

# THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

## Looking Left, Jesus' Perspective on God

By Dr. Joe Martin

I've become fascinated with two verses lately, Psalm 110:1 and John 17:3. From the Hebrew scripture, Psalm 110:1 is the most quoted or alluded to verse in the New Testament. However, it is also one of the most abused and misinterpreted. As I began to think about the verse, I wondered "what is Jesus' perspective now?" Since it says, "Sit at my right hand..." imagine if you will, what Jesus sees, "looking left!" If we could just sit there where he sits, how would it change our thinking on *many* issues?

Twenty-one times this particular "right hand" is mentioned in the New Testament regarding this verse.<sup>1</sup> When the Pharisees were "dogging" Jesus, he asks them "How does David... call him (the Messiah) Lord? For he says the LORD said to my Lord, sit at my right hand..." (Mt. 22:43,44). In Matthew 26:64, he further puts the High Priest in his place by saying "you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming..." Peter saw this (Acts 2:33). Stephen literally saw this (Acts 7:55,56). Paul understood this (Rom. 8:34, Col. 3:1, etc), and the author of Hebrews notes this *five* times! Jesus has the highest position in the universe *NEXT TO* Almighty God!

This verse is *the* apologetic verse for those who claim Jesus as the Messiah

or Christ. A critic may ask the Christian, "Where is this Jesus you claim to be the King of God's Kingdom, the Messiah?" The response would often be Psalm 110:1. He is sitting at the right hand of the Father, Almighty God, until God sends him back! A lot of "theo babble" and "gobbledygook" has been generated about Jesus' position. The whole "creedal system" in much of Christianity, Nicaea, Chalcedon, etc., or "Pagan Christianity"<sup>2</sup> may benefit from Jesus' perspective as he *looks left*.

First, the LORD GOD, is clarified. Only one is on the throne. Jesus at the right hand of God sits as the Lamb of God, on His right hand, but only one is at the center of the throne. The software Bibleworks<sup>8</sup> that I use is clear. 6,828 times the name *YHWH*, the tetragrammaton is used. God is a very clear *person*. Even though English versions just capitalize it as a generic LORD, and the Greek Septuagint and New Testament uses *kyrios*, there should be no confusion between the LORD GOD and Jesus. We should all read the *front* of our Bibles (before Genesis 1) where it usually explains this.

Second, Jesus' place is clarified, at the right hand of God. This should be a catechism question for every Christian child and adult, "**Where is Jesus now?**" The simple answer is... **AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD!** "God made man simple, his complex prob-

lems are of his own devising." (Ecc. 7:29 JB [Jerusalem Bible]) Acts 4:12 gives us the clarity of the importance of Jesus ("there is NO OTHER name under heaven... whereby we must be saved.") There should also be clarity that the name "in heaven or above heaven" that gives us Jesus is the LORD GOD himself our Father, *Abba Yahweh*.

Thirdly, and often the thing we concentrate on most (When, Lord?) is clarified with the simple word "until." When will Jesus come back? When will we be delivered from the evil of this system/cosmos/world? The answer is, when the LORD God sends His Son back! We can have Kingdom power now (Heb. 6), but just wait until we see him coming on the clouds of heaven! "No man knows the day or hour, not the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone!" (Mt. 24:36)

The other verse that I am fascinated with is John 17:3. It says, "this *is* eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus the Messiah whom you have sent." REMEMBER, this is Jesus' perspective and prayer in his "high priestly prayer" for himself, the disciples, and us, future believers. Let me give several quick points on this verse.

"Eternal life" is life in the age to

(Continued on page 4)

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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**

**October 27-29, 2011**  
Board of Directors meeting  
Atlanta Bible College campus

**January 13-15, 2012**  
ReFUEL  
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

**February 6-10, 2012**  
Ministerial Conference  
Cornerstone Bible Church,  
McDonough, GA

**February 24-26, 2012**  
Refuge  
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

**March 22-25, 2012**  
Atlanta Bible College Invitational

**April 15-20, 2012**  
Christian Workers Seminar  
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN

**May 3-6, 2012**  
Theological Conference  
Simpsonwood Conference Center,  
Norcross, GA

**July 11-13, 2012**  
Church of God General Conference  
Lawrenceville Church of God,  
Lawrenceville, OH

**July 22-27, 2012**  
FUEL  
Manchester College, North  
Manchester, IN

## Miracle on Avalon Parkway

Last year in the financial crunch, many prayers were offered up by the membership, pastors, board, and staff. One particular prayer that I do remember was “Lord help us with this tremendous lease payment” that we were committed to for another three years. We needed “relief from the lease.” I would like to remind people of Ephesians 3:20, which says God is able to do “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.”

Here were some options that we considered. First, simply ask to be released from the lease. Secondly, ask for a reduction in the lease, which we did. Thirdly, just move out and hope for the best. It was in that situation on May 3 that a man walked in and said that the building was in foreclosure. There are three buildings, and we are in the middle. Why was ours one of the foreclosures in the area and others not?

We then felt we had at least one open door which included possibly leaving early, but we asked the person, how soon, and how much? He said that in about 3-9 months the building would be sold by the bank that had taken over. Also, the building was valued at 4 million when built, but would be priced around half that in foreclosure. We still couldn't afford that though we have lots of assets in restricted

funds, the Development Foundation, scholarships, etc.

They eventually came up with 1.8 million asking price. Our realtor, based on costs and current statistics, suggested we offer a little over a million. We did, but it was rejected by the holding bank. They then lowered the price \$600,000 to 1.2 million. God, I believe, brought it into the realm of possibility, more than I had previously dreamed or imagined.

The General Conference delegates almost unanimously expressed favor towards the purchase. Many people then sent in money towards the down payment. We, for several months, were seeking a bank loan for the remainder. However, in these hard economic times, we were turned down. Banks just are not lending money towards many commercial buildings, at least in the Atlanta area.

On August 17, I received a note from a bank in Springfield, Ohio that Pastor Jack Hearp had left a sizable trust, and the General Conference was the primary beneficiary. It seems God has also provided the money without us going into debt.

On October 7, Lord willing, we will close on this building. We ask that you continue to pray about God's timing that those funds be released in time... almost the time in which many of you will be receiving this Herald and reading this.

I believe it IS a miracle of God's timing, at *exactly* the right time, with *exactly* the right amount. I could not have imagined.

“Lord, I believe, help my unbelief,” when You work. We will send an e-mail out as soon as we know of the finality of this miracle. It will truly be a “house of the LORD.”

The focus must not be on a building, but on students and the ministry of service that can take place as we are relieved of this burden of debt. It must be a focus on John 17:3, that the membership of the General Conference help others into the kingdom through a knowledge of God and His Son, loving them into salvation. Hallelujah! Praise God! Amen! ■

“Now to him who  
is able to do  
immeasurably  
more than all  
we ask or imagine,  
according to  
his power that  
is at work  
within us,”

Eph. 3:20

(Continued from page 1)

come, or kingdom life. If we are to be in the kingdom, it will be with a firm understanding of God and His Son. *Zoe aionios* (Greek) is a very particular life. It is life in God's future, in God's Kingdom, ruled by God's Son. Do not miss it. It is the pearl of great price!

The first aspect of getting there is knowledge of the "only true God." It seems knowledge even comes before true worship and love. When I think of this, I think of the worship of the golden calf in the wilderness. It was "vibrant, spiritual, emotional" worship, but not to the only true God, Yahweh, who was delivering them from Egypt. How gracious will God be in our misguided worship in regards to

what James Dunn calls "Jesusolatry?"<sup>3</sup> I do not know, but every day I thank God for His grace in my life. Jesus said, "true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth..." (Jn. 4:21,23). But I realize much of pagan Christianity has "forgotten the Father," whereas Jesus' perspective says "focus on the Father," the only true God.

"And Jesus Christ" is such a simple phrase. About sixty times, the Bible speaks of God **AND** Jesus. It is the Greek word, *kai*. However, it is still a simple conjunction just as it is in English meaning "along or together with; as well as; in addition to," etc. For eternal life, we need to know the only true God, AND Jesus whom He has sent.

Picture yourself next to God, from Jesus' perspective, "looking left," and it should be very clear. One day, we will see. ■

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 22:44; 26:64; Mk. 12:36; 14:62; 16:19; Lk. 20:42; 22:69; Acts 2:33f; 5:31; 7:55f; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Pet. 3:22 (Bibleworks 8 NASB)

<sup>2</sup> See the notion of "*Pagan Christianity*" in the book of the same name by Frank Viola and George Barna, Barna/Tyndale Publishing, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> James D.G. Dunn, *Did the First Christians Worship Jesus?*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2010, p. 147.

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.

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

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## Letter from the Chairman

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**D**ear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As I sit in my office in GA, I am reflecting on the first couple of months as your chairman of the Board of Directors for the Church of God General Conference. It is an honor and responsibility that I do not take lightly. I covet your prayers and support. In the ensuing months I hope to be able to visit many of you if not personally, perhaps by phone or the internet. I would also hope that many of you might take the initiative to contact me with concerns and encouragements.

This is the fifth year that I have had the opportunity to witness the beginning of a new school year at Atlanta Bible College. Never have I been as excited about the start of a new year at the college as I am this year! The students are just great! We have ten students from across the country taking advantage of our "Free Tuition" scholarship. For those who are unaware, students from Church of God member churches may attend ABC this year tuition free! That is a \$5,000 commitment for each student over the course of the school year. I believe it is money well invested and only made possible due to the generosity of many of you who read this letter. A total of nineteen COG students are attending ABC. Ten are full-time, four are part-time, living in the apartments, and five more are participating through long distance learning. We also have

an additional forty-two students at the south campus who come from the community or are international students. That's a total of sixty-one students participating at the south campus in McDonough. Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension is also off to a wonderful start. We so much appreciate the leadership of Steve and Sam An and the entire ABCKE staff. Currently eighty-one students are enrolled at the Duluth campus. Nearly all of these students are full-time in their studies. Imagine, a total of 142 students attending classes at the combined campuses of Atlanta Bible College! No wonder one of the instructors, Anthony Buzzard exclaimed, "this is one of the best programs ever offered at Atlanta Bible College." (My paraphrase of what Anthony said.) Thank you, God, for what You are doing in and through the lives of these students and the staff which teach and support them!

Dr. Joe Martin, president of Atlanta Bible College, has written an article for this edition talking about the purchase of our current facility. This is truly a miracle and gift from God. Who would have even thought six months ago that this would be possible?! And yet, Lord willing, we are scheduled to close October 7 on the purchase of the building. 1.2 million dollars paid in cash! To God be the glory, great things He has done! I am reminded of the text, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the

heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him" (I Cor 2:9). A ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned while the Board of Directors are in town for their fall meeting. The mayor of McDonough, GA has been invited along with other dignitaries from the city.

I was talking the other day and just expressed, "What If".....(I like that phrase a lot). What if, we could go to General Conference next year in Springfield, Ohio and stand before you and say, "We own our college building free and clear, all our internal debts have been repaid, and we balanced the budget." What if, we are able to continue the "free tuition" program? What if, even more students enroll, both nationally and internationally? What if we begin to make plans for housing owned by the conference for our students? I believe all these things are possible. And I am praying toward that end. Won't you please join me in that prayer? I know you will, and I thank you in advance for your prayers!

Once again, we ask for your prayers. We ask for wisdom as we seek to follow, "in His steps". We pray for you and your church. And we pray for the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ. "Even so, Lord Jesus, come". ■

God bless!

Pastor Joe Myers

## 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 Great Leader is a Great Encourager!

What does a great encourager do? He inspires courage and confidence in others. She urges folks to remain hopeful even in the toughest circumstances. He leads them to strive for success, and believes they will succeed. She cheers them on to give their very best efforts.

I expect those actions of encouragement from a great leader. Do you?

Do those actions describe the level of encouragement you provide as a leader? If I quizzed several people you lead, on a 1 (low) to 10 (high) scale what scores would they give you for each of those actions of encouragement I mentioned?

Would you score high? That is wonderful. Continue to be a great encourager. Dare to increase your level of encouragement. Those you lead will appreciate it and often respond with even greater effort.

Would you score low? Don't be discouraged (pun intended). Accept the challenge to focus on becoming a great encourager. Can you improve? Absolutely!

Some folks are encouragers by character. Barnabas was a great encourager in the early church. His name means “son of encouragement” (Acts 4:36). He was such an incredible encourager that he was able to unite Saul (not yet called Paul) and the apostles (Acts 9:26-28).

Some folks are encouragers by spiritual gift (“...if a man's gift is...encouraging, let him encourage...” Romans 12:6-8). God recognizes that encourage-

ment is so important to the body of Christ that His spirit grants some believers a special ability to encourage others!

Some folks are encouragers via the encouragement (pun intended again) of scripture. Numerous times in scripture believers are urged to encourage others:

- ...encourage each other with these words (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
- ...encourage one another and build each other up... (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- ...encourage one another daily... (Hebrews 3:13)
- ...encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:25)



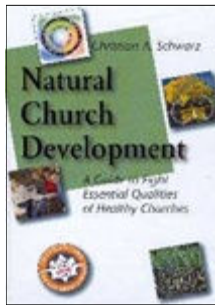
A leader has the tremendous opportunity and responsibility to be a great cheerleader for those he or she leads. We aren't talking here about either false praise or excess praise. We are talking about

consistent, genuine thanks and encouragement. The results? Most folks perform much better when they are appreciated and thanked for their efforts.

The great leader is one who encourages others, thanks them for doing a good job, keeps them going when discouragement rears its ugly head, and tells them they are making a difference that really matters. Most people will give their very best when they receive such honest and grateful appreciation.

Who will you verbally appreciate today? They will welcome your encouraging words and excel at their work. Go, find them or call them right now and say, “thanks”. Become a great encourager! ■

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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.*

### Should the focus be on "Health" or "Growth"?

Is your church growing numerically? That should be an easy question to answer. You may personally know by the observations you have made over the past weeks or months. Or, you can easily check church attendance records and provide an accurate answer to the question.

What if I asked you, "Is your church healthy?" That question may or may not be so easy to answer. You may have a reply, or you may have questions to ask me. "How do you measure health?" "What if we are healthy in some areas, but not so healthy in other areas?"

What if I asked you which is more important, health or growth? What would you say? How would you defend your choice?

According to the principles taught by Natural Church Development:

- Growth should be about quality (health) and not just quantity (numbers)
- In fact, NCD suggest that quality should take priority over quantity in church growth thinking.

Just as it is possible for a baby to grow in size but not be healthy, it is possible for a church to grow in size (at least for some time period), but not be healthy. Further, just as it is unlikely for a healthy baby not to grow in

size, it is unlikely (I didn't say impossible) for a healthy church not to grow in size.

The purpose of the NCD process is to focus primarily on health, knowing that a healthy church is likely to be a growing church.

When your church takes the NCD survey, it discovers that it is in fact healthy in some areas and not so healthy in other areas. The survey evaluates eight quality characteristics identified as keys to church health. Would you expect your church to have great health in all of these areas at the same time?

Empowering Leadership  
Gift-based Ministry  
Passionate Spirituality  
Effective Structures  
Inspiring Worship Service  
Holistic Small Groups  
Need-oriented Evangelism  
Loving Relationships

The survey results show which characteristic currently needs the most focused effort. With church effort and God's blessings, health begins to increase. With increasing health, there is also likely to be numerical growth as well.

NCD doesn't say numerical growth is unimportant, but it does say that growing health is the highest priority.

My vision is to see Churches of God all around the world evidencing these eight quality characters. 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. ■

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# The UP Project

## What is the UP Project?

*A missions group that seeks to engage young adults in a life of service.*



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”

Jeremiah 29:11-12

In 2008, we began the work that has come to be known as the UP Project. The three of us (Andy Cisneros, Julie Driskill, and Graysen Pack) felt a calling to provide opportunities for the young adults of the General Conference to experience the richness that can be found in a life that is devoted to service in the love of Christ. As we began to pursue this idea, the individual callings that we each possessed became the three pillars that form the core of what the UP Project is today.

First, we help students achieve a better understanding of who God has created them to be. We help them to discover how their mind works and the many wonderful strengths that each of them possesses. Next, we look at the larger communities in which we are involved and the very present and earthly needs that exist within those communities. As we look at the social justice issues of our day, we also look at how Jesus calls us to respond to these problems. We then take the 30,000 foot view of what a Christian life might look like if it embodied the values of Christ-like love towards those in our community in a way that utilized the very strengths that each

## The Three Pillars

Self-Understanding - Julie Driskill leads the youth in a program called *Path4Teens* that reveals their strengths and the ways that God has made them into unique individuals.

Social Justice - Graysen Pack helps the students to understand their role and personal calling as a follower of Christ in the midst of a broken world.

Christian Vision - Andy Cisneros casts a vision of what life looks like when it combines the individual talents and the personalized passions of each student with the sacrificial love of Christ.

student has been naturally given.

The UP Project aims to give students one week to truly live into this kind of life and to embody this kind of radical love. However, the UP Project is not and must not be considered a one-week commitment. While we use week long trips to educate and immerse students into an active life of Christian service, our aim is to provide them with the tools and the desire needed to follow a lifelong pursuit of such service and love.

This yearlong commitment can be seen in our growing network of ministry partners across the COG conference. As students leave the UP Project, they become ministry partners with UP in their local congregations. This allows the passionate and committed young adults across our denomination to discover new and innovative ways to impact their communities by communicating with other young adults like themselves. Through the combined efforts of the yearly mission trip and the continued networking of our ministry partners, we are walking with a new generation of leaders in our conference to pursue a life of radical love.



# UP: IT STARTS WITH A NAME

To understand what we are all about, it all begins with a name. One of the early things that we wanted to find was a name that we could call our own. After many attempts, we finally settled on the UP Project - the Untried Passage. We wanted to find a name that embodied the kind of lifelong pursuit that we encourage through the UP Project. The Untried Passage Project held all of that for us. To us, it means a return to the narrow path that the church was called to. It is an exploration of the road that is less travelled by. The UP Project is about rediscovering the truth of God's love and the depth of God's grace in the untested waters of sacrificial service to those who need it the most. So with a name in the bag, we started our first adventure in the summer of 2009.

The UP Project had its first trip at Higher Ground Camp in St. Paris, Ohio. Our first year we had six participants, and we worked hard to spruce up the campground and refurbish a retreat cabin. In 2010, we traveled to Albany, New York to Living Hope International Ministries with eight students traveling with us and another fifteen participants from Living Hope. There we helped a local family rebuild part of their house, and we painted and worked with a downtown mission. And this year, we were very excited to be in Omaha, Nebraska at Jayne Street Community Church with over twenty-five participants!

There, our students worked tirelessly to serve conference delegates at General Conference, and they helped local families and communities prepare for the flooding that swept the area this summer. One of our local groups even made the local news while they prepared sandbags!

Although hard work and service is a large part of what we do each year, it is a tool that we use to bring students to a place where they can experience the fullness of the Christian calling to love one another. Throughout each trip we also dive head first into Bible studies with local communities, leading worship, outreach and evangelism workshops, and sessions focused on personal discovery and social awareness.

During this past year, a large part of our focus has been on establishing the networked connections that we have accumulated through our two years of work. We want to see a connected body of young adults who are socially responsible and eager to share the love of Christ with those around them. We want the young people of our conference to be able to plug into their churches and their communities in meaningful ways.

Just this past year we launched our first UP Ministry. The UP:Lift team is formed completely of stu-

dents who have participated in the UP Project more than once. They came together and formed, organized, created, and executed their plans to build a ministry that supports the orphans of our African churches by selling hand-made fabric bags. UP:Lift has continued to grow with an online store ([www.upproject.etsy.com](http://www.upproject.etsy.com)) and also through these students' own actions. We are extremely proud of their efforts at FUEL as they have already raised almost \$500 to provide essential support to our churches with large numbers of orphans.

As we continue to spur ministries supported and run by our young adults, we are also connecting with the many incredible ministries that exist throughout our conference. We want to be able to provide deep and lasting spiritual support and experiences that will transform the lives of the young adults that have passionate hearts of service.

Moving forward, we will continue to host yearly trips to all corners of the United States, but we are also looking forward to growing and working with the incredible ministries that are already reaching those in need. We started as a small grassroots group with big and lofty goals, but at each step along the way God has guided our feet and blessed our efforts. *We are UP, we are moving, and we want to move with you.* ■



## CONTACT US

If you or your church is interested in participating with the UP Project, please contact us at [upproject.cog@gmail.com](mailto:upproject.cog@gmail.com) or give us a call!

Andy Cisneros: (765)236-0335 Julie Driskill: (937)869-5382 Graysen Pack: (864)884-7877

## An Offer of Life by Pastor Don Ward

**A**midst an energy shortage, there is little shortage of "energy" to bring forth life. The sun, the rain, the good earth, and the latent seed combine together to bring rebirth to barren fields and bread to the table. But the farmer doesn't sit around thinking about it; looking at his land and lying in the sun wondering when all of these wonderful powers are going to produce a crop. He knows that he is going to have to stir around himself a bit. He is not shy in his conviction that a critical factor in the success of his farm program is he himself. Without his initiative, little will happen.

Likewise, God has provided abundantly all the powers necessary for man to gain life in God's everlasting tomorrow.

To make a new life possible and eternity available, he offered his own Son on a cross. Through such love and great suffering issue the powers to bring life to those otherwise under condemnation and death.

God has invited us into a corporate venture of our own redemption. We are "labourers together with God" (1 Cor. 3:9). God has not sent out messengers to haul you down the aisle or whip you into shape. He has sent out messengers with an urgent invitation to men everywhere to take Him up on His unparalleled offer of eternal life.

Spectators and bystanders can have no part. His invitation demands and deserves a response on the part of His creatures. We cannot lie around in

our own personal interests and expect God to bring us a harvest unto eternal life. The gospel is an invitation to be obeyed. (2 Thess. 1:8)

God has provided abundantly for life abundant. This coming spring will be another reminder of new life. His program is set, and He will accomplish it. He has placed on our doorstep the choice he once gave Israel, "I have set before you life and death." He urges, "Choose life" (Deut. 30:19).

As starters, God has called us to trust him (believe), set a new direction for our life (repent), and be buried in the waters of baptism for spiritual cleansing and new life that has been purchased by Christ Jesus (Acts 2:37, 38; Col. 2:12). ■

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

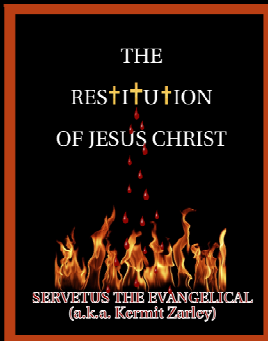
Age	Interest Rates	69-70	4.8%	81	6.4%
		71	4.9%	82	6.5%
		72	5.0%	83	6.7%
54-56	4.0%	73	5.1%	84	6.9%
57-58	4.1%	74	5.3%	85	7.1%
59-61	4.2%	75	5.4%	86	7.3%
62-63	4.3%	76	5.5%	87	7.6%
64	4.4%	77	5.7%	88	7.9%
65-66	4.5%	78	5.8%	89	8.2%
67	4.6%	79	6.0%	90+	8.5%
68	4.7%	80	6.2%		

## “Thanks to Parents and Teachers” from ABC Teacher Anthony Buzzard

I think I ought to express my thanks to you parents and teachers who sent to Atlanta Bible College this year a group of eager, gifted and well-prepared students. Yes, I am stressing that as ambassadors of Messiah Jesus we all need to be unimpeachable in our writing style, even decent grammar, and certainly spelling! We owe this to God and Jesus and the gracious salvation we have been entrusted with. But with those details in place and insisted on week by week, the thing that is most exciting for me as one who deals with a lot of different folks on Bible issues, is the readiness of the COG crowd not to want to *complicate* the beautiful, simple truths about God and the Messiah and the kingdom. I told them, if you write me a brain-breaking essay which ordinary folk could not possibly understand, it is highly likely to be wrong! If you tell me (as I explained to them today) the “orthodox” view of Jesus which is that “his human personality was replaced by that of an eter-

nally begotten God the Son,” and that Jesus is “man, but not a man” (this is what your dear friends in other churches often officially teach and believe!), you will score poorly! I will take a lot of convincing.

But the COG trained people seem untroubled and even delighted by Jesus’ beautiful creed in Mark 12:29. This is very, very rare. What excellent ground work has been done from early on to help these future leaders to make excellent sense of scripture. Keep them coming, please! We can build on that foundation and open the Bible to thousands of eager people who, in these troubled times, need and want to understand the One God’s immortality, and the kingdom program in Jesus, the Son of God, of Mary and of David. Popular Christian books do not cut it! They are largely false. ■



- 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.

"important thesis.... combines a high view of Scripture with a thoroughly human Jesus--an evangelical form of unitarian theology."

Professor Scot McKnight  
North Park University, Chicago

"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."

Professor James Tabor  
University of North Carolina, Charlotte

"a tour de force.... needs to be read by every pastor in the land."

Professor Emeritus  
Sir Anthony Buzzard  
Atlanta Bible College

**ORDER IT TODAY AT [www.ServetusTheEvangelical.com](http://www.ServetusTheEvangelical.com)**

**Available from Atlanta Bible College (800-347-4261) @ \$45/copy plus shipping**

**D**ark grey was the cast of her face, with deeply sunken eyes half closed. Her pale lips drew downward, as if all hope had been lost.

As I entered her hospital room, a small lamp was dimly lit over her head. No life-supporting machinery hummed to break the deathly silence.

Two chairs had been drawn up on either side of her bed, previously occupied by young granddaughters. They had exited in deference to the newly arrived Church of God pastor. But I didn't know the woman. I was there as a favor to the nearby Church of God pastor who had left on vacation.

"Hey, Russ, could you do me a favor?" That departing question by her pastor needed no answer. He filled me in on this woman's condition and urged me to look in on her if I got the chance.

So I drove the 35 miles to visit this dying woman in a hospital in an adjacent state. Her husband and other relatives were outside her room and down the corridor in a stairwell, planning her funeral. I greeted them and was met by their grim words and sober expressions of sadness. One of them entered the room and retrieved the young girls at her side so I could read Scripture and have prayer.

As my eyes adjusted to the grayness inside that room, I could see why plans were being made in the stairwell.

"Sister Flint," I began somberly in a half whisper. "I'm here as a favor to your pastor who asked me to look in on you. My name is Russ Magaw."

"*Did she hear me?*" I wondered. I looked at her gray face and sunken eyes. Was that a raised eyelid? Yes, she had heard. In fact, she opened both eyes and queried, "Did you say you name was Magaw?"

I answered in the affirmative, wondering why she needed to know my name. So I plunged on, recounting my ministry and assuring her of my pastoral concern.

That may have been helpful, but nothing got through to her, as did my name. A second time she asked about my name.

"Why? What is so important about my name?"

"Well," she replied as she raised a gaunt arm to adjust her pillow, "I thought you might be the son of one of our pastors whom I dearly loved."

Immediately I knew she was speaking of my Uncle Syd, who had spoken in her church years ago when she had been a young woman.

I assured her that I was related to Pastor Syd Magaw, and that released in Tinzie a series of thoughts, which she began to share. As she spoke, the gray cast of her face faded. Her eyes seemed to take on life. Soon she was recalling memories, which had been untouched for years as

her face took on a rosy cast. Together we relived her wonderful life which now brought her new hope.

Without realizing what was happening, the room didn't seem as dark and foreboding as it did before. As Tinzie talked, her speech became livelier, as did her whole body. She slid up in her bed into a sitting position as we kept talking. I passed her some water from her nightstand to quench her thirst, which seemed to return in a flood.

Joy and happiness now filled the room. While laughter and gaiety might not have made their entrance yet, that time was just around the corner.

After perfunctory Scripture reading and prayer, I left a near-death room filled with new life.

On my way out, I stopped to greet the group in the stairwell. The two girls returned to their grandmother. As I made my way out of the hospital, I could hear the girls burst from the room into the stairwell exclaiming, "Grandma is alive and well!"

Several months later I returned to a party hosted by Tinzie's church. While enjoying the fellowship and good food, I noticed a rather young looking grandmother approach me. It was a lively Tinzie Flint, fully outfitted in a beautiful white dress fit for a queen.

In humility I learned that God brings new life in near-death situations. ■



# CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

## 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

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](mailto: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](mailto:DaleLBrown@aol.com) or John Smead at (660) 747-8571; e-mail [JSmead@iland.net](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Biographical Encyclopedia of Church of God History Released at General Conference by Jan Stilson

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*I*t has been my joy and pleasure to research and write the newly released Biographical Encyclopedia: Chronicling the History of the Church of God Abrahamic Faith. Dan Cain said that title was too long, and in keeping with the tradition of Encyclopedia Britannica, perhaps we could nickname ours "Encyclopedia Abrahamica". I like that. Love for the faith of Abraham and promises to him and to us through Christ have long been prevalent within our denomination.

*It is traditional following the release of a book to invite reviews. Nancy Anderson Craig writes a tender and nostalgic review below, noting not only the lives of key leaders but also the development of doctrine over a century and a half within the church. Thank you, Nancy.*

*It is hoped that if you do not yet have this book, you will purchase one for you, and one for your children for Christmas and for your church and local library. This book covers the breadth and depth of the doctrines, history and biographies of many of our pastors and leaders and many entries are illustrated with photos or informational boxes. There are 26 appendixes to explain various components of denominational history.*

*I know you will enjoy this book, not because one person wrote it or compiled it, but because the people featured in it have fascinating and inspiring stories, and because they acted on what they believed so that we can carry on ministry today. We are building upon the foundation of Christ, yes, but we are building on the foundation of the men and women in this book and many thousands of others that are unknown to us, but known to God.*

*This book reflects the best of the resources from our world-class archival collection at Atlanta Bible College. The Archives are open to researchers by appointment. Other reader reviews are also invited.*

### **Review by Nancy Anderson Craig, McGintytown, AR Church of God**

I received my *Biographical Encyclopedia* on a Saturday morning, and nothing else got done that day. I started reading from page one straight through. That lasted through Greg Demmitt's forward (which was very good). The first biography on Bro. Almus Adams then sent me to Bro. F. L. Austin where I next went to Bro. Sydney Magaw--well, you get the idea! I have yet to start at the beginning and go straight on through.

Did anyone else outside of my family know about the skeleton in our closet? My great grandfather, Enoch Anderson, was a bit of a "playboy," but he left that life, and became a staunch believer and preacher of the truth. Family history has it that his wife (my great grandmother) was a bit of a shrew. He would come in and ask if he had a clean shirt, and she would tell him, "too bad, wash it yourself". I'm not sure how true this was, but it came from my Aunt Vadie who swore it was a fact.

One thing I was rather surprised to learn was that the One God teaching was not at first our rallying belief. At first it was the "soul sleep", second coming of Christ and the establishment of the kingdom on earth. One God emphasis came later.

I was also reminded about the importance writing and publishing played in the very early Church of God. Reading the biographies of

Joseph Marsh, Benjamin Wilson, and our connections with the Millerites was such an eye-opener. And all was written in such an easy-to-understand format.

There were so many names and relationships I am sorry to say I had forgotten. It was a wonderful surprise to see a section on Elizabeth Ordnung. After the Golden Rule Home closed, she lived with mom and dad on S. 9th in Oregon for several years. Mom never threw away a leftover--even if just a couple of spoonfuls. Elizabeth ate everything! And her practice of keeping a diary was passed on to mom and me (I am in my 43rd year).

When Sr. Mary (Johns) Barnes was looking through my copy during SS, she came on Almus Adams' name and gave a little yelp. Then she had to explain he had baptized her many years ago. And as she went on, she kept saying "I remember this one and that one. They preached long hours well into the night, and we younger ones would nap and be jabbed awake, and then go through the whole thing again."

Sr. Jetty (McGinty) Moreland told how Bro. C. E. Weaver would pound and wave around the podium when he preached. He would get real loud and then his voice would become oh, so soft that it was hard to hear him. And Bro. Weaver made these wonderful banners that reached for yards. He couldn't spell worth a lick, so his wife sat beside him and spelled the words. Sr. Jetty has a marvelous memory and has tales to tell of when she was a girl, and these ministers came through for special meetings.

Of course, everyone here in McGintytown turned to Sr. Verna Thayer's biography right away. She is a

*(Continued on page 15)*

(Continued from page 14)

loved and very much remembered member of this congregation. And I also have so many memories brought back of the many Bible schools she taught, especially at North Salem, IN. Summer Conference, and always with her flannel graphs and wonderful Bible stories. Seeing her name and writeup brought tears to my eyes.

And Bro. Netts--How could I have forgotten the Golden Rule Banks? But I did not know the story about him returning to all the churches to add the sunroom to those banks after the sunroom was

added to the Golden Rule home. Oh, the memories!!!

I remember Leota! Don't even need to add her last name for the majority of folks out there. I remember her always sitting ramrod straight and she would look you right in the eye. You knew she saw every nasty thought had in your head. And I got a big giggle from her description. Yes, she was rather homely, but she had the biggest heart you would ever find.

Of course, it meant so much to me to see Clyde Randall and Mom's biography. That really did bring

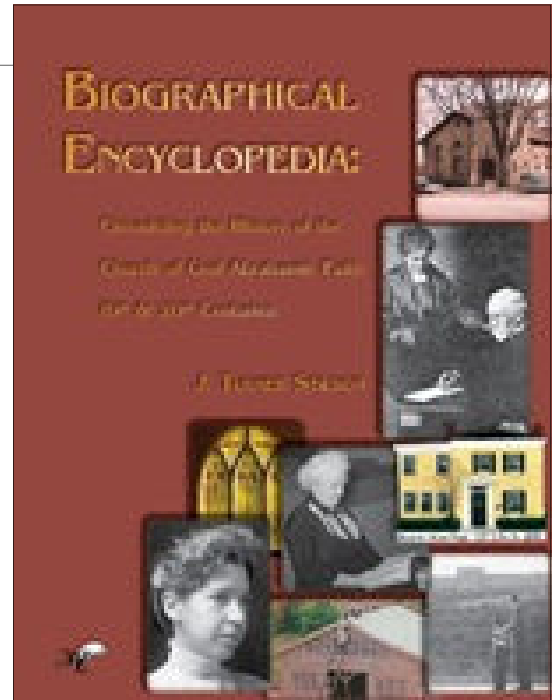
tears of sadness and joy.

I could go on and on about this book. I have laughed, cried, said, "I forgot that", and talked to family and church friends about so many of those in this book.

We use the term "I love" so often for things that it has kinda lost its meaning. But I do LOVE this work and a big grateful thanks to those who compiled it. ■

**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



# Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

## THE "BIRTH PANGS" SIGNS OF JESUS' COMING

"All these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs... but that is not yet the end."

Matthew 24:6, 8

When the apostles asked Jesus "What will be the sign of Your coming, and the end of the age?" Jesus answered that first this world would experience "birth pangs" signs preceding the final six specific signs ending with Christ's return and the first resurrection. (Both Matthew and Mark record Jesus' use of this term. Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 record these questions and Jesus' answer.)

What were the "Birth Pangs" signs to be? Wars and rumors of wars, nation rising against nation, famines, earthquakes (as the one in Haiti), believers killed, lawlessness, falling away, false prophets, plagues (such as cancer, AIDS, diabetes, Alzheimer's), "terrors and great signs from heaven," men's hearts failing them for fear of those things coming on the earth.

Let's see why Jesus referred to the first signs of His coming as "birth pangs."

When God created a man and a woman, He made them so they could create other people. "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth." This was an enjoyable yet painful experience. After their sin in the garden, God told the woman: "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you shall bring forth children." And this happens. A woman's body must stretch and expand to let the little one out, and this is painful. Mothers scream as they deliver. But afterward the pain is not remembered as much as the joy in bringing a new life into the world.

Men and women have been faithful in this multiplying. According to the world population figures for 2010, world population was 6.8 billion. That's 6,823,460,528. We have certainly been fruitful and have filled the earth, even if it causes pain.

Jesus used birth pains as an example of what this earth can expect as the end of this age comes to pass. Jesus foretold it in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. Peter described God's three ages perfectly in 2 Peter 3. He called these periods the first, second and third "heavens and earths." The first age ended with the flood when the wicked were drowned and eight were saved to again multiply and fill the earth. We are living in the second "heavens and earth" which "are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men." Paul spoke of the same ending of this age: "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire," dealing out retribution to those who don't know God and do not accept the gospel. But Peter did not leave God's people without hope. By inspiration he said, "But according to His (God's) promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells."

In Matthew 24 Jesus mentioned the END of this age four times. And it is in connection with this "ending" that Jesus uses the example of a woman's labor pains before the birth. This earth and its end-time people will experience "birth pains" as this age ends, and a new age begins. Friends, aren't we living in the day of these "birth pains" signs, before the last six specific signs come, ending with Christ's coming and resurrection? Remember Paul also said that in the last days perilous times would come.

This writer would like to suggest that it appears we are living in this earth's birth pains era. What do we see besides the first signs Jesus gave of the earthquakes, plagues, etc.? Cannot we add these things to His list: great changes in the world's weather patterns, terrible tsunamis that have killed thousands of people, hurricanes like Katrina, terrible tornadoes like the one that hit Joplin, MO. And elsewhere, no rain in places, too much rain in others, terrible river flooding that flooded hundreds of homes, haboob dust walls, Japanese reactor problems, mid-east nations rising up against their rulers, wildfires, terrorists, gun-running into Mexico?

Paul describes the "last days" people in 2 Timothy 3:1-5: "Men shall be lovers of self, lovers of

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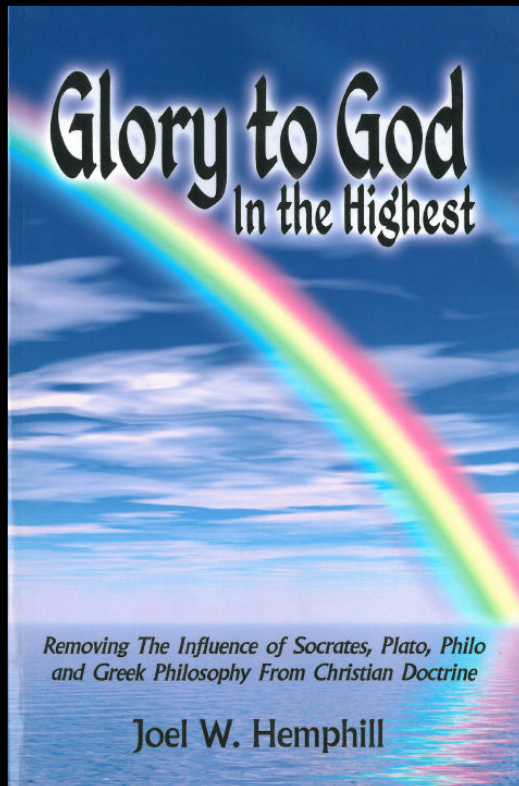
money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossipers, without self control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. Holding a form of godliness, although they have denied its power. Avoid such people.” Jesus also said the end-of-this-age people would be like the people in Noah's day - exceedingly wicked, wicked enough for God to destroy them.

Can we deny that all these quite recent occurrences are part of the “Birth Pangs” about to announce the final specific signs of Jesus' second coming that He taught in Matthew 24:15-31? We list them as Jesus taught them: 1. Abomination in the holy place. 2. Then begins the Great Tribulation. 3. Immediately after the Great Tribulation, the sun and moon darken, stars fall, powers of heaven shaken. 4. Sign of Christ in heaven, tribes mourn. 5. Christ comes in power and glory. 6. Jesus sends His angels out with the trumpet sound to gather His people (first resurrection trumpet).

As for the changing of the African weather patterns recently, when we planned our African mission trips to Malawi and Mozambique, we did so to avoid the rainy season, which was from October through April. But around 2002 when we went over to teach Jesus' gospel of the coming kingdom of God and the saving name of Christ, it rained in July! I well remember that, for I slipped in the mud and fell down, ruining my white jacket (I bought another jacket at a roadside stand for \$2.) The African weather pattern changed. Our weather pattern here in this country now produces very devastating storms and tornadoes, flooding, wildfires, and all these other “perilous times.”

As the time for the appearing of “the man of sin” (the Antichrist) approaches, we who are trying, by the grace of God, to be His followers, need to “gird up our loins” and run with patience the race set before us. God be with you as you run. Be ready for our Lord's coming. ■

Jim Mattison



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

# ABC News

The fall semester started on the McDonough Campus on August 22 with an enrollment of 60 students which compares with 41 last spring. We are delighted to welcome 38 new students this semester, including fourteen new students from Church of God congregations. These Church of God students come to us from South Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, Colorado, Nebraska, and Michigan. Ten students from Church of God congregations are taking advantage of our free tuition program this semester. Funds are available for an additional five students who may apply for the winter/spring semester that starts in January.

With a larger enrollment, class sizes are larger than they have been in the past. This provides for more interesting class discussion and greater instructor efficiency. We are thankful for all who are taking classes this semester.

We are pleased to welcome several new adjunct instructors this semester. Mary Ann Winkler is teaching English composition and communication. She has a Master of Education degree

in English and education. She has a wide range of teaching experience and is currently an adjunct faculty member at Clayton State University. Dr. Allan Onyango is teaching our Saturday Introduction to Ministry and Leadership course. He is a brother to two ABC graduates, Becky Onyango and Anne Mbeke Fischhaber. He has a Master of Ministry degree and a Doctor of Ministry degree. He has previously taught classes at Beulah Heights University in Atlanta. Jerry Briggs is leading our Worship Service Planning Lab. He is currently an ABC student, worship leader at Cornerstone Bible Church, and husband of ABC board member Carrie Briggs.

Other courses this semester are being taught by Anthony Buzzard, Jon Cheatwood, Bob Jones, David Krogh, Joe Martin, Rebekah Martin, and Jogi Mauger.

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. A booth was set up at a local shopping area and ABC was represented at a college fair for high school students and their parents in Henry County. Other high schools will be visited this fall and a booth



ABC students in class.

will be placed at a large home-schoolers convention next spring.

Under the direction of ABC apartment managers Mitch and Kim Raper, monthly social events have been planned, including a bowling party, the annual Death by Chocolate party, and a Christmas party. We continue to have weekly lunches for students and staff on Mondays and after chapel services on Thursday. Thanks to the churches and individuals who make these lunches financially possible.

The dates for the annual ABC-I (College Invitational) have been set for March 22-24. We invite prospective students to visit the college during this time. ■

—David Krogh

## Pride or Life? Korean Extension Update

One of the greatest evangelists and theologians in Bible history is apostle Paul, scripting 13 books in the New Testament! He was the spiritual father to various churches in Asia Minor, spreading the kingdom message and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Often I contemplate a scenario without Paul's influence in Christian society, and the outcome is confusion. It is Paul's message through the epis-

cles and the preaching of the gospel that allowed Europe, China, Korea, etc... to evolve into true Christianity.

I am compelled through Paul's message in 1 Corinthians 4:16 (NIV); "Therefore I urge you to imitate me." The questions that surface are: "What part of his work shall I imitate?" Shall I mimic his grace in inscribing the Bible, utter his voice

through evangelizing, or shall I imitate his martyrdom. After searching the scriptures, the most challenging aspect of his attitude seems to be his passion for displaying his sincere honesty to the truth!

It appears Paul may have graduated from a Judaism institution named Gamaliel Theological Seminary. It

*(Continued on page 19)*

By Steve An

(Continued from page 18)

may have been a prominent seminary that is inferred through Acts 22:3. As a member of the Pharisees, I can imagine the pride Paul was filled with based on his educational and social background. He was very zealous to protect the foundation of his pride, bringing hostility against the Christian community. Paul persecuted the Lord's disciples and Christian followers preaching the gospel and indicted them as criminal offenders under Roman law.

Some time passed as Paul was on the road to Damascus attempting to stretch his Judaist mission field, and he was traumatized by a voice. It was the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ! At this moment Paul's understanding of the Old Testament manifested because of the One who was crucified on the cross compelled him. He acknowledged that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised One. He declared that the same man who was crucified is the same redeemer of sin, the Savior, the King of kings, the Messiah!

Now, this seems to be the most challenging of his virtue. Paul had an impressive personal background. As a scion, he had a degree from a prominent school and a professional career in a powerful group. But all of his successes were based on Judaism. Paul says, "Now I have found the truth and Judaism is false. Christianity which I had come to believe as heresy, is the truth. What then shall I do?" he says.

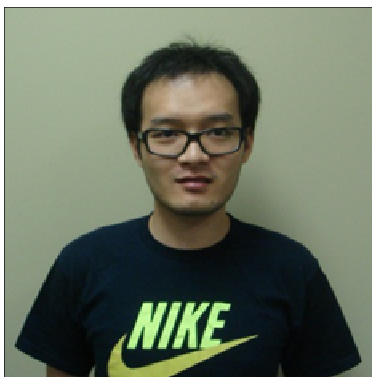
He testified his heart in Philippians 3:5-8: "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish; that I may gain Christ!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

I am heart-stricken as I read and meditate on Acts 9:26. I am unable to contain neither my heart nor my tears, as Paul kneels before those he condemned, begging for forgiveness. Paul consumed his pride, endured humiliation, and surrendered his former life. Courage and honesty became the epitome of Paul's principle!

Shall I continue to keep my pride, or shall I die for eternal life through the truth? That's right, pride will not save me, the truth will. ■

Steve An

Simon Kang



My father, through the Paul Bible Seminary, met with Steve and Young An during a mission trip in 2006. At the time I did

not have much interest in Christianity. I was motivated to do other things rather than focus on Christian ministry. He had the opportunity to attend Pastor Steve's seminar and immediately asked me to come and listen. I listened intently, and as the message progressed, my motivation for Christian virtue began to emerge. I wanted to travel to the United States and learn more. Immediately following the seminar, I held my father's hand and explained to him my plans. As a former minister, my father was thrilled to hear of my decision!

When I arrived and began classes, I was in total confusion. I started from the basics, but the basics did not make much sense. I studied and studied every night, but I could not progress. I realized it was my attitude toward my lifestyle. I began to observe my fellow students, and the Bible began to make sense. I began to mimic a Christ-like attitude and felt as comfortable as I did the day I arrived. I also began noticing changes in the way I thought and expressed myself. For the first time in my life, many things I had questions about made sense.

I do not know what the Lord has in store for me today, but with the knowledge and experience I acquired at the Korean Extension, I'm not afraid. My experience has been more than an educational experience. It was a reevaluation of my life, my goals, and my salvation. ■



# Coming this spring you can take courses online with the Atlanta Bible College!

Enjoy learning exciting material from the comfort of your own home and your own computer! It is easy to get started and you are just a few clicks away from starting a degree from the Atlanta Bible College!



- Fun
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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](mailto:dkrogh@abc-coggc.org) or Jacob Ballard, [jakea.ballard@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## Atlanta Bible College also offers 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 or for additional information, please contact Registrar David Krogh at: [dkrogh@abc-coggc.org](mailto:dkrogh@abc-coggc.org); or at 800-347-4261.

# WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? CALL TODAY!!



# Lord's Harvest International Report

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The Lord's Harvest International Board met in Atlanta in September for its annual meeting. Reports of the various fields were presented and discussed. Trips to fields during the coming twelve months were approved, including a trip to Peru in late October. John and Rachel Carr and Doug Todd of the Lakeshore Church in Tempe, AZ will accompany

David Krogh to Lima and nearby villages to encourage our workers and to discuss plans for the future.

Below is a report of the trip that Joe and Rebekah Martin made to Malawi and Mozambique in July and August.

## Africa Report 2011

Thank you all for your prayers as Joe and I traveled to Africa this summer. This trip was different from any other we've been on, as I will explain further down. God was with us, and we were blessed, and I believe we were a blessing to others as well.

Our first Sunday there, we worshiped with Pastor Zebulon Moyo and his congregation. We had a wonderful service there! Pastor Moyo, Joe and I all spoke, and the service was interspersed with much singing and dancing that the Africans love so much. A special treat at this service was that the head chief over all the area attended. He sang a spontaneous special (at his request) which, evidently, is unheard of! We were told several times how rare that is. His song was beautiful, and the words very meaningful to the message that had just been given. The local chief attended also.

After leaving there, we stopped by the church pastored by Christina Magomba where the service had ended, but the congregation just wanted us to stop and see them. Christina was in great pain in her back and knees, so we had an anointing/prayer service for her. It was very moving, and she told us when the prayers were over that she was already feeling better! Praise God!

One of the things we did not know was that many of the people in Malawi were angry with the president and had planned a demonstration. On Tuesday, we were told by several people that there was to be a demonstration the next day, July 20, and we should stay at the motel all day. We did that. The motel we



Garula COG dancing and singing...happy to see us!

stayed at is located approximately 2 miles from Blantyre, up on a hill.

We could hear the crowd some, and then later we heard guns shooting. We were told the police were shooting rubber bullets at the crowd. Later that evening, about two hours after we heard only silence, we walked into town. The streets were empty! ... (except for some policemen on the corners and driving around in trucks.) It was really strange to see Blantyre with no people walking around and no vehicles anywhere. In several businesses the large display windows had been broken. Things had been piled in the road different places and burned. There was trash everywhere, and in front of a bank the limbs had been torn off the decorative bushes/trees. We heard of violence, but no one being hurt.

The next day we traveled to Mulanje to Pastor Maxwell Chintenga's church (about two and a half or

*(Continued on page 22)*

*(Continued from page 21)*

three hours away) for a board meeting. We had a good meeting. The churches seem to be going well in Malawi. They are governing themselves well.

We were late getting back to the motel. It was after dark, and we don't like being on the roads at night. We found out there had been another demonstration that day, and since the police couldn't control the crowd, the army was called in. Real bullets were used. Eighteen people were killed then, and according to on-line sources, two more have died since from their wounds/injuries. The demonstrations were held in four or five major cities. All of our church people live in villages, except Linda and her family, and they were safe.

We bought four boxes of Bibles and distributed them. They have gone up in price again, and are now \$8.23 each. Many of the women are learning to read, and they are thrilled to be getting Bibles once they can read. We also gave some to pastors to distribute.

We visited several times with Dr. Chimoyo (whose clinic is located halfway between Thyolo and Mulanje) who treats our people without charge. We help him with whatever we can in exchange for his services. This year supplies for checking blood sugar for diabetes were taken, among other things. Thank you to all who donated these supplies! He



Bamboo bridge in Mozambique on our way to Garula Church.

can always use band-aids and alcohol wipes, so if anyone would like to donate them, we'll take them to him.

Joe and I performed a wedding for one of the pastors and his wife. They've been married for a long time in the traditional Malawian way and have eight or nine children, but they wanted to be married 'before God' in a church. The wedding was followed by a huge, joyous celebration near their home in the village. That was a lot of fun. Everyone was very happy, and the whole village turned out! After about four hours we left, even though it was still going strong.



Acquiring diesel from the black market.

One of the major problems we had while in Malawi this time was getting diesel for the truck. There was no diesel or gas to be had. There were long lines at filling stations every day, but the filling stations were barricaded off to vehicles. Occasionally one would get gas or diesel, but not both, and only a little. We were finally able to get some by going door-to-door in a village near the Mozambique border. These people filled five gallon cans in Mozambique and brought them back to Malawi to sell. Diesel was \$8.00/gallon, and we were thankful to get it. The shortage of fuel restricted the travel we intended to do.

The following Sunday we had services with Pastor Rabson Namaona at his church. It was very interesting toward the beginning of the service to hear the Lord's Prayer being said in Chichewa! Joe knew right away what it was... "Atate wathu wa Kumwamba, Dzina lanu liyeretsedw." "Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name." Key words: Atate = father; kumwamba = heaven; dzina = name.

*(Continued on page 23)*

*(Continued from page 22)*

We were able to get visas in Blantyre to go into Mozambique since we were not able to send off for them ahead of time this trip. It was very simple and easy, much better than when we get them from here. So we will plan to do that again in the future.

Two pastors who were also translators went with us to Mozambique, where we spent three days. We had a great meeting with the board and visited several newly built churches. The pastors reported that there were 133 baptisms this past year!

One of the churches we went to visit was really far out 'in the boonies' and vehicles had not traveled back there. For about two miles the pastor and congregation had hacked out brush and some trees, leveled down rows from people's gardens, and made a 'road' for the truck to get through to go to the church! We were amazed! The pastor and church people were very excited that we came to visit them.

One thing I forgot to mention...we had to cross over a bamboo bridge in the truck to get there! Talk about scary! It was reinforced with huge logs underneath, but the bamboo was several inches off the logs so it was 'bouncy.' Joe had all the rest of us get out and walk in case it didn't hold. One of the translators with us cautioned us strongly against going across, and when Joe said he was going to, the pastor said, "He's a man of GREAT faith!"

After returning to Malawi, I visited a women's group on Saturday. The women are very involved with helping others, which is really good to see. They asked for some watering cans to water their gardens with, so we bought some for them from one of the believers in another district who is a tinsmith. He had polio, and pulls himself along with his arms and hands. He's one of the few handicapped people we've seen over there who can provide for his family. He's a joyful, enthusiastic, wonderful man and was very excited to see us.

As many of you know, one of the great challenges for the pastors is transportation to visit members. We have been buying bicycles to help them. This year we left money for two bicycles. They are around \$100 each. We also helped a couple of pas-

tors with getting their bicycles repaired. Two motorcycles for each country are in the process of being bought.

The Church Builders Appeal went to Malawi/Mozambique this year. They were very thankful and excited to be able to build six churches! \$5,000 of that went to Linda Limbe to help build the women's compound. When we were there she had 50,000 bricks made; a total of 100,000 bricks are needed. They are being made right there on the land where the compound will be. After forming them, they will be stacked with several holes left in the stack for fire to 'burn' them to make them strong before using them in building. If bricks are not 'fired,' they eventually melt from the monsoon rains.

We were given a list of the three churches in Malawi and the three churches in Mozambique to be built, and money was given to each of them for the foundation to be started. Thank you for your generous donations. It costs approximately \$2,000 to build a church over there.

Thank you all for your support with prayers and finances to make this trip possible. We really appreciate each one of you and all that you do.

Rebekah Martin  
August 31, 2011



Maxwell's wedding



## Constructing church buildings in Mozambique and Malawi

Mission contributions over the past several years have been used to construct church buildings in Mozambique and Malawi. See the pictures below. Similar church buildings will be built from the some of the Spring 2011 Church Builders Appeal contributions. It costs about \$2,000 to build a strong, solid church building in Mozambique and Malawi.



Masenjelo Church—side view



Masenjelo Church—rafters and roof



Garula Church



Chidothe Church—corner view

# 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 **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** reported that the church once again participated in a ministry to provide Bible Sticks to members of the military. The Bible Sticks are battery operated devices used to listen to a recording of the Bible. Military chaplains then distribute them to the troops. The sticks cost \$25 each, but donations of any amount are welcomed.
- From **Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, MO** – **Pastor Don Ward** reports the normal fall schedule with Homecoming Sunday, Candle Light Communion, 24-Hour Prayer, Thanksgiving services and a Christmas program.
- From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Big Dipper Family Night was held at the home of **Dan and Rachel Cain** on September 10. Chips and dips or salsas were the featured food items, and everyone enjoyed the fellowship and games.
- From **Desloge Church of God in Desloge, MO** – The church, which had been meeting in cramped rented quarters, recently acquired a church building with a parsonage and a large lot. The rent from the parsonage is making the payments on this foreclosed property that fell into their hands. “God be praised,” says **Pastor Billy Dunn**. Missouri Fall Conference will meet at the new Desloge Church of God October 15-16.
- From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Many of the church family enjoyed a scavenger hunt and cookout on September 11. Teams roamed around Oregon Park West with their cameras and cell phones, taking pictures in a wild and wacky scavenger hunt. A cookout at the church after the service kicked off the afternoon, sending everyone off to the park for photo time.
- From **Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, MO** – **Pastor Don Ward** reports the generous members collecting non-perishable food items (cereals, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, packaged side dishes, boxed baked goods, such as cakes and cookie mixes, ramen noodles, jelly, jello, pudding, syrup, and corn muffin mix) to take to the Community Action Center to fill the shelves in August.
- From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Gail Tuttle** expressed her gratitude for the people who helped make the Habitat for Humanity garage sale a big success. Over 100 hours were invested in setting up, manning the sale, and disposing of the leftovers. Gail specifically thanked **Earlyne Warmolts, Lisa Nordman, Amanda and Zoe Prascak, Bob and Janie LaPage, Donna Vanderkolk, Bill and Diane Irwin, Rob and Angie Bucey, Sean Akin, John Tuttle, Dylan and Hayden Stormont, and Kurt Laurent**. The sale raised well over one thousand dollars.

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

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## Baptisms

Arkansas

*Forest Hills* (correction from previous issue) – Walter Stovall (6/26/11) by Terry Robinson; Cindy Stovall (6/26/11) by Walter Stovall and Terry Robinson

*Greenbrier* – Tara Clark (7/31/11) by Pastor Tom New

Illinois

*Oregon* – Mallorie Myers, Maggie Myers, and Zachary Myers (7/24/11) by Pastor Michael Hoffman; Alex Bolhous (7/24/11) by Larry Bolhous; Whitney Canfield (8/14/11) by Pastor Michael Hoffman

Indiana

*Indianapolis* – Christina Tschaenn (6/22/11) by her father, Pastor Mark Tschaenn

*Knightstown* – Emma Kate Moore (7/16/11) by her father, Tony Moore; Kyla Smith (7/16/11) by Pastor Mark Tschaenn and Angela Moore

*North Salem* – Megan Marsh and Don Coffel (8/21/11) by Pastor Darrell Cardwell

*South Bend* – Diana Barnard and Terrie Cruz (8/21/11) by Pastor Andy Cisneros

Missouri

*Farmington* – Sam Gerullis (6/5/11) by his aunt, Sally Brooks; Adam Brownlee (6/5/11) by Pastor Donna Cooper

South Carolina

*Bethel* – Brittany Burdick (7/31/11) and Emily Hood (8/21/11) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher; David Bender (8/21/11) by Pastors Ed Bender and Jeff Fletcher

## Deaths

Minnesota

*Hector* – David L. Johnson, 78, (7/19/11), long time Church of God member, served on the General Conference Board of Directors 1973-1976 and 1983-1985 (as Vice Chairman and Secretary). Service by Pastor Dale Swartz

South Carolina

*Joy Fellowship* – Shannon Jo Beckwith, 43, (5/3/11), first baptism at Joy Fellowship and first membership death; faithful and loved youth teacher. Service by Pastor Wally Winner

## Looking for issues of *The Restitution* 1874-1925

The History Committee is looking for issues of *The Restitution* 1874-1925. This magazine predated *The Restitution Herald* and was published first in Chicago, then Plymouth, IN, and finally Cleveland, OH. We have most of the issues on microfilm and CD, but the early years from 1874-1890 or so are scattered with many issues missing. *The Restitution* began publishing in Chicago in 1871 but those issues were lost in the Chicago fire. So any copies from 1871-1874 would be extremely rare and therefore very valued.

Please check all your files for any copies handed down from your parents or grandparents, or stored in your church records and archives that might have early dates on them. Pastors please announce this to your members and ask your isolated or shut-in members. If anything is located please contact Jan Stilson at [jstilson21@comcast.net](mailto:jstilson21@comcast.net). We would like to gather all these lost copies and interfile them in our existing files. We will accept loose copies or bound volumes. We will accept actual copies or jpg scans of them.

- 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 willing 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 Praise God for baptisms in our churches this fall.
- 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 Praise God on this Thanksgiving Day for His goodness in your life.
- 25 **Pray for Pastor Bill and Lacey Dunn and the New Beginnings Church in Desloge, MO.**
- 26 Pray for God's greatest blessings on those recruiting new students for the Atlanta Bible College spring semester.
- 27 **Pray for God's Spirit to lead and bless the work of your church elders.**
- 28 Pray for God to give your church insight and courage to see and act on opportunities to impact your local community..
- 29 **Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation.**
- 30 Pray for new contacts through the distribution of literature and our website.



**CWS**  
**2012**

## 2012 CHRISTIAN WORKERS SEMINAR

**Save these dates!**  
**April 15-20, 2012**

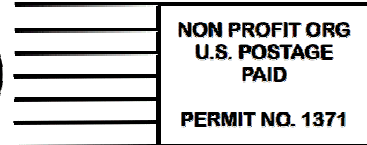
### 2012 Christian Workers Seminar

**At the excellent conference facilities of the Holiday Inn in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee**

**Plan to attend and bring a friend or two!**

**Great workshops and services are being planned and prepared.**

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



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## Prayer and Praise

December 2011

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Beloit New Life Church, 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 Jeff and Karen Fletcher 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 several folks in Cordova, TN.
- 17 **Pray for the Macomb Church of God in Macomb, IL.**
- 18 Thank God for His goodness to you.
- 19 **Pray for the *Focus on the Kingdom* ministry as it shares God's truth throughout the world.**
- 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 and Diana 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 2011.**



# THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

## THE MIRACLE OF THE LORD'S BUILDING AT 2020 AVALON PARKWAY

Compiled by Gary Burnham

We are excited and humbled to report to our membership that we are now officially owners of the 2020 Avalon office building in

McDonough, GA. After a sizeable donation from Pastor Jack and Louise Hearp's trust, and donations for the down payment from many individuals, we signed the final paper work and money was transferred to complete the transaction to buy the building on October 5, 2011. God's timing is *perfect!* This purchase could not and would not have been possible without the blessing and timing of God and the generosity of His people! Because of the faithfulness of so many, we were able to purchase the building with CASH! We will now be realizing an immediate savings from no longer having to pay monthly rent. The savings will be substantial. This is so important, because our revenue is down at the Conference due to a reduction in overall student tuition from our two campuses. God always provides! We know that a building is just a building. It is what takes place inside as a result of the building that is important. We do not focus on a building. We focus on ministry and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and doing the work of John 17:3 (that people may know the only true God and Jesus whom He has sent). We ask for your prayers. We ask that everything

which is done in and because of the building will be to the glory of God.



2020 Avalon Parkway, McDonough, Georgia 30253



The ribbon cutting ceremony of 2020 Avalon Parkway

On Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> we celebrated God's provision of the 2020 Avalon Parkway building during a ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication service!

In the picture below, Dr. Joe Martin (CAO/President) is cutting the ribbon outside of the office building now owned by Atlanta Bible College. Next to Joe in the picture are Board Chairperson Joe Myers (right) and McDonough Mayor Billy Copeland (left). The local Chamber of Commerce sponsored the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Attending were several chamber members, college/conference board, staff, college students, and several guests.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony we dedicated the building through several activities including an inspiring message from board member Pastor Alan Cain, a responsive

reading and anointing the building with oil and prayer. We gratefully thanked God for his miraculous provision of the office building. It was a great celebration!

*(Continued on page 4)*

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Proofreader: Robert Jones

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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.

**Your Tax Reduction Opportunity  
Expires December 30, 2011**

If you have reached age 70 1/2, you have an opportunity to make charitable gifts from your IRA (Individual Retirement Account) **tax free**. But this opportunity expires on December 30, 2011. Annual distributions from a traditional IRA are required, starting at age 70 1/2, and those distributions are taxed as income. But when the distribution is made payable to a qualified charity, the distribution is completely **tax free**.

For more information about IRA distributions or other types of deferred giving to Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference, please contact David Krogh at [dkrogh@abc-coggc.org](mailto:dkrogh@abc-coggc.org) or at 678-833-1839.

**CHECKING  
THE CALENDAR**

**January 13-15, 2012**  
ReFUEL  
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

**January 17, 2012**  
First class day for Atlanta Bible College  
Spring Semester

**February 6-10, 2012**  
Ministerial Conference  
Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

**February 24-26, 2012**  
Refuge  
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

**March 15-17, 2012**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
at Atlanta Bible College

**March 22-25, 2012**  
Atlanta Bible College Invitational

**April 15-20, 2012**  
Christian Workers Seminar  
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN

**May 3-6, 2012**  
Theological Conference  
Simpsonwood Conference Center  
Norcross, GA

**July 11-13, 2012**  
Church of God General Conference  
Lawrenceville Church of God,  
Lawrenceville, OH

**July 22-27, 2012**  
FUEL  
Manchester College,  
North Manchester, IN

### **“Looking Left”**

I have received a lot of comments about my article in the last Herald, “Looking Left.” I am surprised at the comments, “it just makes sense,” “twenty-one times in the New Testament, Jesus is at the right hand of God, what else could be said,” and “that is about as clear as it gets.” The obfuscation and confusion that comes from Christian creeds makes me very cautious. Eric Chang, in his book “The Only True God,” on page 84, makes the point “Will Christians be able to say to the Muslims [and the world] on that Day ‘I am innocent of the blood of all of you’” (Paul in Acts 20:26). The twisting of the clear Son of God, a messianic title from Psalm 2:7, and John 20:31 “...that you might believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,” to trying to get people to believe in a Greek/Hellenistic Jesus could be losing souls - lives for the kingdom!

### **Lots of Travel**

Rebekah and I were able to go to the History Conference. Thanks to Kent for promoting and providing (pictures elsewhere). On Sunday October 9, Lenoir had their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary plus dedication of the new fellowship hall. It was great to be with Jim Ritch and Dennis Baldwin, and all the family at Resurrection Hope. After driving the “Go Serve” youth to Ohio on October 14, Rebekah and I

drove over to the Missouri Conference. A panorama picture is on page 24. They purchased the church and parsonage for \$150,000. That is another miracle. The rent from the parsonage pays the note. Congratulations to the congregation and Pastor Bill Dunn. We also attended the Lawrenceville dedication on November 20.

## ***Serving churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom***

Mission of Atlanta Bible College/  
Church of God General Conference

### **Recent Meetings**

The board arrived Wednesday, October 26 and met through Saturday noon. Besides the ribbon cutting with the mayor of McDonough, and the dedication with Alan Cain speaking, lots of other topics were covered. The board received about ten reports. Steve and Sam An presented the Korean Extension report. Two new reports to the board were by Kim Raper on “Student Life,”

and Jacob Ballard on “Moodle,” the new online program at the college.

Also the board has requested that online donations be ready by Thanksgiving. Please check the website for that new option. The board created a new “adjunct teaching category.” For adjuncts that teach eight or more semester hours, a special higher pay category was initiated, but with each hour taught, a requirement of one-half hour office time each week. Even with the purchase of the building and less expenses on the lease, the budget is still tight.

At my encouragement, I asked the board for permission to ask all major groups of the conference, ministers, committees, etc. to fine tune and brainstorm the potential vision statement, “To Join God... .” What does that mean to each group? For instance, how would LHI tweak it, or how would YAC (Youth Advisory Committee) look at it?

We will gather ideas and input, then possibly have some recommendations at the summer General Conference. How could we make it even more biblically based? How could we incorporate previous vision initiatives under an umbrella of “To Join God... ?” The Bible speaks several times to those who join the LORD / YHWH in what He is doing. (Isa. 56:1-8; Jer. 50:4, 5; Ezra 6:21; Isa. 14:1; Zech. 2:11; cp. Jn. 17 “... one as we are one.”) ■

## The Miracle of the LORD's Building *continued...*

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*(Continued from page 1)*

During the dedication service staff member Gary Burnham was asked to share a few comments about "The Miracle of 2020 Avalon Parkway". The following are his words.

As we have talked about God's provision of this building, we have consistently made reference to Ephesians 3:20-21, "*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*"

I want each of us to be reminded that God is always in the miracle business. At an unknown time in the past God planned to provide this building for the ministry of Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference. In light of that:

- Do you suppose God noticed in 1991 when the college/conference moved from Oregon, Illinois to Morrow, Georgia?...16 years before this building was constructed?
- Do you suppose God noticed when Pastor Jack and Louise

Hearp were making a decision to set up a trust for distribution of their assets after their deaths?...a number of years before this building was constructed?

- Do you suppose God noticed when the Morrow campus was sold to Clayton State University in 2008?
- Do you suppose God noticed that space was available for lease in this building?
- Do you suppose God noticed when the Edith McKinney estate took 6 ½ years to settle, then provided a couple of hundred thousand dollars to us in late March of this year, about six weeks before the building went into foreclosure?
- Do you suppose God noticed when the building went into foreclosure on May 3, 2011?
- Do you suppose God noticed when the bank lowered their asking price by 1/3 after the building had been on the market for only a month?...to the exact price several of us had previously said we would be willing to pay?
- Do you suppose God noticed when over 150 people, churches and conferences combined to

contribute \$150,000 toward the purchase of the building?

- Do you suppose God noticed when we worked hard—very hard—for seven weeks but were still unable to secure a loan for the building purchase?

Yes, God certainly noticed. At 10:54 a.m. on Wednesday, August 17, Dr. Joe Martin received e-mail notice that the Church of God General Conference was the primary beneficiary of the Jack and Louise Hearp trust! How much did God notice? On that day, August 17, the estimated value of the trust, combined with estate gifts on hand, combined with building contributions of people and churches from around the country were almost exactly the purchase price of this building!...that is God at work... immeasurably more than any of us had dared to ask or imagine!

His provision of this building is a tremendous reminder that God is always in the miracle business...Am I ready for what He will do next?...Are you ready for what He will do next?...Are we ready for what He will do next? ■

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## Letter from the Chairman

**G**reetings this Thanksgiving and Christmas Season!

Your Board of Directors met in October. It was our first meeting with your new directors, Rick McClain and Greg Demmitt. As a reminder, Dan Siderius, Tom New, Alan Cain and Carrie Briggs are your returning directors. It is a pleasure and honor to serve with these good people. They are caring people who love

God and care very much for the Church of God General Conference.

As Dr. Joe Martin reported in another article, the big news of our October meetings was the finalization of the purchase of the Avalon office building, a portion of which the conference and Atlanta Bible College have been leasing for the past three years. We are so grateful for the wonderful ribbon cutting and dedication of the building. How blessed we

were to be able to pay cash for the building. This cash purchase will save us thousands of dollars of rental expense with each month that we own the building.

We received reports from Dr. Joe Martin and Pastor Steven An concerning the ABCKE campus and the McDonough campus. Enrollment is up at the McDonough campus and has dropped somewhat, do the econ-

*(Continued on page 5)*

**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.

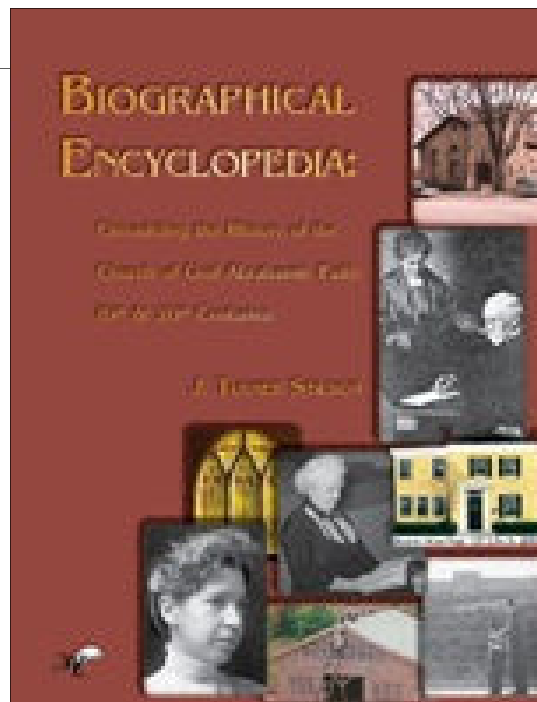


The book contains two sections, 19th and 20th centuries, featuring over 500 biographical entries of pastors, leaders and pioneers in the development of the Church of God in America and abroad, many with photos—all drawn from the Church of God archives and historical periodicals. Your family members may 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



(Continued from page 4)  
omy, at the ABCKE campus. The money we are saving in the reduction of rental payments and your consistent and faithful contributions have gone a long way in offsetting the loss in tuition receipts due to lower enrollment. God is faithful and we continue to believe that He will provide as He always has for the work set before us.

The "free tuition" program has been a huge success by any standard of measure. Your board has stepped out in faith and voted to continue the program as it is currently being administered for another entire school year! That's right. The free tuition program is back and available for all COG stu-

dents for the 2012-2013 school year! Please pray that even more students will take advantage of this wonderful program. It is a burden of your board to do all we can to train and supply the next generation with the tools to serve not only existing churches, but also new churches throughout the United States and the world!

Speaking of the world, we also welcomed into fellowship churches in Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Peru, and Mexico. We have been working with these churches in some cases for many years, but we wanted to make their membership official. What this means logistically is, we

have more international churches than we do churches in the United States! Who is going to minister and serve these churches? The harvest truly is plentiful, we but need to pray for the laborers.

Let me close by congratulating pastor Alan Cain and the congregation of the Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH. They held their very first service at their new facility on Sunday November 20. God bless you in your continued work for God and His kingdom.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Joe Myers



## 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 Great Leader Builds Great Leaders

Among the folks you serve as a leader are plenty of potential leaders. In fact, there may be someone who will become an even better leader than you. Don't fear him. Embrace him! Don't be afraid of her. Welcome the opportunity to invest in her life!

One of the greatest blessings a leader can bring into others' lives is to build them into leaders. A good leader recognizes in others the potential for leadership, draws it out, and further develops it.

Sometimes your investment in the life of a potential leader will take a direction you never anticipate. During my first year of ministry in Virginia I invested time each week in the life of a skinny red-headed member of the congregation. Over the following three decades he attended and graduated from Atlanta Bible College, married my sister, made me an uncle eleven times, and pastored churches in several states and in England. Now Jeff Fletcher is pastoring in Virginia, within 90 minutes of where he grew up.

Do you suppose the opportunity I had to influence his life made a difference? Certainly. In God's plan for Jeff's life, He could easily have used someone else to impact Jeff. But He gave me an opportunity to take or refuse. I'm glad I took it! Someone—maybe several someones in your influence have tremendous potential to be a great leader. Will you invest your life in their life?

Thinking about passing on faith to multiple spiritual generations, the apostle Paul wrote, “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” (I Timothy 2:2)

Like Paul encouraged Timothy, are you teaching “reliable” men and women who will teach and lead the next spiritual generation(s)? Who mentored you as you learned and developed leadership skills? Who are you mentoring?

Jesus taught, led, and mentored the twelve. What leadership levels would they have reached without Jesus' model? Clearly none of us are at the same level as Jesus. Still, we can model, train and teach leadership for others.

We don't know the final destination for the lives of leaders we build. Sometimes these leaders will move to different locations to serve. That is what Jeff Fletcher did.



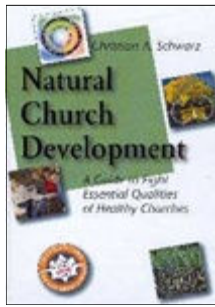
Sometimes they will remain as a part of our team, such as the folks I currently serve with at Atlanta Bible College. A leader leading alone has much greater limits than does a leader

building other leaders to help carry the task forward. Don't fear building great leaders. That process can make you an even better leader!

In either case—a leader moving into another area, or a leader remaining on our team—a great legacy for a leader is not merely, “what did I accomplish?”, but, “what leaders did I develop that together can accomplish far more than I ever could accomplish alone?”

What leaders are you developing? What potential leaders do you need to develop? Ask God for a vision of what they can become and some perspective of how He will use you to lead them in that direction. Then lead them! ■

Gary Burnham  
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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.*

### Searching For Church Health... ...Where Do We Start?

One church is unhealthy. Where does it start its search for health? Another church is very healthy? Where does it start its search for greater health? A pastor is looking for the best place to invest his time and effort over the next year. A lay leader is frustrated about the level of health in her church, wondering what direction to look in a search of improved health.

Could the answer for either church, for the pastor, and for the lay leader actually be the same? In principle, yes. In practice, no.

In principle, NCD can assist any church, in any condition of health. How? By helping it discover where to focus its efforts.

If your church made a list of everything that "should" be done to improve the health of the church, how long do you suppose that list would be? How long would it take to accomplish every item listed? How much do you really think could be completed in the next twelve months?

If the list is long, how do you decide which item(s) will have the maximum impact in your church? NCD is designed precisely to help you answer this very question.

Through extensive research in 1000's of churches in over 70 countries, NCD has dis-

covered the following eight quality characteristics are found in the healthiest churches:

Empowering Leadership  
Gift-based Ministry  
Passionate Spirituality  
Effective Structures  
Inspiring Worship Service  
Holistic Small Groups  
Need-oriented Evangelism  
Loving Relationships

A survey taken by 30 folks in your church reveals which of the eight quality characteristics is currently the minimum health factor in your church. That characteristic is the key area for the church's focus in the next year.

A very simple principle. Easy to apply in any church. Then we move from the principle to the practice.

In practice, the principle needs to be applied in a way specific to the individual church, its church members and its community. For example, if your church's minimum factor is "Inspiring Worship Service", what will make worship services inspiring in YOUR church, for YOUR church members, for YOUR community.

NCD provides tools—questions, resources, coaching, etc.—to help you make the specific, appropriate application to your church culture.

My vision is to see Churches of God all around the world evidencing these eight quality characters (see list earlier in this article). 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. ■

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**This article is a reprint from the April 5, 1955 Restitution Herald.**

*“The righteousness which is of faith” (Romans 10:6)*

*“The righteousness which is by faith” (Hebrews 11:7)*

Is there a difference between immortality and eternal life? Will the faithful of these times of the Gentiles (Romans 11:25) be exalted so much higher than faithful ones of ancient days? Will some have eternal life in natural bodies, while the saints become spirit beings, dwelling in the “new heavens,” while others mentioned will dwell in the “new earth”? Matthew 5:5 says: “Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.” Is it true it does not refer to the church of the living God?

We were confronted with these questions recently. The whole plan of salvation is challenged by these questions.

#### ***The Basic Law of Faith***

“Without faith” no man can please God reads Hebrews 11:6. “By grace are ye saved through faith,” reads Ephesians 2:8. It is our understanding of God and His Word that the one basic law God has given men of all ages, if they are to please Him, is to “*have faith in God.*” Believe Him! Believe He means what He says when He asks us to do certain things, like “be baptized.” Of course, He has required different tasks of different men – Abraham was asked to offer his son. The Israelites were commanded to be circumcised. We are asked to be baptized. Yet, if any will be saved, it will be because of their *belief in God* (which is all-

inclusive). If we believe, we will act accordingly.

#### ***This Law Was Known to Ancient Men of God***

“He believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness: (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3; James 2:23). “The just shall live by his faith” (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11). The faithful ones who lived long ago were very careful about obeying God. This respect and obedience, because of belief or faith, accounted them “worthy” in God’s eyes.

#### ***What Provision Did God Make for Ancient Saints to Be Saved?***

God made provision for their salvation by offering them eternal life, eternal blessing, and eternal inheritance in the earth. They shall be changed and given eternal life at resurrection, the same as the church.

David, a man after God’s own heart, said, “I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness” (Psalm 17:15). Daniel recorded, “Many ... shall awake, some to everlasting life.” Psalm 133:3 speaks of a time God commanded the blessing, even life for evermore. Even in Luke 9:30, 31, in vision Moses and Elijah appeared in glory, talking to Jesus.

Paul said, “There shall be a resurrection ... of the just and unjust.” Notice those who are called just in the scriptures – Noah and Joseph being among them!

If the saints rise in the first resurrection, and the rest of the dead rise not till after the thousand years, when do the ancient worthies rise? They will rise in the

first resurrection, for they are righteous. Luke 20:35, 36 speaks of those who shall be accounted worthy by faith of entering “that world.” It then immediately speaks of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We read elsewhere, “Ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God” (Luke 13:28-30).

James 1:21 tells us the engrafted Word of God is able to save. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by God’s Word. Can you say the Old Testament saints are accounted not quite so worthy in God’s sight as the church of the New Testament? Daniel 12:1 speaks about some of the old faithful ones having their name written in a “book.” What book? We understand “book of life.” The words “saved” and “salvation” occur many times in the Old Testament, as well as in the New. God will fulfill His promises.

#### ***No Salvation (Justification) in Sinai Law***

Galatians 3:11 and 21 make it plain the law did not offer salvation and could not give eternal life by keeping it. What could, then? *Faith*, which leads to obedience. Romans 3:28-30 tells men are justified by faith.

#### ***For Whom Did Christ Die?***

Christ died for all the ungodly (Romans 5:6); for sinners (Romans 5:8); for all (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15); for us all (Romans 8:32); for the world (John 3:16). Christ died for all men, even those who lived before Him, that He might be Lord of all (Romans 14:9). Those who lived before Him believed in Him. The Messiah was their light, their

*(Continued on page 9)*



**This article is a reprint from the April 5, 1955 Restitution Herald.**

*“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God” (Mark 1:14).*

Jesus Christ preached the gospel of the kingdom of God from the beginning to the close of His personal ministry, until His death. He said to His apostles, “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14). To the “end” of what? To the end of the world or age, as clearly revealed in verse 13, which reads: “He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

The kingdom of God and its message are closely connected as revealed in the Word of God. Every humble servant of God should study the question with a prayerful desire to understand and teach it as the Lord had given it. There are many theories concerning the kingdom and the time of its establishment. Many are led away from the truth concerning it. We briefly reveal important matters to our readers, necessary for old and young. Since they are in the inspired Word of God, they are given for our acceptance, and for our food by the God of heaven.

We do not propose to interpret the Lord’s Word, but simply refer to what is said in both the Old Testament and New Testament. By

“kingdom” is meant the government of God which will be under the leadership of the Son of God at the time appointed, at the second coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus said to His apostles, “All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me” (Luke 24:44).

Let us look into the prophecy of David in Psalm 2:6. “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.” In harmony with other portions of the Word of God, this refers to Jesus Christ occupying the seat of judgment power as God’s king while reigning in “mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously” (Isaiah 24:23).

*(Continued on page 10)*

*(Continued from page 8)*

hope, their promise. They looked for Him, and believed concerning Him.

***Did Old Testament Faithful Ones Believe in Christ?***

Moses did (Hebrews 11:26, 27); Abraham did (John 8:56); so also David (Psalm 110:1). Many are the prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament. Job understood Christ should stand on earth in the latter days. And it is written in Acts 10:43, “To him [Christ] give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”

***The Same God Over All***

God is no respecter of persons. Peter proclaimed by God’s Spirit, “In every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” Romans 10:12 bears record: “There is no

difference between the Jew and the Greek; for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.”

***Who Has Charge of Salvation?***

Jesus, of course! Zechariah announced it (9:9). Paul declared that Jesus would come “without sin unto salvation” (Hebrews 9:28). Salvation is for all who are justified. Different rewards will be given different ones *according to their faith*.

***We Conclude***

We must not think lightly of the great eternal life God has promised all the faithful. Find it recorded in John 3:16; 17:2; Acts 13:48; Romans 2:7; 6:23. Notice in Hebrews 11 how the faithful ones obtained good reports. Study them one by one.

Abel obtained witness of his righteousness. Noah condemned the world by his building of the ark,

becoming heir of the righteousness which is of faith. Enoch pleased God. Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than Egypt’s treasure houses. The rest, “of whom the world was not worthy,” endured sore trials, looking for a better resurrection, that is, the first resurrection.

God has not yet rewarded them, but He has provided something better than that, having us in mind, that they should not be made perfect without us. We shall all rise together to meet Christ in the air, if found faithful. Then we shall live together eternally in the glorious kingdom of God and of Christ on this earth made new. What a glorious hope! Is this hope yours?

James Mattison  
April 5, 1955

(Continued from page 9)

“The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.” Such passages have no reference to the church of this age. They refer directly to the reign of Jesus Christ on earth. The overcomers of this age who constitute the church of God are promised a position with Christ on his throne after their redemption (Revelation 3:21). Paul referred to this when he said, “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him” (2 Timothy 2:12). The church was not reigning with the Son of God then, because Jesus was not reigning then. Neither is He reigning now. Anyone who will read the Lord’s Word prayerfully and sincerely can clearly see and understand that the kingdom has not yet been established.

Carefully read 2 Peter 1:11, and be convinced that the church, the called-out people of God, was not in the everlasting kingdom of God, but their “entrance” was assured *if* they remained faithful to the Lord. Several New Testament passages spoken after the ascension of Christ *seem* to teach that the kingdom was in existence. But they do not teach such any more than those passages used before the death of the Lord teach that it was in existence before Jesus died. One can see that Isaiah 9:6 refers to Jesus Christ being born, yet He was not born in Isaiah’s time, though the word “is” appears in the verse.

There are those who believe and teach that the kingdom is in existence now. They tell us it was established on the Day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They offer Daniel 2:44, Isaiah 2:1-4, and Micah 4:1-8 as proof. These prophets had no reference to anything that transpired on that occasion. One should

fully study these prophecies. In them is evidence of the future kingdom that has never been equaled by arguments of theologians who would apply them to the present. The whole unscriptural argument is based on the fictional theology of the immortality of the soul. Those who believe this theory believe in heaven for the righteous, and a burning hell for the wicked. They have no use for the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ for the purpose of reigning on earth, as the word of God teaches it.

We should be interested in the kingdom (government of God) since Christ offered His servants a hope of being in the kingdom on condition of faithful service. Jesus said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). God caused Ezekiel to prophesy, “I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him” (Ezekiel 21:27). To what coming of Jesus does this refer? There are only two such events, as revealed in Hebrews 9:26, 27. By reading and studying the New Testament we can easily see that the prophecy of Ezekiel could not and did not refer to the Lord’s first coming. He referred to Christ’s second coming in power and great glory (Luke 21:27; Matthew 16:27, 28).

Jesus Christ, seeing His future exaltation as king of kings and lord of lords (Revelation 19:16), said, “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory” (Matthew 25:31). His throne will be the throne that David and Solomon occupied, “the throne of the Lord” over Israel (1 Chronicles 29:23). It will be extended to include the entire earth. David said: “He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends

of the earth. They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust (Psalm 72:8, 9).

The foregoing prophecy has had no fulfillment as yet. Until Jesus comes again, it will remain unfulfilled. This is the hope of God’s people, that His Son will return personally to earth and set up His kingdom that has been promised by the Father through all His prophets. It is a shame and disgrace that some theologians wrest and mutilate the Word of God on this wonderful and glorious subject. When it is taught that the prophecies of the kingdom refer to the church of the Lord in the age, ignorance will still prevail. It was Isaiah who said: “Darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people” (Isaiah 60:2).

Among the prophecies concerning the kingdom of God to be established on the earth after Jesus comes the second time is Daniel 2:44: “In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed. . . . It shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.” Where, in all past ages, can we find that this prophecy has been fulfilled? It is not to be found. No wonder Isaiah referred to the ignorance that would fill the earth because men and women would listen to false teachers! The mighty kingdom under its supreme king Jesus Christ will break to pieces all kingdoms of man, and it shall stand forever. Jesus Christ “shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:33). It will have a beginning but no end. This does not conflict with the reign of Christ for a thousand years. The first thousand years will be to destroy the kingdoms of man, and to clean the earth of man’s miserable failure to bring peace and happiness to the world. Much of Israel’s trouble was

(Continued on page 19)

# CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

## 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

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); or by E-mail: [smith4052@bellsouth.net](mailto:smith4052@bellsouth.net).

## HAPPYWOODS CHURCH

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

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

For more information, please contact Elder Charles Bottolfs at 985-542-1555 or via e-mail at [cqbottolfs@bellsouth.net](mailto:cqbottolfs@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.

## NORTH SALEM CHURCH OF GOD

We desire a pastor at the North Salem Church of God in Plymouth, Indiana. A parsonage with utilities is available. Please contact Tim Pearson at [timpearson2@comcast.net](mailto:timpearson2@comcast.net).

## THE KING'S CORNER

The King's Corner Church in Ronkonkoma, Long Island, New York is a Church of God member church looking for a pastor.

We are looking for a pastor with a strong musical inclination to share teaching responsibilities and oversee a support team of elders in daily operations. The fellowship, in addition to a Sunday morning fellowship/worship service hosts a prayer group, a Bible study and a music based outreach group. A stipend is currently available and the position could become full-time in the future. Please contact John Wall at 631-738-1577 or via e-mail at [thekingscorner.org@gmail.com](mailto:thekingscorner.org@gmail.com). See the church website at [www.kingscorner.org](http://www.kingscorner.org).

**M**any people, for all practical purposes, think the book of Acts begins with chapter 2. That's where the action and the exciting stuff happens. I can't say I blame them. Acts chapter 2 is some great stuff. It is exciting, adventurous, and the beginning of the church.

So why did God inspire Luke to start with the information in chapter 1? Why not just start out with chapter 2 as the beginning? Could it be that the things in chapter 1 were important to what happened in chapter 2?

I wonder, if it is possible, that the results in chapter 2 were greatly affected by what happened in chapter 1. I think they were. A lot of us, if it were any way possible to whatever degree possible, would like to experience Acts chapter 2. Let's take a look at chapter 1 and ask ourselves if it could have affected what happened in chapter 2.

Luke is writing a second letter to Theophilus about all that Jesus began to do and teach. Luke bridges the gap between his first and second book so that it may be seen as one continuous account. I see three actions in chapter 1 that I think had a positive effect on what happened in chapter 2.

1. The disciples were obedient. I see this in two events. They were commanded to wait in Jerusalem to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. They had other commands, such as go into all the world. But they needed to wait for the Holy Spirit. They did not know when the Spirit would come, but the results would have been extremely different if they had not waited. I think their waiting and what they did while waiting was crucial.

The second act of obedience I see is the choosing of a disciple to replace Judas. I wonder how Peter was prompted to do so. It clearly appears to have been a command because of

Peter's reference to the Psalms. I would have never have thought it was what those Psalms were referring to. However, something or someone prompted Peter to take this action.

2. The disciples were unified. I do not see this in any specific action but the overall activity and attitude. Especially in #3.

3. They all joined together constantly in prayer. Read the book of Acts and observe what happens when the followers of Christ join together in prayer.

This is just the beginning of the point I am trying to make, or asking "would it make a difference?" I would like to continue in the book of Acts to observe the possible connection of what happened in chapter one.

In chapter 4 Peter and John were put in jail for teaching about Jesus and healing a lame man. The religious leaders attempted to intimidate them but were afraid to do more because the people were happy about what the apostles had done.

What happens next is very interesting. Peter and John were released and returned to "their" people, the church. They reported what had happened to them. Their people responded by worshipping God in prayer for what had happened. In their prayer they did not ask for safety, but for boldness in speaking.

The response from heaven was a second pouring out of the Holy Spirit. I see a common connection with the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Obedience, unity, and group prayer preceded the outpouring.

Scripture reports that "All the believers were one in heart and mind." An outpouring of the Holy Spirit surely helps. I think a common commitment and humility help also.

In Acts 13:1-3 it is written: Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

I wonder who the Holy Spirit spoke through. Apparently it was not important. What is important is the Holy Spirit spoke during a gathering of the church. The calling of Barnabas and Saul was not something that they alone felt, but was from the church gathered there.

These are not the only times the Holy Spirit moved in the church. And it does not mean that every time the church gathered to pray they experienced great things. But there is a definite pattern that I think is significant. Each time the church was obedient, unified, and in prayer.

Are there any times in the Old Testament that praying together made a difference? The first one I think of is the city of Nineveh. When Jonah preached to them the people responded by fasting and humbling themselves. (I personally think that fasting automatically includes prayer. Prayer is not mentioned in connection with Esther's fasting, but I think that was assumed. Fasting without prayer is called a diet.) It caught on to the point that the king heard about it and commanded everyone to join! It is very ironic, since this was a heathen city.

In the history of the church the great revivals have begun with prayer meeting. The Moravian revival (1727), the

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Welsh (1904), the Great Awakening (1734), the Second Great Awakening (1780), the Laymen's Revival (1857), Pentecost (33?), and others all started with prayer meetings. If we were to study these revivals, they all began with conviction and personal repentance on the part of the church! Not on the part of the unsaved, but those within the body of Christ. Everyone saw the need for their personal repentance; not the repentance of others.

However, I am not seeking to start a revival. Sorry if that is what you want, for now I just want Christians to see and experience the presence of God in praying together. For praying together to be the most effective, I think there are ingredients that are important. The atti-

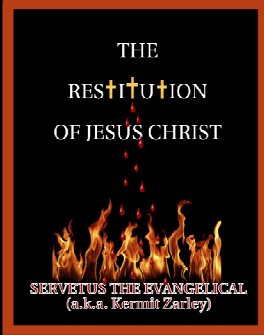
tudes of those coming together are of tremendous effect.

I guess one of the reasons I write this is because I have seen prayer work in a powerful way in a congregation. I was personally part of a church that had prayer meeting twice a week and had a very high percentage of members attending. They believed it made a difference, and it did! Jim Cymbala also writes about it in a book called "Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire."

In closing, I want to introduce another thought that I believe goes along with this one. Have you ever heard of the saying "prayer changes things?" Have you ever considered the possibility that not praying changes things? What if, in the garden when the serpent tempted

Eve and Adam, they had responded by saying they wanted to talk to God about it before eating the fruit? Could the results have been different? What if, when the people of Israel were considering the invasion of Ai, they had prayed first? Since God was already angry about Achan's sin, could prayer have prevented the loss? When the Gibeonites came to Joshua with their deception, would prayer have been good?

I think a lot of stories would have been different if people would have prayed first. I think if churches come together to pray, they would see a lot more of God in their midst. Movements of God do not begin with great preaching, they begin with prayer. ■



- 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?

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# **“Equipping the Church for the End Times”**

**39th Annual Christian Workers’ Seminar - April 15-20, 2012**

## **Early Morning Bible Study**

Dan Gill (two mornings)

Anthony Buzzard (two mornings)

## **Morning Devotions**

Joe Myers

“Intentional Influence in Tough Times”

## **Scheduled Teachers:**

### **Joe James**

Healthy Administration of the Church

### **David Krogh**

The Strategy for Matthew 24:14

### **Anthony Buzzard**

The Kingdom Message in Crisis

### **Sean Finnegan**

Apologetics in Times of Apostasy

### **Scott Ross**

Equipping the Church through Crisis Times

### **Rebekah Martin**

Christian Education from Home and Church

### **Wally Winner**

Equipping the Church for Tribulation Times

### **Kim Raper**

My Passion for Missions and People

### **Andy Cisneros**

Building Intentional Relationships  
in Troubled Times

### **Dan Gill**

Having Christ in Crisis

### **Gary Burnham**

Healthy Churches in Hard Times

### **Vince Finnegan**

Victory in Christ

## **Evening Speakers:**

Sunday – Vince Finnegan: Equipping and Training During Turmoil

Monday - Joe Myers: Motivating During Madness

Tuesday - Gary Burnham: For and To The Next Generation

Wednesday - Wally Winner: The Crazy Church: Weird Ideas That May Work

Thursday - Joe Martin: Casting Vision

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# The 39th Annual Christian Workers' Seminar 2012

## Equipping The Church For The End Times

April 15-20, 2012

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Check in time is at 3 P.M.

Check In Date - 4/15/2012

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Do you give the Church of God General Conference permission to put your address, phone number and e-mail address in a CWS 2012 directory to be distributed to all attendees? **Please circle: Yes / No**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

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Registrations Postmarked After 3/15/12 (add \$40 per adult /\$25 per child)	\$
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### Prices (housing, meals, program)

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0-2 No Cost  
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# Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

## The Seven Last Years of This Age

### Background

Jesus referred to “the abomination of desolation” that was revealed to Daniel (11:31; 12:11) as the first of six signs Jesus lists concerning “the end of the age” (Matt. 24:3-31). They are: 1. the abomination of desolation; 2. the great tribulation; 3. the signs in the sky; 4. the appearance of the sign of Christ in the heavens and all tribes of the earth mourning; 5. the coming of Christ in power and glory; 6. the angels sent out with great trumpet sound to gather the elect (resurrection). These six happenings shall END this age.

The apostles had asked Jesus, “What will be the sign of your coming”, and “the end of the age?” (These signs were still future.) Peter lists three ages in 2 Peter 3. This thought of the ending of this second age is mentioned four times in Matthew 24:3, 6-”but that is not yet the end.” 13 - “the one who endures to the end...shall be saved”; and 14 - “and then the end shall come.”

### The Seven-Year Covenant

In God's plan for His people Israel, God told Daniel that “seventy weeks” (heptads, or, seventy weeks of years—490 years), were determined for Israel and Jerusalem, the holy city,” that when they were finished, six things would be fulfilled—Dan. 9:24-27. They would be:

1. finish the transgression.
2. make an end of sin.
3. make atonement for iniquity.
4. bring in everlasting righteousness (compare 2 Peter 3:13)
5. seal up the vision and prophecy.
6. anoint the most holy place.

From “the decree to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince” (Christ) “will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks” (69 of these weeks of years, or, 483 years, v. 25. “after the sixty-two weeks (plus the seven) Messiah will be cut off.” v. 26, or, die. 69 of those 70 weeks of years ended when Christ died.

“The people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (temple.) And its (his, Heb.) end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he will make a firm covenant with the many (Israel) for one week, but in the middle of the week (after 3 ½ years) he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering, and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate” (vv. 26-27).

Antiochus Epiphanes fulfilled this the first time, around 168 B. C.

But since Jesus spoke about the abomination also occurring at the time of the end of this age, we know there will be a second fulfillment just before Jesus returns (thus a gap in the 70 weeks of years period after Jesus died till the last seven years.) The future abomination of desolation in the yet-to-be-built temple will begin the last three and a half years of the 70 weeks of Daniel 9:24-27.

“When you see” it, Jesus said, “then there will be a great tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall be. And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.”

This last three and a half year period at the end of this age is mentioned numerous times in the Bible, and is described in different

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terms: midst of the week, 1260 days (Jewish days, 360 a year), 42 months. (See the author's End-Time Time Line book.)

However, the covenant the Antichrist (1 John 2:18) makes with Israel is a seven-year covenant (Dan. 9:27). He brings peace to the Middle East between the Jews and Arabs. He will be hailed as a great man. There is not much said about the first 3 ½ years of this covenant. Evidently this will be a time of religious tolerance. Also in this first 3 ½ years, the Jewish temple will evidently be built and Israel's sacrifices will begin again. (How can Israel sacrifice without a temple?) BUT "In the middle of the week he (Antichrist) will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering" and "forces from him...will set up the abomination of desolation" (Dan. 11:31). This word "abomination," in Strong's Concordance refers to idols.

Revelation 13:11-15 speaks of false prophet (Rev. 19:20) telling Antichrist's followers to "make an image (statue) to the beast". OR, the "abomination" may be spoken of in 2 Thessa-

lonians 2:3-4, where it says this "man of lawlessness" who opposes God, "will take his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself to be God," or, probably both.

So we see at the halfway point in the seven years, he will put a stop to Israel's sacrifices (Dan. 9:27) and "the abomination" will be put in "the holy place" (Matt. 24:15). Not only will this man blaspheme God (Rev. 13:5-6), but he will also "make war with the saints and overcome them" (v. 7, Dan. 7:21, 25).

Thankfully, Jesus will come and destroy him (Rev. 19:19-21) and "bring in everlasting righteousness (Dan. 9:24), establishing the kingdom of God over earth (Rev. 11:15; Dan. 7:22,27). That is the day we long for!

When we see a seven-year covenant made with Israel in the Mid East, we will know the end of this age is near. It will be time for the "new heavens and earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3:13.) ■

Jim Mattison

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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](mailto:dkrogh@abc-coggc.org), or by mail at Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253 for more information or to set up a charitable gift annuity.

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		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%		

# ABC News

The Board of Directors of ABC met October 27-29. At the meeting, a category for adjuncts who teach eight semester hours or more was created with increased pay and a requirement for 1/2 hour of office time each week for each semester hour taught. For example, if an adjunct teaches eight semester hours, four hours of office time each week would be required. ABC instructor Bob Jones has chosen to continue as an adjunct instructor for the next semester. Jon Cheatwood has chosen to not continue as an adjunct instructor for the next semester. He will be given a severance package. He will continue to serve as national Youth Director, preparing for FUEL to be held July 2012.

Several new adjuncts have been employed for the coming semester. Terence Lester ('08) will teach Beginning Youth Ministry. Pastor Joe Myers ('73) will teach a new course

on The Ministry of Influence. Rob Bernheisel ('80) will teach Personal Spiritual Development II. Sean Finnegan ('05) will teach Principles of Evangelism and he will team teach Church History I along with Zachary Ross. Other instructors for this semester will be Bob Jones, Rebekah Martin, David Riley, Gary Burnham, Joe Martin, David Krogh, and Jogi Mauger.

Two new international students joined the college this semester from Zimbabwe. They join many international students from South Korea, Kenya, the Bahamas, and Laos. Sixty additional students have been admitted from Kenya, Tanzania, Greece, Gabon, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Ghana and Eritrea, but each semester only 2 to 5 students have been able to secure visas to enter the country. Please pray that visas will be extended to more students to come to prepare for ministry.

Students have been involved in visiting many churches this fall as a part of our Go Serve ministry under the direction of staff member Kim Raper. In October, students traveled to Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. Stu-

dents have also had an opportunity to serve our church in North Carolina. Additional trips are planned for the winter/spring semester.

Dr. Joe Martin has represented Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference at several events this fall. He attended the annual History Conference at the North Hills Church in September. In October he participated in the dedication of the fellowship hall of the Church of Resurrection Hope in Lenoir, NC which was rebuilt after being destroyed by a lightning strike more than a year ago. He also spoke at the Missouri Conference that was held at the new facilities of New Beginnings Church in Desloge, MO. On November 20, he participated in the dedication of the newly-constructed Lawrenceville, OH Church of God.

On November 5, David Krogh's famous "Death by Chocolate" party was held at Cornerstone Bible Church. Some sixty or so recipes were served. Take home plates were available. If the party didn't kill you, you could try at home as well.

—David Krogh

## **I am a faithful Cardinal fan!... Are you a faithful church member?**

Yes, I have been a follower of the St. Louis Cardinals most of my life. For years when I went to a game, I would take my kids along. As they got older, I let them decide for themselves if they wanted to go or if they wanted to become a fan of another team. After all there are 29 other teams to choose from.

I notice they don't pay that much attention to the game any longer. They said they had been taken to too many games when they were younger. Maybe they will sit and watch a special game. I am not surprised. While they knew the general rules of the game, I often had to quote the statistics and the various

rules to them. They never seemed interested enough to memorize the information saying they could always look it up if it became important. Besides, they just weren't interested in baseball, except generally, and didn't want to be too closely identified with it.

Finally, I quit going because they won't let me sit in the upper levels, but made me sit down behind home plate where everybody could see me. And every time I went they had people asking for money. Many times I disagreed with the umpire.

Often I would sit in locations where people never talked to me, and the seats were real uncomfortable. The people singing the national anthem were trying to vary it too much, and I didn't like the different

sound. I found more and more the games were being played when I wanted to do something else. I suspect they were people at that game that weren't really baseball fans. They just came for the food. Some of the games ran long, and I would end up getting home late.

Besides, I can stay home and watch it on TV.

Yes, I am a faithful Cardinal fan. I am ecstatic over their World Series victory and would be happy to talk about it with anybody unless it offends you. Then we can just talk about the weather.

—Pastor Wally Winner



Season's greetings and happy holidays,

God has blessed the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension with another promising and blessed semester. The current number of students enrolled is 79, including 14 new students, and 16 on-campus classes with the supplement of distance learning classes. Despite the good news, the Korean Extension has also suffered some loss of enrollment as well. Some of our Korean students have departed the United States during the summer recess due to financial instability, which resulted in their inability to continue studies in the U.S. We have also experienced some loss during the fall session, which was also attributed to the inability to maintain their stay, financially, in the U.S. The economic crisis in the U.S. has encompassed South Korea, and the negative effects are affecting our Korean students as well.

Despite the decrease in enrollment, the Korean Extension staff continues to assist the students in many ways to alleviate the stress of living in a foreign country. We search for medical organizations that work closely with charitable foundations that could assist students with medical needs. The assistance of interpreting for students and their family is still provided such as assistance with traffic violations, appearances at the local DMV, hospitals, financial institutions, assistance in establishing utilities, and so forth. We continue to encourage and motivate students to preserve positive morale as they continue their studies. We maintain communication with those students that were unable to continue studies and also encourage them to re-enroll once they have attained financial stability. Recruitment is also a task the Korean Extension staff has fervently been involved in. We continually receive questions regarding the enrollment process.

We will not lose passion through the loss of enrollment, and we will not give up the work the Lord has imparted to us. We will set our eyes on God and His guidance as He leads the Korean Extension in the direction that will benefit Him and His glory.

Thank you for your commitment and continued support for the Korean Ministry!

Steve An

Atlanta Bible College  
Korean Extension  
Student Profile  
**Chae Yun Baik**  
(KE student since spring 2010)



Chae Yun's motivation to enroll was inspired by a former student, Ho Bun Kim. Before Chae Yun enrolled, she hoped to find a Bible college that would inspire her to continue in the Lord's work. She states, "I am very pleased with the level of knowledge I am receiving, it is complex yet filled with great passion for God's work." She also describes her appreciation to God for drawing her in the direction of the Korean Extension. Currently, Chae Yun is involved with the *Great Love Church* in Duluth, Georgia, and she is also the pianist for the Sunday chapel service here at the KE. Chae Yun states, "I have a strong passion to teach what I have gained at the Korean Extension to the Korean community." "I pray God will allow me to be involved in a ministry of teaching once I have graduated." ■

*(Continued from page 10)*

caused through false pastors (Jeremiah 23:1). So it is today. Men and women know so little about the glorious kingdom of God because sectarian "pastors" are not teaching them the truth.

"Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21). That was the reason

Isaiah was able to say, concerning Christ's reign and judgment, "He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4). What a glorious work the Lord will do on this earth after Jesus Christ

comes back again! Are we looking for that day? May the Lord soon come and end wars for all time, and establish God's kingdom on earth in fulfillment of the glorious promises of God.

T. A. Drinkard  
Arlington, TX  
April 5, 1955

# Coming this spring you can take courses online with the Atlanta Bible College!

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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.

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# WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? CALL TODAY!!

# Lord's Harvest International Report

## Report of Trip to Peru

A team consisting of John and Rachel Carr, David Krogh, and Doug Todd recently traveled to Lima, Peru to visit the work in Lima and Ventenilla.

Rachel did a great job with translating. Doug is fluent in Spanish and connected very well with the people.

We were very encouraged by the commitment of the leadership and the effectiveness of their ministry. The church in Lima continues to add new attenders and members. We met a man who lives two doors from the church who is a skilled carpenter and who moved to Lima about a year ago from Venezuela. He has been attending the church regularly and was baptized several months ago. He invited us to his house for refreshments. He has made a drawing of a small, low stage that he plans to build in the front of the church.

We traveled to Ventenilla, a village 38 kilometers north of Lima where two families from the Lima congregation live. They have been having a Bible study there for a couple of years. They served a meal to us and then others came in for the Bible study, testimonies, and prayer time.

One of the most encouraging things from our visit is that the leadership of the church gave me a contribution for the General Conference to help with mission work in other parts of the world. They want to see the gospel shared with many others, and they wanted to show their support in this tangible way. This was a sacrificial gift, since the members in Lima are from a lower economic level of society. Many are unemployed or underem-

ployed and they struggle to meet the financial needs of the church.

We also were pleased to see that some improvements have been made to the church building, and they are gradually gathering supplies as they can afford them, to make further improvements.

The leadership is making good use of the 29-lesson Systematic Theology Bible Study course that was translated into Spanish some years ago. Several individuals are studying the lessons, and the lessons are also serving as the basis for a midweek Bible class.

We spent several hours talking with Gaston, Maria, and Joaquin about the work of the church. We discussed many aspects of church work and answered questions they had about specific church issues. Rachel and I will follow up to provide additional information to them, especially on leadership and church organization. John Carr has written a book on the work of elders and deacons in the church. Rachel will translate sections of this book to send to them.

Things seem to be stable in the church. The leaders are working together in unity.

We discussed plans for Victor and Jodi Werhanowicz to visit Peru next summer to introduce the Victorious Christian Living seminar. The leaders are all looking forward to their visit and the benefits of this course.

—David Krogh



Visiting in the home of recently baptized convert. Right to left: Maria Ucanay, Rachel Carr, Doug Todd, John Carr, new member, Pastor Gaston.



Inside of the church in Lima



*Gigi Baer lives in Bulgaria. In 2011 she attended the Theological Conference in Norcross, Georgia and was baptized.”*

**I**n April 2010 I read in my Bible John 17: 3: *This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.* I read this verse several times over and over again, because something in my mind and heart was different as I read it. Then just like a “plop” it comes into my mind and heart..... **THERE IS NO TRINITY.....**

There is only ONE God and His Son Jesus Christ. I was so excited and I thought “wow.” I am the only one who knows this now, because the church I attended and every other church I knew believed in the Trinity.

I wrote to my pastor and to a pastor friend and told them what I read in the scriptures. I was so joyful and excited, but they wrote back and said, “...this is not the truth, Gigi.” “You have to believe in the Trinity, and you are not able to understand it. It is a mystery from God.”

We wrote back and forth, and I was looking for other like-minded Christians. Then I got a book from Sir Anthony Buzzard, and as I read it, my heart was beating very fast. He wrote in his book what was in my mind when I read John 17:3 and John 17:25: “*O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You have sent me.*”

There is no Trinity in the Bible, the Trinity is false. I

understood that when I am with Jesus, then I know the Father, and that the Father is one; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and Jesus Christ is His Son. There is no mystery in this understanding.

After I received this knowledge, I read the whole testament again, and there has been so much joy in my heart, and I became closer to my heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

One day I thought in my mind as I read Acts 2 : 38: *Peter (said) to them, “Repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

In Acts 8:16: *For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*

Acts 10:48: *And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.....*

Acts 19:5: *When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*

I was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, this is the Trinity formula. Yes, I read it in Matthew 28:19: *Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

I read the New Testament, searching for more information about how to get baptized. My heart was longing for a re-baptism, but there was no way to do this in Germany.



Gigi Baer’s re-baptism.



The sun shines on Gigi!

*(Continued on page 23)*

(Continued from page 22)

One day I received an invitation to come to a Christian conference in Atlanta. I did not have the needed funds, so I prayed that God would send me to Atlanta, and He did! I found a cheap flight, and I could stay at Barbara and Anthony Buzzard's house and at Sharon and Dan Gill's house. Every detail worked out just in time for me to go! Amen!

As I was in Dan Gill's house, I asked him if it would be possible to be re-baptized and if it is God's will for me. Dan showed me the verses in Acts, and I understood that it was possible. As I came to Atlanta, Sir Anthony Buzzard asked Dr. Joe Martin to re-baptize me. I still had a doubts in my heart, because I was previously baptized.

On Saturday 05/14/2011 at midnight, I repented and asked God for forgiveness and for a sign, that it was His will also that I get re-baptized in the name of His Son Jesus. I asked Him: "Please, Heavenly Father, let the sun come out if it is your will that I get re-baptized."

On Saturday, we went to the river. I went with Dr. Joe Martin in his car, and I told him: "Look, it is dark outside, dark clouds and no sun." I told him about my prayer, and because there was no sun, I had doubts about

getting baptized. Joe Martin told me, "Do not worry, Gigi, it will be fine."

Pastor Dr. Joe Martin and Pastor Dan Gill baptized me on the 05/14/2011 in the Chattahoochee River, in the name of Jesus Christ. After they prayed for me and put their hands on me for God's blessing, the sun came out like a spot on my face!

Our Heavenly Father has given me the sign I asked for, and I am grateful and humble before our God. He has given the truth to me, and I am baptized with the right baptism found in the scriptures. **Acts 2:38: Peter (said) to them, "Repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ .... and Ephesians 4:5: one Lord, one faith, one baptism.**

I want to reach those who may be reading my testimony and have not been baptized or who might consider getting re-baptized in the name of Jesus Christ as is the will of God.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, for your grace and mercy, for your love and blessings in my life. Amen!

Glory to God and His Son Jesus Christ. Amen !     ■

## Death Hath No More Dominion—Romans 6:9

by Don Ward

**T**here are several biblical expressions for immortality. "Death hath no more dominion over him" says Paul of Jesus. Previously Jesus was mortal. It was Jesus who died, not some part of Him. This is required faith. "Otherwise you have believed in vain", 1 Cor. 15:2-4. Likewise it was Jesus who was resurrected. That same resurrection, the resurrection to immortality, is assured to all faithful believers. I here emphasize believers. "This mortal must put on immortality," Paul writes. We should think long and hard before claiming to be immortal now in either body or soul.

"... sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men..." Rom. 5:12. The legacy of death has been replaced by one of life, because Jesus has overcome sin and death. The good news now is that the grave cannot keep its prey. We will be raised. Death will no longer have dominion over us – either. "We shall be like him..." , 1 Jn. 3:2

"No longer die" is another expression of immortality.

*Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. Luke 20:34-36 (NIV)*

Claiming present immortality, an inability to die, is presumption. Not until we are "children of the resurrection," or changed, if alive when Jesus returns, will we be able to make that claim. 1 Cor. 15:52.

You may feel happy when someone wins the lottery. You would feel happier if it was your wife or husband, knowing that you would share in the winnings. We are happy that Jesus was victorious over death. We are happier still knowing we will share in His winnings. This is why we celebrate Easter. Such faith glorifies God's grace and Christ's sacrifice, because "He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ," 1 Cor. 15:57.     ■



The Missouri Conference at the new “New Beginnings Church” at Desloge was great. The theme was “This Is What I Believe.” On the far right is the chair of the Conference, David Fuller next to Dr. Joe Martin. On the far left are Pastor Bill and Lacey Dunn. Recognize John Nelson and Wade Tierney at the top middle? Others? The purchase of the building and parsonage was also a miracle of God. Thanks to David for the panorama picture. Below are the church and parsonage next door.



Joy Fellowship in South Carolina celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church. Pastor Wally Winner is pictured to the right. On Saturday, they have worship at 5 p.m., and then a fellowship meal, followed by classes.



Congratulations!! The Resurrection Hope church in Lenoir, North Carolina had a combination 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and the dedication of their newly remodeled fellowship hall. Pastor Dennis Baldwin spoke in the morning, and Dr. Joe Martin spoke in the afternoon. Praise God and may His blessings be on Pastor Jim and Becky Ritch and that entire congregation.



The recent History Conference at North Hills, Ohio was a blessing. Pictured are Pastor Joe Myers presenting about the Dixon youth group of the 1970s, with Pastor Rex Cain in the foreground. Thanks to Kent Ross and others for all the work on that event.



**Media Micaiah Jordan River**  
 Lahmam Amos Gilead Gedor Oded the Exhorter  
 SAUL Riblah Jehoiachin AZEKAH Ham Ahaziah Anen Geshur KEILAH  
 Basha Baashah Hadarimmon Deuteronomy Aphek Edrei Egion Beth-gamul Jericho  
**Genesis**

**THE 5Ws AND 1H OF GENESIS THROUGH MALACHI**  
*or, The Old Testament Through an Old Newspaper Reporter's Eyes*  
**Robert L. Jones**

**2nd Chronicles**  
 Kidron Jeroboam Hanani Haran Ziz  
 Baal-hazor Jeremiah Cain Nebo Mount Madon Arad SANSANNAH  
 Gerizim Mount Jehoram Galilee  
 Hezekiah Menahem Jehu Jehoahaz Ono JEBUS  
 Ashnah Elisha Elisha  
 HUR Bezek Gibbethon Beth-horon Song of Solomon Nehemiah  
 LAMENTATIONS JOSIAH  
**Enoch** Seth NATHAN  
 Samuel Ecclesiastes Abraham LAH AARON  
 Jerusalem Job Enos JOEL  
**Hosea** Eli Sarah Isaac Maaseiah  
 Jacob Daniel Joshua EGYPT  
 Adam Shem Jokneam Anathoth  
 Boaz Asa Noah Ahab Psalms Moses  
 Reuben Canaan MELCHIZEDEK Judah Ruth Ai  
 1ST KINGS Zoar

**New Book Available!**

**“The 5Ws and 1H of Genesis Through Malachi or, The Old Testament Through An Old Newspaper Reporter’s Eyes”**

**By Robert L. Jones**

This book was written as an introduction to the Old Testament for the beginning Bible student, whether beginning at a local church, or beginning at a Bible college. “Introduction” is a technical term meaning the author and audience, the nature of the book, the historical background, the location of author and audience, the purpose, and the style or composition. Since I am an old newspaper reporter (high school sports), the newspaper reporter questions (who, what, when, where, why, and how) seemed an appropriate outline for the book. My prayer is that these details will help you as you study God’s wonderful Word.

Available from Atlanta Bible College  
 (800-347-4261) @ \$15/copy plus shipping

# 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 **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – October 16 was the date for a night of fun with a corn maze and hayride at White Pines Ranch. Hot cocoa and s'mores were served.

From **Cool Spring Church of God in Browntown, VA** – The church is happy to welcome Pastor Jeff and wife Karen Fletcher as new pastor.

From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** announced “The Great Date Experiment #3” for Friday November 11. This is a program for couples of any age who would like to strengthen their marriage. Childcare was provided for those needing it. All who came were given instructions on what to do for a Great Date. All that was necessary was to go out and enjoy. **Associate Pastor Dan Cain** coordinated the event.

From **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** announced “What If?” Sunday for November 20, 2011 on the church’s 10<sup>th</sup> Harvest of Hope Celebration Sunday. What if everyone that called our church “home” all came on one Sunday? What if everyone came – EVERYBODY? What if each of these people brought one friend? What would the congregation and sanctuary look like? And, what if we could collect 1000 diapers to give to the Crisis Pregnancy Center? [GNP note: We’ll look for a report on how that special Sunday went.]

From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – All youth and parents were invited to a special evening November 2 as all shared fun and creative ways to learn and remember how we can take a stand in our faith and fight for the things of God based on Ephesians 6.

From **Knightstown Family Fellowship in Knightstown, IN** – **Pastor Tony Moore** reported an October 8 spooky revival of Saturday night Revive small group Bible studies. Pastor Mark

Tschaenn began a spooky series on creepy subjects from the Bible, such as spirits, ghosts, and death. October 15 was costume night. Sonshine kids and KidZone also began learning about creepy things and enjoying fall-based fun. Oh, and there was candy, too! Mmmm!

From **Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, MO** - **Pastor Don Ward** released a fall schedule of special theme Sundays. Beginning with Grandparents Day, the special days include Kids Day and Pandemonium Flashback, Old Fashion Sunday (dress-up time), MAD (Make a Difference) Sunday, Fall for Jesus Day, Sing-spiration Sunday (special music), Prayer Sunday (24-hour vigil started 9 AM Saturday), Our Father Who Art in Heaven Sunday, and Wild About Jesus Sunday. [GNP would like more details about some of those interesting Sundays.]

From **Knightstown Family Fellowship in Knightstown, IN** – Church families took their annual trip to the Tuttles Apple Orchard on October 22. Activities included choosing pumpkins, agrimaze, pick your own apples, farm animals, sweet shoppe, and a kids play area. [GNP thinks this sounds delicious and lots of fun.]

From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – November 13 was Family Card Game Night at the home of **Pastor Michael and Linda Hoffman**. Favorite card games and snacks were the order of the evening, and GNP is certain a good time was had by all. Pastor Michael did advise against having any cards up your sleeves.

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

# Go Serve!

At Atlanta Bible College there are a number of posted statements to remind staff and students of the college's mission statement: "To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom." The college's Go Serve trips—which have been a direct manifestation of that mission statement—have empowered students to travel and serve members of the conference all over the nation since 2009. Classes at the college equip students with knowledge about service to God and others, and these trips give them unique opportunities to take that information presented and directly apply it to their lives as servants of the LORD.

This past semester ABC sponsored two Go Serve trips, both of which were organized and led by Kim Raper. The first Go Serve trip was to Lenoir, NC in mid-September. In Lenoir, the Go Serve Team served Resurrection Hope Church of God by helping complete their new building. The team, along with youth from and members of the church, painted the doors, cleaned the cabinets and scrubbed the floors. However, all work and no play makes Go Servers dull people. Saturday night the team went bowling to build relationships with the youth. Sunday, the team led the worship service and Jeff McClain, a new ABC student, prepared and gave the sermon.

One month later, in the middle of October, the college loaded up a 15-passenger van with students ready to serve the conference for ten straight days, this time focusing on the upper Midwest (i.e., Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio). As with the Lenoir trip, these students came from all over the world. Given the scope of the trip, students were uncertain of all the different tasks that would be asked of them, but they were ready and willing to serve regardless.

The "Northern Tour", as this trip was later dubbed, began in Michigan. Upon the team's arrival in Grand Rapids, they were invited to a game night hosted by the Pennellwood Church of God and had the opportunity to fellowship with conference members from across the state. After giving a brief presentation on ABC, the team split up into smaller groups and spent the next couple days with host families from the different Michigan COG churches. Team members visited with the congregations of the Pennell

wood, North Kent, Garden Park, and Southlawn churches and had the opportunity to serve through preaching, leading worship, promoting ABC, and teaching Sunday School classes. The team's time in Michigan concluded with a state-wide youth event at Woodchip Campground. The team's focus on fellowshipping with the different churches throughout their time in Michigan allowed them to build some memorable connections with various conference members.

The crew's next stop was Kokomo, IN, and they were in for some hard work. The Maple Grove Community Church has a non-profit organization based out of the church called Advantage Housing, which gave the team an amazing service opportunity. The team spent the entire day working on a house that would potentially be used to help a low-income family have a place to call home. The team helped by digging up weeds, doing yard work, removing nails from walls and ceilings, hanging drywall, and clearing out the workspace. It was a labor-intensive endeavor, but the team worked hard and learned some new practical skills while they were at it.



Students on Go Serve trip to North Carolina

From there the students shipped out to Lawrenceville, OH, where they worked alongside Alan Cain. The Lawrenceville Church of God has been finishing up construction on a new building that was officially opened on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. The team helped by cleaning the church and washing windows and removing scrap metal from the area around the church (in the cold and rain nonetheless!). Students also helped Alan pack his office. Wednesday nights the Lawrenceville Church serves in a local nursing home, so the team led worship along with members of the church and the church youth. The team also helped out Pastor Dan Cain who will be moving to Ohio by cleaning his new house and ripping out carpet.

The "Northern Tour" concluded with a return to Indiana, this time working with the Family Bible Church in Granger, IN. The team started their work with the FBC by aiding the congregation in delivering promotional material for the church and cleaning the building used to host their worship services. Afterwards, the team helped Marcia Railton prepare for and conduct a "Backyard Bible Club". The event was open to all the kids in the Granger community and was very successfully conducted, allowing the team to have some opportunities to work closely alongside the Granger youth. ■



## Church News

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### Baptisms

#### Arkansas

*Forest Hills* – Steve Sullivan (10/9/11) by transfer

#### Georgia

*McDonough* – Emily Burnham (11/13/11) by her father, Gary Burnham

#### Minnesota

*Litchfield* – Kenny Housman, Ethan Housman, Kristin Housman, Cole Housman, and Joshua Housman (9/24/11) by Pastor Dale Swartz

#### Ontario, Canada

*Fonthill* – Steve and Amanda Elliott (11/6/11) by Pastor Michael Brown

#### Virginia

*Browntown* – Anna Lee Reilly (10/9/11) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

### Deaths

#### Illinois

*Macomb* – Rebecca Campbell, (9/10/11), long-time member. Service by Pastor Curt Rowden

#### Missouri

*Raymore* – Dorothy Sheeley, 83, (4/26/11)

#### Nebraska

*Cambridge* – Mary Lou Hornaday, 77, (11/4/11), long-time member

#### South Carolina

*Joy Fellowship* – Exie Cooley, 91, (11/1/11). Service by Pastor Wally Winner

### Marriages

#### South Carolina

*Guthrie Grove* – Justin Martin and Toni Lee (10/15/11) by Pastor Wally Winner

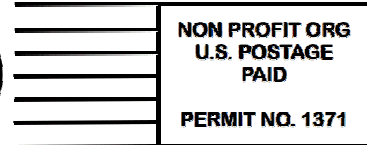
## Prayer and Praise

January 2012

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- 1 Pray that God will direct every area of your life in 2012.
- 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 the ReFUEL retreat in Indiana that begins today.
- 14 **Pray for teachers in your local church.**
- 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 ABC students and staff beginning spring semester classes today.
- 18 **Pray for Pastor Bill and Lacey Dunn and the New Beginnings Church of God in Desloge, MO.**
- 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 someone this week.**
- 27 Pray for opportunities to start new churches.
- 28 **Pray for Pastor Larry and Karen Mayberry and the Pennellwood Church in Wyoming, MI.**
- 29 Pray for the 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.

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## Prayer and Praise

February 2012

- 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 Pray for our pastors as they begin their annual Ministerial Conference in McDonough, GA.
- 7 **Praise God for the direction He provides for your life.**
- 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 for the college/conference.**
- 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, GA.**
- 22 Pray for someone you know who is in need of healing (physical, emotional, or spiritual).
- 23 **Pray for the staff at the college/conference.**
- 24 Pray for the Refuge retreat that begins in Indiana today.
- 25 **Pray that Jesus will return to earth soon.**
- 26 Praise God for the ministry taking place in the dozens of African churches connected to the General Conference.
- 27 **Pray God for the promise of a new heaven and earth.**
- 28 Pray for all of the faithful workers in your local church.



# THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

## Messiah as Yahweh's Agent

by Kermit Zarley

[Ed. note: with the author's permission, this brief article (without footnotes) is reprinted from a portion of the book, *The Restitution of Jesus Christ*]

*The Jews are right; the conclusion is inescapable; the OT presents the Davidic Messiah as ... a man, but a man in very close association with Yahweh.*

### **Messiah as Yahweh's Agent**

*Very close!* Closer than Jews affirm. Close enough to be Yahweh's prime agent.

The ancient Israelites practiced certain aspects of agency on their religion. For example, once a year on Yom Kippur the high priest entered the holy of holies. With no small fear and trepidation, he stood before the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat to offer prayers to Yahweh on behalf of the congregation of Israel. It was the most solemn occasion of the Jewish year. According to scripture, if the priest did not properly sanctify himself while preparing to enter the holy of holies, thereby having become defiled, it was guaranteed that he would not come out of there alive! By performing this important ritual, the high priest was called *saliah hassibbur*, meaning the "agent of the congregation." During those tense moments, the members of the congregation were bound to their agent, either for good or for bad. That is why the high priest did not stay long, kept his prayers short, and got out quickly. (Sounds like a formula some parishioners would like invoked at church on Sunday!) That is how it was for an agent of the congregation ministering to Yahweh. What about the opposite – an agent of Yahweh ministering to the congregation?

God is both transcendent and immanent in relation to His creation. Even though His transcendence makes Him otherworldly, God becomes immanent in creation when He makes Himself known to human beings by means of self-revelation. How does He do it? He does it in various ways. He manifests His power to us earthlings through

His Holy Spirit; He communicates His thoughts to some by means of His Logos; He unveils His genius to saints through His Wisdom; He shows His glory through the Shekinah. But God also makes Himself known to human beings more indirectly by appointing intermediaries as His messengers or agents. These agents are usually angels or humans beings.

One reason traditionalist Christians think that Jesus was God is that sometimes the NT presents Jesus in such close association with God that they think the two are merged into one, making Jesus effectively God. The same phenomenon *seems* to occur in OT prophecies about Yahweh and Messiah. Such prophets mention, and/or quote, Yahweh while also describing activity peculiar to Messiah. The result is a blurring of the two individuals. Does this phenomenon create a tension for monotheism?

Ancient Judaism easily accommodated the two concepts of exclusive monotheism and divine agency. Divine agency means that God selects someone to serve as His representative – in word and perhaps in action – to transact some business or activity. In other words, agency means that the word or act of the agent becomes that of the agent's principal. Thus, OT texts that conflate the activities of Yahweh and Messiah merely indicate that Messiah acts on behalf of Yahweh as His agent. This scenario occurs in some of Zechariah's prophecies pertaining to the end times. He proclaims, "For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'After glory He has sent me against the nations ... Then you [Israel] will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me'" (Zech 2:8-9). Yahweh speaks of someone He sends, yet identifies that person as "Me!" Zechariah next says to Israel, "I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," declares the LORD" (v. 10); yet he adds, "and you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you" (v. 11). Zechariah means that Yahweh sends Messiah as His agent, indicated by the thrice-repeated "Me." This messianic identification is certain since Yahweh identifies "Me" as "My

*(Continued on page 3)*

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THE RESTITUTION HERALD advocates the oneness of God (1 Cor. 8:6); the Holy Spirit is God's power (Acts 1:8); Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son (Matt. 16:16), and is our mediator (1 Tim. 2:5); the Bible is the inspired Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16); the mortality of man (Job 4:17; Psa. 146:4); the near return of Christ (Acts 1:11), and life only through Him (Col. 3:3); the literal resurrection of the dead (John 5:28); the immortalization of those in Christ (1 Cor. 15:53, 54); the destruction of the wicked (Rev. 21:8); the final restoration of Israel as the kingdom of God under the kingship of Christ (Luke 1:32); the church to be joint heirs with Him (Rom. 8:17), and Israel to be made head over Gentile nations (Isa. 60:1-3); the "restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21). It also firmly advocates repentance and immersion in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and a consecrated life as essential to salvation.

**CHECKING  
THE CALENDAR**

**February 6-10, 2012**  
Ministerial Conference  
Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

**February 24-26, 2012**  
Refuge  
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

**March 15-17, 2012**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
at Atlanta Bible College

**March 22-25, 2012**  
Atlanta Bible College Invitational

**April 15-20, 2012**  
Christian Workers Seminar  
Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN

**May 3-6, 2012**  
Theological Conference  
Simpsonwood Conference Center  
Norcross, GA

**July 11-13, 2012**  
Church of God General Conference  
Lawrenceville Church of God,  
Lawrenceville, OH

**July 22-27, 2012**  
FUEL  
Manchester College,  
North Manchester, IN

## 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 fall 2011 semester.

### President's List (3.5 and above)

Chae Yun Baik	Joong Jung Ko
Jacob Ballard	Jon Seug Lee
Dong Kyuk Bang	John Obi
Gerald Briggs	Se Won Oh
Jordan Dimmick	Peter Otengo
Hyeon Mi Jeong	Hyun Ju Park
Eun Jung Kim	Soon Chun Park
Hye Kyung Kim	Jae Yun Shim
Jeff McClain	Shelby Upton
Aaron McKinley	Eun Joo Yang
Jack Kmiecik	

### Dean's List (3.00 to 3.49)

Young Ok Chung  
Jin Suk Han  
Chan Koon Im  
Jung Sim Ji  
Eun Jung Ju  
Nam Jung Kang  
Bae Sik Kim  
Sela Morrison  
Jia Seo  
Eun Ah Shim

(Continued from page 1)

servant the Branch" (Zech 3:8; 6:12; Isa 4:2; 11:1; Jer 23:5; 33:15).

The same thing occurs two other times in the book of Zechariah. In Zech 12, the prophet, speaking on behalf of Yahweh, starts out using the pronoun "I" for the first person. Then he switches to the second person pronoun "Me" and the third person pronoun "Him," both referring to the Messiah. Thus, the "I" refers to Yahweh and the words, "they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn Him" (v. 10), refer to the Messiah. The Fourth Evangelist quotes this text, in John 19:37, and he interprets that it was fulfilled when the Jews looked upon the crucified Jesus. But it will be fulfilled again at Jesus' second coming (Mt 24:30; Rev 1:7). Also, Yahweh's word "Me," here, so identifies Himself with Messiah that for Messiah to be pierced, it is as if Yahweh is pierced as well (Mt. 25:34-40). Likewise, Zechariah later states in behalf of Yahweh, "I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem ... Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, ... And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives. ... Then the LORD, my God, will come" (Zech 14:2-5). The "I" refers to Yahweh, and "His feet" are the literal feet of the one Yahweh had just called "My Shepherd, ... the man, My Associate" (Zech 13:7; Isa 52:7), which can be none other than the Messiah. Jesus alluded to this image when He called Himself "the good shepherd" (Jn 10:11, 14).

It must be concluded from such phrases that the Messiah is so connected to Yahweh as His agent that whenever the Messiah does anything, it is as if Yahweh does it. This functionality is what Jesus had

in mind when He said, "I and the Father are one" (Jn 10:30). But this blurring of individuals in such prophecies should not be misconstrued as an identification of Messiah as being Yahweh. In Judaism, it is God who accomplishes the redemption of Israel, and He does it through Messiah as His instrument. Thus, God reigns supreme and Messiah merely executes God's will. That is why Judaism generally has emphasized the messianic age more than the Messiah Himself.

### **Yahweh as Messiah's God**

Three OT texts state that Yahweh is Messiah's God, not that Messiah is Yahweh.

First, King David wrote Ps 22, and Christians have always believed it is full of prophecies about Jesus' suffering on the cross. The first sentence is, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" (v. 1). Yet David, this sufferer who felt estranged from Almighty God, added, "Thou hast been my God from my mother's womb" (v. 10).

Jesus uttered the first sentence of this psalm while hanging on the cross, thus twice calling the Father "My God" (Mt 27:46; Mk 15:34). Matthew and Mark record His quotation as an obvious echo of Ps 22:1. All four gospel evangelists make other citations or allusions to this psalm, applying them to Jesus' crucifixion as well.

Second, Isaiah tells about a righteous, suffering Servant of Yahweh, whom the NT often identifies as Jesus. Isaiah relates that the Servant says, "The LORD called Me from the womb (Isa 49:1). The Servant adds, "my reward [is] with My God," and "My God is My strength" (vv. 4-5).

According to the NT, Jesus here twice calls Yahweh "My God."

Third, the prophet Micah proclaims that a future ruler of Israel will be born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2). Both Jews and Christians have always regarded this ruler as the Messiah. Micah adds concerning this ruler, "He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God" (v. 4). Notice the words, "the LORD His God." Micah declares that the Messiah will not operate in His own strength but that of Yahweh His God, thus indicating His subordination to Yahweh. The author of the Psalms of Solomon [*Ed. note: a non-canonical book*] writes similarly, saying that the nation of Israel "will be under the rod of discipline of the Lord Messiah in the fear of his God" (Ps of Sol 18:7).

In sum, all of these texts mean clearly that *the Messiah is not God but has a God*.

### **The Son of God**

Christians believe that Jesus is "the Son of God," and this is amply confirmed in the NT. We saw in Chapter Two that the traditional church dogma that Jesus is the Son of God by means of an ontological, eternal generation requires personal preexistence and means that Jesus is eternally God. Church fathers labeled this "divine Sonship," and this expression continues today among traditionalists. But we also learned that church fathers derived this understanding by comparing this "son of God" title to physical generation. And they appealed to Greek metaphysics for its meaning rather than subscribing to how Judaism understood its use in its Scriptures. Thus,

(Continued on page 4)

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

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**E**LECTION TIME! Iowa, New Hampshire, Democrat, Republican ... it is that great time in America to “cast your vote.” The Bible says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD/Yahweh.” (Psa. 33:12) At the same time, we are closing in on the “Super Bowl.” Hurrah! Go Saints, Packers, Patriots, 49ers, etc. “Tebowing” is now a big debate! They just beat the Steelers, with an overtime pass! Tebow had 316 yards total, and someone pointed to John 3:16!

Yet the foundational verse, “blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD/YHWH,” overrides the Super Bowl, the BCS Championship, and, yes, whoever wins an election. I am not apolitical, but football and politics have to be put in perspective of the LORD God. Yes, sports fans, even the “Super Bowl!” Having been in Africa, FIFA (Federation International Football Association) wants you to know the soccer World Cup is bigger. “They” know what *real* football is. At least that is what they tell me. Don’t even ask about rugby!

One hundred and nine times, the King James has the phrase “name of the LORD.” Of course, in the Hebrew scripture (aka Old Testament) it is always a reference to YHWH/Yahweh (*Shem YHWH* = name of the LORD). The phrase also occurs

19 times in the New Testament, most of the time still referring the LORD God, Yahweh, since they are quotes from the Old Testament. We have Jesus saying, “you will not see me again until you say blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD/YHWH!” (Mt. 23:39) There are also eight references to the “name of the Lord Jesus.” But even in that, the name Jesus means *Yahweh Saves!*

The point is, be careful of putting too much emphasis on current elections, sports, or any of the latest greatest fame claims. “The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run in to it, and they are saved” (Proverbs 18:10) And, “If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways...” He will hear, forgive, and heal the land. (II Chron. 7:14)

RECENT TRAVELS took Rebekah and me to the Lawrenceville dedication in November, and to Arizona, Tennessee, and South Carolina over the holidays. In Arizona, we attended the Christmas Eve candle light service at Valley View. Then we attended the Christmas Day service at Lakeshore Bible Church in Tempe. It was a wonderful service and “homecoming” for us with Pastor Steve Taylor and many long time friends.

While in South Carolina, we went to a store to buy Jim Mattison, Rebekah’s dad, a cell phone and ran into the Huffers! Alva was in good spirits and thanked me for being positive in my presentations. “Remember Joe, the whole gospel for the whole world! The best days of the Church of God are ahead!” I do believe that, Alva. I do believe... Maranatha Jesus.

Yes, even with possible hard times ahead, Arab spring/collapse?, the Euro crisis, China and the national debt, etc., the best days of the Church of God ARE ahead.

A SIMPLE REMINDER: With the great blessing of now owning our building (one of the tallest in Henry County Georgia, I am told), we still have daily expenses needed to do ministry from this place. Besides your special giving, the local church, to missions, etc., please also remember giving to your General Fund (any unmarked donations go there). We pray that this building, dedicated to the LORD God/ Yahweh, will be His strong tower. As we SERVE, and JOIN HIM, bless us, LORD, through your Son in these exciting, interesting times. ■

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(Continued from page 3)

church fathers did not derive their viewpoint from Jesus’ religious culture. This is the main reason the institutional church proclaimed more of a Gentile Christ than the Jewish Messiah it should have proclaimed. The Third Quest is currently reclaiming Jesus as a Jewish Messiah, and the identification of Him as “the Son of God” plays an integral part in the reclamation.

The Third Quest repudiates the church’s history of anti-Semitism and considers Jewish convictions. Eminent Jewish Bible scholar Geza Vermes alleges that the Nicene Creed’s description of Jesus “as God of God” is “the most un-Jewish doctrine.” He says “it is no exaggeration to contend that the identification of a contemporary historical figure with God would have been inconceivable to the first century CE Palestinian Jew.” He adds that “the

meaning of a religious title depends more on culture and traditional usage than on etymology. ... The primary aim must therefore be to determine the impact of a title in a first-century CE Galilean milieu. If this can be done, there is a good chance of approaching closer to the thought of Jesus and his first disciples.” Indeed, Jews in Jesus’ time understood the title “son (of God)” as it is used in their Scriptures. ■

## Letter from the Chairman

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**A** couple of weeks ago I delivered a message to the congregation of the Cornerstone Bible Church on the theme of the importance of God being in the center of all our plans. I quoted from Psalm 127:1, "Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain." We would do well to remember the Psalmist's words whether we are a congregation, a denomination, or even for our individual lives and plans. If God is not in the center of our planning, then we are all doomed to fail.

It is my prayer that as we enter 2012 that we do so under the spirit and wisdom of God. I do not want to travel anywhere in which our heavenly Father is not right there beside us, leading the way and giving us the strength and courage to move forward. And move forward we can and we will, under His guidance and direction.

The beginning of the second semester of Atlanta Bible College is just days away. It appears that our enrollment at the south campus will possibly exceed our first semester and go beyond the second semester of 2011. The word is "getting out" around Henry County, and people are taking advantage of having a Bible college in their own community. How special it is to be able to share the truths of scripture to people who are longing to learn and apply all that God says and

instructs us to do and become. Please pray for the entire staff of the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College.

Spring is always a busy time. Our national minister's conference will be gathering in McDonough, GA at the Cornerstone Bible Church from February 6-10. "Refuge"

**"Unless the LORD  
builds the house,  
They labor in vain  
who build it..."**

**Psalm 127:1**

weekend is held each year in February in Indiana. Atlanta Bible College Invitational is set for March 22-24. Christian Worker's Seminar in TN is set for March 15-20. Theological Conference will be held in the Atlanta area May 3-6. Please be praying for all these events and those serving and attending. Will you be able to take advantage of any of these wonderful experiences?

We ask for your continued prayers for your conference's board of directors. This year's seven member board includes, Daniel Siderius, Rick McClain, Carrie Briggs, Pastor Greg Demmitt, Pastor Tom New, Pastor Alan Cain, and Pastor

Joe Myers as the chair. Some of the key items and issues which the board will be dealing with include our annual conference budget, planning for General Conference in July at the Lawrenceville Church, in Springfield, OH, building usage of our newly purchased facility, future staffing for the college and conference, new church plants, support of our pastors, international missions, our national youth work, the work of the Korean extension under the leadership and direction of Pastor Steve An and his son, Pastor Sam An, and much, much more.

It is not too early to begin discussing suggestions for those willing to be nominated for the board of directors at our annual meeting in July. Two faithful members will be completing their four-year terms. They are Daniel Siderius and Pastor Tom New. By-laws state that members can only seek reelection after sitting out for a minimum of one year.

It is an honor to serve as the chairman of this year's board of directors. We ask for your prayers. We seek your input. We long for your support. God bless you in your work. May the LORD be in the center of all our work and plans, knowing that only as He is can our labors be worthwhile.

Sincerely,

Pastor Joe Myers  
Chairman



## 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 Great Leader Builds a Great Team

When a number of folks are working well together, who gets the credit for the success? The leader? Another member of the team? Several members of the team? The team? Does it matter?

I suppose the answers to those questions may depend on the leader’s goal. Is the goal to build a great team that functions well together? Or, is the goal to get credit for the team’s successful work?

The goal for the leader should be the work of the team, not the recognition of the leader. A good leader doesn’t care who gets the credit. Truthfully, the very best leaders prefer others get the credit. When the leader’s goal is the work of the team, ironically it is then that personal recognition often follows.

Since the leader’s goal is the team, the leader can actually focus on team development, not personal recognition development. With the leader’s direction, the team members build strong personal relationships, develop valuable skills, experience a few victories, and become a winning team.

Is your team building strong personal relationships? If you’d like spiritually mature team members that are in it for the long-term, willing to cover each others’ backs and able to support and encourage each other, you’ll need to help them build strong personal relationships. That effort will take time and energy. Yet it is an investment that will bring strong dividends to the entire team down the road.

Is your team developing valuable skills? Are you training your team members? Train them yourself

in your areas of strength. Find training from other people and organizations for those areas in which you are not as competent to provide the training. Be sure you are mentoring them. Know your team members so well that you help them discover and pursue God’s potential for their lives.

Is your team experiencing a few victories? You want your team to grow in confidence and to perform with excellence. Yes, clearly that confidence and excellence must be based on their relationship with God. Still, they need to experience success and victory. As you engage the team in its work, design the work such that that team will experience genuine wins and victories that will bolster their confidence. Celebrate the victories!



Is your team becoming a winning team? If so, encourage them, praise them and keep reminding them they are doing a great job. If not, take a further look at relationships, skills and victories (the last

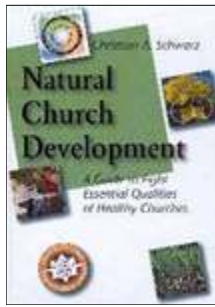
three paragraphs). Make appropriate corrections.

How successful would you like to be as a team leader? One leader was so successful at building a great team that one day the team was ready to take his place after he was crucified, resurrected, and taken up into heaven!

The leader is important, perhaps indispensable, but it is ultimately the team’s performance that makes the difference.

Would you love to form a great team, nourish it, and watch it accomplish great ministry? If so, be prepared for God to use you as a great leader to build a great team! ■

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.*

### Look at the Adjective, Not the Noun!

If you hear that a church has leadership, ministry, spirituality, structure, worship services, small groups, evangelism and relationships, you could be tempted to say, "Wow, that must be a healthy, growing church." You might be wrong! Those words are merely nouns; nouns that may or may not say anything about the actual health of the church.

When measuring the health of the church Natural Church Development (NCD) does not focus not on the nouns, but on the adjectives: empowering, gift-based, passionate, effective, inspiring, holistic, need-oriented and loving.

Of course, you do have to match the right adjective with the right noun! How does that look in the local church?

*Is the leadership empowering?* Do church leaders equip, motivate and encourage folks in the church to become all God designed them to be? They should rejoice in others' success.

*Is the ministry gift-based?* By his spirit God has already given spiritual gifts to everyone in the church body. Is each person serving in ministry consistent with their spiritual gift?

*Is the spirituality passionate?* This is not merely about developing habits of "spiritual practices". It is about developing a spiritual nature that results in commitment, passion, and enthusiasm. Such passion can be seen.

*Are the structures effective?* A good looking org chart may not be effective. Does the structure support the ministry, or does it control and restrict the ministry?

*Is the worship service inspiring?* There is no common model that is right for every church! Worship is "right" when it becomes an inspiring experience for folks in YOUR church.

*Are the small groups holistic?* Holistic small groups hold the essence of life for believers. They connect believers with God, with each other and with opportunities to serve others.

*Is the evangelism need-oriented?* As Jesus did, healthy churches meet the needs of non-believers. Evangelism doesn't have to be scary as together believers pray for others, care for others, and share with others.

*Are the relationships loving?* Do the folks in your church genuinely love each other and enjoy spending time together? God seems to use authentic love in the church as a powerful magnet for both believers and non-believers.

As your church's answers to the eight key questions in the last eight paragraphs become "yes", you likely have a healthy church. The NCD survey can help you identify the "noun" in your church most in need of work on the appropriate "adjective".

My vision is to see Churches of God all around the world evidencing these eight quality characters (see the eight italicized questions). 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](mailto:gburnham@abc-coggc.org); 1-800-347-4261

**April 5, 1955**

What is prayer? Prayer is a formula of worship of which Jesus gave us an example in the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13.

This is one of the most beautiful scriptures in the Bible. We pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." We realize that some day soon it will be like that, and it makes us very humble and thankful that we have been given a plan of salvation by which we can share the joys of a new life when Jesus comes again.

I think prayer is one part of worship in which we feel closer to God than at any other time. Can't you feel a peaceful feeling come over you when you pray? I can. It is as though He lays His hand on me and says, "I am with you."

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 we are told to "pray without ceasing." To me, this means we should always have a prayerful mind, regardless of where we are or with whom we are.

How are we to pray? Not as hypocrites to be seen and heard of men, but "enter into thy closet . . . and pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:5, 6). To me this means you do not have to be in a group, but can pray as you go about your work. Many times when I am at home all alone

and think of the countless ways in which God has blessed me and my family, I say a silent prayer in my heart.

In Matthew 26:39 we find the words of our Saviour as He prayed in Gethsemane, saying, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

I think our Saviour understood He would have to suffer for the redemption of man. I also think if we pray for understanding, He will help us understand.

I would like for you readers to share my experience with me. When Brother James Mattison and his family came to Harlingen, I was a member of another church. I liked the Mattisons at our first meeting, and, of course, the Williamses are firm believers of "the Church of God."

As you know, at first we did not have a church building, so we met in our homes for Bible study. I attended the studies with the intention of showing all of them they were wrong. But, instead, I became very confused. Realizing we could not both be right, I really began studying and praying for understanding. As we studied from time to time, I could see very plainly that I had been wrong in some of my beliefs.

Then the subject of baptism came up. I thought, "Well, my baptism is as good as anyone else's." I studied the subject of

baptism a lot, but could not make up my mind to be baptized again.

Again my prayers for understanding were answered. In October, 1954, Brother Emory Macy conducted a series of sermons in Harlingen. One night his subject was "baptism." Of course, before baptism comes conversion. He used in comparison a dye. To dye anything means to change colors. If the right process is not used, your garment will be different colors. He asked the question, "Do you believe the right things, or were you dipped and brought up spotted?" At this point I felt very spotted. October 26, 1954, I was baptized by Brother Mattison. I feel like I am on the right path now.

The words of a song we sing with the children at Sunday school come to my mind: "Give me oil in my lamp, I pray." Let us all pray for oil in our lamps and keep them burning brightly. Never let an opportunity go by when we have a chance to tell someone what the Church of God teaches. May we let our lives be examples that other people can see our good works. I am sure that if we "pray without ceasing" and are faithful, "the gospel of the kingdom" will spread and more people will accept the truth. ■

Reprint from an old Herald  
Mrs. Jennie Lee Williams,  
Harlingen, TX

# 2011 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:

Laura Ashelford  
Stephanie Bormes  
Ralph McCaslin

Evelyn Jones Pennington  
Jennie Pryor

## Scholarships and Grants for Atlanta Bible College

Grants and scholarships provided assistance to Atlanta Bible College students during 2011 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

Join us for

## 92nd Annual Church of God General Conference

July 11-13, 2012

Lawrenceville Church of God, Lawrenceville, OH

Theme: **Going with Grace and Truth (John 1:14-17)**

The conference will begin with registration at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday afternoon. A cookout will be held at 5:00 followed by the evening service at 7:00. 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 them in the business sessions. Among the items of business are:

- the election of two members to the board of directors – the terms of Dan Siderius and Tom New 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 2012-2013 fiscal year and the adoption of a budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

**Make plans now to attend.**

What does the phrase, “I’m only human” mean? We use these words when someone has just made a foolish mistake. For example, a husband who has forgotten to leave the toilet seat down is awakened in the middle of the night by a rather indignant wife in a fury over such an inconsideration. He replies groggily, “I’m sorry; I forgot; I’m only human.” The phrase is used to express something we feel deeply about humanity in its present condition. We are flawed creatures who often forget, make mistakes, and act selfishly. “I’m only human” means others should not expect too much from me, since I am limited and “prone to wander” as the hymn puts it. This sentiment is reinforced by the narrative in Genesis 3 about our fall. Through an act of rebellious disobedience, our first parents fell short of the glory of God and in so doing contaminated our species. By noting how the lifespans in scripture show a decidedly downward trend, we gain the impression that over time humankind has continued its descent as it continues to degenerate from generation to generation. We are sons of Adam and daughters of Eve who tend towards selfishness and rebellion. Holiness and self-sacrificial love are not “natural” for us. We have to work hard to resist our “flesh.” Even with maximal effort, we are complete failures without external help from God through His spirit. Ungodliness, however, comes without effort as if intertwined in our very DNA. When we

think of being human, we think of our current fallen state.

Nevertheless, this kind of thinking may require some serious readjusting. Our race was not the unfortunate result of a God who carelessly duct-taped us together from leftovers strewn around on the ground. Nor are we the accidental byproduct of a long mindless series of natural processes. Rather, we came to be through the climactic act of the benevolent and almighty King of the universe who carefully and ingeniously crafted us in His own image. How beautiful must Adam and Eve have been? How brilliant were they? I doubt they ever came into a room and could not remember what it was they intended to get. As a master craftsman, God did quality work turning out two magisterial humans finely tuned for life on earth. Then, to humanity, the sovereign One gave the royal duty of reigning over creation as His representatives. The first humans knew nothing of sin and all of its dark consequences. They enjoyed a relationship with the Most High and were unencumbered by iniquity and impurity. The Father placed His darling creatures in the Garden of Eden (“Eden” means pleasure or delight) and graciously gave them three commandments: have a lot of children, rule over the world, eat any of the plants except the forbidden tree. The world was not made to imprison them, nor were the rules He gave for the purpose of holding them back. Life was good; the world was young and bounteous; and hu-

manity lived in joyous harmony with God, each other, and the rest of creation. This is true humanity.

Since we have seen two contrasting descriptions of what it means to be human, which one is the standard? Should we equate humanity with our present fallen, selfish, depraved existence, or should we think of how our race was first created prior to our descent into the bottomless pit of sin and rebellion? Depending on what choice we make, we will need to name the opposite view with respect to our baseline definition. For example, if we identify humanity with our current reality, then Adam and Eve prior to sin were not really “human,” but something better. Perhaps they were “super humans.” However, if we define humanity based on its original design, then Adam and Eve began as genuine humans who plummeted into a lower level of existence. Perhaps they became “sub-humans.” I am contending here that the second of these two approaches is better. Humanity should be defined by its original glorious beginning, rather than how we are now. Thus, we are not fully human, but are fallen, corrupt versions of humanity – we are sub-human. I propose we calibrate our thinking this way for three reasons: (1) things are typically defined by origin; (2) this approach affirms God’s competence; and (3) it helps us to avoid over-spiritualizing tendencies. I will take each of these in turn.

*(Continued on page 11)*



*(Continued from page 10)*

We should think of humanity as that magnificent and harmonious existence that Adam and Eve enjoyed before they sinned, because this is how God originally made us. When choosing a definition, one often finds it helpful to go back to the beginning and think about when something was made. For example, a person may use a screwdriver to bang a nail into the wall, but this does not make it a hammer. A screwdriver remains a screwdriver because it was manufactured as a screwdriver. Even if someone leaves it outside, and it gets rusted, it remains a screwdriver. If it becomes bent so that it is no longer able to drive screws, it is still a screwdriver, albeit a useless one. I'm sure there are exceptions to this definitional rule, but in the case of humanity, this way of thinking seems to fit quite well. We are still humans, but we've become rusty and bent, so that we no longer fully exhibit our former glory, nor are we able to carry out our purpose effectively.

A second reason why we ought to recalibrate our understanding of humanity relates to God's competence. If we think of humanity as inherently flawed, we may end up unintentionally accusing God of incompetence. For example, if the horn honked on my car each time I hit the brakes, I might merely conclude that my particular vehicle is defective. However, if all of the cars made by the same manufacturer exhibited this same brokenness, then we would be on good grounds to question the

skill of the manufacturer. So, if we think of humanity as a class of beings inherently flawed and prone to selfishness, surely this reflects on God. However, if we think of ourselves as sub-human (or fallen humans), then we recognize that God's craftsmanship is not the problem, but something that happened after we left the factory.

Lastly, and most importantly, this understanding helps prevent us from over-spiritualizing who Jesus is and who we will become after the resurrection. One of the earliest beliefs that late first and early second century Christians contended with was called Docetism. An idea was floating around that Jesus was not actually a human being, but a non-physical being who only appeared to be a man. The epistles of John confront this teaching head on, calling the one who does "not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh" a "deceiver" and an "antichrist" (2 John 7). Ignatius of Antioch likewise contended with such people a generation later and wrote that Jesus "truly suffered...not as certain unbelievers maintain, that he only seemed to suffer" (Smyrneans 2:1). Ignatius goes on to point out that even after the resurrection and ascension, Christ still possessed flesh (Smyrneans 3; Luke 24:39-43). Against a world that considered humanity helplessly flawed, the Christians were adamant: Jesus had actually come as a flesh and blood human being, not merely an illusion.

Another group of second cen-

tury Christians called "the Gnostics" (the Knowers) likewise devalued humanity, especially the body. They hypothesized that our true self, or soul, had come from a heavenly realm and somehow became imprisoned in these fleshly bodies. Our destiny, they said, was to escape at death in order to ascend back up to the divine fullness. Early Christians like Justin and Irenaeus fought hard against movements that depreciated the "flesh" as inherently evil. Rather than looking at matters from a fall from above followed by an ascent at death, they recognized the goodness of God's original creation and His ultimate plan to redeem it in the Kingdom of God.

In conclusion, our problem is not that we are "only human," but that we are not human enough. We are tainted copies of a glorious archetype. Jesus, on the other hand, was fully human, patterned after the first man. He was not a hologram or a pseudo-man. He was a real human—the kind of being we are destined to become. Thus, Jesus is not a "mere man" as if he participated in our common error-prone condition, but he is the quintessential human who righted the wrong of our first parents and redeemed the whole race. Because of what he did, God has promised that one day the faithful will fulfill their original royal destiny when the kingdom comes and our Father's will is finally done on earth (Mat 5:3-10; 6:10; Rev 5:9-10; 11:15). Come Lord Jesus! ■

# ***"Equipping the Church for the End Times"***

**39th Annual Christian Workers' Seminar - April 15-20, 2012**

## **Early Morning Bible Study**

Dan Gill (two mornings)

Anthony Buzzard (two mornings)

## **Morning Devotions**

Joe Myers

"Intentional Influence in Tough Times"

## **Scheduled Teachers**

### **Joe James**

Healthy Administration of the Church

### **Sean Finnegan**

Apologetics in Times of Apostasy

### **Anthony Buzzard**

The Kingdom Message in Crisis

### **Rebekah Martin**

Christian Education from Home and Church

### **Scott Ross**

Equipping the Church through Crisis Times

### **Kim Raper**

My Passion for Missions and People

### **Wally Winner**

Equipping the Church for Tribulation Times

### **Dan Gill**

Having Christ in Crisis

### **Andy Cisneros**

Building Intentional Relationships  
in Troubled Times

### **Vince Finnegan**

Victory in Christ

### **Gary Burnham**

Healthy Churches in Hard Times

### **Kent Ross**

Historical Implications for the Future  
From the Past

### **David Krogh**

The Strategy for Matthew 24:14

## **Evening Speakers:**

Sunday – Vince Finnegan: Equipping and Training During Turmoil

Monday - Joe Myers: Motivating During Madness

Tuesday - Gary Burnham: For and To The Next Generation

Wednesday - Wally Winner: The Crazy Church: Weird Ideas That May Work

Thursday - Joe Martin: Casting Vision

## **Worship Leaders:**

Evening Services - Paul and Dolena Shaw; *Paul and Dolena will also lead a choir!*

Morning Devotions - Richard Alcumbrack and Jake Ballard

**Childcare will be provided!**

# The 39th Annual Christian Workers' Seminar 2012

## Equipping The Church For The End Times

April 15-20, 2012

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

Registration Deadline is: 3/15/2012

Check in time is at 3 P.M.

Check In Date - 4/15/2012

Check Out Date - 4/20/2012

Do you give the Church of God General Conference permission to put your address, phone number and e-mail address in a CWS 2012 directory to be distributed to all attendees? **Please circle: Yes / No**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Children:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Room Occupant (1) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Room Occupant (2) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Room Occupant (3) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Room Occupant (4) Name \_\_\_\_\_

If you have special dietary requirements, please notify the college/conference staff and we will work with the hotel to try to accommodate you.

Adults (x) _____	\$
Children (x) _____	\$
Saturday Night Stay	\$
Subtotal	\$
Any Discounts/Deposits	\$
Registrations Postmarked After 3/15/12 (add \$40 per adult / \$25 per child)	\$
Total due at Christian Workers Seminar	\$

### Prices

(housing, meals, program)

Children (in parent/guardian room)  
0-2 No Cost  
3-11 \$109.00 \$25.00 Deposit  
12-18 \$179.00 \$25.00 Deposit

Adults

(PER PERSON RATES)

1 per room: \$559.00

2 per room: \$379.00

3 per room: \$315.00

4 per room: \$285.00

Saturday Night: \$130.00 (per room)  
(car show weekend)

**\$50 deposit PER ADULT is due  
at the time of registration  
to receive early discount.**

### ★5 Easy Ways To Register★

1. E-mail: [info@abc-coggc.org](mailto:info@abc-coggc.org)
2. Call toll free: 800.347.4261
3. Complete and mail registration to:  
Atlanta Bible College  
PO Box 2950  
McDonough, GA 30253
4. Fax your registration form to:  
678.833.1853
5. Web registration: [www.abc-coggc.org](http://www.abc-coggc.org)  
(click General Conference; then click Events)

Submission of this form gives your consent to being filmed and photographed for possible use in a publication, website or video without compensation.

# Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

**“And Moses the servant of the LORD  
died there in the land of Moab...  
And He (God) buried him  
...in the land of Moab...  
but no man knows his burial  
place to this day.”**

**Deuteronomy 34:5-6**

Of all the faithful people who followed God, Moses is the only one I know of whom God Himself buried. The nation of Israel revered two others also—Abraham and David—but we are not told that God buried them. There must be a reason why God buried Moses.

Perhaps Jude 9 can help us. “Michael the archangel...disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses...” Michael, God's particular main angel for Israel (Dan. 12:1) argued about the body of Moses with the devil.

What were they arguing about? It says they argued about “the body of Moses.” What about the dead body of Moses? What to do with it? That seems to be a fair assumption. It appears that Michael and the devil had different ideas about what to do with Moses' dead body.

Then God enters the picture. He buried Moses, and no man knows where. I think there was a reason for this. The devil did not get the body of Moses, for God buried him and no one knew where.

Why was this so important, that no one know where Moses was buried?

We know two things. 1. Moses was the one empowered of God to deliver Israel out of the Egyptian bondage, which he did by showing Pharaoh and all Egypt the mighty power of Is-

rael's God in 10 terrible plagues. Not only that, it was this Moses who led them forty years through the desert to the Promised Land, performing miracles all the way. It was Moses who gave them God's law. Moses was God's key man for Israel for 40 years. And they knew it. What respect they had for him.

In spite of all of God's miracles through the hand of Moses, Israel had a strong penchant or inborn desire to worship all the gods (idols) of every nation with whom they came in contact. Seven times God had to break them of this desire. In Numbers and Deuteronomy time after time God told Israel to worship Him alone and not put any “stock” in the gods of the nations, that He alone was the Almighty God, and Israel was HIS people. But they didn't listen well.

Putting these two great truths together, I wonder if we can't understand why Michael and the devil were arguing about what to do with Moses' body. The devil's case: if Israel knew where Moses was buried, they would build him a great shrine and all Israel would worship Moses. Michael's case: let God bury Moses in an unknown place and stop this shrine idea.

Shrines or “tabernacles” were in the disciples' minds after they witnessed the transfiguration vision, where Jesus appeared in glory with Moses and Elijah. “Let us make three tabernacles, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah” (Mark 9:5). It says Peter said this because he was terrified and didn't know what else to say. Then God spoke: “This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.”

The idea was, “You have the wrong idea. Don't build shrines honoring Moses, Elijah, and Christ. Just listen to what My Son has to tell you. That's the important thing.”

Isn't this why Michael and the devil were arguing about what to do with the dead body of Moses? (This man's opinion.) ■

Jim Mattison

# CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

## 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](tel:(216)455-2592) or Steve Weaver [\(330\) 833-3628](tel:(330)833-3628).

## BETHEL CHURCH OF GOD

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); or by E-mail: [smith4052@bellsouth.net](mailto:smith4052@bellsouth.net).

## HAPPYWOODS CHURCH

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

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

For more information, please contact Elder Charles Bottolfs at 985-542-1555 or via e-mail at [cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net](mailto: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.

## NORTH SALEM CHURCH OF GOD

We desire a pastor at the North Salem Church of God in Plymouth, Indiana. A parsonage with utilities is available. Please contact Tim Pearson at [timpearson2@comcast.net](mailto:timpearson2@comcast.net).

## THE KING'S CORNER

The King's Corner Church in Ronkonkoma, Long Island, New York is a Church of God member church looking for a pastor.

We are looking for a pastor with a strong musical inclination to share teaching responsibilities and oversee a support team of elders in daily operations. The fellowship, in addition to a Sunday morning fellowship/worship service hosts a prayer group, a Bible study and a music based outreach group. A stipend is currently available and the position could become full-time in the future. Please contact John Wall at 631-738-1577 or via e-mail at [thekingscorner.org@gmail.com](mailto:thekingscorner.org@gmail.com). See the church website at [www.kingscorner.org](http://www.kingscorner.org).



# ABC News

Atlanta Bible College welcomed 28 new students to the ABC enrollment this semester. We are delighted that this is the second semester in a row that we have had more than 25 new students added to our student body. Three are Distance Learning students who are joining the other 8 DL students previously enrolled.

The 2012 ABC Invitational is quickly approaching on March 22-24. We would love for prospective students to come visit our campus, attend a class, serve with us in the community, and meet our professors. This year the theme is *Identity Theft*. We will spend time studying who we are in Christ and how we can live that out wherever we are.

ABC-i is for students (9th grade and up), young adults, and youth workers. Registration forms have been e-mailed to pastors, youth leaders, and high school students. If you need a registration form, please contact Kim Raper at [kraper@abc-coggc.org](mailto:kraper@abc-coggc.org) or call 678-833-1839.

Plans are being made for students and staff to participate in two "Go Serve" weeks in February and April. We welcome this opportunity to visit churches and to help with ministry projects.

ABC News is published electronically when school is in session. It contains information about weekly chapel services, other college activities, and a section called "Meet Our Students." If you would like to receive this publication, please send your e-mail address to: [dkrogh@abc-coggc.org](mailto:dkrogh@abc-coggc.org).

—David Krogh

## Lord's Harvest International News

### Pakistan

We continue to receive regular reports from the work in Pakistan. Pictured to the right is Pastor Vaster Saajan distributing a Bible to a family at a seminar that was recently held in Sahiwal. There were also a number of baptisms reported.

### Admittance of Churches

At their meeting in Atlanta October 27-29, the board of directors took official action to admit mission churches that have been affiliated with the Church of God General Conference for in some cases, many years, into membership in the General Conference. There has been some confusion as to whether the board had officially admitted work in Mexico, Peru, Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania into the conference. This action brought more than 250 churches in these five countries officially into our association of churches!

### Finances

We are grateful for the individuals, churches, and mission organizations who send regular support for Bibles, buildings, trips for short term teams, and other projects. The efforts to share the gospel are being assisted through the generosity of our membership. ■



## Korean Extension Update

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### Funeral Service at Korean Extension Campus

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

(Rev. 14:13 NIV)

"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out - those who have done good will rise to live and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."

(John 5:28-29 NIV)

On December 22, 2011, a funeral service ministered by Pastor Steve An was held at the Korean Extension Chapel with approximately 35 in attendance. The attendees included the KE staff, KE students, and Korean Conference pastors and their church members. The name of the deceased was Jung-ae Seo. She was the mother of Jin-suk Han, a third year active student of the Korean Extension. She is also the sister-in-law of Me-young Kim who is a second year active student at the Korean Extension.

On December 19, 2011 both Jin-suk and Me-young were notified of their mother's passing in South Korea. The two individuals rushed to our campus anguished, notifying our office of their unexpected return home (South Korea) to attend their mother's funeral. The difficulty in doing this is that once an international student returns to South Korea, it is a challenge to return to the United States for the following semester. A typical round trip air fare to South Korea is over \$1800. Both have addressed the importance of completing the course of study at the Korean Extension. The individuals are torn between the difficulties that may arise in attending the funeral or the guilt that may hover over their hearts for not attending the ceremony. Also, if they do not attend, the act may affect other relatives overseas which can hinder family relations.

The Bible, the main text of the Korean Extension, explains that the bodies of all men are from the dust and the spirits from God. Thus, when any man dies, the body goes back to the dust, and the spirit goes back to God. And the true identity of a man is one's spirit, not the body. At the last moment, the Lord Jesus Christ committed his spirit to God (Luke 23:46 NIV). The spirit of the students' mother, Jung-ae Seo, has returned to God. And God is omnipresent, whether in the United

States, South Korea, or anywhere.

The students told Steve and I that their mother, Jung-ae Seo, was a born-again-Christian and a strong dedicated lay leader.

Their mother understood our Father's commandments and His promise of resurrection at the end time. Hallelujah! Praise God!

As a suggestion by Pastor Steve, the individuals contacted their family in Korea and discussed the possibility of holding the funeral ceremony, before our omnipresent God, at the Korean Extension Campus among Christian brothers and sisters in Christ. The suggestion was unanimously agreed.

Afterwards, the KE staff began preparing for the funeral service: inviting students during their winter break as well as the Korean Church Conference pastors and their church members. We enlarged a picture of the deceased and framed it; prepared a formal funeral service program; ordered flowers; prepared the music and food for the guests. Within a short time we successfully held a formal funeral service to comfort and encourage Jin-suk and Me-young and share in their sadness.

Pastor Steve was dressed in a formal white minister's gown and the service began at 11:00 AM on Thursday, December 22, 2011. The ceremony lasted an hour and afterwards all the attendees gathered for lunch in one of our classrooms. Concluding the ceremony, both students conveyed their appreciation and judging from their smiles, seemed at ease. They were comforted and encouraged by the Holy Spirit during the service, and they are ready to enroll for the spring semester of 2012 to continue their studies for the truth. God is almighty!

Happy New Year!  
In His,  
Sam An



# 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 **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – A report from Hutchinson COG's What If Sunday has a tally of 1092 diapers collected for donation to Common Cup Ministry. **Bev Bonte**, director of Common Cup Ministry said: "Wow! You and the church members are awesome! It is wonderful for your congregation to gather diapers this month (November) as we are in need especially at this time of year." GNP is certain that **Pastor V. E. Kirkpatrick II** is extremely pleased as well. [Oh, and while you're counting, GNP wonders how well the people count went on What If day.]

From **Ripley Church of God in Ripley, IL** – December 18, 2011 was the date for the Christmas program organized by **Karen Laning**. **Peggy Jo Dyer** served as narrator and all the children had parts in the Christmas story. **Janaia Vega** sang "Away in a Manger" accompanied by her grandfather **Dave Dyer** on his guitar. **Rob Laning** and **Hallie Laning** sang "Joy to the World" for their first duet together. Everyone did an excellent job!

From **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – The church ushered in 2012 with a 36-hour prayer vigil. The vigil began at noon on December 30, concluding at midnight December 31. Many people came to pray in hour-long increments, guided by a PowerPoint presentation. The congregation submitted praises from 2011 and requests for 2012 to use in the presentation, according to **Pastor Sydney Kirkpatrick**. GNP thinks that is a wonderful way to usher in the new year.

From **Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, MO** – The church has recently welcomed new **Pastor Dustin Smith** and also a beautiful-sounding Lowry organ. That makes for wonderful sermons and wonderful music. The organ belonged to **Doris Elkins'** friend **Paula Harrison** who has been crippled for many years and is no longer able to play the organ. God provides in many ways, doesn't He?

From **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor Viv Kirkpatrick II** reports that the church once again partnered with the American Red Cross and Pitney Bowes in sending a touch of home to our military people who were away from home this past holiday season. The program is called Holiday Mail for Heroes. Cards were sent to our men and women who make sacrifices for our freedom during the holiday season.

From **Knightstown Family Fellowship in Knightstown, IN** – KFF held its Christmas service on Saturday December 24 at 6:24 PM (somebody ask **Pastor Mark Tschaenn** why they choose that time for their activities). The traditional Christmas service featured a message from Pastor Mark and a violin solo from **Jennifer Hall**. A pitch-in style Christmas dinner followed.

From **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – Only in Minnesota! The annual men's ice fishing trip will be held January 22-25. The men are scheduled to leave after Sunday services and return in time for mid-week services. **Todd Blanchard** is coordinating the event. [GNP note: Ice fishing in Georgia is digging in the convenience store freezer for a 10-pound bag. Just saying.]

From **Ripley Church of God in Ripley, IL** – **Jordan Nettger**, a student at Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL, has been blessing the church with his piano playing in the past couple months. Along with that musical blessing, the church has also enjoyed **Rob Laning's** solos "It Is No Secret" and "Room at the Cross."

From **Resurrection Hope Church of God in Lenoir, NC** – **Pastor James Ritch** announced a church bazaar held November 12, 2011. Handmade items, such as afghans, hats, snowflakes, pocketbooks, wallets, Kindle covers, pillows, quilts, towels, tree skirts, bird houses, wooden plaques, wreaths, and much more, were sold. There was also a bake sale and a quilt raffle. Proceeds from the bazaar went to furnishing the new fellowship hall. The bazaar was sponsored by the Grace Holden Mission Circle.

From **Ripley Church of God in Ripley, IL** – The Christmas Eve candlelight service was a big success. **Peggy Jo Dyer** and **Kristi Laning** read poems, **David Dyer** played his guitar and sang "Silent Night," **Hallie Laning** read a responsive reading, **Jacob Laning** read from Luke 2, and **Bill Hetrick** shared a story about "Silent Night" and war times. It was a beautiful service and was followed by cookies and fellowship in the basement.

From **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – The church sponsors a monthly Parents Night Out for the congregation, friends, and community. Activities are provided for children/youth from 6 PM to 10 PM at

*(Continued on page 19)*

# Church News

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## Baptisms

Ontario, Canada

*Freedom in Christ* – Patti Firth, Fred Randall and Danielle Bolhous (12/4/11) by Pastor Stephen Bolhous

## Deaths

Minnesota

*Eden Valley* – Richard “Dick” Hoskins, 85, (6/30/11), long-time member. Service by Pastor Daniel Smead; Carroll Bennett, 96, (10/27/11), long-time member. Service by Pastors Daniel Smead and Russ Rankin.

Missouri

*Rogersville* – Susan Wagganer, (11/20/11), faithful member

South Carolina

*Bethel* – Raymond Gokey, 80, (11/20/11). Service by Pastor Wally Winner

Virginia

*Browntown* – Anna Lee Riley, (1/10/12). Service by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

*(Continued from page 18)*

the church so that parents can have a free evening. This ministry is coordinated by **Stephanie Blanchard**. Helpers for Stephanie in November were **Amy Blanchard**, **Jesse Peterson**, and **Connie Scott**.

From **Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA**

– This goes along with Pine Grove Bible Church’s ministry mentioned above. **Kim Musch-Raper** and **Hilary Jones** provided babysitting service for any church parents who wanted a few hours for some Christmas shopping on December 3 from 1-5 PM. They provided snacks and a movie for the kids. A great idea for both groups!!

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

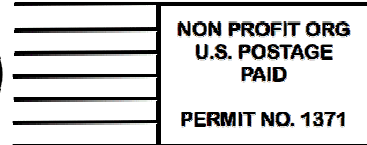
## Prayer and Praise

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March 2012

- 1 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Tom and Debbie New and the work at McGintytown, Arkansas.
- 3 **Pray for a spirit of unity in the bond of peace.**
- 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 Praise God for a new day.
- 11 **Pray for Pastor Michael and Diane Brown and the Glad Tidings Church, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada.**
- 12 Praise God for those who have provided spiritual instruction for you.
- 13 **Pray for Wally and Peggy Winner and the work at Joy Fellowship in Anderson, South Carolina.**
- 14 Praise God for all who have dedicated their lives to ministry.
- 15 **Pray for the Board of Directors meeting today and tomorrow; for God’s Spirit to bless them with wisdom and spiritual insight.**
- 16 Pray for God’s blessing on ABC students and staff at the half-way point of this semester.
- 17 **Pray for the contacts with churches and Bible colleges in South Korea.**
- 18 Pray for an opportunity to share God’s love with someone.
- 19 **Pray for those who are searching God’s Word for answers to life’s problems.**
- 20 Pray for students and staff of ABCKE (Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension).
- 21 **Pray for the brethren in India.**
- 22 Pray for God’s blessing on your family.
- 23 **Pray for the leaders of your government.**
- 24 Praise God for your pastor’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 Raper, 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.**

Atlanta Bible College  
Church of God General Conference  
2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400  
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## Prayer and Praise

April 2012

- 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 Pastor Lesly Bertrand and others who are preaching and teaching in Haiti.**
- 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 Praise God for His Resurrected Son! Today is Easter Sunday!
- 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 Pastors Neal and Deb Bryant and their work at the Abundant Life Community Church in Rockford, Illinois.
- 13 **Pray for the churches in your state/district conference.**
- 14 Pray for the students and staff of Atlanta Bible College.
- 15 **Pray for God's special blessing on those participating in Christian Workers Seminar, which begins today in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.**
- 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 Pastor Darrell and Diana Cardwell and the Macomb, Illinois Church of God.**
- 24 Pray for volunteers to be short-term missionaries this summer.
- 25 **Pray for God's blessings on your next door neighbor(s).**
- 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.



# THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

## The Gathering Storm, WWII?

### Three Speeches & the Second Advent by Dr. Joe Martin

One of the dominant teachings we have, besides the one true God (Jn. 17:3, I Cor. 8:6), and Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, is the second coming of Jesus to establish the kingdom of God on the earth. We are living in stormy times, economically, politically, and militarily. I like the picture of the “furious storm” on Galilee (Mt. 8:24, NIV). When everyone was upset and fretting, Jesus was sleeping. With Jesus in the boat, don’t get too stirred by the storm. However, it seems another storm is brewing.

Not to be “alarmist,” but to be a watchman on the wall, these are very extremely interesting times. As the men of Issachar (I Ch. 12:32), we need to understand these times. They are very similar to the events leading up to World War II. As a history buff (I even have a minor in history!), one of the most interesting accounts I studied was Winston Churchill’s *The Gathering Storm*, his account of events leading up to second world war. I consider Churchill’s speech on June 4, 1940, may be second only to the Sermon on the Mount. (Now that is a bold statement!) The situation was that an attempted invasion of Europe had **totally** failed. Had it not been for the miraculous rescue from Dunkirk, British military forces would have been decimated. Eight hundred seventy boats, mostly fishing vessels, braved the mines, torpedoes, and storms to rescue the troops, and over “335,000 men... were rescued out of the jaws of death...” (from his speech). In that speech, after the failed invasion and in one of the darkest hours of Britain, his concluding remarks were:

“We shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills: we shall never surrender... until in God’s good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and liberation of the old.”

On March 5, our President Barak Obama spoke to AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Trying to be apolitical in this charged election year time, I thought it was an intriguing speech. He said, “over the last three years, as president of the United States, I have kept my commitments to the state of Israel... We have been there for Israel, every single time.” He further said, “a nuclear-armed Iran is completely counter to Israel’s security interests. But it is also counter to the national security interests of the United States.” I believe we are in another “gathering storm” which will eventually lead to our “blessed hope,” (Titus 2:13) the second coming of our Lord Jesus. The President continued, “I will take no options off the table, and I mean what I say. That includes **all elements** of American power.” Of course, the President prefers resolution by economic sanctions and diplomacy. We pray for his strength regarding Israel in these times.

On March 6, Prime Minister Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu gave another speech to the same group AIPAC, the day after our President did. (Netanyahu, means “gift from Yahweh” similar to Nathaniel, “gift of God.”) In his speech he speaks of “Jerusalem, the eternal and united capital of Israel.” Politely he said, “Ladies and gentlemen, Israel must always reserve the right to defend itself.” Of course the focus was nuclear weapons in the hands of nations who want to destroy Israel (“drive her into the sea”). In this time, the focus of the gathering storm is Iran. “A nuclear armed Iran must be stopped.” He continued, “Iran is responsible for the murder of hundreds, if not thousands, of Americans. Now... Iran accuses the American government of orchestrating 9/11.” Then, while noting that a nuclear-armed Iran could “choke off the world’s oil supply and could make real its threat to close the Straits of Hormouz,” he noted the millions of radicals who chant “Death to America” and “Death to Israel.” Finally, recalling the book of Esther, he historically reminds us that radicals in Persia/Iran had before attempted to annihilate the Jews. “Never again will we not be masters of the fate of our very

(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 15-20**

Christian Workers Seminar, Holiday Inn,  
Pigeon Forge, TN

**May 3-6, 2012**

Theological Conference  
Simpsonwood Conference Center  
Norcross, GA

**May 7**

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension,  
Graduation Ceremony

**May 25**

Atlanta Bible College,  
Graduation Ceremony

**July 11-13, 2012**

Church of God General Conference  
Lawrenceville Church of God,  
Lawrenceville, OH

**July 22-27, 2012**

FUEL  
Manchester College,  
North Manchester, IN

**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.

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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**

**go  
electronic**

(Continued from page 1)

survival. Never again.” (a cry from WWII holocaust of six million Jews)

I need not remind people of “Abrahamic Faith” (the Christian ones per Gal. 3:29) of the promises to Abraham, “I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you.” (Gen. 12:3) We stand, not for every action of Israel, but for every promise of God for Israel and us. We pray for the president and prime minister. Some commentators suggested that in this election year, this was a political move until after the elections, and then Netanyahu will be “turned loose.” Both men seemed very sincere in their presentations. Nonetheless, the ABC class on Daniel and Revelation played the “what if” game. What if Israel, unknown to us at this specific day and hour, has bombers on their way to

the nuclear centrifuge plants in Iran? What would it change? I suggested that Jesus said “occupy” and be about the Father’s business until he comes. Yes, there may be a gathering storm, but Jesus is still present in the boat. His presence is with us in our boat, if you will. He sits at the right hand of Almighty God, Yahweh El Shaddai, as “Messiah the Prince.” (Dan. 9:25; Acts 5:31) One day, and God only knows when (Mt. 24:36), Abba Yahweh will send His Son back to keep us from destroying ourselves and to fulfill all his promises. (Isa. 45:18)

Until that day, we shall evangelize and love people on the beaches, we shall evangelize and love people in the country, we shall evangelize and love people in the cities, we shall never stop evangelizing (Mt. 24:14) and loving, until in God’s good

time, He sends Jesus back. Then, true love and peace will come to this planet. “This is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus the Messiah/Christ whom you have sent.” (Jn. 17:3) They shall “...know that I am Yahweh,” the LORD God,” (77 x in the Bible) and “every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord” (Phil. 2:11) to the glory of Abba Yahweh, Jesus’ Father and God. “They shall know...” and “bow” includes *every* Jew, Christian, Muslim and person on the face of the earth. Even so... Maranatha, come Lord Jesus. And... Lord, help us in the furious storms to come. ■

### Recommendation for the Delegates at the Summer 2012 Conferences

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The Lord's Harvest International Board of Directors and the Board of Directors of the Church of God General Conference recommends that the LHI Board be expanded to seven members from the current five. It is proposed that the two additional members be appointed by the other five members of the LHI Board for two-year terms, on a staggered basis, so that one term expires each year. The two appointees can be reappointed for one or more additional terms. The appointees would have the same voting privileges as the other five members.

**Explanation:** As the mission work of the Church of God has expanded considerably over the past 18 years since the Lord's Harvest Board was

established by delegate action, it is becoming increasingly challenging to develop expertise in each country or area where mission work is being carried on and to provide proper oversight. There is also a need to bring new and younger people onto the board so they can gain experience so they can replace those who have been on the board for many years. This recommendation makes it possible to retain more experienced members for a period of time while new members and younger members are equipped to direct our mission work in the years ahead.

We are thankful that Church of God youth have taken the initiative to create a mission organization called UP:lift which is committed to creat-

ing awareness and interest in mission work among youth. We believe that this recommendation would provide an avenue to connect with this organization and to encourage them in their work.

The current board is composed of the mission coordinator employed by the chief administrative officer of the General Conference; a pastor elected by the Ministerial Association; and two members appointed by the General Conference Board of Directors.

If this recommendation is approved by the delegates, the LHI Board will make the two additional appointments no later than October 1, 2012. ■

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

---

**W**hat a blessing! The semester is in full swing, and we are approaching midterms at this time of writing. We have approximately 40 new students in both ABC North and ABC South. Steve An, Sam An, David Krogh, Rufus Meyers, and Kim Musch Raper have been working diligently getting new students here and involved in our campuses. They are to be applauded!

The board met March 15-17 here in McDonough. As mentioned before, we will continue our special scholarship program for those churches that support the college and conference. The board also does vision planning and projecting as well. The board continually seeks direction on joining God and serving churches and individuals in ministry. One item that the board will research is a “virtual church” for isolated members. It also establishes the budget for next year, to be reviewed at the summer General Conference, this year at Lawrenceville, Ohio. The proposed vision statement is: “TO JOIN GOD... Knowing, Loving, Growing, Going, Serving, Teaching, and Preparing for His Kingdom through His Son and Spirit both our generation and the next.” This will also be reviewed this summer.

In terms of travel, I attended Brother Terry Ferrell’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday held at the Guthrie Grove Church in South Carolina. Terry was the pastor of East Oregon Chapel when I first attended Oregon Bible College, some forty

years ago!! He has been preaching all this time. Hallelujah!

In March, Rebekah and I also attended and taught at the Arkansas State Rally at McGintytown with Brother Tom New. What a blessing! We reviewed church history in terms of those that continually sought a straightforward Bible



New Atlanta Bible College letters installed on McDonough office building in March

faith rather than the creeds of Christianity. Have you ever heard of the Ebionites, Paulicians, Catharists, Bogomilians, Waldensians, Polish Brethren, etc.? We had a quick review, even up to presidents John Adams, John Quincy Adams, and Thomas Jefferson who tried a more simple faith versus an obfuscated orthodox faith. Not that all the groups and people studied believed “exactly” like us, but they were

trying to be biblical in many ways. I taught or preached seven times! Tom wore me out! It was great to see good friends. We stayed with dear friends, Glyn and Nancy Craig. For a special treat, not that church history should be boring, but in each class, we had someone pick a number between one and fifty, and I told one of my fifty or so, “stories from Pumpkin Center.” With the young people there, it seemed to be a hit, especially the “The Night Cuz Fell in Love and Found a Wife” story! Remember... a woman like that can take care of you!

After Arkansas, we visited Scott & Lisa Reid in Memphis, TN. They took us over to Hadayat Din’s house to visit him and his wife. Hadayat is a Pakistani Christian who has come to an understanding of the one true God. He has established churches in Pakistan but has gone back to “re-teach” a more biblical faith. He believes he now has the true faith that should be taught to Muslims and the world.

Other items: By the time you get this, our new sign should be up on our new building! [see picture on this page] Hallelujah, Praise God, Amen! Please notice the new “NEXTGEN” Youth Page that will be overseen by Kim Musch Raper. She will try to highlight some of our churches’ activities relating to our young people, the next generation. She will also include some “Go Serve” events from ABC. ■

## Letter from the Chairman

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"What's in it for me?" That's a question often verbally or internally asked when we are asked to make a decision. We want to know how a project or a program will personally benefit me, if I am to somehow get involved. After all, why should I participate or even care about a project which doesn't involve me?

This same question has been addressed to me, as your board chairman, by individuals when it comes their local churches. Why should local churches get involved financially or physically with General Conference programs, if such programs do not clearly demonstrate a benefit to individual churches. In other words, "What's in it for me?" Or, better yet, "What's in it for my church?"

Perhaps we are asking the wrong question. Perhaps we should all be asking what's in it for the kingdom of God? The General Conference exists for the purpose of "doing together those things we cannot do alone". What are some of those things? There are many things which the General Conference does on behalf of the kingdom of God. Let's start with the Atlanta Bible College. Were you aware that nearly 150 students attend the north and south campuses of Atlanta Bible College this semester? Most of these students are full-time. Nearly 80 students attend the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension. Over 60 full and part-time students attend the McDonough campus. We have students from across our country. We have international students. We have community students. We have long distance learning students. Yes, it is true that all students, even the majority of the students do not attend a Church of God, but all are being taught the precious truths which we hold dear. One God, mortality of man, baptism, second coming, and kingdom of God on earth. Individual churches cannot do alone what is being accomplished at Atlanta Bible College.

The Lord's Harvest International (LHI) ministers to churches around the world. In fact, we have more Church of God congregations internationally than we have in the continental United States. Support to brothers and sisters in Pakistan, Africa, Peru, Haiti, and Mexico to mention a few, could not be possible without the combined efforts of sister churches in the United States. Again, the kingdom of God grows as a result of the combined efforts of many.

There are a number of COG churches in the United States receiving on-going monthly support for church planting or support of their pastor. Of course, we have our semiannual Church Builders Appeals. Church loans have been provided to a number of our congregations. Within the past several years over \$400,000 in loans have been made to member churches.

Christian Workers Seminars have been held annually for almost 40 years. This is a tremendous opportunity for members of the COG to gather for fellowship and learning. We will be meeting once again, April 15-20 in Pigeon Forge, TN. It's not too late to register! Over 100 people have already registered. The Church of God General Conference will be gathering in Springfield, OH this July for the purpose of conducting business and worship and fellowship and learning. While technically not conference-sponsored, other conferences are held and supported by the General Conference. We support with personnel the annual Theological Conference and Historical Conference, to mention a couple.

Have I mentioned the importance of offering numerous reading and study materials? From quarterlies to books to online services. It's all available through the conference. Have you checked out our website lately? Pastor Seth Ross is doing a fantastic job of keeping us informed of the "goings on" at the college and conference.

FUEL, our national youth camp and retreat, is held each year in July. It is the one week a year where our young people can attend and be challenged in an environment of spiritual truths. Many, many lives have been changed for good and for God as a result of this week. Of course there are a number of other regional and national weekends, including re-FUEL and Refuge. Again, while not directly associated with the COG, Andy Cisneros, Graysen Pack and Julie Driskill have been offering a wonderful youth service project known as the Up Project. They plan on serving in the Washington DC area this summer.

Conference staff continually offer their services as guest speakers and lecturers. They fill the pulpit and lead seminars concerning issues close to our heart. Just recently Dr. Joe Martin shared seven lectures on church history to our members in Arkansas. Our students have been going on "Go Serve" trips to a number of our churches, offering their support and encouragement wherever they go.

As your board chair, it is an honor to witness the wonderful opportunities which God has presented our conference with to minister to others. Lord willing, we anticipate even more opportunities in the future. But none of this could be accomplished without the sacrifice of many, many people and the many, many churches. I am convinced that the real question should be not, "What's in it for me?" but rather a declaration should be proclaimed. "Thank you, God for allowing me as an individual and us as a church body the wonderful opportunity to participate in spreading the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ!"

Pastor Joe Myers, Chairman, Board of Directors



## 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 Great Leader Discovers Godly Vision and Inspires Others With it

A great leader seeks God’s direction for the organization—be that “organization” a family, a business, a church, etc. Obviously, what is important is not the type of organization, or its size, but whether or not the direction is God’s direction.

What difference does that make? Maybe all the difference in the world!

Solomon urged us to “trust in the LORD”, “lean not on [our] own understanding”, and “acknowledge him” because “he will make [our] paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5, 6) That is a clear prescription to walk in a straight, godly path—personally, or while leading an organization.

Solomon further reminds us, “In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9) It is to the peril of our personal lives and to the peril of any organization we lead that we would dare to plan our course but not seek God’s direction for the steps we take!

Whether you prefer the term vision, mission, or something else, a good leader seeks God’s direction above all else. Of course, in our human strength we can build a good vision. We can even accomplish some very good things. But, what if God has something else in mind? Something even better? What if we miss it?

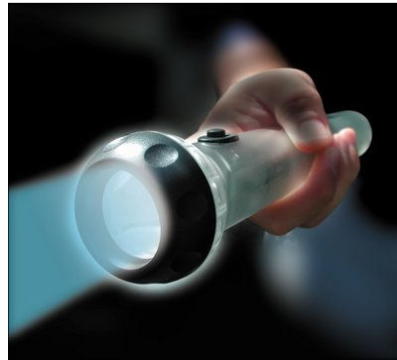
We seek God’s direction/vision in prayer. Typically when we say “prayer” we mean we “talk to God.” What if God wants to talk to us? Actually, He does! Are we listening? Am I listening? Are

you listening? Listening well is hard, but productive, work—whether listening to people or to God.

Listen with expectation. Expectation that God cares about the organization you lead—family, church, or otherwise—and that He has direction to provide to you.

Be sure to check out the vision you sense God is providing you to use in your leadership. Does it well represent scripture? Do fellow leaders also recognize it as a God-provided vision? Can the folks you serve view it as God’s leadership, not just your leadership?

With the godly vision in hand, confidently and consistently lift up the vision/mission before others so they too can see it as a godly anchor for



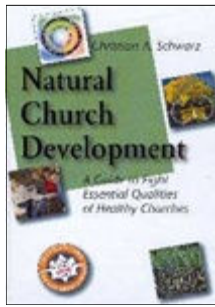
their efforts. It will be almost impossible for you to over-communicate the vision. It must be heard and seen often before it will take root in the organization.

It must not only be well communicated, it must become the lens through which you plan and make decisions. The organization’s decisions. Leadership decisions. The vision is useless if it doesn’t direct decisions.

If a spiritual leader hasn’t clearly heard from God and isn’t boldly following God, followers are not being well led. So, hear God well and lead boldly!

Have you talked with God? Have you listened to God? Are you leading out of what you have heard from Him? If so, you are leading out of a God-inspired vision, which will make a godly difference in your leadership and in your organization. ■

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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.*

### A Continuing Cycle... Not Merely Steps to Complete

Following is a brief description of the five steps used in NCD. When we observe a list of steps to complete, we typically assume we are finished when we conclude the last step. Not so with NCD. After step five, the church returns to step one. NCD is about continuous improvement, not merely about a list of steps to complete to finish the process. Keep in mind that it is not 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and finished. It is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, etc.

#### Step 1 - Prepare

What can we expect? This is a key time — especially if the church is engaged in NCD for the first time. It's a key time to have church leadership understand the NCD process, share that understanding with the church, and own the tasks NCD will inspire the church to undertake. The prepare step is also a time to set up prayer warriors to seek God's direction and blessing. As well, a church health team is composed to steer the church through NCD.

#### Step 2 - Diagnose

Where are we? This is a critical step. If we don't know where we are, how can we know where to go? If we don't know our area of struggle in church health, how do we know where to focus our efforts? In "diagnose" the church completes a survey that identifies the church's current level of health in eight qual-

ity characteristics. The results of the survey set the stage for building a plan of attack.

#### Step 3 - Plan

Where do we want to go? An action plan is developed. Now that we know our area of greatest struggle (from the survey), we build a plan to focus our maximum impact on that specific area. What do we need to do that will take us from where we are to where we believe God wants us to be?

#### Step 4 - Implement

What do we need to get there? How will we implement our plan? What people, time, and material resources will we use to put our strategy into action? In this step we actually initiate and work our plan, hold each other accountable, and make minor adjustments along the way.

#### Step 5 - Evaluate

How did we do? Now we review. What worked? Let's celebrate. What didn't work? Let's fix it or replace it with something else.

Now we go back to step one, remembering it is a continuing cycle, not merely "five steps and out". In the best scenario a church uses the five-step plan on an annual basis, going back to step one at the same time each year.

My vision is to see Churches of God all around the world evidencing the eight quality characters of NCD. 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. ■

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## Haiti Trip—February/March 2012

The Church of God involvement in building in Haiti began in February/March of 2011, when a team of seven individuals traveled to Haiti to build a school building to replace a building that had collapsed in the 2010 earthquake. This school is operated by the Bellanton congregation just outside of Croix-Des-Bouquets. The building was 13' x 52 1/2'. Because we were uncertain what we would encounter in the building process, we had allowed three weeks for our trip last year. Our team was so effective that we finished our part of the building in two weeks, allowing some of our team to return home early. Based on our experience last year, we allowed two weeks for the project this year.

During the past year, a humanitarian organization representing France and the Ivory Coast had built the second classroom building. It was slightly wider than the one we built, measuring 16' 5" wide. This building was built under the supervision of the humanitarian organization, with the Haitians doing the labor as a teaching/training exercise in proper building methods. We were also aware that the foundation and slab for the third building that we would

be building would already be waiting for us when we arrived, also having been built by the humanitarian organization.

The language barrier makes it difficult to communicate clearly through e-mail, and it was difficult for us to get a clear picture



Construction of first story floor and walls



First floor construction is nearly complete

of what we would be building this year. It was obvious that there were going to be some differences, but we weren't able to completely ascertain what they were.

When we arrived, we discovered that the building that we were to build was over twice the size of the one we built last year. The Haitians had already laid up the first four courses of blocks for a building that measured 17' 11" x 105'. We discovered that it would have a future second story, meaning that it would have a poured concrete roof rather than the steel trusses and steel roof that had been used last year. Their goal was to finish the blocks for the first story and pour the roof before we left. The interior of the building has a large open space (with two support pillars and support beams in both directions) that in the future will serve as a cafeteria and meeting space, a kitchen, a store-room, and an office. These spaces will be used for classrooms in the short-term. When funds are available, they will add the second story which will accommodate three classrooms and a computer lab. This will have a roof with steel trusses and steel panels.

In interviewing Pastor Lesly Bertrand and Pastor Yvon Georges (who is the principal of the school and the pastor of the Bellanton church), we discovered the reason for the change in size and construction was that the Haitian legislature has recently

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passed a bill that mandates that church schools must provide K-9 education or they will be closed down. The school currently provides K-6, so they have to add three complete grades in order to comply.

The land that the school is built on is behind the old church (which was rendered unusable by the earthquake). They eventually plan to rebuild the church to accommodate 2,000 people, so space on the site is limited, which explains the need for a second story.

Once again we had an awesome team that I am convinced that God put together. The team was the same as last year with one exception. This year the team was composed of Dale Ramsey (Virginia), Dan Landry (Louisiana), Bob Bormes (Minnesota), John Tuttle (Illinois), brothers Zac & Drew Fields (Ohio), and Sydney Kirkpatrick (Minnesota). This team is to be commended for their ability to accept all of the challenges and changes without missing a beat. They went with the flow and did a tremendous job in working with the Haitians to get the job done. We have discovered in our two years of labor that there is a "Haitian way!" They don't plan like we do, there are no deadlines, and the answer to all of our questions about when something will be done or when material might arrive is always the same—"tomorrow!"

The team has taken the same approach both years. We view our labor and the buildings as a secondary goal. Our primary concern is to represent Christ by modeling our faith, serving as examples, forging friendships, building a foundation for future work in Haiti, and sharing the gospel in whatever way we can. This team represented Christ, their faith, and their country remarkably well!

We would have completed what we intended to accomplish ex-



Preparation for future second story

cept that a persistent rain storm washed out the last afternoon of our labor when the concrete roof and walkway for the second story was being poured. The Haitians and those they had hired to help pour the roof were planning to complete it the day we departed.

One of our great joys this year was to see the building we built last year in use. It was rewarding to see the happiness of the children, and to hear them doing their recitations. It was also

wonderful to see the buildings used later in the afternoon for choir practices, and to see them used on Sundays for Sunday School and junior church spaces. It was gratifying to see the differences between this year and last year and to know we have played a role in blessing this school and church.

We appreciate the generous giving that enabled our trip and supplied the materials for this building to be built. We are convinced that a good work is being done in Haiti that will offer these children a better life in the current age as well as giving them an opportunity for eternal life. In addition, what we are doing is allowing the church to minister to its community in ways that are meeting needs and drawing people to Christ.

The leadership in Haiti has asked us to pass on their desire for another building trip next year as well as a teaching trip to help train their pastors. We will pass this request on to the Lord's Harvest International, along with our recommendation that we continue to assist our Haitian brethren. (The General Conference Board of Directors has approved the Haiti work as the recipient of the fall 2012 Builders Appeal.) ■

Sydney Kirkpatrick,  
Team Leader

[Ed. note: The following article is provided as “food for thought”. While it does not necessarily reflect the opinion of our staff or general membership, it encourages us to look to the future as we approach the time of Jesus’ return to earth.]

Explanatory Note: Will we discover a codebook someday that will decipher what the many figures in Revelation mean? No. Clues now exist primarily in the Bible, but also in such things as common thought patterns, expressions and things common to human life. God is familiar with all such things and is certainly no more limited in His expressions than any creative human writer would be. As much as possible, we must learn to read the figurative language God develops in Revelation and elsewhere and check history for a fit. Otherwise, these prophecies will pass by unnoticed right under our noses. I suspect that my conclusions are unfamiliar to you and space to elaborate is limited, but please give them some thought.

Are we seeing signs of the seventh angel’s three prophetic figures of Rev. 16:17-21 (the bowl poured into the air, an earthquake and a hailstorm)?

Before considering their meanings, I’ll give a little context. Prophecies of the seven angels are mostly chronological, although they overlap in time. The prophecy of the sixth angel may be the easiest to identify due to its use of the Euphrates River as a figure. Its identity will then identify its place in time.

In 1882 Dr. Joseph Wild, D.D., identified the Ottoman Empire with the Euphrates River, writing “The Turkish Power originated on the banks of the Euphrates”. He believed the Euphrates River in Rev. 9:14 and 16:12 represents the rise and fall of the Turkish Ottoman Empire.

The empire was called the commonwealth of Islam. Rev. 9:13 illustrates its expansion by the releasing of the four angels (four Turkish sultanates: Baghdad, Aleppo, Damascus and Caesarea) bound at the Euphrates River. Rev. 16:12 and the drying up of the Euphrates River illustrate its gradual demise, but not

the demise of Islam. The “kings of the east” (Rev. 16:12) are Islamic countries such as Syria, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Dubai that rose as a result of the vacuum left in the Mideast by the fall of the Ottoman Empire.

It’s during this time of the kings of the east that the battle of Armageddon takes place. The battle (NASB, “war”) of Armageddon, as it is often called, is actually Islam’s (radical Islam, if you prefer) present war against western civilization and culture. “Armageddon” among other things signifies Israel as the central figure around which the war revolves. Armageddon (har-megeddo) means hill of Megiddo, which is part of an ancient battleground, the valley of Jezreel/Esdraelon in Israel. Although this major prophecy is still in the early stages, we could be seeing harbingers of the seventh angel. That is what I propose in this article.

For the sake of simplicity and space, allow me to limit my comments to three core figures found in Rev. 16:17-21.

1. Bowl (vial) poured into the air. v. 17
2. Severe earthquake. v. 18
3. Huge hailstorm. v. 21

*The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!"*  
Rev. 16:17 (NIV)

“Poured out his bowl into the air”. Something is poured into the air. The air we breathe. We use the common saying, “There must be something in the air” when some radical trend or attitude seems to take over among any group of people. Likewise, breathing requires inhaling. Inhaling is often associated with airborne drugs that affect our thinking and behavior in radical ways. Something in the air suggests that something has affected our brains besides oxygen.

But what is that something? Ephesians 1:2 contains a clue. This is possible because the Author that inspired Ephesians is the same Author that cleverly transcribed Revelation.

*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked accord-*

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*ing to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Ephesians 1:1-2*

The bowl contains the spirit of disobedience. Look around at the growing disruptive, destructive civil disobedience - justified or not. Civil disobedience is nothing new, but we are seeing civil disobedience exploding in the Middle East and growing here and in Europe. Add to that a marked disregard for the established order and convention. It's not Grandpa's world any longer. There's something in the air alright. If we are on the right track, this spirit of disobedience will seriously infect growing numbers in ensuing years. This plague contributes to, and is a part of, the next plague.

### A Severe Earthquake

*Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. Rev.16:18 (NIV)*

“So tremendous was the quake”. Think of what an earthquake does. Consider the implications of a figurative earthquake. More than anything, the earth represents what we rely on as solid and dependable. If the earth beneath us shakes, nothing is solid.

Financial institutions and businesses once considered too big to fail are failing. Pensions, government and otherwise, are threatened, and some are failing. Social and moral standards are not so standard anymore. In America, the Constitution is beginning to be challenged (or ignored) as out-of-date and a hindrance to progress in our time. Are not the very foundations of society being shaken?

Add to that the Islamization of western societies. Europe is already being called Eurabia by some due to the inroads of Sharia Law and Muslim cultural demands. Like a parasite, it feeds on western freedoms with an eye to destroying western law and culture and replacing them with a world caliphate. Call it earth-shaking when fundamental, long-standing laws of the land are giving way to radical changes (not solely due to Islam). Can it happen here? It's happening (see thethirdjihad.com). However, what characterizes the prophecy of Armageddon is war-conflict. This war may prove to be a judgment on certain nations in gen-

eral and Islam in particular (not Israel this time). It does not point to a coming world caliphate (Islamic government) or the rise of another Ottoman Empire, so to speak.

What about physical aspects? Ever watch the History Channel's “The Crumbling of America” which depicts an aging infrastructure approaching and, in some cases, on verge of collapse? Or “Prophets of Doom” that warns of growing shortages of such essentials as food and water? They may be crying wolf, but the signs are not good.

Prophetic “earthquakes” have happened before. The Roman Empire experienced such a quake. In the Latin-speaking west, the infrastructure collapsed. As I understand it, great advances like the aqueducts and architectural structures fell into disuse or misuse. Richard Rubenstein says western Rome, proud, powerful, citizen-protecting Rome, became a “backwater”. Nineteenth-century historian Henri Pirenne writes, “This began a steady decline and impoverishment so that by the time of Charlemagne, Western Europe had become almost entirely agrarian at a subsistence level, with no long-distance trade”. People had to build homes and shelters in the countryside to “live off the land”.

What would happen to the world's infrastructure, manufacturing, high rises and living complexes if all, or a significant part of, the utilities were cut off? It would severely limit or destroy the very essentials of daily life we have always taken for granted. Modern societies have a lot farther to fall than Rome did.

Cognitive dissidence (it's unthinkable) prevents us from entertaining such extremes. But whenever it happens, this earthquake is big, “such as was not since men were upon the earth” (Rev. 16:13). See also Heb. 12:26.

These are a few possible scenarios.

Next we have:

### A Huge Hailstorm

*From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible. Rev. 16:21 (NIV)*

“Hailstones of about a hundred pounds”. To have a

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hailstorm, we must have severe upper level turbulence that elevates and freezes the rain from whence it falls as hail. Figures, like words, have a certain consistency of meaning even when applied to different times and events. For example, compare the hailstorm in Rev. 8:7. It represents great upper level turbulence among the ruling classes both in government and the church, highly-charged fights and factions. Some doctrinal conflicts in the third and fourth centuries centered on the “Arian Controversy”, having to do with the doctrine of the trinity. Fallout on the people (earth) was painful and caused great agitation. People quarreled in the marketplace and over back fences. Riots broke out. Revelation says this hail was mingled with blood, signifying that, although it was not a blood bath, some bloodshed was involved, which was certainly the case. Author Richard Rubenstein wrote about this period of about 100 years (we still live with the fallout), which describes well this hailstorm.

Pay close attention to the hail in our text. It is heavy, roughly 75-100 pounds. Not just painful and irritating, but deadly. Notice also the scale used. A talent. A talent is a measurement of money. Everything

means something. Using a money scale signifies something other than just weight.

The ruling hierarchies of our world are presently in a state of turmoil (turbulence, if you will, financial turbulence). Front page news. Perhaps to keep up with the growing demands of their own people (among other causes) and subsequently retain their office, certain government officials are leading their respective countries down the path to financial ruin. How would such fallout affect the people “down on earth”? Consider what hail the size of 10-gallon buckets would do to get a sense of how bad this financial collapse might be.

Although prophetic accounts in Revelation are brief, major prophecies usually take some time to develop and a long time to play out. Although it may be okay to prepare for anticipated trouble ahead, generally speaking, such prophecies are not brief episodes for which we can stockpile survival gear.

Are these three prophecies now taking shape? It seems to me the symbols fit present-day trends in that direction. ■

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## **ABC News**

We are pleased to report that the ABC enrollment for this semester is 68 which is 8 more than last semester. A year ago, we only had 38 students in the winter/spring semester. Of the 68 students this semester, 30 are new and 38 are returning.

We are very thankful for the many new students we have been able to secure which boosted our total enrollment over last semester. In fact the number of new students that have been admitted during this school year is a huge miracle! Last semester, the Korean Extension and ABC admitted an amazing 53 new students and a total of 41 this semester for a grand total of 94 for this school year!

Only five Church of God students are taking advantage of the free tuition program this semester. Free tuition will also be available to Church of God students during the next school year.

ABC has the lowest number of international students that we have had in years - only 5. We did not pick up any new international students this semester even though about 30 had been admitted. Some students who clearly had strong financial backing did not secure visas. We do not know why INS does not grant more visas.

ABC-i was held March 22-24. We trust that many who visited the campus will make plans to attend when they graduate from high school.

We have finalized our schedule of classes for the fall semester. We have an excellent offering of classes using a large team of instructors: Gary Burnham, Anthony Buzzard, Sean Finnegan, Bob Jones, Jack Kmiecik, David Krogh, Terence Lester, Joe Martin, Rebekah Martin, Jogi Mauer, Allen Onyango, Dave Riley, and Mary Ann Winkler.

Distance Learning courses are available to any who would like to enroll and study from your home. Please contact me for more information. ■

—David Krogh

# Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

**"He Himself has said. 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you. 'So that we may confidently say, THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT SHALL MAN DO TO ME?'"**

**Hebrews 13:5, 6**

These words were first spoken to Joshua, Moses' right hand man after Moses died and Joshua became leader of Israel's hundreds of thousands who had been wandering in the desert forty years on their way to inheritance in Canaan. Joshua had seen all the miracles that God had performed to help his people. In the first verses of Joshua 1, the Lord God (His name is Yahweh) spoke to Joshua, telling him, "Arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving them...As I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you...be strong and courageous."

In these verses in Hebrews (above) Paul (I'm convinced Paul wrote Hebrews) is applying this promise of God to Christians who are "seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." This promise is made, then, to people who put God first, not to lovers of money or other worldly things — honest and true believers and doers of God's and Christ's words. If we are this type of person, this promise is for us.

This is a wonderful and comforting promise. We don't have to fear men. God will take care of us. He will never desert us or forsake us. We can say with full faith, "The LORD is my Helper. I will not be afraid. What (can) man do to me?"

Jesus said something like this in Matthew 10:28: "Do not fear those who kill the body, but

are unable to kill the soul: but rather fear Him who is able to kill both soul and body in hell (gehenna, hell fire)." The word "soul" is also translated "life." Here Jesus means your hope of eternal life. People may kill us, but they can't touch our hope of eternal life in God's kingdom when Jesus comes. This is how hope saves us: "We are saved by hope" (Romans 8:24 KJ).

Faith! That's what we need in this promise of God. We all know Romans 8:28: "All things work together for them that love God." We all know Jesus' wonderful words in Matthew 11:28-30: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

And we know the promise of Jesus in John 14:27: "My peace I leave with you: My peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

But we must fully believe in these promises from God and from His Son if they are to come to us. I can personally affirm this. Once years ago when I was completely full of stress, so miserable I could not sleep, on my knees by my couch I cried out to God to remember this promise of Jesus in Matthew 11, and asked, "Please give me that rest." The answer from God was immediate. All the stress left, and I had perfect peace.

So when the LORD God Almighty says He will be with us and never forsake us we can be sure He is telling the truth. He means this. He will never leave His own people. He will help us. Just go to Him, believe, and wait for Him to answer. He has promised He will. These are not empty words from the King of the Universe.

What a promise! Allow Him to fulfill it in you. ■

Jim Mattison

# NextGen[eration]

As ABC students, we have tons of opportunities to dig into Scriptures, study various fields of ministry, and spend late nights reading textbooks about evangelism techniques (amongst many other topics). However, our activities as students were redirected onto something a little more “hands-on” when we had the opportunity to plan and lead North Carolina’s annual ski retreat as a Go Serve trip. As part of a youth ministry class in the fall semester, students Calvin LeBlanc and Jake Ballard planned out the specifics for the retreat, including a name, a theme, an itinerary of speakers, a set of counselors, and even registration forms.

Then, a few weeks ago, Shelby Upton, Jordan Dimmick, Jeff McClain, and Calvin had a hand in actually carrying out the event as counselors and speakers. From our (the students’) perspectives, the event was a success—we all had a blast seeing old friends, making new ones, and watching each other grow in our capacities as leaders. Thanks to each of our efforts, it was an eventful weekend of learning, praising, coming together in fellowship—not to mention skiing. As Calvin said when asked about the experience, “It gave me such a sense of accomplishment being a part of the team of students that planned this retreat with Telva [the director of Carolina Conference’s youth programs]. I look forward to going again next year and maybe helping to plan it also; youth ministry is my passion and calling.”

-Kim Raper

The Lawrenceville Church of God Sr. Youth in Springfield, OH, has had a very active 2012. Our year started with taking 19 youth to reFUEL. As always, reFUEL was a good spiritual event to attend. Not only is it a great learning experience for all, but also a good bonding experience for the youth. Our youth look forward to attending every year.

The following weekend, we attended the Springfield “Right to Life” celebration service where we led worship and supported the service. Then we went snow tubing at Mad River Mountain, which is a ski resort in Bellefontaine, OH. Fun was had by all.

We attended Winter Jam Christian Concerts in Columbus, OH, which consisted of 4 hours of Christian concerts. Christian concerts are always good because they are filled with worship and expose our youth to Christian artists and their music.

We participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring Project on Super Bowl Sunday, where our youth stood at the church



Lawrenceville youth group in their new church building



Lawrenceville youth group during “30-Hour Famine”

door with soup pots and collected \$485.53. The following weekend, we served at a local food pantry and presented them with a check for the amount collected. That event is very worthwhile. More information can be found at [souperbowlofcaring.org](http://souperbowlofcaring.org). We also hosted a Super Bowl Party at our church.

The following weekend, we showed the movie “Soul Surfer”. This was a great opportunity for our youth to invite friends. We served pizza, popcorn, and cotton candy. There were 69 in attendance.

For Valentine’s Day, the youth served a candlelight spaghetti dinner. This is always a great fundraiser for our youth group.

The best event that we do all year, is the 30-Hour Famine which was held February 24 & 25. We go 30 hours without eating and the youth get sponsors to raise money for world hunger. Then, all the money is donated to World Vision. It’s about “Saving Kids’ Lives” by providing tools that help prevent world hunger. Our youth learn that they “can” and “will” make a difference in our world. The 30 hours is filled with interactive learning games, a service project, worship time, a candlelight prayer vigil, and fun activities. This year, we had 42 youth participate, and they raised over \$5,000.

Just recently, the Lord blessed our church with a new facility in a different location. The new building has been a great ministry tool, especially for the youth. We are amazed at what the Lord has done in our youth group. We look forward and are very excited to see what he is about to do. To Him be the glory!

In His Service,  
Gary and Jill Hedges

## Korean Extension Update

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**H**ow is the Kingdom of God organized?

The Lord Jesus Christ said, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” (Luke 4:43, NIV)

It is not necessary to mention further that the ultimate goal of Christianity is seeking the kingdom. The necessities for perfect everlasting happiness are in the kingdom of God, and they are no financial shortage, no disease, no mourning, no crying, no pain, and finally, no more death.

So what type of organization is the kingdom? In Revelation 22:2, “And the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations.” The kingdom of God consists of many nations. Abraham is the father of many nations.

And what is the requirement to be a nation?

The following affirmation is used by the United States Court of Appeals to define a nation and a state. (“A nation” consists of a single tribal population and a “state” consists of multiple tribes.)

“Entities that have a **defined territory** and a **permanent population** are under the control of their **own government**, and engage in or have the capacity to engage in, formal relations with other such entities.” In order to be recognized as an independent state/nation by the United Nations, an entity must have three elements: a defined territory, **land**; permanent population, **people**; and their own government, **sovereignty**.

From the first part of the Bible in Genesis, God promised through Abraham to provide man with:

- Land/territory - “The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” (Gen. 12:7 NIV)
- People/population - “I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.” (Gen. 13:16 NIV)
- Government/sovereignty - “I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.” (Gen. 17:7 NIV)

The democratic country's sovereignty is in the people, “of the people, by the people, and for the people”

(Lincoln, A., 1863). In other words, the group of people has the collective power of rulership or kingship. But the sovereignty, rulership in the kingdom nation is in God. It is a theocratic nation.

From Genesis, the scripture describes three things: land/territory — the blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth; people/population — Jesus Christ purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (Rev. 5:9 NIV); infinite power of sovereignty — “I will reign, not people.” Many times the Bible scriptures state the organized entity with these three elements as the kingdom of God. Sometimes, “new heaven” is the source of “sovereignty”, “new earth” is the land/territory, and “new people” are the born-again Christians.

Like Paul, my citizenship is in the kingdom of God with land, people, and God’s almighty government. Our compassionate God will wipe every tear from our eyes, eliminating death, mourning, and pain.

May the blessings of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you forever. Amen.

Steve An

### Student Profile:



**Saehyun Lee**  
**(Korean Extension student 2008 – 2010)**

Saehyun Lee enrolled into the Korean Extension program in the spring semester of 2008. He remained an active student until the fall semester of 2010 earning 93 credit hours. Mr. Lee has traveled back to South Korea to serve in the Korean military (South Korea still engages in the military draft system requiring all Korean males, over the age of 18, to serve a minimum of two years).

Since Saehyun’s arrival to South Korea, he has prayed that God will provide him with the opportunity to convey the truth that was attained during his time at the Korean Extension. As he waited to report for military ser-

*(Continued on page 22)*



**92nd Annual Church of God General Conference**  
**July 11-13, 2012**  
**Lawrenceville Church of God, Lawrenceville, OH**  
**Theme: Going with Grace and Truth (John 1:14-17)**

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 Lawrenceville Church, but you may choose any hotel you desire in the area or make other arrangements. Please notice that rates listed are good only for a limited time.

1. Please fill out the following form. Rates are per person.
2. If today's date is June 22nd or later, please add \$25.00 to your total.
3. Mail this form to: General Conference 2012, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253
4. Or register online at [www.abc-coggc.org](http://www.abc-coggc.org) (or contact Kim Raper 678-833-1839)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Attending July 11 cookout at Lawrenceville Church at 5:00 p.m.? Y \_\_\_ or N \_\_\_ (Cost is \$5 if not registered for meals at conference)

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

Fees: Adults—\$99.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_ Children 6 to 12—\$35.00 per child \_\_\_\_\_ Age (s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

The program will begin July 11 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.

Hotel Information

Please call the hotel directly and mention you are with Church of God General Conference in order to get these rates.

- **Fairfield Inn** - 937-323-9554 - \$94.99/room  
 1870 West First Street, Springfield  
 Continental breakfast/waffles/breakfast sandwiches  
 Price good until June 11
- **Hampton Inn** - 937-325-8480 - \$92/room  
 101 W. Leffel Lane, Springfield  
 Hot breakfast  
 Price good until June 15  
 Mention group code CGA when registering
- **Comfort Suites** - 937-322-0707 - \$75/room  
 121 Raydo Circle, Springfield  
 Deluxe hot breakfast  
 Price good until June 11  
 (More than 2 in a room, additional persons are \$5 per night)
- **Ramada Inn** - 937-328-0123  
 Wed. night \$62.95; Th/Fri \$89.95  
 319 E. Leffel Lane, Springfield  
 Continental breakfast  
 Price good until June 27

Adults at \$99 per person	\$
Children ages 6 to 12 at \$35 per person	\$
Commuters, no meals at \$35 per person	\$
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>
Pastor Discount—subtract 10%	\$
Registration on or after June 15, 2012 add \$25	\$
non-refundable less \$25 deposit per person	- <b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Total due at Conference</b>	<b>\$</b>

**92nd Annual Church of God General Conference**  
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**Theme: Going with Grace and Truth (John 1:14-17)**

**Wednesday – July 11**

3:00 – Conference Registration  
5:00 – Cookout  
7:00 – Evening Worship Service —  
Pastor Scott Millard, speaker  
8:30 – Chairman’s Reception

**Thursday – July 12**

Breakfast on your own  
9:00 – Morning Worship — Pastor Rufus Meyers  
10:15 – Workshops  
1. What To Do When You Don't Know  
What To Say — Michael Hoffman  
2. Doing Evangelism with Grace and  
Truth — Mark Tschaenn  
3. Open Forum with Board of Directors  
4. An Introduction to Natural Church De-  
velopment — Gary Burnham (this  
same workshop will also be offered on  
Friday morning at 11:15)  
11:00 – Break  
11:15 – Workshops  
1. How to Overcome Offense — Andy  
Cisneros  
2. OBC/ABC Chorale/Choir Reunion —  
practice in preparation for music to be  
presented at evenings services — Dale  
Ramsey  
3. Ministers Association Meeting —  
Richard Alcumbrack, Moderator  
4. Discovering Your Path to Spiritual  
Leadership — Michele Millard  
12:15 – Lunch  
1:30 – Chapel – Hymn Sing  
2:15 – 1. Ministerial Association Meeting —  
Richard Alcumbrack, Moderator  
2. Priscilla Meeting — Susan Cain  
3. Bible Study — Filling Up on His Full-  
ness — Growing into a deeper relation-  
ship with the one who is full of grace  
and truth — Rebecca Dauksas  
4. OBC/ABC Chorale/Choir Practice  
3:00 – Break  
3:15 – Business Session (ends at 5:15)  
5:30 – Dinner  
7:00 – Evening Worship –  
Pastor Michael Cisler, speaker  
8:45 – Alumni Association Meeting —  
Amanda Jacinto, President

**Friday – July 13**

Breakfast on your own  
9:00 – Morning Worship — Ministerial Recogni-  
tion Board and Ministers Association  
Leadership Team — Recognitions  
10:15 – Workshops:  
1. Open Forum with Board of Directors  
2. Introduction to Financial Peace Uni-  
versity — Dan Cain  
3. Attitudes that Elevate — Scott Ross  
4. An Overview of Digital Technologies  
and Resources for Biblical Teaching  
and Preaching — John Guthrie  
11:00 – Break  
11:15 – Workshops:  
1. OBC/ABC Chorale/Choir Practice  
2. The Ministry of Influence — Joe Myers  
3. Ministers Association Meeting — Rich-  
ard Alcumbrack, Moderator  
4. An Introduction to Natural Church De-  
velopment — Gary Burnham (this  
same workshop will also be offered on  
Thursday morning at 10:15)  
12:15 – Lunch  
1:30 – Chapel –  
Steve An, speaker and communion leader  
2:15 – 1. Ministerial Association Meeting –  
Richard Alcumbrack, Moderator  
2. Priscilla Meeting — Susan Cain  
3. Bible Study — Bob Morrison  
4. Kyle Casey (topic to be announced  
later)  
3:00 – Break  
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 — Pastor Alan Cain,  
speaker; Installation of Board of Directors  
8:30 – Meeting of Ministers Voluntary  
Retirement Association  
  
Child care will be provided along with children’s  
classes, junior church, and youth activities.

<b>Budget Proposals - Income</b>			
	<b>FY 2012 - 2013</b>	<b>FY 2012 - 2013</b>	<b>FY 2013 - 2014</b>
	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Revisions</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>			
General Contributions	372,275	355,000	370,000
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	0	0	0
ABC Boosters	21,000	16,000	16,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>393,275</b>	<b>371,000</b>	<b>386,000</b>
<b>SALES:</b>			
Christian Education Materials	24,000	20,000	21,000
Books	18,000	22,000	23,000
Sale of Assets	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>44,000</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Tuition	560,000	490,000	535,000
Lodging/Apartment Rent	47,000	34,000	36,000
ABCDF Support	60,000	15,000	30,000
Interest and Late Fees	4,500	3,750	4,000
Application/Miscellaneous Fees	10,000	10,500	11,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>681,500</b>	<b>553,250</b>	<b>616,000</b>
<b>PROGRAM INCOME:</b>			
Conferences & Workshops	0	5,000	5,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	100	100	100
Other Income	7,000	5,000	5,000
Tenant Income	0	78,000	84,000
Transferred In	10,500	10,000	10,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17,600</b>	<b>93,100</b>	<b>99,100</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>1,134,375</b>	<b>1,064,350</b>	<b>1,150,100</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>1,134,375</b>	<b>1,064,350</b>	<b>1,150,100</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Budget Proposals - Expense</b>			
	<b>FY 2012 - 2013</b>	<b>FY 2012 - 2013</b>	<b>FY 2013 - 2014</b>
	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Revisions</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>STAFF:</b>			
Salaries & Wages	475,000	460,000	471,500
F.I.C.A. Tax	9,000	8,500	8,700
Employee Benefits	105,000	90,000	108,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>589,000</b>	<b>558,500</b>	<b>588,200</b>
<b>SERVICES:</b>			
Assistance to Churches	30,000	18,900	12,900
Ministerial Association	4,800	4,800	4,800
Youth Program	10,000	10,000	12,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>44,800</b>	<b>33,700</b>	<b>29,700</b>
<b>SALES EXPENSE:</b>			
Printing & Binding	27,000	31,000	32,000
Postage & Shipping	10,000	10,000	10,500
Book Store	10,000	15,000	16,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>58,500</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Advertising-Recruitment	5,500	7,000	7,000
Student/Staff Meals	19,000	19,500	20,000
Library Periodicals	1,100	1,050	1,100
Library Books	500	250	500
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	750	400	600
Staff Training	5,000	7,000	8,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>31,850</b>	<b>35,200</b>	<b>37,200</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>			
Travel	30,000	35,000	40,000
Office & Misc Supplies & Expense	13,000	12,000	13,000
Professional Services	6,750	7,500	8,000
Telephone/Internet/Web/Data	11,500	26,000	28,000
Office Machine/Software Lease &	27,000	28,000	29,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>88,250</b>	<b>108,500</b>	<b>118,000</b>
<b>PLANT EXPENSES:</b>			
Utilities	30,000	66,000	70,000
Insurance - Property	6,100	9,700	9,900
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	1,250	16,500	17,500
Furniture & Equipment	2,500	1,500	2,500
Supplies/Expenses Plant	1,000	5,000	6,000
Reserve for Capital R/M	0	2,400	3,600
Property Tax	0	18,000	19,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>40,850</b>	<b>119,100</b>	<b>128,500</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Campus Leases	196,000	70,000	76,000
Apartment Leases	57,750	45,600	48,000
Debt Repayment	18,375	17,750	18,500
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	0	3,000	7,500
Other	10,500	12,000	13,000
Contingency	10,000	5,000	27,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>292,625</b>	<b>153,350</b>	<b>190,000</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>1,134,375</b>	<b>1,064,350</b>	<b>1,150,100</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>1,134,375</b>	<b>1,064,350</b>	<b>1,150,100</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 adopted by the delegates at the 2011 summer conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

### 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. **Sale of Assets** – income from the sale of assets no longer used
7. **Tuition** – estimated income from ABC and ABCKE classes
8. **Lodging/Apartment Rent** – rent received from students for apartments rented by the college
9. **ABCDF Support** – transfer of investment income from the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation
10. **Interest and Late Fees** – finance charges on outstanding student accounts
11. **Application/Miscellaneous Fees** – charges for specific services for college students, such as application fees
12. **Conferences & Workshops** - net income is tracked separately for each event; together, all events provide a modest net income
13. **Interest** – interest earned on checking account
14. **Other Income** – miscellaneous income
15. **Tenant Income** - income from tenants leasing space in the McDonough, GA office building
16. **Transferred In** – amounts transferred in from Restricted Funds; from interest income and from funds designed to support General Fund expenses

### Expenses

1. **Salaries and Wages** – compensation for all full-time and part-time staff. Some full-time staff in the Atlanta area are co-employed by ADP, an employment service that provides tax compliance, legal compliance assistance, employment services, and benefit provisions
2. **FICA Tax** – required payment of employer taxes on employees not covered by ADP
3. **Employee Benefits** – tax coverage, health insurance premiums, workers compensation, and other charges for co-employed ADP employees, as well as conference premiums for Ministers' Voluntary Retirement Association for some employees
4. **Assistance to Churches** – 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 production 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. **Reserve for Capital R/M** - funds set aside each month for future capital repair and maintenance at the McDonough, GA office building
27. **Property Tax** - Property tax for McDonough, GA office building
26. **Campus Leases** – monthly payments to lease our Duluth campus site
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. **Allowance for Doubtful Accounts** - to “write-off” uncollectible A/R accounts
29. **Other** – miscellaneous expenses
30. **Contingency** – for unexpected/unbudgeted expenses



# 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.

### EDEN VALLEY CHURCH OF GOD

The Eden Valley Church of God is seeking an enthusiastic, goal-oriented pastor with a zeal to reach the unchurched, a desire to know his/her church family, join in community awareness and draw in summer visitors who vacation here.

Located in the beautiful lakes area of central MN, one hour from Minneapolis and just over a half hour from St. Cloud, the church offers a loving community of believers. The original church was established in the early 1900's. A new building built in the 1960's was soon followed by the addition of classrooms, private pastoral office, meeting rooms, and office supply areas.

Our congregation numbers 40+ on most Sundays, with a real potential for at least doubling that in a town that features a top-rated growing elementary school and high school. Parsonage and competitive employment package await the right candidate. Interested individuals may contact one of the elders: Marv Nordmann at 320-453-5961 or via e-mail at [mrnord@meltel.net](mailto:mrnord@meltel.net), Don Piram at 320-453-7015, or Teresa Kirkpatrick at 320-444-1828.

### HAPPYWOODS CHURCH

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

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

For more information, please contact Elder Charles Bottolfs at 985-542-1555 or via e-mail at [cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net](mailto: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.

### THE KING'S CORNER

The King's Corner Church in Ronkonkoma, Long Island, New York is a Church of God member church looking for a pastor.

We are looking for a pastor with a strong musical inclination to share teaching responsibilities and oversee a support team of elders in daily operations. The fellowship, in addition to a Sunday morning fellowship/worship service, hosts a prayer group, a Bible study and a music-based outreach group. A stipend is currently available, and the position could become full-time in the future. Please contact John Wall at 631-738-1577 or via e-mail at [thekingscorner.org@gmail.com](mailto:thekingscorner.org@gmail.com). See the church website at [www.kingscorner.org](http://www.kingscorner.org).

# Good News

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

## GOOD NEWS FROM COG-LAND

From **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick II** announced the church's annual 30 Pieces of Silver Project for the Easter season. Bags are provided, and members of the congregation are encouraged to fill the bags with 30 "silver" coins (nickels, dimes, and quarters). The bags will be presented as a special offering to our risen Lord on Easter morning, and the funds will be used to offset the costs of Vacation Bible School. (What a great idea! – GNP)

From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – This comes from the files of "A Great Idea That Works, But Just Not This Year." An annual event at the OCOG has been the Marriage Seminar, a short weekend get-away seminar for couples to interact with videos on marriage issues with the goal of strengthening all marriages in the church. Rooms are reserved for one night at a nearby Holiday Inn, and the special time is enjoyable. **Pastor Michael Hoffman** will tell you how beneficial these seminars have been in the past, but he might also be disappointed to tell you that this year's seminar was cancelled due to lack of participation. "Marriage Basics – 101" will have to wait for next year.

From **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick II** reported a very successful Souper Bowl Sunday this year. On Super Bowl Sunday the congregation collected 32 pounds of food and \$62.88 received for the McLeod County Foodshelf. The church also hosted a Community Soup Dinner, with 27 people not from church family in attendance. Outstanding outreach and outstanding sharing with others.

From **Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA** – **Pastor Joe Myers** announced CBC's fifth annual "What If" Sunday for March 25. What if everyone who called Cornerstone home came to church that day? What if everyone invited someone to come along with them? What if everyone brought in some diapers for Pregnancy Resource Center? What if everyone brought some cereal and peanut butter for the food pantry? What if everyone brought in loose change for the Haiti mission work? **Bob and Nola Jones** presented a light-hearted, yet serious, skit on March 4 to hype the idea. [At the time of this writing, the results were not in for the success of the "What If" efforts. – GNP]

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

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*(Continued from page 15)*

vice, God provided him with another opportunity. Saehyun was motivated to apply and received an invitation to participate in the assistant military chaplain's examination. If approved, Saehyun will serve a majority of his two year requirement assisting the head chaplain. This is truly God sent, as the competition for the assistant chaplain's position is very high. As I understand it, many young Korean adults from various denominations apply for this position. If approved, Mr. Lee will be involved with evangelizing to other Korean individuals serving in the Korean military and assisting them in reinforcing their relationship with God.

The military examination consists of two observations. First, is an evaluation of the candidates' educational background (applicants' education must be recognized by the South Korean Department of Military Services). During the first evaluation, only half the applicants will be chosen from the total number of applicants. Second, is an evaluation of the applicants' Christian faith, leadership, and talents. At the end of the second evaluation, only 15 will be chosen to fulfill the roles of assistant chaplains.

Saehyun has submitted a transcript and recommendation letter from the Korean Extension on February 13, 2012. He has received an approval notification on February 24, 2012. This is great news, because the Christian education he received from the Korean Extension has been affirmed by the Korean military. This also declares that Steve's fervent visitations to the army camp, preaching the Abrahamic faith, has been successful. On March 8, 2012, Saehyun participated in the second evaluation; assessing his Christian faith, leadership, and personal talents. He will receive the results of the second evaluation on March 20, 2012. Please pray that God will present Mr. Lee with this evangelistic opportunity.

This is truly a blessing for all male students of the Korean Extension who have yet to serve and complete their service in the Korean military. The accomplishment will serve as a positive goal to evangelize the kingdom.

Sam An

## Church News

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### Baptisms

Illinois

*Oregon* – Jean Mjeon (9/25/11) by Pastor Dan Cain;  
Shawn Aken (1/1/12) by Pastor Michael Hoffman

Ohio

*Springfield* (Lawrenceville) – Logan Anthony  
(2/19/12) by his father, Lance Anthony

### Deaths

Missouri

*Sullivan* (Morse Mill) – Dale L. Wilson, 78,  
(2/10/12). Service by Pastor Jon Welch

Virginia

*Front Royal* (Grace Fellowship) – Katherine Virginia  
Vaught Manuel, 86, (10/21/11), long-time member.  
Service by Pastor Dennis Baldwin

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Dr. Rocco Gennaro announced on January 5, 2012 that Dr. Brian J. Atra of Muddy, IL has been named "Teacher Of The Year" by the University of Southern Indiana at Evansville. "Dr. Atra's evaluations are outstanding, and he often goes above and beyond the call of duty." Dr. Gennaro also went on to say "he is a wonderful and enthusiastic professor."

Dr. Atra currently pastors the Restitution Church of God in Eldorado, IL and the Church of God Faith of Abraham in Fredericktown, MO. Several times a year he also travels to the Church of God in Cleveland, AR.

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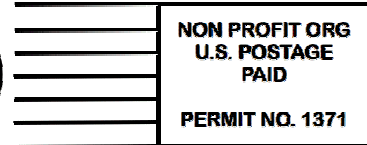
## Prayer and Praise

May 2012

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- 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 Theological Conference being held May 3-6 in Norcross, Georgia.
- 5 **Pray for the missionary work in Mexico.**
- 6 Pray for the ministry of Pastor Ken and Eva Howe and the Country Chapel, Indiana Church of God.
- 7 **Praise God for ABCKE (May 7) & ABC (May 25) students as they receive Bachelor's Degrees, Associate's Degrees and Foundation Certificates.**
- 8 Pray for believers who are in nursing homes and hospitals.
- 9 **Praise God for new attendees at your local church.**
- 10 Pray for the ministry of Pastor Michael and Linda Hoffman and the Oregon, Illinois Church of God.
- 11 **Pray for Pastor Kyle and Angie Casey as they begin their ministry at the Bethel Church in Pelzer, South Carolina.**
- 12 Praise God for the strength He provides each day.
- 13 **Praise God for your mother and her influence.**
- 14 Pray for the congregation at Omaha, Nebraska, and Pastor Scott and Michele Millard.
- 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 Temple, 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 Dustin Smith 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.**

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



**Address Service Requested**

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## Prayer and Praise

June 2012

- 1 **Pray for God's blessing on your extended family.**
- 2 Pray for the ministry of the Open Bible Church in 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 Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, Ohio.
- 15 **Praise God for your church family.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the Simple Teachings Bible Church in McDonough, GA.
- 17 **Pray for the ministry of the Flagg Center Community Church in Rochelle, 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 God's direction in future mission efforts.
- 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 the Midwest Family Camp being held in Indiana this week.**
- 26 Pray for God's direction in the preparation for FUEL (youth program) next month.
- 27 **Pray for the believers in Lima, Peru as they minister under the leadership of Pastor Gaston Ucanay.**
- 28 Pray for Bible schools being held at many churches this summer.
- 29 **Pray for the Board of Directors as they lead the College/Conference.**
- 30 Praise God for the dedication of the college/conference staff.

# THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

## Being a Biblical Christian

### In Trying Times

by Dr. Joe Martin

**C**urrent events scream that we get back to the Bible. One such event is the President's latest anti-biblical stand regarding same sex marriage. He said, "I've just concluded that for me personally, it is important for me to go ahead and confirm that I think same sex couples should be able to get married."<sup>1</sup> A reminder... I try to be as apolitical as possible in these articles, but I do need to be biblical. I do stand against the abuse—physical, verbal and otherwise—of lifestyles we may disagree with. We need to act in Christian love. However, when we choose to go against the clear word of God, we turn out to be "terribly tragically sad" people.

Another screaming event is the Egyptian elections where a cleric for a key candidate (Muhammad Mursi) says "The capital of the United States of the Arabs will be Jerusalem. Millions of martyrs will march to Jerusalem. Brandish your weapons, say your prayers! Mursi will liberate Gaza tomorrow."<sup>2</sup> Christians, evangelical and otherwise, need to stand together for the Bible and the promises of God. The storms are gathering, and we need to be very biblical in these times. Zechariah 14:2 is happening, "For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle..."

My heart cries out in sorrow. I pray often for the president and our government. If he is re-elected, I will pray for him still. If he is not, I will pray for the next president and government. The apostle Paul told Timothy, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior." (1Ti 2:1-3) My "request, prayer, and intercession" is that these men, women, and all of us, respect the desires of our Creator. For biblical Christians, the Bible is our clear guide. "Do not go beyond what is written." (1 Cor 4:6) Lifestyles outside the Bible need to be avoided. No matter what our "tendencies" are, no matter what "we" want, we need to be a hero for God and forsake them if they are contrary to the word of God. I may have a ten-

dency to get "angry," but if I act out in abuse and viciousness, my eternal salvation is in jeopardy. I can "do all things through Christ who strengthens me," (Phil 4:13) I do not have to act out on my tendencies or any lifestyle contradictory to the Bible. Those of us who have tried, realize the futility of life without God. "Who can have enjoyment without Him?" (Ecc 2:25 NASB) No "lifestyle" is worth the loss of eternity with Abba YHWH.

Revelation 21:8 is further abundantly clear, those who practice evil "...the unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars..." will die in the "lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." May God help us to live biblical lifestyles in these trying times. This morning, my Bibleworks devotional was "no more sorrow, crying, tears, for the former things are passed away." (Rev 21:4) This applies to those who chose God. My heart goes out for those of us who have acted, and do act, contrary to God's will. We need to repent. Paul said, "Such were some of you." (1 Cor 6:11) This does NOT single out all those "martyrs" who are going to try to murder the Jews, thinking they are doing the will of God by killing them and running the rest out of the land God promised them. This also does NOT single out the sexually immoral, the greedy, the thieves, etc. This singles out ALL OF US who live a lifestyle against the will of God. It includes ME and YOU if we are living in sin, in those lifestyles!

Whatever "our sin" is (I don't know yours, but I know my potential ones), there is a *sin within every sin*. The *sin within every sin* is that we go against the will of our Creator and do what we want to do versus what He wants for us. We desire what we want versus what He wants for our lives. Adam and Eve chose to "grasp at equality with God" and do what they wanted to do. David grasped at equality with God, to do what he wanted to do. In his sin, he said, "Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when

(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**

**May 31 - June 29**  
Joe and Rebekah Martin and Kim Raper  
on Africa missions trip

**July 11-13, 2012**  
Church of God General Conference  
Lawrenceville Church of God,  
Lawrenceville, OH

**July 22-27, 2012**  
FUEL  
Manchester College,  
North Manchester, IN

**August 13-17**  
Atlanta Bible College  
Block Class

**August 20**  
First day of Atlanta Bible College  
fall semester classes

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.

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e-mail, please let us know by e-mailing us at  
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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**

**go  
electronic**

(Continued from page 1)

You speak and blameless when You judge. (Psa 51:4) Homosexuality is no “bigger sin than fornication, adultery, lying, etc., but they are all potential lifestyles against our Creator, that will result in the loss of our eternal life. Thank God that He is a forgiving God as we repent.

Jesus chose not to grasp at equality with God. He “... did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped. (Phi 2:6 NASB) He “... made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant (Phi 2:7 NIV) “For the joy set before Him,” (Heb 12:2) the kingdom, he endured the cross. That we could give up our desires, our will, our desired lifestyles of sin, for His will. LORD, help us!

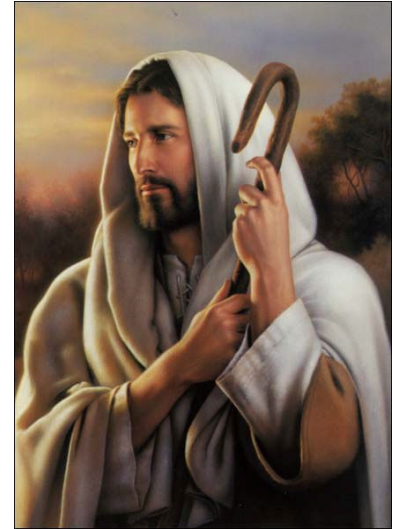
Why is restoration needed? Just watch the news. When we go directly against the word of God in everyday life, we are go against our Creator. We continue to worship the creation more than the Creator. (Rom 1:25) We do what we want versus what He wants. That is sin! The words of Paul are appropriate. “Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God...” (Rom 1:22,23) LORD, help us to repent and not be foolish in our “modern” thinking and sin.

We look forward to the Good God sending back the Good Shepherd to the earth to restore it to its original Good Paradise. May God have mercy on us. Come, Lord Jesus! ■

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<sup>1</sup> From a television interview, Wednesday, 5/9/2012.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Nas TV (Egypt) May 1, 2012.



## Recommendation for the Delegates at the Summer 2012 Conferences

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The Lord's Harvest International Board of Directors and the Board of Directors of the Church of God General Conference recommends that the LHI Board be expanded to seven members from the current five. It is proposed that the two additional members be appointed by the other five members of the LHI Board for two-year terms, on a staggered basis, so that one term expires each year. The two appointees can be reappointed for one or more additional terms. The appointees would have the same voting privileges as the other five members.

**Explanation:** As the mission work of the Church of God has expanded considerably over the past 18 years since the Lord's Harvest Board was

established by delegate action, it is becoming increasingly challenging to develop expertise in each country or area where mission work is being carried on and to provide proper oversight. There is also a need to bring new and younger people onto the board so they can gain experience so they can replace those who have been on the board for many years. This recommendation makes it possible to retain more experienced members for a period of time while new members and younger members are equipped to direct our mission work in the years ahead.

We are thankful that Church of God youth have taken the initiative to create a mission organization called UP:lift which is committed to creat-

ing awareness and interest in mission work among youth. We believe that this recommendation would provide an avenue to connect with this organization and to encourage them in their work.

The current board is composed of the mission coordinator employed by the chief administrative officer of the General Conference; a pastor elected by the Ministerial Association; and two members appointed by the General Conference Board of Directors.

If this recommendation is approved by the delegates, the LHI Board will make the two additional appointments no later than October 1, 2012. ■

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

**C**hristian Workers Seminar was a blast! We arrived during “Rodrun” weekend in Pigeonforge where all the car fanatics line the streets with their vintage vehicles (almost like idols?). It took three hours to drive five miles in that traffic! Everyone was showing off.

The Holiday Inn has proven to be a very good facility for our needs. The classes were great... Dan Gill, the Ross men (Kent & Scott), Wally Winner, Vince Finnegan, Sir Anthony, etc. A highlight was the leadership of Paul and Dolena Shaw for the evening music. Dolena was pounding the ivory (piano, of course, ivory is no longer used), and Paul brought us together with great leadership. In the morning, Jake Ballard (he turned 21 there!) led the music. It was a nice touch both ways. Gary Burnham had an excellent message on working with the next generation. We will be back next year April 7-12. It will be the 40<sup>th</sup>! Don't miss it!



Paul leading, Dolena on piano.

Theological Conference, May 3-6, also proved to be excellent. One of the guest speakers was Dr. Dale Tuggy, a philosophy teacher in the SUNY (State University of New York) system in Fredonia, New

York. He is a super “logician” and a very conscientious Bible student. He has a website [www.trinities.org](http://www.trinities.org) where he debates the logic of what he perceives as misguided thinking of creedal Christianity. The “young guns” were also represented, Sean Finnegan and Dustin Smith. Sean is completing his master’s program and is hoping to get into a Ph.D. program. Please pray for him.

Of course the true “Master of Ceremonies” was Sir Anthony, with Barbara, Sarah and Carlos keeping everything going. I thought I had trumped Anthony when at the end of my presentation about “Always Someone” (who historically tried to keep Bible faith), I began using southern slang and talking about Jeff Foxworthy. He topped me with My Fair Lady, and a “cockney” accent and some lines from the play that I had never heard!

A particular highlight was the baptism of Deanna Vaillancourt-Snelling, who, by simply studying the Bible, found her “real Jesus.” She said she especially was moved by the beginnings of each of Paul’s letters. For example, “We give thanks to God, the Father of our



Anthony with Deanna for baptism.

Lord Jesus Christ...” (Col 1:3)

Please pray for the summer... Rebekah, Kim and I will be in Africa the entire month of June. We will be visiting Malawi, Mozambique and Kenya. Pray especially for safe travel, good health, and the new areas we will be visiting in Kenya!

Remember General Conference at Lawrenceville, July 11-13! Great things are going on with the General Conference. The LORD’s building now has about ten new tenants! They are paying us to use His building. This is a great relief in a tough economy and when student numbers are down some. We may be in the “black” this year!

Also remember our summer youth event, FUEL at Manchester College, July 22-27. Our next generation is important. Also, remember all the camps that will be going on. A special thank you to all the youth workers and volunteers who will be at those mosquito infested, super hot havens of activity (Oops! I had a Louisiana or Arkansas camp flashback!). ■



Pastor Rodwell, Pastor Chaka, Pastor Bango (chair for Mozambique, Pastor Chiwaya (chair for Malawi).

## Letter from the Chairman

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**A**s I sit at my desk, it's hard to believe that our annual Church of God General Conference is less than two months away. I think it is going to be a wonderful event, and personally I'm looking forward to seeing many of you and sharing wonderful times of worship and fellowship. I am sure pastor Alan Cain and the good people of the Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH will be gracious hosts and delightful people willing to share and help in any way possible. So if you haven't already, begin to make plans now to attend our General Conference July 11-13 in Springfield, OH.

We have so much to be grateful about. Another wonderful year at Atlanta Bible College is about to come to an end. You would be so proud of this year's students. They are dedicated young people who have a heart for God and learning of the wonderful truths of His Scripture. A special "shout out" to Jacob Ballard as he concludes his learning years at Atlanta Bible College. He will be getting married to Miss Amber Cain on June 9, 2012 and then immediately begin his internship under the mentoring of pastor Alan Cain. Yes, that's right, Jacob will be working with his new father-in-law!

As we approach the end of our fiscal year, we have a real opportunity to finish the year on budget. It is going to be close, but I believe we can do it. It has not been easy. Faculty and staff on our College and Conference have sacrificed and worked together in an attempt to stay on track with the budget. Your consistent and generous donations have also gone a long way in making this possible. Please continue to pray and be generous in your giving as we close out the fiscal year on June 30, 2012.

It is a real blessing to see our four-story building adding tenants nearly every month. This truly enhances our cash flow, and more importantly, allows us to concentrate our monies on much needed ministries. Each rental dollar received frees up donated dollars to serve more directly

in the cause of Christ! Pray that all available office space will soon be filled.

Your board of directors once again took a step of faith and is offering free tuition to all Church of God students who attend ABC in the 2012-13 school year. Like last year, certain qualifications must be met. You must be an on-campus student, maintain a minimum of a B average, you must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours, and you must not carry over any debt from the previous semester. If you know of anyone who might be interested in attending ABC this fall, now is the time to contact David Krogh, the college's registrar for more information.

We are still needing individuals to consider running for our board of directors. Dan Siderius and Tom New will be completing their term this July. This four-year commitment involves a great deal of sacrifice and caring for the conference. But in the end, it is a most important and valuable service rendered to the good people of the Church of God. If you have a desire to serve, please know that you must be nominated in order to be on a ballot. Your local church or conference can nominate. We will also be taking nominations from the floor of the General Conference meeting.

For those who are into technology, we are opening up a new avenue in which you can donate to our General Conference. Just go to our website, ([www.abc-coggc.org](http://www.abc-coggc.org)) and follow the links to donations. Now I know that not everyone enjoys and uses the internet, but many do and this is just one more way to get involved.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Chairman of the Board of Directors over the past year. Thank you for your prayers and support. Lord willing, we shall see many of you very soon.

In Christ,

Joe Myers



## 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*

### Great Leadership Prioritizes People Over Paperwork!

For the benefit of those who know me well and would be quick to point it out before I admit it, let me quickly confess that I struggle in this area of my life and leadership. With my family. With my work. With my ministry.

In my heart I know people are priority one. But it is often too easy for my head to convince my heart the paperwork must be completed first.

I must remember that my wife, Lori, and our children, Emily, Adam and Matthew, care infinitely more about my relationship with them than they care about almost anything else I do. I must remember that those I work with and minister with also care more about my relationship with them than they care about most other things I do. Relationships trump almost everything else!

That doesn't mean I don't do other valuable things. It means those things are not nearly as important as the relationships.

How do you do when people and paperwork are competing for your attention? “Paperwork” may really be paperwork. It may be electronic media time. Or, it may be anything else that probably needs to be done, but isn't connected to building and prioritizing relationship with family, co-workers, etc.

Some of you may be fantastic “people persons”. I applaud you for your focus on relationships! Your focus, truth be told, may occasionally need a little more adjustment toward paperwork!

My most important encouragement is for those of you who, like me, need a greater emphasis on people over paperwork.

A great leader will focus on relationships with people, rather than on relationships with paper! It's not just about knowing people are priority one, but living that out each day. Sometimes I simply have to tell myself that time with another person is more important than the project demanding my attention. The project's feelings will never be hurt. But the person's feelings, and my relationship with them, can be greatly damaged by neglect. The principle applies to family, work, ministry, etc.

The depth of the leader's relationship with his team will often dictate the depth of the followers' commitment to the leader and to the leader's



cause. How well do you really know those you lead? Only by name? Or, worse yet, only by face? Learn about their family, their life, and their likes and dislikes.

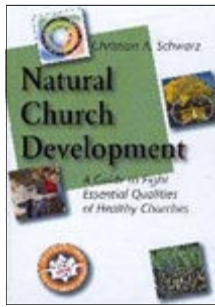
How well do you let your team members know you? Only by name? Or, do you let them view into the details and passions of your life?

When paperwork takes second place, and people take first place, deep relationships will be built, a team will be built, and work and ministry will more likely move forward successfully.

So, do people win or does paperwork win? Get the paperwork done, but not at the expense of relationships. Relationships, not paperwork, will build life, work and ministry that really matters! ■

Gary Burnham  
Ministry Services Network Director  
[gburnham@abc-coggc.org](mailto:gburnham@abc-coggc.org); 1-800-347-4261





## 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.*

### Is Your Church Leadership Empowering?

This article is the first of eight articles offering an extended view into each of the eight quality characteristics of Natural Church Development. The first quality is Empowering Leadership.

Who are the leaders addressed in this quality characteristic? The pastor(s), the elder(s), as well as anyone else in a leadership position.

What is the key question? Does the leadership in our church consistently empower believers for ministry? In other words, do all levels of leadership equip, support, motivate and mentor folks in ministry? Further, do they disciple and delegate, resulting in the multiplication of church ministry?

Such leaders are not seeking to be superstars. They are not seeking to make a name for themselves. They do desire to build the folks they lead into an array of stars. Shining stars that minister God's grace according to their gifts and passion.

NCD measures four vital components for leaders seeking to empower folks in the church.

The first component asks, "How well do the pastor and leaders prepare others and involve them in ministry?" We need leaders that empower others. Empowering leaders train folks

for their ministry assignments, and make sure they serve in a ministry well connected to their spiritual gift(s). Creative ideas from the congregation are requested and encouraged. Lines of communication are wide open. Good ideas are explored and implemented, not "lost in committee".

The second component asks, "Is our pastor both capable to and permitted to make decisions and lead the church?" We need leadership fit. The pastor works in areas of personal strength, accompanied by others having strengths where the pastor isn't so strong. Leaders are permitted to lead without "veto" power given to one or two church folks.

The third component asks, "Is this a team effort or a one-person show?" We need delegation and sharing of ministry. Not only do pastors and elders delegate ministry, but other church leaders also delegate and share ministry with folks in your church. Good delegation greatly expands total church ministry.

The fourth component asks, "Are we just maintaining current ministry or are there definable goals?" We need compelling vision. Leaders have vision and goals for the future of the church. The congregation has an opportunity to provide input regarding the vision and goals. Regularly the vision is lifted up before the congregation so members know the vision and are challenged to commit to it.

My vision is to see Churches of God all around the world evidencing the eight quality characters of NCD. 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  
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# The Terribly Tragically Sad Man

**A modern parable By Loren Seibold** (used with his permission)

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Once there was a boy who lived in a big house on a hill. He loved dogs and horses, sports cars and music. He climbed trees and went swimming, played football and admired pretty girls. Except for having to tidy up after himself, he had a nice life.

One day the boy said to God, "I've been thinking, and I know what I want to become when I become a man."

"What?" said God.

"I want to live in a big house with a veranda across the front and two St. Bernard dogs and a garden out back. I want to marry a woman who is tall and very beautiful and kind, who has long, black hair and blue eyes, who plays the guitar and sings in a clear, high voice. I want three strong sons to play ball with. When they grow up, one will be a great scientist, one will be a politician, and the youngest will be a professional athlete.

"I want to be an adventurer who sails vast oceans and climbs tall mountains and rescues people. And I want to drive a red Ferrari and never have to tidy up after myself."

"That sounds like a nice dream," said God. "I want you to be happy."

One day, playing ball, the boy hurt his knee. After that he couldn't climb tall mountains or even tall trees, much less sail vast oceans. So he studied marketing and started a medical-supplies business.

He married a girl who was very beautiful and very kind and who had long, black hair. But she was short, not tall, and had brown eyes, not blue. She couldn't play the guitar, or even sing. But she pre-

pared wonderful meals seasoned with rare Chinese spices and painted magnificent pictures of birds.

Because of his business, he lived in a city near the top of a tall apartment building that overlooked the blue ocean and the city's twinkling lights. He didn't have room for two St. Bernards, but he had a fluffy cat.

He had three daughters, all very beautiful. The youngest, who was in a wheelchair, was the loveliest. The three daughters loved their father very much. They didn't play ball with him, but sometimes they went to the park and tossed a Frisbee—except for the youngest, who sat under a tree strumming her guitar and singing lovely, haunting songs.

He made enough money to live comfortably but he didn't drive a red Ferrari. Sometimes he had to pick up things and put them away—even things that didn't belong to him. After all, he had three daughters.

Then one morning, the man awoke and remembered his dream. "I am very sad," he said to his best friend.

"Why?" asked his friend.

"Because I once dreamed of marrying a tall woman with black hair and blue eyes who would play the guitar and sing. My wife can't play the guitar or sing. She has brown eyes, and she's not tall."

"Your wife is very beautiful and very kind," said his friend. "She creates splendid pictures and delectable food." But the man wasn't listening.

*(Continued on page 9)*

*(Continued from page 8)*

“I am very sad,” the man confessed to his wife one day. “Why?” asked his wife. “Because I once dreamed of living in a big house with a veranda, and of having two St. Bernards and a garden out back. Instead I live in an apartment in a high rise building.”

“Our apartment is comfortable and we can see the ocean from our couch,” said his wife. “We have love, laughter and paintings of birds and a fluffy cat—not to mention three beautiful children.” But the man wasn't listening.

“I am very sad,” the man said to his therapist. “Why?” asked the therapist. “Because I once dreamed that I would grow up to be a great adventurer. Instead, I am a bald businessman with a bad knee.”

“The medical supplies you sell save many lives,” said the therapist. But the man wasn't listening. So his therapist charged him \$110 and sent him home.

“I am very sad,” the man said to his accountant. “Why?” asked the accountant. “Because I once dreamed of driving a red Ferrari and never having to tidy up after myself. Instead, I take public transportation, and sometimes I still have to clean up.”

“You wear good suits. You eat at fine restaurants, and you've toured Europe,” said his accountant. But the man wasn't listening. His accountant charged him \$100 anyway. He was dreaming of a red Ferrari himself.

“I am very sad,” the man said to his clergyman. “Why?” asked the clergyman. “Because I once dreamed of having three sons: a great scientist, a politician and a professional athlete. Instead, I have three daughters, and the youngest can't even walk.”

“But your daughters are beautiful and intelligent,” said the clergyman. “They love you very much and they've all done well. One is a nurse, another is an artist, and the youngest teaches music to children.”

But the man wasn't listening. He was so sad that

he became very sick. He lay in a white hospital room surrounded by nurses in white uniforms. Tubes and wires connected his body to blinking machines that he had once sold to the hospital.

He was terribly, tragically sad. His family, friends and clergyman gathered around his bed. They were all deeply sad, too. Only his therapist and his accountant remained happy.

Then one night, when everyone except the nurses had gone home, the man said to God, “Remember when I was a boy, and I told you all the things I wanted?”

“It was a lovely dream,” said God.

“Why didn't you give me those things?” asked the man.

“I could have,” said God. “But I wanted to surprise you with things you didn't dream of. I suppose you have noticed what I have given you: a kind beautiful wife; a good business; a nice place to live; three beautiful daughters—one of the best packages that I've put together...”

“Yes,” interrupted the man. “But I thought you were going to give me what I really wanted.”

“And I thought you were going to give me what I really wanted,” said God. “What did you want?” asked the man. It had never occurred to him that God was in want of anything.

“I wanted to make you happy with what I had given you,” said God.

The man lay in the dark all night, thinking. Finally he decided to dream a new dream, one he wished he had dreamed years before. He decided to dream that what he wanted most were the very things he already had.

And the man got well and lived happily in the high rise, enjoying his children's beautiful voices, his wife's deep brown eyes and her glorious paintings of birds. And at night he gazed at the ocean and contentedly watched the lights of the city twinkling on, one by one. ■

## General Conference Nominations and Recommendations

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At General Conference we will be electing two (2) directors for the board of directors. The terms of Dan Siderius and Tom New 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.

#### Darrell Cardwell

The Church of God Ministerial Association places Pastor Darrell Cardwell from the Macomb Church of God into nomination for a position on the board of directors.

Pastor Darrell has served in pastoral ministry for over 25 years. He has served in Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana. Since December of 2011 he has been serving the Macomb Church of God in Macomb, IL. In each of the states that he has served he has been on all the state boards serving in different capacities.

As like many of our pastors, Pastor Darrell has been bi-vocational which has given him many opportunities to share in life's experiences. He has been in management in the optical field being a nationally certified optician, and he has managed a restaurant delivery service along with doing advertising. He has been a nationally certified emergency medical technician. He was on the mayor of Peoria's task force for "Enough is Enough" taking on challenging concerns for the Peoria and East Peoria Communities. Last but not least, he has been a radio air personality. Involved in advertis-

*(Continued on page 23)*

# Good News

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

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL – O.K. (Ken) and Melody Welty** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with an open house at the church May 6. Congratulations! [You certainly don't look old enough to have been married that long. Did you marry during junior high? – GNP]

From the **Bedford Church of the Open Bible in Bedford, OH – Dan and Nancy Kostan** also celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an open house after church on May 6. Congratulations to you as well! [Since I grew up with you guys, I have to say it is impossible for you to have been married that long, unless I'm a lot older than I'd like to believe. – GNP]

From the **Cool Spring Church of God in Browntown, VA** – In keeping with the theme of honoring wedding anniversaries in this issue, we also celebrate with **Bob and Flo Coverstone** who will have their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on June 10. Once again, we wish you the best on this wonderful milestone! [With all due apologies for any who have recently celebrated milestone anniversaries without being mentioned in this column, GNP asks to be notified of all such celebrations in the future, and we will make sure you are acknowledged. Thank you for helping us keep up with this. – GNP]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL – Shelley Myers** is coordinating this year's Relay for Life team as people from all across the country walk to raise money for cancer research. Shelley and **Delene Young** also held a Premier Designs Jewelry party at the church May 18 with half of the profits donated to Relay for Life.

From the **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – Associate Pastor Connie Scott

led this year's Junior Choir program on April 29. This year's program was not a full-length musical/play as in the past. It was a variety show, complete with skit (written by the senior high youth group and edited by the junior high youth group), traditional choir songs, bells, and several instrumental solos. The opening act was a performance by the Tiny Tots choir. Everyone performed well, and all attendees had an enjoyable and inspiring time.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL – Pastor Michael Hoffman** once again spearheaded a successful blood drive on April 10 at the church. The goal was 50 pints of blood. Although the goal was not quite reached, Pastor Michael was pleased with the turnout and with the church's continuing support of local blood drives.

From the **Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA – Robin Taylor, Nola Jones, and Kim Raper** have started a crocheting/knitting group. All are invited. [Yes, that even includes the guys! Does anyone remember what former NFL star Rosie Greer did as a hobby?] The monthly meetings include Bible study, instruction in how to crochet or knit, refreshments, and good old-fashioned fellowship. [I've done some latch hook in the past. Does that count? – GNP]

From the **GNP desk** – Send in the names of your 2012 graduates and we will focus on them in the next GNP column. It is a milestone to be celebrated, and we want everyone in COGLand to know about it. [So y'all have two assignments – anniversary people and graduates. Help us out! – GNP]

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. If you want to see your church and your people here, get us your news. PLEASE SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS, and we'll put you in print!

Robert L. Jones



## Lord's Harvest International News

Dr. Joe and Rebekah Martin and Kim Raper are leaving for Africa on May 31. They will be visiting Malawi, Mozambique, and Kenya. They will return on June 29. Please pray for safety, good health and effective ministry while they are serving.

We are grateful for individuals, mission groups, churches, and conferences that faithfully provide financial support for our mission efforts around the world. We also appreciate those who contribute to the travel expenses for teams that periodically visit countries where there are affiliated churches. We think these face-to-face contacts for teaching and encouragement are very important.

Ever since we started assisting with the work in Pakistan, it has been our desire to send one or two individuals to meet the pastors and members and to encourage the work there. However the State Department of the United States has a travel warning in place which discourages Americans from visiting Pakistan because of dangerous or unstable conditions. Over the past year we have been in contact with Werner Bartl of Austria who has a strong interest in the work in

Pakistan. He shares our understanding of scripture and has attended our Theological Conference several times. He has raised several thousand dollars to assist with the work there to supplement the funds that we send monthly. Werner has indicated his willingness to travel to Pakistan to meet the leaders and pastors and to assess the work. He knows the risks, but he feels it is important to go. He has traveled in risky situations before, and he believes that his Austrian passport will enable him to get a visa and may help to minimize the risks. He has asked us to pray that another person will be found to travel with him. He feels that two sets of eyes and ears are better than one in assessing the work. We are thankful to Werner for his willingness to make this trip and LHI would like to assist him with his travel expenses when he goes.

The Lord's Harvest International publishes a mission newsletter whenever mission news is available. If you would like to receive this publication by e-mail or regular mail, please send your address to: LHI Newsletter, PO Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253 or to [dkrogh@abc-coggc.org](mailto:dkrogh@abc-coggc.org). ■

## ABC News

The Korean Extension graduation was held at the north campus on Monday afternoon, May 7 at 4:00 p.m. Eleven students received Bachelor of Theology degrees. ABC graduation was held on May 25 and a report will be in the next JOURNAL/HERALD.

We continue to seek new Church of God students who are eligible to receive free tuition scholarships for the fall semester. At this point, two new students have enrolled. We have openings for seven additional students. If you are interested in applying, please contact Registrar David Krogh for additional information—678-833-1839 or [dkrogh@abc-coggc.org](mailto:dkrogh@abc-coggc.org).

Go Serve teams will be available to assist churches in our confer-

ence during the fall semester. If your church or state/district conference is interested in having a team serve in your area, please contact Kim Raper at 678-833-1839 or [kraper@abc-coggc.org](mailto:kraper@abc-coggc.org).

The college chorale was formed 41 years ago, and it has been 15 years since the last chorale ministered. Over the 25 years of the chorale, 197 different people participated. A chorale reunion will be held as a part of our summer conference at the Lawrenceville, Ohio Church of God July 11-13. All former members are invited to come and participate in several performances led by director Dale Ramsey. The first rehearsal will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday July 11. Information about registering for the conference is available at our website: [atlantabiblecollege.com](http://atlantabiblecollege.com) and in this issue of the PROGRESS JOURNAL/RESTITUTION HERALD.

—David Krogh

## You are never too old to take a class at ABC!



At age 86, Bill Burnham is easily the oldest classroom student Oregon/Atlanta Bible College has ever had! During the spring semester he took the class Personal Spiritual Development II.

# Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

**“Clothe yourselves with humility  
toward one another,  
for God is opposed to the proud,  
but gives grace to the humble.  
Humble yourselves, therefore,  
under the mighty hand of God,  
that He may exalt you at the proper time.”**

## 1 Peter 5:4, 5

Inspired apostle Peter, like the inspired prophet Micah (6:8), stresses this advice or command of God that all of us must be humble before our fellow men and before God Himself.

Why is it so important to be humble? Because everyone who likes to lift himself up before other people or God is living a lie. Arrogant people are not true followers of God. They do not put God first in their lives. They are putting themselves first, lovers of self instead of lovers of God.

This attitude is in direct conflict with Jesus' first command: Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind (Matt 22:37-40.)

And why should we love God with all our heart and mind? Because of His goodness to us (Rom 2:4), which also causes us to repent of our sins so we can accept the gospel message and be forgiven. God is good to us. There is no question about that. He made us in His likeness and gives us everything we need. All things work out for our good if we really love Him. He provides everything for this mortal life and promises us eternal life in His perfect and righteous coming kingdom on earth if we listen and take heed to His teaching.

This is why He sent the prophets and apostles—to teach us how we can imitate His righteous character and be His true children. We must be filled with His Holy Spirit to be His people. We are born human with a desire to do what we want to do. Jesus is our example of how to live. He al-

ways did what God wanted Him to do. We all sin. But He never did. How? Because He wanted to live the way God wanted Him to live and to speak what God wanted Him to speak (John 12:48,49). God gave Him power to overcome His mortal temptations. “God giveth not the spirit by measure unto Him” (KJ, John 3:34; Psalm 45:7). And God will give His spirit to all of us who really seek His will, to empower us to live the righteous life. “If you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him” (Luke 11:13).

Solomon said there are seven things the LORD hates, and the first one he mentions is “a proud look” (Prov 6:16-19). Why does God “hate” this attitude in a person? Because it signifies that that person thinks more highly of himself or herself than of the Lord God Almighty. And there is no one greater nor higher than Yahweh, who made the heavens and earth by His mighty power, and all that is in them. Also, remember that we are mortal and He is immortal. He lives forever! The angels cannot die (Luke 20:36) but we are made lower than the angels (Psa 8:5). We die. How can we compare ourselves with the LORD God? He is far greater than any of the things He has created. It is blasphemy to put ourselves higher than God. And that is exactly what anyone does who has “a proud look.” He thinks he is superior to any thing, even God! (This will be the attitude the Antichrist will have. He will sit in the temple of God showing that He is God! (1 Thess 2:4.)

A humble and sweet spirit before God and men is of great price.

We can have that kind of spirit only by asking God to help us to have it. It does not come to us by our own efforts, for this kind of attitude is not natural for men to have. We need God to help us develop it.

How precious are those people who have a humble, sweet spirit. By God's Holy Spirit guiding our lives we can have it. Praise God!

Jim Mattison

# NextGen[eration]

We are proud of the McGintytown Church of God youth program. Our youth group right now is probably the largest we have had in twenty years! To keep a youth group active, it requires a lot of support and many “hands” involved. We are so blessed in this regard. You could say that our church has many youth workers.

Wendy Johnston and Wanda Goodrich encourage the youth to memorize verses. Some of the youth have sixty verses memorized! One verse is “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” (Some are KJV, but most are NIV.) It’s vital for the youth to really know what the Bible says. Unfortunately, when we are out, and the opportunity arises, we may not have our Bible on hand to show someone. Last fall, we had a paintball retreat for those who had memorized a certain number of verses. It was a blast!

Shelly McNeil, Aline Jones, and Jon Fletcher have been working with our youth musically. We have youth that can play the guitar, the bass guitar, and the drums. Also, we have a few that Aline is teaching how to play the piano! We have Youth Sundays on the fifth Sundays throughout the year and during this service, the youth lead worship. It’s wonderful that we have a youth group this bold and eager to participate!

Right now, we are gearing up for the summer camps! In the fall, we take a group down to the Blood River Church of God for a retreat. Louisiana brings a group up in the summer to join us for Arkansas State Camp. Brother Greg Demmitt and the Faubion’s bring some from Texas as well. Last year we had about 100 attend camp. This year’s theme is LOL (Love Out Loud), and we are super excited about it! Then, there is FUEL, of course. We are hoping to bring two quiz teams to the National Quizzing Championship again this year.

We feel that it is good to try and keep the youth busy for our Father. Sometimes it seems like the worldly influences are too powerful. We must remember that we should always be seeking first the kingdom of God.

In His Service,  
Craig and Melissa New



Arkansas Camp



Our youth.



Paintball retreat.

## Korean Extension Update

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**G**reetings to all,

The Korean Extension has successfully completed the 2012 spring semester with 78 Korean students. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, a wonderful graduation ceremony was held at the north campus. Those in attendance were the KE faculty, graduates, and family members. Also in attendance were Dr. Joe Martin, David Krogh, and Carrie Briggs and family.

A total of 11 graduates were awarded the Bachelor of Theology this year. Five graduates have notified our office that they will travel back to South Korea, and the remaining six will continue their ministries in the United States in their home churches.

As a result of the poor economy, ten Korean students have notified our office of their inability to continue their Christian education resulting from a lack of financial support. These students will not return for the upcoming fall semester. Regrettably, we suspect there will be more students that will suffer similar situations. During the summer break, the Korean Extension will raise recruitment efforts in South Korea and our local Korean community here in Duluth, Georgia. We will also focus on enhancing our instructors' teaching methods; continue to reorganize our textbooks; library books will continue to be catalogued; and we are currently modifying the current Korean Extension website for ease of navigation.

Young and Steve departed for South Korea on May 8<sup>th</sup> and return home on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. During their stay Steve will meet with several pastors' groups and their congregations. He will meet with prospective students and Korean Extension graduates, encouraging them in their ministries. He will also have the opportunity to give general updates to the parents of our current students.

I pray all of you will have a blessed summer!

Sam An  
Atlanta Bible College Korean Administrator

**Atlanta Bible  
College Korean  
Extension  
Student Profiles**

**Moon Sik Kim**



**Moon Sik Kim (Spring 2012 KE Graduate)**

### **Moon Sik Kim's address to the KE graduates (Spring 2012 Korean Extension graduation ceremony)**

Mr. Kim's initial arrival to the United States was in 2005. He arrived in the U.S. in search of the proverbial "better-life." He attended numerous Korean churches unaware of God's great presence. He heard, by attending church, God would fulfill the desires of a churchgoer's heart. Mr. Kim continued his church attendance with the misconception for two years, until he was introduced to the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension in 2007 by an acquaintance. Since his enrollment, Mr. Kim has fervently learned and received the path in attaining the biblical truth. He has accepted God's commands and Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior whom God sent. The education he has received truly impacted his life. He has mentioned that his relationships with his family and friends have grown stronger, and his Christian worldview has changed as well.

Mr. Moon Sik Kim's quote, "I want to thank God and the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension for the priceless gift of assisting me in acknowledging the truth. I also urge our 2012 graduates and future graduates to strive and become biblical truth-seekers. Unfortunately I am traveling back to South Korea, but rest assured I will convey the kingdom message no matter where I am!" ■



**92nd Annual Church of God General Conference**  
**July 11-13, 2012**  
**Lawrenceville Church of God, Lawrenceville, OH**  
**Theme: Going with Grace and Truth (John 1:14-17)**

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 Lawrenceville Church, but you may choose any hotel you desire in the area or make other arrangements. Please notice that rates listed are good only for a limited time.

1. Please fill out the following form. Rates are per person.
2. If today's date is June 22nd or later, please add \$25.00 to your total.
3. Mail this form to: General Conference 2012, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253
4. Or register online at [www.abc-coggc.org](http://www.abc-coggc.org) (or contact Kim Raper 678-833-1839)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Attending July 11 cookout at Lawrenceville Church at 5:00 p.m.? Y \_\_\_ or N \_\_\_ (Cost is \$5 if not registered for meals at conference)

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

Fees: Adults—\$99.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_ Children 6 to 12—\$35.00 per child \_\_\_\_\_ Age (s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

The program will begin July 11 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.

Hotel Information

Please call the hotel directly and mention you are with Church of God General Conference in order to get these rates.

- **Fairfield Inn** - 937-323-9554 - \$94.99/room  
 1870 West First Street, Springfield  
 Continental breakfast/waffles/breakfast sandwiches  
 Price good until June 11
- **Hampton Inn** - 937-325-8480 - \$92/room  
 101 W. Leffel Lane, Springfield  
 Hot breakfast  
 Price good until June 15  
 Mention group code CGA when registering
- **Comfort Suites** - 937-322-0707 - \$75/room  
 121 Raydo Circle, Springfield  
 Deluxe hot breakfast  
 Price good until June 11  
 (More than 2 in a room, additional persons are \$5 per night)
- **Ramada Inn** - 937-328-0123  
 Wed. night \$62.95; Th/Fri \$89.95  
 319 E. Leffel Lane, Springfield  
 Continental breakfast  
 Price good until June 27

Adults at \$99 per person	\$
Children ages 6 to 12 at \$35 per person	\$
Commuters, no meals at \$35 per person	\$
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$
Pastor Discount—subtract 10%	\$
Registration on or after June 15, 2012 add \$25	\$
non-refundable less \$25 deposit per person	- <b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Total due at Conference</b>	<b>\$</b>



**92nd Annual Church of God General Conference**  
**July 11-13, 2012**  
**Lawrenceville Church of God, Lawrenceville, OH**  
**Theme: Going with Grace and Truth (John 1:14-17)**

**Wednesday – July 11**

3:00 – Conference Registration

**3:30 - OBC/ABC Chorale/Choir Rehearsal**

5:00 – Cookout

7:00 – Evening Worship Service —  
Pastor Scott Millard, speaker

8:30 – Chairman’s Reception

**Thursday – July 12**

Breakfast on your own

9:00 – Morning Worship — Pastor Rufus Meyers

10:15 – Workshops

1. What To Do When You Don't Know What To Say — Michael Hoffman
2. Doing Evangelism with Grace and Truth — Mark Tschaenn
3. Open Forum with Board of Directors
4. An Introduction to Natural Church Development — Gary Burnham (this same workshop will also be offered on Friday morning at 11:15)

11:00 – Break

11:15 – Workshops

1. How to Overcome Offense — Andy Cisneros
2. **OBC/ABC Chorale/Choir Reunion practice in preparation for music to be presented at evenings services — Dale Ramsey**
3. Ministers Association Meeting — Richard Alcumbrack, Moderator
4. Discovering Your Path to Spiritual Leadership — Michele Millard

12:15 – Lunch

1:30 – Chapel – Hymn Sing

- 2:15 – 1. Ministerial Association Meeting — Richard Alcumbrack, Moderator
2. Priscilla Meeting — Susan Cain
3. Bible Study — Filling Up on His Fullness — Growing into a Deeper Relationship With the One Who Is Full of Grace and Truth — Rebecca Dauksas
4. **OBC/ABC Chorale/Choir Practice**

3:00 – Break

3:15 – Business Session (ends at 5:15)

5:30 – Dinner

7:00 – Evening Worship –  
Pastor Michael Cisler, speaker

8:45 – Alumni Association Meeting —  
Amanda Jacinto, President

**Friday – July 13**

Breakfast on your own

9:00 – Morning Worship — Ministerial Recognition Board and Ministers Association Leadership Team — Recognitions

10:15 – Workshops:

1. Open Forum with Board of Directors
2. Introduction to Financial Peace University — Dan Cain
3. Attitudes that Elevate — Scott Ross
4. An Overview of Digital Technologies and Resources for Biblical Teaching and Preaching — John Guthrie
5. Ministry to Youth — Gary and Jill Hedges

11:00 – Break

11:15 – Workshops:

1. **OBC/ABC Chorale/Choir Practice**
2. The Ministry of Influence — Joe Myers
3. Ministers Association Meeting — Richard Alcumbrack, Moderator
4. An Introduction to Natural Church Development — Gary Burnham (this same workshop will also be offered on Thursday morning at 10:15)

12:15 – Lunch

1:30 – Chapel – Steve An, speaker, communion

- 2:15 – 1. Ministerial Association Meeting – Richard Alcumbrack, Moderator
2. Priscilla Meeting — Susan Cain
3. Bible Study — Bob Morrison
4. Kyle Casey — Issues of Truth for a Post-Modern Generation

3:00 – Break

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 — Pastor Alan Cain, speaker; Installation of Board of Directors

8:30 – Meeting of Ministers Voluntary Retirement Association

Child care will be provided along with children’s classes, junior church, and youth activities.

<b>Budget Proposals - Income</b>			
	<b>FY 2012 - 2013</b>	<b>FY 2012 - 2013</b>	<b>FY 2013 - 2014</b>
	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Revisions</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>			
General Contributions	372,275	355,000	370,000
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	0	0	0
ABC Boosters	21,000	16,000	16,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>393,275</b>	<b>371,000</b>	<b>386,000</b>
<b>SALES:</b>			
Christian Education Materials	24,000	20,000	21,000
Books	18,000	22,000	23,000
Sale of Assets	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>44,000</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Tuition	560,000	490,000	535,000
Lodging/Apartment Rent	47,000	34,000	36,000
ABCDF Support	60,000	15,000	30,000
Interest and Late Fees	4,500	3,750	4,000
Application/Miscellaneous Fees	10,000	10,500	11,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>681,500</b>	<b>553,250</b>	<b>616,000</b>
<b>PROGRAM INCOME:</b>			
Conferences & Workshops	0	5,000	5,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	100	100	100
Other Income	7,000	5,000	5,000
Tenant Income	0	78,000	84,000
Transferred In	10,500	10,000	10,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17,600</b>	<b>93,100</b>	<b>99,100</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>1,134,375</b>	<b>1,064,350</b>	<b>1,150,100</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>1,134,375</b>	<b>1,064,350</b>	<b>1,150,100</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Budget Proposals - Expense</b>			
	<b>FY 2012 - 2013</b>	<b>FY 2012 - 2013</b>	<b>FY 2013 - 2014</b>
	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Revisions</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>STAFF:</b>			
Salaries & Wages	475,000	460,000	471,500
F.I.C.A. Tax	9,000	8,500	8,700
Employee Benefits	105,000	90,000	108,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>589,000</b>	<b>558,500</b>	<b>588,200</b>
<b>SERVICES:</b>			
Assistance to Churches	30,000	18,900	12,900
Ministerial Association	4,800	4,800	4,800
Youth Program	10,000	10,000	12,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>44,800</b>	<b>33,700</b>	<b>29,700</b>
<b>SALES EXPENSE:</b>			
Printing & Binding	27,000	31,000	32,000
Postage & Shipping	10,000	10,000	10,500
Book Store	10,000	15,000	16,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>58,500</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Advertising-Recruitment	5,500	7,000	7,000
Student/Staff Meals	19,000	19,500	20,000
Library Periodicals	1,100	1,050	1,100
Library Books	500	250	500
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	750	400	600
Staff Training	5,000	7,000	8,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>31,850</b>	<b>35,200</b>	<b>37,200</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>			
Travel	30,000	35,000	40,000
Office & Misc Supplies & Expense	13,000	12,000	13,000
Professional Services	6,750	7,500	8,000
Telephone/Internet/Web/Data	11,500	26,000	28,000
Office Machine/Software Lease &	27,000	28,000	29,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>88,250</b>	<b>108,500</b>	<b>118,000</b>
<b>PLANT EXPENSES:</b>			
Utilities	30,000	66,000	70,000
Insurance - Property	6,100	9,700	9,900
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	1,250	16,500	17,500
Furniture & Equipment	2,500	1,500	2,500
Supplies/Expenses Plant	1,000	5,000	6,000
Reserve for Capital R/M	0	2,400	3,600
Property Tax	0	18,000	19,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>40,850</b>	<b>119,100</b>	<b>128,500</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Campus Leases	196,000	70,000	76,000
Apartment Leases	57,750	45,600	48,000
Debt Repayment	18,375	17,750	18,500
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	0	3,000	7,500
Other	10,500	12,000	13,000
Contingency	10,000	5,000	27,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>292,625</b>	<b>153,350</b>	<b>190,000</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>1,134,375</b>	<b>1,064,350</b>	<b>1,150,100</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>1,134,375</b>	<b>1,064,350</b>	<b>1,150,100</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 adopted by the delegates at the 2011 summer conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

### 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. **Sale of Assets** – income from the sale of assets no longer used
7. **Tuition** – estimated income from ABC and ABCKE classes
8. **Lodging/Apartment Rent** – rent received from students for apartments rented by the college
9. **ABCDF Support** – transfer of investment income from the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation
10. **Interest and Late Fees** – finance charges on outstanding student accounts
11. **Application/Miscellaneous Fees** – charges for specific services for college students, such as application fees
12. **Conferences & Workshops** - net income is tracked separately for each event; together, all events provide a modest net income
13. **Interest** – interest earned on checking account
14. **Other Income** – miscellaneous income
15. **Tenant Income** – income from tenants leasing space in the McDonough, GA office building
16. **Transferred In** – amounts transferred in from Restricted Funds; from interest income and from funds designed to support General Fund expenses

### Expenses

1. **Salaries and Wages** – compensation for all full-time and part-time staff. Some full-time staff in the Atlanta area are co-employed by ADP, an employment service that provides tax compliance, legal compliance assistance, employment services, and benefit provisions
2. **FICA Tax** – required payment of employer taxes on employees not covered by ADP
3. **Employee Benefits** – tax coverage, health insurance premiums, workers compensation, and other charges for co-employed ADP employees, as well as conference premiums for Ministers' Voluntary Retirement Association for some employees
4. **Assistance to Churches** – 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 production 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. **Reserve for Capital R/M** – funds set aside each month for future capital repair and maintenance at the McDonough, GA office building
27. **Property Tax** – Property tax for McDonough, GA office building
26. **Campus Leases** – monthly payments to lease our Duluth campus site
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. **Allowance for Doubtful Accounts** – to “write-off” uncollectible A/R accounts
29. **Other** – miscellaneous expenses
30. **Contingency** – for unexpected/unbudgeted expenses

# CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

## 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.

## EDEN VALLEY CHURCH OF GOD

The Eden Valley Church of God is seeking an enthusiastic, goal-oriented pastor with a zeal to reach the unchurched, a desire to know his/her church family, join in community awareness and draw in summer visitors who vacation here.

Located in the beautiful lakes area of central MN, one hour from Minneapolis and just over a half hour from St. Cloud, the church offers a loving community of believers. The original church was established in the early 1900's. A new building built in the 1960's was soon followed by the addition of classrooms, private pastoral office, meeting rooms, and office supply areas.

Our congregation numbers 40+ on most Sundays, with a real potential for at least doubling that in a town that features a top-rated growing elementary school and high school. Parsonage and competitive employment package await the right candidate. Interested individuals may contact one of the elders: Marv Nordmann at 320-453-5961 or via e-mail at [mrnord@meltel.net](mailto:mrnord@meltel.net), Don Piram at 320-453-7015, or Teresa Kirkpatrick at 320-444-1828.

## HAPPYWOODS CHURCH

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

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

For more information, please contact Elder Charles Bottolfs at 985-542-1555 or via e-mail at [cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net](mailto: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.





## Church News

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### Baptisms

#### Indiana

*Knightstown* – Gavin Back and Levi Back (4/15/12) by Tony Moore

#### Louisiana

*Springfield* (Blood River Church of God) – Dallas Starkey and Joey Hohensee (3/11/12) by Pastor Johnathan Wincapaw

#### Ohio

*Troy* – Brayden Underwood (4/8/12) by Pastor Dan Cain

### Deaths

#### Illinois

*Highland* – Rosalie Zobrist (4/26/12). Service by Pastor Donna Cooper

#### Maryland

*Baltimore* – Dee Poland, 74, (3/24/12). Dee was the wife of deceased pastor Earl Poland. Service by Pastor Dennis Baldwin

#### New York

*North Tonawanda* (Fonthill, Ontario) - Edward H. Goit, Sr., fell asleep in death April 30, 2012, at the age of 90 years after a long battle with cancer. Funeral services were held in North Tonawanda, NY, on May 3, 2012, conducted by the writer. Brother Ed now rests in peace to await the call of the Lord at his coming.

Brother Goit was baptized into Christ at Niagara Falls, New York, by Pastor Clyde Randall on June 2, 1940 upon which he committed his life to service in the Lord. Since graduating from Oregon Bible College in 1945, he had pastored churches in Kansas, Illinois, Ontario, Maine, and Indiana. He was a member, teacher, and honorary elder of the Glad Tidings Church of God, Ontario, Canada, and at one time served as minister of the church. In the seventies, he wrote a column in *THE RESTITUTION HERALD* called "Seekers of Truth," and wrote other articles and lessons as well. In addition to his pastoral ministry, he was a successful salesman and manager for many years. A history of his life is written in the book *Biographical Encyclopedia: Chronicling the History of the Church of God Abrahamic Faith 19th & 20th Centuries*, by Janet Turner Stilson.

Brother Goit is survived by his loving wife, Viola (nee Moore, sister of the late Pastor Linford Moore) to whom he was married for nearly 70 years, and the beloved father of Sharon Kilgore and Marilyn (John) Keigley both

of North Tonawanda, NY; Edward (Meg) Goit, Jr. of Maryland; Carol (Glen) Swartz of Ohio; and the late Robert Goit (son); father-in-law of Karen Goit; grandfather of 10 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren; brother of Shirley Habberfield of Florida, June Garner of Mississippi, and Sara Carpenter of Tennessee.



We look forward to Christ's return when all the faithful who are asleep in Christ will be awakened to eternal life at the Lord's return, and there will be no more pain, or sorrow, or death on that great day. Even so, come Lord Jesus! Pastor Michael P. Brown

### 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.

Barbara Robinson, Terry Robinson, Glyn Craig, Nancy Craig, Jettie Moreland, Mary Johnson, Aline Jones, Austine Freeman, Helen Johnson, Jim Johnson, and Craig New, all members of McGintytown Church of God, Greenbrier, AR.

Also completing the course recently were: Steven Kindsvater-Novak, LaCrosse, KS; Lisa Keebler, Oregon, IL; Kevin Todd, Utica, KY; Henrik Kiviniemi, Hyvinkaa, Finland; David Whitehurst, McDonough, GA; Angie Marchant, Jefferson City, TN; Tammy Hayeds, Dinwiddie, VA; Kent Wheeler, Vinita, OK; Michael Miller, Taylorsville, NC.

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-cogc.org](mailto: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](http://hutchinsoncog.com).

*(Continued from page 10)*

ing and the production of commercials. Darrell had a radio ministry for several years on the local radio station on which he was one of the on-air personalities.

Darrell is married to his lovely wife, Diana. Diana has three wonderful adult children and three teenage granddaughters. Darrell became a dad and a grandpa all in the same day! Wow! What a great experience! Right now Diana still lives in Indiana where she works for the state of Indiana where she works in highway maintenance in their leadership team. She is trying to secure work in the Macomb area. Diana has stretched Darrell in his ministry and is a great wife and pastor's wife. She is loved greatly by the congregation.

Growing up in the Church of God, Darrell has believed the truths that he holds dear, as do all of us. He was always involved in his youth groups and served on the Indiana State Board as Youth President. He has a heart

for ministry even through the tough times. He wants the best for the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College. Darrell is hoping to help lead the Bible college to be a vital force in our world around us, helping to prepare young men and women for the challenges they will face in their upcoming ministries.

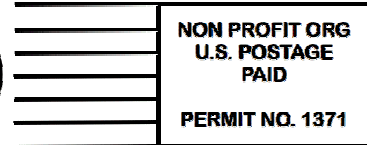
Presently Darrell is working with MALT. Although not an elected member, he has been asked to be a part and add some of his insight into ministry issues. Darrell has a great love for God's word, seeks the kingdom, and loves ministry. We believe with his many facets of life's experiences that he would be an asset to the Church of God Board of Directors. We respectfully submit the name of Pastor Darrell Cardwell into nomination. ■

## Prayer and Praise

July 2012

1. **Pray for God's blessing on the pastors and churches visited by the Africa Mission Team last 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 to day in the United States.
5. **Pray that many will hear God's call into full-time Christian service.**
6. Praise God for the abundant life you have in Christ.
7. **Praise God for the leadership of your church family.**
8. Pray for students considering enrollment at Atlanta Bible College.
9. **Pray for Jon Cheatwood and the Youth Advisory Committee.**
10. Pray for the soon return of Jesus.
11. **Pray for those arriving at the General Conference meetings at the Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, Ohio.**
12. Pray for God's leadership and blessing on those attending General Conference today and tomorrow.
13. **Pray for God's blessing and direction on the delegates during General Conference business sessions.**
14. Pray for God's blessing on your pastor's preparation to share God's message tomorrow.
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 the brethren in India.**
18. Pray that God will lead many of our young people into ministry at home and abroad.
19. **Pray for Pastor Dan and Rachel Cain and their work at the Troy View Church of God in Troy, Ohio.**
20. Pray for those who are studying the Systematic Bible Study Course over the internet.
21. **Pray for a great hunger and thirst for righteousness in your church.**
22. Pray for students arriving at FUEL today.
23. **Pray for Pastor John and Alice Railton and the work of the Family Bible Church in Granger, Indiana.**
24. Pray for God to bless the FUEL program at Manchester College (North Manchester, Indiana) this week.
25. **Praise God for the many people in our churches who have been baptized recently.**
26. Pray for the staff of FUEL and the influence they are having on the young people this week.
27. **Pray for the safety for those traveling home from FUEL today.**
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 Bolhaus.
31. **Praise God for efforts being made to plant new churches.**

Atlanta Bible College  
Church of God General Conference  
2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400  
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## Prayer and Praise

August 2012

- 1 Pray for Pastor Andy and Kristy Cisneros and their ministry at Timberland Bible Church.
- 2 **Pray for David Krogh, Kim Raper and Rufus Meyers as they recruit new students for Atlanta Bible College.**
- 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 that God will bless your community through your church.**
- 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 Atlanta Bible College students and staff as classes begin today.**
- 21 Pray for individuals who feel led by God to pursue mission careers.
- 22 **Pray for spiritual renewal for yourself and for your church.**
- 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.

# THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

## Going with Grace and Truth 92nd Annual General Conference

### General Conference

### Delegate Business Session

July 12, 2012

Chairperson Joe Myers offered welcoming comments.

Keith Williams offered the opening prayer.

Joe recognized first time delegates. Joe also recognized newly licensed pastors. Joe offered thanks to Pastor Alan Cain and the Lawrenceville Church of God for their hospitality in hosting General Conference.

Joe addressed the delegates with the chairman's message. His message will be printed elsewhere in the RH/PJ. Highlights included the prior year's purchase of the Avalon building, a balanced operating budget, free tuition to ABC for COG students, and comments regarding the future of the General Conference.

On behalf of the credentials committee, David Krogh presented the following delegate information. Present today are 7 directors, 41 church delegates, 6 state conference delegates, and 35 pastors. There are 89 delegates total.

Greg Demmitt is serving as parliamentarian.

Gary Burnham presented the financial report.

Gary noted that General Fund contributions are down a bit from the prior year. He noted that there were several large one-time donations received in the prior year that were not given this year. Gary also noted that tuition income was less than budgeted as well as funds transferred from the



Members of the Bible College Chorale over several decades

ABCDF. There is also a new line item to reflect tenant income from the new building. Regarding expenses, Gary noted that *Salaries & Wages* are slightly higher due to a few changes after the start of the fiscal year. *Advertising-Recruitment* was also higher than budgeted due to increased recruiting efforts at the ABC south campus. It should also be noted that a new line has been added to expenses to reflect the expenses related to the new building. The end result is that the operating budget of the general conference ended the year in the black by \$18,000. Gary explained that the other reports show the asset values of the restricted funds and the balance sheet of the college and conference. Overall the value of the funds increased, largely due to the purchase of the building.

Joe Myers explained that the terms of Dan Siderius and Tom New expire this year. They may not be re-elected. He then opened the floor for nominations. Richard Alcumbrack, on behalf of the Ministerial Association, formalized the nomination of Darrell Cardwell. Alan Cain, on behalf of Seth Ross and the North Hills Church of God,

(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**

**August 13-17**  
Atlanta Bible College  
Block Class

**August 20**  
First day of Atlanta Bible College  
fall semester classes

**September 20-22**  
Church of God Heritage Conference  
North Hills Church of God, Springfield, OH

**October 21-23**  
Pastors' mini-retreat in Indianapolis, IN

**January 18-20**  
reFUEL  
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

**February 7-10**  
Pastor/Spouse Retreat  
Orlando, FL

**March 1-3**  
Refuge  
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

**March 21-24**  
ABC-Invitational  
ABC campus, McDonough, GA

**April 7-12**  
Christian Workers' Seminar  
Pigeon Forge, TN

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*(Continued from page 1)*

formalized the nomination of Julie Driskill. These two nominations were previously submitted and published in the Herald. Steve An, on behalf of the Korean Church Conference, nominated Robert Morrison, Jr.

Bob Coverstone moved and Mark Tschaenn seconded that nominations be closed. Motion carried.

Gary Burnham presented the revised 2012-2013 budget and the proposed budget for 2013-2014. Joe Myers provided some commentary regarding the changes between the pre-approved budget and the revised budget. Joe reminded the delegates that they will be asked to approve these budgets tomorrow.

Dr. Joe Martin presented a CAO report. He began by quoting Job 1:21: "The LORD gives and the LORD takes away, let the name of the LORD be praised." Dr. Joe presented a slide show of pictures while reviewing his travels this past year during which he visited numerous COG members and churches. Things are good in the Church of God. Dr. Joe continues to make intentional efforts to connect with individuals and churches. Then Joe spoke on his vision To Join God—knowing, loving, growing, going, serving, teaching, and preparing for His Kingdom through His Son and Spirit both our generation and the next. Joe continues to focus on serving the local churches. The

strength of the local church will lead to a strong general conference. Dr. Joe's prayer and hope is that the conference will maintain a spiritual focus. The battle is the Lord's. Amen.

Gary Burnham presented the Ministry Services Network report. Gary shared his view on the current reality and the current needs of our churches. In the US and Canadian Church of God churches, over the last 10-20 years, church membership and worship attendance has decreased and giving has not kept up with inflation. This trend is similar to national trends. Similarly the age of Church of God pastors continues



Prayer after installation of Board of Directors

to increase. Gary noted that unless something changes, our churches will remain unhealthy and will not have the leaders they need to continue serving our churches. Gary's work with MSN is dedicated to supporting churches as they seek to improve church health. He feels strongly that Natural Church Development (NCD) is a tool that could positively impact church health in

the Church of God, and that increased church health can be a reality for COG churches. He believes future leaders in the COG will be found and trained in the local church. With NCD, leadership training, and God's blessing, the average COG church will increase in health and membership numbers.

Steve An presented a report on the ABC Korean Extension. Steve reported that the vision for the KE is the spread of the truth of the Abrahamic Faith, not only in the US, but in Africa, Korea, and across the world. Last year, the Korean Extension had 79 students, 10 of which graduated this past spring. Two of the graduates are continuing on to additional theological higher education. Three graduates have returned to Korea. There are currently three churches in Korea and three in the US who believe and practice the Abrahamic Faith. Steve shared his gratitude for the General Conference's continued preservation of biblical truth as well as their willingness to share this truth with

Steve and other Koreans. He likened the General Conference's financial sacrifices to purchase Korean men and women for the kingdom of God to Christ's purchase of men and women with His blood.

Dr. Joe Martin gave a power point presentation on the current status of the ABC south campus building. Joe reviewed the various floors of

*(Continued on page 8)*

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

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**READ THE PREFACE**, The LORD God, Yahweh, is there!  
Dr. Joe Martin

**“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD/Yahweh our God.”**  
*Psalm 20:7*

My NASB has a foreword/preface, and a much larger prolegomenon. These could be self-explanatory—preface, foreword, prologue, and prolegomenon. Fore...word; pro...logos (word); pre...face. Webster defines “prolegomenon” as “prefatory remarks; a formal essay or critical discussion serving to introduce and interpret an extended work.” (Our extended work = The Bible in this case!) Most of Christianity, especially we English speakers, have missed that “critical discussion” at the *beginning* of our Bibles *before* Genesis 1:1, about the name of God. It reminds me of a time at Arizona State University when a professor began a paper presentation with a prolegomenon. He said, “I’ve never had a prolegomenon. I’ve always liked the word though. Today, to include the word prolegomenon, I will have some words to say, before my words, just to use the word.” Huh?

Sad to say, but *occasionally*, unlike the professor, some of the information in the beginning is *very critical information to the reading of the text*. Such is the case with our Bibles, since they are a translation of the word of God. The *explanations before* the translations are a “critical discussion.” For instance, the foreword/preface to my NASB (New American Standard Bible) has a section in bold titled **“The Proper Name of God in The Old Testament.”** The bolded letters are there. Hmmm, maybe they are important and we should not overlook them?

It goes on to say

*“...there is yet another name which is particularly assigned to God as His special or proper name, that is, the four letters YHWH (Exodus 3:14 and Isaiah 42:8). This name has not been pronounced by the Jews because of reverence for the great sacredness of the divine name. Therefore, it has been consistently translated LORD.”* (p. vi)

Also, in the NIV (New International Version) that I use, it says,

*“In regard to the divine name YHWH, commonly referred to as the Tetragrammaton, the translators adopted the device used in most English versions of rendering that name as ‘LORD’ in capital letters to distinguish*

*it....”* (NIV, Zondervan 1984, preface, ix)  
Additionally, in my Walk Thru the Bible KJV, it says,

*“The term Yahweh<sup>1</sup> may be unfamiliar to some, but it is the proper pronunciation of the name of God in the Old Testament. In some Bibles the name is given as Jehovah, which is the result of a late medieval misunderstanding of the proper designation for God. Hebrew was written without vowels in the ancient period. The name of God was written with four Hebrew consonants, YHWH (the ‘Tetragrammaton,’ or four-letter name for God).”*

Why would the translators or scholars want to make sure you have this information *before* reading Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God...?” On a recent Facebook blog (thanks to Tony and Angela Moore) the question came up again about Yahweh. The question was basically “Why bother?” My suggestion, since there is such confusion out there, is that maybe we should begin with the preface or foreword to help us make that clear distinction of who the LORD God is. Many are confusing the **LORD God** with the **Lord Messiah**. They confuse the first **LORD** of Psalm 110:1 with the second **Lord** of Psalm 110:1. I bolded each to make the point. *There is a difference!* When your *translation* says “LORD” to begin Psalm 110:1 (according to the preface), it is the tetragrammaton, *YHWH*, or Yahweh, a personal name. The second “Lord” is a different person, the *Lord Messiah!* We understand that to be Jesus! So in this case... Yahweh, the LORD God, says to the *Lord Messiah*, sit at my right hand. Thus, there are two distinct beings, one is God, and the other His anointed only-birthed Son.

Psalm 2 is another clarifying psalm. “Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain... against the **LORD** [YHWH] and against *his Anointed One.*” The LORD God, **Yahweh El Shaddai** (God Almighty) is a very distinct person from the Lord Messiah. The subject “name” of the LORD is referenced about 100 times just in Psalms. A “tithe” would be 20:7; 48:10; 68:4,5; 79:5,6; 89:16,24; 102:12,15,21; 113:1-5; 119:55; 140:13; 148: 5,13. Consider these as a Bible study for a group or a personal devotion. The first one (Psalm 20:7) says “Some take pride (trust, KJV) in chariots and others in horses, but we take pride in the name of Yahweh our God.” (HCSB) Lila Wincapaw’s mother, Cindy, sang this at Arkansas camp one time. It was great! Do we really trust in the name of Yahweh, the LORD our God? II Chron. 7:14 says “If my

(Continued on page 9)

## Letter from the Chairman

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**D**ear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What a privilege it is to be able to share with you many wonderful notes concerning your Church of God General Conference. We are honored indeed to be able to participate and be a very small part of such wonderful people.

At the recently concluded conference held in Springfield, OH, I was able to share many wonderful items of good news. What a thrill it was to be able to stand before the delegates and announce that we completed the 2011-2012 fiscal year in the "black". Yes! We concluded the year with a balanced budget! This could not have been accomplished without the generosity and sacrifice of many people. Our thanks to the conference and college staff. Our thanks to our church's state conferences. Our thanks to individual churches. Our thanks to many wonderful and caring individuals, and finally, our thanks to a gracious God who loves us and cares for us! We will continue to strive to be good stewards of the donations which are shared with the conference as we strive to support many vital ministries across the country and around the world.

In October of 2011 we signed the contract which purchased in cash the building which now houses the General Conference offices and classrooms of Atlanta Bible College. Can you imagine that?! Just a year ago we gathered at the General Conference in Omaha, NE to seek God's will in buying the building and also in seeking funds in order to take out a loan for the purchase. But God had a better idea! He supplied the funds through the caring of many folks. No loan was necessary! As a result, we no longer have a substantial lease payment to be made each month. As a matter of fact, we now have tenants which occupy part of the building! This allows for additional monies to be used in ministries throughout the world. God is so very very good!

Your conference board once again voted to offer the "free tuition" program for all eligible COG students throughout the country. If it wasn't for this program, a number of students last year and this coming year would not be financially able to attend. Please pray for all the students at Atlanta Bible College and the instructors who challenge them to study and grow in the knowledge of the Word of God.

Congratulations to Julie Driskill and Robert Morrison for being elected to four-year terms to serve on your national board of directors. They will be a welcomed addition to the board. The terms of Daniel Siderius and Tom New concluded at the end of conference. They were dedicated members who served your conference and our Lord well.

The Lord's Harvest International will be expanding its board membership by two. This much-needed decision will help in the planning and coordinating of all the foreign missions projects. We now have more churches outside the borders of the United States than we do inside the United States! Pastor Steve An, along with the assistance of his wife Young and son Sam, continues a wonderful ministry with the Korean Church of God extension. Steve's report at conference was most encouraging.

As we enter a new year, I truly believe we have the opportunity to accomplish many wonderful things in the name of Christ. Please pray daily for your conference and those who dedicate their lives in the work of Christ through the conference. Make plans now to attend next year's conference at the Guthrie Grove Church of God in Pelzer, SC.

God bless.  
Pastor Joe Myers, Chairman

P.S. We had the largest number of delegates at this conference since 2001. Thanks to all the churches and conferences that sent delegates and thanks to all the pastors who were able to attend. Over 230 people attended one or more conference activities.

## 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*

### Do You Fear That Those You Lead Want Your Position or Want You to Fail?

Anyone who leads others for any length of time will occasionally have to deal with internal thoughts that “somebody I lead wants my position” or “somebody I lead wants me to fail”. Have you ever experienced those feelings? Fear you may lose your position? Fear you may fail, and others will celebrate that failure? Awkwardness in another person’s presence? Decision-making based on how it affects the other person, rather than just making the best decision?

Listen to King Saul’s perspective about David: “Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had left Saul. So he sent David away from him...When Saul realized that the LORD was with David...Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days.” (1 Samuel 18:12, 13a, 28, 29)

King Saul was so afraid of David that he wanted to kill him. He attempted to take David’s life at least two times and in at least two different ways. You probably wouldn’t do that, but if you are honest you might admit you have wished ill circumstances on the person you think is out to get you.

How can you seek to maintain good relationships with those you fear seek your downfall and/or your position? Let me suggest a few possibilities.

One, like Saul recognized, see if your fear stems from a recognition that God is blessing the person you lead. Unfortunately, while Saul recognized “the LORD was with David,” he still tried to kill him. If you recognize God is blessing a person you

lead, it is probably a good time for you to bless them as well! It may also be a good time to personally seek God’s blessing and direction. Maybe there is something in your life He wants you to address. Saul certainly had things in his life he needed to address. He knew he was not as close to God as he needed to be. Unfortunately, he didn’t address this issue.

Two, don’t make decisions based almost solely on how they will be viewed by the person you fear, or by how that person will be effected. Make decisions based on what you know or believe is right, regardless of whether the other person will agree and regardless of how they will be affected. Easy? No! Right? Yes!

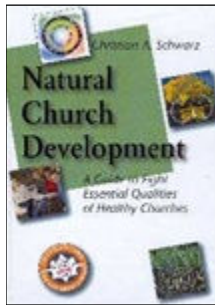


Three, be sure that as a leader you really do seek the very best for those you lead. Do you want them to succeed? Even if that means they get more praise than you do? Tell those you lead that you want to support and encourage them. Then, actually provide that support and encouragement! As you help them succeed, they are less likely to want you to fail.

Four, there are certainly times that no matter what you do, another person still wants your failure and/or your position. When that is really the case, you must faithfully take them before God in prayer, trusting Him to handle both their issues and yours.

Five, consider the possibility that the other person really should be in your position, and that it is time for you to move to a different position. This is a very difficult admission to make. Yet, if it is true, it will be the best decision to make, despite the pain it brings to you. ■

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.*

### Is Your Church Ministry Gift-based?

This article is the second of eight articles offering an extended view into each of the eight quality characteristics of Natural Church Development. The second quality is Gift-based Ministry.

Every church does ministry. Every church has people performing ministry. But, not every church does a great job of connecting each believer's God-given spiritual gifts with the ministry task they perform.

What about your church? Are folks' ministry tasks well-suited to their spiritual gifts? Or, are people fitted into "ministry holes" regardless of their actual spiritual gifts?

Does it matter? Certainly some level of ministry may be accomplished even if ministry and gifts aren't matched. Still, ministry is likely to be more effective and folks doing ministry are likely to be more excited if gifts and ministry are well-matched.

NCD measures four critical components for churches seeking to make sure ministry is gift-based.

The first component asks, "Do we match people's gifts to the task they perform in the church?" Do you intentionally help folks discover their spiritual gifts and select opportunities in the church and community to minister in an area well-suited to their spiritual gifts?

Take the time to carefully evaluate whether or not people currently serving in ministry are serving outside their area of giftedness. Do some folks need to be assisted to find a ministry more appropriately connected to their spiritual gifts?

The second component asks, "Do people feel joy in their service, or is it an obligation?" How well do the folks in your church recognize how their ministry service fits in with the overall church vision and goals? Remember that the vision and goals should be exciting to folks in the church AND connected to each ministry. Further, it is important that people are thanked publicly and privately for their service.

The third component asks, "Does the church leadership support people in their ministry?" A 'coach' and/or ministry team leader should be available as a resource for every person ministering in the church. Every minister needs a person to encourage them, both when ministry is going well, and when ministry is not going so well.

The fourth component asks, "Are people trained for their task?" Does your church provide training for each person doing ministry? Allow new volunteers to work alongside those who are more seasoned. Encourage your folks to get training on an ongoing basis, not just at a single, one-time event.

My vision is to see Churches of God all around the world evidencing the eight quality characteristics of NCD. 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](mailto:gburnham@abc-coggc.org); 1-800-347-4261



*(Continued from page 3)*

the building and what is on each. He noted that the financial impact of the building is that previously the conference was leasing just the fourth floor for \$10,300 per month. As owners of the entire building, after including income from tenants, the conference only pays about \$4,000 per month in building expenses. Overall the conference is saving about \$6,250 per month by owning the building which is equal to roughly \$75,000 per year! Dr. Joe closed by asking the delegates and those present to pray for additional tenants to fill the building to further reduce the costs of owning and maintaining the building.

Michael Hoffman closed the session with prayer.

### **July 13, 2012**

The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Pastor Michael Cisler.

Minutes from the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and approved.

On behalf of the credentials committee, David Krogh reported that there are 6 additional delegates today, so altogether there are 95 delegates.

Elections were conducted for the position of director to the board of directors. A director must be elected by a majority of the votes. Bob Morrison and Julie Driskill were elected.

Dr. Joe Martin presented plaques to Tom New and Daniel Siderius in honor of their service on the board of directors.

Pastor Dan Cain spoke briefly about the Up-Project and their recent missions trip. The Up-Project students spend a week doing missions, learning about missions, and focusing on personal spiritual development aimed toward finding their personal ministry path.

David Krogh provided a report on behalf of the Lord's Harvest International mission board (LHI). David thanked delegates for their prayer support as well as generous financial support. The work of the ten churches in Pakistan continues. Money is sent to assist with renting facilities and providing Bibles. Werner

Bartl will be visiting there soon to encourage the brethren. A team traveled to Haiti recently for a second trip to rebuild another building lost during the earthquakes. The work in Peru continues. Rachel Carr has translated some information to help the people there with their ministry. Mexico continues to have unsafe travel conditions so a team will not be traveling there this summer for Bible School.

Dr. Joe, Rebekah Martin, and Kim Raper reported on their recent trip to Africa. The work in Kenya is going very well, and the leadership there is doing all they can to spread the Word. Kim reported the joy of attending church services in Africa and the excitement of the people. The greatest physical needs of the pastors there are Bibles, buildings, and bikes.

David Krogh provided a report on ABC south. COG students continue to take advantage of the free tuition program. There are also many community students taking classes at the south campus. Pastor John Wincapaw and Pastor Ray Hall served as chaplain on campus during the spring semester. The pastors have also expressed an interest in doing some additional mentoring with students. The Priscillas have been connecting with and encouraging students.

Pastor Seth Ross gave a brief report on Turning Point Youth Ministries and the upcoming FUEL event. Seth expressed appreciation to the pastors and other volunteers who sacrifice each year to attend and make FUEL a great event for the youth.

Seth also gave a report on the COG/ABC website. There is a new area of the website that contains various resources that have been produced by members of the COG. Kingdom Quest has recently been posted to the website for people to download. There are also a number of books posted to the website that can be downloaded.

Delegates were asked to approve the revised 2012-2013 budget. John Houston moved, Wally Winner seconded to approve the 2012-2013 budget. Motion passed unanimously. Mark DeYoung moved, Michael Cisler seconded to approve the 2013-2014 budget. Dr.

*(Continued on page 9)*

(Continued from page 8)

Joe Martin requested a revision to increase the *Ministerial Association* to \$6,000 and decrease *Contingency* to \$25,800. Joe James seconded the motion to amend. The amendment passed. Motion passed.

Delegates were informed of Recommendation 1 submitted by Lord's Harvest International (LHI) to increase the size of their board by two individuals. Michael Hoffman moved, Jim Hamilton seconded to accept Recommendation 1. Motion passed.

Daniel Siderius presented some thoughts regarding a possible future amendment to the ABC-COGGC constitution regarding representation of isolated members in General Conference business meetings. Feedback to the suggested thoughts was provided by various delegates.

Joe Myers conducted the nominations of delegate-appointed members of the General Conference standing committees.

Carolyn Smead moved, Scott Millard seconded a motion to re-appoint Seth Ross to the Youth Advisory Council. His term technically expired last year and is now being re-appointed retrospectively. Motion passed. Rebekah Martin moved, Jeff Fletcher seconded a motion to re-appoint Rebecca Dauksas to the Youth Advisory Council. Motion passed.

Dr. Joe moved, Wilma Brewer seconded a motion to adopt a vision statement "To Join God . . . knowing,

loving, growing, going, serving, teaching, and preparing for His Kingdom through His Son and His Spirit both our generation and the next." Motion passed. It was noted that a mission statement is what we are doing now and a vision statement is what we are planning for the future.

Darrell Cardwell encouraged delegates to send their pastors to the upcoming pastors and wives retreat in February 2013.

Dale Swartz sent greetings to the conference delegates from Louise Lapp. Joe James sent greetings from Alva Huffer, another faithful servant of the COG.

Joe Myers announced that next year's General Conference will be held in South Carolina.

Gerold Brewer moved to accept the minutes as read, Mark Tschaenn seconded. Motion passed.

David Krogh noted that this is the most delegates that have attended a General Conference since 2001.

Darrell Cardwell moved and Joe Astolfi seconded to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Briggs, Board Secretary

P.S. Joyce Knapp suggested that old board members say good things about their terms so that new candi-

(Continued from page 4)

people, who are called by my name... ." Are we called by His name?

The new HCSB Study Bible (Holman Christian Standard Bible)<sup>2</sup> tries to rectify this very traditional abuse of LORD/Lord/lord by using the name Yahweh about 700 times when it is referring to the subject "name" of Yahweh. It only misses it about 6,000 times, but it is a start. The name occurs almost *seven thousand* times! We need to try to get better in using our Father's name in our worship, writing and daily lives. Let us read our preface and start being more biblical. Let us rely, trust, in the name of the LORD/ Yahweh our God, and be

called by His name. Abba Yahweh, bless us as we continue to try to break our traditions. ■

<sup>1</sup> Modern German and Hebrew, "Yahveh"

<sup>2</sup> HCSB Study Bible, Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee, 2010. ISBN = 978-1-5864-0506-9 for the hardcover.

# Good News

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2012 GRADUATES IN COG-LAND! As promised, this issue of GNP will focus on those of you out there who have graduated – whether from kindergarten, from junior high, from high school, or from a college degree program. Please do not feel offended if your name isn't here. GNP can only print the names it receives. With further ado (whatever "ado" is), let's get started.

From **Cool Spring Church of God in Browntown, VA** – **Pastor Jeff Fletcher** announces these graduates: **Grace Berry** (kindergarten), **Isaac Elliott** (high school), **James Fletcher** (kindergarten), **Joel Fletcher** (high school), **Joshua Fletcher** (college), **Aaron Kerns** (high school), **Sean Malone** (high school), **Joey Neidigh** (high school), **Elisabeth Reardon** (high school), and **Felicia Williams** (graduate school).

From **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** announces that **Micayla Moore** has graduated from high school.

From **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – **Pastor Sydney Kirkpatrick** announces that **Stephanie Blanchard** has graduated from high school.

From **Bedford Church of the Open Bible in Bedford, OH** – **Justin Kostyo** has graduated from high school.

From **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** has the following thirteen high school graduates – **Brian Blanton, Zack Davis, Morgan Hosier, Janie Kaffenbarger, Caly Jones, Emma Massie, Logan Miller, Nikki Pierce, Beth Roderick, Jacob Rohrer, Jeremy Sigler, Laura Vose, and Frankie Crabtree**. And we must not forget two college graduates – **Travis Peck** and **Lisa Miller**.

From the **Hedrick Church of God in Williamsport, IN** – **Pastor Joe Astolfi** is pleased to announce the high school graduation of **Andrew Cheatwood**.

From the **Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA** – **Pastor Joe Myers** extends congratulations to **Jordan Barton** and **Rachel Bousom** for their high school graduations.

From **Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, MO** – **Pastor Dustin Smith** announced two college graduates: **Shannon Dilbeck** and **Alexandria Simpson**. Congratulations!

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** announces the following graduates: **Olyvianna Matheson** (8<sup>th</sup> grade), **Rebekah Matus** (8<sup>th</sup> grade), **Joel Cheatwood** (high school), **Aaron Harper** (high school), **Bryce Morris** (high school), **Devon Buse** (college), **Bryant Suess** (college), and **Jennifer Welty** (college).

From **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – **Pastor Sydney Kirkpatrick** announced the church's service project of packing meals for *Feed My Starving Children* on Saturday June 16. The meals are distributed to needy children around the world, including Haiti (possibly including some of the churches and people we know there).

From **Ripley Church of God in Mount Sterling, IL** – The Sunday school children presented a colorful program for Easter. Each child had a poster board with colored bows and placed the board on the cross to represent an aspect of the Christian life. Black – He died for our sins. Yellow – He is God's perfect light. Purple – He is royalty. Red – He shed His blood. Green – We have new life in Jesus. Blue – This symbolizes baptism. White – Our sins have been washed away. What a wonderful and simple message!

From the **Minnesota State Conference** – **Pastor Wally Winner of Joy Fellowship in Piedmont, SC** was the guest speaker for the state conference held at Long Lake Bible Camp from June 8-10. Pastor Winner's theme was "Out of Egypt." Israel learned many lessons from God as they left Egypt and headed to the Promised Land.

From **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** reported that Vacation Bible School was held from July 15-19, with classes for all students from preschool to high school. The theme was Power Lab (Jesus' miraculous power was bubbling over all week). Each night the children took part in fun Bible learning that they were able to see, hear, and touch. Crafts, games, songs, and tasty treats also made the VBS a huge success.

From **Bedford Church of the Open Bible in Bedford, OH** – If anyone out there is a baseball fan, he/she knows the name Bob Feller. Feller was a Hall of Fame pitcher for the Cleveland Indians. Anne Feller, the widow of the pitching great, has become a friend of **David Onderdonk**, and she came to church on June 3 for a

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

“celebrity” visit. [It shows my age, but I saw Feller pitch at old Municipal Stadium. – GNP]

From **Freedom in Christ Ministries in Welland, Ontario** – **Pastor Stephen Bolhous** reports that the church has completed a successful Change for Life Baby Bottle Campaign. Church members took empty baby bottles home and filled them with pocket change, paper currency or even checks. The money was donated to Elisha House for its ministry to people in the community. The bottles were returned to the church on Fathers Day.

From **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – Congratulations to **Kaylee and Mindy Forcier** who performed so well on the Eden Valley-Watkins softball team that won the 2012 section championship. **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** comments that the girls are also champions because of their outstanding Christian example.

From **Cool Spring Church of God in Browntown, VA** – **Pastor Jeff Fletcher** reports that the church’s Relay for Life team raised \$3000 for the fight against cancer on June 9-10. The church also won second place for campsite decorations with their Flintstones theme. [We need to see pictures of that! – GNP]

From **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** reported that the church reached out to

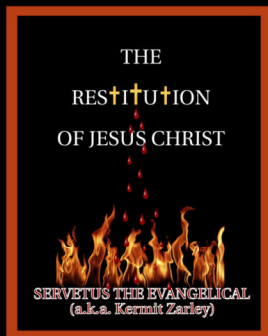
the community by serving a meal at Springfield’s IHN (homeless shelter) on July 15. Pastor Cain also reports a successful scrap metal/ breakfast (Anyone else ever tried that combination? – GNP). **Rod Kaffenbarger** spearheaded the event that raised \$664 from the breakfast and over \$2000 from the steel drive.

From **Iowa Conference** – The conference will hold its 125th consecutive state conference and Bible School August 1-5! The conference has been held on Conger Street in Waterloo, IA since 1900. The Church of God General Conference held its first conference on this same site in 1921. (Taken from the Iowa State Berean Society Searchlight)

From the **GNP desk** – Remember to send in the names of your milestone anniversary people. We want to celebrate the milestones along with them, and we want everyone in COGLand to know about it. [Help us out! – GNP]

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. If you want to see your church and your people here, get us your news. PLEASE SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS, and we’ll put you in print!

Robert L. Jones



- 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 one-of-a-kind 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.

"important thesis.. combines a high view of Scripture with a thoroughly human Jesus--an unusual form of unitarian theology."

Professor Scot McKnight  
North Park University, Chicago

"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 longtime to come."

Professor James Tabor  
University of North Carolina, Charlotte

"a tour de force. needs to be read by every pastor in the land."

Professor Emeritus Sir  
Anthony Buzzard  
Atlanta Bible College

ORDER IT TODAY AT [www.ServetusTheEvangelical.com](http://www.ServetusTheEvangelical.com)

Available from Atlanta Bible College (800-347-4261) @ \$35/copy plus shipping

# ABC News

## 69<sup>th</sup> Graduation Service of Atlanta Bible College

Atlanta Bible College concluded the 2011-2012 school year with a graduation service on May 25. Staff member David Krogh was the graduation speaker. Staff members Joe Martin, Bob Jones, Gary Burnham, and Anthony Buzzard took part in the service.



Jean Cajuste, John Obi, Regina Bernheisel and Jordan Dimmick

Bachelor of Theology degrees were presented to Lonnie Bennett and Dietrich Carroll. An Associates degree in Theology and Ministry was presented to Vyenna Gowa. Foundation certificates were awarded to Regina Bernheisel, Jean Cajuste, Jordan Dimmick, Jackson Kmiecik, Jeff McClain, Muthee George Mugweru, John Obi, Robin Todd, and Shelby Upton. Several students were unable to be present for the ceremony.

A reception was held following the service.

### Fall Semester

The fall semester begins August 13 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 on-line delivery system). A pre-semester briefing will be held for all students on August 18 and regular semester classes will begin on August 20. We are anticipating many new students this fall.

—David Krogh



Lonnie Bennett and Dietrich Carroll

## Atlanta Bible College Honor Roll

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 2012 semester.

### PRESIDENT'S LIST (3.5 AND ABOVE)

Jacob Ballard	Jack Kmiecik
Dong Kyuk Bang	Yun Hee Kwon
You Sik Choi	John Obi
Ki Young Jang	Se Won Oh
Hyeon Mi Jeong	Hae Won Park
Yu Jin Jeong	Hyun Ju Park
Eun Jung Ju	Jia Seo
Nam Jung Kang	Jae Yun Shim
Eun Jung Kim	Shelby Upton
Jon Seug Lee	Eun Joo Yang
Jeff McClain	

### DEAN'S LIST (3.00 TO 3.49)

Young Suk Cha	Eui Sung Ko
Young Ok Chung	Joong Jung Ko
Jordan Dimmick	Hoon Sung Kum
Vyenna Gowa	Peter Otengo
Jin Suk Han	Eun Ah Shim
Joon Huh	
Bae Sik Kim	
Hee O Kim	
Seung Jin Kim	



# Verses to Live By

By Jim Mattison

**“Clothe yourselves with humility  
toward one another,  
for God is opposed to the proud,  
but gives grace to the humble.  
Humble yourselves, therefore,  
under the mighty hand of God,  
that He may exalt you at the proper time.”**

## 1 Peter 5:4, 5

Inspired apostle Peter, like the inspired prophet Micah (6:8), stresses this advice or command of God that all of us must be humble before our fellow men and before God Himself.

Why is it so important to be humble? Because everyone who likes to lift himself up before other people or God is living a lie. Arrogant people are not true followers of God. They do not put God first in their lives. They are putting themselves first, lovers of *self* instead of lovers of God.

This attitude is in direct conflict with Jesus' first command: Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind (Matt. 22:37-40.)

And why should we love God with all our heart and mind? Because of His goodness to us (Rom. 2:4), which also causes us to repent of our sins so we can accept the gospel message and be forgiven. God is good to us. There is no question about that. He made us in His likeness and gives us everything we need. All things work out for our good if we really love Him. He provides everything for this mortal life and promises us eternal life in His perfect and righteous coming kingdom over earth if we listen and take heed to His teaching.

This is why He sent the prophets and apostles to teach us how we can imitate His righteous character and be His true children. We *must* be filled with His Holy Spirit to be His people. We are born human with a desire to do what *we* want to do. Jesus is our example of how to live. He *al-*

*ways* did what God wanted Him to do. We all sin. But He never did. How? Because He *wanted* to live the way God wanted Him to live; to speak what God wanted Him to speak (John 12:48, 49). God gave Him *power* to overcome His mortal temptations. “God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him” (KJ, John 3:34; Psalm 45:7). And God will give His Spirit to all of us who really seek His will, to empower us to live the righteous life. “If you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him” (Luke 11:13).

Solomon said there are seven things the LORD hates, and the first one he mentioned is “a proud look” (Prov. 6:16-19). Why does God hate this attitude in a person? Because it signifies that that person thinks more highly of himself or herself than of the Lord God Almighty. And there is no one greater nor higher than Yahweh, who made the heavens and earth by His mighty power, and all that is in them. Also, remember that *we* are mortal, and He is immortal. He lives forever! The angels cannot die (Luke 20:36), but *we* are made lower than the angels (Psa. 8:5). We die. How can we compare ourselves with the LORD God? He is *far* greater than any of the things He has created. It is blasphemy to put ourselves higher than God. And that is exactly what anyone does who has “a proud look.” He thinks he is superior to anything, even God! (This will be the attitude the Antichrist will have. He will sit in the temple of God showing that he is God! (1 Thess. 2:4)

A humble and sweet spirit before God and men is of great price.

We can have that kind of spirit only by asking God to help us to have it. It does not come to us by our own efforts, for this kind of attitude is not natural for men to have. We need God to help us develop it.

How precious are those people who have a humble, sweet spirit. By God's Holy Spirit guiding our lives we can have it. Praise God!

Jim Mattison

# NextGen[eration]

In Missouri, I can proudly say that we have a passion for our youth. In the past few years our youth group has gone through a shift in average age and size, but the passion has remained the same. The majority of our older teens have graduated, so now we have a handful of older teens, but the group is mostly comprised of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and younger which is very exciting for the future.

At this year's state camp which is called "Impact," about half of the campers were new to camp or had only attended one year. In fact many of them are new to the Church of God! I am always impressed by how willing the youth are to try new things, and camp is a perfect example of this. We have three activity options: Media, Crafts and Ways of Praise. All three are an opportunity for them to push their limits.

In Media they learn to write and film stories and commercials, record evening services and do interviews with campers and staff. In the past few years we have had enough material to do camp DVDs which get better and better each year.

In Crafts they have done everything from making helicopters and birdhouses to making swords and shields and using them on an obstacle course they helped build while learning about the armor of God.

In Ways of Praise they always do a mixture of dance and drama. They work on a project all week and perform it on the last night. They have done stick dramas, glow-in-the-dark dance routines and even a silent movie.

This year our quiz team was selected earlier, so they have been able to study longer. The most exciting thing was to find out that several of the younger kids are very good at quizzing and were able to give our quiz team a challenge. We are really looking forward to what they can do in the future.

We have two youth retreats each year—one in the fall and one in the spring. At each retreat we plan a service project. The first year we told them we would be doing a service project there were a lot of groans, but after the first one was finished, they were hooked! We have cleaned churches, raked



Youth playing ping pong



Lacey Dunn with some of the Missouri youth

leaves in neighbor's yards, volunteered to clean and cook at a homeless shelter, made greeting cards to help a women's shelter, worked for Habitat for Humanity, and one of my favorites was giving manicures to ladies at a nursing home.

For the next year we have lots of plans! Many of our churches have VBS planned for the next few weeks. In the fall we will have a retreat, and we will most likely be doing a camping trip and are taking suggestions on what our next service project will be. We will also be attending state conference in the Kansas City area at Countryside Bible Church.

In late fall we will participate in "30 Hour Famine" as well as hopefully attend the National Quizzing Retreat. In the winter the churches close to St. Louis will be going to Winter Jam, which is a concert which has popular Christian artists that come

together for one big concert. We also hope to attend reFUEL and Refuge.

It seems that no matter what challenge we give them, they run with it! In our individual churches some youth groups are big and others small, but when they all come together, they are a mighty force.

We currently have one student (Marcus Brown) who is attending Atlanta Bible College and one student (Jesse Allen) who plans to attend in the fall. I am also proud to say that several of those who have graduated from the youth group have taken an active role in helping the youth leaders and volunteering at youth events.

As I said in the beginning, Missouri is very passionate about their youth. Without that support, most of what we do would not be possible. We have many volunteers who work at various youth events, as well as many, who may not be able to attend the events, who support the kids through prayer, encouragement and with finances.



Youth raking leaves for a service project

Thank you to all the Missouri youth and youth leaders as well as the youth and youth leaders across the country! Together may we all strive to spread the message of God’s love and promise.

In Christ,  
Lacey Dunn  
Missouri State Youth Director

**Media Micaiah Jordan River**

Lahmam Amos Gilead Gedor Oded the Exhorter KEILAH  
SAUL Riblah Jehoiachin Mordecai AZEKAH Ham Baasha Hadarimmon Deuteronomy Ahaziah Ane Geshur Gimzo Jericho  
Bashan JEHOIACHIN AZEKAH Ham Baasha Hadarimmon Deuteronomy Ahaziah Ane Geshur Gimzo Jericho  
SAUL Riblah Jehoiachin Mordecai AZEKAH Ham Baasha Hadarimmon Deuteronomy Ahaziah Ane Geshur Gimzo Jericho  
Edrei Eglon Maresbah

**Genesis**

**THE 5Ws AND 1H OF  
GENESIS THROUGH MALACHI**

*or, The Old Testament Through  
an Old Newspaper Reporter's Eyes*

**Robert L. Jones**

**2nd Chronicles**

Kidron Jeroboam Hanani Haran Ziz  
Baal-hazor Eliezer Balaam Gerizim Mount Moab ZIPH  
HUR Bezek Ashnah Jehu Jehoahaz Ono JEBUS  
Gibbethon Beth-horon Song of Solomon  
LAMENTATIONS JOSIAH Nehemiah  
Enoch Seth Dan Abraham LAH AARON  
Samuel Ecclesiastes Jerusalem Job Enos JOEL  
Hosea Eli Sarah Isaac Maaseiah  
Jacob Daniel Joshua EGYPT  
Adam Shem Noah Ahab Psalms Moses  
Boaz Asa Noam Ahab Psalms Moses  
Reuben Canaan 1ST KINGS Zoar Ruth Ai

**New Book Available!**

**“The 5Ws and 1H of Genesis  
Through Malachi  
or, The Old Testament Through  
An Old Newspaper Reporter’s Eyes”**

**By Robert L. Jones**

This book was written as an introduction to the Old Testament for the beginning Bible student, whether beginning at a local church, or beginning at a Bible college. “Introduction” is a technical term meaning the author and audience, the nature of the book, the historical background, the location of author and audience, the purpose, and the style or composition. Since I am an old newspaper reporter (high school sports), the newspaper reporter questions (who, what, when, where, why, and how) seemed an appropriate outline for the book. My prayer is that these details will help you as you study God’s wonderful Word.

Available from Atlanta Bible College  
(800-347-4261) @ \$15/copy plus shipping



# AFRICA 2012

Praise God for answered prayers for another great trip to Africa! Thank you all so much for your prayers and support for this trip! Prayer is most important, and we felt steeped in your love and prayers. I know that God was with us and also the people we ministered to because of your diligent prayers. Thank you!

After having obtained our visas, we headed east to Mozambique to start teaching. We met with the board the first day. Many baptisms were reported. Pastors Bango and Tchakka, two of the main leaders of Mozambique, are very excited to have motorbikes now. They said they are old men, and it makes travel to the distant places much easier than riding a bike. We would like to purchase one more motorbike in Mozambique for Pastor Neva, since they frequently travel together. Motorbikes are about \$2000 now, including the insurance, helmet, drivers license, etc. that also need to be purchased.

We taught in four areas in Mozambique, with good turnouts in each area. Most places build a grass arbor outside the church, because with all the visitors that come (most from other COGs around their area) the churches are too small inside to hold everyone. It's nice to be outside, where there is an occasional breeze. Their seasons are opposite ours, so it was winter when we were there, and daytime temperatures were usually 70's-90's. Nights got cool, though.

The work in Mozambique is going well. The leaders are biblically strong and work well together. They are able to take care of problems that come up. The church as a whole is progressing. We left money for two church foundations, enough iron sheets (7-9) to finish a church roof, and enough to finish another church, plus two bicycles.

In Malawi, we taught in seven areas, because we were in Malawi over two Sundays. Turnout was good in each area there also. We had a meeting with the Malawi board about halfway through our teaching seminars. They also reported many baptisms. We gave money to buy land for a church, plus enough for two church foundations, money to fix a big crack in the bricks in the back of a church, and also enough for a cement floor for another church, plus two bicycles, and money to fix a well.

We bought \$1500 worth of Bibles (200) to distribute to these two countries. They are now about \$7.50 each with the 10% discount they give for buying in large quantities. They are only given to people who can read, but there is still a great need for them.

Our focus for these countries for the next year is the three B's: Bibles, bikes, and buildings. If individuals or churches would like to donate to these projects, it would be a huge blessing to these Christians. It is very difficult to know the truth and teach without a Bible. It's very difficult for pastors to visit members by walking, because many are far away. It's very difficult for groups to meet without a building, because homes are too small, and torrential rains

prevent meeting under a tree. You have provided generously in the past, and continue to do so, and we thank you for that. I believe God will continue to bless us as we bless others with what we have.

Many have generously provided for orphans also. We continue to help as needed providing food, supplies, clothing, or whatever is needed for these children. The teachers all work for free, so when there, we try to give them a little something as a gift.



New Malawi church with bicycles



Group church in Kisumu

*(Continued on page 17)*

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Kim's favorite thing in Malawi was 'paper Sunday.' The people have a special offering about every third month that is extra, above their regular tithes and offerings. Everyone is joyful, singing and dancing up to the front to place their money in the huge offering plate. They are so happy to be able to give to God, even though it may seem like a meager amount to us! They use these special offerings to help with upkeep of churches, etc. Oh, that we would all give so joyfully!

Our next stop was Kenya. We were blessed to be able to stay with a couple that Kim met while working with the Daraja children's choir. Unfortunately, Kim was robbed in Nairobi (called Nai-robbery by some!). Her wallet containing all important documents and her money was taken from her purse in a matatu (bus) scam. Thank God she wasn't hurt. In fact she didn't even know about it until she got off the bus and felt her purse lighter. Another blessing—she was able to get a replacement passport that same day—almost unheard of!!! Joe's cell phone almost got stolen on that same bus, but he felt the guy's hand open his cell phone holder and pushed it away. The guy was running alongside the bus, reached his hand in the window, opened the holder, and that's when Joe felt it. His rubber case makes it hard to get the phone out of the holder.

We flew from Nairobi to Kisumu on the western side of Kenya. The shore of beautiful Lake Victoria is one of the places where we met with people. Pastor James Nyangute and Amos Anyanga, two great knowledgeable Bible students, met us in Kisumu. They traveled around with us, taking us to the areas of people we have been corresponding with, and translating for us. We had teachings in five different areas, all very far apart and on probably the worst roads I've been on in my life! These are two of the five men that met us in Nairobi two years ago, where we had constant teachings from morning until night for several days.

The people we met with are eager to learn the gospel truth, and they listened carefully. We always had a question and answer period at the end of the teaching. James and Amos have been teaching since we met two years ago. Most of those that have heard our distinctive doctrines before, believe. Others need to study and think about it more. Some heard this strange teaching of the KOG on the earth and God and Jesus being two different beings for the first time in their lives. Many had some really good questions. The fields are ripe in Kenya! James and Amos are on fire to go around and teach! It is so exciting to see their enthusiasm!

The needs in Kenya are Bibles, a motorcycle, and rental places to hold church. We bought 40 Bibles in 4 languages: Swahili, English, Luo and Lua. Bibles are \$10



Kim with Dr. Chimoyo and supplies

each in Kenya, with the discount. Rent for a building to hold church in is about \$40 per place per month.

James and Amos would like to travel to each place to hold 2-3 day seminars once every three months. Public transportation is not reliable, frequently dangerous, and expensive. Motorcycles, with all the necessary insurance, equipment, etc. are about \$2,000 in Kenya (same as Mozambique.) If we are not able to provide a motorcycle, we would like to be able to provide money for public transportation.

Another expense would be food to feed the people that attend the seminars. An estimate is \$40 per day. If you are able to help with any of these projects/expenses, it would be greatly appreciated, and many would be taught the truth.

Sadly, a couple of days after we left the lake area, Pastor Tobias (who lost a 2-year-old son last May to malaria) lost his 7-year-old son to malaria. He also lost a child in death from malaria in 2010. So three years in a row he has had a child die. Please keep this family in your prayers. We found out they don't have mosquito nets, so we are providing them.

Jesus said the poor are always with us, and that is true. However, I believe it is our responsibility and privilege as loving brothers and sisters in Christ to help when we can. We are so blessed in this country, and are very thankful for it. We could just as well have been born in a third world country in severe poverty and unable to provide even basic needs. Thank God for our many blessings!

We thank God for each of you and for your great love. May God bless each of you as you seek him and serve him with all of your heart, all of your mind, and all of your being.

With much joy, love and thankfulness,  
Rebekah Martin



# Korean Extension Update

Greetings to All,

Young and I had a positive trip to South Korea.

We landed in Seoul on the morning of May 10<sup>th</sup> from a 15 hour flight. We arrived jet-lagged and fatigued. The following day we met with Pastor Young-woong Seo, the president of the Puritan Theological Seminary/Puritan Bible Church of God in Daejeon City, and discussed our schedule to meet with the member churches and the Bible schools.

On May 12<sup>th</sup> we visited a Bible school in Seoul, at which we presented the history of the Church of God General Conference and the Abrahamic Faith last year. This year approximately 90 students and several instructors were in attendance, which was an increase from the previous year. The topic of my presentation was the definition of the Bible, the scripture, the word of God, and the truth. The presentation lasted around five hours. Most of the students and the instructors were interested in the definitions of those four subjects. After the presentation, we encouraged the students to enroll in a distance learning class with the Korean Extension (KE). The president and the instructors seemed to favor the idea and would consider it.

On May 13<sup>th</sup> we visited the military church which is located 60 miles north of Seoul in close proximity to the North and South Korean border. It has become our ritual visiting the church and conveying God's message to the young soldiers. The soldiers were all drafted by the Korean military to serve their country for a period of time. After the message, we encouraged them to consider enrolling in the Korean Extension upon completion of their military duties, and Chaplain Kiyang Park and the commander strongly affirmed the request. Several soldiers had questions regarding the Korean Extension's background such as the number in the student body, cost of tuition, the physical location of the Korean Extension within the Korean community, and so forth. The next day we met

Chaplain Park and continued the discussion which began last year during our previous visit. It was regarding the process for Korean Extension male graduates to be recognized as a private chaplain in the Korean military service. Many young male KE students who have not yet served their military duties will eventually be drafted like Saehyun Lee. So the opportunity for a KE graduate to serve as private chaplain in the Korean military service is a great mission opportunity.



Bible school in Daejeon



Bible school in Seoul

Last February Saehyun Lee, who completed 93 credit hours in the KE and departed for Korea to fulfill his military duties, applied for a private chaplain's position for his two years of military service. Saehyun submitted his transcript and a recommendation letter from me, and the Department of Military Service recognized his educational background from the KE. As a result, he qualified for an interview, but failed. He failed because there were too many applicants applying for a position that was limited to the number of approvals that can be hired. Saehyun's attempt to apply for this position was not a total loss. After speaking with the chaplain, we learned that Saehyun has been given another opportunity to submit an application for the private chaplain's position after the placement to the base camp.

We have continued to establish a good road map for our male KE students who have yet to fulfill their military duties. This is a perfect opportunity for our male students, during their service, to evangelize the biblical truth to the Korean military.

The following day we met several prospective students who showed great interest in enrolling for the fall semester of 2012 or later. We advised them on the process of securing a visa from the American Embassy in Korea, what documents to prepare, and what to be aware of during the interview.

On May 17<sup>th</sup> we traveled to Gumi-city, approximately 100 miles southeast from Seoul, to visit Hyeo Suk Cho, who graduated this year. She departed for Korea in December 2011 and opened a private school for elementary students with her husband, who has a doc-

*(Continued on page 19)*

*(Continued from page 18)*

torate degree in education. She and her husband are preparing to plant a church in their school building. They are also willing to provide their facility for our mission activities such as recruiting, alumni meetings, Bible studies, and so forth.

On May 19<sup>th</sup> we traveled approximately 120 miles southwest from Seoul to Daejeon City and visited the Puritan Seminary/Bible church. Here we presented Bible theology from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The topics were the definition of truth, foreknowledge, prophet and revelation. There were approximately 30 students with the instructors in attendance. During the presentation, we also encouraged the students to enroll in the Korean Extension for part-time instead of full-time so they may gain a wider perspective on theology.

Mrs. Heesook Kim, a prospective music instructor, also attended the presentation. Several years ago, I met her husband who is a colonel of the Korean army. She has a master's degree in music, and she is willing to dedicate herself as a music instructor to the Korean Extension. A year ago we submitted a petition to the Immigration Department for a temporary work permit. Unfortunately it was denied. Currently we are in the process of preparing petition documents for a second attempt.

On May 20<sup>th</sup> we visited Chungjoo Grace Church, approximately 130 miles south of Seoul, with Pastor Daeguen Song. In the past, Pastor Song was housed at our former Morrow campus dormitory for six months, and he attended Korean Extension classes to learn the biblical truth. He also taught the Old Testament Survey class as an adjunct instructor for the KE. I presented God's message in the morning and led Bible study later in the afternoon.

The next day, approximately 35 pastors, who are personal friends of Pastor Song, from the Choong-chung Province Presbytery (renowned Presbyterian Church assembly) gathered at the Chungjoo Grace church. At this time, we had the opportunity to present the history of American Christianity from the Reformation, including the history of COGGC and the ABC/ Korean Extension. Also, we presented some segments of classroom teachings at the Korean Extension, such as the kingdom gospel, biblical view of teleology vs. deontology and meritocracy vs. duty, and so forth. These topics were requested by the group of pastors. Also in attendance were Saehyun Lee and his mother, who traveled more than 100 miles from their home. Both individuals were very excited to witness the presentation.

Both prospective and active KE students and their families may feel somewhat uncomfortable and even full of fear when listening to a theology that may contradict their personal beliefs, especially individuals that hold traditional Korean Christian views. Saehyun Lee and his mother are among those individuals that attended the conference. When they had witnessed how the classroom lecture inspired and engaged the Korean pastors, they developed a positive reassurance that there is nothing to fear. Similar to a domino effect, the individuals that witness such change become engaged to minister unto current and/or prospective students. I believe their testimonies will spread through the current student body and the prospective students through e-mail and/or social networks.

Immediately following the presentation, Saehyun conveyed his eagerness to return to the KE as soon as he completes his military duty. Also several pastors approached me and displayed their appreciation. They had also affirmed that they will encourage their sons and daughters to apply to the Korean Extension.

On May 24<sup>th</sup> Pastor Song and his eldest son visited us in Seoul. They came to discuss his son's enrollment in the Korean Extension. We informed them of the process for enrollment, the current conditions of the KE, and the Korean Community in the metro Atlanta area.

On May 26<sup>th</sup> we met a number of prospective students and discussed the process of enrollment and securing a visa from the American Embassy.

The last week of our stay, from May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, we met with former KE students who were unable to complete our program for various reasons. We talked about their current situation, and I encouraged them to re-enroll as soon as their situation permits. We also met with current students' families and answered their questions regarding the students' situations. We also encouraged them to continue supporting their sons, daughters, and families in the current enrollment as well.

A week after our return, I received an e-mail from Pastor Song. He stated that most of the attendees were extremely impressed and were eagerly awaiting our return next time to present at his church.

Thank you for your support for the Korean ministry and God bless!

Steve and Young An

## **Now you can take courses online with the Atlanta Bible College!**

Enjoy learning exciting material from the comfort of your own home and your own computer! It is easy to get started and you are just a few clicks away from starting a degree from the Atlanta Bible College!

**Atlanta Bible College is in its second year of offering Distance Learning courses in a new format called Moodle Rooms.** “Moodle” stands for “Modular Object Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment.” It is an online interactive program. We would like to invite you to take an Atlanta Bible College course in our new format.

Moodle courses will begin the week of August 20 and continue through December 14. Students will be required to log on weekly to do assignments. The cost is \$179 per semester hour plus the cost of textbooks.

Courses currently available are: Old Testament Survey I, Old Testament Survey II, Kingdom of God as Gospel I, Systematic Theology I, Introduction to Ministry and Leadership, Christian Education Principles, and Personal Spiritual Development I.

Students who have not used Moodle before, will be required to enroll in G111 How to Use ABC Moodle Online. We are waiving the \$100 cost of this course. Also, students who pay for one Moodle course will be entitled to take a **second course free!**

We still have many course available in our original format which consists primarily of DVDs of classroom lectures. You will receive a copy of the syllabus, a set of DVDs and textbooks. With this format, you may work at your own pace, provided that you complete the course within four months. The cost is the same as the Moodle courses, \$179 per semester hour plus the cost of textbooks. As with Moodle courses, students who pay for one course will be entitled to take a second course free. There is a charge of \$20 for the use of the DVDs and handling and postage.

If you would like to enroll, please contact us at [dkrogh@abc-coggc.org](mailto:dkrogh@abc-coggc.org) or call 678-833-1839 or write to ABC, PO Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253.

**WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? CALL TODAY!!!**

# CHURCHES

## SEARCHING FOR PASTORS

### 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](tel:2164552592) or Steve Weaver [\(330\) 833-3628](tel:3308333628).

### EDEN VALLEY CHURCH OF GOD

The Eden Valley Church of God is seeking an enthusiastic, goal-oriented pastor with a zeal to reach the unchurched, a desire to know his/her church family, join in community awareness and draw in summer visitors who vacation here.

Located in the beautiful lakes area of central MN, one hour from Minneapolis and just over a half hour from St. Cloud, the church offers a loving community of believers. The original church was established in the early 1900's. A new building built in the 1960's was soon followed by the addition of classrooms, private pastoral office, meeting rooms, and office supply areas.

Our congregation numbers 40+ on most Sundays, with a real potential for at least doubling that in a town that features a top-rated growing elementary school and high school. Parsonage and competitive employment package await the right candidate. Interested individuals may contact one of the elders: Marv Nordmann at 320-453-5961 or via e-mail at [mrnord@meltel.net](mailto:mrnord@meltel.net), Don Piram at 320-453-7015, or Teresa Kirkpatrick at 320-444-1828.

### HAPPYWOODS CHURCH

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

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

For more information, please contact Elder Charles Bottolfs at 985-542-1555 or via e-mail at [cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net](mailto:cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net). Or you may contact Elder John Fauntleroy at 985-345-7134. Both phones take



# Church News

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## Baptisms

### Arkansas

*Greenbrier* – Kalynne Foote (6/20/12) and Tonya Thorpe (6/24/12) by Pastor Tom New; Jennifer Mitchell added to membership by transfer (6/24/12)

*Royal* – Lachrissa Ann Stovall (5/13/12) by Terry Robinson, assisted by her parents, Walter and Cindy Stovall

### Indiana

*Granger* – Jacob and Emmy Dylewski (3/22/12) by their father, Gene Dylewski, and Pastor John Railton

*Plymouth* – Tristan and Alissa Arnett, and Holly Cowen (5/20/12) by Pastors Tim Pearson and Bob Collier

### Iowa

*Belle Plaine* – Cortnie Inman (9/24/11) and Theresa Bine, Logan Bine and Jessica Bine (6/13/12) by Pastor Delbert Rankin

### Ohio

*Troy* – Garrett Green (5/8/12) by Pastor Dan Cain



Simple Teachings Bible Church - Nine were baptized on Sunday, July 22, 2012. Standing left to right are Jerri and Pastor Rufus Meyers, Xavier Cook-Banks, Enrique Burns, Tarez Miller, Najah Cameron, Christopher Cameron, Nassir Cameron, Krishana Acklin, Diante Daniels, and Vanessa Haggard. Thank God for the blessing!

## Deaths

### Illinois

*Oregon* – Joan Hall Smith, 89, (6/9/12), wife of Edwin Smith. She previously was married to deceased Pastor E.

Milon Hall. She was the mother of Ken (Sharon) Hall of Arizona, Pastor Ray (Susan) Hall of Michigan, Connie (Pastor Dale) Ramsey of Virginia, Gail (Ron) Bratcher of Tennessee, Kerry (fiancée Christina Watts) Hall of Illinois, Linda (Buzz) Rundlett of New York, and Edwin “Eddie” Smith, Jr. of Illinois. Service by Pastor Gordon Landry.

### Iowa

*Gladbrook* – Marie Reinhard, graveside service (7/7/12) and inurnment for Marie, husband Lynn Reinhard (died in 2008) and their daughter Lynette Reinhard Bomar (died in 2009)

## Marriages

### Indiana

*Plymouth* – Joel Drang and Nicole Hiatt (4/28/12) by Pastor Tim Pearson

## Hymn Books Wanted

Growing Fredericktown, Missouri congregation in need of about twenty additional *Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs* (brown) hymn books. They need not be new, just in reasonable, usable condition. If a church has any extra to share, please contact Mrs. Kathy Cooper (katbec43@yahoo.com) or Pastor Brian Atra (drbrianjatra@yahoo.com). Thank you.



Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

James 5:16



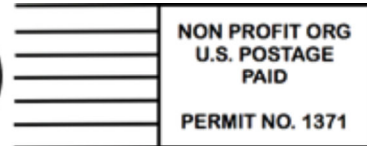
- 1 **Pray for the youth of your local church and the General Conference.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor John and Gayle Guthrie and their work at East Oregon, Illinois.
- 3 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Julie Bliss and the Maple Grove congregation in Kokomo, Indiana.**
- 4 Praise God for the faithful ministry of 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.

## Prayer and Praise

October 2012

- 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 Praise God for those who are preparing for ministry.
- 11 **Pray for Joe Martin, college president/conference CAO.**
- 12 Pray for 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 **Pray for the pastors' mini-retreat in Indianapolis, IN being held today through Sunday.**
- 22 Ask God to help you love Him and His Son more.
- 23 **Pray for Pastor Steve and Jill Taylor and the Lakeshore Bible Church in Arizona.**
- 24 Pray for Pastor Mark and Sandy DeYoung and the Blanchard, Michigan church.
- 25 **Pray for the ministry of the ABC Korean Extension in reaching students in the Duluth, Georgia area.**
- 26 Pray for Pastor Dennis and Rachel Baldwin and the Grace Fellowship Church in Front Royal, Virginia.
- 27 **Praise God for retired Pastor Billie Kennedy and his wife Irene.**
- 28 Pray for 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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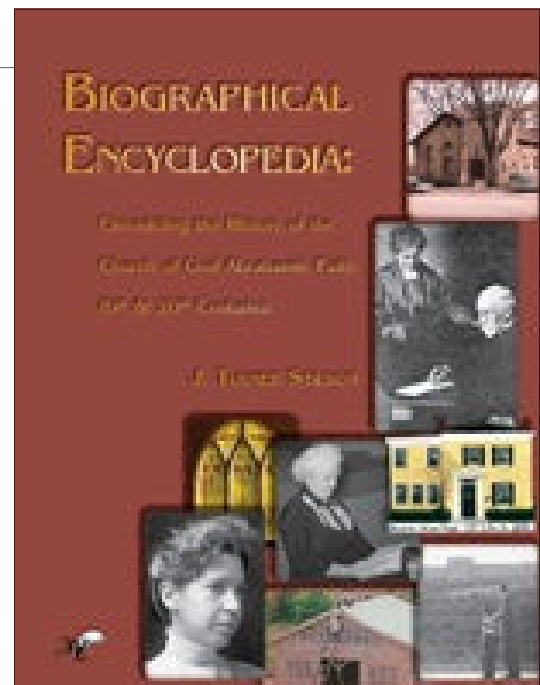


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