

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

Then



Now



The Restitution Herald

our

100th Year

Volume 100, Number 1



Then



Now



Then



Now

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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 21, 22, 2010
 Board of Directors Meeting
 McDonough, GA

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

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This issue of *The Restitution Herald* is Number 1 of **Volume 100!** During the next 12 months we will continue to celebrate the wonderful accomplishment of proclaiming God's message of truth and salvation for 100 years! *The Restitution Herald* was founded and was first edited by S. J. Lindsay of Oregon, Illinois. The first issue was published October 12, 1911. We praise God for his faithfulness in enabling this publication to carry on a valuable ministry that has impacted thousands and tens of thousands of readers for a century.

We are indebted to the editors, managing and contributing editors, writers, typesetters, pressmen, proofreaders, binders, and mailing clerks who have given unselfishly of their time and energy so that this publication could be produced. We also are grateful for our readers who have supported this effort with their subscription fees, generous contributions, and prayers.

When the Church of God General Conference was founded in 1921, one of the four purposes for which the Conference was established was:

“that publishing facilities be provided”

The founders of our General Conference had witnessed the impact of publications in spreading the distinctive Bible truths of the Church of God during the previous 100 years. They recognized the importance of literature in continuing to spread the

message of truth and salvation, as well as the need for publications to bind our members and churches together. So a high priority was placed on creating a publishing department with the proper equipment and staff to accomplish the job.

In 1921, delegates to the first General Conference by official action designated *The Restitution Herald* as “the official voice” of the Church of God General Conference. The *Herald* had been a tremendous help during the previous ten years in bringing scattered members together. The assets of the Restitution Publishing Company were turned over to the National Bible Institution as the result of a meeting of their Board of Directors on August 9, 1923 and then accepted by the National Bible Institution (the business name of the General Conference) at a meeting later that day. This included the building at 131 North Third Street in Oregon, IL and all the printing equipment. This building also provided a home for the Bible Training Class from 1923 to 1932 and later for Oregon Bible College when it started in 1939.

The original building on North Third Street had been purchased in 1921 with funds provided by Emily Harris of Rensselaer, Indiana. Prior to this, the *Herald* had been printed in a barn behind the home of S. J. Lindsay on North Sixth Street. The Third Street building later had an addition constructed on the north side of the building that tripled its size. Printing equipment occupied most of the main

floor with General Conference offices and Oregon Bible College classrooms, chapel, and offices on the second floor.

As you can see on the cover of this publication, printing has undergone a tremendous transformation over the years. Linographs and linotype machines have gone the way of the dinosaurs, replaced with ever more efficient Varitypers, “Itek 1200 Quadriteck” phototypesetter, and desktop and laptop word processing machines. (See article by Jeff Fletcher).

In this special issue of the *Restitution Herald*, we have selected a couple of articles from Volumes 1, 25, 50, and 75. Articles have been selected that emphasize the doctrinal distinctives of the Church of God. What a challenge to pick only a few articles out of a treasure trove of articles! A few articles of historical significance have also been included along with articles by Chief Administrative Officer of the Church of God General Conference and President of Atlanta Bible College, Dr. Joe Martin, and Board of Directors Chairman, Bob Morrison. We trust that you will enjoy this historic issue! ■

David Krogh
(Interim Editor 1978-79)

The name, "The Restitution Publishing Company" was chosen as early as December, 1910, and a thousand dollars was subscribed before the end of that month for the purchase of machinery suitable to do a general printing business.

After the work had progressed sufficiently to make it certain that the task would be accomplished, a suitable place for a location was sought. It seemed to be consensus of opinion that Oregon, Illinois would be the best suited for such an enterprise. Accordingly, a license to organize was applied for to the Secretary of State of Illinois and was received bearing the date of June 1, 1911. The laws of Illinois are very strict with regard to the organization of corporate companies. Before we could organize, we were obliged to sell all stock for which we were to be capitalized. This done, there still remained a great deal of "red tape" to overcome. Now that the work is done, we are a company of brethren composed of about ninety persons covering the states of Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and Ontario, Canada. At the election held for organization, the following Board of Directors was elected:

Peter Jeffrey, E. F. Gesin, John E. Cross, Ezra C. Railsback and S. J. Lindsay. Upon the organization of this Board of Directors, Ezra C. Railsback was chosen President and S. J. Lindsay

was chosen Secretary and Treasurer. Upon further deliberation, S. J. Lindsay was chosen to act as Editor and Manager of the *Restitution Herald* with instructions from said Board to go ahead with the business of purchasing machinery and employing help to get the work started at the earliest possible date.

It is the purpose of the management to give the brethren a good, clean, religious paper filled with the best that can be

"It is the purpose of the management to give the brethren a good, clean, religious paper filled with the best that can be had on the fundamental principles of our faith."

had on the fundamental principles of our faith. There is room within our body for just such a paper, and on the outside the world is crying for the truth. There are thousands of religious people the world over today that are groping in the dark, and we should be sending some good literature to them to open their eyes to the truth instead of filling up the pages with material that, at best, can edify but little those who read it. With an array of contributors such as we have already promised us, we may expect some good things. Brother and Sister Woodward and Brother Blakely of Michigan; Brother F. L. Austin of Ontario; Brother L. E. Connor of Cleveland; Brothers Jeffrey, Marsh, Cooper and Hightower of Illinois; and Brother Lucas of

South Dakota, as well as many others have promised to give us of their best thought along these lines. All we ask is that you give us your support to make this the best paper we ever had. The editor and manager is devoting his entire time to the success of this work without any certainty as to salary. What will you do? Remember that we have a complete line of machinery for doing a general printing business. We expect to do tract work, job work, etc. More complete notices will appear from time to time. This office is located in Oregon, Illinois. In addressing us, it will be well to use the name of the manager, rather than the company name as a matter of convenience. In sending money, it will be best to send it by postal order or bank draft. Never send money loose through the mails.

The machinery is all bought and paid for and we have money in the treasury. Our capital stock of \$2,500 is all subscribed and nearly all paid in. We start with a nice subscription list and hope to enlarge it materially soon. Miss Ida Ordnung, of Burlington Junction, Missouri, has been selected to help in the work of the office. Call on us and see where we work as occasion offers. ■

S. J. Lindsay
Editor and Manager
October 12, 1911
Volume 1, Number 1

Christ's return with his reward to the faithful is without doubt the greatest thought in the life of a Christian. But as we go along through life's battles, what I consider of the greatest interest to me in this life, and what reminds me more often than anything else that our Savior is to return, is to watch the signs of the times.

As I read articles in newspapers of the world's daily routine with the daily inventions, etc., and especially the preparations for warfare, I feel so sure that Christ's return cannot be far off. It does not look possible that it could be but a few years more, probably during this century. The Jews are so rapidly returning to Jerusalem, the perfection of travel on earth is surely almost completed, and next comes the machinery for carrying on warfare in the air which is now being perfected at a rapid rate. At the rate the improvements and inventions are going on, I might safely say a few months or possibly years until that is completed. The world is to grow worse and worse until Christ's return. How can it be much worse unless it is during the last great battle? We are almost where Sodom and Gomorrah were at the time of their destruction, especially among what is termed the higher class of society. Also, politically, a great percent of our law-making bodies are rotten and degraded – can be bought and sold. We are fast coming to the time spoken of in Revelation 13 where the mark of the beast holds sway. Within

the last few years, we see the beast crawling into politics and the labor question. It is now beginning to be necessary to have the mark of the beast to hold a position or to buy or sell. A man must belong to the union, or the lodge, or to the society, or the church to get a job. They are all gradually working toward the mark of the beast. Some day now, right soon, we must stand up for Christ probably to be killed as the Revelator says or to wear the mark of the beast. Perilous times are coming. The union of the Protestant churches is being talked of, which many people think means great good, but it is where the faithful are to be tested. That union of churches, if formed, will surely lead us astray if we join them. They are to lead to one point – the beast.

Some day soon we are going to be asked the question that was asked of Peter (when he denied Jesus), but it will be too near the end to take chances on denying Him. Peter had a chance to be forgiven, but we may not have another chance as times draws to a close. In Peter's time the gospel was just being spread; in fact, just started, and Jesus was ready to excuse Peter, but now after all these years, the message has been carried to the corners of the world, and there will be no excuse, especially if we delay too long.

The day is far spent. Twilight is coming on. According to the signs of the times, we are traveling along the road where there are by-roads which branch off and easily lead us astray. The

by-roads of popular, modern doctrines lead us out into marshy land where we mire. It is easy to get into the mire but hard to get out. The Church of God is going to have perilous times to keep the straight road against modern theology. Times are to get worse and worse, and we will need all the strength possible to overcome. May we stay close together in the faith. Jesus will soon be here and settle all our troubles and shortcomings. ■

Frank H. Hemphill, MD
Rensselaer, IN
October 12, 1911
Volume 1, Number 1

**“Times are to
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“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” – Genesis 2:7

It will be seen from the above verse that man has two parts: (1) dust, and (2) breath, and the unity of these two make the living man.

Suppose we take up the study of these two parts separately. Genesis 2:7 says man was formed of the dust of the ground. It doesn't say man was incomplete in any way, so the natural conclusion is that man was formed in every way complete just as a new automobile, motor, or any other machine is complete after the manufacture; but man was at this stage, an inanimate object, the motive power not having been applied as yet.

The author of Genesis is not alone in his declaration of the material from which man was constructed. Isaiah 64:8 reads, “But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand,” and again in Job 10:9 – “Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again?” Job here asks a question, wonders, perhaps, if there is something better for him or if he will be required to return to the dust from which he was made. Apparently all doubt as to his destination has been removed, for we find in Job 34:15 he writes, “All

flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.”

David writes in Psalm 103:14: “For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust,” and goes on to compare man to flowers that go and are known no more. Again, in Psalm 104:29, David refers to the returning of man to the elements from which he was constructed. He writes, “Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.”

Let us turn to Ecclesiastes, to the writings of the wise man. He writes in 3:20, “All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.” It is interesting to note here that his use of the word “all” refers to the preceding verse, and links man and beast together, made of the same material and going to the same place. Again in Ecclesiastes 12:7: “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” This all substantiates the story of the creation in Genesis. “And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air,” etc. Man's origin is no better than that of the beasts and birds, for all were created from the ground, and all return to their natural elements at death. Even the grand old patriarch, Abraham, recognized this fact and confessed that he was “but dust and ashes.”

It all points out that man is a mortal being and returns to dust. The automobile is the result of a

living mind and living hands, but that it was made by living hands does not make it a living machine. Man was the product of immortal hands, but that does not make man immortal.

“And breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.” It would appear then that since the breath of life makes man a living soul, man was a dead soul before receiving this breath of life. If this is the case, then in this instance at least it would appear that the words “man” and “soul” are synonymous in their use.

Let's look into “breath” just a little further. David says (Psalm 146:4), “His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” This is rather enlightening. We already found he became a living man or soul upon receiving the breath of life. Now we find that with the removal of this breath of life, man reverts to his former state. Nothing about immortality here. Man returns to dust, and his thoughts perish.

Genesis 3:17-19: “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

These three verses contain the sentence imposed on Adam by God for his disobedience and through Adam on all mankind. Notice the three words “thou,” “thy,” and “thee.” They do not refer to any part of the man, Adam, but to the complete man – man in his entirety – the man after he has received the breath of life. Nothing is said of part of him going back to the dust, but the entire man. It doesn’t say that his soul will go directly to heaven to be with God.

Here is an enlightening fact. My little abridged Webster’s Dictionary says the soul is the immortal part of man, the mind. I wonder how well the Bible and Webster agree? Webster says the soul is the mind, or that the mind is the immortal part of man. David says (Psalm 6:5), “For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?” And again the verse previously quoted above, “In that very day his thoughts perish.” Somebody must be wrong. Webster says the mind is immortal, while David says in death there is no remembrance, and that our thoughts perish.

“For the grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth” (Isaiah 38:18). “The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence” (Psalm 115:17).

It would seem that if the mind were immortal and went to God at death, there would be continuous praise, but the psalmist says the dead praise not the Lord. Surely if Webster is correct, the multitudes that have passed away have shown poor sense of gratitude in their keeping silent and not giving God praise due Him.

Job says (14:12), “So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.” Shall not awake until the heavens be no more. Again it would seem that Webster failed to read his Bible. Job goes on to ask, “If a man die, shall he live again?” then answers his own question by saying that all the days of his appointed time he would wait until his change comes. Then, and only then, will God call and he shall answer. And again, Job 14:21, “His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.” Doesn’t sound much as if the conscious part of man went to heaven or he would know what was going on here on earth, surely.

Even the wise man does not give us any hope of heaven at death. He says, “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.... Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do,

do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest” (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6,10). He is most emphatic about consciousness ending at death.

These passages would seem to conclusively prove that man in his entity is a conscious mortal being with no immortal soul after death. In fact, they would prove that no part of man retains consciousness after death, and this render the dictionary’s explanation an error. It would seem that the compilers, like many others, interpreted the word as they wanted it to be and not as it should be.

Genesis 3:22-24: “And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live for ever: therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.” Doesn’t this account tell in no uncertain terms that man is a mortal being, since he didn’t eat of the tree of life and thus assure himself everlasting life?

To sum it up, man was fashioned, assembled, created, complete but inanimate, from the dust of the earth. To this clay was added a motive power – the

(Continued on page 30)

The Importance of *The Restitution Herald* In the Development of the Church of God

by Jan Stilson

The birth of *The Restitution Herald* on October 12, 1911, set a trend in the Church of God which saved the denomination from collapse, and set it on a path of growth and development in keeping with our forefathers' desires to teach Bible truth. To explain, the new religious paper was the product of the defeat at the 1910 Waterloo Conference to organize a national work, and the dispute between the newly formed Ministerial Association, fall 1910, with the owner of the esteemed, but aging, *Restitution*, Plymouth, Indiana. Turmoil was the word of the day in 1910.

The Ministerial Association took leadership to appoint a publishing company comprising some of the men who supported the new organization and the new paper. These officers included Ezra Railsback, President, Indiana; S. J. Lindsay, Secretary-Treasurer, Oregon, Illinois; and Peter Jeffrey, John E. Cross, and E. F. Gesin, all of Illinois, as directors. They appointed S. J. Lindsay as editor and manager to begin publishing a new paper, *The Restitution Herald*. Subscription costs were \$1.50 per annum, payable in advance.

This paper would reflect biblical truth, would avoid tangents, would not be a gossip sheet, but would report news of members, churches, conferences and evangelists. It would be published 50 weeks a year. It would be used for evangelism purposes. It would have a page for Bereans for which they would furnish copy, and it would also include

a page for children with a children's editor. It would be a paper that members could be proud to pass along to other readers, because it would not be argumentative or radical in its approach.

Editor S. J. Lindsay was an educator at the time of the start-up. He was Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Ogle County, the pastor of the Oregon Church of God, and a member of the print staff of the local newspaper. He was well qualified to understand the heart and mission

“This paper would reflect biblical truth, would avoid tangents, would not be a gossip sheet, but would report news of members, churches, conferences and evangelists.”

of the Church of God. He had helped to begin the Oregon church, and he went on from there immediately to begin organizing summer Bible schools for young adults in Oregon. This became the first attempt to educate teachers and ministers in the Church of God. From it came the youth camp movement, the Bible Training Class, and the Bible colleges we have supported the past one hundred years.

The student body of these summer “camps,” for which a dormitory was built behind the

church, provided some of the copy for the new *Restitution Herald* and preachers for empty pulpits. One ministry supported another. Through its pages the *Herald* notified members in the field of student preaching assignments, upcoming conferences, special meetings and news. Doctrine was present in every issue and was well-presented by the best writers in the Church of God.

The first issue was eight pages in length, 10” by 15” in size, and included articles by notable laymen and pastors. Peter Jeffrey of Murphysboro, Illinois wrote “Not Far from the Kingdom,” and from just up the road, Rolla Hightower of Golden, Illinois wrote “The Gospel.” B. W. Woodward of Michigan wrote “Fight the Good Fight.”

Samuel J. Lindsay continued as editor until after the successful formation of the Church of God General Conference at Waterloo, Iowa in 1921. When F. L. Austin was hired as Executive Secretary, he also became the editor. At that time the stock and equipment was turned over to the National Bible Institute, the business arm of the General Conference.

After F. L. Austin retired, G. E. Marsh became editor. He continued serving a steady diet of doctrinal, educational and informative articles. Many members and pastors contributed to the pages of the *Herald*. Marsh began to emphasize Church of God history. He wrote a series which began with first century

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

church history and ended with the present-day Church of God. Readers loved it! It opened up a new area of exploration and awakened people to how the doctrines of the Church of God fit into church history, and how the Church of God began in America. It also offered ideas of where it needed to go in the 20th century.

One direction it moved was to missions. First, home missions were emphasized. Members were encouraged to strengthen their local works and begin new ones. As ministers were being trained in Oregon, they were snapped up by congregations hungry for regular preaching services. Second, foreign missions began to be emphasized, first in India and later in other countries. Editor Sydney E. Magaw was influential in promoting missions, especially after the formation of Israel as a nation in 1948. He also continued to emphasize Church of God history.

Other editors who have contributed significantly to the stabilization of the Church of God through the ministry of *The Restitution Herald* have included James Watkins, who traveled to Israel in 1951; Harold Doan, the designer of the Decade of Development (1954-1964) who was succeeded by Stanley Ross, the foreign missions editor who traveled around the world, making contacts and baptizing members. We cannot forget Terry Ferrell, editor, pastor and historian of the Church of God; Clyde Randall, author of *Historical Waymarks of the Church of God*, pastor and editor of the

Herald; J. R. LeCrone, pastor and editor; David Krogh, interim editor; Hollis Partlowe, pastor, prophecy student and editor; Russell Magaw, pastor and editor; and Jeff Fletcher, pastor, who headed the work after the move to Atlanta, all of whom served in editorial capacity from the 1960s – 2000s.

It was under Russell Magaw's editorship that the now well-known "75th Anniversary Issue" was published (1985) with Bible content, design and grace. It may be the only edition of *The Restitution Herald* to have a center fold-out! Pastor Gordon Landry, an artist at design and page layout, designed the center fold. He worked many years in the print shop, preparing copy for the press. Copies of the Anniversary issue are still available through the General Conference office.

Through many volumes, print shop staff worked tirelessly running the linotype and the press, and later, computers, year after year. Many worked faithfully in the publishing department including Val Mattison, Paul Johnson, Robert Johnson, Rachel Krogh Carr, Marlyn Holquist Fyfe, Jean Doan, Helen Burnett Jones, Daniel Smead, Michelle Turner, and Mary Krogh, who volunteered many years as a proofreader. We especially think of student Bob Pike, who couldn't remember how to tie a square knot to bundle packages for mailing, so the staff prayed for him.

Through the years, *The Restitution Herald* has truly been the "Voice of the Church of God." It culminates a long line of

Kingdom of God publications beginning in 1844 with Editor Joseph Marsh and his beloved *Voice of Truth*. *The Restitution Herald* has reported our interest, and it has directed our ministries. It has taught us current trends in Christian education, missions, youth work, person-to-person evangelism, and much more. It has been a leader in unifying the work and reflecting the will of the Lord through the work of the members. It has made us laugh. It has made us weep at the shocking deaths of beloved church members. It has inspired us to witness throughout our communities and throughout the world. It has always taught the truth.

In the last decade, technological changes to *The Restitution Herald* have been noticed by readers as editors have positioned the paper to enter the electronic internet age. But the message has not changed. It remains dedicated to preaching the whole truth of the Bible, especially the story of the second coming of Jesus to establish the kingdom of God on earth, a message unique to the Church of God since the days of Joseph Marsh.

May the Lord bless the ministry of the Church of God General Conference through the publication of *The Restitution Herald* until He comes is the prayer of all its readers. ■

Jan Stilson
Church of God Historian

It seems to be the prevailing opinion of the ministers present at our recent General Conference that, as a church, we need a broader vision of our duty in spreading the good news of the gospel of the kingdom of God. If the truth commonly taught among us is so precious to us, it will be just as precious to new believers. How can they believe unless they hear, and how can they hear without a preacher?

In the words of F. A. Stilson of South Bend, Indiana, “we need to catch the spirit of evangelism. We need to get away from our selfish viewpoint. Our aim, generally, is that of a person who sits down to his own well-filled table, forgetting his hungry neighbor.

“We want to feed on the gospel ourselves,” he continues, “but are unwilling to share it with the countless others who are just as precious in God’s sight as we.”

In perfect agreement with this is the following: “It seems to me that the outstanding need of our church today is evangelism in new places. There are many who have never heard the glorious gospel of the kingdom. The Master said, ‘The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.’” – Harry Goekler, pastor of Salem Church, Marshall, Illinois.

Another of the younger of our ministers, Gerald L. Cooper of Mora, Minnesota, tells us that he has been occupied during the past eight or nine

“We want to feed on the gospel ourselves,” he continues, “but are unwilling to share it with the countless others who are just as precious in God’s sight as we.”

months evangelizing in communities where God’s Word was seldom heard and where our teachings were almost unknown.

“I feel,” Bro. Cooper says, “that the spirit of evangelism that pervades our group is as it should be. I pray that this spirit may be manifested even more during the coming year.”

A solution for the method of answering this great need is offered by another of our ministers in this way: “Many things are in this day desirable. Some things are actually needful. As we consider the work of our Lord and Master, we are compelled to recognize our great need of *faith, a living faith!*

“As a farmer sows in the spring of the year, he expresses his faith in favorable conditions resulting in the production of a good crop. Were all farmers to wait until some unknown power guaranteed results, the nations would starve to death in the waiting.

“Consider them friends: Were the present-day world entirely dependent upon the efforts put forth by the Church of God in promulgation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the resulting spiritual starvation in the midst of plenty would be appalling.

“Jesus said, ‘Go ye into all the world.’

“Faith is needed! Faith is demanded!

“Let us, for the moment, place ourselves in the shoes of the priests of Israel as they came before the raging River Jordan to enter the Promised Land. We have the command of our Lord to ‘go,’ but before us roar (almost overcoming the ‘still small voice’) the wild, onrushing torrents of financial difficulty, doubt, and otherwise vision-dimming objections.

“Have we faith, as the priests of Israel, to take the step that will lead us on to victory, or will we pass our time day by day waiting for the way to open? Israel might have stood on the brink to this day but for the exercise of their faith.

(Continued on page 11)

Church of God, Awake! *continued...*

(Continued from page 10)

“Wanted! Faith that will prompt and compel us to step forward that God may open the way to greater channels of service.

“It is almost needed to say that, as God is now taking out a people for His name, He requires of His people an abiding, active faith. But it seems necessary to urge and to plead that we of little faith may increase the activity of our faith and determinedly step forward, seeking ‘those things which are above.’” — John L. Denchfield, evangelist-at-large.

However, C. E. Randall of Fonthill, Ontario, and Niagara Falls, New York, does not put all the burden of evangelism upon the shoulders of the ministers. He believes that “the Church of God needs a forward-looking vision directed by a deeply consecrated, fully-trained, well-organized ministry, whose aims and labors are upheld and supported by a dedicated laity as unto the Lord and not unto man.”

Put into terse, impelling words such as these, can we do less than our duty in holding up the hands of our leaders? L. E. Connor, pastor of the Rockford and Dixon, Illinois, churches, puts it squarely up to us thus:

“The great need of the church is more consecration. And this includes consecration of both heart and purse. The one without the other is of no avail.”

E. O. Stewart of Sweetwater, Texas, further elucidates the means by which this is accomplished. He contends that our ministers need to teach more spirituality. The manner of our present-day living has been sadly neglected, he feels. And, in his opinion, the first step toward that end is to start the system of tithing. Bro. Stewart believes that tithing leads to spirituality, working on the principle, we presume, that one is thoroughly interested in something in which he has his money invested.

If every member of the Church of God were a tither, there would be no question as to whether we have the means to evangelize. Would there?

F. E. Siple of South Lawn Park Church at Grand Rapids, Michigan, is convinced that the first requisite for the solution to our problems is faith.

“Several definite undertakings are before us as a church. A program of evangelism, a training school for ministers, a lifting of our national debt are some of the opportunities which open up before us,” he says. “If we have the faith necessary to go forward and the humility that is needful to ask God to direct us, our most difficult problems will be solved.”

In quite another vein run the thoughts of J. A. Patrick of Ashland, Ohio, and C. A. Smead of Blanchard, Michigan. The former declares, “A closer coordination is needed between the local churches and the General Conference. The several church bodies should be willing to be amenable to the national body.”

The latter says we need “less democracy and more theocracy. The pew speaks too much to the pulpit. The ones best qualified for leadership are those who are spiritually minded. Since we are of different degrees of spirituality, we should follow the lead of those who are the most spiritual.

“The evils of too much democracy are a falling away from the distinctive message of our people, a desire to conciliate with error, a putting of the ideals of man before the ideals of God, a lack of trust in God. The remedy is to listen to men who are filled with the Word of God.”

To say the least, there is food for much thought in the foregoing words.

F. L. Austin, Pennellwood Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan sums up our needs in one concise word: FAITH. ■

Mary A. Gesin
Associate Editor, 1930-1932
September 8, 1936
Volume 25, Number 50

The words of Jesus, “The gospel must first be published among all the nations” (Mark 13:10), have always been taken seriously by the Church of God. From the beginning of the history of the Church of God in North America, the publishing of the gospel in magazines, tracts, books, and hymnals has been an important part of its ministry. Looking back on the recorded history of the Church of God as we know it on this continent, the preaching of the gospel has always been closely associated with the printing of the gospel. The progress of the church through the years has been reflected in the strength or weakness of the publishing ministry. When the church was strong, literature poured forth to enlighten the lost. When it has been weak, its printed voice has been faint.

There have been regular publications of the Church of God since at least as early as the 1840’s, when *The Voice of Truth and Glad Tidings of the Kingdom* was being published from Rochester, New York, by Joseph Marsh. The paper later became the *Millennial Harbinger*, under Joseph Marsh and later under Thomas Newman. It was later merged with the *Gospel Banner*, and was called *The Prophetic Watchman*, with H. V. Reed as editor, published in Harvard, Illinois. It was merged with *The Herald of the Coming Kingdom*, published by the Wilson family in Chicago, with George Moyer and Thomas Wilson as editors. This paper became *The Restitution*, published at Chicago, Plymouth, Indiana, and finally dissolved at Cleveland, Ohio, in the 1920’s.

Among other early Church of God papers were *The Harbinger and Advocate*, *The Evangelist*, *The Day Dawn*, *The Present Truth*, *The Last Days*, and *The Gospel Banner and Millennial Advocate*. All of these papers were instrumental in helping arrive at more perfect understanding of Bible truth and proclaiming that truth to a newly developing continent.

The Restitution Herald, now beginning its fiftieth year of publication, is heir to this rich heritage of publishing fervor. In the first Church of God General Conference meetings in 1888 and 1889, one of the ideals of the delegates was to unite the various small papers being published within the Church of God into a single paper. It was hoped that quality could be improved, unity developed, and circulation increased by such a united effort. Minutes of the Executive Board of that General Conference (now in our possession, thanks to the generous gift of Pastor T. M. Ferrell), reveal that a decision was made to try to purchase the papers and unite them. The plan failed because of insufficient funds.

The Restitution Herald was founded by the late Pastor S. J. Lindsay, Oregon, Illinois, in 1911. It was organized as a private company in which stock was sold, and which was administered by a board of directors. “The Restitution Publishing Company” was the corporate name and *The Restitution Herald* was its publication. S. J. Lindsay was manager and editor.

In 1922, The Restitution Publishing Company transferred its assets

to the Church of God General Conference, which then became, and still is, the publisher of *The Restitution Herald*. Since this time, it has been the official, evangelistic printed voice of the Church of God.

A review of the fifty years of publishing shows an amazing adherence to the Bible truths that were proclaimed in all Church of God papers since the days of the *Voice of Truth*. While the size of *The Herald* has changed, and the mailing dates have changed, the message is the same. Those truths which were again brought to light in the reformation of the nineteenth century, after having been hidden in darkness and tradition for many centuries, have been made even more clear, and further light shed upon them by the years of examination and study through the pages of *The Restitution Herald*.

Reviewing the fifty years of its publication, we find that *The Restitution Herald* is now more conscious of social problems; it places greater emphasis upon holiness of life; it depends more upon Church of God ministers for its messages; it avoids controversial matters on nonessential subjects. At the same time, it is no less forward in its presentation of essential truths, in its emphasis on prophetic Scripture, not in its pointing out of error in doctrine and morals.

Through the years, *The Restitution Herald* has been used by the Lord to bring individuals into contact with Bible truth. In its editorial files are numerous letters which arrive regularly and frequently,

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

stating that the writer has come upon a copy of *The Herald* and desires to know more about the truths it teaches. At this moment, we have at hand a letter from India, from a man who recently found an October, 1958, issue of *The Restitution Herald* and is interested in more information about the teachings it advocates. While no one knows all the factors that work together to bring a person to conversion, it is certain that *The Restitution Herald* has often been an influence in leading people to Christ and in helping them to remain strong in faith, growing in grace and knowledge of the Lord.

The mail often brings encouragement from isolated brethren also, whose only regular contact with the ministry of the Church of God is through the pages of *The Herald*. Some of the fellowship enjoyed by those of a local church family is gleaned through *The Herald* by those who live far from others of "like precious faith."

While honor is due the officials who have managed and edited the issues of *The Herald* which have been faithfully mailed for fifty years, it is the subscribers who have really made this effort possible. Since *The Restitution Herald* has never carried paid advertising, its total income has been from subscriptions and gifts of faithful readers. Without these subscriptions and gifts, the fiftieth year of publication could not have been reached, nor could we go forward, faithfully proclaiming truth till the coming of the Lord. The printing equipment which was purchased for the printing of *The Restitution Herald*, by its very presence and

demand for use, became the incentive for the publishing of tracts, booklets, Sunday school quarterlies, Berean Bible study books, and now other magazines such as the *Challenge* and the *Progress Journal*. *He Restitution Herald* became the forerunner of a host of other publications which have added their strength to the evangelism of the Church of God.

The Restitution Herald has been a tool of the Lord to bring unity of thought and action to the Church of God in North America. Through the discussions in its pages and the forum which it has presented for explanation of Bible truth, brethren scattered over the nation have come to a unity of the faith and spirit. Other factors, such as conferences and ministers' meetings, have also been instrumental in this unifying experience, of course, but the force of the printed word has been of great importance in the development of the Church of God on this continent, and it now carries the truths "commonly believed among us."

As we look to the future of *The Restitution Herald*, several goals and ideals come to mind.

- We will endeavor, along with the strength of the Lord, to continue to print those truths which are commonly believed within the Church of God that the faithful might be strengthened and the non-believer won to the Lord.
- We will endeavor to present in the pages of *The Restitution Herald* the very best thinking and writing that is available within the Church of God, and from sources that will cast new light upon truth or lead to

better understanding of the Word of God and the times in which we live.

- It will be our purpose to print those things which will edify, and uplift, and bring the reader to a better knowledge of the Lord and the will of God.
- We will endeavor to make technical improvements in the printing of *The Restitution Herald* to keep readable, attractive to the eye, and interesting to the reader, that God might be magnified with the best that can be produced.
- We will continue to strive to secure new readers for *The Restitution Herald* that as many as possible might benefit from the messages of truth that it contains.

We praise the Lord for the years of witness afforded *The Restitution Herald*, and pray with you that the Lord will keep its voice strong, its message inspiring, and its words true to God's Word, until our Saviour returns to establish the Kingdom of God. ■

Harold J. Doan, Editor,
1955-1968
50th year, October 15, 1960
Volume 50, Number 1

“

Allah is angry, repent!” was the cry from the mosque loudspeakers during the latter weeks of August after weeks of torrential monsoon downpours. On September 5, the CNN cover story was “Washed Away,” with Dr. Sanjay Gupta, the Emmy award-winning Chief Medical Correspondent for CNN. He was reviewing the tremendous tragedy that struck Pakistan. He speaks Urdu, which is one of the two official languages of Pakistan, English being the other. Water was everywhere. Twenty million people were displaced, and 1600 dead!

On July 19, six weeks earlier, when pastors Rashid and Sajid Emmanuel were murdered, the cry from the mosque loudspeakers then was “Kill the blasphemers!” Notice that on July 19, they were killed and two days later, July 21, the monsoons started and brought the “greatest natural disaster in modern Pakistan.” Our Atlanta Bible College Pakistani graduate, reported hearing directly from a close family member in Faisalabad those calls from the mosques. He says many moderate Muslims know that the “repentance” should be for the death of the innocent Christians, but the mosques do not say that.

But, who can know the “mind of the Lord” (Romans 11:34; I Corinthians 2:16). Were the floods related to the deaths of innocents? We dare not even claim to know the details of God’s plans that are not clearly revealed in scripture. However, God is concerned about

“innocent blood.” In fact, the scripture 17 times speaks of innocent blood. Once in Matthew 27:4 it speaks of Jesus’ shed blood as “innocent blood.” Deuteronomy 21:8, 9 says “do not place the guilt of innocent blood in ...Israel,” and “you shall remove the guilt of innocent blood from your midst... .” Jeremiah, when threatened with murder, said “I am in your hands... only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood on yourselves, and on this city... .” (26:14, 15 NASB) Proverbs 6:17 states it is one of the things that YHWH/ the LORD hates, “Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood... .”

I am also angry with the deaths of these pastors of those churches. In fact, angry seems at present to be a mild word. I am grief-stricken angry. I am “wanting to march in Faisalabad” angry. In a recent *Herald* we announced the membership of the Pakistani churches. In the last issue, we purposefully withheld names (July 14) so as not to attract attention to the Emmanuel brothers, our brothers in Christ, and five days later, they were dead.

But I know we are told, “be ye angry and sin not.” (Ephesians 4:26 KJV) I saw the YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bSWid6-kHo>) pleas from the American Red Cross for aid to Pakistan relief. I watched Dr. Gupta plea also for the needs in Pakistan. He noted that even with food, it was Ramadan, and most could not eat during the day. We were also told by our Pakistani

graduate that children were asked to recite the Koran before food was given. His children recite Bible verses.

Our job has not changed since Jesus. Help people, show grace and preach the gospel of the kingdom of God until Jesus comes. This ABC Pakistani graduate (I’m not using his name for fear of use of the internet for retribution) says that the Church of God has the greatest potential of ANY Christian group in working with Muslims, because of our simple teaching of One God. I believe that fits God’s plan, “they shall know that I am YHWH/ the LORD.” At this time, I am encouraging a renewed support of our work there and elsewhere. We’ve been advised to make a “humanitarian” trip to Pakistan and encourage the brethren. LORD willing, this we will do.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem where Egypt and Assyria will be a third with Israel in the kingdom of God (Isaiah 19:24, 25). Muslims and all of us, Christians included, will come to know the real Messiah, and His Father, the LORD God Almighty. On behalf of the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College, I pray a blessing on the families of the fallen innocent, including those from the floods, and that all nations will come to know the “one true God.” ■

Dr. Joe Martin,
CAO/President
September, 2010

This publication marks the 100th edition of *The Restitution Herald*. While it is certainly a time to celebrate God blessing this ministry's longevity, I would be remiss to not first acknowledge the great tragedy that has occurred recently in Pakistan. Our ministry and message is under attack, as evidenced by the brutal slayings of two of our pastors in July. Pastor Rashid Emmanuel and his brother Sajid were gunned down in a court room, after being falsely accused of disrespecting the religion of Islam. Our prayers continue to go out to their families and their ministries. Our voices should be raised in unison, trumpeting the gospel of Jesus and God's Kingdom, so that they will not have died in vain.

As we contemplate the senseless murders in Pakistan, I have to wonder about the effectiveness of our message. The Church of God has long been one of the lone voices in the world proclaiming the vital truths of the oneness of God, the messiahship of His Son Jesus, and the message of the resurrection into the kingdom of God at Jesus' return to the earth. We hold those truths dear, perhaps more tightly than one should. I say that, not to waver from our doctrines, but in reflection of how this message has largely gone unnoticed throughout our long conference history. We stand at the brink of an exciting time in the world's history! The advent of the internet, along with other technologi-

cal improvements has literally opened the world's doors to our message. As was pointed out at General Conference this year, we have a tremendous opportunity to enjoy a level playing field in communicating that message!

I point these things out, not to our shame, or shortcomings, but to encourage and remind those who have a heart for this ministry that these opportunities exist!

**"Our ministry
and message
is under attack..."**

The enemy is real, and knows quite well that the time is drawing short to either reach the lost or to let them die unloved, unforgiven, and ultimately unsaved. Jesus' words as he began his ministry ring as true today as they did nearly 2000 years ago, "The time is come, the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" I'll again ask the pointed question I posed at General Conference, "What are you saving your time, talents, and resources for?" As Dr. Joe Martin likes to point out, "It's time to step up and follow God."

Folks, we're running out of precious time. I encourage you at this time to encourage one another. Let's all help one another succeed in our individual ministries. Let's lift each other up in

our collective trials. Pray for one another, for it's the lifeline to God. Love one another, for it's the true test of whether the world will know we belong to Christ. Love God, for He is our refuge and strength. Honor Jesus, for he is the only way to God. Look for ways to serve. Remember what it was like to be lost, to be separated from God, and develop a passion to become God's tool to save those still searching for life.

I close by sincerely thanking all of you who have supported the Church of God faithfully over the years. In the coming months, you may be seeing a letter of thanks with an appeal to continue helping support the college and conference financially. I

thank you in advance for your help in meeting our financial challenges, for it is you we serve, striving to do more collectively than what we can all do alone. The board of directors earnestly and humbly asks for your prayers to guide us as we seek to follow God's leading for the college, conference, and our churches. Know that we acknowledge and appreciate the good work being done by all of our churches, pastors, and membership in support of this mission.

God bless! ■

Robert E. Morrison, Jr.

Who is Jesus of Nazareth? When He walked upon this earth over nineteen hundred years ago, He asked His disciples; "Whom do men say that I, the Son of man, am?" They answered that some declared Him to be John the Baptist, while others claimed that He was Elias, and others Jeremias, or one of the prophets. Friends, have you ever looked up the meaning of the words "Jeremiah" or "Elijah"? "Elijah" means *God Himself*, and the word "Jeremiah" means *the High God*. So, in the days of Christ, we find that some declared that Jesus was God Himself, or, The High God.

Many people today still contend and claim that Jesus is the High God Himself. Yea, even whole bodies of so-called Christians are organized and advocating this same teaching. But was Jesus satisfied with the answer the people gave? He definitely was not then, and He is not yet today. He said to His disciples, "But whom say ye that I am?" (Matt. 16:15). Here we find the correct answer as to whom Jesus is. The man who knows and believes this, and can give this answer from the depth of his heart in spirit and in truth, is blessed. He has had revelation from heaven through the Word of truth. Hear the answer of truth! "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16). Unless we come without any strings attached, without any wresting or twisting of these words, and believe them just as they are stated, we cannot know the living God. Neither do we understand His plan of salvation.

"Thou art the Christ" means "Thou art the Anointed One." Now those who contend that Jesus was God Himself or the High God can never believe that Jesus was the Anointed One. Why? Those who advocate that Jesus is God Himself claim there is a triune God and that Jesus is part of this triune God and therefore is equal to and co-existent with God the Father.

In Acts 10:38 we find these words: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power." Let us think honestly and clearly before God. If Jesus were God Himself or part of a trinity Godhead, equal and co-existent with two other parts in a Godhead of three, it would be impossible for Him to be anointed by any one of the other two. That would make one of them greater than He. The Bible clearly states the "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power." If God had not anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost and with power, could He ever have accomplished anything worthy of mention? How many sins could He have forgiven? How many sick could He have healed? Could He have raised the dead? You see, Jesus was not God, but was the Son of God and was dependent upon His Father. (John 5:19-21)

Now hear the Word of the Lord. It may change your theology; it may destroy what you have believed for years; but His truth can save you from eternal death and will hide (cover) your multitude of sins if you will believe. John 5:19 states, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do." Look closely at this for a moment. If Jesus were God Himself, or even equal to God, then Jesus could do nothing of Himself and neither could God. Someone will say that He can do what He sees the Father do. That is true. Jesus can do what He sees His Father do, but if they are equal, God must also see His father act before He is able to do His wonderful acts. God has no father. Even a child prejudiced to the teachings of men can see the error in this line of thought.

John 5:20 states, "The Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel." Now if Jesus were God

Himself, or equal with God, and had been with God from all eternity, would God have to show Him the works that He did? Friends, the doctrines of the trinity and of the pre-existence are doctrines of the devils that are to destroy men's faith in the true God and in Jesus His Son.

In John 5:26 and 27, we read, "As the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; and hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man." Now you either believe this or you deny it. To deny it is to be damned and lost. To believe it may bring you salvation, if you are likewise obedient in all things. Notice, the Father has life in Himself. God only has immortality, but how did Jesus get life? The Father gave it to Him, both natural life through birth, and immortality through a resurrection. If Jesus were God Himself or equal with God, God could not give Him life, for He would already have it even as the Father has it. Then again, how did Jesus get His authority to execute judgment? Hear again the Word of God. God gave it to Him. Could Jesus be as great as the Father, if the Father is the one who anointed Him with power and gave Him life and gave Him His authority? The only reason Jesus has the authority He now has is because God gave it to Him.

In John 5:30 Jesus repeats again, "I can of mine own self do nothing." Could Jesus do anything of Himself alone? He said He could of His own self do nothing. Did God ever do anything by Himself? In Isaiah 44:24 it is said of God, "I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone and spread abroad the earth by myself." Jesus said, "I can of mine own self do nothing." The disciples of Christ knew full well that Jesus was not God, neither any part of a trinity Godhead, but was the Son of God, begotten by the Spirit and

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

power of God according to the Word of God born of the virgin Mary. Born - really born - not incarnated, but born!

I would like to say here that the words "pre-existent," "trinity," and "incarnate" are nowhere found in the Bible. They are terms put to use by the satanic host to deceive ministers and churchgoers and to rob them of ever knowing the real Son of God. This is what Peter had reference to in 2 Peter 2:1 when he said, "There shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

Friends, do you deny the Lord that bought you? Do you know which Lord bought you? It could not be God Himself, for God cannot die. It cannot be a trinity Christ, for He would be equal with God. Since God cannot die, neither could a trinity Christ. The Scriptures declare that Christ died for our sins. (1 Cor. 15:3) According to the Scriptures, the Son of God, born of a virgin, brought into existence by the power of God, being anointed with life from God, power and authority from God, died for our sins, thus giving His entire life for us. But, thanks be to God, He raised Him up from the dead.

The world, by accepting the pre-existent theory and the doctrine of the trinity, deny the flesh and bones that God caused to be born to be our Saviour. Dear friends, if you deny the flesh and bones that God caused to come forth to life from Mary's womb, you deny the Lord that bought you. This is what Jesus had reference to when he said that many false Christs would arise and deceive, not a few, but many. Today more people believe and pay tribute to and glorify and pray to a false Christ, who never did die for them, than they that accept a flesh-and-bones Saviour who died on Calvary. The false Christ is the pre-

existent Christ, the trinity Christ, the Christ that is said to be God Himself. The true Christ is the Son of the living God and the anointed of Him.

In John 6:57 we find, "As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father." Notice that the living Father sent the Son. Could one God be equal with another when one was sent of the other? Notice also Jesus said, "I live by [and through] the Father." Without the Father, Jesus never would have existed and had life.

In John 7:16 Jesus said, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me." If Jesus were God Himself or a part of a trinity God, how could He say, "My doctrine is not mine"? If Jesus were equal to the Father and the doctrine He was giving was not His, does Jesus have a doctrine of His father? And does the Holy Spirit also have another doctrine? Would their doctrines be the same or different?

Jesus gave us to know that He had nothing to do with the origin of the doctrines which He spoke. They originated with the Father, and the Son merely spoke the doctrines of the Father. In John 7:28 Jesus said, "Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not." If Jesus were God Himself, would He not have had to send Himself? He said, "I am not come of myself." Friend, did you or I come of ourself? We had nothing to do with it. We did not come into existence by our will, for we had no will, no life, no intellect, until we were born. The same is true of Christ. Jesus did not come of Himself, but God sent Him. If there were three equal Gods, why would one God send another one of the other two to die? If one could send one of the other two to die, would not the one that had power to send be greater?

In John 8:28 Jesus said, "I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath

taught me, I speak these things." When one God has to be taught of another God, the God that does the teaching would be the greater. If Jesus were co-equal with God and co-existent with Him, He would not have to be taught from the Father.

Again, Jesus said in John 8:42, "I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me." Jesus told us in John 10:18, "I have power to lay it [my life] down, and I have power to take it again." Where did He get this power? He said, "This commandment have I received of my Father." When one person gives another person commandments, one is supreme to the other. Jesus said in John 10:29, "My Father... is greater than all."

Friends, do you not understand that Jesus is the anointed flesh and bones which God brought forth to life by His Holy Spirit, His own power, and that there is no other Saviour of truth who could die for us? First John 2:22 says, "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the anointed One?" Friend, if you contend that Jesus is God Himself, or a part of a trinity God, or a pre-existent Jesus, with power to create before He was born, then He could never be anointed by the Father.

Understand this, "He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son." The Father is God and Jesus Christ is His Son, born of the virgin by the power of God. They are two separate and different beings. Anyone who denies this is antichrist. Which side are you on?

May God help you to believe in His son, even as the Ethiopian eunuch, who said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." ■

Pastor Z. B. Duncan
Conover, North Carolina
December 30, 1960
Volume 50, Number 6

It is customary for students of the Bible to refer to Jesus as God. This is both an amazing and puzzling feature of traditional Christianity. Recognized biblical scholars do *not* think that Jesus is called God by the New Testament. In no text did Jesus ever say he was God.

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

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

“Paul never equates Jesus with God” (*The Problem of Christ in the 20th Century*, the Maurice Lectures, by W. R. Matthews, 1949, p. 22).

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

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

“Karl Rahner [leading Roman Catholic theologian] points out with so much emphasis that the Son in the New Testament is never described as ‘*ho theos*’ (=God)¹ (*Grace and Truth*, by A. T. Hanson, p. 66).

“The clear evidence of John is that Jesus refuses to claim to *be* God . . . Jesus vigorously denied the blasphemy of being God or His substitute” (*Twelve More New Testament Studies*, by J. A. T. Robinson, pp. 175, 176).

In sharp contrast to these expressed opinions, many other commentators say that it is a grave mistake even to question whether Jesus is God. It is widely taught that he is, and that the suggestion that he is not strikes at the heart of true faith. Yet the stubborn facts remain: Paul and the other New Testament writers do not call Jesus God. They call only one person God — that is, the Father of Jesus. Jesus they call ‘Lord,’ ‘Messiah,’ and ‘Son of God,’ but never God (*ho theos*). Indeed, “Jesus never calls himself God, but ever claims to be the Son of God” (*Hastings Dictionary of the Bi-*

ble, extra Vol., p. 312).

The Biblical Facts

“Jesus never calls himself God.” So states the universally recognized authority, the *Hastings Dictionary of the Bible*. The enquiring Christian may take a concordance or an interlinear Greek/English translation of the Bible. Start with Matthew and trace the word God (*ho theos*) through the New Testament. Some 1350 times “God” describes the Father of Jesus Christ.

What emerges from this study is that God “was *in* Christ” (2 Cor. 5:19). The Father was working through his Son to reconcile the world to himself. Jesus therefore merits the title “God with us” (Matt. 1:23). The character and authority of the One God, the Father, was displayed in Jesus so that the latter can say, “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). Yet, “no one has seen God at any time”. Moses was no exception, for even *he* was not permitted to see God’s face: “You cannot see my face . . . face shall not be seen”² (Ex. 33:20, 23).

God was not seen, yet Jesus *was* seen! This alone should convince the open-minded that Jesus was not God. Moreover, Jesus was tempted (Heb. 4:15). God cannot be tempted (James 1:13). Jesus died. The one who alone has immortality inherent in himself obviously cannot die (1 Tim. 6:16). Jesus increased in wisdom and knowledge (Luke 2:40), though even he did not know the day or hour of the second coming (Matt. 24:36). But God knows all things.

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

The Unique Godhead of the Father

To emphasize the unique status of the Father as God, the New Testament (following the Old) uses several titles restricting the term “God” to one person only. These special titles are in addition to the numerous occurrences of the simple word “God” to describe the Father. The Father is “THE ONE WHO ALONE IS GOD” (John 5:44), “THE ONLY TRUE GOD” (John 17:3), “THE ONE GOD, THE FATHER” (1 Cor. 8:6),

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

“THE ONLY WISE GOD” (Rom. 16:27), “THE ONLY GOD” (Jude 25), “THE ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL” (Eph. 4:6), “THE TRUE GOD” (1 John 5:20). Note in this last verse that “the true God” refers to “him who is true,” who is distinct from his Son. The word “this” in 1 John 5:20 does not refer to Jesus but to the Father. (Cp. 1 John 2:22 and 2 John 7, where “this” does not refer to the word immediately preceding.)

All the descriptions of the ONE GOD appear in contexts where the Father is meant, distinct and separate from his Son. *Jesus is never given these titles*, though according to traditional theology and the “binitarianism” of Herbert Armstrong and the World-wide Church of God, Jesus ought to be designated in the same way as his Father.

It would not have entered the heads of the New Testament Christians that two or three persons could be God in an absolute sense. Such an idea would have meant the abandonment of their most precious heritage that “God is one and there is no other” (Isa. 46:9). How could anyone imagine a duality in the “God Family (Armstrongism) or a Trinity of Persons in the One God, once he has read Isaiah 43:10, 11; 44:6, 24; 45:5, 6, 21; 46:9? Professional scholars recognize how utterly foreign a plural godhead would have been to the New Testament Christians: “No apostle would have dreamed of thinking that there are three divine persons” (Emil Brunner, *Christian Doctrine of God, Dogmatics*, Vol. I, p. 226).

The Origin of a Plural Godhead

If the Bible does not call Jesus God, what is the origin of the widely cherished belief that he is? The answer lies in the power of theological indoctrination, the persuasive influence of tradition.

A very small number of texts, nearly all in John’s gospel, has been misused to build a picture of an eternal being equal to the Father. Some of these verses (for example, 1 John 5:7; Eph. 3:9, the last phrase; and 1 Tim. 3:16 – “God” should read “He who,” NASB, etc.) were added to the original manuscripts to support tradition. Modern versions of the Bible should be consulted. The additions do not belong to the true text. John’s gospel is thought to contain material in support of a second member of an eternal godhead, though John, more than the other gospels, describes Jesus as a human being and insists that he is distinct from the

Father who is “the only true God” (17:3) and “the one who alone is God” (5:44). What John *does* say is that Jesus perfectly represents God, functions for God, without, of course, *being* God. As a unique human being Jesus “declares” the Father (1:18). As with all sons, we see the Father in Jesus, who obeys the One God.

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

The Addition of Jesus to the Godhead

The promotion of Jesus to the status of an uncreated being, coequal with the Father, was possible only when a few verses in John’s gospel and in Paul’s epistles were misunderstood. The massive evidence appearing consistently throughout the New Testament that only the Father is God was bypassed and one or two “proof texts” were brought into play.

Because two or three passages spoke of the creation being “through” Jesus (never “by” Jesus, as wrongly rendered in some versions), the idea arose that Jesus was active in the Genesis creation. Then it was argued that he must have been the “LORD” of the Old Testament or perhaps “the angel of the LORD” who appeared to Abraham. All this speculation overlooked a fundamentally important fact: That the LORD (*Yahweh*) of the Old Testament is not his own Son! (Psa. 110:1; Psa. 2:4-7). *Yahweh* is never confused with Jesus, the promised Messiah. Certainly, activities which the Old Testament expects *Yahweh* to perform may be performed later by Jesus. This is because in Hebrew thought, an agent may bear the title of his principal (cp. Ex. 23:21 where the angel of the LORD bears *Yahweh*’s name). But this does not mean that *Yahweh* is the angel, or that the Messiah *is* God! The so-called “preexistence” of Jesus is confined in the Bible to the typically Jewish notion that God planned the Messiah before the foundation of the world and

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

then brought him into existence by a supernatural conception in Mary. The Jews “were concerned with a kind of notional preexistence of the Messiah insofar as his name, i.e., His essence and nature, preceded the formation of light on the first day of creation. ... In Jewish thought the celestial preexistence of the Messiah does not affect His humanity.” (*Jesus the Jew, a Historian’s Reading of the Gospels*, by Geza Vermes, pp. 138, 139.) As James Mackey says, the “existence” of the Messiah in the plan of God before his birth “is part and parcel of the revelation model in human imagining by which God ... had in mind in eternity, or before anything else was created, the one who was the key to all existence ... and for whom, in whom and through whom, all could therefore be said to be created.” (*The Christian Experience of God as Trinity*, p. 57.)

Paul’s statement in Colossians 1:15ff that all things were created in, through, and for Jesus means that Jesus was the central reason for God’s creation. It does not mean that Jesus was actually alive before he was born in Bethlehem. The problem is that “representatives of all Christian churches are really reading into the Bible doctrinal positions which they uncritically, and often unconsciously, assume to be contained in its pages, rather than reading out of it what is really in it.” (*Ibid.* p. 44.)

A leading commentary by the Roman Catholic scholar Raymond Brown says: “The New Testament does not predicate ‘God’ of Jesus with any frequency.” His findings correspond with those of the scholars cited at the beginning of this article. Brown adds that “The way the New Testament approaches the divinity of Jesus was not through the title ‘God’ but by describing His activities in the same way as it describes the Father’s activities.” (*Anchor Bible on John*, p. 24) This is exactly what the biblical evidence will support. Jesus is not called “God” because he is not God. But Jesus, as the perfectly obedient Son of God, performs the acts of God and reveals the Father’s nature and purposes. He is God’s last word to the world (Heb. 1:2). God’s self-expression, his plan for the universe, became flesh – a real human being – in Jesus (John 1:14).

One who is God, or an angel before his birth, is not a genuinely human person. Belief in a non-fully human Jesus is the warning signal given by John (1 John 4:2; 2 John 7) that anti-Christ is at work. The real Son of God *came into existence* (not from preexistence) at his conception. This is what Luke tells us so concisely in Luke 1:35:

“Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.
For that reason the child conceived shall be called holy, the Son of God.”

May students of the Bible return to belief in “the man Messiah,” the unique Son of the One God of the universe (1 Tim. 2:5). This is the great truth which God wishes all men to understand. Through it they may find salvation (1 Tim. 2:4). ■

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¹Apparent exceptions are due to questionable translation or to the fact that Jesus is very occasionally called “god” in a secondary sense following Psalm 45:6’s use of “god” to describe the human king who represents God. The judges of Israel in Psalm 82:6 were also called ‘gods.’ No Israelite, true to the biblical revelation, would have imagined that the Messiah was an uncreated being!

²Isaiah’s vision of God, the Father (Isa. 6:1-6), is no exception and is similar to John’s experience in Revelation 4:1-11 and Ezekiel’s “visions of God” in Ezekiel 1:1. The one who spoke to Moses at the bush (Ex. 3:6) was actually an angel (Acts 7:35), bearing God’s name and speaking for him (Ex. 23:21). Moses alone had a direct view of God, but not of his face (Ex. 33:23).

Definition

In the Scriptures the word “spirit” is primarily translated from the Hebrew word *ruach* or the Greek word *pneuma*. These words both mean *wind, breath, air*; by extension, they mean *power, force, animation*.

Thayer’s Lexicon says of the *pneuma* of God: “God’s power and agency, manifest in the course of affairs, and by its influence upon souls productive in the theocratic body (the church).”

The first mention of God’s Spirit is in Genesis 1:2: “The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit [*ruach*] of God was moving over the surface of the waters.” It is often thought that the first occurrence of any word or phrase may be taken as fairly indicative of its general usage and understanding. With only a little imagination, we can picture the breath of the Almighty dispersing the mists that must have hovered above the waters just before the creation of light.

God’s creative breath is mentioned by the Psalmist: “Thou dost send forth thy spirit [NASB mg., ‘breath’], they are created; and thou dost renew the face of the ground” (104:30). God’s *force* exerted on certain elements brought life into being. Thus the Spirit was the means by which God accomplished creation. Note that in verse 29 the word *ruach* is used pertaining to *man’s* breath: “Thou dost take away their spirit [NASB mg., ‘breath’], they expire and return to their dust.” Such a juxtaposition usage of the word *ruach* (vv. 29, 30) helps us to clearly understand what the Spirit of God is – it is the breath and force of God. Alone the Spirit has no distinctive mind or personality, just as our breath has none apart from ourselves!

In John 3 as Jesus talks to Nicodemus, he helps us to understand the nature of the Spirit by saying, “The [*pneuma*] blows where it wished and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit [*pneuma*]” (v. 8). Jesus’ description of the Spirit as being like the wind is in complete harmony with the meaning of *pneuma*. Why was this comparison used and not some other? To me it states that God’s Spirit is a force, just as wind is a force. It is impersonal as the wind is impersonal.

The non-personality of the Holy Spirit is heresy to orthodoxy, but is nonetheless the clear teaching of Scripture. The Greek word *pneuma* is neuter in gender.

The usage of masculine pronouns in English translations of the New Testament is no proof of the Spirit having a personality. Greek synonyms for the Spirit are masculine as are their pronouns. The Greek language uses masculine and feminine pronouns with reference to things and qualities as well as to persons. Such usage should not be carried over into languages where this practice is not followed (such as English).

Consistency on the point of translation would require that all masculine or feminine nouns have pronouns that reflect their gender even though in English the gender would be neuter. Such thinking would cause Romans 8:21 to be translated: “The creation herself [rather than ‘itself’] will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” (Are we to conclude that only females will receive salvation?) Recognizing the absurdities of such mishandling of pronouns, translators to English generally supply neuter pronouns. However, on the matter of the Spirit, there seems to be a fair amount of inconsistency and bias. If the translators genuinely believe the Spirit to be a person, why in Romans 8 do we read “the spirit itself”? (vv. 16, 26, KJV) This is because *pneuma* is neuter. Shouldn’t bias be consistent? It is in the NASB: “the Spirit Himself.” The reading of original manuscript seems to have been intentionally ignored. (For further study of the non-personality of the Spirit see Alva Huffer’s *Systematic Theology*, pp. 89-93; *One God of the Ages*, by R. H. Judd, pp. 57-62.)

In his book *The World’s Redemption*, Thomas Williams has an excellent common-sense thought about why the Holy Spirit cannot be another person:

When Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit as a Comforter, he surely did not intend us to understand that one person intended sending another person to take the first person’s place. But God having given Jesus the Holy Spirit without measure, had thereby imparted it to him with authority and power to impart it to others, making it subject to his will as well as to his Father’s will. When Jesus fulfilled his promise, the Comforter came by being “poured out” and “shed forth.” It was caused to pervade the persons to whom it was given, influencing their minds in refreshing their memories and in inspiring their tongues to

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

speak divine truth. Who will say that these results were not the work of one person who had taken the place of the other who had, for the time, left his followers? Is it not that the One God, from whom all blessings flow, imparted power to His only begotten Son, and the Son, who owes his existence to, and is, and always will be, subordinate to the Father, imparted it to his faithful followers, the Spirit of God being the effluence, influence, or vehicle, through which the “power” or “gifts” were transmitted?

By way of definition, *The Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible* gives this intricate, yet biblically accurate, definition:

HOLY SPIRIT – The mysterious power of God, conceived in the first place as the mode of God’s activity, manifested especially in supernatural revelation to selected individuals and in their being possessed by a force which gave them marvelous strength, courage, wisdom, and the knowledge of God’s will and his dealings with men; later identified with the personal presence of God, and regarded as the distinctive endowment of his people; and in the New Testament understood as the mode of God’s operation in the church, made possible through the work of Christ and meditating the glorified Christ to his people and the church to its exalted Head.

Old Testament and New Testament Differences

The presence of the Spirit of God in our world in the 4,000 years before Christ cannot be disputed. In Psalm 51 David spoke of his companionship with it. It was by the Spirit that Zerubbabel would accomplish the great work of rebuilding the ancient homeland after the Babylonian captivity. However, the Holy Spirit was not made personally available to individuals on a widespread basis in Old Testament times.

Ezekiel speaks of a day when Israel will receive an inward measure of God’s Spirit: “A new heart also will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you.... I will put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes” (36:26, 27). Comparison of this passage with Jeremiah 31 causes this writer to be of the opinion that the personal gift of the Holy Spirit is foreshadowed in the terms of the new covenant: “I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts” (v. 33). The

new covenant is now in force for members of Christ’s body. It will not be in force for Israel’s people until they come to Christ. By these promises of a future giving of the Holy Spirit in a personal way, we see it not personally experienced in Old Testament times.

The prophet Joel foretold of a time when God’s Spirit would be abundantly distributed: “It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit” (2:28, 29). Immediately before his ascension Jesus told the apostles to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 5, 8). On the Day of Pentecost, Peter quoted the passage in Joel to explain the phenomenon of the Galileans communicating the gospel in many languages. At last the Holy Spirit was personally available to humanity.

Why was the personal receipt of the Spirit so prevalent in the New Testament but virtually unknown in the Old Testament? “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)” (John 7:37-39). The personal benefit of the Holy Spirit is a benefit we receive through him who is the sacrifice of the new covenant. It is through Christ alone that this blessing has been made available to us. “When the Comforter is come, whom I will send from the Father.... It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you” (John 15:26; 16:7). Consider these thoughts by Thomas Williams:

THERE IS BUT ONE SPIRIT

It is evident that there is but one spirit, though its forms of manifestation are innumerable. Hence, we read, “Now there are diversities of gifts; but the *same spirit*” (1 Cor. 12:4). There being but one God, who is a spirit, and he the creator and sustainer of all things by means of his spirit, there can be but one spirit, irradiating from him as the center of the mighty universe. The psalmist prayed to be upheld with God’s

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from page 22)

“free spirit,” and here are words that discriminate between the manifestation of spirit as “free spirit” and “Holy Spirit.” The word “holy” frequently means a setting apart of one thing for a special purpose. The first born son in every family of Israel was “holy unto the Lord”; yet this did not necessarily mean that the first born was more pure in flesh, heart or mind than the second born; but they were set apart for God, to be a memorial of the redemption of the first born of Israel on the night when those of the Egyptians were destroyed. “Holy Spirit” therefore is the one spirit of Deity specially directed by his will power for a special purpose, to inspire holy men to speak or write; to impart miraculous power to men to confirm the words they spoke, and to demonstrate that they were men sent of God. When we read that “holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit;” it is the same as if it read that they were moved by the one God and Father of all; for it was he who moved them by means of his spirit. Hence “Holy Spirit” frequently means God himself.

The author seems to be saying the Holy Spirit is a special segment of God’s overall spirit of power; its purpose being to work in the lives of men. Might this idea of categorized power harmonize with Revelation 4:5 and 5:6 – “There were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. . . . A lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.”

When Is the Holy Spirit Given?

The Holy Spirit is that force or power of God which becomes a part of an individual’s life when he comes to Jesus. We see this patterned for us in Christ’s own experience: “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him” (Matt. 3:16). The New Testament further comments that Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and with power (Acts 10:38) and that he had the Spirit without measure (John 3:34).

According to Acts 2:38 we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit after baptism. Paul said to the Ephesians, “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is

given as a pledge of our inheritance (1:13, 14). We, like Christ, have been baptized; we have received a measure of the Spirit (a pledge amount); we have been anointed with the Spirit. In the Old Testament, anointing signified appointment to a special task and was sometimes linked to the coming of the Spirit (1 Sam. 16:13; Psa. 89:20, 21; Isa. 61:1). We have been anointed (1 John 2:20); “Now he who established us with you in Christ, and anointed us, in God; who also sealed us, and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge” (2 Cor. 1:21, 22). The believer’s experience is a reflection of Christ’s: after baptism he receives the Holy Spirit which is an anointing to the task of serving God.

What Is the Holy Spirit?

Miscellaneous Thoughts Toward a Less “Theological” Definition

1. A personal investiture of God and Christ in us. A measure of divinity is invested in each believer.
John 12:23 – “If a man love me he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”
1 Cor. 3:16 – “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”
2 Cor. 4:7 – “We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”
We are clay vessels transformed into a temple because the Almighty and his son abide within us by their Spirit.
2. A substitute for the literal presence of Christ.
John 14:16-18 – “I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.”
Jesus promised his disciples the Holy Spirit as a replacement for his literal visible presence. He is still with us by and through his Spirit.
3. A force reflective of the divine personality. Though the Spirit has not an independent personality, it is a force which is an extension and re-

(Continued on page 24)

(Continued from page 23)

flection of the personality of God and Christ.

The Spirit dwells with us (John 14:17), teaches and brings to remembrance (14:26), bears witness (15:26), convicts of sin (16:18), guides, speaks, declares (16:13, 15), inspires the Scriptures and speaks through them (Acts 1:16; 2 Peter 1:21), spoke to Philip (Acts 8:29), calls ministers (13:2), sends out workers (13:4), forbids certain actions (16:6, 7), intercedes (Rom. 8:26), etc. The Spirit has the attributes of personality: will (1 Cor. 12:11), mind (Rom. 8:27), thought, knowledge, words (1 Cor. 2:10-13), love (Rom. 15:30). The Holy Spirit can be treated as a person: lied to and tempted (Acts 5:3, 4, 9), resisted (Acts 7:51), grieved (Eph. 4:30), outraged (Heb. 10:29, RSV), blasphemed against (Matt. 12:31). Edited from *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*

4. A good gift.

Luke 11:13 – “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

(The variant reading “good spirit” is not supported by the best manuscripts.)

Jesus argues that if human fathers, being evil, know how to give good gifts, the heavenly Father can do it more so.

If the Holy Spirit is given at baptism, why does Jesus seem to counsel us to ask for it?

Difficult Passages

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.” (2 Cor. 13:14).

First of all, the listing of three entities in one sentence is not sufficient proof of equality. The Greek for “communion” is *koinonia*, and can also be translated “fellowship,” “sharing,” “joint participation.” We have a shared fellowship of the Holy Spirit and even *in* the Holy Spirit, but not

with the Holy Spirit. In 1 John we read of fellowship *with* the Father and *with* his Son Jesus Christ (1:3). *Koinonia* with the Spirit is conspicuously absent. Paul’s focus in the foregoing text was on the faith experience of the Corinthians. He wanted them to feel Christ’s grace, God’s love, and the sharing fellowship among themselves produced by the Holy Spirit. “Since the spirit is the mode of the Christian’s apprehension of the risen Christ, it is possible for Paul to set together in his thought, in parallel as it were, ‘the Lord Jesus Christ,’ ‘God,’ and ‘the Holy Spirit’.” (*Interpreter’s Dictionary*).

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 28:19).

The word “name” deserves some study and attention. It means “reputation,” “character,” “fame,” “glory”; hence, a personal name is not in view (the Spirit has none). Further, the singular form is used: “in the name [not ‘names’] of the ...” In other words, the prescribed formula for a baptism involved only *one* name (albeit here a compound one). The NASB gives us a truer translation than the AV: “Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Note the English construction: we have the compound object of one preposition rather than three prepositions and three objects, this conveying a feeling of three personalities. Note this thought from Thomas Williams:

Thus it will be seen that Jesus was God’s offspring by means of his power through his Holy Spirit, and therefore he was God manifested in the flesh by the Spirit. Thus “God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.” And Jesus thereby being the Father in manifestation by the Spirit became the *One* (not three) “name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;” and so it could be said of him, “Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.” — Acts 4:12. ■

Pastor Stephen Bolhous
July/August, 1986
Volume 75, Number 9

The question “What are you doing here?” was twice asked to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:9, 13. After the great victory on Mount Carmel (18:19) with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, Jezebel says that she is going to kill him (19:2). 1 Kings 19:3 says, “And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life...” and **HID IN A CAVE!**

Dr. Frank Hemphill in the first issue of *The Restitution Herald*, October 12, 1911 said about the second coming, “It does not look possible that it could be but a few years more, probably during this century.” Well, it’s almost been a hundred years with this 100th Anniversary issue. It is good to see the fervor of prophecy in our history. From a discussion among our pastors and historians, the foundation of the Church of God was primarily the One True God, then Jesus as the Son of God, the coming kingdom of God and prophecy, especially as it relates to Israel. It seems everything else in our history flows somewhat from that.

I am appreciative of that flow of concern. I am getting a little “fanatical” that “they shall know that I am the LORD/YHWH.” I’m “fanatically” Christian in knowing the grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, the only “name under heaven” whereby we must be saved. I agree with Dr. Myles Munroe (as well as Dr. George Ladd and Sir Anthony Buzzard), we’ve been using the wrong “bait” in evangelism. We need to lead with, and focus on the kingdom first. Jesus did! Why not us? I am also “fanatical” when it comes to prophecy. If God says it, it IS a promise and will happen. “God is not a man that He should lie!” (Numbers 23:19)

I’ve been eating and breathing

prophecy since I was a teenager when Jim Mattison (now my father-in-law) preached about the return of the Jews to Israel, and that Jerusalem would eventually become their capital, which happened in 1967, two years after my marriage to his daughter! God WILL do what He says He will do! For a quick review, look at the thirty-seven “wills” and “shalls” of Ezekiel 37.

Because of my sin, I also focus on grace, one of the main attributes of the Father, and the Son, full of “grace and truth” (John 1). As Paul notes in 1 Corinthians 6:11, “And such *were* some of you!” How can one forget the *grace* we have in Christianity? In fact, Hebrews 12:15 says, “Don’t miss the grace of God, grow up a bitter root, cause trouble, and defile many.” This sounds like many churches! Have we lost our focus? But, who am I, or you, to say the bride is “ugly.” The local church is still, despite our problems, THE tool of Jesus (Matthew 16:18). It bothers me greatly to see the church “criticized” from all ends of the pendulum, old and young, through “bitter root” tongues missing grace.

But the real question now, for all of us is, “What are WE doing here?” Do we have another 100 years? Like Dr Hemphill of 1911, this Dr. Martin of 2010 also thinks “It does not look possible that it could be but a few years more!” Maybe this will be part of an article in another 100 years. However, look at the things that have happened since 1911. Israel DID become a nation in 1948! Jerusalem DID become the capital of Israel in 1967! God’s promises *are* happening!

I do not think our direction has changed, with focus on the one true God, the grace and truth in His only birthed (*monogenes*) Son, preaching

of the coming kingdom, and loving people as prophecies are being fulfilled each and every day. Just because we often feel as if we are the “least, last, littlest, and weakest,” that is about the time that God can use us. As Pastor Rufus Meyers says, “When you’re down, broke, busted, and disgusted,” that is when we can then give the credit to God.

2 Corinthians 12 shows Paul in his weaknesses (Paul uses the plural!). In Judges 6:15, Gideon spoke of being the “weakest” and the “least.” Well, Church of God, join the “READY TO BE USED” club, where we are told “my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Let us submit to His will and **join Him** in what He is surely doing and what He has surely promised. They *will know* He is God. Join Him. Every knee *will bow* to Jesus. Let’s do it NOW! Jesus *will build* His Church. Let’s JOIN HIM. You *will inherit* the kingdom prepared before the foundation of the world. GET READY! The gospel of the kingdom *will be preached in the whole world*. Be a part of His plan!

Concerning Elijah at the entrance of the cave (1 Kings 19), verse 15 says, “YHWH/the LORD said to him ‘**GO!**’...return!” Elijah is *kicked out of his cave!* We need to be “kicked out of our cave.” As my father used to say when I was “under foot” or bugging him, “Getonouttahere!” LORD, help us get out of our cave. LORD, help us to get next door; help us to get down the street; help us to go into all the world and teach others of you, the one true God, and Jesus your Son, loving and helping people as we preach the good news of your coming kingdom! ■

Dr. Joe Martin, September 2010

The future is here! This year I once again served on the staff of FUEL, our national youth event. When I was a student, it was called camp, and we had our services in a tabernacle with sawdust on the floor and classes on benches and in screened-in porches. When camp was over, we would write letters to our friends from across the country. Now, services are held in huge air-conditioned auditoriums with state-of-the-art video screens, and every teacher has access to video screens where they can use power-points, DVDs and other media to enhance their lessons. Instead of waiting a week for a letter to travel cross country to their friends, students now can text their friends and check out their updates on Facebook. This year we were able to quadruple the attendance at FUEL. In addition to the 200+ bodies present in northern Indiana, there 700+ who were able to watch and participate interactively via the internet and COGCAST. Three of my children participated in Bible quizzing. I was there in Indiana, watching every match. So was my wife back in South Carolina, as were parents, grandparents, interested family and friends in Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, Louisiana, Arizona, not to mention Russia, Korea, and various other places around the world. The future is here!

The future is here in the age of publishing. When my father, Joe Fletcher, attended Oregon Bible College back in the late 1940's and early 1950's, he worked in the publishing department where he manually took pieces of type and set it up on the printing press. Now "typesetting" is done via computer (a lot faster and less messy). When I first became editor of *The Herald* in 1994, I was able to receive articles from various writers by this new thing called e-mail. I didn't have to wait 5 – 7 days for their articles to arrive in my mail box, read them, edit them, mail them to Atlanta to be retyped and sent to the printer and finally to the mail. I could receive them via e-mail, edit them, and e-mail them to Atlanta for layout and proof-reading. The process was sped up by several

weeks. However, it still took several weeks to mail the proofs to the printer, have plates made, and have them printed, bound and then mailed out across the country where the USPS delivered them as bulk mail, meaning they could sit for several days in the post office before they were brought to your door. The first half of publishing was greatly sped up, but the delivery system was still fairly slow.

The future is here! Now, you don't have to wait for the magazine to go to the printer, be bound, bundled and work its way through the USPS. You can have it instantly. With the stroke of a key, it can fly from McDonough, GA to wherever you are in the world. *The Herald* is now available electronically. You can choose the option of no longer receiving a paper edition of *The Herald*; you can receive it to your computer electronically. It allows the General Conference to allocate some of the money previously spent on printing and publishing for other ministry services. The benefit to you and to the environment is: it's faster, and reduces your "carbon footprint." Of course, for those who don't have access to a computer or e-mail, a paper version is still available.

“The means for transmitting the message of the coming kingdom of God through faith in Jesus the Messiah has come a long way. The future is here!”

The future is here! Technology now allows us to expand the number of publications and other resources. The E-Herald of the Coming Kingdom is available exclusively via the internet. Cogcast.org makes available a wide variety of biblical messages, streaming 24 hours a day, and with an archives that allows you to access previous sermons. In one day you might hear E. Richard Smith or Z. B. Duncan preaching God's word, followed by Steve Taylor or Anthony Buzzard or Michael Cisler or a host of other gifted communicators giving you the truth of God's word. It's available free to anyone in the world who has access to a computer and the internet. In addition, you can now watch a variety of church services live, as they are happening via streaming internet on Cogcast.org.

(Continued on page 27)

The 38th Annual Christian Workers Seminar 2011
April 3-8, 2011 ■ **Pigeon Forge, Tennessee**

Theme: Jesus: My Servant -- My Son

**Great men of God were first and foremost servants of God.
Jesus was a model of a servant and he calls us to be servants/slaves.
The Seminar will focus on following the example of Jesus.**

**At the Holiday Inn
with the beautiful new convention
center we enjoyed in 2010.**

**Please begin making plans now to join us...
...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
(housing, meals, program)**

**Four-to-a-room - \$264/person
Three-to-a-room - \$294/person
Two-to-a-room - \$354/person
One-to-a-room - \$514/person**

(Continued from page 26)

You can access archived copies of the *Journal from the Radical Reformation*, offering our unique theological perspective. Are you trying to help someone understand why you believe God is one and not three? As a resource, you can go to the General Conference website, click on the *Journal from the Radical Reformation* website, locate archived articles, find an appropriate one, e-mail a link to your friend or print out the article and, voila, you are helping instruct someone. The technology is there to help you in your ministry, teaching, and evangelism. In addition, anyone in the world who does an internet search on a relevant subject can be brought into that website and exposed to our teaching.

The future is here! Via missions. Several years ago Hershel Lyda of Anderson Chapel, Hendersonville, NC, had responded to a person who had visited their church's website. The person turned out to be a man named Jerome from Tanzania, Africa. Through that contact, Jerome came to believe as we do, came here, was baptized, returned to Tanzania and began preaching the message of the kingdom and the one God. Visits to Tanzania have been made. Through the efforts of one church that had a heart for missions and was will-

ing to see beyond their little congregation, with the help of technology, the message is expanding into a new part of the world. The future is here!

The future is here for Atlanta Bible College. Soon, classes will be available online. One seeking a theological education will not need to be physically present in Georgia to see and hear the instructor and interact live. They will be able to sit in front of their laptop with a webcam and attend live classes with Joe Martin, Bob Jones, Anthony Buzzard, Gary Burnham, Jon Cheatwood and other instructors.

The message that drove *The Restitution Herald* 100 years ago has not changed. The means for transmitting the message of the coming kingdom of God through faith in Jesus the Messiah has come a long way. The future is here! So whether you read this via paper or on your iPad, follow Paul's example to use "all possible means" to save some. ■

Pastor Jeff Fletcher
Editor, 1995 - 2005

Editors (Coordinators) of The Restitution Herald



S. J. Lindsay
Founder & Editor
1911 to 1922



F. L. Austin
1922 to 1931



G. E. Marsh
1931 to 1938



S. E. Magaw
1938 to 1950



James M. Watkins
1951 to 1955



Harold J. Doan
1955 to 1968



Terry Ferrell
1968 to 1971



C. E. Randall
1971 to 1973



J. R. LeCrone
1973 to 1978



David Krogh
Interim 1978 to 1979



Russ Magaw
1979 to 1990



Hollis Partlowe
1990 to 1993

*Thank you
For your years of service!*



Kent Ross
1993 to 1995



Jeff Fletcher
1995 to 2005



David Riley
Coordinator
2005 to 2006



Gary Burnham
Coordinator
2006 to present

Associate and Managing Editors and Technical Director



Paul C. Johnson
Associate Editor
1932 to 1977



Gordon Landry
Managing Editor
1977 to 1993



Daniel Smead
Technical Director
1993 to 2003

(Several also served as Assistant Editors: F. E. Siple 1923 to 1926 and 1928 to 1930; Floyd Stilson 1926 to 1928; and Mary Gesin 1930 to 1932)

(Continued from page 7)

breath of life – which caused man to become a living creature. Upon the removal of this motive power, since man did not eat of the tree of life and assure himself everlasting life, he again becomes an inanimate object and disintegrates into the basic elements from which he was formed. No part of man becomes immortal upon receiving this breath of life, and not the whole man nor any part of his parts goes to heaven in a living, conscious state.

I listened to a Bible teacher from California who held a series of evangelistic meetings at the Al-

liance Church here (Cass Lake, MN). He said that Ecclesiastes was not inspired of God, that Solomon was a backslidden preacher at the time this book was written, and consequently it was not written and inspired of God but was merely worldly wisdom and opinions of Solomon, and that *Poor Richard's Almanac* contained the same kind of wisdom and was just as much inspired.

He claimed that part of the Bible was inspired by the Devil and that God had allowed it to be out in the Bible for the testing of man. To prove his point he quoted Ecclesiastes 3:19, 20,

and said he didn't believe it, that it plainly showed it was devil-inspired, and yet that group that believed in "soul-sleeping" used it as one of their main texts.

What a religion when you must teach that the Bible is partly inspired of the devil in order to reconcile parts of it to your own beliefs and opinions! ■

Vivian Kirkpatrick
April 21, 1936
Volume 25, Number 30

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.



Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

Clark Chapel – Destin Kuykendall (6/13/10) by Jason Brown

McGintytown – Chelsea Cummings (7/25/10) and Colby Leggitt (8/29/10) by Pastor Tom New

Michigan

Rockford – Scott Moore (rededication baptism) and Hope Moore (6/6/10) and Madison Cisler (8/8/10) by Michael Cisler

South Carolina

Greenville – Savannah McCauley and Jim Isaacs (8/8/10) by Pastor Terry Ferrell

Washington

Wenatchee – Josy Nichols (6/13/10) and Barbara Burke (8/5/10) by Pastor Kirby Davis

Deaths

Illinois

Ripley – Mildred G. “Millie” Laning, 93, of Mount Sterling (7/5/10). Life-long active and faithful member. Known for her generous hospitality. Service by Pastors Sherwin Williams and Curt Rowden. Her deceased husband, Wayne, served on the Board of Directors of the College/Conference.

South Carolina

Bethel – Jessie Garrison (7/13/10). Service by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Marriages

Michigan

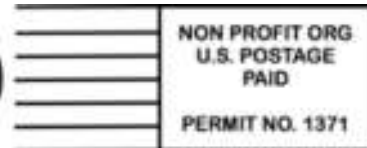
Rockford – Daniel and Jennifer Siderius (6/12/10), Nathan and Ashley Benkert (6/19/10) and Dan and Amanda VanderPool (7/31/10) by Pastor Michael Cisler

Prayer & Praise

November 2010

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and the St. Cloud, MN Church.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Scott Ross and his efforts to lead our Isolated Member Ministry (IMM).
- 3 **Praise God for the Board of Directors members who willingly serve the Church of God.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Kirby and Bonnie Davis and Pastor Merry Peterson and the Wenatchee, WA Church.
- 5 **Pray for Lupe Badillo as she continues to minister in Labor Vieja, Mexico.**
- 6 Pray for Ruth Finnegan in her duties as publishing specialist for the General Conference.
- 7 **Pray that God will raise up workers to serve in mission fields in other lands.**
- 8 Pray for Pastor Andy and Kristy Cisneros and their ministry at Timberland Bible Church in South Bend, IN.
- 9 **Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness.**
- 10 Pray for Judy Myers and the work of the Lord's Harvest International Mission Board.
- 11 **Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Gary and Glenda Turner and New Life Bible Church in Winnebago, IL.
- 13 **Pray for Pastor Wade and Kim Tierney and the Morse Mill, MO Church.**
- 14 Pray for the Ministerial Recognition Board as they encourage our pastors.
- 15 **Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with some one this week.**
- 16 Pray for the Burr Oak, IN Church.
- 17 **Pray for God to provide you with “thankful” eyes this month.**
- 18 Pray for the boldness you need to share Christ with an unbelieving friend.
- 19 **Pray for Jon Cheatwood, youth coordinator for the College/Conference.**
- 20 Pray for the outreach efforts of your local congregation.
- 21 **Praise God for His daily blessings of shelter, food, family and friends.**
- 22 Pray for the churches within your state or regional conference.
- 23 **Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life.**
- 24 Pray for Pastor Bill and Lacey Dunn and the New Beginnings Church in Desloge, MO.
- 25 **Praise God on this Thanksgiving Day for His goodness in your life.**
- 26 Pray for the ministry of Ralph Childs in OH.
- 27 **Thank God for His goodness to you.**
- 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.

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



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Prayer and Praise

December 2010

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Be-loit 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 **Praise God for your pastor as he or she shares God's Word today.**
- 6 Pray for the Fredericktown Church in Fredericktown, MO.
- 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 and Jackie 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 your next door neighbor(s) today.**
- 16 Pray for Hadayat Din as he conducts a Bible study with four couples in Cordova, TN.
- 17 **Pray for the Macomb Church of God 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 Duluth, GA ABC campus.
- 21 **Pray for an individual you know who has not accepted Christ.**
- 22 Pray for the pastors serving God in Pakistan.
- 23 **Pray for ABC instructor Bob Jones.**
- 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 2010.**

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

What Does Christmas Mean to You?

Few times of the year are as hectic as the Christmas holidays. It is very easy to get so caught up in the rush and hurry of last-minute shopping, getting cards mailed, practicing for Christmas programs, baking, and preparing for company that we fail to stop and think of just what Christmas means to us as individuals. Pause and reflect about what the birth of Christ means to you.

Christmas means different things to different people. To a child in school, Christmas means a vacation. To a student away at college, it means a chance to go home and visit family and friends. To the mother of grown children who have moved far away from home, Christmas means an opportunity for children and grandchildren to come to visit her. To a small child, it means a lot of presents and excitement. To a pastor, it means a Sunday when attendance will be up. To the frantic Christmas program director, it means a time of panic and confusion as he/she tries to find someone to take the part assigned to Susie, who got sick the night of the program because she ate too many Christmas cookies.

To a merchant, Christmas usually means the most profitable time of selling of the entire year. Too often the Christmas bells with the merriest

jingle are on the cash register. To the football fan, it means it's almost time for football playoffs.

To the shopper, it means rush, rush, rush. It is small wonder that a little girl knelt by her bed after an exhausting day of shopping with her mother, to pray: "Forgive us our Christmases as we forgive those who Christmas against us." To the heads of many families, Christmas means a time of seeking somehow to stretch the



budget to make ends meet. To the loan companies, it means a time when many of these dads will be stopping to see them.

Tragically, to many, Christmas means another occasion on which to go and "booze it up." Yes, Christmas means different things to different people. But that fails to indicate what Christmas means to you.

Even the first Christmas means different things to different ones. To the shepherds, it meant the most astonishing experience of their lives. Can you imagine their amazement when, as they watched their sheep, a multitude of angels suddenly broke the stillness of the night with choruses of "Glory to God in the highest"? We can well understand why they went away glorifying and praising God.

To the innkeeper, the first Christmas meant embarrassment when he discovered that the woman whom he had turned away had given birth to a child in his barn. To the animals in the stable, it meant confusion. To the wise men, Christmas meant the answer to the mystery that they had seen in the stars.

To Herod, the birth meant fear. Had another king been born who would dethrone him? This fear so racked and warped his mind that he committed the horrible atrocity of slaying all of the children in the Bethlehem area who were two years old or younger. Thus, for many families, this was a time of nearly unbearable sorrow and heartache. To the ancient Simeon, Christmas meant the answer to his prayer and the fulfillment of the promise God made to him.

(Continued on page 3)

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year.

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 proph-
ets since the world began" (Acts 3:21). It also firmly advoc-
ates 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 14-16
reFUEL,
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

January 18
1st day of Spring Semester Classes

February 7-11
Ministerial Conference
McDonough, Georgia

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

March 3-4
Board of Directors Meeting
McDonough, GA

April 3-8
Christian Workers Seminar,
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN

May 12-15
Theological Conference,
Simpsonwood Conference Center,
Norcross, GA

July 6-8
General Conference,
Jaynes Street Church of God,
Omaha, NE

July 17-22
FUEL, Manchester College
North Manchester, IN

Starting at the beginning of December, look for an on-line contribution link at our website...www.abc-coggc.org

(Continued from page 1)

To Joseph, it meant the fears for Mary that every husband feels for his wife when she is giving birth. No doubt he also was greatly embarrassed by his inability to provide anything better than a barn for this important event. Then came the joy that follows the birth of a healthy child to a mother who has safely delivered.

To Mary, it meant the agony of a long journey while she was nine months pregnant, the fear and joy of a first birth, the wonder of having been chosen to have the miracle baby, and the mystery of what was in store for this child of hers.

Yes, even the first Christmas meant many things to different people, but what does Christmas mean to you? Perhaps the answer may be found by

pondering the why of Christmas from God's point of view. Christmas came about because God wanted us to know him. As Isaiah wrote, God's way and thoughts are much higher than man's (Isaiah 55:8, 9). So God chose to reveal himself to mankind in terms that humans can understand, through the birth of his Son. Jesus was truly Emmanuel, God with us. He was both Son of God and Son of man. Jesus revealed perfectly God's love, purity, and truth in terms that we can comprehend.

Christmas was introduced because God wanted us to love. "We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). God showed us his love by providing a plan of salvation for us through his Son Jesus Christ. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15). Christmas resulted because of God's

desire for us to serve him. The old chorus asks: If you love him, why not serve him?" In sending his Son, God gave us a reason for serving him. We do not serve out of fear and obligation, but from love and appreciation.

But the ultimate question – "What does Christmas mean to you?" – is still unanswered. You are the only one who can answer that question. It is up to each of us to discover what Christmas means to us. May your answer to this question be not clouded by the many secondary considerations that fill the season. Let it center around the Christ whom Christmas is all about. ■

Pastor Scott Ross
December, 1976

The Restitution Herald

Back Issues Available on CD ROM

These volumes contain:

- Articles written by pastors and leaders of the past – James Patrick, R. H. Judd, Dorothy Magaw, F. A. Stilson, E. O. Stewart, Sydney Magaw, Verna Thayer, C. E. Lapp, G. E. Marsh, F. L. Austin, F. E. Siple, Norman McLeod, Robert McLaughlan, D. G. Harvey, Harry Sheets, Harvey Krogh, Jr., Mary Gesin, J. H. Anderson, A. J. Eychaner, Arlen Marsh, Esta Starbuck and so many more.
- News of churches and conferences
- Valuable family information in obituaries
- News of the National Bible Institution, Bible Training Class and Berean Department

Each volume comes on 2 CD ROMs. To order, please check the volumes you wish to receive.

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All 9 volumes are available for \$80 and the postage and handling will be free. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. Additional volumes will be available in the future.

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I recently asked the staff to list something they really liked that was happening. Here is the list: 1- The “Go Serve” events; 2- A time of prayer, pairing up with other nationalities; 3- The drama group; 4- The board’s openness during the recent board-staff meeting; 5- The turnout for student-staff get togethers: Martin Mayhem Barbecue, Death by Chocolate, etc.; 6- Chapel services, both worship and speakers; 7- Increased connection between the college and conference with churches. What a great summary of the recent months.

In a time when most charities, according to David Krogh, have seen giving reduced 11%, giving for our first quarter is up about 40% from this period last year. I believe this is a response to clear communication from the board and the staff to our brothers and sisters in Christ. These ARE difficult times in many areas. One metro Atlanta county had foreclosures that were UP 20%. A former graduate, Steven Davis, who worked in a private school, Mt. Zion, informed me that the school was closing and he had to seek other employment. Our enrollment also is down, adding a further tightness in the budget, but PRAISE GOD, our people are responding!

Not only is giving up, but we have reduced expenses for the one quarter, July, August and September by \$140,000 from the same period last year. We are working together as a TEAM with our pastors,

churches, and individuals of the conference. The board, as noted by the list above, is being very transparent about issues that we must deal with. The board at that meeting in October, approved our new employee manual which incorporates the Vision: To Join God; the Mission Statement: To Serve Churches and Individuals in the Ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and God’s Kingdom; and also Core Values of Love, Integrity, Faith, Truth/Teamwork, and Service (“L I F T S”). A summary of the board minutes has already been sent to pastors.

I would like to take a few paragraphs to focus on the Vision Statement: To Join God. Neither I, nor the board, can figure it “all” out. Jesus and Paul are clear, “in this world you will have trouble” (Jn. 16:33) and “we must through much tribulation enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22) The Vision, To Join God, rightly puts the honor of leadership in the hands of the LORD God and His Son as we entrust our total future to them. The elections are now over, still, no one truly knows what the future may or may not bring, except our heavenly Father. As we join God, in what HE is doing, helping people know Him, His Son, and His coming kingdom, and loving people, “we” cannot fail. As Paul boldly said, “Let God be true and every man liar.” (Rom. 3:4)

I believe the first aspect of “Joining God” is knowing Him (cp. Jn 17:3). Often, worship is the first in lists of purposes of

the church. I would suggest that without knowing Him first, we may be worshipping a Christoplatonist unbiblical God or even a “golden calf” as the ancient Israelites did. In Dt. 6:4 and Mark 12:29 “HEAR ISRAEL . . .,” Hear in both Hebrew and Greek is in the “imperative” or command case. In other words, YOU MUST KNOW THIS! Synonyms for imperative are “required,” “obligatory,” “non elective,” etc. Once we KNOW Him, know his LOVE, (Ex. 34:6, 7; I Jn. 4:8), then and only then, do we truly begin to love as he loves and worship Him as we ought.

Knowledge can “puff up” or cause us to be arrogant (I Cor. 8:1); and “without love” it is a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal (I Cor. 13:1, 2) But the LORD God, Yahweh is clear. “But let anyone who wants to boast (glory, KJV), boast of this: of understanding and knowing me. For I am Yahweh, who acts with faithful love, justice, and uprightness on earth; yes, these are what please me, Yahweh declares.” (Jer. 9:23 NJB). Hosea 4:1, 6 says “Listen to the word of Yahweh... there is no faithfulness or kindness, or knowledge of God in the land. . . **My people perish for lack of knowledge!**” We can Join God, by knowing him, then loving as He does, then worshipping, going, evangelizing, discipling, teaching, serving as He and His Son would have us do. We have a great future in that! Let’s Join God! ■

Dear members of the Church of God,

As the year begins to draw to a close, I would like to give you all a status report of some of the things your Board of Directors is currently working on. As you may know, the board met in Atlanta on October 21 and 22. As has been the practice the past couple of years, in an effort to improve communication, the agenda was published prior to, and a summary of the minutes was sent after the meeting to all pastors. It was a pleasure for the board to have an opportunity to enjoy a lunch with the staff and students and be able to hear many ideas and testimonies during our visit.

To begin, one piece of exciting news came recently. The INS gave final approval of the north campus, which closes the books on the relocation approval process. Much work went into this by many staff members, including the processing of paperwork and the physical moving of equipment, staff, and students to both campuses. The board recognizes and appreciates the hard work that has been done to achieve this important milestone in being able to continue to serve our international students.

After review of our yearly budget, I am happy to report that the auditors were very pleased with the work that had been done reducing expenses in order to move toward a more realistic, balanced budget. Over the past three month time period, the GC staff at both locations has re-

duced expenses nearly \$140,000 compared to last year. This includes many initiatives and policies, and improved oversight and accountability, most of which was communicated to the delegates at the July Conference in Atlanta. I cannot overstate the importance and tremendous effort this action took by our staff. In addition, the auditors noted that even during tough economic times, our membership has increased giving by approximately 40% during the same time period. Praise God, and thank you, to all who have given to the work of the General Conference and our missions. The not-so-good news is that the conference budget continues to face extreme cash flow difficulties. The board and conference leadership team will be monitoring this situation closely throughout the remainder of the school year should additional action be needed. We are committed to sound financial stewardship of God's resources.

Under Dr. Joe's leadership, the renewed focus of the conference and college is taking shape. The "Join God" initiative is helping all of us gain a better understanding of how to know and worship God better, and to serve by going, evangelizing, and discipling others. Joe has unveiled a focused program of Core Values called "LIFTS" (Love, Integrity, Faith, Truth/Teamwork, and Service) encouraging those employed at the GC to exhibit these core values. I would like to see this expanded to all churches in our conference as well. Not that we all don't strive to embrace these traits, but as a

way to remind us of the fact that we are to emulate our Lord in how we interact with others.

The board also has begun exploring a vision plan for the future of the Bible college and General Conference. Our leases expire at the end of 2013, so it is not too early to begin exploring other options for location and methods for delivering classes at ABC. The board has reviewed many possible location ideas and feels the best option for our physical campus and headquarters, for the foreseeable future, is to remain in the Atlanta area. There are many reasons for this: staff moving considerations; God sent us (delegate action) major metro area; INS process; moving expenses costly; Korean community in Duluth; international recognition with Atlanta name. However, one initiative very high on the agenda is to continue developing an improved distance learning program (a distance learning program does currently exist with many course offerings) to include two-way interaction between facilitator and student from various locations at once. The concept of satellite campuses is being explored, including, but not limited to, linking various Midwest churches to this program. This would allow another avenue for potential pastoral students to have hands-on experience in local churches as part of their curriculum, while being mentored by our pastors. This also puts greater emphasis and improved feasibility to recruit pastoral candidates from our pool of church members

(Continued on page 19)

Just LOVE David's praise in Psalm 63, "O God, you are my God. Earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands! My soul clings to you."

David, described in I Samuel as a man after God's own heart, taught his son Solomon to "Acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you..." (I Chron. 28:9)

There are many verses in the Bible that stress the importance of focusing on God, although I don't believe the word 'focus' is ever used. Many other words are used, though, that have the same meaning. God longs for us to have a right relationship with him, and that can only come when we earnestly seek him and follow his guidelines for life. However, our selfish, sinful nature often gets in the way, and we are distracted from our focus on God.

I was meditating on this a few weeks ago, and woke up early the next morning with a story from my childhood intensely in my thoughts. I hadn't thought about it for many years...so long ago that I had forgotten about it.

When I was a young girl probably about twelve or thirteen, growing up in the backwoods of southern Louisiana, my friend Jenny Richardson invited me to come over to their place for a swim. It was July, scorching hot and oppressive with humidity. A couple of my siblings and I set out for the long walk over to her house.

Our houses were several miles apart, through the woods, down the power-line (which the Louisiana Power and Light electric company kept mowed down pretty well), through another big woods, and then finally we arrived at their house. It took a couple of hours to walk there, and I was always a little afraid I would get lost in the woods since there was no path to follow.

Jenny's family had about thirteen children and mine

had eight, so there were several of us the same ages that enjoyed each other's company. By the time we arrived, we were hot and dusty, and very much looking forward to a swim in their large pond. To get to the pond, we had to go behind their house to the right, walk about a quarter of a mile, and go past their chicken houses.

There were many chicken farmers in southern Louisiana at the time, and Jenny's parents eked out a living selling eggs. They had two or three long chicken houses that were filled with chickens. For those of you who might not know, chickens get excited easily. When something scares them, they all flutter to the same area (usually in a corner of the chicken house) and pile up together, and the ones on the bottom suffocate. Each time this happened, the chicken farmers would go through the chicken houses and remove the dead chickens. So we were careful not to walk too close to the houses, so as to not scare the chickens.

The pond looked so inviting and cool, even though the water was dark and murky. We had our bathing suits on under our clothes, so quickly stripped off our outer garments and jumped in. There were five or six of us swimming in the middle of the pond, thoroughly enjoying ourselves.

After about fifteen minutes of utter bliss, I happened to look over to my left, toward the chicken houses, where I saw the eyes and snouts of several large alligators sticking out of the water on that end of the pond. I was terrified! I started screaming, "Alligators!!!" and treaded water as fast as I could to get to the shore. My siblings did the same.

Jenny and her siblings just started laughing at us and stayed in the water. She said, "Don't worry. They won't hurt you. We fed them the dead chickens this morning so they're not hungry." She and her siblings tried with much coaxing, but could not convince us to get back in the water.

We still continued to visit back and forth, but it's the first and last time we swam in their pond.

This reminds me of life. We all go through our busy lives doing whatever it is we feel we need to do, but there's always danger lurking just below the surface of what is visible. That danger is our sinful nature. We

all have it; we were born with it. And sometimes other people encourage that sinful nature to take over! Romans 8:5 tells us, "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires."

If we keep ourselves steeped in God's Word, meditating on it, talking constantly with our heavenly father and listening to him, then we'll be safe. I Thess. 5:17 says, "pray continually." Constantly be in communication with God. If we take our eyes and thoughts off him, our focus is not on godly things, but the cares and busyness of life. We sin.

I heard an illustration recently that I can relate to. Our natural "default" is sin. My computer has two printers, one prints in color and the other is a laser printer that prints in black. The default printer is the laser printer. Things just automatically print on that one unless I override it to print on the color one. In the same way, we automatically sin unless our focus is on God and his righteousness, and we override our sinful nature with his help. We need to pray and ask for his Spirit to lead us and the Word to guide us. "...Walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1, KJV)

How do we keep our focus on God? John 16:33 tells us, "In this world you will have trouble." Trouble is often brought on by the "infestation" of busyness. When I think of infestation, I think of being overrun with something...roaches, bugs, ants, mice, lice, etc... something undesirable. We do more and more things, taking on more and more responsibility, and it just happens. Our focus is no longer on God, but on the things we're doing. Then our sinful nature takes over and we lie, think bad things of other people, become selfish, impatient, irritable, etc. (just fill in your own natural default of sin here.)

So I ask again, how do we keep our focus on God? We do it through a steady infusion of God's word, meditating on it, and prayer. Have you ever been in the hospi-

tal or know someone else who has, and have an IV antibiotic infusing in your arm? The antibiotic keeps killing the bacteria even after the infusion is finished, because it stays in your system. The same is true of meditating. It helps us keep our FOCUS on God!! It keeps God's word in our hearts and minds. Be like the Bereans in Acts 17:11, who examined the scriptures every day. Joshua 1:8 tells us, "Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it..." The writer of Psalms 119:97 says, "Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long."

We need to be in constant communication with our heavenly father, talking with him and listening to him. Jesus was the best example of this, although there are many others in the Bible. In Mark 1:35 we're told, "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." Luke 6:12 says, "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God." So we see both ends of the spectrum here, with Jesus praying day and night. What an example to us! Spending time with God was a high priority

in his daily life, and we need to make it top priority in our lives, too.

Acts 2:42 is also an example to us, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship...and to prayer."

Let's all have this humble attitude from Psalm 19:14 "May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer." Let's override our default programming of sin by His Spirit, the Word, and prayer, keeping God our focus! ■

~Rebekah Martin
October 2010

**"May the words
of my mouth and
the meditations of
my heart be
acceptable in your
sight, O Lord,
my strength and
my redeemer."**

Psalm 19:14

ABC Report

The fall semester started on August 23 with an enrollment of 40 students. This compares with 50 last spring. Many students were unable to attend this semester because of difficult financial situations. Two of our students lost their homes and others are unemployed or underemployed. We were glad to welcome 12 new students this semester including six students from Church of God congregations.

In addition to encouraging Church of God students to take classes, we continue to make the presence of the college known in our community. A cookout sponsored by the college and Cornerstone Bible Church was held at the pool at the Trees of Avalon apartment complex where our students live. Several students visited an area high school during lunch to promote the college. On October 23rd the college had a booth on the square in downtown McDonough as a part of the annual Chili Cook-off. Conversations were held with many prospective students. We are again placing brochures in racks in lobbies of local businesses, doctor's offices, etc.

Under the direction of ABC student Jaysen Zea, monthly social events have been planned, including a cookout at the home of Joe and Rebekah Martin, the annual Death by Chocolate party, and a Christmas party. We continue to have weekly lunches after chapel for our students and staff. Thanks to the churches and individuals who

make these lunches financially possible.—David Krogh

LHI Report

Pakistan – There is a man currently on trial for the murder of Pastor Rashid and his brother. This trial is causing a lot of stress on the family because they have to testify in the case. Also, in Pakistan, the family of the victim has to pay many of the costs of prosecution instead of the costs being born by the government. Muslims are contributing a lot to the defense of the accused, so it is likely he will be acquitted.

We have been trying to secure a copy of a transcript of the interrogation of Pastor Rashid while he was in prison. Though a copy has not been obtained, we are in contact with an individual who has read the transcript. Stephen Cook from Australia, who is a part of our Pakistan Advisory Team, was named in the transcript as a sponsor of the work of Pastor Rashid. To my knowledge, my name was not mentioned. It appears that it will be unsafe for Stephen Cook to travel to Pakistan right now, and in fact, he probably would not be able to get a visa to travel there.

We continue to be in contact with Pastor Rashid's widow, Saima, and his brother, Pastor Vaster Saajan. They confirm that services continue to be held in the churches that were admitted into the Church of God General Conference. Through the generosity of fellow believers in

Germany and Austria, and the solicitation by Werner Bartl, several thousand dollars has been sent to be distributed by our pastors to those affected by the flooding that took place a couple of months ago. The money is being used to provide warm clothes and blankets since cold weather has arrived. Through the generosity of Church of God contributors, we have been able to send \$500 per month to the family of the slain brothers to help them during the time of transition.

Haiti – Pastor Lesly Bertrand was in Oregon, IL in October to meet with Judy Myers, Syd Kirkpatrick, and David Bormes about sending a team to Haiti to help with reconstruction of church facilities destroyed in the earthquake last January. We plan to send construction teams in February and/or March to assist with this work.

We have not been in contact with Pastor Lesly since the hurricane went through Haiti the end of October. E-mail communication was erratic before the hurricane because of damaged infrastructure in the country. It is probably even more difficult now.

Peru - Bill Wachtel and David Krogh traveled to Peru September 25 to October 4 to work with the congregation in Lima and to visit new works in Huaral and Ventanilla, villages north of Lima.

Sunday services were held both Sundays at the Lima church

(Continued on page 9)

We are back from a fascinating three-week trip to Spain and Germany. In the little village of Villanueva de Sijena in Spain, we were privileged to visit the birthplace of Michael Servetus. This distinguished biblical theologian and medical doctor was brutally put to death on Oct. 27, 1553 for the “crime” of not believing in the Trinity.

The person responsible for this shameful event was none other than the reformer John Calvin. Servetus was a forerunner of a return to the belief that the Son of God, Jesus, was a procreated person — that he began, by divine miracle, in the womb of his mother (Luke 1:35). Officials who led Servetus out to his torturous death by fire in 1553 in

Geneva pleaded with the “accused” to affirm his belief in the Trinitarian “eternal Son of God.” Servetus was a vigorous non-Trinitarian. He wrote full treatises on the biblical view of God and His Son. He was willing to confess his unbending conviction that “Jesus is the Son of the eternal God.” He was a biblical unitarian. For this, he gave his life.

His birth house in Spain is now a fine museum where one receives a detailed account of his many talents, his description of the Son of God who began in the womb of Mary, and of course of his awful death at the hands of Calvin, who died 14 years later believing that he had done right to have Servetus removed by burning at the stake.

In Germany, we were honored to conduct a three-day seminar on the One God, the first of its type in Europe. A group of Bible searchers assembled in Warmstroth not far from Frankfurt, and represented 16 different nations, including the Czech Republic, Russia, Iceland, Croatia, Morocco, Germany, and Austria. We are most grateful to Werner Bartl of Austria for his fine organizing skills. I was able to present the gospel of the kingdom and strengthen the hands of those battling for belief in the God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and, of course, of Jesus himself.

Many attenders were shocked by the misleading dictum of C.S. Lewis that “the Gospel is not in

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 8)

with Bill Wachtel preaching. Bible studies were held during the week.

On Wednesday, we traveled by bus about 2 hours north of Lima to the village of Huaral. Saturday afternoon and evening Bible classes are being held for about 22 children and several adults. Pastor Gaston and one or two others from the Lima church travel to the village each Saturday afternoon.

On Saturday, we traveled by taxi and bus to Ventanilla, a village on the far north side of Lima, about 20 miles from the Lima church. Two faithful church families live in this village and they have been holding weekly Bible studies. 18 attended the

Bible study led by Bill Wachtel. There seems to be much interest among family and friends of the church families who live there. These Bible studies are normally held on Sunday evenings, but because of our plans to be at the Lima church Sunday night, they were moved to Saturday.

We were able to provide encouragement and assistance to the leadership of the church groups in Peru. We are delighted that the members have taken the initiative to reach out to the villages of Huaral and Ventanilla. We believe that this reflects a heart for evangelism that is very commendable. We agreed to provide \$20 per month to help with bus fare for those who travel to these villages from Lima every week. Though the

economy of Peru is growing stronger, the members of our church are under-employed and do not make much money. Their tithes and offerings are able to cover the expenses of the Lima church and to provide a small salary for Pastor Gaston, but nothing extra. The pastor has had outside jobs to provide for the rest of his living expenses.

The Mission Board is thankful that Bill Wachtel, at the age of 83, is still able to make trips to Peru. He is fluent in Spanish and is an excellent teacher and preacher. He is very much respected by the leaders and members in Peru.

(Continued on page 11)

Greetings members of the Church of God General Conference,

The Korean Extension is pleased to announce another glorious start to the fall semester of 2010! We are also happy to announce the enrollment number of 95 for the Korean Extension. We also have a new member church, “The Marietta Bible Church of God” pastored by Kabsoo Kim. It is located in Marietta, GA, twenty-five minutes north of Atlanta.

As we begin each semester, we are always privileged to enroll individuals with such diverse backgrounds. For the beginning of this semester, we are truly blessed to welcome three individuals in particular. I believe it is through the students we are able to cultivate our Christian ministry.

God bless!
Sam An



Dr. JAEYUN SHIM

Interviewer: How did you hear about our school?

Jaeyun: My younger sister, “Eunah Shim”, has been enrolled at the school since 2008.

Interviewer: What was your motivation to enroll at the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension?

Jaeyun: I have a Doctorate of Liberal Arts in Western History. My specific area of study was “Medieval History.” A lot of religion was involved during this time, and I came to expand my knowledge. I often wondered about Christianity, and I do have a strong interest in it.

Interviewer: How do you like the school?

Jaeyun: My expectations have been exceeded. I believe you have a great ministry here.

Dr. Shim has taught at the “Donkuk University” in South Korea for 18 years. The university is a government accredited and certified institution with an enrollment of 25,000 students and 800 faculty members.



Mr. WONYOUNG OH

Interviewer: How did you hear about our school?

Wonyoung: I was introduced by a local Korean pastor’s family.

Interviewer: What was your motivation to enroll at the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension?

Wonyoung: I studied the law and graduated with a “Jurist Doctor” degree. I chose law for personal reasons. I often heard of the legal tensions that come with the territory and have seen some lawyers encounter personal tragedy. I want to study the Bible and equip myself for these endeavors. At the same time I would like to be a strong Christian leader for my family.

Interviewer: How do you like the school?

Wonyoung: It is only my first semester, but I find the classes very informative.

Wonyoung graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans with a “Jurist Doctor.” He has completed the “Bar Test” and is awaiting his results. For those who are unfamiliar with the degree, the “Jurist Doctor of Law” degree is the first professional graduate degree in law.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)



Miss JIA SEO

Interviewer: How did you hear about our school?

Jia: I was introduced by my uncle, Pastor Jaehoon Lee.

Interviewer: What was your motivation to enroll at the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension?

Jia: I spent some time in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The country is very rich and modern, but there are some places that are not so pleasant. I was exposed to what is referred to as the “Red-light District,” and I felt very stricken. Also, I had questions as to why such a rich and modern place would not allow women to attend church. This discouraged me so I sought guidance and discovered the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension.

Interviewer: How do you like the school?

Jia: The classes are a bit difficult to understand, because I do not have a lot of Bible knowledge. Other than that, the acceptance and courtesy I receive is wonderful.

Jia has received her Masters in International Business from the University of Saint Andrews in Scotland, U.K. She plans to be in the field of “International Marketing” as a professional and use this as her forefront to disciple to others. ■

(Continued from page 9)

the gospels,” and by Luke 8:12 which speaks of the gospel of the kingdom, the word (Matt. 13:19), as the object of Satan’s constant attack, so that men and women “may not believe that gospel and be saved”! A power-packed saying from the lips of Jesus, the model gospel of the kingdom preacher (Luke 4:43)!

Werner Bartl distributed 1000 copies of one of my books translated into German. As a result of this distribution, more than 100 people gathered for this conference. About 70 more wished to attend but because of limited seating, they were not invited this time. Plans are being made to hold another conference next year. ■

(Continued from page 9)

We are also thankful to all who provided financial assistance to cover the cost of this trip.

Africa – Plans are being made for a trip to Malawi and Mozambique May 26 to June 16. The plan is for only Joe and Rebekah Martin to make this trip. Rather than having normal training classes and many preaching services, they will spend most of their time visiting with individual pastors to encourage and help them with their ministry. The plan is to visit a large number of churches during the three-week trip.

The response for toys for orphans in Africa was overwhelming! Thank you to all who so generously donated. At this point no more toys are needed. ■

Northwest Conference of the Worldwide Scattered Brethren Network

Reported by Arlen Rankin

Brethren and truth-seekers from seven states gathered in Central Washington for the first-ever conference of the “Worldwide Scattered Brethren Network” started and implemented by Robin and Marisa Todd of Lacey, Washington. This regional gathering brought people from Alaska, Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska and Washington to hear messages on truths held in common and to develop friendships and fellowship among those of like faith. Some have long been established in these truths and others are just beginning their search.

Several speakers presented a wide variety of topics designed to edify, encourage and establish each participant in the things of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. Robin Todd introduced the history and purposes of the network. Check out the website, www.kingdomheart.org and click on “Worldwide Scattered Brethren Network” or email Robin at, churchofnagod@comcast.net for information and answers.

Speaking at the Conference, in addition to Robin Todd, was Anthony Buzzard of Georgia (*Teaching the Kingdom of God in Any Setting*); Scott Ross of Nebraska (*Three Great Questions: If a man die shall he live again? Whom do men say that I am? and What must I do to be saved?*); William Wachtel of Washington (*The Unfinished Reformation: considering justification by faith, conditional immortality & the priesthood of all believers*); Arlen Rankin of Washington (*The Faith of Abraham in the Pacific Northwest: answering How did the faith come to this region and What is the Faith of Abraham?*); David Maas of Washington (*The Controversy at Galatia: Through the Faith of Jesus Christ or From the Works of the Law?*); Merry Peterson of Washington (*Jesus’ Parable of the Sower*).

A new book was introduced at this conference written by Arlen F. Rankin, “Hope: A Biblical Perspective” available from *Bible Faith Ministries*, 1916 North-

wood Road, Wenatchee, WA 98801 for \$10.00. This is a book of 100 pages presenting the various aspects of hope from the Bible text itself.

There was good fellowship, lots of conversation, and plenty of good food provided by the local Church of God of the Faith of Abraham in Wenatchee. There were serious moments and humorous moments. There were positive times of edification, encouragement, and education. Overall it was truly a time for conferring on things of the Word and of sharing our faith and who we are.

The climax of the week-end conference was the baptism Sunday afternoon of two new sisters from Idaho—Wanda Murrell and her “adopted” daughter Kari Brouwer. Praises be to the name of the Lord our God. ■



Attendees of the conference.



Conference speakers: Anthony Buzzard, Arlen Rankin, William Wachtel, Scott Ross and David Maas

As was their commission, Paul and Silas, while in Philippi, taught and preached and lived the Word of God. Lydia, a seller of purple (more than likely dye, and perhaps some dyed materials) from Thyatira, learned the gospel, was converted, and chose to follow the truth. She and her household were baptized, and she implored Paul and the others (probably including Luke – note verse 13, “we sat down”; and verse 15, “she besought us...she constrained us”).

But trouble followed, as Jesus had decreed to Ananias: “I will shew him [Saul/Paul] how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake” (Acts 9:16). As the group went to prayer, a young woman, “possessed with a spirit of divination” (16:16), started to shout, “These men are servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.” And this continued for “many days.” When Paul had a bellyful of the shouting (not of the message), he commanded the spirit in the name of Jesus to come out of the girl. Out the spirit came, and the girl was healed from that infirmity. No longer did she shout the message. No longer did she interrupt whatever Paul and Silas were trying to get done. No longer did she bring money into the coffers of “her masters.” Those people, now being deprived of that part of their livelihood, grabbed Paul and Silas, rushed them to the marketplace to the rulers, and demanded that something be done with the troublemakers.

In their plea, of course, nothing of the truth about their reduced income was ever mentioned. That would not have gotten them very far. But the assertion that Paul and Silas, in essence, called for the overthrow of Roman law (indicating insurrection) brought the people to their feet ready for a fight. “The multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them” (v. 22). And beat them they did. They “laid many stripes upon them.” Then the magistrates hustled them to the jail and told the jailor to keep them “safely,” to make sure, in other words, that they could by no means escape. That was no problem for the jailor. He had certain resources – a jail within a jail! He “thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks” (v. 24).

At midnight, sore, tired, and exhausted, Paul and Silas nevertheless had not lost hope or faith. They raised their voices, and not quietly, in prayers and songs to praise and honor God. What? This was no time to pray, except for release (and maybe for their enemies). This was a time to plan to escape, to fidget with the stocks if they could reach them, to curse the authorities and to question their God, their Messiah, and their mission. But at midnight that natural gave way to the spiritual, and these men prayed and sang with an uplifting joy in their hearts and voices, “and the prisoners heard them” (v. 25).

Suddenly, a great earthquake

broke everyone free of their bonds and burst both the inner and outer doors of the prison wide open, inviting them all to freedom. But not one person moved! As if still constrained, they sat mute – perhaps afraid, perhaps wondering, perhaps marveling at what had just happened.

Into the outer prison rushed the jailor, sword in hand, ready to do himself in rather than face Roman justice.

A strong voice from inside the inner prison called, “Don’t do it! We’re all here!” The mystified jailor sprang into the inner prison, held a lamp high, and marveled at the many faces staring back at him. “Trembling, [he] fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (vv. 28-30)

That is the primary question for humanity. “What must I do to be saved?” Many ponder over the question for much of their lives – looking for science or medicine, or even government to provide an answer. Yet the answer is always close, always within reach, always waiting to be found. Turning to and reading the pages of the Bible will show the answer. The book of all books is the revelation of God and His plan for humanity. It contains comfort for any man or woman seeking answers to puzzling questions such as this. It provides filling goodness for starving and thirsty souls “looking for a way out.”

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

And Paul and Silas gave an immediate answer to the jailor – not a complete answer, but enough that the jailor could respond properly to the message: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (v. 31). But there was more: “And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house” (v. 32).

Notice what fantastic results were theirs: “And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway” (v. 33).

Read farther to see “the rest of the story.”

“I”

But now let us turn our attention to that eternal question: “What must I do to be saved?” Concentrate, if you will, on the single pronoun “I.” All of us are interested in ourselves. Substitute *your I* for mine: I talk in a way to ingratiate myself to others. I think in a way that will help me escape the problems I have brought upon myself. I concern myself with what I am going to eat, what I will wear, where I will work (or look for work in this economy). It’s *I, I, I* all the time. I look out for number 1. But, reasonably now, if I didn’t look out for myself, who would take care of my family? If I didn’t “bring home the bacon,” who would put bread on the table? If I didn’t care for myself, who would?

In Luke 18:9-14, Jesus “spake this parable unto certain that trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others.” These people, as you may know, are Pharisees, so a Pharisee is the first mentioned parable. He went into the temple to pray. That’s nice. Good for him! He’s doing what he should do. Or is he? Listen to the prayer that he prayed “with himself”: “God, I thank thee, that *I* am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican [the other man there to pray]. *I* fast twice in the week; *I* give tithes of all that *I* possess.”

“The publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to *me* a sinner.”

Jesus concluded the parable with this observation: “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

So, even though *I* is sometimes necessary, it can be misused.

In Acts 2, Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost brought a collective answer, which broken down, would be a lot of *I*’s. Concluding his sermon, “he laid it on the line” for his hearers. “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom *ye* have crucified, both Lord and Christ” (v. 36). The resultant cry from the an-

guished, guilty audience was, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (v. 37). Each person in the crowd asked, “What must *I* do?” The Philippian jailer later echoed that same sentiment. Peter’s answer seems different from Paul’s, but is it? “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (v. 38).

The apostles were chosen out of thousands of people just like them. And like the thousands not chosen, sometimes their desires got the best of them. Consider two of the three “insiders” to Jesus’ teachings – James and John. Poor Peter; he was left out this time – and probably for the better. Mark 10:35-45 shows James and John, special disciples in their own minds, sauntering up to Jesus saying, “Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.” Well, you know that if someone says to you, “Promise that you’ll do what I ask you to do,” your first response will be, “I can’t do that. Tell me first what you want so I can judge whether to do it or not.” That was Jesus’ answer, too: “What would ye that I should do for you?” In other words, “Give me your request first, and I’ll give you my answer.”

“They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.” What a request! Yet, who among us would not like to be chosen to

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

sit at Jesus’ right or left hand in the Kingdom? This is like the recently touted “me generation” – everything is for me, me, me! This same account is given in Matthew 20:20-24, except it is James’ and John’s mother who asks Jesus that question for her boys. The same answer is forthcoming in both accounts: “Ye know not what ye ask. Can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? And be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

They probably had no idea that Jesus was referring to the hatred he would face, or the vitriol that would spew from the lips of his enemies, or the death plans his enemies scraped together for him. They answered too quickly and confidently, almost with a shrug of a shoulder: “We can.” “Indeed you will,” said Jesus, “yet these positions are not mine to give. My Father shall see to that” [paraphrased].

“And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John” (Mark 10:41). You see, they wanted those positions also, and they felt the brothers had tried to acquire a preemptive advantage. I think of Peter in this situation (you know, of the Peter, James, and John trio), and wonder if he was not hurt the most by seeing the brothers stepping out ahead of him. After all, ten of them were indignant, so Peter was one of those ten. Jesus put down this rebellion with a brief sermon (vv. 42-45), saying, “Whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: and whosoever of you will

be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.”

“Must Do”

Putting the jailer’s question into a statement, we come up with “What I must do to be saved.” “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,” said the duo (Acts 16:31). One would think, then, that that would be sufficient. However, the text continues: “And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.” So if more teaching was needed and delivered, then the first answer was an introduction and not the whole answer. The fact that the jailer and his family were all baptized shows that “believing” had to have a follow-up. Matthew 16:13-17 finds Jesus asking his disciples, “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” After receiving the reply, “John the Baptist, Elias, Jeremias, one of the prophets,” he asked, “But whom do ye say that I am?” Good old Peter said something right for a change: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus blessed him for that correct answer: “Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.” Peter’s statement was not “You are God.” It was not “You are the middle of three Gods.” It was not, “The answer God gave me is too confusing for me to know who you are.” No indeed! “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” won the prize – the praise

of Jesus! You’d think this would be the uppermost doctrine of the followers of Saint Peter – the Catholic Church – would you not? And yet, not only had the “universal church” strayed from Peter’s answer, it has led most other “Christian” churches into the same diabolical teaching. What, after all, is so hard about understanding this simple statement, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God?”

Upon another occasion, Jesus answered an accusation of the Pharisees, who said, “thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true” (John 8:13). What they meant by that statement was that the law said, “At the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall [a] matter be established” (Deuteronomy 19:15). Jesus was one, and only one. His testimony alone was insufficient according to God’s law given to Moses. Jesus had the perfect platform to state a trinitarian viewpoint if, indeed, he believed it. “In the mouth of three witnesses” could envelop Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But notice, he used the proper interpretation: “I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me” (John 8:18). This discourse in the temple (v. 20) is the same one in which he testified, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am,” giving rise to unfounded speculation that Jesus claimed to be God. In John 17:3, his prayer to the Father was plain: “This is eternal life, that they might know thee the only true God,

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

In Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost, he accused his Jewish listeners of complicity in the death of their Messiah:

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36). Upon hearing that condemnation, the Jews cried out, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Essentially, this is the same question the jailer asked. This time the answer was, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” A similar statement is given by the Lord Jesus in Mark 16:15, 16 before he was conveyed to heaven: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” In Acts 3, after the healing of the 40+ year-old lame man and all the attendant “wonder and amazement” of the crowd, Peter preached Christ to them and began to summarize his sermon with these words: “Repent ye, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ.” (vv. 19, 20).

If we go farther on this subject, we might quote Jesus in John 8:32: “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” Jesus had begun his min-

istry with these words: “Repent, for the kingdom of [not ‘in’] heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). And he continued that message throughout his ministry. For instance, sometime later, in the desert he told his followers, “I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.” (Luke 4:43).

“To Be Saved”

To be saved from what? “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). That we are all sinners cannot be doubted for a moment. Remember your life. How many times have you, in your lifetime, disobeyed the God of heaven? How many times have you complained about your lot in life? How many times have you cursed your husband/wife, your neighbor, your boss, the person whose driving nearly drove you mad? To be saved from what? Certainly not from the Adamic death. That death is a given for all of us if Jesus does not return to intervene before that dreaded event takes place. But we *can* be saved from the second death. In that same book of Romans, Paul stated, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (6:23). In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul instructed, “Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (vv. 21, 22).

If we have realized our fallen condition and trusted our Lord for salvation, the former suggestions should help us to understand *what must be done to be saved*. Despite the fact the salvation is a gift of God, He demands action on our part to live up to His standards. You cannot get a driver’s license by simply going to the Secretary of State’s office and giving your name and address. There’s more to it than that. You cannot just show up at a church meeting, a worship service, or a prayer session, and say to God, “I accept your gift,” and expect salvation without any other action on your part.

To close this message, I’d like to quote from Jeremiah 17:7-10: “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.” ■

Pastor Gordon Landry, retired
Flagg Center, IL

Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

“Why are ye so fearful, O ye of little faith?”

--Matthew 8:26 (KJ)

Jesus and His apostles were on Galilee when a great storm arose. The apostles (several fishermen among them) were scared to death. Jesus was asleep. They woke Him and, being very frightened, they begged Him to save them because they were about to drown. Jesus said, “Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?” And He arose, and rebuked the storm. The water immediately was calm.

The apostles were afraid of what was coming. Jesus rebuked them for this attitude. The storm wasn't bothering Him. But of course God had given Him power over the elements, we say. Jesus knew His death would not be from a storm, nor would theirs if they were with Him.

Fearfulness. I suppose some fearfulness is inborn in most of us — fear that what is coming up in our lives may turn out bad, and the uncertainty is really bothering us. This “fearfulness” can occur all through life unless we find the cure — from childhood to old age. Here, Jesus was speaking to grown men. I myself have had this tendency since childhood. It was possibly what brought on asthma at the age of 6. I call this fearfulness of the outcome as inborn, something that a lot of us are born with. At the age of 56, in 1980, I fell off the top of a two-story house. The doctor had to operate on my right knee. When I was under the anesthetic, immediately after cutting into my knee, my lungs went into spasms and breathing was difficult. This happened when I was completely out. The nurse told me afterward I scared them for a minute. They didn't know about the asthma. I wonder if that wasn't directly caused by an inner fearfulness, even though I was sleep.

According to Revelation 21:8, the fearful will have their part in the lake of fire. So fearfulness is some-

thing people who want to be people of God have to conquer. According to Jesus' words in the story at the beginning, faith, real strong faith in God and in Christ, is the cure for fearfulness (O ye of little faith).

David had this problem. In the 23rd Psalm he said the LORD was his shepherd, therefore he, David, would not want (lack for any good thing.). Then he said something very important, “He restoreth my soul (life)”. David needed restoring, or, more faith, more confidence in God, more strength, more trust in the Lord that “all things work together for good to them that love God.”

Many times “Fear not” is found in the Bible. The angel said that to the shepherds. The angel said that to the women at the tomb. When the friends of the man with palsy saw Jesus heal their friend, “they were filled with fear.” It is good to “fear God.” But it is not good to be fearful of the outcome of coming events in our lives. Like David, we need extra strength that comes from the Lord to have faith and peace that God will take care of all the needs of His people, because He loves His people, and He won't let evil come upon them.

When Antichrist comes and beheads many Christians and Jews, this is not really bad, for it is the real test of their faith. “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.” They shall be raised to eternal life and be kings and priests in God's kingdom that Jesus will establish here on earth when He comes.

Faith is the cure for fearfulness. “I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.” Jesus told us to come to Him if we were weary and heavy laden — He would give us rest. We humanly do not have the strength to overcome life's problems by ourselves. We need heavenly help. Why are we fearful? Because we need more faith.

If you love God, believe that God does cause every circumstance you face to come out for good. Fearfulness is one of the sins that needs to go under the water with us in baptism and left there. ■

Jim Mattison

If God answered your prayers for your city, but He did so through another ministry, would you still rejoice?

Some form of that question appeared recently in various Twitter and Facebook posts from ministry workers. I found it intriguing, so I wanted to look into the idea. It seems like we can learn a great deal from our answer to that question.

Let's start with what may be the worst of it. If I am not praying for my city, that's trouble. It's likely that I lack concern for the people of my city. Maybe it is just a lack of interest in or awareness of the community. Maybe it would be a lack of the Spirit of God at work in my heart. None of those would be good options, so that would have to change. I need to concern myself with prayer for my city.

Now, if I *am* praying for great things for my city, this scenario would reveal my motive for that prayer. Rejoicing would show that I want to see God do great things in my city. Being OK with God doing those big things through other ministries would likely mean that I am praying to build The Kingdom instead of my own kingdom.

What would be revealed if I did anything less than rejoice? If rejoicing meant that I was seeking to build The Kingdom, anything less may reveal that I am seeking to build *my* kingdom, my *church's* kingdom, or maybe even my *denomination's* king-

dom. Building *The Kingdom* isn't really our goal in that case, is it?

If our concern is for the lost in our cities to seek God and find a saving faith in Jesus, this is a good place to start. If we seek God on behalf of our city, if we pray that He will awaken people and they will turn to Him, then we are on the right path.

If we concern ourselves with caring for the outcast, the poor, and the neglected, this is also a good place to start. If we seek God on behalf of the needy in our community, if we seek justice, clothe the naked, feed the poor, and visit the imprisoned, we again seem to be on the right path.

We generally like being on the right path with God. At least, that is where I want to be, even if sometimes that path is frightening. So where and how do we fall off the path?

In his book *Velvet Elvis*, author and pastor Rob Bell speaks of two approaches to our statements and beliefs about faith. First, he looked at these as springs on a trampoline. The springs aren't the point, but they help us to understand the point. "We take them seriously, and at the same time we keep them in proper perspective."¹ They help us with understanding the interaction and experience we are having with God as we find our way with Him.

For others, faith isn't made up of springs on a trampoline, it's a wall of bricks. Each of the core

doctrines for someone with this philosophy is an individual brick, stacking on your other beliefs to form a wall. Bell refers to this as brickianity, wherein we spend a lot of time talking about how right we are and how wrong everyone else is. Says Bell, "The problem with brickianity is that walls inevitably keep people out. Often it appears as though you have to agree with all of the bricks exactly as they are or you can't join."²

I think Bell is on to something. Those things that we have determined the Bible to be saying should guide us to a better relationship with God, not just a better knowledge about Him. Too often the knowledge about God turns into argument material, whereas knowing God more leads to a better relationship with Him and His people. As author Brian McLaren points out, "So many of us are sure about what we're against, but in the process of being against so much, we've either forgotten what we're for or become for things not worth being for."³

So, what are we for? Is it something greater than our own plans, or our own church group? When I read Matthew 25's parable of the sheep and goats, I see the need to take care of physical needs as though we were taking care of Jesus Himself. When I read Matthew 28, I see the call to find, develop, and empower new believers in Jesus. Are these things bigger than my church? Is this a vision big enough to require more than what my church can offer alone?

It certainly would seem so, and if that is the case, how do I proceed?

In a recent survey of workers inside and outside the Church of God, ministry and service were clear areas in which people were willing to work outside of their denomination. One respondent said, "In many situations I have found it advantageous to cross the lines as the resources, experience, and choice of trained people is greater. I am willing to take part in ministry of other denominations because together we can do more." Another said, "My world expanded as I learned from them and I grew to appreciate that we were truly working for the same God--we just had different ways of expressing that." For these Christians, the mission must be done, and denominational lines will not stop them for working toward that. It does not negate their understanding of the doctrines of the church; it elevates their view of others as Christians worthy of working along-

side.

Author Phill Butler notes that "Partnerships are born when the vision is too big, too complex, or calls for resources too great for any individual or single ministry."⁴ For many in the survey, serving with another church or ministry was as simple as seeing that someone else had needs, resources, or in-roads that were not available in their own church. Once this was discovered, they naturally made the effort to serve with those churches or ministries. They saw a vision bigger than their own church, and they joined that work.

Moving across denominational lines in this way helps people to connect through their commonalities in order to collaborate in service for the kingdom of God. Our responsibility starts with prayer, seeking how we may serve, and offering ourselves in service. "Availability emphasizes a willingness for God to use us in whatever way he leads

and for us to have an attitude of expectation that the Holy Spirit may prompt us to engage with people or situations that we would never have anticipated."⁵

What is your prayer today? Are you ready for it to be heard, no matter who God uses to make it happen? If you are, you are ready. ■

¹ Bell, Rob. (2005). *Velvet Elvis*. (p. 22). Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan.

² Ibid. (p. 27).

³ McLaren, Brian. (2004). *A Generous Orthodoxy*. (p. 127). El Cajon, CA: Youth Specialties Books.

⁴ Butler, Phill. (2005). *Well Connected*. (p. 93). Waynesboro, GA: Authentic Books.

⁵ Nash, Sally; Pilot, Jo; Nash, Paul. (2008). *Skills for Collaborative Ministry*. (p. 128). London, England: Society For Promoting Christian Knowledge.

(Continued from page 5)

who may not be able to move to Atlanta to attend ABC. If we join God, the possibilities and potential of this type of program is unlimited! I ask for your prayers, specifically that God provides the answer and way for our future location and methods of delivering education.

I get extremely excited when I consider the future of the COG

and our Bible college. We have unlimited opportunities to reach virtually anyone in the world using today's communication technologies. I feel we, as a conference, have turned a corner in seeking forgiveness for our sins and as we strive to become more focused as a "people loving, truth seeking, servant focused" Church of God. Continue to love each other and to lift one another up. Continue to hold each other and our leadership accountable to God and the truths of His word. And con-

tinue to preach the gospel in truth and love until the whole world knows Yahweh, the one true God and His Son, Jesus, Messiah. ■

Robert E. Morrison, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Directors
Church of God General Conference/
Atlanta Bible College

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** – Operation Christmas Child has begun, and the people of the church have begun collecting school supplies (crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, spiral notebooks, pens, erasers, markers, colored pencils, and pencil boxes) for children of all ages. **Pastor Sydney Kirkpatrick** reports that collection of items is continuing, and November 13 was packing day when the boxes were assembled to give to children during the Christmas season.

From **Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA** – Pastor Joe Myers and the Cornerstone family welcomed gospel singer **Jerry Bennett** on September 12. Jerry often travels with **Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill**, and Jerry has visited Christian Workers Seminar, Ministers Conference and other COG activities in recent years. Jerry sang three songs during morning worship service and presented a full one-hour concert after a potluck dinner. It was a blessing to hear Jerry's testimony in song.

From **Resurrection Hope Church of God in Lenoir, NC** – **Pastor James Ritch** and his daughter **Kristi** took a mission trip to Africa July 13-28. They traveled to Kenya to meet with James' **granddaughter Kyndal**, who is working with Africa H.E.A.R.T. Kyndal is in Kenya on an internship with Africa H.E.A.R.T., and she has already experienced many wonderful things in her life as a result. Pastor Ritch and Kristi helped Kyndal with some of her work and met many fine people along the way. Although Pastor James became very sick while in Africa, he recovered and has a marvelous testimony to share about his time there.

From **Bedford Church of the Open Bible in Bedford, OH** – **Mildred and James Dennis** visited **Pastor Rex Cain** and the Bedford Church of the Open Bible for the church's annual picnic August 22. Mildred's great-grandfather, Christian Murphy, helped build the Salem Church of God in Salem, IL. From 1961-1965 Mildred wrote the monthly children's page for the Herald, entitled "Stories to Grow On." She has also written an award-winning column for Ohio and Illinois newspapers, entitled "Just Wondering." Two of Mildred's books are *On Wings Rising*, about her husband's difficult recovery from a massive stroke, and *It's Gonna Be O.K.*, about a spunky little girl growing up in Oklahoma in the 1930s and 1940s. Check them out!

From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** and the Oregon Church welcomed **Pastor Lesly Bertrand of Haiti** for Sunday worship on October 10. Pastor Lesly spoke at a special service after dinner, describing his ministry and the struggles of the people of Haiti. A love offering for Pastor Lesly was received.

From **Flagg Center Community Church of God in Rochelle, IL** – **Pastor Gordon Landry** was honored at a retirement party October 23 to celebrate Pastor Gordon's 61 years of ministry (36 at Flagg Center Community Church of God) and his dedication to Jesus Christ. The celebration included good food and stories about how Gordon has touched the lives of many people throughout his years of service.

From **Bedford Church of the Open Bible in Bedford, OH** – **Dale Ramsey**, pastor of the **Cool Spring Church in Browntown, VA** presented a worship service concert October 17. Dale's organ concert featured classical pieces, such as "In Dulci Jubilo" by J. S. Bach and classic hymns such as "Now Thank We All Our God" and "When the Roll is Called." After the concert, there was a delicious carry-in dinner. **Pastor Rex Cain** had these things to say afterward: "Let me wipe away my last tear. Our special day with **Dale and Connie Ramsey** is history. What a great organ program with Dale's narration in between the musical compositions – sometimes talking about the composers and their faith or why the composition was written. He also gave us some spiritual challenges. He dedicated the last piece in memory of **Bud Jones** and to honor **Fred Schuld's** delight in theater organ music. Dale played 'Cruising Down the River.' All faces were smiling."

*The 38th Annual
Christian Workers Seminar 2011*

April 3-8, 2011 ■ Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Theme: Jesus: My Servant -- My Son

Great men of God were first and foremost servants of God.
Jesus was a model of a servant and he calls us to be servants/slaves.

The seminar will focus on following the example of Jesus.
Classes will emphasize equipping workers for more effective ministry.

At the Holiday Inn's
beautiful new convention center.

We'll see YOU in Pigeon Forge in 2011!

Please begin making plans
now to join us...
and bring a couple of friends with you!

Additional information and registration
forms will be available later this year.

Prices
(housing, meals, program)

Four-to-a-room - \$264/person
Three-to-a-room - \$294/person
Two-to-a-room - \$354/person
One-to-a-room - \$514/person

Special guests will include:

Joel & LaBreeska Hemphill

Vince & Mimi Finnegan

Teachers/speakers will include:

Anthony Buzzard

Joe Myers

John Carr

Jim & Carol Ring

Julie Driskill

Kent Ross

Lynne Krogh

Scott Ross

Rebekah Martin

Wally Winner

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown – John Evans (11/7/10) by Pastor Tom New; Louise McGinty (9/26/10) by transfer letter.

Arizona

Tempe – Victoria White and Ashley Carlblom (8/22/10) by Pastor Joe Myers; Jim and Kim Mullane, Misty Dayzie and Jessica Heiss (8/22/10) by Pastor Steve Taylor.

Illinois

Rockford – Stacey Nolen by Pastor Deborah Bryant.

Indiana

Knightstown Family Fellowship – Cora Nolen (10/9/10) by Tony and Angela Moore.

Missouri

Desloge – Joannes Finley (8/29/10) by Pastor Jon T. Welch.

Ohio

Bedford – Kaitlin Kostyo (9/12/10) by Pastor Rex Cain.

South Carolina

Joy Fellowship – Peyton Winner (9/11/10) by Pastor Wally Winner.

Deaths

Arkansas

Russellville – Doris Smith McLain, 89, (9/28/10); Doris was the wife of Pastor Alan McLain who preceded her in death.

Illinois

Oregon – Margene Rager, 80, (8/17/10), long time faithful member. Service by Pastors Michael Hoffman and Gordon Landry.

Ripley – Mary “Peggy” Winner, 81, (10/22/10), long time faithful member, mother of Pastor Wally Winner. Service by Pastors Wally Winner and Gordon Landry.

Minnesota

Owatonna – Nadine Peters, 91, (10/24/10), long time faithful member. Service by Pastor V. E. Kirkpatrick.

Oklahoma

Payne County – LaRoy N. Shaull, 75, (10/14/10), father of Pastor Jim Shaull. Service by Dr. Joe Martin and Pastors Tom New and Steve Tiger.

Virginia

Fort Valley – Rosa Ramsey, 59, (10/25/10), long time faithful member, retired schoolteacher, wife of Gary. Service by Pastors Chris Seiders and Dale Ramsey.

Marriages

Minnesota

Hutchinson – Vivian Paul and Denise Kay Kirkpatrick (4/24/10) by Pastor V. E. Kirkpatrick.

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.

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.

Betty Anger, David Baerg, Eleanor Cook, Gerry Cook, Bonnie Coverdale, Marty Dorst, Joanne Ferbrache, Lisa Ferbrache, Marion High, Susan Mulkins, Brenda Sandham, Elaine Shute, Mary Lou Tufford, May Watson all from Glad Tidings Church in Fonthill, Ontario, Canada. Pastor Michael Brown preached a series of sermons on the topics in the Systematic lessons and then members were encouraged to read the lessons and complete the answer sheets.

Also completing the course recently were: Susan May, Euclid, OH; Billy Lynch, Sunset, TX; and Hans Haeuser, Waechtersbach, Germany.

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-cogc.org) or it can be completed on-line through the New Hope in Christ Church of God in Hutchinson, MN website: hutchinsoncog.com.

Prayer and Praise

January 2011

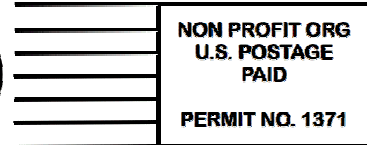
- 1 Pray that God will direct every area of your life in 2011.
- 2 **Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as they prepare for their spring semester studies.**
- 3 Pray for Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the Simple Teachings Bible Church in McDonough, GA.
- 4 **Pray for outreach work in Lima, Peru.**
- 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, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference.
- 10 **Praise God for a recent answer to a prayer.**
- 11 Pray for ABC teachers as they finish preparations for spring semester classes.
- 12 **Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Jesus as Savior.**
- 13 Pray for teachers in your local church.
- 14 **Pray for the ReFUEL retreat in Indiana and Jon Cheatwood as he leads it.**
- 15 Praise God for Korean Churches of God in California.
- 16 **Praise God for financial and prayer supporters of the College/Conference.**
- 17 Pray for Pastor Bill and Lacey Dunn and the New Beginnings Church of God in Desloge, MO.
- 18 **Pray for ABC students and staff beginning new semester classes today.**
- 19 Praise God for the freedom to worship Him.
- 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 God's blessings on ABC Korean Extension students and staff.
- 26 **Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with some one 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 church in Magazine, AR.
- 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.

Prayer and Praise

February 2011

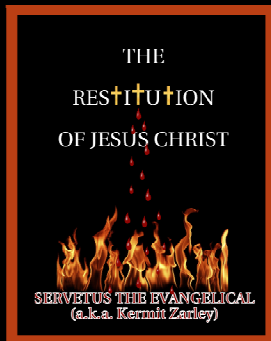
- 1 **Pray for churches that are seeking pastors.**
- 2 Pray for the students at ABC and ABC Korean Extension to know God's leading in their lives and ministries.
- 3 **Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ.**
- 4 Praise God for your family and friends.
- 5 **Pray for Anthony and Barbara 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 pastors as they begin their annual Ministerial Conference in McDonough, GA.**
- 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 numerous foreign countries.
- 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 our Ministerial Association Leadership Team.**
- 20 Pray for retired Pastor Richard K. Smith and his wife Dorothy Jean.
- 21 **Pray for Pastor 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 that Jesus will return to earth soon.
- 25 **Pray for the Refuge retreat in Indiana and Jon Cheatwood as he leads it.**
- 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.

Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
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McDonough, GA 30253



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- DID JESUS CLAIM TO BE GOD?
- DOES THE BIBLE SAY HE WAS GOD?
- HOW DOES THE BIBLE IDENTIFY JESUS?
- IF JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, DOES THIS MEAN HE IS GOD?
- MUST WE BELIEVE JESUS IS GOD TO BE A GENUINE CHRISTIAN?

Such questions are the focus of this well-researched, biblically in-depth book written by Kermit Zarley originally under the pseudonym Servetus the Evangelical. In it, he alleges that church fathers were influenced by Greek philosophy in wrongly concluding that Jesus was a God-man, the second person of the Trinity. Yet the author affirms that Jesus was born of a virgin, died for our sins, and arose from the dead to provide salvation. He insists the early Christians called Jesus "Lord," believed that only the Father is God, and referred to Jesus as God's unique Son only to emphasize how highly God favored him.

This book restores to Jesus his identity as the archetypal man essentially subordinate to the one God. It will help readers more appreciate Jesus' victory over temptation and sin and more aptly honor God Almighty. Kermit Zarley is known by most people as a pro golfer on the PGA TOUR. This is his sixth theological book.

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"I am much impressed. It runs 600 pages, is thoroughly researched and documented, and fully in touch with the massive amount of scholarly discussion currently available on the 'Christology of the New Testament'.... he has surely done his homework.... A towering work that will stand for a long time to come."

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THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

Come, Let Us Reason Together, Says Yahweh, The LORD God

By Dr. Joe Martin

I think Isaiah chapter one is appropriate in any age, but especially now. Isaiah ministered before and after the fall in 722 B.C. of the northern kingdom Israel. He was there when Assyria attempted to siege Jerusalem/Judah in 701. The two nation kingdoms of Israel and Judah were busy places, but they seemed to have forgotten one thing, the LORD God (YHWH in Hebrew). The message starts in verse two, "Listen heavens, Hear earth." Most of Isaiah is written in poetry, and the first phrase notes this. In Hebrew, it is *Shema shamayim*. *Shema*, as in Deuteronomy 6:4, the "Shema," is in the imperative! We MUST listen and hear because Yahweh, the LORD God is talking to us! Pay attention to what your Father is saying.

Verse three tells of interesting relationships, an ox and its owner, a donkey and its master's feed trough, and Israel and God. In the first case, "an ox **knows** its owner." The owner takes care, feeds, waters, and expects certain things of it. Then, the donkey is fed by its master and **knows** its master. Remember the saying, "don't bite the hand that feeds you." Then, we have Israel and Yahweh, the "only true God." (John 17:3) But, God says, they "**don't know**" and "**don't**

understand," and in fact He says "they have abandoned...despised... and turned away" from me! *Yad* is hand in Hebrew; *yada* is to know. Maybe that is where we get the idiom to know something or someone "like the back of our hand." Are we familiar with our Father, **knowing** Him like the back of our hand? This should be our first knowledge and first love, the LORD God.



I have ducks on the pond behind my house. There are twelve houses around this large pond and each house has partial ownership of the pond. One year, around Easter, I bought six little mallard ducks from Swint's Feed Store. Five years later, "I" now have twenty five or so. (see picture from a snow day, 1/11/11). I try to feed the ducks each day, either cracked corn or old bread that Rebekah or I buy from the "day old" bread store. It is funny, but in a good way, I walk out on my deck, quack like a duck, and they come flying

over. As a sheep knows its master's voice, an ox its owner, a donkey its master, my ducks know me. In the recent freeze, the pond froze over, it was fun watching the ducks fly from the north end, hit the ice and skid up to where I feed them. I try to keep the predators, cats, dogs, hawks, etc. away from the ducks. They are an amazing creation of God.

To have Israel abandon God, Yahweh, is the ultimate insult to the One who created them. He "knit them in their mother's womb" (Psalm 139:15). He keeps our "tears in his bottle" and "records them in his book" (Psalm 56:8 KJ). What a sad situation when Isaiah says "They have abandoned the LORD/Yahweh!" (v. 4) From Abraham, to Moses, to

David, to Jesus, He has called them, and us, to be His children. Sorrowfully He says in Jeremiah, "I thought you would call me Father and not turn away from following me." (3:19)

Yes, they still had ritual (v. 11). Yes, they still offered sacrifices and incense (v. 13). Yes, they had new moon festivals, sabbaths, and special assemblies (v. 14), but because of sin and abandonment of knowledge and understanding of Him, He says "I will not listen" (v. 15). Then the ultimate

(Continued on page 3)

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Authors and books are sometimes promoted in THE RESTI-
TUTION HERALD. We believe these contain items of interest
to our readers. This does not necessarily mean they exactly
reflect the statement of faith below.

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 proph-
ets since the world began" (Acts 3:21). It also firmly advoc-
ates 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**

February 7-11
Ministerial Conference,
McDonough, Georgia

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

March 3-4
Board of Directors Meeting,
McDonough, GA

April 3-8
Christian Workers Seminar,
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN

May 12-15
Theological Conference,
Simpsonwood Conference Center,
Norcross, GA

July 6-8
General Conference,
Jaynes Street Church of God,
Omaha, NE

July 17-22
FUEL, Manchester College,
North Manchester, IN



Come Let Us Reason Together *continued...*

(Continued from page 1)

call comes in verses 16-18, "Wash yourselves..., remove the evil..., seek justice..., defend the orphan, plead for the widow, come now, and let us reason together, says Yahweh, the LORD." Jesus is very clear in John 17:3, "This is eternal life, that they may know You, **the only true God**, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." Eternal life is to know the one true God and also to accept His plan, His messiah. Knowing is the foundation of loving.

I don't know if my ducks "know and love" me, but it's nice to have someone come over, we go out on the back deck, I "quack," and they come

flying to the yard. Last year Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill stopped by after they sang and he spoke at our minister's conference. I had bragged that "my ducks know my voice." I quacked, and they came! How silly, but how beautiful the mallards were as they flew in with their glorious colors of green, gray, blue and brown.

The most important thing we can do is to keep teaching about the one true God, and the fact that he is "compassionate and gracious" (Ex. 34:6) and He "so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." As we love people, we teach them about "Our Father who is in

heaven." The other side of the picture is "...those who forsake Yahweh/the LORD will come to an end." (Isaiah 1:28) Our Father loves us, wants us in His Kingdom with Him forever. Let us keep seeking Him, teaching of Him, acknowledging Him, and not giving His glory to others, even our traditions and philosophies. "Come, let us reason together" with the world, about Yahweh, "the only true God." ■

Search Youtube.com for my site, YHWHTOYOUTOO, and watch the "Ducks on Ice" or other videos! Or type http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NX_GWwUYH7M

The Restitution Herald

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

WOW! Hallelujah! Praise God! Amen! The response to our end of year giving and the “Joy to the World” letter was tremendous. Thank you! According to Gary, it was one of the best months of giving for ABC/COGGC. Many, many people gave. It really helps out in these “interesting” economic times. We continue to reach out to the world with the truths of God, who He is, His Son, and His coming Kingdom. The vision is to “Join God...” in what He is doing, and the mission is “To Serve...” We do together what we cannot do alone. **Ephesians 4:16** says, “From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (NIV) Thanks for doing your part!

The fall semester is over, as of December 17, and a new one is to begin January 18. Christian Worker’s Seminar is coming up. (April 3-8, sign up!) Refuge and reFUEL are coming soon. I am amazed at “each one doing their part” for youth work as well. When I helped load Jason Railton’s van at FUEL (speakers, copiers, computer, etc), I thought, this man DOES ministry! Also, all our ministers are getting together to meet February 7-11, at Cornerstone in Atlanta. If you haven’t noticed in January, it is cold outside! On 1/11/11 Atlanta was “snowed in.” I pray that it will be warmer for our pastors in February!

Rebekah and I just got back from our driving trip to Ohio. It is a good thing we drove, since the Atlanta airport shut down and our flights would have been cancelled. I would like to do a short review of

that. We stayed with Steve and Betsy Moore (Rebekah’s sister) during that second weekend of January. On Saturday night, I preached at “Vertical Impact” at the new Troy facility. This is more a youth outreach by Kent Snyder, Greg and Nikki Green and others. It was a cold night, but we had a great time. Greg led music with Jason, the guitar player and others, and I spoke on “Come, Let Us Reason Together” (see article in this Herald).

The next morning, it was five degrees! The old farm pump froze and Steve Moore and I were out early with a torch, thawing it out! BRRRR!!! We bundled up and attended the services at Troy View with Pastor Steve Zimelman. I must tell you... I am impressed with their new facility. The final inspection of the sanctuary area is to be in January. They have taken a John Deere dealership building and are making it into a gorgeous, professional facility for greater ministry. The spark plugs, besides Steve Z. (a professional electrician), are Kent Snyder and his dad, Jerry. I took a picture of them on the nearly finished stage beside a cross that Jerry made. These men are doing an outstanding job.



That afternoon, it was my pleasure to be a part of the dedication service for the new added facility at North Hills Church in Springfield. The General Conference has partnered with North Hills by having a “Church Builder’s Appeal” for them as well as a loan from funds meant to help churches. Pastor Alan Cain from Lawrenceville participated as well. The first concrete was poured at Lawrenceville just a few days before that week! In the cold!

Pictured below are the current senior pastor Seth Ross, and the founding pastor, Russ Dickerson. It was a touching moment... old and new. The new addition includes a larger, more modern nursery, restrooms, classes, offices, etc. Rebekah and I even rode the elevator!



On the way back to Atlanta, a sign greeted us saying, “Severe Icing... Postpone All Travel.” Anyone reading it, wasn’t doing it. We did make it back safely. ■

*Grace to you and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I thank my God in all my
remembrance of you, always
offering prayer with joy in
my every prayer for you all,
in view of your participation
in the gospel from the first
day until now. For I am
confident of this very thing,
that He who began a good
work in you will perfect
it until the day of
Christ Jesus.*

(Philippians 1:2-6, NASB)

Paul's greeting to the believers in Philippi is as applicable as always in this new year and reminds me to thank God for every member of the Church of God General Conference and the support structure that it has been for me and for so many of you throughout the years. In the relatively short span of my life, I have had the great joy of regular fellowship with Christian believers and churches from our General Conference in four states. This would not have been possible without the history of fellow believers that built our churches, regional conferences, and General Conference, to whom I (and, one could argue, us all) owe an enormous debt. I can only hope that prayers of thanksgiving and active Christian service today can honor their efforts.

The directors of your General Conference are constantly work

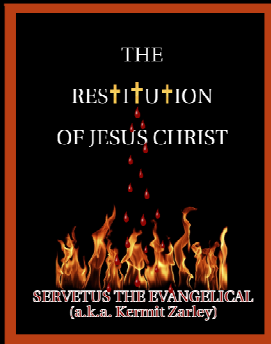
ing to build on the efforts of those people, past and present, to lead a GC that fulfills its mission statement, "To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom," by directly serving our associated churches, pastors, and members, or by generating resources that proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to those that have never heard it. In the past few years, we have repeatedly told you that the conference is going through a period of transition and that we have operational or financial obstacles that have made it difficult for the conference to effectively fulfill its mission. To overcome these obstacles, the directors ask for your prayers, your input, and your encouragement. While we must ultimately be measured by our faithfulness to God's will for us and the conference, we want to know that the conference is serving you. Please think about how the conference can better serve you or the gospel message and send those thoughts to the board of directors.

(We are always available via email: boardofdirectors@abc-coggc.org.)

Additionally, we encourage you to find your place in the Church of God, whether as an active member of your home church, or through one of the various ministries of the General Conference. Speak to your pastor or church leaders and find ways to minister to others in the way that God has deemed appropriate to you.

Your board of directors will be meeting at the main office of Atlanta Bible College and the General Conference over March 2-4. Our goal is to spend most of the meeting time in a discussion of the direction God is leading the conference and college. As alluded to above, we may have to radically change the way we operate to fulfill our mission and follow God's direction for our ministry. Some of those changes will be efforts to modernize the operations and finances of the conference. Others will get us "back to basics" or to operating models that were so effective in the past. Regardless of whether those changes are new or seemingly old, please pray that those changes in the conference's operations will allow us to better fulfill our mission and, above all else, JOIN GOD. There is extraordinary potential in the Church of God General Conference simply because we are seeking to follow God's direction. He can empower that work from His limitless resources and the power of His Holy Spirit. Please pray for your pastors, your church leaders, and the board of directors, as we seek to follow God's direction for our conference in these upcoming meetings. ■

Dan Siderius
Vice-Chairman,
Board of Directors
Church of God
General Conference/
Atlanta Bible College



- DID JESUS CLAIM TO BE GOD?
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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 south-east 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.

JAYNES STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD

After 35 years of faithful service from Pastor Scott Ross, the congregation of the Jaynes Street Community Church of God in Omaha, Nebraska is seeking a full-time lead pastor to begin no earlier than September 1st, 2011. This supportive, faithful and generous church family is looking for someone who has a passion for ministry and leading God's people. We seek a pastor who, working with our associate pastor, will provide spiritual leadership and guidance to our church body and will help us fulfill our mission of loving God, supporting one another and reaching out to the community. For more information, please contact Elder Scott Millard at scottmillard@cox.net or 402-850-9659.

MACOMB CHURCH OF GOD

We at the Macomb Church of God, located in the heart of western Illinois, are a loving and friendly group of people whose purpose is to make disciples for Jesus Christ and to prepare them for a life of service to others in Jesus' name and to seek the coming Kingdom of God and His righteousness. The congregation of 40+ active members and additional families, who call the church their home, are looking for someone to fill a full-time pastor position, open immediately. We have a beautiful handicap accessible church located in the nice part of town. Home to Western Illinois University and Spoon River College, Macomb is a diversified city where one can enjoy activities from the performing arts to history to outdoor recreational activities. At Spring Lake or Argyle Lake State Park, one can find plenty of outdoor recreational activities. It has a population of 20,000+ and a county population of over 35,000. It offers a unique hometown atmosphere and friendliness with some big city advantages. Interested parties should contact the elders, Don Haley (309) 255-0610, Gene Gaddis (309) 255-0023, or Richard Derry (309) 333-0242.

The Atlanta Bible College students and staff began the winter/spring 2011 semester with a Pre-Semester Briefing for new students on Saturday morning January 15. Regular classes started on January 18. We are glad to welcome at least 10 new students this semester.

Students and staff are looking forward to participating in 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," students and staff will have two possible weeks to focus exclusively on serving: February 5-13 and April 2-10. 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.

During the next several months, ABC would like to invite prospective students (and their parents) to come to our campus for a day to visit classes and talk with staff. If you would like to visit, please contact Kim Musch (kmusch@abc-coggc.org; or 678-833-1839) to find a time that is suitable for you and the college. These visits will replace the annual ABC-I, that was previously scheduled for the end of March. We plan to resume regular invitationals in the future.

Progress is being made on enhancing our distance learning (on-line) course offerings. ABC student, Jake Ballard, has taken two classes on how to develop courses using free software called Moodle. By fall we expect to have at least three courses available in the new format. In the meantime, courses in

the old format will continue to be available for those who wish to take courses from their home. We have sufficient distance learning courses available for someone to complete our Associates degree in Theology and Ministry, as well as 20 semester hours toward the Bachelor of Theology degree. For more information about distance learning courses, please contact Registrar David Krogh.

In January, many students received scholarships and grants that were made possible by special gifts from individuals, churches, and conferences. Also, nearly \$400,000 of scholarship endowment funds is invested and the earnings were used to provide financial aid. These endowment funds were established in memory of family members and conference leaders. We are deeply grateful to all who make these funds available to assist our students in their preparation for ministry. ■

Mission News

by David Krogh

Haiti

On January 12, 2010, Haiti was hit with a massive earthquake. In only seconds, 30% of the country was destroyed; 300,000 people were killed; 50 hospitals and 1,500 school buildings and universities were destroyed. One million, five hundred thousand people were made homeless. Pastor Lesly and his congregations throughout Haiti were affected, particularly the church on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince in Croix-des-Bouquets. Through the generosity of Church of God members and churches, we

have been able to send \$2,500 per month to provide food, tents, and other resources to people in our churches.

Since the earthquake, the country has been affected by flooding and most recently by a cholera outbreak. But Pastor Lesly and the other pastors continue to preach the message of salvation and hope in the coming kingdom of God. They also have been able to provide assistance to others in their communities. They are feeding the hungry. They provide schools to educate

children because the country lacks the educational infrastructure that we enjoy. They are actively teaching life skills and trades to adults so that they can be self-sufficient and support themselves and their families. They provide this, not out of abundance, but out of poverty! The "mother" church in Haiti had their building rendered uninhabitable by the earthquake. They are currently meeting under the canopy of a parachute that they salvaged from humanitarian air drops.

(Continued on page 17)

The gospels use the phrase “kingdom of God” to describe both a future, worldwide political order and the elements of a life worthy of that kingdom. I will be focusing on the book of Luke in this discussion, in part for the sake of simplicity, but also in order to have a starting point for later comparing the kingdom teachings in Luke and Acts.

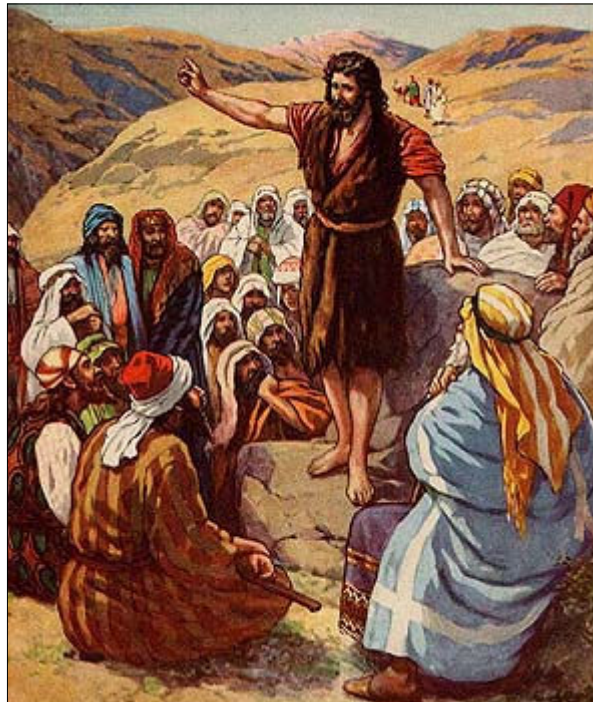
Many times I have heard preachers proclaim that Jesus was sent to earth to do three days’ work. That teaching seems to me to invalidate every word that came from the mouth (and life) of Jesus. Personal salvation then becomes the entirety of the message, and the major elements of the kingdom of God go missing. In fact, the rulership of God is almost completely ignored in that understanding, with what happens to individuals being the only consideration.

Myles Munroe says “the ‘gospel’ message—the ‘good news’—is more than the Cross. The Cross is the doorway that gets us back into the Kingdom. The Cross of Christ, therefore, is all about Kingdom restoration.”¹

Jesus taught the kingdom of God from start to finish. To be certain, salvation was a part of that message, but that salvation was so much more than the *individual* salvation that is the focus of the aforementioned preachers. It is the total salvation, the com-

pletion of the covenant made with Abraham, the restoration of the land and king, the redemption from sin and sinfulness, and the instruction of how God’s people are to live. These are the things that Jesus taught, both in word and in deed.

At the birth of John, Zechariah



John the Baptist preaching.

was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied. Within this prophesy, he connects the coming of the Christ with the covenant made with Abraham. He speaks of the redemption of God’s people, salvation and rescue from their enemies, and the remembrance of the covenant with Abraham. He adds that it will “...enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days” (Luke 1:74b-75, NIV 84). He then turns his attention to his son, saying that he will show the

people the knowledge of salvation in the forgiveness of their sins in the mercy of God (Luke 1:76-79, NIV 84).

The angels proclaim Jesus as a savior, the Christ, saying that it was good news for *all* the people (Luke 2:10). On the eighth day, fulfilling the law of Moses,

Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple to be circumcised. They offered the normal sacrifice for having a child. While there, Simeon was moved by the Spirit to say that he had seen the Sovereign Lord’s salvation, “a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:32, NIV 84). This was followed by the prophetess Anna speaking to “all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38b). All of this seems to point to Jesus, the Christ, as the continuation of God’s story throughout the Old Testament, not the replacement of that story.

In the gospel of Luke, the preaching of the kingdom begins in earnest with John the Baptist. Using the words of Isaiah, he says that all people will see God’s salvation (Luke 3:4-6), again pointing to the kingdom being for more than just the people of Israel. In fact, John then tells the crowd that they cannot just claim their Abrahamic ancestry as their hand stamp to get into God’s good graces; God can create children for Abraham

(Continued on page 10)

To the Members of the Church of God General Conference,

I'd like to wish all of you a Happy New Year and extend many thanks to all of you for your prayers and support for the Korean ministry!

As most of you know, the Korean Extension began eight years ago. It was established with one person and almost no resource. Even now, we continue to develop our academic curriculum and administration resource. The Abrahamic faith is such a distinct theology; it creates an enormous challenge within the Korean community to develop resources for staff. This is the most difficult part of the process in developing the Korean Extension. We pray as the program continues to develop, we will have more graduating staff members like Younghee An and Yeongbeom Kim to fulfill that need. In short, the Korean Extension will operate much better with staff members who are trained well.

Since the relocation of the Korean Extension to the Korean community, we continue to become very reputable as a Bible-based educational institution. The Korean Extension continues to grow beyond local Korean community! For the spring semester of

2011, we anticipate 90-plus students. Within those numbers, we still have several students who travel from Alabama and Tennessee to continue learning the Abrahamic faith. We have recently enrolled a number of new students from California. These students were previously enrolled at other accredited Bible institutions, but during their program they chose to enroll at the Korean Extension. Some of these enrollments were the result of our own students ministering, which is a part of our assessment. Another part of the assessment was held after the fall semester. We held a small meeting with the students to hear their reflections, positive or negative, about the Korean Extension. This aids our administration to assess the quality of our service. We had the opportunity to have a more thorough interview with these students to gain a better understanding of their motivation for enrolling in the Korean Extension and the answer was "To hear the biblical truth."

As a result, we are convinced the Word of God is the best recruiting strategy!

So the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7) NIV ■

(Continued from page 9)

if his descendants are not willing and able to live up to the demands of the Word.

After being asked by the responding crowd what they can do to produce good fruit, John goes straight into preaching the values of the kingdom of God. The one with two tunics should give the second to the one who has none; the same goes for food (Luke 3:11). Tax collectors are told not to overcharge. Soldiers are told not to extort or to falsely accuse, as well as to be content with their pay. Already, the values of the kingdom of God are shown to be

in sharp contrast with the values of sinful humanity. They are turned upside down, in fact.

As Jesus takes the scene in Luke 4, he reads from Isaiah, a scripture that pointed to Him. "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19, NIV 84). The fulfillment of that message can be seen throughout his ministry as He casts out demons, commands care for the poor, heals the blind, and

offers healing for spiritual blindness. This is in large part the kingdom message that he was sent to preach.

The connection to Abraham continues when he heals a man of leprosy (Luke 5), then sends him to the priest to offer the sacrifices commanded through Moses. He called it a testimony. In addition to making contact with the leprosy, he lets those who question him know that he was not here to call the righteous, but to call sinners to repentance (Luke 5:32, NIV 84).

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

When Jesus heals a man with a shriveled hand (Luke 6:6-11), it begins to become more clear that what He is doing with these healings is helping people to be whole again, to again be temple worshippers, to again be able to encounter God. As demons are cast out and diseases are cured, people are again able to join the fellowship of God's people. The parallels with spiritual healing today are numerous. The miracles are not the entirety of the kingdom, though; the miracles are only the preliminaries (C.C. Caragounis, "Kingdom of God/Heaven," *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, p. 423).

In Luke 10, Jesus sends out seventy-two "others" (having already sent out the Twelve in chapter 9). They are told to proclaim that the kingdom of God is near. Judgment day seems to be referenced here when they are told that it will be more bearable for Sodom "in that day" than for towns that do not welcome these preachers. Further, cities that have witnessed miracles but have not repented are told that they will "go down to the depths" ahead of Tyre and Sidon. The picture of proper response to the message of the kingdom is that we must accept and repent or risk destruction.

Statements about the presence of the kingdom are made in Luke 11. As Jesus taught prayer, he prayed that His Father's kingdom would come. After being accused of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub, Jesus says that "...if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you." Here He seems to teach that the miraculous power

God has invested in Him are signs of the arriving kingdom.

Luke 12 finds Jesus telling his disciples that they should seek the kingdom first, above all else. In doing this they will find that life, food, and clothing will be given to them as well. Going further, Jesus tells them that their "...Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32, NIV 84), telling them that they should sell their pos-



Jesus teaching.

sessions and give them to the poor. In doing this, they provide themselves with treasures and purses that will not run out or wear out—"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Luke 12:34). The values of the kingdom are beyond earthly riches, the collection of things, and the search for ever increasing possessions; the treasure of a kingdom heir is the honor and devotion of God.

In Luke 13 Jesus tells the brief parables of the mustard seed and the yeast. Both are small items, but when properly handled they grow into something much greater. Some argue this to be a

statement about the slow growth of the kingdom into something great. Whatever the meaning, it seems that the kingdom has a greater scope than it may at first appear.

Luke 16 contains an odd statement about the kingdom. Having reported that the law and the prophets were proclaimed until the time of John, and since then the kingdom of God had been preached, Luke 16:16 (NIV 2010) says that "...people are forcing their way into it." C.C. Caragounis makes this statement: "From his time on the kingdom of God is proclaimed and is being stormed by those who are eager to get in (Caragounis, p. 427). The prostitutes and tax collectors stormed the kingdom, while those who were considered righteous did not see the need to do so.

Also in Luke 16 is the odd parable of the rich man and Lazarus. In it, Abraham tells Lazarus that "if they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead" (Luke 16:31, NIV 84). The clear indication here is that the Law and the Prophets pointed the way, and those who understood and followed them should have been able to see that Jesus was their fulfillment. It also foreshadows Jesus' death, of course.

Graham Stanton states: "It is not often noted that in the first beatitude the kingdom is a present reality, while in the two following beatitudes the promise is that God *will* act on behalf of those in need. A present and a

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

future temporal sense are juxtaposed.”² In Luke 17:20-37, the kingdom seems to first be labelled an internal occurrence, but then it is spoken of eschatologically, as well, creating a similar juxtaposition.

In Luke 18:15-17, the disciples were told that the kingdom of God belongs to those who receive it like a little child. In Luke 18:18-30, Jesus tells them that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. In each of these cases, our approach to the kingdom is an issue. Do we believe we can study our way into it? Do we believe we deserve it? Do we think we have earned it? Are we accepting it graciously as a gift?

Luke 19:11 mentions that people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once, reminded us that there are elements of the kingdom that were not fulfilled yet. Luke 20:27-39, in speaking of marriage in the resurrection, again shows a future view of the kingdom, as do Jesus’ words at the last supper in Luke 22. These look to fulfillment in the kingdom of God, indicating that while much of the kingdom was present in Jesus, there was more to come. Finally, in Luke 23 as the thief hangs next to Jesus, he says “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom,” clearly believing in the resurrection hope and asking Jesus to make him a part of it. I have to wonder: if this guy gets it, why did those who studied the Law

and the Prophets not get it? John quoted Isaiah the prophet in answer to this: “He had blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them” (John 12:40, NIV 84).

This is not a deep theological work. I have simply worked my way through one gospel’s discussion of the kingdom of God. Within that gospel, we see a present and yet hoped for kingdom. Caragounis says “...because the agent of the kingdom of God is present and active through his teaching and mighty works, the kingdom of God may also be said to be potentially present” (Caragounis, p. 425). With the king around, the kingdom was present, though not yet fully arrived. After all, Jesus said in Luke 22:29-30 that he was confer a kingdom on his disciples, that they would eat and drink at His table in His kingdom, sitting on thrones and judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Anthony Buzzard sums it up like this:

The implications of this are clear for all to read. There will be a Kingdom inaugurated by the return of Christ at the beginning of the New Age. There will be thrones and government over the twelve tribes regathered in the land. And there will be fellowship with Jesus in that New Age, a fellowship not to be renewed “until the Kingdom comes” (Luke 22:18).³ ■

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¹ Myles Munroe, *Kingdom Principles* (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers), 71.

² Graham Stanton, *The Gospels and Jesus* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press Inc.), 208.

³ Anthony Buzzard, *The Coming Kingdom of the Messiah* (Atlanta, GA: Restoration Fellowship), 35.

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Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

"I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose"
Luke 4:43

Jesus' first command is given in Mark 1:14-15: "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.'"

Here we are told that the "gospel of God" is the gospel of "the kingdom of God." It is God's plan for the ultimate saving and restoring of righteous men, and earth itself.

Further, we are to repent of our sins and believe this gospel (good news), which is the gospel of God Himself and His plan is to establish His own kingdom of righteousness over the earth at the end of this age. The great and Almighty God foreknew that the humans He had made would disobey Him, "mess up," destroy themselves, and ruin this "good and very good" earth He had made. Therefore He planned "from the foundation on the world" (Matt. 25:34) to finally establish His own righteous kingdom on earth. He also planned, before, for a Saviour for men (Rev.13:8). Also that He would have a family that believed in Him (Eph. 1:4-5).

This is taught clearly in Numbers 14:20-21: "The LORD said...'As I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD.'" And in Isaiah 11:9: "They will not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." Jehovah also said, "In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth."

Jesus' main message for over three years was this message about God's kingdom coming to cover the earth with righteousness. Both Matthew 4:23 and

9:35 say that Jesus went about all Galilee teaching, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease. It was so urgent to Him that God's coming kingdom over earth be preached to every generation that He said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matt. 24:14).

This was the message He told the apostles to preach, and the seventy. It was the topic to the apostles for forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3). It was what Paul and Peter preached. Paul added to it the gospel about Jesus Christ's death for our sins, His resurrection for our justification, His interceding for us, and His second coming to establish that kingdom here on earth.

God's kingdom over earth is not a new idea. God made everlasting land promises to Abraham and his seed. He made a covenant of kingship over this earth to David and his seed. He established His throne on earth with David and his descendants. Christ is the heir.

Daniel the prophet, and all the prophets spoke of this coming kingdom of God and of He who was to rule the world.

It was not but a few days before His death that Jesus mentioned He was going to die and be raised from the dead, but when He told them, they couldn't understand what He was saying: "they did not understand...and they were afraid to ask Him" (Mark 9:31-32).

The coming kingdom of God on earth was Jesus' major message.

It is the first half of the gospel of salvation. His sacrifice of Himself for our sins, and our acceptance of it is our way into that coming paradise. The righteous are promised a new earth, not heaven. ("Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.") ■

The following article was written by Brother W. H. Wilson and appeared in the August 30, 1961 issue of THE RESTITUTION HERALD. It was a reprint from "The Restitution," November 28, 1906, under the title of "How, When, Where, and by Whom Was the Gospel of the Kingdom First Introduced into the Western States?"

The early pioneers who so "earnestly contended for the faith which was once delivered to the saints" now sleep in Jesus, awaiting the coming King. I think it may be of interest to many of "like precious faith" to learn the history of its introduction into the western states so long ago.

First, I will go back and show how the truth first began to illuminate the minds of those who afterwards introduced it. Let your minds follow me across the mighty ocean to Halifax, England. About the year 1839 or 1840, certain ones were enduring a great struggle in order that they might emerge out of the gross darkness of old Babylon and back in the full sunlight of God's saving message of life. Among that number were my father, Joseph Wilson, and his brothers, Benjamin, John, and James; also, Benjamin's boys, and Richard and William Appleyard.

At that time, they were all members of the same Baptist Church at Halifax. About this time, Alexander Campbell began preaching what he called the "reformation," urging people to get back to the primitive faith and practice. He started well but stopped short of

ascertaining the primitive faith. He introduced baptism for the remission of sins, ignored all human creeds, and established weekly communion.

A congregation was organized on this partial reformation called "The Disciples of Christ" at Halifax, England. The group mentioned left the Baptist Church and united with this organization. The little light which they had received made them anxious for more light. The congregation then formed itself into an investigating class, with a firm determination to search carefully the holy scriptures. They resolved to begin with the first chapter of Genesis and go through the entire Word of God. They had not progressed very far in the study of Genesis before they came across the covenants of promise made unto Abraham and repeated to Isaac and Jacob. An inquiry was made as to whether those promises had been fulfilled or not. You can imagine how like a golden cord they discovered that those promises permeated and ran through both the Old and New Testament and constituted the basis of the gospel of the kingdom. It was at this point that the true light began to shine and as the investigation progressed, the light shone brighter and brighter until they were led into obedience of the one true faith and hope of the gospel.

While the investigation was in progress, my Uncle James, Benjamin Wilson, and Benjamin's boys emigrated to America in 1844, bringing with them what light they possessed. Later in 1849, my father, Joseph Wilson, his brother John Wilson, William and Richard Appleyard also sailed for Geneva,

Illinois, where my Uncle Benjamin had previously located and entered the printing business. Uncle James had bought a farm a few miles west of Geneva. Later still, came Joseph Cockroft, who became a partner with Uncle Benjamin in the printing business. Later, George Westgarth and family became located in Geneva.

Meetings for Bible study were still continued in the homes at Geneva. About this time came Dr. John Thomas, who had been in the reformation work along with Mr. Campbell. He soon passed Mr. Campbell in Bible study, and obeyed the gospel of the kingdom. Then Mr. Campbell and Mr. Thomas became antagonists. John Thomas became a noted proclaimer of the gospel of the kingdom and life eternal only through Christ. If I mistake not, he baptized my father and Uncle Benjamin. Both Mr. Campbell and Mr. Thomas then transferred their labors into the state of Virginia. For a time, Virginia became a fierce battleground, where Mr. Thomas and Mr. Campbell waged many a conflict.

Finally John Thomas located in Hoboken, New Jersey. He planted a church at Brooklyn, New York. From Hoboken, he published a magazine called *The Herald of the Kingdom*. Hoboken was the center point from which the gospel of the kingdom radiated in the eastern states, and Geneva, Illinois, for the western states. I remember as a boy witnessing baptisms at Geneva as first one and then another learned the true gospel message. A church of believers was then formed at that place.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

At Saint Charles, Illinois, two miles north of Geneva, lived Mr. and Mrs. Underwood, father and mother of the present publisher of *The Restitution* (in 1906 Editor), and also John Christian and wife. They united with the church at Geneva. Brother Underwood engaged in a flour mill at Saint Charles and became quite an accomplished student of prophecy. Uncle Benjamin owned a printing office and commenced publication of a magazine called *The Gospel Banner* which became an uncompromising exponent of the gospel of the kingdom and eternal life only through Christ. Books, tracts, and hymn books were then published, and the light began to spread in every direction, Geneva being the center point.

The congregation began to grow and a church building became a necessity. Plans were made, and a plain, stone church building was erected. I well remember one moonlight night how the men, with their sons, met to dig the foundation bringing with them lanterns and spades. I, as a boy, helped dig the foundation. Bro. Westgarth, a stone mason, built the walls and plastered the house.

At Aurora, Illinois, ten miles south of Geneva, quite a number of Campbell's reformation settled. The true gospel light from Geneva soon reached them, and a congregation of believers was established there.

The work began to spread to the different points of the compass. Others who had the natural ability as public speakers believed and obeyed the gospel of the kingdom.

These were then scattered abroad everywhere spreading the glorious light. Geneva was the point from which literature was printed. As the gospel spread and churches were established, semiannual conference gatherings, in July and December, were held at Geneva in Brother Wilson's house.

Benjamin's boys and William and Richard Appleyard finally settled at South Northfield, eighteen miles northwest of Chicago where, after getting settled, they let the gospel light shine. The result was a congregation and a church building at that place. The gospel light then spread from this point. As the light spread, other able speakers embraced it and became heralds of the glad tidings, which was brought to the west by the few who emigrated from Halifax, England.

When I was a boy, my father put me into the *Gospel Banner* office to learn the printing business. It was during this time that the *Emphatic Diaglott* was translated and printed.

In my mind's eye, I still see my Uncle Benjamin sitting at his desk making a literal word-for-word translation of the New Testament. I remember seeing the Greek type arrive from England. Many readers of the *Diaglott* may not be aware that my uncle not only translated the *Diaglott* but took charge of the mechanical work as well. He electrotyped the entire book himself.

As each page of the *Diaglott* was put into type, he took an impression of the page of type in wax. This wax mold was then black-leaded with very fine black lead

dust. He had a vat containing acid. In this acid, he hung a copper plate and also the wax mold before he went home at night. In the morning, he would find the wax mold covered with a thin sheet of copper. The acid dissolved the copper and the black-lead attracted it to the wax mold. He then made metal plates, out of melted metal and fastened the copper upon it. He printed the first edition of the book from these plates on a hand press. I used to ink the plate by soft roller while he worked the press. Thus from Geneva, as the early gospel center, issued one of the most useful aids for Bible study that ever issued from the press, in any section of this country.

About this time, Joseph Marsh issued a magazine from Rochester, New York, called *The Prophetic Expositor*. This magazine published much truth, but as he held the gospel of the kingdom in a rather loose manner, it provoked the hostility of Dr. John Thomas, who would not tolerate the least infringement of the glorious gospel of the kingdom.

The Prophetic Expositor finally came into the hands of Thomas G. Newman. It finally merged with *The Herald of the Kingdom* published by my oldest brother, Thomas Wilson, of Chicago, Illinois. While in his hands, the name was changed to *The Restitution* and was issued in the form in which it is now printed. As time went on, the contest for the gospel waxed hot. The worst foes we had to meet were the followers of Alexander Campbell and William Miller.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Indiana had a hard struggle with the Adventists, under the leadership of Joshua V. Himes, Dr. Field, and E. C. Andrus. These advent leaders put up a strong and bitter fight to capture the present conference of the Church of God in Indiana, but they failed. Brethren Corbaley, Wince, Waggoner, and Halstead were veterans in the struggle. Much interesting history may be given with regard to the great battle of the age of the supremacy of the kingdom as against spurious gospels. I have been conversant with the contest from its early state in Geneva, and I felt that it might be of interest to many believers who know nothing about this memorable struggle.

I was a member of the Geneva Church, and was baptized into the sacred name by Brother Edwin Smith in the waters of the

beautiful Fox River in 1857. Bro. Smith now rests in the graveyard where many old veterans lie buried. A few weeks ago, while I was filling an appointment, our much-esteemed Brother James Whitehead fell asleep. He was one of those who had learned the glad tidings at Geneva and was a member of that church. Sister Whitehead was also. In the east, at Elizabeth, New Jersey, still lives one of the old veterans, John O. Woodruff. This old veteran in his lifetime spent over thirty thousand dollars for printed literature in defense of the ancient faith of the gospel.

Faithful believers have struggled hard to hand down to their descendants the pure gospel of the kingdom unmixed with the traditions of men. Will you preserve it, or will you suffer hobbies and liberalism to creep in and compromise it? Personally,

I have long been in the fight and am still in it, as long as God gives me the strength to use both voice and pen.

Another old veteran who now nears the close of his work is Brother Maurice Joblin who has long fought for the purity of the gospel of the kingdom. Also Brother Elton who writes "Random Thoughts" for *The Restitution*. There is also Brother Waggoner, who wrote to the line, Brother Wince, and others who are now near the end of the contest.

We need Bible schools in every state to instruct the young and faithful teachers who will not shun to declare the whole counsel of God, unmixed with hobbies, traditions, and seductive doctrine. If it were otherwise, the Bible school would become a curse. Look well to your teachers! ■

Suggestions for Giving in 2011

As a part of the recent tax legislation enacted by Congress in and signed into law by the President in December 2010, during 2011 it is still possible to rollover money from a regular IRA to a charitable institution. Donors aged 70 ½ or older, may move up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to their church or Atlanta Bible College/Church of God Conference without having to pay income taxes on these

funds. For more information, please contact staff member David Krogh at dkrogh@abc-coggc.org or 678-833-1839. You might also wish to remember your church or Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference in your will. Over the years, bequests from estates have been a tremendous blessing to our churches and conference.

There are often investments and property that have appreci-

ated in value by the time one dies. For those who have been faithful givers during their lifetime, a bequest at the time of their death is a further way to recognize God's ownership of everything and His provision over a lifetime. The gift can be in the form of life insurance, property, or stocks and bonds. For more information, please contact David Krogh. ■

(Continued from page 8)

We are thankful that a team, under the direction of the Lord's Harvest International has been formed to go to Haiti to help build a structure to replace one that was destroyed in the earthquake.

The team is composed of: construction leader David Bormes (MN), Bob Bormes (MN), team leader Sydney Kirkpatrick (MN), John Tuttle (IL), Drew Fields (OH), Randy Barton (GA), Dale Ramsey (VA), and Dan Landry (LA). Most of these individuals have some construction experience which will be extremely helpful for the construction work.

The trip will last three weeks, but a couple individuals will be arriving later or leaving early. The main body of volunteers will enter Haiti on February 18 and leave on March 10. Our goal is to completely finish one of several buildings that need to be replaced.

You can also be a part of this mission in several ways! We are not only providing the manpower, we are also providing the funds. Each building costs approximately \$20,000. This money has already been sent so that materials will be ready when the team arrives. We currently have about \$7,000 in the Haiti building fund. We have borrowed the rest of the money, short term, and these funds must be replaced. If God has blessed you as individuals or churches with resources to share, they will be gratefully received! We appreciate churches that are

promoting giving by encouraging members, including children, to donate the cost of a concrete block, a yard of concrete, or roofing material. If you can share, please send contributions



to: LHI, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253 as soon as possible. Here are the costs:

- Concrete for floor - \$70 per yard – 80 yards needed
- Cement blocks – \$1.50 each – 2,000 needed
- Sheet of roofing material - \$30 each – 50 needed

Also, we invite you to pray:

1. Please pray for God to raise up the necessary resources for the buildings and for the team members. Please bear in mind that team members must raise their own support to make this trip. Depending on length of stay, the trip will cost up to \$850 plus airfare. Please help team members with these expenses if possible.
2. Please pray for God's divine blessing and protection for this trip—especially for health and safety for team members.
3. Please pray for open doors to ship necessary tools and materials.

Thank you for being a co-laborer with God, and with the team, in completing the purpose of this mission.

Other Mission News

Lupe Badillo in Mexico continues to express her deep appreciation for the financial assistance that is being sent to her. Through the generosity of many Church of God families and churches, we are able to send \$300 per month to her.

Bill Wachtel who has made many trips to Peru recently had a major stroke. He is currently involved in intense therapy and he seems to be making progress. Please continue to pray for complete healing and restoration.

In recently months, funds have been provided to the family of Pastor Rashid Emmanuel in Pakistan following his murder last July. We would like to continue to provide support for several more months. If you are able to help with this need, it will be appreciated. We have nearly depleted the funds that had been earmarked by donors for this purpose. We are sending \$400 per month. The family has had to leave Faisalabad and have rented a place to live in another city.

Marching for Missions—March 2011 will be observed throughout the Church of God as missions month. Information will be sent to churches to use during the month. ■

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 **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – As a result of being the recipient of the fall 2010 Church Builders League Appeal, **Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick II** reports several improvements to the newly-dedicated building. To begin with, new side doors have been installed. In addition to that, all three furnaces are now in good working order, a new sidewalk has been laid at the back entrance of the church, and some landscaping has been done outside the high school classroom. Praise God that the monies are being used in worthy ways for the good of God's house.

From **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – Many members and friends gathered at the church at noon on December 30, 2010 to begin another prayer vigil. The purpose of the prayer vigil is to pray in the New Year with a 36-hour time of continuous prayer, concluding at midnight on December 31. People signed up for one-hour intervals of prayer, guided by a PowerPoint presentation for each hour of prayer. The PowerPoint included photos of church families as members prayed for each other. **Pastor Syd Kirkpatrick** also encouraged people to submit praises for what had happened in 2010 and prayer requests for 2011.



Louisiana GoServe Team members: Top (L to R), Chesleigh Charles and Cynthia Fyfe; Bottom (L to R), Southakhone Soundara, Jennifer Winner, Jaymin Cheatwood, and Amber Cain

ABC Go Serve Students Serve at Louisiana/Arkansas Youth Retreat

“It was a lot of fun.” “The trip was good.” “The Go Serve trip to Louisiana was a wonderful experience.” “It was an awesome experience.” Such are a few of the overall reactions of the six ABC students who took a Go Serve trip to the Louisiana/Arkansas Youth Retreat November 5-7, 2010.

Right after morning classes on Friday November 5, six ABC students (Jake Ballard, Amber Cain, Cynthia Fyfe, Chesleigh Charles, Jaymin Cheatwood, and Southakhone Soundara) loaded themselves into Rob Bernheisel’s van and headed for Louisiana. The goal was to help Pastor Johnathan Wincapaw, Melissa New and others lead the activities for the weekend retreat.

Here are other comments from the Go Serve students:

(Sou) “We had a two hour Bible class every day, and the teachers were very creative. Each group had devotions before going to bed, sharing experiences from the day. The accommodations, the food, and the people were nice, and the kids were very

good kids. We hope they will remember this as a life lesson.”

(Cynthia) “I was a camp counselor for a group of sixth graders. They told me I looked like I was 16. The classes I helped with were about how to choose friends and how to make good choices. I met a ten-year-old girl who is almost exactly like me. Her name is Kara and she lives in Arkansas. I started hanging out with her, and I’ve even talked with her on the phone since then. I feel like I became a role model for her, and it feels good to be looked up to. I have never been to Louisiana, so it was a good experience and I praise God that I was able to go and make an impact on younger kids.”

(Jaymin) “The team went down to help with the youth retreat. While we were there, we worked as counselors and helped with the classes the kids had throughout the weekend. Sou and I worked with Ashley New, and we were in charge of the nine-year-old girls. They were a lot of fun. I enjoyed being able to work with the kids and to get to know some of the

adults from the LA and AR churches. I feel those connections are important. I’m glad Go Serve was able to be useful in this way, and hopefully we will be able to do this again. It really was a great experience.”

(Chesleigh) “They really showed some southern hospitality in Springfield, Louisiana. I was in the cabin with Amber, and we had six girls in the room. Three of them were assigned to each of us. It was awesome seeing the girls and the boys on fire for God, especially during praise and worship. The teachers of the classes to which I was assigned were dynamic, teaching on a level where the kids could understand. There also were some group interactions based upon the given topic in the classes.”

After looking at the accompanying pictures and hearing those glowing comments, I’m sure you will agree that a fun and spirit-filled time was enjoyed by all – ABC students, campers, and staff. So who wants to be next? Next to go on a Go Serve trip? Or next to invite a group of ABC students to their event for a wonderful time? ■

GNP Desk



Leaders and participants at the Louisiana/Arkansas Youth Retreat

Explore our Distance Learning opportunities with these classes!

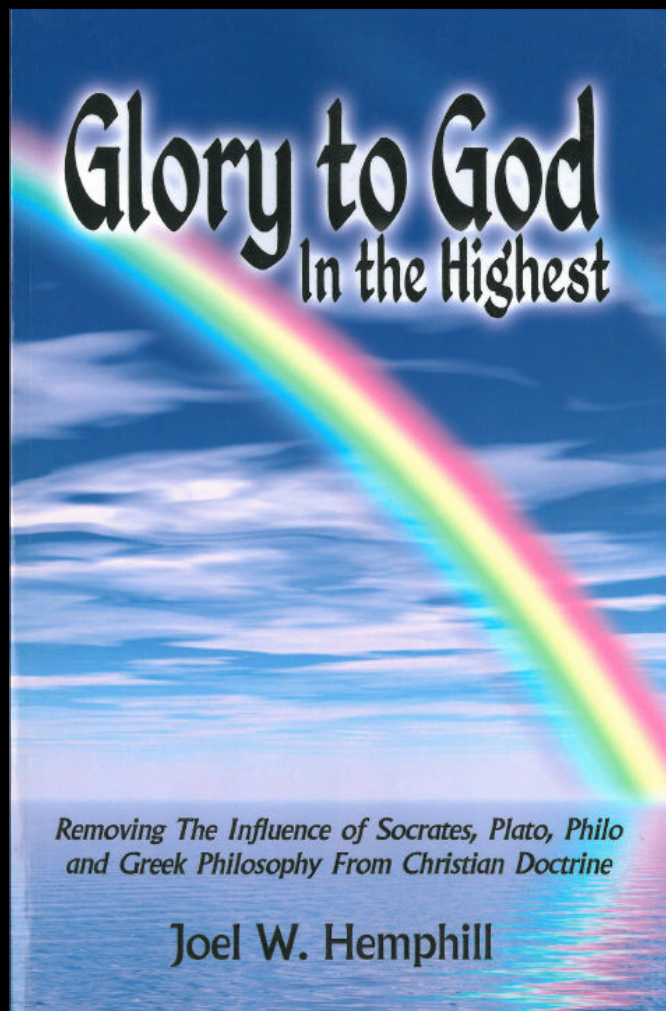
ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

Class offerings include:

- 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

And many more!!

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



We just received a shipment of Joel Hemphill's brand new book, "Glory to God In the Highest : Removing The Influence of Socrates, Plato, Philo and Greek Philosophy From Christian Doctrine."

For a short time this 500+ page book is available from ABC-COGGC for \$15 plus shipping/handling.



Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill

*The 38th Annual
Christian Workers Seminar 2011*

April 3-8, 2011 ■ Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Theme: Jesus: My Servant...My Son

Great men of God were first and foremost servants of God.
Jesus was a model of a servant, and he calls us to be servants/slaves.

The seminar will focus on following the example of Jesus.
Classes will emphasize equipping workers for more effective ministry.

At the Holiday Inn's
beautiful new convention center.

We'll see YOU in Pigeon Forge in 2011!

Please begin making plans
now to join us...
and bring a couple of friends with you!

Additional information and registration
forms will be available later this year.

Prices
(housing, meals, program)

Four-to-a-room - \$264/person
Three-to-a-room - \$294/person
Two-to-a-room - \$354/person
One-to-a-room - \$514/person

Special guests will include:

Joel & LaBreeska Hemphill

Vince & Mimi Finnegan

Teachers/speakers will include:

Anthony Buzzard

John Carr

Julie Driskill

Lynne Krogh

Joe Martin

Joe Myers

Jim & Carol Ring

Kent Ross

Scott Ross

Wally Winner

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown – David Wood (11/14/10) by Pastor Tom New

Illinois

Flagg Center (Rochelle) – Lynn Brome (8/28/10) by Pastor Gordon Landry

Indiana

Knightstown – Hannah Frost (11/20/10) by Tony and Angela Moore

Ontario, Canada

Fonthill – Susan Mulkins and Keaton Van Alstine (12/26/10) by Pastor Michael Brown

Deaths

Illinois

Marshall - Clement Richey, 95, (1/6/11), donated five years to working for the Church of God General Conference in maintenance in the 1970s, life-long member. Service by Pastor Michael Hoffman

Indiana

Michigantown – Russell Fewell, 74, (8/22/10), long-time member; Roscoe “Rocky” Finney, 93, (11/11/10), long-time member. Both services by Pastor Ken Howe

Minnesota

Owatonna – John Graeme Peters, 95, (11/30/10), long-time active member

Ontario, Canada

Fonthill – George E. Coverdale (11/10/10), long time faithful member. Service by Pastor Michael Brown

Pastor Jack Hearp

Jack was born Feb. 22, 1926 and died Dec. 12, 2010. He was born and raised near the Cleveland, Ohio Golden Rule Church of God. After high school he spent a year in the Pacific during WW II as a pharmacist's mate in the U.S. Navy. Later he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics at Western Reserve University in Cleveland and worked as an inventory analyst and sales forecaster in private industry in Kalamazoo, MI for about 13 years. While living in Michigan, he attended the Pennellwood Church in Wyoming, MI.

At age 36, Jack enrolled in Oregon Bible College in 1962. He graduated in 1964 and then became pastor of the Ripley Church of God in IL. In June of 1965 he married Helen

Laity. On Christmas Day 1965 his car was struck by a train in a snowy winter storm which killed his wife Helen (Laity), his mother Louise, and a lady friend riding with them.

In June 1972, Jack married Louise DeLap of Kansas, IL. Louise died Jan. 1, 2002.

Jack also served the Fonthill Church of God in Canada for about 13 years. He then pastored the Lawrenceville, OH Church for 11 years. After “retirement” he pastored the Chapel Hill Church in Urbana, OH for eight years from 1996 to 2004. He also helped in other ministries such as chaplain of the masonic home, as a volunteer chaplain at the Clark County Jail and Community Hospital in Springfield and served in the community outreach program at the Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH.

Jack and Louise were very interested in the work of our conference and college and all of our churches. They established the Hearp-DeLap Loan Fund which has made small loans to many churches over the years. Jack also donated his extensive library to Atlanta Bible College several years ago.

Jack is survived by family friend, Sandy Duckwall, who assisted the Hearps in their later years. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor Alan Cain with remarks by Pastor Steve Zimbelman, and David Krogh on behalf of the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College.



Prayer and Praise

March 2011

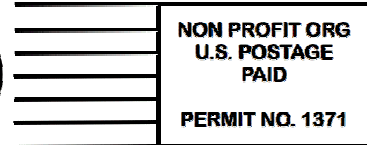
- 1 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Tom and Debbie New and the work at McGintytown, Arkansas.
- 3 **Pray for the Board of Directors meeting today and tomorrow; for God's Spirit to bless them with wisdom and spiritual insight.**
- 4 Pray that God will raise up missionary candidates.
- 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 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 seaching God's Word for answers to life's problems.**
- 20 Pray for students and staff of ABCKE (Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension).
- 21 **Pray for the brethren in India.**
- 22 Pray for God's blessing on your family.
- 23 **Pray for the leaders of your government.**
- 24 Praise God for your pastor's commitment to ministry.
- 25 **Praise God for those who provide prayer and financial support for the College/Conference ministries.**
- 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, 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 the Theological Conference to be held in May.**
- 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.**

Prayer and Praise

April 2011

- 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 God's special blessing on those participating in Christian Workers Seminar, which begins today in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Curt and Anita Rowden and the East Peoria, Illinois Church.
- 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 **Praise God for the incredible beauty of 'new birth' we see every spring!**
- 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 **Pray for the ministry of North Hills Church of God Associate Pastor Kyle and Angie Casey.**
- 24 Praise God for His Resurrected Son! Today is Easter Sunday!
- 25 **Pray for God's blessings on your next door neighbor.**
- 26 Pray that God might use you to lead your family toward an even deeper relationship with Him.
- 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.

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



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Join us for the 91st Annual Church of God General Conference

July 6-8, 2011

Jaynes Street Church of God, Omaha, Nebraska

Theme: No Church Too Small; No Mission Too Big!

The conference will begin with registration at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday afternoon. A cookout will be held at 5:00 followed by a musical extravaganza at 7:00 p.m. The conference will end following the evening service on Friday.

The program on Thursday and Friday will include worship services, workshops, Bible classes, open discussion forums, business sessions and good food and fellowship.

Each church and state conference is encouraged to send delegates to represent the church in the business sessions. Among the items of business are:

- the election of two members to the Board of Directors – the terms of Bob Morrison and Christy Ross expire and they may not be reelected
- reports on the work of our churches, Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference
- the adoption of a revised budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the adoption of a budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Make plans now to attend!

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

RESURRECTION: IF A MAN DIES, WILL HE LIVE AGAIN?

By Pastor Joe Myers

In the book of Job we find one of the most profound and often asked questions of all time. In fact, I would venture a guess that since Adam each generation following has asked this same question at one time or another. Some are confident in answering the question in the affirmative, while others are just as confident in answering the same question in the negative. Still others will answer by saying, "I don't know." It's a question that no doubt you have asked yourself in silence. More than likely, you'll ask the question again some day. What's the question? "If a man dies, will he live again?" (Job 14:14a). Is there life after death, or after we breathe our last, is that all there is?

Job starts out chapter 14 by stating the obvious. Life is so short. Job likens the brevity of life to that of a flower or grass or a shadow. We are told that life is compared to a breath taken, never to be recaptured. Today, we use phrases such as "time flies," or "here today, gone tomorrow." Perhaps Sir Elton John said it best in the song he wrote as a tribute to Marilyn Monroe (a song later re-written as a tribute to Princess Diana):

*"And it seems to me you lived
your life like a candle in the wind.
Never knowing who to cling to
when the rain set in.
And I would have liked to have
known you, but I was just a kid.*

*Your candle burned out long
before your legend ever did."*

February 27, 2011 marked the death of a soldier by the name of Frank Buckles. He was 110 years old. He enlisted in the US army at the age of 16. In order to get into the army, Frank lied about his age. Of the 5,000,000+ US men and women who served in WWI between 1917 and 1918, serial number 15577 was the last remaining US soldier. Frank Buckles – serial number 15577. Those who knew him, and perhaps even Frank himself, would say, "Life is so short."

In verse 5 of chapter 14 in Job we are told that our days are numbered. The number of months are known and set by God. That's true. In Psalm 90:10 it is written: "As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years. Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone, and we fly away." So regardless of how long we are granted life, in the end, it is always too short. If only we were a tree!

A tree? Yes! I quote again from Job 14. This time verses 7-9. "For there is hope for a tree, when it is cut down, that it will sprout again. And its shoots will not fail. Though its roots grow old in the ground and its stump dies in the dry soil, at the scent of water it will flourish and put forth sprigs like a plant." We lived in Arizona for nearly 25 years. A bush that flour-

ishes in the southwest is the Mexican Bird of Paradise. You can't kill the thing! We had one in our back yard for 16 years. I would cut it down. It would grow back. I would hack that bush; it didn't matter. Next spring it was back. I even tried to burn it...to no avail. Put a little water on it; give it some time, and back it came. I finally was able to rid myself of the bush after 16 years. We moved!

But is there hope for man? Is there life after death? If a man dies, will he live again? Let me now quote the remainder of verse 14 in Job 14. "If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait **until my change comes!**" ...Until my change comes! Do you see it? Job was not asking a question of whether or not we would live again. He was making a statement! Job would wait until his change came! Job knew he would live again!

So we ask, "What change was Job speaking about?" Our answer is found in the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 15:50-52. "Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed." In a moment! In

(Continued on page 3)

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Authors and books are sometimes promoted in the RESTITUTION HERALD. We believe these contain items of interest to our readers. This does not necessarily mean they exactly reflect the statement of faith below.

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**

April 3-8

Christian Workers Seminar,
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN

May 9

ABCKE Graduation

May 12-15

Theological Conference,
Simpsonwood Conference Center,
Norcross, GA

May 20

ABC Graduation

July 6-8

General Conference,
Jaynes Street Church of God,
Omaha, NE

July 17-22

FUEL, Manchester College,
North Manchester, IN



RESURRECTION *continued...*

(Continued from page 1)

the twinkling of an eye! We will be changed from mortal to immortal; from perishable to imperishable; from dishonor to glory; from weakness to power; from a natural body to a spiritual body. We will be raised! The glorious resurrection! It is the resurrection which brings about the change needed that we might have life, never to die again!

In John 11 Jesus is approached by two sisters who blankly stated, "Lord, if you had been here, my

brother would not have died." (I can hear them thinking, "How could you let him die? He was your close friend, too?") Jesus said, "Your brother will rise again." (v. 23). In fact, let me quote verses 24 and 25. "Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live even if he dies." Jesus was stating what the sisters already knew: the answer to Job's rhetorical question. If a man dies, will he live again? The

answer is a resounding YES! Yes, we will live again. For we will be raised. Listen to the words of Jesus in John 14:19: "Because I live, you will live also."

As we prepare to celebrate Resurrection Sunday this year, we can say with confidence, that yes. Yes, indeed! Because of Jesus, we will live, even if we die! Even so Lord Jesus come and change us all that we might live forever! ■

IT'S NO FUN

To Ride the Market
Up and Down . . .

Especially When
Your Money Is in It!

Charitable Gift Annuity

Now you can give cash or stock and receive an immediate tax deduction for a substantial portion of the



amount, and also receive a partially tax-free income stream for the remainder of your life. And most importantly, you'll feel the satisfaction of knowing your annuity investment

will equip people for ministry, provide financial assistance to new and existing churches, and do the work God has commissioned us to do.

The Board of Directors has established interest rates for new annuities set up during 2011.

Please contact David Krogh by phone at 800-347-4261, by e-mail at dkrogh@abc-coggc.org, or by mail at Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253 for more information or to set up a charitable gift annuity. ■

Age	Interest Rates	69-70	4.8%	81	6.4%
		71	4.9%	82	6.5%
		72	5.0%	83	6.7%
54-56	4.0%	73	5.1%	84	6.9%
57-58	4.1%	74	5.3%	85	7.1%
59-61	4.2%	75	5.4%	86	7.3%
62-63	4.3%	76	5.5%	87	7.6%
64	4.4%	77	5.7%	88	7.9%
65-66	4.5%	78	5.8%	89	8.2%
67	4.6%	79	6.0%	90+	8.5%
68	4.7%	80	6.2%		

GREAT NEWS... not just good news! Some great news is the recent action of the board in their March meeting regarding the **NEW Free Tuition Scholarship** program. Through this program there will be a tremendous recruiting effort to recruit Church of God pastoral and other Kingdom servants. One board member said, "I believe this is the greatest thing we have done!" There will be some eligibility requirements, but if you have a member of your church, whether recent high school graduate or mid-career person that may wish to attend ABC, please have them contact the college to get on the list and apply. The funding for this effort will come from scholarship funds, not the general fund. We could use your continued support in BOTH to make this happen. David Krogh and Kim Musch will be ready to receive your call and start the process of the Free Tuition Scholarship for the fall semester.

GLOBAL GENERAL CONFERENCE? A high point from last month and this month was discussion of "Going Global." This occurred at the Korean campus and later at the board meeting. We discussed how to encourage our churches and members to think of our churches and the membership in a worldwide context. Steve An discussed churches in Korea. David Krogh presented the application of two more Pakistan churches. Rebekah received a note from Africa that several more churches would be added to the number in Mozambique and Malawi. Some in Kenya are requesting recognition as well.

NEW WEBSITE: Seth Ross is diligently working on our new website. The main home page will have a continual flow of upcoming events including ABC-Invitational, Christian Workers' Seminar, Theological Conference (with the finger of God touching Adam from the Sistine Chapel!), General Conference and FUEL. On the side of the main pages for ABC and the GC there will be several "buttons" which include Ministry Services, Missions, Youth, Isolated Members, Alumni, ABCKE, and a new

anyone, the board has decided to try an "**Adjunct Teacher**" model for the next school year. Nonetheless, God continues to work in "strange" ways providing resources that surprise us. Notice the two donations from the McKinney estate and Hearp trust in pages following. Also, we know that the heart of the conference is the local church. The board has also directed Gary Burnham to pursue NCD (Natural Church Development) training to help our churches strengthen themselves. Please contact Gary for further information.

"...NEW Free Tuition Scholarship program. Through this program there will be a tremendous recruiting effort to recruit Church of God pastoral and other Kingdom servants."

"Go Serve" button. It is exciting to realize that the internet will help us communicate better and has made Matthew 24:14 a great possibility in our time. The home page is www.abc-coggc.org; if you just want the ABC side it is www.atlantabiblecollege.com.

The BOARD IS DETERMINED to live within our budget and means. They are directing modifications in the way we teach to accommodate that. It will require tightening the belt more in this "financial crunch" throughout the nation. Have you seen headlines? "Detroit will have to close HALF of its schools;" "Layoff to 19,000 Teachers in California;" or "1500 metro Atlanta teachers to get the bad news." Rather than "layoff"

PERSONALLY, I've just finished my morning devotions based on Jeremiah. I try to alternate between the O.T. and the N.T. While studying the name of God, **YHWH**, I saw that from my software program, BibleWorks8, that the name occurs more times in Jeremiah than any other book of the Bible! Of the 726 times it occurs in Jeremiah (an average of 14 times per chapter!), it occurs most in Jer. 23 (42 times, Yahweh) when the LORD God is talking about the "Branch" of David. Of course that is Jesus, the Son of God. It was very humbling to me to note that the one chapter in the Bible where God is mentioned by name the most, it is in reference to His Son mediating our ways...John 17:3! ■

In the world of quality control, there are two main methods of improvement activity: reactive and proactive. Reactive methods being less desirable than proactive (or anticipating ahead) to facilitate improvement. In the previous four years of service on the board, most of the activity we have taken seems to me to have been on the reactive side. The past two years have been especially reactive as we have had to enact measures that help lead to balancing a budget. I realize this has been a frustrating experience, not only for the board members, but especially for the staff, as they have had to endure numerous budgetary constraints.

This past board meeting held March 3rd and 4th in Atlanta contained what we hope to be a very proactive decision. Throughout the past several years, one issue continues to dominate the discussion at various conferences or board meetings. That issue is how we can better serve churches by getting more future pastoral and church leadership students to come to the Bible college. While the Korean Extension campus in Duluth continues to do a great job attracting many fine Bible students, we have admittedly struggled at the Avalon campus to increase student numbers. As the board researched the various funds available for ministry, Director Joe

Myers began developing an idea to use some of the student scholarship funds to pay one year of tuition for Church of God students interested in ministry. Many board members and staff gave input as the plan was de-

“Quite frankly, this is our chance to begin a renewed interest in recruiting and training a new crop of leaders for our conference of churches.”

veloped. The board took a bold step in approving this program to begin with the 2011 fall semester. Specific details of this program were contained in open communication sent by Dr. Joe Martin to all pastors in March.

What I wish to highlight at this time is a request for all Church of God members, pastors, and

churches to pray for this initiative in earnest as we seek dedicated students who would consider coming to ABC this fall and are interested in entering pastoral ministry or other church work. Quite frankly, this is our chance to begin a renewed interest in recruiting and training a new crop of leaders for our conference of churches. The board and staff are excited about the opportunity this program affords in the way of future pastors, as well as the potential to immediately create an energized atmosphere at the college. We see this as a way to fill our class rooms and reorient the way classes are administered and scheduled, by implementing an adjunct facilitator teaching model similar to one in place at the north campus, to better align our budget structure with our mission statement. More importantly, this allows the freedom to recruit anyone interested in ministry with less regard to financial ability and more regard to heart for service. I ask for your support and prayers for

this program. The doors are open at ABC, let's all seek and work to find those individuals willing to walk through them! ■

In His Service,

Robert E. Morrison, Jr.

New Free Tuition Program for Atlanta Bible College

The board of directors and staff of Atlanta Bible College are pleased to announce a new free tuition program for the next school year. Through the generosity of many donors, scholarship funds are available to offer free tuition to students who enroll (or are already enrolled) in Atlanta Bible College from churches affiliated with the Church of God General Conference. Our hope is that many Church of God students will make plans to attend ABC for at least one school year. Here is a full explanation of the program:

Intent:

To offer serious-minded quality Church of God students the opportunity to attend Atlanta Bible College with free tuition during the 2011-2012 school year. Those not serious about study and service need not apply.

Duration:

1 year (2 semesters beginning August 2011 and continuing to May 2012)

Eligibility:

Members and/or attendees of Church of God member churches, upon written recommendation from local pastor or church leadership. Applicant must also submit a letter of explanation as to his or her purpose for coming to ABC and the long-term intent of the education.

Requirements:

1. Meet eligibility requirements for admission to ABC and have graduated in the top 50% of your high school graduating class or have a 2.0 GPA.
2. Maintain a 3.0 GPA first semester in order to qualify for second semester free tuition.
3. Enroll in at least twelve (12) credit hours per semester (maximum of 17 hours). (Does not apply to Distance Learning courses.)
4. Complete a minimum of forty-five (45) service hours per semester (A Go Serve trip equates to 10 service hours - limit of 2 trips); other service at a local church affiliated with the General Conference, and/or provide volunteer service in the office of ABC, and/or community service sponsored by ABC or a local Church of God.
5. Must attend weekly chapel services on Thursday mornings.
6. Repay any previously accumulated debt to ABC at a minimum of \$200 per month.
7. Meet twice a semester with school appointed advisor to review academic and service requirements.

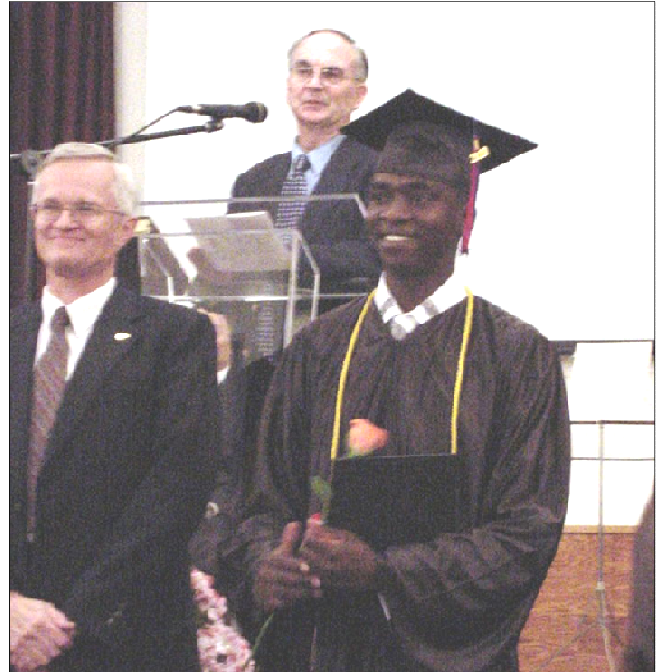


- Housing and books must be paid in full before the start of each semester.

Miscellaneous:

- Current ABC students who meet the above criteria will be given opportunity to apply.
- The program will be made available to the first fifteen (15) individuals who meet the above criteria. After 15, a waiting list will be created and as funds are available, the opportunity will be offered.
- Application deadline is **July 29, 2011** for fall semester and November 1, 2011 for winter/spring semester. (Approved 3-8-11)

To secure ABC application forms or for more information, contact Registrar David Krogh at: 678-833-1839 or dkrogh@abc-coggc.org. To apply for the free tuition, submit a letter of explanation as to your purpose for coming to ABC and the long-term intent of the education and submit it by e-mail to: dkrogh@abc-coggc.org. You will receive a response within 10 days. ■



2010 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:

Anita Cain, Jean Doan, John Craig and Juanita P. English, Bernie Jones, Erwin Kamp, Harvey and Mary Krogh, John and Ruth Lewis, Martha Mattison, Mary Helen Mattison, Margaret Josephine Mehrens, Joyce Macy Nordstrom, Freeman Pryor, Cecil Railton, Clara Reynolds, Cecil Smead, Iris Wolfe, Ferris Zechiel

Scholarships and Grants for Atlanta Bible College

Grants and scholarships provided assistance to Atlanta Bible College students during 2010 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

I was asked to give some information about Atlanta Bible College. My story with ABC is a very personal one. I am from southern Louisiana, a little community called Pumpkin Center. Interstate 12 goes from Mississippi straight to Baton Rouge without dipping down into New Orleans, as I-10 does. There is even a sign for "Pumpkin Center" on the interstate now. There were two churches there, both Southern Baptist. I attended Jerusalem Baptist Church.

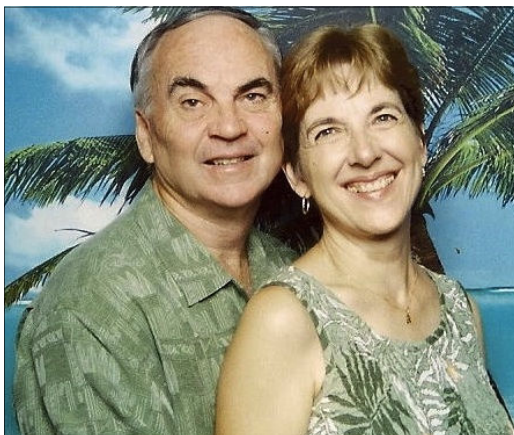
My connection with ABC comes in my teenage years when I met Rebekah Mattison, whose father Jim Mattison pastored the Church of God, near Springfield, Louisiana, about 10 miles further south. After 40 years of marriage, I need not say more than Rebekah and I are doing well after all these years! However, since her dad pastored a Church of God, was very conservative, and had some strong opinions about the future of his daughter, he wanted input. He... really, really, really... (*see a tweaked smile here!*) wanted her to attend Oregon Bible College, "his" college. OBC is the forerunner of ABC which moved from Oregon, Illinois to Atlanta in 1991. It taught the great truths I now hold dear - the One God, Jesus as the Son of God, and the coming of the great kingdom of God.

I kind of made a "deal" with him. I would attend the Bible

college for a year, since he was blessing our marriage. Well, it wasn't like I had to pay a dowry of seven cows as in some parts of Africa (Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, etc.). It was just a year, but it was Illinois and both Rebekah and I "hate" the cold. We went. I studied fairly in-



Dr. Joe Martin and Rebekah Martin



tently, with people like Bill Wachtel, Francis Burnett, and John Lewis. I learned a lot of Bible, and came home. But God touched me in that year to pursue Him more. I rededicated my life to Christ while Z.B. Duncan preached. Also, during that time, Jerusalem was captured in the Six Day War,

and prophecy was on the forefront of my mind, and still is. We packed up after summer in Louisiana and went back.

When thinking of God's direction, my favorite verses are Jeremiah 31:3 and 29:11, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; and I have drawn you with my loving-kindness," and "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD/YHWH [Hebrew], plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I believe God had plans for me that I did not have a clue about. Pastor Rufus Meyers in a recent message said "It doesn't matter where you're going as long as God is leading."

I graduated, attended an internship in Arizona, and first pastored in Front Royal, Virginia. Having been inspired, especially by John Lewis, I always kept teaching at the college in the back of my mind. Everywhere I went, I kept pursuing my education. While pastor in Glendale, California, I was only about ten miles from Fuller Theological Seminary and did a graduate degree there.

Many of the professors were very open to the great truths I had been taught at OBC, especially about the kingdom of God (George Ladd, etc.). Dr. Hubbard, president of Fuller, said the most important word in Hebrew was "*chesed*," the loving-kindness of Jer. 31:3. Dr. Colin Brown said to be called the Son, meant you were not the Father

(YHWH). Ray Anderson started emphasizing “Son of God” rather than using the term “God the Son,” according to Greg Demmitt.

Though still wanting to teach at the Bible college, my train derailed (a euphemism, if that is possible, for sin) and Rebekah and I moved back to Arizona to get our life back together. I kept studying, serving in the church there. I still couldn’t get over Matthew 24:14, the “gospel of the kingdom” had to be preached to the ends of the earth and then Jesus would come back. What could I do? We decided we never wanted to live in the extreme cold again.

Then, Oregon Bible College decided to move to Atlanta! Kent Ross was passing through and suggested the possibility I could teach for a year, serving an interim position, until Anthony Buzzard could move to the south. We tried it for a year... and have been at Atlanta Bible College for TWENTY years! It is funny, sometimes strange, how God actually does Romans 8:28, work all things for good... .

To me, the college represents one of the few, if not the only place, that teaches John 17:3 in its absolute biblical form, “This is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” Though some of my extreme “orthodox” friends may not accept it, I believe I am FULLY Christian when I teach about the one true God (Yahweh El Shaddai, the God of Jesus’ creed, Dt. 6:4 and Mk. 12:29) and Jesus as the Son of God rather than the credal, and I

believe Platonic/Hellenistic, God the Son.

But... I’m a “kinder gentler” biblical Christian, Christian monotheist, or “Bible-tarian” (another euphemism for a “Bible freak?”) I am just saying that there needs to be a voice in the middle of Christianity that offers a very “sola scriptura” position in theology and christology. Paul said in I Cor. 4:6, “Do NOT go beyond what is written.” I am trying to do that. Solomon in Proverbs 30:6 says “Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.” I do not wish to be rebuked by God!

I also believe there needs to be a voice between Jews, Muslims and Christians that presents a biblical Messiah, a biblical Jesus. Paul was always having to prove that Jesus was the Messiah. It was understood that Jesus was not Yahweh/God. Isaiah 19 tells me God is going to bring us together, Jews, Christians and Muslims, “come Kingdom, come.” Why not give the alternative now and pray that some will get the “one true God” and Jesus?

Atlanta Bible College is now authorized to receive international students, though it is still a private religious school not funded by government grants and is not “orthodoxically” accredited by the normal Bible college accrediting association, ABHE (Association for Biblical Higher Education). The board chair or CEO of the college would have to sign NON-biblical statements to be a member of that organization. Now there’s a paradox, having to sign a non-biblical statement to be

accredited in the Association for Biblical Higher Education (See their “tenets” at <http://www.abhe.org/tenetsofffaith>). Their point three under “Applicant Status” is where the non-biblical affirmation must be made (see <http://www.abhe.org/accreditationprocedures>). Does anyone see the problem, paradox, even humor in that?!

I completed my doctorate at Columbia Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian school here in Atlanta. It confirmed my biblical track in many ways. I had Dr. Shirley Guthrie for several classes. I was invited to the party for the 25th anniversary of his book *Christian Doctrine*, where he publically stated he was wrong in the first edition about the “immortal soul” (p. 378). He also states in that book that “creeds” “inevitably distorted the truth revealed in Christ Jesus”(p. 24) and that we must be always reforming (*semper reformanda*) according to the Bible.

At ABC, we have our struggles, like any other small college, but I do love Atlanta Bible College. It is a good place to have someone become grounded in the word of God. Our One Year Foundation takes a student through Old Testament Survey and New Testament Survey as well as gets them involved in ministry. We are now offering a “Free Tuition Scholarship” to prospective students from our supporting churches! It is a NICE place to try for a year! Or, ...spend a lifetime... learning and teaching the One True God, Jesus His Son, and the coming kingdom! ■

General Conference Nominations and Recommendations

At General Conference we will be electing two (2) directors for the Board of Directors. The terms of Bob Morrison and Christy Ross expire this year. Neither of them may be nominated. Currently we have one (1) nominee. Two additional nominees 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.

Steve Taylor

I grew up in the Hedrick, Indiana Church of God and was baptized in 1973 by Pastor Wally Winner. I attended Oregon Bible College from 1974-78, graduating in 1978. I served my pastoral internship under Kent Ross at the Pennellwood Church of God from 1978-79. I've pastored for over 30 years - at Columbia Station, Ohio; Blanchard, Michigan; Lafayette, Indiana, Cornerstone Bible Church in Georgia, and Lakeshore Bible Church since 2007. I also served on the Gen-

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

eral Conference/Atlanta Bible College staff from 1999-2005.

My non-pastoral vocational experience and training includes service and installation of business phone systems, home and business security and audio/video installation and service, and a writing course through Long Ridge Writer's Group. I also have been involved in video production since 1986.

I was asked to consider nomination by the ministerial association. Although initially reluctant, I am willing to be a candidate and will serve wholeheartedly if elected. I strongly believe in the Abrahamic Faith message and am committed to furthering it personally, through the local church, and through our international organization.

Having served on the General Conference staff, I have a perspective on our work both as a staff member and as a pastor. We face pressing challenges in our collective work, and I won't for a minute suggest that I have specific ideas or remedies. But I would commit to working diligently with our present board members to carefully and prayerfully seek solutions and direction.

I value the blessings I've received through my involvement with the Church of God General Conference, and gratitude for these blessings is my

motivation in being willing to serve on the board. I believe I face our challenges realistically, but also view our future and potential hopefully

Recommendation One

The Board of Directors recommends that the delegates at the annual summer Conference make a decision regarding the disposition of the College Improvement Fund.

Explanation: When the campus in Morrow was sold to Clayton State University, the proceeds were placed in a College Improvement Fund. Money from this fund was used to pay off internal loans of about \$900,000, the build-out of the Duluth campus, rent for the Morrow campus paid to Clayton State University, rent for the McDonough and Duluth campuses, furniture, etc. Currently there is \$370,529 in this fund. This amount was borrowed to pay for operating expenses several years ago.

The board would like the delegates to decide whether to preserve this fund for future campus development or to eliminate the fund and reduce the amount of money that needs to be paid back. The current outstanding loan payable is \$774,908. If the delegates decide to eliminate the fund, this will reduce the outstanding loans to \$404,379.

Recommendation Two

The board of directors recommends that the delegates ap-

prove the creation of an Academic Advisory Committee for Atlanta Bible College.

Explanation: This committee would replace the former Higher Education Advisory Committee that was created by the delegates in 1985 (amended in 1987) and disbanded in 2003. Since then, ABC has grown into a more expansive academic institution that includes multiple branches and a distance learning component, but without an oversight body that develops and imposes common academic expectations on those components of ABC.

The directors ask the delegates to establish a new committee which will be responsible for the academic oversight of ABC. This committee will provide assistance and input to the college administrators concerning oversight of curriculum and degree programs, and be responsible for maintaining appropriately high academic standards at all components of ABC. The board of directors and administrators of ABC will consult with this committee concerning the hiring of instructors for ABC. The finalized proposal for this committee is being prepared in consultation with the pastoral leadership of the General Conference and will be distributed to the delegates prior to the July General Conference. ■

Kicking the Hellenism Out of the Church

Condensed from Chapter 10 of *Glory to the God in the Highest* by Joel Hemphill
(this book is available for purchase from the General Conference)

Filth in the Water System

In the summer of 2008 the small town of Ridgetop, Tennessee, about eight miles from where we live, began to experience a problem. About one thousand homeowners started to find particles and trash in their sinks and faucets. This continued for a period of several months while they complained to the city officials. Finally someone discovered the problem at the city's water treatment plant. Months before, a plumbing company hired to do work at the plant, had mistakenly hooked up the **sewer line** to the **water line**, gotten paid and gone on their way. There was much consternation at this discovery, and the city fathers called in the experts to make their analysis. Their conclusion: *"Yes, the sewer was hooked up to the water line, and yes there is bacteria in the water system! But it is still at an acceptable level."*

Here is the analogy. Centuries ago the sewer of *Greek philosophy* was attached to the water line of *Christian doctrine*, and the *experts* who see and acknowledge it (including the Pope) want us to believe that *"the bacteria is still at an acceptable level!"* I for one am not buying it! Paul said: *"Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump"* (1 Corinthians 5:6-7).

When we do, we will have the purity, power, and purpose that we should have as the church of Jesus Christ. The church will no

longer have a higher divorce rate than the world does. The Southern Baptist Convention will no longer have 9,000 churches that go a full year without baptizing one convert, as was true in 2007. Our churches will be revived and filled, our children and grandchildren will find God and be delivered from alcohol, drugs and illicit sex, and the church world-wide will begin to affect the world for Christ, more than the world is affecting the church. It was said of the Apostles: *"These [Christians] that have turned the world upside down are come here also"* (Acts 17:6).

But today, as Viola and Barna say in *Pagan Christianity?*: *"We have elders, we meet in a house, we do have a hired clergy, we take up a collection every Sunday and we preach the gospel. But there is no rushing mighty wind!"*

The Scene of the Crime

In 399 B.C. the man whose name is in the title of this chapter [Who was Socrates?] was tried before a jury of five hundred peers, found guilty of crimes (which we will study as we go forward) and sentenced to death. However, the crime which he committed along with others against Christianity is far greater than those he committed against the city of Athens.

I am asking you to serve as a jury of one and decide if my statement regarding fraud is true. As jurors are often taken to the place where a crime was perpetrated for better under-

standing of the event, I have studied this history carefully and would like for you to go with me to the scene of the crime.

I should say at this point, I am not a historian. I enjoyed the study of history in school and understand its importance. As Churchill said, *"Those who do not learn the lessons of history are destined to repeat it,"* and history had important lessons to teach. In the next several chapters we will rely heavily on historians. Since they sometimes disagree we will consider what is *"commonly reported."* Paul says in 1 Corinthians 5:1, *"it is commonly reported that there is fornication among you,"* and then proceed to deal with it on that basis.

Who Was Socrates?

Who was Socrates, this man who is quoted by popes and scholars, and whose name crops up so often in the study of the origins of the doctrine of the Trinity? The man of whom Benjamin Franklin said, *"Regarding humility, imitate Socrates and Jesus."*

Socrates (469-399 B.C.) was born in Athens, Greece, the son of a stone mason father and a mother who was a midwife. He received the regular elementary education in literature, music, and gymnastics. Later he familiarized himself with the rhetoric and teachings of the Sophists, the traveling teachers of his time, who were notorious for their clever reasoning and arguments. Also at a young age, he was introduced to philosophy

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and studied science under the teacher Archelaus.

Initially, Socrates followed the craft of his father, but soon decided that he was more suited for talk than manual labor. It is said that he did create statues of “*the Three Graces*,” which stood at the entrance of the Acropolis in Athens until the second century A.D.

He served as an infantryman in the army of Athens and fought with bravery in three of its battles with Sparta, between 432 and 422 B.C.

The *Encyclopedia Americana* says of Socrates turning from science: “*He abandoned all effort to find out why things are as they are by examining nature itself. He turned instead to the examination of logoi [singular “logos”], that is, statements, arguments, or in general, words – as a way of discovering something true.*” They continue, “*The distinctive feature of Socratic inquiries is that they took as their object not some phenomenon in the natural world, but some person and his ideas. Socrates hoped that by methodically and repeatedly examining someone’s ideas, it might ultimately lead him to the discovery and establishment of the truth.*”

The Logos Doctrine

Please be patient as we go through this material, as its importance to Christianity, and our proper understanding as to who the One Most High God of the Bible is, can hardly be overstated! What we have just witnessed in the foregoing is the birth of the so-called “*divine*

Logos doctrine” in a demon-possessed man who acknowledged repeatedly his guidance by the spirit of the Greek god Apollo.

True, some fifty years before Socrates, the Greek philosopher Heraclitus was the first to use the term “**Logos**” in a metaphysical sense. The word *logos* has its roots in the Greek verb *lego*, “to say,” and its earliest meaning probably was “*connected discourse*.” Heraclitus asserted that the world is governed by a “*firelike*” Logos, a **divine force** that produces the order and pattern discernable in the flux of nature. He believed that **this force** is similar to **human reason** and that **his own thought partook of the divine Logos**. Heraclitus urges us to pay attention to the Logos, which “*governs all things*” and is something we “*encounter every day*.” According to Martha C. Nussbaum, Heraclitus “*...made logos a central concept. We should probably emphasize the linguistic connections of logos when interpreting Heraclitus’ thought...and look to our language and the order embodied in it, rather than to scientific or religious views that neglect this.*” She continues, “*By the classical period [the time of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, etc.] it already had a wider variety of meanings: ‘argument,’ ‘rational principle,’ ‘reason,’ ‘proportion.’*”

“*In the 3rd century B.C. the proponents of Stoicism borrowed the idea of logos...and used it for the immanent ordering principle of the universe-represented at the level of language by humankind’s ordered discourse. Nature and logos are often*

treated as one and the same...” and “*humans are urged to ‘live consistently with logos’.*” Be patient with me but I must repeat this: She says, “*later Christian thinkers clearly did incorporate the Stoic logos doctrine; logos was associated particularly with Christ.*” ...

Socrates’ Concept Regarding Words

From the time the oracle of Delphi told his friend Chaerephon that there was none wiser than Socrates, he was driven to find “**logos**”, i.e. divine reason and ultimate truth, in the **speech** of everyone that he met. He believed the wisdom of the ages **dwelt in the minds of people**, if it could only be retrieved through verbal discourse. This was the basis for his belief that he was a *mid-wife*” for the birth of **ideas**, and thus his dying words “*warning his companions not to restrain themselves in argument.*” But is wisdom really found in a multitude of words?

“*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*”
(Psalm 111:10).

“*For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom and knowledge, and joy*”
(Eccl. 2:26).

“*If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally*”
(James 1:5).

“*In the multitude of words there wanteth [lacks] not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise*”
(Proverbs 10:19).

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

“A fool’s voice is known by a multitude of words”
(Eccl. 5:3).

“But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned”
[Jesus speaking]
(Matthew 12:36-37).

“We beseech you, brethren...that you study to be quiet, and do your own business”
(1 Thessalonians 4:10-11).

Listen to the apostle James:

“This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable...”
(James 3:15, 17).

Remember this: Being careful with words is one mark of wisdom, and “the gift of gab” is not one of the nine spiritual gifts!...

Was Socrates a Christian?

Wait! Before you toss this book aside in disgust, let me explain why I would ask such a ridiculous question. It is because of the statement by the early church father Justin Martyr, quoted at the beginning of this chapter:

“Christ was known by Socrates, for Christ was and is the Logos

and dwells in every man. It may be asserted that all who have lived with the Logos were Christians. Among the Greeks, this specially applies to Socrates and Heraclitus.”

Justin (100-165 A.D.) was himself a philosopher who converted to Christianity and became a tireless evangelist and writer. He greatly influenced Christian thinking after the death of the apostles, and wrote more concerning Christianity than any other person up until his time. Sadly his teachings were very detrimental to those who followed him in the next several centuries, because he retained much of Greek philosophy in his belief system. He is a prime example of the devastating effects of the Socrates and Plato-promoted doctrine of the “*divine Logos*.” His blindness is very evident when he represents Christ as “*the Socrates of the barbarians*.”

There was a serious struggle among the so-called “early Church fathers” for the next three centuries after the apostolic age, between those who believed and followed Greek philosophy, and those who thought it was **demonically inspired**. Compare Justin’s statements with the following:

“However, not only do poets and philosophers contradict each other, nay may contradict themselves. Not a single one of the so-called philosophers is to be taken seriously; they have devised myths and follies; everything they have set forth is

useless and godless. But God knew before hand the drivillings of these hollow philosophers, and made His preparations. Revelation is necessary because this wisdom of the philosophers is really demon wisdom, for they were inspired by devils.” (Theophilus; 2nd century bishop of Antioch).

“We see that philosophers are neither lowly nor meek. Rather, they greatly please themselves” (Cyprian; church father; circa 250 A.D.)

“It has been handed down to us in the sacred writings that the thoughts of the philosophers are foolish. Therefore, there is no reason why we should give so much honor to philosophers” (Lactantius; church father; circa 304 A.D.).

“Heresies are themselves instigated by philosophy. The philosophers are the patriarchs of all heresy. The apostle [Paul], so far back as his own time, foresaw indeed, that philosophy would do violent injury to the truth. So then, where is there any likeness between the Christian and the philosopher? Between the disciple of Greece and the disciple of heaven? Away with all attempts to produce a mottled Christianity of Stoic, Platonic, and dialectic composition!”

(Continued on page 15)

Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

“Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

“And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and in the Spirit of our God.”

Of the ten sins Paul mentions here that would bar a person from entering the kingdom of God that King Jesus shall establish over the earth when He comes a second time, one of them is **being covetous**.

According to Strong's, covetous (*pleonekteo*) means “eager for gain, hence a defrauder.” It is

being greedy, having too strong a desire to obtain money or possessions. The Bible calls it the love of money. Or it can be a strong desire for another man's wife. This is Israel's tenth commandment of the ten.

Our Lord said, “You cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24). We cannot serve two masters or controlling forces over our lives. We will love one more than the other. We either love God with all our heart, or we love things more than Him, and loving anything more than God is a sin.

But the good news is that when we repent and ask God's forgiveness, we can be forgiven. “Such were some of you,” but you are washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of Christ and by the Spirit of God.

A true Christian examines himself constantly to see if he is in the faith. Paul did not want to be a castaway. Neither do we. What we put first in our lives is very important, a salvation issue. It is either a desire to come close to God, or a desire to be selfish and gain things. ■

(Continued from page 14)

(Tertullian; 160-230 A.D.;
Christian writer from Carthage,
North Africa).

These words that Tertullian wrote some 1800 years ago express my sentiments very well! “**Away with all attempts to produce a mottled Christianity!**” The wisdom of his words will be seen more clearly as we go forward.

Please consider these facts:

The **spirit** and **doctrine** of Jezebel was still corrupting the Church of Thyatira 1000 years after her death (*Revelation 2:20*).

The **spirit** and **doctrine** of Balaam was still corrupting the Church of

Pergamos 1500 years after his death (*Revelation 2:14*; *2 Peter 2:15*; *Jude v. 11*).

The **spirit** and **doctrine** of Socrates is still corrupting the Christian church today 2400 years after his death (*1 Corinthians 1:18-24*).

Closing This Chapter

As difficult as this material is to wade through, and as disturbing as some of these disclosures are, this demonic Greek influence must be exposed, and I willingly accept the call to help do it. And I will not be satisfied until all God-fearing, Bible-believing, truth-loving people rise up with one voice and shout,

“**Get the Hellenism out of here!**” ■

“**Away
with all
attempts
to produce
a mottled
Christianity!**”

Brothers and sisters of the Church of God,

First of all, please accept my deep and humble appreciation and respect.

I learned the Bible in a church in Korea at the age of 6; Adam and Eve on Mount Eden, Noah's ark and the Rainbow, Moses separating the Red Sea, David and Goliath, baby Jesus and remembering the 12 disciples of Jesus, etc....

Since then, Bible study in Korea has shifted to prayer, healing, temple building, passion for increasing church members (I would not refer to this as evangelism) and especially maintaining unethical traditions. This attitude has overtaken Christian life in Korea and I was just as guilty for having a similar attitude. I also forgot the knowledge given to me from the Bible.

Since my family's immigration to the United States, some 30 years ago, we have experienced the Full Gospel Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church, and the Baptist Church. At the time, we never perceived the Bible for the purpose of experiencing Christian faith such as the resurrection and the kingdom of God. We had this misconception of praying for health and gaining prosperity.

While I was serving as an assistant pastor in Jonesboro, GA (approximately 7 miles from the old ABC Morrow campus) I was led (God's guidance) to enroll at the Atlanta Bible College and there I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Joe Martin, Kent Ross, Anthony Buzzard, David Krogh and Gary Burnham. Through

the classes, my focus was re-centered toward the Bible once again. I began to realize the core of the gospel, purpose of the Christian faith, the true identity of Jesus Christ, and the kingdom message.

All the miracles the Lord Jesus had performed (healing, feeding the thousands of hungry people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 heads of fish and raising Lazarus from the dead) are all clear examples of the kingdom of God which is described in Revelation 21:4 ("there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain"). While the Lord was performing the miracles, He repeatedly stated "the Kingdom is like ..." It is apparent the Lord meant all will be fed with very little food, the sick will be healed, and the resurrection for eternal life in God's kingdom.

Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom gospel, but no one ever imagined God's kingdom, and the Lord allowed a foretaste of the coming kingdom and gave man "hope for the kingdom and faith". We must not lose sight of what has been already given. We must continually seek the life in God's kingdom with no more death, no more mourning, no more crying, and no more pain.

While my perception of the Christian faith was developing through the Bible, I felt a very bright light penetrate into the darkest part of myself. I discovered a hidden treasure. It is very difficult to put these feelings into words. It is indescribable. It filled my heart with tears, tears of happiness and joy. Immediately, I began to feel a burning passion and a strong need to convey the biblical truth, "the kingdom message" to the Korean community and to my family.

Since then, by God and your support, the Korean Extension was established allowing us to cultivate 93 total students who are learning the biblical Christian faith in this current spring semester of 2011.

I personally respect and appreciate the Church of God members for keeping the core of the biblical truth. I thank you for maintaining true Christianity and not polluting it, amid the darkness that lurks in this evil age, full of mammonism, wealth, greed, and humanism described in 1 and 2 Kings of the Old Testament. I appreciate all of you for conveying that same biblical truth to me as well as my Korean brothers and sisters.

I feel obligated to maintain my inheritance of the biblical truth and convey it to the next Korean generation. This is a core vision and the present purpose of the Korean Extension operation.

Pedagogically, the responsibility of an educational institution is not only to teach, but also to preserve and develop the knowledge. The second task is to transmit those valuable characteristics to the next generation. In *Exodus 17:14, God said to Moses, "Write this and make sure that Joshua hears it..."* It may be interpreted this way "preserve what I command and transmit it to the next generation, Joshua." In Romans 3:1-2, the verses mean the first responsibility and advantage of the Jews were the entrustment of the very words of God.

I believe COGGC/ABC/KE has been entrusted with the biblical truth of God, and transmitting this valu-

(Continued on page 17)

CHURCH BUILDERS LEAGUE Appeal #106 Spring 2011

The current Church Builders Appeal has been designed for the construction of a women's training center just outside of Blantyre, Malawi and up to 10 church buildings in Malawi and Mozambique. The women's facility will be used to teach women life skills along with how to sew. They will also receive Bible training. Land for the Women's Center was purchased with the assistance of LHI and funds generated by Malawi Africa Missions directed by Jim Mattison. It is a well situated 3-acre plot of land. The building and a security wall around the property will cost about \$5,000.

A number of our church buildings in Malawi and Mozambique are falling down because the thatched roofs do not drain rainwater away from the building, which causes the mud bricks to dissolve. Cement will be mixed with the mud to make stronger bricks and the tin roofs will drain water away from the building. Some of the congregations in Malawi and Mozambique have been waiting for years for funds to rebuild their dilapidated buildings.

35 bags of cement at \$20 per bag are needed for each church building. 60 sheets of tin at \$20 per sheet are needed for each building. The church members will make the bricks out of mud, mixed with cement.

We invite you to be a part of this project by sending \$25 or more to: Church Builders League, Post Office Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253.

Thanks for your generosity! ■



An example of a church that has been built with tin roof and improved mud bricks.



The land on which the Women's Center will be built.

(Continued from page 16)

able message to the next generation is our first advantage and also our responsibility.

According to Christian history, many churches and Christians were enticed and tempted through many ordeals of hardship, especially financial difficulty. Because of this, the truth and their Christian faith became distorted and polluted. The result was the failure to teach and to entrust the words of God.

Thus far, I believe the COGGC/ABC has preserved the biblical truth very well as an entrusted servant with the words of God. I humbly encourage all of you to continue supporting the COGGC/ABC/KE to maintain God's given responsibility until the Lord Jesus Christ makes His triumphal return so we may inherit HIS kingdom, and our Lord will say "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have kept my

words pure, not polluted in this evil age!"

Once again, I thank all of you and may the blessings of the Lord, Jesus Christ be with you and your ministry forever! ■

2011 Theological Conference

20th Anniversary Conference

Thurs-Sun, May 12-15, 2011

This 20th annual conference at Simpsonwood Retreat Center promises to be an outstanding gathering of lovers of the Abrahamic faith and the kingdom gospel of Jesus, the Messiah. We are delighted to report that we will have a number of visitors and speakers from overseas — Australia, Germany, South Africa and England. The word of the kingdom and the creed of Jesus are making an impact on a daily and ever-growing scale, thanks to books going out, in several languages, weekly at Amazon, and the astonishing power of the many websites now making the faith known to a potential of some 2 billion people. The increase in getting the message out is a constant source of joy. What a marvel is this amazing internet. Do take the time to spend these few days and encourage especially those who are new to the Abrahamic circle. Robin Todd will be with us to keep us posted of the fruit borne by his fine efforts to unite scattered believers. Small home fellowships are beginning to emerge, with a restorationist flavor, as they recapture the vision of the kingdom of God gospel of Jesus and the ancient unitarian heritage which Jesus proclaimed as the “greatest of all the commandments.” There is a worldwide dearth of hearing the gospel as Jesus defined it and preached it. It is about the coming king-

dom, and its impact when fully embraced and made the center of our efforts (cp. Luke 4:43) still transforms lives and energizes. Paul described the gospel as “the word which is energetic and active in you” (1 Thess. 2:13).

You will enjoy meeting familiar conference participants, and you will meet new family in the faith. How important it is not to “forsake gathering together.” We are responsible to each other not to sit on “islands” and operate as soloists. We must not forget that Christianity is to be done corporately. We will all learn much from what we hear and experience at the conference. Please do not underestimate the joy you bring to others by attending. We will also celebrate the 20th anniversary with a special communion service.

To register please call Atlanta Bible College at 800-347-4261 or 678-833-1839 or mail the form on the back page by **April 18**. The non-refundable deposit is \$50 per individual or couple.

Registration deadline: April 18

Conference Cost

Includes 3 nights, all meals, snacks, conf. fee, and tax

Transportation (Judy: 678-485-8492)

Single	NEW Couple Rate	Double (per person)	Triple (per person)	Quad (per person)
\$340	\$505 per couple	\$260	\$245	\$230

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

Airport to Simpsonwood		
Thurs, May 12	1:00 pm	3:30 pm
Simpsonwood to Airport		
Sun., May 15	1:00 pm	

Please arrange your arrival time on Thursday early enough to catch one of the two shuttle runs. On Sunday, May 15, we will provide one shuttle run. In order to allow you enough time to catch your return flight, we suggest you **not book your return flight prior to 3:30 p.m.**

The conference begins with registration at 4 pm on Thursday and ends with lunch on Sunday. Driving directions to Simpsonwood Conference Center are at www.simpsonwood.org The address is 4511 Jones Bridge Circle NW, Norcross, GA 30092.

Post-conference Class

Anthony Buzzard will teach “The Titanic Struggle over Defining God, His Son and the Kingdom” from Sunday afternoon, May 15 to Tuesday, May 17. The cost for the class is \$179 for credit or \$75 for continuing education. The total cost for room/meals at Simpsonwood for Sunday and Monday nights is \$214 single, \$160 double (per person). Please call Atlanta Bible College at 800-347-4261 or 678-833-1839 before **April 18** to register.

Theological Conference • May 12-15, 2011 • Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross, Georgia

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone-Home _____ Cell _____
 E-mail _____

Conference rates (includes room, meals, snacks, conf. fee, tax):

Single: \$340 COUPLE: \$505 Double: \$260 per person Triple: \$245 per person Quad: \$230 per person

Room type: Single ___ Double ___ Triple ___ Quad ___ **Special meal request:** Gluten-free ___ Vegetarian ___

Roommate's name(s) _____

Transportation to/from Atlanta airport? Round-trip (\$25) ___ One-way (\$15) From airport ___ To airport ___

If so, Date & Time of Arrival _____ Departure _____

Airline & Flight Number _____

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

Are you taking the after-conference class? _____

Send with non-refundable deposit of \$50 per individual or couple by **April 18** to:
 Atlanta Bible College, PO Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253

Coming this Summer

The Psalms

a pastoral
commentary
by Vernis Wolfe



This special edition of the Truth Seekers Quarterly will be published in book form. The entire quarterly has been written by retired Church of God pastor Vernis Wolfe, who has served churches in Hammond, La., Tempe, Az., St. Cloud, Minn., and Oregon, Ill.

We expect that many who know Vernis Wolfe and value his scholarship and pastoral experience will want to order extra copies for personal use and to share with friends and family, so we are giving the opportunity to pre-order this book for \$6, shipping included. Call 1-800-347-4261 to order. Deadline April 17.

Pre-Order Now \$6

**Join us for
91st Annual Church of God General Conference
July 6-8, 2011**

At Jaynes Street Church of God, 7534 Jaynes St., Omaha, Nebraska, 402-571-2537

Theme: No Church Too Small; No Mission Too Big!

PLEASE NOTE: The fees for General Conference DO NOT include lodging. You must arrange lodging by contacting the hotel directly. The fees for the conference cover the costs of the General Conference meeting and the meals. Local hotel contact numbers are provided that are relatively close to the Jaynes Street Church, but you may choose any hotel you desire in the area or make other arrangements.

1. Please 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 2011, 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 6 Cookout at Jaynes Street Church at 5:00 p.m.? 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 _____ N _____

The program will begin July 6 with a late afternoon cookout and evening service. Thursday and Friday will include a complete schedule of workshops, worship services, meetings of the Ministers, Priscillas, Alumni Association, and delegate business sessions. The conference will conclude after the Friday evening service.

Omaha Hotel Information - *Please call hotel directly and identify yourself as part of the Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College:*

Holiday Inn Express - 402.505.8181 - \$84.95/room
6939 N. 102 Circle, 68122

Comfort Suites - 402.445.0400 - \$69.99/room
10503 Bedford Avenue, 68134

LaQuinta Inn - 402.493.1900 - \$69.00/room
3330 N. 104th Avenue, 68134

Country Inn & Suites - 402.445.4445 - \$79.00/room
11818 Miami Street, 68164

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	\$

91st Annual Church of God General Conference
July 6-8, 2011
Jaynes Street Church of God, Omaha, Nebraska

Theme: No Church Too Small; No Mission Too Big!

Wednesday – July 6

3:00 – Conference Registration
5:00 – Cookout
7:00 – Evening Worship Service – Celebration of Praise
8:30 – Chairman’s Reception

Thursday – July 7

Breakfast on your own

9:00 – Morning Worship – Keynote Address
10:15 – Workshops
 1. Ministry in a Small Town Church
 2. History Encyclopedia and Church of God Ministers
 3. Open Forum with Board of Directors

11:00 – Break
11:15 – Workshops
 1. Youth Ministry
 2. Ministers Association Meeting
 3. No Church Too Small

12:15 – Lunch

1:30 – Chapel – Hymn Sing

2:15 – Ministerial Association Meeting
 Priscilla Meeting
 Role of Elders in the Local Church
 Bible Study

3:15 – Business Session (ends at 5:15)
5:30 – Dinner
7:00 – Evening Worship
8:45 – Alumni Association Meeting

Friday – July 8

Breakfast on your own

9:00 – Morning Worship – MRB Recognitions
10:15 – Workshops:
 1. Open Forum with Board of Directors
 2. The Unchurched Next Door
 3. Worship Idea Sharing
 4. Christian Education Curriculum Ideas

11:00 – Break
11:15 – Workshops:
 1. The Path – Living Life on Purpose
 2. Ministers Association Meeting
 3. Introduction to Korean Culture

12:15 – Lunch

1:30 – Chapel – Communion and Prayer Time

2:15 – Ministerial Association Meeting
 Priscilla Meeting
 Bible Study

3:15 – Business Session (ends at 4:15)
4:30 – Board of Directors’ meeting
5:30 – Dinner (Development Foundation Board meeting)
7:00 – Evening Worship; Installation of Board of Directors
8:30 – Retirement Reception for Scott Ross

Child care will be provided along with children’s classes, junior church, and youth activities.

Budget Proposals - Income

	FY 2011 - 2012 Approved Budget <u>Request</u>	FY 2011 - 2012 Proposed Revised Budget	FY 2012 - 2013 Proposed Budget
CONTRIBUTIONS:			
General Contributions	\$398,000	\$350,000	\$372,275
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	\$0	\$0	\$0
ABC Boosters	\$22,500	\$20,000	\$21,000
Subtotal	\$420,500	\$370,000	\$393,275
SALES:			
Christian Education Materials	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$24,000
Books	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$18,000
Theological Journal	\$750	\$0	\$0
Sale of Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$40,750	\$40,000	\$42,000
ABC:			
Tuition	\$650,000	\$510,000	\$560,000
Lodging/Apartment Rent	\$56,500	\$43,000	\$47,000
ABCDF Support	\$51,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Interest and Late Fees	\$11,000	\$4,500	\$4,500
Application/Miscellaneous Fees	\$12,000	\$9,500	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$780,500	\$627,000	\$681,500
PROGRAM INCOME:			
Conferences & Workshops	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Interest	\$100	\$100	\$100
Other Income	\$2,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Fall, 2011 Church Builders Appeal	\$0	\$15,000	\$0
Transferred In	\$3,500	\$10,000	\$10,500
Subtotal	\$5,600	\$32,100	\$17,600
Income Total	\$1,247,350	\$1,069,100	\$1,134,375
Expense Total	\$1,242,250	\$1,069,100	\$1,134,375
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	\$5,100	\$0	\$0

Budget Proposals - Expense

	FY 2011 - 2012	FY 2011 - 2012	FY 2012 - 2013
	Approved	Proposed	
	Budget	Revised	Proposed
	<u>Request</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
STAFF:			
Salaries & Wages	\$545,500	\$452,000	\$475,000
F.I.C.A. Tax	\$9,000	\$8,500	\$9,000
Employee Benefits	\$123,000	\$90,000	\$105,000
Subtotal	\$677,500	\$550,500	\$589,000
SERVICES:			
Assistance to Churches	\$38,400	\$26,400	\$30,000
Ministerial Association	\$7,200	\$4,800	\$4,800
Youth Program	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$53,600	\$41,200	\$44,800
SALES EXPENSE:			
Printing & Binding	\$21,000	\$31,000	\$27,000
Postage & Shipping	\$16,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
Book Store	\$12,000	\$9,750	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$49,000	\$49,750	\$47,000
ABC:			
Advertising—Recruitment	\$7,500	\$4,500	\$5,500
Student/Staff Meals	\$15,500	\$18,000	\$19,000
Library Periodicals	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,100
Library Books	\$1,000	\$250	\$500
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	\$1,500	\$500	\$750
Staff Training	\$10,000	\$6,500	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$36,300	\$30,750	\$31,850
ADMINISTRATION:			
Travel	\$45,000	\$28,000	\$30,000
Office & Misc Supplies & Expenses	\$16,000	\$12,500	\$13,000
Professional Services	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,750
Telephone/Internet/Web/Data	\$20,000	\$10,500	\$11,500
Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint	\$23,000	\$26,000	\$27,000
Subtotal	\$110,500	\$83,500	\$88,250
PLANT EXPENSES:			
Utilities	\$19,000	\$29,000	\$30,000
Insurance - Property	\$9,000	\$5,900	\$6,100
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,250
Furniture & Equipment	\$27,000	\$2,000	\$2,500
Supplies/Expenses Plant	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$1,000
Subtotal	\$58,250	\$38,900	\$40,850
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Campus Leases	\$195,600	\$187,000	\$196,000
Apartment Leases	\$56,500	\$52,500	\$57,750
Debt Repayment	\$0	\$17,500	\$18,375
Other	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$10,500
Contingency	\$0	\$7,500	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$257,100	\$274,500	\$292,625
Expense Total	\$1,242,250	\$1,069,100	\$1,134,375
Income Total	\$1,247,350	\$1,069,100	\$1,134,375
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	\$5,100	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 adopted by the delegates at the 2010 Summer Conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

Income

1. **General Contributions** – non-specific giving by individuals, churches, and conferences
2. **G. C. – Devises & Bequests** – periodically the College/Conference receives estate gifts in the General Fund
3. **ABC Boosters** – an annual giving program that raises funds for the college
4. **Christian Education Materials** – includes all sales of quarterlies & Kingdom Quest materials
5. **Books** – sales of class and non-class books
6. **Theological Journal** – *A Journal From the Radical Reformation* is no longer provided in a printed version; future issues will be available electronically
7. **Sale of Assets** – income from the sale of assets no longer used
8. **Tuition** – estimated income from ABC and ABCKE classes
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** – finance charges 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** – interest earned on checking account
15. **Other Income** – miscellaneous income
16. **Fall 2011 Church Builders Appeal** – income from a Church Builders Appeal designated to assist with campus leases
17. **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** – grants to churches; Church Development Aid and Church Planting Aid
5. **Ministerial Association** – support for programs and expenses of the Ministerial Association
6. **Youth Program** – funding to subsidize the cost of Turning Point Youth Ministries and TPYM's produc-

tion of FUEL and other events

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 & Expenses** – 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 internet data lines and website fees
20. **Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint.** – maintenance agreements and repairs for office equipment and software maintenance
21. **Utilities** – costs of electricity, water, gas, etc. at ABCKE campus, and ABC and ABCKE apartments
22. **Insurance – Property** – costs of insurance for facilities
23. **Repairs/Maintenance – Plant** – costs for plant support and maintenance
24. **Furniture and Equipment** – includes furniture, software, computers, and office machines
25. **Supplies/Expenses – Plant** – cleaning supplies, restroom supplies, etc.
26. **Campus Leases** – monthly payments to lease our McDonough and Duluth campus sites
27. **Apartment Leases** – payments to lease apartments for ABC and ABCKE students
28. **Debt Repayment** – 5% of general contributions used to pay back General Fund outstanding loans
29. **Other** – miscellaneous expenses
30. **Contingency** – for unexpected/unbudgeted expenses

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 **Resurrection Hope Church of God in Lenoir, NC** – **Pastor James Ritch** reports that **Patsy Smith** has hand quilted a beautiful queen/king quilt to be raffled off. The “National Star” heirloom style is white on white and would complement any décor. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the fellowship hall restoration fund. Contact Pastor Ritch if you are interested in buying a ticket. The goal is to raise \$2,000.

From **Southlawn Church of God in Wyoming, MI** - **Pastor Richard Alcumbrack** reports several new faces and families joining the Southlawn fellowship. Attendance has jumped about 15 people for most Sundays, with growth evident in other ways as well. Two new middle school students are a welcome addition to the Wednesday night Power Club group. Twenty-four children participated in the Christmas program. The growth is wonderful, especially in view of the concerns about an aging congregation. “How encouraging to see God at work!” concludes Pastor Alcumbrack.

From **Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH** – **Pastor Steve Zimelman** gives us an update on the construction of the new building. In the north end heating ducts have been installed, and the piano in the sanctuary has been recently tuned. It is great to see progress toward a brand new facility for the worship and glory of God.

From **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **William Gaspar** of the **Minnesota State Conference** thanked the church for their generous contributions during 2010 totaling over \$1300. Gaspar reports that improvements continue to be made at the state campground to enhance the beauty and functionality of this resource in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bequests Received

In mid-March the Church of God General Conference received a bequest from the estate of Edith McKinney, a long time member of the Church of God from Oklahoma. Edith was a faithful supporter during her lifetime and a regular attendee at the summer General Conference for many years. Edith died September 30, 2004 and her estate has been in court proceedings until now. We are thankful for Edith's love for the truth and her desire to advance the work of our conference. This gift is to be used at the direction of the board.

The Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference also just received the proceeds from a trust established by Jack and Louise Hearp. Louise died in January 1, 2002 and Jack died December 12, 2010. Jack and Louise served together in ministry for many years and were faithful supporters of our ministry during their lifetimes. In 1967, Jack established the Hearp Memorial Loan Fund which was created to make small loans to churches. In 1981, additional funds were added to this Fund and the name was changed to Hearp-DeLap Memorial Loan Fund. Many churches have been blessed by this fund which has continued to grow from interest earnings over the years. We are thankful for this additional gift to the college/conference which is to be used at the discretion of the board of directors.

The college and conference have received many bequests over the years which have been a tremendous help to our work. If you would like information on wills, deferred giving, or gift annuity possibilities, please contact David Krogh at dkrogh@abc-coggc.org or 800-347-4261.

Church News

Baptisms

Illinois

Flag Center (Rochelle)— Laurie and Mickaya Rhoads (2/6/11) by Pastor Gordon Landry; Jennifer Lynn Underhill (2/6/11) by Pastor Brian Froehlich

Missouri

Peculiar— Pat Fuller (7/10/10) by Pastor Don Ward; Allison Koder (8/1/10) by Michael Koder

Deaths

Arizona

Phoenix— Mary Anne Corbell Todd, 81 (2/21/11), long-time faithful member. Service by Pastor Steve Taylor

Arkansas

McGintytown— Archard Weaver, 86, (3/5/11), long-time

faithful member. Service by Pastor Tom New and Lonnie Craig

Indiana

Michigantown— Bob Myers (1/9/11), long-time member. Service by Pastor Ken Howe

Missouri

Fredericktown— Jessica “Becky” Cooper, 35, (3/1/11), after a long battle with esophageal cancer. Service by Pastor Carl Jennings

Peculiar— Betty Sheeley, 86, (6/10/10), long-time member. Service by Dale Brown

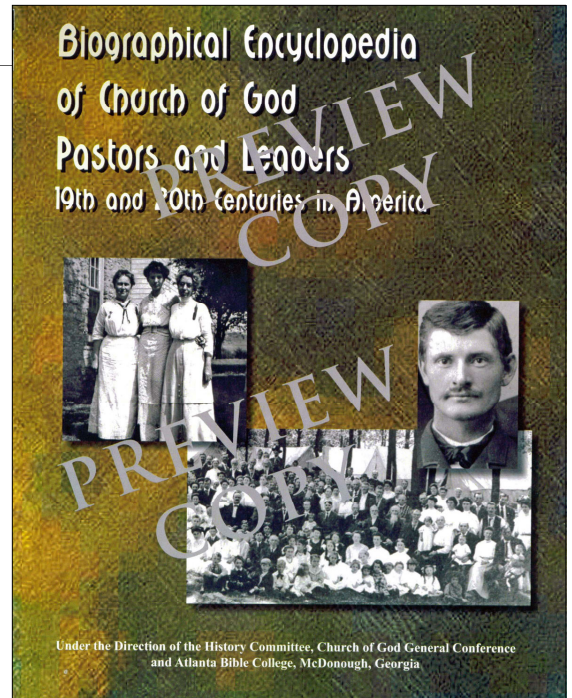
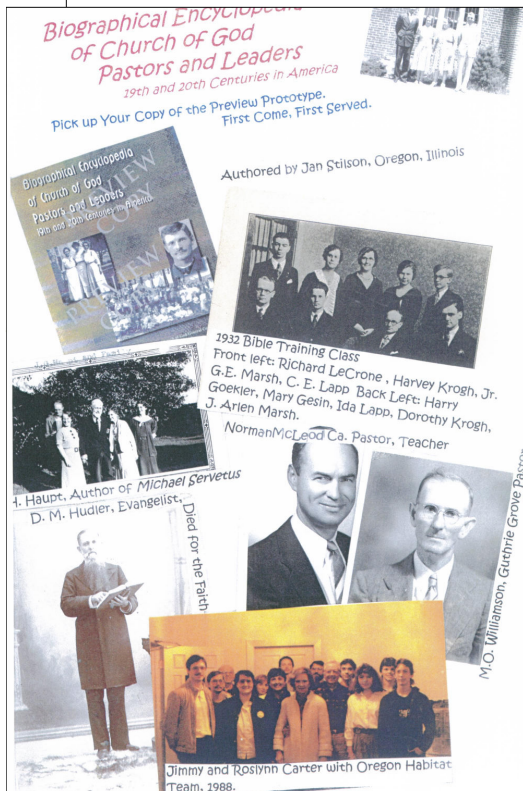
Ontario, Canada

Fonthill— Rena (Fletcher) Payne, 89, (2/4/11), long-time faithful member. Service Pastor Michael Brown

Coming this Spring! The first edition of *Biographical Encyclopedia: Chronicling the History of the Church of God (Abrahamic Faith)* by Jan Stilson and the History Committee!

This book contains over 500 entries, 200 photos, and 600 pages! Pre-publication orders are only \$29. Retail price after June 1 will be \$39 a copy.

The book contains two sections, 19th and 20th centuries, featuring over 500 biographical entries of pastors, leaders and pioneers in the development of the Church of God in America and abroad, many with photos—all drawn from the Church of God archives and historical periodicals. Your family members may be found within these pages!



An appendix of essays includes a timeline of events, a periodical chart of the succession of titles through the centuries, historical poetry, and a subject index.

This book reflects the dedication of men and women who gave their lives to advance the cause of the gospel of the kingdom, and who set a noble example for us to follow while the Lord tarrys. Reserve your copy at the pre-publication price today!

Contact Nola at 678-833-1839 to reserve your copy today.



Prayer and Praise

May 2011

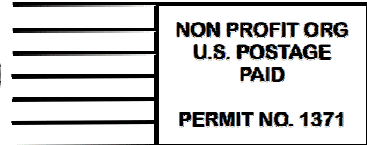
- 1 **Pray for the editors of our conference publications.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Ray and Susan Hall and the Garden Park, Michigan Church of God.
- 3 **Pray for Pastor Charles and Carol Jones and the Pomona, California Church.**
- 4 Pray for the ministry of Pastor Ken and Eva Howe and the Country Chapel, 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 Praise God for your mother and her influence.
- 9 **Praise God for ABC (May 20) & ABCKE (May 9) students as they receive bachelor's degrees, associate's degrees and foundation certificates.**
- 10 Pray for the ministry of Pastor Michael and Linda Hoffman and the Oregon, Illinois Church of God.
- 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 Pray for Pastor Steve and Jill Taylor and the work at the Lakeshore Bible Church in Tempe, Arizona.
- 21 **Praise God for the faithful years of work from retired Pastor David and Wanda Cheatwood.**
- 22 Pray for your family and friends.
- 23 **Pray for the ministry of Pastor Scott and Theresa Deane and the church at Pleasant Hill, Ohio.**
- 24 Pray for those who are preparing for Christian service.
- 25 **Pray for the work of Pastor Don and Joyce Ward and the Countryside Bible Church in Missouri.**
- 26 Pray for the international students at ABC.
- 27 **Pray for Elder Jim Davis and his wife Betty and the New Family Bible Church in Pueblo West, Colorado.**
- 28 Pray for Church of God members throughout the world as they minister to others.
- 29 **Pray for the brethren in India.**
- 30 Pray for Pastor Bill and Lacey Dunn 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.**

Prayer and Praise

June 2011

- 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 the Forest Hills Church in 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 Jaynes Street Community Church in Omaha, Nebraska.
- 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 Brian and Hannah Froehlich and the work at Flag Center, Illinois.**
- 18 Pray for Pastor Christy Ross and her work at the Jaynes Street Church in Omaha, Nebraska.
- 19 **Pray for Anthony Buzzard and the Focus on the Kingdom ministry.**
- 20 Pray for the Midwest Family Camp being held in Indiana this week.
- 21 **Praise God for your Father...your earthly father and your heavenly Father.**
- 22 Pray for believers in the Philippine Islands.
- 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 Ucañay.**
- 28 Pray for Bible schools being held at many churches this summer.
- 29 **Pray for the board of directors as they lead the college/conference.**
- 30 Pray for the dedication of the college/conference staff.

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



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Be **GREEN !!**

Do your part to protect
the environment!

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.

save
paper

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THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

DON'T MISS GRACE!

By Dr. Joe Martin

Hebrews 12:15 is **BOLD**, “See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.” (NIV) A simple paraphrase may be... Don't miss the grace of God, or you'll become bitter, troublesome, and mess yourself and everybody else up.

What would be the “bright side” of finding and keeping grace? We would be a joyful root, bring happiness, and be a blessing to many. Grace is a “funny” word. It could be a name. At a family camp in New York, Vince Finnegan had his daughter Grace come up and sit on Grace Knowlton's lap as he discussed “grace upon grace” flowing from Jesus. He is a funny man!

I believe knowing grace is understanding our position based upon what God has DONE and is DOING. It is a gift of God with the classical definition, the “unmerited favor of God” being applicable. Grace is from a Greek family of words: *charis*=grace, *chara*=joy, *charisma*=gift; *eucharisteo*=thankful (literally, good grace). Someone has also said G.R.A.C.E. is God's Riches At Christ's Expense. In Col. 3:15 Paul admonishes them “And you be thankful!” The verb is in the imperative, literally “You be full of good grace/thanks-giving!”

Maybe it is a matter of focus. Heb.

3:1 says “...fix your thoughts on Jesus.” (NIV) Heb. 12:2 says “...fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him endured the cross.” Are our thoughts and eyes focused on what God has done “*for us*” through Christ, or are we paying attention to the things others have done “*to us?*” Focusing on others becomes a major issue if we forget the grace that God has given to us! A little reminder on focus may be Jesus' discussion of the “**LOG**” in our eye while we may be trying to get the “*speck*” out of someone else's eye.

I think we all need to join Sinners Anonymous (compare Alcoholics Anonymous). At the meeting I would stand up and say, “My name is Joe, I am a sinner, saved only by the grace of God...” and then we can go on with our day and our life. Big sinners and little sinners alike would first acknowledge their need of grace and then start getting with the plan of God to save the rest of the world! It would keep us from arrogance, and yet when our position in Christ is FULLY understood, will not let us be intimidated by forces in the world. “Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” (I Jn. 4:4)

Who knows? It may even make church meetings and services better. I have seen church “discussions” over the color of the carpet, which Bible to have on the communion table, etc. How inconsequential when under-

standing God forgave EVERYONE who comes to Him ALL of their sins through Jesus Christ! Even when we are wronged or wrong someone else, we need to get grace involved. Some simple words may be appropriate: Confess or Forgive. GET OVER IT! Don't Miss Grace!

“DON'T MISS THE GRACE OF GOD AND GROW UP A BITTER ROOT, CAUSE TROUBLE AND DEFILE MANY!” God would prefer that you GET the grace of God, grow up a JOYFUL root, bring JOY and HAPPINESS into the lives of many, and BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER.

Here are some key verses on grace. “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” (Gen. 6:8 KJV) “For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17 KJV) “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God.” (Eph. 2:8 KJV) Also, in EVERY letter of Paul we have the salutation, “Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Gal. 1:3 NIV)

So... Don't Miss Grace! ■

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Authors and books are sometimes promoted in THE RESTI-
TUTION HERALD. We believe these contain items of inter-
est to our readers. This does not necessarily mean they ex-
actly reflect the statement of faith below.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD advocates the oneness of God
(1 Cor. 8:6); the Holy Spirit is God's power (Acts 1:8); Je-
sus 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 proph-
ets since the world began" (Acts 3:21). It also firmly adv-
ocates 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 6-8
General Conference,
Jaynes Street Church of God,
Omaha, NE

July 17-22
FUEL, Manchester College,
North Manchester, IN

August 15-19
Atlanta Bible College – Block Class

August 22
Atlanta Bible College
First day of regular classes

April 15-20, 2012
Christian Workers Seminar,
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN

CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

BEDFORD CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

☆ **New Ad** ☆

The Bedford Church of the Open Bible is seeking a pastor. We are a small, loving, and giving congregation in the greater Cleveland area. Please call Mark Cain [\(216\) 455-0592](tel:2164550592) or Steve Weaver [\(330\) 833-3628](tel:3308333628).

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 south-east 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.

JAYNES STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD

After 35 years of faithful service from Pastor Scott Ross, the congregation of the Jaynes Street Community Church of God in Omaha, Nebraska is seeking a full-time lead pastor to begin no earlier than September 1st, 2011. This supportive, faithful and generous church family is looking for someone who has a passion for ministry and leading God's people. We seek a pastor who, working with our associate pastor, will provide spiritual leadership and guidance to our church body and will help us fulfill our mission of loving God, supporting one another and reaching out to the community. For more information, please contact Elder Scott Millard at scottmillard@cox.net or 402-850-9659.

MACOMB CHURCH OF GOD

We at the Macomb Church of God, located in the heart of western Illinois, are a loving and friendly group of people whose purpose is to make disciples for Jesus Christ and to prepare them for a life of service to others in Jesus' name and to seek the coming Kingdom of God and His righteousness. The congregation of 40+ active members and additional families, who call the church their home, are looking for someone to fill a full-time pastor position, open immediately. Macomb is a diversified city where one can enjoy activities from the performing arts to history to outdoor recreational activities. Macomb offers a unique hometown atmosphere and friendliness with some big city advantages. Interested parties should contact the elders: Don Haley (309) 255-0610, Gene Gaddis (309) 255-0023, or Richard Derry (309) 333-0242.

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

These are very interesting times. Many times I feel like Jehoshaphat, “We don’t know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.” (2 Chron. 20:12) We, the General Conference, had a great past few months. It began with Christian Workers Seminar (CWS) at the beginning of April. The Holiday Inn in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee is a great place. Thanks to all our speakers: Scott Ross, Vince Finnegan, Joel Hemphill and Steve An. Thanks also to our great teachers and all who participated! It was great to see Marj Overmyer recovering from her stroke, but now very active.

Several good things went on in the middle of April. The Women’s Retreat that Rebekah leads was one. See some pictures and her report elsewhere in this issue. I also attended the conference in Pomona, California. It was great to see old friends and meet new ones there as well.

A humorous note, my old friend Ron Suzuki, *still* has a Suzuki motorcycle!

There were great topics from many: Charles Hummel, Lonnie Craig, Warren Sorenson, Chuck Jones, etc. Lonnie did a great job explaining Ecclesiastes!

Somewhere in these last two months Rebekah and I saw the new version of “True Grit.” Being a John Wayne fan, I was afraid I would be disappointed, but I wasn’t. Those Coen

brothers (O Brother, Where Art Thou?) can do some weird things with a movie. As I watched the movie, there was a song playing in the background for most of the time. I knew it, but it was played so slow on the piano I couldn’t make it out for the longest time. In the end, it was clearly sung with the credits, “Leaning on the Everlasting

“We don’t know
what to do,
but our eyes
are upon You.”

2 Chron. 20:12

Arms.” Since then, I can’t get it out of my head as I have been studying the Suffering Servant of Isaiah (see article). Jesus, had the true, **TRUE GRIT**, when he was tortured and went to the cross for us!

One “strange” thing happened regarding the building where we lease the fourth floor (we are not the owner). A man walked in on May 4th and said that as of yesterday, the building had been **foreclosed** on. There are three buildings together, and this is the only one foreclosed. We do not know all the ramifications of how this may work. There may be options in the future for us to buy the building. The board and

staff will be looking at the situation, and more than anything else, trying to follow the leading of God. We covet your prayers. I think it is going to be an exciting General Conference, reviewing options as we gather more information.

Also, though there will be more later, we just finished the 20th

Theological Conference. My main thought coming away was that “there is excitement” as several young men presented some very moving topics. Obviously, I appreciated the older ones as well (I am one!). Those presenting were Dan Gill, Dave Mass, Ron Shockley, Steve Katsaras, Karl Ahrens, Jaco van Zyl, Sean Finnegan, Anthony Buzzard, Joel Hemphill, Kent Ross, and myself. It was exciting to have eight countries represented. Steve Katsaras is from Australia, and Jaco van Zyl is from South Africa. This is another example of Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference “going global” and reaching out to others. They “shall **KNOW** that I am the LORD.” (77 times God says it!)

Offerings have been great. The African Church Builder’s Appeal has had great response! They will be **EXCITED** in July when we go over. We have also received several substantial donations.

Thank You! ■

Message from the Chairman of the Board of Directors

by Robert E. Morrison

Dear fellow servants of the Church of God General Conference of Churches,

This edition's letter will mark my last as chairman of the board of directors. It is a bittersweet event for me in this role, as I'm caught between reflecting on the many positive changes the board has enacted in the past couple of years and the work still ahead and of the many opportunities still awaiting us. As I do reflect back, I recall the summer day when I was asked to replace a director who was leaving the board to join the staff and when I reluctantly said yes (thinking it would only be a 9 month term before another election would find a permanent replacement). Little did I know that I would be called to serve an additional 4 years, or that we would have so many crises to manage through during that time.

If you've been following the RH/PJ letters from Dr. Joe and me the past two years, you are aware of the summary of improvements that have been made. We faced a staggering budget crisis in 2009, and I am happy to report we weathered that storm by making many changes to the way donations and income are spent, as well as extremely difficult staffing decisions in order to balance the conference and college budgets. Some might view our actions as extreme, but given the information we were faced with, extreme measures were needed in order for the conference and college to survive. Today, we look forward to a new fiscal year of good budget stewardship with renewed vision and hope of boundless opportunities to serve the churches, members, and potential Bible college students in

advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's kingdom! After making several decisions on being better stewards of God's money, we have been blessed in many ways, allowing the conference and college to meet its goals this year even in the face of weak economic times. In addition, several potential students have inquired about the free COG student tuition policy being initiated by the board this fall. We continue to be excited about this program and the potential it has for meeting a growing need of additional pastors and church workers. I thank you all for the support and encouragement shown for this initiative. Continue to pray that the Lord sends workers for His harvest!

One of the major highlights during my two terms as Chair was the Board's appointment of Dr. Joe Martin as CAO of the conference and president of the Bible college. Under Dr. Joe's fine leadership, many outstanding initiatives have been launched, with an imperative to "Join God" as the centerpiece of our mission. This year, on May 20th, five associate degrees and four foundation certificates were awarded at the ABC Avalon Campus. Joe and his leadership team have done a remarkable job managing through financial difficulties with everyone pulling together to maintain a servant attitude toward customer focus and working for God. I want to thank everyone on staff for their dedication and hard work as they cover multiple jobs with limited resources.

Another extremely bright spot at the college continues to be the success of the Korean Extension campus in Duluth. Under the highly competent leadership of Steve and Sam

An, nine more students graduated with bachelor degrees on May 9th, and the program continues to grow and improve. One of the major accomplishments completed during my time on the board has been the establishment of this very fine campus in Duluth, along with improved coordination of services and communication between the two campuses and G.C. offices. I also want to thank Steve and Sam and their staff for their selfless dedication to the ministry at ABCKE.

As the new board looks to the future, we anticipate opportunities to not only grow physically and numerically in the Atlanta area, but also to grow "virtually" all around the world. We are committed to investing in a computer-based online classroom designed, to improve and grow our current distance learning program. As costs to implement this type of program have fallen dramatically the past few years, it now should be feasible to open classroom sites anywhere in the world, possibly even using our church sites as remote locations to conduct from or link with ABC classes. The call to go into all the world has never been more relevant than it is today!

I want to close by expressing my most sincere thanks to all members of the COG for giving me the opportunity to serve our great conference and college. I must admit that I came to this position with a measure of skepticism and doubt that I would be capable of handling the responsibilities of this job. And I do acknowledge that I am not capable of effectively handling this job on my own. But what I quickly came to realize is that I need to ask God

(Continued on page 9)

New Free Tuition Program for Atlanta Bible College

The board of directors and staff of Atlanta Bible College are pleased to announce a new free tuition program for the next school year. Through the generosity of many donors, scholarship funds are available to offer free tuition to students who enroll (or are already enrolled) in Atlanta Bible College from churches affiliated with the Church of God General Conference. Our hope is that many Church of God students will make plans to attend ABC for at least one school year. Here is a full explanation of the program:

Intent:

To offer serious-minded quality Church of God students the opportunity to attend Atlanta Bible College with free tuition during the 2011-2012 school year. Those not serious about study and service need not apply.

Duration:

1 year (2 semesters beginning August 2011 and continuing to May 2012)

Eligibility:

Members and/or attendees of Church of God member churches, upon written recommendation from local pastor or church leadership. Applicant must also submit a letter of explanation as to his or her purpose for coming to ABC and the long-term intent of the education.

Requirements:

1. Meet eligibility requirements for admission to ABC and have graduated in the top 50% of your high school graduating class or have a 2.0 GPA.
2. Maintain a 3.0 GPA first semester in order to qualify for second semester free tuition.
3. Enroll in at least twelve (12) credit hours per semester (maximum of 17 hours). (Does not apply to Distance Learning courses.)
4. Complete a minimum of forty-five (45) service hours per semester (A Go Serve trip equates to 10 service hours - limit of 2 trips); other service at a local church affiliated with the General Conference, and/or provide volunteer service in the office of ABC, and/or community service sponsored by ABC or a local Church of God.
5. Must attend weekly chapel services on Thursday mornings.
6. Repay any previously accumulated debt to ABC at a minimum of \$200 per month.
7. Meet twice a semester with school appointed advisor to review academic and service requirements.



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

- 8. Housing and books must be paid in full before the start of each semester.

Miscellaneous:

- 1. Current ABC students who meet the above criteria will be given opportunity to apply.
- 2. The program will be made available to the first fifteen (15) individuals who meet the above criteria. After 15, a waiting list will be created and as funds are available, the opportunity will be offered.
- 3. Application deadline is **July 29, 2011** for fall semester and November 1, 2011 for winter/spring semester. (Approved 3-8-11)

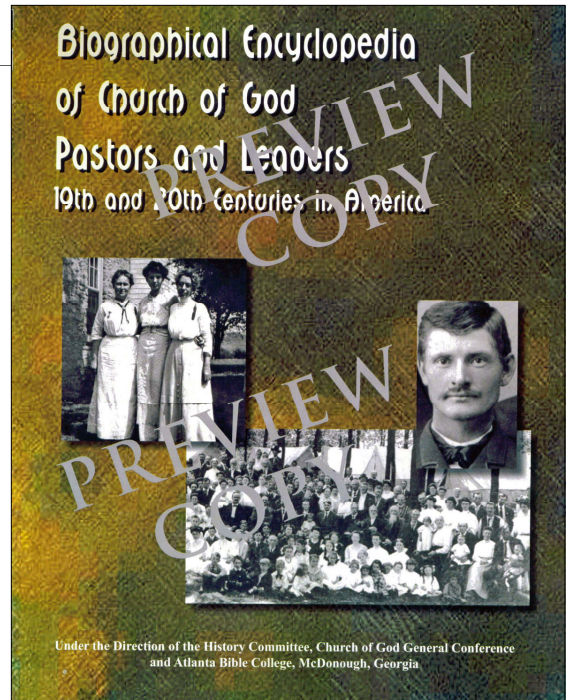
To secure ABC application forms or for more information, contact Registrar David Krogh at: 678-833-1839 or dkrogh@abc-coggc.org. To apply for the free tuition, submit a letter of explanation as to your purpose for coming to ABC and the long-term intent of the education and submit it by e-mail to: dkrogh@abc-coggc.org. You will receive a response within 10 days. ■



Coming this Spring! The first edition of *Biographical Encyclopedia: Chronicling the History of the Church of God (Abrahamic Faith)* by Jan Stilson and the History Committee!

This book contains over 500 entries, 200 photos, and 600 pages! Pre-publication orders are only \$29. Retail price after June 12 will be \$39 a copy.

The book contains two sections, 19th and 20th centuries, featuring over 500 biographical entries of pastors, leaders and pioneers in the development of the Church of God in America and abroad, many with photos—all drawn from the Church of God archives and historical periodicals. Your family members may be found within these pages!



An appendix of essays includes a timeline of events, a periodical chart of the succession of titles through the centuries, historical poetry, and a subject index.

This book reflects the dedication of men and women who gave their lives to advance the cause of the gospel of the kingdom, and who set a noble example for us to follow while the Lord tarrys. Reserve your copy at the pre-publication price today!

Contact Nola at 678-833-1839 to reserve your copy today.



Shedding Light on Leadership

This feature in THE RESTITUTION HERALD & Progress Journal “sheds light” on leadership principles—encouraging leaders, and leaders in training, to consider the place of each principle in their personal leadership endeavors

Leaders Will Be Criticized

Do you know a leader that is never criticized? Do you expect to be a leader that is never criticized? No leader is so good they can avoid criticism! Consider Moses, leading the Israelites out of Egypt. Consider that even Jesus, the very Son of God, could not avoid being criticized.

A good leader is not defeated by criticism. Are you? If your worth as a leader, or even as a person, is based on how well others like you or praise you, criticism will defeat you and your leadership. If you are never criticized, perhaps you are not really leading.

Sometimes the criticism is true in part or in whole. At such times the leader must learn and grow from it. Proverbs 27:6 provides this hard truth: “The kisses of an enemy may be profuse, but faithful are the wounds of a friend.” Do you have folks around you that will dare to tell you the truth? Dare to provide valuable constructive criticism? Would you be willing to ask God to surround you with a couple of friends like this? And listen to them?



Sometimes the criticism has no foundation but the leader must patiently allow time to prove their case. Are you willing to move forward, convinced God is leading you, letting Him take responsibility to defend you?

He’s a much better defender than you or I will ever be!

Have you ever wasted valuable time thinking about the criticizer, or verbally beating up the criticizer (in your mind, or in reality)? Of course you have! So have I. Why? Because it is a struggle for us to set aside what doesn’t really matter (even though it hurts) and focus our time and attention on what does really matter. Today, what criticism do you need to set aside (including its pain) so you can accomplish something that will make a difference that matters?

Followers will often observe how well you, the leader, handle criticism. If poorly, followers may neglect to provide constructive criticism you so desperately need, or they may quit following altogether. If well, followers may even more highly esteem you and follow your leadership. ■

Gary Burnham
Ministry Services Network Director
gburnham@abc-coggc.org; 1-800-347-4261

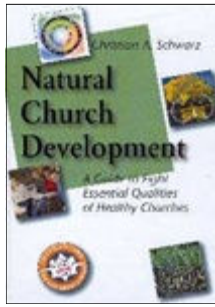
ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

Class offerings include:

- 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

And many more!!

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



Natural Church Development (NCD)

This feature in THE RESTI-TION HERALD & Progress Journal highlights concepts from NCD. Rather than focus on a church's growth statistics, NCD is designed to help a church focus attention and effort on its health.

Would You Attend This Church?

What would you do if you discovered a church that evidenced each of these key character traits?

Empowering Leadership
Gift-based Ministry
Passionate Spirituality
Effective Structures
Inspiring Worship Service
Holistic Small Groups
Need-oriented Evangelism
Loving Relationship

Would you be surprised? Thrilled? Shocked? Intrigued? Would you attend? Would you want to better understand how that church developed those characteristics?

What if I suggested that YOUR church could be in the process of developing those very same characteristics, and, as a result, be blessed by God on the road to greater health? Would you want to explore how that could happen?

My vision is to see Churches of God all around the world evidencing these eight character traits. I see healthy churches ministering well to members, friends and entire communities, making an eternal difference in folks' lives.

If you would like to explore how the NCD tool can be used in your local church, please contact me for more information.

Gary Burnham
Ministry Services Network Director
gburnham@abc-coggc.org; 1-800-347-4261

(Continued from page 5)

continually (with the help of prayer warriors) for guidance, seek wisdom from our spiritual leaders/pastors, communicate and coordinate as best I know how, and then watch God work through the activity of His servants. I have also learned that arrogance is a powerful, prevalent, demonic force in our world, and the COG is not immune to this infection. I have found this to be true in regard to my own weaknesses, as well as what I have observed at times in others. This is something we must be aware of and ask God to purge from our hearts. This is not to overshadow the countless selfless acts of service I have also encountered, for as

the song taken from Psalm 62 by John Michael Talbot says, "Only in God is found glory, when I am found meek and found lowly." I have found this to be so very true in my own life. David continues in Psalm 62, "My salvation and my honor depend on God; He is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge." I leave you with that thought, as it is in my thoughts as I complete my term on the board. Trust God at all times, and pour out your hearts to Him, and He will love His people beyond measure.

Finally, I wish once more to thank our pastors, conference

staff, teachers, and all workers in the COG who give selflessly for this ministry. It is humbling to know of the simple lives so many of you chose to live for the sake of the gospel of Christ. I am overwhelmed at the unconditional love I see given by so many in our conference toward those we all seek to serve, in the name of the greatest servant of all, King Jesus, Messiah.

God Bless,

Robert E. Morrison, Jr.
COG/ABC Board of Directors
Chairman

General Conference Nominations and Recommendations

At General Conference we will be electing two (2) directors for the board of directors. The terms of Bob Morrison and Christy Ross expire this year. Neither of them may be nominated. Currently we have one (1) nominee. Two additional nominees 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/she 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/herself 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.

Joe James

We of the Carolina Conference feel that Brother Joe James, with his experience, dedication, and zeal for the work of the Lord, would be a valuable addition to the Board of Directors. We realize that the Board of Directors plays an extremely important role in the operation and successful attainment of the vision and mission of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College. We feel that Joe has much to offer in that respect.

Joe is a long time member of the Guthrie Grove Church of God in Pelzer, S.C., where he serves as an elder and the chairman of the church board. He also teaches an adult Sunday School class and leads a mid-week Bible study.

(Continued on page 11)

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He is also active in the Carolina Conference and has served as an officer of the conference in various capacities. He contributes much to the function and operation of the Carolina Conference. His expertise, leadership, insight, and willingness to serve often prove invaluable in the operation of the conference.

In addition to serving his church and regional conference, Joe has been active at the General Conference as well. He has taught classes at Christian Workers Seminar, has served several terms on the Board of Directors of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College, and has served on the Christian Conciliation Board of the conference. He regularly attends the annual conference and is a faithful supporter of the college and General Conference.

Joe is married to Carol, they have three children and four grandchildren, all of whom regularly attend Guthrie Grove Church of God and are active in church programs. He is a graduate of Furman University and holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of North Carolina. He is licensed in South Carolina to practice his profession, LISW-CP, and is currently the Executive Director of the Piedmont Center for Mental Health Services.

In light of his faithful service to his church, the Carolina Conference, the General Conference, and the work of the Lord, it

gives the Carolina Conference great pleasure to nominate Joe James as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College. We pray that God will afford Joe the opportunity to serve in that capacity to the glory and praise of God our Father, and Jesus Christ, His only begotten, whose glorious appearing we earnestly await.

Recommendation One

The board of directors recommends that the delegates at the annual summer conference make a decision regarding the disposition of the College Improvement Fund.

Explanation: When the campus in Morrow was sold to Clayton State University, the proceeds were placed in a College Improvement Fund. Money from this fund was used to pay off internal loans of about \$900,000, the build-out of the Duluth campus, rent for the Morrow campus paid to Clayton State University, rent for the McDonough and Duluth campuses, furniture, etc. Currently there is \$370,529 in this fund. This amount was borrowed to pay for operating expenses several years ago.

The board would like the delegates to decide whether to preserve this fund for future campus development or to eliminate the fund and reduce the amount of money that needs to be paid back. The current outstanding loan payable is \$774,908. If the delegates decide to eliminate the

fund, this will reduce the outstanding loans to \$404,379.

Recommendation Two

The board of directors recommends that the delegates approve the creation of an Academic Advisory Committee for Atlanta Bible College.

Explanation: This committee would replace the former Higher Education Advisory Committee that was created by the delegates in 1985 (amended in 1987) and disbanded in 2003. Since then, ABC has grown into a more expansive academic institution that includes multiple branches and a distance learning component, but without an oversight body that develops and imposes common academic expectations on those components of ABC.

The directors ask the delegates to establish a new committee which will be responsible for the academic oversight of ABC. This committee will provide assistance and input to the college administrators concerning oversight of curriculum and degree programs, and be responsible for maintaining appropriately high academic standards at all components of ABC. The board of directors and administrators of ABC will consult with this committee concerning the hiring of instructors for ABC. The finalized proposal for this committee is being prepared in consultation with the pastoral leadership of the General Conference and will be distributed to the delegates prior to the July General Conference. ■

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension Report

Greetings to all,

The Korean Extension has successfully completed the 2011 spring semester with 93 Korean students. On May 9th a wonderful graduation ceremony was held at the north campus. Those in attendance besides the KE faculty, graduates, and family members were Joe Myers and Carrie Briggs from the Board of Directors. Dr. Joe and Rebekah Martin and David Krogh were also present from the Atlanta Bible College.

A total of nine were awarded the Bachelor of Theology from the Korean Extension this year. Four graduates are from the local Korean community, and they will continue their Christian ministry as lay leaders in their home churches. Yeongbeom Kim and Younghee An are among the nine graduates and will continue to serve the Lord at the Korean Extension. The other two graduates will participate in a practical training program for the Korean Church Conference as Christian leaders. The last graduate will return to Korea.

As the global economic difficulty persists, six Korean students have notified our office of their inability to continue their Christian education due to the lack of financial support. These students will not return for the upcoming fall semester. Unfortunately, we presume there will be more students that will face the same situation.

During the summer break, the Korean Extension will raise recruitment efforts in the physical areas of Korea and our local Korean community to fill the loss. We will also focus on enhancing instructors' teaching methods and continue to write textbooks; the library books will continue to be catalogued. We are currently re-developing the current Korean Extension website which is set to launch in the latter part of June 2011.

Young and Steve will depart to South Korea on May 15th and return home on June 14th. During their stay Steve will meet with several pastors' groups, and their congregations. He will meet with prospective students, Korean Extension graduates and encourage them in their ministry. He will also have the opportunity to give general updates to the parents of our current students.

Wishing all of you a blessed summer.
Sam An

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension Student Profiles



Name: Yeongbeom Kim (right)

Yeongbeom is a recent graduate of the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension. The Korean Extension accepted his enrollment for the fall of 2006. Since then he has been fervently studying the Abrahamic Faith. He is also a current employee of the Korean Extension working as the I.T. technician, managing the distance learning courses as well as coordinating the Korean Extension website. Currently, Mr. Kim's father is an active Korean pastor in South Korea, ministering the Beop-Sahn Church. This is one of many churches Steve An has visited in his past trips to Korea. Concluding, Yeongbeom's final words after graduation were this, "My experience at the Korean Extension was like no other experience. I feel a stronger and perseverent feeling toward God, and my purpose in ministry is more clear than ever!"



Name: Ji Young Lim

(Continued on page 13)

As this is written, ABC students are taking their final exams for this semester. A report of graduation will be in the next Journal/Herald.

Two block courses are being taught this summer: The Book of Acts by David Krogh and The Pauline Epistles by Bob Jones.

We have received a number of applications for the free tuition program for the fall semester. We encourage more students from our churches to take advantage of this special offer (see page 6).

We continue our efforts to attract community students to ABC. Brochure racks have been placed in several hundred area businesses. Calls are being received nearly every day from those who want additional infor-

mation. Pastor Rufus Meyers is working with the college to contact area churches to let them know about the college and its programs.

Go Serve teams will be available to assist churches in our Conference during the fall semester. Our target areas are Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina or any other places where a team is needed. The proposed dates are September 15-18, October 14-16, October 21-23, and a weeklong trip during our fall break October 14-23. If you are interested in serving on a team, please contact Kim Musch Raper at 678-833-1839 or kmusch@abc-coggc.org.

Work continues on the preparation of distance learning courses to be offered this fall in a new

format through Moodle Rooms. Anyone wishing to enroll in a Moodle course (if you don't have previous experience with Moodle) will be required to take an on-line course G120 - Introduction to Moodle which is a tutorial in how to use Moodle. The cost of the course is \$100. If a student subsequently pays for two Moodle courses, the \$100 will be refunded. The G120 Introduction to Moodle course will be offered the week of August 15-20 (Monday through Friday). Students will need to spend about two hours on-line each day during that week to be prepared to take a distance learning Moodle course. ■

For more information contact Registrar David Krogh at dkrogh@abc-coggc.org or Moodle Coordinator Jake Ballard at

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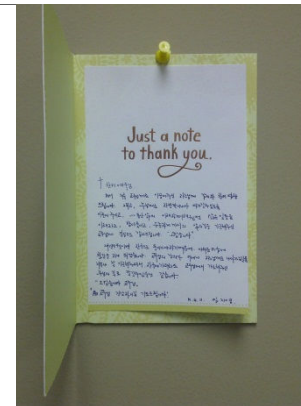
Ms. Lim enrolled at the Korean Extension in the spring of 2010. She had recently undergone some spiritual modifications in her life. As we understood it, Ms. Lim was attending a Catholic church near Duluth, GA which is located 20 minutes south of the north campus. I believe she enrolled at our institution unaware of what was lying ahead, and the result was very enlightening. Immediately following the final exams, Ms. Lim introduced a prospective student from her previous Catholic church and the student has submitted an application for the upcoming fall semester!

To the right, you will find a picture of a thank you card from Ji Young Lim, as well as the English translation.

Ji Young Lim's thank you card

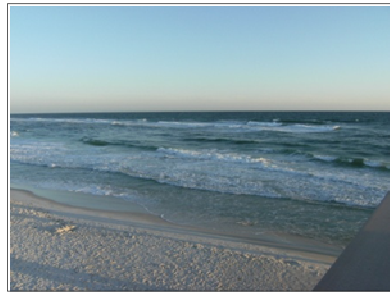
In Jesus,
First of all, I thank God for leading me to Pastor Steve An and the Korean Extension. I feel as though I've been guided one step closer to the Lord as a result of the classroom lectures which allowed me to interpret the many difficulties in my life! Now I acknowledge the acceptance of the difficulties and obey God.

Thank you for helping me find my way to the living God. ■



10th Annual Christian Women's Retreat

The 10th annual Christian Women's Retreat in Panama City Beach, FL was held April 14-17, 2011. The weather was beautiful! We had warm sunny days, starting with morning devotions on the beach and ending with devotions in an intimate setting in one of the condos. We had a small group this year, but the fellowship was great and God was glorified. Some of the comments were: "devotions were very meaningful and helpful", "it was wonderful getting to spend a little one-on-one time with the ladies and experiencing the sweet fellowship of ladies dedicated to God," "time went too quickly," "I liked the devotions and also the free time to relax," "walking on the pier that evening at sunset was awesome," "I was able to come closer to God," "the Shell Island Cruise was a great experience as well as spending time with old and new friends," "I liked the meals and easy menus." If you would like to join us next year, please contact Rebekah Martin at rrebrn@yahoo.com or 770-961-6746.



Charitable Gift Annuity

Now you can give cash or stock and receive an immediate tax deduction for a substantial portion of the amount, and also receive a partially tax-free income stream for the remainder of your life. And most importantly, you'll feel the satisfaction

of knowing your annuity investment will equip people for ministry, provide financial assistance to new and existing churches, and do the work God has commissioned us to do.

The Board of Directors has established interest rates for new annuities set up during 2011.

Please contact David Krogh by phone at 800-347-4261, by e-mail at dkrogh@abc-coggc.org, or by mail at Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253 for more information or to set up a charitable gift annuity. ■

Age	Interest Rates	69-70	4.8%	81	6.4%
		71	4.9%	82	6.5%
		72	5.0%	83	6.7%
54-56	4.0%	73	5.1%	84	6.9%
57-58	4.1%	74	5.3%	85	7.1%
59-61	4.2%	75	5.4%	86	7.3%
62-63	4.3%	76	5.5%	87	7.6%
64	4.4%	77	5.7%	88	7.9%
65-66	4.5%	78	5.8%	89	8.2%
67	4.6%	79	6.0%	90+	8.5%
68	4.7%	80	6.2%		

Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

“WAITING FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD”

Luke 23:51

Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Council, follower of Christ, who was “waiting for the kingdom of God,” did his dead friend Jesus the great but sorrowful service of taking Him down from the cross, wrapping Him in a linen cloth, and burying Him in his own tomb cut out of the rock. It says he was “a good and righteous man” who had not consented to Jesus' death.

It is significant that he was “waiting for the kingdom of God.”

Aren't we all! We are putting of first importance “seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.” When you stop and think of life in total, you know Jesus saw what was most important in the life of each of us.

This is the kingdom of God that Almighty God had in mind “from the beginning.” When God was making His plans before He created anything, He saw that only He could establish righteousness on this earth He favored over all the planets He wanted

to make. Of all His planets He chose earth to be His final dwelling place with His saints.

What a blessing for us, that He should invite us, choose us who believe in Him, to “inherit the earth” forever after our Savior raises us from the dead to eternal life! That's why we are “waiting for the kingdom of God”! It is our eternal salvation, based on the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants God made with those two men and their spiritual descendants.

This is why the Bible ends with our hope: “Come, Lord Jesus.”

That's when Jesus will come from the right hand of God from heaven where He is now interceding for us, to make us kings and priests with Him for a thousand years over earth in the kingdom of God!

May we each serve Jesus by our lives as did faithful Joseph of Arimathea. We can't take Jesus down from the cross and bury Him, but we can live our lives by His teachings and have our hearts full of love for Him like Joseph had. And we can sorrow also for our Lord's tortures He endured for us—that wonderful lovely Man who lived such a perfect life. How great He is! A fit Son of His Almighty Father!

How we long for His coming! ▪

We are looking in the context, *Sitz im Leben*, of Isaiah, knowing that an ox knows its owner, a donkey knows its master, but Israel does not know YHWH, the LORD, and has even abandoned Him. (1:3,4) This seems like *Déjà vu* for our times. Does anyone know Yahweh, the LORD God? Jesus said, “You believe in God, believe also in me.” (Jn. 14:1 KJV) Joel Hemphill suggested, “We need to tell Christianity in our age, ‘You believe in Jesus, believe also in God.’” God has a plan through His servant Jesus.

The call is still to “come, let us reason together, says Yahweh.” (1:18) In the middle of a call for judgment, we know of “Immanuel” (7:14), then a *child* will be born (9:6) for a kingdom of righteousness (9:7), from a *shoot/branch* of Jesse (11:1), but hell/Sheol is excited over us so that it can quiet our evil (14:9). Woe to the earth (24:1); woe to rebellious children (30:1); and woe to the one who quarrels with His maker (45:9). In 722 BC disaster came, the Northern Kingdom fell, ten of twelve tribes gone! But, “comfort you, comfort you my people” says your God (40:1) for the “glory of the LORD/YHWH will be revealed.” (40:5) These “Deutero-Isaiah”¹ passages bring hope. “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.” (40:31 KJV) Within that context, a new hope is clarified, “*Behold My Servant!*” (42:1)

הָ עֶבֶדְךָ the *Ebed YHWH*, The Servant of the LORD!

In the middle of Matthew 12:18-20, the author takes the time to explain the activities of Jesus, especially healing, with a quote from Isaiah 42:1ff, from what has become known as one of several “Suffering Servant Songs.”² (Isa. 42, 49, 50 & 52/53, possibly 61³) Matthew quotes the beginning of Isaiah chapter 42:

“BEHOLD *MY SERVANT* WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN,
MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL IS WELL-PLEASED.
I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM...
(Mt. 12:18 NASB)

Then Peter in the book of Acts, with a formerly lame man clinging to him in the temple, explains the healing with “The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified *His servant* Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned... .” (3:13) Quoting Dt. 18:18 in verse 22, Peter says we should have listened to him (Jesus), “For you first God raised up *His Servant* and sent Him to bless you by turning everyone of you from your wicked ways.” (3:26) Later, in chapter four, Peter and John defend themselves before the Sanhedrin, quoting Psalm 2,

“ ‘Why do the Gentiles rage... against the LORD and against His Christ.’ For truly in this city there were gathered

together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed... and now, Lord, take note of their threats... while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of *Your holy servant* Jesus.” (Acts 4:25-30)

I believe the passages in Isaiah, as well as the other promises and prophecies about the Messiah make up what could be termed, “Jesus’ Job Description,” or a “Messianic Job Description.” Great promises like Gen. 3:15, “the seed of the woman;” Gen. 12:3, the whole world blessed through Abraham’s descendant; Gen. 49:10, “the scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet;” Dt. 18:18, “I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him (cp. Jn. 12:49 NIV); II Sam. 7:16, “Your throne shall be established forever;” Micah 5:2, “From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler;” Zech. 12:10, “...they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son... a firstborn,” etc.

Also in Acts 8 when Philip is led by the Spirit to join the Ethiopian’s chariot while the African was reading Isaiah 53, “He was led as a sheep to slaughter... .” (v. 7) This song begins in Isaiah 52:13, “Behold My servant will prosper... .”

In Acts 8:35 the story continues, “Then Philip opened his mouth,

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

and beginning from **this Scripture** he preached Jesus to him.” **THIS** scripture is a foundational scripture, with the other “Suffering Servant Songs,” about what Jesus was to accomplish as he submitted to the Father’s will, not his own.

I would like us to see that in those “songs” of Isaiah, one may find as many as 100 points of Jesus’ “job description.” “Behold My Servant” scholars have suggested that this is similar to God’s announcement to Samuel looking for the first King of Israel, Saul. “When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, “Behold, the man⁴ of whom I spoke to you! This one shall rule over My people.” (1 Sam. 9:17) If God says it, it is a “royal designation.” God is to be pleased with this servant from Isaiah. Remember the voice of God at Jesus’ baptism and transfiguration, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased!” (Mt. 3:17, etc. voice at baptism, Mt. 17:5, voice at the transfiguration). The Spirit is to be the key leading in his life (Mt. 3:16 et al) He will bring forth justice, be gentle, and be a “country preacher” vs. a mostly city preacher? Faithfully bringing forth justice seems similar to the Messiah’s duties of Daniel 9:24, “to make reconciliation...bring in everlasting righteousness.”

Jesus is the agent (*shaliah* or *shaliach* in Hebrew) via this guilt offering and servanthood portrayed in these songs of Isaiah. He has “power of attorney” for us.

A **shaliah** (Hebrew: שליח pl. שליחים *shelihim*) in **Halakha** is a Jewish legal emissary or agent. Accordingly, a *shaliah* performs an act of legal significance for the benefit of the sender, as opposed to him or herself.⁵

Yahweh will cause him to prosper; he will be “satisfied;” and by His knowledge, YHWH’s Servant will justify many. 53:12 notes “great.” The right hand of God (21x in N.T.) is very great. Because of His death, we are cleansed.

A final note on Isaiah 61 which some feel is a “fifth” Suffering Servant Song.” Though the term “servant” does not appear, Jesus in Nazareth perceives this to be part of his job as well as noted in his first sermon which he delivered at the Nazareth synagogue. (Luke 4:16 ff) It is the **beginning** of his ministry.

The spirit of Lord Yahweh is on me for Yahweh has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the news to the afflicted, to soothe the broken-hearted,² to proclaim liberty to captives, release to those in prison, to proclaim a year of favour from Yahweh and a day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn... (Isa 61:1-2 NJB)

What a beautiful passage. Spirit anointing, good news, liberty, and the “favorable year of Yahweh” preached to all of us sinners. It was the best beginning

of ministry ever seen. A ministry that began with the good news of the Kingdom from YHWH’s Suffering Servant, is to continue through us. In southern Louisiana, the French Cajuns have a saying, *Laissez les bons temps rouler*. “Let the good times roll.” We have good news for a messed up world, just like in Isaiah’s time. “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus the Messiah/Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3) gives us the basis of preaching the kingdom that is surely coming. Jesus is primarily a servant (Mark 10:45). He told us to be servants, giving us an example of foot-washing servanthood in John 13 (and Luke 17:10). Let’s join Him in obedience to the Father. ■

¹ Many have noted the “Second Isaiah.” I feel it is maybe just a change from doom and gloom to God giving relief. I have appreciated the several discussion. Claus Westermann, *Isaiah 40-66*, Westminster Press, 1969, etc.

² First identified (total of 4) by Bernhard Duhm, in a 1892 commentary on Isaiah. However, note biblical identification first, maybe not of all four, but of the Servant.

³ Barry Webb, *The Message of Isaiah*, InterVarsity Press, 1996.

⁴ Compare John 19:5, Pilate says... “Behold the man.” *Ἴδε, ὁ ἄνθρωπος.*

⁵ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaliah>

A Visit to Indonesia and Malaysia

I recently spent 12 amazing days in a part of the world I had never visited. Indonesia and Malaysia. The long haul from Atlanta to Seoul in Korea is hard going, but there is a bit more leg room in the 770! Then on another 7 hours to Kuala Lumpur. One encounters there many people of Chinese and Indian background, and the Moslem religion prevails.

I was privileged to mix and mingle with a number of heroic international folk who are doing their best to help people of Islamic background to consider the claims of “Isa al Masi,” Jesus the Messiah, whom the Koran recommends, if a bit vaguely sometimes. I was able to share in private Bible study with many who (partly because of exposure to the adamant non-Trinitarianism of Islam) have seen that

Jesus is not God, but God’s unique Son. For me this is the miracle of open eyes. Hours went by as we ploughed our way through the “difficult texts.” I am so glad for all the good training I had behind me thanks to teaching classes at OBC/ABC. These are vast issues for many who have been told that not saying “Jesus is God” will lead to eternal hellfire!

We were put up in beautiful hotels (these are safe and secure). The international flavor is exhilarating and it gave me open opportunity to follow up with books, my own and also Greg Deuble’s *They never told me this in church!*

I have lots of marvelous new contacts, among them fine Koreans. The Great Commission is still before us, and I doubt if the Gospel of

the kingdom is widely known around the world.

A rather vague “Jesus died and rose” is often all they know. At least in the Moslem areas the Trinity is rejected—and they really fear any departure from “God is One.” The opportunities are vast for any of our younger ones to get prepared to expound Scripture all over the world.

Just raise your fare and go, as God and Jesus lead. Learn the Bible well first.

I do thank everyone for praying, and I know that many did. God was with me all the way and this is such an encouragement. The world is starving for the truth which leads to a relationship with God (the true God) and Jesus the Messiah or Isa al Masi. ■

Anthony Buzzard

Christian Workers Seminar

The 38th annual Christian Workers Seminar was held in Pigeon Forge, TN, April 3-8. One hundred thirty-five persons attended this inspirational event. The theme was: “My Servant . . . My Son . . . Serving in Ministry.” Several teachers offered a variety of classes on service and practical ministry. Others presented devotions and sermons on the theme.

The seminar was first held in May 1974 on the campus of Oregon Bible College in Oregon, IL as a cooperative venture between the college and the Sunday School Department. Over the years hundreds of Christian workers have been encouraged and equipped for more effective ministry in their church. ■

Next year’s seminar will be held again
at the Holiday Inn in Pigeon Forge, TN,
April 15–20.
Make plans now to attend!



CWS attendees during a general session



Folks singing with Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill

Mission News - Haiti

We are pleased to report that the team that went to Haiti February 18 to March 10 succeeded in completing the building project on behalf of the congregation located outside of Port-au-Prince at Croix-des-Bouquets.

Pictured is the team left to right, front row: Sydney Kirkpatrick, Team Leader (MN), Drew Fields (OH), Dale Ramsey (VA); back row, David Bormes (MN), Bob Bormes (MN), John Tuttle (IL), and Dan Landry (LA).

The goal of the team was not just to build a building, but to build relationships with the Haitian people and to build God's kingdom. Relationships were built during meals as well as working together. A closer bond was achieved when team members gave tools, clothes, and shoes to some of the workers as the team was preparing to leave.



The nearly finished building



Building the block walls



See the names listed two paragraphs above

We appreciate the individuals and churches that provided funds toward the cost of concrete blocks, concrete, and roofing material. There is still a need for close to \$7,000 to cover the cost of this building. If you can help, please send contributions to: LHI, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253. Here are the costs:

- Concrete for floor — \$70 per yard — 80 yards needed
- Cement blocks — \$1.50 each — 2,000 needed
- Sheet of roofing material — \$30 each — 50 needed ■

Atlanta Bible College Invitational



Some of the ABC-I attendees

When students come to Atlanta Bible College Invitational we want to give them hands-on experience. Students are able to attend a class on Thursday evening and on Friday morning. Attendees were able to participate in an open forum where they asked current students about their experiences at the college. In the short amount of time students are here they get to have a one-on-one interview with an Atlanta Bible College staff member, visit classes, engage in serving in the community, and get a sample of the community life found amongst students and staff. Students are taught the very basics of what ministry is about — serving. This ABC-I was also unique in the fact that the group

was smaller and most of those who attended are seriously considering ABC this fall or in the years to come! ■

**Join us for
91st Annual Church of God General Conference
July 6-8, 2011**

At Jaynes Street Church of God, 7534 Jaynes St., Omaha, Nebraska, 402-571-2537

Theme: No Church Too Small; No Mission Too Big!

PLEASE NOTE: The fees for General Conference DO NOT include lodging. You must arrange lodging by contacting the hotel directly. The fees for the conference cover the costs of the General Conference meeting and the meals. Local hotel contact numbers are provided that are relatively close to the Jaynes Street Church, but you may choose any hotel you desire in the area or make other arrangements.

1. Please 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 2011, 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 6 Cookout at Jaynes Street Church at 5:00 p.m.? 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 _____ N _____

The program will begin July 6 with a late afternoon cookout and evening service. Thursday and Friday will include a complete schedule of workshops, worship services, meetings of the Ministers, Priscillas, Alumni Association, and delegate business sessions. The conference will conclude after the Friday evening service.

Omaha Hotel Information - *Please call hotel directly and identify yourself as part of the Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College:*

Holiday Inn Express - 402.505.8181 - \$84.95/room
6939 N. 102 Circle, 68122

Comfort Suites - 402.445.0400 - \$69.99/room
10503 Bedford Avenue, 68134

LaQuinta Inn - 402.493.1900 - \$69.00/room
3330 N. 104th Avenue, 68134

Country Inn & Suites - 402.445.4445 - \$79.00/room
11818 Miami Street, 68164

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, 2011 add \$25	\$
Non-Refundable less \$25 Deposit	— \$25.00
Total due at Conference	\$

91st Annual Church of God General Conference
July 6-8, 2011
Jaynes Street Church of God, Omaha, Nebraska

Theme: No Church Too Small; No Mission Too Big!

Wednesday – July 6

3:00 – Conference Registration
5:00 – Cookout
7:00 – Evening Worship Service – Musical program
8:30 – Chairman’s Reception

Thursday – July 7

Breakfast on your own

9:00 – Morning Worship
Dr. Joe Martin – Keynote Address

10:15 – Workshops

1. Ministry in a Small Town Church – Tom New
2. History Encyclopedia and Church of God Ministers – Jan Stilson
3. Open Forum with Board of Directors
4. An Introduction to Natural Church Development – Gary Burnham

11:00 – Break

11:15 – Workshops

1. The Unchurched Next Door – David Krogh
2. Youth Ministry – Jaynes St. Church Youth Workers
3. Ministerial Association Meeting – Richard Alcumbrack, Moderator
4. No Church Too Small – Ken Howe

12:15 – Lunch

1:30 – Chapel – Hymn Sing

2:15 – Ministerial Association Meeting – Richard Alcumbrack, Moderator
Priscilla Meeting – Susan Cain
Workshop – Role of Elders in the Local Church – Jaynes Street Elders
Bible Study – Charles Bottolfs

3:15 – Business Session (ends at 5:15)

5:30 – Dinner

7:00 – Evening Worship – Steve Taylor, speaker

8:45 – Alumni Association Meeting – Pastor Joe Myers, President

Friday – July 8

Breakfast on your own

9:00 – Morning Worship – MRB Recognitions

10:15 – Workshops:

1. Open Forum with Board of Directors
2. No Church Too Small – Ken Howe
3. Worship Idea Sharing – Christy Ross facilitator
4. Christian Education Curriculum Ideas – Curriculum Committee

11:00 – Break

11:15 – Workshops:

1. Deacon Ministry – John Carr
2. The Path – Living Life on Purpose – Julie Driskill
3. Ministerial Association Meeting – Richard Alcumbrack, Moderator
4. Introduction to Korean Culture – Steve An

12:15 – Lunch

1:30 – Chapel – Communion and Prayer Time – Scott Ross

2:15 – Ministerial Association Meeting – Richard Alcumbrack, Moderator
Priscilla Meeting – Susan Cain
Bible Study – Bill Gaspar

3:15 – Business Session (ends at 4:15)

4:30 – Board of Directors’ meeting

5:30 – Dinner (Development Foundation Board meets over dinner in a separate room)

7:00 – Evening Worship; Richard Alcumbrack, speaker; Installation of Board of Directors

Child care will be provided along with children’s classes, junior church, and youth activities. These will be led by the “Up Project” directed by Julie Driskill and a team of young people.

Budget Proposals - Income

	FY 2011 - 2012 Approved Budget <u>Request</u>	FY 2011 - 2012 Proposed Revised Budget	FY 2012 - 2013 Proposed Budget
CONTRIBUTIONS:			
General Contributions	\$398,000	\$350,000	\$372,275
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	\$0	\$0	\$0
ABC Boosters	\$22,500	\$20,000	\$21,000
Subtotal	\$420,500	\$370,000	\$393,275
SALES:			
Christian Education Materials	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$24,000
Books	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$18,000
Theological Journal	\$750	\$0	\$0
Sale of Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$40,750	\$40,000	\$42,000
ABC:			
Tuition	\$650,000	\$510,000	\$560,000
Lodging/Apartment Rent	\$56,500	\$43,000	\$47,000
ABCDF Support	\$51,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Interest and Late Fees	\$11,000	\$4,500	\$4,500
Application/Miscellaneous Fees	\$12,000	\$9,500	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$780,500	\$627,000	\$681,500
PROGRAM INCOME:			
Conferences & Workshops	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Interest	\$100	\$100	\$100
Other Income	\$2,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Fall, 2011 Church Builders Appeal	\$0	\$15,000	\$0
Transferred In	\$3,500	\$10,000	\$10,500
Subtotal	\$5,600	\$32,100	\$17,600
Income Total	\$1,247,350	\$1,069,100	\$1,134,375
Expense Total	\$1,242,250	\$1,069,100	\$1,134,375
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	\$5,100	\$0	\$0

Budget Proposals - Expense

	FY 2011 - 2012	FY 2011 - 2012	FY 2012 - 2013
	Approved	Proposed	
	Budget	Revised	Proposed
	<u>Request</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
STAFF:			
Salaries & Wages	\$545,500	\$452,000	\$475,000
F.I.C.A. Tax	\$9,000	\$8,500	\$9,000
Employee Benefits	\$123,000	\$90,000	\$105,000
Subtotal	\$677,500	\$550,500	\$589,000
SERVICES:			
Assistance to Churches	\$38,400	\$26,400	\$30,000
Ministerial Association	\$7,200	\$4,800	\$4,800
Youth Program	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$53,600	\$41,200	\$44,800
SALES EXPENSE:			
Printing & Binding	\$21,000	\$31,000	\$27,000
Postage & Shipping	\$16,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
Book Store	\$12,000	\$9,750	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$49,000	\$49,750	\$47,000
ABC:			
Advertising—Recruitment	\$7,500	\$4,500	\$5,500
Student/Staff Meals	\$15,500	\$18,000	\$19,000
Library Periodicals	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,100
Library Books	\$1,000	\$250	\$500
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	\$1,500	\$500	\$750
Staff Training	\$10,000	\$6,500	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$36,300	\$30,750	\$31,850
ADMINISTRATION:			
Travel	\$45,000	\$28,000	\$30,000
Office & Misc Supplies & Expenses	\$16,000	\$12,500	\$13,000
Professional Services	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,750
Telephone/Internet/Web/Data	\$20,000	\$10,500	\$11,500
Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint	\$23,000	\$26,000	\$27,000
Subtotal	\$110,500	\$83,500	\$88,250
PLANT EXPENSES:			
Utilities	\$19,000	\$29,000	\$30,000
Insurance - Property	\$9,000	\$5,900	\$6,100
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,250
Furniture & Equipment	\$27,000	\$2,000	\$2,500
Supplies/Expenses Plant	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$1,000
Subtotal	\$58,250	\$38,900	\$40,850
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Campus Leases	\$195,600	\$187,000	\$196,000
Apartment Leases	\$56,500	\$52,500	\$57,750
Debt Repayment	\$0	\$17,500	\$18,375
Other	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$10,500
Contingency	\$0	\$7,500	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$257,100	\$274,500	\$292,625
Expense Total	\$1,242,250	\$1,069,100	\$1,134,375
Income Total	\$1,247,350	\$1,069,100	\$1,134,375
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	\$5,100	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 adopted by the delegates at the 2010 Summer Conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

Income

1. **General Contributions** – non-specific giving by individuals, churches, and conferences
2. **G. C. – Devises & Bequests** – periodically the College/Conference receives estate gifts in the General Fund
3. **ABC Boosters** – an annual giving program that raises funds for the college
4. **Christian Education Materials** – includes all sales of quarterlies & Kingdom Quest materials
5. **Books** – sales of class and non-class books
6. **Theological Journal** – *A Journal From the Radical Reformation* is no longer provided in a printed version; future issues will be available electronically
7. **Sale of Assets** – income from the sale of assets no longer used
8. **Tuition** – estimated income from ABC and ABCKE classes
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** – finance charges 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** – interest earned on checking account
15. **Other Income** – miscellaneous income
16. **Fall 2011 Church Builders Appeal** – income from a Church Builders Appeal designated to assist with campus leases
17. **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** – grants to churches; Church Development Aid and Church Planting Aid
5. **Ministerial Association** – support for programs and expenses of the Ministerial Association
6. **Youth Program** – funding to subsidize the cost of Turning Point Youth Ministries and TPYM's produc-

- tion of FUEL and other events
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 & Expenses** – 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 internet data lines and website fees
20. **Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint.** – maintenance agreements and repairs for office equipment and software maintenance
21. **Utilities** – costs of electricity, water, gas, etc. at ABCKE campus, and ABC and ABCKE apartments
22. **Insurance – Property** – costs of insurance for facilities
23. **Repairs/Maintenance – Plant** – costs for plant support and maintenance
24. **Furniture and Equipment** – includes furniture, software, computers, and office machines
25. **Supplies/Expenses – Plant** – cleaning supplies, rest-room supplies, etc.
26. **Campus Leases** – monthly payments to lease our McDonough and Duluth campus sites
27. **Apartment Leases** – payments to lease apartments for ABC and ABCKE students
28. **Debt Repayment** – 5% of general contributions used to pay back General Fund outstanding loans
29. **Other** – miscellaneous expenses
30. **Contingency** – for unexpected/unbudgeted expenses

Good News

Like cold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a distant land. Proverbs 25:25

- From **Blanchard Church of God in Blanchard, MI** – **Pastor Mark DeYoung** reports that **Trent Rogers** is doing an excellent job



Mark DeYoung baptizing Emily

of discipling and witnessing for the Lord Jesus. As a result of Trent's witness, his friend **Emily Malina** has realized her need of salvation. Emily requested to be baptized, and she commented that she hopes she can live her faith

as well as Trent does and be so assured of herself and her goals. Trent is just 20 years old, and Emily is only 17. Praise God for Trent and may God bless Emily in her new walk with her Lord!

- From **Resurrection Hope Church of God in Lenoir, NC** – **Pastor James Ritch** reports that the rebuilding of the fellowship hall is coming along quickly after a long fall and winter. Since the insurance reimbursement will not cover all of the costs nor the upgrading needed, the church is having several fundraisers. A very interesting one is "Thirty Pieces of Silver." Each person was asked to fill a bag with thirty silver coins and turn in the bag on Easter Sunday. Other fund-raisers are Quilt Raffle, Craft Bazaar, and Aluminum Drink Cans.

- From **New Beginnings Church of God in Desloge, MO** – **Pastor Bill Dunn** announces that the church has moved into its new building. The building was purchased in March, and the people have been busy painting and cleaning it for the first service on Easter Sunday. The building is in a much better location with potential for seating of 200+ people. In addition, there is a house on the property, and the rent from the house pays the church's bank loan each month. "God has truly blessed and we pray that He will continue to bless the ministry and the surrounding community," says Pastor Dunn.

- From **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – **Pastor Syd Kirkpatrick** is happy to report that the Junior Choir presented a wonderful program entitled "Jailhouse Rock!" on May 1. The musical teaches about our freedom as believers in Christ. It begins as the children are off for a fun week of hiking and swimming as Camp Koinonia. But as they arrive, the skies

open up with a torrential downpour, and they become "stranded" in the mess hall. Contact Pastors Kirkpatrick or **Connie Scott** if you want to know more.

- From **Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH** – **New Building Update!** **Pastor Steve Zimbelman** reports that much work is being done in the north end. Drywall work is done, and painting has started. Ceilings have now been installed, and heating ductwork has also been installed. Wiring will be completed soon. Praise God for willing and tireless workers.

- From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** reports many wonderful things happening on a regular basis. Many of the ladies of the church gather every Tuesday morning for prayer time. Prayers are offered for church members, the extended church family and the community. Pastor Michael and **Pastor Dan Cain** support the ladies with additional items for prayer. A time of fellowship is enjoyed as well.

- From **Resurrection Hope Church of God in Lenoir, NC** – **Pastor James Ritch** is pleased to announce that the church celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 24. Fifty years of proclaiming the truth of God's word and of serving others is a wonderful milestone. Congratulations!

- From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Associate Pastor Dan Cain** announced a Help Day for Saturday May 14. Church members helped the post office collect canned goods from 10 AM until noon, and after lunch, assisted many people in the community with some yard work.

- From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Gail Tuttle** reported that Habitat for Humanity broke ground for a new home in Oregon on April 30. Building has officially begun. Many church members will volunteer along the way. In addition, the church has the responsibility for lunch on a Saturday. In advance of all the help that will come, Gail thanks everyone for volunteering.

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

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown – Barbara Robinson (3/20/11) and Sandra Harrington via membership transfer; Savannah Strauss (4/17/11), Cheyenne Shavers (4/24/11), Jackie Cannon (5/1/11) and Carissa Metcalf (5/15/11) by Pastor Tom New

Georgia

McDonough – Adam Burnham (2/13/11) by his father, Gary Burnham; Allison Jones (5/8/11) by Pastor Kim Musch

Missouri

Morse Mill – Jesse Allen (3/13/11) by Pastor Bill Dunn; Cyndi Fyfe (3/13/11) by Pastor Kim Musch

Virginia

Cool Spring – Rachel Paulisch (2/27/11) and Aaron Paulisch (3/27/11) by their father, Chris Paulisch

Deaths

Arizona

Youngstown – Marie Kelso, 106, (3/8/11), long-time member of Church of God; granddaughter of evangelist Almus Adams, and mother of Pastor Warren Sorenson

Arkansas

Magazine – Thomas L. Sarten, 96, (1/28/11), long-time faithful member. Service by Pastor Roy Humphreys

Missouri

Raymore – Dorothy Sheeley (4/26/11), long-time faithful member; Dorothy and her husband, George, attended Christian Workers' Seminar for many years

Springfield – Betty Thibault Ackels, 90, (3/17/11), life-long member; faithfully distributed many tracts during her lifetime

Virginia

Cool Spring – John Hicks (3/1/11) by Michael Berry

In Memory of

BETTY LOU GROVE RUDACILLE

Betty Lou Grove Rudacille left our lives on April 9, 2011. Her husband, Ronald I. Rudacille predeceased her (April 12, 1997). They were both baptized into the body of Christ and were dedicated workers at the Cool Spring Church of God in Browntown, Virginia.

She was called by God, to be a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Eph. 4:1, "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." (NIV) Betty was true to her calling.

Above all her roles in life, her priority was to be a child of God. When an employment opportunity necessitated their only child Tracy to move to North Carolina with her husband Barry M. Pomeroy and their two children, without a moment of hesitation Betty and Ronald left their roots in Virginia and relocated to NC where they continued to teach and share the "Good News" of Christ Jesus to all who would hear. While Betty and Ronald never compromised their doctrinal beliefs as taught in the holy scriptures, they became active in church work in Belmont, NC and set examples for Christ-like behavior to all who knew them. I Cor. 12:4-6 "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men." (NIV)

The message that we must hear, learn and remember is that God uses each of us to "Go ye into ALL of the world and preach the gospel." Thank you, God for giving us Betty and Ronald Rudacille.

The Family

Pastors,

We solicit articles from you that can be considered for inclusion in future issues of *The Restitution Herald & Progress Journal*. We welcome a variety of submissions:

- articles that focus on worship and bringing glory to God
- articles on doctrinal subjects
- articles on ministry subjects
- short devotional thoughts, stories, etc.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions you'd like answered or ideas you'd like considered.

Thanks, ahead of time, for any submissions you provide.

Gary Burnham
Operations Manager
Ministry Services Network (MSN) Director

2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400
McDonough, GA 30253
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Prayer and Praise

July 2011

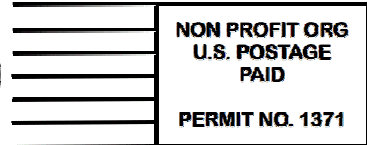
- 1 **Pray for God's travel and ministry blessings on the Africa Mission Team's work later this month.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor James and Rebecca Ritch and the work at Lenoir, NC.
- 3 **Pray that God might move the Church of God forward in new areas of ministry.**
- 4 Praise God for the blessings of freedom we celebrate today in the United States.
- 5 **Pray that many will hear God's call into full-time Christian service.**
- 6 Pray for those arriving at the General Conference meetings in Omaha, Nebraska.
- 7 **Pray for God's leadership and blessing on those attending General Conference today and tomorrow.**
- 8 Pray for God's blessing and direction on the delegates during General Conference business sessions.
- 9 **Pray for God's blessing on your pastor's preparation to share God's message tomorrow.**
- 10 Pray for the soon return of Jesus.
- 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, short wave, and the internet.**
- 16 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ as Savior.
- 17 **Pray for students arriving at FUEL today.**
- 18 Pray that God will lead many of our young people into ministry at home and abroad.
- 19 **Pray for God to bless the FUEL program at Manchester College (North Manchester, Indiana) this week.**
- 20 Pray for those who are studying the Systematic Bible Study Course over the internet.
- 21 **Pray for the staff of FUEL and the influence they are having on the young people.**
- 22 Pray for the safety for those traveling home from FUEL today.
- 23 **Pray for Pastor John and Alice Railton and the work of the Family Bible Church in Granger, Indiana.**
- 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 Praise God for the family and friends He has provided to you.
- 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 Bolhous.
- 31 **Praise God for efforts being made to plant new churches.**

Prayer and Praise

August 2011

- 1 Pray for Pastor Andy and Kristy Cisneros and their ministry at Timberland Bible Church.
- 2 **Pray that God will bless your community through your church.**
- 3 Pray for Pastor Connie Scott and her ministry at Pine Grove, Minnesota.
- 4 **Praise God for the faithful ministry of the ABC/ General Conference Staff.**
- 5 Pray for Tony and Angela Moore as they lead the Knightstown Family Fellowship in Knightstown, Indiana.
- 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 **Praise God for the incredible gift of His Son!**
- 9 Pray for the Board of Directors as they lead the ministries of the College/Conference.
- 10 **Pray for your pastor and your pastor's family.**
- 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 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 **Pray for Atlanta Bible College students and staff as classes begin today.**
- 23 Praise God for His love and faithfulness.
- 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.

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



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Do your part to protect
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Several folks have already requested we stop sending them paper copies of the RH-PJ.

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THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

The General Conference Joining God, Going Global ¹ By Dr. Joe Martin

I am fascinated by God's timing lately. On Dec. 23, 2009, The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) sent an e-mail noting the "adjudication" of the McDonough Campus. It was perfect timing for the Korean Extension and our campus at McDonough to start the Jan. 2010 semester. Also in March 2010, the Board of Directors met to face rough economic situations, made some tough decisions for us to live within our budget, and the same day we learned that some money of an incoming estate came in. Board member Joe Myers kissed the head of Gary Burnham who brought the good news. Now, after learning of foreclosure on the building we lease, we learned that the building is being sold for 1/4 or 1/3 of its original value. By the time this is read, the LORD may continue to own the building and be letting us be His stewards over it. Each of you has probably gotten a letter about that as well by now.

Besides timing, the fact that the Haiti churches were accepted into the conference and also our first "down under" (that's Australia!) church pastored by Steve Katsaras was accepted into fellowship. It is exciting to chat with Steve on Facebook or e-mail and see his excitement for the future. I believe God wants us to continue to reach out in these times before Jesus returns. We have our "marching orders" in Matthew 24:14 the gospel of

the kingdom is to be preached to the ends of the earth. Also we know God's providential will. He is not willing that any should perish and whosoever will may come! God is seeking "godly offspring." (Mal. 2:15) He wants all future generations in the kingdom! Further, "they shall know that I am the LORD/YHWH" occurs seventy-seven times. Let's join in those things for God.



I believe "Joining God" is the critical aspect of our vision. As I was reading Isaiah, I ran across the passage in Isaiah 56:3, 6. Verse three says, "Let not the foreigner who has *joined* himself to the LORD (Abba YHWH) say, the LORD will separate me from His people." The Hebrew for "joined" in this passage is *lavah*, (Strong's 3867) ² which means to be joined, glued to something.

Verse six gives more detail. "Also the foreigners who *join* themselves to the LORD (again YHWH), to minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants...not profane the Sabbath, and hold fast My covenant... I will bring to my holy mountain... ." His holy mountain. Is that the kingdom? Note that "to minister," "to love His name," "to serve," "to hold fast His covenant" are parts of "*joining*" the LORD. As the General Conference "Joins God" in what He is doing, we WILL be successful, because He is successful.

A related thought comes in Gen. 2:24. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall *cleave* unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Cleave (Hebrew *dabaq*) is defined as "to cling, stick, stay close, stick to, follow closely, join, etc."³ That is VERY close as should our joining God be. Jesus was so close to His Father that He forgot His will, and let the Father's will reign in His life. "Not my will but thine be done!"

The next text in the Old Testament is Gen. 29 with Leah bearing her third child Levi. We all know that Rachel was the favored wife, and Leah was Laban's afterthought (the deceiver got deceived... "whatsoever a man sows..." Gal. 6:7). However in 29:31 it says, "Now the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, and He opened her

(Continued on page 4)

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Authors and books are sometimes promoted in THE RESTI-
TUTION HERALD. We believe these contain items of inter-
est to our readers. This does not necessarily mean they ex-
actly reflect the statement of faith below.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD advocates the oneness of God
(1 Cor. 8:6); the Holy Spirit is God's power (Acts 1:8); Je-
sus 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 proph-
ets since the world began" (Acts 3:21). It also firmly adv-
ocates 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**

August 15-19
Atlanta Bible College – Block Class

August 22
Atlanta Bible College
First day of regular classes

January 13-15, 2012
ReFUEL
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

February 24-26, 2012
Refuge,
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

April 15-20, 2012
Christian Workers Seminar
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN

May 3-6, 2012
Theological Conference,
Simpsonwood Conference Center,
Norcross, GA

C H U R C H E S

S E A R C H I N G F O R P A S T O R S

BEDFORD CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

The Bedford Church of the Open Bible is seeking a pastor. We are a small, loving, and giving congregation in the greater Cleveland area. Please call Mark Cain (216)-455-2592 or Steve Weaver (330) 833-3628.

BETHEL CHURCH OF GOD ☆ **New Ad** ☆

Bethel Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith, located in Pelzer, South Carolina, is seeking a pastor to be the spiritual leader of a small congregation with an average attendance of 50 - 75. We hold the same biblical truths upheld by the Church of God General Conference. We need someone who will help us grow as a body of faith in worship, teaching and evangelism. Contact: Sonja Smith at 864-845-6424 (home) or 864-356-4239 (cell); E-mail: smith4052@bellsouth.net.

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; e-mail DaleLBrown@aol.com or John Smead at (660) 747-8571; e-mail JSmead@iland.net for an application.

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 south-east 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.

MACOMB CHURCH OF GOD

We at the Macomb Church of God, located in the heart of western Illinois, are a loving and friendly group of people whose purpose is to make disciples for Jesus Christ and to prepare them for a life of service to others in Jesus' name and to seek the coming kingdom of God and His righteousness. The congregation of 40+ active members and additional families, who call the church their home, are looking for someone to fill a full-time pastor position, open immediately. Macomb is a diversified city where one can enjoy activities from the performing arts to history to outdoor recreational activities. Macomb offers a unique hometown atmosphere and friendliness with some big city advantages. Interested parties should contact the elders Don Haley (309) 255-0610, Gene Gaddis (309) 255-0023, or Richard Derry (309) 333-0242.

(Continued from page 1)

womb, but Rachel was barren.” Leah had Reuben, the firstborn, then Simeon, then Levi. Note the commentary in verse 34, “Now this time my husband will become **joined** [*lavah*] unto me.” (KJV) So, she names him Levi, similar to *lavah*, the marginal reading says. However, she was wrong in that Jacob still favored Rachel and she had to “bribe” him to be with her with Reuben’s “mandrakes.” (30:14, 15)

The point is she wanted to be glued to her husband as we should be glued to God. Our idiom, “They are joined at the hip,” is from the notion of conjoined twins, sometimes commonly called Siamese twins from Chang and Eng Bunker (1811 – 1874 from Siam). Obviously they weren’t the first, but they were first in the modern era. Even when Jesus said, “Follow me” he was issuing a call in **joining** Him as He joined the Father. Notice that “joining ourselves to the LORD/YHWH” involves ministry to Him, love, serving, and holding fast to the covenants, the word of God.

Besides Jesus, Paul also issued the call in I Cor. 6:17, “the one who **joins** himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.” (NAS) Also in II Cor 1:10,11 “...He will yet deliver us, you also **joining** in helping...” Thayer’s Greek lexicon of “join” (Greek *kallao*) says: “to glue, glue to, glue together, cement, fasten together; hence universally, to join or fasten firmly together.”

Growing up in Louisiana, my mother (“bless her heart”) believed in child “slave labor,” we children were her slaves. However, there was an upside. Almost every Saturday, she would take us into town to a phenomenal ice cream shop named Zestos, and we could buy ANYTHING we wanted. Zestos made shakes/malts with about a

“Delight in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

Psalm 37:4

third of the shake with real... peaches or strawberries or blueberries, etc. My favorite came to be a walnut malt. When I finished sucking up the ice cream, there was about a cup of walnuts in the bottom. WOW! Later dating Rebekah, it became a hangout, as we sat in the parking lot with our ice cream and watched the hot rods circle by.

After we were married and went to Oregon Bible College, we went home in my senior year, and were devastated that Zestos had closed down! About thirty years later, I followed the call to teach at Atlanta Bible College. While driving near the former campus in Morrow, I passed a sign “Zestos.” I thought, “Could it be?” I went in and

ordered a walnut malt. They didn’t ask any questions, made it (though walnuts now cost extra), and it was just like the old days. “THERE IS A GOD!” I remembered thinking.

In Omaha, July 5, 2011, we arrived at the hotel for General Conference at the Jaynes Street church. Their hospitality was great! As Rebekah was looking for a close snack place, the hotel brochure listed “Zestos!” We took a three minute walk and went over and had a shake and a hamburger, just like the now forty years ago shakes. I like it when we “Join God!” Psalm 37:4 says, “Delight in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart. As we delight in Him, **join Him**, our hearts will turn to loving Him, and others, even missionary work, and occasionally, just occasionally, He will let us know we are in the right place, with maybe just a little “sign” like a Zestos shake or malt! Join God! HE will bring us to his holy mountain, in the kingdom of God. ■

¹ From a sermon preached at General Conference, July 7, 2011, Omaha, Nebraska

² The root, *lvh*, can also mean to borrow or lend.

³ Bibleworks8, KJV definitions of *dabaq*, Strong’s # 1692

Chairman's Address—July 7, 2011

Romans 12:9-18

Greetings, and welcome to all delegates, conference staff, pastors, fellow board directors, and attendees of the 2011 Church of God General Conference. Thank you to Pastor Scott Ross, and the good people of Jaynes Street Church of God, for hosting this event.

Praise to God the Father, creator of all things and to my Savior, Jesus, Messiah. I love the Church of God. I love the people in the Church of God. It has been a blessing for me to be a member of such an outstanding organization as you all represent for the past 38 years when I was baptized by Vivian Kirkpatrick in 1973 in the Wea Creek south of Lafayette, Indiana. I love what we stand for, and I love the mission that we have dedicated our lives to: "to serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom." I cannot think of anywhere else I would rather be than right here with you all as we seek to move forward in advancing that mission. We come together through the love of Jesus Christ, our Messiah, and God, our Father, the creator of all things. Welcome!

I debated somewhat about what I would say to you to open this year's conference. Many thoughts came to mind of my past two years serving as your chairman. It has been an overwhelming honor and privilege to serve you in this position. It has been overwhelming at times just knowing what to do. I truly am humbled by your presence here today, and thank you all for the love and support you have

shown me and the rest of the board as we have done our best to follow God's leading in the decisions made this year and last. I can say assuredly that each and every director loves our conference and college, and everything we do, every decision we make, every idea we have, is backed by a commitment to do what is best for you all and the rest of the conference of the Church of God Abrahamic Faith!

As I tried to come up with a main thought for today's message, it became evident that one thought would not do, for there are simply too many good things that I would like to share from scripture. But I came across a passage in Romans 12 that I think summarizes many of the thoughts I have to share with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Romans 12:9-13
Borrowing from Zig Ziglar's idea of creating Motivational Acronyms: (some of my own I've created from this passage)

LOVE—Live (for) others virtuously, energetically

GOOD—Goodness, our one desire

DEVOTION—Dedicated energy valuing one's truly important (inspired) outstanding news

FERVENT—Faithfully executing real virtue energetically, non-stop, totally

SERVE—Seeking examples to realistically value everyone

REJOICE in hope—Reaching an

elevated journey obeying Christ in everything

PERSEVERE in tribulation—Painfully endure real service, eliminate vain ego, righteously engaging

Devoted to PRAYER—Producing real answers, YAHWEH ever ready

CONTRIBUTE—Care of needs taking responsible initiative bringing useful talents everywhere

HOSPITALITY—Helping others see purpose in totally allowing love inspired through you

I can't really add much more to this list of commands. Except to say that if we could just write these things on our foreheads, along with our beliefs, and commit them to memory every time we interact with one another, every time we fellowship with one another, every time we discuss ideas with one another, and every time we work beside one another, how much greater will our churches become? How much greater will our witness and outreach in our communities become? How much more effective will our prayers become? How much closer will the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus become a reality?

In my time on the board, I have seen the good and sometimes the not so good in people. I have felt my own sin weigh me down as I searched for answers to the problems we were facing. But through it all, I have most assuredly felt the hand of God gently leading and

(Continued on page 10)

New Free Tuition Program for Atlanta Bible College

The board of directors and staff of Atlanta Bible College are pleased to announce a new free tuition program for the next school year. Through the generosity of many donors, scholarship funds are available to offer free tuition to students who enroll (or are already enrolled) in Atlanta Bible College from churches affiliated with the Church of God General Conference. Our hope is that many Church of God students will make plans to attend ABC for at least one school year. Here is a full explanation of the program:

Intent:

To offer serious-minded quality Church of God students the opportunity to attend Atlanta Bible College with free tuition during the 2011-2012 school year. Those not serious about study and service need not apply.

Duration:

1 year (2 semesters beginning August 2011 and continuing to May 2012)

Eligibility:

Members and/or attendees of Church of God member churches, upon written recommendation from local pastor or church leadership. Applicant must also submit a letter of explanation as to his or her purpose for coming to ABC and the long-term intent of the education.

Requirements:

1. Meet eligibility requirements for admission to ABC and have graduated in the top 50% of your high school graduating class or have a 2.0 GPA.
2. Maintain a 3.0 GPA first semester in order to qualify for second semester free tuition.
3. Enroll in at least twelve (12) credit hours per semester (maximum of 17 hours). (Does not apply to Distance Learning courses.)
4. Complete a minimum of forty-five (45) service hours per semester (A Go Serve trip equates to 10 service hours - limit of 2 trips); other service at a local church affiliated with the General Conference, and/or provide volunteer service in the office of ABC, and/or community service sponsored by ABC or a local Church of God.
5. Must attend weekly chapel services on Thursday mornings.
6. Repay any previously accumulated debt to ABC at a minimum of \$200 per month.
7. Meet twice a semester with school appointed advisor to review academic and service requirements.



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

- 8. Housing and books must be paid in full before the start of each semester.

Miscellaneous:

- 1. Current ABC students who meet the above criteria will be given opportunity to apply.
- 2. The program will be made available to the first fifteen (15) individuals who meet the above criteria. After 15, a waiting list will be created and as funds are available, the opportunity will be offered.
- 3. Application deadline has passed for the fall semester. November 1, 2011 is the deadline for the winter/spring semester. (Approved 3-8-11)

To secure ABC application forms or for more information, contact Registrar David Krogh at: 678-833-1839 or dkrogh@abc-coggc.org. To apply for the free tuition, submit a letter of explanation as to your purpose for coming to ABC and the long-term intent of the education and submit it by e-mail to: dkrogh@abc-coggc.org. You will receive a response within 10 days. ■



NOW AVAILABLE! The first edition of *Biographical Encyclopedia: Chronicling the History of the Church of God Abrahamic Faith, 19th & 20th Centuries* by Jan Stilson and the History Committee!

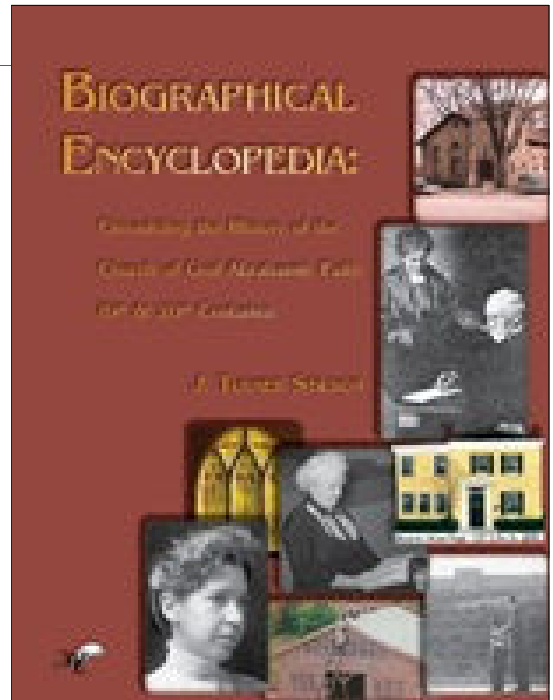
This book contains over 500 entries, 200 photos, and 600 pages! It is available for \$39/copy, plus shipping.

The book contains two sections, 19th and 20th centuries, featuring over 500 biographical entries of pastors, leaders and pioneers in the development of the Church of God in America and abroad, many with photos—all drawn from the Church of God archives and historical periodicals. Your family members may be found within these pages!

An appendix of essays includes a timeline of events, a periodical chart of the succession of titles through the centuries, historical poetry, and a subject index.

This book reflects the dedication of men and women who gave their lives to advance the cause of the gospel of the kingdom, and who set a noble example for us to follow while the Lord tarries.

Contact Nola at 1-800-347-4261



Shedding Light on Leadership

This feature in THE RESTITUTION HERALD & Progress Journal “sheds light” on leadership principles—encouraging leaders, and leaders in training, to consider the place of each principle in their personal leadership endeavors



A Leader?...A Servant?...Both?

A leader is “a guiding or directing head, as of an army, movement, or other group”. A servant is “a person in the service of another”. Typically, we think about leaders leading servants, and servants following leaders.

That perspective is not wrong, but it is certainly incomplete if we are considering the leadership model of Jesus. Could the same person function in both roles at the same time? Could a leader be a servant? Could a servant be a leader? Jesus’ leadership model says “yes” to all three of these questions.

Have you ever sought to follow a leader that led with the expectation that your chief role was to serve him/her? Did you enjoy that style of leadership?

As you look deeply into your own leadership experience, have you ever been that kind of leader? Have you ever given the impression to followers that their primary role is to serve you?

Perhaps you’ve had an entirely different set of experiences. Following a leader that served you first, rather than expecting you to serve them first. Being a leader that served others first, with out the expectation that they first serve you.

A good leader—following the steps of Jesus—leads well, but leads out of a position of service. When a conflict arose about who would sit on Jesus’ right and left hand sides in the kingdom, he said,

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:25-28

Jesus didn’t say they shouldn’t desire to be leaders. Neither did he say they shouldn’t desire to be first. His concern was their expectations of both leadership and of those they were leading.

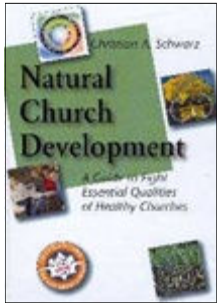
A good leader—following in the footsteps of Jesus—will lead well, but will lead out of a position of service. What does that look like? Such a leader “rolls up his/her sleeves” and frequently works side by side with followers. He/she serves as an example for the followers. He/she serves with a desire to learn about and from their followers.

The results? Trusted followers that make great decisions. Growing followers that will also become good leaders. A functioning team that works more effectively.

In the final analysis, the leader that “washes feet” will be more successful in the long term than the leader that chooses to “lord it over them” and “exercise authority over them”.

What will you make the foundation of your leadership? The exercise of authority that first seeks to have the followers serve the leader, or servanthood that first seeks to serve the followers? ■

Gary Burnham
Ministry Services Network Director
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Natural Church Development (NCD)

This feature in THE RESTITUTION HERALD & Progress Journal highlights concepts from NCD. Rather than focus on a church's growth statistics, NCD is a tool designed to

help a church focus attention and effort on its health.

"Out of the Box" Solution Versus Customized Application

If you are experiencing frustrating medical symptoms, are you satisfied with an "out of the box" solution, with no input from a physician? Probably not! You prefer to see a doctor who will properly diagnose you and prescribe the appropriate treatment. That treatment may or may not be identical to the treatment prescribed for another person with similar symptoms.

Why would our approach to church health be any different? Clearly there are basic biblical principles and practices that apply to all churches. Still, what about the unique characteristics, needs and circumstances in your church?

The principles of Natural Church Development have been built and refined by use in 40 languages in 70 countries, in 34,000 churches across the United States

and 70,000 churches around the world.

But NCD does not provide an "out of the box" solution. Through adequate preparation, a church survey and a customized application, it builds a solution specific to your local church in one of these eight quality characteristics:

- Empowering Leadership
- Gift-based Ministry
- Passionate Spirituality
- Effective Structures
- Inspiring Worship Service
- Holistic Small Groups
- Need-oriented Evangelism
- Loving Relationships

My vision is to see Churches of God all around the world evidencing these eight quality characteristics. I see healthy churches ministering well to members, friends and entire communities, making an eternal difference in folks' lives.

If you would like to explore how the NCD tool can be used in your local church, please contact me for more information. ■

Gary Burnham
Ministry Services Network Director
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Charitable Gift Annuity

Now you can give cash or stock and receive an immediate tax deduction for a substantial portion of the amount, and also receive a partially tax-free income stream for the remainder of your life. And most importantly, you'll feel the satisfaction

of knowing your annuity investment will equip people for ministry, provide financial assistance to new and existing churches, and do the work God has commissioned us to do.

The Board of Directors has established interest rates for new annuities

set up during 2011.

Please contact David Krogh by phone at 800-347-4261, by e-mail at dkrogh@abc-coggc.org, or by mail at Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253 for more information or to set up a charitable gift annuity. ■

Age	Interest Rates	69-70	4.8%	81	6.4%
		71	4.9%	82	6.5%
		72	5.0%	83	6.7%
54-56	4.0%	73	5.1%	84	6.9%
57-58	4.1%	74	5.3%	85	7.1%
59-61	4.2%	75	5.4%	86	7.3%
62-63	4.3%	76	5.5%	87	7.6%
64	4.4%	77	5.7%	88	7.9%
65-66	4.5%	78	5.8%	89	8.2%
67	4.6%	79	6.0%	90+	8.5%
68	4.7%	80	6.2%		

(Continued from page 5)

guiding our way as we all work together to more effectively find ways to do those things our churches are called to do.

I would like to spend some time reviewing some of the very positive things the board has worked on this year.

CAO

Dr. Joe Martin was appointed CAO last year following a term as interim CAO. I have to say this is one of the highlights of my time as chairman. From the very day we sat in an interview with Joe, I knew this man was devoted to the vision of our mission statement. He has worked faithfully under some of the most stressful and difficult situations most of us will ever face. I am thankful that Joe accepted the call to lead during this difficult time, and most thankful that he chooses each day to follow God through reading of the word and prayer. Please join me in thanking Dr. Joe for his dedicated service.

Scholarship Fund

One of the major initiatives that was developed this year was the plan to use a portion of the scholarship fund to provide free tuition for any COG member wishing to enter Atlanta Bible College in the fall of 2011. The directors have listened to many concerns from our membership that the conference needs to focus on producing more pastors and leaders for our churches. To address this growing need, beginning this fall, any COG member, wishing to enter ABC as a full time student can apply for a full ride scholarship after meeting certain requirements. The board and staff

are excited to present this program as a way to encourage more students to consider entering COG ministry. We want to take away the barrier of cost for anyone thinking seriously about coming to the Bible college. I want to en-



Pastor Tom New leading a workshop



Ministerial Recognition Board member Charles Bottolfs (2nd from left), recognizing retiring pastors Dale Ramsey, Scott Ross and Rex Cain

courage you who are here or listening to this message to look at the membership of your churches for people with a heart for ministry service and encourage them to pray about this opportunity. Go out and cultivate those people who show heart and potential for ministry. This program is merely the first step in an attempt by the board to invest in the vision of adding students to the college. The real work begins where our members now have a greater opportunity to recruit those individuals you feel

would make good pastoral candidates. Quite frankly, this is your chance for us to work together, conference and church, to cultivate from our membership, good candidates to replenish our supply of pastors and teachers. This process begins in the homes, Sunday School, and youth camps, and not during senior year of high school. So hopefully, this program will be able to continue in future years.

Approach to Adjunct Facilitators

At the March board meeting, your directors and staff fulfilled a promise made at last year's conference to offer a balanced expense budget and bring it in line with income. As you may have noticed from news reports this year concerning the United States government, this is a nearly impossible task to accomplish. But I am proud to announce that this year, for the first time in many years, we will be presenting a budget that not only meets our operational needs, but is in line with the resources God has chosen to bless us with. The work that was done to help our conference become better stewards of God's money did not

come without some pain. As anyone who has had to meet a budget knows, the process is one of wrestling with priorities and sometimes difficult decisions on which things are funded, compared to those things that have to be put on hold. Other times, it is possible to change the way things are accomplished by finding innovative or alternative means to still accomplish your goals. In the case of this year's budget, both of those came into play. One major area where

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

we chose an alternate means to meet the budget and still fulfill our missions' goals was in how our teachers are compensated at the Avalon campus. The Korean Extension campus has successfully used the model we chose to implement for years. In looking at the way our teachers were paid, we chose to bring those costs in line with the actual number of students and classes that were needed, instead of simply paying traditional full time salaries regardless of classroom hours. Many fine colleges and higher learning institutions follow a plan such as this. This new model not only allowed us to meet our budget by making teacher pay a variable cost commensurate to classroom need, but now gives greater flexibility in developing a pool of future teachers as attrition requires that we replenish our workforce, as well as provide a good base for developing a full-fledged distance learning program. I realize this change has caused some hardship to our staff members, but I want to make it clear that the decision was made only after many hours of prayer and contemplation as to a reasonable way to keep as many people employed, while still being good stewards and being able to continue to pay the bills and salaries. It was not a heartless decision, as some have imagined, but a thoughtful, prayerful, caring example of God's people trying to do what is best for the organization, an organization focused on serving churches and individuals in advancing God's kingdom and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Transitioning out of lease into campus

Another important opportunity the directors envision for the coming year is in following God's leading

of where we will be located and whether we will continue leasing our main facility, or plan to purchase or build. Of utmost concern to myself and the board and staff is care for and improvements needed in developing a better student life experience. Most of the time your directors and staff spent discussing and coming up with ideas for the location future of the college was in regard to how we could improve the experience of the students who come to Atlanta, both in McDonough and in Duluth. At the Korean Extension campus, great lessons can be learned by anyone who has observed the way Steve and Young An have developed that college experience for their students. I remember asking Steve awhile back how his model of recruiting and retaining students was so successful. He taught me that it all involves developing strong relationships with not only his students, but also their parents and families, and the student's pastors. He and Young spend hours upon hours preparing meals for the students each week in order to foster a very meaningful student life experience (OK, mostly Young). They bring a little bit of Korea into the Duluth campus. Sam and Sarah spend many hours as well working with students to help them with day to day problems, as they try to assimilate into American culture. Things that you and I would take for granted, like getting a driver's license, opening a bank account, or getting electricity turned on in your apartment, are basic needs that need constant attention, and the An family, and their very good staff do a remarkable job filling those needs. And in turn, they develop deep rooted relationships with their students that last a life time. This is a model we would all do well to emulate.

So, as your board looked at what opportunities might be available, improving student life was a top priority. As we prayed and asked for your prayers to seek what God wanted us to do, an opportunity presented itself, somewhat out of the blue—if that's possible for one who follows God's plan—to pursue purchasing the Avalon facility for a fraction of its original cost. We need your input and help coming to a decision on this important issue. Many questions have been asked, and the staff has worked tirelessly seeking answers to those questions. They have done a remarkable job covering many aspects of this issue, but most importantly, the staff members have reminded us all that it is God's decision, as we have prayed to obtain wisdom in order to gain His blessings in all we do.

Future

As we look to the future together, I want us to focus on the work that remains to be done. We must follow God. We must not delay in the work we identify at this conference that needs to be done. We must be ready to be called to serve, each one of us, in our own capacity, and each as God has given the skills and wisdom. More than 20 years ago, a coworker and I were complaining about a certain supervisor we had and the heavy hand he used to get us motivated. After a pause, my friend looked at me and asked, "So what are you going to do about it?" That question haunted me for several weeks until I finally decided to stop complaining and do something about it. I saw myself stuck in the same job, the same rut forever, if I did not act. So I enrolled in an associate degree program at IWU for professional adult learners. Twenty-one people began the class with me, eight of us

(Continued on page 24)

General Conference Delegate Business Session July 7, 2011

The meeting opened with prayer offered by David Krogh.

Chairperson Bob Morrison offered welcoming comments. He recognized first time delegates.

Bob addressed the delegates. His message is printed elsewhere in the RH/PJ.

On behalf of the credentials committee, David Krogh presented the following delegate information. Present today are 7 Directors; 47 church delegates; 7 state conference delegates; and 31 pastors. There are 92 delegates total.

Greg Demmitt is serving as parliamentarian.

Gary Burnham presented the financial report.

Gary noted that General Fund contributions are up 29%. He noted that the amount of transferred funds for this fiscal year was significantly reduced. On the expense side, Gary noted that total expenses were reduced by almost \$400,000. Budget reductions came primarily in the area of staff salaries. Gary asked the delegates to choose to receive the Herald-Journal via e-mail instead of a printed copy. This will further reduce expenses. Gary highlighted the movement of funds from cash into managed investments. He also noted a roughly 6% positive change in the net value of our

organization. He also shared that we were able to significantly increase the amount given in loans to churches. He pointed out the value of several estates that were placed into restricted funds. He explained that \$61,000 was moved from the Development Foundation to the General Fund. These were investment earnings intended for use in college operation.



The Avalon Business Center office where the Atlanta Bible College and the General Conference reside.

Bob Morrison explained that the terms of Bob Morrison and Christy Ross expire this year. They may not be re-elected. He then opened the floor for nominations. The Brush Creek Church nominated Pastor Mark DeYoung. David Krogh recognized Greg Demmitt, Joe James and Rick McClain whose nominations were previously submitted.

Jerold Brewer moved and Jim Hamilton seconded that nominations be closed.

Gary Burnham presented the revised 2011-2012 budget and

the proposed budget for 2012-2013. Gary reminded the delegates that they would be asked to approve these budgets tomorrow.

Myra Hamilton reported on the ad hoc Christian Ed committee appointed by the Board of Directors. Committee members are Myra Hamilton, Lynne Krogh and Rebecca Dauksas. She shared that the committee is

exploring the use of materials from Orange, an online publisher of Christian Ed materials. The committee also plans to propose that a Christian Ed website be created with resources for Christian education. She encouraged delegates interested in more information and resources to attend the Christian Ed workshop being held on Friday. She also expressed the committee's

desire to continue to work as a committee.

Dr. Joe Martin presented a CAO report. He shared his own personal goal to stay focused on his own personal relationship with God. He challenged members of the Church of God to make that a goal as well. He also shared that he is striving to connect with Jesus Christ as a servant. Dr. Joe has made intentional efforts to reconnect with individuals and churches. He has travelled to Arkansas, South Carolina, Arizona, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Minnesota, Virginia

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

and California as well as FUEL, Christian Workers Seminar, Minister's Conference and Theological Conference. He shared that he feels things are going okay. Financial issues lead to some tension. Staff and students have marched around the Avalon Building seven times in seven weeks, for the purposes of praying over the building and asking for God's guidance in decisions about whether or not to purchase the building. He commended the staff for a phenomenal job in reducing expenses. Specifically, the budget has been reduced by \$392,161. He said the highlights of his work are the students at the college who have great potential. He thanked David Krogh and Gary Burnham for their role as advisors. He mentioned all staff by name, and thanked them.

Steve An presented a report on the ABC Korean Extension. He gave a personal retrospective describing the history of the ABC Korean Extension and the Korean Church Conference. He reported that six graduates from the KE are now working at the Korean Extension, two are planting a new church, and others are involved in ministry in Korea and the U.S. He is currently working to cultivate groups in Korea who will support KE graduates. He shared that on his most recent trip to Korea two churches applied for membership to the Korean Conference. He also had the opportunity to meet with several Bible colleges to talk about the Abrahamic Faith. He shared his hope, and the hope of several he met in Korea that graduates of the KE would return to Korea to both plant and serve in existing churches. He reported that there

were 93 students during the 2010-2011 year. There were nine graduates. They are currently recruiting students for the 2011-2012 school year.

Pastor Joe Myers spoke to the delegates about the potential to purchase the Avalon building. He shared the history of our relationship with the building. He reminded delegates that we currently have 30 months left on the lease which obligates us to significant payments, at the end of which we have no equity. Pastor Joe then shared with the delegates the history of how we became familiar with the sale of the building. He emphasized the general apprehension on the part of the board to pursue this, but how the price keeps getting lower and the doors keep opening. He then asked delegates to share their concerns to be discussed in more detail tomorrow.

July 8, 2011

Bob Morrison began by recognizing pastors and affirming their spiritual leadership within the denomination. He also thanked them.

Minutes from the July 7th meeting were read and approved.

Elections were conducted for the position of director to the Board of Directors. A director must be elected by a majority of the votes. Rick McClain and Greg Demmitt were elected.

Gary Burnham presented the Ministry Services Network report. He outlined his main goals as the MSN Director: coaching, Natural Church Development (NCD), and supporting church development and planting aid. Gary discussed his personal goal of completing coaching training

so that he is a better coach for churches, pastors, and congregations. He reviewed his current work in learning the natural church development program and his work obtaining input from churches so that NCD can be used as a resource for improving the health of our conference churches. Two churches, North Hills COG and Cornerstone Bible Church, are currently working through the NCD program, and this is open to all other churches in the General Conference. Gary added that NCD is being incorporated into the church support programs such as Church Development Aid and the Church Builders League.

David Krogh provided a report on behalf of Lord's Harvest International Mission Board (LHI). David thanked delegates for their prayer support as well as generous financial support. LHI publishes an e-newsletter and David invited delegates to request to receive it. He reported that the work in Pakistan continues after the murder of two pastors. LHI provides financial support for meeting places, literature, and the rental of a facility for baptism, as well as transportation to the rented facility. Financial support is also provided for the families of the murdered pastors. Money is also being provided for Bibles. A team traveled to Haiti in late winter to provide help with construction. Syd Kirkpatrick led this team. One building was paid for and constructed. There is a possibility that a team may return to construct an additional building. Contact continues with Peru and Mexico. Due to violence in the area, LHI will not send a team to Mexico this

(Continued on page 15)

ABC News

68th Graduation Service of Atlanta Bible College

Atlanta Bible College concluded the 2010-2011 school year with a graduation service on May 20th. This year it was decided to hold two graduation services, one for the Korean Extension at the North Campus and one at the South Campus for those who attend there.

Rebecca Dauksas of the Guthrie Grove Church in South Carolina was the graduation speaker. Staff members Joe Martin, David Krogh, Bob



Rebecca Dauksas and Rebekah Martin.

Jones, Jon Cheatwood, Gary Burnham, and Anthony Buz-zard took part in the service.

Associate degrees in Theology and Ministry were presented to Jacob Ballard, Peggy Deloria, Hellen Mbugua, Daniel Ndungu, and Robin Tota. Foundation Certificates were awarded to Jacob Ballard, Vyenna Gowa, Margaret Ngugi, and Jaysen Zea.

A reception was held following the service.

We pray God's special blessing on these students as they continue their education.

Fall Semester

The fall semester begins August 15 with a Bible College Survival block class for freshmen and an on-line Introduction to Moodle Course (for those taking Distance Learning classes this fall with our new on-line delivery system). A pre-semester briefing will be held for all students on August 20 and regular semester classes will begin on August 22.

The following courses will be taught this semester: Christian Education Principles, Evangelical Theology,



Left to right: Instructor Bob Jones, student Jacob Ballard, President Joe Martin and Instructor Jon Cheatwood

Homiletics, Basic English Composition, Old Testament Survey I, Youth Ministry Perspectives, Personal Spiritual Development I, Systematic Theology I, Basic Bible Doctrine, Youth Ministry Tools, Introduction to Ministry and Leadership, Greek II, Introduction to Hebrew, Evangelism and Missions, Hermeneutics, Crisis Counseling, Worship Service Planning Lab, and Why I Believe.

We are anticipating many new students this fall, especially students from Church of God congregations who will be eligible for the free tuition program and students who will be taking Distance Learning courses. ■

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 winter/spring 2011 semester.

President's List (3.5 and above)

Young Hee An
Jacob Ballard
Kue Cheol Choi
You Sik Choi
Jin Suk Han

Myung Kwa Kang
Eun Jung Kim
Hye Kyung Kim
Myoung Seok Kim
Hyun Ju Park

Soon Chun Park
Eun Ah Shim
Jae Yun Shim

Dean's List (3.00 to 3.49)

Chae Yun Baik
Hyeo Suk Cho
Young Ok Chung
Moon Joung Hong
Joon Huh

Kyong Ok Hyon
Ki Young Jang
Hyeon Mi Jeong
Yu Jin Jeong
Jung Sim Ji

Su Jin Kang
Bae Sik Kim
Mi Kyoung Kim
Jon Seung Lee
Hae Won Park

Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

“There is a sin not unto death”

1 John 5:16,17, KJ

The “sins not unto death” are conditioned by the mercy and forgiveness of our God and His Christ, based on our real sorrow for committing them, and our resolve to, with the help of our Lord Jesus, not to commit them again.

There is a list of these “sins not unto death” in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10: fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, homosexuals, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, and swindlers (NAS).

We know these sins can be forgiven because Paul immediately says, “And such were some of you, but you were washed. But you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.”

This is a very important Bible passage for those who want to be real Christians. For which of us is without sin? Which of us is completely perfect? That's laughable. No one, of course. There was only ONE perfect MAN, the Lord Jesus Himself. That's how He could become the sacrifice for our sins. He is the One who can save us! We can't save anybody. We can teach our children and others the ways of God, but every individual can only be saved by believing the gospel of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ,

repenting, then being baptized into Christ for the remission of sins, and living the spirit-filled Christian life faithful to God till death. Oh, the wonderful grace of God!

Now, on the other hand, there is “a sin unto death.” Jesus said it very plainly in Luke 12:10: “Every one who will speak against the Son of man (Jesus), it shall be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him.” Matthew adds, “Neither in this age, or in the age to come.”

This is serious, folks.

The sin against God's holiness, His character, His greatness, the fact that He and He alone is GOD, He alone is all-wise, all-powerful, in charge of all things in heaven and earth—even to us mortals, every one of us—is unforgiveable! It is the fool that has said in his heart, “There is no God.” To please God, and to “come to Him,” we “must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him” (Heb. 11:6).

Believing in the GOD Who made us, sustains us, and promises us a future eternal life in His kingdom that Jesus will establish here on earth at His coming has to be the very foundation of our lives.

Without this foundation we cannot be saved.

Glory to God! Praise His name! Thank Him! Bow before Him! ■

Jim Mattison

(Continued from page 13)

summer. However, leadership there plans to conduct a Bible School.

Rebekah Martin reported on an upcoming trip to Africa. Rebekah and Joe Martin will leave for Africa in the middle of July. They plan to visit as many churches and pastors as they can and endeavor to get to know individual pastors more personally and assess how they may encourage and support them. Rebekah reminded delegates that the past spring's Church Builders Ap-

peal was for church buildings in Africa.

Seth Ross gave a report on the COG/ABC website. He shared five goals: 1) become the most complete source of information on the General Conference and related groups; 2) communicate current news important to the constituency of General Conference members; 3) be a point of connection for isolated members of the Church of God; 4) allow online event registration and payment; 5)

provide online resources for those interested in promoting and teaching the Abrahamic Faith.

Seth also reported on Turning Point Youth Ministries. He remarked on the wide ranging impact FUEL has on students. He shared that TPYM is grateful for the influence of pastors and other leaders on students at this event. He asked delegates to be praying for this upcoming event.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Delegates were asked to approve the revised 2011-2012 budget. A question was raised regarding the potential budget implication of purchasing the Avalon building. Bob Morrison explained that the purchase of the building would likely not affect the current proposed budget. In response to a question about why the budget lists an amount as income from the Church Builders Appeal, the board announced that Atlanta Bible College will be the recipient of the fall Church Builders Appeal. Joe Martin moved, and Charles Bottolfs seconded to approve the 2011-2012 budget. Motion passed. Steve Taylor moved, and Rebekah Martin seconded to approve the 2012-2013 budget. Motion passed.

Christy Ross presented the consideration for disposition of the College Improvement Fund and explained the details of what this motion was about and how it would affect the balance sheet. It was explained that the board felt that communication to the delegates was needed in order to allow delegate input and consideration prior to board action. Darrell Cardwell moved that recommendation one be adopted by the delegates. Motion seconded by Joyce Knapp. Scott Ross remarked that if this recommendation is passed that the Board of Directors and Delegates not forget the actions that led to the current debt situation and that we learn from and not repeat those mistakes in the future. Motion passed.

Bob Morrison reviewed questions delegates asked yesterday regarding the possible purchase of the Avalon building. Joe Myers shared with delegates concerns generated by the Board of Directors. Board concerns and questions include: 1) is it wise to acquire debt given current economic conditions?; 2) do we want to be landlords?; 3) does owning this building improve student life?; 4) are we locking the GC in Atlanta for the foreseeable future?; 5) does the building meet our needs and help us achieve our mission?; 6) what are the tax ramifications? The board also compiled a list of possible benefits to owning the building. The possible benefits are as follows: 1) this was made a serious matter of prayer and doors continue to open; 2) there would be an immediate reduction in operating expenses (\$500 to \$1000 per month with current tenants and lease adjustment); 3) there is potential income from leasing the remaining space; 4) the possibility of increased usable floor space (student center, larger library, more classrooms); 5) we could build equity in the building (we can give \$300,000 in rent to the owners or build approximately \$75,000 in equity over 2 ½ years); 6) the purchase price is far lower than new construction; 7) there would be no requirement for new INS certifications; 8) no relocation costs; 9) proximity to the ABC Extension; 10) moving or construction would be a distraction for staff and the Board of Directors (we want to keep focused on our mission); 11) freedom to sell;

12) we remain in an international community (we recognize that the COG is an increasingly global ministry); 13) God has answered questions in appropriate timing.

In response to additional questions, Gary shared some information regarding possible financing. Discussion ensued regarding how a down payment would be acquired. Joe Myers shared that there is \$175,000 in recent bequests. This would be applied to the down payment. The board believes God may bless us with the remaining down payment through donations from members and member churches.

Bob Morrison requested a straw vote to determine if the delegates wish the board continue pursuing the possible purchase of the Avalon building. The straw vote indicated that an overwhelming majority of delegates wish the board to continue.

Daniel Smead requested the board re-evaluate the adjunct instructor model.

Wally Winner moved to accept the minutes as read. Charles Bottolfs seconded. Motion passed.

Jim Hamilton moved and Russ Magaw seconded to adjourn. ■

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Ross

In my intense longing for summer weather to end this teasing spring, I have found myself relating events or creating analogies based on fond summer memories and anticipation. Recently, my husband Dan and I were discussing a new book by Lifechurch.tv pastor Craig Groeschel, “Weird: Because Normal Isn’t Working.” The introduction to the book talks about how Jesus was “weird” and we are likewise called to live a “weird” life. As I think ahead to summer, I believe a swimming pool and the varieties of “swimmers” you’ll find there provide a good illustration of the different kinds of “Christians”.

The Dippers

Unless the water is nearly as warm as a hot tub, I find myself shivering as soon as I become submerged in the water. Though I know my body will eventually adjust, I prefer not to take the polar plunge. You’ll find me sitting on the edge of the pool, ankle deep in the water, trying to avoid getting splashed but enjoying the minimal relief from the intense heat.

In a metaphor to the Christian walk, a Dipper would indicate one who just wants to be involved with God as long as it’s still comfortable, not so much involvement that it really interferes with life. And if someone splashes (challenges) the Dipper, beware! The Dipper will become angry and might leave the pool (the church and Christian walk). The Dipper never was fully committed to swimming.

The Waders

Maybe you’re one of those people who just wants to stand waist-deep in the water and move

your arms around like an octopus. You’ve moved beyond the “Dipper” stage; you’ll commit partially, but won’t really swim. You’ll be involved when it’s a little uncomfortable, but refuse to go all-out. You’re a lukewarm Christian. You give God part of your life, but not all of it.

The Jumpers



Let’s be the jumper that Christ called us to be!

When we go swimming, my husband Dan has the philosophy that it’s best to jump in the water right from the start. (I sit on the other side of the pool and hope he doesn’t splash me!) I admire this about him - and the zeal of on-fire believers who can’t help but share the good news everywhere

they go! They want to be splashed (challenged to be more like Christ). And they want to encourage others to become Jumpers and serve God in every area of their lives with their whole hearts.

Who are you - not just when you go to the pool in the summer, but in real life? Though I am a “Dipper” at the swimming pool, I am working toward becoming a “Jumper” Christian. Christ calls us all to be Jumpers. In Luke 9:23, Jesus calls us to die to ourselves daily and live fully for him. In return, He promises us a full life (John 10:10).

This summer, as you dive into the pool (or cheer on your kids as you soak under the sun on your beach towel at a safe distance from any sprays of water), consider your Christian walk and how you are living - or not living - for Jesus. ■

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension Report

Greetings to All,

Young and I returned from Korea on the evening of June 7th, fatigued and jet-lagged. We struggled with the poor air quality in the cities of Korea causing us to cough constantly so we remained at home for the week to rest. Since we did not travel to Korea last winter, the trip this year was much more strenuous and the amount of work was much greater than previous years.

At the beginning of our trip we met pastor Young-woong Seo, the president of the Puritan Theological Seminary in Daejeon Cit (approximately 100 miles south of Seoul city, the capital of South Korea). This is the same institution that has accepted the Abrahamic Faith and continually advertises for the Korean Extension. Sometime ago, one of our KE graduates, Okhyeon Choi was employed at this institution. Unfortunately, she and her family relocated to Seoul city, so she was unable to maintain the employment. When I met with Pastor Seo, he mentioned the affiliations of two additional colleges to the Puritan Theological Seminary; one in Seoul city and another in Nonsan City (approximately 120 miles south of Seoul city). During the meeting, the pastor gra-

ciously invited me to present the history of the Church of God General Conference and the Abrahamic Faith to the new affiliated colleges.

On May 21st, one of those op-



Pastor Steve An speaking at a Bible college in the city of Nonsan.



Pastor Steve An speaking to Korean soldiers.

portunities was fulfilled in front of sixty students in a four hour presentation. I was very pleased no one fell asleep during the presentation, and all showed great enthusiasm to hear the kingdom message. A few days later, I revisited the school to meet with Pastor Seo and his faculty, this time to discuss the students' reflections regarding the presentation. I was very pleased to hear most of the reflections were very positive!

Some students requested to enroll immediately to the Korean Extension to enhance their own ministry. Pastor Seo and his staff stated they would encourage this only if the students would return after the completion of the course to share their experience at the Korean Extension.

On May 28th, the second opportunity was fulfilled and we visited the second college in Nonsan City. This time thirty students were in attendance. Of those in attendance was one of our own KE students, Sae-hyun Lee. He returned to South Korea last year to fulfill his military service (due to the Korean military law, a young male Korean citizen must participate in military service for a period of time). I felt this presentation was just as responsive and just as positive as the previous one. After the second presentation I traveled back to Seoul. Next day,

Pastor Young-woong Seo accompanied four students who attended the last presentation. They had traveled 120 miles to see me and to notify me of their decision to attend the Korean Extension! Later, I learned these ministerial group leaders are encouraging their students to attend the Korean Extension to gain biblical knowledge including the English language to perform a healthy, dedicated, and

(Continued on page 19)

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quality ministry within their groups. The size equivalence of these groups is similar to the COGGC, and these groups are seeking leadership truth. Many of these groups are under the umbrella of larger competitive groups that facilitate traditional Korean Christianity. I was also told these situations are very common and many of these groups are seeking the same thing. So to resolve these situations, they have decided to advertise the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension theology and are also willing to facilitate our KE graduates. These discussions were very positive in every aspect, and I was very pleased.

On May 22nd, we visited Chungjoo Grace Church, approximately 130 miles south from Seoul, with Pastor Daeguen Song. Pastor Song stayed in the Morrow campus dormitory for six months to attend the Korean Extension classes to learn the Abrahamic Faith. During his stay, he also taught the Old Testament survey class as an adjunct instructor. During my attendance at Chungjoo Grace Church, I presented God's message in the morning and led Bible study later that afternoon. The very next day, Pastor Song and his eldest son visited Young and I in Seoul. Here, he communicated to me that his son has inquired about enrolling at the Korean Extension. I explained to him what his son must do in order to se-

cure a visa and aided him in completing the necessary documents for submittal to the United States Consular General.

On May 29th, we visited the Army church which is located 60 miles north of Seoul very close to the North and South Korean border. Here I conveyed God's message to many young soldiers in their early twenties.



Pastor Steve An preaching a message at a Sunday service.

These soldiers were all drafted by the Korean military to serve their country for a period of time. After the message I encouraged the soldiers to consider enrolling at the Korean Extension after they have fulfilled their duties, and Chaplain Kiyang Park affirmed that request. Next day, I had the opportunity to discuss with Chaplain Park regarding the process for a Korean Extension graduate to be recognized as a private chaplain in the Korean army. The reason is that many young male KE students who have not served, will be called to serve like Sae-hyun Lee. So the opportunity for a KE graduate to serve as private chaplain in the Korean army is a tremendous opportunity. Chaplain Park said he will

inquire the possibility for me to present the ABCKE at the next committee meeting which is held once a year.

On June 5th, I was invited to preach at a new local church pastored by Hyunseok Han. This was a new face and a new church for me. Pastor Han is the uncle to two former Korean Extension students, Hais-nim and Moo-young Han. Both students attended our institution for two semesters and returned to South Korea. Now with the encouragement of Pastor Han, both students have requested to re-enroll at the Korean Extension to complete their education so they can go back to his church to offer quality ministry. I assisted both individuals in preparing the necessary documents for submittal to the U.S. Consular General to secure their visas.

In conclusion, we met with several graduates and students whom returned to Korea due to financial or other personal difficulties. Young and I encouraged them all in their ministries and requested for aggressive recruitment efforts to the KE. We also encouraged those who did not complete their studies to re-enroll if their situation has improved. We also assisted two graduates to obtain employment at the Puritan Church of Korea/Puritan Theological Seminary in Daejeon City with Pastor Young-woong Seo. This is the institution I mentioned at the begin-

(Continued on page 20)

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ning of the report. I also had the opportunity to meet with several parents of current students. I reassured the parents of their children's well-being, and we are certainly feeding them correctly! The parents were very pleased to hear of the new found employment opportunities waiting in South Korea after their children have completed the ABCKE program. At the same time I encouraged the parents to continually support their children as well.

In conclusion, I felt very blessed that God allowed us to perform the mission trip to South Korea. I believe it was very inspiring to many and very valuable to the ABCKE ministry. There was one downside to the trip. I was invited to preach at two local churches and declined due to lack of time in my schedule. The mission trip to Korea was a successful trip. I believe the success was more for God, and I know His grace remains with us through every endeavor!

God bless!

Young and Steve

Korean Extension Student Profile



Younghee An
(2011 Atlanta Bible College
Korean Extension Graduate)

Younghee enrolled in the fall 2007 semester. She comes from a Christian family with numerous members of her family working as Christian leaders in a church. She has completed her Bachelor of Theology in South Korea and completed a second Bachelor of Theology with us at the Korean Extension. Her current position is the librarian and she also teaches a few general courses for the Korean Extension.

Personal statement:

I started attending church at an early age, not knowing what Christianity meant. When I was 28 years old, I acknowledged

Christ! My true path to Christ emerged when I acknowledged the emptiness I felt due to my previous lifestyle. I lived and made decisions without good principles. I can relate very much to the story of the "Prodigal Son". I finally made my return home! My motivation to the U.S. was to learn the English language to use for a mission trip to the Philippines. But it was through a pastor I received a recommendation to expand my understanding of the Bible before I proceeded to the Philippines. Through his advice, I attended the Korean Extension. My first semester, I was in shock, in shock of my misinterpretation of God and the Bible. The Apostle Paul said it best in Romans 10:2 "For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge." From that moment I realized I needed to stay and learn the truth! My personal goal is to teach what I have learned to our Korean community. I certainly appreciate the Korean Extension's existence and without biblical principles, I do not know where I would be today. ■

Younghee An

Coming this fall..., several online courses based on the "Moodle" format!

Moodle stands for **Modular Object Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment**. It is an online interactive program. If you are interested contact David Krogh, dkrogh@abc-coggc.org or Jacob Ballard, jakea.ballard@yahoo.com.



Or... call **678-833-1839**. Some tentative classes are (B=Bible M=Ministry G=General) B111 Old Testament Survey I, B113 New Testament Survey I, B227 The Kingdom of God as Gospel I, M170 Personal Spiritual Development I, M473 Pastoral Leadership & Administration, G111 How to Use ABC Moodle Online, and G181 Personal Finance. G111 will be required for someone who hasn't used Moodle before.

In Acts 2:38 (ESV) we read, “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness (remission, KJV) of your sins, and you will receive the Holy Spirit’”.

As Abrahamic believers of the Church of God General Conference, we affirm what Peter says here in our statement of faith as an essential point in the gift of salvation. “The Church of God General Conference 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 (Heb. 12:14).”

http://abc-coggc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11&Itemid=20

Many church groups have relegated baptism to an act of obedience only, not necessary for salvation. But this view negates the teaching of the Bible, Jesus and the apostles.

Baptism comes from the Greek word *baptizo*, which means to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk), *to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe, to overwhelm*. Water baptism “is for the remission of sins”.

<http://studiesinscripture.com/water-baptism-for-the-remission-of-sins/>

Let's define the word “remission” that is used by Peter in our original text. It is not a word we use often in English these days. Mr. Webster states, 1: the act or process of remitting; 2: a state or period during which something is remitted. Now that definition doesn't really tell us much

but when we look a little further at the **synonyms we get a clearer picture what Mr. Webster was trying to say in this definition. The synonyms are absolution, amnesty, forgiveness, pardon, and remittal.** Often we only hear this word used in reference to those who are fighting



cancer, and we all pray that they will enter remission, which means that the cancer has been removed from their bodies.

When we use it in the biblical sense, we are saying exactly the same thing. We are baptized to remove sin. This is what is taking place as we are placed under the water, we are buried with him in baptism, in which you are raised with him through faith (Colossians 2:12). We are having our sin removed from our account.

Jesus taught his disciples in Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16 and Luke 24:47 that those who believe and repent, and then are baptized shall be saved. We also see in the book of Acts, the apostles and their disciples twelve times baptizing in the name of Jesus after faith and repentance take place on the part of the listener.

Often the argument used in refuting this essential part of the salvation experience is that this is the only passage that actually states this doctrine. But that is not true!

Jesus, in John 3:5 says to Nicodemus, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Jesus is telling Nicodemus baptism is an essential part of the salvation experience. That to be born again is to be both baptized in a water immersion and to receive the power of God.

Paul in Colossians 2:11-14 (ESV) (11) “In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, (12) having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. (13) And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, (14) by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

Here Paul is describing baptism as a circumcision not made with hands and through baptism our sins are forgiven, literally nailing them to the cross! Oh, what a wonderful miracle takes place when a person is baptized in the name of Jesus!

The question that begs to be answered: are we willing to accept the command of Jesus and the testimony and teaching of the apostles and the disciples in the first century church about baptism, or are we willing to accept the shallow traditions of mankind on this subject, reducing it to nothing more than an action? ■

Mission Update

Pakistan

It was just about a year ago that Pastor Rashid Emanuel and his brother Sajid were murdered in Faisalabad, Pakistan. These past twelve months have seen more murders and violence against Christians throughout the country. A government minister in charge of religious minorities was killed by his own guards, because he had dared to suggest that the blasphemy laws in Pakistan be modified. It doesn't seem likely that the law will be changed. We urge you to continue to pray for our Pakistani brothers and sisters as they live under the threat of persecution.

We now have ten congregations affiliated with the General Conference. The pastors continue their ministries, and some are being prepared for baptism.

We are currently providing \$520 per month which is divided among the

ten churches to provide for literature, travel, rental of meeting places when they have special meetings, baptisms – rent of a pool and transportation to get people to the baptismal site. We are currently sending \$400 per month to help provide for legal fees as the family seeks to prosecute the person who killed their family members. We are also sending \$200 per month for Bibles. Bibles in the Urdu language cost \$4.00 each.

We receive regular reports from Pastor Vaster Saajan who is the overseer of the work.

Haiti

We are thankful for the generosity of those who contributed to the construction of a building in Haiti that was destroyed in the earthquake a year and a half ago. All costs for the building have been paid and \$7,000 is on hand for another building. The LHI board will be meeting in September and a topic for discussion will be planning for the construction of another building.

Peru

There have been several baptisms at the church in Lima recently. The church recently celebrated its 24th anniversary. Special services were held, and many people attended.

Mexico

Some major changes were made in the phone system in Mexico and for three or four months we were unable to reach Lupe Badillo. We have now restored contact with her. There has been violence near Labor Vieja, and it appears that it is not safe to send a team to lead a Bible School this summer. Lupe will do the best she can to have a Bible school on her own.

Africa

By the time you receive this report, hopefully Joe and Rebekah Martin will have returned safely from their trip to Malawi and Mozambique. A report of their trip will be included in the next Restitution Herald/Progress Journal. ■

David Krogh

ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

Class offerings include:

- 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

And many more!!

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

FEAR FACTOR

by Pastor Don Ward

Fear is a two way street. Its effects are both good and bad. It inhibits and motivates. It keeps us from doing what is right, and it keeps us from doing what is wrong. From taking risks that are necessary and from taking risks that are foolish. The current view seems to be that fear is something that must always be conquered. But a healthy dose of fear underlies a healthy dose of wisdom.

The Psalmist writes simply,

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; Ps. 111:10

King Jehoshaphat appointed badly needed judges in Israel. He then counseled them,

"Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for man but for the LORD, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Now let the fear of the LORD be upon you . . ." 2 Chron. 19:6-7

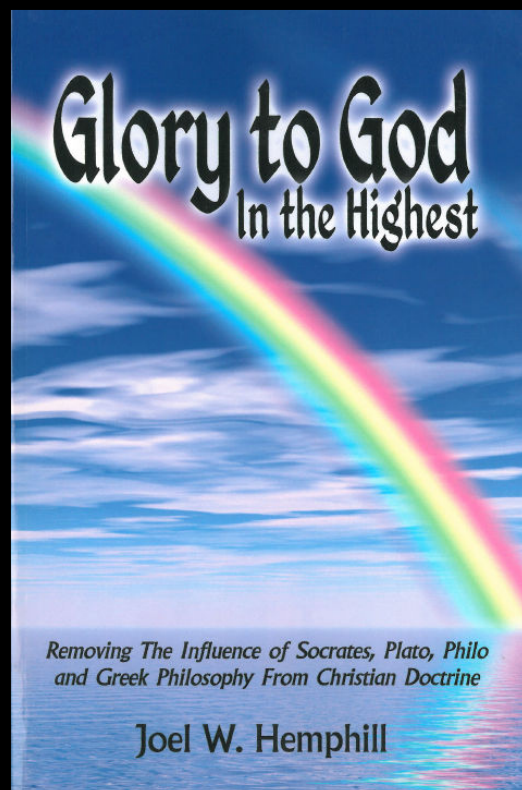
The apostle Paul, quoting from the OT, characterizes the sins of the wicked and then seems to underscore the reason as,

"There is no fear of God before their eyes." Romans 3:18.

Jesus told us both to fear and not to fear (or fear less, possibly). Warning the apostles of threats they would incur for faithfully preaching the message, Jesus said, *Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.* Matthew 10:28

Some did suffer at the hands of evil men, even as Jesus suffered. Evil men may be allowed to exercise power over this present life. This does not negate the fact that man's life "soul" still remains in the hands of God who can either restore it in the resurrection as He did for Jesus or destroy it permanently.

Today it may be the fear of what friends or family will think or say that keeps you from being obedient to the gospel call or subsequently faithful to the truth in the face of popular error or from doing what is right. For me being faithful is not necessarily courageous. My faithfulness more likely comes from fearing God more than men. ■



We have copies of Joel Hemphill's new book, "Glory to God In the Highest – Removing The Influence of Socrates, Plato, Philo and Greek Philosophy From Christian Doctrine."

This 500+ page book is available from ABC-COGGC for \$15 plus shipping/handling.



Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill

(Continued from page 11)

finished. I then enrolled in a bachelor's degree program in business administration. When that was completed, I began my master's program in management, graduating in 1999. I have to look back and realize that had I not taken that first step in enrolling, I may still be in the same job I was in 1992 when I began. But my initiative to improve myself has resulted in much more responsibility at work, which has given me much more influence in helping others, and thus has made my job much more satisfying and rewarding.

I certainly don't tell this story to brag, but to make a point. In the nearly five years that I have been on the board, I have learned more than words could express. I've seen lots of good, and sadly some of the bad that unfortunately comes with this. I've learned that some people like to complain, as do we all at times, including myself. But I want my story to teach a point that whenever you feel compelled to complain about something, I want you to also ask what is motivating the complaint or the questioning, and if it seems a legitimate concern, ask yourself, "Ok, so what am I going to do about it?" Not to be subversive or undermining of others work, but truly, in a positive sense, what can I do about this, and how can God use me to make a difference? That is truly how I see my last two years as your chairman. I have always sought to make a difference for the good. To find that incremental improvement that can always be made in any situation.

I would be remiss at this point in my message if I didn't acknowledge the help of my wife Marilyn during my entire term on the board. If it weren't for her encouragement and support (and push), I would've been tempted to have not kept going

through the tough times of doing my part to lead through the changes that we all helped make. (I learned recently that she has had me on top of her daily prayer list for my entire time on the board! So all things that are said in this speech, know this: that God is to be praised for through Him alone, this work has been done, and will continue to be done if we follow Him.)

I want to share one more thought as I quote from a devotion that Pastor Wally Winner sent out last week. As I read this, I felt it was important to summarize some of his thoughts for you to meditate on and whenever you question whether or not you can make a difference. From the parable of the talents:

(Matthew 25:14-17)

- "You'll be given opportunities according to your ability. —God will give you as much as He can trust you with.
- Faithfulness always leads to a promotion. —Faithfulness pays off. And whether you're faithful with a little or a lot, God is equally pleased.
- Accomplishing a little is better than accomplishing nothing at all. —The only real failure in life is in giving up.
- The more you apply yourself, the better you get. — You've been given certain opportunities, certain skills, and certain resources to work with.

Now look at three little words that will make all the difference in your life. You may already know the principles that I've talked about, but if you don't know these three little words, your life will go nowhere. What are these three words? "Went at once." The (faithful steward) got

started immediately. He was given a job to do and he didn't procrastinate. He went at once. Whatever it is that you need to accomplish, there is something you can do today to get started."

As you look to elect two new board directors today, as well as future directors, please do so with a prayerful spirit seeking wisdom on who God would want to help lead us. It's OK to go up to the candidates and ask them why they want to be on the board. I ask you in the coming years to be diligent about who we elect as our leaders, be diligent in paying attention to what's going on around you, in your church, and in your conference. Ask good questions, and always ask yourself why you are asking; to be sure it is done with no hidden agenda or motive, but only for the edification of the leaders and our conference. And be exceptionally diligent in prayer, asking God to give wisdom to our leaders, and peace about the decisions that are made. By doing so, each of us can feel secure in knowing that God is truly leading us, and not the other way around.

Moses stated these words as he prepared to pass his leadership to Joshua. I leave you with the words as I pass my role to another. Deuteronomy 30:15-16: "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. In that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the Lord your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it."

Thank you, now let's **go at once**, and have a great conference! ■

Good News

*Like cold water to a weary soul,
So is good news from a distant land.
Proverbs 25:25*

GOOD NEWS FROM COG-LAND

- From **Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA** – **Bob and Nola Jones** performed a skit during morning worship service on June 26. The skit was entitled “Flock Talk: The Power of Prayer,” and it humorously portrayed all of the wrong attitudes about prayer. **Pastor Joe Myers** followed with a sermon about using prayer to help discern the will of God.
- From **Bedford Church of the Open Bible in Bedford, OH** – **Pastor Rex Cain** reports that **Rachel (Weaver) Seymour** ran the 26.2-mile Cleveland Marathon on May 15. While Rachel didn’t win the race, it is a remarkable achievement to finish the race, and she is quite happy with what she accomplished (even though she got wet in the rain).
- From **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick II** reports that May 22 was Youth Sunday. The youth of the church did a fine job planning and leading the worship service.
- From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** offers his thanks to **John and Gail Tuttle, Sandi Withers,** and **Tony and Prudy Peterson** for serving the meal at the homeless shelter in Rockford for the month of May.
- From the **Minnesota State Conference** – Spring conference and camp reunion were held June 10, 11, and 12 at the Minnesota camp grounds. Camp caretaker **Jon Lapp** coordinated the activities designed to welcome guests from all over the country who have been blessed by the ministry of the Minnesota state conference and by camps across the country. The theme of the conference was “Renewed by Reunions,” and guest speakers were **Scott Ross, Kent Ross,** and **Jay Broussard**. Nostalgia reigned as guests shared old pictures, memories, a hayride, and campfires. Jon was also proud to show off some of the improvements that have been made to the facilities.
- From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – It’s graduation time, and the Oregon Church of God is proud to congratulate the following for accomplishments in their educational journeys: **Ridgeway Schmitt** (college), **Whitney Canfield** (high school), **Forrest Cheatwood** (high school), **Anna Corcoran** (high school), **Ashley Ewald** (high school), **Megan Mjoen** (8th grade), **Maggie Myers** (8th grade), and **Bryce Noon** (8th grade).
- From **Eden Valley Church of God in Eden Valley, MN** – **Pastor Daniel Smead** and the church honored the following high school graduates on Graduation Sunday June 5: **Holly Coulter, Charlie Fyfe, Claire Kirkpatrick, Devon Spiegelberg,** and **Nicole Wendroth**. All of the graduates received a Bible as a graduation gift.
- From **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – The church is happy to announce “Pandamania” Vacation Bible School July 25-28. Fun-loving panda bears are set to invade the church in a celebration of God’s unconditional love. The theme is “New Hope in Christ.” Kids will discover that God has a purpose and a plan for everyone, and that He has crafted each of us with His loving hands. Lulu the monkey and Boomer the panda will be two of the characters who will visit.

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

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown – Walter Stovall (6/26/11) by Terry Robinson; Cindy Stovall (6/26/11) by Walter Stovall and Terry Robinson

Michigan

Pennellwood – Theresa Simmons, Sherry Simmons, Christina Parm, and Robert Pfeifer (6/5/11) by Pastor Larry Mayberry

Deaths

Illinois

Oregon – Grace Canfield (12/19/10). Service by Pastors Michael Hoffman and Hollis Partlowe; Arnold Noon (6/9/11). Service by Pastors Michael Hoffman, Russ Magaw and Dan Cain

Iowa

Belle Plaine – Laretta Cronbaugh, 95, (4/10/11), long time member, widow of deceased Pastor Louis Cronbaugh. Service by Pastors Delbert Rankin and Paul Moore

Waterloo – Casey Clark, 74, (5/26/11). Service by Pastor Delbert Rankin

Minnesota

Paynesville – Ivan Mills, 95, (7/5/11), elder at Litchfield Church for many years, previously attended Eden Valley Church, long time supporter of the college and conference. Service by Pastor Dale Swartz

Missouri

Florissant – Clarence M. Jones, 97 (6/29/11), long time member of Morse Mill Church and long time supporter of the college and conference.

Jerico Springs – Abner Fyfe, 87, (4/21/11), long time member. Service by Pastors Delbert Rankin and James Fyfe

North Carolina

High Point – Dawn Allen Albakri, 57, (6/23/11), formerly of Litchfield, MN, attended Oregon Bible College 1972-1975. By Pastors Dale Swartz, Kent Ross and Scott Ross

South Carolina

Bethel – Janaye Willingham, infant, (6/10/11). Service by Pastor Jeff Fletcher; Patricia Leopard (6/16/11). Service by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Systematic Bible Study Course Completions

The following individuals have successfully completed the Systematic Bible Study Course based on Systematic Theology by Dr. Alva Huffer. They have been awarded certificates of completion:

From Church of the Open Bible, Pomona, CA: Ron Suzuki, Junko Suzuki, Brian Suzuki, Val Shetterly, Brenda Bass, Aubrey Taylor, Chuck Ripley, Linda Ripley, Carol Jones, Lauren Steiner.

Also; David Whitehurst - Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA; Kevin Todd, Utica, KY; and Tammy Hayes, Dinwiddie, VA.

This course is available by paper through the mail (order from Church of God General Conference, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253 or 678-833-1839 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.

Pastors,

We solicit articles from you that can be considered for inclusion in future issues of *THE RESTITUTION HERALD & Progress Journal*. We welcome a variety of submissions:

- articles that focus on worship and bringing glory to God
- articles on doctrinal subjects
- articles on ministry subjects
- short devotional thoughts, stories, etc.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions you'd like answered or ideas you'd like considered. Thanks, ahead of time, for any submissions you provide.

Gary Burnham
Operations Manager/Ministry Services Network
(MSN) Director

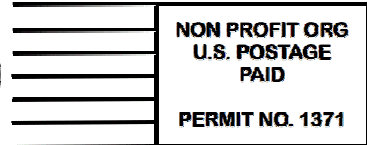
2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400
McDonough, GA 30253

800.347.4261, ext. 1847
678.833.1839, ext. 1847
678.833.1847 (direct dial)
678.993.9458 (cell)
678.833.1853 (fax)
gburnham@abc-coggc.org

- 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 the foreign mission opportunities He has provided to us.**
- 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 Scott and Michele Millard and the Jaynes Street Church in Omaha.**
- 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.

- 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 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, Indiana.
- 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 Lake shore 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 the Fair Oaks Community Church in Herndon, VA.
- 29 **Pray for the Hedrick, Indiana Church, and Pastor Joe and Karla Astolfi.**
- 30 Praise God for His constant care.
- 31 **Pray for God to send workers into the fields that are ready for harvest.**

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