

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

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& PROGRESS JOURNAL

And He said to them,
"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."
Mark 16:15 NASB



Inside:

- Joining God—
King Obama or
King Romney?
- Michael Servetus
- NextGen
- Korean Extension
Report
- Atlanta Bible
College Update

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Publishing Specialist: Ruth Finnegan
Proofreader: Robert Jones

Address editorial correspondence to: THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: Gary Burnham, 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253

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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**

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

Media Micaiah Jordan River
Lahmam Amos Gilead Gedor Oded the Exhorter
SAUL Riblah Bashan Jehoiachin Mordecai AZEKAH Beashur Ham Hadarimmon Deuteronomy Aduilam Aphrek Edrei Eglon Zechariah Beth-gamul Jericho
KEILAH Gimzo

**THE 5Ws AND 1H OF
GENESIS THROUGH MALACHI**

*or, The Old Testament Through
an Old Newspaper Reporter's Eyes*

Robert L. Jones

Kidron Jeremiaiah 2nd Chronicles
Baal-hazor Balaam Gertizim Mount Cain Nebo Mount Hanani Haran Zi
Hezekiah Menahem 1st Chronicles JEHORAM Galilee Elkanahiz
Elisha Ashnah Jehu Jehoahaz Ono JEBUS
HUR Bezek Gibbethon Beth-horon Song of Solomon
LAMENTATIONS JOSIAH Seth ISAIAH Nehemiah
Enoch Dan Abraham LAM AARON
Samuel Ecclesiastes Jerusalem JOEL
Hosea Eli Sarah Isaac Maaseiah
Jacob Daniel Joshua EGYPT
Shem Noah Joshua EGYPT
Adam Shem Noah Joshua EGYPT
Boaz Asa Noah Joshua EGYPT
Reuben Canaan MELCHIZEDEK Ahab Jokneam Anathoth
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

Oct. 5, 2011, Remembering the Miracle. Just to remind everyone, about the time you are getting this, that on Oct. 5, 2011, the new building I call our... House of the LORD / Beth YHWH, was purchased. I believe this helps set us on firm footing for the future in very unstable times. I also believe, like Nehemiah, "...This work was done by our God." (Neh 6:16 NKJ) Let's celebrate together this miracle. I am glad I was around to see it happen! Thank God and Pastor Jack! Anyone else want to prepare for another miracle in ten or twenty years from now or sooner for God's people? Start now!

Oct. 27, 1553, Remembering the Hero and the Martyr. I would also like to remind all of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Michael Servetus on Oct. 27. For a distance learning history class, I asked Robin Todd to give us a summary of Servetus. (see the article) Remember he tried to restore the real Jesus and Christianity, "*Christianismi Restitutio*," which was published the same year he was martyred! The "RESTITUTION HERALD" owes him a debt of gratitude. Carlos Jimenez is doing some excellent work remembering Servetus. Kermit Zarley's *The Restitution of Jesus Christ* also follows suit. Pastors Rashid and Sajjad Emmanuel of Pakistan are modern-day martyrs as well. Please remember their sacrifices along with Michael Servetus.

My "One and Only" and "No Other...". I wrote the pastors, staff, and students recently about

two dreams Rebekah and I had... weird ones. Whatever the interpretation (J), it got me up early, and I felt led to study Yahweh, the "One and Only" true God. I had a great morning "closet" study from BibleWorks. I found in Isaiah 45 seven times it says "*no other*." Isaiah 45:5 (New Jerusalem Bible) "I am Yahweh, and there is *no other*, there is *no other* God except me." 45:6b, "I am Yahweh, and there is *no other*." 45:14d, "There is *no other*..." Then came the



**There is
no other god
except me.**

famous Isaiah 45:18, "For thus says Yahweh, the Creator of the heaven, he is God; who shaped the earth and made it, who set it firm; he did not create it to be chaos/empty, he formed it to be lived in; I am Yahweh, and there is *no other*." 45:21c "There is *no other* god except me." 45:22b, "I am God, and there is *no other*."

Wow! When Jesus calls Him His God and Our God (Jn 20:17), and Jesus calls Him the "Only True God," (Jn 17:3) should we not understand He is the "**One and Only**?" As I thought of that, it reminded me of the old Beatles' song with the lyrics "the birds in the sky would be sad and lonely, if they knew that I'd lost my one and only." It also led me to Susan Boyle's first youtube on "Britain's

Got Talent" 2009, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxPZh4AnWyk&feature=related>. Or just search youtube, Susan Boyle, 2009, "I Have a Dream" from *Les Miserables*. "I have a dream" that we not lose our "one and only" also. Don't lose your one and only God! That would make us all "sad and lonely."

BOOING AT THE DNC?? I

tried to be an equal opportunity viewer of the RNC and the DNC political conventions. I believe I watched both equally. You have to love Clint Eastwood, and Bill Clinton was in unusual form as well, though I did notice the palsy shake of his hand at times. We are all getting older. The strange thing was the booing. I do not necessarily feel that "God was booed," or that "Jerusalem was booed." I believe that the process was booed. It doesn't appear that there was a 2/3 voice vote. I appreciated the President trying to get God and Jerusalem back in the platform. However, we must note the fact that "some" do not want Jerusalem to be recognized as the capital of Israel. It reminds me of Matthew 23, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem." Whether we recognize Jerusalem as the future capital of the world or not, King Jesus does. If there were "some" atheists that didn't want God in the platform, LORD have mercy! Reread Isaiah 45:18, God *IS* in the platform of all parties, capitals, and nations! ■

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, 'Peace and safety,' then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6).

As I sit at my desk this morning, I can't help but wonder and watch what is currently going on in the Middle East. Turmoil is to be found everywhere. Nations rising up against the United States. Nations threatening the state of Israel. Iran with the potential of nuclear capabilities. What will be next? Perhaps the coming of our Lord! Paul states that while this all may be a surprise to most, it should not come as a surprise to believers. For we are children of light and not of darkness. Keep watching and praying for the peace of Jerusalem. Even so, Lord Jesus, come.

It is times like these that remind me just how important the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College is to our world. We need to continue to proclaim the coming kingdom of God. We need to continue to prepare men and women to "Join God". We need to continue to work both at home and abroad sharing the good news of Jesus and His coming and establishing the eternal kingdom of God. We are blessed to have such a dedicated staff to ensure that this message gets taught and proclaimed!

Dr. Joe Martin and his staff and Pastor Steve An and his staff are to be commended for their work and dedication to the Church of God General Conference. It is a blessing that cannot be underestimated. Please pray for these wonderful servants of God. They deserve our love and respect and support and prayers on a daily basis!

I have mentioned before in previous chairman articles the privilege I have to be the pastor of the Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA. One of the joys of pastoring CBC is to watch our students as they grow and serve, not only at CBC but within the community

and certainly throughout our conference. Everyone needs to know that we have a very special group of students this year. They are serious-minded and desirous of growing in the knowledge and grace of our Lord. Please pray for the students daily.

Your board of directors will be gathering for two days of meetings in October. The current seven board members are: Joe Myers, Chair; Bob Morrison Vice Chair; Carrie Briggs, Greg Demmitt, Alan Cain, Rick McClain and Julie Driskill. Please contact any of these members should you have questions or concerns or want to share ideas that will strengthen our conference and college. The scheduled dates for the meetings are October 25 and 26. We will be working on an agenda beginning next week, so please contact us soon.

It's not too soon to begin planning to attend Christian Worker's Seminar and our annual Church of God General Conference. We will once again be traveling to Pigeon Forge, TN for CWS. The dates for CWS are April 7-12. Final dates for General Conference have not been set, but we will be gathering sometime in July at the Guthrie Grove Church of God in Pelzer, SC. These are two events that are both wonderful. Hopefully, many reading this note will be able to take advantage of both gatherings!

Let me close on a personal note. I will be stepping down as the pastor of the Cornerstone Bible Church the beginning of October. It has been a wonderful past five years, but we feel it is time to step aside and return to Arizona, which was our home for 25 years. We are thrilled to share that Pastor David Riley will be returning to the Cornerstone pulpit upon our departure. Some are aware that Pastor Dave was the founding pastor of Cornerstone. We look forward to all that God has in store under the leadership of Pastor Dave and the elders and leaders of CBC. Our departure from the pulpit is not our departure from the Board of Directors and the Church of God General Conference. We look forward to working with Pastor Steve Taylor and the brothers and sisters of the Lakeshore Bible Church in Tempe, AZ. Your prayers for a smooth transition are most appreciated.

Brothers and sisters, we are living in exciting times. Could it be that we will be the generation when Jesus literally and physically returns to earth?! Look up, for our redemption draweth nigh! ■

The vision statement adopted by our delegates in July is “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.” So what does that possibly entail? I hope I got your attention by the title. Read on.

Step One: What is God’s plan for the individual that he or she might “Join Him”? “God is not willing that any should perish.” God wants *you* to join him in salvation. “This is eternal life that they may know you the only true God and Jesus Christ...” God wants you to join him in the love he has for you. “For God so loved the world.” The first great command is to know God (cp. the Shema Dt 6:4; Mk 12:29) and love the LORD our God with all our heart, soul, mind, strength, and with everything we are. Will you reciprocate that love or reject Him? God wants us individually to do His will in each of our lives. “Not my will but yours be done.” We may think this only applies to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, but does it? No! It applies to you and me right now! We need to take individual responsibility for ourselves and join God.

Step Two: God wants your family to “Join Him.” Joshua said, “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD/YHWH.” God is not just concerned about you. A man is to love his wife as Christ loved the church (Eph 5:25; Col 3:19). God wants your wife saved. Wives, God wants your husband saved. Paul, in I Cor 7:3 says, “but likewise the wife to the husband.” The Greek, *eunoia*, means affection and love, though the context is about sexuality. Affection and a believer “not leaving” is about sanctification and salvation of *both* the man and the woman. God wants your spouse and your children saved! That word *eunoia* is also used in Eph 6:7, “Serve wholeheartedly.” (NIV) That should equate to more time with the spouse and the kids especially centered around spiritual things such as growing up issues, Bible study, home discussions of God and His plan, church, church attendance, and church events for the family.

Step Three: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 19:19; Mt 22:39; Mk 12:31; Lk 10:27; Rom 13:9; Gal 5:14; James 2:8)? If you were your neighbor... think about that phrase for a while... without Christ, salvation, or real hope, and you “were in his shoes”, I would expect a Christian to build a relationship with me over

a long time, get to know me, care for me in the good and bad times, and... eventually let me know about his/her faith in God. How about having a block party or a block yard sale to get the neighborhood together? A barbecue at your house, or on the neighborhood street? If you had a yard sale, give two things free to anyone on your street. If a pastor (i.e., Rufus Meyers) brings you a truckload of “free” bread, a pallet load of corn, cases of goat milk (yes, he did) or whatever, go to each of your neighbors and share your blessing. If your neighbor’s spouse dies, be there. If your neighbor is in an accident, be there. If your neighbor has marital issues, be there. If your neighbor has a barbecue, a bar mitzvah, a birthday party for their kid, be there. Build a tight relationship of trust and friendship that could eventually lead to a relationship to Christ.

Step Four: “Love your enemy,” “go...to Samaria,” “go... to Nineveh.” One of the great lessons of the Bible (in this election year) is from Jonah. Jonah hated the Ninevites, the Assyrians. He didn’t like their policies. The Jews of Jesus’ time hated the Samaritans, interestingly enough related to the old Assyrian policy of displacement. Jesus said, “you have heard it said, “love your neighbor,” but I say to you “love your enemy.” Does God love Republicans? Does God love Democrats? What a ridiculous question! I believe the greatest lesson from Jonah is to pay attention to God’s will by listening and doing God’s word despite what is going on around you. Another good lesson from Jonah is that it did not come from “top down.” For many years I superficially read... “the king called for a complete fast.” No! First, “the people of Nineveh believed God and proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.” (Jonah 3:5) *Then*, “when the news reached the king... .” (Jonah 3:6)

Top down didn’t start the salvation/deliverance of Nineveh. Whether it is King Obama, or King Romney (oops... you know I mean President) where should the change come from? Tony Campolo said, it “will not matter who is in the White House come next year, we will still have our problems.” We still pray, “Thy kingdom come.” God’s plan is for individual revival, that becomes family revival, that becomes neighborhood revival, that becomes church revival, that becomes a revival that politicians cannot ignore. Can we imagine individuals so completely sold out to God that they are being called by His name, humbling

(Continued on page 10)

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 Includes Great Communication

Well-spoken words can be a great blessing. King Solomon wrote, “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.” (Proverbs 16:24) How well does Solomon’s proverb describe your words as a leader?

Just because lips are moving and words are spoken, that doesn’t mean a leader is communicating well! Lots of words do not ensure good communication is taking place. What do others hear, feel and experience when you speak? Do they feel spoken to, spoken with, spoken over, spoken around, etc.? Those feelings will go a long way in determining what they really hear and how well they ultimately respond.

Solomon spoke of words being sweet to digest and healing to the listener’s spirit. When you speak as a leader (parent, work, church, or otherwise), are your words sweet and healing? That doesn’t mean you cover a tough message with honey so it tastes better. You still honestly share the good, the bad and everything in-between. You share truth that answers questions, directs others, encourages others, and sometimes challenges others. Still, you do so in a way that brings sweetness and healing.

A good leader never assumes that people know what they should know. He is always communicating what needs to be known. She is always asking great questions of her followers and listening exceedingly well to what they have to say. Information is not “hidden” or kept “secret”. It is freely shared as often as possible, and in as many avenues as possible.

It has been said that “in the absence of accurate information, people will assume the worst”. Prior to hearing the truth, surely you have sometimes assumed a scenario worse than the reality. A great leader never gives folks the opportunity to assume the worst, because accurate information is shared again, and again, and again. What truth do you need to share with a follower or two so they don’t conjure up in their minds the worst possible set of circumstances?

Do you want to be heard? Or, correctly heard? Practice the discipline of asking others what they heard you say, what they think it means, and what you expect them to do with what they think you said and meant. No matter how well-worded your



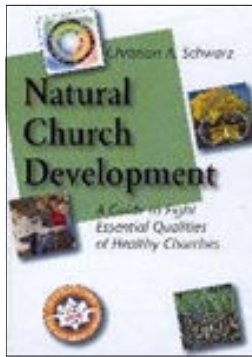
communication, if it isn’t heard correctly, and if it doesn’t lead to the response you expect, it is poor communication. Again, never assume. Always check back with the listener.

Do you like being uninformed? Having to wonder? Having to guess? Neither does anyone else! So, make sure those you lead don’t have these kinds of experiences because you communicate poorly, or not at all.

Do you enjoy being well-informed? Receiving clear, easy-to-understand details? Having your questions answered before having to ask them? So does everyone else! So, provide that level of communication for those you lead.

YOUR INPUT FOR THIS FEATURE? Is there a particular leadership topic, question, Bible text, Bible character, etc. you would like to see addressed in this feature? Please let me know!

Gary Burnham
Ministry Services Network Director
gburnham@abc-coggc.org; 1-800-347-4261



Natural Church Development (NCD)

This feature in THE RES-TITUTION 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 Spirituality Passionate?

This article is the third of eight articles offering an extended view into each of the eight quality characteristics of Natural Church Development. The third quality is Passionate Spirituality.

Each church has a level of spirituality. What NCD cares about is not so much the style of a church's spirituality, but the extent to which folks' faith is exhibited with passion and enthusiasm, both at church *and* in their daily lives.

What really matters is not our current level of spiritual maturity, but whether or not we are continuing to grow and develop as followers of Christ. For example, a fulfilled, growing new believer is significantly more passionate than a stagnant long-time believer.

You might find it interesting to note that NCD research has discovered that passion in our spirituality is less connected to the length of time we pray, study God's word, etc., and much more connected to the inspiration we derive from the quality of our prayer, study of God's word, etc.

NCD measures four critical components for churches seeking to help foster passionate spirituality.

The first component asks, "Are church members integrating their faith into all areas of

their lives?" Do folks experience God's involvement and presence in the activities of their daily lives? Do we see folks' lives being transformed?

The second component asks, "Are our folks clearly marked with enthusiasm about our church?" Are leaders clearly teaching what they believe are God's desires for the future of our church? Do folks seem convinced that God is working powerfully in the church and will continue to do so?

The third component asks, "Do the folks in our church spend personal time connecting to God during the week?" Is personal and group prayer integrated into the activities and ministries of our church? Are we teaching folks how to use God's word as a guide for their lives, and are they actually doing so?

The fourth component asks, "What opportunities (in worship, small groups, etc.) are given for folks to talk about God's work in their lives?" How well have we helped folks move their thinking and talking about spirituality from a personal matter to a public matter with each other? Do our church folks naturally talk with each other both about their daily experiences in walking closely with God and about their struggles to do so? How committed are we, privately and publicly, to sharing and praying passionately for each others' physical and spiritual needs?

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; 1-800-347-4261

Michael Servetus

1511-1553 A.D.

By Robin Todd



This is a brief life summary of a man who was on the leading edge of the radical reformation movement in Europe in the sixteenth century. Only a century before his birth, humanism, with its emphasis on the personal worth of the individual and human values, had come into the political and religious discussion. And as a result of this movement, and in conjunction with growing awareness of corruption in the organized Roman church, Martin Luther was to start the Protestant Reformation just a few years after Servetus was born. *Radical* reformers were those who wanted more change in doctrine and practice than what was proposed by Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli, etc. This included Anabaptists and Unitarians, as well as others, who were persecuted by both the Catholic and Protestant churches for centuries. Michael Servetus was a staunch opponent of the trinitarian doctrine, as well as other orthodox teachings, including infant baptism. It was especially his unorthodox position on the trinity that would ultimately be the cause of his execution at the hands of the reformer John Calvin in Geneva.

The oldest of three sons, Miguel Serveto Conesa alias Reves was born on September 29, 1511 in Villanueva de Sijena, Spain. During his life Charles V was the emperor of all Western Europe except England, France, and Portugal. Francis I was the king of France, and Charles V's main protagonist.

Miguel Serveto had a great propensity for languages, learning to read French, Greek, Latin, and Hebrew. At age 13 he studied the classics and humanists at Zaragoza University in Aragon, Spain. This is where he also became familiar with the writings of Martin Luther.

At age 16 he entered the University of Toulouse to study law. It was at this institution, which was a hotbed of radicalism in France, that Miguel Serveto changed his name to the Latinized version of Michael Servetus. He and his fellow students secretly read the Bible and became convinced that Rome corrupted the texts and the fundamental truths of Christianity.

After leaving Toulouse, he became secretary for the confessor of Charles V. This association enabled his invitation to Charles V's official coronation as the Holy Roman Emperor on February 24, 1530. The pomp and pageantry surrounding the Pope's procession during this event greatly disgusted Servetus, and from that point on he determined to begin restoring Christianity to something more akin to the faith and practice of the apostles. Immediately following this event the Spanish reformer traveled to Basel which had been a sanctuary for humanist reformers. Erasmus had made this his home, but he and the other humanist reformers left

town just before Servetus' arrival due to a militant Protestant takeover of the city by Oecolampadius. Servetus did not think Oecolampadius had gone far enough in the reforms, and argued that purging out the trinitarian doctrine would cause the corrupted Roman structure to fall. Oecolampadius disagreed. The disagreement on this and other issues became so strong that Servetus was forced to flee the city.

Arriving in Strasbourg in May of 1531, he began printing his first manuscript *On the Errors of the Trinity*. "Servetus cited over 30 sources in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Arabic, and quoted or alluded to fifty-two of the sixty-six books of the Bible, and six books of the Apocrypha" (*Out of the Flames*, Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone, 2002, pg. 71). His book was banned in Spain, and the author was sentenced to death in absentia.

In 1533, now hunted by both Catho-

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

lics and Protestants, he enrolled at the University of Paris under another name, to study mathematics. John Calvin was also attending at this time, and the reformers were gaining ground in this traditionally orthodox institution. This situation gave Servetus some courage to start coming out of the closet a bit, with his contemporaries, concerning those anti-trinitarian beliefs that had made him a fugitive in the first place. However, the reformers overplayed their hand in a bold political move against the conservative element at the university. As a result the leaders, including Calvin and Servetus, had to flee for their lives. Calvin went to Geneva, and Servetus to Lyon.

Working undercover as Michael Villanovanus in Lyon, he spent the next two years editing a large edition of *Geography* by Claudius Ptolemy of Alexandria. While there he also became acquaintances with Cardinal Francois de Tournon, one of the heads of the French Inquisition. Little did Tournon know at the time that he was having evening meals and discussions with someone who was already a “wanted man”.

In 1536, under the name Michel de Villeneuve, he registered again at the University of Paris as a medical student. There he completed his course in medicine, and supplemented his income by teaching geography, astronomy, and mathematics. He also wrote a pamphlet regarding digestive aids entitled *The Syrups*. And, although he wouldn't publish the information for another fifteen years, it was here he discovered the workings of the pulmonary circulatory system, the first to have recorded these findings. But since he published the information in his major *theological* work (*Restoration of Chris-*

tianity), no one in the medical field noticed for over a century. By that time someone else had received credit for the discovery (William Harvey of England).

Between 1538 and 1552 Servetus practiced medicine and did more editing work in Vienna. This included a 3-year project on a 7-volume edition of the Pagnini Bible, which was a Latin translation printed in 1527. Letters with Calvin began in 1546 and continued for a year. Calvin actually tried to have him arrested at the time by Catholic authorities, but he failed. Servetus completed his book *Restoration of Christianity*, in 1552. John Calvin received a copy.

Through continuing efforts by John Calvin in Geneva, Servetus was arrested by leaders of the Catholic Inquisition in Vienna on April 4, 1553. However, he escaped after the trial, avoiding, for the time, certain death. A few months later in August, he was arrested in Geneva as he was traveling to what was probably a safe haven in Naples, Italy. On October 27, 1553, after a sham of a trial, Michael Servetus was executed by being burned alive on a pile of green wood, along with copies of his books. It took half an hour for him to die. His last words are reported to have been, “*Oh Jesus, Son of the Eternal God, have pity on me* (notice he did not say, “oh, eternal God the Son”!)” In a letter written by William Farel (evangelist friend of John Calvin) to a friend, Farel tries to defend the execution of Servetus this way: “The wretched man could not be brought to say that Christ was the Eternal Son of God. When I urged him on the subject, he desired me to point to a single place in the Scriptures in which Christ is spoken of as the Son of God before birth...but would not acknowledge the Son of God, save in the man Jesus”

(*Servetus and Calvin*, R. Willis, 1877, pg. 485). Such was the capital crime of Michael Servetus.

Amazingly, although the whole town turned out for his execution, his enemy and accuser, John Calvin, stayed home. Later, in a short tract defending his actions in the affair, “Calvin bragged about causing Servetus’ arrest, initiating the prosecution, and drawing up the charges...” (*Out of the Flames*, Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone, 2002, pg. 201).

“So died, in advance of his age, one of the gifted sons of God, the victim of religious fanaticism and personal hate” (*Servetus and Calvin*, R. Willis, 1877, pg. 487).

It is interesting to note that even after his death, the writings of Servetus were instrumental in the beginnings of the unitarian movement in Poland. A Polish minister by the name of Gonesius discovered his writings in 1556 and began proclaiming these anti-trinitarian positions in Poland. He managed to convert a man named Jan Kiszka, the second-largest landowner in Poland, who owned over 400 villages and 70 cities. All 20 churches in his vast territory were converted. A unitarian school was established about fifty miles south of Krakow. The unitarian church flourished in Poland until it was officially suppressed in 1660.

There are only three original copies remaining of Michael Servetus’ book, *Restoration of Christianity*. They are located in the Nationalbibliothek in Vienna, the Bibliothque Nationale in Paris, and in the library of the University of Edinburgh. ■

Good News

*Like cold water to a weary soul,
So is good news from a distant land.
Proverbs 25:25*

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** and the entire congregation congratulate **Emma Massie** for being first-prize blue ribbon winner at the Logan County Junior Fair for Class 9 School Master (horse) Showmanship, Assisted Ages 8-19. Her mother praised Emma, saying “Way to go! I’m so proud of your hard work, courage, and determination.” GNP adds a voice of congratulations for a job well done.

From the **Blessed Hope Bible Church in Rockford, IL** – The congregation honored **George and Barbara Scott** for their many long years of tireless service to the church. Before the Scotts left for their new home in Minnesota, the church thanked Barbara for playing piano and organ for over fifty years, for decorating the church with beautiful flowers many times, for teaching Sunday school, and for serving as treasurer. George’s service included Sunday school superintendent, elder, deacon, trustee, and many other roles. Their lives of service are a model for everyone.

From the **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – The church held its third annual end of summer pool party in conjunction with its first annual double Bornes birthday bash on August 25. There was swimming, dinner, and cake. Fun and food for all!

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Mary Welty** opened her home to a ladies’ Bible study, beginning September 12. The eight-week study will discuss the book *Stuck* by Jennie Allen. Mary invited all ladies who feel that are only putting on a happy face for Sundays, but have a life of mess and junk inside. God has a plan to re-

store everyone, and the book is designed to help ladies find that plan.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** joins with the congregation in thanking **Pam Harris** for her tireless work in behalf of the congregation. Her “behind the scenes” work includes (but is not limited to) cleaning out closets, organizing the kitchen, buying high chairs, and even a fly swatter. [I wonder if Pam makes house calls to McDonough, GA. – GNP] On behalf of all of the church, thanks, Pam!

From the **Blessed Hope Bible Church in Rockford, IL** – The church is very proud of **Pastor Sherwin Williams**. Pastor Williams served our country in Vietnam and is now a member of the VietNow chapter in Rockford. He has marched in several parades, even carrying our flag proudly. GNP and the church are very proud of him. Thank you for your service, Sherwin!

From the **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – The church’s annual Family Fun Day was held September 15. The congregation was asked to donate items to be used as door prizes (gift certificates and other new items are good ideas) for this community event. **Mary Hillsdale** and **Bill Gaspar** coordinated the event. [GNP thinks that something positive is happening at Pine Grove Bible Church. They have lots of parties with food and fun. Check out the earlier story about PGBC.]

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 COG-Land to know about it. [**PLEASE** 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. PLEASE SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS, and we’ll put you in print!
Robert L. Jones

(Continued from page 5)

themselves, praying, seeking His face and turning from their wicked ways? HalleluYah! Can we imagine the effect on our spouse as we are sold out to God, and they join us joining God? Can we even dare to imagine our children seeing our excitement and devotion becoming believers as well? I have been getting e-mails and calls from my children about theological things lately. I love it! It shows they are trying to walk with God. My daughter Jennifer is taking a class for her nursing degree on “Christian Worldview” since it is a

Christian university. Now she is asking me and the class questions! Can you imagine your neighborhood becoming so relationally close that nothing major happens without them seeking your godly advice? Can you imagine a nation whose God is the LORD/YHWH, (Psa 33:12) where the vast majority becomes completely sold out to God and lives like it by bending the knee to Jesus to the glory of the Father? LORD, help us! ■

Verses to Live By

**“The eyes of the LORD are upon
the righteous,
and his ears attend to their prayer,
But the face of the LORD is against
those who do evil”**

1 Peter 3:12

God watches over His people. He is always mindful of our needs.

In fact, God watches all people: “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good” (Prov. 15:3). But He gives special attention to those who are written in the book of life of the Lamb, and we are told to come boldly to the throne of grace for help in time of need (Heb. 4:16).

God's ears are open to the prayers of His people. Revelation 8:4 speaks of the prayers of the saints going up to God like sweet-smelling incense. He loves this communication with His people, where they are praising His wonderful name, thanking Him for all these blessings, asking for His mercy and grace on the sick and troubled, asking His help out of life's various problems.

He will give guidance and direction. Once I was in desperate need of guidance as to what to do. Like Jesus, I was praying with strong crying and tears (Heb. 5:7). I did not know what course to take. God answered that prayer that night in a dream from Him. *He showed me what I was supposed to do!* I can scarcely write about it now without crying, it meant so much to me.

Another time, I was loaded down with so much stress my head felt like a steel band was around it, being twisted tighter and tighter. I couldn't stand it. I knelt by the couch and asked God to please give me the peace Jesus

said we could have in Matthew 11:28-30. His help was instantaneous!!! I was immediately at peace. All the stress was gone!! It was a miracle. One moment I was in bad shape, the next I was *free*. I have never forgotten those *huge answers to my prayers*. The kind and loving Almighty God *heard* me and *helped* me. I will praise His wonderful name for ever.

It is a wonderful thing to know that God will hear our prayers and help us. We must ask “according to His will (1 John 5:14). One reason we don't find relief may be because we don't humble ourselves and *ask* for His help (James 4:2). Again, His answer may lie in another age. When my Betsy was hurt, I prayed daily for seven years that she might walk again. Then one day I was reading Isaiah 35:5 and 6: “*Then* the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. *Then* the lame will leap like a deer.” I cried and realized God was saying the healing would take place when His kingdom came to earth.

This was also the case with my two angel wives God gave me. One had melanoma, the other a strange muscle disease that prevented swallowing. *Many* were the prayers that ascended to God, even calling for the elders to come and pray, as advised in James 5:14-15. One time before, a miracle healing took place. The nurses called her “the miracle girl.” But not this time. At the right time and place they both will have perfect life and health. But we must wait for that time to come. And it will. But it will be in “the age to come.”

This does not cause our faith in God to diminish. It means I understand God's plan better, and must wait patiently for that day to come. *God will* answer those prayers *at that time!* Praise God!

By Jim Mattison

NextGen[eration]

Please see FUEL pictures on back cover.

“FUEL is one reason why I decided to take the leap to learn more about God and his overwhelming love by attending Atlanta Bible College. FUEL is a place for friends and a place to worship and love God. It was, and still is, one of my biggest learning experiences with God, because there is so much going on there. With three daily worship sessions, speakers and awesome videos, I don’t think there is a way not to have fun and enjoy the word of God. Also, during the free time we get, we have several choices of activities we can participate in. Some examples: quizzing, ultimate frisbee, Bible studies, munchkin, nerf wars, ninja, arts and crafts, football, basketball, soccer, and so much more! Not to mention the most amazing chef-planned and cooked meals. I’ve met the chef, and he is legit. I’ve met so many of my friends at FUEL, and I plan on meeting even more in the future! Bottom line? FUEL is awesome!” Jesse Allen



“I have gone to FUEL for the past six years, and there hasn’t been a year that hasn’t impacted my life in a very positive way. To me FUEL is a week to get away from your everyday life and be surrounded by amazing people who are willing to push and support you to become who God has created you to be. One of my favorite parts of FUEL is the worship services! Another part of FUEL I really enjoy is the confession night. I think that it is an awesome way to connect with God, youth leaders, and your inner self.” Paige Montgomery

“This was my first year going to FUEL. FUEL was different than any other camp I have been to. I liked how there was a morning, afternoon and evening service. I enjoyed going to classes in the afternoon and evening. They were very helpful. I loved how everyone was so friendly at camp, and it had a home-like atmosphere. Coming from a Southern Baptist background, this camp has a big edge over the other camps by far. The speakers and worship team were awesome. It never got dull or boring. I definitely plan on going back next year.” Jonathan Foster



Pastors,

We would like to solicit articles from you that can be considered for future issues of THE RESTITUTION HERALD & PROGRESS JOURNAL. We welcome a variety of submissions:

- articles that focus on worship and bringing glory to God
- articles on doctrinal subjects
- articles on ministry subjects
- short devotional thoughts, stories, etc.



Please contact me directly if you have any questions you’d like answered or ideas you’d like considered. Thanks, ahead of time, for any submissions you provide.

Ruth Finnegan
Publishing Specialist

rfinnegan@abc-coggc.org / 518.221.7103

Lord's Harvest International Report

Pakistan

Pictured is a recent meeting of pastors and elders in Faisalabad. One of the topics of discussion was the upcoming visit of Werner Bartl from Austria and John Horsewood from England and Kenya who will travel to Pakistan in late November for a ten-day visit. Werner and John will be visiting several churches, and they will hold meetings with the pastors. LHI will be providing about \$2,000 of support for this trip. Any mission groups or individuals who would like to help fund this trip, please send your gifts to LHI, PO Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253. Thanks.



Meeting of pastors and elders in Faisalabad.

Also pictured is a recent open air prayer meeting in Faisalabad.

Hadayat Din, of Memphis, TN, along with his wife are currently spending a few weeks in Pakistan, visiting churches that they worked with a number of years ago. The Dins have come to understand the truths of scripture, and they are teaching them to those that they served in the past.



Open air prayer meeting in Faisalabad.

Tanzania

We received word in early September that Pastor Jerome Chembe, who is leader of Church of God work in Tanzania, was in the hospital diagnosed with malaria and typhoid fever. He had just returned from a trip to the member churches throughout northern Tanzania around Lake Victoria. He was visiting them to determine if they are still conducting services and still teaching the truths of scripture. Please pray for Pastor Jerome's complete recovery.

Peru

Victor and Jodi Werhanowicz will visit Lima November 29 to December 3 to teach Victorious Christian Living lessons to the congregation. They will also provide instruction to Pastor Gaston so that he can continue the lessons in the following weeks. Our thanks to Victor and Jodi for making this trip. Please pray for their safety and effective ministry in Lima.



Pastor Chembe, his wife and children.

Seek YHWH

Seek Yahweh: The Tetragrammaton in the First Century

By John Cortright

Scholars often refer to the four-letter name of God, YHWH, as the Tetragrammaton. It is commonly believed that the name of God, which appears over 6,000 times in ancient Hebrew manuscripts, was no longer in use during the first century. Rather, with the translation of the Greek Old Testament known as the Septuagint, the name of God was replaced with the Greek word *kurios*. It is believed that Jews had stopped using the name and instead used the word *adonay* when speaking the name of God. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* explains: “After the Exile (6th century BC), and especially from the 3rd century BC on, Jews ceased to use the name Yahweh...”¹ While this may be a commonly accepted belief about the Tetragrammaton, textual evidence suggests a different truth.

Before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest known complete Old Testament manuscripts were Greek, dating from the fourth century AD. Two renowned complete Greek Bibles are the Codex Sinaiticus and the Codex Vaticanus. In both of these famous codices, written after the time of Constantine, the name of God does not exist. Rather, in all uses, the name is replaced with the Greek surrogate *kurios*. While these are the oldest “complete” versions of the Greek Old Testament, they are not the oldest manuscripts that have been found. Some partial Old Testament Greek manuscripts and fragments exist from the second and third century AD as well. In these documents, as with the fourth century codices, the name of God is not present, but rather, the Greek surrogate *kurios* had replaced the name.

It is also noteworthy to mention that there are no extant New Testament manuscripts from the first century. The oldest known New Testament manuscript is a fragment of the Gospel of John in Greek, dated at the earliest to 125 AD. There are later second and third century New Testament manuscripts that have been found. As with the Old Testament Greek manuscripts, the Tetragrammaton, the four-letter name of God, cannot be found in any of these surviving New Testament manuscripts.

However, extant Old Testament manuscripts dat-

ing from the first century and earlier tell a different story. In fact, in all extant manuscripts and fragments of Old Testament writings from the first century or earlier, the Tetragrammaton or some form of it was being used. Textual evidence suggests that the use of the Greek word *kurios* did not begin replacing the name until the second century. In first century Old Testament manuscripts that have been discovered, the name of God is written in three different ways: in Herodian Hebrew script of that era, a more ancient Paleo Hebrew script (see examples at the end), or in some instances, rendered in Greek by the letters IAO.

In all of the Hebrew Old Testament manuscripts discovered in the caves around the Dead Sea, the Hebrew name of God is present, written in the Herodian Hebrew script as *hwhy*. These manuscripts date between 100 BC and 70 AD. In some instances, the main body of text is written in the Herodian Hebrew script, but the name of God is written in the more ancient Paleo Hebrew. There were also a few Greek Old Testament fragments found among the Dead Sea scrolls. One such manuscript is from the book of Habakkuk. In this beautiful text, dated at the turn of the Common Era, the words are all in Greek, except when it comes to the Tetragrammaton. The name of God is not written in Greek, but rather it is in Paleo Hebrew (see example below). From cave four, manuscript 4Q120, is a fragment of Leviticus 4:17. In this Greek manuscript dated to 1 BC, the name of God is written as a Greek rendering of IAO. In his book, *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English*, author Geza Vermes writes, “The Tetragram (the divine name YHWH) is rendered semi-phonetically as *Iao*, and is not replaced, as was customary later, by the Greek *Kurios* (Lord).”²

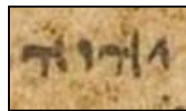
The Dead Sea Scrolls are not the only first century manuscripts discovered. In the deserts of Egypt from the Oxyrhynchus collection, a few first century Old Testament manuscript fragments were uncovered. One such manuscript is a Greek text from the book of Job, dated to around 50 AD. And, as with the Habakkuk scroll found at Qumran, in this first century Greek Old Testament, the name of God is not replaced with the Greek word

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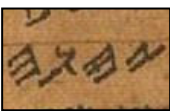
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kurios, but rather, the name of God appears in Paleo Hebrew Script (see below).

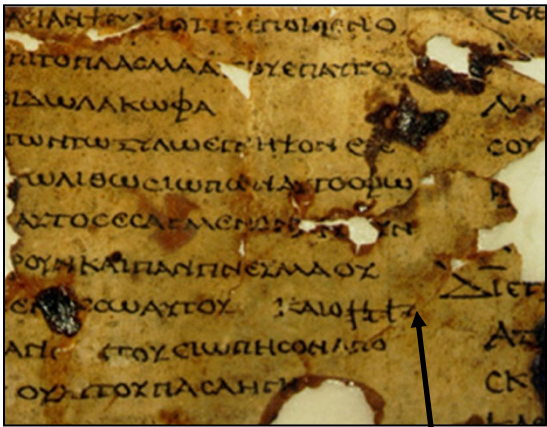
Scholars and paleographers are aware that manuscripts from the first century and earlier do not use a surrogate *kurios* for the name of God. This practice does not show up until codices of the second century. What does this mean for Bible students interested in a study of God’s name? The evidence suggests that Old Testament scriptures used by Jesus and the disciples most likely contained the name of God. In Luke chapter four when Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth and read from the scroll of Isaiah, the Tetragrammaton could have been present. When Philip met the eunuch from Alexandria in Acts 8, and he was reading from the scroll of Isaiah, this manuscript most likely contained the name of God. Also when Paul reasoned with the Bereans “out of the scripture” in Acts chapter 17, these disciples very likely had a rendering of YHWH, either in Paleo Hebrew script, or in a Greek rendering, semi-phonetically as *IAO*. All of these New Testament records took place before 70 AD, and there is no textual evidence that the Greek word *kurios* (translated into English as “Lord”), was being used as a replacement for the Tetragrammaton until the second century AD. ■



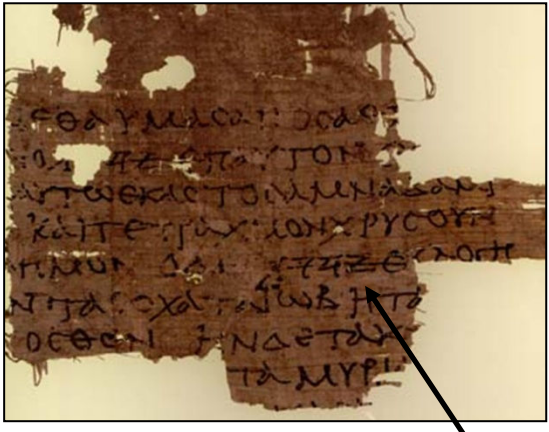
The name of God, YHWH, in Herodian Hebrew script from first century era



The name of God, YHWH, in Paleo Hebrew script



Habakkuk scroll from Rockefeller Museum, Jerusalem, Israel. The scroll is written in Greek. The Tetragrammaton is written in Paleo Hebrew script. Scroll is dated to the turn of the century—1 AD.



Job scroll from Oxyrhynchus collection - Egyptian desert. The scroll is written in Greek. The Tetragrammaton is written in Paleo Hebrew script. Scroll is dated to 50 AD.

¹ Encyclopedia Britannica Online, downloaded on 11/18/2011 from website at URL <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/651183/Yahweh>

² Vermes, G. (2004). *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. London, England: Penguin Books Ltd., Pg 472.

Korean Extension Update

Greetings,

On August 20, 2012, the Korean Extension successfully began the 2012 fall semester with 71 Korean students. Despite the decrease in student enrollment from spring (78), we were blessed with 14 new students from Korea. This semester's decrease is attributed to the nine students that graduated last May, including 12 students who were unable to re-enroll. As part of our recruitment efforts, we will continue to contact and attempt to visit and encourage the students who were unable to return. Our purpose for doing this is to keep relationships positive and offer support, and hope that God will change their situations. We pray God grants these students direction and opportunity to return, and provides our current students with knowledge, faith, and strength to complete their biblical studies.

In spite of the decline in enrollment, the Korean Extension's enthusiasm and eagerness to teach the Bible has not diminished. The staff continues to counsel and minister to our student body. The instructors concentrate on developing their teaching skills and class materials, striving to offer our students good Christian knowledge. In light of the decrease, one of our graduates, Chae Yun Baik, was accepted into a master's program at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for the fall 2012 semester. The institution is also nationally accredited! Chae Yun did contact our office recently to let us know that she is doing well, receiving education at her new school. We are aware of the variations in theology between the Korean Extension and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, but we are confident that Chae Yun will overcome the differences.

Most of you will recall almost four years ago, the Korean Extension had another student, Hyun Ju Kim, a graduate from our program who was accepted into the master's program at Fuller Theological Seminary. Although her initial acceptance was conditional, we were surprised to learn that Hyun Ju attained full scholarship to the program upon her second semester. Thereafter, she visited our school to address the Korean Extension students with her testimony. She reassured the students that the education they are receiving at the Korean Extension is invaluable and adequate enough for them to pursue a master's course—possibly with a scholarship at any nationally accredited college.

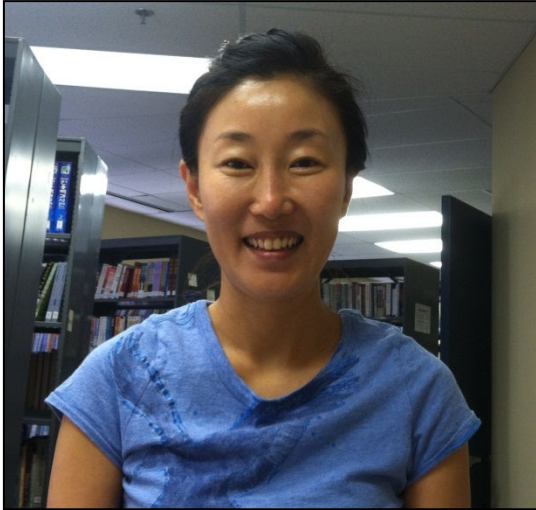
Last year, I had a similar experience. I too am a graduate of the Korean Extension, and I was accepted into a master's program (Master's in Education specializing in TESOL—Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) in August 2011 at Lincoln Christian University in Lincoln, Illinois. This school is also a nationally accredited school, integrating the Bible into the specific field of study. Although I have not been offered any scholarships, the knowledge I attained at the KE was substantial enough for me to remain on the dean's list since my initial enrollment. In my view, as a student of a higher education course, the knowledge that is provided to our current students is exceptional.

I have also been working closely with a professor from the University of Georgia, Dr. Sarah Ann Shope. Dr. Shope holds multiple degrees, a Master of Arts in Professional Writing, Master of Education specializing in TESOL, and a Doctorate in Education specializing in TESOL. She also teaches multiple academic courses in various universities in Georgia: Reinhardt College, Dalton College, Georgia Perimeter College, Georgia State University, and University of Georgia. Dr. Shope considers the education at the KE as “an ideal model of multi-cultural Christian instruction and training.” She has even supplemented some of our courses into her students' assignments and projects. Her students are asked to monitor our courses as part of her course requirements. Thus far, three of her students have monitored our classroom instruction and voiced their admiration. According to Dr. Shope, the three students have expressed how they were impressed with the bilingual classroom instruction and the multitude of Christian knowledge they had received.

In closing, we are all servants of our Father God (ABC and KE). We must maintain and strive to recruit future servants for God and to teach them how to serve Him! On behalf of the Korean Extension staff and student body, the Korean Church Conference, and churches and pastors (Korea and U.S.), I thank you all for your consistent prayers and support.

God bless you!
Sam An
Atlanta Bible College
Korean Extension Administrator

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension
Student Profile



Jin Sook Han (Spring 2007)

Jin Sook Han is a current student of the Korean Extension. She is also an administrative assistant, providing

support to the Korean Extension staff. Ms. Han was raised in a family with firm Christian beliefs. Her mother, who was an elder, influenced much of the family's perception of God. Unfortunately, Ms. Han's mother passed away last year in January. The funeral ceremony was held at the North campus, and it was beautiful! During her time in Korea, Jin Sook attended several churches searching for the truth, but she was never able to accept the churches' philosophies of what the truth is. Then a friend of hers who happened to be a student of the Korean Extension (Bun Soon An), introduced Jin Sook to the Korean Extension. After enrolling, she realized the truth she was searching for was finally discovered. Jin Sook quotes, "God led me here!" Soon after, she notified her sister in Korea to tell her the amazing news (Ms. Han's sister is a youth minister for one of the largest mega churches in South Korea). Steve and Young met with Ms. Han's sister on a trip to Korea a few years ago. The meeting lasted four hours, resulting in Ms. Han's sister requesting some way to access a Korean Extension class from Korea. Since 2007, she has been viewing Steve's Systematic Theology class. In Jin Sook's final words, "Serving the Lord is the truth and learning and working at the Korean Extension is what I am compelled to do now!" ■

ABC News

The fall semester started on the McDonough Campus on August 20 with an enrollment of 65. This compares with 60 in the fall of 2011. We are delighted to welcome 29 new students this semester, including five new students from churches affiliated with our conference. These Church of God students come to us from South Carolina, Georgia, Missouri, Virginia, and Illinois. Eight students from Church of God congregations are taking advantage of our free tuition program this semester. Ten other Church of God students are taking classes.

This semester two new adjunct instructors are delivering courses: Pastor Kyle Casey of the Bethel Church in South Carolina is teaching our Youth Ministry Purpose course, and ABC student Jack Kmiciek is leading our Worship Service Planning Lab. Students in this lab plan weekly chapel services, as well as gain experience by working with the worship team at Cornerstone Bible Church.

Other instructors this semester are Rob Bernheisel, Gary Burnham, Anthony Buzzard, Sean Finnegan, Bob Jones, David Krogh, Joe Martin, Rebekah Martin, Jogi Mauger, Allen Onyango, David Riley, and Mary Ann Winkler. Jake Ballard continues to oversee our Moodle Distance Learning program.

ABC apartment managers Mitch and Kim Raper have planned several social events each month, including a trip

to Six Flags, a bowling party, the annual Death by Chocolate Party, Martins' Mayhem, a camping trip to Jack River Falls, a Stone Mountain laser show, and ice skating at Centennial Olympic Park. Weekly campus student devotions are also scheduled.



Students at Atlanta Bible College

We continue to have weekly lunches for students and staff after chapel services on Thursday. A number of guest speakers have presented messages. Thanks to the churches and individuals who make these lunches financially possible.

A Go Serve trip has been scheduled for Omaha, Nebraska October 12-18.

The dates for the annual ABC-I (College Invitational) have been set for March 21-24. We invite prospective students to visit the college during this time. ABC News is an e-mail newsletter that is sent weekly when school is in session. It tells who the chapel speakers are, a section on "meet our students", prayer requests and other campus news. If you would like to be added to this mailing list, please send your request to dkrogh@abc-coggc.org. —David Krogh

Baptisms

Arkansas

Greenbrier – Gage Johnston (8/5/12), Cody Nycum (8/12/12), and Shelby Coats (9/16/12) by Pastor Tom New

Illinois

Oregon – Brenna Noon (7/29/12) by Pastor Michael Hoffman

Minnesota

Cold Spring – Bryce Schoenherr (8/25/12) by his parents, Kevin and Holly Schoenherr

Ohio

North Hills – Rachel Miller (1/8/12), Jessica Borders and Grace Fultz (4/29/12), Cody Tullis (6/17/12), Celeste Driskill (7/15/12), Michael Daugherty (7/29/12), McKenzie Crosbie (8/5/12), Jim Campbell, Katelynn Newton, and Kacie Harvell (9/9/12) by Pastor Seth Ross
Troy – Ronnie Thacker and Erika Daughenbaugh (8/17/12) by Pastor Dan Cain

South Carolina

Guthrie Grove – Luke Elwell (6/10/12) by Pastor Jim Shaul; Daniel Boswell (7/1/12) by Joseph Partain; Evan Grant (7/29/12) by his grandfather Joe James; Ivey Burriss (8/5/12) by Pastor Mike Montgomery

Washington

Wenatchee – Lauren Davis (8/12/12) by Pastor Kirby Davis

Deaths

Illinois

Eldorado – Wilma Lee Kittinger, 84, (3/23/12), long-time member. Service by Pastor Brian Atra and Elder Jack Wiggins; Sandra “Sandy” Rose, 69, (7/6/12), long-time member. Service by Pastor Brian Atra

Indiana

Culver – John Drang, 71, (8/3/12). Service by Pastor Bob Collier

Plymouth – Phyllis Reaker, 83, (9/9/12), long-time church member. Service by Pastor Bob Collier

Missouri

Poplar Bluff – Melvin Rogers, 87, (8/2/12), long-time church member. Service by Pastor Brian Atra

South Carolina

Bethel – Ida Mae Culbertson (8/11/12) by Pastors Wally Winner and Kyle Casey

Shine Up! - Rachel Cain

“Shine Up” began as an outlet for publishing some devotional essays I had written. I love to write about things God is teaching me, but I realized that even though I wrote the essays, very few people got to read them! I wondered if perhaps some other people had talents they wanted to use for God, but had no method by which to share them. “Shine Up” provides an opportunity for people with a variety of talents - from writing and photography to music and sermons and *much* more - to publish their God-inspired creations on the internet, and in doing so, “shine up” for God. Also, by sharing these talents, we are building a database of resources that pastors and Sunday School teachers, among others, can use without worrying about doctrinal issues.

Visit www.shineup.org to explore the resources and get involved. (The website is still somewhat sparse right now... which is why we need you to contribute!) You can also e-mail shineup.org@gmail.com to submit any work that you would like to share to bring glory to God. God has blessed each of His children with talents for His glory. “Shine Up” exists to help us share with the world the light that He has placed inside us... all so God can be praised!

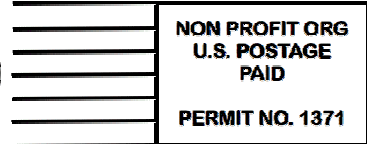
- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and the St. Cloud, MN Church.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Scott Ross and his efforts to lead our Isolated Member Ministry (IMM).
- 3 **Praise God for the board of directors members who are willing to serve the Church of God.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Kirby and Bonnie 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 Werner Bartl and John Horsewood as they prepare to visit churches in Pakistan.**
- 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 Praise God on this Thanksgiving Day for His goodness in your life.
- 23 **Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life.**
- 24 Pray for the churches within your state or regional conference.
- 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 an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.**
- 28 Pray for Victor and Jodi Werhanowicz as they visit Peru (11/29 through 12/3) to teach Victorious Christian Living material to the Lima church folks.
- 29 **Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation.**
- 30 Pray for new contacts through the distribution of literature and our website.

Prayer and Praise

December 2012

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Beloit New Life, WI.**
- 2 Praise God for your pastor as he or she shares God's Word today.
- 3 **Pray for safety and good ministry for Werner Bartl and John Horsewood as they visit both Pakistan churches and the leader of the work, Pastor Vaster Saajan.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Karen Fletcher and the Cool Spring Church in Browntown, Virginia.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Seth and Stacey Ross and the North Hills, OH church.**
- 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 Pastor Darrell and Diana Cardwell and 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 Bob and Susan Collier 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 2012.**

Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400
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Top left: Kids registering for FUEL

Top right: Arkansas Quiz Champions

Bottom right: Sean playing the drums at FUEL

Bottom left: FUEL participants helping lead "Hold Us Together" during one of the main sessions at FUEL.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 2, DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013

& PROGRESS JOURNAL



THE HOLY CHILD... THE SON OF GOD

Luke 1:26-37

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 26 | Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, | | Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; |
| 27 | to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. | 33 | and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." |
| 28 | And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." | 34 | Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" |
| 29 | But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. | 35 | The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy child shall be called the Son of God. |
| 30 | The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. | | |
| 31 | "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. | 36 | "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. |
| 32 | "He will be great and will be called the | 37 | "For nothing will be impossible with God." |

**THE RESTITUTION HERALD
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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**

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

May 2-5
Theological Conference
Simpsonwood Conference Center
Norcross, GA

July 10-12
93rd Annual General Conference
Guthrie Grove Church of God
Pelzer, SC

July 21-26
FUEL
Manchester College
North Manchester, IN

SERVANTS WANTED FOR THE FUTURE

Have you ever thought of working for Atlanta Bible College or the Church of God General Conference? Over the next few years, some of us will be transitioning from full-time service to part-time service or retirement. If you are interested in the possibility, and feeling a call of God, please send a note and resume to Dr. Joe Martin, P.O. Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253. It will be kept in confidence.

Our Vision statement begins with "To Join God...," and our Mission statement begins with "To Serve Churches and Individuals..." Our values statement is LIFTS, Love, Integrity, Faith, Teamwork, Truth and Service. If you are interested in a job of service (remember this is a church-based organization), in administration, in teaching, in office work, generally at less pay than the "world" offers, please let us know of your interest.

Prophecy Page

The End is Near!

By Wally Winner

Stop the Christmas shopping! You may not have to worry about what to get for great aunt Gertrude or which family gets you Christmas Eve and the other Christmas day. What you have not read in the Toys R Us, Wal-Mart, Kmart and Target ads is the world will be coming to an end on December 21st. Now this is not a problem for me, since I always hold out for the bargains on December 24th in the late afternoons, so I should come out of this in a sweet position.

Perhaps you have forgotten the Mayan prophecy of the apocalypse on December 21st.

Dr. Michael Coe is one of the greatest living experts on ancient Mayan civilization. He stated in 1966 that the end of the Mayan calendar could actually be the biblical Armageddon. Coe is an archaeologist with a doctorate from Harvard who has worked for the CIA. That's what really started it all! Now, for nearly 50 years, we have been building this up in our social conscience.

In 2006, the History Channel stated that the ancient Mayans were masters of time and practiced prophets who could predict that the world would end on December 21, 2012!

Others also linked the Mayan calendar to other various doomsday predictions such as: an ABC News 20/20 aired the *"Last Days on Earth"*, in 2006; a second History Channel segment entitled *"Doomsday 2012 - The End of Days"*, aired in 2007; an A&E produced program entitled *"Seven Signs of the Apocalypse"* aired on the History Channel in 2008; and another History Channel produced documentary entitled *"Nostradamus 2012"* aired in 2009.

We really don't have a track record of accuracy by the Mayans. The Mayan culture disappeared long before their calendar ended. The Mayans may have been an advanced race in astrology and mathematics. However, they were not so proficient in their predictions. They might have foretold the end of life in the year 2012, but they could not predict the disappearance and demise of their own culture. Isn't that the test of a true prophet?

Consider this:

There are at least 333 prophecies of the first coming of Christ that were literally fulfilled. Here are just a few of them:

1. Isaiah 7:14 Born of a virgin
2. Micah 5:2 At Bethlehem
3. Jeremiah 31:15 Slaughter of children
4. Hosea 11:1 Called out of Egypt
5. Psalm 41:9; 55:12-14 Betrayed by a friend
6. Zechariah 13:7 Disciples forsake Him

There are prophecies yet to be fulfilled. Some of them are:

1. I Thessalonians 4:16; Acts 1:11 He shall come Himself to the earth
2. I Thessalonians 4:17 The dead are raised and changed believers will be caught up to meet Him
3. Zechariah 14:4 He will come to the same Mt of Olives from which He ascended
4. Matthew 24:30 He will come in the clouds of heaven with power and glory
5. Revelation 1:7 Every eye shall see Him
6. Luke 1:32; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6 He shall have the throne of David upon the earth

These are but a few of the many prophecies that will be literally fulfilled at the second coming of Jesus. Many specific prophecies tell of the events to precede His coming. They mention Russia, the western nations, China and the third world nations. They speak of the events that will bring all nations against Jerusalem triggering the final battle. These will be fulfilled with the same accuracy as the prophecies that have already been fulfilled.

Christ is coming again. We can be assured of that. But, if the world was going to end on December 21st, would they have sold me a two-year warranty on my new air compressor last week? ■

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

The LORD has work to do.
(Jer. 50:25 NIV)

This phrase taken from Jeremiah symbolizes to me our job. We are to join God in whatever He is doing, His work. It seems His will is clear on the big things—“not willing that any should perish.” (II Pet. 3:9) Since he is “not willing,” or wanting, any to perish, His Son gave us our orders, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mk. 16:15) What part of “God is not willing” and “Go...” can we misunderstand?

I reread the purpose statements from our official constitution of the ABC/COGGC. The By-Laws, Article One says, “The Church of God General Conference, through partnership with conferences and local churches of God, assists members in the performance of their commission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.” In our vision statement we are “To Join God...” and in our mission statement we are “To Serve Churches and Individuals...” The By-Laws continue in that paragraph, that we “...serve as an advocate of the Church of God to the world.”

Again, what part of join God in His work and will, go, serve and proclaim the gospel is confusing? None, I believe. We have had an election. What changes on our end? Nothing! We are

to be about our “Father’s business.”

Jerry Briggs, for a class sermon, spoke on “We are the salt of the earth!” It was a great message that we are the change agent and preservative in a fallen world. Too much salt and abrasiveness can be a bad thing, but the right amount in a saline solution purifies wounds. Jack Kmiecik had a sermon on “All In!” Using the card game illustration, he asked, “How many of us are ‘All In’ for the kingdom and Christ in the work of God?” Good question! Are we all in?

These young men have challenged me, and therefore I challenge you. Are you all in to being the salt of the earth for Jesus and the kingdom, even in trying times? If so, carry on!!

THREE OTHER THINGS for this holiday season and new year. Many of you should have received, or will be receiving, letters from me and the staff suggesting three things you can do for your General Conference and your Atlanta Bible College. They are **FIRST- PRAY!** The work of God is based on individuals tuned in to God and His will and direction. Please pray for our pastors, our board, our staff, our students, our youth, our mission fields, our churches, etc. Prayer is the basis for God working in us to do His will.

SECOND - GIVE! A priority in giving tithes and offerings is the local church. I don’t think Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount takes us into legalism. I think He takes us into generosity beyond our imagination. If people generously gave to the local church, and the local church generously gave a tithe to local conferences, and tithed to the General Conference, probably no church or conference would have “money problems.” As evidenced by the recent giving to missions, our missions are well-supported. Still, someone needs to pay the light bill from the General Fund. Your giving to the General Fund and ABC Boosters is very important.

THIRD - REMEMBER! The local church, Atlanta Bible College and the General Conference in our estate planning/wills. Obviously don’t forget the kids (Prov. 13:22 - “A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children.”) Just a year away, we remember the miraculous gift of Pastor Jack and Louise Hearp. By the time you get this, I will officially be a “senior”. I am wondering what can I do, if the Lord tarries, and I die, for the work of God? I encourage you to do this as well. David Krogh is an excellent source for wills, bequests and annuity giving. Start planning for God’s part. ■

SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE TAKE NOTE: If you have seasonal address changes, please let us know so we can adjust our database. This will avoid any interruption in receiving THE RESTITUTION HERALD and other mailings you may be listed to receive. Please call Nola at 800-347-4261, 678-833-1839; or e-mail njones@abc-coggc.org.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10, 11). As we enter another Christmas season, we wish you the very best. We pray that as the Messiah was born to save, so shall He soon come to rescue His people from a lost and dying world. That he may soon return to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. What a wonderful message we have to share with those who only look upon this season as a time for Santa Claus, gift-giving and overeating.

It is hard to believe that the first semester of Atlanta Bible College will be over shortly. It has been a good four and a half months. Our students are dedicated and committed to learning and serving in ways they have not done in the past. How very proud and grateful we are for the many “Go Serve” trips the students have participated in during the semester. I know that each church they visited was blessed and happy to have them. I would encourage other churches to take advantage of this willingness to serve from our student body.

Your board of directors met for two days during the month of October. We have a great team which is dedicated to the General Conference and college and the mission set before them. This year's board members are: Carrie Briggs, Alan Cain, Julie Driskill, Rick McClain, Greg Demmit, Bob Morrison, and Joe Myers. Julie and Bob are the new members elected at our July conference. We have our challenges, but with God's help, we will progress. Our prayer needs include the desire to fully use our building either by our conference and college, or by renting out offices to help support our financial needs. We also ask for prayer that God would increase the size of the student body both at our south campus and also the Korean Extension campus. The flagging economy has impacted the number of students who have the financial ability to travel from Korea to the United States to attend school. It has also affected the number of students taking classes at our McDonough campus. This, in turn, then impacts

our overall general budget's income. But more importantly than the finances, we need more men and women to serve in our churches! There are too many churches in our conferences going without a pastor right now simply because we do not have enough individuals to fill those needs. God continues to provide, and we know He always will. We are grateful for all your prayer and financial support and encouragement to send others to the college to prepare for ministry.

Our work in the area of foreign missions continues to be very encouraging. The work in Africa continues to expand. We actually now have more local churches in Africa than we do in the United States! Our Lord's Harvest International board is expanding! Pastors Andy Cisneros and Kimberly Raper join an already dedicated and committed team. We thank God for the continuing members: Judy Myers, Rebekah Martin, David Krogh, Rick McClain, and Warren Sorenson.

Let me close by expressing how grateful I am to be a member of the Church of God General Conference. We have many flaws and “warts.” But I do believe we are a people who strive to follow God's will and God's Word. We are still a people willing to take a stand for the one God, His kingdom, Christ's return, and the resurrection from the dead. We still believe in the inerrancy and inspiration of the Bible. We still preach and teach baptism by immersion. Prayer to the Father through the Son. We still believe that God works in and through His people by the power of the Holy Spirit. Please celebrate this Christmas by once again thanking our heavenly Father for the gift of His Son. It is a wonderful truth we can all relate to and be grateful for. God bless you all.

In Christ,

Joe Myers, Chair

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 Leaders Listen Well to God and to People

Great leaders speak well, inspiring others, instructing others, carefully laying out the path to be taken. But before the leader can speak well—and be heard well—the leader must listen well. Easy to say. Not so easy for every leader to do.

Listening is hard work, assuming we actually desire to hear what is being said, honor the speaker and incorporate what we hear into our leadership decisions. If we aspire to be great leaders, we must listen well to both God and people.

First, and of highest priority, is that we listen well to God. The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah recorded a tremendous promise from God, “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3) Please don’t miss the implications of this promise. God, the creator of the entire universe, declares that if we will call to Him and listen, He will speak to us, telling us things we don’t already know!

Maybe God will speak to us in a clear, soft voice. Maybe He will inspire our mind, heart and eyes to think, feel and see what He thinks, feels and sees. Maybe He’ll communicate in some other way. Bottom line? How dare I take a step in leadership without seeking God’s perspective and claiming His promise that He will communicate to me if I listen well. God wants me to listen to Him!

Of course, listening well means I’m quiet long enough to listen, I’m actually interested in hearing God’s perspective and making it mine, and that

I’m going to let God’s perspective mold my decision-making and leadership. These are critical keys to hearing God well.

I know that in my leadership decisions and actions over the years I have not always listened well to God first. One of the proverbs suggests that makes me a fool. “The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.” (Proverbs 12:15) I don’t like thinking that I have been a fool at times, but the scriptural truth is clear. If I lead without first listening well to God, my leadership will suffer, and the folks I lead may suffer as well.

This proverb also applies to listening to the advice wise people around us can provide. How well do we listen to folks around us? Folks we lead? Even folks that disagree with us?

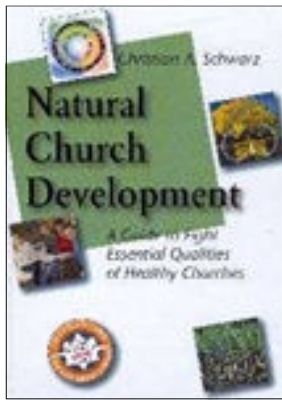
“My dear brothers, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” (James 1:19) A great leader will listen well before speaking, and will listen well before becoming angry. James asked his readers to carefully take note of the fact that they should listen first. Perhaps he also wished them to take note of the fact that God provided two ears and only one mouth. It is sometimes suggested that the two ears imply God intends us to listen twice as long as we talk. That may be a very good guideline for a great leader.

Work to be a great listener...of God and of others.

YOUR INPUT FOR THIS FEATURE? Is there a particular leadership topic, question, Bible text, Bible character, etc. you would like to see addressed in this feature? Please let me know!

Gary Burnham
Ministry Services Network Director
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.

Are Your Church Structures Effective?

This article is the fourth of eight articles offering an extended view into each of the eight quality characteristics of Natural Church Development. The fourth quality is Effective Structures.

Some level of structure (or organization) exists in every church. The key issues revolve around whether or not the structures currently in place truly support the work of the church, or, actually hinder the work of the church.

There are at least two tough truths to remember in the quality characteristic of effective structures. Truth number one: it is highly unlikely that an organizational structure that is a great fit for one church will also be a great fit for another church without careful, church-specific alterations. Since no two churches are identical, likely no two churches' structures will be identical if they are truly effective.

Truth number two, related to truth number one: once found, a church's organizational structure is not "carved in stone" forever, but must be a living structure evaluated and changed as needed to make sure it is well-serving the church, rather than requiring the church to serve it. As the church changes, so too should the structure—if it is to remain effective.

NCD measures four critical components for churches seeking to build and maintain effective structures.

The first component asks, "Do we plan effectively?". How well, and how often, does our leadership team set goals and plan strategically? Do we help folks understand and stay connected to church goals? Are our programs and activities clearly well-planned? Do we review well and adjust accordingly?

The second component asks, "How well are our ministries and programs connected to our structure so it supports them?". How well do our folks understand the structure? In what ways does our structure facilitate our ministry? In what ways does our structure hinder our ministry—and need to be changed?

The third component asks, "Do we innovate and manage change well?". How does our structure both allow and encourage appropriate change? Do we give freedom for new ministry development? Are we able to give attention and understanding to the emotions of our church family during changes that take place?

The fourth component asks, "Does the structure support the effectiveness of our leadership?". Are ministry leaders equipped to give great oversight to the folks they lead? Is training made available to both workers and leaders? Does our structure encourage and provide for folks to be well-mentored? Do we identify and train apprentices?

The church structure should never be assumed to be effective. Only when it actually is effective is the ministry it supports also effective.

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; 1-800-347-4261

Most of us have an Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible. You will note that the One Who inspired it to be written is called, "The LORD," as in Exodus 3:15, where He is quoted as saying, "Thus shall you say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name forever, and this is my memorial unto all generations."

Again, in the Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:7, the third commandment, is quoted as saying, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain."

Most other translations of the Bible also render His Name as "the LORD," or "GOD," in small capital letters.

But is this the Creator's Name? Is this what He inspired to be written? No, it most definitely is not! The Bible was originally written in the Hebrew language, because it was given to Hebrew prophets He had called for that purpose. What they wrote was the Name He gave Himself: the Hebrew letters, Yod, Hay, Waw, Hay, corresponding in English to YHWH. This is called the Tetragrammaton, or the "four letters." Look up in your own diction-

ary or encyclopedia, "tetragrammaton," "YHWH," Yahweh, Jehovah, God and Lord.

Originally the Hebrew language did not have vowels. Only consonants were written, and the reader provided the vowel sounds. The Jews confirm that the Name should be pronounced "Yahweh," in their

"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain."
Ex. 20:7

own encyclopedia, but they will not pronounce it. They developed a superstition that it was too sacred and holy to be pronounced, so they substituted "Adonai," meaning "My Lord," or "the Lord." They used two scriptures to justify this: the third commandment, Exodus 20:7, and Leviticus 24:16, which says, "And he that blasphemeth the Name of Yahweh, he shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall surely stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the Name shall be put to death."

They thought the best way to avoid blaspheming His Name

was to avoid it altogether. So they quit using it, writing the vowels of "Adonai" up over it where it appeared in their Hebrew Scriptures (about 7,000 times), so the reader would read "Yahweh," but pronounce "Adonai."

And Bible translators for the most part have followed this unauthorized man-made custom in their own translations. Yet most of them tell us in their prefaces or forewords what they have done, and that the proper name of the Most High is Yahweh.

Well, you might ask, what difference does this make? He knows who I'm referring to when I call Him Lord or God, doesn't He? He knows who the translators

meant, doesn't He?

Yes, He knows our hearts. He knows our very thoughts. But the difficulty lies in the fact that LORD or GOD is not His name, and by quoting Him as saying, "I am the LORD," we are putting lying words in His mouth. We are making Him out to be a liar. We are establishing our own righteousness, and disobeying Him. We are saying we know better than He does what He should be called.

Yahweh attaches great importance to His Name. He says it is Holy, it is to be revered, it is not to be polluted or used in a vain way. Incredibly, His

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Name appears in the Old Testament manuscripts approximately 7,000 times (One thousand times more than seven, the biblical number of completeness)!

Yet, foolish man in his “wisdom” has tried to obliterate His Name completely. For instance, in the King James Bible, His Name appears only four times (in the corrupted form Jehovah), and once as Jah (Psa. 68:4). The “j” originally had the “y” sound. Everywhere else, it has been rendered “The LORD” or “GOD.”

Certainly this is Satan-inspired, in an attempt to lead man astray. Let's examine a few scriptures either quoting Yahweh Himself, or one of His prophets, that show the importance He attaches to His Name.

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the Name of Yahweh thy (El) in vain; for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain. This is the third commandment. “In vain” means to bring to nothing, to make useless or of none effect, or to misuse it. This commandment means far more than just not cursing and swearing. It means, among other things, to not forsake it or take it away, which is just exactly what foolish man has done.

Psalm 83:18 That men may know that thou, whose Name alone is Yahweh, art the most High over all the Earth.

Isaiah 42:8 I am Yahweh: that is My Name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Psalm 68:4 Sing unto (Elohim), sing praises to His Name: extol Him that rideth upon the heavens by His Name Jah (Yah, the short, or poetic form of Yahweh, as in HalleluYah). This praiseful expression is known in almost every language on earth, and means, “Praise ye Yahweh.”

Ezekiel 43:7 And He (Yahweh) said unto me, “... and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile,”

Proverbs 30:4 “... what is His Name, and what is His Son's Name, if thou canst tell?”

Isaiah 12: 2, 4: “...Yah Yahweh is my strength and my song; He also is become my salvation.” “And in that day shall ye say, ‘Praise Yahweh, call upon His Name, declare His doings among the people, make mention that His Name is exalted.’”

Isaiah 52:5-6 Now therefore, what have I here, saith Yahweh, that my people are taken away for nought? They that rule over them make them to mourn, saith Yahweh; and My Name continually every day is blasphemed. Therefore My people shall know My Name... .

Ezekiel 39:6-7 And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know

that I am Yahweh. So will I make My Holy Name known in the midst of My people Israel; and I will not let them pollute My Holy Name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am Yahweh, the Holy One in Israel.

Psalm 111:9 “... Holy and reverend is His Name.”

John 17:6, 11, 12, 26 (This was in the prayer that Yahshua prayed the night before He died) v. 6: I have manifested (made known) Thy Name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world... , v. 11: ... Holy Father, keep through thine own Name those whom thou hast given me, v. 12: While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy Name... v. 26: And I have declared unto them Thy Name, and will declare it

Revelation 19:1, 3, 4, 6 all use the worshipful phrase, HalleluYah (Gr. Alleluia).

In like manner that man has taken away Yahweh's Name and brought it to nought (took it in vain), the name of Yahweh's Son has also been corrupted. His Name is Yahshua, the same as the Israelite general who succeeded Moses, the one called Joshua in our English Bibles. There was not then, nor is there now, a letter “j” in either the Hebrew or the Greek language. All proper nouns (names of people, cities, countries, etc.) found in the Bible that start with a “j” should be

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

pronounced with a “y” sound. For more on this, write for free literature on The Name. It will be sent by return mail.

There is no question that our Creator has a name, and so does His son. Those names are Yahweh and Yahshua (Yahshua means Yah's salvation. See Matthew 1:20-21. The angel said, “you shall call Him Yahshua for He shall save His people from their sins.”) Yahshua means salvation of Yah, or Yah's salvation. He carries the family name, whereas the term “Jesus” has no meaning.

The only question is: can you understand the importance of knowing and using these names, or will you continue to use the names of local deities and idols which He hates, when calling on Him, or worshipping Him?

One man told me recently that he had “studied the Sacred Name doctrine out, and found there's nothing to it.” All I can say to that is that you need to study it some more. All you need is a Bible, a good dictionary, encyclopedia, or Bible helps such as a concordance (and an open mind), and start looking up the words mentioned earlier, such as Lord, God, Jehovah, Yahweh, tetragrammaton, Jesus, Joshua, etc.

Some have said, “Why should we be reading along in our English Bibles, come to the name of the Creator, and suddenly have to speak Hebrew?”

What they don't realize is that most of the names in the Bible are Hebrew, such as Moses, Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, even Satan. Jerusalem, Judah, Bethany, all Hebrew. And when they speak these names, they are, in effect, speaking Hebrew.

Names are not translated from one language to another; they are transliterated. This means the same sound is brought forward into the new language as nearly as possible. “The Lord” is not a translation of Yahweh. Neither is “God”. They are substitutions. Paul said there are gods many and lords many (1 Cor. 8:5).

“Jesus” was an attempt at transliterating Yahshua's name into English, but it fell miserably short of the mark. Since the “j” had the “y” sound, it was originally pronounced “Yah-soos,” because the Greeks did not have the “sh” sound in their language, and an “a” ending carries a feminine connotation, so they ended it with an “s.” Later, to get away from the “Yah” sound, they changed that to “Yesus,” which is closer to the Jews' “Yeshua.” Then, after the “j” was given the soft “g” sound, it was but a short step to what we have today—“Jesus.”

Scripture tells us in Joel 2:32, “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the Name of Yahweh shall be delivered... .”

This is repeated in Acts 2:21, “And it shall come to pass, that

whosoever shall call on the Name of Yahweh shall be saved.”

Acts 4:12, speaking of Yahshua, says, “neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Yahshua carries Yahweh's name. He is Yah's salvation. That is His Name. No other name will do. He said so, and I believe it. Do you?

Now that you know, what will you do? Will you continue to use the pagan titles and names of foreign gods used by strangers to the covenant when you worship, or will you repent of this evil, and worship the only true Mighty One, Yahweh, and His Son, our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah? It's your decision.

"And it shall
come to pass,
that whosoever
shall call on
the Name of
Yahweh
shall be
delivered..."

Joel 2:32

Verses to Live By

“And there shall be no more curse”
Revelation 22:3 KJ

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted,
that your sins may be blotted out,
when the times of refreshing shall come
from the presense of the Lord;
And he shall send Jesus Christ,
which before was preached unto you:
Whom the heaven must receive
until the times of restitution of all things...”
Acts 3:19-21 KJ

These two passages express the Christian’s hope. The curse which God placed on the earth in the beginning just after Adam and Eve disobeyed God shall be removed, and Jesus will restore all things that God has promised to restore.

When Jehovah “the only true God” (John 17:3) created all things, He looked over everything He had made and declared that that it was “very good” (Gen. 1:31). When our God makes a statement like that, we can believe it. Everything God made was very good. It is difficult for us, now, to imagine how everything was so good, because very soon, God put a curse on His good earth because of mortal man’s failure to believe Him. Man had disobeyed what God had told him to do.

God had planted a garden toward the east, in Eden. There He had placed many trees, but there were two special ones: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He gave them their choice. The idea was, if they ate of the tree of life they would continue living (they were created mortal). But if they ate of the other tree, they would die. Now they had no idea what this meant. They were already alive, weren't they? And what was death? They had never seen anything die.

The point of this test was: God wanted them to listen to Him and follow His advice. You can continue to live on, or you can bring death upon you (and the whole human race). (Rom. 5:12) But they weren't thinking that far ahead.

There was a tempter there who twisted God’s words, and told Eve: “Hasn't God said ‘You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?’” The woman corrected him, and told him they could eat of all the trees except one, the tree that would bring to them the meaning of good and evil. And God had warned them that if they chose to eat of it, they would die.

Then the devil contradicted what God had told them, saying they wouldn’t die. But He didn’t tell them the truth. He just didn’t want them to be as smart as He is. The serpent said, “God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God” and know what He knows.

The woman was deceived (Adam wasn’t, 1 Tim. 2:14). The serpent picked on the woman on purpose, to put a falsehood in her mind. She believed him and gave this forbidden tree another look. It was pretty, the fruit looked good, and “was desirable to make one wise,” so, without checking with Adam, she ate some of it. Then, since nothing happened to her, he ate some, too. Then their eyes were opened, and they knew things were not as rosy as they thought they would be. They realized they had no clothes on, and they tried to make some out of fig leaves, because those were the largest leaves. They didn’t realize how scratchy they were. (I’ve had fig trees for years.)

Then God came and checked them out: “Where are you?” Adam told him that when they heard His voice, they were afraid and they hid. (Imagine trying to hide from Almighty God.) They gave a lame excuse, but God got right to the point and asked them if they had eaten of the forbidden fruit. As Adam was explaining why they did, he blamed Eve, then she blamed the serpent. So God gave them His judgment, starting with the serpent, then Eve, then Adam—judgments which would affect them in this life until the final judgment. Death came upon them, and they would return to the dust from which He made them. Since that day, all of us have died. This is the curse God placed on the earth and everything in it. Everything is cursed, and eventually dies. That’s why the thorns and thistles came into being. That’s why women have pain in childbirth. That’s why men have to work hard for a living.

But, through all the ages God has given us and the earth, the hope of a better day coming—a day where the curse is removed and everything is restored. What a day that will be! It’s our hope! Then the eyes of the blind Christians shall be opened, the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped, the lame shall leap as the deer, and the tongue of the dumb shall shout for joy (Isaiah 35:4-10). Doesn't that bring tears to your eyes, you who have loved ones who need healing like I do?

This is why some of our churches are called “Blessed Hope Church of God.” If this isn’t “blessed hope,” I don't know what is.

NextGen[eration]

GO SERVE FALL 2012

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 10:45

JAYNES STREET CHURCH OF GOD GO SERVE TRIP

This semester we have had the privilege of going on two Go Serve trips! Our first trip took us to Omaha, Nebraska, and Jaynes Street Church of God hosted us. It was such a blessing to be able to join the Faith Youth group at the Jaynes Street Church for the Brandon Heath concert our first day in Omaha. The group participated in a food drive, and, by giving the most items, they won tickets to the show!



It was a great time of fellowship and worship. On Sunday morning our team led the entire service, including Jesse Allen from Missouri delivering his first sermon. Several of the team members participated on the worship team, teaching classes, running media, and Chelsea Heilman also shared a spoken word that she had written. We spent the rest of our time doing some service projects, including emptying and demolishing the kitchen, cleaning the carpets, and we were able to spend time doing yard work for some of the members of the community! The Jaynes Street Church is working with the Salvation Army North Corps in Omaha, and we were able to volunteer at their after school program painting, tutoring, and playing with the kids. Our time ended with our team leading the youth groups on Wednesday evening. The team members on this trip were Jack Kmiecik, Jordan Dimmick, Jesse Allen, Chelsea Heilman, Shelby Upton, Jonathan Foster, Paige Montgomery, and Kimberly Raper.



LOUISIANA/ARKANSAS YOUTH RETREAT

On Friday night after the Go Serve team arrived at Blood River, Pastor John Wincapaw met with us to review the schedule for the retreat and finalize our responsibilities. About an hour later the Arkansas group arrived, and we kicked off the weekend with a great message brought to us from Pastor John. The responsibilities included being cabin leaders, leading classes, games, and ice-breakers. The primary focus of this trip was to be intentional about building relationships with those youth and youth leaders that were at the event, and our goal is continue to strengthen those relationships beyond the weekend. Through this experience we grew closer together as a student community. During recreation time it was wonderful to build friendships, catch up with long-distance friends, and relax! We encountered numerous youth that were interested in attending Atlanta Bible College in their future.



“Not only did the Go Serve team students have the opportunity to teach the students that were attending this event, the youth also taught us and challenged us by their eagerness to learn about God.” – Jesse Allen

A special thanks to: Joe and Rebekah Martin, Jordan Dimmick, Jesse Allen, Jonathan Foster, Paige Montgomery, Shelby Upton, Jack Kmiecik, Joel Fletcher, Beth Reise, and Calvin LeBlanc for being a part of this trip.

Korean Extension Update

Greetings to our Church of God conference members,

The history of the Korean Extension is something most of you are aware of and rather than communicating to you about our operation, please allow me to take the opportunity to share some history about a former graduate, who is also a former employee, Young Hee An.

Young Hee arrived from South Korea in 2007, but prior to her arrival she struggled with where God was leading her. She has always been passionate about evangelism, so after graduating from a Presbyterian theological college, she prepared for a long-term evangelical trip to the Philippines. As part of her preparation, she also visited a pastor (Yoo) to discuss the trip. Pastor Yoo has been involved with pastoral leadership for over 10 years in the Atlanta-Korean area, and he has also attended numerous Korean Extension classes to expand his theological knowledge. During their conversation, Pastor Yoo asked whether the information she attained from college is enough to truly spread God's message effectively in the Philippines.

He addressed Young Hee with some thought-provoking questions, like "what if it is not enough, is the attained biblical knowledge true based on what you have discovered in the Bible through your self-studies, am I confident that the knowledge is adequate." The comments and questions convicted Young Hee to rethink her plans. Meanwhile, Pastor Yoo also introduced her to the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension. He explained his positive experience, and that he attends frequently when he has the opportunity to visit Atlanta. He made a strong recommendation for her to attend and compare the knowledge between both schools, so she can be confident in her faith. She accepted Pastor Yoo's proposition, which marked Young Hee's life-changing moment. She immediately enrolled into the Korean Extension for the fall of 2007, experiencing the Abrahamic Faith and attaining truth, and she graduated May 2011.

After her graduation, she applied and was accepted to be an intern pastor at the Campus Bible Church of God (Duluth, GA). Soon after, she began teaching biblical and ministry classes for the Korean Extension. Upon two years of intern pastoral service, she applied and became a licensed minister under the Korean Church Conference. The Korean Extension is also happy and sad to announce that Young Hee will be leaving the United States in December. Although she was not able to go to the Philippines, she has not lost her desire to evangelize. Young Hee has mentioned that throughout her studies at the Korean Extension, she realized her first priority in the mission field is to evangelize in Korea and not the Philippines. Young Hee plans to begin a church when she returns to Korea, and she also plans to establish frequent alumni conferences where former KE graduates will have the opportunity to fellowship with colleagues.

Please pray for Young Hee An as she prepares to perform for the Lord in the field!

Cornerstone Church (October 2012)



Greg Demmitt / Joe Myers / Young Hee An /
Bob Morrison / Joe Martin

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension – Student Profile



Ho Kyung Yoo (Husband) / Bun Soon An

Mrs. Bun Soon An has been a Korean Extension student since spring of 2006. She was attending classes regularly until 2008, but as a result of various economic and personal reasons, she has been attending as a part-time student since then. Nonetheless, Mrs. An is excited to complete her studies and graduate in the fall of 2012. She is also preparing for a ministerial internship so she may apply for minister's license to plant and lead a church. Recently, Mrs. An made a generous contribution (\$10,000.00) to the Africa Missions. She mentioned her motivation for donating such a large amount was a result of the Spirit. She stated, "I know God works miracles, and I learned through my studies at the Korean Extension that He urges all people, who are miracles of our Father, to assist one another in this world!"

We teach our Korean students how crucial it is to support our worldwide Christian community and through financial support, we provide others with the opportunity to witness the Good News!

God bless you!
Sam An
Atlanta Bible College
Korean Extension Administrator

Good News

*Like cold water to a weary soul,
So is good news from a distant land.
Proverbs 25:25*

From the **Minnesota State Conference** – Conference was held September 7-9 at Long Lake Bible Camp north of Eden Valley. **Pastor James Ritch of Lenoir, NC** was the guest speaker.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – IBM awarded a \$500 cash grant to the church in recognition of the volunteer service of **Vivian P. Kirkpatrick**. Father/**Pastor Vivian E. Kirkpatrick** is proud and pleased with this award. **Valerie Halverson Pace**, IBM corporate citizenship manager, sent the award letter that ends with “we are pleased to support Hutchinson New Hope in Christ and extend our best wishes for continued success of your programs.”

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** reports that Elder **Karl Froelich** presented a 60-minute seminar on home fire safety and use of fire extinguishers at the church on October 17.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** reports a special grandparents dinner at the church on Sunday evening September 16. **Gary and Jill Hedges** planned the music, skits, readings, and other activities during the evening. The youth helped out in the Hee-Haw theme evening, complete with some dressed in overalls and suspenders. Prizes were given to the grandparents, including the most grandchildren. **Roma Kaffenbarger** easily won that award with 109 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. [Wow! Kudos to Roma! - GNP]

From the **Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH** – **Pastor Dan Cain** reports a Sweetest Day Couples Retreat on October 20. It was informative and enjoyable for all who attended.

From the **Northeast Conference** – **President Kent Ross** reports that a check for \$10,071.00 was presented to **Dr. Joe Martin**, president of Atlanta Bible College, for missionary work in Africa. A modest goal of \$2200 was surpassed by an enor-

mous amount. Churches will be built, and bicycles and Bibles will be bought with this money. Praise the Lord!

From the **Pleasant Hill Church of God in Pleasant Hill, OH** – **Pastor Scott Deane** celebrated his 25th year of service to the congregation on October 14. Congratulations from the GNP.

From **Beloit New Life Church in Beloit, WI** – **Pastor Jason Turner** reports being overwhelmed (his actual word was “slammed”) at the response to the church’s annual giveaway of winter coats in October. There were about 278 coats at the start of the day, and the lines of people were backed up from the front door into the parking lot. Most of the coats were gone, and Pastor Jason estimates that about 240 coats were given away. The sad story is that they had to turn some people away. [Great job, Beloit New Life! - GNP]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** reports how the church assisted Beloit New Life in the coat giveaway by collecting heavy-duty coats and light jackets. [Way to go OCOG in helping out your sister church! – GNP]

From the **Hedrick Church of God in Williamsport, IN** – **Pastor Joe Astolfi** was honored with a western theme Pastor Appreciation Dinner on October 28.

From the **Cool Spring Church of God in Brownstown, VA** – **Pastor Jeff Fletcher** reports some of the church happenings in recent months. In July the church hosted an UP project, welcoming over thirty students and leaders to the church for several days. The church supports Backpack Buddies, a program that assists economically challenged children by giving them a backpack full of food to take home on Friday. The students have something to eat for the weekend and bring back the empty backpacks on Monday. Virginia Conference was held in September at the church with **Vince Finnegan** the guest speaker. In October about thirty from the church helped serve at Community Table. About 200 meals are served to the hungry in the community several times a year. Add collecting diapers for the local crisis pregnancy center and holding a fall festival with games and food and fun, and it certainly seems that Cool Spring is a busy place.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

From the **Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, MO** – **Pastor Dustin Smith** reports that **Ray and Annette Potts** celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary with a renewal of their vows ceremony. Since Ray recently responded to the gospel call, they wanted to celebrate this new beginning in their marriage in this way. [Sounds like an excellent idea! – GNP]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Jimbo and Joyce Callaway** celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on November 3 with a vows renewal ceremony. Congratulations! [Keep those milestone anniversary announcements coming! That is always good news! – GNP]

From the **Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA** – The church welcomed **Pastor Dave Riley** back on the 18th anniversary of the founding of the church by Pastor Dave. A huge crowd of 176 people turned out to support Pastor Dave as he returned to the Cornerstone pulpit.

From the **Resurrection Hope Church of God in Lenoir, NC** – **Pastor James Ritch** reports several projects from the Grace Holden Circle. For the shelter home, baskets are filled with items that the entering women will need. In December the Circle will host guest speaker **Fran Probst** for their Christmas party. Baby items, such as lotion, shampoo, wipes, diapers, and body wash will be collected at that time. Finally, the Circle will enjoy Christmas caroling for the shut-ins on December

8. [Good job, ladies! Keep up the servant spirit! – GNP]

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Samantha Linder** recently won the American Farmer's Degree. It was presented to her October 27 in Indianapolis. This is the highest award given by the FFA. Her parents, **John and Donna Linder**, are also very proud of her award. [Great job, Samantha!]

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – While we're on the subject of awards, **Kaylee Forcier** was crowned homecoming queen of Eden Valley-Watkins High School. "Your church family is proud of you!" writes **Pastor Vivian E. Kirkpatrick**.

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 COG-Land to know about it. [**PLEASE** 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. PLEASE SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS, and we'll put you in print!

Robert L. Jones

Pastors,

We would like to solicit articles from you that can be considered for future issues of THE RESTITUTION HERALD & PROGRESS JOURNAL. We welcome a variety of submissions:

- articles that focus on worship and bringing glory to God
- articles on doctrinal subjects
- articles on ministry subjects
- short devotional thoughts, stories, etc.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions you'd like answered or ideas you'd like considered. Thanks, ahead of time, for any submissions you provide.

Ruth Finnegan
Publishing Specialist

rfinnegan@abc-coggc.org / 518.221.7103



40th Anniversary Celebration Christian Workers' Seminar

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

April 7-12, 2013

This Christian Workers seminar will challenge us to celebrate what He has done in the past forty years! Through the eyes of several different workshop leaders and speakers, you will leave with encouragement, stronger relationships, new information, and better tools to be effective in your ministry. How do we hear accurately what the Lord is doing in the world and understand our place in it, corporately and individually? How do we reflect the Bible's central message of the coming kingdom, with Jesus Christ at the center? The way we understand and articulate all the stories that fill our part of history, here, now, and in the future is important. We invite you to come spend the week being trained, challenged, and inspired to continually serve God in your everyday life!



CWS attendees during 2012 Sunday morning service.

FORTY YEARS OF CELEBRATION!

If you have ever attended,

***WE INVITE YOU
BACK TO CELEBRATE!!***

40th Anniversary Celebration Speakers & Workshop Titles Class & Teacher List

**“A Wanna Be”
Christ-Driven Christian Education
Workers**

Curriculum Committee

Till Christ Comes
Dan Gill

The Journey of Faith
Jeff Fletcher

Seven Churches of Revelation
Wally Winner

Creative Ideas for Teaching
Jim and Carol Ring

**“Hearts on fire! How to reach
your full potential for God!”**
Rebekah Martin

Conformed or Transformed?
Andy Cisneros

**An Introduction to Natural
Church Development**
Gary Burnham

God Counts By 7's
Cathy Cunningham

Facing The Future
Kent Ross

**Sharpening our Tools:
The Battle over God and Christ
and the Gospel**
Anthony Buzzard

**“John 17:3 Issues in Theology &
Christology”**
Joe Martin

Special Guest
Joel Hemphill

Local Attractions:

**Dollywood & Dolly's Splash Count ♦ Dixie Stampede
Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies ♦ Country Tonite Theater**

Christian Workers' Seminar

Join Us!

Registration Deadline is: 3/15/2013

Check in time is at 3 PM

Check In Date - 4/7/2013

Check Out Date - 4/12/2013

Do you give the Church of God General Conference permission to put your address, phone number and e-mail address in a CWS 2013 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.

Prices
(housing, meals, program)

Children (in parent/guardian room)
 0-2 No Cost
 3-11 \$114.00 \$25.00 Deposit
 12-18 \$189.00 \$25.00 Deposit

Adults
(PER PERSON RATES)

1 per room: \$599.00
 2 per room: \$399.00
 3 per room: \$335.00
 4 per room: \$299.00
 Saturday Night: \$112.00 (per room)
 (car show weekend)

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

Adults (x) _____	\$
Children (x) _____	\$
Saturday Night Stay	\$
Subtotal	\$
Any Discounts/Deposits	\$
Registrations Postmarked After 3/15/13 (add \$40 per adult / \$25 per child)	\$
Total due at Christian Workers Seminar	\$

★ **5 Easy Ways To Register** ★

1. E-mail: 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 (click General Conference; then click Events)

Baptism

Illinois

Oregon – Jamie Revelle (9/2/12) by Pastor Michael Hoffman. Her husband Josh was also accepted into membership by transfer.

Ripley – Hallie Laning (9/9/12), by her grandfather, Robert Laning and assisted by Sherwin Williams. We also have a praise of Todd Hetrick becoming a new member to our congregation.

Virginia

Cool Spring – Vickie Grove and Bobby Grove Jr. (10/17/12) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher; Max Presgraves, (10/17/12) by Bobby Grove Jr. and Pastor Jeff Fletcher.

Marriage

Virginia

Cool Spring – Vickie Andrews and Bobby Grove Jr. married on July 28, 2012 at Cool Spring Church of God, by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Death

Illinois

Eldorado – Charles "Phil" Leithliter, 89, (9/27/12) of Mt. Carmel, Illinois. Church member. Service conducted by Elder Jack L. Wiggins and Dr. Brian J. Atra

South Carolina

Bethel – Bill Vaughan (10/6/12) service by Pastors Kyle Casey and Wally Winner

Lord's Harvest International Report

About the time you read this issue of the JOURNAL/HERALD, several important things will be happening in Church of God missions. Victor and Jodi Werhanowicz will be ministering in Lima, Peru November 29 to December 3. They are teaching the first several lessons in the Victorious Christian Living series which is available in Spanish.

On December 8 and 9 the LHI Board will be meeting in Atlanta to evaluate our mission work and to make plans for promotion and trips in 2013.

I am sorry to report that Werner Bartl and John Horsewood are delaying their visit to Faisalabad, Pakistan to meet with our members and pastors. The trip had been scheduled for early December, but it will be delayed until after the first of the year. Some concerns arose about securing visas, and it was determined that it would be best to deal with these issues in another way.

Thanks to all who have contributed toward the cost of this trip. We will let you know as soon as the trip is rescheduled.

Please keep all of these efforts in your prayers.
David Krogh

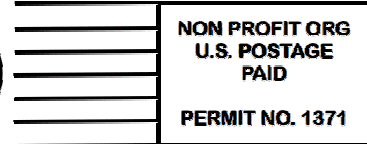


Prayer Meeting in Faisalabad, Pakistan

- 1 Pray that God will direct every area of your life in 2013.
- 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 retired Pastor Warren and Irene Sorenson and their transition from California to Arizona.**
- 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 ABC students and staff beginning spring semester classes today.**
- 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 teachers in your local church.
- 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.

- 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 and spouses as they begin their ministerial retreat in Orlando, FL.
- 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.**
- 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 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 David and Mary Riley's ministry at Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, Georgia.**
- 22 Pray for someone you know who is in need of healing (physical, emotional, or spiritual).
- 23 **Pray for the staff at the college/conference.**
- 24 Pray for the Refuge retreat to be held in Indiana on March 1-3.
- 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 **Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and earth.**
- 28 Pray for all of the faithful workers in your local church.

Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400
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ABC News

As this semester comes to a close, we praise God for His direction and faithfulness. Sixty students have taken one or more classes. Of these students, thirteen are Distance Learning students. Sixteen of the total are from Church of God congregations. Nine students are living in the Trees of Avalon apartment complex adjacent to our campus.

ABC offered 22 courses this semester (some of these were repeated at alternate times). A new course was offered on Natural Church Development taught by Gary Burnham. This course familiarizes our students with NCD which focuses on church health and which is being used in some of our churches.

Recruitment activities continue year around. We receive many requests for information packets as a result of our website, word-of-mouth, and brochure racks that have been placed in area businesses. A week or ten days after the packet is mailed, we follow up with a personal contact. Ten prospects have already indicated their plans to join us in January. Several have already completed the application process. We also recruit through our annual Atlanta Bible College Invitational that will be held

March 22-24. We would invite youth from our churches to come visit on that weekend.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in taking campus or Distance Learning courses, please send name, address, e-mail address, and phone number to us at: info@abc-coggc.org or to Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253. Or call us at 678-833-1839.



Robert Jones teaching at ABC.



Dr. Joe Martin teaching at ABC.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 3, FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL 2013

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

What Happens When You Meet God?

By Robert Jones

[Excerpted from sermon by author at Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA, September 2, 2012]

Have you ever met a President? The Queen of England? A famous sports person? A Hollywood or TV star? What happened when you met that person? If you haven't met a famous person, can you *imagine* what you would feel like? What you would do? It brings to mind the movie "Wayne's World" when they repeated "We're not worthy! We're not worthy!"

How about when you meet God? You *have* met Him, haven't you? How did you react? Isaiah met God, and the incident is recorded for us in Isaiah 6:1-8. For me, this text defines true worship. If we study the elements of this incident, we might be able to improve our worship, individually and corporately.

First of all, we need to connect with Isaiah to understand how this incident affected him. The year was 740 BC, and good King Uzziah of Judah had just died. "Woe is me!" might have gone through the young prophet's mind. "What will become of us now? We haven't had that many good kings, and I'm really unsure about his son/heir Jotham." Isaiah probably wandered into the temple for a moment of meditation.

I have often gone to church when something big was bothering me. I have prayed, sat in silence, and thought through my problem(s). Perhaps that was what Isaiah did in God's house on that day. So guess whom he met there? **GOD!!**



Prophet Isaiah; illustration from a [Bible](#) card published by the Providence Lithograph Company (c. 1904)

Let's consider the details. Close your eyes, paint the mental picture, and react to what your mind's eye is seeing. First, "I saw the Lord." (v. 1) Wow! Second, "seated on a throne." A majestic throne for the king of the universe in the temple. Wow! And who's on it? The Lord! Wow! Thirdly, "high

and exalted." I picture the throne with "the Lord" on it as elevated so that Isaiah had to raise his head to view it. Wow! Fourthly from verse one alone, we have "the train of his robe." OK, royal robe on the Lord. I imagine royal blue or purple with gold embroidery. Wow! Fifth, "filled the temple." The train of that magnificent robe filled that large room. Wow! WOW!! **WOW!!!**

Let that image penetrate your thoughts for a moment. That is precisely what I do as I enter any church. I imagine God on an elevated throne in the front of the sanctuary. I want to meet God. Then I react as if it were as real as Isaiah experienced. The Creator God! Almighty Yahweh! The Holy One of Israel! Is it not simply breath-taking?

Verses 2 through 4 describe flying burning creatures, or *seraphim*. The Hebrew word *seraph* means to burn. Creatures that are aflame and are flying and are singing praises to God on the throne. Wow! So lusty was their singing that the building shook and the temple filled with smoke. Imagine yourself there. God on a throne. High and exalted. Robe and long train. Flying burning creatures. Building shaking and filling with smoke. Wow! You are meeting **God!** How do you feel about this?

Verse 5 tells us how Isaiah reacted. "Woe is me! I am ruined! For I am a

(Continued on page 8)

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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**

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

May 2-5

Theological Conference
Simpsonwood Conference Center
Norcross, GA

May 17

ABC Graduation
McDonough, GA

July 10-12

93rd Annual General Conference
Guthrie Grove Church of God
Pelzer, SC

July 21-26

FUEL
Manchester College
North Manchester, IN

SERVANTS WANTED FOR THE FUTURE

Have you ever thought of working for Atlanta Bible College or the Church of God General Conference? Over the next few years, some of us will be transitioning from full-time service to part-time service or retirement. If you are interested in the possibility, and feeling a call of God, please send a note and resume to Dr. Joe Martin, P.O. Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253. It will be kept in confidence.

Our Vision statement begins with "To Join God...," and our Mission statement begins with "To Serve Churches and Individuals..." Our values statement is LIFTS, Love, Integrity, Faith, Teamwork, Truth and Service. If you are interested in a job of service (remember this is a church-based organization), in administration, in teaching, in office work, generally at less pay than the "world" offers, please let us know of your interest.

Prophecy Page

Damascus

By Wally Winner

Damascus is one of the chief battlegrounds in the raging Syrian civil war. It is not the first time that Damascus has hosted a siege, and it will not be the last time.

The LORD said, "Damascus will not be a city any longer; it will be only a pile of ruins." (Isaiah 17:1 GNB)

Here we are plainly told that Damascus, the capital of Syria, will one day be gone. Some say that this prophecy was partially fulfilled in 732 BC when the Assyrians conquered Damascus (Aram). It has been attacked, besieged, and conquered. But Damascus has never been completely destroyed and left uninhabited. Yet that is exactly what the Bible says will happen. The context of Isaiah 17 and Jeremiah 49 are a series of end times prophecies dealing with God's judgments on Israel's neighbors and enemies leading up to — and through — the tribulation.

On the contrary, Damascus is widely claimed to be the "oldest continuously inhabited city" in the world. According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*: "*Among ancient cities of the world, Damascus is perhaps the oldest continuously inhabited. Its name, Dimashq in Arabic ... derives from Dimashka, a word of pre-Semitic etymology, suggesting that the beginnings of Damascus go back to a time before recorded history.*"

In fact, the continued existence of Damascus today often appears on Bible skeptics' lists for reasons why the Bible is not true and cannot be trusted.

Jeremiah 49 confirms this fiery fate leaving Damascus abandoned. "*The LORD says about Damascus: The towns of Hamath and Arpad have heard your bad news. They have lost hope, and worries roll over them like ocean waves. You people of Damascus have lost your courage, and in panic you turn to run, gripped by fear and pain. I once was pleased with your famous city. But now I warn you, "Escape while you still can!" Soon, even your best soldiers will lie dead in your streets. I, the LORD All-Powerful, have spoken. I will set fire to your city walls and burn down the*

fortresses King Benhadad built."
(Jeremiah 49:23-27)

Amos may also predict end times fiery destruction in Syria. "*Thus saith Jehovah: For three transgressions of Damascus, yea, for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron: but I will send a fire into the house of Hazael, and it shall devour the palaces of Benhadad. And I will break the bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the valley of Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house of Eden; and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir, saith Jehovah."* (Amos 1:3-5 ASV)

Today, the most likely way to make a major city become a burnt heap of ruins is, of course, from a nuclear blast.

Isaiah 17 later gives reason to suspect it is a nuclear bomb from Israel.

"Woe to the multitude of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the seas; and to the rushing of nations, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind. And behold at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us." (Isaiah 17:12-14)

From this passage, we learn other key things about this conflict

1. Part of a wider war ("many peoples...many nations")
2. Results from an attack on Israel ("plunder...ravage us")
3. Begins and is decided in a single night ("evening...morning")

Damascus may have one devastating prophecy left for our time. ■

The semester at Atlanta Bible College has started! Both campuses, McDonough and the Korean Extension in Duluth, are taking in new students. Between both we have about 40 new students! This offsets the some reductions from graduates and those not returning. Please remember to pray for our staffs and students!

Several coming events should be noted. The ministers/spouses retreat will be February 7-10. The board will meet in Georgia February 21-23. Please remember both of these events, praying for travel and safety for all.

Another coming “super” event will be the 40th, (I said *fortieth*), Christian Workers Seminar in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The dates are April 7-12th. I know times are difficult economically for many, but if possible, consider this event. It is a great time of fellowship, learning and fun. Some great teachers will be there (Dan, Jeff, Wally, Carol, Rebekah, Andy, Gary, Cathy, Kent, Anthony, etc.), with our special guests Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill. See the registration form in the back of this issue.

I have been reading a lot of history books and articles lately preparing for my new class, B451-The Only True God. The question I am trying to answer is how did Christianity complicate

theology and christology so much? In my reading I found Akhenaten or Amenhotep IV, of Egypt, 1351-1334 BC. Maybe Moses influenced him to monotheism. He tried to call for the monotheistic worship of Aten as the only creator. His son Tuntankhaten started his rule at eight, was led back into polytheism by the priests, overseers who had rebelled against his father. Tuntankhaten changed his name to Tutankhamun (note Aten to Amun ending). Amun-Ra was the chief god in the Egyptian pantheon. King Tut is known from archaeology for his golden mummy mask. I believe we are still in a similar battle. Has anything changed from Rom. 1? We still worship the creation rather than the creator, Yahweh El Shaddai. Think about it. “American Idols?”

The other strange historical thing I read about was the Rosetta Stone. Have you read the original message?!? We see a language program advertised almost every day with the same name. But, what was the original (196 BC) Rosetta Stone about? Well, the subject matter was the praise, in three languages, of King Ptolemy V. Remember, the Greek general who took over Egypt after the death of Alexander the Great was Ptolemy. That one was known further as “Ptolemy I Soter.” Soter means savior! Compare soteriology.

His descendant, Ptolemy V, is

called in the Rosetta Stone, “the living image of Zeus, son of the Sun, ...living-for-ever, ...the ever living, the beloved of Ptah, the God Epiphanes Eucharistos, ... being a god sprung from a god and goddess... has dedicated to the temples revenues in money and corn... .” Then this man, who was made a god, was called God Epiphanes Eucharistos (God of Manifest Grace/Thanksgiving) 200 years before Jesus.

I believe what pagan Christianity did to Jesus in the creeds of man is clearly shown by the pagan thinking some hundreds of years before Christ was born. Christians, we need to get back to the word of God and “do not go beyond what is written” (I Cor. 4:6) in both theology and christology. “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent... .” (Jn. 17:3) God said, “this is my beloved Son... .” Jesus said, “I am the Son of God... .” Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Forget Egyptian, Babylonian, Grecian, Roman, and modern myths, and stick to the word of God. ■

SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE TAKE NOTE: If you have seasonal address changes, please let us know so we can adjust our database. This will avoid any interruption in receiving THE RESTITUTION HERALD and other mailings you may be listed to receive. Please call Nola at 800-347-4261, 678-833-1839; or e-mail njones@abc-coggc.org.

Dear fellow laborers in Christ,

Is this the year we.....
(finish the sentence). Witness a revival in our church? Pay off our debt and become debt free? See sizeable growth in the number of students preparing for ministry at Atlanta Bible College? Is this the year we..... travel to new countries expanding the good news of the kingdom of God? Attend Christian Workers Seminar in Tennessee? Travel to South Carolina for General Conference? Is this the year we witness the return of Jesus to planet Earth? What will 2013 bring? May we all be blessed with rich spiritual blessings in our continued walk and journey with our heavenly Father and His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

It is the beginning of another new semester at Atlanta Bible College. We are so very proud and thankful for the dedicated staff at ABC. The personal sacrifices which each staff member continues to make in order to preach and teach the truth found in the scriptures is to be admired. Our students are blessed to be able to be mentored by such a fine staff. Our thanks to Dr. Joe Martin and his entire band of brothers and sisters! May you be humble in your position, yet bold in your approach to teaching young men and women as they prepare for ministry.

Christian Workers Seminar is fast approaching. We hope that

many take the opportunity to attend the spring gathering in Pigeon Forge, TN. This week-long event is always a blessing. The teaching, combined with worship and fellowship, is worth the investment of time and money. Much effort and many prayers have been combined to make this year's CWS one of the best ever. If you have the means and opportunity to attend, we strongly encourage you to do so.

For the first time ever, I believe, our annual Church of God General Conference will be held in Pelzer, SC. The conference will be hosted by the efforts of the membership from the Guthrie Grove Church of God, the Bethel Church of God, and the Joy Fellowship Church of God. Pastors Mike Montgomery and James Shaull, Pastor Kyle Casey, and Pastor Wally Winner will be leading their congregations in what I believe will be a wonderful time of fellowship and worship, as well as conducting business of the conference. Make plans to attend in July.

By the time you receive this, many of our pastors and their wives will have attended the annual ministers conference. This year's conference will be held in FL. Every third year, the wives attend also. This is the year the wives attend! I hope you pray for and support those who lead at your church. The dedicated men and women who give so much to carry out the call of God on their lives deserve this time of restoration. Bless them and let them know

how much they mean to you.

We are thrilled that brother David Krogh and his dear wife Lynne have the opportunity to travel to China to visit their son Peter at the end of January. What a thrill that will be to see such a vast land! The history of China is great and long. I am sure David and Lynne will have much to share upon their return. We are praying for their safe journey and memories which will last a life time.

“Lord, teach us to pray”, said the disciples. May we have the same heartfelt desire. May we have a burden to pray for the ill, pray for the lost, pray for vision at the local church level and also on the conference level. Pray for strength. Pray for mercy. Pray for wisdom. Pray for awareness and then forgiveness of sin. Pray for thanksgiving. Pray for others. Pray for a spirit of humility. Pray, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done”.

Have a wonderful 2013 everyone.....and may we end by saying, “Even so, Lord Jesus come!”.

In Christ,

Joe Myers, Chair

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 Leaders Balance Today’s Tasks and Tomorrow’s Dreams

One reader of this feature asked, “how do we avoid a sole focus on the upcoming Sunday so we are sure to plan and implement for the long term?”

Today’s tasks. Tomorrow’s dreams. As a leader, you know the tension between the two. Sometimes today’s tasks drown out tomorrow’s dreams. Sometimes tomorrow’s dreams make today’s tasks seem unimportant and inconsequential.

Some of the truth—if today’s tasks are not completed well, we may never have the opportunity to live out tomorrow’s dreams.

More of the truth—if tomorrow’s dreams are not dreamed well, they will never impact today’s tasks.

The good news is we don’t have to choose BETWEEN today’s tasks and tomorrow’s dreams, we can choose to CONNECT them! In fact, that is clearly the best way to handle the tension between the two.

Ask boldly and listen carefully for God to give you a dream for tomorrow. Make sure the dream is not merely your dream. Proverbs 19: 21 says, “Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.” Since God has “purposes,” He certainly wants to communicate them to us and have us build our life, our church, etc. on them.

Finding that dream (purpose) for tomorrow not only gives God the opportunity to plant in us a godly dream for the future, but we are also build-

ing the “why” and the “how” for today’s tasks. Dreams don’t appear without hard work. Tomorrow’s dream is what will ultimately bring importance and consequence to today’s tasks.



When today’s tasks seem dreary, remember the purpose, remember the dream. You will discover the dream can inspire the task. It isn’t just a task, it is a building block toward achieving the dream!

It isn’t just a Sunday morning service. It is part of building the future of the church. That makes it a very important task. Plan it well. Carry it out well. Enjoy the experience. It is part of building the dream. The dream that God gave.

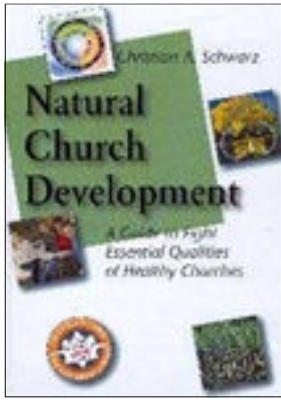
It isn’t just a youth meeting. It isn’t just a committee meeting. It isn’t just a fellowship dinner. It isn’t just a community service project. In every case it is another building block toward seeing the dream—God’s dream—take shape.

Still, you understand that some of today’s tasks won’t fit tomorrow’s dream. Some of them need to be done anyway, but some of them need to be set aside or altered. Tomorrow’s dream not only brings vital life and meaning to today’s tasks, but also helps us decide what tasks to do, and what tasks NOT to do.

Stop letting today’s tasks and tomorrow’s dreams battle each other. Let them work together, complementing each other while fulfilling God’s dream.

YOUR INPUT FOR THIS FEATURE? Is there a particular leadership topic, question, Bible text, Bible character, etc. you would like to see addressed in this feature? Please let me know!

Gary Burnham
Ministry Services Network Director



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.

Are Your Worship Services Inspiring?

This article is the fifth of eight articles offering an extended view into each of the eight quality characteristics of Natural Church Development. The fifth quality is Inspiring Worship Services.

Any church can (and should) have a worship experience. But not every church's worship experience is inspiring. Contrary to the popular belief of some, inspiration is not dependent on a specific worship style. What matters is not what happens on the outside (style, length, etc.), but what happens on the inside of each worshipper.

The key question is, "Is this worship service an inspiring experience for those who attend?" When the answer is "yes", folks have such a wonderful experience in worship they can't help but want to attend regularly. Do you feel that way about your worship experience? Do other folks in your church feel that way?

NCD measures four critical components for churches seeking to build and maintain inspiring worship services.

The first component asks, "Is worship bringing folks to personal transformation?" Do they both know and feel they are connecting with the God of the universe? Is worship so inspiring folks carrying its influence with them into their homes, schools, places of employment, neighborhoods, etc.? Have we figured out a good way to measure how well our worship service inspires folks for both the day of worship and for the rest of the week as well?

The second component asks, "Is the worship experience welcoming to visitors?" Does our music style touch the hearts of folks currently attending? What about folks that attend as our guests? We can't meet the style preference of all folks, but are we reaching a specific group of folks? Do we do a good job of greeting our guests and helping them to feel "at home"? Do you help guests to easily find the nursery, bathrooms, etc.? Do you encourage new folks to connect to the church beyond worship via a small group, a ministry, etc.?

The third component asks, "Do folks in your church have great anticipation for worshipping together?" How do you evaluate whether or not folks look forward to your church's worship service? What do you do or say to encourage folks to anticipate worship? In what ways do you tell folks how important it is for them to be prepared to worship?

The fourth component asks, "Are the children of our worshippers well cared for while their parents participate in worship?" At what level are older children involved in the worship service? For the children that participate in worship, are they able to comprehend what is happening and willingly join in? For children not part of the worship service, how well do you provide for their Christian education and training in classes? For many parents, the degree to which they look forward to worship and participate in worship is directly related to how comfortable they are with the ministry that is being provided to their children in another part of the building.

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; 1-800-347-4261

(Continued from page 1)

man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh Almighty.” That about hits the nail on the head for the right reaction, don’t you think? Indeed we’re not worthy. That had better be our reaction. Do you feel that way in the presence of God? Is God in your sanctuary? Do you meet Him there? Don’t you feel unworthy to be in His presence?

Isaiah felt like a filthy sinner. We should feel the same way. Then what? God offered something to Isaiah. With feet riveted to the floor as he witnessed this extraordinary scene, Isaiah watched as one of those flying burning creatures took a coal from the incense altar. (v. 6) “What’s happening?” he must have thought. It flew closer and closer to him. “Oh, no!” The blazing hot coal touched Isaiah’s mouth, and it said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” (v. 7) Forgiveness is what God offered to Isaiah’s feeling of unworthiness. Do you feel forgiveness when you meet God? He offers it to us as well.

Notice how all five of the senses are involved in this worship moment. Sight (“I saw God”), hearing (“Holy, holy, holy”), smell (smoke filling the room), taste (live coal touched his lips), and touch (hot coals and building shaking). Can you feel it? Isaiah met God on all of those levels.

How often have you had all of your senses “touched” in a worship service? Wouldn’t that be exciting? How can you make that happen? It will impact everyone in the service. They will want to come back for another God-meeting.

But we’re not done with this worship moment yet. We’ve had encountering God. We’ve had feelings of unworthiness and sin. We’ve had cleansing and forgiveness. “Now what do I do?” Isaiah may have thought. Verse 8 is one of the most familiar verses in the Old Testament. “Then I heard the voice of Yahweh saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” Wow!

Isaiah may have thought, “God wants something done? And he’s asking *me*? Wow!” OK, remember that there was no one else in the room except God and Isaiah when God asked this question. I believe Isaiah wasted no time, blurting out his answer at the top of his lungs. “Don’t even look for someone else, God! I’m your guy. Send me!” Was he solemn and sedate? I don’t think so. Filled with joy and energy from this exciting meeting with God. That’s our Isaiah. God has a job for me! Little old me!! I want to get started right now! What an honor!

That’s what happened to Isaiah. That’s what *should* happen when you meet God in His house each

week. God has a job for each and every one of us. He cleanses and purifies you for the task, then he asks (through the preacher’s sermon and conclusion), “Whom shall I send?” How have you responded in the past? How will you now respond? “I’ll do it, Lord. I’ll do it!” Respond to the message and commission from God. Isaiah did.

Isaiah went to the temple, looking for comfort after the death of a very good king. He met God in the temple. Do you meet Him in your house of worship? How can you facilitate that happening? He experienced God on all levels. Do you experience God on all levels?

What happens when you meet God? Do you feel happy? Humble? In awe? Unworthy? Do you confess when you meet God? Are you still a sinner? Then confess, confess, and confess. We must do so. God then will not leave you hanging with those feelings. He will cleanse you, purifying you for the work He has in store for you to do.

Finally, God, through the words of your pastor, asks, “Whom shall I send?” Will you go out for Him? What will you say? With as much gusto as Isaiah? Don’t look anywhere else, God. Send me!

What happens when you meet God? ■

The
2013 General Conference
will be held July 10-12 at the Guthrie Grove
Church of God in Pelzer, South Carolina.

Make your plans to attend now!

(Reprinted from February/March 1990 issue of THE RESTITUTION HERALD.) Pastor Larry Mayberry of the Pennellwood Church of God, Grand Rapids, MI, and former president of the Ministerial Association of the Church of God, interviewed Pastor Rick Warren of the Saddleback Valley Community Church in Orange County, CA.

Richard Warren is the founding pastor of the Saddleback Valley Community Church, which is one of the fastest growing churches in America. Beginning with one family in 1980, the church has grown to over 3,000 in attendance during its first eight years, with a high attendance in 1988 of over 5,000.

Larry: Pastor Rick, with such a success story as Saddleback Valley Community Church, and all the attendant publicity and glamour, what would you want to communicate to pastors who feel discouraged because they are not experiencing success of such magnitude?

Rick: Well, I would say first of all, Galatians 6:4 is a key verse that says, "Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else" (NIV).

I think that in this verse is really a great warning. I have talked to over 10,000 pastors in the last five years who have been through my seminar on church growth and planting.

One of the biggest mistakes guys

are making today is they are comparing themselves to others. There are two problems with that: 1) you'll always find somebody who is doing a better job than you, so you get discouraged; 2) you'll always find somebody who is not doing as well as you do, so you get full of pride. Either way you get in trouble. The Bible makes it very clear: we are not to compare ourselves.

I actually stopped reading our denominational annual about five years ago, because I was reading it one day and comparing how many baptisms had happened and God just smote me, saying, "I never told you to compare yourself to anybody else."

I believe the Bible says you can take legitimate satisfaction in what you do. One day God is not going to say, "Why weren't you more like Billy Graham, or Chuck Swindoll, or Rick Warren?" But he's going to say, "Why weren't you more like you?"

So discouragement comes when we start comparing ourselves, and the Bible says not to do that.

Larry: You are a church planter, and you specifically planned to be a church-planting pastor. Many Bible colleges and seminaries are beginning to put a lot of emphasis on the training of church planters. What of the man or woman who desires to be a pastor but does not feel he or she wants to be a church-planter pastor? What should the colleges and seminaries do with

them? Are they of value to the ministry?

Rick: I think that the problem with a lot of colleges and seminaries is that they are training us to be ministers and not training us how to be leaders. There are very few courses on leadership. So they train us how to be chaplains, how to pray, baptize, serve the Lord's supper, counsel one-on-one. That training in the personal ministry will help a church grow to about 200 people. But, to grow a church beyond 200 members, you must learn other additional leadership skills like:

- Management of your time
- How to delegate the ministry to other people
- How to equip others to do what you yourself have been doing

There is a different set of problems in church planting compared to an established church. It's just which set of problems you want to live with.

In an established church, the problem is resistant leadership. In other words, members don't want to change, and they say, "We've always done it this way," or, "We've never done it that way." There's a resistant leadership.

In a new church the problem is the lack of leadership. There aren't any leaders because you're reaching out to non-Christians, and you don't have the years of experience that have been built up. It's just which set of prob-

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

lems you want to live with.

So I think it takes a different type of temperament. Not everybody is called to be a church-planter; not everybody is called to pastor an established church.

To be a pastor of an existing church takes a tremendous degree of patience, the willingness to put up with people's foibles and faults and to realize that change comes very slowly.

You must be willing to wait it out if you're going to pastor an existing church – to see change take place over a period of time.

Larry: So it takes a different type of person to be a planter from one whom goes to pastor an established church?

Rick: That's exactly right. It takes a different kind of temperament and qualifications and characteristics.

Larry: Then do you see two different types of training needed?

Rick: I think our schools need to be training both. We need to train not only for the existing church, but we also need to train for new churches. We need to train for what churches are going to be like 15 years from now.

My fear is that a lot of schools are training pastors for churches that aren't going to be in existence 15 years from now.

Larry: If you could speak to every church congregation across America, what would you say to them about pastoral leadership and congregational followership?

Rick: Well, I would say that for a church to grow two things must happen: 1) the pastor must be willing to let the people assume the ministry; and 2) the people must be willing to let the pastor assume the leadership.

Now in most churches those roles are exactly reversed. They hire a pastor and say you do the entire ministry, the visiting, the counseling, all the caring, and we'll make all the decisions. As a result the ministry cannot grow beyond the ministry of that single man which is usually about 100 people. So the pastor actually becomes the bottle-neck.

Whereas in the Scripture, the Bible says, "the objective of the pastor is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry." So the members do the ministry, and the pastors are the equippers.

Here at Saddleback Valley Community Church we say, "The members are the ministers and the pastors are the administrators." Leadership belongs in the hands of a few, and the ministry belongs in the hands of many.

Larry: With all the talk of burnout, breakdown, and monotony of ministry, what are

you doing to insure that this does not happen to you?

Rick: Well, I experienced burnout the very first year at our church. At the end of the first year we were running about 200 in attendance, I was working 18 hour days, the office was in my home, I was doing all the preaching, teaching, baptizing, caring, and visiting, and I just burned out.

The very last Sunday of 1980 I stood up in the pulpit, began speaking, and I started to faint, and I had to sit down. I was physically and emotionally exhausted. I had to take an entire month off, and I went through a period of deep, dark depression where I had to reevaluate. What were the causes of the burnout I was going through?

There was a long story behind all of that, but one of the lessons I learned is the value of pacing yourself. One of the verses that God gave me was when he told Joshua, "I'm not going to give you the land all at once, but I'm going to drive them out little by little – drive the giants out little by little so you can handle it."

I think that's pacing growth. Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither is the church. I say that "when God wants to make a mushroom, He takes six hours. When He wants to make an oak tree, He takes 60 years." The question is do you want to be a mushroom or an oak tree?

(Continued on page 11)

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The whole idea is we're in it for the long haul. There are guys who are great starters in the ministry, but they flame out. I'm not impressed with great starts. I'm impressed with consistency. I planted this church when I was 26 years old, and I anticipated a 40-year ministry in one church. So when you take the long haul, you are more apt to look at a pacing thing, not trying to accomplish it all overnight. There's a verse from Proverbs in the Living Bible that says, "A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life."

I think part of that involves obeying one of the Ten Commandments that says, "Six days you labor and on the seventh day you rest." Now for a pastor Sunday is not a day of rest. So if you're not taking a day off, you're breaking one of the Ten Commandments.

So I think balance is the key to avoiding burnout. You must develop other interests, hobbies, keep in physical shape, try to eat the right things, and

develop some close friendships.

Luke 2:52 says Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and favor with God and men. Intellectual, physical, spiritual, and social growth must be kept in balance.

I have found that in the ministry you can either be a workaholic or the laziest person. You can go to either extreme. I have a little formula that I use to keep balance: "You divert daily; take time with your family. Withdraw weekly; take a day off. Abandon annually; take a vacation."

Larry: For the last question. In terms of advice to fellow pastors, what do you intend to do until the Lord comes?

Rick: Larry, I think my greatest advice to pastors would be: "growing churches requires growing pastors." The moment I stop growing, the church stops growing. Imagine a balance of scales in your mind. On one hand you have your personal life. On the other hand you have your profes-

sional life. Those two must be kept in balance. The moment you overemphasize the professional life to the neglect of your personal life, you are in trouble. That's where stress comes. So I think the key is to continually be growing, learning, reading, asking questions, attending seminars, listening to tapes. If you don't keep feeding yourself, you're going to dry up from all the giving out and giving away that pastors must be involved in. I am constantly trying to teach myself to stay sharp.

There is a verse in Ecclesiastes that is one of my life verses: "If the axe is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success" (10:10, NIV). What that says is work smarter, not harder. If you're skilled at what you do, it doesn't take much energy. I have seen a lot of guys dedicated in the ministry, but they're unskilled. They are working with a dull axe. It takes more time, energy, and effort to get the same or fewer results. If we learn to sharpen our skills, than we will have less stress and more success. ■



"...when God wants to make a mushroom He takes six hours. When He wants to make an oak tree, He takes 60 years." The question is do you want to be a mushroom or an oak tree?

NextGen[eration]

Blood River Youth

Thanks to a great commitment and investment of time, energy, and resources, we have a large and active youth group. The youth are made a priority. They are not just the future of our church, but also the present. The children are encouraged to get involved and make it to our weekly services. We even offer to give them a ride by sending out a bus that picks up many of the children. We also provide other activities that give them opportunities for fellowship with one another. Recently we have had activities such as laser tag, bowling, ice-skating, and movie nights.

We are very excited to start something new in our mid-week services this year. We have added some ele-



ments that we hope will benefit our kids. We have started a rotation-based Bible study for our younger students. We have an opening with prayer, songs and memory verses, and then dismiss into small groups. After a period of time, the children rotate to another class. This has allowed our students to stay focused and involved, while keeping the environment fresh and exciting.

We are determined to raise up the next generation of leaders for our church and the kingdom of God. It is inspiring to see the children learn and grow. We hope and pray that the seeds we sow will produce much fruit. ■

Korean Extension Update

To the members of the Church of God General Conference,

On behalf of the Korean Extension, I wish all the members a happy and joyous 2013 and extend many thanks and blessings to all for your prayers and support for the Korean ministry.

Since the inception of the Korean Extension, we have awarded 52 Bachelor of Theology and three Associate of Theology degrees. A number of the graduates have traveled back to South Korea to apply the knowledge they received through the Korean Extension program, so they can further their ministries. Currently two graduates are in the process of planting churches. Meanwhile others are involved in Christian ministries in their home churches.

In the previous semester (Fall 2012) eight students completed the program successfully and returned to South Korea. Aside from the graduates, a few students were unable to meet the financial demands to continue their studies and also returned home. However, we have enrolled 14 new students seeking to learn the truth. Among the new students, more than half are young Korean students who display a strong desire to know Christ. We thank God for providing us with the oppor-

tunity to make an impact in the students' lives. Moreover, two Korean Extension staff members (Young Hee An and Yeong Beom Kim) have also departed to South Korea temporarily as a result of immigration procedures during the summer. Recently, Yeong Beom Kim was preparing to return to the United States to continue his role with the Korean Extension, but his father, who is senior pastor at Yeong Beom's home church, has fallen ill, and he has been unable to continue serving the church. In the meantime, Yeong Beom has occupied the position as senior pastor until his father recovers.

We also are excited to share some good news. Two new staff members have joined the Korean Extension team Jin Suk Park and Mi Sun Park (no relation). Jin Suk is an active student who is currently fulfilling the role of receptionist for the Korean Extension, and Mi Sun Park will facilitate the "Church and Personal Finance" class.

Again, I thank you for all the support you have provided and please continue to pray for the Korean ministry as we start the Spring 2013 semester.

Thank you.
In Him,
Steve An

If someone were to come up to you and ask you why you believed in God, and why Jesus was your Savior, what would you tell him or her? I've always been told to have my testimony in mind, so that if asked, I can give an answer and not be stumped. Do you want to know why I believe? I'll tell you. Growing up, I'd always assumed I was a Christian. In fact, I assumed everyone knew about God, and that everyone loved Jesus. My family didn't go to church every Sunday, nor did we go on Wednesdays. In fact, we only went on Easter. And that was the only time we ever went to church, besides the occasional Sunday morning when my parents decided we would go.

But, like I said, we rarely went. I didn't really understand religion. I mean, after all, I was a child. I didn't know what it meant to accept Jesus into your heart as your savior. I knew the Easter story, the Christmas story, but I didn't know what they meant. And I wouldn't know how much they meant to me until later. You see, when I was in the fourth grade, my parents got a divorce.

At first, my dad visited me like the visitation said he was supposed to. But that only went on for about a month, and it slowly stopped. He kept making up excuses. "It's too far, and I can't pay for gas." Or "I'm sorry, I have to work, so I can't." Or my personal favorite; "_____(My new sweetheart) and I have something to do this weekend. I'm sorry, Punkin." It hurt a lot. I felt abandoned, like I didn't have a father anymore. To be honest with you all, I was incredibly upset. I got depressed. I wasn't really a child anymore at this point. I was worrying about grown-up things. Trying to figure out ways I could see my dad. It never really worked, and then, all of the sudden, I never saw my dad any more.

This was when I really felt alone. I didn't understand. I'd ask God why my dad had to leave. Why my dad didn't want me anymore. What had I done to deserve all of this? Why would he leave me without a dad? But then I realized that he hadn't. Look at Romans 8:15. It says, "So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves.

Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.'" I realized that God didn't leave me fatherless, but adopted me as His own child. If anything, I am His daughter more than I am the daughter of my earthly father. And though my earthly father tries and fails at being there for me, I can always count on God to be my father and to give me the love that I greatly need.

Don't misunderstand; I do love my dad very much. But I know that he can't always be here for me, and he's not always what I need. God is the father I need the most, the one that I can always count on. Once I knew this, my faith had been strengthened. It took me almost three years to realize it, but I wasn't alone. My parents' divorce happened for a reason. My dad stopped being able to see me for a reason. So that I could have the opportunity to know God the way He wants me to know Him and to strengthen our relationship. He's saved my life plenty of times, and He's protected me, been there for me, shown me the way and answered my prayers. Not always in the way I expected a majority of the time.

It may take a while to notice it, but God is there in everything we do. His name is written on every aspect of our lives, and the evidence is real. It's there. And I am so thankful for the way things have turned out. And I am glad to be a part of this church. Thank you. ■

"I realized that
God didn't leave me
fatherless, but
adopted me
as His own child."

Good News

*Like cold water to a weary soul,
So is good news from a distant land.
Proverbs 25:25*

From the **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – **Pastor Sydney Kirkpatrick** and the entire church wish to thank **Gary Hillsdale** for his dedicated work in keeping the lawns and the church grounds looking so wonderful. Further thanks go out to **David Bormes** (shopping for, picking up, delivering, and installing a new church stove), **George and Barbara Scott, Bob and Shirley Bormes, Brian and Kennedy Bormes,** and **Jessie and Max Kirkpatrick** (all part of the crew who helped organize the Operation Christmas Child boxes project). Thanks also to the 48 people who packed 213 boxes. [GNP is certain much good for the cause of Christ will happen through your efforts.]

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – On November 18 the Clifton Avenue Church of God presented **Pastor Alan Cain** with a certificate of gratitude that read “A celebration of thanks to the Lawrenceville Church of God. Your generosity and love as we labor together for the good of our community results in thanksgiving to God.” Pastor Cain thanks the church for their part in this expression of thanks.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – As part of an effort begun by five pastors in 2006, the church joined the cause of finding a way to bring meaning and blessing to Christmas. Ornaments on a tree list some needs of our mission churches. Members were encouraged to select an ornament, place it and the indicated dollar amount in an envelope. Members were also encouraged to think of other ways of giving to others during the Christmas season. **Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick II** concluded the Advent Conspiracy by asking questions such as what will you or your family “conspire” to do this Christmas? Since God gave His Son, what will you give? [GNP: Great idea!!]

From the **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – The adult Christmas program was

held on December 16, a week after originally scheduled due to a winter storm. The title of the musical/drama presentation was “Silent Night! Holy Night!” It was a great evening celebrating the Christmas season and sharing God-given talents for Him.

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 COG-Land to know about it. [**PLEASE** 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. PLEASE SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS, and we’ll put you in print!

Robert L. Jones

Pastors,

We would like to solicit articles from you that can be considered for future issues of THE RESTITUTION HERALD & PROGRESS JOURNAL. We welcome a variety of submissions:

- articles that focus on worship and bringing glory to God
- articles on doctrinal subjects
- articles on ministry subjects
- short devotional thoughts, stories, etc.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions you’d like answered or ideas you’d like considered. Thanks, ahead of time, for any submissions you provide.

Ruth Finnegan
Publishing Specialist
rfinnegan@abc-coggc.org

Verses to Live By

“God...now commandeth all men...to repent:

**Because he hath appointed a day,
in the which he will judge the world in righteousness
by that man whom he hath ordained,
whereof he hath given assurance unto all men,
in that he hath raised him from the dead.
And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead,
some mocked.”**

Acts 17:30-32 KJ

Paul, in this place, spoke to the philosophers on Mars Hill of Christ's resurrection from the dead, and how this important teaching will affect God's day of judgment and, in addition, how it will affect our own resurrection (Rom. 6:5; John 14:19).

God wants all men to know that a judgment day is coming when all men will be judged according to their faith and works. He has given all men assurance of this, that a judgment is coming by raising Christ from death to be the judge of the living and the dead at that day.

One of the African mission tracts that all the pastors there have is called: The Importance of Christ's Resurrection. God has gone to great lengths in the Bible to make sure we all know that HE RAISED THE MESSIAH JESUS FROM THE DEAD. It is part of the gospel message for our salvation. It is important.

Emphasis is put on the number of people who saw Christ alive after He died on the cross for our sins. “He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time...to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all...He appeared to me (Paul) also” (1 Cor. 15:1-8). He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, then to the two on the road to Emmaus, then to all the apostles, even to Thomas (Mark 16; John 20).

Why is all this recorded for us to read? Because God's resurrection of His Son from the dead is one of the great Bible truths we are to believe. “By faith are we saved.” It is absolutely necessary for salvation. One question asked to every candidate for baptism is, “Do you believe Christ rose from the dead?” It proved He is alive and now is immortal.

It proved that “because I live, you shall live also” (John 14:19.)

It guarantees the resurrection to eternal life of every one of His people, when He comes the second time! It is the hope we have that our dead loved ones will have life forever in

God's kingdom Christ will establish here on earth!

He was raised to fulfill Old Testament prophecies that God had given to Israel that Messiah would suffer and die and live again. He would not remain dead. Christ brought this out very plainly to the two going to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-31). After He died, He would “enter into His glory.”

If Christ had not been raised, we would have no mediator with God in heaven; no one to beseech God to have mercy on us. This is His third work for God and us: prophet, priest, king. We now have a priest like Melchizedek who has passed into the heavens to mediate for us with Almighty God!! How wonderful that is!!!

If He had not been raised, He would not have ascended into heaven—the only man who has done that (Psa. 110:1). His ascension fulfilled that prophecy. God did not promise this to any of the angels (Heb. 1). He had to ascend before He could descend.

Another great thing about God raising Him from the grave is that God was then able to send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit to us to help us, to teach us, to strengthen us in the spiritual things (John 14:16-18, 23-26). Paul said, “If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, He is none of his” (Rom. 8:9). It is this Spirit that came to believers when Christ ascended that makes us alive spiritually and enables us overcome the temptations of life (vs. 10-14). Without that Spirit of God and of Christ we would be helpless. We cannot defeat sin by our own pitiful strength. This Holy Spirit is available to every Christian when he/she is baptized (Acts 2:38-39). We must live by it to be God's people. It was given for us when Christ ascended. He prayed to His Father to bless us with that Spirit of God.

Also, because He lives, if we ask anything in prayer in His name, He “will do it” (John 14:14).

Conclusion

- If Jesus was not raised, our faith is vain, we are still in our sins.
- If Jesus was not raised, He would not have ascended to God's right hand.
- No Comforter would have come.
- We would have no high priest to intercede for us.
- There would be no hope of resurrection for us.
- There would be no king for God's coming kingdom.
- There would be no judgment day.

But, HE LIVES! God raised Him back to life—eternal life. We have hope! Is the resurrection of Christ important to you? Where will you stand in the judgment?

By Jim Mattison

ABC News

Atlanta Bible College welcomed 24 new students to the ABC enrollment this semester. We are delighted that for the last four semesters we have gained more than 20 new students each semester. Of the total enrollment, 14 are from churches affiliated with our conference; seven are Distance Learning students, and seven are international students from Kenya and Zimbabwe.

The 2013 ABC Invitational will be held March 21-24. We would like for all 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 Love Does. 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 or call 678-833-1839.

Plans are being made for students and staff to participate in a "Go Serve" weekend February 15-17 to assist with a youth retreat in North Carolina. 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. ■

22ND THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

May 2-5, 2013 (Thurs-Sun.)
Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross, GA

It is time to make plans for the new year. Once again we urge all of our readers to join us in beautiful Georgia (the weather is spectacular in May) for the 22nd annual Theological Conference. Do not be alarmed at that particular title. This is a gathering of fellow biblical unitarian and Gospel of the Kingdom believers, many of whom will not before have encountered each other face to face. These are Christians of the "radical reformation" belief system. Your presence there, and your personal faith story, have provided the highlights of this event for the past 22 years. You will bless others immensely by your presence at this conference. There will be more formal presentations to instruct and encourage.

We plan to have Kermit Zarley with us, author of the significant book on *The Restitution of Jesus Christ*. I am hoping that he will share his very interesting insights on prophecy. We are hoping that Ray Faircloth of the extensive website biblicaltruthseekers.co.uk will be with us. We hope for updates on the growing number of scattered brothers and sisters who are now in contact with each other, thanks to the tireless work of Robin Todd. Details for how to register for this event will be in the *Focus* magazine next month. If there is a demand for this, we will offer a post-conference two-day extra Bible instruction. ■

Christian Workers' Seminar

Join us!

40th Anniversary Celebration Christian Workers' Seminar

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

April 7-12, 2013

This Christian Workers Seminar will challenge us to celebrate what He has done in the past forty years! Through the eyes of several different workshop leaders and speakers, you will leave with encouragement, stronger relationships, new informa-

tion, and better tools to be effective in your ministry. How do we hear accurately what the Lord is doing in the world and understand our place in it, corporately and individually? How do we reflect the Bible's central message of the coming kingdom, with Jesus Christ at the center? The way we understand and articulate all the stories that fill our part of history, here, now, and in the future is important. We invite you to come spend the week being trained, challenged, and inspired to continually serve God in your everyday life!

40th Anniversary Celebration Speakers & Workshop Titles Class & Teacher List

"A Wanna Be"
Christ-Driven Christian Education
Workers

Curriculum Committee

Till Christ Comes
Dan Gill

The Journey of Faith
Jeff Fletcher

Seven Churches of Revelation
Wally Winner

Creative Ideas for Teaching
Jim and Carol Ring

**"Hearts on fire! How to reach
your full potential for God!"**
Rebekah Martin

Conformed or Transformed?
Andy Cisneros

**An Introduction to Natural
Church Development**
Gary Burnham

God Counts By 7's
Cathy Cunningham

Facing The Future
Kent Ross

**Sharpening our Tools:
The Battle over God and Christ
and the Gospel**
Anthony Buzzard

**"John 17:3 Issues in Theology &
Christology"**
Joe Martin

Special Guest
Joel Hemphill

5 Easy Ways to Register!

1. E-mail: 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 (click General Conference; then click Events)

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

Greenbrier – Steve Sullivan (12/9/12) by Pastor Tom New

Canada

Welland, Ontario – Andrew Bolhous, Jeremy Bolhous and Jeff McInnis (12/16/12), by Pastor Stephen Bolhous

Michigan

Blanchard – Caiden Balliet, (12/23/12) by Pastor Mark DeYoung.

Ohio

North Hills – Kameron Zimmer and Ivan Dishon, Jr., (10/28/12), by Pastor Seth Ross

Washington

Wenatchee – Seth Davis and Tiffany Davis, (11/25/12) by Pastor Kirby Davis

Deaths

Illinois

Freeport – Frances R. Shelly, 98, (4/24/12), long-time supporter of the General Conference

Iowa

Belle Plaine – Nelda R. Cronbaugh, 69, (11/11/12), officiating, Pastors Delbert Rankin and Paul Moore

Ohio

Troy – Billie Gallagher, 73, (11/30/12), Service by Pastor Dan Cain

Texas

Nell Daniels (12/29/12), long-time faithful member

Washington

Wenatchee – Ken Schaffer (10/7/12); Lewis “Jim” Bigelow (10/6/12)

2012 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 M. Ashelford
Bob and Melody Ballard
Harvey and Mary Krogh
John and Ruth Lewis

Martha Jones Mattison
Lucian and Thelma Murphy
Susan Wagganer

Scholarships and Grants for Atlanta Bible College

Grants and scholarships provided assistance to Atlanta Bible College students during 2012 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. This aid is a tremendous help for our students.

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 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
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

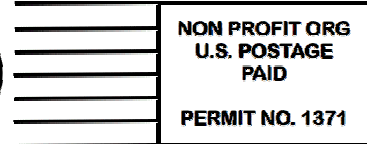
- 1 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Tom and Debbie New and the work at McGintytown, Arkansas.
- 3 **Pray for a spirit of unity in the bond of peace.**
- 4 Pray that God will raise up missionary candidates.
- 5 **Pray for preparations being made for Christian Workers Seminar to 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 as they make decisions.**
- 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 **Praise God for His Resurrected Son! Today is Easter Sunday!**

Prayer and Praise

April 2013

- 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 God's special blessing on those participating in Christian Workers Seminar, which begins today in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.**
- 8 Pray for those whose eyes are blinded to the gospel.
- 9 **Pray for Pastor Mike and Myra Montgomery and the Guthrie Grove Church, Pelzer, South Carolina.**
- 10 Pray for opportunities to witness to those without Jesus as their Savior.
- 11 **Pray for Sam An as he assists with the administrative work for the ABC Korean Extension.**
- 12 Praise God for the incredible beauty of 'new birth' we see every spring!
- 13 **Pray for the ministry of the Abundant Life Community Church in Rockford, Illinois.**
- 14 Pray for the churches in your state/district conference.
- 15 **Pray for the students and staff of Atlanta Bible College.**
- 16 Pray for the ministry of your church elders.
- 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.

Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
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Prayer and Praise

May 2013

- 1 **Pray for the editors of our conference publications.**
- 2 Pray for the Theological Conference being held May 2-5, in Norcross, Georgia.
- 3 **Pray for Pastor Ray and Susan Hall and the Garden Park, Michigan Church of God.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Charles and Carol Jones and the Pomona, California Church.
- 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 **Pray for God to raise up workers for our churches.**
- 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 **Praise God for ABCKE (May 6) & ABC (May 17) students as they receive bachelor's degrees, associate's degrees and foundation certificates.**
- 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 Fellowship in Pueblo West, Colorado.**
- 28 Pray for Church of God members throughout the world as they minister to others.
- 29 **Pray for your next door neighbors.**
- 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.**

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 4, MAY/JUNE/JULY 2013

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

Always On

A sermon from Christian Workers' Seminar 2013

By Dr. Joe Martin

I have my new phone. Many are getting their "smart phones" and "turning on." I had to turn my sound off at night due to calls from our African contacts in the middle of the night at the strangest hours. We are seven to nine hours before them. Noon there is three or four in the morning here. The phone is always on, but the sound is off so that Rebekah and I can get some sleep.

The Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project recently surveyed young people of the current generation. Researchers asked over a 1,000 technology people to review how "Generation AO, or Generation Always-On" will deal with information in the future. With the new devices always on, what will the next generation do? Research suggests the next generation will do great in "multi-tasking" but may be weak in the area of patience if they don't get the info right away!

I know twenty years ago, our living room was as dark as dark could be at night. Now, little lights from the television, stereo, phones, microwave, satellite, DVD recorder, CD player are blinking at me, "READY when you are!"

(A one-man skit in the middle of the sermon) Ring goes the phone! Hi, Rebekah. Where are you? You're in the Christian Worker's Seminar hotel parking lot? Well, I was starting the sermon and thought you might have an

emergency. You have four more boxes from Carol Ring to fit in the van? Well, we are taking Don and Marj back to the airport and I don't know how we can fit more stuff in. You want to put Marj on top of the van? I guess we could duct tape more things on top, but not Marj. You say Joe James wants to sing a song for communion? Has he talked to Paul Shaw? Rebekah, I can't handle this right now, I'm in the middle of a sermon! Always on.



I need you to know, more than anything else, GOD is Always On! In Psalm 121:1-4 it says:

"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;
From where shall my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.
He will not allow your foot to slip;
He who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, He who keeps Israel
Will neither slumber nor sleep!

The LORD God, Abba YHWH, neither slumbers nor sleeps. Our God has

promised His presence with those who seek Him. In Psalm 46:1 we read, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." He is AO, Always On.

With the exalted Lord Jesus, who is at the right hand of God, he too now is AO, Always On, I believe. In Matt. 28:20 He promises, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Over twenty times the New Testament references Jesus at the right hand of Almighty God, as foretold in Psalm 110:1. Acts 2:33 says He receives from the Father the Holy Spirit and pours it out on us.

In whom do we trust? Whom do we rely on? Job said it best in Job 19:25, 26 "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God!" Our God is Always On and now working through His Son, to be with the church as a body.

Many events in my life have shown me that God is always on. Once, about 1970, while taking a trip for Christmas from Oregon Bible College to Louisiana for Christmas, we ran into black ice, just out of St. Louis. The car literally turned around in the middle of Interstate 55, slid backwards into the median ditch. With no control, we slid towards the giant concrete pillar that held up an overpass. If we had hit that

(Continued on page 10)

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Publishing Specialist: Ruth Finnegan
Proofreader: Robert Jones

Address editorial correspondence to: THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: Gary Burnham, 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253

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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 2-5
Theological Conference
Simpsonwood Conference Center
Norcross, GA

May 6
Korean Extension Graduation
Duluth, GA

May 17
ABC Graduation
McDonough, GA

July 10-12
93rd Annual General Conference
Guthrie Grove Church of God
Pelzer, SC

July 21-26
FUEL
Manchester College
North Manchester, IN

Sept. 19-21
Heritage Conference
North Hills Church

SERVANTS WANTED FOR THE FUTURE

Have you ever thought of working for Atlanta Bible College or the Church of God General Conference? Over the next few years, some of us will be transitioning from full-time service to part-time service or retirement. If you are interested in the possibility, and feeling a call of God, please send a note and resume to Dr. Joe Martin, P.O. Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253. It will be kept in confidence.

Our Vision statement begins with "To Join God...," and our Mission statement begins with "To Serve Churches and Individuals..." Our values statement is LIFTS, Love, Integrity, Faith, Teamwork, Truth and Service. If you are interested in a job of service (remember this is a church-based organization), in administration, in teaching, in office work, generally at less pay than the "world" offers, please let us know of your interest.

Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner

All of this makes us even more certain that what the prophets said is true. So you should pay close attention to their message, as you would to a lamp shining in some dark place. 2 Pet. 1:19

The decisions we make today will affect our future and also our eternity. Making the right decision is crucial, and before you make the right decision, you are faced with choices, preferences, pressures, and temptations. As much as possible, we should premeditate our reactions to specific temptations.

This becomes increasingly important when we consider the prophetic events of the culmination of this age. The word "quickly" (Revelation 22:7, 12, 20) often carries the meaning "swiftly, speedily, at a rapid rate." Hence, the term could simply indicate that when the predicted events first start to occur, they will progress swiftly, in rapid succession.

If they are happening in "rapid succession", it will be difficult to make a number of eternal decisions when logic would seem to say "this makes sense" or "this really is a good thing."

Consider this case in point.

Cattle farmers for a number of years have been placing chips into livestock to prevent rustling. The chips can be tracked by GPS and will show up in a scan at processing plant. It has proven itself successful. The United States Department of Agriculture wants to expand it.

The federal government has launched a new livestock identification program to help agriculture officials to quickly track livestock in cases of disease.

It is the USDA's second attempt at implementing such a system, which officials say is critical to maintaining the security of the nation's food supply. An earlier voluntary program failed because of widespread opposition among farmers and ranchers who described it as a costly hassle that didn't help control disease.

There has been talk for years among consumer advocates about establishing a program that would trace food from farm to plate. The livestock identification system doesn't go that far and isn't meant to. Its main goal is to track animals' movements so agriculture and

health officials can quickly establish quarantines and take other steps to prevent the spread of disease.

Michael Doyle, director of the University of Georgia's Center for Food Safety, said livestock identification also helps investigators determine the source of disease - and whether it happened naturally or someone tampered with the food system. This is very logical. It is done for our safety. Carry this on to the next step.

Today, when a child is born in a hospital, a bracelet is placed on their wrist that identifies that child with the mother's (and father's) wrist bracelets. This is a safety device. The infant can't leave the hospital without activating a security system. It is meant to keep someone from abducting the baby. This is a good thing.

The next logical step is the implanting of a computer chip the size of a grain of rice immediately when a child is born to protect them all their life. It could contain all pertinent health and personal information. It would be undated throughout a person's lifetime.

If you were found unconscious, the chip would give emergency responders your name, address, person to call, health information, etc. It could have GPS tracking so it would be difficult to kidnap anyone because authorities could find your location. All this sounds like a very good system. What if you could swipe that chip at a checkout counter to pay for your purchases? It would be an implanted debit card.

The chip is already available. An individual national identification process (first with a card, but that would not be durable enough and gets lost) has been discussed for several years and may be attached to an immigration bill that presently is being considered by Congress.

All people were forced to put a mark on their right hand or forehead. Whether they were powerful or weak, rich or poor, free people or slaves, they all had to have this mark, or else they could not buy or sell anything. This mark stood for the name of the beast and for the number of its name. Rev. 13:16, 17 CEV

Now might be a good time to consider how you will respond. ■

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

40th CWS!!

The fortieth Christian Workers Seminar was fantastic. About a hundred people gathered at the Holiday Inn in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, April 7-11 for a fun time of study, fellowship and prayer. It reminds me of Acts 2:42 “They continue stedfastly...” in these things. Evening speakers were David Riley, Dan Gill, Joel Hemphill, Joe Myers and Joe Martin. There was also a group of great teachers... in class order, Wally, Jeff, the Rings, Mike, Rebekah, Dan, Joe, Kent, Cathy, Anthony, Andy and Ray.

At the final service, after the message, AO, Always On, there was a communion service combined with an anointing time with Dale Ramsey on one side of the auditorium and Dennis Baldwin on the other. The music again was great, led by Paul and Dolena Shaw in the evenings and by Joel Fletcher and Shelby Upton in the morning devotionals, along with the Hemphill concert on Tuesday night. A special thanks to Sharon Gill and 21stcr.org for videoing many classes and messages. Go to Dan and Sharon’s site www.21stcr.org for viewing as she puts some of these up over the next year!

AFRICA 2013

Rebekah and I are only about six weeks away from the June trip to our contacts and churches in Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique. We are very appreciative of contributions. We have over \$20,000 to distribute for Bibles, bicycles, and buildings because of your great generosity.

Jack Kmiecik from Omaha and Bethany Reise were to go. Sadly, because of health reasons, Beth will be unable to participate. I believe the three of us, Jack, Rebekah and me, will be able to handle the speaking and teaching duties. Jack was in one of my recent preaching classes. He is an outstanding speaker and student. God provides, but please remember this as we make contact with over 200 pastors and many churches there. PRAY!

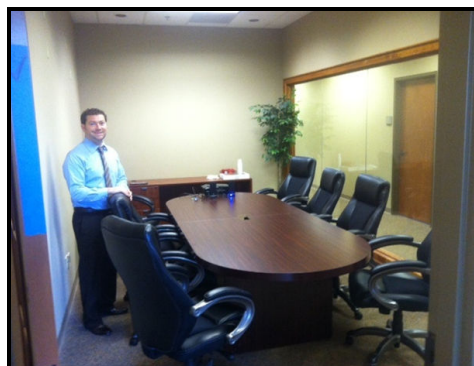
New Tenants and the LORD’s Building!

By the time you get this, the LORD’s house, the ABC/COGGC building will have two new major tenants. Verizon/Procom has already moved in to eight offices/rooms with a three-year lease. Primerica is to move in May 15, with ten offices/rooms. We prayed for godly tenants, and I believe God has answered those prayers! Thank you, and hallelujah! ■

Recently, right before CWS, Don and Marj Overmyer toured the new headquarters building for the first time. Marj, always the funny one, said, “This makes my doctor’s office look like a dump!” Thanks for the compliment, Marj! ■



Last evening, communion and anointing service



Eric of Verizon/Procom in his new conference room



Mock wheel chair race with Kent Ross, Marj Overmyer, and Jim Mattison. Robert Coverstone is the flagman.

Letter from the Chairman of the Board

Greetings in the name of our Heavenly Father and His Son, our Saviour, Jesus the Christ.

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the 2013 Christian Workers Seminar. It was once again held in Pigeon Forge, TN. In fact, this was the 40th annual CWS. We were reminded at this year's event, that sister Joyce Knapp of the Garden Park Church of God in Grand Rapids, MI, has not missed a single one! That's right, Joyce is 40 for 40 in attendance and participation of Christian Workers Seminar. Quite a record, and one we can all celebrate with her! Joyce was one of the leaders of this event for many many years. It is a legacy that she will always carry with her. Thank you, Joyce, for your service and commitment to the Church of God.

You know, Joyce isn't unique. There are many of our members who have unselfishly served their local church, state conference, and General Conference for many many years. It is just one item that I believe makes our conference so special. For though we may be apart in miles, we are close in our hearts due to the love of the great truths of the Bible, the concern for the lost, and the desire to encourage and serve the brethren. I love the people of the Church of God, and I know I am not alone!

We ask for your continued prayers for our General Confer-

ence and Atlanta Bible College. We have a goal to seek and join God. We have a mission to declare and prepare for the coming kingdom of God. We have a message to proclaim about the one and only one true God, His coming again son, the resurrection of the church, and the establishing of God's kingdom upon this earth. It is a wonderful mission and message. One we never tire of teaching and proclaiming and studying. It is the very reason we exist as a local church and General Conference. Some things we do very well on the local church level. Other things can only be accomplished as we work together. Our international missions, our Bible college, our church builders appeals, our support of local churches and pastors are just a few examples of how we can and must work together to better spread the good news of the coming kingdom.

Each year we gather for two and a half days to attend our annual General Conference. This year's conference will be held at the Guthrie Grove Church of God, in Pelzer, SC. While the meetings will be mostly held at Guthrie Grove, the conference is being conducted and supported by our sister churches, the Bethel Church of God, and Joy Fellowship. Pastors Mike Montgomery, James Schaul, Kyle Casey, and Wally Winner will be working together to assure another wonderful conference. The dates for this year's conference are: July 10-12. Besides

the wonderful fellowship, worship services, and classes, there will also be business sessions held on Thursday and Friday. We want to have all our churches represented. Please encourage your local church to send delegates to this year's conference. There will be two members elected to our Board of Directors. We hope to have a minimum of four nominations. Nominations can be made on the floor. The terms of Carrie Briggs and Joe Myers will conclude at the end of this year's conference. It is an honor to serve on this board.

I have the happy task of writing this article from sunny Arizona. I know many of you are dealing with harsh weather. The extended winter and the severe flooding must be a challenge. But be of good cheer. Spring is just around the corner and summer not too far behind. It is a time of renewal and growth. And that is precisely what our prayer for the Church of God is as well. We pray that God will bless our churches with a spirit of renewal and a harvest of growth as we wait for and work for and pray for the soon return of Jesus and with His coming, the resurrection of the church and the establishment of the kingdom.

Blessing to all,

Joe Myers, Chair



General Conference Nominations and Recommendations

At General Conference we will be electing two (2) directors for the board of directors. The terms of Carrie Briggs and Joe Myers 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 busi-

ness 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.

Recommendation One:

Delegate Representation of Isolated Members Presented by the Board of Directors

We recommend that a Conference of Isolated Members be established to give isolated Church of God members representation and a vote at the annual summer conference. A delegate and alternate will be selected by the isolated members, procedure for nomination and selection to be established by former board member Dan Siderius and David Krogh no later than January 1, 2014. An

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

isolated member will be defined as a person who subscribes to the doctrinal statement contained in the By-Laws of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference, McDonough, GA; who is not currently an active member of a Church of God congregation; and who does not live within a reasonable driving distance of a Church of God.

Explanation:

Many Church of God members find themselves living in an area where no Church of God congregation exists. However, many still have an interest in the work of the conference and college and many are generous supporters of our ministry. The first Church of God Isolated Member Ministry was formed by a group that met in Blair, NE on May 27, 1912. When the General Conference was organized in 1921, there was no provision made for representation or a vote at the annual conference. This recommendation will formally recognize the legitimacy of forming an Isolated Member Conference with the same representation and voting rights given by the constitution to state/district conferences.

Recommendation Two:

Establishment of an Academic Advisory Committee for Atlanta Bible College Presented by the Board of Directors

We recommend that an Academic Advisory Committee be selected to work with the Board of Directors and the staff in curriculum review and development, maintaining high academic standards, advising on educational methods, and student issues. The committee will be composed of seven members selected according to the following requirements: 1. all members must be affiliated with member churches of the conference; 2. will include the president of ABC and the vice president of ABC-KE, a member of the board of directors appointed by the board, and two members selected by the Ministerial Association to serve four-year terms; and two additional non-board members selected by the board of directors for four-year terms; 3. Terms of members will be staggered to prevent mass turnover in any single year; 4. No more than four members of the com-

mittee will be individuals whose sole higher education was experienced at Oregon Bible College or Atlanta Bible College; 5. Upon expiration of his/her term of service, a committee member may be reappointed.

The committee will meet once per year in person unless there is an emergency situation as determined by the president of ABC. It is proposed that the annual meeting be held in conjunction with the annual General Conference. Additional meetings shall be conducted by phone, videoconference, or email. This committee will report to the Board of Directors through the president of ABC concerning any reports requested of, or required by, the committee. The Academic Advisory Committee will develop its own operating protocols regarding meeting format, documentation of meetings, and distribution of oversight activities.

Explanation:

In the past, our Bible College has benefited from a "Board of Education" and more recently by a "Higher Education Advisory Committee." In 2003, the Advisory Committee was phased out. Because of the expansion of Atlanta Bible College with the Korean Extension and an extensive distance learning program, it seems prudent to seek the advice and counsel of individuals with an interest and expertise in equipping persons for ministry in the best possible educational environment. With a limited staff and a Board of Directors charged with many oversight activities, the ability to do research and development of our programs will be enhanced with additional individuals focusing on the work of this important part of our General Conference ministry.

Board Nominations:

Dan Knowlton of Walkerton, Indiana has agreed to be nominated for a position on the Board of Directors. Information about the nominee will be e-mailed to the membership prior to conference along with the names of any other candidates who are nominated prior to conference. Nominations can also be made from the floor at conference. Nominations will be made on Thursday, July 11, and the election will be held on Friday, July 12. ■

Good News

*Like cold water to a weary soul,
So is good news from a distant land.
Proverbs 25:25*

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – The Women of Faith sponsored the annual Valentine Fellowship Sunday evening February 10 in Squeaky's private room. It was an enjoyable night of food and fellowship. [I can't for the life of me think of a good line to add about Squeaky's, but feel free to make up your own. – GNP]

From the **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – **Tracy Zhykhovich** organized an End of the Age Conference that was held February 22-23 at the church. The conference's featured speaker was **Anthony Buzzard**.

From the **Ripley Church of God in Ripley, IL** – Thanks go out to so many faithful helpers that make things so wonderful for the church. Thanks to **Karen Laning** for decorating the church for Christmas. Thanks to **Peggy Jo Dyer** for donating a crock pot that she won at work. Thanks to **Sherwin Williams** for a wonderful breakfast he prepared December 23. And thanks to **Eric Laning** for fixing the broken water pipe. [Little things add up, and all who work hard for the Lord will be rewarded. – GNP]

From the **GNP desk** – Congratulations to some ladies who have reached milestone birthdays. **Carnie Graham Ehrle** (Glendale, AZ) on March 16 and **Mary Ellen Jones** (Bedford Church of the Open Bible) on April 27 each celebrated 90th birthdays. Happy Birthday, Carnie and Mom! May you each have many more! **Dorothy Hare**, however, a member of the Fonthill, Ontario, Canada church has you both beat. She turned 100 on January 27. [NOTE: Don't forget to let GNP know about those special birthdays. Mind-reading is not a spiritual gift of GNP.]

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** is

pleased to announce that the church has been asked to be a designated supporter to the Common Cup Ministry of Hutchinson for their diaper giveaway ministry this year. The giveaway will happen in November. Pastor Viv is excited that Common Cup views the church as a community helper.

From the **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – The church was blessed to host a concert on Sunday April 7 by the St. Louis Park Community Band, featuring **Jesse Peterson**. Jesse has displayed his abundant musical talents many times at the church, and the concert of various musical styles was a very enjoyable time.

From the **Northeast Conference** – Retired **Pastor Scott Ross** was the guest speaker/teacher at the 2013 annual Northeast Conference held at Lawrenceville Church of God March 14-16. Scott presented sessions on Nehemiah, Gideon, Barnabas, Martha, Daniel, and David. The conference theme was "Ordinary People, Extraordinary God."

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** and his wife **Susan** held an open house April 7. So, what's newsworthy about that? Their newly-renovated home is the old Lawrenceville Church. Turning a church into a home! [Ask Alan, and I'm sure he'd be delighted to send you pictures. – GNP]

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – Summer fun activities are lining up for the people of the church. All Faith Day at the Cincinnati Reds game is August 11, and the half-price tickets include a concert by Mercy Me. [Where can I sign up for that? – GNP] The Christian concerts at Kings Island date will be June 29. Thirty bucks gets you in for the day and a ticket to the concerts. [Another fun date to look forward to. – GNP] **Gary and Jill Hedges** are coordinating the

(continued on page 14)

“Love Does and God Loves Best” a quote by Dr. Joe Martin

Atlanta Bible College offers a special weekend each spring, called ABC-i. This weekend is a wonderful opportunity for young people in 8th grade and up to get together with like-minded people and learn more about attending Atlanta Bible College, by sitting in on several classes, having an interview with a staff member, participating in worship services, as well as touring the campus and student housing.

Students from Ohio, South Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Georgia had the opportunity to sit in on four classes over the weekend; Systematic Theology, New Testament Survey, Old Testament Preaching, and Marriage and Family. Throughout the weekend messages were delivered by Dr. Joe Martin, Jonathan Wincapaw, and Shelby Upton on the theme “Love Does,” and worship was led by students in a worship planning class. Saturday is the day we focus on service by participating in a service project. This year we did our projects at Cornerstone Bible Church and Atlanta Bible College. The students worked really hard and completed several projects from cleaning floors, painting walls, mowing grass, cleaning at the college, and more.



Whether students have been considering attending ABC for years or it was their first time visiting ABC, the weekend was a great time of fellowship and community for all who attended. After attending classes, worship services, and completing several service projects, we ended the weekend with karaoke, which was a hit for all!



Looking forward to another great ABC-i in 2014. Stay tuned for more details!

Relationship Remix

The Lakeshore, Tempe AZ and Cashmere, WA youth recently got together to have a Relationship Remix. They spent five days together studying God's word and learning how to have a better relationship with God, Jesus, our families and others at the first ever WA-AZ Camp in AZ. There were classes, crafts, recreational activities and worship sessions all focused on the theme for the week—Relationship Remix. The youth and leaders from both churches were excited to share with each other in this amazing opportunity.



ABC News

A great ABC Invitational was held in late March for students interested in attending ABC. Students visited classes, participated in worship services, and performed work projects around the college and Cornerstone Bible Church. Thirty students and nine sponsors participated. Thanks to those who made it possible for prospective students to attend.

The Korean Extension graduation will be held at the north campus on Monday afternoon, May 6 at 4:00 p.m. Six students will receive Bachelor of Theology degrees. ABC graduation will be held on May 17 with five students receiving the Bachelor of Theology degree: Jake Ballard, Vyenna Gowa, Daniel Ndungu, Margaret Ngugi, and Blake Weber. Seven students will receive the Associates degree in Theology and Ministry: Jordan Dimmick, Jack Kmiecik, George Muthee, Mitch Raper, Julius Ross, Robin Todd, and Shelby Upton. Four students will receive the Foundation certificate: Marcus Brown, Jonathan Foster, Fritz Pierre-lys. Bethany Reise, and Julius Ross.

The Board of Directors has approved free tuition for the next school year for students affiliated with Churches of God who belong to our General Conference. Students interested in applying should contact Registrar David Krogh for additional information—678-833-1839 or dkrogh@abc-coggc.org.

Go Serve teams will be available to assist churches in our conference 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. ■



(Continued from page 1)

backwards, surely my car would have exploded and my family would have been killed. After a quick Nehemiah prayer, “O LORD, help us,” the car slid to within a few feet and stopped. Our God is Always On. We can taste the “powers of the coming age now” (Heb. 6:5) because our God, and His Son, the Lord Jesus are AO.

A final verse that verifies this concept is Revelation 21:22, 23: “I saw no temple in it, for

the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.” Again, Always On! We have gone through many things as a family and a conference to know that our God neither slumbers nor sleeps.

Here at the 40th anniversary of Christian Worker’s Seminar, I want you to know that no matter the crisis is in the future, our God through the Lord Je-

sus is able to deliver us. THEY are Always On! Through the many blessings, through the many trials and tribulations, they are AO. Let’s help the next generation tune in to them also. ■

Debt Retirement (Note Burning) Service At Grace Fellowship Church, Front Royal, VA

By Pastor Dennis J Baldwin

Debt reduction usually occurs over a long period of time and at times is very painful. Debt retirement demands celebration. March 17, 2013 witnessed just such a celebration at Grace Fellowship. Former members and representatives from our other three Virginia Conference churches joined the Grace membership in celebrating the retirement of our years of debt. Former Virginia pastor Gary Burnham represented the General Conference at Grace and presented an original note for burning. The original note itself was something over \$50,000 and extended over a period of fifteen plus years. Together with what we realized upon the sale of the facility in Royal Village and a Mission Builders' Appeal, our General Conference, of which we are all a part, enabled Grace Fellowship to shore up the needs of our Building Program.

Many thanks go out to the able leaders of the General Conference at the time, for responding to our needs. The celebration was planned and directed by our Minister of Music, Dale Ramsey and was truly a time of celebration of what we do in the church building proper. We generally think that worshipping God is what we do in

church without thinking that there are other things we do and should do in the short time we spend in our church building during a normal week. We were reminded that the church is a place where offerings are presented: a place where we study and learn: as well as a place where we fellowship, eat, and yes, even play. Many of the church membership participated in the service, and all were uplifted. A pictorial Power Point provided a historical sketch of where we came from to where we are.

As pastor, I reminded the membership, as Dr. Joe has reminded us so many times, that we need to continue to find what God is doing and join Him. I also reminded the church that *Jesus* is "*building his church*" of which we are a part and that we want him "*in our midst*" as he was in the midst of the "*seven golden lamp stands*" in Revelation chapter 1. I also reminded the worshippers that we are "*laborers together with God*" and that Jesus encourages us now as he did when he was upon the earth, to "*pray the Lord of harvest to send forth laborers into the harvest field*" and not wait till the harvest to



Debt retirement celebration!



be concerned about the harvest itself; spring is the most important time to think about the harvest. We look forward to continuing the "*good work which the Lord has begun in us.*" We thank all the conference for helping to make this work possible.

Pastor Dennis J Baldwin
Grace Fellowship
Church of God
55 Westminster Drive
Front Royal, VA 22630



Join us for 93rd Annual Church of God General Conference

July 10-12, 2013

Guthrie Grove Church of God, Pelzer, SC

Theme: Revolution: R³ (R cubed): Revelation, Renewal, and Restitution

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 Guthrie Grove 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 2013, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253
4. Or register online at www.abc-coggc.org (or contact Kim Raper 678-833-1839)
5. Please tell us if you have any dietary restrictions for the meals.

Name _____ Day Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Attending July 10 Cookout at Guthrie Grove 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 an event directory? Y _____ or N _____

The program will begin July 10 with a late afternoon Low Country Boil 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 Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference in order to secure these rates.

Hampton Inn 864-760-1000; 411 Alliance Parkway, Anderson, SC 29621
 6 miles from the church; exit 27 off I-85; \$85 plus tax for king bed or two queens; full hot breakfast; price good until June 18

Best Western 864-552-1420; 70 Kalyns Way, Piedmont, SC
 7.5 miles from the church; Exit 40 off I-85; \$79.99 plus tax for king bed or two queens; full hot breakfast; rooms available - first come, first served

Holiday Inn Express - 864-231-0231, 410 Alliance Parkway, Anderson, SC
 6 miles from the church; Exit 27 off I-85; \$75.95 plus tax for king bed or \$85.95 for two queens; full hot breakfast; price good until June 9

Super 8 - 864-220-1836; 3104 Highway 153, Piedmont, SC
 7.5 miles from the church; Exit 40 off I-85; \$59.99 plus tax for king bed; \$64.99 plus tax for queen bed; continental breakfast; rooms available - first come, first served

Adults at \$99 per person	\$
Children ages 6 to 12 at \$35 per person	\$
Commuters, no meals at \$35 per person	\$
Subtotal	\$
Pastor Discount—subtract 10%	\$
non-refundable less \$25 deposit per person	\$ \$25.00
Registration on or after June 22, 2013 add \$25	
Total due at conference	\$

Church Information: Guthrie Grove Church of God ▪ 403 Guthrie Grove Church Road ▪ Pelzer ▪ SC ▪ 29669 ▪ 864-947-9717

93rd Annual Church of God General Conference
July 10-12, 2013 at Guthrie Grove Church of God
Theme: Revolution - R³ (R cubed): Revelation, Renewal, and Restitution

Wednesday – July 10

- 2 - 4:00 - Visit area churches: Bethel and Joy Fellowship
- 3:00 - Conference Registration
- 4:00 - Tour of Bible Land Museum - Dr. Alva Huffer
- 5:00 - Low Country Boil
- 7:00 - Evening Worship Service – Pastor Wally Winner, speaker
- 8:30 - Reception - Joe and Carol James - Host/hostess

Thursday – July 11

- Breakfast on your own
- 9:00 - Morning Worship – Pastor Michael Montgomery
- 10:15 - Workshops/Meetings:
 1. Raise Weird Kids: Because Normal Isn't Working - Dan and Rachel Cain
 2. Ministers Meeting
 3. God's Focus and Our Future - James Ritch
 4. Hearts on Fire! How to Reach Your Full Potential for God! - Rebekah Martin **(continued in 11:15 session)**
 5. Cooperative Creative Teamwork - exciting your team in order to motivate them, grounding them to be realistic about what can be achieved, transforming them into a truly well-functioning team, and releasing them into the world to improve other teams elsewhere - Julie Driskill
- 11:00 - Break
- 11:15 - Workshops/Meetings:
 1. Church for the Unchurched - Wally Winner
 2. Sharing Your Faith Made Easy - Ed Bender
 3. Suggestions on How to Improve Your Christian Ed Program - yearly planning, teacher training possibilities, possible uses of Kingdom Quest, and recruiting workers with creative ideas - Myra Hamilton
 4. Hearts on Fire! How to Reach Your Full Potential for God! - Rebekah Martin **(continued from 10:15 session)**
 5. Life as a Youth Worker: Work in Progress - Rebecca Dauksas
- 12:15 - Lunch
- 1:30 - Chapel – Hymn Sing
- 2:15 - Workshops/Meetings:
 1. Ministers Meeting
 2. Mentor Me! - Kyle Casey
 3. The Old Testament Law Made Easy? - Bob Jones
 4. Introduction to Natural Church Development - Gary Burnham
 5. The Only True God - Joe Martin
- 3:00 - Break
- 3:15 - Business Session (ends at 5:15)

- 5:30 - Dinner
- 7:00 - Evening Worship – Seth Ross, speaker
- 8:30 - Meeting of ABC Development Foundation Board

Friday – July 12

- Breakfast on your own
- 9:00 - Morning Worship – Ministerial Recognition Board and Ministers Association Leadership Team Recognitions; Paul Duncan, speaker
- 10:15 - Workshops/Meetings:
 1. Open Forum with Board of Directors
 2. What's in a Name? A Tale of Resentment, Retaliation, and Reconciliation - Telva Elwell
 3. History of the Church of God General Conference - Terry Ferrell
 4. Using Technology to Reach Beyond Our Church Buildings—Michael Smith **(this topic will be continued next period for those who want to go into more depth and to ask questions)**
- 11:00 - Break
- 11:15 - Workshops/Meetings:
 1. Up:Project - Graysen Pack
 2. Ministers Meeting
 3. Priscilla Meeting
 4. Question and Answer Session on Using Technology to Reach Beyond Our Church Buildings—Michael Smith **(continued from previous workshop period)**
- 12:15 - Lunch
- 1:30 - Chapel – Pastor James Ritch and Communion James Ritch and Bob Jones
- 2:15 - Workshops/Meetings:
 1. Open Forum with Board of Directors
 2. Bible Topic - Gary Smith
 3. Be Careful What You Ask For . . . You Just Might Get It! - John Wincapaw
 4. The Promises of the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants - Joe James
 5. Transformed or Conformed - Andy Cisneros
- 3:00 - Break
- 3:15 - Business Session (ends at 4:15)
- 4:30 - Board of Directors' meeting
- 5:30 - Dinner (Board meets over dinner in a separate room)
- 7:00 - Evening Worship; Dr. Joe Martin, speaker; Installation of Board of Directors
- 8:30 - Meeting of Alumni Association - Amanda Jacinto, President

Good News (continued from p. 8)

Reds game event, and **Rick and Jennifer Jordan** will sponsor the youth for the concerts at Kings Island.

From the **Bedford Church of the Open Bible in Bedford, OH** – The second Sunday of December has become the traditional date to go caroling at Emerald Ridge Nursing Home. Church members sing carols in the hallways for the residents and present them with small Christmas gifts. Their faces light up when they sing along.

From the **Brush Creek Church of God in Tipp City, OH** – The church held a “Night in Bethlehem” last fall that was very well-attended. About 150 people came to the event, which had a petting zoo and many shops to represent what Bethlehem was like when Jesus was born.

From the **Delaware Restoration Fellowship in Delaware, OH** – Still in its first year, this group is a startup fellowship meeting in Brown Township Hall outside of Delaware, OH. The meetings are open discussions on one chapter of the Bible at a time. In January 250 newsletters were mailed out to some of the homes in the township. [We all are praying that the seed will find fertile soil in many hearts, and that this new group will soon become a solid church within our fellowship of churches. – GNP]

From the **Glad Tidings Church of God in Fonthill, Ontario, Canada** – **Pastor Michael Brown** reports that the church family enjoyed a “Midwinter’s Night Picnic” on February 22. Families brought blankets and either picnic lunch or bought some pizza and enjoyed indoor specialty games, such as “Let It Snow,” Shoveling Snow,” “Dogsledding,” “Ice Fishing,” and “Ice Hockey.” It was not real snow or ice, just objects that looked real. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time.

From the **North Hills Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Seth Ross** reports that the church had a garden which was tended by some faithful members. Produce from the garden was provided to any family who needed it at no charge. [What a wonderful ministry, and a wonderful opportunity for members to enjoy some fresh air and gardening time. – GNP]

From the **Pleasant Hill Church of God in Pleasant Hill, OH** – **Pastor Scott Deane** announced that the

church is planning a mission trip to South Dakota this summer. The June 27 – July 5 trip will go to Crow Creek Indian Reservation to work on a Habitat for Humanity project. It is a joint project between the youth and the missions department.

From the **Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH** – **Pastor Dan Cain** is pleased to announce upcoming activities in the church. The Deborah Circle Annual Getaway will be May 4-5, and the destination is Florence, KY. A multiply group will be collecting personal hygiene items and paper products on the second Sunday of each month for Partners in Hope to distribute to those in need.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – After thirteen years of cleaning the church, **Roy and Alberta Stevens** have decided to unplug the vacuum, hang up the mop, and sip coffee on their porch. God bless you in your retirement, and the church thanks you from the bottoms of their hearts for your dedicated work. Pastor Alan Cain announces **Rick and Mary Massie** as the new custodians. Thank you for stepping into this important ministry.

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 COG-Land to know about it. [**PLEASE** 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. PLEASE SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS, and we’ll put you in print!
Robert L. Jones ■

Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed on pages 16 and 17 include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 adopted by the delegates at the 2012 summer conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

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 (continued next page)

Income (continued)

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 Trinet, 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 Trinet
3. **Employee Benefits** – tax coverage, health insurance premiums, workers compensation, and other charges for co-employed Trinet 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, rest-room 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 ■

Budget Proposals - Income

	FY 2013 - 2014	FY 2013 - 2014	FY 2014 - 2015
	<u>Approved</u> <u>@ GC - 2012</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>Revisions</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS:			
General Contributions	370,000	364,000	369,000
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	0	0	0
ABC Boosters	16,000	17,000	18,000
Subtotal	386,000	381,000	387,000
SALES:			
Christian Education Materials	21,000	18,000	18,000
Books	23,000	21,000	20,000
Sale of Assets	0	0	0
Subtotal	44,000	39,000	38,000
ABC:			
Tuition	535,000	410,000	420,000
Lodging/Apartment Rent	36,000	32,000	32,000
ABCDF Support	30,000	30,000	40,000
Interest and Late Fees	4,000	3,500	3,600
Application/Miscellaneous Fees	11,000	8,500	8,600
Subtotal	616,000	484,000	504,200
PROGRAM INCOME:			
Conferences & Workshops	5,000	2,500	2,500
Subtotal	5,000	2,500	2,500
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Interest	100	50	50
Other Income	5,000	7,000	5,000
Tenant Income	84,000	65,000	75,000
Transferred In	10,000	6,000	6,000
Subtotal	99,100	78,050	86,050
Income Total	1,150,100	984,550	1,017,750
Expense Total	1,150,100	984,550	1,017,750
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	0	0	0

Budget Proposals - Expense

	FY 2013 - 2014	FY 2013 - 2014	FY 2014 - 2015
	Approved	Proposed	
	@ GC - 2012	Revisions	Proposed
STAFF:			
Salaries & Wages	471,500	425,500	434,000
F.I.C.A. Tax	8,700	4,500	6,000
Employee Benefits	108,000	95,000	90,000
Subtotal	588,200	525,000	530,000
SERVICES:			
Assistance to Churches	12,900	3,100	1,300
Ministerial Association	6,000	6,000	6,000
Youth Program	12,000	10,000	10,000
Subtotal	30,900	19,100	17,300
SALES EXPENSE:			
Printing & Binding	32,000	25,500	28,000
Postage & Shipping	10,500	10,000	11,000
Book Store	16,000	15,000	16,500
Subtotal	58,500	50,500	55,500
ABC:			
Advertising--Recruitment	7,000	7,000	6,000
Student/Staff Meals	20,000	16,000	16,500
Library Periodicals	1,100	1,000	1,000
Library Books	500	0	0
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	600	350	350
Staff Training	8,000	7,000	5,000
Subtotal	37,200	31,350	28,850
ADMINISTRATION:			
Travel	40,000	28,000	31,000
Office & Misc Supplies & Expense	13,000	11,250	12,000
Professional Services	8,000	11,500	12,000
Telephone/Internet/Web/Data	28,000	25,500	27,000
Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint	29,000	27,500	29,000
Subtotal	118,000	103,750	111,000
PLANT EXPENSES:			
Utilities	70,000	59,000	63,000
Insurance - Property	9,900	13,750	14,500
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	17,500	22,000	22,000
Furniture & Equipment	2,500	1,000	2,000
Supplies/Expenses Plant	6,000	3,000	4,000
Reserve for Capital R/M	3,600	3,600	3,600
Property Tax	19,000	21,000	22,000
Subtotal	128,500	123,350	131,100
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Campus Leases	76,000	68,000	70,000
Apartment Leases	48,000	35,000	40,000
Debt Repayment	18,500	0	0
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	7,500	15,000	20,000
Other	13,000	13,500	14,000
Contingency	25,800	0	0
Subtotal	188,800	131,500	144,000
Expense Total	1,150,100	984,550	1,017,750
Income Total	1,150,100	984,550	1,017,750
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	0	0	0

Church News

Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown – Dakota Foote and Harrison Goodrich, (2/17/13)
by Pastor Tom New

Ohio

Troy View - Wade Alcorn (2/17/13) by Pastor Dan Cain

Troy View - Caleb Steggemann (4/1/13) by Kent Snyder under
the direction of Pastor Dan Cain

Deaths

Virginia

Fairfax - Nedra Helenburg, (4/14/2013), wife of former Board of
Director's chairperson, Rob Helenburg, and active member of
the Fair Oaks Community Church, by Gary Burnham, Dennis
Baldwin, Janice Hart and Dale Ramsey

Ohio

Dayton - Gary Childs, 64, (3/18/2013), assisted his father, Ralph
Childs, in his music ministry, by Pastors Alan Cain and Rex Cain

West Milton - Diana Huston, (4/10/2013), long time member of
Brush Creek Church and wife of former Board of Directors mem-
ber, John Huston, by Pastor Dave Hixon.



Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers celebrated two wonderful events recently. One was the tenth anniversary of Simple Teachings Bible Church, and the other was the wedding of their firstborn child, Octavia!

The church presented a plaque to Rufus with signatures etched in bronze. At the wedding, Rufus and Jerri celebrated Clyde, a captain in the Air Force, coming into the family. They will live near Wright Patterson base in Ohio for the present.

LHI Report

In addition to the trip to Africa mentioned in Joe Martin's article in this issue, plans have been finalized for a couple to visit Pakistan this spring. For security reasons we are not announcing the names of the team or the specific dates of the trip. We urge your fervent prayer for this trip as well as for the team going to Africa in late May. Security, good health, and safety in travel are vital prayer needs whenever a team goes on a mission trip. Additional funding in the amount of several thousand dollars is needed to cover the expenses of the Pakistan trip. Gifts can be sent to LHI, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253.

We have received word that one of the pastors that we

are working with in Kenya, Pastor Amos, lost his home and all of his possessions in a flood recently. After a day of heavy rain, a nearby river overflowed its banks and swept everything away. LHI has sent several hundred dollars to help Pastor Amos and his family to find an alternate place to live.

We also received word recently of the death of Pastor Nathan in Tanzania. Please remember his family in prayer and also pray for Pastor Jerome Chembe as he makes decisions about replacing Pastor Nathan at his church.

Lupe Badillo sends her love and thanks for the support that is provided to her through the generosity of friends in the United States.

Book Published

Ivan Magaw has just published a history of his father, Sydney Magaw, entitled "Preaching First Century Christianity." Sydney was pastor of several churches and also served as editor of *The RESTITUTION HERALD* from 1938 until his death in 1950. He was an instructor at Oregon Bible College and served as the leader of the General Conference from 1943 to 1950.

This book can be secured by contacting: Ivan Magaw, 411 N. 6th St., Apt. A, Oregon, IL 61061 or by calling Ivan at 815-732-7576. The cost of the book is \$20.

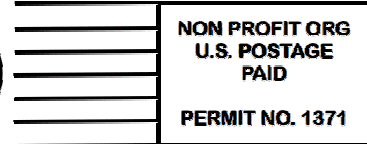
- 1 **Pray for God's blessing on your extended family.**
- 2 Pray for the ministry of the Open Bible Church in Bolivar, Missouri.
- 3 **Pray for the Midwest Family Camp to be held at Camp Mack later this month.**
- 4 Praise God for the beauty of His creation.
- 5 **Pray that God will speak deeply into 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 Guthrie Grove Church of God in Pelzer, SC.
- 15 **Praise God for your church family.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the Simple Teachings Bible Church, McDonough, Georgia.
- 17 **Pray for 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.

Prayer and Praise

July 2013

- 1 **Pray for God's travel and ministry blessings on the Africa Mission Team's work later this month.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor James and Rebecca Ritch and the work at Lenoir, NC.
- 3 **Pray that God might move the Church of God forward in new areas of ministry.**
- 4 Praise God for the blessings of freedom we celebrate today in the United States.
- 5 **Pray that many will hear God's call into full-time Christian service.**
- 6 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 those arriving at the General Conference.
- 11 **Pray for the meetings at the Guthrie Grove Church of God, Pelzer, S.C.**
- 12 Pray for God's blessing and direction on the delegates during General Conference business sessions.
- 13 **Praise God for his wisdom.**
- 14 Pray for God's blessing on your pastor's sermon today.
- 15 **Praise God for the continuing opportunities to present the Gospel of the Kingdom over the radio, shortwave, and the Internet.**
- 16 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ as Savior.
- 17 **Pray 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 students arriving at FUEL today.**
- 22 Pray for a great hunger and thirst for righteousness in your church.
- 23 **Pray for the staff of FUEL and the influence they are having on the young people this week.**
- 24 Pray for Pastor John and Alice Railton and the work of the Family Bible Church in Granger, Indiana.
- 25 **Pray for God to bless the FUEL program at Manchester College (North Manchester, Indiana) this week.**
- 26 Pray for the safety for those traveling home from FUEL today.
- 27 **Praise God for the many people in our churches who have been baptized recently.**
- 28 Praise God for the family and friends He has provided to you.
- 29 **Pray for the Lupe Badillo and the work in Mexico.**
- 30 Pray for Freedom in Christ Ministries, Welland, Ontario and Pastor Stephen and Joyce Bolhous.
- 31 **Praise God for efforts being made to plant new churches.**

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



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Prayer and Praise

August 2013

- 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 Bible Church, Minnesota.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 5, AUG./SEPT./OCT. 2013

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

The Restitution / *Apokatastasis* Of All Things

By Dr. Joe Martin

It is good to be with you at the 93rd General Conference. Wow, ninety-three years is a long time! The theme for this week is R³ - Revelation, Renewal, and Restitution. I want to take a moment to thank the churches in the area for the great program. I also want to thank the speakers leading up to tonight our final night together. Many people have put in lots of time to make this happen. Thank you!

My history with the area goes back over forty years. On our honeymoon, we stopped at the Duncan's in North Carolina, Z.B.'s famous quote to Rebekah was, "Does your daddy know you're married?" He even called to check with Jim Mattison to make sure if I remember correctly. A year later, we also spent time in South Carolina with Loie and Martha Jones and slept in their house. The Huffers are also long time family friends. I want to thank Myra for putting up the slides for the message. Lots of family and stories.

The title of the message is simply RESTITUTION, which is part of the title of our conference magazine, "**The Restitution Herald!**" The key New

Testament passage is Acts 3:11-21 where Peter is explaining God's plan based on Jesus and the healing of the lame man. In verse 19 Peter tells them to "repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come... ." Later he speaks that God would "... send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things..." (vv 20, 21). The Prince, Jesus, is sitting at the right hand of God... until the time of RESTITUTION!



A new heaven and a new earth is coming!

The Greek for "restitution" is "*apokatastasis*." It can be broken down into three words, "*apo*," which generally is "from" in Greek, "*kata*," which is "according to," and "*stasis*," or state of being. One dictionary defi-

inition is "a legal action serving to cause restoration of a previous state." A literal rendering may be restoring according to the original state. I would like to suggest our original state is found in Genesis 1-2.

But before we go there, there are examples of restitution given in Exodus 22. In verse 3, if a thief steals, he must make restitution. In verse 5, if a field or vineyard is destroyed by someone's loose animal, restitution must be made. If someone starts a fire and it

burns grain in a field, "...he who started the fire shall surely make restitution." (NASB) In verse 12, if an animal is left in the custody of someone and the animal is stolen from him, "... he shall make restitution to its owner." All of these examples represent returning, as much as possible, to the original state or situation.

In Genesis one, God sees what was created and notes that it is good.

This is said six times in verses 4, 10, 12, 18, 21 and 25. Good, good, good, good, good, good, and then the ultimate "very good" in verse 31. The Hebrew is "*tov mayod!*" Like an old song, "We had it all, just like Bogey and Bacall, starring in our own

(Continued on page 13)

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Publishing Specialist: Ruth Finnegan
Proofreader: Robert Jones
Coordinator: Gary Burnham

Address editorial correspondence to: THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: Gary Burnham, 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253

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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 sal-

**CHECKING
THE CALENDAR**

August 19
Fall Semester begins at
Atlanta Bible College

Sept. 19-21
Heritage Conference
North Hills Church
Springfield, OH

July 2-4, 2014
94th Annual General Conference
and
75th Anniversary of
Atlanta Bible College
Cornerstone Bible Church
McDonough, GA



Pastor Daniel Fyfe receiving plaque from Paul Duncan
for serving 50 years in pastoral ministry, primarily in the
Carolina Conference

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)

Eun Hee Ahn	Jack Kmiecik
Dong Kyuk Bang	Bethany Reise
You Sik Choi	Jia Seo
Joel Fletcher	Jae Yun Shim
Jin Suk Han	Shelby Upton
Hee O Kim	

DEAN'S LIST (3.00 TO 3.49)

Sung Woong Cho	Eun Jin Kim	Se Won Oh
Jordan Dimmick	Hae Young Kim	Tae Kyung Oh
Vyenna Gowa	Jae Kwan Kim	Hae Won Park
Hyeon Mi Jeong	Joong Jung Ko	Jacob Rohrer
Soon Ho Jeong	Yun Kee Kwon	Eun Ah Shim
Yu Jin Jeong	Min Joo Lee	Hye Seung Shin
Eliud Kamau	Margaret Ngugi	Eun Joo Yang
Bae Sik Kim	John Obi	

Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner

Bank on a Stormy Jordan

Almost as redundant as saying “honest truth” is predicting another Arab insurgence.

While other conflicts are drawing attention, Jordan’s government, now headed by King Abdullah II, may soon fall in a way similar to the government of Egypt. Abdullah, of the Hashemite family, has the distinction in the Arab world of being the direct descendant of Mohammed.

Vulnerable minorities are the typical victims in most countries. This is not the case in Jordan where a Palestinian majority has been discriminated against. Palestinians make up two thirds of Jordan’s population. Palestinians make up the majority of the population of Jordan's two largest cities.

Palestinians pay heavy taxes; they receive close to zero state benefits; they are almost completely shut out of government jobs, and they have very little, if any, political representation.

How long will the Palestinian majority wait before they revolt against Abdullah? Will they then turn their attention toward Israel? If they do, it will be a foolhardy decision.

The Bible makes no reference to a national entity by the name of Jordan. The British and French victors of the first world war divided the Middle East as the spoils of the Ottoman Empire, which had sided with the Germans, creating the nations of Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and others.

Biblically that land is known as Ammon, Moab and Edom, and is of great significance in Bible prophecy. The Ammonites and Moabites were the children born of incest by Lot and his daughters, after they fled Sodom and Gomorrah. Edom is the land given by God to Esau and his seed. Traditionally these three nations, though related to Israel, have been her enemies.

“For in a night Ar of Moab has become waste, and is seen no longer; for in a night Kir of Moab has become waste, and is seen no longer. The waters of Nimrim will become dry: for the grass is burned up, the young

grass is coming to an end, every green thing is dead.” (Isaiah 15:1, 6 BBE)

There is no historical record of the fulfillment of this prophecy. The interesting thing that may tie it to the coming war is that it again mentions destruction in a single night like Isaiah 17. And again the associated desolation of the land and vegetation is consistent with nuclear blasts.

“How are the things of Esau searched out! How are his secret stores looked for! All the men who were united with you have been false to you, driving you out to the edge of the land: the men who were at peace with you have overcome you; they have taken their heritage in your place. Will I not, in that day, says the Lord, take away the wise men out of Edom, and wisdom out of the mountain of Esau? And your men of war, O Teman, will be overcome with fear, so that every one of them may be cut off from the mountain of Esau.

“The children of Jacob will be a fire and those of Joseph a flame, and the children of Esau dry stems of grass, burned up by them till all is gone: and there will be no people living in Esau; for the Lord has said it.” (Obadiah 5-9, 17-18 BBE)

Obadiah says Jacob will dispossess Jordan's land after burning them like stubble. Jacob is the original name of Israel.

“This is what the Lord has said: ...My hand will be stretched out against Edom, cutting off from it man and beast: and I will make it waste, from Teman even as far as Dedan they will be put to the sword...and I will take Edom in hand in my wrath and in my passion: ...says the Lord.” (Ezekiel 25:12-14 BBE)

“And I will make Mount Seir a cause for wonder and a waste, cutting off from it all comings and goings...I will make you waste for ever, and your towns will be unpeopled: and you will be certain that I am the Lord.” (Ezekiel 35:7, 9 BBE)

Ammon, Moab and Edom are all featured in the doomed Psalm 83 war, referred to as “the children of Lot” and “Edom”.

How long before these prophecies against Jordan are fulfilled? ■

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

The General Conference this July was a tremendous blessing! We thank the churches of the area for great hospitality! See the report in this issue. For my report, I will summarize several things going on and also some aspects of the reports given to the board in the meetings in South Carolina.

In my report, I noted that our Africa mission work is a blessing. Rebekah and I just got back June 30, and we both went to work the following week. We visited Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique. All are exciting opportunities. LHI, Lord's Harvest International, our mission committee, is overseeing the building of three church buildings in



Pastor Steve An introducing two new Korean pastors
Sungbum Kim and Jaeyun Shim

both Malawi and Mozambique this year. Some great opportunities are coming up in Kenya as well. Please see the full report in this issue.

In terms of the CAO report to the board, I noted the blessings from the first half of this year, the Pastors and Spouses Retreat, the 40th Christian Worker's Seminar, a great ABC-Invitational for prospective students, and a prophecy conference for the Arkansas churches. I am



still trying to get to the churches or a conference at least once a month beside my teaching and administrative duties. As well, the Theological Conference was one of the best.

In terms of leadership, I recalled for the board Numbers 9:21, 22 where when the pillar of cloud or fire moved, the people moved. As we try to ascertain God's will in various situations, we should try to imitate them to the point it says "At YHWH's command they pitched camp, at YHWH's command they set out, ...they kept the LORD's command." (NJB) Of course we don't have a pillar of cloud or fire, but we need to be in continual prayer for the LORD's leading. "Perilous times will come..." (2 Tim 3:1), and this should not be misunderstood in any sense. Sometimes with all the political and moral issues, what part of this do we not expect? Yet, "those who know their God will be strong and take action." (Daniel 11:32)



Pastor Michael Montgomery

Several have responded to the ad in the Herald about future working with the college and conference. We "have our feet in the Jordan" and are watching the pillar of cloud and fire for God's further direction.

At this point, mid-July, we are asking for special prayer for the recertification with INS for our international students. This is a two-step process, and bureaucracy sometimes runs slowly. We ask for prayer for those processing our requests and that God would intervene to allow this to happen before the deadlines in August.

Please also pray for the Burnham family. Bill has been in hospice care and on a feeding tube and requires a lot of attention. At this time, Marion, who has osteoporosis, is also having extreme issues with her back. Gary and Lori are spending lots of time trying to help them.

Proverbs 19:21 says "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but the counsel of the LORD/YHWH will stand." To me, this is the essence of the vision statement, "To Join God..." We plan, we work, but within the LORD's counsel. ■

The 93rd General Conference Report

The 93rd annual summer General Conference was held at the Guthrie Grove Church of God in Pelzer, SC. 79 delegates consisting of 5 directors, 42 church/conference delegates, and 32 pastors conducted the business of the conference. 140 were registered for the conference, and more than 100 others attended evening services and the Low Country Boil at the beginning of the conference. The church was packed with delegates and visitors Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights. The theme was Revolution - R³ (R cubed): Revelation, Renewal, and Restitution. Evening sermons by Pastors Wally Winner and Seth Ross, and Dr. Joe Martin; and morning worship speakers Pastor Michael Montgomery and Paul Duncan presented the theme. Many workshops on a variety of topics were presented.

Chris James of the Guthrie Grove Church and Dan Knowlton of the North Salem Church in Plymouth, IN were elected to four-year terms on the board of directors. A plaque of appreciation was presented to Carrie Briggs by Dr. Martin, and a plaque will be sent to Joe Myers who was unable to be present for the conference. The new board elected officers for the coming year. Greg Demmitt will serve as chairperson; Bob Morrison, vice chairperson; Alan Cain, secretary; Rick McClain, treasurer. Julie Driskill continues as a Board member.

Delegates approved two recom-

mendations submitted by the Board of Directors.

Recommendation One provides for delegate representation of isolated members. This proposal called for the creation of a conference of isolated members who will be entitled to one delegate as do other state and district conferences.

Recommendation Two establishes an academic advisory committee to work with the board of directors and staff in curriculum review and development, maintaining high



Installation of the Board of Directors

academic standards, advising on educational methods, etc.

Greg Demmitt led the business meetings in the absence of both the chairman and vice chairman. Reports were received from various departments of the conference. A revised budget of \$984,550 for the 2013-2014 fiscal year was approved. It calls for contributions of \$344,000, a modest increase from this past year. A proposed budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year of \$1,017,750 was also approved by the delegates. Copies of the minutes of the meeting and the budgets as adopted will be available in the Restitution Herald Electronic News Letter and Progress Journal

which will be published in September. If you wish to receive a paper copy of these items, please provide your request by e-mail (info@abc-coggc.org) or by phone 678-833-1839 or by mail: Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253. The board reappointed Pastor Michael Hoffman to a six-year term on the Christian Conciliation Board. This board is available to provide assistance to churches that are experiencing conflicts.

We are very grateful for the hospitality of the Guthrie Grove Church that hosted the conference. We also are thankful for all who served on the program and helped to make the conference a great success. Thanks to all for the great food, great fellowship, and wonderful Southern hospitality.

We are also grateful for the servanthood of the "UP: Project" led by Andy Cisneros, Graysen Pack, and Julie Driskill. Over twenty young people gathered early to serve the General Conference and then head south to Louisiana on their project. God bless you! Thanks for the help!

Next year's conference will be a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of Oregon/Atlanta Bible College. It will be held in McDonough, Georgia in the college facilities and the Cornerstone Bible Church. The dates are July 2-4. Make plans now to attend. ■

Good News

*Like cold water to a weary soul,
So is good news from a distant land.
Proverbs 25:25*

Congratulations to all COG graduates!!

From the **Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH** – High school graduates are **Lindsey Harmon, Justin Green, and Emily Snyder**. Congratulations!

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Eighth grade graduates are **Alex Bolhous, Ashley Harper, Zachary Myers, and Matt Slouka**. High school grads are **Sarah Mattus and Nicole McGlenn**. College grads are **Carson Andrew, Lil Andrew, and Linda Rundlett**. What an impressive list! Congratulations to one and all!

From the **Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA** – High school graduates are **Hannah Emerick, Jacob Hamrick, Kelsey Hamrick, Brandon Riley, and Mallory Eady**. And **Sydney Jones** graduated from college. Hats off to y'all for the achievement! [Notice the "Yankee" trying to be a Southerner! – GNP]

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – The graduates are **Thomas Hupman and John Looney**. Good job, guys! Keep it up!

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – The church congratulates its three high school graduates: **Kaylee Forcier, Tanner Schugg, and Jamie Engfer**. **Cassie Moore** graduated from college as well. The church (and GNP) is very proud of all of you.

From the **Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, MO** – The church (and GNP) send kudos to **Danika McCarty** for graduating. A huge step! May God ever bless!

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick II**

leads the church in congratulating the Eden Valley-Watkins high school softball team that took third place in the Minnesota State Girls Fastpitch Softball Tournament. The team was led by **Kaylee, Mindy, and Faith Forcier**. The girls were fine examples of Christian conduct on and off the field.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – **Pastor Kyle Casey** is pleased to announce achievements for some more fine COG young people. **Logan Impson** was recognized as an "Unsung Hero" and a recipient of the "ACE Award" (Advocates for Character and Education) for demonstrated character and academic effort as a part of the Coaches 4 Character program in Greenville County Schools. Logan was also awarded Excellence in Physical Education and recognized for three years of perfect attendance. Congratulations also go out to **Codie Sloan** as this year's recipient of the "Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Award" for scholastic excellence and demonstrated Americanism in the Wren High School JROTC program. Codie was also named drum major for the Wren High marching band for next year. Last but not least, we congratulate **Austin Impson** for receiving four awards in the FFA program at Woodmont High School. Lots of good things. Great job!

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** is happy to announce a landmark birthday. **Jeanne Smith** celebrated her 90th birthday July 8. She and her late husband **Pastor E. Richard Smith** served the Lawrenceville COG for many years. Congratulations, Jeanne!

From the **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – **Pastor Sydney Kirkpatrick** is

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pleased to announce a landmark anniversary. **Bill and Sharon Savage** will celebrate fifty years of marriage with an open house on August 4. Congratulations!

From the **Simple Teachings Bible Church in McDonough, GA** – **Pastor Rufus Meyers** and the congregation celebrated ten years of serving the Lord together. Rufus and his wife **Jerri** also celebrated their wedding of their daughter **Octavia** on April 6. Congratulations for both events!

From the **Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH** – **Pastor Dan Cain** announces that the Sunday School is taking on a summer/fall project. They will plant and care for a garden in Piqua. The harvest will be donated back to the Bethany Center for meals that are prepared there four days a week. The center also has a food pantry that is open two days a week. Tilling, seeds, planting, weeding, etc. will be provided by church members. [What a wonderful way to show your love for others! – GNP]

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – International Business Machines Corporation approved a \$1500 grant to the church to purchase an AED defibrillator. The grant was approved in recognition of the volunteer service of **Vivian P. Kirkpatrick**. I'll bet **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** is doubly proud of this award.

From the **Minnesota State Conference** – Annual Minnesota State Conference was held in June at the state campgrounds near Eden Valley. **Pastor Alan Cain** from Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH was the guest speaker. The theme of conference was "You Can't Have Milk Without Manure" (learning how to shovel the messes that come from working together). [Doesn't that sound just uber-fascinating?]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** announces that **Jamie ReVelle** will start a new 12-week Bible study class called "Run for God." The class will include tools and training to be able to run a 5K race during the last week. The lessons will help take the focus off of self and put it all on God who will

help you. With God, all things are possible. [Another great idea from someone out there in COG-Land! – GNP]

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Paula Kirkpatrick** announced that there will be a photo contest. The theme of the contest is "God's Power." Those interested are encouraged to take photos showing God's power in some way. It may be in nature, in the changing seasons, or even in changed lives. The contest runs until August 31. [I'd love to see what comes of this. Send some of the winners in and we'll try to get them into the RH/PJ. – GNP]

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – Forty-seven young people, staff, and chaperons traveled to Florida and Georgia to work with the homeless and for Habitat for Humanity. Another excellent way to put works into your faith.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – The church thanks the following people for participating in church cleaning day in May: **Brad McColley** (who started at 7 AM!), **Monte and Linda Sandifer, Paula and Philip Kirkpatrick, and Beth, Sophia, Halle, Luke and Jason Becker**. Many hands make light work. Thanks.

From the **GNP desk** – Remember to send in the names of your milestone anniversary or birthday people. We want to celebrate the milestones along with them, and we want everyone in COG-Land to know about it. [**PLEASE** 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.

PLEASE SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS, and we'll put you in print!

Robert L. Jones

Africa 2013

Our trip to Africa this year was a tremendous blessing! We visited three countries: Kenya, Malawi, and Mozambique. In Kenya, the work is fairly young, so we focused on teaching and encouraging those who already grasp the truths of the Bible, as well as teaching key leaders who are interested in biblical truth. In Malawi and Mozambique our focus was on teaching pastors and getting to know them better.

The team members this year were Joe and Rebekah Martin and Jack Kmiecik. Bethany Reise was planning to go, but was unable to due to sickness. In Kenya we taught at three places, Webuye to the northwest, Kisii in the west close to Lake Victoria, and then in Kilgoris, in the southwest area. At Kisii, we taught for two days and had 18 present who are interested in our faith. Many well thought-out questions were asked by the attendees, which we answered. The work is growing, and many are coming to the truth. It is exciting to see this!



The group we taught at Kisii

Much thanks goes to James Nyangute and Amos Anyanga, the two pastors who tirelessly work to teach others the truth, as well as help set up the meetings while we are there. There's a lot involved in getting people from different areas of the country together and finding a meeting place suitable for teaching, sleeping, and meals. We really appreciate their help with setting this up.

We had the pleasure of staying with Keith Rogers, in Nairobi. He is a member from Cool Springs COG in Virginia and works at the U.S. embassy. It was great to see him and spend time with him. His wife and daughter joined him a couple of weeks

after we left, so we missed seeing them. We appreciate Keith's hospitality!

In Malawi, we went to seven churches to mainly teach pastors, but on Sundays, the whole congregation was there. After the Sunday morning services, the congregation was dismissed, and we had pastoral meetings. Again, many good questions were asked and answered.

Linda Limbe-Nkomba was a tremendous blessing. She allowed us to use her truck, and traveled around with us everywhere the entire three weeks we were there. She was our main translator, and it was fun to have her travel with us. The scenery in these countries is beautiful!



Joe, Nemwel (our driver) Amos, James, and Braddy (James' son)



Sunset in Mozambique

At each place in Malawi there were generally 12-20 pastors and associates for the detailed teaching. We taught one God, Jesus as the Son of God, the kingdom of God, resurrection, etc. We always tried to have a question-and-answer period afterwards. The teachings were well-received, and some good questions were brought up. Quite often the chiefs of the village showed up for the teaching as well.

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The roads are generally dirt roads that haven't seen a road grader in quite some time. The ride is usually bumpy and dusty, or muddy and slippery. We usually travelled at least two hours each direction to get to and from the church, besides teaching for several hours. This led to very long days, which was very tiring physically. Next time we will plan more 'rest' days.

We did go to the game preserve one day, which was awesome! We saw a total of probably 60 elephants, many with newborn babies! We also saw lots of hippos, crocodiles, impala, monkeys, wart hogs, iguanas, and many other things. God is so creative in all of His creation!!! I often wonder how did He think of all this?!



Elephants at the game preserve

In Mozambique we also went to seven churches. The longest was four hours from our hotel. It was a 12-hour day!!! And we shortened the teaching some to get back before too late. It's not safe to travel after dark in these countries for several reasons: bad roads, stopped vehicles w/o lights, many people walking on the road at all hours, etc. Did you know there are no paved roads to any of our churches in Mozambique??? Not only are they not paved, they're all like wash boards with huge rocks we constantly have to dodge!

The Mozambique pastors seem to have good working relationships, and their numbers are larger. They have over two hundred churches or prayer houses (sometimes with elders leading in the prayer houses). In both Malawi and Mozambique, we tried to visit the new buildings that were constructed last year. They are doing a great job. Thanks to all who contributed to those.

We left money for three bicycles and three church buildings in both Malawi and Mozambique. The board members determine which pastors need them most, and they are the ones to receive them. The churches being

built in Malawi are Pastor Laston Nambwale's church; Chipanje Church; and Kapsepsye (sounds a little like KaPepsi) Church. The church buildings to be built in Mozambique are: Nanguluee, Chidyanyama, and Mongeve.

We took a picture of each of the pastors that were able to attend the pastor's conferences in Malawi and Mozambique. We plan to make a directory for ourselves with the pastor's name under his picture, as well as to make ID cards to give each of them.



Jack teaching in Malawi

Jack is a 'natural' in the mission field and did a great job with everything! He's an excellent teacher, very adaptable to every situation, good personality, and easy going. Our motto over there is 'expect the unexpected.' When plans are changed, and we find out at the last minute, (which happens several times a day) we've learned to just accept it and say TIA (this is Africa!).

Thanks also for the prayers for safety and health! We did have a flat tire on the way to one service in Malawi; the spare was flat also, but we eventually made it to the service. Also, after the entire time of traveling in Malawi and Mozambique, after Linda dropped us off at the hotel, the brakes went out on the truck! We had them fixed the next day. If they had gone out on one of those roads or mountains, it could have been bad. God's presence was evident throughout the trip! We praise Him and stand in awe of His greatness!

Did you know that in African countries our flights have to be re-confirmed 72 hours before travel? If not, even though it's paid for and we have seat assignments, we're cancelled off the flight. This has happened more than once, so we're diligent about reconfirming now that we know we have to. Luckily, we've been put back

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on without anyone having to stay behind, once we've reconfirmed.

In each country we bought Bibles (in Swahili or Chichewa) to give at each place, and in Malawi and Mozambique we also gave out Words of Truth booklets printed in Chichewa. We gave out a total of 200 Bibles for a total cost of \$1500. Thank you so much for your support for getting God's Word to the people!

For health, Rebekah had a cold and bad cough when we got to Malawi. Jack got sick for a 24-hour period. He may have picked up a parasite, or maybe had the flu. We ate lunch quite a few times with the pastors in the villages—not always the standards we're used to, so he may have got something from that, or maybe from the cassava he peeled and ate. Joe kept a spoon in his pocket for when we ate in the villages, and didn't have stomach problems. The last few days, he caught a cold, and on the plane

coming home his stopped-up ears were quite painful.

It's good to be back home! We do appreciate the conveniences we have like running water, electricity most of the time, bathrooms, etc. We met and taught over 200 men and women pastors there. It was a blessing. Thanks for your prayers! We were happy for the opportunity to serve and truly felt God's guidance and protection.

Joe & Rebekah Martin



200 Bibles were given away.

NextGen[eration]

Mission Accomplished! The Lawrenceville Church of God 2013 Mission Trip was amazing! On June 6 – 11 2013, our group consisted of 47 people: 9 adults, 8 college-age students, and 30 youth. We chartered a bus and stayed at the Laguna Beach Christian Retreat in Panama City Beach, Florida for 3 nights. The fourth night we stayed at Cornerstone Church of God in McDonough, GA.

It was filled with many changed hearts, several serving projects, and lots of fun. Three people rededicated their lives to Jesus through baptism, one person was baptized for the first time, and three more gave their life to Christ and are planning their baptisms. In Panama City, we served at two Inner City Children's

Missions, worked for Habitat for Humanity, volunteered at the Panama City Zoo and conducted the Sunday evening worship service at the Panama City Homeless Rescue Mission. In downtown Atlanta, we served a pancake brunch and provided foot care to the homeless at Safehouse Outreach Center. We had lots of fun worshipping together, playing on the beach, swimming, playing volleyball and basketball, and visiting Stone Mountain in Atlanta. Many adults and youth shared meaningful devotions throughout the trip. God's Spirit was with us through every step of the way, and it was an awesome time of bonding for our youth group as they served Jesus together. ■



Korean Extension Update

Greetings in Christ!

Young and I arrived in Seoul, South Korea on May 9 and returned home on June 4. The trip took longer than previous trips, and the 13-hour jet lag, both ways, added to our strain of adjusting to the difference in time zones. However, it was worth the effort to develop Christian relationships and receive valuable blessings that God had in store for us strengthening our spirits to overcome the endeavor.

Saehyun Lee (Military Church)

On Saturday May 11, we visited a Korean battalion in a military church in Si-heung-city 40 miles southwest of Seoul. This is where Saehyun Lee, who completed 6 semesters with the Korean Extension, returned to South Korea to serve his military duties. He is currently fulfilling his obligation by serving as a private chaplain for the church. Among the participants in the meeting were approximately 35 military personnel, Saehyun's family, and his fiancé. Young and I were quite surprised that so many attended on a Saturday morning. Usually, on Saturdays, most of the privates rise later compared to other mornings during the week. At least that is what I am told. I was also told that since Saehyun began serving as a private chaplain, he has been advertising the Korean Extension, collaborating and explaining to the other privates on what he has learned. He had made such an impact on their lives that the soldiers gave up sleep to attend my class in the morning.

We spent two hours introducing the General Conference, the Atlanta Bible College, the Korean Extension and the biblical truth. We had such a wonderful time with the soldiers, sharing a meal and conversing at the camp. Afterward, we facilitated some private counseling sessions to several personnel regarding their personal faith and possibly enrolling into the Korean Extension. During the closing of our visit, we were invited to return during our winter trip. A number of privates who were preparing to be discharged soon also expressed their willingness to attend the winter meeting. Saehyun will be discharged in March 2014, and he was very excited to return to complete his studies. He had also mentioned that his fiancé will be returning with him to enroll into the Korean Extension program.

Salt and Light Church (City of Seoul)

On Sunday May 12, we had the pleasure of visiting a new church in Seoul. I preached Sunday morning and taught Bible study in the afternoon. The topic of the sermon was "Follow the Truth," and the afternoon class topic was "Accepting the 10 Commandments as a Pre-Established Law." The pastor and the congregation, including several elders, expressed that they were able to rejuvenate their souls and adjust their beliefs during the service and through the Bible studies. Members of the congregation were also surprised to read scripture and listen to a sermon that helped them expand their perception on the biblical truth. What amazed them was the fact that the Bible was in their possession all this time, yet not realizing what the truth is.

I believe they learned the importance of referencing the Bible to establish true Christian faith. Most of the members showed interest in the General Conference and Korean Extension and asked us to revisit them in the winter. I was also pleased to see Younghee An, a Korean Extension graduate and a staff member, as well as two former students and family members of active students, attend the service and the Bible study.

Corner Stone Church (City of Shin-tan-jin)

The Corner Stone church is located near the Chung-ju Grace Church of God, which is also a member-church of the Korean Church Conference. If you recall, I visited the Grace Church of God last year in May to present the biblical truth to a pastor-only conference where 35 to 40 pastors from the local community came to listen. It was during this time where the Corner Stone Church pastor was inspired and requested that I visit his church to preach the following year. On Sunday May 19, I preached on the topic "Follow the Truth." I was also asked to lead their afternoon Bible study group where I presented the theme of "Biblically Born-Again." Being there for the first time, I was surprised to receive similar reactions from church members as at the Salt and Light Church in Seoul.

Puritan Church of God (Seoul)

The Puritan Church of God has been a member-church of the Korean Church Conference since

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2011 providing ministerial opportunities to our Korean Extension graduates. On June 1, we visited the church and presented the biblical truth through a four-hour course. There were more than 100 people that participated in the class and approximately 11 participants were Korean Extension graduates, former students, and family members of active students. The pastor invited the graduates, including those students that were unable to complete their studies, to the pulpit and introduce themselves to the congregation. Afterward, Young and I met with the pastor and congregation members, encouraging them to provide opportunities to our Korean Extension graduates.

Puritan Church of God (Daejeon City)

The Puritan Church of God—Daejeon City is also an affiliate of the Korean Church Conference being a member-church since 2008 and providing ministerial opportunities to our Korean Extension students also. Last year, one of our graduates Moon Sik Kim is currently the associate pastor for the Puritan church. The senior pastor and all of the members have expressed their gratitude, and that they are pleased with the work Pastor Kim is providing. I facilitated a four-hour theology class at the church on May 18, receiving lots of praise and requests to return soon. Young and I expressed our appreciation for providing opportunities to our Korean Extension graduates and encouraged the church to continue with their efforts.

Organization of Alumni Meetings in South Korea

The Korean Extension has been attempting to establish scheduled alumni meetings with graduates and former students for quite some time. We were able to map-out a rough schedule and held an initial meeting on May 21 in Daejeon City, which is a prime location as it is almost in the center of the South Korean peninsula. A member-church of the Korean Church Conference graciously provided a place for the alumni to meet and offered their facility for future gatherings. We also received notification that a second member-church offered their facility for future meetings as well, which was the location of our second meeting on June 1. There were eight members registered at the Daejeon meeting and five at the meeting in Seoul. It was also very nice to see several family members of active students present at both assemblies. During the conference, we were able to elect a temporary

secretary to collect contact information. However, I think it is best if Young and I organize and lead the meetings until it is fully established.

During the meetings, the alumni shared a multitude of interesting life experiences after the Korean Extension. Young and I informed the members of the present situation of our General Conference, Atlanta Bible College, and Korean Extension, encouraging them to maintain their faith and support the General Conference and the Atlanta Bible College by spreading the biblical truth in Korea.

Nam Soon Kim

(2012 Korean Extension Graduate)

Mrs. Kim graduated May 2012 and completed her internship training with the Korean Church Conference in March of this year. She returned to South Korea serving as an assistant chaplain since May 5, 2013 at the Grace Military Church (not the same military church that is mentioned in the beginning of the report), which I visit annually to preach when Young and I travel to South Korea. On May 26, I visited the church and met with Mrs. Kim and the congregation. She was very pleased to see us in South Korea in her church. The topic of the sermon was "Freedom through the Truth."

Prospective Students

Young and I met and interviewed nine prospective students. All of the prospects were referred to me by Korean Extension graduates, former students and active students who were in South Korea during their summer break, local churches, and so forth. We introduced the General Conference, the Atlanta Bible College, and the Korean Extension, explaining the area where the north campus is located, including lifestyles of foreign students in the United States, and enrollment details.

On behalf of the Korean Church Conference and the Korean Extension, we thank you for being active supporters of the Korean missions.

"It is like as mustard seed which is the smallest seed you planted in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade" (Mark 4:31-32, New International Version).

Young and Steve

(Continued from page 1)

late night show, just like they did in Key Largo.” Brothers and sisters, in the Garden of Eden we had it all. All that we were intended to be by our Creator, perfect, immortal, sinless, in harmony with our Creator and creation. I believe that Adam and Eve could talk directly to God and “see His face.” The LORD God would walk in the cool of the evening breeze in fellowship with us until sin came into the picture.

Can you imagine a conversation from Adam to God, “How is it going, LORD?” “Perfect!” He responds. “LORD, how are the apple and pear trees doing?” “Perfect!” He responds. “LORD,” Adam asks, “How are the animals getting along?” “Perfectly!” He responds. Folks, we DID have it all! No sorrow, no mourning, no sickness, no crying, no death, no pain, but we had perfection as the LORD God, YHWH El Shaddai, intended for the earth as in Isa. 45:18!

I need not remind you, we, through Adam and Eve, lost perfection. We are now in the “hard times” of “by the sweat of our brows.” A favorite verse of Bro. Rufus Myers is John 16:33. “In this world you will have trouble... .” Paul said, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22) But we do have hope! One of the most troublesome times is the “abomination of desolation” spoken of in Daniel 11:31, 32. We believe this may be

“Jacob’s trouble.” However, please note verse 32, “But the people who know their God will be strong and take action!” (combining two translations)

Speaking of hard times, here is a joke (stolen from another pastor) ... a preacher was driving home from a wedding with his wife. The police pulled him over for speeding. “Yes, I will put you down for doing seventy in a sixty zone.” The man says, “I was not!” The wife jumps in, “Yes, you were! You were doing eighty!” The man gives the wife a dirty look. The police said, “I won’t give you another ticket, but your tail light is out.” The man says, “I didn’t know that.” The wife jumps in, “You did too! I told you about that two weeks ago!” There’s another dirty look to the wife. The police said, “By the way, I see you don’t have your seat belt on.” The man said, “I took it off when you pulled me over.” The wife jumps in, “You did not! You never wear your seat belt.” The man is irate with his wife, “Woman, you need to keep your mouth shut...” and went on in a tirade against her. The police asked, “Does he verbally abuse you like this often?” The wife said, “Only when he’s been drinking too much at a wedding.”

On the bright side, John 17:3 is clear, “This is eternal life, to know the only true God and Jesus Christ... .” Our existence is not based on our predicaments or the *fall*, but on

the *call* of God to repent and come to salvation through Jesus. Jesus preaches Deut. 6:4ff, in Mark 12:29ff, “Hear, Israel, YHWH our God, YHWH is one,” and we are to love him with all! He will get us through this “mess.” What part of “perilous times will come” have we misunderstood? But we are overcomers through Jesus Christ our Lord, whom the heavens must receive until... .

Revelation 21:1-5 reveals the “until.” “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth... . And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven... . Behold the tabernacle of God is with men... . God himself shall be with them... . And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, (nor) pain: for the former things are passed away.” What a glorious day that will be!!! “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new!!!! Halleluyah, Praise God, Amen!

There will be a “**RESTITUTION of ALL THINGS**” by our Father through Jesus. It is called the kingdom of God. We long for that “*APO KATA STASIS*.” The earth will be remade “according to the original state” of creation. I pray that we all live up to the way we were originally created and live in His kingdom, forever, and ever, and ever, AMEN! ■

Church News

Baptisms

Illinois

Oregon - Jamie ReVelle, (9/2/12) and Sandra Wallace, (3/17/13) by Pastor Michael Hoffman; by transfer, Josh ReVelle, (9/2/12)

Ohio

Urbana - Laura Gallant, (5/24/13) by Pastor Bruce Reye

Deaths

Illinois

Stillman Valley - Paul R. Hoffman, 88, founding board member of Rock River Christian College, Beloit, Wisconsin. Service by Pastor-Apostle Don Lyon and Dr. Brian J. Atra.

South Carolina

Bethel - Mark Lippert, (5/18/13). Services by Pastors Kyle Casey and Wally Winner.

Washington

Wenatchee - Elder Blake Davis (4/3/13), baptized in 1946, a long-time faithful member. Memorial service conducted by Pastor Merry Peterson.

Boyd Davis, 84, (4/3/13) long-time faithful member and Elder in the Wenatchee Church of God Faith of Abraham. Memorial service conducted by Pastor Merry Peterson.

Helen Behrend, 89, (3/13) long-time member. Service by Pastors Merry Peterson and Arlen Rankin.



Pastor Terry Ferrell leading workshop on Church of God History at the summer conference. Terry first attended General Conference in 1940!



Prayer being offered by Ministerial Recognition Board for newly licensed pastor Jake Ballard and his wife Amber. Also pictured are members of Jake and Amber's families

SERVANTS WANTED FOR THE FUTURE

Have you ever thought of working for Atlanta Bible College or the Church of God General Conference? Over the next few years, some of us will be transitioning from full-time service to part-time service or retirement. If you are interested in the possibility, and feeling a call of God, please send a note and resume to Dr. Joe Martin, P.O. Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253. It will be kept in confidence.

Our Vision statement begins with "To Join God..." and our Mission statement begins with "To Serve Churches and Individuals..." Our values statement is LIFTS, Love, Integrity, Faith, Teamwork, Truth and Service. If you are interested in a job of service (remember this is a church-based organization), in administration, in teaching, in office work, generally at less pay than the "world" offers, please let us know of your interest.

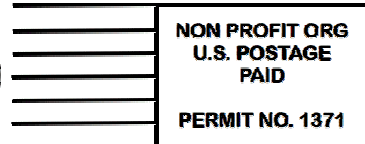
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|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Pray that God might be praised through your worship today. | 15 | Praise God for the prayer partners and financial supporters of the General Conference. |
| 2 | Pray for Pastor John and Gayle Guthrie and their work at East Oregon, Illinois. | 16 | Pray for your church family and for spiritual growth. |
| 3 | Pray for Pastor Dale and Julie Bliss and the Maple Grove congregation in Kokomo, Indiana. | 17 | Praise God for the foreign mission opportunities He has provided to us. |
| 4 | Praise God for the faithful ministry of your local church pastor. | 18 | Pray for your own personal desire to love God more. |
| 5 | Pray for the youth of your local church and the General Conference. | 19 | Pray for mission work in the Philippine Islands. |
| 6 | Pray for Pastor Dale and Cheryl Swartz and the congregation at Litchfield, Minnesota. | 20 | Pray for your family and your friends. |
| 7 | Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need. | 21 | Pray for ABC teachers as they instruct our students. |
| 8 | Pray that God would continue to financially bless the work of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College. | 22 | Pray for all the faithful pastors and workers in Malawi. |
| 9 | Praise God for the gift of His Son. | 23 | Pray for those who are seeking God's will for their lives. |
| 10 | Praise God for His daily mercies. | 24 | Pray for church workers in India. |
| 11 | Pray for the outreach of the church in Lima, Peru. | 25 | Pray for Pastor Scott and Michele Millard and the Jaynes Street Church in Omaha. |
| 12 | Praise God for the beauty of each season. | 26 | Praise God for His Word which provides guidance for your life. |
| 13 | Pray for retired pastors and their spouses. | 27 | Pray that you will let your light shine for Christ. |
| 14 | Pray for spiritual renewal and growth for ABC students preparing for ministry. | 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 2013

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|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Praise God for your pastor during October's Clergy Appreciation Month. | | Valley, Virginia Church. |
| 2 | Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and a new earth in His coming Kingdom. | 17 | Pray for the work that is being done in India to proclaim God's truth. |
| 3 | Pray for a personal hunger to know God and Jesus better. | 18 | Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as they reach the half-way point of this fall semester. |
| 4 | Pray for Pastor Brian Atra and the Restitution Church in Eldorado, Illinois. | 19 | Pray for all of the college/conference staff as they serve us each day. |
| 5 | Praise God for your church family and the strength that you receive through it. | 20 | Pray for John and Lila Wincapaw and the Blood River Church in Springfield, Louisiana. |
| 6 | Pray for the Open Bible Church of God in Springfield, Missouri. | 21 | Pray for God's blessing on your neighborhood. |
| 7 | Pray for a church planting vision for Church of God members. | 22 | Ask God to help you love Him and His Son more. |
| 8 | Pray for retired Pastor Jim Mattison and his vision for Africa mission work. | 23 | Pray for Pastor Steve and Jill Taylor and the Lakeshore Bible Church in Arizona. |
| 9 | Pray for the youth of your local church. | 24 | Pray for the work of the Blanchard, Michigan church. |
| 10 | Praise God for those who are preparing for ministry. | 25 | Pray for the ministry of the ABC Korean Extension in reaching students in the Duluth, Georgia area. |
| 11 | Pray for Joe Martin, College President/Conference CAO. | 26 | Pray for Pastor Dennis and Rachel Baldwin and the Grace Fellowship Church in Front Royal, Virginia. |
| 12 | Pray for Pastor Tom and Anne Fischhaber and the Eden Valley, Minnesota congregation. | 27 | Praise God for retired Pastor Billie Kennedy and his wife Irene. |
| 13 | Pray for the financial needs of the Church of God General Conference. | 28 | Pray for the Fair Oaks Community Church in Herndon, VA. |
| 14 | Praise God for new contacts who are seeking the truth around the world. | 29 | Pray for the Hedrick, Indiana Church, and Pastor Joe and Karla Astolfi. |
| 15 | Pray for the ministry of the Pakistan churches affiliated with the Church of God General Conference. | 30 | Praise God for His constant care. |
| 16 | Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and the Fort | 31 | Pray for God to send workers into the fields that are ready for harvest. |

Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
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Address Service Requested

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Prayer and Praise

November 2013

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| 1 | Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and the St. Cloud, MN Church. | 16 | Pray for the Burr Oak, IN church. |
| 2 | Pray for our Isolated Member Ministry (IMM). | 17 | Pray for God to provide you with "thankful" eyes this month. |
| 3 | Praise God for the board of directors who willingly serve the Church of God. | 18 | Pray for the boldness you need to share Christ with an unbelieving friend. |
| 4 | Pray for Pastor Kirby and Bonnie Davis and Pastor Merry Peterson and the Wenatchee, WA Church. | 19 | Pray for college/conference youth events being planned for 2014. |
| 5 | Pray for Lupe Badillo as she continues to minister in Labor Vieja, Mexico. | 20 | Pray for the outreach efforts of your local congregation. |
| 6 | Pray for Ruth Finnegan in her duties as publishing specialist for the General Conference. | 21 | Praise God for a blessing He provided in your life yesterday. |
| 7 | Pray that God will raise up workers to serve in mission fields in other lands. | 22 | Praise God for His daily blessings of shelter, food, family, and friends. |
| 8 | Pray for Pastor Andy and Kristy Cisneros and their ministry at Timberland Bible Church in South Bend, IN. | 23 | Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life. |
| 9 | Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness. | 24 | Pray for the churches within your state or regional conference. |
| 10 | Pray for Judy Myers and the work of the Lord's Harvest International mission board. | 25 | Pray for Pastor Bill and Lacey Dunn and the New Beginnings Church in Desloge, MO. |
| 11 | Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God. | 26 | Pray for God's greatest blessings on those recruiting new students for the Atlanta Bible College spring semester. |
| 12 | Praise God for baptisms in our churches this fall. | 27 | Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week. |
| 13 | Pray for Pastor Wade and Kim Tierney and the Morse Mill, MO Church. | 28 | Praise God on this Thanksgiving Day for His goodness in your life. |
| 14 | Pray for the Ministerial Recognition Board as they encourage our pastors. | 29 | Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation. |
| 15 | Pray for the pastors in Pakistan who minister under very difficult circumstances. | 30 | Pray for new contacts through the distribution of literature and our website. |