

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

Servant Seat/CAO Report

By Joe Martin



Dr. Joe Martin

The board recently met (Oct. 12-14) at Maple Grove Church in Kokomo, Indiana. I was privileged to speak there that Sunday morning. It is a beautiful facility. Bro. Dale Bliss is the pastor and he has a great congregation. Thank you, Kokomo, for letting the board meet there!

A main focus of the board was vision planning. In Greg's report he will review some of those things further. It was a good meeting where we reviewed what the original plan was for ABC/COGGC. Reading from our constitution we reviewed the "...partnership with conferences and local Churches of God... to make disciples of Jesus Christ..." The board felt the vision statement we have, "To Join God..." and the mission statement, "To Serve Churches and Individuals..." fits the direction that our partnership needs to be headed.

With the Korea effort and other missions effort, the board acknowledged a need for better communication to let folks know what is going on. Greg Demmitt will be heading up a communication "task force" to make that happen. It was also acknowledged that it might help to review existing situations at ABC/COGGC. Bob Morrison who has been in management at Caterpillar for over thirty years will be retiring and working with Greg and others, myself included, to review future plans. They will be coming to the campus in January to do that.

Financially there are two times in the year when cash flow dips, October/November in the fall, and March/April in the spring. This reflects a high income with tuition coming in, and then a crunch afterwards. With the building project of the second floor currently going on, the board moved to borrow some money from ourselves to meet that existing crunch. The boards that I have worked with have made a commitment with staff to manage properly what God blesses us with. After voting to borrow money, I came home, and there was a nice donation in the mail! God is ALWAYS PERFECT in His timing!

The second floor is near completion and represents some \$50,000 a year income, less expenses, utilities, etc. for further ministry of the General Conference. What a blessing! The business is "ProCom Wireless," and the owner is Eric Robinson. Maybe God gave us a building to supply for greater ministry!



The second floor of ABC

A highlight of the meeting was the acceptance of another Korean Church! Its name is the "Yahtop Church of God." There are five designations in the address: Yahtop...Bundang...Sungnam-city...Kyunggi...Korea. WOW! It is a suburb of Seoul. The pastor will be Younghee An, no relation to Steve (there are many Koreans named An, Park, Kim, etc.) Blessings to Steve and Young An as they work with that church and work with the new college ABC Korea, meeting there.

Miscellaneous notes: Tom Fischhaber came down for the block classes. Check for the CWS dates with the theme "Transferring to NextGen." Bro. Tom New is planning for a prophecy outreach seminar. I plan to attend that.

The Fall Church Builder's Appeal should be in your mail boxes. It is for the archives and classroom on the second floor.

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LHI, the Lord's Harvest International board, met recently. I received a note from Judy Myers wishing to retire as mission coordinator, Nov. 1, 2014. I want to thank Judy for her years of faithful service. The committee recommended Rick McLain as their future chair. I talked with Rick at the board meeting and appointed him, effective Nov. 1. Please remember all our mission fields in your prayers. We have had some good reports from Africa and other fronts lately.

It has been a blessing to work with our students both in the classroom and outside of the classroom. Remember each of them in your prayers. We have a lot of new students this semester, due to the recruiting efforts of Rufus Meyers, David Krogh, and Kim Raper. The COG students we have, have been nicknamed the "COG Dream Team". They are that blessed.

Several have asked about Rebekah's health (my wife). She continues to get stronger each day. Bro. Harold Durham gave us some honey while



October 13 and 14, the Board of Directors met in Kokomo, IN for its fall meeting. Pictured are board members and area pastors.

we were in South Carolina recently. My wife, the nurse, is attributing her regaining strength to smaller meals more times a day, and honey, lots of tea with honey. Thanks, Harold!

Love, Joe

42nd Annual CWS / Christian Workers Seminar **April 12-17, 2015**

Holiday Inn – 3230 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868

Theme: Transferring to the NextGen

Evening Messages:

- Sunday: Plans for the NextGen (Jer. 29:11)
- Monday: Transferring to Reliable Youth (2 Tim. 2:2)
- Tuesday: Raising up Leaders in the NextGen
- Wednesday: What Does NextGen Have to Offer? (1 Tim 4:12)
- Thursday: Casting the Mantel on the NextGen

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND NOW!
Christian Workers of All Ages are Invited!

Chairman's Message: Greg Demmitt

Greeting fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ and proclaimers of the Kingdom of God.

I am writing this as I travel home from the fall meeting of your board of directors. It is a pleasure to serve with these dedicated folks.

We spent most of this meeting looking at how to continue to meet the mission of the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College. We find our vision, "Joining God in going global" to be challenging. Our mission guides us as well, "The Church of God General Conference, through partnership with conferences and local Churches of God, assists them and their members in the performance of their commission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The Conference serves as an advocate of the Church of God to the world."

Steve An is leading our latest global initiative with the Korean Extension of Atlanta Bible College in South Korea having opened last month. He has also planted a new church, the Yahtop Church of God in Seoul, Korea, which we welcomed into membership at our meeting.

We spent considerable time discussing how the conference and college can help our local churches in their missions. Statistical data made available last month verifies that only 15 percent of the United States population attends church on any given Sunday, making the US the third largest mission field on the planet. A motion was made at last summer's General Conference that a home mission board be established. We will be voting on that next July in South Bend, Ind.

One of our board members, Rick McClain, expressed his passion to see as many people as possible in the kingdom of God. His vision resonated with all of us.

We discussed several evangelism initiatives. We expect to offer regional training events within the next year, focusing on equipping mid-career and young adults. We will be launching new initiatives that utilize social media.

Today's *USA Today* had an article about people preparing for second careers, challenging them to

not settle for something insignificant. That's a hot button for me. I'm passionate about mid-career people choosing to pursue pastoral ministry as a calling. Sometimes that will simply be about meeting the needs of their local church, but I would love to see the presence of the COG expanded in every community. We want to lift up ministry training and a vision for ministry as a high calling for everyone who is privileged to know our message.



Our financial picture continues to be tight. Last year, outstanding giving and a strong return on our investments made up for a terrible hit to our budget due to an ongoing challenge of maintaining our status as a school that can accept foreign students. We are still challenged. Student numbers are up a little, with good prospects for next semester, but our investments are not producing as they did last year. We are very dependent upon the financial support of our people. Our perspective on the board is that we have cut our budget beyond what is reasonable, and we have to trust that our needs will be met. Any cuts that we have to make will be painful to the faithful servants of the General Conference and will negatively impact ministries that reflect our core mission. Please continue to remember the General Conference in your giving.

One final thought. Future staffing of the General Conference is a high priority. We'd like to hear from or about anyone who has a vision for leadership in our General Conference or Atlanta Bible College. Please contact Dr. Joe or one of board members.

Yours in Christ,

Greg Demmitt
Chairman,
Board of Directors
Church of God General Conference

Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner

Ebola... a tragic news story in Western Africa during the summer. Now, fall has brought anxiety and apprehension with the arrival of the disease in Europe and the United States.

The Ebola outbreak is the "most severe acute health emergency in modern times," said Margaret Chan, the head of the World Health Organization. "The world is ill-prepared to respond to any severe, sustained, and threatening public health emergency".

This recent outbreak was first reported in late March 2014. As of September 25, 2014, according to the WHO, a total of 6,263 cases and 2,917 deaths (case fatality 55-60%) had been reported in West Africa.

The virus can be transmitted in several ways. People can be exposed to Ebola virus from direct contact with the blood and/or secretions of an infected person.

Ebola has to be watched and brought under control. However, there are other dangers in the disease and treatment field that are just as life-threatening. Look at just a couple of examples.

In August a 4-year-old boy in New Jersey went to sleep and never woke up. This week, the Center for Disease Control confirmed that the boy was infected with the airborne enterovirus 68, or EV-D68. That same week a 10-year-old girl who also tested positive for the virus died 24 hours after being admitted to a hospital in Rhode Island. Just as doctors are learning how to diagnose the virus, it is evolving.

Dr. Mary Anne Jackson, director of infectious diseases at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, said, "In terms of what's at our feet right now, EV-D68 has become the most important virus."

More than 2 million people in the U.S. each year develop an infection from antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The CDC estimates at least 23,000 people die from those infections each year.

With an overuse of antibiotics, several types of bacteria have become immune to the drugs that once eliminated them. Infections and diseases that were once cured by a single medication now require stronger an-

tibiotics to treat. Doctors have seen rises in antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis, staph infections, gonorrhea and pneumonia, to name a few. When second- and third-tier antibiotics can't cure the infection, the last resort is removing infected tissue.

Along with becoming more resistant to antibiotics, the "H30-Rx" strain developed the unprecedented ability to spread from the urinary tract to the bloodstream and cause an extremely dangerous infection called sepsis.

Pestilences are a part of the events mentioned that will occur prior to the second advent of Christ and in an increasing way as we approach the end of the age. So we have "famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places" (*Matthew 24:7*). It says in verse 8, "all these are the beginning of sorrows," the prophesied sorrows or travails to occur just prior to the second advent of Christ back to this earth. He goes on through the rest of this prophecy to say: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (*Matthew 24:14*)

Notice the parallel in the Book of Revelation. "I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, 'Come and see.' And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him." (*Revelation 6:7-8*)

So here is the pale horse. On the pale horse is a personage by the name of "Death." That word "death" actually means by pestilence, by sickness, by disease epidemics.

A passage of promise from the Lord from *Psalms 91:3-12*. "Surely he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. . . You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. . . Because you have made the Lord which is my refuge, even the Most High, your habitation, there shall no evil befall you neither shall any plague come nigh your dwelling, for He shall give His angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone." ■

Heritage Conference

The 10th Annual Heritage Conference was held at the North Hills Church in Springfield, OH in September. Topics included papers on: the Missouri Conference, the Work at Litchfield, MN, the History of Oregon/Atlanta Bible College, Premillennialism in the Church of God, the Pine Woods Bible Class and the Work at Happy Woods Church. There were presentations about the youth caravans in the 1960s and 70s, the Holy Spirit in the Church of God Theologically, Thomas Jefferson's Aberrant Theology, The Pastor Z. B. Duncan Story, a History of General Conference Finances, the Hurricane, Plague and Ministry in the Philippines, the Restitution Herald Scanning Project, How Are We Growing, and Natural Church Development.



Attendees and presenters came from Washington, Arizona, Illinois, Indiana, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio, and Michigan.

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Pictured are four members of the first Youth Caravan that traveled to Mexico in the summer of 1966. Pictured l to r are: Myra Turnpaugh Hamilton, Mary Jo Brewer, Jane Peters McLaughlin, and David Krogh. Other members of the team who could not be at the conference were: Sandy Ford Davis, LeAnn Appleby Tyler, Scott Ross, and Dan Scholtes. Caravan leaders were Paul Shaw, Bill Wachtel (on the way down), and Rachel Krogh Carr (on the way back). A PowerPoint slide presentation was shown at the Heritage Conference. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 6-8
New Paradigms for Energizing and Growing Our Churches
North Hills Church, Springfield, OH

November 7-9
ABC Go Serve Trip, Louisiana

January 12, 2015
ABC Second Semester Start

January 16-18, 2015
Refuel, Camp Mack, Milford, IN

February 27-March 1, 2015
Bible Prophecy Conference, Conway, AR

February 27-March 1, 2015
Refuge, Camp Mack, Milford, IN

March 9-13, 2015
Annual Ministers Conference
Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

March 19-21, 2015
ABC Invitational, McDonough, GA

April 12-16, 2015
Christian Worker's Seminar
Pigeon Forge, TN

April 30-May 3, 2015
Theological Conference
Calvin Center, Hampton, GA

July 8-10, 2015
95th Annual General Conference
Timberland Bible Church, South Bend, IN

July 19-24, 2015
FUEL Youth Program
Manchester University
North Manchester, IN

September 24-26, 2015
Heritage Conference
North Hills Church, Springfield, OH

Good News

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

From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Felipe and Jenny Rodriguez** hosted a free Mexican cooking class on Tuesday nights throughout the month of October. Felipe is from Juarez, Mexico, across the border from El Paso, TX, and he learned Mexican cooking from his mother and his sisters. For openers, the class learned about homemade flour tortillas, salsa, and quesadillas. Recipes and sampling were available each week. The class was limited to 15 adults, but the demand was so great that the class will be offered again in November. [Too bad I'm so many miles away. It sounds fascinating and absolutely delicious. – GNP]

From **Minnesota State Conference** – The Minnesota Fall Conference was held September 12-14 at Long Lake Bible Camp. The theme was "United Under Christ – Coming Together to Accomplish the Mission." **Pastor Tom Fischhaber** from the **Eden Valley Church of God** was the guest speaker. Enjoyable worship, food, and fellowship were enjoyed by all who attended.

From **Resurrection Hope Church of God in Lenoir, NC** – **Pastor James Ritch** reports that **Ed and Mimi Bender** presented special meetings from September 26-28. Ed and Mimi have served pastorates in IL, NE, MN, IN, and SC, and it is their continuing desire to visit churches that do not have a pastor and offer encouragement to those members. The titles of Ed's messages were: "The History of: For the Battle is NOT YOURS . . ."; The Current Happenings of: 'For the Battle is NOT YOURS . . .'; and "The Great Day of God Almighty."

From **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** reports that **Renee Pierce** was "caught" pulling weeds from around the church's flowers. Even the "smallest" of deeds are noticed by God, and your selfless efforts are a blessing to all. Thank you, Renee!

From **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor V. E. Kirkpatrick II** has some thanks to hand out as well. Thanks go to **Jason Becker** for speaking in the pastor's absence on August 10 and to

Linda Sandifer for planning the service. Many others also helped behind the scenes. Thanks to all who give of themselves for the work of the Lord [GNP].

From **Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, MO** – The youth fund-raiser was a big success as the youth team raised \$490 at Sonic in Raymore on July 12. Youth involved were: **Joelle, Jakub, Terrance, Hunter, Leroy, Lincoln, Aeiriana, Allison, and Erin**. Support was provided by **Shawna H, Sarah F, Georgia M, Lisa K, and Barry and Joleen F**. [GNP does not know the last names of these people, but you know who you are, and God certainly knows your name. Congratulations, and God will bless you for your efforts.]

From **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** offers congratulations to the church's 5K Run for God walkers/runners. The church team finished second in the Autumn on Parade corporate challenge, and several individuals did very well. **Carson Andrew** was the overall winner of the race, **Lil Andrew** finished third in her age group, and **Earlyne Warmolts** was third in her age group. **Noah Myers** (four years old!) participated in the one mile, and his first-ever time for the run was 11:09. Congratulations to all for a great effort.

From **Southeast Conference** – The Southeast Fall Youth Retreat was October 26-28 at Advent Christian Campground in Blowing Rock, NC. The theme was: "Stand Your Ground!"

From **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor V. E. Kirkpatrick II** and the church wish to congratulate **Mindy Forcier** for being selected to the homecoming court for Eden Valley-Watkins High School. "We're proud of you, Mindy!"

From **GNP** – From the **Troy View Church of God** bulletin, I notice this amazing achievement. **Louise Lapp** is turning 105! That's one hundred and five years old!! Isn't that amazing? Wow! Wow! Let's see if we can shower her with 105 birthday cards (sorry, Jon!) for encouragement. Send her cards in care of Jon Lapp, 20302 Rolling Acres Drive, Richmond,

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ABC News

Atlanta Bible College started the fall semester with 74 students - 49 new and 25 returning. 13 are distance learning students. We have three international students from Kenya this semester, one from Moldova, and a Korean student who prefers to attend our English-speaking campus.

The following instructors are teaching this semester: Rob Bernheisel, Anthony Buzzard, Tom Fischhaber, Bob Jones, David Krogh, Joe Martin, Rebekah Martin, Jogi Mauger, David Riley, Dustin Smith, and Mary Ann Winkler. ABC student Jacob Rohrer is leading the Worship Service Planning Lab. Forty-seven semester hours are being delivered.

At this point, we have still not been recertified to accept international students. Though our certification expired on May 28, on the Immigration website we are listed as "approved" to receive international students. It was in February 2013 when we started the recertification process. We continue to pray and wait for action on this matter.

We have submitted an application to the Veterans Administration to be eligible to accept students who wish to use the GI bill to attend ABC. An onsite inspection has been made, and our application is in the hands of the military. There are a number of veterans who have requested admission to ABC as soon as we are approved. We trust this will happen before the next semester.

The annual ABC Booster campaign is underway. Thanks to all who have provided contributions and promised prayer support.

A Go Serve Team under the direction of Kim Raper will travel to Louisiana November 7-9.

Dr. Joe Martin held a one-day preaching seminar at the Guthrie Grove Church in Pelzer, SC in September. If you would be interested in having a seminar on a Bible or ministry topic in your church, please contact Academic Dean David Krogh.

David Krogh



Attendees of Dr. Joe Martin's one day preaching seminar at Guthrie Grove Church in Pelzer, SC

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MN 56368. Let's show this amazing lady of God we love her.

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

To the members of the Church of God General Conference,

My appreciation goes out to all of the members of the COGGC for your unfailing support and love for the Korean ministry! God continues to work through the Korean Extension as He has blessed us once again with a great start to the fall 2014 semester. Although some students were unable to continue their Christian education, God has connected us with nine new students. The total Korean Extension student numbers for the fall are 20 passionate individuals who are eager to learn God's message. We are currently midway into the semester, and the new students have already provided feedbacks that the level of Christian education and compassion that we provide reflects more of a God-centered attitude in comparison to other Christian schools that they have experienced. The inspiration has motivated the students to be proactive, and they too have become part of our recruitment team. Through our efforts, I have received a number of phone calls from prospective students inquiring about our school, and, in addition to former students wishing to transfer back, I am confident that our student numbers will increase in the upcoming semester.

Currently the Korean Extension offers 14 classes (four Bible courses, six Ministry courses, and four general education courses) facilitated by five Korean faculty members and one Atlanta Bible College faculty. We are also proud to announce that we have a new support staff member who is assisting us with day-to-day operations. Steve facilitated a week-long intensive block course back in July, and the students are participating in another course that he teaches through video conferencing. Dr./ Pastor Jae Yun Shim has vast knowledge in both Eastern and Western history stemming from his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral education with 20 years of teaching experience in South Korea, and he has combined his academic knowledge with the training that he received from Steve to offer students with a firmer and more explicit perspective on the Abrahamic faith. Dustin Smith is currently part of our teaching faculty where he co-teaches the New Testament I class with Dr. Shim. The class is a three-hour class where Dr. Shim teaches for the first one hour and fifteen minutes in Korean and Dustin facilitates the remaining one hour and fifteen minutes in English.

Mrs. Hee Soog Kim provides instruction in music for the Korean Extension and holds a master's degree in Christian music. She met Steve some time ago in South Korea during one of his annual mission visits and accepted the Abrahamic belief, and she was inspired to participate in all of his classes via the internet. As of last year, she has

been given the opportunity to be a part of our Korean Extension teaching faculty providing instruction on the subject of Hymnology. Some of you may also remember Pastor Yeo Il Jang as he is a graduate of the Korean Extension. As a matter of fact, he was part of my graduating class in 2006. Since then, he has expanded his Christian knowledge and participated in higher education attaining a Master of Arts in Theology from the Puritan Theological Seminary in South Korea. Now, Pastor Yeo Il Jang has assumed the position of senior pastor at the Campus Bible Church where Steve was the lead pastor, and he now teaches the Introduction to Worship class for the Korean Extension. Sarah An, my wife, is also a new member of the Korean Extension team. She provides support with administrative tasks and her ability to assist Korean students in and outside of class is becoming more effective as she gradually increases her proficiency with the Korean language. Moreover, Sarah's ability to cook both Korean and Western foods is much appreciated from both staff and students. As for myself, I currently facilitate several courses in both Bible and ministry as well as general courses such as English conversation, where I lead dialogues between the students and relate various Western and Asian cultural topics. Of course, the class is facilitated in a bilingual format to ensure that the students develop understanding and build confidence.

In addition, Steve and I and the rest of the Korean Extension faculty communicate regularly once a week through video conferencing. Since the Korean Extension in South Korea and in the U.S. share the same curriculum, we must coordinate weekly to make certain that there are no issues. Also during the meetings, we discuss potential issues that may be problematic. Afterward, we close the meeting where Steve leads the staff in a short Bible study and prayer. In addition to the staff meetings, Steve and I also communicate weekly via the internet to discuss Korean Extension related topics such as grades, student finances, and immigration matters that pertain to students as well as personal matters.

In closing, although Steve and Young are in South Korea, I believe that the changes in the recent months will help the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension expand our ministry geographically increasing ministerial opportunities to preach the Abrahamic Faith.

I ask that all of you please continue to pray for the Korean mission work in the U.S. and in South Korea. God bless all of you and thank you!

Sam An, Korean Extension Administrator

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Northeast Campus Korean Extension Student Profile



Hyeon Mi Jeong (Fall 2010)

At a young age I attended Korean church, because it was the thing to do, and that is what a young child in South Korea was supposed to do at the time. As I grew, I began to question myself on why I needed to attend church and did not feel that it was necessary, so I stopped. It was during my teenage years that I began to attend church again from invites from friends. However, the efforts did not make much difference. I attended numerous churches only to find myself left with the same questions as I did in the past. But then I arrived in the U.S. and met pastor Steve. He helped me to perceive God and His message in a whole new way.

Through his classes, as well as other classes at the Korean Extension, I began to realize and acknowledge the importance of why the biblical truth is important to my life. In addition, the staff at the Korean Extension provides instruction with great compassion that is lacking in many other institutions that I have experienced. Also, in my opinion, the Korean Extension provides biblical knowledge in such a way that whoever is exposed to the classes can easily understand. I am assuming that this is one of the primary reasons many Koreans in the surrounding area of Duluth choose to learn theology from Steve and the Korean Extension.

In conclusion, Steve and the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension staff have provided me with a new outlook on life. They have changed how I perceive the Bible, and they have shown me why Jesus Christ is important to my life!
Hyeon Mi Jeong

South Korean Campus Korean Extension Student Profile



Sae Hyun Lee (Spring 2008)

If you recall, Sae Hyun Lee is a former student of the Korean Extension in Duluth, GA., and he attended school between spring of 2008 to fall of 2010. He is also the nephew of the current South Korean Campus employee Younghee An who was ordained at the Cornerstone Bible Church several years ago. After two years of studying the Abrahamic faith, Sae Hyun departed for South Korea to fulfill his military obligations. During his military service, he also served as a private chaplain to the Korean military where he was stationed. As of February 2014, Sae Hyun has been discharged and now attends the KE campus in South Korea where Steve An currently teaches. In addition, Sae Hyun is extremely excited to continue his Christian studies with Steve in order to fulfill his passion to become a COG pastor.

“Currently, the Korean Extension offers 14 classes (four Bible courses, six Ministry courses, and four general education courses) facilitated by five Korean faculty members and one Atlanta Bible College faculty.”

Lord's Harvest International (LHI) Report

The Lord's Harvest International Board met in Atlanta September 26 and 27. Members of the board are l to r: David Krogh, Rebekah Martin, Tracy Zhykhovich, Andy Cisneros, Kim Raper, Rick McClain, and Judy Myers (seated).



Each of the mission fields were reviewed, and time was spent on long-range planning for each country. Plans were discussed for the annual Marching for Missions campaign in March.

The board is grateful for all who faithfully support our mission fields with prayer and financial contributions.

Judy Myers has decided to retire from her position as mission coordinator of the General Conference

effective November 1. We are very grateful for the 30 years that Judy has been involved in Church of God missions. She has traveled to many of our fields and maintained regular contact with many workers in the field. She was involved in the establishment of LHI after it was authorized by delegates at our General Conference in 1992. Dr. Joe Martin appointed Rick McClain to succeed her. ■

New Member Church

At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors accepted the Yahtop Church of God near Seoul, South Korea into the membership of the Church of God General Conference. This new congregation started on August 16, 2014. The pastor is Young-hee An (no relation to Steve and Young An) who graduated from Atlanta Bible College (Duluth, GA campus) in 2011. She recently received her master's degree from Puritan Theological Seminary in Seoul.

This new congregation will provide a place to worship for former students of the Korean Extension and for students who are now enrolled in the branch campus that opened this fall in Seoul. The church and Atlanta Bible College will share the facility that has been rented. It is approximately 1,100 square feet on the basement level of a six story building. The chapel can facilitate 40 chairs with a retractable writing board and conference room with a large table and ten chairs that can be used as a second classroom.

There are currently 20 members in the church. Members are displaying passion to evangelize and

preach the Abrahamic Faith in their local community. They also will devote time and effort to recruiting additional students for the Korean Extension in South Korea and also Duluth.

Worship services are being held Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon, with a Wednesday night Bible study. ■



Pictured is Pastor Steve An speaking at the church.

This October marks the 15th month since my wife Marisa, my grandson Aaron, and I started the Western Washington Church of God. We became an official congregation of the General Conference in December 2013. Currently we meet in three locations along a 175-mile north-south stretch of Interstate Highway. We meet in the northernmost location of Kent, Washington, two Sundays each month; the far south location of Woodland, Washington one Sunday each month; and a middle location in the Tenino/Olympia area on the remaining Sunday. So far we have served 73 different people in our Bible study and worship service during that time. Attendance runs between 40-60 each month, depending on the time of year. Basically we've doubled in size since December last year when we were 5 months old.

I consider this church planting effort to be an extension mostly of the evangelism work of Anthony Buzzard and others like him. Most, but not all, of those who are part of this congregation came to the biblical faith at least in part because of seed sown by him and others within the last 20 years. The journey of each person with us has been different. Some few have been a part of the Church of God environment most of their lives, while most others have come from a variety of other orthodox backgrounds, or other Biblical unitarian movements. This diverse group is probably somewhat unique, and can make for interesting conversations. Although there are certainly various points of view on some topics, all agree on how many God is and on the reality of the coming Kingdom of God to this earth at Christ's return when he raises the faithful dead to immortality. The official preaching and teaching generally follows the doctrinal positions of the majority of congregations in the Church of God.

Our meetings consist of Bible study, worship, sharing time, sermon, group singing, a music special, and fellowship. Although we start out with a bulletin agenda, we sometimes deviate from that if the group dynamic suggests it, and/or if special interest in a discussion topic develops spontaneously. We have had only two communion services to date, and two potlucks. These are a bit challenging when we move around so much. In addition we pay rent by the hour which limits how much time we can spend on extra

fellowship for things like potlucks. Whereas I started out giving all the Bible studies and messages, others have been stepping up over the last several months to take leadership responsibility in these areas. We have some remarkable Bible students among us! This past summer we established a leadership team of eleven people to advise me on the direction our congregation should go in the future. Hopefully this wonderfully talented and gifted group of people will be leading their own separate and local congregations before long. Anthony and Barbara Buzzard have been out visiting us twice so far. The last time was in August when Anthony led a six-hour Bible study on prophecy for 16 people at our home, and then spoke at worship services the next day. What a great time of fellowship and learning that was for everyone!

According to records I have been keeping of "scattered" believers who have contacted me from across the United States, there are a few other geographical areas which may soon be ready for church planting opportunities like we have had here in western Washington. Evangelism followed by conscious church planting effort certainly makes a lot of sense. I think we are proof of that here in western Washington. Progress and growth is slow, but is steady. We work like it is all up to us, and pray like it is all up to God.

May God and Jesus continue to bless their church.

Robin Todd, Pastor

Our church here in Beloit, Wisconsin is looking for help in pastoral visits, worship team and youth work. If you are strong in any one of these three areas, please let me know. Would be a full-time position. Give me a call or shoot me an e-mail, or call Gary Burnham as he can answer some of your questions. This would be a full-time, assistant pastor position.

Jason Turner
jetmat2@aol.com
608-481-2821



BIBLE PROPHECY CONFERENCE

Conway, Arkansas

HE IS COMING!

February 27-March 1, 2015

Friday, February 27

6:00 Registration & Fellowship

7:00 **Wally Winner: Israel, The Sign Post to the End of the Age**

The Current Conflicts in the Middle East (Hamas, Iran and the Nuclear Threat)

Saturday, February 28

8:00 Breakfast on your own or at the hotel,

Late Registration

9:00 **Wally Winner: Current Events and the Middle East (Radical Islam and How It Relates)**

9:45 Break

10:00 **Cathy Cunningham: As It Was In the Days of Noah**

10:45 Break

11:00 **Anthony Buzzard: The Second Coming, and The Tribulation,
or the Tribulation and the Second Coming**

12:00 Lunch

1:30 **Wally Winner: Signs in the Sun, Moon and the Stars (The Four Blood Moons)**

2:15 Break

2:30 **Dr. Joe Martin: Ezekiel's Prophecy and Current Events (The Russian Bear)**

3:15 Break

3:30 **Cathy Cunningham: The War Against Christians Culturally and Physically in the Last Days**

4:15 Break

4:30 **Dan Landry: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream and the Coming Kingdom**

5:30 Supper

7:00 **Anthony Buzzard: "The Spirit of Antichrist, and the Antichrist"**

Sunday, March 1 - Events will move to McGintytown Church of God

509 Hwy 225 E

Greenbrier, AR 72058

8:00 Breakfast on your own

10:00 **Anthony Buzzard: Countdown to The Kingdom and the Coming Messiah**

11:00 **Joe Martin: He Really Is Coming Back!**

12:00 Lunch served by the McGintytown Church of God

1:30 Airport shuttle

Sponsored by the Arkansas State Conference and McGintytown Church of God

12

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: Pastor Tom New 501-581-5505

BIBLE PROPHECY CONFERENCE of THE CHURCH OF GOD



TOPICS COVERED:

Israel, the Sign Post of the End of the Age; Current Events & Bible; The Four Blood Moons; The War Against Christians in the Last Days; the Second Coming; His Kingdom

February 27-March 1, 2015

Conway, Arkansas

Hilton Garden Inn 805 S Amity Rd Conway AR 501-329-1444

Approx. Rates: \$114 per night plus tax. Lower cost lodging can be obtained nearby.



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone-Home _____ Cell _____

Conference Rate is: \$30 (It includes lunch and evening meal and conference materials)

Transportation to/from Little Rock airport? Round-trip \$25__

One-way (\$15) From airport__ To airport__

If so, Date & Time of Arrival_____ Departure_____

PLEASE NOTE: The fees for the Bible Prophecy Conference **DO NOT** include lodging. **You must arrange lodging by contacting the hotel directly.** The fees for the conference cover the costs of the Bible Prophecy Conference meeting throughout the weekend and Saturday lunch and a Saturday evening meal. McGintytown Church will provide the Sunday noon meal. Breakfast will be on your own. **Send with non-refundable deposit of \$30 per individual or couple by February 1 to: Arkansas State Conference/McGintytown Church of God, PO Box 999, Greenbrier, AR 72058**

Other Hotel information in the area: Country Inn & Suites is located across the street from the conference at the Hilton Garden Inn which includes breakfast. 750 S Amity Rd, Conway, AR 501-932-0500; Next Exit Lodging: Fairfield Inn & Suites, 2260 Sanders Rd, Conway, AR 501-505-8034; Comfort Inn 705 Museum Rd., Conway, AR 501-329-8548; Holiday Inn Express, 2330 Sanders Rd., Conway, AR 501-513-4989.

For the past five years, the Lawrenceville Church of God youth group has traveled down to Florida on a week-long mission trip. The trip was organized and led by Jill and Gary Hedges, the senior youth leaders, who have been taking the youth on mission trips for the past sixteen years. They wanted their youth to have fun and learn from the Bible, but they really wanted the kids to have the experience of serving the least and the opportunity to live out the life of Christ.

This year, I was privileged to be a part of the team that traveled first to Atlanta, Georgia and then to Panama City, Florida. I had never been on a short-term mission trip before, and I have to admit I was skeptical about it. I had a hard time believing that a group of teenagers from Ohio could really have much of an impact for the kingdom in such a short amount of time. But God proved me wrong. I was absolutely blown away by the positive impact that was made on those we served, and even more amazed by what I saw God doing in and through the youth during that week.

Itinerary

We started off our journey on the afternoon of the 25th of June. After loading up the bus, we began the trek down to McDonough, Georgia. The drive was filled with conversation and laughter, as well as spiritual movies and devotions which helped direct our hearts and minds towards God and the mission ahead of us. We were reminded of our need for a Savior and the forgiveness that is available through Him. God blessed us with safe travels, and we arrived in McDonough in the early hours of the morning, sometime around 3 AM.

In the morning, we left for SafeHouse Outreach in Atlanta, Georgia. At SafeHouse, we did street ministry and invited people from the streets to the lunch that we prepared at SafeHouse. In the evening, we held a worship service for the guests, and Nathan Massie preached the gospel through the power of the Spirit. After the service, we went on the “UnHoly Land Tour” where we learned about the problem of homelessness in Atlanta and traveled through some of its darkest places.

The next day, we left for Panama City, Florida and checked in at the Laguna Beach Christian Retreat Center after a long day of travel. Thanks to Jill and Gary Hedges’ careful planning, the time spent in travel did

not go to waste, and we were blessed with some excellent devotions and Christian movies.

On Saturday we ministered in two different locations. Those who were under sixteen went to an apartment complex and ministered to the children there. They played games and presented the gospel and a Bible story. The older youth worked with Habitat for Humanity where they helped to salvage materials from a house that had been donated, or, as Jacob Rohrer put it, they got to “destroy things for Jesus.” The Habitat folks were greatly impressed by the work ethic of the Lawrenceville youth.

The next day we prepared and served lunch at the Panama City Rescue Mission and spent time connecting with the guests. In the evening, we led a worship service for the guests of the rescue mission and Jacob Rohrer preached the gospel.

On the final day of our mission, we woke up early and had a sunrise service on the beach. God had moved in amazing ways in the hearts and lives of the youth during the week and as a result, six people were baptized for the first time and five people recommitted their lives to Christ. Savannah Kelly, Charly Toler, Ashley Barger, Dominic Davis, Davin Jordan, and Karla Ortiz received Christ as Lord for the first time, and Tori Crabtree, Matt Tatman, Willie Miller, Randy Northup, and Trina Uzlik recommitted their lives to Christ as a result of God’s work through the mission trip.

Impact

It’s impossible to convey the spiritual impact that the mission trip had by simply recording *what* we did, so I’d like to share my own experience from the trip, as well as some of what I saw and heard happening in the lives of the youth and those we served. I’d also like to include some of the stories from the youth themselves.

As I watched the youth, I was amazed to see their love and courage. I watched them step out of their comfort zones to reach out and love people from completely different backgrounds and life circumstances. I saw the youth building relationships, sharing the gospel, and praying with the guests at SafeHouse and the Rescue Mission. I saw the youth really stepping up and serving, being the hands and feet of Jesus to the community.

(continued on page 15)

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Later on, I heard how the youth encouraged one another to be bold and to talk to the homeless. Not only were they reaching out to strangers, but also they were reaching out to and caring for one another. Even in their downtime, the youth continued to minister to one another as they talked, prayed, and studied the Bible together.

I know that God, working through the youth, moved mightily in the lives of those we served. As we interacted with them, you could tell that their spirits were uplifted and that they felt the love of Christ. They were really touched by the fact that a group of kids from Ohio would want to come down to serve them and to spend time with them and to get to know them. I was surprised by the impact that God's love had in the lives of those we interacted with and could see that it inspired hope, and showed them that they had value—to us and to God.

The evening worship services were equally powerful. You could feel the presence of the Spirit of God and see the burdens being lifted from the shoulders of the guests as they joined us in worship. Those who had entered the room looking downtrodden and discouraged could be seen with smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts, with hands lifted to heaven. God definitely moved in the hearts and lives of the guests as we worshipped.

Here are some of the stories from the youth:

“The mission trip was a great way to see how Jesus really feels for the people on this earth. I feel that everyone really wanted to serve on this trip, making it the best one yet. You could also tell that not only

did it impact the lives of the people we served, it also impacted our own lives and I saw people really growing closer to God on this trip, including me. It was very encouraging for me to serve and live my Christian faith, even after the mission trip.” *Isaac Cain*

“I don't know if this story helps any. But I think someone should know it. I met this guy named James! And I talked to him during lunch and gave him six of the bracelets we made. He said the other five were for his family back home in Michigan. He told me he didn't know if he was going to come back for dinner but he would try. When we went to the park to invite people back for dinner, I came across a guy sitting by the wall of water all alone with his head down. I walked over to talk to him and when he looked up I noticed it was James. He looked up and he was crying. He said he was so glad I found him to invite him! He told me not many people talk to him and he loves to talk about God with youth. I told him we would talk at dinner because it was time for me to leave.

At dinner I watched him walk in, and after the skit, I sat with him and talked. He said he used to be a youth leader. And he took the youth group on a mission trip to Atlanta. He saw how many homeless there were and he didn't understand why. A few years after they got back from the mission trip, he retired from youth ministry and gave all his money to an organization that helped get people off the street. All he kept was a book bag, two pairs of pants, a tee-shirt, two pairs of socks, his tennis shoes, a sweatshirt, and his hat. He went out to

(continued on page 16)



(continued from page 16)

lanta and started living on the street. He has lived that way for seven years.

James told me that he loved seeing youth groups come and help the homeless, because they hear the stories of these peoples' lives. Yes, you think it's bad when you hear about it, but once you live it, you realize it's a thousand times worse than they say. He said that he lives on the streets to preach God's word and to help get people off the streets or bring them to God! He said that we have definitely changed many peoples' lives. And he definitely made a huge impact on my life just with his story!" *Savannah Kelly*

"I saw God working in our lives on the mission trip by encouraging people, helping us out of our comfort zones, and just being with us while we prayed and worshipped. He was also at work when we were at the homeless shelter, and He was there with us, and He helped us to help serve the poor." *Amy Davis*

"I saw God working in everyone on the mission trip, even me. While I was there, I talked to this guy (I didn't catch his name), but while he was talking about God and saying that more people needed Jesus. It made me want to get baptized, and so I got baptized Monday morning. After I got baptized, I felt a whole lot better about myself, and I can't wait to go on the mission trip next year." *Dominic Davis*

"I never really truly believed in God. I did have a little faith, but not enough. This trip that I went on was something that I'm never going to forget. When I first saw the homeless and all the people that were sick and needed help, it made me think about things, serious things. I wanted God to work through me to help these people. And I would have to say that I'm a very shy person. I don't really talk to people that I don't know. Sunday, all of that changed and I gave out a speech to all the homeless. I can still remember the words to this day, so here it is: 'There's always hope out there, you just have to dig deep and find it. I may not know your story, and you don't know mine, but there's a person out there that loves you no matter what, and that's Jesus, so believe it.' I definitely felt His presence, and my Dad's. I don't know them much, and I can't see them, but I believe that they were right next to me." *Charly Toler*

"When I was at the mission outreach, I saw God moving when I saw a guy who looked sad or like he didn't want to be there, and God kept telling me that I should go give him one of our bracelets that has a Bible meaning for every bead, so I went and gave him one, and it made him so happy. Another time I saw God moving was when so many people said they wanted to get baptized. I think this mission trip was great." *Austin Jordan*

"The 2014 mission trip changed my life completely. The trip got me closer to God. During the trip, I found my calling. I found what God wanted from me. I felt like God was telling me He wants me to be a missionary. At first I thought that that was crazy, because I had my own plans for my life. Then, the more I prayed to God about it, the more clear that it became. I know God's purpose for me is to spread His word and amazing love to people all over the world. This trip changed my life and strengthened my relationship with God. The 2014 mission trip was the most powerful trip yet." *Tori Crabtree*

I hope that you were inspired by the stories from the youth.

It is so hard to put my own experience from this mission trip into words. God touched my heart in so many different ways and taught me so much through my experiences. I am not the same, and I think that's a good thing. I learned to lay aside my own desires and fears, in order to reach out to others. I found that when I did this, God was able to work through me to minister to the hearts of those that I talked with and listened to. We can truly be Christ's hands and feet.

I was also amazed by the size of God's family. I came to see that God was at work in the hearts and lives of the homeless and impoverished at SafeHouse and the Rescue Mission. This may be controversial to some, but I learned that Christ's church is far bigger than the Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith. God's grace is greater than our doctrinal differences, and I saw people who loved Jesus coming from every sort of denominational background, or none at all. The fruit of God's spirit was undeniable in their lives, and I saw many people filled with the life and love of Christ.

This, in turn, brought a whole new meaning to Matthew 25 for me. This chapter depicts Jesus on Judgment Day, sorting through the sheep and the goats.

(continued on page 17)

Church News

Baptisms

Illinois

Oregon — Mike McGlenn, (8/3/14) by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

Oregon — Whitney Near, (9/7/14), and Jeff Siebold, (9/14/14) by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

Ohio

Chapel Hill — Rhonda Spence, (8/23/14), by Bruce Reye.

Indiana

Hedrick — Josh Culbreath, (9/14/14) by Elder Jim Hamilton and Elder Dave Cheatwood.

Iowa

Belle Plaine — McKenzie Cronin, (6/28/14) by her father Kenny Cronin and her brother Gavin Cronin.

Missouri

Farmington — Alvin Lennon, (5/25/14), and JD Prather, (8/24/14) by Pastor Donna Cooper.

Morse Mill — Trenton Wilson, (8/3/2014), and Ashlynn Clifford, (9/14/14), by Pastor Wade Tierney.

Marriages

Illinois

Oregon — Hilary Jones and Jeff Siebold, (9/20/14) by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

Deaths

Arizona

Glendale — Carnie Graham Ehrle, 91, (9/27/14), former member of Lawrenceville, OH Church of God and mother of Pastor Jim Graham who officiated at the funeral.

Phoenix — Marie Ward, 94, (8/29/14), wife of former Pastor Dale Ward. They served pastorates in IA, IN, MI, TX, and VA. Burial in VA by Pastor Dale Ramsey.

Georgia

McDonough — Dr. Ami Spears, 54, (8/24/14), active in Cornerstone's children's ministry and delegate to several General Conferences by Pastors David Riley and Joe Myers.

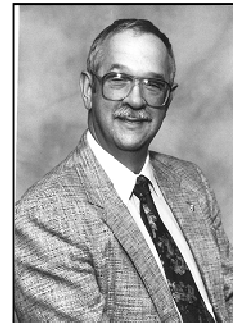
Illinois

Eldorado — Etta Marie Routson Wetzel, 71, (10/13/14), attended Oregon Bible College in 1960-61, long-time faithful member by Dr. Brian J. Atra, Elder Jack L. Wiggins and son-in-law Dan Siderius. Elizabeth H. "Becky" Leithliter, 93, services (8/9/14) by Dr. Brian J. Atra and Elder Jack L. Wiggins.

Macomb — Vada Weaver, 90, (7/13/14), long-time member, by Pastor Darrell Cardwell; and Zola Hightower, 99, (7/25/14), long-time member, with Pastor Darrell Cardwell and Pastor Jesse Pestle officiating.

Indiana

Hedrick — Pastor Joe Astolfi, 66, (08/16/14) by Pastors John Railton and Ken Howe. Through many tears and much laughter, a packed funeral chapel remembered the life and ministry of Pastor Joe. Many memories were shared by brother pastors and other friends in attendance, as well as through the reading of



Pastor Joe Astolfi

social media messages from people whose lives Joe had touched. Joe, at the time of his death, was pastoring his beloved flock at the Hedrick Church of God. Joe was a faithful mentor to many young people over the years, being especially active in several camps across the country. Joe and his wife, Karla, had ministered in churches at Morse Mill, MO; Pennellwood, Grand Rapids, MI; Maurertown, VA; Fredericktown, MO; Hedrick, Indiana. Joe was a true pastor in every sense of the word. His gentle manner and joyful smile will be missed.

Iowa

Belle Plaine — Susan Bartz (10/16/13) member since 1966 by Pastor Delbert Rankin. Harold Bartz (3/29/14) by his son-in-law Pastor Darrell Rankin.

Michigan

Blanchard — Fran Wood, 94, (10/13/14), life-long faithful member.

Missouri

Farmington — Rosie Cooper Parson, 75, (8/27/14), by Pastor Donna Cooper.

North Carolina

Lenoir — Verlie Duncan, 92, (7/30/14), wife of deceased Pastor Z. B. Duncan, long-time faithful member by Pastor Dennis Baldwin and James Ritch.



Verlie Duncan

Ohio

Bedford — Doris Schuld, 85, (8/28/14), by Pastor Andrew Weaver.

South Carolina

Bethel — Leroy Vinson, 69, (9/27/14), by Pastor Kyle Casey.

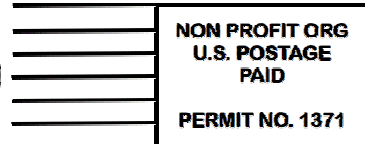
- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Beloit New Life, WI church.**
- 2 Praise God for your pastor for preaching the gospel.
- 3 **Pray for our missionaries all over the world.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Karen Fletcher and the Cool Spring Church in Browntown, Virginia.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Seth and Stacey Ross and the North Hills, OH church.**
- 6 Pray for the Lord's Harvest International Board.
- 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 Pray for the Fredericktown Church in Fredericktown, MO.
- 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 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 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 2014.**

Prayer and Praise

January 2015

- 1 Pray that God will direct every area of your life in 2015.
- 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 Lovejoy, 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.**
- 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 ABC students and staff beginning spring semester classes today.**
- 13 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Jesus as Savior.
- 14 **Praise God for Korean Churches of God in California.**
- 15 Praise God for financial and prayer supporters of the college/conference.
- 16 **Pray for our youth attending reFUEL at Camp Mack in Indiana January 16-18th.**
- 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.

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



Address Service Requested

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Prayer and Praise

February 2015

- 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 the members of your church family.
- 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 God to show you how and where to serve.
- 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.
- 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, GA.**
- 22 Pray for someone you know who is in need of healing (physical, emotional, or spiritual).
- 23 **Pray for the staff at the college/conference.**
- 24 Pray for the Refuge retreat to be held in Indiana on Feb. 27 to March 1 and for those traveling to and from the event.
- 25 **Pray that Jesus will return to earth soon.**
- 26 Praise God for the ministry taking place in the dozens of African churches connected to the General Conference.
- 27 **Pray for those attending the Bible Prophecy Conference in Conway, AR.**
- 28 Pray for all of the faithful workers in your local church.

Corrections

On page 1 of the August/September/October 2014 RESTITUTION HERALD and PROGRESS JOURNAL in the report of the summer conference, the names of the original Gospellettes should have been Rachel Krogh Carr, Cheryl Macy Ross, and Martha Burnett Mikl. We regret that Martha was not correctly identified.

In the Fall 2014 RESTITUTION HERALD Electronic Newsletter and PROGRESS JOURNAL, the NextGen Page article about the mission trip to Georgia and Florida was written by Bethany Reise. We regret that the author's name was omitted.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

Should Jews Pronounce God's Name?

By Kermit Zarley

January 7, 2015 by Kermit Zarley
(from Patheos website)

Judaism forbids the pronunciation of God's name. What is God's name? It is not "Father," as many Christians think. Jesus' favorite identification of God was "Father." That conveys the wonderful concepts of love, nurturing, and protecting. But "father" is a *title* of God, not his *name*. The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is very clear in saying that God's name is *yhwh/YHWH*. See especially Exodus 3.13-15 NIV. Moses therein asked the angel of the LORD in the burning bush incident about God, "What is his name?" (v. 13). The angel answered, "I am who I am" (v. 14). The angel then told Moses to tell the Israelites, "'The LORD, . . . has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation" (v. 15). I think this personage speaking to Moses was an actual angel who represented God as his personal agent. Thus, he could speak as someone distinct from God or as representing God.

The word "LORD" in small capitals appears in the Old Testament of English Bibles almost 7,000 times. It is the rendering of God's name, which is *yhwh*. Thus, *yhwh* appears in the Hebrew Bible almost 7,000 times. This name does not mean "lord/LORD." Then why do translators so translate it? When Jewish scholars translated the LXX (Septuagint=Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible in the 3rd to 1st centuries BC), each time

they rendered God's name as *kurios*, which is the Greek word for "lord." However, during the last half of the twentieth century there arose a debate among biblical scholars about whether or not the LXX translators translated *yhwh* as *kurios* or not. The reason is that some LXX manuscripts have *yhwh* instead of *kurios*, thus transliterating it. Then why this difference in manuscript evidence? Some scholars have claimed that the LXX translators transliterated *yhwh* every time, but that later Christian scribes who made copies of the LXX changed *yhwh* each time to *kurios*.

Hebrew was becoming a dying language. During the time of Jesus, Jews in Israel spoke Aramaic as their native language due to the Exile. Therefore, after the Second Temple period (after 70 AD), Jews became uncertain about how *yhwh* should be pronounced. So, they feared mispronouncing it. They also thought that if you mispronounce God's name, you would be breaking one of the Ten Commandments which the KJV translates, "Thou shall 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" (Exodus 20.7).

The word here translated "in vain" is *lashav*, which appears twice in Ex 20.7. The standard Hebrew lexicon Brown-Driver-Briggs says it means here, "*take up* name of God *in vain* (to no good purpose)." While the NASB and the ESV translations continue this "in vain" translation here,

the NIV renders it "misuse," and the NRSV translates it "wrongful use." The meaning is surely that people are warned not to misuse God's name *yhwh*, not that they are never to pronounce or write it. Jews, in their fear of taking God's name in vain, have chosen not to take it at all!

This practice of translating God's name as "LORD" has been continued throughout history, no matter what language the Hebrew Bible is translated into. It is placed in small caps to signify that it refers to *yhwh* rather than "lord/master," which is *adonay* in Hebrew and *kurios* in Greek. I don't think this is right for translators to do this, but I don't make a big deal about it. Why? Jesus obviously didn't since Jews had been practicing this tradition before he came along. We never read in the New Testament gospel sayings of Jesus that he said God's name – *yhwh*. I think Jesus had an ingenious way of solving this dilemma, and thereby respecting Jewish sensitivities, by uniquely referring to God repeatedly as "Father." The Old Testament does this rarely, but only for Israel as a nation, thus not by individuals calling God "Father." Besides, Jews were not speaking Hebrew in Jesus' day.

Hebrew used to be like other ancient languages in that it only consisted of consonants, thus no vowels. The vowel points were added to the Hebrew language by the Masoretes in the 7th century AD. They were the group of scholars who lived on the Sea of

(Continued on page 2)

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Galilee, in Tiberius, who recovered the Hebrew Bible. Scholars refer to this version as the Masoretic Text (MT). But even those scholars were not sure what vowel points to use for *yhwh*. Their guess resulted in pronouncing God's name as Yehvah. But most modern scholars rendered *yhwh* as *Yahweh*. One issue is obviously how to render the sixth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, whether as a *waw* or a *vav*.

The Jewish Bible (Old Testament) has many instances in which devout people of God say or write his name. Prophets do so constantly. One that is especially meaningful to me is in the book of Joel. The context is about God pouring his Spirit out upon "all flesh" (Joel 2.28), which I think refers to all "Israel" in the previous v. 27. It refers to the "last days" (Joel 2.28/Acts 2.17), which for Christians means the second coming of Christ to inaugurate the consummation of his kingdom on earth. The "all flesh" of "Israel" coincides with what the Apostle Paul writes, that at that time "all Israel will be saved; as it is written,

'Out of Zion will come the Deliverer,'" referring to Jesus at his second coming (Romans 11.26).

Then Joel adds, concerning that glorious event for these Jews, "Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD," that is, *yhwh*, "shall be saved," meaning "delivered" (Joel 2.32). Even in our day, the native language of Israeli Jews is Hebrew. So, in the last days Jews will have abandoned this traditional practice of their forefathers in not verbalizing God's name. Instead, they will utter his name, pleading for his mercy. Because they do that, they will be saved. ■

From the Website: Patheos, Hosting the Conversation of Faith

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/kermizarleyblog/2015/01/should-jews-pronounce-gods-name/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 27 - March 1, 2015
Bible Prophecy Conference, Conway, AR

February 27 - March 1, 2015
Refuge
Camp Mack—Milford, IN

March 9-13, 2015
Annual Ministers Conference
Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

March 19-21, 2015
Atlanta Bible College Invitational

April 12-17, 2015
Christian Workers Seminar
Pigeon Forge, TN

April 30 - May 3, 2015
Theological Conference
Calvin Center, Hampton, GA

May 15, 2015
ABC Graduation
Cornerstone Bible Church—McDonough, GA

July 8-10, 2015
95th Annual General Conference
Timberland Bible Church, South Bend, IN

July 19-24, 2015
FUEL—Youth Program
Manchester University—North Manchester, IN

September 24-26, 2015
Heritage Conference
North Hills Church, Springfield, OH

Servant Seat/CAO Report

I started the New Year off in Arizona, visiting our daughter Jennifer and son-in-law, Craig, and also many church friends. We had some delightful special times with lots of folks: Warren and Irene Sorenson, Don and Marj Overmyer, Bill and Mardy Lawrence, Joe and Dana Myers, Kermit Zarley, etc. On January 4, Lakeshore Church had an old fashioned potluck, and it was great to see so many friends. I tried to take a “panorama” picture with my new phone camera, see below.

The next exciting thing after returning to Georgia was ABC orientation on Jan. 10 with classes starting Jan. 12. Rufus Meyers is working with David Krogh and Kim Raper in recruiting, and we have twenty-two new students. The problem is most of these are part-time. However, we are being blessed by new people almost every semester to teach the gospel of the kingdom and biblical truths we hold dear. I remind people that Steve An, Rufus Meyers, etc. were once “community students.”

A highlight is that we have two new adjuncts: Bethany Reise and Jack Kmiecik. Beth is teaching Personal Spiritual Development and Jack with

David Krogh is teaching Natural Church Development. Below is a picture of Jack’s class.



Steve An came home from Korea for a short visit. We met just before Christmas to review how things are going in the Korea Bible college, and also review the Korean Extension in Duluth with Sam. Please remember Steve and Young in your prayers. Young has been sick over the holidays. The new Yahtop Korean church in Seoul is also the location of the new Bible college. There is another off-site class offered as well.

In Malawi and Mozambique, Rebekah and I received news of some drastic flooding for the area. Linda Limbe has reported that many homes, made of adobe brick, have fallen down. Several of our churches, have also been damaged. After contacting Rick McClain, the chairman of LHI, and other

(Continued on page 4)



Lakeshore potluck. Some present were: Joe and Dana Myers, Bethany and Darrell Ligon, Leanne Valencia, Justin and Kara Taylor, Doug Todd, Shirley McQuinn, Steve Taylor, Jerry and Velma Graham, Paul and Jessica Madonia, Don and Marj Overmyers, Roseberrys, John and Rachel Carr, etc.



Jack Kmiecik’s class: Jack on the left, Jacob Rohrer from OH, Talon Paul from East Oregon Church, Valerie Crawford from GA, Jesse Allen from MO, Eliud Kamau from Kenya, David, April Parker from GA, plus Grace Mativo and Wilfred Ngetich from Kenya.

(Continued from page 3)

mission Board members, we sent \$3,000 from the mission emergency fund to help our members. Linda commented in an email:

“Dear Joe and Rebekah, Sorry but I have come again with another sad news. Malawi has been hit by very heavy rains and stormy winds which has destroyed a lot of people’s homes. So on top of that, late pastor Macheмба’s church fell, we have Pastor Magalasi, Kashi and one more from Maxwell and Howard’s area. A lot of people are homeless, it’s the first disaster of this kind to ever happen in Malawi. Bridges on the main roads including the ones on small roads have been washed away.”

I saw similar reports from Facebook, and where President Mutharika declared a state of natural disaster. Roads that we drove on last summer have been washed away. Remember, with adobe homes, the mortar is mud, and if it gets wet, the walls will collapse. One of our oldest and dearest pastor friends, Mijeri and his wife Beatrice, lost their home, chicken coop and many chickens, etc. They sold eggs etc. for a living.



One of the roads washed away at a bridge I believe we have crossed many times.

Beth YHWH, “House of the LORD,” our building is almost totally full of tenants, except for ½ of the first floor. This will be a blessing for future and present ministry.

The Psalmist says, “This is the day that the LORD Has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24) We can say with the good and bad that may come this year, “This is the year that the LORD has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it!” God bless all of us as we look to the new year with its blessings and its problems. ■

95th Annual Church of God General Conference

will be held July 8-10, 2015 at the

Timberland Bible Church,

South Bend, Indiana

Greetings to you in the name of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May His Kingdom come soon.

On this, my first time writing in the HERALD and JOURNAL, I would like to say a few words about my time on the Church of God Board of Directors. It has been a true privilege to serve in this capacity and an interesting, unique experience.

I first heard at church that there were no candidates yet for the two open director positions, and it was suggested that I consider it. I thought, oh, good, a job with all of the blame and none of the pay! Still, it seemed like a great opportunity to serve, and one that does not come along every day. I do not mind traveling a little and sitting in meetings. The only question was whether I could be any real benefit to the conference and our churches. My wife Maria thought so (always my biggest supporter), so we prayed about it. Although I never heard God say I was ready for the job, I was certainly feeling a call, like I should give it a go. Chris James and I were elected to the two open spots at the summer conference in beautiful South Carolina. Within minutes of the election, we found ourselves knee-deep in the business of the conference and college.

Our biggest issue from the start was the INS recertification, or the lack thereof. Any regular reader of this journal knows how big a problem this has been. In order to enroll international students, we must be certified by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, part of the Department of Homeland Security. They want to make sure our nation's Bible colleges are not bringing in terrorists, and with each passing year, it becomes more and more difficult to convince them we are not. As the certification process dragged on, we were losing Korean students and much-needed revenue. We were told we could keep enrolling students throughout the long waiting game with INS, and the staff was working hard to bring those students back. Still, it seemed like a scary time to be joining the board. What had I gotten myself into?

It turned out what I had gotten myself into wasn't so bad, after all. College revenue was down, but we were happy to see donations were up. The gen-

erosity of the COG membership and the hard work of the staff would get us through the year for sure. Being on the board has shown me just how faithful and giving our churches and people are, and how smart, diligent, and professional our COGGC staff is. And I have found the other board members to be a wealth of knowledge and wisdom in areas of management, finance, biblical scholarship, missions, and so many others.

I still don't know if I can be any benefit to the conference, but I do know what a benefit the conference has been to me. I have learned so much from these amazing people, and we have had wonderful worship and fellowship together. Along the way, I try to contribute where I can and try to keep up with these other directors and Joe Martin, all of whom have a lot of energy and some really great ideas. This year I have taken on the secretary role. Writing meeting minutes and managing the board documents might sound like a boring job, but I am thrilled to be able to contribute in this way.

I would encourage anyone with a passion for the cause of the Abrahamic faith and an interest in leadership to consider serving on the board. Sometimes the business is unpleasant. Sometimes the decisions we make are difficult, even painful. Sometimes we might make the wrong decision, but we will continue to pray that God shows us what is right. Whatever we do, we do it together, as a team.

Dan Knowlton

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Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner

Shortly after the horrific terrorist attack in Paris, the *Washington Examiner* published the results of an exclusive poll commissioned by author Joel C. Rosenberg, at the launch of his novel "*The Third Target*."

The poll, by pollster McLaughlin & Associates, found 74.2 percent of likely American voters deeply fear a "catastrophic terrorist attack" by the Islamic State (aka, "ISIS") inside the United States, against our ally Israel, and against the Kingdom of Jordan.

Israel has always been the target of Arabs/Radical Islamist since it became a nation in 1948. The words from Psalm 83:2-4 have been portrayed before us: "*Look, your enemies are in an uproar. Those who hate you hold their heads high. They make plans in secret against your people and plot together against those you treasure. They say, 'Let's wipe out their nation so that the name of Israel will no longer be remembered.'*"

For a number of reasons, but particularly because the United States has historical been the strongest supporter of the nation Israel, it has become a target for terrorism.

Muslims of the Americas Inc., a tax-exempt organization, has been directly linked by court documents to Jamaat ul-Fuqra. The organization operates communes of primarily black, American-born Muslims throughout the U.S. Presently there are at least 22 terrorist training camps in the United States. These camps are located in more than a dozen states in this country from New York to Pennsylvania to Florida to South Carolina to Georgia to Virginia to Texas.

The group openly recruits through various social service organizations in the U.S., including the prison system. Members live in compounds where they agree to abide by the laws of Jamaat ul-Fuqra, which are considered to be above local, state and federal authority.

The threat against Israel and the United States is both logical and probable. However, why Jordan?

Jordan is on the eastern side of the Jordan River, bordering Israel. It is known as a moderate Arab nation, ruled by Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein who claims to be a direct descendant of the Islamic prophet Mohammad (the official name of the country is The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan). It was established as an independent nation after

World War II. At that time its territory included some land on the west side of the Jordan (the area now known as the "West Bank," including East Jerusalem and the Temple Mount).

Jordan was one of several nations that fought against Israel in the 1967 "Six-Day War." At that time Israel took control of the West Bank and all of Jerusalem. Israeli General Moshe Dayan left control of the Temple Mount in Jordanian hands in order to facilitate a peaceful future for the site, considered sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Jordan has observed a peace treaty with Israel since 1994, and has been active in promoting peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. It is threatened by the new Islamic State (ISIS or ISIL) in their barbaric march to reestablish an Islamic caliphate and destroy Israel.

There are several Old Testament prophecies about the ultimate destruction of parts of Jordan. These prophecies could be fulfilled during the course of the end times wars that are yet to come.

Zechariah 11:3 "...For the pride of Jordan is in ruins."
Jer 49:2 "Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will cause to be heard an alarm of war, in Rabbah of the Ammonites (Jordan); it shall be a desolate mound and her villages shall be burned with fire, then Israel will take possession of his inheritance."

In fact this whole chapter deals with the judgment and destruction of Jordan! It has also never happened before. Jordan is now at rest. Things are about to change!
Zechariah 9:2-8 "Tyre built herself a tower ... behold the Lord will destroy her power and cast her out; He will destroy her power in the sea, and she will be devoured by fire. Ashkelon and Gaza shall see it and fear; Gaza shall be very sorrowful...and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines (Palestinians).

This entire section of prophecy deals with the following cities and nations. Included here are their modern names.

Edomites = Jordan / Parts of the West Bank.

Ishmaelites = The Arab people.

Moabites = Jordan / Parts of the West Bank.

Hagrites = Jordan / The Arab people.

Gabalites = Lebanon.

Ammonites = Jordan.

Amalekites = Southern Israel / Gaza.

Philistia = Gaza.

Tyre = Lebanon.

Assyria / Assur = Syria / Parts of Turkey and Iraq. ■

My experience at Revive 2015

by Jacob Rohrer

I came to hear about Revive through my adjunct professor, Sean Finnegan. I heard him talk about the Connecticut retreat when I saw him last spring for block class. Then, I also heard Dr. Smith and Bethany Reise talk about it, and they both said the retreat was worth going to. It took place on a campground, Camp Woodstock, in Connecticut, and it started on the second day of the new year (Friday) and went through Sunday morning.

However, part of my Revive experience started a day earlier than most. My roommate, Nathan Massie, and I met two other guys from Michigan in our home town of Springfield, Ohio, so the four of us could travel together. These two men were brothers Dan and Sam Vitu. We also left a day early to spend time with Sean and Ruth Finnegan who graciously opened their home up to us to stay the night, which was in a suburb of Albany, New York. The next morning, we caravanned together on the three-hour journey to Connecticut.

Unfortunately, my roommate Nathan was sick and immediately laid down when we arrived at the campsite. It turned out he had the flu and was sick most of the weekend. To be honest I was nervous! I am uncomfortable meeting new people, especially with this being my very first Revive experience. But I pressed forward and attempted to say something to all fifty-six people that attended that weekend. The theme for the weekend was unity, having unity as a body of believers in Christ. The weekend was filled with great speakers, who spoke on topics of forgiveness, dealing with controlling people, and what it means to really love the body. There were very talented worship leaders to lead music. For me, this was the very first retreat in a long while that involved people my own age, and it was amazing! Some of our free time included playing Frisbee golf in the snow, while others spent it playing games or simply talking to one another. The goal of fellowshiping was being accomplished!

Overall I have this to say about Revive 2015. The weekend was the best retreat experience I have ever had! Writing a summary does not come close to doing the weekend justice. This is something you really have to experience for yourself. I encourage all who are reading this, that any per-



son twenty or older give serious thought about attending this weekend. The weekend is usually the first weekend of the new year. I was thoroughly impressed with the people there, their level of commitment to the faith and discipleship of Christ and their desire to want to be at the weekend with other members of the family of God. All are welcome, no matter where you are in your relationship and walk with Christ. I now know that scattered through eleven different states, from the New England area and all the way over to the midwest and south through Texas, I have brothers and sisters of the faith that I didn't know before. My family grew bigger by fifty-six through this experience, and I plan on returning to Revive every single year! ■



56 campers came to learn about how to stay together and be stronger for God...together!



Bearded Christian Brothers!

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** – Teacher Appreciation Day was held September 21, and **Pastor V.E.**

Kirkpatrick II led the church in showing appreciation for the following dedicated people:

Amanda Forcier, Christian Education Director, elementary teacher, and junior Berean leader; **Eric Moore**, adult teacher; **Jason Becker**, teen class teacher; **Rachel Karl**, middle school teacher; and **Andrea Moore**, senior Berean leader.

From the **Ripley Church of God in Mt. Sterling, IL** – **Pastor Wally Winner** from South Carolina presented a three-day revival from October 31 through November 2.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** and the entire church send out their thanks to the following dedicated servants of the Lord: those who helped put things back in place after the painting was completed (**Dixie Hammer, Ellen Laurent, John and Carson Andrew, Don Buse, Terrence Raper, Linda Hoffman, Lisa Keebler, and Earlyne Warmolts**); **Linda Hoffman** and **Diane Irwin** (leading and playing piano for Singing Time each Sunday morning); **Virginia Moore** (mailing out bulletins); **Melody Welty** (beautiful floral arrangements); **Beth Hall, Ellen Laurent, Sheila Schmitt, and Delene Young** (piano accompaniment); **Pam Buse, Dennis Cheatwood, Jaymin Cheatwood, and Kathie Rager** (leading and planning the music for worship services); **Aaron Wells** and **Delene Young** (projecting announcements and songs); **Tim Callaway, Nicholas Hoffman, Mitch Rager, and Phil Young** (running the sound system); **Tim Callaway, Joel Cheatwood, Roy Keebler, Jay Laurent, and Paul Newell** (instrumental accompaniment); **Dawn Vanderkolk** (overseeing the nursery); **Lisa Keebler** and **Nadia Vanderkolk** (assisting in the nursery). [What an impressive list of people using their talents and servant spirit

to serve the body of Christ! - GNP]

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – Congratulations go out to the following for highest Sunday School attendance over the past year: **Nathan, Allison, and Jason Sisk, Codie Sloan, Betty Owens, Carol Sloan, and Pastor Kyle Casey**. Happy Birthday to the following: **Delma Fuller** (85), **Kathleen Mull** (87), **Jeanne Smith** (91), and **James Lowery** (84). As a service project to the church and to the community, the senior youth group held a free car wash. [Totally a giving thing, without expecting money. Great servant spirit! – GNP]

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – Congratulations go out to **Brendan Gallagher** who was named defensive player of the year in soccer and received special mention in the Central Buckeye Conference.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** and the church board are pleased to announce a new ministry opportunity called "Guest Services." The individuals who feel called to serve in this way will greet everyone to make sure they feel welcome, make sure people feel loved and at home, gather information from visitors for follow-up, direct visitors to church resources (rest rooms, nursery, classes, etc.), act as liaison between congregation and pastoral staff, provide information about activities and events, direct traffic flow in the building, and meet any special needs that may arise. **Jay Smith** and Pastor Michael will coordinate this ministry.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – A big thank you goes out to **Linda and Monte Sandifer** for serving as church cleaners and greeters for October, and to **Lisa and Brad McColley** and family for cleaning and greeting in November.

(Continued from page 8)

From the **Restitution Church of God in Eldorado, IL** – **Carlis Medley** and **Shain Lloyd** presented a weekend seminar on parables November 21-22. **Dr. Brian Atra**, pastor of Eldorado and of the Fredericktown Church of God, presented a session on Luke's parables on Friday evening. About twenty-five people attended, including fourteen university students. A follow-up session is planned for the spring.

From **Pleasant Hill Church of God in Pleasant Hill, OH** – **Pastor Scott Deane** and the congregation have congratulations to offer. First kudos go to **Brad Stine** for receiving more than 20,000 votes to win the JHuddle.com National Guard Player of the Week for the state of Ohio in football for his performance in the game against Preble Shawnee. Brad rushed for nearly 400 yards, scored five touchdowns, and broke the individual all-time rushing record for a single game at Milton-Union. Next, congratulations go to **Haley and Aliya Stine** and the Newton Indians girls soccer team for beating Miami East 5-0 to remain undefeated and for their participation on the Newton girls cross country conference champion team. Finally, **Anna and Nathan Dunn** qualified for the state cross country meet. Running for the Covington Buccaneers, Anna finished fourth and Nate finished seventh.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Vivian P. Kirkpatrick** has been working hard on the church website. Since it is the host site for many who take the Systematic Theology lessons, it is important that it functions well. **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** and the church thank him and the proofreaders for their hard work.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – The Young at Heart had their fall outing with a trip to Justus Orchard in Hendersonville, NC with lunch afterwards. October 19 was Pink Sunday, celebrating those who have battled breast cancer and conquered: **Sonja**

Smith, Judy Turner, and Martha Vinson. November 2 was Bethel's celebration of 63 years of ministry with an Old-Fashioned Homecoming. Some folks dressed in old-fashioned attire, such as long skirts, hats and bonnets, and overalls. Recent outreach projects have been participation in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project through Samaritan's Purse; a blanket and winter apparel drive for the homeless shelter sponsored by Kingdom Seekers Sunday School class; and a brighter Christmas for a needy family through Angel Tree Ministry.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – Congratulations to **Mindy Forcier** who was awarded the female triple A (academics, athletics, and arts) for Eden Valley -Watkins High School. The church is proud of you! [So is GNP!]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Thank you to the following: **Justine Davis, Gail Tuttle, Ellen Laurent, Dylan Stormont, Ethan Bucey, Conner Young,** and **Linda Hoffman** (their various roles in making the Christmas program a big success); **Dennis Cheatwood, John Tuttle, Gary Myers,** and **Jeff Siebold** (the Christmas Truce reading); **Larry Bolhous** (leading the service); **Ellen Laurent, Roy Keebler, Shelley Myers, Felipe Rodriguez, Matt Stormont, John Tuttle, Livvy and Doug Matheson, Rachel Newell,** and **Conner Young** (wonderful special music).

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

*Review of Bart Ehrman's 'How Jesus Became God' (part 3 – John 8:58)**

This is one of my attempts to interact with Bart Ehrman's newest contribution to christology. I will now turn to the third chapter which addresses whether or not Jesus claimed to be God, in any sense. Before we get started, I should say that my own interpretation of whether or not Jesus claimed to (or even be) Yahweh is in line with scholars like James D.G. Dunn, John A.T. Robinson, Anthony Buzzard, Dale Tuggy, and James McGrath. These scholars, I feel, persuasively argue that there is no literal preexistence of Jesus in the New Testament.

This puts me in an interesting position because Ehrman seems to be arguing against the evangelical position which sees literal preexistence and claims of Jesus being "God" in all four gospel accounts. Ehrman sees a low christology in the synoptics, but sees Jesus claiming to be God in the Fourth Gospel. I personally don't think Jesus claimed to be Yahweh in any of the four gospels. Jesus is presented, I argue, as the human Messiah who is God's *authoritative agent*.

On page 124 Ehrman discusses his view of John 8:58, which is rendered by most translations as, "Truly I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." Ehrman argues the typical evangelical reading of this passage by pointing to Exodus 3:14 where Yahweh says (according to Ehrman) that His name is "I am." Ehrman goes on to say that Jesus' "Jewish opponents *know exactly* what he is saying" (p. 124). But is this really the best reading of the evidence?

I want to object on three important points in Ehrman's argument. First, I think that his connection with Exodus 3:14 does not hold up to closer scrutiny. Second, I do not think Jesus (in John 8:58) is claiming to take upon himself the name offered in Exodus 3:14. Lastly, I don't think that the Fourth Gospel portrays the Jewish opponents as truly understanding what Jesus is saying to them. I will take up these objections in order.

1. In Exodus chapter three there is a dialogue with Moses and God. God commissions Moses to bring the Israelites out of Egypt (3:10). Moses responds to God by asking about his own worthiness to accomplish such a task (3:11). God answers Moses by saying, "Certainly I will be with you" (3:12). The Hebrew text has the verb *hiya* in the imperfect (הָיָה, אָ). Moses asks about the name of God in 3:13. God responds in 3:14 by taking

the promise from 3:12 ("I will be with you") and makes this His name for Moses, "*I will be who I will be*" (Hebrew: הָיָה אֲנִי אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי). God continues by saying that Moses is to tell the Israelites that "I will be" has sent him. Most modern English translations translate the verb "to be" in the present tense. The Hebrew, however, is the same as was given in the promise found in 3:12, in the imperfect tense. In short, God is not making His name out to be "I am," but rather, "I will be," as a tie-in with the promises to deliver His people from bondage.

The LXX translator(s) of Exodus rendered the imperfect forms of *hiya* with the present tense ἔγω εἰμι ὁ ὢν ("I am the one who is"). However, at the point in 3:14 where God gives his name to Moses, the LXX does not have ἔγω εἰμι ("I am") but rather ὁ ὢν ("the one who is").

This is absolutely significant. Jesus said in John 8:58 that before Abraham was, ἔγω εἰμι. God's name in Exodus 3:14 LXX is not ἔγω εἰμι, but ὁ ὢν. C.K. Barret, in his commentary on John, says that "there is no allusion here to Exod. 3.14" (*The Gospel According to St. John*, 2nd ed. 352) In short, *Jesus is not quoting Exodus 3:14* as Ehrman claims.

2. Now we need to turn our attention to the words of Jesus. He indeed says the words ἔγω εἰμι in 8:58. The question comes down to what he meant by these words. An important grammatical point must be mentioned. When the verb "to be" is used without a predicate, one must be supplied. Therefore, a better translation for 8:58 would make Jesus saying, "Before Abraham was, I am he." Jesus is claiming to be someone specific, but if not the name of God in Exodus 3:14, then who? The very first time ἔγω εἰμι is introduced on the lips of Jesus in the Fourth Gospel is located in the dialogue with the Samaritan woman (4:7-26). The conversation moves in lots of different directions but eventually gets to the identity of Jesus. In John 4:25 the woman says, "I know that Messiah is coming, the one who is called Christ." The next verse offers Jesus' response, "The one speaking to you, I am he." The Greek here is ἔγω εἰμι. What does ἔγω εἰμι mean here? It means that Jesus is the Messiah to whom the Samaritan woman is referring (it would be very strange for Jesus to answer her statement *by claiming to be God*).

Flash forward to the eighth chapter of John. In 8:28 Jesus says, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he (ἔγω εἰμι) and I do nothing on my own initiative, but I speak these things just as the Father

2014 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	Harvey and Mary Krogh	Lucian and Thelma Murphy
Bob and Melody Ballard	John and Ruth Lewis	Patricia Piter
Bill Burnham	Jim Mattison	Doris Schuld
John Craig English	Martha Jones Mattison	Ami Spears
Juanita Pryor English	Mary Helen Mattison	Marie Ward
Alva Huffer	Jean Morczek	Vernis Wolfe

Scholarships and Grants for Atlanta Bible College

Grants and scholarships provided assistance to Atlanta Bible College students during 2014 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	James A. Patrick Memorial - Northeast Conference	Eliza Boyer Ritenour, Virginia Ritenour Kincheloe, and Seraphine Ritenour Cleek
Bob and Melody Ballard Memorial	Jean Elton Fortney Memorial	Simi Valley Church, California
Burnham-Stadden Memorial	John and Ruth Lewis Memorial	Southwest Members in Memory of Norman McLeod, S. J. Lindsay, Harold J. Doan and C. E. Randall
Caroline Brown Memorial	Lawrenceville/Overholser	Stan Ross Memorial
Cecil Smead Memorial	Lois Blakely Memorial	Treva Williams Memorial
Delbert and Bernedene Jones Memorial	Lucian and Thelma Murphy Memorial	Troy View/Demmitt/Overholser
Francis and Lila VanFleet Memorial	Martha Jones Mattison Memorial	Wenatchee, WA Church of God
Fulton Ramsey Memorial	Mary Helen Mattison Memorial	William G. and Nina G. Hicks Memorial
Glen and Violet Booth Memorial	Michigan State Conference	William and Rhoda Hanson Memorial
Harold J. Doan Memorial	Mildred Schroeder Memorial	Willie Smith Memorial,
Harry and Emily Berry Memorial	Monroe Elton Memorial	Carolina Conference
Harvey and Mary Krogh Memorial	New Hope Church, Little Rock	Zelma Weaver Memorial
Hattie Bottolfs Memorial	J. O. and Mary Lou Pack Memorial	
Helen Overholser Memorial	Orine Richardson Robinson Memorial	
Indiana Conference	Ritenour Trust Fund - In Memory of	
Iris Elton Memorial		

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taught me.” What does ἔγω εἶμι mean in 8:28? It clearly refers to the Son of Man, a messianic title.

So in 8:58, it seems that Jesus is claiming to be the Messiah with his usage of the words ἔγω εἶμι. Yet Jesus is claiming to be the Messiah from a time prior to Abraham. What might he mean with such words? It was common in Judaism to speak of the things important in God’s plan for the world to preexist in His mind. The New Testament itself testifies to this feature. Jesus was foreknown before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:20), just as Christian were foreknown (1 Peter 1:2). The Lamb was crucified, in God’s plan, from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). Jesus was handed over and betrayed according to the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God (Acts 2:23). The first century CE Jewish works which scholars have titled the Prayer of Joseph and the Tes-

tament of Moses both speak rather casually about the preexistence of such important figures as Abraham, Isaac, and Moses (P.Jos 1:2; T.Mos 1:14). None of these examples depict literal preexistence, but rather notional preexistence. This is a critical difference. The human Messiah, who was indeed born (John 1:14; 3:16, 18; 18:37), was the preordained agent of God’s redemptive purposes.

3. Do the Jews, in fact, understand what Jesus is saying? One of the most obvious themes in John’s Gospel is the motif of ‘misunderstanding.’ The flow of the arguments typically go like this:

- Jesus says something provocative
- His audience takes his words *literally*
- Jesus meant his statements *figuratively* ■

Websource: <https://dustinmartyr.wordpress.com/2014/04/04/review-of-bart-ehrmans-how-jesus-became-god-part-3-john->

THE TIME OF THE END, Tribulations, Killings, Murder, Persecution FROM OLD MAN DANIEL

By Old Man Joe Martin

““

Old man” Daniel was born about the time of Josiah’s reforms in 621 B.C. He was taken to Babylon in 606/605 as a late teenager. If the transition of Babylon to Persia, the “handwriting on the wall,” happened in 538 B.C. that makes Daniel an old man when Daniel chapter 12 was written. (621-538 = ~ 83 years old.)

Growing up in Louisiana, my father often referred to the elders of community with the moniker, “old man.” Old man Buck Thompson was a great carpenter; old man Will Meade was a great farmer; old man Howard Moore was a store owner and our school bus driver for decades. I believe they were in their late sixties and seventies when I heard them called “old man.” That is funny to me now because the youngest generation now may be calling me old man Joe Martin.

However, think of all the experience old man Daniel had. Taken as a teenager, becoming a translator for the Babylonians, interpreting Nebuchadnezzar’s dream at a very early age, advising Nebuchadnezzar to change his ways or he may eat grass for a while, telling an arrogant young king, Mene Mene Tekel UParsin, and then later being thrown in a lion’s den under a new regime. Who better to receive information about the time of the end?

Let’s review the key words from chapter 12. Verse one talks about Michael who guards the Jewish nation and a coming time of distress “such as never occurred.” This is like the “great tribulation” time, Jacob’s trouble. With increasing technology, I suppose... so far... World War II could be leading up to that, jet fighters, nuclear bombs, the holocaust? Those whose names are in “the book” will be rescued.

Verse two is pure resurrection either to “life or disgrace and contempt.” We now know that Revelation put the millennium between the two main resurrections. But resurrection from the dust to “everlasting life” is the goal. The Hebrew is something like *lahayim olam*, to live forever. The Greek is ζῶναι αἰῶνιον, life in the age to come.

Verse three notes that the “wise will shine” (KJV/CSB). If knowledge is power, we who know times will be rough should have a head start in being calm, even in disaster. Jesus said, “you must be ready.” (Mt. 24:44) Knowledge of the end times helps us be ready. End times will have economic hardships. End times will have persecution. End times will test our faith. However, we can be a light and be bringing others to Kingdom knowledge in what may be very difficult times.

In verse four Daniel is told to “seal up the book until the end of time.” Can we open the book up now and have better understanding? I think we can. Because of World War II, etc., we now have a Jewish nation, 1948. Because of continual fighting in the middle east, Jerusalem is now the capital of Israel, 1967. Because of ISIS, ISIL, we see the potential of Antichrist. But, the promises of God are sure. Reread Ezekiel 37. Over 30 times God says “I will.” God’s will is being done. Sadly we look still toward Jerusalem being surrounded, but gladly we look forward to the final rescue by the Messiah, the warrior from heaven (Rev. 19).

Everyone wants to know “how long” and talk to an angel, verses five and six. He can even say a “time, times, and half a time,” and we need more unfolding of history to know exactly what that means. Many have hypotheses. Even I have a few, but the bottom line is “of that day and hour no one knows,” not the angels, not the Son, but the Father alone! (Mt. 24:36)

What is the outcome Daniel asks in verse eight? The angel responds “*Yalak*”, go take a walk, Daniel. The “words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.” (v. 9) I suppose if we knew everything God knows we would be shaking in our boots during this time. But we do know what God knows follows, “The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, and with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.” (I Th. 4:16)

The “wicked will act wickedly.” (v. 10 NASB)

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Why are we surprised at the “news” whether it is the local, national or world news? Murders in Paris, school children killed in Pakistan, churches burned in... you name it. The wicked will be wicked. But the beauty is “many will be purged and purified...” Come, Lord Jesus.

I believe there will be a bigger “abomination of desolation” still to come (v. 11). However, we are told “Blessed is he who keeps waiting...” (v. 12) This reminds me of the song, “Strength will rise as we wait upon the LORD, as we wait upon the LORD.” Compare Isa. 40: “Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength, they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.” (v. 31)

As the servant of YHWH says in prophecy “My strength is my God, and my reward is with my God!” (Isa. 49:4, 5) Jesus knew that His strength and his reward was based in God alone.

I love verse 13. It says “But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest, and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the

age!” What a beautiful statement to Old Man Daniel. Those are good words for future Old Man Joe, or Old Woman Rebekah, or Old... You! And young you too! “Allotted portion” is also translated “destiny” in the HCSB. ***You and I have a destiny with God*** through our Lord Jesus Christ. Seek first his kingdom and His righteousness even when the world gets crazier each day. ■

“Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength, they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.”

Isaiah 40:31

2015 Theological Conference
April 30th - May 3rd
Calvin Center Conference Lodge, Hampton, GA

Please mark your calendars now for what promises to be a quite exceptional gathering of passionate kingdom and biblical unitarian believers! The truth of the kingdom and the one God is increasingly impacting the lives of people in various countries. Our team effort is required for maximum effect. It is vitally important for believers in the one God, Jesus as Messiah, Son of God, and the gospel of the kingdom to gather for purposes of mutual blessing and encouragement. We really need you to be there as a blessing for us all. The Abrahamic promise is that the seed of Abraham would not only be blessed but be a blessing. We look forward to seeing you! Details for registration at theologicalconference.org.

From the South Korea Campus

Season's greetings!

It has been a year since Young and I moved to South Korea to perform mission work and to establish an Atlanta Bible College Korea Campus and assist Korean Extension graduates to plant a church to provide Abrahamic Faith-based spiritual support to Korean Christians.

During the year, we encountered hardships such as cultural differences, classroom facility acquisition, transportation, poor air quality, and climate differences. However, we were able to see it through with the help of your Christ-hearted prayer and support. Please accept our sincerest gratitude from the staff and the student body as well as the Yahtop Church congregation.



Yahtop Church Bible Study

The fall 2014 semester of the South Korean Campus classes began with 12 students, 2 teaching staff, and 2 support staff members, and we successfully completed the session on December 13th. We are now in the process of preparing for the spring semester, which will start on March 2, 2015. I know it sounds relatively late in comparison to academic schedules in the U.S., but in Korea, most colleges and universities, including public schools, start a month later, so fall semesters begin in the latter part of September and spring semesters begin in the early part of March. I think the late starts may be a result of conserving the cost of heating the facilities in the winter. Moreover, the fuel price is extremely expensive in South Korea. The price of regular gasoline is approximately \$6 per gallon.

The average temperature in January and February is in the 20s, and it snows constantly throughout the winter.

Most commercial buildings provide heat only in the office area, not in common areas such as lobbies, corridors, stairways, bathrooms, and elevators. Some old apartment units do not have heating systems in the bathroom. If you go to the bathroom, you finish quickly and get out! :)

As I mentioned in a previous report, classes are still administered at two locations, Yahtop Church of God and Boryung Church of God. The average travel time for staff during the semester is approximately 20 hours per week. During the winter break, we are considering to move closer to Yahtop Church to lessen the travel time and to conserve on travel cost.

The major issue with Korean Christianity is similar to what Paul states in Romans 10:2 "...they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge." Their faith is on tradition rather than Bible knowledge. Furthermore, an aspect of the Korean culture is that Koreans rely more on the verbal culture in contrast to most Westerners relying on what is written. Koreans have a tendency to internalize more on the verbal teaching of Korean pastors, instead of focusing more on interpreting the scripture in the Bible.

Since I attained education and training on how to bridge cultural diversities in the classroom from the University of Georgia with Sam, the information and the experience has been extremely helpful in establishing the Korean Extension Northeast campus in Duluth, GA and facilitating class in South Korea. The reality is that since I lived in the U.S. for 35 years, I am more accustomed to the Western perspective instead of a Korean perspective.

So far, I think I have successfully guided the students to begin shifting their focus to Bible scripture versus oral tradition without offending them. It is also critical to maintain our mutual respect or the fishes will run away. The Lord said we are fishers of men. (Matt. 4:18)

What I have learned throughout my 15 years of teaching and attaining education from UGA is that the truth cannot be crammed into human cognition. The cramming method of education creates nothing but confrontation.

"...The holy scripture, which are able to make you wise for salvation" (2 Tim. 3:15 NIV). The holy scrip-

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ture provides us not only with the wisdom of salvation but also a strategic method of evangelism. For instance, the evangelist Apostle Paul's strategic method: "To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. (1 Cor. 9:20, 21 NIV)

It is obvious that apostle Paul never tried to cram the truth into the people. Instead he humbled himself and respected Jews, Greeks, and the wise and the foolish, including their culture. I believe his humility and respect for the varieties of cultures were the keys to his ministry of evangelizing.

In John 16:12-13, Lord Jesus said "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes he will guide you into all truth."

Although the efforts of an evangelist are important, the Spirit of truth must take the lead in order for a person to begin to understand the truth.

In conclusion, we need your continuous prayer and support for the Korean mission. Sam and I and the rest of the Korean Extension staff will continually teach the students in both the South Korea and the Northeast campus with compassion, love, and respect similar to that of Apostle Paul. Please pray that God will continue to pour the Spirit of truth on the students.

Thank you again and wish all of you have a blessed new year!—Steve An

From the Northeast campus

Season's greetings to the members of the conference!

The Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension appreciates all your prayers and your continuing support for the Korean ministry. The fall 2014 semester came to a close in mid-December with 20 Christ-centered passionate individuals. Moreover, the Korean Extension also said farewell to our Christian music instructor Hee Soog Kim who departed for South Korea on December 27th. Mr. Kim, her husband, was offered an extremely prestigious and high ranking position

within the Korean military, which required her to depart the U.S. Steve met Mrs. Kim through Sae Hyun Lee's family during one of his annual conference trips to South Korea years ago. If you recall, Sae Hyun Lee is the young man who was accepted as a vice-chaplain for a military unit in South Korea. Thereafter, she did not miss a single opportunity to participate when Steve facilitated the seminars. Through the encounters, she was inspired to come to the U.S. for a short time to be a part of the KE team and facilitated the Hymnology course.

I am also happy to announce that Steve was able to fly to the U.S. on December 21st, and he provided instruction in Christian Education to our students for a week-long block class. The students were thrilled to see him and enjoyed his company! Steve is scheduled to return in the summer for a little R-and-R and to meet with the Northeast campus staff and students.



Korean Extension Christian Education December 22, 2014

We are also in the midst of accepting spring 2015 registrations. The current KE student number is 24, which is an addition of four new students in contrast to the previous semester. I am anticipating more students will enroll before classes begin on January 26. Pastor Jae Yun Shim, Pastor Young Jung Kim, Dr. Dustin Smith, and I are scheduled to facilitate courses, including Steve who will also facilitate another online component during the semester. We are offering four Bible, seven ministry, and three general education courses for spring. My wife Sarah will continue to assist all of us with clerical work as well as assisting Pastor Shim and I with administrative tasks.

I pray for blessings for all of you during the New Year!

Thank you and God bless!—Sam An, Korean Extension Administrator

42nd Annual Christian Workers Seminar

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee ■ April 12-17, 2015

This Christian Workers seminar will focus on preparing the next generation to lead the church if the second coming is delayed. Through the eyes of workshop leaders and speakers you will leave with encouragement, stronger relationships, new information, and better tools to be effective in your ministry. We invite you to come spend the week being trained, challenged, and inspired.



Classes:

Jonathan Wincapaw—If We Are Not Making Disciples, What Are We Making?

Richard Alcumbrack—Dealing with Crisis

Tom Fischhaber—The Legacy of Love

Cathy Cunningham—Prophecy: Two Witnesses/ Last 7 Years

Julie Driskill—The Path—Living Life on Purpose

Andy Cisneros—How to Disciple

Rebekah Martin—Young Women in Ministry

Dan Gill—The Faith of our Presidential Fathers

Anthony Buzzard —Your Destiny and Hope in The Coming Kingdom—Rev. 2:26, 27

Paul Moore—Israel and the Last Days

Kent Ross—The Millennial Generation

Joe Martin—NEXT GEN: Lessons from Timothy

Evening Messages:

- Sunday: Plans for the NextGen (Jer. 29:11) - Julie Driskill
- Monday: Transferring to Reliable Youth (2 Tim. 2:2) - Jonathan Wincapaw
- Tuesday: Raising up Leaders in the NextGen—Tom Fischhaber
- Wednesday: What Does NextGen Have to Offer? (1 Tim 4:12) - Bethany Reise
- Thursday: Casting the Mantel on the NextGen—Joe Martin

Local Attractions: Dollywood & Dolly's Splash Country; Dixie Stampede, Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies; Country Tonite Theater—Enjoy a show and explore the local attractions!

Childcare provided during morning classes (9:30-12:20) and evening service (7:15-9:00)

Atlanta Bible College Honors

In order to be on the President's and Dean's lists, a student must be a full time student enrolled in 12 or more semester hours of classes. The grading system is based on a 4.0 scale. Congratulations to the following students for their academic accomplishments during the fall 2014 semester.

President's List (3.5 and above)

Josiah Cain	Talon Paul
Yun Sook Cho	Bethany Reise
Hyeon Mi Jeong	Jacob Rohrer
Seung Yeon Kim	Joshua Smith
Hye Kyung Kim	Eun Joo Yang

Dean's List (3.00 to 3.49)

Jea Hyun Bang	Nathan Massie
Ji Su Choi	Hae Won Park
An Na Jang	Ho Yong Shim
Young Jung Kim	
Jin Hee Lee	

42nd Annual Christian Workers Seminar

April 12-17, 2015

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

Registration Deadline is: 3/14/2015

Check in time is at 3 P.M.

Check In Date - 4/12/2015

Check Out Date - 4/17/2015

Do you give the Church of God General Conference permission to put your address, phone number and e-mail address in a CWS 2015 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 \$129.00 \$25.00 Deposit

12-18 \$199.00 \$25.00 Deposit

Adults

(PER PERSON RATES)

1 per room: \$644.00

2 per room: \$429.00

3 per room: \$359.00

4 per room: \$319.00

Saturday Night: \$87.00 (per room)

**\$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 3/14/15 (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)

Church News

Baptisms

Missouri

Desloge—Jamie Hurtz, (12/14/14) by Pastor Jon T. Welch—New Beginnings COG.

Ohio

North Hills—Mercedes Davila (4/20/14); Megan Kelly, (8/3/14); Danielle Via, (8/31/14); Chris Hagenbuch, (8/31/14), Joey Borders, (9/21/14); and Morgan Borders, (9/21/14), all by Pastor Seth Ross.

Ontario

Welland—Simon James Bolhous, (11/9/2014), by his grandfather, Pastor Stephen Bolhous at Freedom in Christ Church.

Deaths

Arkansas

Cleveland—Lila L. Little, 92, (1/13/15), of Little Rock, by Dr. Brian J. Atra at the Cleveland Church of God.

Colorado

Pine—Curtis Lee Masters, 81, (11/15/14). He and his wife Jo who preceded him in death were originally from the Bethel and later Guthrie Grove churches in Pelzer, SC by Pastor Mike Montgomery.

Georgia

McDonough—Dr. Sheila Binkney, 67, (1/9/15), long-time friend of Cornerstone Bible Church and Atlanta Bible College by David Krogh.

Illinois

Winnebago—Pastor Sherwin Williams, 69, (11/9/13). At the time of his death he was serving as pastor for the Blessed Hope Bible Church in Rockford and the Ripley Church in Ripley. He was originally from Oklahoma and had been active in the Blessed Hope Church many years before providing pastoral services.

Minnesota

Eden Valley—Ruby Bennett, 98, (11/3/14). She was married to former member of the Board of Directors, Carroll Bennett, who preceded her in death.

Richmond—Mary Louise Lapp, 105, (12/28/14). She was born and was raised near by Brush Creek Church near Tipp City, OH. She met her husband, Pastor Clarence Lapp, while attending classes at the 1932 General Conference in Oregon, IL. They were married June 7, 1933 while Clarence was a pastor in Ripley,

IL. They both attended Central Bible Institute in Springfield, MO and then moved to St. Cloud, MN to

pastor the church. They also served in Tempe, AZ, Pennellwood in Grand Rapids, MI. In 1950, they moved to Oregon, IL where they both taught at Oregon Bible College for eleven years. Louise taught music appreciation, music fundamentals, conducting, piano and organ. She conducted the choir and planned choir trips to many of our churches. After leaving the college, they pastored the church in Eden Valley, MN and then the Oregon Church in Oregon, IL until retirement in 1976. Clarence died in 1994, and, remained in Ohio until she went blind in 2008 when she went back to Eden Valley, MN to live with her son Jon. She is also survived by her daughter, Dorothy Elaine. Funeral services were conducted in MN and OH by her nephew, Pastor Greg Demmitt.

South Carolina

Cleveland—Logan McAlister, 28, (1/3/15), by Pastor Michael Montgomery.

Pastor Needed

After 29 years of ministry at Grace Fellowship Church, our pastor, Dennis Baldwin, is retiring. As we celebrate with Dennis and Rachel as they look forward to some well-deserved rest, we are in need of a pastor. We are actively searching, asking the Lord to guide us in this quest. We are located in Front Royal, VA. If you feel a little tug to investigate our need, please contact Jeff Magalis at 540-635-3353 or Ellie Seiders at nan_na53@embarqmail.com.

Mission News

As this is written, Anthony Buzzard and Carlos and Sarah Jiminez are in Lima, Peru where Anthony is holding services at the Lima Church. Carlos and a brother from Nicaragua, Alex Davila, are doing the translating.

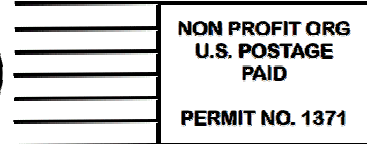
Our annual Marching for Mission focus during the month of March will be held soon. Each church will receive information to share during the month.

We are considering sending a team to Haiti to build the final building that is needed as a result of the earthquake in January 2010. Anyone interested should contact David Krogh—dkrogh@abc-coggc.org or 678-833-1839.

- 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 the Ministers Conference starting today.**
- 10 Praise God for a new day.
- 11 **Pray for Pastor Daniel and Sarah Calcagno and the Glad Tidings Church, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada.**
- 12 Praise God for those who have provided spiritual instruction for you.
- 13 **Pray for Pastor 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.
- 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 students attending ABC-I in McDonough, GA.**
- 20 Pray for students and staff of ABCKE (Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension).
- 21 **Pray for those who are searching God's Word for answers to life's problems.**
- 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 Kim Raper, Denise Cramer, 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 April.**
- 30 Praise God for new attendees or members at your local congregation.

- 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 **Praise God for His resurrected Son!**
- 6 Praise God for the incredible beauty of "new birth" we see every spring!
- 7 **Praise God for new life in Christ.**
- 8 Pray for those whose eyes are blinded to the gospel.
- 9 **Pastor 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 teaches and assists with the administrative work for the ABC Korean Extension.**
- 12 Pray for God's special blessing on those participating in Christian Workers Seminar, which begins today in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.
- 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 Anthony Buzzard's correspondence with truth seekers around the world.
- 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 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 as they work with the new ABC extension campus in South Korea.**
- 28 Pray for the Family of God Fellowship in Maple Grove, Minnesota.
- 29 **Praise God that His mercies are new every morning.**
- 30 Pray for the Theological Conference that starts today.

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



Address Service Requested

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Prayer and Praise

May 2015

- 1 **Pray for the editors of our conference publications.**
- 2 Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel message with someone today.
- 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 Praise God for your mother and her influence.
- 11 **Pray for the ministry of Pastor Michael and Linda Hoffman and the Oregon, Illinois Church of God.**
- 12 Praise God for the strength He provides each day.
- 13 **Pray for Pastor Kyle and Angie Casey and their ministry at the Bethel Church in Pelzer, South Carolina.**
- 14 Pray for the congregation at Omaha, Nebraska, and Pastor Scott and Michele Millard.
- 15 **Praise God for ABCKE and ABC students as they receive bachelor's degrees, associate's degrees and foundation certificates.**
- 16 Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.
- 17 **Pray for Pastor Johnathan and Lila Wincapaw and the Blood River, Louisiana Church of God.**
- 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 teachers at ABC.**
- 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

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

The Tomb of the Well-Known Soldier

By Hollis Partlowe

Many of our large cemeteries have a tomb to unknown soldiers — unidentified men who have fallen in battle. The living wanted to remember them for their bravery. I remember in high school, on Armistice Day, as it was called then, we went to the local cemetery for a patriotic service.

However, in this article let's focus on the tomb of the well-known soldier of the cross. Unlike all other graves, it's empty, although Pilate instructed the chief priests and Pharisees: "Ye have a watch . . . make it as sure as you can". (Matt. 27:65). If anyone could have kept Jesus in the grave, the Roman soldiers could have, but it was not possible that anyone could (Acts 2:24). Psalm 16:10 had predicted that Jesus would not be left in the grave. Acts 2:31, 32 reveal the fulfillment of the prophecy.

When we walk through graveyards, we see on tombstones: "Here lies . . ." Then follows the name and dates of the birth and death of the deceased, etc. How different is the epitaph of the well-known soldier. His was not written on stone, but spoken by an angel and is the reverse of all others. "He is not here: for he is risen. . . . Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matt. 28:6).

I've stood several times in Arlington Cemetery just across the Potomac River from the nation's capital. I've thought of all those graves which contain "the small and the great" (Rev. 20:12).

The Well-Known Soldier Fought a Good Fight

Jesus fought the greatest battle and

won the greatest victory of all time. By faith in Him we can share in His victory. "We are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Rom. 8:37).

No company of witnesses has ever given itself like the apostles to proclaim the risen Lord. This truth was spread far and wide. As Paul the apostle told King Agrippa, "This thing was not done in a corner" (Acts 26:26). Easter proclaims more than Jesus was alive the third day after the crucifixion. He was alive the fourth day, the fifth day, etc. "In that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God . . . death hath no more dominion over him" (Rom. 6:9, 10). "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Robert Lowry, the hymn writer, has written:

"Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign":
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah, Christ arose!"

However, death is still our greatest enemy, an inescapable fact of life. But there is hope. The good news of Easter is that Jesus overcame death nearly 2000 years ago. Through His death, burial, and resurrection, He has "abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10). God be praised!

Jesus really died. He experienced a real death and a real resurrection.

Easter morning the stone was rolled away. Only the wrappings were left inside the tomb. He was seen alive by many infallible witnesses (Acts 1:3); by 500 brethren at the same time (1 Cor. 15:6).

The apostles went everywhere proclaiming a crucified, risen, and coming Savior. Days earlier they were crushed, defeated, discouraged, and afraid. Then a total change came over them. "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4). In face of tremendous persecution and opposition, they went out with boldness to preach a risen Christ because they knew He was alive—back from the grave.

Jesus didn't go on living during death. He gave a prophecy of His whereabouts for those three days. "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40). Jesus didn't go anywhere or preach to anybody during those three days—not any more than Jonah did during his stay in the whale's belly. Jesus was in the stillness of death during that time.

He Conquered Death and the Grave (Rev. 1:18)

The best news the world ever heard came out of a graveyard near Jerusalem. Jesus is alive from the dead! Every sunrise is God's Easter greeting. Jesus has risen (Matt. 28:6).

His followers came to the tomb early Sunday morning to embalm Him, not to celebrate His resurrection (Mark 16:1). How do you report a resurrec-

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tion? Would anyone believe that you talked to an angel? This fellow who has risen from the dead will meet you in a few days on a mountain agreed upon earlier (Matt. 28:16). Just hustle on over there. He'll be waiting for you.

When Jesus rose from the dead, He didn't go to those who crucified Him to prove how wrong they had been. Instead He went to those who loved Him and needed His encouragement and comfort. Would we have done that, or would we have tried to prove how wrong Pilate and the Pharisees were? "I told you so!"

The resurrection of Christ didn't change the political and material situation. After Easter Pilate was still governor of Judea; Caiaphas was still the high priest; the scribes and Pharisees still held reign of religious life; the tax collectors still bled people as before; the money changers still sat at the temple cheating the people.

Then, too, there was the mixed response of the disciples. Some "worshipped him; but some doubted" (Matt. 28:17). My faith falters sometimes. I suspect yours does too, and I remember how very human the disciples were. Then I'm encouraged.

The doctrine of the resurrection is not a trivial appendage to Christianity to be accepted or rejected at will. It's the foundation of our Christian faith. If Jesus Christ was not bodily raised from the grave, Christianity is based on falsehood. See the serious implications we must face "if the dead rise not" (1 Cor. 15:12-20).

Moreover, the resurrection is mentioned 108 times in the New Testament. That's no useless repetition of God's Word. The physical resurrection of Christ is the very cornerstone of our faith and assures us that He was truly the Son of God—"declared to be the Son of God with power . . . by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:4).

God continues to honor the testimony of all who proclaim the risen Christ who can save "to the uttermost (forever) all that come God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25).

The angel invited the women to examine the empty tomb. Good evidence is also a full heart as the hymn says: "You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart."

He Assures Us of Immortality in the Age to Come

Our Lord, "who spoke never like man spoke," said: "Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19). As God raised up Jesus, so He will also raise up us. Paul clearly reveals this fact to us. "And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power" (1 Cor. 6:14). The New Testament makes clear that the death and resurrection of Christ accomplished wonderful and basic things for every believer. These things are ours because of our position in Christ, not because of what we've done. Easter crowns with certainty man's hope of immortality. The following has been used times to illustrate the point.

Death Is Like an Unsprouted Bulb

Among the pyramids of Egypt, Lord Lindsay, the English traveler, came across a mummy, the inscription upon which proved to be 2,000 years old.

In examining the mummy after it was unwrapped, he found in one of its closed hands a small root. He took the little bulb from the closed hand and planted it in rich soil, allowed the dew and rain of heaven to descend upon it, and in a few weeks, to his astonishment, the root burst forth and blossomed into a beautiful flower.

No matter how long death has kept us in the ground, when the trumpet sounds and the Son shines, and it is time for the resurrection of our bodies, then the bulb will burst open into a newness of life as we have never known before.

We tend to shy away from the subject of death, and many deny its reality. Friends, death *is* a reality. I heard of a woman who told a group that she lost her husband. It sounded as if they were shopping and became separated, but when a person dies, he is not lost, he is dead. Another euphemism for death which makes no sense is "passed away" or just plain "passed." It sounds as if the deceased passed from the seventh grade to the eighth grade.

Some psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, and grief therapists are encouraging people to use words such as died, dead, and death as a part of facing real-

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ity. I believe that this is emotionally healthy. Death is a reality, but so is the resurrection.

We have a pledge, a down payment on immortality (1 Cor. 15:20-23). Today we are seeking eternal life (Rom. 2:7). Obviously, we do not now possess it. Why seek for that which we already have?

The resurrection is the central theme of the New Testament witness. Easter has become a universal, joyful celebration, but many Christians have not learned the meaning of Easter for everyday life. We all need to say with Paul: "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death" (Phil. 3:10, NIV). The resurrection power of Jesus Christ is exercised on believes, bringing justification. Christ bids you come and worship the God of resurrection power. He can bring a new life into your situation.

The Greek word for "resurrection" is *anastasis*, which means "a standing or a rising up." One place in the New Testament it has the prefix "ex"—*exanastasis* which means "a standing up out of" (Phil. 3:11). In other words the church is promised a resurrection out from among other dead ones. The physical bodies of Christians in the age to come will be in the likeness of Christ (Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2). The good news of Scripture is that every Christian who dies will one day be raised, even as Christ was.

Please anchor your faith to this tremendous fact. The Spirit of God can transform people into what God wants them to be. Moreover, the New Testament declares that God will give believers a like resurrection. The empty tomb seals that promise. Jesus is the firstfruits of a great host which is to follow (1 Cor. 15:20-23). The death and resurrection of Jesus is God's great receipt marked "paid in full." We are in debt. God paid it all through His Son. He closed out the account. It's our privilege to proclaim that the tomb of the well-known soldier is empty. His epitaph reads, "He has risen from the dead."

Following the founding of the church, the apostles baptized those who trusted the risen Savior. Christian baptism became the identifying mark of faith in Christ. It was administered to those who had accepted Christ's death as sacrifice. They were buried with Christ in the watery grave and raised to "walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12). Have you been baptized into Christ according to the New Testament? "Why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name" (Acts 22:16, NASB).

(Hollis Partlowe was editor of the RESTITUTION HERALD from 1990 to 1993. This is a reprint from the April-May 1993 RESTITUTION HERALD. Hollis died peacefully in his sleep on March 31, 2015 at the age of 90. He is awaiting the resurrection when Jesus returns to this earth.) ■

Atlanta Bible College News

The winter/spring semester at the south campus began in mid-January with 65 students. Nineteen new students joined this semester.

Three new adjunct instructors are teaching classes this semester: Bethany Reise, who finished her course work at ABC in December, is teaching Personal Spiritual Development I. She is starting graduate school at Columbia Theological Seminary this summer. Pastor Jack Kmiecik from the Jaynes Street Church in Omaha, NE, who graduated from ABC in May 2014, is team teaching Natural Church Development with David Krogh. He also has enrolled in a graduate school program. Pastor Greg Demmitt is delivering an on-line course on Christian Conflict Resolution. Several pastors took advantage of our offer for them to enroll without charge. Greg also led sessions on this topic at Ministers Conference in March.

Pastor Sean Finnegan was on campus in mid-March teaching a block class for the first two semester hours of Church History I. The third semester hour will be taught by Instructor Bob Jones on two Saturdays later this semester.

A committee appointed by the Board of Directors met in late January to discuss ways of improving Atlanta Bible College. Members of the committee are: Greg Demmitt, chairman of the board; Bob Morrison, vice chairman of the board; Joe Myers, former board chair; Joe Martin, ABC President; and David Krogh, Academic Dean. Some of the ideas that have been proposed have been presented to some students and also to pastors who are in McDonough for their annual Ministerial Association meeting. The board of directors met after Ministers Conference to give further consideration to the proposals. One of the changes will be implemented in the curriculum this fall. Currently most courses are for two semester hours. Some courses will be changed to three semester hours, by either combining two courses or by increasing the content.

The 72nd graduation service will be held on May 15. Pastor Kyle Casey will be the graduation speaker. ■

Servant Seat/CAO Report

What a bad day! Becky Onyango had called on Monday, April 6, as I was driving home from work and said that Anne Fischhaber, her sister, had requested special prayer for Tom who was having major problems with his esophageal cancer and the treatments. Tom was pastoring at the Eden Valley, Minnesota church. I sent a note out to Cogpastors email group asking for prayer immediately when I got home.

Rebekah and I continued to pray, and I came into work the next morning. Going in and out of the office, I occasionally checked e-mail. At 10 a.m. I went on a small errand, and when I got back, I saw the note from Scott Ross that Tom Fischhaber had died at 10:30 a.m. April 7. I had a severe headache from emotions for about four hours.

What added to that sting was that just three days before, Saturday morning, April 4, 10:30 a.m., I had attended the funeral of Pastor Hollis Partlowe. I was his first intern as a ministerial student back in the seventies, in Phoenix. HAP, as he often signed his notes to me, was ninety years old. No one in his family had ever reached that age. Pastor Michael Hoffman did a superb job noting our sure hope of resurrection. I don't know exactly how to say this, but Rachel Newell and Rebekah Hall (Hollis' daughters) had one of the greatest eulogies ever! They both stood at the pulpit together and played "dueling sisters," recalling stories of their dad. It was wonderful.

What sorrow and what sadness at the losses! But, as Paul said, "We sorrow not as others who have no hope." (I Thess. 4:13) Hollis had served almost forty years in pastoral ministry. Tom, after retiring from the military, getting his degree from Atlanta Bible College, had served less than ten. But as Peter noted, we have "...exceeding great and precious promises." (2 Pet. 1:4) Paul, in possibly his last letter before his death, said to Timothy, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day." (2Tim 1:12 NKJ)

Jumping back to Peter's possible final words as well, after speaking of the "great and precious promises," Peter says "I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance." (2 Pe 1:15 KJV) The Greek word for "decease" is *exodos*, meaning, final fate, death, or close of one's career. Two servants of the LORD have

exited, to wait for the resurrection. Maranatha, come Lord Jesus.

On other notes, Maurice Chahilu is going through the Kenyan bureaucracy to register the Church of God in Kenya! Praise God! I suppose most of us noted the news that over 140 Christians were killed at a university between Nairobi and the Somalia border. The floods in Malawi and Mozambique have basically stopped, and the rebuilding continues. Bridges that have washed away need to be reconstructed, etc.

Christian Workers Seminar will be over by the time you read this. The theme was "Transferring to the NEXTGEN" based on 2 Timothy 2:2. We had an exciting group of speakers and presenters. Some of those are: Johnathan Wincapaw, Richard Alcumbrack, Julie Driskill, Andy Cisneros, Bethany Reise, Paul Moore, etc. The Atlanta Bible College students served that week also in worship and study.

Theological Conference is coming up April 30 – May 3. The facility used in the past, Simpsonwood, on the banks of the Chattahoochee River, has been sold. We will be meeting at the Calvin Center, in Hampton, Georgia. Anthony and Barbara and others are doing a great job in preparation. I understand that these are coming: Kent Ross, Bentley Chan, Dan Gill, Joel Hemphill, Dale Tuggy, etc.



Dr. Joe Martin

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Nomination for the Board of Directors

At General Conference, two directors will be elected to the board of directors. The terms of Greg Demmitt and Rick McClain expire. They may not be nominated. Currently there are four nominees.

The Board consists of seven directors elected by delegates to the summer Conference. The term is for four years.

NOMINEES

Carrie Briggs

Cornerstone Bible Church nominates Carrie Briggs for election to the General Conference Board of Directors

Carrie (Krogh) Briggs was born in Oregon, Illinois and was a baptized member of the Oregon Church of God until the relocation of the College/Conference to Atlanta, Georgia. She was a member of New Friends Bible Church in Morrow and was active in the church youth group as well as a teacher for the junior church for several years. She later joined the church plant of Cornerstone Bible Church and presently leads the nursery ministry and teaches the pre-K class on Sunday mornings. Carrie has attended the Atlanta Bible College and also worked at the Bible College as the assistant controller. Carrie has had the unique experience of being connected with the College/Conference for many years and understands there are both joys and challenges in leading this organization.

Carrie recently celebrated her 15 year wedding anniversary with Jerry Briggs and together they have two children. She is an active part of the Atlanta business community. Carrie worked as a restaurant manager for several years before returning to school to earn her business degree. She has a dual degree in human resource management and accounting, as well as a Master's of Taxation from Georgia State University. Carrie worked for the big four accounting firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers for six years, and is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Georgia. Presently Carrie works as a state income tax manager in the corporate office of Arby's Restaurant Group. It is Carrie's desire to apply the business knowledge she has gained over the years to help further the work of the College and Conference.

Carrie is a passionate person who will do what it takes to ensure the College and Conference have a long and bright future. It is her desire to encourage and facilitate the next generation to become actively involved in the College and Conference. As a director, Carrie will work to improve communication between the General Conference and the churches, and will seek to establish a higher degree of accountability to the mission of building pastors and

church leaders to spread God's word throughout the world.

Carrie is available at 678-577-5597 or cbriggs181@yahoo.com to answer any questions you may have.

Jason Cooper

The Church of the Open Bible in Farmington, Missouri would like nominate Jason Cooper for a position on the board of directors for the Church of God General Conference. Jason has been a member of the Church of God his entire life and a fourth generation descendant of the Cooper family serving the church in the state of Missouri. He is raising his own two sons to love God, to know the Word of God, and to live their lives seeking the kingdom of God as the generations before him also believed and taught him.

Jason graduated from Farmington High School early on January 12, 1990, and three days later attended Oregon Bible College. He attended during the transition to Atlanta Bible College where he remained until December 1992. After his studies at Atlanta Bible College, he moved home for a short time before relocating to Phoenix, Arizona to pursue a secular education. During his time in Arizona, he attended the Lakeshore Bible Church in Tempe, Arizona and began working with AAA of Arizona in their marketing department and quickly moved up to Marketing Director. In April 1994 Jason relocated back to Farmington, Missouri where he met his wife, Kristen. Jason has been married for 18 years and has two sons Brandon and Ryan. He continues to work for AAA of Missouri.

Jason believes as the Bible says that if you are going to do something, do it with all your heart mind and soul. This is a passion that leads him through his life. He specifically speaks the following each day; "Passion for the process. Do not focus on the result which I cannot control, instead have passion for the process leaving the result to God who is in control." Jason expresses this passion in all that he does: his work, his involvement in the youth baseball which he coaches in the Cal Ripken Baseball League, his teaching and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Jason would demonstrate this same passion in the work of the Church of God General Conference through a position on the board of directors.

Jason is hard-working, committed to the values in which he believes, and compassionate to help those that call on him. He is able to make informed decisions while keeping an open mind—all valuable characteristics needed to help lead the Church of God General Conference.

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We believe that Jason would offer a fresh perspective to the board of directors as it continues to pursue the role to lead its members and churches in today's world. With his foundation in his faith and his commitment to his family and community, his love for the outdoors, and the passion he has for all he does in life, Jason has developed unique insights in the world and how the Church of God is called to reaffirm the truths of the scriptures.

Therefore, we respectfully submit the name of Jason Cooper into nomination for the board of directors of the Church of God General Conference.

Joe Myers

It is an honor and pleasure to be nominated for the board of directors by the Church of God Ministerial Association. Those who know me best would probably describe me as a visionary. I get energized when I look to the future and ask, "why not?" or "what if?" or "when can we begin?" I believe the role of any board is to prudently look to the future and make plans on how to best expand the effectiveness of their organization. If elected by the Church of God delegates, I would seek to define what it is that the Church of God wants to accomplish in the future and then aggressively go after that vision. In my opinion, Atlanta Bible College must be an organization that not only instructs students in theology, but one which also actively encourages implementing such knowledge in the roles of pastors, missionaries, youth, and local church workers. Atlanta Bible College must also be open to adapting to the new technologies now available via online learning. We must investigate the potential of offering off-campus classes taught throughout the United States. We must continue to support and evaluate current staffing needs and future staffing needs of the conference and the college. And we must search out new and innovative means to train and prepare individuals for the work of ministry.

My personal walk with Christ began when I was baptized at Camp Mack in the summer of 1970 by Pastor Ed Graham. Pastor Graham also officiated over my marriage to Dana Eckerd, and I am thankful to say that this August will mark our 43rd wedding anniversary. After graduating from Oregon Bible College in May of 1973, I served as an associate pastor under the guidance of Pastor Kent Ross at the Pennellwood Church of God in Grand Rapids, MI. I have served as pastor in Colorado, Arkansas, Illinois, Michigan, Arizona and Georgia. I have approximately 21 years of

pastoral experience. I also served as a counselor for 9 years for what is now known as FUEL. In addition to my pastoral experience, I have nearly 22 years business experience. I was the national sales manager for Abbott Aluminum from 1989-1994, traveling extensively across the country attending various trade shows and establishing new relationships with dealers in the machining industry. From 1994-2007, I worked in sales and management in the automobile industry. For the past two years I have worked for the State Farm Insurance Company. My current position is with State Farm Bank as a mortgage consultant.

My wife and I have two adult children. Our daughter Bethany and her husband Daryl reside in Mesa, AZ. She has served on staff for FUEL for nearly 20 years and is currently the Dean of Women for the camp. Our son Sam is married to the former Ashley Taylor. They, along with their daughter Whitney reside in Gilbert, AZ. For several years in Arizona, I was a member of a Toastmasters organization and served as president. I also competed in many speech contests sponsored by Toastmasters International. While in the automobile industry, I competed in a national contest sponsored by Ford Motor Company, finishing runner-up in a contest that represented over 4,000 dealerships and over 40,000 sales personnel. And, while I don't play as often as I once did, I still consider golf a hobby. Thank you for the opportunity to represent you.

I thank you for the past privilege of serving on the board of directors from 2009-2013. The last two years I served as the chairman of the board. I believe this past experience would serve well in the future as we strive to effectively serve the people of the Church of God General Conference, and most importantly, our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dennis Sharp

Timberland Bible Church places member and elder Dennis Sharp into nomination for a position on the board of directors. Dennis was born and raised in South Bend, Indiana. The year 2014 married 50 years that he has attended Hope Chapel and Timberland where he has spent many of those years teaching, speaking, and serving as an elder for over 20 years. Dennis has been married to his wife Sherry for 40 years. They have raised two children, Adam (Allison) and Valerie.

Dennis worked for Dana Corporation for 25 years and currently works for Schafer Industries, from where he

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plans to retire in 2015. Dennis was the plant manager at a Dana facility with \$120 million in annual sales. This facility manufactured, packaged, and distributed automotive parts for the automotive aftermarket. He had full plant operational responsibility with the following staff reporting directly to him: human resources, accounting, materials, customer service, quality, manufacturing, and distribution. This facility was moved and closed in 2008 at which time Dennis accepted the position of production manager at Schafer Industries, which manufactures gears for a broad range of industries. At Schafer, Dennis is responsible for all production employees, supervisors, production engineers, materials, scheduling, and customer service. Dennis' 30+ years in business management has allowed him to develop and utilize a macro management style that develops, mentors, trains, and measures people's performance so that they are trusted and empowered to perform in a team environment that maximizes positive results. Dennis also served for 12 years as an elected member of the Harris Township Board in Granger, Indiana.

Dennis loves Purdue University, where he attended and has a bachelor's degree with a double major in business administration and marketing. He has benefited greatly in his spiritual development by belonging to the Church of God, learning through being taught by many wonderful people over the years, and he has tried to return that teaching and learning to others.

Dennis is a firm and passionate believer in Jesus, our Messiah, and the kingdom of God that will be established on this earth at His second coming. He owes much to Mellie Butler, his Sunday School teacher from his high school years, who was instrumental in his learning and development in the great truths of the Abrahamic Faith. In addition to serving as elder, Dennis has taught both youth and adult Sunday School, led pastoral search efforts, provided oversight of church finances, including the installation of Church Windows software, and has filled the pulpit as needed. As Dennis is now concluding his professional career in business management, he would cherish the opportunity to use that knowledge and experience serving the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College. In an increasing secular world that seems to be moving toward end times at an accelerated pace, Dennis believes the kingdom message and precious COG doctrines must be supported and delivered by the most efficient structure and organization we can provide. We must especially focus on student recruitment, donor outreach, ease of education, and maximum utilization of all of our people assets. ■

(Additional nominations may be submitted to CAO Dr. Joe Martin prior to Conference, and they will be e-mailed to pastors and churches. Or, nominations may be made at the business session at Conference.)

Russia Update

In a report received from Maksim in Russia, we are pleased to learn that seeds that have been planted are taking root and impacting lives. Last year, Maksim baptized Brother Uli. At that time Uli's wife was quite hostile, but she recently repented and requested baptism. How God changed Uli was a huge witness to his wife. Maksim had Uli baptize her.

Sister Vera is a truth seeker who has been studying with Maksim when she comes from Kazakhstan to Russia to visit her elderly cousin. Maksim has provided books for her to take back to her home. Some of Anthony Buzzard's books and material have been translated into Russian including his book "The Amazing Aims and Claims of Jesus." The translation and printing were funded by Restoration Fellowship.

The website is up and running and Maksim is getting hits from Germany and the Ukraine and many places in Russia.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 15, 2015

ABC Graduation

Cornerstone Bible Church—McDonough, GA

June 21-26

Family Camp

Camp Mack—Milford, IN

July 8-10, 2015

95th Annual General Conference

Timberland Bible Church, South Bend, IN

July 19-24, 2015

FUEL—Youth Program

Manchester University—North Manchester, IN

September 24-26, 2015

Heritage Conference

North Hills Church, Springfield, OH

Proposed Constitutional Amendments:

The board of directors is proposing the following amendments to the constitution of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference. The Board believes that the title “Executive Director” more accurately describes the work of the head of our conference/college, rather than “Chief Administrative Officer.” The head of the organization attends all meetings of the board of directors and is charged with carrying out actions of the directors. The term “Executive Director” was first approved by delegate action at the 1973 summer conference. As the result of an organizational study committee the delegates approved changing the name of the conference administrator to “President” in the summer of 1985. This title was later changed to “Chief Administrative Officer” by action of the delegates at the 2001 summer conference with a separate position of “President” of Atlanta Bible College. Under this new proposal, the title “President” of Atlanta Bible College will be retained. At present Dr. Joe Martin carries the titles of CAO and President. If these amendments are adopted, he will have the titles of Executive Director and President.

According to the constitution and by-laws (Article V, Section 1), amendments must be printed “in at least three consecutive issues of THE RESTITUTION HERALD and/or the PROGRESS JOURNAL, the first appearance thereof to be at least thirty days prior to the convening of the conference by which it is to be considered.” Since the HERALD/JOURNAL is only published four times a year, in order to give adequate notice, delegate action on these amendments will take place at the 2016 summer conference.

Article II, Section 3 c: Current reading regarding who is a delegate at the summer conference: “The Chief Administrative Officer of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference, President of Atlanta Bible College, and Director of Church/Pastor Services.”

New proposed reading: “The Executive Director of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference, President of Atlanta Bible College, and Director of Church/Pastor Services.”

Article IV, Section 4: Current reading regarding the submission of nominations for the board of directors: “Names of nominees and resumes will be submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference by May 1 . . .”

New proposed reading: Names of nominees and resumes will be submitted to the Executive Director of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference by May 1 . . .”

By-Laws, Article II, Section 6 H: Current reading regarding duties of the board: “To employ a Chief Administrative Officer who shall be responsible to the Board of Directors . . . The Chief Administrative Officer shall meet the qualifications . . . The Chief Administrative Officer may be either male or female.”

New proposed reading: “To employ an Executive Director who shall be responsible to the board of directors. . . . The Executive Director shall meet the qualifications . . . The Executive Director may be either male or female.”

Recommendation:

The board of directors proposes that the structure of the General Conference include a new advisory board to be called Home Missions Board of Evangelism and Church Growth.

Explanation: At the 2014 summer General Conference, Kent Ross moved and Cheryl Ross seconded a motion to create a Home Missions Board of Evangelism and Church Growth. Kent spoke to the issue, sharing that we need to invest in home missions. Greg Demmitt, chairman of the board, declared this to be a major motion. According to the constitution (Article III, Section 2) major motions will be published in the PROGRESS JOURNAL prior to next year’s conference for consideration by the delegates.

At the March 2015 meeting of the board of directors, this motion was discussed and the board recommends the adoption of this motion. At various times in the history of the conference, various boards and committees have focused on this important part of our work. The board of directors recognizes the importance of outreach and the strengthening of our local churches.

If approved, the Board envisions appointing several persons at its fall meeting to discuss the implementation of this recommendation and make suggestions to the Board of Directors on the number of persons for the advisory board, how they will be selected, and a framework for carrying out its work. ■

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** – **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** and the entire church thank the following people for presenting children’s sermons during the worship service: **Lisa McColley, Vivian P. Kirkpatrick, Linda Sandifer, Andrea Moore, Anita Messner, and Paula Kirkpatrick.**

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – Congratulations to **Brian Baker** who traveled with the Ohio State University Extension Master Gardeners to the Andean Highlands of Otavalo, Ecuador. The group worked with the Tandana Foundation to create an operating nursery by collecting seeds/seedlings, potting them up, planting trees, etc. Additional congratulations go out to all who helped the church raise \$255.38 by donating to the soup pots for Souper Bowl of Caring. The money was given to the Clifton Avenue Food Pantry. **Pastor Alan Cain** is certainly proud of his church for what they do.

From the **Isolated Members Ministry** – **Letha and Robert Tagler** are isolated members who celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on March 25. Congratulations!

From the **Resurrection Hope Church of God in Lenoir, NC** – **Pastor James Ritch** announced that the church collected bed socks (one size fits all) for church shut-ins and for the Gateway Rest Home. The warmth in their hearts will help others keep their feet warm. Also, on February 22, **Elizabeth Norris** from the Lenoir Emergency Outreach Shelter spoke to the congregation about the new homeless shelter in Lenoir. To help out the new shelter, the church collected individual snack items, took up a love offering, and purchased dishes for the kitchen. [That is how you put action into your faith! – GNP]

From the **Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH** – **Pastor Dan Cain** has two exciting an-

nouncements. The church held Sacrifice Sunday on March 29, wherein they asked everyone to give an offering above and beyond their normal tithes. The extra money was to be divided equally between reducing the church debt toward freedom from debt and needed repairs at Higher Ground Campground that is used for ministry to kids. A whopping \$5,150 was raised! PTL! The second announcement is that the church has begun an official partnership with the Terrace Ridge section of Troy. Many wonderful new ministry opportunities are on the horizon there, and that is very exciting.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – **Pastor Kyle Casey** and the church have some congratulations to hand out. **David and Judy Sloan** celebrated their 50th anniversary, and **Willman and Martha Gentry** celebrated their 62nd anniversary. [Congratulations from GNP as well!] Birthday wishes go out to **Martha Gentry** (85), **Willman Gentry** (83), and **Lee Ellen Lowry** (83). Congratulations also to **Mandy Hood** on her acceptance into the Medical University of South Carolina where she will work on her doctorate in physical therapy and to **Codie Sloan** for his two national awards for media broadcasting. He received certificates of recognition from the school district, the county council, and from the governor. The Bethel ladies had their ladies retreat for a weekend in Myrtle Beach. The Bethel Church hosted a joint Sunrise Service and breakfast on Resurrection Sunday with Guthrie Grove Church of God and Joy Fellowship. It was a great time with about 100 in attendance.

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

A Narrow but Temporary Escape

By Michael Mattison



"I almost died." Many of you can say that. You have many different stories to tell. Mine is that I ruptured my esophagus on February 24, 2015.

I saw my name on a church prayer list. As I looked at the other names and needs, I realized that a prayer list

represents oceans of pain and emotions. A simple prayer can convey lightning and thunder from heaven. A get well or sympathy card can impart sparks of joy, and appreciation of being remembered, and deep pleasure in a time of heightened emotions.

I had a brilliant surgeon who...no, did not save my life. He extended it. Only Jesus can save it. One "soon" day, unless Jesus comes *sooner*, it will be said, "Michael died." Theologians of most religions try to "sugar-coat" death. The closest the Bible comes to that is the euphemism, "death is sleep." When Jesus said to the twelve disciples that Lazarus was sleeping, he had to immediately explain that his friend was really dead, but that he was going to wake him up. (John 11:11-14) Lazarus was not awake while he was dead! Neither will you or I be awake when we are dead.

It's said that death is being absent from the presence of the Lord. This is true in one sense, but misleading in another. Emotionally, without God in our lives, we are "dead in our trespasses and sins." (Eph. 2:1) Physically without God in our lives, we die. "The spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life." (Job 33:4) When the Lord withdraws his spirit, we die. This is absolute reality.

And yet deceased Christian disciples are asleep in Jesus. "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." (I Thess. 4:13-14) What a comforting thought!

But, death is not a friend. It's called "the last enemy." "The last enemy to be destroyed is death." (I Cor. 15:26) It's the grim reaper. It's the reality with many faces... expected (I knew he wouldn't make it), and unexpected (I was so shocked to hear...) Death can sneak up on a person so stealthily that the person doesn't know he's dead! "He never knew what hit him." "He died in his sleep." "For the living know that they will die, but the dead *know nothing*." (Eccl. 9:5) They don't *accomplish* anything. They don't *do* anything. "Night is coming when no one can work." (John 9:4)

We don't always escape. It's good to visit a cemetery and be reminded that our life will end. It can be a relief. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord . . . They will rest from their labor..." (Rev. 14:13) You don't mind sleeping when you're dead tired. When your alarm goes off, you may not even hear it.

When the last trumpet sounds, those who are asleep outside of Jesus will not hear it. I wonder what will wake up the lost? Fire alarms? Now that's *lack of serenity*. Death is also the absence of relating to others. "To what can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other: 'We played the flute for you and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.'" (Luke 7:31-32; Matt. 11:16) Children *don't* act this way, unless something's terribly wrong, such as emotional neglect. Sounds pretty dead to me!

Atheists believe religion is a pain killer, the "opiate of the people." During and after surgery, one is happy to get a pain killer. Overjoyed. Relieved. Even dependent. After recovery, one doesn't need or want pain killers. Jesus is recovery. "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain." (Rev. 21:4) Call it dependency. I'll take it.

An attempt to comfort the survivors is to say, "Gone, but not forgotten," or "He lives on in our hearts." Solomon was a man of great wisdom and also accomplishments. He was fixated on the futility of life, considering that a person is remembered only a few generations. "There is no permanent remembrance, since in the days to come all will be long forgotten." (Eccl. 2:16) "There is no remembrance of former happenings or men, neither will there be any remembrance of happenings of generations that are to come by those who are to come after them." (Eccl. 1:11) Amplified Bible

But as forgetful as mankind is, God remembers. "I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing the children

(Continued on page 11)

Korean Extension Report

On March 2nd, the KE campus in South Korea began the 2015 spring semester with 16 students, ten in attendance at the Yahtop church facility near Seoul, the capital city of South Korea; and six students at the Boryung church facility approximately 100 miles southwest from the Yahtop facility. Many students are lay leaders from the local churches who are eager to expand their biblical knowledge as well as enhancing their own ministries, and I pray that the students will advertise our school within their own churches, encouraging young people to attend and learn the Abrahamic faith.

New Student Orientation

Since 2010, Pastor Younghee An, who is also a graduate of the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension, has been passionately assisting me to facilitate Bible courses. We travel to Boryung city every week on Saturday, which takes about two and half hours by subway and train from home. Moreover, additional Bible classes are offered at the Yahtop church on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Sundays. On the plus side, since Young and I have moved closer to Yahtop, our travel time has been reduced.

We enjoy presenting the topics of the Abrahamic Faith, such as Jesus as a man, fall of the saints, sleep of the dead, and the hope of the coming kingdom to the Korean Christians. So far, we have not received any apprehensions to the subjects. I am assuming the positive acceptance may be the result of their home-church pastors who have discovered the Bible truth through my seminars over the years as well as receiving reinforcement from the KE graduates in Korea.

In closing, the experience has been, and continues to be, rewarding. Although challenging for individuals who have not been exposed, the Abrahamic Faith has the mighty support, which are the Bible, scripture and the spirit of the truth. Thus, we have no doubt to continue to enjoy preaching the Abrahamic Faith until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your prayers and support and God bless.—
Steve An/Vice President of Korean Extension

From the Northeast Campus

Greetings from the Korean Extension at the Northeast campus!

(Continued from page 10)

for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.” (Deut. 5:9-10) NIV “Everyone whose name is found written in the book will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake; some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.” (Dan.

As always, the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension appreciates your support in assisting the KE present God’s message to our Korean community. The fall 2015 semester looks promising. Prospective students have e-mailed and telephoned inquiring about enrollment, so I am confident that the current spring 2015 student number of 22 will increase in the coming months. Some recent inquiries have been from students who were unable to complete their studies years ago, and they are now seeking reenrollment for fall 2015 and other communications have been from new students.

For the current spring semester, the KE is offering a variety of classes. Currently, Pastor Jae Yun Shim is teaching the Romans and the Western History and Civilization class, as



Students praying during the KE Service Ministry Class well as assisting students to stay on top of their Bible scripture reading through the Bible reading class. Pastor Young Jung Kim, our new Christian music teacher, provides instruction to our students Sunday and Monday afternoons through the vocal music class. Dr. Dustin Smith continues to battle Atlanta traffic Monday mornings to educate our Korean students on the importance of the theology in the New Testament II class. Pastor Yeo Il Jang guides our students by assisting them to develop and explore their spiritual connection with God through the Service Ministry and Personal Spiritual Development classes. I am currently facilitating the Old Testament I class and assisting the Korean students to develop their English language skills, meanwhile helping them to assimilate into their Western surroundings through the English I class. Moreover, Steve continues provide instruction to the Northeast campus students from South Korea through the Pastoral Leadership class.

Thank you for your consistent support of the Korean ministry, and God bless!—Sam An/Administrator of Korean Extension

12:1b-2) I don’t care if I’m forgotten by posterity if I’m remembered by my Creator at the resurrection.

That's my emotional perspective on death and resurrection. What's God's emotional perspective? "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (Psa. 115:16). Christians have a beautiful second childhood. They enter this life precious, they depart it precious. Be precious. ■

Join us for
95th Annual Church of God General Conference
 July 8-10, 2015
Timberland Bible Church, South Bend, IN

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 below that are close to the Timberland 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 30 or later, please add \$25.00 to your total.
3. Mail this form to: General Conference 2015, 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 8 cookout at Timberland at 5:00 p.m.? Y ___ or N ___ (Cost is \$8 if not registered for meals at the conference)

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

Fees: Adults—\$109.00 per person _____

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

Commuters: No Meals—\$35.00 _____

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

The program will begin July 8 with a late afternoon cookout and evening service. Thursday and Friday will include a complete schedule of workshops, worship services, meetings of the Ministers, Priscillas, Alumni Association and delegate business sessions. The conference will conclude after the Friday evening service.

Hotel Information Please call the hotel directly and mention the Church of God General Conference in order to secure these rates.

Best Western Plus – 574-273-2309; 445 W. University Dr., Mishawaka, IN 46545; \$89 plus tax for king bed or two queens—2 people, \$10 for additional persons; full hot breakfast; price good until **June 15**. After that, subject to availability.

Comfort Inn/Suites – 574-247-4000; 5640 North Main St., Mishawaka, IN 46545; \$80 plus tax for king bed or two queens; full hot breakfast; price good until **June 30**. After that, subject to availability.

Super 8 – 574-247-0888; 535 W. University Dr., Granger, IN 46530; \$70 plus tax for king bed or two queens; continental breakfast; price good until **June 8**. After that, subject to availability.

Adults at \$109 per person	\$
Children ages 6 to 12 at \$35 per person	\$
Commuters, no meals at \$35 per person	\$
Subtotal	\$
10% Pastor Discount—subtract	\$
non-refundable less \$25 deposit per person	\$ 25.00
Registration on or after June 30, 2015 add \$25	
Total due at Conference	\$

Church Information: Timberland Bible Church, 16623 State Rd. 23, South Bend, IN 46635 Phone 574-277-8577 or call Kim Raper cell at 404-791-7662 or Georgia office 678-833-1839

95th Annual Church of God General Conference
July 8-10, 2015 **Timberland Bible Church, South Bend, IN**
Theme: Live to Serve; Serve to Live

Wednesday – July 8

3:00 – Conference Registration

5:00 – Cook Out

7:00 – Evening Worship Service – Finding Your
Divine Burden, Dan Cain, speaker

8:30 – Welcome Reception

Thursday – July 9

Breakfast on your own

9:00 - Morning Worship – Ed Bender, speaker

10:15 – Workshops

1. Ministers Association Meeting
2. Is There Anything Left in the Tank?—Michael Cisler
3. Getting Ready For Company—exploring attitudes toward visitors to our services—welcome and follow-up—Michael Hoffman
4. Growing for the Gardener's Glory (John 15:8)—Rebecca Dauksas
5. Introducing The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation—Anthony Buzzard

11:00 – Break

11:15 – Workshops

1. Alumni Association Meeting
2. Drama in Worship —Nola Jones (continued on Friday at 11:15)
3. In the Beginning Was God's Plan— how to understand Jewish preexistence and explain it to others—Dustin Smith
4. Serving B/4 Impact—Larry Mayberry

12:15 – Lunch

1:30 – Chapel – Tim Pearson, speaker

2:15 – Workshops

1. The Great Evangelical Recession—dealing with the decline of the church—David Krogh
2. Carried to the Table: Our Needs and God's Grace—Mike Montgomery
3. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit—Andy Cisneros
4. Paradise on Earth with God's Presence—Joe Martin

3:00 - Break

3:15 – Business Session (ends at 5:15)

5:30 – Dinner

7:00 – Evening Worship - Going Global—
Joe Martin, Speaker

Friday – July 10

Breakfast on your own

9:00 - Morning Worship – Rick McClain,
speaker; Ministerial Recognition Board
and Ministers Association Leadership
Team Recognitions

10:15 – Workshops:

1. Ministers Association Meeting
2. Oft-Neglected OT Books—Bob Jones
3. Giving God the Best of You—Not the Rest of You—Jeff Osborn
4. The Christian Destiny—Anthony Buzzard

11:00 – Break

11:15 – Workshops:

1. Open Session with the Board of Directors
2. Exciting, Insightful Lessons from Matthew—Rebekah Martin
3. Drama in Worship—Nola Jones (continued from Thurs. 11:15)
4. Overview of Age to Come in America—Jan Stilson

12:15 – Lunch

1:30 – Chapel – Presentation by Drama Team and
presentation by Forerunner Team

2:15 – Workshops

1. ABC Development Foundation Board Meeting
2. That's Where I Live! (Building good relationships)—Julie Driskill
3. Student Ministry: Developing Leaders Who See the World Differently—Seth Ross
4. Natural Church Development—help your church to be healthy—Jack Kmiecik

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; Installation of Board of
Directors; John Guthrie, speaker

Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner

With an impending deal with Iran over nuclear use, the words between Iran and Israel grow stronger and threatening. That might be expected. However, anti-Semitism is on the rise around the world as demonstrated by an incident in a recent Dutch soccer match.

The chants were at Galgenwaard Stadium in Utrecht, a city situated 40 miles southeast of the Dutch capital Amsterdam, during an honor division match between Amsterdam's Ajax team and FC Utrecht, the De Telegraaf Daily reported.

During the match, dozens could be seen and heard chanting: "My father was in the commandos, my mother was in the SS, together they burned Jews cause Jews burn the best," and "Hamas, Hamas, Jews to the gas." The chanting went on for several minutes.

Anti-Semitism is nothing more than selective hatred. If you don't know it, hatred blinds you. It eats your reasoning away and makes you bitter and twisted. It saps your life out of you.

The verse below describes anti-Semitism succinctly. Deuteronomy 28:37 "*You (Israel) shall become an astonishment (Lit= a horror), a proverb and a swear word among all the nations where the Lord will drive you.*"

This verse is part of the curses for disobedience. It explains anti-Semitism alright, but this occurs when Israel is in rebellion against God or out of favour, which is her position now.

Israel is still chosen, called and will be blessed, but by and large she is still in rebellion to her Messiah now, although the dry bones are coming to life.

Anti-Semitism is the "cold war" of hatred, but will lead to hot war, even nuclear.

It's not very clever to come against God's choice. Even if Israel is out of favour now, God will bring her back!

Micah 7:8-9 "*Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; when I fall, I will arise, when I sit in darkness the*

Lord will be a light to me...He will bring me forth to the light, and I will see His righteousness" (See Deut. 30:7).

The Jewish people have never been able to assimilate into the world because of God's call upon them (Ezek. 11:16-19).

God has chosen the Jews and made an eternal covenant with them, and not the Arab nations, although He blessed them also. It is spelled out clearly (Gen. 17:18-21).

Another cause for the hatred is God Himself. What He chooses, the world opposes. You can see that in so many aspects in the times in which we live (John 7:7; 15:18).

The future of Islam - Ezekiel 35:13-15 "*With your mouth you (Arab nations) have boasted against Me and multiplied your words against Me and I have heard them. Thus says the Lord God, the whole earth will rejoice when I make you desolate. As you rejoiced because the inheritance of the house of Israel was desolate; so I will do to you; you shall be desolate, O Mount Seir as well as all Edom.*"

Many Arabs and Europeans are accusing Israel of wanting to take over the world. They think all the world's problems come from Jews. They think the Jews must be eradicated!

Anti-Semitism is only the beginning. It is the soft side of the greatest dramas the world has ever known – about to blast onto the world stage, with Israel, Jerusalem and the Temple Mount as the center stage!

The Jews are the "chosen people", but they didn't choose themselves – God did.

Jews have been given a land and a capital city by God for ever, and others don't like that!

Too bad about the Jew, but what about you?

Every true and faithful believer has been promised a land and a capital city. You are a chosen people (1 Peter 2:9). The hatred for a Christian will be just as deep and insidious. "*So do not be surprised, my friends, if the people of the world hate you*" (1 John 3:13). ■

Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 adopted by the delegates at the 2014 summer conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Income

1. **General Contributions** – non-specific giving by individuals, churches, and conferences
2. **ABC Boosters** – an annual giving program that raises funds for the college
3. **Christian Education Materials** – includes all sales of quarterlies & Kingdom Quest materials
4. **Books** – sales of class and non-class books
5. **Sale of Assets** – income from the sale of unused assets
6. **Tuition** – estimated income from ABC/ABCKE classes
7. **Lodging/Apartment Rent** – rent received from students for apartments rented by the college
8. **ABCDF Support** – transfer of investment income from the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation
9. **Interest and Late Fees** – finance charges on outstanding student accounts
10. **Application/Miscellaneous Fees** – charges for specific services for college students, such as application fees
11. **Conferences & Workshops** - net income is tracked separately for each event; together, all events provide a modest net income
12. **Interest** – interest earned on checking account
13. **Other Income** – miscellaneous income
14. **Tenant Income** - income from tenants leasing space in the McDonough, GA office building
15. **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
2. **FICA Tax** – required payment of employer taxes
3. **Employee Benefits** – tax coverage, health insurance premiums, workers compensation, 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 HERALD / JOURNAL, 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 is provided opportunities to enhance skills in areas associated with their responsibilities, including pursuit of advanced degrees
16. **Travel** – for board members, advisory committees, special boards/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** – used to pay back General Fund outstanding loans
29. **Annuity Payments** — payments to annuitants who have contracts with the General Conference
30. **Allowance for Doubtful Accounts** - to “write-off” uncollectible A/R accounts
31. **Other** – miscellaneous expenses
32. **Contingency** – for unexpected expenses

Budget Proposals - Income
Revised 2015-2016 and Pro-
posed 2016-2017*

	FY 2015 - 2016	FY 2015-2016 <u>Proposed</u> <u>Revisions</u>	FY 2016-2017 <u>Proposed</u>
	<u>Approved</u>		
CONTRIBUTIONS:			
General Contributions	385,000	385,000	390,000
ABC Boosters	11,000	8,000	8,000
Subtotal	396,000	393,000	398,000
SALES:			
Christian Education Materials	18,000	16,000	16,000
Books	16,000	16,000	16,000
Subtotal	34,000	32,000	32,000
ABC:			
Tuition*	244,000	246,000	304,000
Lodging/Apartment Rent	40,000	40,000	40,000
ABCDF Support	40,000	5,000	20,000
Interest and Late Fees	4,000	2,000	2,000
Application/Misc. Fees	3,800	4,000	4,000
Subtotal	331,800	297,000	370,000
PROGRAM INCOME:			
Conferences & Workshops	2,500	3,000	3,000
Subtotal	2,500	3,000	3,000
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Interest	50	50	50
Other Income	2,000	2,000	2,000
Tenant Income	115,050	161,000	165,000
Transferred In	6,000	5,000	5,000
Subtotal	123,100	168,050	172,050
Income Total	887,400	893,050	975,050
Expense Total	887,400	893,050	975,050
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	0	0	0

2015-2016

*Tuition - ABC - \$90,000

KE - \$1800 per semester x 30 FT = \$108,000

S. Korea - \$1200 per semester x 20 FT = \$48,000

2016-2017

*Tuition - ABC - \$100,000

KE - \$1800 per semester x 40 FT = \$144,000

S. Korea - \$1200 per semester x 25 FT = \$60,000

Budget Proposals - Expenses
Revised 2015-2016/Proposed 2016-2017

	FY 2015 - 2016 <u>Approved</u>	FY 2015-2016 <u>Proposed Revisions</u>	FY 2016-2017 <u>Proposed</u>
STAFF:			
Salaries & Wages	380,000	360,000	380,000
F.I.C.A. Tax	4,000	4,500	4,500
Employee Benefits	65,000	52,200	57,500
Subtotal	449,000	416,700	442,000
SERVICES:			
Assistance to Churches	100	10,800	10,800
Ministerial Association	6,000	6,000	6,000
Youth Program	10,000	10,000	10,000
Subtotal	16,100	26,800	26,800
SALES EXPENSE:			
Printing & Binding	22,000	22,000	24,000
Postage & Shipping	9,500	13,500	15,500
Book Store	15,500	13,000	14,000
Subtotal	47,000	48,500	53,500
ABC:			
Advertising--Recruitment	5,000	8,500	9,500
Student/Staff Meals	7,500	2,000	3,000
Library Periodicals	1,000	700	700
Library Books	0	0	0
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	250	250	250
Staff Training	750	4,500	4,500
Subtotal	14,500	15,950	17,950
ADMINISTRATION:			
Travel	18,000	28,000	32,500
Office & Misc Supplies & Expense	11,000	10,500	11,500
Professional Services	14,500	14,500	15,500
Telephone/Internet/Web/Data	30,000	31,000	32,000
Office Machine/Software Lease/Maint	29,500	33,900	40,000
Subtotal	103,000	117,900	131,500
PLANT EXPENSES:			
Utilities	60,000	68,000	73,000
Insurance - Property	15,500	14,000	16,000
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	35,000	30,000	30,000
Furniture & Equipment	1,000	500	1,300
Supplies/Expenses Plant	2,500	2,500	3,100
Reserve for Capital R/M	4,800	4,800	4,800
Property Tax	30,000	30,000	32,000
Subtotal	148,800	149,800	160,200
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Campus Leases	33,000	30,000	30,000
Apartment Leases	40,000	40,000	41,000
Debt Repayment	0	8,000	12,000
Annuity Payments	0	10,000	19,000
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	15,000	9,400	15,000
Other	16,000	15,000	16,200
Contingency	5,000	5,000	9,900
Subtotal	109,000	117,400	143,100
Expense Total	887,400	893,050	975,050
Income Total	887,400	893,050	975,050
GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)	0	0	0

Church News

Baptisms

Ohio

Springfield—Mark Hackathorn, (2/15/15), and John Roman, (3/15/15), by Seth Ross

Deaths

Arkansas

Greenbrier—Mary E. Johns Barnes, 95, (3/18/15), life-long member originally from Nebraska. She had nine siblings, many of whom were active in the work of the Church of God. Service by Pastor Tom New.

California

San Dimas—Duncan MacLeod, 89, (3/18/2015), long-time member of Pomona Church of the Open Bible, son of Pastor Norman and Leta (Railsback) MacLeod. Service by Pastor Charles Jones.

Indiana

North Salem—Kaye Capron, 92, (4/12/15), long-time member. Service by Pastor Bob Collier.

Illinois

Oregon—Pastor Hollis Partlowe, 90, (3/31/15), originally from Virginia and a 1958 graduate of Oregon Bible College. He was pastor of churches in Macomb, IL (1958-1965), Phoenix, AZ (1965-1976), and Oregon (1976-1988) and Dixon, IL (1989-1996). He was an avid Bible student. He was editor of the RESTITUTION HERALD from 1990 to 1993 and served as a member of the General Conference Board of Directors. He is survived by his wife Hilda and daughters Rachel (Paul) Newell and Rebekah (Mike) Hall. Service by Pastor Michael Hoffman.



Amanda McAlonan, 90, (1-8-15) member. Anna Cullen, 88, (2/25/15), long-time member who worked in the Oregon Bible College cafeteria for a few years. Amanda McAlonan, 90,

(1-8-15). Viola Myers, 97, (4/2/15), long-time secretary of Oregon Sunday School. Services by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

Michigan

Rockford – Sid Tompsett, (11/22/14), long-time faithful friend of North Kent Bible Church. Service by Pastor Michael Cisler.

Minnesota

Eden Valley—Pastor Tom Fischhaber, 59, (4/7/15). Tom was a 2005 graduate of Atlanta Bible College. He pastored the Fair Oaks Church in Virginia and was currently serving the Eden Valley, MN congregation. He is survived by his wife Anne, a 2007 graduate of ABC. Service by Pastor Dale Swartz.



Ohio

St. Paris—Dean Vance, 76, (3/16/15), life-long member (43 years at Pleasant Hill). He is survived by his wife Shirley and children John (Amy) and Julie (Tim) Driskill who is a member of the General Conference Board of Directors. Service by Pastor Scott Deane.

Washington

Wenatchee—Bonnie Huffer Davis, 84, (2/8/15). Originally from Michigantown, IN. She was a sister to Dr. Alva Huffer. She was married to Pastor Kirby Davis for 65 years. They served churches in Oregon, Ohio, Missouri, and Washington. Service by Pastor Merry Peterson.

Pastor Needed

After 29 years of ministry at Grace Fellowship Church, our pastor, Dennis Baldwin, is retiring. We are actively searching for a new pastor, asking the Lord to guide us in this quest. We are located in Front Royal, VA. If you feel a little tug to investigate our need, please contact Jeff Magalis at 540-635-3353 or Ellie Seiders at nan_na53@embarqmail.com.

ABC-i Weekend

This spring we welcomed three students on campus during our usual ABC-i weekend. One of the students was a former student who is planning to return next semester, Nathan Massie from Lawrenceville Church of God in Ohio. Along with Nathan, Rebecca Massie and Breanna Fraley, who are planning to join us this fall, spent the weekend visiting our campus and the local area. They sat in on classes, toured the campus, and visited with our registrar. They spent time building relationships with our current students and staff, which is such a vital part of ABC student life.

We are moving our annual Atlanta Bible College Invitational weekend to the fall, so please share the dates with your church

family and join us on October 15-17, 2015. We look forward to welcoming students interested in studying at Atlanta Bible College during our ABC-i weekend, but if these dates do not work for you, please contact Kim Raper at kraper@abc-coggc.org, and she will help coordinate a visit that will work for you or your group.



Trip to the Zoo.

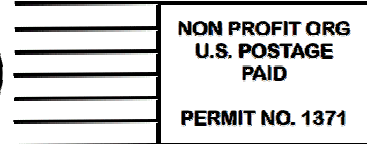
- 1 **Pray for God's blessing on your extended family.**
- 2 Pray for the ministry of the Open Bible Church, Bolivar, MO.
- 3 **Pray for the Midwest Family Camp to be held at Camp Mack later this month.**
- 4 Praise God for the beauty of His creation.
- 5 **Pray that God will speak deeply into your heart 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 Timberland Bible Church in South Bend, IN.
- 15 **Praise God for your church family.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the Simple Teachings Bible Church, Lovejoy, 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 our mission efforts.
- 21 **Praise God for your Father—your earthly father and your Heavenly Father.**
- 22 Pray for the Midwest Family Camp being held in Indiana this week.
- 23 **Pray for believers in the Philippine Islands.**
- 24 Praise God for those who write lessons for our Adult Sunday School curriculum.
- 25 **Pray for pastors who are changing pastorates this year.**
- 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 2015

- 1 **Pray for Maksim Ryzhik as he ministers in Russia.**
- 2 Pray for those traveling to the General Conference next week.
- 3 **Praise God for the abundant life you have in Christ.**
- 4 Praise God for the leadership of your church family.
- 5 **Pray that God might move the Church of God forward in new areas of ministry.**
- 6 Pray for Linda Limbe-Nkomba and her work in Malawi.
- 7 **Pray that many will hear God's call into full-time Christian service.**
- 8 Pray for the conference meetings at Timberland Bible Church in South Bend, IN.
- 9 **Pray for God's blessing and direction on the delegates during General Conference business sessions.**
- 10 Pray for students considering enrollment at Atlanta Bible College.
- 11 **Pray for Pastor Seth Ross and the Youth Advisory Committee as they prepare for FUEL.**
- 12 Pray for God's blessing on your pastor's sermon today.
- 13 **Pastor James and Rebecca Ritch and the work at Lenoir, NC.**
- 14 Praise God for his wisdom.
- 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.
- 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 students arriving at FUEL today.**
- 20 Pray for Pastor Dan and Rachel Cain and their work at the Troy View Church of God in Troy, Ohio.
- 21 **Pray for the staff of FUEL and the influence they are having on the young people this week.**
- 22 Pray for God to bless the FUEL program at Manchester College (North Manchester, Indiana) this week.
- 23 **Pray for those who are studying the Systematic Bible Study Course over the internet.**
- 24 Pray for the safety for those traveling home from FUEL today.
- 25 **Pray for a great hunger and thirst for righteousness in your church.**
- 26 Pray for Pastor John and Alice Railton and the work of the Family Bible Church in Granger, Indiana.
- 27 **Praise God for the many people in our churches who have been baptized recently.**
- 28 Praise God for your family and friends.
- 29 **Pray for 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 2015

- 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 Bible Church, 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 Pastor 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 Atlanta Bible College students and staff as classes begin today.
- 18 **Pray for God to raise up more pastors.**
- 19 Praise God for His love and faithfulness.
- 20 **Pray for the ABC Korean Extension in South Korea as classes begin soon for the fall semester.**
- 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 Jake and Amber Ballard and their ministry at Pine Grove Bible Church, Minnesota.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD & PROGRESS JOURNAL

Report of Summer Conference

By David Krogh



The 95th annual summer General Conference was held at the Timberland Bible Church of God in South Bend, IN. Ninety delegates consisting of 45 church delegates, 7 state/district conference delegates, 7 board members, and 31 pastors were present. This is the same number of total delegates that were present at the 2014 conference. One hundred thirty-five were registered for the conference with others attending the evening services.

The theme of the conference was Live to Serve; Serve to Live. Speakers at the evening services included Pastor Dan Cain, Troy, OH; Dr. Joe Martin, Chief Administrative Officer and President of Atlanta Bible College; and Pastor John Guthrie, East Oregon, IL. Morning and afternoon worship sessions included Pastor Ed Bender, Pelzer, SC; Pastor Tim Pearson, North Salem, IN (Tim is one of our oldest pastors, having graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1947); Rick McClain, chairperson of the Lord's Harvest International mission organization; drama led by Nola Jones; and a report of the Forerunner team by Cayce Ballard, Josiah Cain, and Talon Paul.

Many workshops on a variety of topics were presented. Music was directed by

Nate Kizer and others. A couple of musical numbers were presented by the Maranatha Singers, a group that sang together at Oregon Bible College in 1966-67.

Carrie Briggs of the Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA and Dennis Sharp of the Timberland Bible Church, South Bend, IN were elected to four-year terms on the board of directors. A plaque of appreciation was presented to retiring board members Greg Demmitt and Rick McClain by Dr. Martin. The new board elected officers for the coming year. Bob Morrison will serve as chairperson; Chris James, vice chairperson; Dan Knowlton, secretary; Carrie Briggs, treasurer. Julie Driskill and Scott Millard will continue as board members. The board was installed at the evening service on Friday evening by Ministers Association Leadership Team members Darrell Cardwell and Steve Taylor.

Pastor Andy Cisneros was re-elected by the delegates to a three-year term on the Youth Advisory Council.

The motion presented at the 2014 conference by Kent Ross regarding the creation of a Home Missions Board of Evangelism and Church Growth was

approved by the delegates. Pastor Robin Todd of the Western Washington Church of God was appointed as the chair of a committee to make suggestions to the Board of Directors on the number of persons to serve on this advisory committee, how they will be selected, and a framework for carrying out its work.

Delegates approved a revised budget of \$893,050 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. It calls for contributions of \$393,000. A proposed budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year of \$975,050 was also approved by the delegates. The minutes of the meeting begin on page four.

Kent Ross was recognized by Pastor Wally Winner, chair of the Ministerial Recognition Board, for 50 years in pastoral ministry. Rob Bernheisel, Kim Raper, and Bruce Reye were recognized for 5 years of service.

The Board asked delegates for a straw vote on their interest in having a future conference at Camp Mack at Milford, IN. Conferences were held at Camp Mack 1957 to 1969, and it is also the site of the annual Midwest Family Camp. Delegates were also polled on their interest in having conference in

(Continued on page 3)

Faith—Not an Energy Drink Buzz

Luke 17:1-10

Presented at General Conference—July 10

By John Guthrie

College students and others are guzzling energy drinks (Monster, Red Bull, White Shark, .357 Magnum, 5 Hour Energy, and Rockstar) for a quick energy fix.

Traditionally, that role has been served by a strong cup of coffee, but these days the latte is passé — the real adrenaline buzz now comes from a can.

Enter the energy drink.

- Need to fly through that midterm? Crack open a Red Bull—it “gives you wings”.
- Drained after a night of partying? Get going with Monster.
- Got a big project to tackle? Get some Rockstar.

With colorful names and word-of-mouth buzz, energy drinks have become the fastest growing segment of the soft-drink market, with sales going from a mere \$12 million in 1997 to more than \$9 billion recently. Surveys show that about 25-35 percent of college students are slurping down these sugar-packed and caffeine-fortified cans of juiced-up juice. Now there are some 200 brands of energy drinks following in the wake of Red Bull.

They are kind of expensive: at Amazon, Red Bull goes for \$1.60 a can (8.4 oz-12 pk); Rockstar for \$1.40 a can (16 oz-10 pk); and Monster for \$1.45 a can (16 oz-10 pk).

It would seem like the expense would be a real buzzkill. But it is not.

What is clear (or maybe not) is what Red Bull claims its drink can do. Here are just a few of the rather vaguely stated “benefits” of chugging it down:

- Improves performance
- Improves concentration and reaction speed
- Improves vigilance
- Improves emotional status
- Stimulates metabolism

The fact is, there’s a real appeal to the thought that slamming down a can of Red Bull can turn you from a tired wimp to a wide awake super human.

To put it in perspective for the boomers among us, it’s the pop culture equivalent of Popeye scarfing down a can of spinach.

Whatever the situation, whether facing a final or battling Bluto, many folks are saying “Just gimme the juice!”

Our text is Luke 17.1-10 (NIV): 1 Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. 2 It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. 3 So watch yourselves. “If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. 4 If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.” 5 The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” 6 He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you. 7 “Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? 8 Would he not rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? 9 Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? 10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”

When the disciples cry out to Jesus in Luke 17:5, “Increase our faith!” it sounds very much like a similar request for an instant energy boost. “Just gimme the juice!”

In verse 2, Jesus tells them that they have a deep responsibility to not “cause one of these little ones to sin”

Verses 3-4 speak about rebuking, repentance, forgiving (seven times a day—that’s tough). (see also Mat 7.1-5).

The persistence and energy it takes to guard oneself and others from wrong and to forgive even the repeat offender seems overwhelming.

It’s no wonder, then, that the disciples, hearing Jesus’ commands, were suffering from a severe case of spiritual fatigue! Or, faith fatigue!

Spiritually speaking, the demands of discipleship can leave even the strongest among us feeling tired and defeated. What used to be called “burnout” among clergy and other dedicated church folk now has a new name: “compassion fatigue.” It’s that exhaustion that comes from always being in output mode, caring for and nurturing others without recharging the spiritual batteries. It’s a deep tiredness that can leave even the most devoted disciple dreading the next phone call, visit, Bible study or

(Continued from page 2)

even sermon preparation! There’s always something to be done and someone to do it for.

We can become like the pastor who remarked to a clergy colleague, “Ministry would be a great job — if it weren’t for all these people!”

It’s during these times of spiritual or faith fatigue that we join the disciples in wanting an energy-cranked shot of faith, and we’ll try to get it in many different ways.

For some, the quick fix can be found in the latest seminar, book, retreat or program that brings the rush of a dynamic spiritual “high.” We figure that all we need is a lot more faith, a lot more time and a lot more energy. We vow to do better, and, freshly fueled with new ideas, we plunge back into the grind determined that we’ll be okay and that, finally, everybody’s needs will get met.

Problem is that when the effect of the potion wears off, we’re more burnt than we were before — our time toasted, our energy exhausted, and our people peevd.

Jesus’ response to “gimme the juice” is to instead give ‘em some advice. The answer isn’t more faith or a cranked-up, caffeine-fueled ministry — it’s simply embracing the faith you have — even if it’s only a little bit.

Jesus uses the metaphor of a mustard seed — the tiniest of seeds — to symbolize the kind of faith his followers should embrace.

Over time, a mustard seed grows, matures, and blossoms. But that takes steady nurture, the right conditions and a

patient vision for the long term. In the same way, true faith is the result of the long-haul discipline of discipleship. It starts small and grows gradually, steadily, intentionally.

Sooooo ... truth is, there’s no faith-shaped energy drink buzz. No “Monster” faith or “Red Bull” faith.

There’s mustard seed faith. That’s it. But that’s enough — more than enough.

If you want to do well on exams, advance in your job, run a marathon, pastor a church, lead a Bible study, or serve a neighbor, the real energy for execution isn’t found in the bottom of a loudly-labeled can.

What you really need is proper rest, good nutrition, plenty of good old water, and, if you’re a follower of Christ, a simple faith in God’s ability to use you to do the impossible.

Jesus said that even a little faith could cause a mulberry tree, a shrub known for its deep and entangled roots, to be uprooted and “planted in the sea” (v. 6).

6 He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

Impossible? Absurd? That’s the point. But notice that Jesus doesn’t say how long pulling up those deep roots will take. It may take a minute or a lifetime, but with faith even the most stubborn, entangled lives can be moved!

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 1)

Tempe/Phoenix, AZ. There was considerable support for both proposals which the board will take into consideration as plans are made for future conferences.

The board reappointed Keith Williams and John Smead to 3-year terms on the ABC Development Foundation board. Joe Myers was appointed to a 2-year term on the foundation board to replace Carrie Briggs who is automatically a member by virtue of being on the Board of Directors. The board reappointed George Jordan to a three-year term on the Investment Committee; Ben Mattison to a 2-year term; and Dan Siderius to a one-year term. These terms previously were for one year and they are now three-year terms, with one member’s term expiring each year.

Board members serve on many of the advisory committees and organizations within the conference. Chris James was reappointed to the Academic Advisory Committee. Julie Driskill was reappointed as the representa-

tive of the board to serve on the Youth Advisory Committee. Scott Millard was reappointed to the Lord’s Harvest board. Carrie Briggs was appointed to the Investment Committee; Dennis Sharp was appointed to the newly-created Home Mission Advisory Committee.

Alumni Association President Amanda Jacinto awarded Distinguished Alumni medallions to Pastor Scott Ross and to Pastor Dean Moore for outstanding ministry.

We are very grateful for the hospitality of Pastor Andy Cisneros and the Timberland Bible 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 hospitality.

Next year's conference will be held at the North Hills Church in Springfield, OH July 6-8. Make plans now to attend. ■

General Conference Delegate Session Minutes Timberland Bible Church, South Bend, Indiana

Thursday, 9 July 2015, 3:25 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Greg Demmitt. Paul Duncan opened the meeting in prayer. Chairman Greg recognized first-time delegates. There were no new churches or pastors attending.

Chairman's message to the delegates: It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors. For years, it was difficult to find nominees for the Board. Now we are getting more candidates than we need, and it is encouraging.

We have been trying to operate within our means and balancing our budget. We are getting closer and closer.

We were unable to get a loan for a down payment to buy the Avalon building. Rent was nearly \$150,000 per year, which was a significant drain on our finances. Then a pastor's bequest came just when we needed it to buy the building. During that same time, we were trying to balance the budget, and staff was reduced. Positions were eliminated or changed to volunteer status. The budget we had was beyond our means. If we had maintained the status quo, all the money from that donation would be

gone in the next couple years. Because we bought the building, we are making money on it instead of spending so much each year on rent.

We recently purchased five lots for houses, on which we will build student housing. Soon we will not have to pay sizeable rent on apartments.

Our focus needs to be on service and people. Greg read from Zechariah 4:6-10, which includes: "Not by power nor by might, but by my Spirit..." and "He who despises the day of small things...will rejoice."

It is more difficult to fill a church today than in the 1950s, but we have opportunities for ministry in difficult times. We may never be big, but we can be significant. We can and should make a difference with the work we do. Church of God families have about 22 high school graduates this year. We need to get as many as we can to the Bible college, but we also need to be mindful of the



Greg Demmitt, Board Chair

(continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 3)

What are some of the so-called "impossible" tasks in our lives?

- Forgiving others — repeatedly?
- Watching out for others?
- Getting to the root of relationship problems?
- Serving the needs of others?

Here's the good news: The more difficult the task... the weaker we may feel... the more God can work in us and through us if we'll only have faith.

Faith is not about our ability to do the job, but God's ability to do the job through us, and we know that with God "all things are possible."

All we have to do is slow down, take care, and make ourselves available. And, because faith is more about God's ability than ours, it also means that God is the one who gets the credit. Jesus goes on to say that we ought not to think that our frequent obsessive approach to ministry is going to get us the recognition we think we deserve.

God is not looking for adrenaline-fueled junkie superstars of faith, but servants who do the simple stuff and

who "have only done our duty" (v. 10) without seeking the head rush of a reward.

10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty."

If we want to improve our performance as disciples...if we want to really improve our "emotional status" and energy for serving others... Then we must kill the quick fix buzz of activity and people-pleasing performance and instead dive into the freedom of following Christ.

All it takes is a little, just a little bit of faith. Not the buzz of an energy drink. Faith is the real deal!

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom. 12:1, 2 [NRSV]

(Continued from page 4)



Pastor Ed Bender,
morning worship

mid-career and recent retirees, who can also make a difference in ministry.

After Greg's message, David Krogh, chairperson of the credentials committee, shared delegate numbers. There are 44 church delegates (43 last year), 7 state conference delegates (same as last year), 7 board

members (same as last year), 32 pastor delegates (33 last year). The total is 90 delegates, the same number as last year.

Wilma Brewer showed the quilt that is up for auction.

Chairman Greg brought up the major motion from last year to create a Home Missions Board of Evangelism and Church Growth. Board secretary Dan Knowlton read the recommendation and explanation of the motion. Joe Myers asked questions regarding the board's role in selecting persons for the committee and funding of the initiative. Greg said we have discussed funding and spoken to persons who may be interested in participating. Darrell Cardwell asked if a board member will be included on the committee. Greg pointed out that is typically done, but we have not gotten into that level of detail yet. Michael Cisler asked about previous initiatives for home missions work and how successful they were. Greg spoke about a home missions board in the 1970s. Darrell asked if this should be part of LHI. Greg pointed out LHI is strictly for foreign missions. Joe James pointed out this puts a focus on an important part of our mission. Greg called for a vote by delegate card. Motion carried.

Greg spoke about options to have General Conference at Camp Mack and Tempe, Arizona, in the next few years. We will have more details tomorrow and take a straw poll. If you haven't experienced the dry heat of Arizona summer, you need to.

Denise Cramer came forward for her exciting first year of presenting financial reports to the delegates. She spoke of putting aside cynicism and embracing the General Conference.

We are doing our best to be good stewards of the money you are sending us.

She began with the income and expense budget reports. Contributions are higher than budgeted, which included a large donation. Tuition is low, particularly due to the recertification issues with the Korean extension. Tenant income is up; we have some great new and growing tenants. Travel expenses are high, due to the new initiative in South Korea. Joe Myers pointed out salaries are higher, but benefits are lower. Joe Martin said because some employees are now on Medicare.

Carrie Briggs asked about anticipated student numbers. Greg Demmitt listed expected numbers for McDonough, Duluth, and South Korea. Dennis Sharp



Bob Jones leading workshop

asked if budget revisions were due to head count, which Greg confirmed.

In restricted funds, scholarships were lower this year than the previous year because the previous year included a significant single contribution for grants. Carrie asked about interest income, which Denise said is income on investment of the cash in the funds.

Dennis asked about tenant income. Denise spoke of the second-floor build-out at the Avalon building. Half of the first floor is not yet built out. Michael asked to clarify about interest income. Denise believes it is due entirely to investments. Rick McClain and Joe Myers pointed out the stock market was much higher the year before last.

Dennis asked about meeting budget with donations, pointing out that we would have been well below budgeted income without a single, large donation. Greg announced another large donation that will give us a much-needed cushion. Greg spoke regarding the build-outs at Avalon.

Nominations for Board of Directors: Carrie Briggs, Jason Cooper, Joe Myers, Dennis Sharp. The terms of Greg Demmitt and Rick McClain are expiring, and they cannot be re-nominated. Greg opened the floor

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

for nominations; there were none. Alan Cain moved to close nominations; Darrell Cardwell seconded. Motion carried.

Rick McClain nominated Andy Cisneros for another term on Youth Advisory Committee.

Joe James moved to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot. Chris James seconded. Motion carried.

David Krogh discussed income and expense budget revisions for 2015-2016 and a proposed budget for 2016-2017. Budgeted income from ABCDF support is much lower, due to decision by ABCDF board to make sure there are adequate funds to allow for distribution in following years. On the expense side, assistance to churches is higher due to the board decision to support the Yahtop church in South Korea.

Scott Ross asked about the increased travel budget, which David said is due primarily to the work in Korea. Joe



Pastor Tim Pearson, afternoon worship

Myers says advertising is up, while student meals are down. David said student meal budget is largely from the Duluth campus, where numbers are down. Nola Jones asked about the increased budget for staff training. David said there would be new training opportunities in the coming year. David pointed out new initiatives for recruiting, raising that part of the budget. Darrell Cardwell

asked about tenant income, which David said will need to be revised in the coming year, when housing has been built.

Joe Martin presented ABC report. Joe and Rebekah are preparing to leave for Africa in four days. He wants everyone to pray for Africa. Denise has done a super job. Greg is taking over some of Gary's duties, as well. Steve An is near his goal of 20 students in Korea. Rufus Meyers is doing recruiting for both the McDonough and Duluth campuses. Recruiting for KE is not doing very well, but recruiting for McDonough is going quite well. The street where the college is located is getting busy, and the college is getting noticed.

Joe talked about the purchase of the five new lots for \$100,000. A few days later, he got a large donation check dated the day after Joe signed for the lots. Our initial plan is to build two new four-bedroom houses by January

2016. Ultimately we could have two houses for men, two for women, and one in the middle for staff.

Joe would like to eventually transition from CAO to part-time work, but he is excited about being there for the 100th General Conference in five years.

Rick McClain presented the LHI report. We sent support to Malawi and Mozambique for the flooding that Rick McClain presented the LHI report. We sent support to Malawi and Mozambique for the flooding that occurred. We have also sent support to drought-stricken areas. In Kenya, we recently got the Church of God registered as a legal religious organization, which was not an easy process. In Russia, our new friend Maksim gave up a good opportunity in government in order to minister for the Church of God. We need a team of builders to send to Haiti. During the last autumn meeting, LHI discussed their purpose. Andy Cisneros created the acronym SEEK - Search; Establish partnerships; Encourage, strengthen, and support missions; all for the Kingdom of God. The LHI board wants to establish teams for these various aspects of SEEK: a search team, a church involvement team, and a team for each of the mission fields.

Steve An gave the ABC report for the work in Korea. Government regulations for foreign students are frequently changing. Steve and Young returned to Korea after 35 years in order to teach the ABC curriculum to the Korean people. The first semester had 12 students; spring had 15. The projection is for 20 students in the upcoming semester. Steve and Young are living in a 300 square-foot apartment. They have to go to bed at the same time, because there is only a single light overhead. Christianity in Korea is sorely lacking in the Kingdom message. The Christian faith there is based merely on individual health and prosperity. ABC students are amazed by the teachings of the kingdom, thrilled to learn the truths of the Bible. Steve wants to be a light to the Korean people, bringing our core teachings to a people in great need of them.

Dan Knowlton read the minutes for today. Greg asked the board nominees to come forward. Alan Cain said the closing prayer, and Greg adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Friday, 10 July 2015, 3:30 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Greg Demmitt. Jim Hamilton opened with prayer.

We held the first round of voting for Board of Directors.



Pastor Steve An, Korean Extension Vice President

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As the votes were being collected and counting, Dr Joe Martin presented plaques to Greg Demmitt and Rick McClain for their four years of service on the Board of Directors. David Krogh informed us of the all-important evaluation form for the conference. There was no majority in the first ballot.

Greg announced that yesterday the board appointed Greg announced that yesterday the Board appointed Robin Todd as coordinator of the newly-formed Home Missions Board of Evangelism and Church Growth. Robin addressed the delegation and spoke of the work he is currently doing and thanking the conference for their support. He told of his ministry, the Scattered Brethren Network.

There was no majority in the second ballot, so there was a third round of voting.

Chairman Greg recognized the work of Seth Ross with YAC and as director of FUEL, as well as his work on the conference website. Seth spoke briefly to the delegation. Greg recognized Bob Jones, Dustin Smith, Anthony Buzard, Joe Martin, Rebekah Martin, and Jack Kmiecik for their teaching at Atlanta Bible College, and Kim Raper as director of student life. Greg also spoke of his new position leading the Ministry Services Network.

Carrie Briggs was elected to the Board of Directors.

We held a fourth round of voting to elect the second board position.

Alan Cain spoke of his home, the former Lawrenceville Church building. He invited anyone to visit 'The Abbey' any time. Just call ahead. Greg took an informal straw poll for interest in having General Conference at Camp Mack. The vote was about 3-1 in favor.

Greg then took a poll for interest in having General Conference at Tempe, Arizona. The vote was also about 3-1 in favor. Greg announced 2016 General Conference will be at North Hills Church, Springfield, Ohio. The dates will be 6-8 July.



Jeff Osborne leading workshop



Maranatha Singers (l to r: Sue Holsinger, Joyce Bolhous, David Krogh, Mary Mickey, Steve Bolhous, and Mimi Bender)

There was no majority in the fourth ballot.

Michael Hoffman made a motion to accept the revised budget for 2015-2016. Dan Siderius seconded. Open to discussion, but there were no questions. Motion carried.

Jerrold Brewer made a motion to accept the budget for 2016-2017. Alan Cain seconded. Open to discussion, but there were no questions. Motion carried.

Joe Martin praised the excellent work of the ABC/General Conference staff. He also spoke of our international missions work with LHI.

Dennis and Joe were tied in the fifth ballot. We then held a rare sixth round of voting.

Alan Cain spoke to us about nurturing those who are called to ministry and led us in prayer.

Bob Morrison praised the work of Joe Martin and Greg Demmitt.

Dennis Sharp was elected to the Board of Directors.

Dan Siderius mentioned the possible title change of the CAO, which Greg informed us would be Executive Director. This would possibly occur through constitutional amendment next year.

There was no additional new business.

David Krogh read the revised delegate count. There are 45 church delegates, 7 state conference delegates, 7 board delegates, and 31 pastor delegates.

Minutes were approved as read.

Chris James made a motion to adjourn. Darrell Cardwell seconded. All in favor stood, and Greg closed with prayer.

We stood adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Daniel L Knowlton

Servant Seat/CAO Report

We have just returned from General Conference at Timberland Church in South Bend, Indiana. We want to thank Pastor Andy Cisneros and all the volunteers who helped with food, music, and cleaning up. Thanks!

Dan Cain led off with the main speaking on Wednesday night. Thursday, Ed Bender, Tim Pearson, and I each took a turn. What a blessing to have Tim at 90 years young preaching to us! On Friday, Rick McClain and John Guthrie finished out the key speakers. See David Krogh's summary in this issue as well. On Thursday night, Kent Ross was honored for his fifty years in ministry.

The workshops were great with many teachers presenting on many subjects. For meals, there was no rain and we enjoyed some nice cool summer days outside for that. Carrie Briggs and Dennis Sharp were elected to fill the vacated positions of Rick McClain and Greg Demmitt. Greg and Rick, thanks for your service! Bob Morrison was elected the new board chair by the board.

A key announcement at the business meetings, is that we have purchased five lots for future student housing in the Parkview at Avalon subdivision, next door to the college. If you are into Google maps, you can check out the little cul-de-sac, at 119 Parkview Place Drive, McDonough, GA. The initial projection is to build two houses, one for men and one for women within the year. They will be residential houses with at least four bedrooms. In the future three more will be built, Lord willing. One, in the middle of the five, will contain a resident assistant apartment which may also be a "caretaker" for the property.

In addition to your general fund giving, please consider offering some financial support for this, either by individuals, churches or conferences. Five thousand could buy a bedroom, ten thousand a kitchen, etc. We are anticipating the costs to be around ninety to one hundred thousand dollars per house. We will try to keep costs low by appealing for volunteer help from our churches and individuals.

Also, the Home Mission Board was voted to be established. Robin Todd was selected to work with the GC board in the formation. At the fall board meetings, further work on that is anticipated. Robin at present works with "scattered brethren" who share our biblical faith.



Dr. Joe Martin

Rick McClain will continue to chair the LHI, Lord's Harvest International mission board for the GC. Also in terms of missions, Rebekah and I will be taking a trip to Malawi, Africa to assess the damage from the cyclones a few months ago. Please pray for our health, travel, and that the Word will go forth to new people. We have mission work in VERY key areas for Matthew 24:14 to be accomplished... the gospel of the kingdom will be preached to the ends of the earth!

Greg, in the chair message starting off the business sessions, recalled the LORD's message to Zerubbabel: **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.** (Zech. 4:6 KJV) As Psalms says, "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we rely on the name of the LORD our God." (Psalm 20:7)

With the recent supreme court ruling defining marriage, I was physically nauseous when I heard the results. The staff at ABC immediately went into prayer. We are becoming more like Christians of the first century, dogged by the society in which we live. But... please remember:

¹⁰ The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples.

¹¹ The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance. (Psa 33:10-12 NASB) ■

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Good News

“Like cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a distant land.” Prov. 25:25

From the **Cool Spring Church of God in Browntown, VA** – **Pastor Jeff Fletcher** has a lot of good news to report. Two young people were preparing to go on the UP Project, thirteen getting ready for Virginia State Camp, and five for FUEL. Bake sales and dining to donate events helped raise funds for these youth activities. People came to eat at Applebee’s on June 13, and 10% of the bill went to the church. About thirty church members were greeters, servers, busboys, dishwashers, etc. The mayor and a candidate for city clerk of court even helped out. The men cooked and served the ladies for a Mother’s Day meal. The ladies returned the favor on Father’s Day with a cookout at Izaak Walton League that included lunch for dads and fishing for all. The church raised thousands of dollars for Relay for Life. **Jeff and Randi Baggerly** were county coordinators. Virginia Conference of Churches met at the church on June 7 for a hymn sing and a meal. The church will also host the conference September 18-20 with Seth Ross as guest speaker.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** and the church congratulate **Nickolas Hoffman** for receiving an outstanding service award for the Call of the Year with OSF Lifeline. Congratulations to **Greg Kraft** for his retirement from Commonwealth Edison (37 years) and to **Debbie Grove** for her retirement from State of Illinois Taft Campus (26 years). Further congratulations to **Aaron Wells** for receiving the Chairman’s Award for outstanding service for his work at Christian Care Ministries. Also, church thank you’s go out to **Linda Hoffman** for clearing out a closet so that construction could continue, to **Earlyne Warmolts** for donation of a hose cart and hose to the Garden Ministry, to **Steve and Dixie Hammer** for carpet removal, and to **Bob LaPage** and **Jimbo Callaway** for mowing.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** and the church congratulate **Shelby Lindner** for winning the Clark County Right to Life oratory contest on March 21. The church hosted a Pig Roast/Sharing Festival/Giveaway on May 16. Members cleaned out garages and basements and attics and brought usable items to share with others. Everything was free. There was a bouncy house, games for kids, a Christian band, and lots of delicious food. [Sounds like fun. Wish I was there! – GNP] The church thanks **Mark and Kay Seale** for making a temporary church sign and **Mike Youngerman** and **Rick Massie** for building the frame and installing the sign.

Milestone Birthdays and Anniversaries Department – **Don Ward** turned 80 on May 13 (**Raymore, MO**). **Lee and**

Melody Moore celebrated their 50th anniversary with a time of refreshments at the **Hutchinson Church of God** on May 24. **Chloe Hedges** had an 80th birthday celebration at **Lawrenceville Church** on May 27. **Rusty and Cheryl Kaffenbarger** had a surprise 50th anniversary party on June 20 (**Lawrenceville Church**). **Edith Gentry** had an 83rd birthday recently, and **Colleen Shaw** turned 81 (**Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC**).

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Abigail Myers** performed in the Magic Tree House Dinosaurs Before Dark kids performance May 16 and 17. It’s a big honor, and we congratulate her.

From **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – **Pastor Kyle Casey** and the church congratulate **Judy Sloan** for being named Mother of the Year and **Tony Sloan** for being named Father of the Year.

Graduation Congratulations Department – **Rachel Wagner** (high school – **Troy View Church of God**); **Shelby Lindner**, **Rebecca Massie**, **Bre Fraley**, **Austin Williams**, **Ashley Mapes**, **Austin Evans**, **Jacob Hupman**, **Megan Caldwell** and **Corbett Fulton** (high school – **Lawrenceville Church of God**); **Seth Cheatwood**, **Nickalas Jones**, and **Lucas Jancze** (high school – **Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA**); **Bethany Reise** and **Brianna Riley** (college – **Cornerstone Bible Church**); **Allison Koder** (high school – **Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, MO**); **Mindy Forcier** (high school – **Hutchinson Church of God**); **Jacob Forcier** (college – **Hutchinson Church**); **Matt Vanderkolk** and **Conner Young** (eighth grade – **Oregon Church of God**); **Bryce Noon** (high school – **Oregon Church**); **Anna Corcoran** (college – **Oregon Church**); **Codie Sloan** (high school and career & tech center – **Bethel Church**); **Austin Impson** (college – **Bethel Church**); **Emily Hood** (college – **Bethel Church**); **Mandy Hood** (college – **Bethel Church**); and **Jordan Durham** (college – **Bethel Church**). Congratulations to all of you from GNP! A job well done! Best wishes for your futures! [I’m sure there are a lot more graduates out there in COG-Land, but God did not give GNP the spiritual gift of mind-reading. If you send it in, we print it! – GNP]

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

Korean Extension Report

Campus in South Korea

The campus in South Korea successfully completed the spring 2015 semester on June 21st with 15 students. With the assistance of Younghee An, we facilitated a variety of Bible, ministry, and general education classes on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Sundays at the Yahtop church facility and at the Boryung church on Saturdays.

As far as recruitment is concerned, we have received numerous positive feedbacks from students, and we are confident that our current students do not and will not have any issues in advertising our school within their own churches. A majority of the students are lay-leaders from surrounding churches, and I had numerous opportunities to visit and present the Abrahamic faith to their congregations. The experience inspired the church members to seek and increase their knowledge of the biblical truth. Moreover, it is reassuring to see family and friends of our students visit our classes to experience lectures for themselves. Younghee and I are confident that the student numbers will reach 20 for the upcoming fall semester, and it will continually increase. In addition, our recruiting efforts are not just limited to the campus in Korea but also for the North campus in Duluth. We also provide an option to prospective students to choose the location of their study either in Korea or in the U.S. or both. For example, Sungbum Mo, who is a new student, chose to study in the U.S., and he has successfully attained an entry visa and registered to the North campus for the fall semester. Last December, he was invited to the class by an active student, and he decided to register for the course. We also informed him that his studies could continue at the campus in Korea if he is unable to study in the U.S. for whatever reason.

Furthermore, two former students, Saehyun Lee and Wonki Kim of the North campus, returned to Korea to fulfill their military duties. Saehyun Lee was an assistant army chaplain discharged last year. Wonki Kim was also discharged last year and registered to our campus, and he recently decided to return back to the North campus to continue his studies from the fall. He is currently preparing for his entry visa application. The students in both the North campus and the Korea campus are excited that they have this option, and it will be a benefit for prospective students under the tough and unstable immigration regulation. My experience in the past is that the federal regulations applying to foreign students can change without ample notice.

Since Young and I relocated to South Korea, we struggled to re-assimilate as a result of various social and lifestyles differences between the Korea and the U.S. Despite the difficulties, we were able to adapt and adjust to our new/old surroundings. More specifically, our perception on cultural differences has expanded, providing us with a broader scope of understanding, but we refuse to abandon our western side. Since our move to South Korea to teach the biblical truth, Young and I have witnessed numerous Paul-like conversions among our students. Unfortunately, it sickens me to say that the Korean community has been deceived by certain individuals who claim to preach the biblical truth. However, we believe God does not fail, and He has a plan where our ministry will right the wrong.

Thank you again for your unfailing support for the mission to Korea!

Steve An

From the Northeast campus

Hello from the Korean Extension at the Northeast campus!

First and foremost, please accept our appreciation and gratitude for your continued support and prayer for the Korean Extension and the Korean missions. As the ministry continues to grow, we continually seek God's guidance and his blessings, and we are truly blessed to be a part of the Church of God.

The spring 2015 semester came to a close on May 11 with a total of 22 Korean students including three new students. Although the KE's graduation ceremony was cancelled (a majority of the graduates were not in the U.S.), we were proud to have four Korean students graduate this semester. Mrs. Jin Hee Lee was the only student who earned her degree recently, and You Sik Choi, Jin Suk Han, and Hae Young Kim completed the program some time ago. Currently, Ms. Jin Suk Han is assisting Steve and Young in South Korea and Mrs. Hae Young Kim's family is providing a variety of support to the campus in South Korea.

As for the summer break, the Korean Extension faculty members are hard at work attempting to wrap up the semester in order to prepare for the upcoming school year, i.e., finalizing spring 2015 grades, cleaning up the facility, re-organizing books in the library, brainstorming for the next semester, and so forth. Pastor Shim, Steve, and I continue to work together closely discuss-

(continued on page 11)



L to R: Dr. Joe Martin, Jesse Allen, Valerie Crawford, Bethany Reise, and Jacob Rohrer.

ABC Graduation

The 72nd graduation service of Atlanta Bible College was held on May 15 at the Cornerstone Bible Church. At the south campus, one student, Bethany Reise, received the Bachelor's degree. She has enrolled in Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA to pursue a Master's degree in Old Testament. Four students at the Korean Extension in Duluth, GA were awarded Bachelor's degrees.

(Continued from page 10)

ing the KE curriculum and other areas concerning the KE. Sarah An and Eun Joo Yang carry on the food ministry my mother Young began years ago. Of course, with the break, they have some time to breathe.

Recruitment is on the rise! As of June 19th, the KE has accepted five new applicants (three from South Korea and two from neighboring schools). The fall 2015 semester will begin August 24th, so there is still plenty of time for recruitment. Steve and I and the rest of the KE staff are confident that we will see a dramatic increase in the student numbers. I will keep all of you posted and hope to provide you with more good news in the next journal.

Again, thank you for all of your prayers and support for the Korean ministry!

Sam An

At the south campus, two students received associate's degrees: Jesse Allen from Morse Mill, MO; and Jacob Rohrer from Lawrenceville, OH. Three students received Foundation Certificates: Josiah Cain from Lawrenceville, OH; Talon Paul from East Oregon, IL; and Valerie Crawford, a community student.

Pastor Kyle Casey delivered the message with faculty members taking part in the program. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 24-26, 2015

Heritage Conference
North Hills Church, Springfield, OH

October 1-3, 2015

ABC Invitational

October 19-20, 2015

Fall Board Meeting in McDonough, GA

March 4-6, 2016

Church of God Bible Prophecy Conference,
at Hilton Garden Inn, Conway, AR
and the McGintytown Church of God

April 10-15, 2016

43rd Annual Christian Workers Seminar
Pigeon Forge, TN

July 6-8, 2016

96th annual Church of God General Conference
North Hills Church, Springfield, OH

Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner

Whether it is court decisions, cultural shifts, political correctness, economic woes or wars with the potential for the “Big One”, the events of the last four to six weeks still have us sorting out all the ramifications to individuals. Where does this leave the believer, and what does it do to the work of the ecclesia? James, a prophet for our time, said (3:15-17 Amp) “This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, sensual, demonic.”

As there is wisdom from above and wisdom from below, so there is biblical prophecy from above and “prophecy” from the world. The world and its fallen masses have “prophecies” that at the end of the day, amount to wishful thinking. They contradict the prophecies of the Bible totally. They are all the results of academic thinking and enterprise to make the world a better place. These “prophecies” are the promises of the world’s politicians, scientists, inventors, and great thinkers.

The “prophecies” obviously fly directly in the face of the prophecies of the word of God. They exclude God. They favour universality. The world’s “prophecies” are inoffensive to the world, accommodating multitudes of opinions and beliefs. The world’s “prophecies” are impure, full of pure humanism, and the efforts of fallen man. They are the world’s attempt to better themselves, based on democracy, human rights and everything outside of the word of God.

Here are a few examples:

- A world prophecy is this: You’re okay because you fit in with everyone. Just look at everyone else. They all believe and do the same things therefore you must be okay, because you’re one of the crowd.
- A world prophecy is this: There is no eternal judgement coming. God is love and would never send anyone to a fiery death, because that’s not love.
- A world prophecy is this: Because you’re essentially good, with good motivations and you’re essentially loving, giving and caring, you’re okay. If there is a God, He will save you based on all your good works.

- A world prophecy is this: Because you go to church every once in a while, you’re okay.
- A world prophecy is this: The world, over time, will get better and better, because people are so clever they know how to fix the world.
- A world prophecy is this: The morality of the world is okay because it’s what the majority wants.

And, of course, there are thousands more.

Isaiah 9:16 “For the leaders of this people cause them to err, and those who are led by them are destroyed.”

Prophecy from above (of the Bible) is unique in a number of ways.

- It has a 100% fulfilment record.
- It is only Bible prophecy that plots the entire course of world history from beginning to end.
- It is only Bible prophecy that speaks of you personally and your eternal destination, the kingdom of God.
- Bible prophecy is of great value and is most precious.

We can trust it and rely on it.

The world follows their gods blindly and they hear its voices clearly. We as believers follow our God knowingly and wisely and we know His voice.

Prophecy from above:

Psalm 119:140 “Your word is **very pure**, therefore Your servant loves it.”

Proverbs 30:5 “Every word of God is **pure**; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.”

Psalm 12:6-7 “The words of the Lord are **pure words**, like silver tried in a furnace of the earth, purified seven times. You shall keep them, O Lord; You shall preserve them from this generation **forever**.”

Psalm 18:30 “As for God, **His way is perfect**; the word of the Lord is **proven**; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.”

Isaiah 46:9-10 “Remember the former things of old, for I am God and there is no other; I am God and there is none like Me, **declaring the end from the beginning** and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying **My counsel shall stand**, and I will do all My pleasure.”

(continued on page 13)

Project Forerunner

Project Forerunner is a cross-country road trip designed to unify, encourage, and revitalize the Church of God General Conference. Four young adults, Josiah Cain, Talon Paul, Calle Walters, and myself, Cayce Ballard, have visited 15 churches to date this summer.

Planning for the trip began when I approached Josiah last year on the UP Project about the idea. After intensive planning and two additions to the team, we contacted the churches and set up a route that totaled over 10,000 miles.

Calle Walters, one of the members of the team, went to Honduras during the month of June to help as an English teaching assistant, so she wasn't able to go on most of the trip with us. The trip began on May 16th, when Talon and Josiah traveled up to New York to visit the Latham Church with pastors Sean and Vince Finnegan. A week later, the team picked me up in South Carolina on our way to Arkansas. We continued our route, trying to visit as many churches as possible as we made a big loop through the country, visiting churches from New York all the way to Washington, and everywhere in between. The traveling ended on June 24th in South Bend for the UP Project.

We really enjoyed our time with all of the churches. While we were there, we had either a service or a Q&A time where we could present some information about the conference and what events and resources are available in the conference. Talon Paul, an excellent speaker, usually preached a sermon about the unity of the Body. Josiah and I usually led worship or helped the worship team that was already there. Before the trip began, we created a pamphlet that contained all of the events and resources that were available to those in the conference. We were able to leave everybody with all the resource information that they will need to stay connected in the conference. One of our favorite parts of



Cayce Ballard, Josiah Cain, and Talon Paul



Talon Paul, Josiah Cain, and Cayce Ballard

the trip was meeting all sorts of different people who are all on fire for God. Every person that we met was so generous to us. We are so thankful for those who made the trip possible by offering up homes, support, and prayer. We hope that our message left a seed. Thanks for being a part of the body of Christ. We encourage all of you to reach out to your fellow believers! If you have any questions about the trip, or are interested in what happened on the trip, visit www.projectforerunner.org or look us up on Facebook at Project Forerunner. If you would like to contact us personally, email us at coggcunified@gmail.com. ■

(Continued from page 12)

The reality of the godless is a short-lived futile fantasy. Their freedom is in fact a prison of their own making. The very essence of the world's religions is "You can do it." They operate in the power of self-effort. Their objectives are worldly and material.

Love is the doctrine preached by the "associate Christian," but it is a counterfeit love. It is love that doesn't interfere with their lifestyles. It is love that

costs nothing. It is love with no Spirit, no judgment, no correction or discipline, no power, no cleansing by the cross.

It is a love that is all encompassing and accommodating. It is not the love of God as described in the Bible. It is not love that will make you right with God or save you, but **love of the truth** and the application of it that will save you and secure you in Him in these days.

Isaiah 59:14 "...I saw the truth cast down in street."

Church News

Baptisms

Virginia

Cool Spring – James Fletcher, (5/24/15) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Deaths

Illinois

Harrisburg – Olevia June (Macy) Routson, 98, (4/30/15), life-long member, wife of deceased Pastor Ellsworth Routson (1/1975). She was preceded in death by her three children, Etta Marie Wetzell, Harold, and Elizabeth Ann Poi. June was the third eldest of nine children born to Jesse and Etta Macy in Miami County, OH. Service by Pastor David Cheatwood.

Oregon—Hilda Partlowe, 87, (4/28/15), lifelong member and wife of deceased Pastor Hollis Partlowe, who died four weeks previously on 3/31/15. She is survived by her daughters Rachel (Paul) Newell and Rebekah (Mike) Hall. Service by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

Indiana

South Bend – Lillian O’Neil, 82, (4/23/15), life-long member, treasurer of the Timberland Bible Church for over 50 years and a long-time attender of Christian Workers Seminar. Service by Pastor Andy Cisneros.

North Carolina

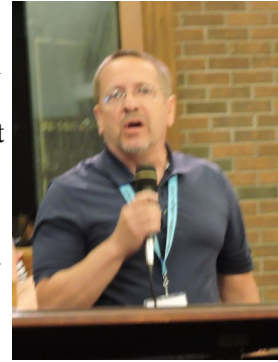
Belmont—AB Grove Cary Britt, 81, (4/12/15), life-long member, active in the Virginia churches: Cool Spring, Royal Village, and Fair Oaks.

Western Washington Church of God

A year and a half ago Robin Todd started a congregation with just over a dozen believers in western Washington State. Since that time the group has become an official congregation of the General Conference and is thankful for having served roughly 80 people, of which 60 are fairly regular attendees.



Since the group is spread out over a 190-mile stretch of highway north to south, they meet in three different locations. One Sunday a month they meet in Kent, Washington; one Sunday in Tenino; and one Sunday in Vancouver...all on the western side of the state.



Pastor Robin Todd singing at General Conference

Below is a picture of just 20 of these believers who were meeting in Tenino on one particular Sunday not too long ago (a few of them are not shown in the picture). The meetings are marked with a 45-minute Bible study, some hymn singing, a music special, sermon, and lots of discussion time. Of course, no Sunday gathering is complete without snacks, drinks, and plenty of fellowship afterward.

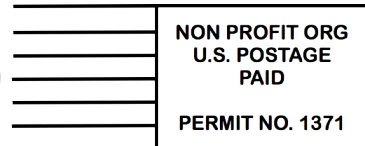
Even though Robin currently serves as the pastor of this Western Washington Church of God, he considers himself only interim in this regard. One of his primary goals is to establish local leadership who will take his place administering and caring for the flock. His hope is that each of these three locations, though now under one banner, will expand to the point that three separate congregations will emerge with their own structure and leadership.

Robin asks that you pray for the group’s continued growth in all ways!

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| <p>1 Pray for Pastor Dale and Cheryl Swartz and the Countryside Bible Church in Missouri.</p> <p>2 Pray for Pastor John and Gayle Guthrie and their work at East Oregon, Illinois.</p> <p>3 Pray for Pastor Dale and Julie Bliss and the Maple Grove congregation in Kokomo, Indiana.</p> <p>4 Praise God for the faithful ministry of your local church pastor.</p> <p>5 Pray for the youth of your local church and the General Conference.</p> <p>6 Pray that God might be praised through your worship today.</p> <p>7 Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.</p> <p>8 Pray that God would continue to financially bless the work of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College.</p> <p>9 Praise God for the gift of His Son.</p> <p>10 Praise God for His daily mercies.</p> <p>11 Pray for the outreach of the church in Lima, Peru.</p> <p>12 Praise God for the beauty of each season.</p> <p>13 Pray for retired pastors and their spouses.</p> <p>14 Pray for spiritual renewal and growth for ABC students preparing for ministry.</p> | <p>15 Praise God for the prayer partners and financial supporters of the General Conference.</p> <p>16 Pray for your church family and for spiritual growth.</p> <p>17 Praise God for the foreign mission opportunities He has provided to us.</p> <p>18 Pray for your own personal desire to love God more.</p> <p>19 Pray for mission work in the Philippine Islands.</p> <p>20 Pray for your family and your friends.</p> <p>21 Pray for ABC teachers as they instruct our students.</p> <p>22 Pray for all the faithful pastors and workers in Malawi.</p> <p>23 Pray for those who are seeking God's will for their lives.</p> <p>24 Pray for the Heritage Conference beginning today at North Hills Church, Springfield, OH.</p> <p>25 Pray for Pastor Scott and Michele Millard and the Jaynes Street Church in Omaha.</p> <p>26 Pray for the Lord's Harvest Mission Board.</p> <p>27 Pray that you will let your light shine for Christ.</p> <p>28 Praise God for new believers in your church family.</p> <p>29 Pray for the faith to stand firm when temptation comes.</p> <p>30 Pray for ABC-Invitational that starts tomorrow.</p> |
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| <p>1 Praise God for your pastor during October's Clergy Appreciation Month.</p> <p>2 Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and a new earth in His coming kingdom.</p> <p>3 Pray for a personal hunger to know God and Jesus better.</p> <p>4 Pray for Pastor Brian Atra and the Restitution Church in Eldorado, Illinois.</p> <p>5 Praise God for your church family and the strength that you receive through it.</p> <p>6 Pray for the Open Bible Church of God in Springfield, Missouri.</p> <p>7 Pray for a church planting vision for Church of God members.</p> <p>8 Pray for Africa mission work.</p> <p>9 Pray for the youth of your local church.</p> <p>10 Praise God for those who are preparing for ministry.</p> <p>11 Pray for Joe Martin, College President/Conference CAO.</p> <p>12 Pray for opportunities to speak to others today about God and Jesus Christ.</p> <p>13 Pray for the financial needs of the Church of God General Conference.</p> <p>14 Praise God for new contacts who are seeking the truth around the world.</p> <p>15 Pray for the ministry of the Pakistan churches affiliated with the Church of God General Conference.</p> <p>16 Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and the Fort</p> | <p>Valley, Virginia Church.</p> <p>17 Pray for the work that is being done in India to proclaim God's truth.</p> <p>18 Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as they reach the half-way point of this fall semester.</p> <p>19 Pray for the board members to be led by God as they meet in McDonough, GA.</p> <p>20 Pray for Pastor John and Lila Wincapaw and the Blood River Church in Springfield, Louisiana.</p> <p>21 Pray for God's blessing on your neighborhood.</p> <p>22 Ask God to help you love Him and His Son more.</p> <p>23 Pray for Pastor Steve and Jill Taylor and the Lakeshore Bible Church in Arizona.</p> <p>24 Pray for the work of the Blanchard, Michigan church.</p> <p>25 Pray for the ministry of the ABC Korean Extension in reaching students in the Duluth, Georgia area and in South Korea.</p> <p>26 Pray for the Grace Fellowship Church in Front Royal, Virginia.</p> <p>27 Praise God for retired Pastor Billie Kennedy and his wife Irene.</p> <p>28 Pray for the Fair Oaks Community Church in Herndon, VA.</p> <p>29 Pray for the Hedrick, Indiana Church, and Pastor David and Wanda Cheatwood.</p> <p>30 Praise God for His constant care.</p> <p>31 Pray for God to send workers into the fields that are ready for harvest.</p> |
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Prayer and Praise

November 2015

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| <p>1 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and the St. Cloud, MN Church and House Light Ministries.</p> <p>2 Pray for our Isolated Member Ministry (IMM).</p> <p>3 Praise God for the board of directors who willingly serve the Church of God.</p> <p>4 Pray for Pastor Kirby Davis and Pastor Robin and Marisa Todd and the Wenatchee, WA Church.</p> <p>5 Pray for Lupe Badillo as she continues to minister in Labor Vieja, Mexico.</p> <p>6 Pray for Ruth Finnegan in her duties as publishing specialist for the General Conference.</p> <p>7 Pray that God will raise up workers to serve in mission fields in other lands.</p> <p>8 Pray for Pastor Andy and Kristy Cisneros and their ministry at Timberland Bible Church in South Bend, IN.</p> <p>9 Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness.</p> <p>10 Pray for Rick McClain and the work of the Lord's Harvest International mission board.</p> <p>11 Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God.</p> <p>12 Praise God for baptisms in our churches this fall.</p> <p>13 Pray for Pastor Wade and Kim Tierney and the Morse Mill, MO Church.</p> <p>14 Pray for the Ministerial Recognition Board as they encourage our pastors.</p> <p>15 Pray for the pastors in Pakistan who minister under very difficult circumstances.</p> <p>16 Pray for Pastor Robin and Marissa Todd and the Western Washington Church.</p> | <p>17 Pray for God to provide you with "thankful" eyes this month.</p> <p>18 Pray for the boldness you need to share Christ with an unbelieving friend.</p> <p>19 Pray for college/conference youth events being planned for 2016.</p> <p>20 Pray for the outreach efforts of your local congregation.</p> <p>21 Praise God for a blessing He provided in your life yesterday.</p> <p>22 Praise God for His daily blessings of shelter, food, family, and friends.</p> <p>23 Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life.</p> <p>24 Pray for the churches within your state or regional conference.</p> <p>25 Pray for Pastor Bill and Lacey Dunn and the New Beginnings Church in Desloge, MO.</p> <p>26 Praise God on this Thanksgiving Day for His goodness in your life.</p> <p>27 Pray for God's greatest blessings on those recruiting new students for the Atlanta Bible College winter/spring semester.</p> <p>28 Pray for the opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.</p> <p>29 Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation.</p> <p>30 Pray for new contacts through the distribution of literature and our website.</p> |
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