994
Expense Total	255,836	250,103	5,733
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	1,374	-37,888	-39,261

- These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2009 through June, 2010
- "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 Budget Report for August 2009

	8-31-09 <u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	This Month <u>Variance</u>
STAFF:			
Salaries & Wages	107,237	109,322	-2,085
F.I.C.A. Tax	2,234	2,574	-340
Employee Benefits	26,975	27,516	-541
Subtotal	136,446	139,411	-2,965
SERVICES:			
Assistance to Churches	7,447	3,800	3,647
Ministerial Association	1,600	1,600	0
Youth Program	14,000	14,000	0
Subtotal	23,047	19,400	3,647
SALES EXPENSE:			
Printing & Binding	6,016	3,194	2,823
Postage & Shipping	2,717	1,578	1,139
Book Store	1,792	77	1,715
Subtotal	10,525	4,849	5,676
ABC:			
Advertising--Recruitment	1,167	1,746	-579
ABC Korean Extension Support	4,000	1,152	2,848
Library Periodicals	219	0	219
Library Books	78	0	78
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	457	0	457
Staff Training	1,667	1,730	-63
Subtotal	7,587	4,627	2,960
ADMINISTRATION:			
Travel	9,667	7,512	2,155
Office & Misc Supplies & Expense	3,142	4,984	-1,842
Professional Services	1,849	5,420	-3,572
Telephone/Internet/Web/Data	4,333	6,186	-1,853
Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint	3,521	1,813	1,708
Development Travel & Support	4,167	1,293	2,873
Subtotal	26,678	27,209	-530
PLANT EXPENSES:			
Utilities	4,561	10,124	-5,563
Insurance - Property	2,028	1,818	210
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	636	102	533
Furniture & Equipment	1,667	1,764	-97
Supplies/Expenses Plant	414	707	-294
Subtotal	9,305	14,516	-5,211
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Campus Lease	40,415	39,712	703
Other	1,833	380	1,453
Subtotal	42,248	40,092	2,157
Expense Total	255,836	250,103	5,733
Income Total	257,210	212,215	-44,994
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	1,374	-37,888	-39,261

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown— Terry Robinson (8/16/09) received as a new member via transfer letter

Minnesota

Hutchinson— Cassie Moore (6/22/08); Faith Forcier, Mindy Forcier, and Amber Messner (7/14/09) by Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick

Missouri

Morse Mill— Cindy James (8/16/09) by Lacey Dunn

Peculiar— Sydni Dilbeck and Don Marshall (3/8/09); Erin Koder (4/19/09); Brandi Phipps (8/9/09) by Pastor Don Ward

South Carolina

Bethel— Andrew Milton (9/13/09) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Virginia

Cool Spring— Michal and Michael Fraslin (7/5/09) by Pastor Dale Ramsey; Alva Rose Rogers (8/23/09) by Robert Coverstone

Marriages

Illinois

Oregon— Steve Fane and Nicole Hall (6/20/09); Joshua Grove and Erica Lewis (8/15/09); Terrence Raper and Kayla Andrew (9/5/09) by Pastor Michael Hoffman

Deaths

California

San Jose— Leona Strickland, (8/20/09), long time member

Illinois

Oregon— William Andrew, 82 (9/9/09). Service by Pastor Michael Hoffman

Virginia

Cool Spring— Phyllis Smedley, (6/5/09). Service by Pastor Dale Ramsey

Deaths of Pastors

Pastor Leon Driskill

Pastor James Leon Driskill, 79, died September 11,

2009. He was born Dec. 16, 1929 in Cross Timbers, MO. He married Deloris Lewis on July 2, 1950 in Oregon, IL. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter Teri Emmett, two sons, Lonnie (Linda) Driskill, and Tim (Julie) Driskill; six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and his son Dennis.

Leon graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1951. During his ministry he pastored the following churches: Kokomo, IN, Stanhope, IA, East Peoria, IL, Niles, MI, Harlingen, TX, New Lenox, IL, Brush Creek, OH, Holbrook, NE, Forest Hills Royal, AR, and Eldorado, IL. He was a member of the East Peoria, IL Community Church of God at the time of his death.

The funeral service was conducted in East Peoria by Pastor Curt Rowden and a graveside service was held at the Daysville Cemetery near Oregon, IL.

Pastor Stanley L. Lawrence

Pastor Stan Lawrence, 81, died August 4, 2009. He was born Dec. 21, 1927 in New Paris, OH. He married Hilda Welker on August 25, 1951.

He attended Oregon Bible College from the fall of 1950 through the spring of 1955. In recognition of his lifetime of ministry and service and his nearly completed OBC degree, the Board of Directors conferred a Bachelor of Theology degree upon Stan in 2004. During his lifetime, Stan pastored churches at Cool Spring, Browntown, VA; Litchfield, MN; Waterloo, IA (two times); and North Salem, IN. He retired from the North Salem Church in 2004 and he and Hilda moved to Port Orchard, Washington to be near their son and family.

While in Iowa, Stan was the President of the Iowa Conference for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Hilda, their son Bernie, and two granddaughters, Sarah and Holly.

Stan loved Bible study, playing dominoes, and basketball games.

A memorial service was held Sunday, August 23.

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and the St. Cloud, MN Church. | 15 | Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week. |
| 2 | Pray for the Board of Directors meeting in Atlanta today and tomorrow. | 16 | Pray for the Burr Oak, IN Church. |
| 3 | Praise God for the Board of Directors members who willingly serve the Church of God. | 17 | Pray for God to provide you with “thankful” eyes this month. |
| 4 | Pray for Pastor Kirby and Bonnie Davis and Pastor Merry Peterson and the Wenatchee, WA Church. | 18 | Pray for the boldness you need to share Christ with an unbelieving friend. |
| 5 | Pray for Lupe Badillo as she continues to minister in Labor Vieja, Mexico. | 19 | Pray for Jon Cheatwood, Youth Coordinator for the College/Conference. |
| 6 | Pray for Ruth Finnegan in her duties as Publishing Specialist for the General Conference. | 20 | Pray for the outreach efforts of your local congregation. |
| 7 | Pray that God will raise up workers to serve in mission fields in other lands. | 21 | Praise God for His daily blessings of shelter, food, family and friends. |
| 8 | Pray for Pastor Andy Cisneros and his associate pastor ministry at Maple Grove Bible Church in Kokomo, IN. | 22 | Pray for the churches within your state or regional conference. |
| 9 | Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness. | 23 | Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life. |
| 10 | Pray for Judy Myers and the work of the Lord's Harvest International Mission Board. | 24 | Pray for Pastor Jon and Rene Welch and the New Beginnings Church in Desloge, MO. |
| 11 | Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God. | 25 | Pray for the ministry of Ralph Childs in OH. |
| 12 | Pray for Pastor Gary and Glenda Turner and New Life Bible Church in Winnebago, IL. | 26 | Praise God on this Thanksgiving day for His goodness in your life. |
| 13 | Pray for Pastor Wade and Kim Tierney and the Morse Mill, MO Church. | 27 | Thank God for His goodness to you. |
| 14 | Pray for the Ministerial Recognition Board as they encourage our pastors. | 28 | Praise God for baptisms in our churches this fall. |
| | | 29 | Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation. |
| | | 30 | Pray for new contacts through the distribution of literature and our website. |

A copy of the brochure

“What Everybody Should Know About Lucifer”

by Hollis Partlowe

This brochure presents the non-personality understanding of Satan and is available free upon request to Bobby Partain (member of Guthrie Grove Church of God)

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Prayer and Praise

December 2009

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Beloit New Life, WI.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Seth and Stacey Ross and the North Hills, OH church.
- 3 **Pray for contacts around the world produced by literature.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Dale and Connie Ramsey and the Cool Spring Church in Browntown, Virginia.
- 5 **Pray for the Fredericktown Church in Fredericktown, MO.**
- 6 Praise God for your pastor as he or she shares God's Word today.
- 7 **Praise God for the dedicated service of the staff for our College and Conference.**
- 8 Praise God for the promise that Jesus will come a second time.
- 9 **Pray for Pastor Richard and Jan Alcumbrack and the Southlawn Church in Wyoming, MI.**
- 10 Pray for Pastor Bruce Reye and the Chapel Hill congregation in Urbana, OH.
- 11 **Praise God for the ministries of your local church.**
- 12 Pray that God would lead you in the way of righteousness.
- 13 **Pray for those who are leading the work in the Philippine Islands.**
- 14 Praise God for the beauty of creation.
- 15 **Pray for Dick and Carol Eldred, Tim and Cindy Eldred, and Travis and Kristen Ramsey as they lead the New Beginnings Church in Michigan.**
- 16 Praise God for His word.
- 17 **Pray for Pastor Rob and Annette Bernheisel as they serve the church in Macomb, IL.**
- 18 Pray for retired pastor Jack Hearp.
- 19 **Pray for the Focus on the Kingdom radio broadcasts that are presenting God's truth.**
- 20 Pray for Pastor Steve and Young An and the Korean Church that meets in the north ABC campus.
- 21 **Pray for an individual you know who has not accepted Christ.**
- 22 Pray for Stepan and Tracy Zhykhovich as they work in Russia.
- 23 **Pray for ABC instructor and Academic Dean, Dr. Joe Martin.**
- 24 Pray for encouragement for those who are separated from family and friends at this Christmas season.
- 25 **Praise God for the gift of His Son, Jesus.**
- 26 Pray for preparations for the new semester at ABC that will begin after the first of the year.
- 27 **Pray for Pastor Darrell Cardwell and the North Salem, IN Church.**
- 28 Pray for the work of native workers in Malawi and Mozambique.
- 29 **Pray for understanding for those around the world who are taking the Systematic Bible Study Course in print and on-line.**
- 30 Pray for revival throughout the Church of God in the coming year.
- 31 **Praise God for the way He has blessed you in 2009.**

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

Jesus by Jesus a gift for the holidays



By Joe Martin

In the movie, *Catch Me If You Can*, Leonardo DiCaprio played Frank Abagnale, Jr., who imitated a doctor and airline pilot. After he was caught and released, he appeared on the T.V. series, *To Tell The Truth*. Three contestants sit down and vie to trick a guest star panel of four (if I remember correctly), as to the identity of the real person. In the end, the host asked the question, “Will the real Frank Abagnale Jr., please stand up?” After an exciting few seconds, the real person stood up. It is a very old series I remember seeing as a kid.

In Matthew 11:27, Jesus said no one fully knows the Son except the Father. Who is the real Jesus? In the mouth of two or three witnesses let a thing be established (Deut. 17:6, Mt. 18:16). We could just believe God, and we should! At the baptism of Jesus, God said “This is my beloved Son.” At the transfiguration, God said the same thing, “This is my beloved Son” and added three words, “listen to him!” Or, we could believe Peter, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” (Mt. 16:16)

I delight in Exodus 34:6,7 the most often quoted Hebrew scripture on the Day of Atonement, or *Yom Kippur*. In Jewish tradition they are called the “13 Midot Rahamim,” or 13 words of grace/mercy. We see the LORD God saying, “Yahweh (the LORD), Yahweh (the LORD), the compassionate

and gracious, patient, abounding in love, abounding in truth or faithfulness, maintaining love, forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin, yet does not leave the guilty unpunished.” The beauty is in the simplicity, **GOD BY GOD, Yahweh by Yahweh.**

The passages in Revelation 2 and 3 do the same for Jesus. These attributes of “**JESUS BY JESUS**” are critical. Jesus introduces himself to each of the seven churches of Asia Minor with a part of who he is. First, in Revelation 2:1 to Ephesus He says the one “who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks **AMONG** the seven golden lampstands.” The seven stars are angels; the seven lampstands are the seven churches (1:20). The point here is Jesus is in charge of the angels now and is **AMONG** the churches. In Mt. 28:20 He said “I am with you always.” A trick question is, who will build Jesus’ church? The answer is Jesus! (Mt. 16:18)

The second description is Rev. 2:8, “the First (*protos*) and the Last (*eschatos*), who **DIED** and came to life again.” This, as in Rev. 1:4, and compared to Rev. 1:5, contrasts Jesus with Almighty God, His Father (Jn. 20:17). The Bible says of God, “who alone has immortality.” (I Tim. 6:16) Jesus died; God cannot die. Jesus submitted to the will of the Father and **DIED** for our sins. He is the first citizen and King of the coming Kingdom... and the ultimate, or last.

The third is Rev. 2:12, “him who has the sharp, **DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.**” Hebrews 4:12 shows us that the Word of God is a sharper than a double-edged sword. Looking back just a bit in the Revelation passage in 1:16, we see “out of his mouth came a sharp **double-edged sword.**” He is not only called the Word of God (Jn.1), He speaks the Word of God. In fact, in John 12:49 Jesus said, “the Father... commanded me **what** to say and **how** to say it.” WOW, Jesus is the walking, talking Word of God! This fulfills Deut. 18:18, Jesus has the very words (Latin, *ipsissima verba*) of the Father, listen to him!

The fourth, which may be the best, is Rev. 2:18 “the **SON OF GOD...**” If I can’t believe Peter, and if for some strange reason I cannot believe my preacher or Christian friend, should I not believe the very words of Jesus (see also Jn. 10:36, “I am the **SON OF GOD**”)? If God said it, Jesus said it, and Peter said it, WHY “go beyond what is written” (I Cor. 4:6) and believe some creedal statement about a “godhead” or “God the Son?” Take Jesus and his Abba/Daddy at their words! Jesus said, “I am the Son of God!” I believe it! That is our statement of faith.

The fifth attribute of “Jesus by Jesus” is in Rev. 3:1, “him who holds the **SEVEN SPIRITS of God and the seven stars...**” God has given Jesus charge of the Holy Spirit now. The

(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

January 11-16
ABC Block Class

January 19 (ABC) & 25 (ABCKE)
beginning of Spring Semester

February 19-22
Pastors/Spouses Retreat

March 18-19
Board of Directors Meeting

April 11-16 (tentative dates)
Christian Workers Seminar
Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg, TN
"RISING HIGH: Joining God"

April 25-28
Theological Conference
(Norcross, GA)

May 21
Atlanta Bible College Graduation

July 7-9
General Conference,
Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

July 18-23
FUEL
Manchester College
North Manchester, IN

CHRISTIAN WORKERS SEMINAR will be held in the Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg, TN area. This year's theme will be "*RISING HIGH: Joining God.*" Price and workshop information will be available soon via mail and our website...www.abc-coggc.org.

(Continued from page 1)

resurrected Jesus can now send the Comforter. Acts 2:33 is a pure picture of the flow of the Spirit, “Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy **SPIRIT** and has poured out what you now see and hear.” (compare John 14:26) He is in charge of the Spirit and the angels now. The power of the resurrected Jesus goes beyond our imagination. He said, “ALL power... is **given**. God has put Jesus in charge!

The sixth attribute is in Rev. 3:7 to the church at Philadelphia, “him who is holy and true, who holds the **KEY OF DAVID**.” Jesus has and is the key of David. II Sam. 7:16, the Davidic Covenant, says David’s “house... kingdom... and throne will be established forever.” The Key of David represents the **Key or Keys of the Kingdom!** Matthew 1:1 starts “the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” It is IMPORTANT to know that Jesus is that descendant of David who is to be the King of the kingdom. He has and is the KEY; He is the door! He gives us the keys of the Kingdom (Mt. 16:19).

The seventh and final attribute of Jesus by Jesus is in Rev. 3:14, to the church of Laodicea, “the Amen, the faithful

and true witness, the **RULER OF GOD’S CREATION**.” (NIV) The Greek for “ruler” is “*arche*.” Normally this is interpreted first, or beginning, but the alternative definitions include first place, principality, rule, magistrate. “*Magistratus*,” in ancient Rome, is one of the highest judicial officers. By this one (Acts 17:31), God will judge the entire world. He is the **Ruler of God’s Creation** as well as the beginning of Kingdom citizens!

Playing with these seven “Attributes of Jesus by Jesus,” we have *Among the churches*, **Died**, **Double-edged sword** (word), **Son of God**, **Spirit controller/sender**, has and is the **Key of David**, and is the **Ruler of God’s Creation**. If you follow Jesus by Jesus very carefully, it **ADDS** up for the **SeeKeR!** I pray that you will listen to who Jesus is from his own words! It **ADD S** up for the **S K R**. That is a pretty good gift from Jesus for the Holidays. The REAL Jesus HAS stood up and told us of himself! ■

From a sermon preached at Guthrie Grove, S.C., Fall 09

Celebrating 100 Years

Louise Lapp reached the remarkable age of 100 on November 6, 2009. She was honored with a special celebration with family and friends at the Eden Valley, MN Church of God on Sunday November 8.

Louise Brewer Lapp was married to former pastor (now deceased) Clarence Lapp in 1933. They had two children Elaine Lapp Poole and Jon Lapp. During their ministry they served churches in Illinois, Arizona, Michigan, and Minnesota. Both Clarence and Louise were instructors at Oregon Bible College from 1952 to 1963. Louise served as Dean of the Music Department and led the college choir.

The Board of Directors of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference honored Louise by presenting an art piece to her created by Casey Kizer Kiel. Since Louise is losing her eyesight, Casey designed the object with elements that she could feel. Lace and three-dimensional flowers were used around a hymn composed and written by Louise. The song is “Only



One Life” found on page 400 in *Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs*. Louise wrote a number of other songs in our hymnal. In addition, Louise’s name was included in raised letters on the mat board. The shadow box has a latch on it so that she can open the frame and feel the piece and then easily close it to hang on the wall. There is also an engraved plaque that reads, “In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count, it’s the life in your years.” Board member Bob See represented the Board in making the presentation to her. ■

Greetings faithful members of the Church of God,

In the few years I have served on the Board of Directors, I have had many opportunities to meet many of the good people of the churches, state conferences and General Conference. We have had the privilege to hold some of our board meetings at various churches. I am grateful to have met many new folks, and many old friends whom I had not seen for awhile.

I have also had several opportunities to meet with our fine group of staff members at our conference offices in Atlanta. This year has been even more enlightening as I had the opportunity to visit with the ABCKE staff during their dedication ceremony in August and was privileged to visit with the ABC staff and many students during this past month's board meeting. I would like to share my thoughts regarding both of these visits, as I know many of you have not had the opportunity to see the work we are doing in person.

In August, I was honored to be asked to participate in the dedication service at the new Duluth campus, which will soon be the full time home of the ABCKE college classes and staff offices. Much hard work has gone into the remodeling of this facility, and it shows. But what was most exciting to me were the people I met who have made this opportunity possible. From Steve and Sam An and their wives, Young and Sarah, to the dozens of staff, church members, and teachers who attended the service, my wife Marilyn and I were warmly greeted and made to feel like part of their family. It was very evident to us that the folks involved in the work at Duluth fully

understand their ministry of service to God for people. The care that was shown us even extended to the concern over my picking up a piece of the "red" chicken, which I was told, "Be careful, it is seasoned Korean style and is very hot. We do not want you to become sick!" I wish all COG members would have a chance to see first hand, as I have, the dedication for ministry and teaching, and the love the KE folks have toward those they serve.

During the November board meeting, we were able to share a lunch with the staff and many of the students, and continue afterwards with an open meeting to get reports of how things were going. With all the tasks the board and staff leadership has to deal with during these long board meetings, the time we took to have free time to talk was so rewarding.

I learned first hand about many of the day-to-day activities that lead to building the relationships so critical for a successful college experience. I heard about the long car rides to and from the Morrow campus (while we patiently wait for the INS approval) where students and staff have time to bond and discuss each person's particular thoughts and feelings. I learned of devotion times of what was described as an excellent group of students, and the dedication many have of attending the Cornerstone Bible Church for chapel and worship services. And I heard about the many projects that Kim Musch is leading for the students to become more involved in helping and serving churches and their surrounding communities.

All of this caused me to think back on my own experiences at Bible col-

lege (many years ago!), and the camaraderie that was evident among students and staff back then. It seems that even though many faces have changed, we still can provide a place of higher learning for our students to attend, whether in Duluth or Avalon, where we foster an environment to learn the distinctive truths of the Church of God and develop the long-lasting relationships so critical to successful ministry.

So why am I telling you all of this? It is my hope that the examples I have shared show you that your support is being used in a worthy manner. As the board and leadership of the General Conference embraces the challenge of finding new and improved ways to be better stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us through your generosity, I want to encourage each of you that the gifts you send are also being used efficiently.

Those of you who know me well, will understand my sincere desire to do more while spending less. This goes far beyond any financial support you may feel led to give, it also involves an increase in communication from you and in turn back from the conference. Our efforts will continue to require much fervent prayer, a partnership, if you will, in dreaming dreams for the future of our conference and college.

I ask for your continued support of whatever means God has placed in your care to help us achieve the work He has placed before us to do. May God bless you all, your local work, and our work together as the Church of God General Conference. ■

Bob

Most of you have received the letter from our Board of Directors noting that they had accepted Tim Jones' letter of resignation and that I had been asked to be the CAO/President. What you do not know is that I had no idea that was going to happen until Tim walked into my office three days before the meeting showing me his letter with the resignation and a proposal that he focus on distance learning at ABC.

My story, for the most part, is a story of key mentors in my life and a wonderful wife Rebekah. John Lewis, former OBC instructor and president, presented to me the picture of what I might like to be. He was enthusiastic for the Word, a devoted and exciting teacher. Z. B. Duncan preached a series of sermons on the kingdom that made it come alive to the point that I chose to commit my life to serve the LORD God and his son Jesus. I thank God for forgiveness and grace that allowed the board to see some of my heart and ask me to do this ministry. My forty-year history with ABC/COG has strong spiritual and family ties.

I want to continue my quest to call all, including myself, to a very biblical following. Paul says, "Do not go beyond what is written." (I Cor. 4:6) This is in the context of one following Paul, or Peter, or Apollos. If we commit to the Father, and His Word, our paths will be brighter. The vitality of that is seen in Prov. 30:6, "Do not add to His Word..." and Rev. 22:18,19, "Do not add... or take away." As we commit to making every order of "business" according to his word, we will be blessed.

I want say to you "Let's Join God" in what He is doing. What God

does will remain forever (Ecc. 3:14). What is God doing? I would like to suggest some basic, simple things. (Ecc. 7:29 Jer. Bible) First, God wants people to know who He is. Seventy-seven times (KJ) He says that they "shall know that I am the LORD (Hebrew *Yahweh*)." Let's join God to help people understand the "one true God." (Jn. 17:3) Secondly, "every knee" will bow to Jesus for God's glory. Let's join Him in honoring His Son. Thirdly, Jesus said "I will build my church" (Mt. 16), the ones God gave him. Let's join in building the church of God. Fourthly, Matthew 24:14, the gospel of the kingdom will be preached. Let's join God preaching the message of the kingdom, the message of Jesus, the message of the apostles, the message of the seventy, and now our message as well as we join Him. Finally, let's join God and serve as Jesus did (Mk. 10:45). The Son of Man came "not to be served, but to serve..." Jesus is clear in Mt. 25, "When you did it to the least of these, you did it to me" and by this love, we should be known.

We need to emphasize the mission statement voted on by the delegates, "To Serve Churches and Individuals in the Ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom." Please notice the first two words, "TO SERVE." That was a delegate vote and I want to hold US to it. The conference serves churches through Builder's Appeals, Development Aid, Church Planting Aid, etc. ABC/COG is in service to "Recruit, Train, and Send ...Kingdom Servants" as kingdom citizens, pastors, youth leaders, missionaries, etc. Let's not forget our African brothers and others. What part of "GO" can we misunderstand?

With the current economic situation and without I.N.S. inspection, I want you to know steps we are pursuing. First, we are making this a continual effort of prayer and seeking God's will. As Jehoshaphat said, "We don't know what to do but our eyes are upon you." (2 Chron. 20:12) Second, we are pursuing income enhancement by having the board, staff, and Dale Bliss in Development, get involved in, letting people know of our godly, biblical focus as well as ministry needs for our churches and individuals. This is coupled with an extra effort to increase enrollment. Thirdly, we will have a focus on being better stewards by reducing expenses. This will involve an anticipated cost reduction of about \$60,000 by utilizing staff furloughs and the elimination of several outsourced part-time positions. About the same amount will be sought by reducing travel expenses, training, supplies, etc. These second and third steps are intended to balance income and expense for the 7/1/09 - 6/30/10 fiscal year. Please consider year-end giving to help at this time.

As we focus on the positive beauty of God and His son and our heritage, we can make it through difficult times. I want us to be "for" the things of God rather than constantly condemning others (compare John 3:17). Rather than be mostly "against" things, let us position ourselves in such a way that we are joining God, letting them know who the LORD/YHWH is, that Jesus is His only birthed/begotten Son, that the Kingdom is coming, and that by grace, we can live an abundant life now. Let's Join Him! ■

God Answers Fervent Prayers on Behalf of Rebecca Mattison

This story was written by Steve Mattison regarding the injury and healing of his and Beth's daughter, Rebecca Mattison. The family lives in Michigan.

Thanks so much for your prayers.

I'm praising the LORD for his mercy and grace, and for the incredible demonstration of His healing power. If I don't praise the LORD, the rocks will cry out. God's goodness needs to be proclaimed. Here's our story...

Sunday, November 8, while the adults were in choir practice for our Christmas cantata, Rebecca and several other kids from church were in a back room playing. They were playing Blind Man's Bluff, where the person who is "it" is blindfolded and tries to tag others. Rebecca hadn't been "it" yet, and some were pushing "it" toward Rebecca so she would be "it" next. Rebecca jumped up on some chairs, jumped from chair to chair, and then jumped to a table. She fell back and landed on her head on the thin carpet covering a cement floor.

Natasha, a girl who was playing the game, came running into the sanctuary and yelled something like, "Help, Rebecca is hurt badly." I think this was shortly after 1 pm.

We ran into the back classroom and found Rebecca having a grand mal seizure, not breathing, and turning blue. She was lying on her right side and her neck was twisted badly. Beth yelled to call 911, and

I did. Even though spinal damage was a real possibility, Beth straightened Rebecca's head back into alignment so she could breathe. When Beth aligned her head, Rebecca stopped seizing and started breathing. When Beth did this, we found that she was bleeding badly out her right ear. She also had a little blood coming out her nose.

After a couple minutes, she opened her eyes, but it was obvious at first that she wasn't seeing or hearing us. She repeated the same phrases over and over again, "What the heck." "Am I awake or is this a dream?" "I'm so tired, I just want to sleep."

The ambulance arrived, put her on a back board and put on a neck brace. Rebecca was in and out of consciousness, was not her normal self, and was very verbally combative and uncooperative. The ambulance took her to the University of Michigan Hospital Emergency Room. Beth rode in the ambulance. Yvonne, a good friend from church, drove me to the hospital.

Once Rebecca got there, they did a CT scan to see what damage had been done. They found she had a 1.5 inch fracture in her skull behind her right ear in her temporal plate. On the right side of her brain, she had bleeding that was coming out her ear. She also had a tiny amount of bleeding on the left side of her brain. The carotid artery, facial nerve, and right auditory (ear) nerve go through the bone at the point of the fracture.

During our time in the ER, there were several times Rebecca tem-

porarily stopped breathing. She came in and out of consciousness many times. She had to be restrained, because she was very panicked and agitated. When she would come to, she told us repeatedly, "I can't breathe" and "Pray for me." She wanted the neck brace off because she thought that was suffocating her. During this time, she had no memory from one second to the next when she was conscious. We had to repeatedly tell her she had hurt her head.

They gave us a consultation room to meet in. We know now it was because of the seriousness of the injury. Multiple times, she raised a hand, saw her IV, and wondered what was wrong with her hand. (She had an IV in each hand.) For a while, she didn't know where she was, or why (even though we told her repeatedly).

I went out to the consultation room to tell our church friends what was going on.

At 4:15, just as they were taking her back for her second CT scan, she woke up, opened her eyes, looked right in my face, and said, "Pray for me, I think I'm going to die." She then closed her eyes and they wheeled her away.

Those in the consultation room were praying, and Beth and I were praying.

About 4:30, they brought Rebecca back from the CT scan. She was resting comfortably, and was breathing normally. That alone was a huge answer to prayer. We knew then she was going to live.

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They got the preliminary results back from the CT scan that indicated pressure was not increasing inside her skull, and her carotid artery was fine. She was not going to have to go for surgery. They then transferred her to the pediatric ICU unit. They told us in the ER that when Rebecca regained consciousness, she couldn't be given any pain medication, because that would mask her symptoms. They warned us that Rebecca may be screaming out with pain all night. We prayed more.

Beth and I updated the nine people from our church who were in the consultation room, and we went to the PICU waiting room to wait until Rebecca got settled. They prayed, we prayed. Beth started contacting family so they could pray.

When we could finally see Rebecca at about 5:15, there had been a miracle. This is no exaggeration. Rebecca was awake, and alert, answering questions. The answers weren't always correct, like thinking it was October instead of November, and thinking Thanksgiving had just passed instead of Halloween having just passed. But there had been an incredible transformation, which we attribute to answered prayer. She was also remembering events leading up to the fall.

Once she was conscious, she amazingly had essentially no pain. When asked about her pain on a 1 to 10 scale, she said it was about a 1 or 2. We recognize this as another miraculous answer to prayer.

As the evening progressed, she got markedly better. Shortly after 7, I was trying to figure out how to unlock her phone. She asked for the phone. I passed it to her, and she sent text messages to three friends. This would have been unimaginable just an hour or two before.

That night, a neurosurgeon came by and talked with us for quite a while. He checked out Rebecca and told us she was progressing very well, and we could probably expect her to be released Wednesday. I understood him to say that the spinal fluid would have to stop flowing out her ear before she could be released.

This alarmed me. I knew she was bleeding out her ear, but I didn't know anything about spinal fluid. He explained that the bleeding was coming from inside her skull. The crack in her skull was allowing the blood to flow out her ear, but was also letting spinal fluid flow out. The spinal fluid would need to stop flowing before she was released to make sure no infection could go in through her ear into her brain. That could be very serious. Wow, that sounded like an understatement!

The neurologist told us that because she had seizures, bleeding on the brain, a concussion, and a skull fracture, this was categorized as a moderate traumatic brain injury. Because she was improving so markedly (probably because the pressure had been relieved by bleeding out her ear), she could expect no worse long term results than a mild traumatic brain injury. The neurologist also told us she would have a 20% chance of various long term effects, including:

seizures, chronic headaches, cognitive compromise, and vertigo.

Sunday night, we were told that only one of us could stay with Rebecca overnight. Since Beth wasn't going to leave the bedside, I could either sleep in the waiting room or go home. I decided to go home for the night. I went home and cried and prayed much of the night.

Monday morning, by the time I got to the hospital, they had already done the third and final CT scan, had evaluated her neck more for any ligament damage, and had removed the neck brace. The CT scan showed the brain displacement wasn't increasing. She had done fine over night (other than throwing up four times), so she was transferred to a pediatric surgery unit. Once there, one of her two IVs was removed. She was evaluated, and we were told she would likely be released on Tuesday, and there was even a possibility she may be released Monday night.

Late morning, Rebecca said she was hungry. She had not eaten since breakfast Sunday morning. We ordered lunch for her, including broccoli, soup, and mashed potatoes. Rebecca's bed had not been raised before this time. When they raised her bed for her to eat she became dizzy, and her head was throbbing. She ate a few bites of her lunch, got full very fast, and wanted to lie back down. A while later, the nurse got her up to go to the bathroom for the first time. The nurse said she had to steady Rebecca quite a bit.

Later, a physical therapist came in and checked her out thoroughly.

(Continued on page 8)

ABC NEWS

As this semester comes to a close we praise God for His direction and faithfulness. Fifty-three students have taken classes. Added to our Korean students, the total enrollment is 146. This compares with 132 students last spring. In light of the difficult financial times for many of our students, we are pleased that we had an increase this semester.

Of the 53 students at ABC, 11 are distance learning students. Twelve of the total are Church of God students. This compares with six in the spring semester. Thirteen students are living in the Trees of Avalon apartment complex.

ABC offered 27 courses this semester (some of them are repeats that are offered in the mornings and also evenings or mornings and Saturdays). Eighteen of the courses are being taught at the Morrow campus for the benefit of our 14 international students. Our international students are from Kenya, The Bahamas, Bermuda, Laos, Pakistan, and the Philippine Islands. The students have been very cooperative with the changes in our schedule and location of classes necessitated by the delay in the INS inspection of our South Campus. As of this writing, we have still not heard from the Immigration Department about approval for our South Campus.

Two new courses were offered this semester: Christianity and Church for Twenty-Somethings. The course

description is as follows: "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." The other course is a Worship Service Planning Lab. Students assist in planning and leading the weekly chapel services and also meet with the Cornerstone worship team to assist in planning and leading Sunday worship services.

Recruitment activities continue year around. We receive many requests for information packets as a result of our website, word-of-mouth, our billboard advertising, ad in the Shepherd's Guide, etc. A week or ten days after the packet is mailed, we follow up with a personal contact. Ten to fifteen prospects have indicated their plans to join us in January. Several have already completed the application process.

If you or someone you know is interested in taking campus or distance learning courses, please send name, address, e-mail address, and phone number to us at: info@abc-coggc.org or to Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253. Or call us at 404-362-0052 or 800-347-4261. ■

David Krogh

(Continued from page 7)

They went for a walk around the unit. Rebecca had a gait belt on. The therapist was holding onto the belt and her left arm. Rebecca was holding a rail with her right hand. She walked pretty quickly, but kept wanting to go to the right.

The physical therapist was telling us how wonderfully she had done. I was a bit less optimistic.

She was checked out a couple more times. A doctor came in at about 4:15 and talked a while. He said she would be released Tuesday. Another doctor came in about 4:45,

said he had consulted the various areas of specialty, and they were in agreement that Rebecca could be released Monday night. Beth had stepped out at the time. I told the doctor I was uneasy going home. If something happened, we were 45 minutes away. We found Beth in the waiting room and asked her opinion. Beth felt like we could handle it.

We left the hospital Monday night. We were told we would need to watch Rebecca closely for the next week. She would need a wheel chair because she was unsteady on her feet, and was at risk of falling.

After we had gotten home, we were reading her diagnosis on the discharge papers, and found that she also had a broken rib – presumably where her chin had hit her chest when she hit her head.

The first day home, she had a lot of nausea. I called the doctor to see if a prescription could be given for the nausea. The answer was "no". If they gave her medication, it would mask symptoms. She was on anti-seizure medication for five days, had ear drops to prevent infection, and was only taking Tylenol for the

(Continued on page 9)

Seed & Harvest Report



Congratulations to the McGintytown Church of God for the grant award of \$4,600 from the Oldham Little Church Foundation! While grants and foundations are not considered a good source for operating funds, they can prove to be a viable option to support special projects.

The funds awarded to the McGintytown Church will assist with the cost of a new audio system for the sanctuary. The church has undergone substantial remodeling in recent years. The new office and classroom space is helping to accommodate the active life and growth of this country Arkansas church.

I had the pleasure of working with Herb Evans on this application. Herb was diligent with the grant application and persistent with the follow-up with the foundation director—both of which are crucial to successful grant applications.

McGintytown's Pastor, Tom New, is grateful to Herb for serving as the building contractor and raising funds for the project as well! This grant was a true blessing from God.

This is the second grant awarded to a member church of the Church of God General Conference. In 2006, the Maple Grove Community Church in Kokomo, IN received a grant to assist with the cost of asphalt for the parking lot.

If your church would like to know more about the Oldham Little Church Foundation funding interests and receive assistance with the application process, please contact me at the Church of God Development Office.

Today's economy has created quite a buzz about foundations and grants. Here are some important things to consider as you think about grant

funding for your ministry.

- A foundation is a non-government, non-profit organization with funds which are used to support other non-profit organizations.
- Total foundation giving is over \$240 billion, \$1.15 billion of which goes to religious non-profits.
- Most foundations receive funding requests that exceed their giving ability by over 120 percent.
- Two good resources for foundation research: www.fdncenter.org and www.guidestar.com.
- The three keys to winning foundation grants are research, relationship, and persistence.
- The average foundation award takes 6-9 months from the date of application.

Feel free to contact me for more help with foundations that may have a giving interest in your current or upcoming project.

Praise God for the ministry of the Oldham Little Church Foundation and the need supplied at the McGintytown Church of God! ■

(Continued from page 8)

pain. These were the only medications she was on.

She probably slept about 20 hours Tuesday, the first day home. This was a blessing because she was dizzy and nauseous. Her pain was minimal.

The drainage stopped flowing out her ear overnight Tuesday night. Wednesday, she had no nausea or dizziness, and her short-term mem-

ory seemed to be dramatically better.

At this point on Thursday night, she seems perfectly fine, other than the fact that she can't hear out of her right ear – yet. We can't know until her inner ear clears up whether this hearing loss is temporary.

The CT scans showed there was some damage to her semicircular loops, so we were warned she may have long-term vertigo issues.

We were told that even though she seems to be progressing very well, some things may not show up for a while. For example, she may have been a math whiz before (she wasn't), and she may not be able to do math at all now. We'll just have to wait and see.

Besides being a little bit tired, which could be attributed to the anti-seizure medication, she is back to her normal self.

(Continued on page 18)

Korean Extension Report

Season's greetings and happy holidays.

Time flies fast. It has already been six years since the Korean Extension started teaching the biblical truth, the Abrahamic faith, to the Korean students in the Korean language. The vision and passion is to obey the command of the Lord Jesus Christ; "The gospel of the KINGDOM will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the END WILL COME." (Matt. 24:14 NIV).

Presently, all the Korean students are from South Korea, and our prayer is this: that one day God will open the door to North Korea. Then the gospel of the KINGDOM will also be preached by our students with the Abrahamic faith to this dark part of Korea. We pray that we will be the first missions team to North Korea.

So far we have nine graduates: two have been teaching in the Korean Extension, two in the pastoral ministry

under COGGC, three in the assistant pastoral ministry in the other denominational groups in South Korea, and one is pursuing a masters degree to join the teaching team of Korean Extension. Presently, 92 students are studying the biblical truth with the vision and passion for the KINGDOM message to South Korea and preparing for North Korea at any time God opens that door.

I believe this exciting result has been accomplished by the will of God and your passion to take up the Lord's work such as spiritual prayer and physical support for ABC/COGGC. This passion and support should not be seized or impaired by any means until the ultimate will of God be accomplished, the KINGDOM OF GOD.

On behalf of the Korean Extension, staff and student body, I deeply thank you all of you for your passionate prayers and your gracious support.

Once again, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the blessings of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you forever. ■

In Christ,
Steve An
Vice President of Korean Extension

Christian Women's Tropical Retreat April 22-25, 2010

Come enjoy fellowship with other Christian women in a beautiful setting...gorgeous turquoise water lapping gently on the beach where sugar white sands sparkle in the sunshine! Where? Panama City Beach, FL.

This is a wonderful get-away for you to get closer to God and get to know each other better. Plan on joining us; you'll be glad you did! Just \$130 per person covers lodging and meals!

For registration or information, contact:
Rebekah Martin
6790 Wendy Jean Dr.
Morrow, GA 30260

E-mail: rrebrn@yahoo.com
Phone: 770-961-6746.



CHURCHES

SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

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 e-mail DaleLBrown@aol.com or John Smead at (660) 747-8571 or e-mail 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

"Without faith, it is impossible to please him: for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who (diligently) seek Him."

Hebrews 11:6

Hebrews 11 is called the "faith" chapter because it lists Old Testament people who had great faith in God, and that God accepted them as His own people because of their great trust in Him. The first one mentioned is Abel, Cain's brother, son of Adam. His sacrifice to God was better (more acceptable to God) than Cain's. Why? Because of his great faith in God ("By faith Abel offered..."). Cain did not have that kind of faith, if he had any at all. Next mentioned is Enoch, who was "pleasing to God" "by faith." Checking in Genesis, we find "he walked with God three hundred years after he begat Methuselah." His life was much shorter than his contemporaries, but it was a devout righteous life--"He walked with God." Oh, that that could be said of us, that we walk with God. There is nothing greater than that. That is the goal of every child of God.

Then verse six steps in the middle of naming people of great faith to make a statement about how important our deep trust in God is. Without faith and trust in our Almighty God—the great Creator of heaven and earth, the giver of every good and perfect gift, the One who loves us and gave His Son to die for our sins, and the One Who invites us to enter His Kingdom over earth when Jesus comes—we can't be pleasing to Him. He cannot even like us. Why? Because TRUST is all important. Our confidence in Him and what He has said is absolutely necessary if there is to be fellowship between Him and us.

Mankind needs someone greater than us mortals to rely on, to look to for help, to have confidence in, and, to hope. The passage is saying we need to have confidence in our invisible God, that He is Al-

mighty, that He loves us, and causes all things to work together for good for His people. We must not only believe there is a one and only immortal God in heaven, but also that He rewards those who believe in Him and love Him for His goodness and blessings for us.

Does believing in God have anything to do with salvation? Paul says it is the goodness of God that leads us to repent (Rom. 2:4).

When we realize how good He is to us, it makes us wonder why, when we are sinners. Why should the great and holy God bless us sinners so? Then we realize it is because of His love, His kindness, and His desire to save us. And we really want to obey what He has told us to do: to believe the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God to earth, and the things about Jesus Christ our Savior who died for our sins, repent of the evil way of life, be baptized in Christ for forgiveness, and live the holy way of living in this life until we die. He will reward us with eternal life in His righteous Kingdom forever with Him.

You noticed I added the King James word "diligently" to the NAS version above. "he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." A half-hearted relationship with God, where we half-heartedly believe there may be a God, and maybe if there is one he might reward his people, will not work. It is not pleasing to Him. He wants the truth, that He is there, and wants to help us. The key word here for us is "yield". To "yield" means to surrender to someone far more powerful than yourself, someone who can work things out in your life and can make you happy. All our needs will be met—a home, a life partner, enough finances, health (if not now, in the Kingdom), food, clothing, how to live the spiritual life, what the eternal rewards will be.

This Hebrews 11:6 is a precious verse. What God expects of us is expressed in such a simple, yet powerful, way. The word "must" is a powerful word. To please God we must believe He is alive and well and that He is not only interested in us, but that He wants to reward our faith and trust in Him. Look over the faith of the other people in this chapter. It is an encouragement to us. ■

Jim Mattison

By now you've probably heard me use the term *The Ministry of Development*. It's a phrase or title that reflects the significant financial work and stewardship culture that every ministry engages with various levels of success. *The Ministry of Development* is the spiritually charged effort to give Christians the opportunities to accompany their confession of the gospel of Christ with acts of generosity. *The Ministry of Development* serves the giver as much, if not more, than those who receive the gifts to use.

The Ministry of Development can be observed in 2 Corinthians 8 where Paul and Titus facilitated the offerings from the Macedonian churches and encouraged the church in Corinth to complete the offering they had once started. These men faithfully served the believers with a God-given concern (v.16) for the earnestness of their generosity. Paul and Titus were supporting the givers "act of grace" (v.6) by presenting them with a chance to give to other ministries in need.

More boldly Paul challenges them by saying, "*But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see to it that you also excel in the grace of giving.*" (2 Cor. 8:7) We can see how they ministered to the early Christians by helping them excel in giving. Paul teaches us that the *gift* to the *giver* is the *giving*.

Some have asked, "Isn't *The Ministry of Development* just a fancy title for fundraising?" It's a valid question in light of the vast amount of fundraising done in America versus the lack of true development ministry. Sadly, a lot of ministries spend more time on getting the gift than they do caring for the heart of the giver. Not only is this a



bit short-sighted, but it also lacks a biblical model. Consider the following descriptions:

- **Fundraising** – A donor makes a gift in response to a need.
- **Development** – Values are shared by and between a donor and an organization.
- **Philanthropy** – Donor expresses his or her personal values through contributions to [partnership with] an organization which reflects her or her values.
- **Development Continuum** – The process of moving the culture [development] of our Church of God members and ministries from giving to the needs of a program [fundraising]

to sharing the values between the donors and the programs [philanthropy] of the local ministry, General Conference or Atlanta Bible College.

The Ministry of Development includes fundraising, of course. But to say that development is just fundraising would be like saying that farming is just picking corn. Obviously farming is a quite a process—even a culture in and of itself. And so is *The Ministry of Development*. Like farming, much thought and effort goes into cultivating, tooling, planting seed and certainly the harvest—not to mention the elements of time and trust.

The next time you hear myself or a development person say "I'm not a fundraiser," please know that it's because we are more interested in the "grace of giving" in the hearts of people than we are in getting a gift. We have the same priority as Paul who said, "they gave themselves first to the Lord, then to us in keeping with God's will." (2 Cor. 8:5)

The Development Office is here to support and encourage you in your *ministry of development*. Please don't hesitate to contact me. May God prove his abundance to you over and over again as you care for His giving people. ■

Dale Bliss
Director of Development



Church Builder's League Out-Performs Wall Street!

While most Foundation Grants are funded by investment income, the Church of God - Church Builder's League is funded by membership. This means with over 500 faithful pledge members, the Church Builder's League is able to fund 2 grants of \$15,000 each year regardless of Wall Street and economic downturns.

Consider this...

- It would take over \$600,000 invested in a secured annuity to equal today's funding power to the Church Builder's League!
- If the League grew to 750 members, it would fund 2 grants of \$20,000 each and have a cash value of over \$750,000!
- If the League membership grew to 1000 members, it would fund over \$50,000 in ministry assistance per year and have an invested cash equivalent of over one million dollars.

No matter what happens on Wall Street, the Church Builder's League will continue to help ministries accomplish their mission with the funding they need!

THE MILLION DOLLAR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!

The Mission

To provide much needed funds to churches that are expanding their ministries.

The Strategy

To fund two \$25,000 grants per year. This is an increase of \$10,000 per appeal.

The Goal

To enroll 400 new members in 2009.
This will take the CBL to over 1000 members.



***To become a CBL Member call 1-800-347-4261 or
go to www.abc-coggc.org/cbl***

GATESVILLE CHURCH OF GOD AWARDED FALL 2009 GRANT

Greetings from the Church of God in Gatesville, Texas. We're grateful to be able to bring this request for aid to the Church Builders League of the Church of God General Conference. We will soon be breaking ground for our new sanctuary and hope to have it completed by spring.

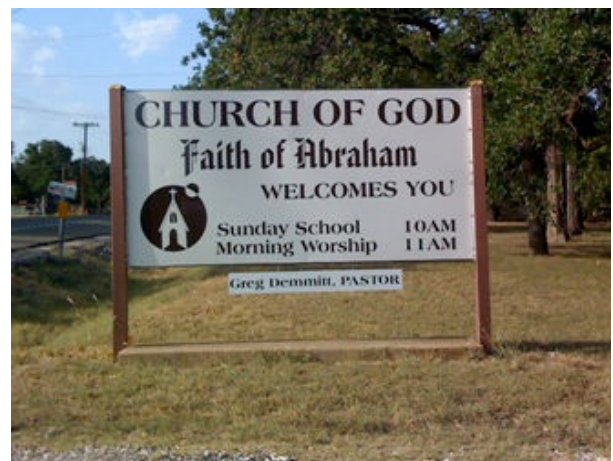
The new sanctuary will replace the one built in 1951 while Emory Macy served as pastor here, and also served as the Texas state evangelist. It will increase our current seating capacity by nearly 50 percent, with significant room for additional seating within the new structure. The building will be 80x40 feet, with the entire structure dedicated as the worship center. This project will complete a building program begun in 1998 with the construction of a multipurpose facility. It has a kitchen and fellowship hall, four classrooms, a study, a large room currently used as an apartment for visiting pastors, and restrooms. We are also required to add a paved parking lot.



The church has continued to give faithfully to the building fund, and we think that now is the time to build. Thanks to the presence of two builders in the church, our total costs should be less than \$200,000, including the construction of a new parking lot and the demolition of the old building. We've saved a significant portion of that and trust that with this appeal and additional contributions, we won't incur any long-term debt.

We do think that a new facility and our increased focus on church health will lead to growth. We constantly remind ourselves of the promise of Ephesians 3, that God can do abundantly more than we ask or imagine through the power that is at work within us. We invite you to participate through supporting the Church Builders League and we desire your prayers as well. ■

Greg Demmitt,
Pastor



Congratulations Gatesville Church of God!

Current Information Available on Website

If you are looking for additional information about Atlanta Bible College, Missions, General Conference activities, or the Alumni Association, please go to our website: atlantabiblecollege.com

On the opening page, you can click on a copy of the weekly edition of ABC News.

If you click on “students” and scroll to the right, you will find “Alumni”. Click on it, and it will take you to the page where you can click on the quarterly issue of the Alumni Newsletter and the minutes of the last Alumni Association meeting.

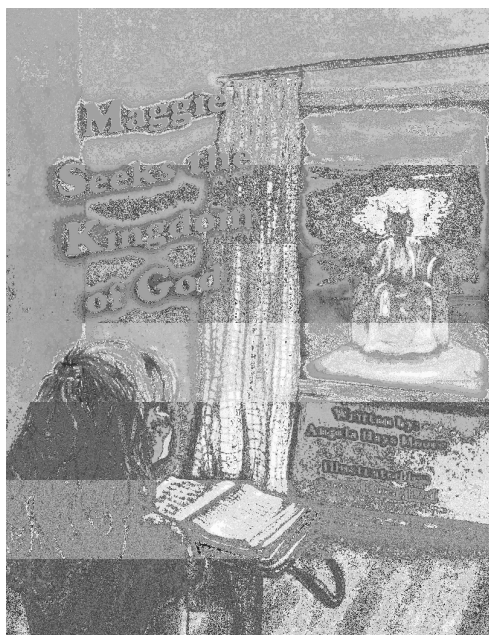
To move to the Church of God General Conference site, click on COGGC. On the home page you will have access to a letter from the

Board of Directors, a copy of the current Restitution Herald/Progress Journal, a copy of the on-line version of the Progress Journal, the latest Lord’s Harvest International newsletter, and a means of enrolling in the on-line Systematic Bible Study Course through the Hutchinson, MN Church.

On both the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College sites you will find much more information about the College and Conference.

If you have suggestions for improvement to our website, please send them to our webmaster: Ben Collier at benccollier@hotmail.com or Gary Burnham at gburnham@abc-coggc.org

“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

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
- B227DL – Kingdom of God as Gospel I (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin)- Videos/Internet/E-mail
- B242DL – Gospel of John (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard) – Videos/Internet/E-mail
- B271DL – Systematic Theology I (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Huffer) - DVDs
- B272DL – Systematic Theology II (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Huffer) - DVDs
- B333DL – Daniel and Revelation (2Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - DVDs/E-mail
- B342DL – Acts (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) – Reading/Writing Assignments
- B441DL – Synoptic Gospels (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Deane) - DVDs/E-mail
- 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
- G272DL – Church History II (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - 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 \$175 per semester hour. Or they can be taken as continuing education courses. The cost is \$87.50 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.

Church News

Baptisms

Indiana

Granger—Moriah Railton by her grandfathers, Pastors Ray Hall and John Railton

Ohio

North Hills—Joanne Roman (4/5/09); Korynne Berner (7/12/09); Marilyn Milner, Jason McCleary, Mandy McCleary, and Dorian McCleary (10/18/09) by Pastor Seth Ross; Korie Near (8/23/09) by Pastor Kyle Casey; Kirsten McCleary (10/18/09) by Amy Cunningham

Ontario, Canada

Fonthill—David Baerg and May Watson (11/15/09) by Pastor Michael Brown

South Carolina

Bethel—Doug Burdick (11/22/09); Jordan Fletcher (11/29/09) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Guthrie Grove—Donna Owings (6/7/09) and Mary Kathryn Pack (10/3/09) by Pastor Mike Montgomery; John Winner (11/1/09) by Pastor Bob Alcumbrack

Washington

Wenatchee—Cheryl McGuire and Pete Billingsley (10/25/09) by Elder Clell France

Marriages

South Carolina

Bethel—Andrew and Tammie Milton (9/18/09) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Guthrie Grove—Krista Joyce Davenport and Doctor Robert Clifton Timmerman (9/12/09) by Pastor Mike Montgomery

Deaths

Ohio

Bedford—Charles (Bud) Jones, 90 (10/27/09), long time faithful member. Service by Pastor Rex Cain, assisted by Bob Jones

South Carolina

Guthrie Grove—Thomas Earl Martin, (3/13/09). Service by Pastors Mike Montgomery and Jim Shaul; George Harold Garrett, Sr., (5/30/09). Service by Pastors Mike Montgomery, Jim Shaul and Wally Winner; Mae Bridges, (7/27/09). Service by Pastors Mike Montgomery and Jim Shaul

Virginia

Front Royal—Audrey Simpson, (11/20/09), long time member. Service by Pastor Dale Ramsey

(Continued from page 9)

At this point, we are planning on having her go back to school next Monday.

Throughout the day this past Monday, we were hearing reports back from various people of how reports of Rebecca's injury had been passed through numerous prayer chains, emails, and facebook pages, and at least hundreds of people were praying for her. We also heard that many people were up praying throughout the night Sunday night for Rebecca.

God strengthened Beth and I tremendously during this whole ordeal, in answer to many people's prayers. We could watch prayer being answered on Rebecca's behalf as she progressed remarkably on an hourly basis.

The bottom line is this:

1. GOD is good.
2. GOD is powerful.
3. GOD answers prayer.

We have seen miracles that demonstrate these facts.

Our God is an awesome God. We have so much to be thankful for.

Praise God. ■

Steve Mattison

11/12/09

P.S. We could have included many more details, but this was getting too long as it was.

- 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 Hampton, GA.
- 4 **Pray for outreach work in Lima, Peru.**
- 5 Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and their ministry at Fort Valley, VA.
- 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 Joe Martin, interim Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the ABC/General Conference.
- 10 **Praise God for a recent answer to a prayer.**
- 11 Pray for ABC students taking block classes this week.
- 12 **Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Jesus as Savior.**
- 13 Pray for teachers in your local church.
- 14 **Praise God for Korean Churches of God in California.**
- 15 Pray for the reFUEL retreat in Indiana and Jon Cheatwood as he leads it.
- 16 **Praise God for financial and prayer supporters of the College/Conference.**
- 17 Pray for Pastor Jon and Rene Welch as they help plant a new church in Missouri.
- 18 **Praise God for the freedom to worship Him.**
- 19 Pray for ABC students and staff beginning regular new semester classes today.
- 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 ABC Korean Extension students and staff beginning regular new semester classes today.
- 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 Pray for the Refuge retreat in Indiana and Jon Cheatwood as he leads it.
- 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.

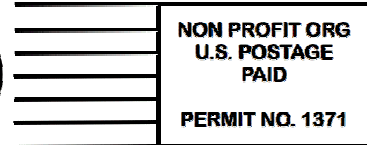


Truth Matters

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.

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



Address Service Requested

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Prayer and Praise

February 2010

- 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 Praise God for the direction He provides for your life.
- 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 Pastor Mark and Sandy DeYoung and their ministry at the Blanchard, MI church.
- 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 Church of God pastors and spouses beginning their Pastor/Spouse retreat and annual conference today.**
- 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.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

Thank God

From Whom All Blessings Come!

By Gordon Landry

“Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare” (Psalm 75:1)

An ungrateful child is a reproach to his parents. Many parents’ hearts have been broken because their children turned on them in their twilight years and gave them into the care and keeping of total strangers. Reasons for such thoughtless actions are many. Often, too much of this world’s goods have been lavished upon a child, and it has spelled his/her doom as far as good characteristics are concerned. Sometimes parents have shown little love and affection in the child’s formative years, and the child has grown into adulthood devoid of natural love. Occasionally, the child is at fault, for both parents have sought diligently to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

Regardless of the reasons for rejection of parents by children, heartaches will result from the action, and the heartaches will evermore remain.

Now this is a sad and often disappointing fact, but it is true. Of greater concern to us, however, is the regrettable fact that most of the earth’s inhabitants have forgotten their God. God is no less loving than the best of parents, yet His children have turned their backs on Him. He made the earth a perfect dwelling place for man before ever creating man to inhabit it. But man ig-

nored God’s counsel and said in effect, “My way, God, is better than your way. I will decide what is best for me. You need bother no longer.”

The reason man so readily turned aside from God was his own stubbornness in refusing to give God thanks in exchange for multitudes of free blessings. Said the Apostle Paul: “The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men ... because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, *neither were thankful*, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. (Romans 1:18-25)

We must not forget to be thankful as those men did. God has given us richly of His bounty. We too feel that *we* have expended *our own* time and energies to make a living, so why give God thanks for our daily bread? But let us never forget that the energies we possess come directly from God. The air we breathe is His, loaned to us for a

few brief years. The fertile ground that grew the food we buy was made by His mystical hand. Paul said, “He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth” (Acts 17:25, 26). God said, in Psalm 50:10 and 11, “Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.”

So everything we can name belongs to God. Everything man has made, he has made with products God supplied. Whether it be lumber for building, oil for travel and smooth-running industry, or sand and gravel for road-building, the products came from God. Truly He is worthy of honor and praise and thanksgiving from His creation.

Yet, for some unknown reason, much of creation goes about with its head empty, void of any high thoughts, useless in its race toward death. Psalm 10:4 records, “The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.”

Remember the time ten lepers met Jesus? They were considered by the law to be unclean, and could not approach anyone who was not so afflicted. These men “stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go

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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.

C H E C K I N G T H E C A L E N D A R

February 19-22
Pastors/Spouses Retreat

March 18-19
Board of Directors Meeting

March 25-27
ABC Invitational,
McDonough, GA campus

April 4
EASTER SUNDAY!

April 11-16
Christian Workers Seminar,
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN

April 25-28
Theological Conference,
Simpsonwood Conference Center,
Norcross, GA

May 21
Atlanta Bible College Graduation

May 28 to July 5
Mission Trip to Africa

July 7- 9
General Conference,
Cornerstone Bible Church,
McDonough, GA

July 18-23
FUEL,
Manchester College,
North Manchester, IN

July 28 to August 10
Mission Trip to Mexico

(Continued from page 1)

shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole" (Luke 17:12-19).

What a thankless life Jesus lived! So many of the people upon whom He had compassion failed to give thanks for deliverance from disease. Many later spurned Him and called out to have Him crucified. Of ten lepers cleansed, one gave thanks. That is not a very high percentage, is it? Yet the percentage today is even less. Of the millions of people enjoying benefits from God, only a comparative handful return to give thanks. In which category are you?

As we enter this new year, our thoughts turn, fleeting perhaps, to giving God thanks. How best can we thank Him? How can we ever show our appreciation for the fact that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)? "God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

God had a beautiful and all-encompassing love for His creation. Jesus lived without sin, but died to save you and me from sin. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15). How, then, *can we* show our appreciation to God and His Son? Words sometimes seem futile when we approach our great and wondrous Creator. We can thank Him by word of mouth, to be sure, but here is another way. Jesus said, "Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). Tell others about your God and your savior. This is the best way to thank them for their sacrifices for you. And remember this, too – have thanksgiving every day of the year and your blessings will be wondrous to behold. ■

The Restitution Herald, November 15, 1962
Pastor Gordon Landry

Note: This may have been a "God moment" but I had spent the night at Gordon Landry's house while attending Stephanie Bormes' funeral. I had asked him if he had any articles we might lead the worship front page off with in the Herald. He checked his office and couldn't find anything. When I got back to the office in Georgia, I went and sat next to the old Heralds on the shelves and pulled one from 1962 and opened up this article by Gordon. Was this coincidence or a God moment? I'm not sure but with our receiving the I.N.S. inspection for the McDonough campus and starting off a new decade, there is no better way to start than being thankful to our Father in heaven. Joe Martin

Reprint of *Systematic Theology*

Since early last year, plans have been under way to reprint the book *Systematic Theology* by Dr. Alva Huffer. The last printing is nearly depleted. 2010 is the 50th anniversary of the first publication of the book. This book is a classic and has been an invaluable resource for the Church of God and other truth seekers around the world. Hundreds of copies have been distributed to libraries around the world. The Systematic Bible Study course, a set of 29 lessons based on the book, has been studied by thousands in many countries. It is available in a paper copy by correspondence as well as an on-line version that was developed by the late Gaylene Kirkpatrick (wife of Vivian P. Kirkpatrick).

Dr. Huffer has had a tremendous ministry over the years. He graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1946. In addition to being an author, he has served as the pastor of several churches, as president of Oregon Bible College, as an adjunct faculty member of Atlanta Bible College, and as a tour host to the Holy Land and

Europe. The Bible has come alive for the hundreds who have traveled with him for more than 40 years. He also has been the host of many multi-media presentations on the Bible and Holy Land which he created and narrated. These presentations have been held in many of our churches as well as in a large number of retirement facilities in the Phoenix metropolitan area. It is estimated that nearly one half million people have attended one or more of these presentations. He is also the director of the Bible World Museum which is housed in the facilities of the Guthrie Grove Church of God in Pelzer, SC where he currently resides.

Many are aware that Alva has been fighting cancer over the past year. However this has not deterred him from teaching Systematic Theology I and II at Atlanta Bible College January 5-9 and October 19-23, 2009. Please keep Alva and his family in your prayers during this difficult time. ■

—David Krogh

THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 25-28

The 19th annual Theological Conference sponsored by Atlanta Bible College and Restoration Fellowship will be held in Atlanta, Simpsonwood Retreat Center, from April 25-28th, 2010. Participants would fly in on Sunday for the evening meal and session and leave after lunch on Wednesday.

We are hoping to bring together a sizeable group of keen students of the Bible who are impassioned about the kingdom of God gospel and the great issues of the identity of God and Jesus. Christians need to take the fellowship seriously as part of our mutual responsibility to each other. All are welcome and interaction with the speakers by way of questions and comments is a feature of our meetings.

These three days together in a beautiful Georgia setting can be invigorating and life-changing. Believers in the human Jesus are often scattered and isolated. Do please consider seriously spending those precious days with believers of like-mind. Your presence there will be an enormous encouragement and blessing to others. You may want to give your own faith-story, a brief account of your faith-journey so far. These "stories" are often amongst the most gripping and memorable parts of our time together. The power of the internet, websites and publication and distribution via Amazon, etc, of existing and brand new books about Jesus and his relationship to the One God have vastly widened the availability of truth. Within a few years every one of the nearly seven billion people on earth will be reachable via the internet. Do come and celebrate these advances with us and learn of the recent appearance of the most significant of biblical unitarian sites. The impact on the world for the gospel of the kingdom is becoming limitless (Matt. 24:14). We are all part of the Great Commission, as servants of Jesus the Messiah. We hope that some of the leaders of the One God movement will speak and exhort us to faithful discipleship.

Registration fees including the conference fee, housing and meals are:

One person to a room - \$322
Two persons to a room - \$247
Three persons to a room - \$234
Four persons to a room - \$218

Please look for more information and registration details @ www.abc-coggc.org

(*This is an abbreviated version from *Glad Tidings* magazine)

had sent him. God told him His name. "I am" is translated from

glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images."

People are called many things other than their name, such as mother, father, doctor, plumber, Mr., Miss, and Mrs. These titles reveal some aspect about the person but are not the person's name. God is called many things in the Scriptures, such as God (Elohim), Most High God (Elyon), Almighty God (El Shaddai), and so on. All of these reveal some aspect of His magnificence though His name is Yahweh. In English Bibles, "Yahweh" is normally translated LORD with all capital letters.

Exodus 6:2, 3, 6, and 7 (NASB)

God spoke further to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD (Yahweh); and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty (El Shaddai), but by My name, LORD (Yahweh), I did not make Myself known to them."

"Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, "I am the LORD (Yahweh)...Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD (Yahweh) your God..."

When God commissioned Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt, Moses asked God what to say to the people about who

the Hebrew word "hayah" which is the root word of Yahweh.

Exodus 3:13-15 (NASB)

Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM" and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD (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, and this is My memorial-name to all generations. ..."

Isaiah 42:8 (NASB)

"I am the LORD (Yahweh), that is My name; I will not give My

"They Were Reprehensively Cavalier."

Jeremiah 33:2 (NASB)

"Thus says the LORD (Yahweh) who made the earth, the LORD (Yahweh) who formed it to establish it, the LORD (Yahweh) is His name."

Psalms 135:13

Your name, O LORD (Yahweh), is everlasting, Your remembrance, O LORD (Yahweh), throughout all generations.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* gives a clear definition of Yahweh. "The God of the Israelites, his name being revealed to Moses as four Hebrew consonants (YHWH) called the Tetragrammaton." After the Exile (6th century BC), and especially from the 3rd century BC on, Jews ceased to use the name Yahweh for two reasons. As Judaism became a universal religion through its proselytizing in the Greco-Roman world, the more common noun Elohim, meaning "god," tended to replace Yahweh to demonstrate the universal sovereignty of Israel's

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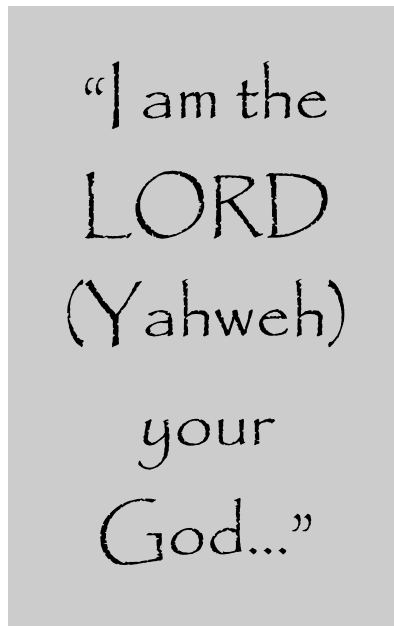
God over all others. At the same time, the divine name was increasingly regarded as too sacred to be uttered; it was thus replaced vocally in the synagogue ritual by the Hebrew word “Adonai” (“My Lord”), which was translated as Kurios (“Lord”) in the Septuagint, the Greek version of the Old Testament.

The Masoretes, who from about the 6th to the 10th century AD worked to reproduce the original text of the Hebrew Bible, replaced the vowels of the name YHWH with the vowel signs of the Hebrew words Adonai or Elohim. Thus, the artificial name Jehovah (YeHoWaH) came into being. Although Christian scholars after the Renaissance and Reformation periods used the term Jehovah for YHWH, in the 19th and 20th centuries, biblical scholars again began to use the form Yahweh.

Regardless of their intentions, when the Masoretes changed God’s name, they were reprehensibly cavalier, especially when compared with the meticulous manner in which Yahweh repeatedly endeavored to make His name known.

While in Egypt, the Israelites were drowning in polytheism. They lost the connection that their forefathers – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – had with Yahweh. When God led them out of Egypt, He made known to Pharaoh, Israel, and the world that Yahweh is the only true God. The purpose of the ten plagues was to discredit the

Egyptian gods while at the same time to magnify Yahweh.



Exodus 7:5, 16 and 17 (NASB)

“The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD (Yahweh), when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst.”

“You shall say to him, ‘The LORD (Yahweh), the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, ‘Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness. But behold, you have not listened until now.’ ‘Thus says the LORD (Yahweh), ‘By this you shall know that I am the LORD (Yahweh) ...’”

With each plague, God basically had Moses say the same thing.

“By this you shall know that Yahweh is God.” “There is no one like Yahweh our God.” Pharaoh was a very proud man and a very slow learner! The salvation for Israel and judgment for Egypt are how Yahweh revealed His identity.

After Israel finally left Egypt, they found themselves in the wilderness. They constantly doubted Yahweh. Yet He consistently endeavored to help them believe that He was the one true God. Such was the case with manna.

Exodus 16:12 (NASB)

“I have heard the grumblings of the sons of Israel; speak to them, saying, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; and you shall know that I am the LORD (Yahweh) your God.’”

After making clear His identity as Yahweh their God, He gave a commandment that they were to have no other gods before Him. Monotheism (the belief that there is but one God) became the crucial core of Judaism and the issue that Yahweh insisted upon and on which Israel faulted. ■

CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

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.



The world is currently in a grand muddle over who God is. Millions of Jews are convinced that God is a single person, Yahweh. Christians have mostly accepted the tradition that God exists as one essence in three persons. Moslems believe that the one they call God is a single person.

People of the Church of God (Abrahamic Faith) have from the beginning (around 1850) been unitary monotheists, maintaining that the Trinity was a confusing and illogical imposition on Scripture. They were supported by countless learned scholars whose works have been largely hidden away in dusty libraries, or as books “discarded.” Abrahamics have been joined recently in their biblical view of God by distinguished scholars and authors who agree that God is the God of Jesus, and that God is a single person in scripture. There have always been, particularly since the Reformation in 1517, fearless people who “bucked the system,” often at the cost of being killed or excommunicated by the powerful ecclesiastical system. This truth has been defended at the cost of blood.

Eric Chang, trained at London University, recently produced a lengthy defense of his move from Trinitarianism to the Abrahamic unitary monotheism (*The Only True God*). “Evangelical Servetus” now known to be Kermit Zarley, documented his own rejection of

trinitarianism in his *Restitution of Jesus Christ*.

Very recently Dan and Sharon Gill from Tennessee have made a major and impressive “splash” on the internet with their beautiful and informative site, 21st century Reformation (to go there, simply Google in 21stcr.org.). They say up front that “truth matters.” If the Bible means anything, they are right!

All this means that the challenge to the deeply rooted view that “Jesus is God” is going public on a grand scale. This is the marvel of the internet, that it gives us (or rather God has given us) the perfect tool for reaching the whole world with the Gospel. Matt. 24:14 is now realistically possible since within a few years nearly everyone on the globe will be reachable by that wonder of modern technology.

It seems to me that the guardians of the most precious truth of all, that God is one divine, unmatched person, should leap into action in view of what is now possible in terms of evangelism. If we take seriously the Great Commission — and for decades leaders among “Abrahamics” have stressed the need for us to implement Matt. 24:14 — then our presence as servants and bearers of truth to the world requires that we exert maximum effort to develop and support outreach via the web. Since truth is all-important, and the “love of the truth” one of the criteria for salvation (II Thess. 2:10), we will want to assist struggling folk everywhere to

grasp the tremendous significance of Jesus’ words: “This is eternal life, that they believe in you [Father] *the only one who is truly God*, and in Jesus Christ whom you commissioned as Your agent.”

We will help people to see that Jesus was the ultimate monotheist. He used the two words “monos” and “theos” in his marvelous description of what is most important in John 17:3. Jesus could hardly have made it clearer that muddling or confusing the creed, “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord” (as Mark 12:29 reads) is dangerous in the extreme. Understanding who God is and His relationship to the pro-created Son, as Luke 1:35 describes him, is a mammoth task. There are 6 1/2 billion people on earth and every one of them deserves our best endeavor to bring them the most precious information of all, who God and Jesus are. As a team, and as individual workers for God, our cry needs to go out, that God will not tolerate muddled accounts of who He is and how many He is! Lame excuses, like “doctrine does not matter,” may hold up badly in the judgment day. If we have been given much, we must give out much, fearlessly but kindly. Holding back will not attract the blessings of God to us. One has only to think of the striking words of Jesus. “He who is ashamed of me and my words.....” will not succeed when Jesus comes back. ■

When you were young (high school) and had begun thinking about your future, did you ever think you would live where you are today, or be doing what you are today? Did your dreams of living in a certain place (Hawaii?) ever come true? Did your career dreams get fulfilled? Are you surprised where you actually ended up living and doing what you are?

When I was in high school, about all I thought about was riding my bicycle, playing with my friends and gradually learning that nice girls are nice to be around. :-) When I did begin to think seriously about my future, I considered only 3 options: finding a job, going to college or joining the military. I opted for the last choice but was THAT ever changed in an hour visit with my pastor at the time, the late Richard Smith.

I had borrowed my stepfather's car to go to downtown Springfield, Ohio to sign up for the Air Force. Unfortunately (or was it fortunately?), they were closed that day. The next day I got the car to drive down again when my stepfather stepped out the door of the house and yelled to me, "Pastor Richard Smith wants to talk to you." So, I drove past the recruiting station in Springfield and on out to Lawrenceville where Pastor Smith told me all about Oregon Bible College and that I should give it a try. At the time I didn't even know it existed and couldn't believe him when he said there were 22 students. I said, "You mean in one classroom?" "No," he replied, "the entire school has 22 students." With quite a bit of trepidation, I gave it a try - for four years! - and became a pastor - now in my 49th year!!

Talk about NOT doing what I had planned! I NEVER dreamed of be-

ing a pastor! It NEVER crossed my mind in high school. I was terrified to stand up in front of people. For a few years, while in high school, I wouldn't even get involved in church youth programs or Christmas plays - I was too shy to speak publicly. I'm still nervous to be in front of people - that's why I use a manuscript so in case my mind goes blank (no jokes, please), I have my thoughts right in front of me and can get back on track.

I also dreamed of a home with a white picket fence and a beautiful wife. I got the latter. :-) I have lived all of my life in a parsonage. NEVER even once, as a young person, did I consider that a possibility in my life.

As self-deprecating as this may sound, I'm not gifted as a preacher. I've never considered myself close to being a Bible "scholar". Bro. Smith sent me off to OBC, I studied and learned a few things about the Bible, and have shared them as best I can for 49 years. During my OBC graduation reception (along with some others), Harold Doan was asking each student what he planned to do. I said, "I plan to learn everything that I've studied." Meaning, ministry is a life-long endeavor and always learning is part of it. In the final analysis, I suppose that's what we all do - the best we can. The phrase, "Bloom where you are planted" might fit here.

Life takes many turns we never expected! Is that God leading? Did God instill in Pastor Smith's mind to give me a call about 15 seconds before getting in the car and driving downtown to join the Air Force? I think so. I don't have a mega church, but God has granted me the privilege to touch a few people who have given their lives to Christ. Maybe in the near future we

can sit together and rejoice at a small table in the corner of the Lamb's banquet room.

All I'm trying to say is, who knows how our lives will turn out or what tomorrow will bring. What events will alter and shape our few days on this earth? There are many uncontrollable forces that may move us away from our plans and dreams, and that may be good! God worked in my life, and I didn't even pray for His guidance! But God was working through Richard's life to influence mine.

I often think of the following story Jesus told when I think about my opportunities that have come to me totally unplanned! Read from Matthew 25:14-30 (The Message):

"It's also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master's investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master's money.

"After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: 'Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.'

"The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master's investment. His master commended him: 'Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.'

(Continued on page 13)

From a Servant Seat: CAO/President Dr. Joe Martin

One of my new duties is to send letters for ABC/COGGC to people for various reasons. As I was signing a letter, I noticed the addressee as Mr. Susie. I was a little disappointed that several letters had slipped through like that. I began to imagine how many letters in our database were wrong or even how many letters had slipped through in the past. We are going to be more diligent. It seems as if some folks deserve an apology. The computer automatically puts in a "Mr." in one of the lines. Of course, all the computer wizards out there would disagree by saying the input was wrong. Nonetheless, here it is. I want to apologize to any of you that have received such a letter from the General Conference or ABC. (Please see page 14 for a follow-up story on apologies.) We've initiated a campaign to correct these issues. You may even get a call from us asking if our information is right. If you like, please call in if your address or name is incorrect.

But the beauty of the picture is that I signed a LOT of letters, especially "Thank You" letters for Builder's Appeal, missions, general fund, scholarship giving, etc. Many good things are going on with ABC/COGGC! I want YOU to be aware of what YOU are doing! These churches are being served by you (which includes me), the General Conference, with Church Development Aid (aid to help with personnel): Abundant Life Community Church, Rockford, IL; Chapel Hill Church of God, Ur-

bana, OH; North Hills Church of God, Springfield, OH; and Oregon Church of God, Oregon, IL. Young pastors are being given opportunity to serve in a greater way by each one of us.

These churches are being served by you, the General Conference with church planting aid: Campus Bible Church, Duluth, GA; Knightstown Family Fellowship, Knightstown, IN; Logos Bible Church, Lawrenceville, GA; and New Beginnings Church of God, Desloge, MO. Please notice that two of those churches, Campus Bible and Logos Bible will be Korean-based. In a recent sermon by David Riley, he noted that if the world was just 100 people, over 50 would be Asian. We are doing what Jesus commanded by these efforts. Thank you.

These churches have recently been served by you, the General Conference, with Builder's Appeal Foundation for buildings, land or remodeling: Pleasant Hill, OH (2007), Maple Grove, IN (2007), McGintytown, AR (2008), Cool Spring, Brown-town, VA (2008), Lawrenceville, OH (2009), Gatesville, TX (2009). I am pleased to announce on behalf of the board that North Hills, OH Church has been awarded the next Builder's Appeal for 2010. They will be adding a beautiful new entrance, nursery, bathrooms, etc.

Thanks for being a part of the family of God that helps SERVE EACH OTHER. The bottom line is, the mission statement for our conference is "To serve churches and individuals

in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's kingdom." Let us continue to serve each other, and even apologize and forgive each other when necessary. As I sign those letters, I am seeing a bigger picture of what we do together, and I am liking it.

After a discussion with several pastors about making sure ABC/COGGC has a "gut-level" connection with the people, we have decided to start a "GO SERVE" program in which students go out for two weeks, March 12-21 or April 9-18, which gives us four possible weekends during the semester. The plan is to go to an area and serve in whatever way the local church has needs. We may have three possible teams going out. If you are serving your community and can use an extra hand from an ABC team of 3-5 people, let us know. If you would like a youth service, regular service with a speaker, let us know. You may email Kim Musch at kmusch@abc-coggc.org or call ABC at 800-347-4261 and ask for Kim, Jon or Joe, regarding "GO SERVE" times.

Thank you for serving with us in all that WE do together. Thank you for the kind gifts and notes of encouragement that have been sent in. May God bless us as we commit to being His people fulfilling the Great Commission and preaching and teaching His kingdom message. ■

Joe

Faithful members of the Church of God,

As I reflect back on 2009, I realize quickly that it was quite a unique year. The world has not known economic hardship to this extent since the Great Depression. I personally endured 13 weeks of furlough from my job in 2009 due to the economy. Many of you have shared with me stories of friends and family being out of work and facing tough economic times as well. I recall a similar year at work where a foundry I was working with had undergone severe hardship in its business, and the people I worked with were showing signs of despair as the year drew to a close. I sat at my computer before Christmas trying to put the right words to an email to let them know that all was well.

As I pored through the past year's notes, I began to write down all of the good things that had happened to us that year. To my surprise, I was able to list numerous positive results from the many projects we worked on together. I sent a note to everyone I knew at that company with the list of good things that we had accomplished together, and what resulted was amazing. I received calls and emails from many factory-hardened people, literally in tears thanking me for taking time to give them a word of hope. It brings tears to my own eyes to this day thinking about this story.

A vital truth I came to realize at that time was that people don't care so much about facts and

figures, but more about how they are treated and loved. It wasn't the accomplishments I had listed that spoke to their hearts, but the fact that I took time to show them I cared about them.

And isn't that what the gospel message, for which our group exists, is all about? "(Jesus) had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things." (Mark 6:34). "The third time (Jesus) said to him, Simon... do you love me?... Feed my sheep." (John 21:17).

As I have called to talk to many of you this year to ask for prayer and advice for the board of directors, I have found that same thing to be true. I've heard you all say that you love the Church of God, ABC, ABCKE, the General Conference, the youth program, and the staff to name a few, and that you want us all to succeed together in the mission of "serving churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's kingdom." I've also heard many concerns about our future, finances, and plans, and the board has taken all of these comments to heart. Without evidence of expressed concerns, support for our conference would not exist.

When I think about our future, I recall the theme of the 2008 movie, "The List," based on the novel by Robert Whitlow, starring Malcolm McDowell: "Both God's children and His enemies underestimate the power of prayer." Each member of the

board is committed to praying our way into the coming year, as we seek God's direction. We are praying in unison with rest of the General Conference, the staffs in Atlanta, the staffs at our churches, the members of the state conferences, our pastors, and our members. We are in this mission together!

As a recent reminder, God blessed us greatly on December 23 by granting our prayerful request to be granted certification by the INS at Avalon, which now opens the door for the Korean Extension to be able to begin classes in Duluth this semester.

Please continue to pray for both campuses and the staff and students of each as we begin the new semester. Please continue to pray for your pastors and leaders of our conference as we look for God's way to serve you better. There are still many challenges ahead, but through your continued prayers and support, I am confident that God will bless our churches, conference, and schools in ways that help us (and me) begin not to underestimate His power.

May God bless you all in your local ministries and bless the conference and board who serves you. ■

In His Service,

Bob
January, 2010

ABC NEWS

The Atlanta Bible College students and staff began the winter/spring 2010 semester with great thanksgiving to God that the Immigration Department has approved our South Campus as a site to teach international students. We have cancelled our lease at the Morrow campus and all ABC classes are now being held at the McDonough Campus (see Korean Extension Report for an update on the opening of the new North Campus). We are thankful to our students and staff for their cooperation and adjustments during this past year while we waited for INS approval.

The semester started with a pre-semester briefing for all students on Sunday afternoon January 17th. Regular classes started on January 19th. We are glad to welcome 12 new students this semester.

Students and staff are looking forward to launching two "Go Serve" weeks during this semester. We would like to go and serve your church, your young people, and your community! We want to bring teams of students and staff to your church and help in any way that you need. As part of "Go Serve," stu-

dents and staff will have two possible weeks to focus exclusively on serving. This is going to be the first year we have organized "Go Serve" weekend trips, and our target areas are Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, or any other place we can work out.

The proposed dates of "Go Serve" are March 12-21 and April 10-18, 2010. We are offering to do a youth service with music and speakers or help you serve in a way God is leading, such as work around your church, putting on a service, helping with worship, etc. "For the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many" – Mark 10:45 (NIV). Staff member Kim Musch is leading this effort.

ABC is also preparing to host our annual ABC-I, an invitational event for prospective students. It will be held March 25-27. Students will have an opportunity to visit classes, see our facilities, worship together, and engage in a service project. We are looking forward to having student and staff delegations from many churches. ■

David Krogh

Korean Extension Report

Good tidings brothers and sisters of the Church of God General Conference!

I pray all of you have had a blessed 2009. For 2009 the Korean ministry has truly been blessed with many opportunities—opportunities to serve and honor God. We have flourished with three local churches, we continue to equip Korean pastors for leadership, and the Korean Extension continues to teach the Bible.

For 10 years we have fervently prayed, seeking God's guidance. During the 10 years God has opened and closed doors. One door that was opened more than six years ago was the Korean Extension. The Korean Extension was established through the aid and support of the Church of God General Conference and the Korean Church Conference. We discovered, in order for the Korean ministry to be effective, equal efforts from both the Korean Church Conference and

Korean Extension are needed, as well as the support from the Church of God General Conference. 2009 was not all stress free. We faced our share of stressful situations. Some of the situations during the year reminded me of the story of Gideon and the fleece. Truly, it was a lesson, God reigns! *We are blessed with the approval by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to maintain the privilege to educate the foreign students in the U.S., despite the lack of national accreditation.* There is a limited number of educational organizations with the exemption of approval, and we are one of those organizations. Through this event, it is evident that the Korean ministry is the will of God. We pray one day it will be God's will for us to perform outreach into North Korea.

For 2010, the Korean ministry is refreshed and reinforced to perform the task at hand, which is "preaching the Abrahamic faith"!

Thank you all for your prayers and support. ■

Sam An
Atlanta Bible College
Korean Extension Administrator

Seed & Harvest Report



One of the most powerful seeds anyone can sow is the seed of gratitude. Thanksgiving is not typically thought of in times of planting. Instead we usually think of it once the seed has produced the harvest. So we plant, harvest, then give thanks—and rightly so.

The great thing is that God has designed our gratitude to work as seeds for the next season of blessing. Gratitude is a supernatural kernel of future abundance. Consider the program that is within the seed of gratitude.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. The thankful heart was not the only thing that separated one leper from the other nine in Luke 17. The “Samaritan” who returned to give thanks to Jesus unlocked the fullness of his experience with the Christ. While all ten were cleansed of the disease, he was the only one who was made whole—saved! Gratitude

unlocks the fullness of our life in Christ.

Gratitude creates a capacity in your life to receive from God. A pure reflection of gratitude is the tithe. Returning to God a portion of our wealth has always proven to God that we are thankful and that we acknowledge his blessing. What is his response to this act of gratitude? Malachi 3 promises that God will throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour more blessings than you have room for. Gratitude creates a floodgate-size capacity in your life.

Gratitude connects on a deeper, more intimate, level with the Giver. The humility that accompanies true gratitude defines our relationship with God beyond the material blessing. Saying “thank you” expresses honor to the one who deserves the praise—and preserves the humility of the one who does not. To walk humbly with God is a sign of intimacy.

Gratitude immunizes you against worry. How can you worry about life if you are constantly focused on all the provision you receive. Unless our gratitude is a hollow expression or religious bantering, we are forced to come face to face with a providing source. When blessing is flowing (and you recognize it with gratitude), your ability to worry fades.

Gratitude is a universal law. Like gravity—gratitude moves your life in a very specific direction. Thanksgiving creates a focus of not just the provision, but the Provider even more. We all know that we move in the direction of our strongest focus. Gratitude moves you toward God and his righteousness.

The next time you participate in God’s great system of seed and harvest, remember to include seeds of gratitude. The results will be supernatural. ■

Dale Bliss
Director of Development

Whatever a man sows, this will he also reap.”- Galatians 6. 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.

(Continued from page 9)

"The servant given one thousand said, 'Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.'

"The master was furious. 'That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did

you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.

"'Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this "play-it-safe" who won't go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness.'"

Even though I never imagined I'd become a minister, I'm praying I have at least invested my limited

abilities and opportunities with The Banker! Jesus taught us that we should do no less. I pray one day soon I'll hear, "... Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matt. 25:21 NIV) ■

Pastor Rex Cain

Apologies & “Daddy and the Dirt Bike”

By Dr. Joe Martin

Apologies are very interesting. Since I apologized in my letter column, I thought I might share a bit of humor about an apology my dad gave one time. It's a Pumpkin Center (LA) story, and for those that know me, it is called, “Daddy and the Dirt Bike.” Many years back, we lived on a dirt road about a mile long right off the main Pumpkin Center road. Things were very quiet for the most part except for the occasional hunter's shot back on the Natalbany River behind the house. The little dirt road made a ninety-degree turn in front of our house with just four houses past ours. A neighbor on the beginning part of the road, bought a new Ducati dirt bike, a racing motorcycle. He began using our little road as a practice track, especially the

turn at our house. He would make the turn, rev it up, “pop a wheelie,” throwing dirt and rocks into the air with the bike screaming on down the road.

Porches in those days were almost a sanctuary for social activity. Ours was the place where relatives or friends would gather and have the typical very strong Louisiana coffee and a nice visit. One day after the fifth dirt bike turn by our neighbor, my father calmly went to his closet and got his little Remington semi-automatic 22 squirrel hunting rifle and (if I remember correctly, it's been a long time) simply told me, “Get in the truck.” We drove to the neighbor's house where he proceeded to get out and put the gun on the hood of the truck. While I sat riveted to the seat, he knocked on the neighbor's door and then in the neighbor's front yard had a very calm conversation with that gun on the hood. It is similar to one of those Flannery O'Conner southern stories that

may be hard to believe, but the conversation went something like this.

My dad said, “Gary, you've lived here for about three years. I've lived on the back of this road for about thirty years now. I need to tell you that that motorcycle is way too noisy, and creates way too much dust when you race it around our corner. Do you see that little '22' on the hood of the truck? I need to tell you that the next time you 'pop a wheelie' with all that racket (southern for lots of noise), and kick up all that dust so I can't breathe, I'm going to try to shoot your tire out, and I am a pretty good shot. However, if I accidentally miss your tire and hit your foot or leg, I want to apologize now.” Gary never popped a wheelie around our corner again. I don't know how this fits with “love your neighbor as yourself,” but they seemed to get along just fine from then on. ■

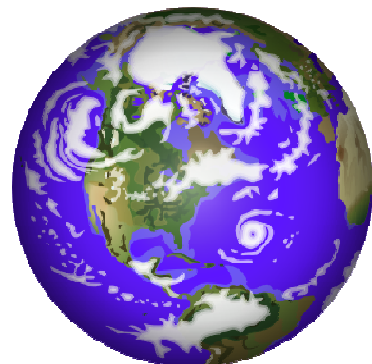
Be GREEN !!

Beginning with the next issue,
you can receive the Restitution Herald/Progress Journal
electronically!

Several folks have already requested we stop sending
them paper copies of the RH-PJ.

If you would like to receive a copy of the RH-PJ via e-mail,
please let us know by e-mailing us at
info@abc-coggc.org or by calling us @ 1-800-347-4261.

You'll receive a PDF copy of the issue and a link to the
page on which that issue resides on our website.



2009 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:

Darlene Bormes
John and Juanita English
Charles (Bud) Jones
Mrs. Jean LaHuis
Mrs. Vivian King

Harvey and Mary Krogh
Beryl Williams
Leona Zeckiel
Margurite Zeckiel

Scholarships and Grants for Atlanta Bible College

Grants and scholarships provided assistance to Atlanta Bible College students during 2009 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, IN Church Scholarship
Caroline Brown Memorial
Cecil Smead Memorial
Delbert and Bernedene Jones Memorial
Francis and Lila VanFleet Memorial
Fulton Ramsey 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
Illinois Conference
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

Martha Jones Mattison Memorial
Mary Helen Mattison Memorial
Michigan State Conference
Mildred Schroeder Memorial
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
Wenatchee, WA Church of God
William G. and Nina G. Hicks Memorial
William and Rhoda Hanson Memorial
Willie Smith Memorial, Carolina Conference
Zelma Weaver Memorial

Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

**"The love of money is the root of all evil:
which while some coveted after,
they have erred from the faith,
and pierced themselves
through with many sorrows" (KJ).**

1 Timothy 6:10

This is the tail end of Paul's (God's) conclusion about his main subject of how men can find contentment. He had just said some suppose godliness is a means of gain. "But godliness actually is a means of great gain (spiritually), when accompanied by contentment...and if we have food and covering with these we shall be content."

Then he added the divine thought teaching on men's desire to get rich and their "love" for money. God's thoughts about this are that this is dangerous ground to walk on. "Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into destruction." Then he adds, "For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang"(NAS).

What is he saying? Real contentment comes from having a godly nature and being content with the needs that God supplies. We don't need to desire to be rich. Money brings extra troubles we don't need besides the possibility of turning our minds from the Lord to earthly pleasures which have nothing to do with our salvation. Our true riches are found in being godly and being content in God.

In fact the apostle of God tells us to "flee" from these thoughts if we are people of God, and really seek for righteousness, being like God, having faith, love, stick-to-it-ism and being gentle with people, and, fighting the fight of faith. Consider the eternal life to come greater riches than money we might gather here. It is, isn't it? And isn't seeking first to be in God's coming kingdom and longing for His righteousness the real heavenly riches? Neither moth nor rust nor thieves can steal them.

Our Lord Jesus said we can't serve two masters, God and mammon (money). We are going to like one more

than the other and live accordingly. He said, "You cannot serve God and mammon."

So let's not try to do it. He told the soldiers, "Be content with your wages." Here's the teaching of contentment again.

A common feeling among men is : "Do others before they can do you." In other words, take advantage of them in business deals. Get the best of the bargain without considering their good. Think about your own gain. "Get ahead at any cost." "Making money is the most important thing."

This attitude will make many lose salvation. It is against the nature of God. There is neither love nor mercy nor kindness in thinking like that.

This is a day of scams. So many are trying to get your money. Sometimes I get 5 in the mailbox a day, and always a few on the computer every day. Recently a woman phoned, said, "Did you know you owe \$3000 on your Visa card?" I said, "No. I don't." She said, "How much do you think you owe?" I replied, "Nothing." She hung up.

Another ripoff is prescription drugs. The doctor gave me a prescription for Flomax, supposed to treat a common problem among men. It costs me \$60 a month, more than I can really afford. And does it really work? There is no proof. Then a friend showed me that this company spends \$115,000,000 a year (2008) bombarding doctors with advertisements to promote their product. You know how much Flomax was sold last year? \$1.2 billion dollars. A similar product, doxazosin, is around \$10. No one hears about it. A standing joke is, "I need to invest in the drug companies." Many elderly people cannot afford to have prescription insurance, or even pay for their medicine. The love of money...

Jesus will change the world's thinking when He comes. He is trying to do that with us now. No, it isn't wrong to have money. Abraham was rich. So was the devout man, J. C. Penney, and others.

It's how we look at money that is important. Is it something to be used for good in this life, or does accumulating it control our thoughts? The love of money is a root of evil. Living a godly life and being content and thankful for God's blessings is where the real riches are. ■

—Jim Mattison

Anna Mae Mercer

October 9, 1885 – February 16, 1981

Anna Mae was born to Daniel and Mary Jane Hauser Van Antwerp on a farm near Vermont, Illinois, being one of nine children. Her childhood and schooling all took place near Vermont.

At age 19 on September 11, 1904, she married G. Robert Mercer of Vermont and to this union nine children were born.

Brother Samuel Lindsey baptized Anna Mae at age 25 in the year 1910. On that occasion, they rode by horse and buggy to Sugar Creek, near Vermont, where the baptism took place. She was faithful to our Lord's calling for the rest of her long life.

In 1910 the large family moved to Macomb, Illinois. She was an active and charter member of the Macomb Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith. She was affectionately called "The grand old lady of the Church of God." At the time of her death in 1981, many members in the Macomb Church of God who were in their 50s and 60s sat at her feet as children, listening to her teach God's precious Word.

Her husband, Robert, died July 27, 1975 after nearly 71 years of a happy and fulfilling marriage.

It was an honor to be asked to write this brief review of Anna Mae's life. Though I only knew her for five years before her death, in that time I learned of her intense devotion to speak of her Lord at every opportunity. Here is just one example; only a few months before her death she was in a beauty parlor and a hairdresser spoke so all could hear in the room, "What happens after death?" When no one spoke up, Anna Mae gave a lesson about death to all in the beauty shop! Later, when I visited her in the hospital, I saw her many times quiz the nurses about their faith! She was obeying Christ's command to be a light in a dark world.



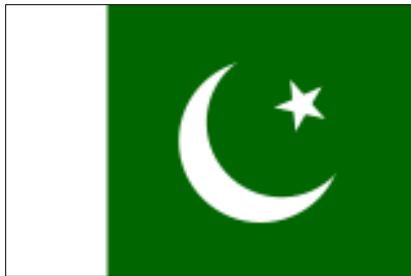
One of her favorite verses was 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. I used that passage for her service to honor her love for the scriptures and for the truth she held so strongly in her heart. She now sleeps in the loving arms of Jesus waiting for His glorious return when He will raise her to life and immortality! "Come, Lord Jesus!" ■

Pastor Rex Cain

A donation of \$10,000 was given in loving memory of Anna Mae Mercer exclusively to help students of the Atlanta Bible College who need help with their financial obligations.

This gift is also given to inspire others to honor their own loved ones with a legacy gift to the ministry of the Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference. For more information on legacy giving, contact Director of Development, Dale Bliss.

Update on Pakistan Outreach



The Lord's Harvest International Mission Board decided to proceed with an invitation to churches in Pakistan who share our understanding of Scripture to join the Church of God General Conference. We are thankful for the overwhelming affirmation from churches, mission groups, and individuals to proceed and we are thankful for the financial support that has been committed.

November 22-25, there was a leadership seminar in Karachi which involved various pastors throughout Pakistan who have come to believe the same core doctrines as the Church of God General Conference. The leadership seminar had to be held as two separate groups because of the difficulties in getting everyone together at the same time.

In Group 1 there were 19 pastors and representatives from Quetta and Karachi. In Group 2 there were 25 pastors and representatives from Sahiwal, Faisalabad, and Karachi. Several decisions were made at these meetings:

1. Pastor Rashid Emmanuel was



chosen to serve as the National Coordinator. He has been involved in full-time ministry for a few years and has been working with independent congregations in Faisalabad. He made contact with Sean Finnegan while searching for resources on the internet and Sean subsequently put him in contact with Stephen Cook in Australia. Stephen and Pastor Rashid had previously met in Pakistan on two previous occasions. Stephen Cook lives in Australia and has been in contact with the Church of God and Anthony Buzzard for a number of years. Stephen has visited the General Conference offices in Atlanta.

2. Pastor Rashid will begin the process of registering "Church of God Pakistan" as a Christian denomination. This is necessary for pastors to perform marriages and funerals.

3. In order to obtain Registration by the Department of Religious Affairs, this group must demonstrate that they are a functioning church and must supply samples of stationery, evidence of a bank account, show that regular services are conducted, etc. Legal costs connected with registration will cost \$500.

4. A national council will be formed with representatives, usually the pastor, from each church that wants to be associated.

5. An International Advisory Council will be established which will include Pastor Rashid, Anthony Buzzard, Stephen Cook (from Australia), and David Krogh. This council will give advice, guidance, encouragement and support.

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

The Church of God General Conference has been asked to provide \$440 per month to cover the costs of running an office in Faisalabad. Through this office literature will be printed and a correspondence Bible study course will be available. For those enrolled in the course, two weekend seminars will be held. The funds will help with travel to cities and villages to follow-up with contacts. Though Pastor Rashid serves his own church, he will take on the additional duties of serving as National Coordinator of the work in Pakistan. His church generously supports several projects, including humanitarian ones.

The form used for churches to apply for membership in the Church of God General Conference has been translated into Urdu to make it easier for the churches that wish to join our association.

A teaching seminar was held in Faisalabad January 9 and 10 attended by 10 pastors and representatives. The churches represented completed the application forms to be translated and sent to the Church of God General Conference Board of Directors for consideration at their March Board meeting.

In light of the immediate need to pay the legal fees to register the Church of God Pakistan (\$500)

and the need to provide \$440 per month, we would like to start receiving funds from the churches, mission groups, state conferences, and individuals who offered financial support. Gifts should be made out to the Church of God General Conference, with a notation "Pakistan Outreach" and sent to Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253.

Please join me in praying that God will bless Pastor Rashid, the other pastors, and churches, as they work together to advance the cause of Christ and the kingdom in Pakistan. ■

—David Krogh

Current Information Available on Website

If you are looking for additional information about Atlanta Bible College, missions, General Conference activities, Turning Point Youth Ministries, or the Alumni Association, please go to our website: atlantabiblecollege.com.

To move to Turning Point Youth Ministries, click the upper left link "COGGC," then click the upper left link "Youth."

On the opening page, you can click on a copy of the weekly edition of ABC News.

If you click on students and scroll to the right, you will find "Alumni". Click on it and it will take you to the page where you can click on the quarterly issue of the Alumni Newsletter and the minutes of the last Alumni Association meeting.

To move to the Church of God General Conference site, click on COGGC. On the home

page you will have access to a letter from the Board of Directors, a copy of the current Restitution Herald/Progress Journal, a copy of the on-line version of the Progress Journal, the latest Lord's Harvest International newsletter, and a means of enrolling in the on-line Systematic Bible Study Course through the Hutchinson, MN Church.

On both the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College sites you will find much more information about the College and Conference.

If you have suggestions for improvement to our website, please send them to us:

info@abc-coggc.org or

Gary Burnham at gburnham@abc-coggc.org

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 2009 semester.

High Honor Roll (3.5 and above)

Young Hee An
Jacob Ballard
Kue Cheol Choi
You Sik Choi
Eun Jung Han
Jin Suk Han
Jung Hwa Hong

Moon Joung Hong
Ki Young Jang
Jung Sim Ji
Andrew Jung
Hyo Ju Jung
Simon Kang
Kyung Kim
Yeong Beom Kim

Hyun Jung Kang
Young Hwan Kong
Sae Hyun Lee
Hae Won Park
Aquelle Plakaris
Samwel Njau
Daniel Ndungu

Honor Roll (3.00 and above)

Chae Yun Baik
Dietrich Carroll
In Wu Chea
Jun Gue Choi
Hyo Sun Chung
Vyenna Gowa
Joon Huh
Jung Seok Kang
Eun Jung Kim

Hae Young Kim
Hoon Kim
Jae Yeong Kim
Jin Chul Kim
Jina Kim
Geoffrey Kithimba
Eldrick Lal
Eun Kyu Lee
Hak Keon Lee

Jin Hee Lee
Nam Yi Lee
Hee Sook Moon
Il Gi Moon
Margaret Ngugi
Hyun Sook Park
Ok Hwa Shin
Robin Tota

Christian Women's Tropical Retreat April 22-25, 2010

Come enjoy fellowship with other Christian women in a beautiful setting...gorgeous turquoise water lapping gently on the beach where sugar white sands sparkle in the sunshine! Where? Panama City Beach, FL.

This is a wonderful get-away for you to get closer to God and get to know each other better. Plan on joining us; you'll be glad you did! Just \$130 per person covers lodging and meals!

For registration or information, contact:
Rebekah Martin
6790 Wendy Jean Dr.
Morrow, GA 30260

E-mail: rrebrn@yahoo.com
Phone: 770-961-6746.



Christian Workers' Seminar

RISING HIGH Joining God

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

April 11-16, 2010

Join us this spring for the annual Christian Workers' Seminar. It will be an encouraging and refreshing time as we join together and join God and His vision for our lives, our ministries, our churches, and our future. Many classes are offered to give us insight and clarity to what God's will is for each of us, individually and as a whole. Find rest and relaxation amidst the beautiful Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. We would love to see you there! Check out the classes, peruse the schedule, and register now!



★5 Easy Ways To Register★

1. Email: KMusch@abc-coggc.org
2. Call toll free: 800-347-4261
3. Complete and mail registration to:
Atlanta Bible College
2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400
McDonough GA 30253
4. Fax your registration form to: 404-362-9307
5. Web registration:
www.abc-coggc.org/msn/cws.html

Prices

(housing, meals, program)

Children (in parent/guardian room)
0-2 No Cost

3-11 \$109.00 \$25.00 Deposit

12-18 \$169.00 \$25.00 Deposit

Adults

(per person rates)

1 per room: \$489.00

2 per room: \$334.00

3 per room: \$278.00

4 per room: \$250.00

Saturday Night: \$49.00 (per room)

\$50 deposit per adult is due at the time of registration to receive early discount.

Classes & Teachers List

Women In Ministry

by Rebekah Martin

From Our Roots To Fruit

by Kent Ross

In His Kingdom

by Anthony Buzzard

As He Teaches Us

by Joe Martin

By Knowing Him As Father Q&A

by Joel Hemphill

Partners In Emotion

by LaBreeska Hemphill

Seeking God's Will In Family and Church Crises

by Joe James

Elders and Deacons In The Church

Teacher to be announced

Through Prophecy

by Wally Winner

Through Isolated Members (IMM)

by Scott Ross

Through Breaking Strongholds

by Vince Finnegan

Evening Speakers:

Joe Myers ▪ Scott Ross ▪ Joel Hemphill ▪ Joe Martin

Located at Holiday Inn—3230 Parkway
Pigeon Forge, TN 37868

Church News

Baptisms

Indiana

Knightstown – Kelly Frost (12/26/09) by Angela Moore

South Carolina

Bethel – Summer Lee and Shane Varnadore (12/27/09) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Deaths

Illinois

East Oregon – Stephanie Cox Bormes, 32 (1/8/10). Service by Pastor John Guthrie

Ohio

Wasseon – Amy Dunbar Puehler, 93 (1/3/10), life-long member. Pastor Rex Cain will conduct a graveside service in the spring.

South Carolina

Bethel – Judy Smith (12/5/09). Service by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Pulpit Available

As we vacated the Morrow campus we realize that there is no longer a need for the oak pulpit that was originally in the chapel in Oregon, IL. We would be glad if there is a Church of God that has a use for this very attractive pulpit. It is available first-come first-served.

Systematic Bible Study Course

The following individuals have successfully completed the Systematic Bible Study Course based on *Systematic Theology* written by Dr. Alva Huffer: Ryan and Jennifer Knowlton, South Bend, IN; Russell Edinger, Munster, IN; Skip Reed, Twinsburg, OH; Richard Kunkel, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada; Hadayat Din, Cordova, TN; Cheryl Jessup, Evans, KY; Luis Alberto Hernandez Diez, Bilboa, Spain; James Nyangute,

Kilgoris, Kenya. They have been awarded certificates of completion. This course is available by paper through the mail, or it can be completed on-line through the New Hope in Christ Church of God in Hutchinson, MN website: hutchinson-cog.com

Below are photos of the new church sign for the Country Chapel Church of God in Michigantown, Indiana. Many thanks to Frank Taylor and Bob Morrison for helping to make this happen. Those pictured in the photos, in order from oldest to youngest, are LeRoy Zook, Dennis Davey, and his son, Aaron Davey. LeRoy's wife, Carolyn, is the photographer.



Book review provided by Mark Good

If you are looking for a great gift to buy someone and at the same time trying to encourage daily Bible reading, I would recommend a fine devotional Bible called *The Daily Bible in Chronological Order*. The Daily Bible is conveniently presented for your daily reading so that you may read through the entire Bible in one year. But this is not just another yearly Bible. In fact, it is unlike any other Bible you may have ever read. In *The Daily Bible*, you will read the Scriptures in chronological order, just as the

(Continued on page 23)

- 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 preparations being made for Christian Workers Seminar to be held in April.**
- 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 Praise God for a new day.
- 17 **Pray for the contacts with churches and Bible colleges in South Korea.**
- 18 Pray for an opportunity to share God's love with someone.
- 19 **Pray for those who are searching God's Word for answers to life's problems.**
- 20 Pray for students and staff of ABCKE (Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension).
- 21 **Pray for the brethren in India.**
- 22 Pray for God's blessing on your family.
- 23 **Pray for the leaders of your government.**
- 24 Praise God for your pastor.
- 25 **Pray for this weekend's gathering of prospective ABC students attending the ABC-Invitational.**
- 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 Nola Jones, 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.**

(Continued from page 22)

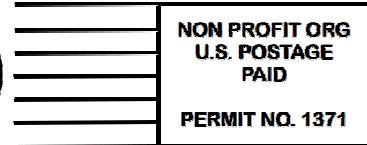
events they portray happened in history. You will see events unfold in the Bible like an epic novel. One nice addition to most of the readings is you will be led from one passage to another by informative, interesting narrative which sets the scene for what you are about to read. This is like a short commentary to give you some background to the text.

If you've never read the Bible from cover to cover, this is one Bible that may help you do that. Here are a few of its benefits compared to a traditional devotional Bible. One benefit is you will have all of the laws of Moses gathered together in a single, unified presentation by subject matter. You will gain a new appreciation for the history of Israel when you see the ceremonial laws, the dietary and health laws, and the various civil and criminal laws in one place. One of the parts I really liked as I read through the latter part of the Old Testament was how the writings of the prophets fit into the history of Israel. It all

comes together in *The Daily Bible*. Another benefit is in the New Testament where you will see a totally integrated account of the life of Christ in chronological order. And Paul's various epistles come to life with new meaning when you read them in the context of the book of Acts, into which they are placed. This Bible organizes the scriptures in a way that brings them to life in a different way.

The Daily Bible has been divided into 365 easily readable sections. On the average, each reading averages about 5 pages and may take 15 - 30 minutes to read. If you are looking for a different way to have devotions and read the Bible in a year's time, this is a good way to accomplish that goal. The one I have is the New International Version. The ISBN number is 0-89081-759-6. I also saw a New King James Version at Books -A-Million in the mall last week. If you are looking for a special gift to give to someone, this Bible might be the one to give. I wish all of you a great New Year and may God richly bless you always!

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



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Prayer and Praise

April 2010

- 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 Praise God for His resurrected Son! Today is Easter Sunday!
- 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 God's special blessing on those participating in Christian Workers Seminar, which begins this week in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Rex and Sharon Cain and their work in Bedford, Ohio.
- 13 **Pray for the churches in your state/district conference.**
- 14 Pray for the students and staff of Atlanta Bible College.
- 15 **Pray for Pastor Lesly Bertrand and others who are preaching and teaching in Haiti.**
- 16 Pray for retired Pastor Ed Goit and his wife, Viola.
- 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 for the Theological Conference that begins today in Norcross, Georgia.**
- 26 Pray that God might use you to lead the lost to salvation.
- 27 **Pray for Pastor Steve and Young An and the Campus Bible Church of God in Duluth, 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.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

COMPLETE IN HIM!

The Ongoing Work of Jesus Christ with His Church

*J. Dan Gill,
18th Theological
Conference*

The words “Complete in Him” were those of the always impassioned Apostle Paul to his fellow believers in Christ at Colossae, located near Laodicea in the Roman province of Asia. It appears that Paul had not actually visited Colossae nor met the people to whom he was writing (Col. 1:4; 2:1). Colossae was a “Gentile” city, and these were primarily non-Jewish believers. Extraordinary writing that it is, Paul’s letter to the Colossians gives wonderful insight into the mindset of the earliest believers regarding their faith in God and his ongoing work for them through Jesus Christ.

Sovereign of the universe, God is without equal. His love, wisdom and power are unparalleled. Marvel of marvels, these “distant” people in Colossae have come to a place of privilege with him. They are loved by him and are in his nurture and care. Paul’s letter conveys to these believers great consolation regarding God’s concern and provision for them. As we read his writing, however, there is a clear theme regarding *how* God provides for His people. It is accomplished through

an intermediary. That intermediary is Jesus Christ. All that God has for His people is embodied in the person of His Messiah – the leader that God by His choice has appointed over them. Paul writes to the Colossians:

For it pleased the Father that in him [Christ] should all fullness dwell (Col. 1:19, AV).

This is not an ontological statement about the “person” of Christ. Rather, it is a declaration regarding the heart and mind of God concerning His Messiah, and the unique station which He has given Him. It is Christ who was chosen by God Almighty to lead in His work for humanity. All that God has for His people is dynamically manifested in and through His Messiah. As Paul further assures the Colossians:

To [his saints] God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, *which is Christ in you, [perhaps “among you”]* the hope of glory (Col. 1:27).

Paul carries forward this thought of hope being in Christ when he admonishes Christians at Colossae to *not* be drawn away to other avenues for seeking God or receiving from him. The apostle insists that it is in Christ alone that God has vested all that He has for humanity. It is important to remember that these were primarily Gentile brothers and sisters, living in a Gentile

society typified by an environment of many “gods” and varied philosophies. Paul cautions them:

See to it that no takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe [rudiments of the world – AV], and not according to Christ (Col. 2:8).

For in him [Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily (Col. 2:9).

Again, Paul is not making an ontological statement about the “nature” of Christ. Rather, he is emphasizing to the Colossians that all God has for humanity is manifested in, and accessed through, this one: Jesus Christ. And note the present tense. It is not just that the fullness “dwelled” but rather that it “dwells” in Christ. It is upon those words that Paul then declares:

And you are complete [made full] in him [Christ] (Col. 2:10, AV).

There is a remarkable parallel in Paul’s thought in verse 9 when compared with that in verse 10. God has placed his “fullness” in the person of Jesus so that through Him his people may then also be “filled.” The New Revised Standard Version captures the sense of this quite well: “For in him, the whole *fullness* of God dwells bod-

(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.

C H E C K I N G T H E C A L E N D A R

April 11-16
Christian Workers Seminar
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN

April 25-28
Theological Conference,
Simpsonwood Conference Center
Norcross, GA

May 21
Atlanta Bible College Graduation

May 28 to July 5
Mission Trip to Africa

July 7-9
General Conference
TRUTH, TRIBULATION, TRIUMPH
Cornerstone Bible Church
McDonough, GA

July 18-23
FUEL
Manchester College
North Manchester, IN

July 28 to August 10
Mission Trip to Mexico

January 14-16, 2011
reFUEL
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

February 25-27, 2011
Refuge
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

(Continued from page 1)

ily” and “you have to come to **fullness** in him.”

This then unfolds Paul’s theme: his whole heart as an apostle is that the Colossians be made “perfect,” “complete,” “full” (Col. 1:28-29; 2:3, 6, 10; 3:3; 4:12). And, the Christian’s fullness is accomplished only through relationship with Christ who Himself had unparalleled, unique “fullness” from God (Col. 1:19; 2:8-10). And, we must ask, why has God placed all “fullness” in Christ, if Christ is not going to be actively working on behalf of the people?

The Active Head of the Church

We read in the gospels about the love and care Jesus Christ had for His disciples while He was with them in the flesh. That care included personal instruction, correction, consolation and intercession with God on their behalf. It has been thought by some, however, that after being resurrected and taken into heaven that He is no longer able to interact with His people. Being at a distance, He patiently waits for the day in which He and they will be reunited. In this view, Jesus is sometimes referred to as “the absent Christ.”

The concept of an absent Christ, however, misinterprets the role that Almighty God has determined that Jesus is to have relative to His church. Paul is not presenting to the Colossians an “absent Christ,” but rather a very “active Christ” – a Christ who by design of God is at work for the sake of His people.

Notice again that Paul sees the fullness of God “dwelling” – “living” in

Christ now (Col. 1:19; 2:9). What is the point of his consolation to the Colossians that “the fullness of God dwells in him” if there is no direct relationship between them and the one in whom God’s fullness dwells?

In fact, Paul brings to them Christ who “**is**” head of “all principality and power” (Col. 2:10). He also indicates as head of His people, Jesus is a part of the body and that the balance of the body is to be “holding” (present tense) to Him as the head. This cannot be understood simply as keeping Christ or his word in memory. Note in Colossians 2:19 that Christians are to be “...holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, *nourished* and *held together* by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.” Thus, growth of the body is predicted by a present connection to Jesus. It is by “him” that the body is “nourished.” It is then on this basis: “Christ as head and active leader” that Paul is able to say in Col 3:11 “...but Christ is all and in all!”

By What Power Does Jesus Lead Now?

If Jesus Christ intervenes for His people now, how does he do it? He is in heaven. Paul makes clear that everything Christ does for His people is by the plan, authorization and power of God. He is God’s active “agent” for His work with humanity. Yet, certainly it is God who is the source of all things and has ultimate primacy. Paul writes to the Corinthians:

Whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future – all belong to you,

and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God. (1 Cor. 3:22, 23).

God’s primacy is such that Christ belongs to Him as does also all those who belong to Christ. This matter of God’s primacy is further driven home in these words:

Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God (1 Cor. 11:3).

In that statement, active leadership is pictured at each level Paul describes. Christ “is” the head of the man in the same sense that man “is” head of the woman and God “is” the head of Christ. For Christ to be a true head, He must lead His people in the same sense God leads Him.

Though in heaven, Jesus Christ is able to continue in active leadership because God has empowered Him to do so. Again, “It pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell” (Col. 1:19). God, who cannot be limited, has chosen to lead through His Messiah and has given authority and power to Him by which Jesus can accomplish that leadership. Anything God can do, He can give authority and power to another to do – if He so chooses. Such is the case with Jesus:

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me (Matt. 28:18).

Conclusion

What a surpassing privilege that people might personally know God

(Continued on page 9)

From A Servant Seat: CAO/President Dr. Joe Martin

Wow, what a whirlwind the recent month has been. First, there were midterms! Students were running “to and fro” and knowledge was increasing. For those King James Version folks out there, yes that was a reference to Daniel 12:4. It was good to see everyone busy in their studies. The Word says, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman...rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15) Several sayings come to mind that sometimes students don’t appreciate, “No pain, no gain,” or “crisis builds confidence.”

Second, I made visits to several churches. Bro. Joe James invited me up for both the Guthrie Grove board meeting and also to speak to the church and allow a question and answer period. There were some interesting questions. On some of them, Joe had more historical information than I did. We had a great time at the Sunday night service that followed where the congregation had an open question and answer time. I also had the great opportunity to be with the GO SERVE team in Michigan. I spent time with pastors Mike Cisler, Larry Mayberry, Ray Hall, Mark DeYoung and Richard Alcumbrack. The team had a super time bowling with the youth. Rick McClain had the high score for the night. The party and video with a question and answer time at Garden Park was great. I think Richard and Jan, via Michelle, may have a genius in their four year old grandson. I’ll tell that story in a sermon some time. Then, the

team met with both the members of the Southlawn church and with all the pastors together. (see further notes in Booster page)

Third, the Board of the General Conference met March 18 and 19. This was my “first” complete board meeting as President/CAO. Usually board meetings give me a headache, but I didn’t get one with this meeting! There was a lot of excitement about coming events, ABC-Invitational, Christian Workers Seminar, graduation, General Conference and Fuel. We visited the Duluth campus, ABC North, Korean Extension, where the board discussed with Steve and Sam An how things are going. The facility looks great. The I.N.S. “on site” inspection happened on March 22. The inspector seemed pleased especially when Steve had all the right answers. The financial situation was reviewed and reports will be given at the coming General Conference. These are difficult times financially in many families in our churches. The program of the coming General Conference was approved. The theme is TRUTH, TRIBULATION, and TRIUMPH. I believe it will be a good time to come together. We need to uphold God’s truth, there will be tribulation (John 16:33), but we know in the end, we will triumph.

Finally, I want to tell you my secret for maintaining my sanity. I can hear the jokes now from some of our comedian type pastors... “Did you ever have

any?” Seriously, Rebekah and I have been practicing Acts 6:4. Look it up! Before anything else, there is “prayer” and THEN the “ministry of the Word.” SO... before we get wrapped up in the latest e-mail crisis, or the latest college crisis, or the latest family crisis from Pumpkin Center, we’re just trying to read, study and pray! Jeff Fletcher encouraged the staff to consider a “Sabbath rest” even if it is four hours in the middle of the week, it helps.

Please read the ABC Booster page and be a part of your college and conference as we seek “To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God’s Kingdom.” We are blessed to report the eight new churches in Pakistan. I am pleased with our churches in Africa (150 +/-) and all over the world. There has been a GREAT response to the Haiti crisis — over \$25,000 has been given!

Now is the time to BOOST our General Fund with our ABC Booster campaign through the churches. Sometimes it isn’t glamorous to “pay the light bill,” but as all faithful saints of God know, that too must be done. I showed the Guthrie Grove board the potential dilemma by noting that in my most recent giving report at that time, out of 47 donations, less than ten were to the “general fund” or not “earmarked.” God bless you in your service, to your family, to your local church, and to our ministries together in the General Conference. ■

Message from the Board Chair: Robert Morrison, Jr.

To all members,

In this edition of the chairperson's letter to the conference, I want to thank everyone who has been a faithful supporter of the Church of God General Conference & Atlanta Bible College. In the few months that I have had the privilege of serving in this position, I have come to realize, even more than ever before, the importance that our message of truth is to the world. I don't want to discount the sincerity of other denominations' beliefs, but I strongly feel that the message of the One God, His Son Jesus Christ, and the truth about the Kingdom of God are vital today more than ever before. After all, we are every day that much closer to the return of the Messiah.

I want to take this time to share something that I have also come to better understand these past several months.

At the General Conference last year, during budget discussions, someone mentioned that the budget belonged to the board of directors. I want you all to know that I took that comment very seriously, and I immediately launched a "quest" for the board to better understand and be involved in the budget process. I am certainly not an accountant, and have to admit that I have struggled understanding the budgets that had been presented to the board and delegates in the past few years. This year, the board has been blessed by having a director elected who does have an accounting background. At our last board meeting, with her help, along with others on staff and the board, we have been able, for the first time I have been on the board, to go through the budget in a way that makes me feel more ownership than ever before. I must say this process is quite stressful and intense. Facing general fund shortfalls the past few

years, we have had to make extremely difficult decisions regarding what is funded and what areas need to be cut. This is not an easy process, as nearly all of those decisions affect people we know and love, and ministries that we know to be important to the work of the Conference. But I want you to all know that this board has stepped up to that challenge, identified several areas where we could effectively reduce

spending, and will be presenting a budget that is balanced for the coming year.

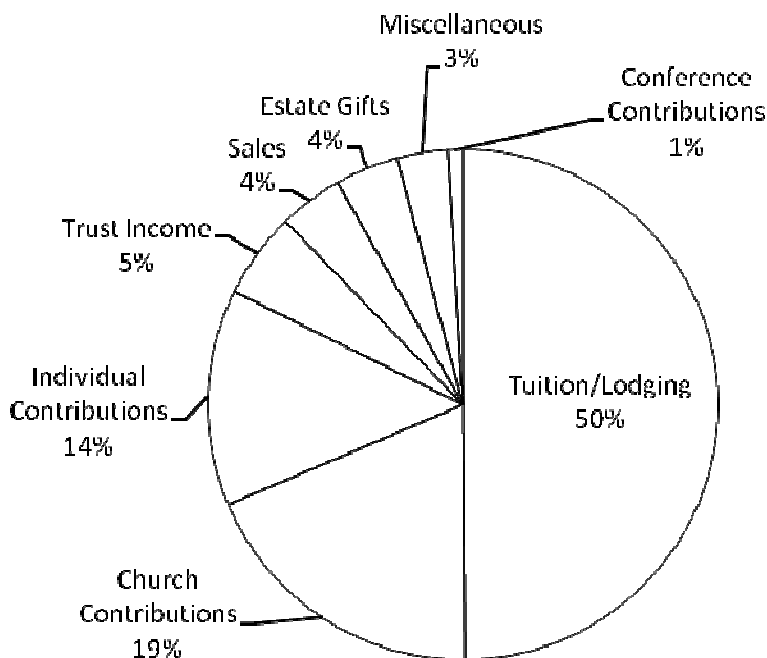
The final thought I want to convey for now, is that my understanding regarding where money comes from to support the work of the churches has also improved. I have always been one to respond more easily to financial requests for specific projects or appeals than for a "general fund" donation request. It is far easier to visualize the need for money to earthquake victims, than a need to pay the light bill, buy paper, or pay salaries and benefits. Not to take away from giving to special needs at all, but I have come to realize how important it is to also fund the engine (to borrow a term from my Caterpillar background) of the organization, namely, the general fund. It's similar to what we at the engine plant like to tell the truck plants, "Without our engine, your truck can't haul the iron ore." Without a healthy general fund, we can't support the vital ministries of our church base.

Please know assuredly that this board of directors has taken its role in developing and presenting a balanced budget at this year's conference very seriously. I am proud to be a part of this effort.

We have also endorsed a commitment of intense, acute focus on serving God, and we intend to increase efforts from board, staff, and churches to recruit potential pastoral students.

Thank you all for your continued support as we move forward in our mission, "To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom." ■

Sources of General Fund Income



Contributions are a vital component of our income. Individual, church and conference contributions together provide 1/3 of our income.

Robert Morrison, Jr.

General Conference Nominations

At General Conference we will be electing one (1) director for the Board of Directors. The term of Bob See expires this year. Bob may not be nominated. Currently we have one (1) nominee. 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*.

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.

Alan Cain

I was born to Rex and Grace Cain in St. Louis Missouri, when Dad was pastoring his first church, the Morse Mill Church of God. I've been in church just about every Sunday since, and don't regret a moment of it. Dad is still pastoring today in Bedford, Ohio.

I went to OBC in the fall of 1982. While there, I was called into the pastoral ministry and began the process of completing my degree. In December of 1985 between my last semesters, I married Susan Lee and have been married to her ever since. We have 3 children, and I just baptized the last of my kids, Isaac, on March 21st of this year!!! We graduated in 1986 and headed to Omaha, NE for our internship with Scott Ross and the Jaynes Street Church. What a great time that was! We stayed on another couple of years as an associate pastor.

In the fall of 1989 we moved to South Carolina to pastor the Bethel Church of God. We enjoyed our time there, and served with them for 15 years!

(Continued on page 17)

Most people in Christianity, claim “orthodoxy,” meaning literally “straight belief” and generally considered the belief of the majority. James Dunn in his book *Unity and Diversity in the New Testament* has problems with that notion, and I do also. In fact he says there was no such thing as current “orthodoxy” in early Christianity in the first few centuries. He suggests we speak of “orthodoxies” rather than “orthodoxy.” Though Christianity is a minority compared to the six and one-half billion people on the face of the earth today, many Christians still claim a “majority” opinion, an “orthodoxy,” within our “Christian” world.

An old joke is “No one is truly faithful, but me and thee. And I am not sure about thee.” How does a person gauge if they are “right on track,” biblically speaking. Dunn’s work is without precedence in many areas.¹ In *Unity and Diversity*, he wrestles with notions of orthodoxy, divisions, traditions and faith, even behavior.

The bottom line is, there is NO easy answer. Having been on our pastoral discussion group, “Cogpastors,” I can see that we too wrestle with issues. What is right belief (orthodoxy)? What is right or straight behavior (orthopraxy²)? What balance should each have in our lives? Paul told the young man Timothy, “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them... .” (I Tim. 4:16 NIV) Obviously, both have to go together. Evidently, demons have some great theology. James 1:19 says, “You believe God is one... the de-

mons also believe.” Jesus also says, “Why do you call me Lord, Lord... and not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21, 22) Therefore, there has to be BOTH right belief and right behavior.

Our Father in heaven and Jesus (it seems), want “orthodoxy,” compared to calling him Lord, Lord, AND orthopraxy, doing what he/they say. Forgive me as I play with some of these Greek, and possibly newly coined, words. The opposite of “*ortho*” or straight, is “*skolios*,” curved or crooked (see Luke 3:5, Phil. 2:15). One of the dearest friends of my life, now deceased, was Pastor Cecil Smead. I believe he may have suffered from scoliosis³ or something similar, a very severely curved or crooked spine. Near the end of his life, he could barely lift his head high enough to see you, and he leaned back to try to make eye contact.

Most of the world, Christian or otherwise, doesn’t believe exactly like me, or maybe even you. We are sometimes “*heterodox*” (other belief) when most of the community in which we function claims “*homodoxy*” (same belief), even “orthodoxy.” My question must therefore be, should I be worried about my heterodoxy. I’m not exactly like other folks. Maybe I have very *skoliodox*, crooked or wrong, belief, from their perspective, or, God forbid, *skolioprax*, crooked or wrong behavior. I guess that’s why Paul told Timothy, watch your LIFE and your doctrine/teachings. Both are necessary for the godly Christian, if you will, life. However, if I’m a “Bibleitarian,” and “do not go be-

yond what is written,” (I Cor. 4:6) and believe and behave as the Word of God instructs, isn’t that the most important thing?

Should I “fret” (Psa. 37:1, 7, 8; Prov. 24:19) when I’m “different,” even considered UNorthodox or having wrong behavior. My answer has to be that as long as my beliefs and my behavior are matched to the Word of God, I should not be intimidated by others. “Let God be true and every man a liar!” (Rom. 3:4) It is very interesting that the Greek words for practice, *prasso/prassein*, don’t relate to God. There is no distinction in what He SAYS, with what He DOES. The TDNT says “there is no instance at all of any *prassein* of God.”⁴

Dunn says, according to Bauer’s work, “There was no ‘pure’ form of Christianity that existed in the beginning which can properly be called ‘orthodoxy.’ In fact there was no uniform concept of orthodoxy at all... . In many places [*you’ve got to love this*]... it is more likely that what later churchmen called heterodox Christianity was the initial form of Christianity.”⁵ WE may have one of the initial forms of Christianity. What a NOVEL idea!

I kind of “rejoice” that it is “o.k.” to be different from the world if our difference is based on the Word of God. John said “Love not the world neither the things that are in the world.” (I Jn. 2:15) As long as our behavior and our beliefs are in tune with the Bible, we are in the “right,” straight, narrow way, even godly orthodoxy and godly orthopraxy. As we imi-

(Continued on page 8)

Knightstown Family Fellowship Update 2010

Knightstown Family Fellowship Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith. Our name really says it all. Our FAMILY of seven moved to the KNIGHTSTOWN area five years ago this March. Many labeled us “*isolated church members*” but our goal was not to be isolated for long! Two years ago this March, we began FELLOWSHIPPING with other families, and had dreams of being a real church. CHURCH OF GOD OF THE ABRAHAMIC FAITH is part of our name, also, even though it makes it rather long, because we want people to know what we are all about. It gives us an excuse to explain to them what Abraham believed in and what we should be believing in and hoping for also. We are excited about the coming kingdom and we stand firmly on Acts 8:12 in “*preaching the good news about the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ*” and hope to be “*baptizing men and women alike*.” We had our third baptism this winter since our inception, and hope to see many,

many more come to the saving grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus the Messiah.

We began receiving financial assistance from the General Conference in December 2009, and with those extra funds, we were able to encourage Pastor J.J. Fletcher to come down from Minnesota to assist us. Since January, he has started coming down to KFF one week each month, to teach the adult Bible study on two Sunday mornings. We are hoping for him and his wife, Hope, to relocate here once they can both obtain outside employment. By Pastor J.J. teaching the adults, that frees Angela up to focus more on teaching KIDZONE (elementary-aged students) and Samantha to teach the Sonshine Kids. Samantha is our paid childcare staff for kindergarten age and younger. At this time, we have two very committed families besides our own. Just in the last two months, KFF has had three new families visit from within our community; two of which, the women had been previously attending our women’s weekly

Bible study and their children had been active in our youth activities.

We are busy planting seeds through various ways, including our families hosting monthly adult game nights in our homes; a Super Bowl party; kids’ activities; a movie and Valentine’s Day party for adults and kids for Valentine’s Day; and a men’s bowling event coming soon. Our weekly Women of Hope Bible study resumed in February. Led by Angela Moore in her home, we tend to average four to six women in attendance.

At KFF, we put a very heavy emphasis on studying our Bibles, and have given out four adult Bibles, and three children’s Bibles in the last year. It’s exciting to see families reading their Bibles and interested in having a deeper understanding of God and who He is and what His plan is for us. We are encouraged as we see the spiritual growth that is taking place in our families at KFF!

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 7)

tate our Father in heaven (Eph. 5:1) and not only call Jesus, Lord, Messiah but also DO what he says, we’re on the right track.

Thank God for grace! May HIS Kingdom come, HIS will be done! Continue to love in the name of our Father in Heaven, **Yahweh El Shaddai**, God Almighty, and Jesus His Son.

And... watch your life and your teachings. ■

¹ Compare: *Christology in the Making*, one of the best discussions of Christology in our times.

² Orthopraxy might be strictly meant to be “straight practice” or behavior.

³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scoliosis>

⁴ *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Vol VI, p. 635.

⁵ James D.G. Dunn, *Unity and Diversity in the New Testament*, Second Edition, 1999, p. 3. citing some of Walter Bauer, *Orthodoxy and Heresy in Earliest Christianity*, originally in German.

(Continued from page 8)

We market our church on a shoestring budget! We do a lot of door-to-door calling, personal direct mailing invitations, e-mails and facebook messages, and for first time guests, they receive a to-go coffee mug with our church name on it and a hand-delivered batch of cookies to their home. We have 3 signs that we put up every Sunday, since we are currently renting the local elementary school. We hope to invest in a yellow page ad soon! Our church website, designed and updated by Frank Toth, has proved to be a valuable tool, also.

Recently, we were granted permission to send home an invitation to the school children within our school district, inviting them to our Indiana Jr. Youth Retreat “The Amazing Race Lock-In” that will be held on March 19-20th here in Knightstown, hosted by KFF in the rented elementary school where we hold our Sunday morning services. We are thrilled to have a group of ABC students coming up with Kim

Musch to assist us, and also help from Indiana COG youth leaders and parents. We invested funds in the professional printing of a brochure that went out to 450 elementary-aged students. We have hopes that this lock-in will help kick-off our church name and let people know we are out here! We are praying for an amazing turnout for this event! We have a great line up of guest speakers: Calvin LeBlanc, Pastor J.J. Fletcher and Kyle Casey speaking about the Kingdom of God, and Christian music artist Mike Davis. The focus that weekend will be on teaching six keys about the Kingdom of God and running the race to be able to enter that kingdom.

The lock-in is scheduled two weeks before Easter, and we hope that this lock-in will provide connections to possible new families for KFF. Pastor J.J. is planning to preach a special sermon Easter morning, along with a community KFF Easter Egg Hunt held outside on the school grounds. We are currently looking into the costs of

bulk-rate mailing options, to blanket certain areas within our region, to invite them to our Easter service.

We have a lot of exciting things happening at KFF and so much potential in this area. It is just a matter of time as we see the seeds that we have been planting consistently for two years now, come to fruition. We are grateful for your financial assistance from the COG General Conference and its members, and hope that you can see the funds being utilized and put to good use here. Without tithes and offerings from the people we are ministering to as of yet, it definitely puts a strain on us and limits what we are able to accomplish. Your generous donations make all kinds of things possible, through our Lord Jesus Christ! God is definitely moving here in Knightstown and we are witnessing, first-hand, a foundation being laid for a body of Christ, built on the hope of a coming kingdom. May our LORD God be glorified in Knightstown, Indiana! ■

(Continued from page 3)

and His son Jesus – our Lord! But conversely, what a sad shortfall if such fellowship is available to us and we should fail to grasp it. Is it even possible that we can really succeed without an active relationship with Christ? His words in John 15:5 are that “without him” His disciples would be able to do “nothing.”

Can we expect to “win the day” if we are not in direct relationship with the head of the church? “Holding fast to the head” was essential for the success of the first Christians (Col. 2:19). Can we expect to find the fullness of the blessings of God if we do not recognize that it has pleased God that in Christ “all” fullness should dwell (Col. 1:19)? Can we expect to be really successful in the

preaching of the gospel of the kingdom without the involvement of the one whose essential mission that proclamation is (Luke 4:43; Heb. 7:25)? How shall we bring light to the world, without relationship to the one whom God had made to be “the light of the world” (John 8:12)? ■

Editor’s Note—this is an abbreviated version of this article

Sometimes I lay down in bed and wonder where the day went. My hours are filled checking off to-do lists and adding to the same ever-growing list. The activities are important and need to be done, I justify to myself. But still, part of me groans about my busy-ness, wondering if I've wasted yet another God-given day.

I am a full-time teacher and am in the preliminary stages of my Capstone research project, the time-consuming final portion of my Masters degree. Recently when my husband was out of town for a weekend, I had a 'homework marathon' during which I pretty much only did homework. Lately I've been dreaming of all the things I will do when I am finished with school – read for pleasure, go on a date night with my husband without worrying about homework, watch a movie, and enjoy God's creation more. I try very hard to balance all the areas of life, but inevitably I must take time from one activity in order to focus that time on another activity. So I must carefully evaluate... what is most important, and how do I want spend this brief life?

The only thing in this life of eternal value is my relationship with God. If that is in place, everything else will fall into place as well. I've been trying to help my second and third grade Sunday School class understand the importance of a real relationship with God - not just coming to church on Sundays, but living out our faith through the week. Every week, the students get a take-home paper that reflects on that week's lesson and has quick, fun, and applicable activi-

ties, including memorizing scripture, for the students to do with their family. My co-teacher Kayla and I have created incentives for doing the take-home activities, and even mail the papers to the students who were not present at Sunday School.

Several weeks passed, and none of the students had brought their papers back at all. When I asked my young students why they didn't do their activity sheets, their responses broke my heart: "I didn't have time." "I'm too busy."

I once heard that if Satan can't make you sin, he'll make you busy. This is the way he gets to me regularly. Too busy to pray. Too busy to spend time with my husband. Too busy to read the Bible. Too busy to go to church. Too busy... and then, everything in my life begins to suffer for it.

My husband Dan and I have begun to challenge each other and force ourselves to take ownership of our decisions. Instead of saying "I didn't have the time...", we say, "I didn't MAKE the time." We all have twenty-four hours in a day. We choose to make time for those things that are most important to us. A careful evaluation of the way we spend it will make us more aware of what activities are of true value to us. If exercise is important, I'll make time to do it. If school and work are important, I'll make time for them. If watching TV or surfing the internet is important to me, I'll make the time to do it.

Many activities in which we are involved are good, but too much involvement makes us too busy

for the better things in life. For what in your life do you need to make time, and what do you need to cut out of your busy schedule in order to make that happen? I challenge you to make time in your life to spend time with God, to truly seek Him. He should BE your life. Cut out those things that are wasting your hours, and make time for what is truly important. God. Family. Fellowship. Service. May we not waste another day on needless activities, but seek God fully and live every day for Him, honoring Him with every hour of our life.

Below are some key verses and resources to guide you in this process, and a good start for some scripture memorization:

Romans 12:1 - "Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering."

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 - "Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates."

For help and resources with being intentional about a relationship with God, visit:

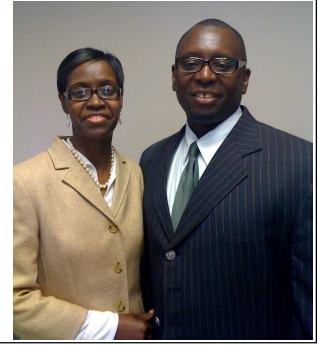
www.deliberatepeople.com ■



Good News



From **Simple Teachings Bible Church (McDonough, GA)** – **Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers** and their congregation celebrated their seventh anniversary of ministry. Simple Teachings Bible Church has recently begun meeting in the Family Life Center of the Cornerstone Bible Church. Simple Teachings began with seven people in March 2003, and today the church has several families dedicated to serving Christ. Ministries of Simple Teachings are: Golden Years (nursing home), The Forgotten (homeless), The Delicate (shelter), and The Food Pantry (outreach). The celebration included a delicious happy anniversary cake.



From **Refuge 2010** – The focus was on Psalm 31, with a theme of “Fortress.” The Psalms were studied and connected to events in David’s life. Presenter **Jeff Osborn** wanted participants to find refuge in God just as did David. Safe shelter in our harsh world comes through the grace of God through Jesus Christ, God’s Son.

From **Cornerstone Bible Church (McDonough, GA)** – **Pastor Joe Myers** has been spearheading the third annual “What If” Sunday at Cornerstone for March 28. Pastor Joe has wondered “what if everyone who calls Cornerstone their home church came on the same Sunday and each one brought a friend? What would Cornerstone look like then?” The drive to pack the place has expanded this year, under the encouragement of **Kim Musch**. CBC also collected shoes for the needy (the goal of 260 pairs was exceeded a week early), diapers for the family crisis center (goal of 2600 paper diapers), and old cell phones to discard (goal of 130). The shoes will go to needy in Atlanta and to people in Haiti, and the money raised from collecting cell phones to recycle will help the Cornerstone youth with costs to go to FUEL.

From **Hutchinson (MN) Church of God/New Hope in Christ** – **Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick** announced purchase of their new facilities. The new facility, in the town of 15,000 people about 60 miles west of the Twin Cities, could seat 150 people with a full basement and kitchen with six classrooms. The new facility is a definite upgrade from their previous meeting space, a local elementary school. Pastor Kirkpatrick is especially excited about the freedom to use their own facilities for all special services, such as Christmas Eve and Christmas, without conflicts in scheduling. “We are now at a point in our



growth that we would be able to serve the Lord to a fuller extent if we had our own “space,” reports Pastor Viv. “God has had His hand in this process in so many ways.”

From **Lawrenceville (OH) Church of God** – March 21 was a special day of celebration. It marked the end of a four-week campaign to raise money for the Building Fund. A total of \$300,000 had already been raised toward the goal of \$1,000,000, and the four-week campaign challenged the people to raise another \$100,000. Friends and family will be asked to raise another \$100,000, and the church will borrow the remaining \$500,000 needed for the building project to begin. At the potluck dinner it was announced that \$106,000 had been raised in the four weeks, and all were overjoyed at the generosity. Despite the special effort to raise money for the building, regular giving has also been substantially more than normal. It is hoped that the new building will be completed by the summer of 2011.

Robert L. Jones

(Continued on page 17)

**Like cold water to a weary soul,
So is good news from a distant land.**

Proverbs 25:25

ABC BOOSTER TIME!

Yes! It's time to BOOST our General Fund at Atlanta Bible College, which pays the light bill, the phone bill, the paper/office supply bill, etc. Sometimes people don't think about the basic necessities that are needed in our homes. For instance, do you know how much the light bill or the water bill is at your house each month? Unless you are the one paying the bill, you probably don't know. How about the mortgage payment or rent? Well, Atlanta Bible College has these expenses, too! As we recruit, train and send kingdom servants back to the churches, think about your part in support.

You have been GREAT! Over \$25,000 has been given to Haiti! Hallelujah, Praise God! Church Builder members are responding well. Church Development aid is going out to help many churches. Also, Church Planting aid is going out to several churches. Thank you for your generous giving! God will bless you for it!

Now we ask for your yearly help as we strengthen the financial base of Atlanta Bible College.

Many people like to give to specific projects, which is great! But, basic bills need to be paid, too. So we now ask, at this booster time, that you help boost the general fund.

Most of the pastors that serve us first attended Atlanta Bible College or the former Oregon Bible College. There they studied the Word of God in depth as they prepared for different ministries to us. Many of our elders and deacons have also had training at ABC or OBC. In addition, many of our Sunday School teachers and youth leaders have been trained in these institutions. Our predecessors helped fund their next generation. It's time for us to do the same for the coming generation. We may call it post-modern or nextgen, but the Bible in II Timothy 2:2 says that we're to entrust the gospel to reliable people for future generations.

How many times have we heard "bring the tithes into the storehouse?" The FIRST storehouse is your LOCAL CHURCH. Please don't neglect this very important entity. As the local church supports the state conferences, and

the state conferences and individuals support Atlanta Bible College from their hearts, we "Do Together What We Can't Do Alone."

No single individual, church or state conference in our General Conference could totally support Atlanta Bible College. But with individuals, churches and conferences working together we can accomplish God's mission to take the gospel to the whole world (Matt. 24:14)! Yes, we need individuals who are able to give directly to the college as well. Thank God for the opportunity to support the only college in the world which teaches the aspects of God's biblical truth that we hold so dear!

God has provided us with this college. Thank you for your prayers and financial support! ■

For a three minute video look at ABC by Jake Ballard, view us at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Kjbc9MiODk>



Students & faculty enjoying pizza after chapel.



ABCCKE having lunch.

GO SERVE Week

Pictured below are: Kim Musch, ABC Event Coordinator, and students Jake Ballard, Mitchell Raper, Michelle LeBlanc and Andrew Shaw at the Southlawn Church in Wyoming, MI. Drew McAlister, the driver, is taking the photo. Joe Martin joined them in Michigan; Calvin LeBlanc in Indiana; and David Krogh in Ohio. The team left Atlanta on March 12 and after visiting 15 (YES FIFTEEN) churches in Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, returned

to the college campus late on March 21. The team drove 3,200 miles! For the nine people involved, it was a great experience.

The team was involved in many activities, including door to door canvassing, helping to prepare a meal for family night, meeting with pastors and young people, meeting with parents of those who have attended FUEL, and doing other service projects. Thanks to all the churches that provided meals and lodging for the team. ■



Go Serve Bowling



Bible Study!



Jaysen, Calvin, Jake and Andy

**“For the Son of man did not come to be served,
but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.”**

Mark 10:45 (NIV)

Mission Updates



Update on Pakistan

We received a report of a ladies seminar that was held in Gokhuwal January 23 and 24. About 40 women and girls participated in the seminar. The topics presented were “Jesus – Son of God” and “The Kingdom of God.” The participants requested that Bible studies continue in this area. There are three very interested and active sisters who will be ladies group leaders in that area.

We have received applications from eight churches in the area of Faisalabad who wish to become members of the General Conference. These churches have a total membership of 505. The Board of Directors took action at their meeting in March to admit these churches to the Conference. They have all affirmed that they are in agreement with the doctrinal statement contained in the Constitution of the Church of God General Conference. We are pleased to welcome these new congregations into our fellowship.

A major outreach effort of the churches is to enroll prospects in a basic Bible study course. Since many of those who enroll do not have Bibles (since this is a predominantly Islamic country), the LHI Board has agreed to encourage contributions to purchase Bibles in the Urdu language. The cost of each Bible is \$4.00. As many as 50 Bibles are needed each month. Contributions for Urdu Bibles can be sent to: LHI, PO

Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253. Please put a notation on your check “for Urdu Bibles.”

There continue to be isolated terrorist attacks in Pakistan. Recently 9 of 27 individuals killed in a blast were Christians. Dr. Nazir S. Bhatti, President of Pakistan Christian Congress (PCC) has strongly condemned a recent bomb blast in Karachi and expressed grief on the deaths of innocent Muslims and Christians. Please pray for safety for Christians in Pakistan and for the elimination of violence throughout the country.

Update on Haiti

We are very grateful for the generosity of our membership in providing over \$22,000 to help with earthquake disaster relief. Pastor Gary Turner was able to make a visit to Haiti where he met with Pastor Lesly Bertrand and viewed the church, school, and orphanage in St. Croix de Bouquet, outside Port-au-Prince. A small team made up of Judy Myers and several from the Pine Grove Church in Minnesota will be going to Haiti soon to meet with Pastor Lesly to make an assessment of the needs and determine whether it will be possible to send work teams to help with reconstruction. Several have expressed a willingness to go to help if building supplies are available.

In the past we have informed our membership that Pastor Lesly has not been licensed by the General Conference and the 20+ churches affiliated with him have not requested membership in the General Conference. We have worked with Pastor Bertrand for nearly 10 years. He has attended the Theological Conference in Atlanta and he agrees with us doctrinally. For those of us who have talked with him about theology, we are certain of his beliefs. There are other groups that also provide some assistance to him. Pastor Lesly has been very open with us about this, and we have had contact with some of them. We will coordinate with these other groups as we provide aid and other assistance.

Other Mission News

Tanzania – Herschel Lyda and John Fyfe from

(Continued on page 15)

ABC NEWS

There are 153 students enrolled at ABC and ABCKE this semester: 103 at the Korean Extension and 50 at ABC. This compares with 143 last fall: 91 ABCKE and 52 ABC.

Of the fifty taking ABC courses, twelve are distance learning students. Thirteen of the total are Church of God students. Eleven are international students. We are very thankful for each student that has sensed God's call to prepare for service.

ABC is offering fifteen courses this semester some of them are repeated in the mornings and also evenings or mornings and Saturdays.

A petition was filed with INS for approval of the North Campus. We were contacted by an inspector and a site visit was completed on



ABCKE on Inspection Day

March 22. While we wait for final approval, it is legal for the Korean Extension to teach classes at that campus.

Plans are underway for the 67th graduation ceremony. Eleven students will receive the Bachelor of Theology degree, five will receive the associate degree in Theology and Ministry, and nine will receive foundation certificates. ■

David Krogh

(Continued from page 14)

the Hendersonville, NC Church went to Dar-Es-Salaam recently to be present for the dedication of the new church building that was constructed with the help of our membership. As soon as painting is completed, the church can receive an official occupancy permit.



Pictured are Pastor Jerome Chembe and his family on the left and Herschel Lyda speaking with translation by Pastor Chembe.

Peru – Bill Wachtel, Jennifer Koryta, and David and Lynne Krogh spent early April in Lima, Peru meeting with Pastor Gaston, Maria Ucanay and other leaders of the church. A more complete report will be available in the next issue.

Africa – Joe and Rebekah Martin, along with Michelle Griswold and Anthony Buzzard will be going to Africa for a couple of weeks in early June.

Korea – In June Steve and Young An will be taking two ABCKE students to South Korea to do recruitment and also strengthen ties with Korean churches and Church of God ministry.

Mexico – a team will be going to Mexico at the end of July for the annual Bible School. Judy Myers will lead the team.

We are grateful to all who assist with travel expenses for team members who visit our mission fields. ■

David Krogh

Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

“Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with Him for a thousand years.”

Revelation 20:6

Why should this be “A Verse to Live By?” Two reasons: 1. Every person is going to be resurrected from the grave (John 5:28), and 2: There are two different kinds of resurrections: one to LIFE for those that have “done good,” and the other to DAMNATION for those who have “done evil” (John 5:29, KJ). Or, as Daniel puts it, those “written in the book” to everlasting life, and the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt (Daniel 12:2).

Now that resurrection to damnation doesn't sound very good to me. If we look into it a little further, we see that means being “cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death.”

So we see there is a “BETTER” resurrection (Hebrews 11:35) and the opposite—a WORSE one. Which would you rather be in? It wouldn't take me but a second to answer that.

God's opinion of us, which puts us in either the first and “better” one or the other one, has everything to do with us having either eternal life or eternal damnation. And, on what does God base His opinion? Whether we have “done good”, or whether we have “done evil.”

Now the Bible makes it very plain what it means to “do good.” It has a few steps. First, Mark 1:14,15: “Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: Repent...and believe the gospel” (KJ). Paul

added the second part of the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4: “I declare unto you the gospel...how that Christ died for our sins...he was buried, and...he rose again.”

Or, as Acts 8:12 says of Philip's preaching, “When they believed Philip preaching (note this) the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus, they were baptized...”

So far, what is needed to be in the first and better resurrection? Believe this gospel about God's plan to establish His Kingdom here on earth (when Jesus returns), repent, accept Christ as your Lord (Romans 10:9), and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. (Acts 2:38).

Is that it? Not quite. How are you going to live the rest of your life? This is God's deciding factor. Did you mean it or not that you were going to love Him and seek to please Him and do His will the rest of your life?

Romans 8:13 and 14 say, “If you are living according to the flesh, you must die: but if by the Spirit (of God), you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are living by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God” (NAS).

So there we have it. What causes God to decide which resurrection we will be in? Notice now the rewards of being in that first one: life eternal, no dying in the lake of fire, priests of God and Christ, kings with Him in God's Kingdom established here on earth forever!

God chooses which resurrection we will be in by the kind of life we choose to live. What every person chooses is what governs which resurrection he or she will be in.

Is this a verse to live by, or what? ■

Jim Mattison

(Continued from page 11)

Good News continued...*This is from an e-mail Pastor Scott Ross recently sent out to the 'cogpastor' e-mail listserve...*

I know that many of us have had board meetings that have brought us feelings of anger, disgust, and heartbreak. I've had a few of those too. But last night we had a board meeting that was such a blessing I will long remember the experience. What made it even more special was I had nothing to do with the planning or implementing of the meeting. I merely attended.

It was the first meeting of our new board elected at our annual congregational meeting January 31. The board chairman did something we had not done before. She had the board divide up according to office -- elders together, deacons together, trustees together, etc. Each group talked about their hopes for the church in this coming year, and in particular as how it related to their offices. They also were encouraged to share with each other their prayer needs so they could pray for one another. Some powerful things happened as the Spirit of God blessed the various groups. There was a positive feeling. The board members showed a level of commitment that was remarkable. Plans were made. Each group came back and shared with the whole board. We then moved

through our business items, many of which were the items that had been discussed in the small groups. Plans were made, people accepted responsibility, goals and deadlines were set. The focus was on spiritual things.

As I met with the other elders, I shared that I really felt the need for prayer. I have been feeling very burned out and overwhelmed lately for a number of reasons. I felt a real love and concern from the elders.

At the close of the board meeting the chairman announced to the whole group how I was feeling and said instead of just ending with a prayer, the meeting would end with the board praying for me. We moved to a more open room, they had me stand in the middle, and the entire board laid hands on me and prayed. I was so touched by their love and concern. I truly felt God's spirit empowering and encouraging me. I went away eager for ministry. It was a great blessing that was both humbling and uplifting.

I share this to encourage you. The work you and I do is God's work, and He does bless us, help us, encourage us, and lift us up. May He lift you up and bless you this day.

Scott Ross
Pastor, Jaynes Street Church of God

(Continued from page 6)

In August of 2004 we began serving the Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, Ohio and we continue to serve there today. I consider the 4 years I spent at the Bible College to be some of the best years of my life. Not just for how much fun it was, but because of the change that happened in my life during my time there. I want the Bible College to continue to be a place where young men and women can spread their wings, learn the truth of God's word, and most importantly hear the call of God on their life, while finding the courage to fulfill it!

I've decided to run for the board this year as a nominee from the Ministerial Association, be-

cause I want a chance to invest back into the College and Conference the investment that they put in me. It essential that we do everything possible to keep our organization strong, focused and on track to make the greatest impact on this world that we can before His feet touch back down on the Mount of Olives. I also want to serve because now I have a child, Amber, getting ready to attend the Bible College this fall. I want to make sure the College and Conference is healthy and strong so that it can provide the environment that is needed for her calling and the generations that will follow.

I'm no genius. I'm not particularly gifted in many areas, but I promise I will do my best to serve the core values of our Conference if you choose to elect me to this position. ■

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A new endeavor/ministry of Travis and Kristen Ramsey

ABC Scholarships/Grants

We are sincerely grateful for the churches, conferences, and many individuals who provide scholarship/grant funds to ABC students. Family members and friends are invited to add to the scholarship endowment funds that have been established in memory of Church of God individuals, or new funds can be established. Scholarship funds may either be funded annually, or larger amounts can be sent which will be invested with the interest earnings providing a continuing scholarship that is awarded each year.

Pictured below is ABC President Dr. Joe Martin presenting scholarship recognitions to (left) Sam-



wel Njau and Daniel Ndungu. Samwel received assistance from the Robert and Mel-

ody Ballard and the Martha Mattison Memorial Scholarship Fund. Daniel received assistance from a scholarship fund in memory of Anna Mae Mercer. Both students are from Kenya.

Pictured below is Registrar David Krogh presenting a scholarship to Andrew Shaw of the Church of God in Blanchard, MI. Andrew received assistance from the Alumni Association from an endowment fund set up for children of Alumni Association members. Both of his parents, Dan Shaw and Karen Mitchell Shaw graduated from OBC in 1981.



Andrew also was the winner of the Bible Content Test which is administered each summer at FUEL.

The person who receives the highest score receives a \$1,000 Scholarship to ABC.



Jacob Ballard from the Guthrie Grove Church of God in Pelzer, SC received assistance from a scholarship fund in memory of J. O. and Mary Pack. This fund was established by members of the Pack family in South Carolina.

Calvin LeBlanc of the Blood River Church, Springfield, LA received assistance from the Lucian and Thelma Murphy Memorial Fund established by James and Mildred Dennis in memory of Mildred's parents. Calvin also



received assistance from the Hattie Bottolfs Memorial Fund established by a bequest from the estate of Sr. Bottolfs.

In addition to assistance from the Bottolfs bequest, Michelle LeBlanc from the Blood River Church received assistance from a scholarship in memory of Orine Richardson Robinson. Both Calvin and Michelle have also received assistance from their home church in Louisiana.



In addition to the scholarship funds mentioned above, many other scholarships and grants have been provided to other students. ■

Join us for the 89th Annual Church of God General Conference
July 7-10, 2010
Cornerstone Bible Church
Theme: TRUTH, TRIBULATION, TRIUMPH

Wednesday – July 7

12:00 – Lunch at North Campus – Korean Extension – Duluth, GA for Conf. attendees
 1:00 – Tour North Campus
 1:30 – Drive to South Campus – McDonough
 2:30 – Tour of South Campus
 3:00 – Conference Registration at Cornerstone
 5:00 – Cookout
 7:00 – Evening Worship Service; Theme: Truth
 8:30 – Chairman’s Reception

Thursday – July 8

Breakfast on your own

9:00 – Morning Worship: Theme: Tribulation
 10:15 – Workshops
 1. Prophecy
 2. History of Ministerial Association over the past 100 years
 3. Open Forum with Board of Directors
 11:00 – Break
 11:15 – Workshops
 1. Church of God History
 2. Technology
 3. Ministry to the Community
 4. Open Forum With Board of Directors
 12:15 – Lunch
 1:30 – Chapel (hymn sing and short message)
 2:15 – Ministerial Association Meeting; Priscilla Meeting; Workshops
 3:15 – Business Session (ends at 5:15)
 5:30 – Dinner
 7:00 – Evening Worship: Theme: Tribulation
 8:45 – MVRA Meeting

Friday – July 9

9:00 – Morning Worship: Theme: Triumph
 10:15 – Workshops:
 1. Modern Scholarship
 2. Church of God History
 3. How to Triumph in the Next Generation
 4. Open Forum with Board of Directors
 11:00 – Break
 11:15 – Workshops:
 1. Ministry to Community
 2. Women in Ministry
 3. Christ Centered Triumph
 4. Open Forum with Board of Directors
 12:15 – Lunch
 1:30 – Chapel (hymn sing and short message)
 2:15 – Ministerial Association Meeting; Priscilla Meeting; Workshops
 3:15 – Business Session (ends at 4:30)
 4:30 – 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the first printing of *Systematic Theology* by Dr. Alva Huffer. Remarks by Alva about the writing of his book – followed by book signing of newly reprinted book (Board of Directors meeting after Alva’s remarks)
 5:30 – Dinner (Development Foundation Board meets over dinner in a separate room)
 7:00 – Evening Worship; Theme: Triumph; Installation, MRB presentation, Communion
 8:45 – Alumni Association Meeting

Join us for
89th Annual General Conference
July 7-10, 2010
Theme: TRUTH, TRIBULATION, TRIUMPH
At Cornerstone Bible Church, 180 Nail Dr, McDonough, Georgia

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 Cornerstone Bible Church, 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 2010, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253
4. Or register online at www.abc-cogc.org (or contact Kim Musch 800-347-4261)

Name _____ Day Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Attending July 7 Lunch at Duluth Campus? Y ___ or N ___ Attending July 7 Barbeque at Cornerstone? Y ___ or N ___

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

Fees: Adults—\$99.00 per person _____

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 7 with a visit to the new North Campus in Duluth, GA with lunch at noon. This will be followed by a drive to McDonough and a tour of the new South Campus. This will be followed by a late afternoon Barbeque and evening service. Thursday and Friday will include a complete schedule of workshops, worship services, meetings of the Ministers, Priscillas, Alumni Association, Retirement Association, and delegate business sessions. The conference will conclude after the Friday evening service.

Childcare provided for those age six and under

Hotel Information

Please call the hotel directly:

Econo Inn 770-898-8292— \$45.00
 Rodeway Inn 770-957-5858— \$45.00
 Holiday Inn Express- 687-782-1100
 — suites only \$125 a night
 Country Inn 770-957-0082— \$94.00
 Quality Inn- 770-957-5291— \$76.49
 Sleep Inn- 770-898-0804— \$65.00
 Comfort Inn 770-954-9110—\$79.99

Church Information:

180 Nail Dr.
 McDonough, GA 30253
 770-957-2070

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, 2010 add \$25	\$
non-refundable Less \$25 Deposit	- \$25.00
Total due at Conference	\$

Church News

Baptisms

Illinois

East Oregon – Dick Christensen and Andy Gilbert (3/21/10) by Pastor John Guthrie

Indiana

North Salem – Ryan Knowlton, Jim Rupard and Rose Rupard (3/14/10) by Pastor Darrell Cardwell; Jennifer Knowlton (3/14/10) by Pastor John Railton

Ohio

Lawrenceville – Isaac Cain (3/21/10) by Pastor Alan Cain

South Carolina

Bethel – Mandy Hood (2/7/10) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Joy Fellowship – Lisa Spratt (2/6/10) by Pastor Wally Winner

Ontario, Canada

Glad Tidings – Kristal Baerg-Watson (2/14/10) by Pastor Michael Brown

Deaths

Arkansas

McGintytown – Tommy McGinty (1/16/10), long time member. Service by Pastor Tom New

Ohio

Salon – Evelyn Jones Pennington, 91 (2/5/10)

Virginia

Cool Spring – William (Billy) Cooper, 72 (12/10/09), long time member. Service by Michael Berry and Pastor Dale Ramsey

Washington

Wenatchee – Beulah Barnhill, 91 (3/3/10), grandmother of Pastor Merry Peterson. Service by Pastor Kirby Davis

Death of Pastor Earl Poland

Indiana

Hedrick – Pastor Earl F. Poland, 74 (3/5/10). Service by Pastors Joe Astolfi and Gary Burnham Born Feb. 21, 1936, in Skelton, W.Va., Earl was the son of the late William Clarence and Anna Mae Tyree Poland. He was raised in Baltimore, graduating from Dundalk Senior High School. He graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1991.

Earl served the Dixon (IL) Church of God from 1990 to 1992, the Hedrick (IN) Church of God from 1992 to 1995, and the Tri County Church (Attica, IN) from 1995 through 2000.

On Aug. 1, 1955, he married Deanna L. Yost in Baltimore, and she survives. Also surviving are four daughters, 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Systematic Bible Study Course

The following individuals have successfully completed the Systematic Bible Study Course based on *Systematic Theology* written by Dr. Alva Huffer. They have been awarded certificates of completion. This course is available by paper through the mail, or it can be completed on-line through the New Hope in Christ Church of God in Hutchinson, MN website: hutchinsoncog.com

Jim and Helen Johnson, Greenbrier, AR

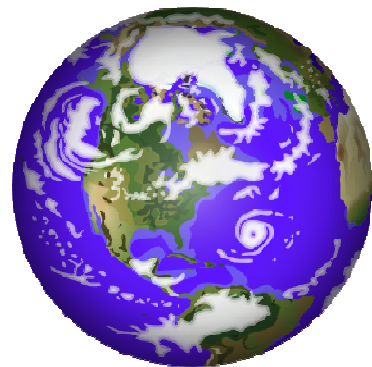
Be GREEN !!

You can receive the Restitution Herald/
Progress Journal electronically!

Several folks have already requested we stop sending them paper copies of the RH-PJ.

If you would like to receive a copy of the RH-PJ via e-mail, please let us know by e-mailing us at info@abc-cogc.org or by calling us @ 1-800-347-4261

You'll receive a PDF copy of the issue and a link to the page on which that issue resides on our website.



- 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 attendees 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 **Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.**
- 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 someone you know who doesn't yet know Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- 19 **Praise God for the faithful work that was provided by our retired pastors and their wives.**
- 20 Praise God for the faithful years of work from retired Pastor David and Wanda Cheatwood.
- 21 **Praise God for ABC & ABCKE students receiving Bachelor's Degrees, Associate's Degrees and Foundation Certificates.**
- 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.**

Salvation's Story

written by: Merry Peterson

Jesus Christ all blood and gory
Carving out salvation's story

See him on the cross there hanging
Echo of hammer and nail still clanging

Roman soldiers mocking loud
As murmurs ripple through the crowd

Who is this Jesus of Galilee?
Who healed the lame and made blind to see?

Is he a prophet – a king – surely not
His body in a borrowed tomb is laid to rot

In the grave – but he won't stay there
For he is our risen Saviour

Three days dead and then surprise
He appears again before our eyes

He is the Son of God you see
Came to die for you and me

The weight of our sin would have crushed us
But through his blood he has redeemed us

Amazing grace and love you see
Caused him to die for you and me

And through his resurrection story
We have hope of eternal glory

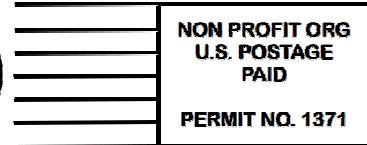
For like him we shall rise
After death has dimmed our eyes

On that glorious coming day
When Jesus returns and then he'll say:

Arise and live forevermore
Those whose trust in me is stored

And we shall in his Kingdom be
And reign with him eternally

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Prayer and Praise

June 2010

- 1 **Pray for God's blessing on your extended family.**
- 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 Praise God for those who regularly remember our conference and college with their prayers and contributions.
- 11 **Praise God for your pastor and his family and their dedication to ministry.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor James and Linda Hill and the work at Royal, Arkansas.
- 13 **Praise God for your family and circle of friends.**
- 14 Pray for the summer General Conference to be held next month at the Cornerstone Bible Church in Georgia.
- 15 **Praise God for your church family.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the Simple Teachings Bible Church, McDonough, Georgia.
- 17 **Pray for Pastor Gordon and Barbara Landry and the work at Flagg Center, Illinois.**
- 18 Pray for Pastor Christy Ross and her work at the Jaynes Street Church in Omaha, Nebraska.
- 19 **Pray for Anthony Buzzard and the Focus on the Kingdom Ministry.**
- 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 Vacation 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.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

I Believe God

The “Why” of our Efforts and Corporate Existence

By Dr. Joe Martin

When I was thirteen, my dad had a leftover sheet of half-inch plywood at the barn on our small farm in southern Louisiana. I asked him if I could have it. He said yes, and I proceeded to make a boat for our river about 200 yards behind the barn. I got out the Black and Decker skill saw, which now would be considered an antique. I cut the plywood in half, the long way, and then one of those halves in half again. This made two sides (@ 1’ x 8’) and a bottom (2’ x 8’). I then drove five stakes in the ground for an outline of the boat. I nailed the two sides onto the stakes and found an old two by twelve for the stern. After nailing and screwing the sides, I then pulled it up from the ground, turned it over, cut off the stakes, and applied the bottom. To say the least, it’s a good thing he had a gallon of roofing tar available also.

The big adventure came when that river, the Natalbany, flooded in one of the worst rains Louisiana has ever seen. The water came very near to the barn itself. It was an opportunity to test the boat. I have never seen the river at any higher stage. With a dipping bucket (since the boat still leaked) I started out on the high river right behind the barn. WOW! There was swirling, churning water to the point I feared that I may not make it. Normally, the river was at most forty feet wide, now it was 400 feet wide. I bailed the extra water about every ten

minutes. The Natalbany flows to the Amite River which flows to the Tickfaw River which flows into Lake Maurepa which flows to Lake Ponchartrain, which flows to the Gulf of Mexico, which flows to the Atlantic Ocean which swirls in the Gulf Stream over to England. I had high hopes, I followed the high water down river and then back through creeks and bayous in flooded woods and briar patches to the very *front* of my house. It was about a five mile round circle from the back of our property to the front of our property. What a stormy thrilling ride!



Paul had a “similar” ride in Acts 27: 14 and following. A giant storm came along. They jettisoned the cargo (v. 18) and then had to jettison the ship’s tackle (v. 19). “Neither the sun nor stars appeared for many days . . .” (v. 20) An angel of God stood before Paul and gave him this message, “You must stand before Caesar . . .” (v. 24) The verse I wish to focus on is verse twenty-five as Paul

relays the message to the entire ship, “... I believe God...” will do “exactly as I have been told.” He AND two-hundred and seventy-six were saved.

When I read verse twenty-five, I had a “eureka” moment, “I Believe God!” Isn’t that the essence of Abrahamic Faith? We Believe God! He will do exactly what he says he will do. Abraham didn’t fully get it until he was 110 or so. But He believed God! God says that “He is not willing that any should perish.” (2 Peter 3) He says, “I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, repent and live.” (Ez. 19) He says, He “so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” (Jn. 3) He says through Jesus to the faithful, “Come . . . inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (Mt. 25) I choose to believe God! I choose to believe God that no matter what the storm, nothing can separate us from “the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 8)

What about current storms, the Middle East/Israel, Obamacare, bank reform? Do we have all the answers? Absolutely not! But, we believe God! God has THE plan! God has THE Son! God has THE Good News! God has THE Kingdom! He is constantly saying, as in Ezekiel 20, “They shall know that I am the LORD (Hebrew, Yahweh)!” In John 17:3 Jesus reaffirms this firm connection to our destiny, to eternal life even. “This

(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.

C H E C K I N G T H E C A L E N D A R

July 7-9

General Conference,
Theme: Truth, Tribulation, Triumph...
Cornerstone Bible Church,
McDonough, GA

July 18-23

FUEL,
Manchester College,
North Manchester, IN

August 16-20

Atlanta Bible College Block Class

August 23

Atlanta Bible College
regular classes begin

July 28 to August 10

Mission Trip to Mexico

January 14-16, 2011

reFUEL,
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

February 25-27, 2011

Refuge,
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

April 3-8, 2011

Christian Workers Seminar,
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN

May 12-15, 2011

Theological Conference,
Simpsonwood Conference Center,
Norcross, GA

(Continued from page 1)

is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” This is the reason why we do what we do... WE BELIEVE GOD!

I recently watched a video suggested by John Guthrie, “The Secret of Apple’s Success” by Simon Sinek.¹ Sinek discussed the difference between Apple’s approach and the similar approach of Martin Luther King, Jr. They began with the “Why” when most companies, leaders often begin with the “What.” He drew three circles like a target. The outer was the “What,” usually the product. The middle circle was the “How,” the methodology involved. The inner circle was the “Why,” the motivating belief or dream. This is the “WHY” of what we are doing. “I Believe God!” We may not be clear on the “What” or “How,” but the WHY is WE BELIEVE GOD!

I believe God wants to use all of us to have others know Him, His Son, and His Kingdom and enter that Kingdom for eternity. Do I have all the answers for the Conference or even a single church? NO! But, I believe God! Oh, I have a lot of ideas on the ultimate look of the product and lots of ideas on the methodology of how to get there. But the real driving point of our effort is the WHY. The WHY is, I BELIEVE GOD! I believe God in what He says about himself. I believe God in what He says about His Son. I believe God when He says he so loves each and everyone of us. I believe God that he has a Kingdom prepared for us. I BELIEVE GOD! ■

¹<http://tech.fortune.cnn.com/2010/05/10/video-the-secret-of-apples-success/>

“The
WHY is,
I
Believe
God!”

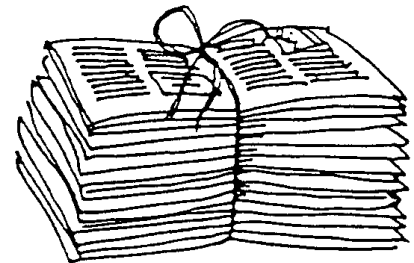
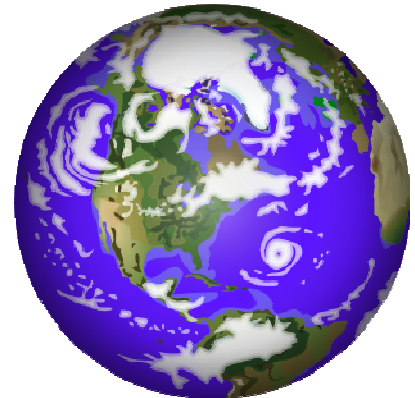
Be GREEN !!

Beginning with the next issue,
you can receive the Restitution Herald/Progress
Journal electronically!

Several folks have already requested we stop sending
them paper copies of the RH-PJ.

If you would like to receive a copy of the RH-PJ via e-
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1-800-347-4261.

You'll receive a PDF copy of the issue and a link to the
page on which that issue resides
on our website.



Message from the Board Chair: Robert Morrison, Jr.

I write this edition of the Board of Director's Chair report with mixed emotions. The staff and board of the conference have gone through an intense process of reviewing policies and procedures that affect the budget and planning process to help the Conference move forward in its mission "to serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom." As difficult as the process was, it was imperative that we all understand the current state of financial affairs in order to begin making plans for how to best meet our vision statement. For the past few years there had been various plans to increase spending on several projects in order to improve outreach and the overall welfare of the organization. Unfortunately, some of those projects did not produce the fruit hoped for. Coupled with recent economic downturns, and other sometimes unknown issues, the financial state of the conference came to a critical point in 2010, requiring many budget adjustments and reprioritizing of several ministries. The bad news is that the conference spent more money than it took in 8 of the last 9 years. For many organizations, that would have been crippling. The good news is that God is great, and we still have assets around two million dollars. However, we MUST encourage giving and good stewardship.

Before we move on to look at the future plans for the conference, our current leadership feels it is critical to acknowledge corporately our lack of oversight in the past decade. This is not to point fingers at previous staff or boards,

but to know that things could have been done better. With the burden of three campus leases, God came through on December 23, 2009 with approval of the McDonough campus allowing BOTH ABC and ABCKE to begin teaching the entire semester at our new locations. As Paul recounts Jesus saying, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness." (1 Cor. 12:9)

Focusing on our vision statement, "To SERVE..." a campaign was launched to GO SERVE. So far, 17 churches have been visited by ABC students and staff. We have heard resounding "Thank you's" and "This is just what we needed!" from many of the churches who have been served. From Christian Workers Seminar to Theological Conference, God has been blessing. Several said that CWS was the "best ever." New faces such as Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill, Vince and Mimi Finnegan, and Kermit Zarley have given us many blessings. Also, a pastor's summit was held in Indianapolis this year with a focus on building unity and encouraging support for the conference by the pastors. This event was a humbling, healing experience for many of those who attended, and it is hoped that this will be a recurring theme at future ministers conferences and gatherings. Dr. Joe Martin, with the help of his staff, has energetically led the charge to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom by declaring that we "Join God" in His plans. It is only as we join Him in what He is doing, helping people know Him, the one true God, and Jesus; building the church with Jesus; proclaiming the gospel of the

Kingdom to this generation, will we be truly blessed.

The board of directors has committed to transparency in its activity and reporting methods. The board has also enacted several policies and procedures to create a better system of oversight and control of the budget processes and spending. There will be monthly reporting of budgets and assets to the board and also reporting to the pastors and churches on a regular basis. Minutes of board meetings now routinely go out to the pastors to improve communication and encourage support as the pastors are fully recognized as spiritual leaders of the COG. The board and staff also recognize their role as spiritual leaders for the conference. There has been a renewed focus on prayer and spiritual focus with the pastors, board and staff. And I commit to you all to continue to do my best to prayerfully follow the direction God is leading.

In closing, I and the board want to thank the staffs of ABC and ABCKE for their endless efforts in providing acute service to their customers and for their dedication and love for this ministry. I wish everyone could see how hard the staff works together covering many different tasks in order to serve the needs of our students, members, and churches. Please join me in thanking them personally and especially praying for their success and the continued blessings on our conference and college.

In His Service,

Robert E. Morrison, Jr.

General Conference Nominations

At General Conference we will be electing one (1) director for the Board of Directors. The term of Bob See expires this year. Bob may not be nominated. Currently we have one (1) nominee. 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*.

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.

Alan Cain

I was born to Rex and Grace Cain in St. Louis, Missouri, when Dad was pastoring his first church, the Morse Mill Church of God. I've been in church just about every Sunday since, and don't regret a moment of it. Dad is still pastoring today in Bedford, Ohio.

I went to OBC in the fall of 1982. While there, I was called into the pastoral ministry and began the process of completing my degree. In December of 1985 between my last semesters, I married Susan Lee and have been married to her ever since. We have 3 children, and I just baptized the last of my kids, Isaac, on March 21st of this year!!! We graduated in 1986 and headed to Omaha, NE for our internship with Scott Ross and the Jaynes Street Church. What a great time that was! We stayed on another couple of years as an associate pastor.

In the fall of 1989 we moved to South Carolina to pastor the Bethel Church of God. We enjoyed our time there, and served with them for 15 years!

(Continued on page 23)

Systematic Theology Golden Jubilee

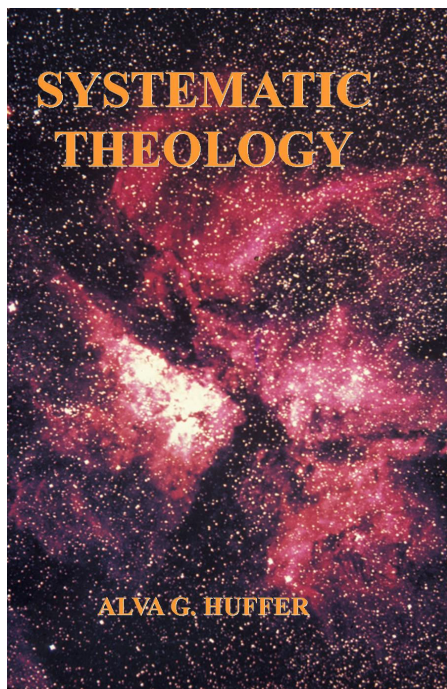
Systematic Theology, written by Dr. Alva G. Huffer, is celebrating the 50th year Golden Jubilee Anniversary of its first printing in January 1960. The book has been in continuous print during the last fifty years.

A beautiful new reprinting of the book has been completed and is now available for \$15 per copy.

At the summer General Conference in McDonough, GA on July 9, Dr. Huffer will be in charge of a session about his book's writing, publication, and distribution. It will

be followed by a book-signing party. Plan to pick up one or more autographed copies while you are at the Conference.

If you are unable to attend the summer conference and would like to purchase a copy for yourself and/or as a gift for a friend or family member, please order from Church of God General Conference, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253 or you can place an order by phone at 678-833-1839 or by email at: info@abccogc.org.



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The 19th Annual Theological Conference Report

The 19th Annual Theological Conference was, I think, an outstanding experience for us all. As usual we included the faith stories of those whom we were meeting for the first time. These were passionate accounts of the struggle for truth and a determination not to compromise the solid truths inherited from the Abrahamic faith community (and of course from the Bible!). The papers delivered were varied and full of important information. Kermit Zarley told us of his own dramatic departure from Trinitarianism. Joel Hemphill is now beginning to develop his research into the awful effects of



Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill

is a vital element when it comes to salvation (Luke 8:12; II Thess. 2:10).

Dr. Joe Martin spoke of the Father and His revelation as the Yahweh of the ancient people of Israel, and the God of Jesus. All in all this was the most powerful of the meetings we have had, and we hope that next year Abrahamic people will gather in larger numbers to share in the amazing things that God is doing through His Son to make the faith a world-wide "commodity" and not one con-

finied to local congregations. We need to harness the power of the internet as a group, and Dan and Sharon Gill have set us a fine example with their expanding outreach site at 21stcr.org.

Robin Todd has taken it upon himself to develop a ministry for the many scattered believers who hunger for fellowship. Robin's website is kingdomheart.org. I believe that this conference is something needed by the whole Abrahamic community, and we need to develop a sense of cohesion and common purpose. The gospel of the Kingdom as the saving tool of God, and Jesus needs to be constantly rehearsed and taught.

The debilitating effects of "evangelicalism" continue to threaten the integrity of our faith. Hopefully these annual meetings can reverse the trend which undermines truth. Do join us at Simpsonwood Retreat Center next year (May 12-15, Thursday through Sunday).

Anthony Buzzard



Kermit Zarley



CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

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.



Good News

Like cold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a distant land. Proverbs 25:25

Hey, there COGLand! GNP wants to hear what YOUR good news is! We know there is good news everywhere, so send us e-mails, bulletins, phone calls, etc. to tell us your good news. We'd rather be buried in news to print than to have to scrape up things to fill a page. So, PLEASE SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS, and we'll put you in print!

rjones@abc-coggc.org

From **New Covenant Bible Church in Indianapolis, IN** – During the recent Pastors Summit the pastors ate a pizza supper at the apartment complex community center where NCBC meets. **Pastor Mark Tschaenn** was pleased to show off his ministry facility and share his passion for ministry in the community. He also reports a wonderful answer to prayer. Mark asked the pastors to pray for a job opportunity for him, and the prayer has been answered. He got the job at the correctional facility, providing him with a ministry opportunity as well as income.

From **Resurrection Hope Church of God in Lenoir, NC** – We'll start with the bad news and end with the good. On Friday May 14, lightning struck the fellowship hall, and the building was destroyed by fire. Now for the good news. **Pastor James Ritch** reports a few items were able to be retrieved, but the best news is that no lives were lost, and the fire was contained to the fellowship hall. The sanctuary suffered no damage. Further good news is that the church has insurance. Stay tuned and be ready to help as Resurrection Hope rebuilds.

Robert L. Jones

From **Atlanta Bible College** – The Oregon Bible College Development Foundation was authorized by delegate action at the 62nd General Conference in 1982. The foundation was incorporated as Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation in 1992. Its purpose is to solicit funds, invest them, and to distribute earnings to ABC to assist the college in its goal of equipping men and women for ministry. A fund-raising goal of one million dollars was set. The goal of one million dollars in gifts and commitments was achieved by the 1989 General Conference, also the 50th anniversary of the college. Recently the trustees of the Foundation authorized the transfer of \$10,000 to ABC, boosting the total actually transferred to the college to \$1,004,585.75. Praise God!

From **Pastors Summit 2010 in Indianapolis, IN** – General responses overwhelmingly indicate that this initial meeting of pastors was open and very positive. Some of **Scott Ross**'s comments on the Summit were "I appreciated the fellowship with fellow pastors." and "I appreciate the conference and board's willingness to be open about the (difficult financial) situation." **Richard Alcumbrack** had this to say: "It was truly a blessed event;" "the support of those who attended indicates a high level of interest in the work of the conference;" "what a blessed fulfillment of our brotherhood in Christ (about a prayer circle for Mark Tschaenn and his ministry);" and "can there be any doubt building unity among us pastors . . . is the right thing to do?"

From **North Hills Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Seth Ross** happily reports several problems. There's not enough space for ministry! For one thing, there are 18 children two years old and younger, taxing the current nursery. Another problem is the foyer size, a popular but small area for visiting and refreshments after church. Pastor Ross also reports the need for wheelchair access between the basement and the sanctuary, the need for bathrooms on the main level, classrooms, and office space. Therefore the decision was made to build a \$450,000 addition. North Hills applied for and was granted Church Builders Appeal #104 for the Spring 2010 by the Church of God General Conference.

From **Carolina Conference held at Bethel Church of God, Pelzer, SC** – **Pastor Jeff Fletcher** was host pastor on March 28 for a great time of singing, preaching, and discussing. **Hershel Lyda** gave a report on Tanzania, where he had flown in February to dedicate a new church building. The Carolina Conference has been helping **Pastor Jerome Chumbe** of Tanzania. Southeast Camp will be June 20-25 at Blowing Rock, NC, and **Guthrie Grove Church of God** will host Carolina Summer Conference on August 29. The conference also continues its support of the *Sound of the Trumpet* magazine edited by **Pastor Wally Winner**. The magazine is available free to any who request it. Guest speaker **Dr. Joe Martin** spoke on "They've Gone Too Far" from 2 John 8, 9, and then there was a super supper.

Jesus of Nazareth is the most famous man who has ever lived. But who was He? To learn about His identity, we must turn to the Bible. The New Testament presents Jesus as a seer-prophet, a teaching rabbi, an itinerant preacher, a wisdom sage, a charismatic healer, a miracle worker, and an exorcist. It applies to Him the titles Messiah/Christ, Son of Man, Son of God, Savior, and Lord. It says He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life in obedience to God, and died on a cross due to sinful men. Yet Jesus' suffering and death was according to God's plan as atonement for the sins of others. For those who believe these things about Jesus, God will forgive them of their sins and give them eternal life.

The New Testament also claims that God vindicated Jesus by literally raising Him from the dead. It reveals that for the next forty days Jesus literally appeared to many of His disciples, after which He ascended from their midst into heaven. Then God exalted Jesus by inviting Him to sit with Him on His throne. The New Testament also reveals that Jesus will return sometime in the future, bringing with Him His promised and glorious kingdom. Then God will bring about the resurrection of His deceased people, the righteous dead, as well as judgment day.

In the three centuries after the time of Jesus, the Catholic Church adhered faithfully to these scriptural teachings about Him. But in the fourth and fifth centuries, the Church officially proclaimed that Jesus was not only a man but also God by possessing two natures: a fully human nature as well as a fully divine nature, the latter called "the deity of Christ." And through

the Church's councils and creeds, it pronounced that if anyone did not believe that Jesus was fully God – co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit – that person did not really believe in Jesus and thus was not a genuine Christian. Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Protestant church denominations still officially embrace these added proclamations, claiming that they reflect the New Testament. They also identify the Father, Son, and Spirit as the "Trinity" even though this word is not in the Bible.

On the contrary, when the Catholic Church identified Jesus as God, it departed from the fundamental, biblical, Judeo-Christian teaching that God is "one," called "monotheism." It happened because, when the Church expanded into Gentile lands, it gradually (1) became rather anti-Semitic, (2) abandoned the established principle of using only scriptural terms and categories in order to identify Jesus, (3) went beyond Scripture by introducing Greek metaphysics into theology in an effort to identify Jesus more precisely, and thereby (4) interpreted Jesus' status as "the Son of God" ontologically by making this title synonymous with the word "God." Instead, Jesus should be understood as the Son of God in a Jewish context, so that this title means One specially favored by God to be Israel's Messiah.

Jesus was not God because of the following biblical evidence or lack thereof:

- There is *no* New Testament evidence that Jesus ever *thought* that He was God.
- There is *no* New Testament evidence that Jesus ever *claimed* that He was God.

- There *is* New Testament evidence that Jesus *denied* that He claimed to be God.
- At Jesus' examination before the Sanhedrin, He was *never* accused of claiming to be God.
- The New Testament regularly *distinguishes* between God and Jesus as two separate individuals.
- The New Testament constantly *interchanges* the words "God" and "the Father."
- The New Testament repeatedly identifies "God" *exclusively* as "the Father."
- The New Testament contains *no* unambiguous statement such as "Jesus (Christ) is God."
- In the synoptic gospels and evangelistic sermons of Acts, Jesus is *never* identified as "God."

Jesus was not God because Jesus said concerning Himself:

- "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone." (Mark 10:18).¹
- "the Son can do nothing Himself" (John 5:19, cf. v. 30).
- "You, ...make Yourself out to be God." "I said, 'I am the Son of God'" (John 10:33, 36).
- "The Father is greater than I" (John 14:28).
- "Father, ...the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:1, 3).
- "Jesus said to her, 'I ascend to My Father...and My God and your God'" (John 20:17).

Jesus was not God because of the following additional Scriptures:

- Jesus was visible, but God is "invisible" (1 John 1:1-3; John 1:18; 1 Timothy 1:17).
- Jesus was approachable, but God "dwells in unapproachable light" (1 Tim 6:16; Psa 104:2).

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

- Jesus was tempted, but “God cannot be tempted by evil” (Mark 1:13; James 1:13).
- Jesus was mortal, dying on the cross, so that only God was “immortal” (1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16).
- Jesus said that the Father is “the one and only God” (John 5:44).
- Jesus said on the cross, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME” (Matt 27:26).
- Paul wrote that “God ... is one” and “the only wise God.” (Romans 3:30; 16:27).
- Paul wrote that the Father is “the only God” and “only Sovereign” (1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15).

Peter did not believe Jesus was God because he distinguished them:

- “Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst” (Acts 2:22).
- “Rulers and elders of the people, ... Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead” (Acts 4:8, 10).
- “God has made Him both Lord and Christ – this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2:36).
- “You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing ... for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38).

Paul the monotheist did not believe Jesus was God because he wrote:

- “For there is one God, one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).
- “There is no God but one ...

there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him” (1 Corinthians 8:4,6).

- “There is ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father” (Ephesians 4:4-6).
- “God and Father our/the Lord Jesus” (Romans 15:6; 2 Corinthians 1:3; 11:3).
- “Christ belongs to God” because “God is the head of Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:23; 11:3).
- “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself” (2 Corinthians 5:19).
- “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (salutations six times).

Jesus was not God because of the following logical reasons:

- If Jesus did miracles by means of a divine nature, the Father *did not* do the works of Jesus.
- If Jesus’ ability to do miracles was intrinsic, He did not *need* the power of the Holy Spirit.
- God is totally self-sufficient, but Jesus *needed* the miracle-working power of God’s Spirit.
- There is *no* biblical evidence that Jesus had two natures and two wills, which is non-human.
- God *transcends* His creation, so that being God is *incompatible* with being human.
- God foreknew the yet future date of Jesus’ return to earth, but Jesus *did not* know it (Mark 13:32).

Thus, the New Testament *does not* teach that Jesus was God but that God *sent* Jesus,² God was *with* Jesus,³ God was *in* Jesus,⁴ and God *raised* Jesus from the dead. The traditional view that Jesus was God is based mostly on only a few bibli-

cal texts.⁵ Most of them have grammatical problems, and Bible versions often differ as to whether they call Jesus “God.” Some are properly interpreted to mean the *God was in Christ*. In sum, Jesus was not God but a virgin-born man who endured temptation, suffering, shame, trial, and death to provide salvation, and God vindicated and exalted Him for it. Praise Jesus and His God!

Kermit Zarley is the author of this tract. It represents a condensation of his book *The Restitution of Jesus Christ*, which he authored under his pseudonym Servetus the Evangelical. This comprehensive, 600-page book is well-researched, biblically in-depth, and written for the general reading public. Learn about it and Zarley’s pseudonym at his website ServetusTheEvangelical.com. Print this tract there for free. Kermit is a former trinitarian and has been an Evangelical Christian all of his adult life. He is known mostly for his lifetime career as a professional golfer on the PGA tour and its Champions Tour. *The Restitution of Jesus Christ* is his sixth theological book. Used with permission in the Restitution Herald.

¹All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible.

²It is stated over forty times in the Gospel of John that God “sent,” or did “send,” Jesus.

³John 3:2; 8:29; 16:32; Acts 10:38; cf. John 1:1-2.

⁴John 10:38; 14:10-11; 17:21; 2 Corinthians 5:19.

⁵The most prominent are the following: Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1, 18; 10:30-38; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:6-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:12; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 5:20.

Christian Workers' Report



Thanks to David Fuller for taking the panoramic photo

Christian Workers' Seminar was held at the newly renovated Holiday Inn, at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. For those who attended there some ten years ago, the Conference Center has been totally remodeled. Our theme this year was "RISING HIGH, Joining God."

Some new teachers visited for the first time, Vince and Mimi Finnegan, Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill, Dan and Sharon Gill, and Jerry Bennett. Vince taught a class on Rising High... Through Breaking Strongholds. Joel, LaBreeska and Jerry gave a mini-concert as well as Joel's teachings on Knowing God as Father, and Pagan Christianity's

Source, Hellenism. All received great reviews from those attending. One review simply said, "Vince!!!" "The Hemphills are such a blessing, professionals with a heart for God." "Why not organize a concert and teaching with them?"

Of course there were the regulars teaching, Anthony Buzzard, Kent Ross, Joe James, Wally Winner, John Carr, and Joe & Rebekah Martin. One evaluator said, "Always have Anthony." Scott Ross was not able to attend because Sarah had a seizure on the way, and he had to turn back. She is doing well now.

With Scott's absence, the speakers were Joe Martin, Joe Myers, Joel Hemphill, and Vince Finnegan. All speakers focused on our theme. One reviewer said, "...speakers were all very professional, provided knowledge, insight, encouragement, challenge, and commitment."



Jim Shaull & Petsy Rudacille

Many participated in the music coordinated by our own wonderful Dale Ramsey. Darlene Rogers was the main vocalist, but many others jumped in as well, Richard Alcumbrack, Aaron Winner, Dennis Baldwin, etc. Plus, there were several groups. Joel even asked Barbara, Anthony, Dan and Sharon to join him and LaBreeska in several songs.

Next year is already scheduled, April 3-8, 2011. The Holiday Inn at Pigeon Forge has already been booked! This coincides with many schools spring break. We will be expanding the program to incorporate school age youth as well. Put it on your church calendars and don't miss this exciting event.



Janice Hart, Flo, & Rob Coverstone

Everyone had a great time! Join us next year!



April 3-8, 2011 ■ Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

We will return to the Pigeon Forge, Tennessee Holiday Inn for
Christian Workers Seminar in 2011!

Those joining us earlier this spring for CWS 2010, were able to enjoy the beautiful
new convention center added on to the hotel.

We enjoyed both the wonderful facility and the great service!

Please begin making plans now to join us.
Bring a couple of friends with you.

Prices will be announced soon. Programming information will be available later this year.

We'll see YOU in Pigeon Forge in 2011.



Evening service



Lillian O'Neil & Jean Derbin

Join us for the 89th Annual Church of God General Conference
July 7-10, 2010
Cornerstone Bible Church
Theme: TRUTH, TRIBULATION, TRIUMPH

Program:

Wednesday – July 7

12:00 – Lunch at North Campus – Korean Extension - Duluth, GA for Conf. attendees
 1:00 – Tour North Campus
 1:30 – Drive to South Campus – McDonough
 2:30 – Tour of South Campus
 3:00 – Conference Registration at Cornerstone
 5:00 – Cookout
 7:00 – Evening Worship Service; Theme: Truth
 8:30 – Chairman’s Reception

Thursday – July 8

Breakfast on your own

9:00 - Morning Worship; Theme: Tribulation
 10:15 – Workshops
 1. Prophecy
 2. History of Ministerial Association over the past 100 years
 3. Open Forum with Board of Directors
 11:00 – Break
 11:15 – Workshops
 1. Church of God History
 2. Technology
 3. Ministry to the Community
 4. Open Forum With Board of Directors
 12:15 – Lunch
 1:30 – Chapel (hymn sing and short message)
 2:15 – Ministerial Association Meeting; Priscilla Meeting; Workshop
 3:15 – Business Session (ends at 5:15)
 5:30 – Dinner
 7:00 – Evening Worship: Theme: Tribulation
 8:45 – MVRA Meeting

Friday – July 9

9:00 — Morning Worship: Theme: Triumph
 10:15 – Workshops:
 1. Modern Scholarship
 2. Church of God History
 3. How to Triumph in the Next Generation
 4. Open Forum with Board of Directors
 11:00 – Break
 11:15 – Workshops:
 1. Ministry to Community
 2. Women in Ministry
 3. Christ Centered Triumph
 4. Open Forum with Board of Directors
 12:15 – Lunch
 1:30 – Chapel (hymn sing and short message)
 2:15 – Ministerial Association Meeting; Priscilla Meeting; Workshops
 3:15 – Business Session (ends at 4:30)
 4:30 – 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the first printing of Systematic Theology by Dr. Alva Huffer. Remarks by Alva about the writing of his book – followed by book signing of newly reprinted book (Board of Directors meeting after Alva’s remarks)
 5:30 – Dinner (Development Foundation Board meets over dinner in a separate room)
 7:00 – Evening Worship; Theme: Triumph; Installation, MRB presentation, Communion
 8:45 – Alumni Association Meeting

Join us for
89th Annual General Conference
July 7-10, 2010
Theme: TRUTH, TRIBULATION, TRIUMPH
At Cornerstone Bible Church, 180 Nail Dr, McDonough, Georgia

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 Cornerstone Bible Church, 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 2010, Box 2950, 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 _____

Attending July 7 Lunch at Duluth Campus? Y ___ or N ___ Attending July 7 Barbeque at Cornerstone? Y ___ or N ___

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

Fees: Adults—\$99.00 per person _____

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 7 with a visit to the new North Campus in Duluth, GA with lunch at noon. This will be followed by a drive to McDonough and a tour of the new South Campus. This will be followed by a late afternoon barbeque and evening service. Thursday and Friday will include a complete schedule of workshops, worship services, meetings of the Ministers, Priscillas, Alumni Association, Retirement Association, and delegate business sessions. The conference will conclude after the Friday evening service.

Childcare provided for those age six and under

Hotel Information

Please call the hotel directly:

Econo Inn 770-898-8292- \$45.00
 Rodeway Inn 770-957-5858- \$45.00
 Holiday Inn Express- 687-782-1100- suites only
 \$125 a night
 Country Inn 770-957-0082 \$94.00
 Quality Inn- 770-957-5291 \$76.49
 Sleep Inn- 770-898-0804 \$65.00
 Comfort Inn 770-954-9110—\$79.99

Church Information:
 180 Nail Dr.
 McDonough, GA 30253
 770-957-2070

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, 2010 add \$25	\$
non-refundable less \$25 Deposit	- \$25.00
Total due at Conference	\$

Selected tracts are available online. See website for listing.

Visit www.atlantabiblecollege.com to check out our apparel & other ABC items!!

Supplies Order Form

Category	Title	Author	Price	Qty	Total
BOOKS	Comeback Churches	Stetzer & Dobson	\$18.00		
	Country-Boy Preacher	Mattison	\$17.00		
	Daring to Differ	Hatch	\$12.00		
	Habits of Highly Effective Churches	Barna	\$14.00		
	Is The Holy Spirit a Third Person of God?	Hemphill	\$9.00		
	Jesus Was Not A Trinitarian	Buzzard	\$18.00		
	Learn What the Bible Says Really Fast	Kelley	\$20.00		
	Life, Death, and Destiny	Prestige	\$11.00		
	Maggie Seeks the Kingdom of God	Moore	\$16.00		
	One God	Judd	\$5.00		
	Our Fathers Who Aren't in Heaven	Buzzard	\$14.00		
	Systematic Theology, soft cover	Huffer	\$15.00		
	The Age to Come	Marsh	\$13.00		
	The Amazing Aims and Claims of Jesus	Buzzard	\$12.00		
	The Coming Kingdom of the Messiah	Buzzard	\$6.00		
	The Doctrine of the Trinity	Buzzard/Hunting	\$12.00		
	The End Time-Time Line	Mattison	\$9.00		
	The Law, Sabbath, & N.T. Christianity	Buzzard	\$5.00		
	The Protestors	Eyre	\$26.00		
	The Purpose Driven Church	Warren	\$18.00		
	They Never Told Me This in Church	Deuble	\$16.00		
	To God Be the Glory	Hemphill	\$17.00		
	Triumph of the Resurrection, soft cover	Huffer	\$5.00		
	U-Turn	Terence Lester	\$10.00		
	Wrested Scriptures, hard cover	Christadelphian	\$22.00		
	Wrested Scriptures, soft cover	Christadelphian	\$15.00		
BOOKLETS	Christ Speaks to the Church	Partlowe	\$2.00		
	Daniel's Prophetic Outline of History	Partlowe	\$2.00		
	Except (baptism)	Bilton	\$2.00		
	First Principles	Marsh	\$2.00		
	Fundamentals of the Christian Faith	Lyon	\$3.00		
	God's Covenant with Abraham	Lindsay	\$2.00		
	God's Great Plus Sign to the World	Partlowe	\$2.00		
	Making the Most of Your Marriage	Partlowe	\$2.00		
	Russia, Israel, Christ and You	Bilton	\$2.00		
	Scripture Searcher's Assistant	Joblin	\$2.00		
	The Church of God: A Historical Sketch		\$2.00		
	The Last Will & Testament of Jesus	Partlowe	\$2.00		
	The Miracle of Pentecost	Partlowe	\$2.00		
	The Mortality of Man	Landry	\$3.00		
	What Happens When We Die?	Buzzard	\$4.00		
	Who is Jesus?	Buzzard	\$4.00		
	Words of Truth, Subject Concordance (Lg. Print)		\$3.00		
	Church Supplies - Baptismal Certificates		\$0.50		

	Kingdom Quest			
SUNDAY	Preschool (ages 3-5) Unit 1-6 ONLY		\$56.00	
SCHOOL	COGGC member church discounted price		\$38.00	
	Primary (ages 6-8)		\$56.00	
	COGGC member church discounted price		\$38.00	
	Elementary (ages 9-12)		\$56.00	
	COGGC member church discounted price		\$38.00	
	Teenage (ages 13+)		\$56.00	
	COGGC member church discounted price		\$38.00	
	Value Builders Unit 1-3		\$30.00	
	Adult Quarterly Teacher's Guide		\$5.50	
	Adult Quarterly		\$4.25	
BIBLE	Systematic Theology Correspondence Course	Free Enrollment, please supply name and address below		
STUDIES	Loose-leaf Edition		\$4.50	
	Bound Edition		\$6.00	
	Berean Bible Studies, No. 1 (50 Lessons)		\$5.00	
	Berean Bible Studies, No. 2 (50 Lessons)		\$5.00	
	Berean Bible Studies, No. 3 (49 Lessons)		\$5.00	
	Berean Scripture Studies, No.2 (52 Lessons)		\$2.00	
	BYF Focus		\$2.00	
	The Nature and Destiny of Man (13 Lessons)	Goit	\$2.00	
	Where Do I Fit? (8 Lessons)	Partlowe	\$2.00	
DVD's	Theological Conference- (individual)		\$10.00	
	Theological Conference- (complete set)		\$60.00	
	Theological Conference- (complete set-papers)		\$10.00	
	The Human Jesus		\$12.00	
	Platonic Christianity		\$5.00	
	One By One - Aaron Winner		\$10.00	
	Subscription - A Journal from the Radical Reformation (2 per year)		\$24.00	
	Back Issues - A Journal from the Radical Reformation (each copy)		\$13.00	
			SUBTOTAL:	

Shipping and Handling will be added by the General Conference Staff: _____

Grand Total

Orders can be e-mailed to: info@abc-coggc.org

Please make checks payable to: Atlanta Bible College

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Code: _____

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Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

Verses to Live By
Solomon's Advice

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them:

"While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, and the doors be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of a bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;

"And when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail; because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

"Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

Solomon is telling us in the wisdom God gave him that every person should "remember", or, fear, love, and serve God while he is young, for "evil" days are coming, when we get old and our bodies don't work well anymore. Then we die.

What beautiful imagery he uses to describe our various body parts that will wear out. We suggest these possible interpretations: sun, moon, stars darkened, clouds return-outward appearance, esp. the face and its beauty, wonderful complexion, the lively eyes. Or possibly the mind not being as sharp as it used to be, memory poor. Or, the change of our joy as life goes on, turning into sorrows because of calamities.

Keepers of the house: our hands, arms and legs begin to tremble. The grinders are few: we lose our teeth and can't chew. They that look out the windows are darkened: our eyesight fails.

Doors shut: our five senses that contact us with the

outer world diminish. We grow listless.

Sound of the grinding is low: Teeth few and falling out make it hard to talk so people can understand you; mumbling.

Rise up at the sound of a bird singing: Sudden sounds startle us.

Sound of music brought low: can't sing well any more. Can't enjoy the music any more.

Afraid of that which is high: afraid of heights.

Fears: we become fearful because we can't handle things well.

Almond tree flourish: gray hair and white hair appear.

Grasshopper a burden: even small things are too heavy to carry.

Desire shall fail: we lose our reproductive ability.

Silver cord loosed: the spinal cord is disabled.

Golden bowl broken: the skull that holds the brain with its marvelous workings; Alzheimers, loss of memory.

Pitcher broken at the fountain: heart attack.

Wheel broken at the cistern: the vessels given us for the distribution of our blood from the heart to all parts of the body.

When our wonderfully made body parts fail, we will die, is what Solomon is saying. In the background is the thought that "we are fearfully and wonderfully made."

Let's use every part of this wonderful body to worship and serve our God while we are able to do so, before we get so old and decrepit that we can't move without pain.

We are admonished to serve God well while we are young, strong, healthy, and our minds are vibrant and alive.

Good advice, don't you think? ■

—Jim Mattison

Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 adopted by the delegates at the 2009 Summer Conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

Income

1. **General Contributions** – non-specific giving by individuals, churches, and conferences
 2. **Development Office Programs** – being removed as a budget line item
 3. **G. C. – Devises & Bequests** – the College/Conference is the recipient of annuity payments on a contract of a deceased member—annuity payments end during the '10-'11 fiscal year; 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 Journal** – *A Journal From the Radical Reformation* is currently \$24/year
 8. **Tuition** – income is based upon growth in enrollment and increased tuition rate
 9. **Lodging/Apartment Rent** – rent received from students for apartments rented by the College
 10. **ABCDF Support** – transfer of investment income from the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation.
 11. **Interest and Late Fees** – interest income on outstanding student accounts
 12. **Application/Miscellaneous Fees** – charges for specific services for college students, such as application fees
 13. **Conferences & Workshops** - net income is tracked separately for each event; together, all events are to be self-supporting
 14. **Interest** – money earned on checking account through the year
 15. **Other Income** – miscellaneous income
 16. **Transferred In** – amounts transferred in from Restricted Funds – from interest income and from funds designed to support General Fund expenses
- ### Expenses
1. **Salaries and Wages** – compensation for all full-time and part-time staff. Some 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 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 and Church Planting Aid
 5. **Ministerial Association** – support for programs and expenses of the Ministerial Association
 6. **Youth Program Subsidy** – 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. **Student/Staff Meals** – meal expenses for ABC and 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, including pursuit of advanced degrees
 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. **Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint.** – maintenance agreements and repairs for office equipment and software maintenance
 21. **Development Travel & Support** – being removed as a budget line item
 22. **Utilities** – costs of electricity, water, gas, etc.
 23. **Insurance – Property** – costs of insurance for facilities
 24. **Repairs/Maintenance – Plant** – costs for plant support and maintenance
 25. **Furniture and Equipment** – includes all furniture, software, computers, and office machines
 26. **Supplies/Expenses – Plant** – cleaning supplies, rest-room supplies, etc.
 27. **Campus Leases** - monthly payments to lease our McDonough and Duluth campus sites
 28. **Apartment Leases** - monthly payments to lease apartment leases.
 29. **Other**—miscellaneous expenses

Income Reports

Budget Proposals - Income

	FY 2010 - 2011 Approved Budget <u>Request</u>	FY 2010 - 2011 Proposed Revised <u>Budget</u>	FY 2011 - 2012 Proposed <u>Budget</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS:			
General Contributions	\$374,762	\$350,000	\$398,000
Development Office Programs	\$105,000	\$0	\$0
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	\$35,000	\$2,000	\$0
ABC Boosters	\$14,000	\$10,000	\$22,500
Subtotal	\$528,762	\$362,000	\$420,500
SALES:			
Christian Education Materials	\$25,804	\$22,000	\$23,000
Books	\$16,311	\$16,000	\$17,000
Theological Journal	\$738	\$750	\$750
Subtotal	\$42,854	\$38,750	\$40,750
ABC:			
Tuition	\$578,305	\$594,000	\$650,000
Lodging/Apartment Rent	\$10,500	\$46,000	\$56,500
ABCDF Support	\$52,500	\$36,000	\$51,000
Interest and Late Fees	\$7,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
Application/Miscellaneous Fees	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$12,000
Subtotal	\$659,305	\$698,000	\$780,500
PROGRAM INCOME:			
Conferences & Workshops *(see note)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Interest	\$5,000	\$125	\$100
Other Income	\$5,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
Transferred In	\$215,321	\$46,025	\$3,500
Subtotal	\$225,321	\$47,650	\$5,600
Income Total	\$1,456,242	\$1,146,400	\$1,247,350
Expense Total	\$1,452,970	\$1,146,400	\$1,242,250
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	\$3,272	\$0	\$5,100

Expense Reports

Budget Proposals - Expense

	FY 2010 - 2011 Approved Budget <u>Request</u>	FY 2010 - 2011 Proposed Revised Budget	FY 2011 - 2012 Proposed Budget
STAFF:			
Salaries & Wages	\$656,288	\$510,500	\$545,500
F.I.C.A. Tax	\$13,404	\$8,000	\$9,000
Employee Benefits	\$178,037	\$109,000	\$123,000
Subtotal	\$847,730	\$627,500	\$677,500
SERVICES:			
Assistance to Churches	\$49,982	\$36,000	\$38,400
Ministerial Association	\$9,600	\$4,800	\$7,200
Youth Program Subsidy	\$14,000	\$10,000	\$8,000
Subtotal	\$73,582	\$50,800	\$53,600
SALES EXPENSE:			
Printing & Binding	\$37,181	\$22,000	\$21,000
Postage & Shipping	\$16,300	\$15,000	\$16,000
Book Store	\$11,291	\$11,500	\$12,000
Subtotal	\$64,772	\$48,500	\$49,000
ABC:			
Advertising--Recruitment	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,500
Student/Staff Meals	\$24,960	\$15,000	\$15,500
Library Periodicals	\$2,623	\$800	\$800
Library Books	\$3,000	\$500	\$1,000
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	\$3,016	\$1,000	\$1,500
Staff Training	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$50,598	\$32,300	\$36,300
ADMINISTRATION:			
Travel	\$63,800	\$40,000	\$45,000
Office & Misc Supplies & Expense	\$19,602	\$15,000	\$16,000
Professional Services	\$12,201	\$6,000	\$6,500
Telephone/Internet/Web/Data	\$28,600	\$18,000	\$20,000
Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint	\$21,973	\$22,000	\$23,000
Development Travel & Support	\$27,500	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$173,677	\$101,000	\$110,500
PLANT EXPENSES:			
Utilities	\$15,364	\$18,000	\$19,000
Insurance - Property	\$8,112	\$8,500	\$9,000
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	\$3,814	\$1,500	\$2,000
Furniture & Equipment	\$12,000	\$2,000	\$27,000
Supplies/Expenses Plant	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,250
Subtotal	\$41,290	\$31,000	\$58,250
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Campus Leases (+ apt leases in '09-'10)	\$190,321	\$193,800	\$195,600
Apartment Leases	\$0	\$56,500	\$56,500
Other	\$11,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$201,321	\$255,300	\$257,100
Expense Total	\$1,452,970	\$1,146,400	\$1,242,250
Income Total	\$1,456,242	\$1,146,400	\$1,247,350
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	\$3,272	\$0	\$5,100

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown – Haley Goodrich (4/11/10) and Kaylee Freeman (5/9/10) by Pastor Tom New

Peru

Lima – Javier, Giovanna, Josue (son of deceased Pastor Beder and his wife Maria), Dora, and Soria (4/6/10) by Pastor Gaston, Joaquin, Maria, and Rocio; Zoila Sanchez (4/10/10) by Pastor Gaston

Deaths

Ohio

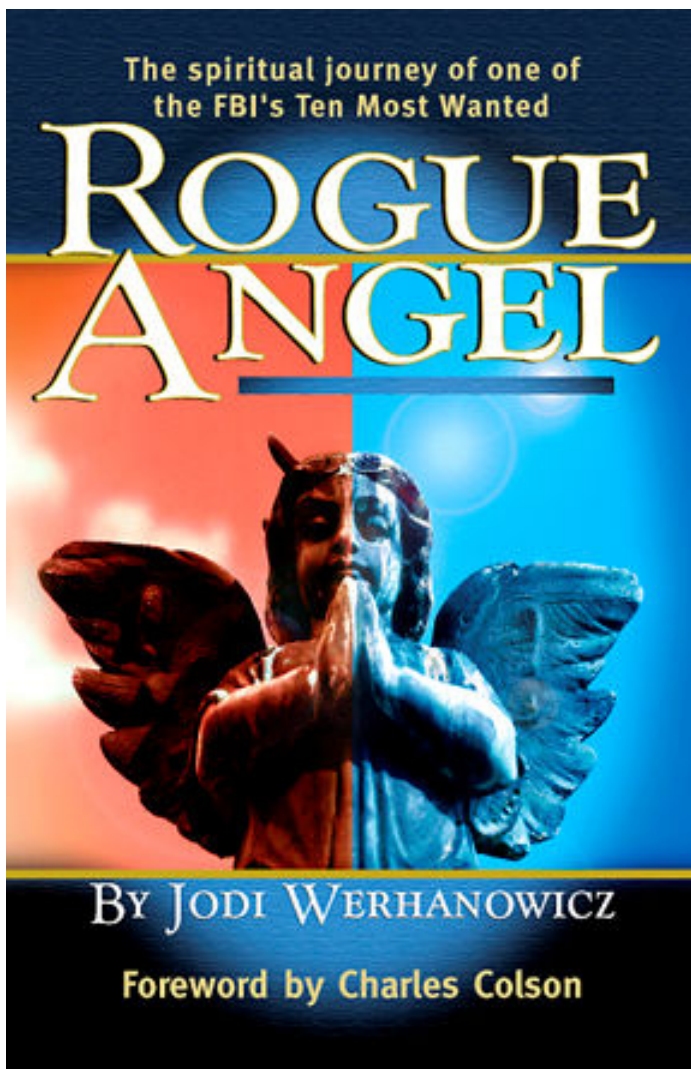
Bedford – Carol Reed, 81 (4/18/10)

South Carolina

Bethel – Bill Hammonds (4/8/10). Service by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Speaker available

Lonnie Craig, currently serving as an associate pastor at the McGintytown Church of God in Greenbrier, AR, is available as a guest speaker for special events like revivals, rally days or special meetings that your church or conference may be planning. He has been serving at McGintytown under the mentorship of Pastor Tom New for over three years and has been speaking at all the Arkansas churches on a rotating basis. He feels that the gift that our Lord has given to him (i.e. biblical preaching and speaking) should be made available to other churches and conferences. If anyone is interested in having Lonnie as a guest speaker for your event, whether for one Sunday or for a weekend-long series, please call him at 1-815-209-6305.



The True Story of Mary Kay Beard Founder of Angel Tree®



Anger and bitterness, especially toward a drunken and abusive father, propelled Mary Kay into a life of crime. By the time she was twenty-seven she was on the FBI Ten Most Wanted list, with a Mafia contract out on her and outstanding warrants for her arrest in four states. In 1972 she was captured, tried, and sentenced for armed robbery. In solitary confinement in an Alabama jail, while reading a Gideon Bible, Mary Kay experienced a profound spiritual transformation. This dramatic story of a life redeemed from crime and one woman's journey to purpose and wholeness.

Written by Jodi Werhanowicz, daughter of Bill and Mardy Lawrence. Available from Atlanta Bible College for \$12/copy, plus shipping.

- 1 **Praise God for the Africa Mission Team's work last month in several African countries.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor James and Rebecca Ritch and the work at Lenoir, NC. Offer special prayer for recovery from the May 14 fire that destroyed one of the church's buildings
- 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 **Pray for those arriving at the General Conference meetings in Georgia.**
- 8 Pray for God's leadership and blessing on those attending General Conference today and tomorrow.
- 9 **Pray for God's blessing and direction on the delegates during General Conference business sessions.**
- 10 Pray for your pastor as he prepares to share God's message tomorrow.
- 11 **Praise God for the abundant life you have in Christ.**
- 12 Praise God for the leadership of your church family.
- 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 students arriving at FUEL today.
- 19 **Pray for those who are studying the Systematic Bible Study Course over the internet.**
- 20 Pray for God to bless the FUEL program at Manchester College (North Manchester, Indiana) this week.
- 21 **Pray for the Mexico mission team as they prepare for their trip into Mexico in a few days.**
- 22 Pray for the staff of FUEL and the influence they are having on the young people.
- 23 **Pray for safety for those traveling home from FUEL today.**
- 24 Pray for a great hunger and thirst for righteousness in your church.
- 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 Mexico mission team members that begin traveling toward Mexico today.
- 29 **Pray for the Badillo family and the work in Mexico.**
- 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.**

(Continued from page 5)

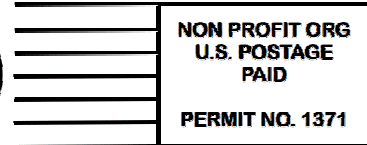
In August of 2004 we began serving the Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, Ohio, and we continue to serve there today. I consider the four years I spent at the Bible college to be some of the best years of my life. Not just for how much fun it was, but because of the change that happened in my life during my time there. I want the Bible college to continue to be a place where young men and women can spread their wings, learn the truth of God's word, and most importantly hear the call of God on their life, while finding the courage to fulfill it!

I've decided to run for the board this year as a nominee from the Ministerial Association, because I want a chance to invest back into the college and conference the investment that they put in me. It essential that we do everything possible to keep our organization strong, focused and on track to

make the greatest impact on this world that we can before His feet touch back down on the Mt. of Olives. I also want to serve because now I have a child, Amber, getting ready to attend the Bible College this fall. I want to make sure the College and Conference is healthy and strong so that it can provide the environment that is needed for her calling and the generations that will follow.

I'm no genius. I'm not particularly gifted in many areas, but I promise I will do my best to serve the core values of our Conference if you choose to elect me to this position. ■

Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400
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Prayer and Praise

August 2010

- 1 Pray for Pastor Andy and Kristy Cisneros and their 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 Continue your prayers for the ministry of the Mexico mission team.
- 6 **Praise God for the beauty of His creation.**
- 7 Pray for new students as they prepare to attend Atlanta Bible College later this month.
- 8 **Pray for the mission team and their return from Mexico.**
- 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 Mark and Terri Tschaenn and the New Covenant Bible Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- 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 Pastor Mark and Sandy DeYoung and their ministry at 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 Atlanta Bible College students and staff as classes begin today.
- 24 **Pray for the leadership of your local church.**
- 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.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

When Jesus Received Worship

By Joel Hemphill

*“Then came to him the mother of Zebedee’s children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him”
Matthew 20:20*

The mother of James and John brought her sons to Jesus and worshiped him, then told him her request: *“Grant that these, my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left, in thy kingdom”* (v. 21).

As a Hebrew, this mother knew what all Hebrews knew, that no man could be God, but in her heart she believed that the one whom she worshiped and made her request to was God’s promised Messiah. As such he would soon have a kingdom, and she wanted a special place for her sons.

Jesus’ answer is very enlightening: *“To sit on my right hand, and on my left, is **not mine to give**, but it shall be given to them **for whom it is prepared of my Father**”* (v. 23).

His response to her teaches us several things about Jesus. One, there is someone over him, with greater authority than he, who has not told him all of His plan (*Mark 13:32; Rev. 1:1*). Number two, God had not given everything into his hands. Look at these words again, *“It is **not mine to give**, but it shall be given to them for whom it is **prepared of my Father.**”*

This agrees with what Jesus said in Acts 1:7 in response to his disciples’ question *“Wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom of Israel?”* And he said unto them, *“It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put **in his own power.**”*

Yet he received this mother’s worship. The statement is made that since Jesus receives worship he must in fact be God. This chapter will prove from Scripture that that statement is not true.

While Jesus was on earth in God’s stead, he received worship, and rightly so. Matthew 2:11 says of the wise men who came from the east, following a star: *“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”*

Many other such events are recorded in the Bible.

- A leper needing healing came and worshiped him and he was healed. (*Matt. 8:2*)
- A certain ruler needing resurrection for his daughter came and worshiped him and she was raised. (*Matt. 9:18*)
- After Jesus walked in the sea and calmed the storm, those who were



in the ship worshiped him. (*Matt. 14:33*)

- Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, when they saw the risen Lord, came and held him by the feet and worshiped him. (*Matt. 28:9*)
- The man possessed with a legion of demons in Gadara, when he saw Jesus afar off, ran and worshiped him. (*Mark 5:6*)
- The blind man, who was healed when he washed mud from his eyes in the pool of Siloam, found Jesus and worshiped him. (*John 9:38*)

But you may ask if Jesus is not Almighty God or “god the Son,” second person of the triune God, why did he receive worship? That is a very good question and the answer is found in Hebrews 1:6: *“And again, when he (God) bringeth in the first begotten*

(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 16-20
Atlanta Bible College Block Class

August 23
Atlanta Bible College
regular classes begin

January 14-16, 2011
reFUEL,
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

February 25-27, 2011
Refuge,
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

April 3-8, 2011
Christian Workers Seminar,
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN

May 12-15, 2011
Theological Conference,
Simpsonwood Conference Center,
Norcross, GA

July 6-8, 2011
General Conference,
Jaynes Street Church of God,
Omaha, NE

July 17-22, 2011
FUEL
Manchester College
North Manchester, IN

(Continued from page 1)

(Jesus) into the world, He saith, and let all the angels of God worship him."

God had decreed worship for Jesus, His son, even from the angels. Jesus came as a man (*Matt. 8:20, Luke 9:58, 1 Tim. 2:5*) and as such **was made**, as are all men, lower than the angels (*Ps. 8:5, Heb. 2:7*). Hebrews 2:9 says: "*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*"

But by birth he is the Son of God (*Luke 1:35*) and has been exalted by his Father above the angels. Look at Hebrews 1:4-5: "*Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a son?*"

Yes, they worshiped him. God commanded it saying, "*Let all the angels of God worship him*", (the Son). Not as God Almighty, **whose angels they are**, but as God's virgin born, sinless Son, under whom He (God) has "**put in subjection the world to come**" (*Heb 2:5*).

To comprehend this awesome truth, we must understand that in the Scriptures, others beside the Most High were worshiped with His favor. When King David, the sweet psalmist of Israel began to grow old, he sat in his palace of cedar one day and realized that the Ark of the Great God of Israel rested not far away in a tent (*1 Chron. 17:1; 2 Sam. 7:1-3*). He

called in Nathan the prophet of God and told him of his intention to build a beautiful house, a temple, to house the ark of God. Nathan's initial reaction was, "*Go, do all that is in thine heart, for the Lord is with thee.*" However, that night God spoke to Nathan in a vision with a message for David that said in essence, "Not so fast! Yes, I am honored that you desire to build me a house and your son after you will indeed do that. But I know something that you don't know: I'm going to build you a house" (i.e., a dynasty) (*2 Sam. 7:4-11; 1 Chron. 17:11-15*). And there is more!

And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build me a house and I will establish his throne for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee: But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore. According to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David" (1 Chron. 17:11-15).

Thus, God established his covenant with his servant King David, "**for evermore.**"

"And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever" (2 Sam. 7:16).

Look at the four things the eternal God promised David in this covenant that is called "the Davidic Covenant." God promised David **a house**, a dynasty, a "lineage", **forever**. Therefore the "House of David" is spoken

of throughout the remainder of the O.T., for hundreds of years after David is dead and gone. We must remember that the "House of David" in Scripture is only one part of the tribe of Judah, and is therefore different and distinct from the "House of Israel" (*Jacob*), which is all twelve tribes. This is what Luke 2:4 is referring to when it says that Joseph with his espoused wife Mary went to Bethlehem, "*the City of David*" to be taxed, "*because he was of the house and lineage of David.*" This dynasty, house, tabernacle, is what Amos and the apostle James was referring to that God will raise up in the last days (*Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16*).

Next, God promised David **a kingdom** and a "*throne for ever*" (*1 Chron. 17:11-12, 14*). Notice in verse 14 God calls this throne "*my throne.*" That's why 1 Chronicles 29:23 says, "*Then Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord*" at Jerusalem. This is the throne of which the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary: "*And the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end*" (*Luke 1:32-33*).

Notice Jesus was not promised **God's throne in heaven**, but "the throne of his father David" in Jerusalem. **This is important!**

The third thing that God promised David was **mercy** laid up for his descendants. "*And I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee*" (*1 Chron. 17:13*).

This is the mercy that God showed in not destroying Solomon, even after he went into idolatry. This is the mercy

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that was seen some 106 years after David's death during the violent and wicked reign of King Jehoram. "Howbeit the Lord would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David" (2 Chron. 21:7).

And about 305 years after David's death in the days of Hezekiah, God vowed to defend Jerusalem from the approaching Assyrian army with these words: "For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake (Isa. 37:35).

And finally, God promised David "seed" or sons. "I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom" (1 Chron. 17:11).

These sons of David, the Davidic line of kings, were also able to be called "sons of God." "I will be his father; and he shall be my son" (v. 13).

To see that this did not **only** apply to Jesus, look at the account of this in 2 Samuel 7:14: "If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men."

These words "his father – my son" express the special relationship God promises to maintain with the descendants of David whom he will establish on David's throne. It marks them as the ones God has chosen to rule in His name, as the official representatives of God's rule. In Jesus (*Messiah*) this promise comes to ultimate fulfillment. "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ the Son of David, the son of Abraham" (Matt. 1:1). "And there came a voice from heaven saying, Thou art my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11).

Now let's look at the coronation of King Solomon, David's son, God's "son," to sit "on the throne of the Lord" at Jerusalem. "And David said to all the congregation, Now bless the Lord your God. And all the congregation blessed the Lord God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads and **worshipped the Lord, and the king**" (1 Chron. 29:20).

Yes, that is what it says, they "worshipped the Lord, **and the king.**" They worshiped the Lord as God ("thou art God alone" Ps. 86:10) and they worshiped the king as God's appointed, anointed regent, God's son, and they did this with God's favor and approval. "And did eat and drink **before the Lord** on that day with **great gladness.** And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, **and anointed him unto the Lord as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him. And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the king. And the Lord magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel. Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel**" (1 Chron. 29:22-26).

Now suppose that Solomon or Israel, after he was **magnified exceedingly** with such **royal majesty and power**, had decided that he was in fact God, or part of the God-head. Do you think God's favor would have remained? No way! Look at King Herod who took God's glory to himself. "And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them, And the people gave a shout, saying, **It is**

the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, **because he gave not God the glory; and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost**" (Acts 12:21-23).

Unlike Herod, Solomon gave God the glory and was worshiped as God's anointed king, His "son," **with God's approval.**

We must be careful with "worship" because God is jealous of His glory (*honor-esteem*) and will not give it to another, but on rare occasions **He has ordained worship for others.** Look at what the Lord says to **overcoming saints** in Revelation 3:9: "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews and do lie; behold, **I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.**"

Will these saints be worshiped? Yes! Will they be worshiped as God? **No way!** As deity? **No way!** But they will be worshiped as overcoming saints, **for God has ordained it.** With this understanding, let's see how Jesus Messiah was worshiped. Did the angels of God who worshiped him at his birth (**not before his birth**) think they were worshiping God? No! They saw God's face continually in heaven and knew that this baby was not God, but Messiah, son of David, Son of God (Matt. 18:10; Rev. 5:11-13). "When he (God) bringeth in the first-begotten (Jesus) **into the world** (not before), he (God) saith, and let all the angels of God (these are God's angels) **worship him** (Jesus)" (Heb. 1:6).

Did the wise men who found the babe in Bethlehem "and fell down and worshiped him" think they

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were looking at God? No, they had come to Jerusalem asking, “*Where is he that is born King of the Jews*” (Matt. 2:2). When Herod had his scribes search the Scriptures to see where Christ would be born, they said: “*In Bethlehem of Judah: for thus it is written by the prophet, And though Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel*” (Matt. 2:5-6).

They were not searching for God, but “a Governor” sent by God. And how did they know he would be “King of the Jews?” They had “seen his star,” but there is no way they could have read all this in the stars. They had no doubt read it in the chronicles of Babylon, for centuries before, Daniel, a wise man and prophet in Babylon, had seen visions and foretold the coming of Israel’s Prince Messiah. “*Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks*” (69 weeks – 483 years) (Dan. 9:25). **And he was right on time!**

Did the disciples who worshiped Jesus in the boat, after he calmed the sea in Matthew 14:32-33, think they were worshipping him as God? Let’s see. In Matthew 13:37-41, he had taught great lessons in which he twice called himself “the Son of Man,” a human being. He closes out the teaching by referring to himself as “a prophet” (Matt. 13:57). In Matthew 14 Jesus comes to the disciples walking on the sea and calms it. “*Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God*” (Matt. 14:33).

Did they think they were worshipping one in the boat with them who was in fact “God” or “God the Son?” No! They ate with him, slept with him, saw that he grew weary, tired and hungry and had bodily functions as they did, and knew he was **a man**. They had asked among themselves on a previous and similar occasion “*What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him*” (Matt. 8:27)! **He is the perfect man** but “man” nevertheless. This incident helped their understanding that this man is indeed Messiah, Son of God, proven by his resurrection as well (Rom. 1:4). Listen to their words again: “*Of a truth thou art the Son of God.*” No one in the scriptural accounts worshiped Jesus as the Lord God, and **we must not!** There are several Greek words in the N.T. that are translated “worship,” and are pictured as being offered to God, Jesus, the saints of Revelation, and **improperly** to angels and idols. But there is one word “*latreuo*” (#3000 Strong’s) which means “to minister to God – render religious homage” and is **not** in Scripture **given to Jesus** or anyone else **but God** (Acts 24:14; Phil. 3:3; Heb. 10:2). To give Jesus the Son, God the Father’s place in our hearts and in our worship is to flirt with idolatry. “*Thou shalt have no other gods* (plural) *before me* (singular)” (Ex. 20:3). Jesus called his Father “*the only true God*” in John 17:3, and **He alone should be worshiped as God**. It is important to note that no place can be found in N.T. Scripture where anyone “worshiped” Jesus after his ascension to heaven, nor where any N.T. writer told us to “worship” him. He is now in the presence of God, seated at the right hand of God the Father, and our “worship” is to be directed to God. “*Now to appear in the presence of God for us*” (Heb. 9:24).

Twice in the Revelation a scene is described where God and the Lamb are present and both receive praise, but only God is “worshiped” (Rev. 5:12-14; 7:9-11).

Jesus never said he was God. In fact he denied that he is (Matt. 19:17; John 5:19, 30-31). If he was God, he would have told us; he would not have left us wondering about such a serious matter as this.

David’s “great son” and God’s “son” Solomon received worship with God’s approval. David’s “greater son” Jesus Christ (“*Behold a greater than Solomon is here*” Matt. 12:42) received worship as ordained by God his Father. Jesus was worshiped as Savior, Redeemer, Messiah, Son of God. “*Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing*” (Rev. 5:12). Please note that the word “**worship**” is **not included**.

Jesus joins us in **worshipping** the “only true God,” **his God and our God**.

“...The testimony of Jesus: **Worship God...**” (Rev. 19:10). “... **Worship God...**” (Rev. 22:9). ■

Editor’s note: This is an abbreviated chapter 9, from Joel Hemphill’s book, To God Be the Glory. Used with permission. This book may be purchased from our bookstore. Brother Joel and his wife LaBreeska, known for their Southern Gospel singing awards, are available for concerts and teachings on the dynamic truth of the One God.

WOW what a great General Conference! I told someone we're "on a roll." Christian Worker's Seminar, Theological Conference, Pastor's Summit, and now our annual General Conference were all fantastic.

Our conference this year was centered on "Truth, Tribulation, and Triumph." Speakers were Dennis Baldwin, JJ Fletcher, Russ Magaw, Jeff Fletcher, Steve An, Greg Demmitt and me! Teachers holding workshops, too numerous to mention, are receiving great reviews. Also, the "Open Forum with the Board" went extremely well.

God has blessed in ways we are unable to understand. He is bringing new people into our lives that continue to help us understand our mission "To Serve..." and our vision "To Join Him," especially in the area of bring biblical truth to our current generations. I still am blessed by the work of "outsiders" such as Joel Hemphill, Kermit Zarley, Vince Finnegan and others.

I am also impressed with our young people. The worship at Cornerstone for our Conference was fantastic. Aaron Winner, Jon Cheatwood, Jerry Briggs, Sean Patrick, Josh Fletcher and others helped us join together honoring our God and His Son Jesus! I have told this to Aaron, and I say it again, he blends new and old together in such an upbeat fashion I could listen and praise for hours. In my sermon's illustration, I sug-

gested it is like the "spirit and truth" of John 4. If we can continue to come together, young and old, God will surely bless us.

There is a lot of "business" in this issue of the Herald, with the Chairman's Message and the Minutes, but if you noticed, we still wish to lead off with worship themes (like Jehoshaphat!) We decided to include Joel Hemphill's chapter 9 from his book, *To God Be the Glory*, as the lead article. Joel and LaBreeska recently held a concert and teaching time at our church in Guthrie Grove, South Carolina. Jim Shaull reported that many community people came to hear the well-known Hemphills, but also were taught the biblical truth of One God that Joel is so focused on.

Also in this issue, is Rebekah's report on our Africa mission trip. When we visited one of the churches that sponsored an orphanage, teaching and feeding the kids at the church during the day, and finding church homes for them to sleep, it was tough not to be very emotional. Check the picture out of Anthony holding the little one (see page 20). At present, in Africa, our churches sponsor 10 such orphanages, according to the reports received. Continue to pray for mission work all over the world.

At the conference, Christy Ross Wiebel did a super job for the offering! She emphasized that the General Fund, non "ear-marked" giving is the basic place that supports most all our

efforts. The General Fund, helps churches, pays salaries, subsidizes youth programs, helps pastors, etc. For every donation given to special projects, yes, even missions, it would be nice to have equal or greater amounts to the wonderful (you had to be there...) General Fund. Thank you for your help in this area.

Maybe the most important thing that excites me (at least this week) are the phone calls and e-mails. I'm receiving questions, comments, praises, etc. from all over. I want to tell you about one. I received a call from a young adult (I don't know his age yet) in Florida. As he studied the Bible, he could never reconcile the "creeds" and orthodoxy with monotheism. For NINE years, he became a follower of Islam, even a teacher. Recently after further study and finding an "alternative," he re-dedicated his life to Christ. This is what he said, "It was great speaking with you! Please send me anything available (literature) you can spare. It would be nice to reconcile my Christian desires with monotheism and at the same time be part of a restoration movement that is non-judgmental and kind-hearted!"

I pray we can live up to what he says. WOW, GOD is on a roll! ■

“

I woke up this morning, a rainbow filled the sky; it was God telling me, everything's going to be alright.” - Jack Johnson

Welcome to the 90th annual General Conference of the Church of God. I want to thank you all for the support each of you has given to the conference and college throughout the years. As we begin, let me borrow from a recent E-Herald article, which quoted Alexander Solzhenitsyn during a 1978 Harvard graduation address, “Truth is seldom sweet, it is almost invariably bitter. A measure of bitter truth is included in my speech today, but I offer it as a friend, not an adversary.”

“Then Job replied to the LORD: “I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You asked, ‘Who is it that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?’

It is I – and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. You said, ‘Listen, and I will speak.

I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.’

I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes.

I take back everything I said, and I sit and repent in dust and ashes.

Job 42:1-6

The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind

tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire came a gentle whisper.

When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

1 Kings 19:11-13

This verse makes me want to ask the question, “What are we doing here?” Is God speaking to us in a quiet voice with that same question? Since last fall, I have been asking myself this question in order to better understand where we need to go as a conference.

During last November's board meeting, Joe Myers presented a really good devotion based on the theme: “For such a time as this.” The board had some huge decisions to make at that meeting that none of us particularly wanted to be a part of. Joe spoke about Esther. She wasn't looking to be placed in the position she found herself in, but the advice she got from Mordecai was absolutely right. “Who knows but that God didn't place you in this position to do His will?” And Esther didn't shy away from it.

Not to take away from the importance and good work that past boards have played in the COG, but I want to point out

that, from my perspective, those who have been elected to the board the past few years, have been quite remarkable in terms of “for such a time as this.”

I will attempt to do justice in characterizing who is currently on the board of directors. We've elected a veteran with numerous business experiences, pastoral experiences, and a heart for the lost. We've elected a 30-year factory worker with a business management degree specializing in continuous quality improvement projects. We've elected a woman who is a pastor with special skills in understanding people's needs and empathy for the weak, and a strong desire for justice. We've elected a scientist with a doctorate in philosophy and chemical engineering, with an analytical mind second to none, and spiritual insight that I've come to trust immensely. We've elected a young accountant and tax specialist with a sharp mind for details and a special ability to see beyond dollars and cents and translate budgets into priorities for ministry. And we've elected two-long time, dedicated COG pastors, both with additional background and experience outside of ministry and people skills beyond the norm. Each has a special heart for COG truths and catalysts for encouraging people into action for God.

It's been suggested to me that we elect board members based on popularity depending on G.C. location. While that may be true to some extent, I have come to feel that this board has been

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67TH GRADUATION SERVICE OF ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE

ABC/OBC had a record breaking number of participants (25) who completed programs this May. The previous high was 23 in 2003.

These students were honored on Friday evening, May 21, during the 67th graduation service of Atlanta Bible College. Twelve students received Bachelor of Theology degrees:

Hyo Sun Chung, Kumrun Hong, Andrew Sun Jung, Hoon Kim, Young Hwan Kong, Eldrick Imran Lal, Seung Kwang Lee, Miok Moon, Samwel Njau, Ok Oh, Mina Park, and Jung Sook Won. Several of these students are planning to pursue Masters degrees.

Six students received Associate in Theology and Ministry degrees:

Dietrich Carroll, Young Min Kil, Geoffrey Kithimba, Ilgi Moon, Tim Moore, and Aquelle Plakaris.

Seven received Foundation Certificates:

Denise Cooper-Paige, Dexter Johnson, Geoffrey Kithimba, Calvin LeBlanc, Hellen Mbugua, Gloria Nolley and Mitchell Raper.

Korean Extension Vice President Steve An presented a challenging message to the graduates. Anthony Buzzard played a piece on the oboe for special music. Diplomas were presented by Gary Burnham, Jon Cheatwood, Sam An, Joe Martin, Steve An, and David Krogh. Robert Jones presented a charge to the students.

A reception was held immediately following in the foyer.

We pray God's special blessing on all these students as they continue their education or take up full time ministry.



Atlanta Bible College Honors

In order to be on the President's and Dean's lists, a student must be a full time student enrolled in 12 or more semester hours of classes. The grading system is based on a 4.0 scale. Congratulations to the following students for their academic accomplishments during the spring 2010 semester.

President's List (3.5 and above)		Dean's List (3.00 and above)	
Young Hee An	Yu Jin Jeong	Jae Hyun Cho	Bong Ju Kwak
Chae Yun Baik	Jung Sim Ji	Kue Cheol Choi	Eun Cheol Lee
Jacob Ballard	Hye Kyung Kim	Vyenna Gowa	Hellen Mbugua
In Wu Chea	Tae Yeon Kim	Joon Huh	Daniel Ndungu
Sung Won Choi	Yeong Beom Kim	Ju Li Hwang	Samwel Njau
You Sik Choi	Jon Seug Lee	Kyong Ok Hyon	Soon Chun Park
Jin Suk Han	Sae Hyun Lee	Jung Seok Kang	Andrew Shaw
Moon Joung Hong	Ji Young Lim	Bae Sik Kim	Jung Sook Won
Ki Young Jang	Hae Won Park	Me Young Kim	

Good News

Like cold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a distant land. Proverbs 25:25

Hey, there COGLand! GNP wants to hear what YOUR good news is! We know there's good news everywhere, so send us e-mails, bulletins, phone calls, etc. to tell us your good news. PLEASE SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS, and we'll put you in print!

Robert L. Jones

From **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – Associate Pastor **Connie Scott** directed the Praise Kids Junior Choir in a production of “Go, Go Jonah!” on May 2. Lessons such as missions, obedience, unconditional love, truth of scripture, and the sovereignty of God were presented in clever songs, humorous dialogue and action on stage. The opening act came from the always-enjoyable Tiny Tots Choir.

From **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – May 23, 2010 was a very special day for the congregation. The new church facility was dedicated to God's glory and service. All of COGLand can share in their celebration when the church will be honored as the recipient of the fall 2010 Church Builders League Appeal from the General Conference.

From **Joy Fellowship in Piedmont, SC** – **Aaron Winner** has released two worship CDs, entitled “One by One” and “Wait for the Morning.” You can order these fine collections of worship songs at www.aaronwinner.com or by mail at Aaron Winner, 12 Bennett Street, Piedmont, SC 29673. **Pastor Wally Winner** has another talented son in **Jesse Winner**, who masterminds cogcast.org. Jesse's presentation at the **90th General Conference at Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA**, emphasized the quality of the speakers and musicians that are in the Church of God, past and present. Tune in on your computer for some fine Christian “radio” or “attend” services at Joy Fellowship, **Blanchard (MI) Church of God (Pastor Mark DeYoung)**, **Lakeshore Bible Church (Pastor Steve Taylor)**, or other places. The music and the messages you hear will inspire you.

From **Timberland Bible Church in South Bend, IN** – **UP (Untried Passage) Project** went on its annual mission trip, this year traveling to Albany, NY from July 4-9. A team of twelve, led by **Pastor Andy Cisneros, Graysen Pack, and Julie Driskill**, worked with **Living Hope Ministries** and **Pastor Vince Finnegan**. The goal of the trip was to do evangelism training and outreach, working through the Path for Teens program. The team worked with about thirty youth doing ministry (painting a missions building, having a coffeehouse ministry, working on the home of one of the local members, evangelizing at local parks, and serving meals at four different homeless shelters). An immediate reward was one man who came to the coffeehouse and accepted Christ as Savior as a result of the team's gospel sharing. If you want more information, go to theupproject.org website.

From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Graduates were honored on June 6 during the morning worship service. Eighth grade graduates were **Sarah Bliss, Evan Froelich, Zachary Hall, and Mallorie Myers**. Graduating from high school were **Jeffrey Fues, Danielle Hall, Devin Harrolle, Lee Jones, Zachery Mon, and Jennifer White**. College graduates were **Brittany Corcoran and Kayla Raper**. Congratulations to all who have finished a milestone in their education.

From the **Happywoods Church of God in Hammond, LA** – **Nelda Harper** directed a dinner theater, featuring monologues from Bible characters. The evening began with guests being served a delicious meal of chicken casserole or crawfish pistolettes, baked beans, green peas, potato salad, and dessert. For the show, **Pastor Robert Weathersby** portrayed Abraham; **Nelda Harper**, Sarah; **Kenny Kinchen**, Moses; **Millard Hutchinson**, David; **Debbie Schiffler**, Esther; **Ashley Kinchen**, Delilah; **J.E. Fauntleroy**, Joseph; **Elizabeth Weathersby**, Rebecca; **Charles Bottolfs**, Paul; **Jessica Puissinger**, Young Mary, mother of Jesus; **Diane Hughes**, Mary at the cross; **Eliska Fauntleroy**, Mary of Bethany; **Charlotte Lawson**, Mary Magdalene; and **Angela Varnado**, Eunice. **Gloria Flick** served as mistress of ceremonies. Donations to support the local homeless shelter were given in appreciation for the entertainment. Those who attended gave rave reviews for the evening.

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called for a 'time such as this.' I feel God has used this board in a special way.

The members of this board have all been willing to serve this conference. I have personally felt the power of prayer as many of you have prayed for me and the board. I have been able to understand things beyond my own abilities to understand. I have had experiences I felt were from God that are beyond my ability to explain. One such experience came last October when, during a time of prayer and concern over looming budget issues, I distinctly heard a voice telling me, "It's (going to be) OK."

My first couple of years on the board was a learning experience, to say the least. I want to share a few honest thoughts from my perspective.

I saw an organization with several good pockets of ministry and activity. MALT was working on good things, the staff was working on good projects, the board was working to provide leadership, and the pastors were doing an excellent job leading their congregations. However, I also sensed that many times we seemed to be working as islands unto ourselves. Communication was weak, collaboration sometimes non-existent. A culture of exclusiveness and even arrogance seemed to be pervasive in our group. I felt isolated, not only as a church member with no home church, but also as a board member, unable to effectively communicate, even to the staff I had been elected to serve.

Prior to becoming board chair in July, I began calling on pastors for advice and ideas. I even had one

long-time pastor tell me that it was the first time any board member had ever asked him for his ideas or opinion on anything! It is my strong belief that the spiritual leadership of the COG rests with the pastors! I have spoken individually or in a group to over 35 pastors this year (I hope that number continues to grow!). It has been a tremendous, positive experience. I heard more good things (along with some constructive criticism) than I have time to share today. I have to say that I have been very impressed with the group of pastors we have in place. With that foundation, the COG is strong and our future bright!

I want to share a little history by being transparent and openly honest, a goal this board has emphasized since last G.C.

During the budget review of 2009 G.C., a comment from the floor was made, "Isn't this the board's budget, not the CAO's?" I want you all to know that I took that comment to heart. It had NOT been the board's budget as far as I could tell. Sure, we would look at it, and approve it. But I myself did not always have full understanding of what I was looking at. Maybe others did; I'm speaking for myself. On the drive home from last year's conference, I made a call to the CAO and mentioned that I wanted to begin understanding the budget, along with getting the entire board more involved in the process.

The next few months were full of surprises. Ones that I perhaps should have seen before, but didn't. With the help of other board members and certain key staff, we discovered major deficit spending for 8 of the past 9 years. In fact, dur-

ing the past 10 years, we have outspent our income by an average of \$377K per year. We found understated spending predictions and overstated income projections. We did not sense any deliberate malice, simply what appeared to be lack of oversight and accountability, and perhaps trying to paint a good budget picture. If you look at this from a 30,000-foot level, it appears this oversight and lack of accountability existed at all levels, CAO, staff, board, and delegates. For example, in 2004, a budget was approved by the delegates that showed two consecutive huge deficits in prior years. I wasn't at that conference to be able to tell you what the spending was for at that time, but it appears that a lot of people simply weren't paying close attention to our budget.

I may state this more than once, but we WILL be good stewards in this decade!

As more information came to light, it was apparent that some changes needed to be made. It was apparent to me that our conference needed to get on our knees in prayer.

Allow me to step through some of the major things that occurred over the next several months:

- The CAO Tim Jones presented the board with a resignation letter (which was accepted during the November board meeting in Atlanta) with a request to fill the position of Distance Learning Director.
- The board requested a feasibility study done on whether the Distance Learning plan could be accomplished within the confines of the budget that we were still reviewing.
- During the November board

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meeting, after several interviews, the board appointed Dr. Joe Martin as interim CAO/President, with David Krogh, Gary Burnham, and Steve An to serve as key support staff.

- Further review of the budget and financial state progressed for the next several weeks.
- It became apparent that the financial state of the Conference was in a critical state.
- The board contacted Clayton State to ask for reduction in rent at Morrow since the campus was not being fully utilized. This resulted in savings of \$8K/month and one month less notice needed to vacate.
- Board regrettably made the decision not to hire Tim Jones as Distance Learning Director due primarily to budget restrictions.
- Dr. Joe, David, and Gary began painful process of attempting to find ways to balance the budget. This included cuts in spending, furloughs, and increased fund-raising efforts.
- On December 23rd, the INS finally approved the campus relocation, resulting in transfer out of Morrow and the Korean Extension was fully moved to Duluth. Prayer and fasting works!
- The conference lost its Development Director in March when Dale Bliss resigned to resume full-time duties as pastor of Maple Grove in Kokomo.
- The 2009/2010 budget was revised to reflect cuts and personnel reductions. The review discovered some inflated projections of income, especially in the area of contributions and money raised by the Development Office, and expenses were underestimated, especially salaries, resulting in a YTD deficit of nearly \$300,000.

That's an overview of the past year and the tough position we found ourselves in due to many economic factors. It was overwhelming for myself and the rest of the board and staff at times.

We can choose to dwell on the past, digging for root causes and scapegoats, or we can choose to look to the future and for opportunities to strengthen our college and conference.

The board and staff, working together, has chosen the latter. Because, "It's OK."

I want to take some time now to tell you of some of the actions the board has taken and hopefully you will agree that we have a bright future.

- The immediate appointment of Dr. Joe Martin to lead the Conference. Without a doubt, this has proven to have been a very wise move, given the circumstances. His mission and vision of "Go Serve" with Kim Musch has been "just what we were looking for," to quote several churches who have benefited from this initiative. The "Join God" theme has resonated with many members and the staff in recommitting to a service focused organization. The board and staff are here to serve the churches, and that has been a renewed theme by the teams at Avalon and Duluth. Under Dr. Joe's leadership and own travel initiative, Steve and Sam An, Gary Burnham, David Krogh, Kim Musch, and Jon Cheatwood have made a priority of visiting churches and pastors.
- There has been a reemphasis on connecting with the pastors of the COG.

Examples have included:

- Ohio Conference in November.
- Michigan Conference with Dr. Joe.
- Pastor's Summit in Indianapolis. I personally felt a unity and coming together like never before during the two days I was there. We prayed and cried with one another. I saw some levels of brokenness healed. I felt a love coming from all who were there for their fellow brothers in Christ. Folks, that's more of what we need!
- Numerous church and pastor visits from Gary and David
- A recommitted and capable staff at GC.
- A new campus in Duluth and very capable program is being run by Steve, Young, Sam and Sarah An with over 100 students, 11 graduates, and an advertising campaign in Korea.
- A renewed focus on our approved mission statement: "To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom." This is the one previously approved by the delegates a few years ago. It had been modified over the years into one that had not received formal delegate approval. I've had people ask me, "What's our plan, what's our vision?" I feel it keeps coming back to this: We KNOW our plan and our vision. It's written in our mission statement. We simply look for ways to support the staff in these efforts. We look for ways to support our pastors in this effort. We look for ways to support the Board in this effort. And a huge part of that is support through continued prayer. I have felt God's power through those who have praye-

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- for me.
- It's been said that both God's enemies and His children underestimate the power of prayer. I find that to be true—even when we recognize His power and grace in our lives.
- Several budget improvements have been made by the staff and board working together on this huge issue. (There is also a list of budget controls and working together policies that are in your delegate packets.) We WILL be good stewards in this decade!
- Elimination of the third campus rental costs and we have asked for and received a reduction in the Avalon lease cost for the coming three years resulting in a one time savings of around \$150K and a \$12K per year savings respectively.
- The board has placed a priority effort on Distance Learning. The 2010/11 budget includes a leap of faith to hire a skilled person in the field of on-line learning programs. We have at least two people identified as potential volunteer help for this project.
- The board led and the delegates approved \$45K in church development aid last year. This was a large increase over previous years and is a key element of why the conference exists: doing together what we cannot do alone.
- We expect to see 17 Church of God students at ABC this fall. We are focusing on recruiting more pastoral candidates. I feel the need to editorialize for a moment. This is not only the job of the staff. We need the commitment of the churches, youth leaders, pastors, parents, and members to seek out potential pastoral candidates and encourage them to think about be-

coming pastors. And not just when they get to the end of high school. Recruitment begins when they are young. It comes back to the verse, "Train up a child."

That comes with a lot of responsibility for us all. It includes asking the following, sometimes difficult questions: How well do we lift the position of pastors up? How well do we pay our pastors? How well do we respect our pastors in front of our children and congregations? How well do we support our pastors in their day to day work? How well do we support our pastor's spouse in their difficult job? In short, how well do we show potential pastoral candidates that the calling of ministry is HIGHLY valued and important?

Esther 4:14 - "For a time such as this."

I want to ask a few more questions for us all to think about: What role do you and I play in the success of the COG/GC/College? This is a fair question for all of us to ask ourselves. We are ALL accountable to perform to the best level of the talents God has given us. Use the parable of the talents as an example. The master expected a return on his investment. What are we doing with that which God has given?

We all have a role to play in fulfilling the mission of the COG.

One of my favorite quotes comes from Teddy Roosevelt:

"It's not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the

man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasm, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

We are all in the arena. What better cause than to spend oneself than in the service of Jesus Christ! If we didn't care, we wouldn't be here right now. So, what goals do you have? What time table are you working against? What worthy cause are you spending yourself for? Do any of us get any dust, sweat, or blood on our face? I know for some, the answer is "yes." If so, I say, "Keep it up!" If not, I have to say, "Step it up!"

I think of Peter and Paul, or Stephen when I think of the Roosevelt quote. I envision Paul lying on a road somewhere, just after barely surviving a beating for telling a mob of angry men about this Jesus who struck him blind on the road to Damascus. I envision Peter wiping off his wounds after being flogged with a barbed whip, praising God for the chance to tell them of the Jesus whom they crucified. Or, I can see Stephen looking up to heaven through dust and sweat and blood as the rocks pummeled his body.

HISTORY LESSON

I think of the men and women who started this great conference. And

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Christian Workers Seminar 2011

April 3-8, 2011 ■ Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

**At the Holiday Inn
with the beautiful new convention
center we enjoyed in 2010.**

**Please begin making plans now to join...
and bring a couple of friends with you!**

**Programming information will be
available later this year.**

We'll see YOU in Pigeon Forge in 2011!

Prices

**Four-to-a-room - \$264/person
Three-to-a-room - \$294/person
Two-to-a-room - \$354/person
One-to-a-room - \$514/person**

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the love and dedication they had for the truths that we should hold so dear. The countless hours spent by people like F.L. Austin, who ran a Bible training school, published a weekly lesson quarterly, worked two jobs, and taught classes daily, among other things. Or the countless hours of joy spent by many of our current church pastors and leaders as you try to grow the kingdom of God and present the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Do we care about our heritage? I've seen enough evidence this year to say that we do!

So, how much time do we have left? How many more souls can we reach? What are we saving our time and money for?

Are we at times simply doing things that seem to make sense and then asking God to bless our efforts? Or do we always ask God to lead? And are we following?

Do we take this kingdom message seriously? Is there urgency and accountability in our message and actions?

"Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all

the Jews. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-14)

Esther's story is our story. We, the people of God, have been placed right where we are "for such a time as this". The purpose for our place in time and geography may not be for anything as dramatic as preventing a holocaust, but the purpose is vitally important nevertheless. It is not an accident that you are where you are at this particular point in time. You may long to be somewhere else, doing something else, but that which you seek to escape from may be the very circumstances that God most greatly desires to use for His purposes and glory. You are where you are at this point in time for a reason.

It's easy to look at the story of Queen Esther and conclude that we could have the greatest impact for the cause of the kingdom of God if only we could be in a position of power and influence as she was. But consider the prince who became a pauper in order to fulfill God's greatest plan: "although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be

grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men (Philippians 2:6-7). Either extreme, or somewhere in between (where most of us are), is the place for God's will to be done in and through us at this time.

Prayerfully consider your present circumstances, and remain faithful and steady where you are, because it is "for such a time as this" that you are where you are."

-- Steve Taylor, June 21 devotion blog

I might add, "Start moving" from where you are if need be to support our mission.

We face a lot of uncertainty. We face a growingly hostile world to our message, especially to the truth in our message. It's a truth that few in the world have heard. It's a truth that our forefathers fought hard to preserve and make grow, all in service to the king.

This can overwhelm us. It is not an easy thing to work for the king. But He has promised that He will fight with us. He has promised us that "It's OK."

It's time to ask corporately for for-

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**2010 General Conference
Delegates Sessions
90th Annual General
Conference
8-9 July 2010
Cornerstone Bible Church,
McDonough, Georgia**

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm by Chair Robert Morrison.

The Chair assigned Greg Demmitt to serve as the session parliamentarian.

Pastor Steve Taylor opened the meeting in prayer.

The Chair welcomed all in attendance. He recognized the first time delegates, newly licensed pastors, and newly recognized churches that have sent delegates for the first time.

The Chair gave his address to the delegates concerning the operations of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College over the last year. (A written copy of the address is archived in the

Secretary's records and will be published in the next issue of the *Restitution Herald and Progress Journal*.) [Ed: Address begins on page 7.]

The Chair called on David Krogh from the Credentials Committee to report the number of delegates in attendance at the Thursday afternoon session of the General Conference. 90 delegates are present; composed of 50 representatives of churches and regional conferences, 33 Pastors, and seven Directors.

The Chair requested a motion to affirm and support the mission statement of the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College: "To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom." The motion was brought by Charles Bottolfs and seconded by Joyce Knapp. The chair called for any discussion. Discussion followed regarding the particular wording of our mission statement. The



General Conference session.

motion passes unanimously.

The chair asked if there were any announcements. None were necessary.

Financial Report

The Chair called on Gary Burnham, Operations Manager, to give a financial report. Gary discussed the FY 2009-2010 income and expense statement, highlighting certain sections of the FY report that differed significantly from the planned budget. Gary then presented the balance sheet of

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givenness for our sins. As Dr. Joe pointed out at the Pastor's Summit in Daniel chapter 9 – Daniel asks forgiveness for his sins and the sins of the people. I am asking God today for forgiveness for my sins. And for the sins of our group.

Let us not underestimate the spiritual battle that we are in! To borrow a theme from Ronald Reagan, "It's time to tear down the walls of isolation, arrogance, pride, and mistrust. Now is the time to build the walls of love, trust, and faith, and start pulling together as a team toward a common purpose. That starts with a good foundation. I view this conference as a coming together.

I will close by asking you all to con-

sider the words of Isaiah as we look to the future.

Isaiah 58:9-12

"Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' If you remove the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness, and if you give yourself to the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in the darkness and your gloom will become like midday. And the Lord will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.

Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will raise up the

age-old foundations; and you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the paths in which to dwell."

It's time to rebuild the wall. It starts with a good foundation: our mission statement. I ask you now to affirm the mission statement, and by doing so that you will support that mission statement with your prayers, time, and resources. ■

Robert E. Morrison, Jr.
Chairperson, Board of Directors,
Church of God Abrahamic Faith/
Atlanta Bible College
July 8, 2010

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ABC-COGGC, breaking down the balance of all funds that account for the assets and liabilities of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College. Pastor Scott Ross inquired about the actual nature of general and restricted funds; whether those funds existed in separate accounts or not. Gary explained that, upon recommendation from our auditors, general and restricted funds are now in separate checking accounts with separate ledgers. Board action is required to loan money from restricted funds to the general fund. Gary then presented the FY 2009-10 activity of the various restricted funds. Greg Demmitt inquired about the "Church Builder's Appeal" restricted funds and the nature of the "expense" line of that account. Gary explained that expenses from the Church Builder's Appeal fund are the disbursements for the previous year's appeals. Gary then presented the revised budget for FY 2010-11 and the proposed budget for FY 2011-12. He presented minor modifications to the budget that reflect changes in the budget due to concessions (totaling approximately \$12,000 per year) in the leasing agreement for the Avalon property that hosts the ABC South Campus and main office of the General Conference. Gary discussed increases in the expected tuition income for the next FY versus 2009-10 and the source of the "Transferred In" line of the income sheet. Gary promoted electronic delivery of the *Restitution Herald and Progress Journal* as a cost-saving measure and encouraged the delegates to consider electronic delivery of their own subscriptions and to encourage members of their churches to do the same. Dr. Joe Martin gave a personal summary of the budgets for FYs 2010-11 and 2011-12 and how the necessary budget restrictions impact the staff of the General Conference. Pastor Joe Myers discussed the General Contributions line of the income statement

and how the budgeted amount (\$338,000) is a significant increase over the previous FY. He also discussed the budgeted tuition line and how any drop in attendance at ABC will significantly impact the ability of the Board of Directors and Staff to finish the FY with a balanced budget. He pointed out that there two ways to balance a budget: reduce expenses and increase income. Chair Bob Morrison commented that staff of ABC is working hard to advertise the college and bring in new students. He added that the Board's promise "to be good stewards" does not mean that we will be cheap. Alan Cain remarked that accep-



Ministers meeting.

tance of this budget by the delegates implies that the delegates will support the conference to meet the proposed contribution income. Jesse Winner inquired about the plan for distance learning and if there was a timeline that the Board of Directors will use to implement a distance learning program. Dr. Joe Martin discussed the efforts that will develop a timeline for implementation of distance learning, likely using the "Moodle" open-source software as the platform for ABC's distance learning program.

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the election of a new Director to serve on the Board of Directors for a full four-year term to replace Bob See, whose term is expiring and who cannot be reelected.

Bob See nominated Keith Williams

for election to the Board of Directors.

Pastor Russ Magaw nominated Pastor Alan Cain for election to the Board of Directors on behalf of the Ministerial Association. The Korean Church Conference supported this nomination.

The Chair requested a motion to close nominations. Motion brought by Charles Bottolfs and seconded by Jim Hamilton. Motion passes unanimously. The Chair introduced and acknowledged the two nominees publicly and encouraged the delegates to speak with the nominees prior to the election on Friday afternoon.

CAO/President Report

Dr. Joe Martin reported on the operations of ABC and his work as the CAO of the General Conference and President of ABC. He discussed faculty plans for the coming year and the future. He pointed out that the key words of the mission statement are "to serve" and that the program of ABC is centered on service. Joe's "vision" for working with the college and conference is "to join God." He discussed the mission and values of ABC-COGGC and the updated employee handbook. Expected attendance at ABC for academic year 2010-11 is forecasted to include 17 "traditional" Church of God students.

The Chair acknowledged the staff of the Korean Extension for hosting visitors at the ABC North Campus and thanked the staff and their families for assistance throughout the year. Bob remarked that he was able to attend the opening of the North Campus and thoroughly enjoyed addressing the congregation there.

ABC Korean Extension

Sam An presented the report of ABC-KE. He thanked the delegates for supporting the Korean Extension. Spring attendance 102; 11 graduates: nine

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Bachelor of Theology and two Associate of Theology. Two graduates are serving as interns in the Korean Conference. Expected attendance is 98 (86 returning students and 12 new students) in Fall 2010. INS certification for the North Campus was submitted in January, and we are expecting full certification at any moment. Campus Bible Church holds services at the ABC North. ABC-KE receives constant inquiries about enrollment. Sam thanked the delegates for their prayers for his mother's health. He reported that KE staff recently traveled to Korea to visit churches and recruit new students.

LHI Report

David Krogh first reported that a COG pastor in Pakistan has been arrested on trumped-up charges. David led the delegates in prayer for this pastor. He described some of the ministry that is being done in Pakistan and the use of funds that are being sent by LHI. David also briefly reported on LHI's other mission areas in Haiti, Peru, and Tanzania. He reported on specific challenges in Haiti, where the church and orphanage supported by LHI have been damaged and are not usable.

Land Purchase and Leasing Options for the Future

David Krogh spoke briefly about the future of facilities usage for Atlanta Bible College. (David's notes are archived in the Secretary's records.) He outlined the advantages and disadvantages of leasing and owning property. On Friday, the Directors will ask for a non-binding vote from the delegates expressing their opinion on the nature of facilities for ABC. David described land purchase options near Cornerstone Bible Church that were considered when the Morrow campus was sold. David remarked that the Board requests feedback on the various options.

The minutes of the Thursday afternoon session were reviewed and corrected.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:40 pm. Pastor Richard Alcumbrack led the delegates in prayer.

The delegates session was opened with prayer by Pastor Scott Ross at 3:30 pm on Friday, July 9, 2010.

LHI Report, cont.

Rebekah Martin reported on the recent mission to Africa and photos from the mission were shown to the delegates. The team baptized one new believer, and many other baptisms were reported and the team provided about 300 Bibles. Rebekah reported that a particular need for future trips to Africa is the purchase of highlighters prior to travel. The LHI team is helping some in Africa start microbusinesses that will help them become self-sufficient. The team met with five men in Kenya. Anthony Buzzard complimented the team on its work in Africa.

MSN Report

Gary Burnham reported on the activities of the Ministry Services Network. He said that he has a real heart for serving the churches of our conference, and that the health of the organization ultimately is in the health of the local churches. Gary has made onsite visits to churches in a number of states in the past year, additional contacts via phone, and as many one-on-one visits with pastors as he is able at any COG events. He thanked the delegates for their support, thoughts, and prayers, and asked that the delegates tell him and the conference how to best impact the health of the local churches. Gary said that he is always open to invitations to visit churches, whether to simply visit, teach, or preach.

TPYM Report

Jon Cheatwood reported on the TPYM/National Youth program and the work of the Youth Advisory Council. He described the mission and goals of TPYM. He reported that FUEL ("KINETIC") is to be held July 18-23 at Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana and listed the speakers and their topics at FUEL and described a typical day at FUEL. Jon gave the dates of the 2011 events sponsored by TPYM.

IMM Report

Pastor Scott Ross described the Isolated Members Ministry and its development and short history. Scott was hired part-time to run the IMM. His primary goal with the IMM is to help people feel and be connected to other believers of our faith, whether they have a legacy connection to the COG, had attended a now-closed church, or had to relocate due to a job or education. Scott mentioned some events hosted by the IMM and some specific stories of individuals that have benefited from the IMM. He asked for the delegates and their churches to identify isolated believers and send their names to the IMM via Nola Jones so that they can benefit from its ministry.

The Chair asked Bob See to come forward and be acknowledged for his service on the Board of Directors. Dr. Joe Martin remarked on Bob's dedication to the Conference and presented him with a plaque to honor his four years on the Board of Directors.

David Krogh reported that the delegate count remains at 90.

The Chair reintroduced the nominees for election to the Board of Directors. Ballots were distributed to the delegates. In a single ballot, the delegates elected Pastor Alan Cain to a normal

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four-year term on the Board of Directors.

Reports given during the election:

COGCast Report

Jesse Winner described the cogcast ministry (www.cogcast.net) that broadcasts during each week, including Church of God music, teaching, and preaching. He commented that cogcast allows his church and the COG to be a big ministry that exceeds the size of the congregations. He described the audio ministry, including historical sermons, conferences, and musicians, and the more recent video ministry that is now broadcasting services from three churches throughout the US. Jesse encouraged the delegates to use the cogcast resources whether personally or in their churches.

eHerald Magazine

Pastor Kent Ross described the eHerald Magazine that is published online each month. Jesse Winner told the delegates how to access the eHerald Magazine (www.eherald.org) and subscribe to electronic delivery. Bob See asked about the copyrighting of the eHerald articles and Kent and Jesse said that articles are free of copyrighting and may be used by anyone.

Anthony Buzzard encouraged the delegates to view his "Jesus is still a Jew" video on Youtube.

Pastor Greg Demmitt complimented the authors of the Adult Quarterly and asked for additional volunteer authors. He mentioned that Vernis Wolfe will write the entire Summer Quarterly in 2011, which will be on the Psalms.

Pastor Richard Alcumbrack described the church camp in upstate New York hosted by the ministry run by Vince Finnegan that he and his wife were able to attend recently.

Consideration of the Budgets for FYs 2010-11 and 2011-12

The Chair asked for discussion on the revised budget for FY 2010-11 and the proposed budget for FY 2011-12.

Pastor Wally Winner moved to approve the revised FY 2010-11 budget as presented to the delegates in the delegate packet with modifications presented on Thursday. Second by Bob See. No further discussion followed. Motion passes unanimously.

Keith Williams made a motion to accept the FY 2011-12 budget as presented to the delegates in the delegate packet. Second by Karl Froelich. Mark DeYoung inquired about the furniture expense line and an increased salary line. Dr. Joe Martin answered that these expense lines are to support a new Distance Learning position and to pay for a possible kitchen construction project at the ABC North Campus. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business

The Chair reported that Dr. Joe Martin is now simply the CAO of the General Conference and President of ABC, without the "interim" title. He announced that the 2011 General Conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska at the Jaynes Street Church over July 6-8, 2011.

The Chair described discussions during the "Open Forums with the Board of Directors" on the topic of future purchases or leasing of land. He asked the delegates for a non-binding vote that will or will not encourage the directors to look into a land purchase in McDonough, Georgia near the Cornerstone Bible Church. He opened the floor for discussion. Kent Ross asked the Chair to clarify the directors' request. Carrie Briggs answered that this is simply the directors asking for an opinion from the delegates, as a delegate motion authorizing a land pur-

chase is not possible until the 2011 General Conference. The Chair described some of the opinion expressed by delegates during the open forum, especially the need for a dormitory to facilitate a beneficial student life at ABC. The Chair also reported that the Directors see the land adjacent to Cornerstone Bible Church as a potential investment that does not obligate ABC/COGGC to build on that land. Richard Alcumbrack asked about the end of our lease at the Avalon property and whether the Board planned to leave at the end of the lease term. Christy Ross clarified the Board's request, in that the directors ask for a simple yes or no as to whether the directors should look into purchasing the land adjacent to Cornerstone Bible Church. Joe James reminded the delegates and directors that a major motion is not necessary to purchase this land and that the directors may do such a purchase without delegate approval. The Chair said that this request is to empower the directors to act with input from the delegates. David Krogh said that the Morrow purchase was for \$30,000/acre in 1989-90, whereas the McDonough property may be available at \$40,000/acre at present. Carrie Briggs told the delegates that this potential property purchase became available only recently and that the directors have not yet come to an agreement to purchase this property; the directors only ask for direction from the delegates. In a hand vote, the delegates overwhelming encouraged the directors to investigate a purchase of the property near Cornerstone Bible Church using funds raised outside the approved budget. There were a few hand votes against the idea.

The Chair asked if there was any other new business.

Myra Hamilton spoke about the need for COG Sunday School material. She described an open forum at the recent

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Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

Visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction

James 1:27

Our loving God has always had a special concern for the fatherless and the widows. This is seen in the many verses in the Old and New Testaments where God tells His people to be concerned about them, and in the verse above:

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world” (KJ)

Notice Deuteronomy 10:18: “He executes justice for the orphan and widow.”

1 Timothy 5:3: “Honor widows who are widows indeed.”

God's blessing on Israel depended on how they treated the orphans and widows, according to Deuteronomy 14:29: Take care of “the Levite, because he has no portion among you, and the alien, the orphan and the widow who are in your town, shall come and eat and be satisfied, in order that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.”

There were many widows in Israel in Elijah's day, Jesus said (Luke 4:25), and God sent Elijah to one of them, to provide him with food. You've heard this story in Sunday school class, how God took care of Elijah during the famine, first by putting him by the brook in the wilderness with the birds bringing him bread and meat twice a day (1 Kings 17).

Then when the brook dried up, God told Elijah to go to this widow in Zarephath, that a widow there would take care of him. This he did, and another miracle occurred there, another story we were taught in Sunday school—how the oil and meal did not fail until rain came. But notice who God sent Elijah to take care of him—a widow.

Normally a widow couldn't help a person much, having little or no support. Yet God Himself provided for this widow so she could feed Elijah, God's

prophet. Elijah and the widow both learned a lesson from this, and it is recorded so we can learn this lesson also, that God takes care of His own. David wrote, “I have been young, and now I am old: yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his descendants begging bread” (Psa. 37:25).

Let's go back to our original verse, James 1:27.

James had just spoken how important it is to be a “doer” of the Word (God's Word). He mentions some people who think they are religious but don't watch their tongue, saying such religion is “worthless.”

Then James tells what real religion is, that is, “pure and undefiled religion.” He mentions two things: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep unspotted from the world. Here the apostle describes the religion that is true and genuine, sincere and solid, and pure and holy.

What is it?

It is a condition of the heart based on a perfect love for God and a perfect love for people in need. It is a sweet and loving spirit. It is a compassion on those who have lost their husband and fathers. And it is also a keeping clean from the evil ways of this world.

All this has its beginning in hearing and having faith in the gospel message of God's coming Kingdom and the name of Christ our Lord, repenting of our wrongs, being baptized into Christ to wash them away, and using the Holy Spirit for help in living the right way.

This will cause us to have this pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and our Father. Every church, every community has its widows and orphans. This is especially seen in the mission work in Malawi and Mozambique. The churches there are taking care of this need. They are loving, feeding, schooling, and housing these poor little kids without father and mother. We can help here, too. Seek out the widows. Help them. See they are taken care of.

This pleases God. ■

Jim Mattison

AFRICA UPDATE 2010



The team: Anthony Buzzard, Joe & Rebekah Martin and Michelle Griswold

We thank God and praise him for a wonderful trip to Africa again this year! Thank you all for your prayers and financial support. On even years we teach pastors, and on odd years we teach in many churches in the villages. This was the year to teach pastors.

Anthony Buzzard, Joe & Rebekah Martin and Michelle Griswold made up the team this year. We conducted several pastors' conferences in Malawi and Mozambique, digging deeper into the word of God to equip leaders to teach their congregations. Many topics were taught...the kingdom of God, baptism, oneness of God, believe God, etc. There was great participation in the question and answer period after each session.

Soon after arriving in Malawi, we purchased notebooks, pens and highlighters to give to each pastor that attended the conference. If their Bible was worn out, they received a new one; if they didn't have a Bible, then they got one. Highlighters are very expensive in Africa, so we would like to take them with us from the U.S. from now on. This need was made known at G.C., and a young lady has contacted us saying she would like to spearhead a campaign at her church to collect them! Praise God!

Ten of our churches in Malawi have formed groups to take care of orphans. We visited two of them this year. Jaynes Street Church of God in Omaha recently sent a package containing toothbrushes, toothpaste, notebooks, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, soap, shampoo, Kleenex, etc., which was very helpful and very much appreciated. Most of the churches have only a handful of toys for the entire group of orphans, and requested that if anyone has toys they are not using any more, please send them. If any group would like to send

items for the orphans, please contact Rebekah Martin (770-961-6746 (h)/ 770-317-5975 (c), rrebrn@yahoo.com).

We were also able to give out 220 Bibles (I mistakenly reported 300 at G.C.) with Zip-Lock bag covers (provided by Jim & Carol Ring) to protect them from the elements. What a blessing to be able to read God's Word and not just have it passed along by word of mouth! What a blessing to read it to others, also! Thank you for your generous giving to provide these. Bibles have increased in price from \$5 each to ~\$6.50 each.

Another praise...Anthony and Joe baptized Linda Limbe while we were there! She was so excited, and we were too! What a blessing that she learned Bible truths by translating! She does a lot to help us throughout the year, and also when we are in Malawi and Mozambique.

This year, Rebekah was invited to attend a ladies Bible study group. They were phenomenal! Many of these women had no education, so could not read. Our friend Linda has gone around to just



about all of our churches teaching many things in the women's groups...the alphabet, reading, writing, cleanliness and hygiene, and Bible studies. She encourages them and goes with them to help others in the villages.

One of the things they do is to help the elderly by getting water and taking it to them as well as cleaning their homes, doing their laundry (usually in a river), cooking for them, and anything else that might be needed to help out. The women's groups are thriving! These women are so proud of themselves for learning how to read and write, they could hardly wait to show me! Each one wrote something on a chalk board, and several read Bible verses. I wish you could have seen their faces!

Another thing we always try to do is to help a local doctor who treats all our church members and pastors

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free of charge. A blood pressure cuff was donated, along with several other medical items and Dr. Chimooyo was very thankful. One thing he requested (when we asked what he needed) is a small glucose monitoring machine with strips and lancets to go with it. If someone has these items and would like to donate them, please let me (Rebekah) know.

We distributed funds for three bicycles and one new church building for each country. There are always requests for new church buildings, and we provide



Women learning to read.

money for them as it comes in. Thank you again, for your financial support, as well as your prayers.

Just before Anthony and Michelle left, we took a day out of our busy

schedule to visit a game preserve. It was a much needed day of rest! We saw many elephants as well as crocodiles, hippos, impala, warthogs and many other animals and birds. Africa is a beautiful continent and

we saw God's handiwork in both the landscape and the warm hearts of the people.

Joe and Rebekah then went to Kenya, where we met with 5 men that we had contact with prior to the trip. We had a

great time with them, with almost constant Bible teachings from the time we got up until the time we went to bed. We all stayed at a rest house in Nairobi, where meals were included in the stay. These men traveled many hours by bus from the western part of Kenya to meet us. Two of them were quite knowledgeable about the Bible, and all were willing and eager to learn. They desire to affiliate with Church of God Abrahamic Faith, which we will consider in the future.

Thank you all again for your prayers and support. God bless you! ■

Rebekah Martin
July 2010



Anthony with an orphan.

Pakistan Update

The leaders of our work in Pakistan have been going door to door to find people who are willing to come to prayer meetings. During these contacts, people are sharing their problems with team members and if there is anyone sick in the house, they pray for them. Since most of these people are Muslim, for security reasons, no pictures are taken of them.

For those who attend the prayer meetings regularly, if they do not have a Bible, one is presented to them. Children who are interested receive New Testaments.

Many are studying the Bible in the prayer meetings and as a result some additional baptisms will take place soon.

Pastors there ask us to continue to pray for evangelistic outreach in Pakistan. Also, please pray for the current persecution going on. ■



◀ A New Testament is given to a child at church.



◀ Bibles being given out.

Korea Mission Trip Report

The mission trip to Korea was a very positive and spiritual experience. Four people attended the mission trip, Young and myself, with Yeongbeom Kim and Younghee An (both currently attending the ABC-KE). Young and I arrived safely to Atlanta on June 17th. Yeongbeom and Younghee will stay a bit longer to be with their families. Both students were away from their families for 3 years.

Four invitationals were held in four different cities, introducing the Korean Extension and the COGGC. Steve preached, and Yeongbeom and Younghee testified with the knowledge they gained studying at the Korean Extension.

The following are the locations of the invitationals:

1. Chungju Grace Church facility in the city of Chungju approximately 120 miles southeast of Seoul, the capital city of Korea, with pastor Dae Geun Song (former instructor for the ABC-KE). The church is very committed in providing ministerial positions for graduates from the KE.

2. Army Camp Church in the city of Yeonchun approximately 50 miles northeast of Seoul, the last city bordering North Korea. In Korea, a draft system still exists. All healthy male citizens must serve in the army for 2 years from the age of 20. Most of the young adults join the army after graduating high school or during their attendance in a college. We encouraged these young adults to attend the KE after being discharged.

During the invitational at the Army Camp, the chaplain (Kiyang Park) and I discussed how to provide ministerial opportunities for our KE graduates at the Army Church. He personally stated his eagerness to aid our graduates in recognition by the Korean military. He has also graciously invited us back so I may preach at the Army Camp at anytime!

3. The third invitational was held at the Pyongyang Bible College in Seoul. The school's instructors and students attended the event. They were very enthusi-

astic about studying the Bible-based faith. We were also treated to home-made Korean chicken soup!



Young and Steve An

4. Next was Beobsan Presbyterian Church, with pastor Kwang Suk Kim (the father of our active student, Yeongbeom Kim). It is in the city of Taean about 130 miles southeast of Seoul. This was a very important part of our trip, because Yeongbeom received his first opportunity to preach in his home church! It was a chance for him to preach the biblical truth he had learned at the KE. Pastor Kwang Suk Kim was very pleased and very proud of his son. He had expressed his appreciation for allowing his son to experience such a good education.

We also held several meetings with former KE graduates, aiding them to refuel their ministries in Korea. We also collected suggestions pertaining to future classes for future graduates. According to these suggestions, we will consider reinforcing the bilingual classes for our future graduates. After, we encouraged them to establish frequent alumni meetings so they may support each other when needed.

We also had the pleasure of meeting our distance learning based students: siblings, Haisnim and Mooyong Song. We met to answer questions regarding their academics and for spiritual counseling.

Dear brethren of our Church of God General Conference, please do not forget that the Korean mission has been successful by YOUR support, your prayer and the contributions.

God bless all of you! ■

In Christ,
Young & Steve



Steve An preaching at an Army chapel.



Yeongbeom Kim preaching at his home church in Taean.

Anniversary Celebration

Chapel Hill Church of God in Urbana, OH celebrated its 25th anniversary with special activities and services on May 1 and 2. The church was started by Pastor Fred Pensyl and a group of Church of God families who lived in or around Urbana. The group met in several rented facilities in and near Urbana for the first several years. In the spring of 1990, the church was granted Church Builders Appeal #64 which was used to construct an attractive building all on one floor several miles east of Urbana.



An open house was held on Saturday May 1. On Sunday, May 2, David Krogh represented Atlanta Bible College/ Church of God General Conference with remarks during the morning service. Pastor Bruce Reye delivered the morning message. After a delicious dinner, there was an afternoon service. Kent Ross, President of the Northeast Conference presented a plaque to the church in recognition of this milestone. Pastor Dave Hixon of the Brush Creek Church of God delivered the message.



We congratulate this congregation on its faithful ministry for a quarter of a century! ■



Left to right: Elder Don Wood, Pastor Bruce Reye, and Pastor Kent Ross



Pastor Dave Hixon and Pastor Bruce Reye

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Midwest Family Camp and efforts by Lynne Krogh and Rebecca Dauksas to write and revise new Sunday School material and a curriculum guide that teaches our faith. The goal is to provide these materials in a free format, particularly online, and she asked the directors to appoint a committee that will set up a plan to write new Sunday School material and find volunteers to write and assemble the lessons. Myra Montgomery reminded the delegates of the Kingdom Quest program that is already available.

The Chair announced changes to the evening schedule and the location of the meeting of the ABC Development Foundation.

The minutes were reviewed and numerous corrections

were made. Joe James moved to accept the minutes as read and corrected. Alan Cain seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Pastor Rex Cain asked the delegates to acknowledge the support provided by Cornerstone Bible Church. The delegates applauded the efforts of Cornerstone Bible Church.

The Delegates Meeting was closed with prayer by Charles Bottolfs.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm. ■

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel W. Siderius, Secretary

Christmas blessings arrived early at the Restitution Church of God in Eldorado, Illinois, during last year's holiday season. On Sunday, December 13, 2009, those blessings arrived in the form of eleven students and two parents from the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Indiana. The students, who were enrolled in three different sections of an "Introduction to Ethics" course taught by Dr. Brian J. Atra, began desiring to know more about the teachings of Jesus due to their ethics coursework. Dr. Atra, who also serves as the pastor of the Restitution Church of God, invited his students to attend the church to hear a sermon entitled "The Ethics of Jesus" to answer their questions about Jesus' teachings and his expectations for believers. Despite driving a fifty-mile one-way trip to visit the church, the students and parents left the service and fellowship meal with a desire to study more about Jesus and the beliefs of the Church of God. Their comments included:

"Since that is what Jesus taught, how come we never hear that in any church?"

"My fiancée and I wish there was a church like that where we live."

"We appreciate our daughter hearing a genuine Christian perspective."

"Is there anybody in Evansville who believes what you believe?"

The visitors' sincere desire to learn more about our faith has led the church leaders at the Restitution Church of God to begin investigating how to effectively establish and grow a Bible study in the Evansville, Indiana, region. In addition, the members voted to designate funds for such an outreach due to the generous contribution of \$2,000 to the church by the visiting students and parents. These funds will assist the new goals of the Restitution Church of God. We hope that our Christmas blessings may be paid forward in a way to bless others! ■

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CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

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.

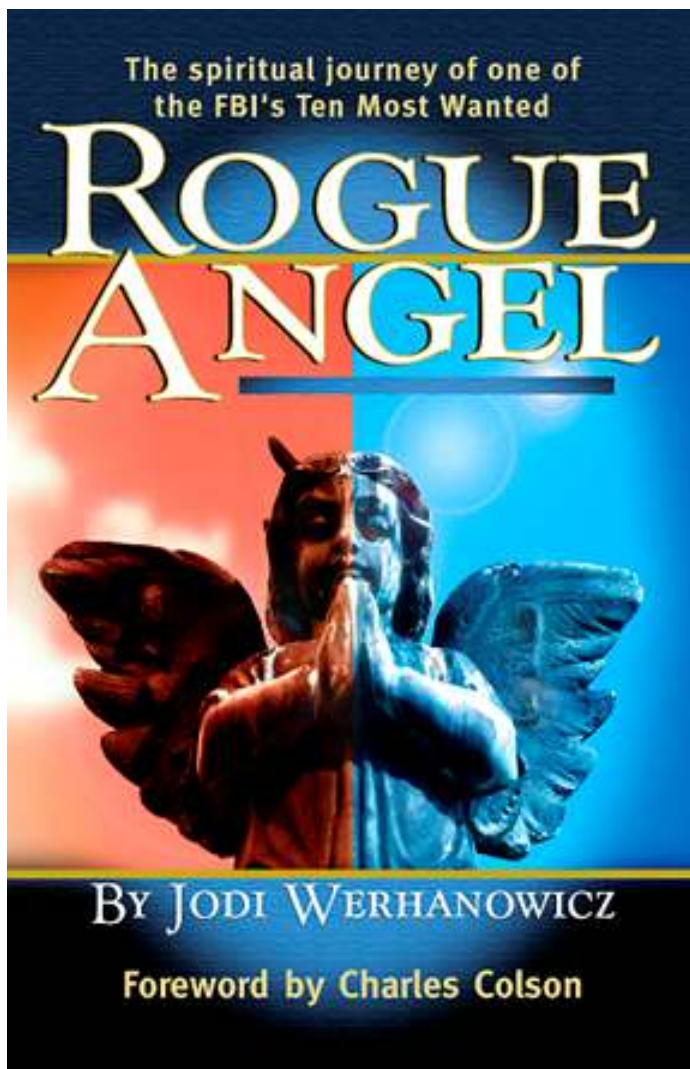


21st Century Reformation Online brings together some of the best in videos, audios and writings focused on the pursuit of original Christianity in our time. You will read, hear and watch Bible teachings, exhortations and interviews that will both comfort and challenge us as Christians.

This site is an online magazine edited by J. Dan Gill. There will be a new edition each month with its own set of feature presentations. 21st Century Reformation Online is particularly focused on four major subject areas that we believe should be of paramount concern to Christians today:

1. Seeking Truth is important in our walk as Christians.
2. Who is God? To truly know God, we must know who he is.
3. Who is Jesus? Who is the one who said: "I am the way, truth and life"?
4. How can we have Peace with God?

Please visit us at 21stCR.org today!



The True Story of Mary Kay Beard Founder of Angel Tree®



Anger and bitterness, especially toward a drunken and abusive father, propelled Mary Kay into a life of crime. By the time she was twenty-seven, she was on the FBI Ten Most Wanted list, with a mafia contract out on her and outstanding warrants for her arrest in four states. In 1972 she was captured, tried, and sentenced for armed robbery. In solitary confinement in an Alabama jail, while reading a Gideon Bible, Mary Kay experienced a profound spiritual transformation. This dramatic story is of a life redeemed from crime and one woman's journey to purpose and wholeness.

Written by Jodi Werhanowicz, daughter of Bill and Mardy Lawrence. Available from Atlanta Bible College for \$12/copy, plus shipping.

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown – Ashley Freeman, Terry Robinson and Avery McGinty (6/13/10); T. J. Johnston (6/27/10) by Pastor Tom New

Indiana

Hedrick Church of God – Brittany Sprague and Joseph Culbreath (6/6/10) by Pastor Joe Astolfi and Elder Frank Taylor

Deaths

Arkansas

McGintytown – Farrell Freeman (5/22/10). Service by Pastor Tom New and Larry Jefferies

Cleveland – Loren Woody Ring, 80 (4/25/10). Service by Pastor Lonnie Craig

Minnesota

Eden Valley – Del Moench (6/21/10)

Arkansas Camp

Over 110 attended, including over 80 campers. They came from Louisiana, Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, and Arkansas. Melissa New and Shawn Fletcher directed the camp. Jason Brown and Robert Goodrich led classes. Evening speakers were Pastor Tom New, Pastor Lonnie Craig, Pastor Greg Demmitt, and Pastor Jon Wincapaw. It was a great week! The theme was "Onward Christian Soldiers...an Army of One".

Speaker available

Lonnie Craig, currently serving as an associate pastor at the McGintytown Church of God in Greenbrier, AR, is available as a guest speaker for special events like revivals, rally days or special meetings that your church or conference may be planning. He has been serving at McGintytown under the mentorship of Pastor Tom New for over three years and has been speaking at all the Arkansas churches on a rotating basis. He

feels that the gift that our Lord has given to him (i.e. biblical preaching and speaking) should be made available to other churches and conferences. If anyone is interested in having Lonnie as a guest speaker for your event, whether for one Sunday or for a weekend-long series, please call him at 1-815-209-6305.

Organ available for free

In 1987 the Macomb (IL) Church of God purchased a Gem brand organ for \$8,000. The organ has not been used for some time. Other than minor adjustments needed on three pedals, the organ is in good working condition. The church would like to make it available to another church at no cost other than pick-up and transportation arrangements. Please contact Bob Campbell at 309.221.5446 or

robert_campbell_266@comcast.net

Systematic Bible Study Course Completions

The following individuals have successfully completed the Systematic Bible Study Course based on *Systematic Theology* written by Dr. Alva Huffer. They have been awarded certificates of completion.

Arlene Szekely, Streetsboro, OH; Scott Lynch, Navasota, TX; Alan Y. Miller, Montreal, Canada; Hans Haeuser, Waechtersbach, Germany; Helen Johnson, Greenbrier, AR; Dave Davison, Pasig City, Philippine Islands; Lloyd Michael Peyton, Front Royal, VA; Michael Webster, Navasota, TX; Dan Knowlton, Walker, IN and Sue Novak, Springfield, LA.

This course is available by paper through the mail (order from Church of God General Conference, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253 or 678-833-1939 or info@abc-coggc.org), or it can be completed on-line through the New Hope in Christ Church of God in Hutchinson, MN website: hutchinsoncog.com.

- 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 that God might be praised through your worship today.**
- 6 Pray for Pastor Dale and Cheryl Swartz and the congregation at Litchfield, Minnesota.
- 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.

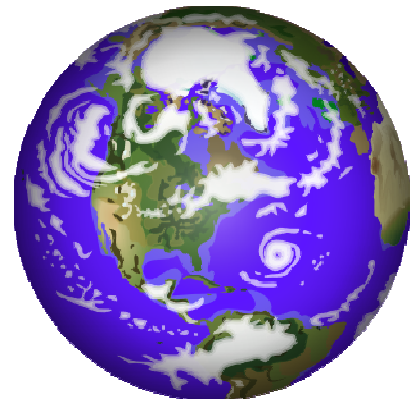
Be GREEN !!

Beginning with the next issue, you can receive the Restitution Herald/Progress Journal electronically!

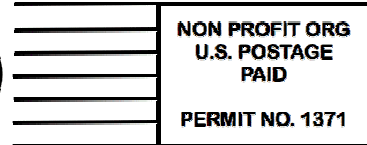
Several folks have already requested we stop sending them paper copies of the RH-PJ.

If you would like to receive a copy of the RH-PJ via e-mail, please let us know by e-mailing us at info@abc-coggc.org or by calling us @ 1-800-347-4261

You'll receive a PDF copy of the issue and a link to the page on which that issue resides on our website.



Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
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Prayer and Praise

October 2010

- 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 Pastor Brian Atra and 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 and Carrie Nelson and the Open Bible Church of God in Springfield, 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, IN.
- 11 **Pray for Joe Martin, College President/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 Pakistan churches affiliated with the Church of God General Conference.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and the Fort Valley, Virginia Church.
- 17 **Pray for the work that is being done in India to proclaim God's truth.**
- 18 Pray for 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.**