

# THE RESTITUTION HERALD

## & PROGRESS JOURNAL

### Christus Victor By Sean Finnegan

**W**hy did Jesus die? Although a skeptic might argue Jesus was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time when he angered the wrong people, those of us who believe in Jesus' resurrection cannot let ourselves off the hook so easily. If God's resurrection proves that Jesus was His anointed one—the Messiah—then, of course, God could have intervened to prevent Jesus' torturous and bloody demise, but He didn't. Peter put it this way in the first public statement about Jesus' death, "This man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men" (Acts 2:23). Thus, Jesus' crucifixion was God's plan all along. Why? God must have had some purpose—an immensely important one—to allow His Son to suffer so greatly at the hands of his enemies. One's answer to this question is their theory of "atonement."

Throughout the ages, Christians have answered this question in three major ways: he died for our sins; he died to defeat evil; and he died as our example. In what follows, I want to focus on the second of these perspectives and explore how Jesus' death and resurrection actually conquered the forces of darkness—a view called Christus Victor.<sup>1</sup> Before I can do this, however, I need first to convince you that spiritual powers exert authority over our world. To begin, consider Deuteronomy 32:8 where we read that when the Most High divided up the boundaries for the nations, "he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God" (Deut 32:8 ESV).

The book of Job also mentions a day when "the sons of God came to present themselves before the "LORD" (Job 1:6). In fact, Satan himself came with these sons of God to speak to Yahweh. A third example of these spiritual powers comes from Daniel, when Gabriel, the angel, excused himself for taking so long to bring Daniel his answer because "The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days" (Daniel 10:12). Normally, a prince refers to a human being—the son of a king—but this prince is so powerful that he delayed an angel for three weeks. Gabriel continues, "but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia." Gabriel later identifies this Michael as "your prince" (10:21) and "the great prince who has charge of your people" (12:1). Putting this all together, we see that God has assigned angelic beings in positions of authority over the nations. Michael has charge over Israel, but the other "sons of God" in some way administrate the other nations.

The New Testament (NT) offers much more help in understanding the spiritual powers in control of our age. In fact, the situation is far worse than we may have expected. For throughout the NT, we find Satan described as having authority over all the kingdoms of the world (Luke 4:5-6). The whole world is under the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19). He is the "god of this age" (2 Cor 4:4) and "the ruler of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2). As a result, our world is "the present evil age," (Gal 4:4) and all of us naturally

walk "according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience" (Eph 2:1-2). This is not to say our world lacks good, beauty, or virtue, but it does mean that evil dominates more often than not. Reading through the bloody pages of history, we encounter vast empires which dominated huge territories using brutal force. We hear tales of dictators, monarchs, and megalomaniacs eager to conquer, oppress, and enslave. How many incidents of lust, betrayal, and abuse have occurred throughout the history of humanity? Now we may think, "Yeah, but that was a long time ago; we've grown and learned about human rights and tolerance since then." Although advances in democracy, communications, and technology abound, humans have not only continued to kill each other, but the situation has actually grown much worse. The twentieth century began with the Second Boer War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the War of a Thousand Days with a combined estimated death toll of over 150,000. It ended with the Congo Brazzaville Civil War, the Kosovo Crisis, and Ethiopia's war with Eritrea, totaling nearly 120,000 dead. In between these book ends, we find not ten or fifty or even a hundred bloody conflicts, but well over two hundred totaling more than 76 million battle deaths.<sup>2</sup> That's 2.3 wars a year for the entire twentieth century! Why is there so much killing? What is wrong with people that they keep fighting? May I suggest that these unbelievably high war statistics confirm

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what the Scriptures teach—that wicked forces under satanic control fill our world with evil.

Now let us turn to Jesus and consider how his death relates to all of this carnage and dysfunction. But before we look at atonement, we should first think about Christ's ministry. As it turns out, Jesus fought evil relentlessly throughout his entire ministry. He entered into hand-to-hand combat with demons, casting them out left and right from the people he met. Like a mighty warrior, Christ advanced against Satan's realm and damaged his stranglehold over the people of the land. Furthermore, he healed people constantly. Peter summarized Jesus' ministry as "doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil" (Acts 10:38). For example, Jesus once encountered a woman who suffered a debilitating problem that bent and deformed her back for eighteen long years so she could not straighten herself up at all. After healing her, Jesus asked, "And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?" (Luke 13:16). Still, Jesus did not stop there. Beyond casting out unclean spirits and healing the sick, he also challenged systemic and cultural evil by eating with sinners, tax collectors, and prostitutes. He rebuked legalism, hard-heartedness, and hypocrisy among the religious leaders. He confronted greed in the temple courts and taught his disciples how to lead through service rather than domination. Throughout his whole ministry, both in word and in deed, Jesus fought evil wherever it reared its ugly head. Thus, when we come to consider his passion, we can see his work on the cross, not as something new or different, but as a continuation and climax of everything he had done up to that moment.

Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion really bother me because of the rampant and unrestrained unfairness and cruelty. From the Judas' betrayal kiss in the garden to the kangaroo court at the chief priest's house, my heart fills with agony. That fateful night, the Jewish elders—men respected for their dignity and leadership—degenerated into madness as they spat on my Jesus, blindfolded him, and beat him. "Prophecy," they commanded.

"Who is the one who hit you?" they said one after the other (Luke 22:64). Such gang violence outrages me. Why did they treat him thus? Were they drunk with the poison of revenge for the times when Jesus outmaneuvered their attempts to disgrace him publicly? I find this behavior baffling, and yet believable. Next, the Romans whipped him mercilessly. Rather than eliciting compassion from them, the bloodied and battered man served as the plaything of an entire battalion of soldiers. They found a purple cloak and dressed his body in it; they twisted together some nasty thorns into the shape of a crown and put it on his head. Mocking and laughing, they each took turns kneeling before my Jesus and saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews" (John 19:3). Their insatiable cruelty still unsatisfied, they whacked him in the head with a reed, driving that thorny crown deeper and deeper into his scalp. Even once Jesus finally reached the place of the skull, he was not given any respite from their spiteful viciousness. Once crucified and hanging on the cross, his life ebbing, his blood dripping, his body dying, he was not left alone by the onlookers. The passersby, rather than feeling compassion for this poor man, wagged their heads and said, "Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" (Mark 15:29-30). The chief priests, their spiteful rancor still unabated, shouted out, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let this Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!" (Mark 15:31-32). Even the man crucified next to him hurled abuse at him and mockingly asked, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" (Luke 23:39). Throughout the scene, we observe unmitigated hatred mixed with malicious brutality far beyond what makes sense from a natural perspective. What we have here is not something explicable on the basis of human psychology, but the result of ruthless demonic forces pulling the strings not only to kill but also to gloat over Jesus' slow agonizing demise.

Again, I ask why did Jesus have to endure such a nightmare? Thankfully, Scripture does not leave us in the dark on this question. We read in Hebrews that through death Jesus rendered powerless him who had the power of death (Heb 2:14). Sa-

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tan's wild and uncontrolled rage against Christ blinded him from grasping God's redemptive plan (1 Cor 2:7). Jesus voluntarily submitted to God's will and drank that cup of suffering to the dregs (Mat 26:39). He did not tip his hand, but quietly trusted God's wisdom. In the end, he neither reviled the mockers nor threatened the torturers but died with forgiveness in his heart (1 Peter 2:23; Luke 23:34). He did not crack; he did not give in; he did not falter. With the torrent and flood of malice and cruelty aimed at him, like a sponge, he absorbed it all. Never did he lose control of his mind, his emotions, his pride. He did not check out or disassociate himself from the situation but remained present, observing every crooked gesture, feeling every painful blow, hearing every mocking insult. In the end, his death did something; it changed everything.

Although it may have seemed to everyone present at his crucifixion that Jesus was on display as a spectacle, in fact, his suffering disarmed the rulers and authorities, making a public display of them (Col 2:15). What appeared to be a great defeat for God and His anointed one was in fact just the opposite—a great victory. Like a judo throw, God used Satan's own momentum and forcefulness against him. Christ unmasked Satan's viciousness and showed the world that such "power" is merely weakness in disguise. As a result of Christ's crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, God seated him at His right hand "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come" (Eph 1:21). God put all things in subjection under Christ's feet, including angels and authorities and powers (Eph 1:22; 1 Peter 3:22). Through the blood of the cross, it was the Father's good pleasure to reconcile all things to Himself whether on earth or in heaven (Col 1:19-20). More than merely defeating demons of darkness, Christ's

death liberated and empowered those whom the old regime ensnared and subjugated.

We are the beneficiaries of Christ's cosmic conquest. "And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach." (Col 1:21-22)

We are no longer bound in the domain of darkness, but God has "transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Col 1:13-14). No longer do we need to dance to the drumbeat of the devil, as we did before. Christ has liberated us not only from death itself but even the fear of death (Heb 2:14). By suffering the effects of the serpent's venom, he defanged the devil and rendered him powerless to bite his followers. He came to "destroy the

**"We are the beneficiaries of Christ's cosmic conquest."**

works of the devil" (1 John 3:8), which means his people are freed not only from direct demonic influence but also from sin, meaninglessness, depression, cruelty, bitterness, lust, pride, apathy, and selfishness of every other kind. He has destroyed the works of the devil! People can now truly live for God, reach their true potential, serve others without reservation, enjoy wholeness, and love others as Christ did. We now take on the same mission that Jesus had of opening people's eyes so that they can turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God (Acts 26:18). Satan is defeated! Christ is victorious! We are free! ■

<sup>1</sup> For much of this article, I am indebted to Gregory Boyd's fine piece "The 'Christus Victor' View of the Atonement," available at [reknew.org/2008/01/the-christus-victor-view-of-the-atonement](http://reknew.org/2008/01/the-christus-victor-view-of-the-atonement).

<sup>2</sup> For stats, see [war-memorial.net/wars\\_all.asp?q=3](http://war-memorial.net/wars_all.asp?q=3)

This is my first attempt at an article on behalf of the Board of Directors. As I was driving to McDonough for our fall board meeting, I was trying to decide what to write. I found myself praying for "divine intervention", some guidance from above, to help me choose my words wisely but also to be able to convey a positive message. But then..., I hit Atlanta traffic. Then I found myself praying for patience, a Christ-like attitude, safety, and perseverance. If you've ever driven in stop-and-go Atlanta traffic, then you know what I mean. I even found myself asking "Dear Lord, what next?"

This is the beginning of my third year on the Church of God General Conference Board of Directors. Since being on the board, I've been privileged to witness continued sacrifice from the staff and faculty, a strong willingness and desire to "cut back", if you will, for the benefit of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College. These folks are fully committed to continuing to do their part to help meet the demand of budget cuts that have been necessary over the past several years.

I am encouraged by this strong dedication and this love for our conference and college and also the Christ-like, God-fearing, God-loving spirit that dwells in them. I receive further encouragement from fellow board members who not only show this same attitude, but express their serving as a pleasure to serve. This is rarely seen in members of other boards on which I serve.

I must tell you we open each meeting with a time of devotion and prayer. A time in which we pray for and seek the guidance, will, and blessing of our Heavenly Father as we are conducting the business of His church, His conference, His college. It has been made known that often within days of making some major decisions, the conference/college has received large donations or some news of how a door has been opened to make things even more possible. Land for future student housing has been purchased (one home to begin construction in the very near future) and an existing home purchased which should house some students for the spring semester of 2016. The conference building has all available finished space leased, and the tenant income is currently more than covering the expense of the building. In addition, and perhaps most importantly, there was a significant increase in the number of Church of God students enrolled this semester at Atlanta Bible College. Blessings, blessings, blessings!

So like driving through that Atlanta traffic, I ask what next? I feel the possibilities are endless. You ask, what can I do or how can I help?



Pictured l to r: Scott Millard, Carrie Briggs, Dennis Sharp, Chris James, Bob Morrison, Julie Driskill, and Dan Knowlton.

I want to encourage each of you to help or be a part of our future ensuring that our distinct doctrines continue to be taught and that our conference/college continue to grow and prosper well into the future until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. My encouragement is as follows:

1. Support and continuously pray for the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College.
2. Support and continuously pray for the staff and faculty.
3. Support and continuously pray for the students enrolled at Atlanta Bible College and Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension.
4. Pray earnestly as the search committee and the Board of Directors pursue a new Chief Administrative Officer.
5. Join the Church Builders League if not already a member (two appeals per year, \$25 minimum donation for each appeal).

My words may not be eloquent or awe-inspiring. I was asked to write what was on my heart. My heart is this: I love the Lord my God; I am most grateful for the gift of His Son and His endless grace, mercy, and forgiveness. And until the return of Jesus, we the people of the Church of God must continue to keep our conference/college spreading the true gospel message, the return of King Jesus and an everlasting kingdom here on the earth. May God continue to bless us as He has done in the past. Borrowing from a message from Brother Dick Eldred, "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that HE may strongly support those whose heart is completely HIS." 2 Chronicles 16:9

Sincerely,  
Chris James  
Vice Chair, Church of God General Conference  
Board of Directors



## Servant Seat/CAO Report

Just this week (Oct. 19-20), the board was in town for its fall meeting. Many things were reviewed. With all three campuses, Korea, Korean Extension in Duluth, and the campus in McDonough, we have over a hundred students. We have some very good students from our churches who are blessing us tremendously. Please see some pictures as they went on their GoServe trip to Gatesville, Texas.

On the building front, the home at 120 Parkview Place Dr., was purchased! We plan to use that home for student housing next semester. It is in great condition and will just need some touchup paint and furniture to have it ready. The construction loan has been obtained, and the home at 113 Parkview Place Dr., will be under construction for the next several months. We will be open to volunteers around the holidays! The current CBA, Church Builder's Appeal, and the current Alumni Drive (Amanda Jacinto's letter) is about funding and furnishing these projects for student housing. Please prayerfully consider how you may help!

Part of the board meeting centered around the new HMB, Home Missions Board, chaired by Robin Todd. The new committee members are Anthony Buzzard, David Krogh, Greg Demmitt, Julie Driskill, and Dennis Sharp. Robin says the "core business" is evangelism and starting up new congregations." The group will be presenting ideas to the develop this. Rebekah and I will be visiting Robin in the Oregon, Washington groups, November 13-16 to assess how we may help more. The board voted to have the Fall 2016, Church Builder's Appeal to go towards this effort.

The Korean effort will become more focused next year as well. Steve and Sam An will begin to review the process to be able to do TOEFL. Wikipedia says, "**Test of English as a Foreign Language, TOEFL**, is a standardized test of English language ability for non-native speakers wishing to enroll in American universities." With that goal in mind in the Duluth campus, Steve plans to return to the U.S. after May. He will make arrangements for ABC instruction to continue in South Korea in the fall. The board is also looking to increase the enrollment, and Steve and Sam will be doing intense recruiting for that purpose.

Several events are coming up. The Ministers/Spouse retreat has been scheduled for February 19-22 in Myrtle Beach, SC. The Prophecy Conference in Arkansas will be March 4-6 in Greenbrier, Arkansas with the final service at the McGintytown Church of God on Sunday. Christian Workers Seminar will be April 10-

15 with the theme of "SURPRISED BY...?" Major topics will be Surprised by Hope, Surprised by the Love of God, Surprised by the Times, etc. (see the ad in this issue)



Dr. Joe Martin

A concern of the board is the funding of our Church of God free tuition program. This semester we will utilize about \$35,000 towards that, but the funds need to be replenished. Just today I received a letter from a seminary offering full tuition scholarships for their master's program. We have been "ahead of our time" on support of COG students and we need your help to continue that effort. Please contact David Krogh, myself, or any board member if you wish to discuss this further.

On the mission front things are booming. Reading Rick McClain's report in the board meeting was great. "We approved trips this year to Africa and Peru." "We decided to keep sending monthly support to Haiti, Russia, Pakistan, Africa, and Mexico." Near the end he adds, "Did I mention there are over 300 churches in Africa now!" Rebekah and I are focused on that aspect of the mission effort as well. Remember these things in your prayers. The board voted to have Africa buildings, etc. as the Church Builder's Appeal for the spring of 2016!

The search committee for future leadership is in full swing. Please review the "matrix" and ad about that in this issue. We reviewed the "characteristics" suggested by the pastors from the Summit of 2010, and put things in four categories, Spiritual, People Skills, Administration and Resource/Stewardship.

God bless you as you support the LORD's work through us in what seems to be the "Last Days." Did you notice that Russia is in Syria! Come, Lord Jesus! ■

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Publishing Specialist: Ruth Finnegan  
Proofreader: Robert Jones  
Coordinators: David Krogh and Joe Martin

**Address editorial correspondence to:** THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: Joe Martin, 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253.

**Church of God General Conference  
Atlanta Bible College  
CAO Characteristics and Job Duty Matrix**

**D**r. Joe Martin has expressed his desire to retire from the position of CAO of the Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College, yet retain a teaching relationship. A search committee has been formed to find a replacement, and we are actively seeking applicants for the position. The search committee has prepared the CAO matrix of characteristics and job duties based on a thorough review of Dr. Joe's current job functions as well as the input of pastors, board members, and current and former staff. We realize this is an extensive list and not all candidates will have all qualifications. If you are interested in the possibility of serving our conference in this way and feel called by God to do so, please submit your resume by January 15, 2016. For questions, please contact board chair Bob Morrison at: [morrir59@gmail.com](mailto:morrir59@gmail.com) or (765) 607-1324.

<p><b>Spiritual</b></p> <p>Characteristics &amp; Values Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loving</li> <li>• Integritous &amp; Trustworthy</li> <li>• Faithful/Prayerful/In the Word</li> <li>• Champion of Truth/COG Distinctives</li> <li>• Lead through Teamwork</li> <li>• Have a Servant's Heart</li> </ul> <p>Job Duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spiritual Oversight of COG Staff and Organization</li> <li>• Pray Purposefully</li> <li>• Join God</li> <li>• Provide Servant Leadership</li> </ul>	<p><b>People</b></p> <p>Characteristics &amp; Values Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication Skills (Verbal/Written)</li> <li>• Listening Skills</li> <li>• Pastoral Experience</li> <li>• Teaching Experience</li> <li>• Shepherding Skills (Current/Next Gen)</li> <li>• Willingness to Travel</li> </ul> <p>Job Duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspire, Develop &amp; Unify Team</li> <li>• Pastoral Care &amp; Contact</li> <li>• Foster Relationships with COG Body</li> <li>• Advocate to the Community &amp; Mission Fields</li> <li>• Preach &amp; Teach at ABC, Churches, and Conferences</li> </ul>
<p><b>Administrative</b></p> <p>Characteristics &amp; Values Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Management Skills</li> <li>• People Management Skills</li> <li>• Ability to Empower Teams</li> <li>• Ability to Drive Innovation</li> </ul> <p>Job Duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversee Staff &amp; Committees</li> <li>• Perform Long Range Planning &amp; Vision</li> <li>• Manage Board Reports &amp; Planning</li> <li>• Oversee Events &amp; Planning</li> </ul>	<p><b>Resources/Stewardship</b></p> <p>Characteristics &amp; Values Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Godly Fiscal Responsibility</li> <li>• Stewardship of Resources</li> </ul> <p>Job Duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversee Finances</li> <li>• Participate in Budgeting</li> <li>• Facilitate Fundraising</li> </ul>

# Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner

## The Temple on the Mount

Psalm 102:13-16 “You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favour her, yes the set time has come to favour her, yes, the set time has come. For your servants take pleasure in her stones and show favour to her dust. So the nations shall fear the name of the Lord and all the kings of the earth Your glory. For when the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory.”

Stones, dust, walls, gates, passions, tempers, tantrums, promises and prophecy are all part of the dramatic mix that makes up Jerusalem.

The world's attention is pointing to and zooming down from Israel to Jerusalem to the Temple Mount. This will be a growing centre of conflict, ultimately resulting in the manifestation of the glory of God.

All Palestinian terrorists attacking Jews and property now, believe that they are “protecting” the Temple Mount from destruction. They are being fed the lies that Jews are destroying the al-Aksa Mosque. The source of this blood libel lie is none other than Mahmoud Abbas, the West’s favourite “moderate”!

This man, whom we have been told “we can work with”, has been making repeated calls in Arabic on Palestinian TV and media to “kill the Jews – al-Aqsa is ours” he said. It has been rebroadcast at least 19 times on Palestinian TV.

The third so-called Intifada is gaining momentum fast as Jerusalem and the Temple Mount area come under numerous attacks by Palestinian terrorists.

The Temple Mount is the most important and valuable piece of property on this earth. It is sacred to the Muslims, Jews and some Christians. It is called “The Noble Sanctuary of Jerusalem” and the “Har HaBayut” (Hebrew). It is also called Mount Moriah and Mount Zion. It has eleven

gates, ten reserved for Muslims only. The area is 37 acres in size.

Tradition has it that God gathered the dust from this mount to create Adam. This was the site of Abraham’s offering of Isaac.

The temple was the site of the revered Holy of Holies. As such it has always represented the presence of God on the earth, before Pentecost.

This is currently the site of The Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque. It is thought by most, the site of the First Temple, the Second Temple and will be the site of a Third Temple.

According to some, the Bible predicts this Third Temple in the following scripture:

Mark 13:14 (ESV, ASV & others) But when ye see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not (let him that readeth understand), then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains: (Also, Amos 9:11,12 and repeated in Acts 15:16; Revelation 11:1,2; 2 Thes 2:1,4; Isaiah 2:1-3)

Some emphasize that God has no need of another temple, because the church is that temple or our body is His temple. They go on to teach that there is no need for the re-introduction of temple sacrifices, because our Messiah was the sacrificial lamb.

Yes, it is true we are living temples and He was our once-for-all sacrifice, but we need to understand the prophetic scriptures. The Bible declares that God will bring the Jews back to the land of Israel first in their blindness and then this veil of blindness will be lifted and they will see that their Messiah has indeed paid the full price for redemption (Romans 11:25-26).

Somewhere in all of this the Jewish nation intends to build a temple. All temple service tools and garments are ready. The building is in a prefab condition and can be functional in a few months’ time. The location has been fixed. The red heifer is ready.

Expect the current troubles to escalate dramatically now. Expect major conflict over the Temple Mount. Expect it now. ■

43rd Annual Christian Workers Seminar April 10-15, 2016 Daily Schedule

Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
7:00 AM		Early Morning Bible Study	Early Morning Bible Study	Early Morning Bible Study	Early Morning Bible Study
8:00-8:50		Breakfast on your own	Breakfast on your own	Breakfast on your own	Breakfast on your own
9:00-9:25		Small Groups	Small Groups	Small Groups	Small Groups
9:30-10:20		1st Session	1st Session	1st Session	1st Session
10:20-10:30		Break	Break	Break	Break
10:30-11:20	Optional Worship Service	2nd Session	2nd Session	2nd Session	2nd Session
11:20-11:30	Optional Worship Service	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:30-12:20		3rd Session	3rd Session	3rd Session	3rd Session
12:30-1:30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30-2:00		The Church of God's Got Talent			
2:00-3:00		Sharing Time College / Conference & Korean Ext.	Sharing Time Church Planting	Sharing Time Christian Education/Mission	Sharing Time Technology Forum
3:00-5:00	Registration in Convention Center	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time and Dinner on your own	Free Time
6:00-7:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		Dinner
7:15-9:00	Surprised by God  Dick Eldred	Surprised by Hope  Dennis Baldwin	Surprised by the Times  Kathy Cunningham	Surprised by Love/Grace  Josiah Cain	Surprised by Jesus  Joe Martin

# 43rd Annual Christian Workers Seminar

April 10-15, 2016

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

Registration Deadline is: 3/14/2016

Check in time is at 3 P.M.

Check In Date - 4/10/2016

Check Out Date - 4/15/2016

Do you give the Church of God General Conference permission to put your address, phone number and e-mail address in a CWS 2016 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

Adults (x) _____	\$
Children (x) _____	\$
Saturday Night Stay	\$
Subtotal	\$
Any Discounts/Deposits	\$
Registrations Postmarked After 3/14/16 (add \$40 per adult /\$25 per child)	\$
Total due at Christian Workers Seminar	\$

## Prices (housing, meals, program)

Children (in parent/guardian room)

0-2 No Cost

3-11 \$139.00 \$25.00 Deposit

12-18 \$209.00 \$25.00 Deposit

Adults

### (PER PERSON RATES)

1 per room: \$675.00

2 per room: \$450.00

3 per room: \$375.00

4 per room: \$338.00

Saturday Night: \$90.00 (per room)

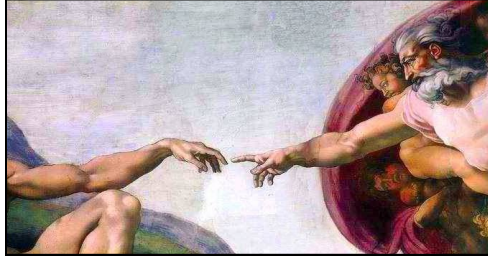
**\$50 deposit PER ADULT is due  
at the time of registration  
to receive early discount.**

## ★5 Easy Ways To Register★

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

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





## **Evolution vs. God's Word** **Which side does the evidence** **actually support?**

**FEATURING: GREG LANDRY**

Originally from Baton Rouge, Greg now resides in Minnesota with his wife Susan and two sons, Mason and Cameron. Greg has developed a passion for exposing the lies of evolution and spreading the truth that observable science overwhelmingly supports the Bible! Greg has presented this important information at churches, camps and conferences in seven states thus far, and is excited to have the opportunity to share it with old friends and new faces in Arkansas.



**December 11-13, 2015**

**McGintytown Church of God 509 Hwy 225 E. Greenbrier, AR 72058**

### **Friday Evening**

**6:30 P.M. Greg Landry - Why We Should Take Genesis Literally and Why It Matters.**

**7:30 P.M. Fellowship**

### **Saturday**

**9:00 A.M. Breakfast**

**9:30 A.M. Greg Landry – Origins - The Beginning of the Universe and Life on Earth**

**10:15 Break**

**10:30 A.M. Greg Landry – The Age of the Earth**

**12:00 Lunch**

**1:00-5:00 P.M. Free Time (Recreation, Games, Hiking, and Flea Marketing)**

**5:00 Supper**

**6:30 P.M. Greg Landry – Why Darwinian Evolution is Completely False**

**7:30 P.M. Fellowship**

### **Sunday Morning**

**10:00 A.M. Breakfast**

**10:15 A.M. Greg Landry – Evidence for a Creator**

**Sunday Worship Service 11:00 A.M. Greg Landry – Putting It All Together**

**12:00 P.M. Fellowship Dinner**

**There is no charge for the event!**

**For more information call Pastor Tom New: 501-581-5505**

**The Arkansas Youth are planning a retreat to coincide with the Creation Conference with a sleep over.**

**There may be a small charge for food for the retreat: Contact Melissa New 501-581-6533**



ABC adjunct instructor Pastor Sean Finnegan is shown teaching a Why I Believe (Apologetics) block class. He also taught a Basic Bible Doctrine class and one session of the Radical Reformation/Church of God History class.

**A**tlanta Bible College started the fall semester with 69 students - 32 new and 37 returning. Nine are distance learning students. We have two international students from Kenya this semester. Fourteen Church of God students are eligible for free tuition this semester. Because of the large number of recipients, the interest earnings from our invested scholarship funds are being rapidly depleted. In order to continue this program in the next school year, there is a need for contributions from those who believe this is an important investment. It is clear that the free tuition has increased enrollment of Church of God students, and it

is producing more students committed to full-time ministry. Contributions can be designated “for free tuition grants.”

The following instructors are teaching this semester: Kyle Casey, Sean Finnegan, Bob Jones, David Krogh, Joe Martin, Rebekah Martin, Jogi Mauger, Rufus Meyers, Dustin Smith, and Mary Ann Winkler. ABC student Josiah Cain is leading the Worship Service Planning Lab. Forty semester hours are being delivered.

We are in the process of converting several 2 semester hour courses to 3-semester hours so that students taking a full course load are not required to prepare for 7 or 8 courses each week. No changes are being made in which courses are required for graduation.

The annual ABC Booster campaign is underway. Thanks to all who have provided contributions and promised prayer support. If you have not yet become an ABC Booster, please join in praying for the work of the college and making a financial contribution to help with our work. Large gifts are appreciated, but even small gifts from many donors will be a big help to the college.

David Krogh

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**December 11-13, 2015**  
Evolution vs. God's Word  
McGintytown Church  
Greenbrier, AR

**January 11, 2016**  
ABC Second Semester Start

**February 19-22, 2016**  
Pastor/Spouse Retreat  
Mrytle Beach, SC

**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**  
43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christian Workers Seminar  
Pigeon Forge, TN

**April 28-May 1, 2016**  
Theological Conference  
Calvin Center, Hampton, GA

**June 19-24, 2016**  
Family Camp  
Camp Mack, Milford, IN

**July 5-6, 2016**  
Heritage Conference  
North Hills Church, Springfield, OH

**July 6-8, 2016**  
96<sup>th</sup> annual Church of God  
General Conference North Hills Church  
Springfield, OH

## Good News

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

From the **Pleasant Hill Church of God in Pleasant Hill, OH** – **Pastor Scott Deane** is proud to announce that the church’s missionary department received an excellence recognition of appreciation from the Milton-Union school system for starting the program Angel Staff. The program provides money for children who are not able to pay for their lunch on a special needs basis. Following the missionary department’s initial contribution, teachers and staff have provided additional funding for the program.

From the **New Beginnings Christian Church in Hammond, LA** – The church recently voted to change its name from **Happywoods Church of God**, proudly displaying the new name on a new sign easily read by passing motorists. The church is also pleased to announce that **Pastor Dan Landry and wife Carola** have begun their ministry there. The church hosted a Bobby Bowen Family Ministry Band concert in June, welcoming 80 guests despite terrible weather conditions. With a rejuvenated Sunday School and youth program, the church is ready to be more effective disciples of Jesus Christ. [GNP note: Dan Landry was a member of the great 1973 graduating class from Oregon Bible College! Just saying. – GNP]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** and the church extend congratulations to **Marseyne Snow** for a great job well done as chairman of the Autumn on Parade Committee. Also, kudos to **Carl Morris** for winning the trophy for the best antique tractor in the AOP parade with his old Oliver. Thank you goes out to **Jimbo Callaway** and **Bob LaPage** for trimming and mowing around the church and to **Marsha Behrens** for the bulletin board display.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** and the church also have congratulations to pass around. Congrats to **Braden, Conner, and Cameron McColley** who were named grand marshals of the Grand Day Parade for Buffalo Lake Days. It was in recognition of their many years of volunteer work at the Buffalo Lake Nursing Home. The next congratulations go to **Natalie Karl** who was named sophomore homecoming attendant for Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart High School. **Jason Becker** was recently named director of New Century Academy. Congratulations to you, Jason! Last, but certainly not least, in the kudos department is **Amber Messner** who was the state leader in digs for high school volleyball. Your church says “we’re so proud of you” to all of these people.

From the **Golden Rule Church of God in Cleveland, OH** – **Elder Rick Phillis and his wife Lynn** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 2. [What an amazing accomplishment! – GNP] Graduation congratulations

[Doesn’t that sound funny? – GNP] go to their granddaughter **Ashley** who graduated from high school.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** extends thanks to **Larry Whitacre** and **Mitchell Miller** for mowing and trimming on the church property and to **Renee and Nikki Pierce** for their landscaping work. The church looks great! Happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday to **Betty Young**! Those milestone birthdays never cease to be amazing, do they?

From the **Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH** – **Pastor Dan Cain** has milestone birthdays to announce as well. **Linda Lucas** and **Dorothy Supinger** each celebrated 75<sup>th</sup> birthdays with a party on September 6. August 30 at Troy View COG was Giveaway Sunday where everyone received an envelope filled with cash. The only instructions were to find a way to bless someone else with that money. If you’re curious as to how that all worked, check in with new daddy Pastor Dan at [TroyView@gmail.com](mailto:TroyView@gmail.com). [Sounds like a great way to show how you love your neighbor. – GNP]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Jenny and Felipe Rodriguez** welcome 15-year-old foreign exchange student **Bjorn Oetzel** from Germany. A pool party was held August 16 for the youth and to welcome Bjorn. **Jay Smith** and **Pastor Michael Hoffman** are pleased to announce Prayer Partner Ministry, focusing on specific needs of congregation members. Two individuals will meet each Sunday after church to pray for such concerns. **Gail Tuttle** spearheaded a Habitat for Humanity garage sale September 10-12. The youth, led by Jenny and Felipe, are hosting a talent show on November 8. After devotions about spiritual gifts, the various talents of the congregation will be on display. [Sounds like fun. – GNP]

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** commends the church for raising over \$1000 for the Malawi Relief Fund to help brethren affected by the African flooding this past year.

From the **Minnesota Conference** – Minnesota Fall Conference was held September 11-13 with **Greg Landry** as the guest presenter. The overall topic was Creation or Evolution, with sessions such as “Why Genesis means what it says and why it matters” and “Origin of the universe, origin of life, and introduction to the age of the earth.”

From the **Pleasant Hill Church of God in Pleasant Hill, OH** – **Pastor Scott Deane** and the church congratulate their recent high school graduates: **Evan Pemberton** from Miami East HS; **Bradley Stine** from Milton-Union HS; **Jael Via** from Troy HS; **Nathan Dunn** from Covington HS; and **Judd Thompson** from Newton HS. [Even though graduation was months ago, we’ll gladly receive and print more names if you just send them in. – GNP]

*(Continued on page 13)*



# NextGen

Go Serve to Gatesville, Texas



Praying over the team



Team at the local nursing home



Team with Greg and Karen Demmitt

**M**id-September several of our students traveled to Gatesville, Texas to serve at Cornerstone with Greg and Karen Demmitt. The team consisted of Becca Massie, Kailyn Fletcher, Bre Fraley, Alex Halbbrook, Talon Paul, Josiah Cain, Sierra Hillsdale, Jacob Rohrer, Rob Bernheisel, and Kimberly Raper (& Malachi). A total of eight college students were able to be actively engage in serving in local ministries including a local nursing home, The Care Center, as well as outdoor projects around the church.

At the nursing home, activities included sharing a devotion, leading worship songs, and meaningful fellowship with the residents. The time the students spent with the residents was such a blessing to all parties. The Care Center is a food and clothing donation service that services one in six people in Gatesville, Texas and also has international philanthropist outreaches. At the Care Center we did some light labor including stocking of shelves with food and the completion of some indoor painting projects.

The length of the trip was nine days, which allowed us to spend two Sunday services with our new friends. The first Sunday Talon Paul preached about Paul spreading the gospel and the coming kingdom and the following Sunday our team was responsible for the entirety of the service. Our group had the

privilege of participating in door-to-door invitations for the upcoming services and a marriage seminar. This was a true growth experience, as many of us were initially uncomfortable, but all participated and considered it a great growth opportunity. We found out recently that three couples joined the marriage seminar class at the church from those efforts. Praise God!

Watching God grow the students and build them up is one of the best parts of leading the Go Serve trips. I cannot applaud the team enough or express how grateful I am for the opportunity to watch them lead well. A special thanks to Greg, Karen, and the Cornerstone Church family for your hospitality as it was a blessing to have spent the week with you! ■

*(Continued from page 12)*

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – Birthday congratulations go out to **Jeanne Smith** (92), **Delma Fuller** (86), and **Kathleen Mull** (88). Highest attendance in Sunday School

awards go to **Allison Sisk** (children), **Codie Sloan** (teenagers), and **Judy McAbee** (adults). The Young at Heart group has enjoyed outings at Fischers Orchard for peaches, Sky-Top for apples, and Highlands, NC, to see the leaves.

—compiled by Robert Jones

# Korean Extension Report

## From the Korea Campus

The fall semester began on September 5th with 15 students, and Younghee An and I have been facilitating the courses. The classes are held at the Yahtop church facility weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Sundays for students from the Seoul-city area and on Saturdays at the Daejeon church facility approximately 100 miles south of Seoul-city to accommodate students from the southern region. The semester will come to a close on December 22.

Many of our students are lay leaders from local churches I have visited and introduced the Abrahamic Faith to in the past. The students are willing to expand their Christian knowledge to enhance their ministries to impact their own churches. As they progress in their learning of the Abrahamic Faith, their joy and hope for the kingdom increases. During class, I have also noticed some students are brought to tears when listening to class lectures that describe the hope of the coming kingdom. We have experienced these dramatic moments in the past at the Korean Extension campus in Duluth.

“It is easy to learn but hard to practice!” As lay-leaders, the students are faced with a serious conflict stemming from false teachings from their home churches such as hedonic blessings, prosperous life in the evil age, guarantee of salvation, Christian dead souls are presently in heaven, and Jesus is God and etc... Not many people are surprised that church pastors are driving luxurious cars like Bentley, Mercedes, BMW because “Good pastors should know how to obtain God’s blessings.” The idea reminds me of the medieval age where Christianity was under Catholicism. Our hope is the Korean Extension students inspire reformation within the Korean Christian community, upholding the Bible and the Abrahamic Faith. Some pastors and elders are deeply convicted because of their false teachings (In the classroom, I have asked them to read Revelation 20:10 where John explains that false prophets will be punished together with the devil for the undertaking). As a result, most felt obligated to retract their false messages that they have advocated to their members. The Korea campus took a break on September 26 to 29 to

observe the Korean Thanksgiving holiday, which is a tradition in Korea that originated from Confucianism celebrating the harvest of the first crops. The premise is that the first crops are offered as a sacrifice to honor their ancestors’ souls, and the community believes that the harvest is a gesture of grace from the dead souls of their ancestors who are believed to be in the heavenly realm. Koreans still practice the tradition where it has become a semi-required function. I was surprised that it can be punishable by law if you disturb the ancestors’ worship even for family members.

Catholicism has chosen not to challenge the ancestral worship traditions, allowing members of the church to continue to follow the tradition. It was declared by Soo Hwan Kim,

the first Cardinal in Korea who passed away some years ago, who demonstrated ancestral worship publicly in numerous places. Kim’s efforts have inspired many reformed Christians with family members who are non-believers to look to the Catholic church. Some of my students have asked for wisdom to help them remediate that they have with their non-Christian family members. Evangelism seems to be the only remediation to assist the students in persuading their loved ones to seek the truth.

In terms of recruiting, I have been visiting local churches to present the ABC/ COGGC theology as well as American history and culture, and also to assist youth groups to attain English as a second language. In light of the efforts, I also meet with local pastors, lay leaders, KE graduates, and former KE students to inspire them to sustain the good fight. The recruiting effort is not limited to the Korea campus. It is also to

advertise the Northeast campus. We provide an option to the prospective students to choose the location of their study, whether it is in Korea or the U.S., or both.

Recently, I have received numerous inquiries for training bilingual (Korean and English) Sunday school teachers and youth pastors. I have noticed that the demand for bilingual Sunday school teachers continues to increase alongside of the demand for English language learning fever in Korea. A certain level of English language proficiency is required to apply for most jobs. According to recent Korean news, a majority of prominent universities are incorporating the TOEIC (Test of English for International Communication)

*(continued on page 15)*



Meal time on Sunday with Young and Steve



Korean Church Conference meeting



(Continued from page 14)

score as a part of the graduation requirement for most of their fields of the study. The increasing demand motivates local churches to hire bilingual Sunday school teachers and youth pastors.

Yeongbeom Kim, a 2009 KE graduate, returned to Korea and completed a Master's program at a major seminary. Presently, he is serving as a youth pastor in a local church with 200 members. He has strongly suggested that the Korean Extension offer an additional English training course for Korean students in both campuses. I believe God has already prepared us to enlighten the Korean students of the Abrahamic Faith and English as their second language to fulfill the needs of the Korean Christian community. Several years ago, Sam and I completed a teacher's-certificate course at the University of Georgia (Global TESOL-Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) that permits us to teach English as a foreign language. Sam moved on to earn a Master's degree in Linguistics, specializing in TESOL from Lincoln Christian University.

The Korea Campus and the Northeast campus are mere reflections of each other collaborating to develop and enhance courses in order to fill the needs of the Korean Christian community.

In closing, please accept my deep appreciation for your support for the Korean missions, and may the blessings of God be with you, your family, and your ministry.

Steve An, Vice President of Korean Extension

### **From the Duluth Campus**

Greetings to all of the members of the Church of God General Conference, I pray that all is well!

The Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension family, as well as the students, thank all of you for your support and your prayers. Our school year began with a visit from Young and Steve from South Korea during the summer, in which Steve provided instruction to our World Religions class through a block session in the early part of July. The Korean Extension students as well as the Korean Church Conference church members were eager to see them since their visit last year. Following the block class, Young,

Steve, and I flew to Indiana to participate in the annual 2015 conference at the Timberland Church where we met with a number of pastors and conference church members. We provided short mission reports for both Korean campuses and updated conference members and answered questions. I know Young and Steve departed the U.S. feeling very encouraged from the meetings.

In addition to the block class, Steve is facilitating two internet-based classes, Systematic Theology II and Church Leadership this fall. Dr. Dustin Smith is teaching New Testament Survey I; Pastor Jae Yun Shim Acts and Eastern History and Civilization II; Pastor Young Jung Kim iVocal Music and Instrumental Music; Pastor Yeo Il Jang oversees a Service Ministry class; and I teach the Old Testament Survey II, Bible English II, and a Discipleship class.

I am also excited to announce that the Northeast campus enrolled seven new students for the fall with a total of 25 students, up from the previous semester. Unfortunately, a few of our students returned to South Korea as a result of personal and financial issues. One student in particular is You Na Kim. You Na's father who resides in South Korea has had health issues for some time, and she has kept me posted on her father's health since last semester. It appears that his condition has taken a turn for the worse, so You Na feels that she has no choice but to temporarily stop her studies and fly home to be by his side. Please lift You Na and her family up in prayer. We hope that she will be able to return in the spring.



Acts class on Monday

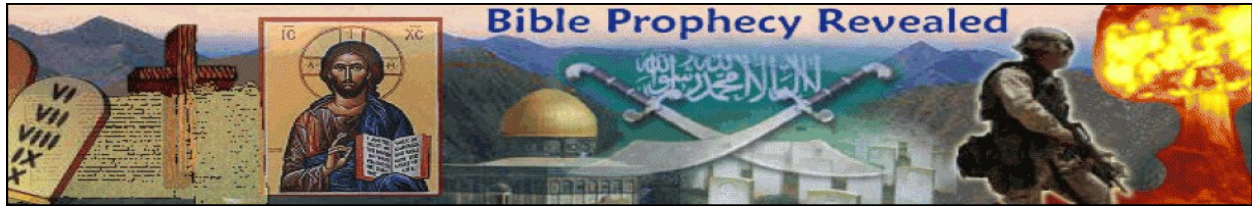


Christian Education class break time on Monday

The Korean Extension team has also decided for the first time to advertise in the local Korean newspaper in Atlanta to assist with our recruitment efforts. We are confident that the move will help increase future enrollment numbers. The Korean Extension team continues to keep in contact with Steve as well as staff members in South Korea through video conferencing throughout each week. Pastor Shim and I continue with administrative and teaching duties and my wife Sarah and Eun Joo Yang continue to provide clerical support as well as coordinate meals.

As we continue the Lord's work within the Korean community, I pray that God will bless the ministry and provide more opportunities to reach other Korean Christians.

God bless, Sam An



## ***BIBLE PROPHECY CONFERENCE***

**HE IS COMING!**

***Conway, Arkansas***

***March 4-6, 2016***

### **Friday, March 4**

5:00 If you arrive early, you can join us at Mulan's China Buffett in the shopping center near The Hilton Garden Inn

6:00 Registration & Fellowship

6:30 Wally Winner: Current Events and Bible Prophecy

7:15 Break

7:30 Cathy Cunningham: Are You Prepared for the Last Seven Years of This Age? Part I

### **Saturday, March 5**

8:00 Breakfast on your own or at the hotel & Late Registration

9:00 Joe Martin: The Restoration of All Things: Israel, the World and Us

9:45 Break

10:00 Anthony Buzzard: The Great Tribulation

10:45 Break

11:00 Jan Stilson: The Church of God and The Age To Come

11:45 Break

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Dan Landry: Signs of the Times

1:45 Break

2:00 Tom New: Strong Delusion In The Last Days

2:45 Break

3:00 Cathy Cunningham: Are You Prepared for the Last Seven Years of This Age?" Part II

3:45 Break

4:00: Anthony Buzzard: The Abomination Desolation

5:30 Dinner

6:00 Wally Winner: Daniel 2

6:45 Break

7:00 Joe Martin: Revelation 21,22 "The Ultimate End"

### **Sunday, March 6**

Sunday Events will move to McGintytown Church of God  
509 Hwy 225 E (6 miles east of Greenbrier) Greenbrier, AR 72058

8:00 Breakfast on your own

10:00 Anthony Buzzard: Our Future as the Kingdom

11:00 Wally Winner: Russia, Israel and the Endtimes Ezekiel 38,39

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

# ***BIBLE PROPHECY CONFERENCE of THE CHURCH OF GOD***



**MARCH 4-6, 2016 Conway, Arkansas**

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



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone-Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Rate: **\$50 PER PERSON** (It includes lunch and evening meal and conference materials)

Transportation to/from Little Rock airport: Round-trip \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

One-way (\$10) from airport \_\_\_\_\_

If so, Date & Time of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Departure \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE: The fee for the Bible Prophecy Conference DOES NOT include lodging. You must arrange lodging by contacting the hotel directly or one of the many hotels in the Conway area. The fees for the conference cover the costs of the Bible Prophecy Conference meetings throughout the weekend, and the lunch and evening meal on Saturday. McGintytown Church will provide the Sunday noon meal. Breakfast is on your own. Send with non-refundable deposit of \$50 per individual by February 1 to: Pastor Tom New, 29 Sheila Dr., Greenbrier AR 72058.

Make checks out to McGintytown Church of God/Arkansas State Conference.

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. There are several hotels in the area, and you may save by going through an online travel service such as Orbitz.

# Church News

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## Baptisms

### Arkansas

McGintytown – William Killgo III (7/23/15) baptized at FUEL by Pastor Chris Seiders. Thad Kirkpatrick (10/18/15) by Pastor Tom New.

### Illinois

Rockford – Abundant Life Church – Montana Cave and Ann Geiger (7/25/15) by Pastor Kathy Cave.

### Minnesota

Pine Grove—Cameron Landry, Liza Zhykhovich and Misha Zhykhovich (8/1/15) by Pastor Jake Ballard; Kevin and Trevor Shull (9/20/15) by Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick; Deborah Smead (10/11/15) by Pastor Jake Ballard.

### Missouri

Farmington – Ryan Cooper (9/6/15) by his father Jason Cooper and his grandmother Pastor Donna Cooper.

Morse Mill—Phoebe Wilson (7/16/15) by Pastor Wade Tierney.

### Washington

Wenatchee—Makayla Kelly, Michelle Keller, Elizabeth Keller, Sara Keller, and Rachel Vadnais by Pastor Kirby Davis; Cami Imperato by her father Michal Thompson (9/8/15).

## Deaths

### Arkansas

McGintytown – Ken Bauder, 73, (6/26/15), by Pastor New.

### California

Los Angeles – Marian (Mim) Overholser, 99, (7/21/15) – long-time member.

### Illinois

Macomb – Doris Hightower, 91, (9/21/15) long-time member by Pastor Darrell Cardwell.

Macomb – Clarabeth Vancil, 79, (10/8/15) long-time member by Pastor Rex Cain.

### Michigan

Kentwood – Garden Park – Pastor Ray Hall, 69, (9/17/15), graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1969. He pastored churches in Illinois and California and for the past 41 years at Garden Park in Kentwood, MI. Loving and serving God was his life's passion. He is survived by his wife Susan (Alcumbrack) Hall; his children, and grandchildren, Jill and Rick McClain (Jeffrey, Amber, Kyle, Mackenzie), Marcia and Jason Railton (Moriah, Josiah, Makayla), Brian and Jennifer Hall (Emily), and Beth and Jeff Osborn (Isabella, Ethan, Grayson, Lilyana, Silas).



Funeral services were held at the Garden Park Church with over 200 in attendance. Those participating in the service were Steven Knapp, Pastor Richard Alcumbrack, Pastor Larry Mayberry, Kyle McClain, Jeff Osborn, Pastor John Railton, Jennifer Hall, Pastor Scott Ross, Pastor Dale and Connie Ramsey.

Rockford – North Kent – Ken Kruis, 79, (6/2/15) long-time member by Pastor Richard Eldred.

### Minnesota

Pine Grove – Lorraine Gaspar, 93, (7/31/15) – life-long member of Church of God; memorial service (9/8/15) by Pastor Scott Millard.

## Pastor Needed

Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, South Carolina is seeking a full-time pastor on or after January 1, 2016. We are looking for leadership in growing and developing our church both numerically and spiritually. If interested, please contact Todd Impson 864-243-2346, or e-mail: [plzrimpson@aol.com](mailto:plzrimpson@aol.com) or David Sloan 864-420-9088, e-mail [Judyandthepianoman@charter.net](mailto:Judyandthepianoman@charter.net). We will keep all contacts in strict confidence and will respond in confidential manner to all who contact us.



- 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 Jeff Ludden 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 funding to be available to continue the ABC free tuition program for Church of God students.**
- 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 2015.**

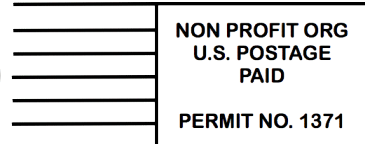
## Prayer and Praise

## January 2016

- 1 Pray that God will direct every area of your life in 2016.
- 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 start the winter/spring semester today.
- 12 **Pray for ABC students beginning the winter/spring semester.**
- 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 15-17.**
- 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



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## Prayer and Praise

February 2016

- 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. 26-28 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 the next generation to follow God.**
- 28 Pray for all of the faithful workers in your local church.
- 29 **Pray for Associate Pastor Jack and Paige Kmiecik as they serve at Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough,**

# THE RESTITUTION HERALD

## & PROGRESS JOURNAL

### Beatitudes of Revelation

By Pastor S.O. Ross

From RESTITUTION HERALD Feb./March 1992

In Matthew five, which is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, we find recorded what is known as the Beatitudes. These are blessings that can be ours. In verses three through eleven of this chapter we find Jesus declaring: Blessed are the poor in spirit, they that mourn, the meek, and those who hunger after righteousness. Blessed are the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers. Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness' sake and those reviled and falsely accused.

If we are found in that list, we can rejoice. Verse 12 says, "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Certainly the blessings are great.

I want to share with you the beatitudes of the Book of Revelation. "Beatitudes" is defined by Webster as "blessing," or "perfect blessedness or happiness." We will look at seven such beatitudes.

Revelation 1:3: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." Sometimes we think the book is too difficult, and we often avoid it. We may not fully understand everything written in this book, but we are exhorted to read and study it.

The revelator unmasked many things that were revealed to him and which he was told to write. Revelation 1:10, 11a: "I was in the spirit on the Lord's

day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying, I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia." Here then we have the revelations to the churches. "Blessed is he that readeth,

**"We can all  
recollect many saints of  
old, perhaps ones whom  
we knew and loved, who  
had a great  
influence on us..."**

and they that hear the words of this prophecy." Much meat for all churches.

A second beatitude is found in Revelation 14:13: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." We can all recollect many saints of old, perhaps ones whom we knew and loved, who had a great influence on us...perhaps a parent, Sunday School teacher, pastor, or friend who had been a rock of strength for us in one way or another. Their works do follow them. Their good deeds live after them. Certainly this is true of the patriarchs of Scripture and those founding fathers of our churches and conference and on and on. Their works do live after them.

It then is incumbent on us to live our lives so that we can be an influence for good on someone's life, perhaps even

years after we are dead. We most assuredly are influencing someone; let us make sure it is for good and not for evil. The results of the works and labors we do today will follow us.

Thirdly, another beatitude appears in Revelation 16:15: "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." The scripture reveals that there will be a falling away at the end time. The church needs to watch and be aware. It is the church members that will fall away. Someone has said, "Ya can't fall away from someplace ya ain't never been." The church member needs to watch lest he be found naked. Paul said in the Thessalonian letter that we need to "Watch and be sober" (I Thes. 5:6.) We need to be attuned to the times in which we are living and watch.

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him [watch] shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28.) Also we need to watch that our garments are clean and unspotted before him. We are naked before him. We may fool our family, friends, co-workers...even our spouse sometimes...but we do stand naked before our Maker.

A fourth beatitude is found in Revelation 19:9: "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." We can depend on that statement as it is of

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Beattitudes of Revelation continued...

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*(Continued from page 1)*

God. In contemporary terms we can say, "You can take that to the bank!"

You remember the account of the "Great Supper" in both Matthew and Luke. All that were invited had excuses: bought a piece of land, bought a yoke of oxen, or married a wife. All seemed to take priority over the supper. Most excuses for nonservice fall into one of these categories: the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. John tells us in I John 2:15, 16, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." So we need to get our priorities straight and put the Lord first, not the world.

The story is told of the two fellows who decided to go golfing on Wednesday night, even though it was Bible study and prayer service night. As they were teeing up on about the fifth hole, one said, "I feel kind of bad, really; old Pastor Jones is up there leading the service. I feel kind of guilty not being there." The second fellow replied, "Well, I couldn't have gone to Bible study tonight anyhow. My wife is sick." Priorities?

One of the disciples in the Luke account said, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God." When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, he declared that he would no more eat bread or drink of the fruit of the vine until he would partake it anew with His followers in the kingdom of God. What a supper that will be! Blessed are they which are called to the great supper, the marriage of the Lamb and His bride, the church.

The fifth beatitude is found in Revelation 20:6: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." What a hope and what a blessing! The real desire of a Christian is to have part in the first resurrection and the assurance of reigning with Christ. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us" (2 Tim. 2:12.) The blessing of God is to reign with Jesus 1,000 years in the kingdom and to live for-

ever with God throughout eternity. What a hope one has when he accepts Christ as personal Savior and lives for Him. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits [first one to come from the grave to live eternally]; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming" (I Cor. 15:22, 23.)

The sixth beatitude is in Revelation 22:7: "Behold I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book." In chapter one (the first beatitude), we were admonished to read and hear the prophecies of this book, and now we need to keep these sayings to have the blessings. We need to hold fast these teachings. "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)" (Heb. 10:23.) Paul admonishes in I Timothy 4 to be an example of a believer, in word, in conversation (our very citizenship), in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. He further says that we need to take heed to ourselves and to the doctrine (teachings that we follow) and to continue in them, because by doing that we can save both ourselves and them that hear us. We can be truly blessed if we keep these sayings.

Finally, the seventh beatitude is in Revelation 22:14: "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." This is further assurance of life eternal if we are obedient and do His command. One command of Jesus is, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Oh! What a blessing is that seventh beatitude if we keep His commandments and walk in His ways. What a promise can be ours...access to the tree of life so we can live eternally.

Let us read, study, and live by these prophecies and look for and long for the day when God sends His Son back to this earth to reign and rule. "Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28b.)

"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20.) ■

Greetings and Happy New Year. As my wife and I were driving back home from St. Louis for the birth of our seventh grandchild, we saw a homemade sign on the side of the interstate that read, "Heal, Inspire, Revive." I don't know what this sign was intended for, but it got me to thinking about the eight of the past nine years I have been privileged of serving on the board of directors. As I think about the journey I personally have been on during this time, I have seen much healing between the conference and its members and pastors as we've struggled to regain trust through improved stewardship and truthful, open, honest dialogue and in seeking forgiveness and love from God. I've experienced inspiration through servant leaders like my fellow board members, Dr. Joe and the many pastors and church leaders I've had the pleasure of working with as we've sought wisdom and direction from God. And I'm sensing a revival building in many of our churches and our conference as the time of our Lord's return draws closer.

Having recently begun a new career pastoring the Maple Grove Church in Kokomo, IN, I am gaining a fresh perspective of the relationship between our churches, pastors, and general conference. It has always been apparent to me that this relationship needs to be a two-way street with all parties supporting each other. Unity among believers is the only way we can hope to fulfil the great commission and further the kingdom of God to the world. As a new pastor, I sense the need for the conference to strengthen its support and edification for pastors. I hear church members asking for more teaching and for new pastors trained and ready for service. I have seen firsthand the continuing need of the conference for financial support from the churches and members so that it can lend greater support to its pastors and churches. And so the circle goes, one supporting the other, in order to make all entities stronger. The bottom line is, "***We all need each other.***" As the end of this age nears, our mission must become more acute. We can't waste a single day in the quest, as my friend Rick McClain stated in his message at last year's conference, "To get as many people into the kingdom as possible." We have to work together to supply and wisely utilize our resources toward this goal. In

order for the conference to be able to meet the stated needs of its members, it needs the prayers, advice, and financial resources from those members. Often during the past several years I've been part of board meetings where we've had to spend valuable time trying to allocate limited resources and cut salaries instead of assessing needs and aligning vision aimed at growing the kingdom through the work of the Church of God. To the many who faithfully and generously support the work of the conference, I can't thank you enough. It's because of you that much good work has been done. If you or your church have not been able to recently to support the work of the conference, I'm asking you to consider giving of your time and finances to fund and support the many ministries of the conference. So many opportunities are in front of us. Our mission fields are continually expanding. There have been a number of baptisms in Russia, our mission work in Africa is expanding with the building of more churches, and plans are being made to send a mission team to South America. In Atlanta, we have recently purchased a home to be used as a dorm for ABC students, with 5 lots also purchased for future building for student living space. This will free up additional funds to use in ministry that was previously used to pay rent. The free tuition program has been a great success. We have the largest group of full-time COG students that we've had in a long time, and a number of them have expressed interest in becoming pastors. The funding for this program is running low, however, so we are letting that need be known to those of you interested in contributing to help sponsor these full-time COG students.

My final plea at this time is for everyone to please join me in prayer for the CAO/Executive Director search. We have called for a special day of prayer on Feb 21 to join together to ask for God's wisdom and blessing on this important decision for our conference. The future and direction of the Church of God is at a crossroads with this transition. A search committee is finalizing its work to identify persons interested in this position, and we need the prayers of every COG member to find the right leader to direct toward fulfilling our mission, "*To serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom.*" ■



## Servant Seat/CAO Report

In the recent Winter Electronic Herald I said I am amazed and proud of the Church of God and Atlanta Bible College! I noted several things. We have invested over \$100,000 in missions last year, and over \$25,000 in the recent needs in Malawi and Mozambique. In Matthew 25 regarding “when I was hungry,” Jesus said “when you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to me.” LHI, under the direction of the committee and Rick McClain, keeps us reminded of the needs of our brothers throughout the world. The recent catalog of needs from LHI spearheaded by Scott Millard is fantastic. Find that ... probably at the back of your church and review it. You can buy a bicycle



Dr. Joe Martin's New Testament Survey class

for \$100, a Bible for \$10, a church building for \$2,000. We in the U.S. are blessed, so let's be a blessing!!

I also noted the service of our ministers and churches in many ways, including the loss of several key pastors, some tragically, this past year. Pastor Anne Fischhaber now serves the church in which Pastor Tom Fischhaber served until his untimely death. The upcoming Ministers/Spouses Retreat “iVow” in February looks to be a great time of celebration and commitment to the ministry. Pray for our pastors and churches that continually face situations. Paul, in a moment of tough times, talked about the burden of concern for all the churches. We share that burden, not only for our national churches, but for our international ones as well. We hear almost daily from our international pastors also.

Atlanta Bible College is off to another good start. My first class in New Testament Survey was overflowing, and I had to get more chairs to fit everyone in. (see picture) We have both new community students and new Church of God students. I continually remind pastors and staff that some who were “community students” are now key people in our effort, Steve and Sam An, Rufus Meyers, Dustin Smith, Anne Fischhaber, etc. I must put in a “plug” for the Lawrenceville, Ohio congregation. We had SIX students from there last semester. From vital youth groups come vital people for the future. Pray for our national youth work

with Seth Ross. Thanks to Alan and Lawrenceville for encouraging so many to “check out ABC” for a year or more! Nathan Massie, one of those from Lawrenceville, was in a terrible accident on the way home for Christmas, but came out of a car that rolled multiple times, without a scratch. Protect our students, LORD!



Dr. Joe Martin

As noted also, Rebekah and I had wonderful visits to the western Washington groups in November, and our faithful friends in the Phoenix area over Christmas. Our daughter lives in Peoria, AZ, about five miles from the giant football stadium (Go Cardinals??) The Lakeshore church in Tempe is a blessing to the conference. Remember Pastor Steve Taylor's live streaming. I talked to Ron Sorenson, who has been operating the computers and camera to make that happen. This is a great service.

The construction of the new student housing is progressing. We will take possession of the one purchased shortly, and the other one being built will be ready in a few months it looks like. Thank you for your faithful support of our churches, pastors, students, and missions efforts!!!

May Yahweh bless!! Psalm 37:4



New student housing construction

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Address editorial correspondence to: THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: Joe Martin, 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253.



I started off my rabbit hunt Bible study in I Samuel. You know those kinds of study where you begin in one place and wind up somewhere far away? It was a great study in I Samuel, of Hannah, her barrenness, her heartfelt prayer, Eli thinking she was drunk, and then God blessing her with a child. I got a little interested in the geography where Ramah meant heights or hill country, and Shiloh was obviously a place and the center of worship in Israel before the temple was built in Jerusalem. The etymology, origin of the word Shiloh, was a little odd and I guess that's where I "went down the proverbial rabbit hole."

Some thirty times Shiloh is used in the Hebrew scripture, and all but one is about the place. Except, in Genesis 49:10 where the patriarch Jacob is blessing his boys and when he got to Judah, he said, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be" (KJV). Of course Genesis 49:10 is one of the greatest *epangelia* promises of the Messiah. It, I believe, rates with Gen. 3:15 where the seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head, and Gen. 12:3 where the whole world will be blessed through the eventual offspring of Abraham. I believe the eventual Messiah of the LORD God, Yahweh El Shaddai, is Jesus!

He truly had to be then, the "seed of the woman." He also had to be of the ancestry of Abraham. Compare Matthew 1:1! With Genesis 49:10, he also had to be of the tribe of Judah, and later, a descendant of the great king David (2 Sam. 7:16).

In regards to Shiloh, besides being one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War in Hardin County, Tennessee, and the name of the daughter of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, we are still given multiple possible meanings. In Strong's Concordance, we find no less than five possible spellings in the Hebrew: *Shiylah*, *Shiloh*, *Shiylow*, *Shilow* (Strong's # 7886/7887), from the possible root (#7951) *Shalah*. Remember most Hebrew roots are three consonants. These three are SH ( ש ) L ( ל ) and H ( ה ). Then even *Shalom* and *Shalah* are similar in sharing two consonants. The root *Shalah* often means tranquil, to be happy, to be successful, to prosper.

When I saw that, I thought, the kingdom is tranquility, happiness, success. Why couldn't "until

Shiloh comes," simply mean until the kingdom comes. The sceptre will not depart from Judah, until the King is totally revealed in His kingdom, and then he will be revealed as the the King of Kings, not just Israel or Jacob?

I had to "Google" the possibilities. I found one site that said, "Later Jewish commentators such as Rabbi Stomo, a 16th century Italian rabbi and physician, have tried to translate it as "until tranquility comes." (you could Google for the reference) On another site, "hebrew4christians.com," Genesis 49:10 is noted, and it says, "According to midrash, Jacob wanted to tell his sons about the 'End of Days' when the Messiah would come.... The Talmud likewise supports the interpretation that Shiloh was a reference to the Messiah: 'Rabbi Yochanan taught that all the world was created for the Messiah... . In later rabbinical tradition, 'Shiloh' was construed to mean 'final tranquility' or the worldwide peace brought through the rule of the Messiah, when all the nations of the earth would submit to him. Understood in this light, 'Shiloh' would refer to the establishment of the kingdom of God upon the earth."[\[1\]](#)

It is nice to chase rabbits and eventually find someone who agrees with you :). ■

[\[1\] www.hebrew4christians.com/Scripture/Parashah/Summaries/Vayechi/Shilo/shiloh.html](http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Scripture/Parashah/Summaries/Vayechi/Shilo/shiloh.html)

## Calendar of Events

- February 21, 2016** - United Prayer for CAO Search
- February 19-22, 2016** - Pastor/Spouse Retreat; Myrtle Beach, SC
- February 26-28, 2016** - Refuge; Camp Mack, Milford, IN
- March 4-6, 2016** - Church of God Bible Prophecy Conference; Conway, AR
- April 10-15, 2016** - 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christian Workers Seminar; Pigeon Forge, TN
- April 28-May 1, 2016** - Theological Conference; Calvin Center, Hampton, GA
- June 19-24, 2016** - Family Camp; Camp Mack, Milford, IN
- July 5-6, 2016** - Heritage Conference; North Hills Church, Springfield, OH
- July 6-8, 2016** - 96<sup>th</sup> annual Church of God Gen. Conf.; North Hills Church; Springfield, OH



**A**t its meeting in October, the Board of Directors received and reviewed a report from Robin Todd who was appointed Home Missions Board director. At Robin's suggestion, the board appointed Anthony Buzzard, Greg Demmitt, Julie Driskill, David Krogh, and Dennis Sharp to serve with Robin on the Home Missions Board. They also approved the fall 2016 Church Builders Appeal to be used for startup expenses for new churches that will be started. Below is a report from Robin.

Just over two years ago I began what I hoped would be a pilot project for a renewed U.S. missions work. That was the Western Washington Church of God. My wife, my grandson and I started meeting with around a dozen or so biblical savvy and excited believers and have slowly grown to more than 50 who are now attending on a regular basis. There have been a number of adjustments along the journey in terms of where we meet, but the goal has been to follow God where He is working as best we can. We currently meet in three locations up and down a 175-mile stretch of highway, one Sunday a month per location. It's not much, but some of us travel to more than one location in order to get additional fellowship, worship and study time. Two or three individuals have stepped up to help with Bible studies and sermons, which has been amazing and greatly appreci-

ated. Local leadership and the sharing of gifts and talents is highly encouraged. We are now exploring ways to start meeting twice a month in each location. Please pray for additional leadership since cloning humans is not yet possible (as far as I know!). The established Wenatchee Church of God on the east side of the state is working with the west side to explore ways we can be more united in fellowship from a statewide perspective. A combined summer youth camp is in discussion, for example.

Now that the U.S. Home Missions Board has been established by vote of the conference membership, a work beyond the first project in western Washington can commence. We are barely off the ground and already a new congregation in Houston, Texas is being contemplated. Local leadership has been identified, and conversations are in full swing between them and conference headquarters. I will continue to report on progress with this in the weeks ahead. Please pray for continued direction and success with our mission of growth in evangelism and church planting in the United States.

In hope of the Messianic Kingdom,

Robin Todd, newly appointed Home Missions Board Director

# Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner

*Maybe I just wanna fly  
Want to live I don't wanna die  
Maybe I just wanna breathe  
Maybe I just don't believe  
Maybe you're the same as me  
We see things they'll never see  
You and I are gonna live forever*

(From '**Live Forever**' by **Oasis**. ... Published by Lyrics © Sony/ATV **Music** Publishing LLC, Warner/Chappell **Music**, Inc., Universal **Music** Publishing Group.)

Living forever has been on everyone's mind from the beginning. Pyramids, monuments and mythology have been dedicated to some type of afterlife. Why the preoccupation? Solomon says "*He has also set eternity in their heart...*" (Eccl. 3:11b NASB). That's why man pursues eternal life. That's why resurrection is given as a promise.

Enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century Dr. Frankenstein.

If entrepreneur Josh Bocanegra has his way, you won't have to depend on God to provide resurrection.

Bocanegra has attracted a lot of attention when he announced his new artificial intelligence company Humai. Why? Because he claims that by 2045, they'll be able to resurrect the dead.

The new company is aiming to "extend and enhance life" by freezing human brains for extended periods of time using cryonics, a deep freezing technology using very low temperatures, and then putting them into artificial bodies.

But Josh claims the company's ultimate goal is to preserve a human brain BEFORE a person dies.

He claims if they were able to transplant a live person's brain into a bionic body, than it would

"achieve a point where no one has to die at all." After all we do artificial knees, arms, legs, hands now. Inserting a brain into a mechanical body is not that more unusual, is it?

Josh hopes to accomplish this in the next thirty years.

Responding to any criticism he and the company may face over their shocking proposal, he says: "There are promising breakthroughs happening every year in neuroscience and biotechnology."

"We plan to implement [these breakthroughs] as we work towards performing the first surgical procedure of restoring and implanting a human brain to a new bionic body."

Man has always believed he could do what only God can do. Remember the enticement in the garden? "*For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*" (Genesis 3:5 ESV)

That didn't work out so well. God's solution was provided just a few verses later. "*You and this woman will hate each other; your descendants and hers will always be enemies. One of hers will strike you on the head, and you will strike him on the heel.*" (Genesis 3:15 CEV) The first prophecy concerning Jesus.

The death on the cross to pay for the penalty of sin was followed by the resurrection.

The greatest thing about going to the tomb of Jesus was that it was found empty. He had been resurrected and was not there. The empty tomb is one of the most powerful evidences of the resurrection that there is. Since it was empty, our grave will also be emptied at the return of Christ when all will be raised (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:52-58; Rev. 20:11-15).

If Christ was not raised then our faith is hopeless. Christ was raised, and our hope is in the resurrection to eternal life.

The world doesn't need Mr. Bocanegra's science. They need the God of Jesus. ■



Nineteen new students are taking courses for the winter/spring semester at the south campus in McDonough. A pre-semester briefing was held on January 9, and classes started on January 11.

This semester several courses will be taught that have not been delivered for awhile. Aaron Winner will be teaching Introduction to Worship and Music. Jake Ballard and Jack Kmiecik will team teach Christianity and Church for Twenty-Somethings. Jack Kmiecik and Robin Todd will team teach Church Planting. A third semester hour will be added to Christian Education Principles and Practice. It will focus on the practical application of teaching. Bob Jones will continue to teach the basic class, and Lynne Krogh will lead the



Pictured is the computer and large screen TV which will be used to connect the classroom with remote students

practicum. Rufus Meyers will be team teaching Homiletics with Joe Martin.

A revision of the curriculum has been taking place over the past several semesters. We will be offering more three semester hour courses and less two semester hour courses. This will help students to be more focused on a smaller number of class topics. In the past, a student taking 15 or 16 semester hours would have been preparing for 7 or 8 classes each week. Now it may be only 5 or 6. Some of the courses that have already been converted are Greek, Hebrew, Principles of Counseling, Crisis Counseling, Ethics, and Hermeneutics.

Pastor Sean Finnegan is one of our regular adjunct instructors. He was on campus in the fall to teach Apologetics and Basic Bible Doctrine. He will be on

campus in February to teach Evangelism and Church History II.

In addition to teaching several courses, Jack Kmiecik has been appointed as registrar for ABC effective January 1. He has been assisting in the registrar's office since August 2015. He will be responsible for enrolling new students, registering students for classes, maintaining student files, preparing grade reports and transcripts, assisting at pre-semester briefings, handling course evaluations, etc. David Krogh, who has been registrar for the past 15 years, will continue as academic dean, overseer of recruitment, working with the Moodle distance learning program, teaching several classes, and assisting with financial matters for the college/conference, churches, and pastors.

Atlanta Bible College is offering several courses this semester that will "equip you right where you are" for ministry. We will be delivering classes live through video conferencing which is an economical method of teaching and training people for ministry who cannot come to the campus. Through the use of a computer that is equipped with a camera and microphone, students can interact with a live classroom session in real time from the comforts of their home or church with Internet connection. Students will be able to talk to the professor from their computer and ask questions as well as see other students in class, experiencing the classroom setting without actually being here. The instructors and students in Atlanta will be able to see and interact with those who are connected.

The three classes that will be offered on video conferencing in the winter/spring semester are: Homiletics/Preaching, New Testament Survey II, and Christianity and Church for 20 Somethings. ■



Sean Finnegan when he was on campus last fall.



## 2015 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	Pastor Harvey and Mary Krogh	Mary Helen Mattison
Dr. Sheila Binkney	Louise Lapp	Lucian and Thelma Murphy
Mrs. A. B. Britt	John and Ruth Lewis	Jean O'Donnell
Ronnie Frame	Pastor Jim Mattison	Pastor Hollis Partlowe
Pastor Ray Hall	Martha Jones Mattison	Paul Pearson

### Scholarships and Grants for Atlanta Bible College

Grants and scholarships provided assistance to Atlanta Bible College students during 2015 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	Eliza Boyer Ritenour, Virginia
Bob and Melody Ballard Memorial	Jean Elton Fortney Memorial	Ritenour Kincheloe, and Seraphine
Burnham-Stadden Memorial	John and Ruth Lewis Memorial	Ritenour Cleek
Cecil Smead Memorial	Lawrenceville/Overholser	Southwest Members in Memory of
Delbert and Bernedene Jones Memorial	Lois Blakely Memorial	Norman McLeod, S. J. Lindsay,
Francis and Lila VanFleet Memorial	Lucian and Thelma Murphy Memorial	Harold J. Doan and C. E. Randall
Fulton Ramsey Memorial	Martha Jones Mattison Memorial	Stan Ross Memorial
Glen and Violet Booth Memorial	Mary Helen Mattison Memorial	Treva Williams Memorial
Harold J. Doan Memorial	Michigan State Conference	Troy View/Demmitt/Overholser
Harry and Emily Berry Memorial	Mildred Schroeder Memorial	Wenatchee, WA Church of God
Harvey and Mary Krogh Memorial	Monroe Elton Memorial	William G. and Nina G. Hicks
Hattie Bottolfs Memorial	New Hope Church, Little Rock	Memorial
Helen Overholser Memorial	J. O. and Mary Lou Pack Memorial	William and Rhoda Hanson Memorial
Indiana Conference	Orine Richardson Robinson Memorial	Zelma Weaver Memorial
Iris Elton Memorial	Ritenour Trust Fund - In Memory of	

### 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." Under this 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. 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." ■

# Good News

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

From the **Pleasant Hill Church of God in Pleasant Hill, OH** – **Pastor Scott Deane** is proud to announce that the church’s missionary department received an excellence recognition of appreciation from the Milton-Union school system for starting the program Angel Staff. The program provides money for children who are not able to pay for their lunch on a special needs basis. Following the missionary department’s initial contribution, teachers and staff have provided additional funding for the program.

From the **New Beginnings Christian Church in Hammond, LA** – The church recently voted to change its name from **Happywoods Church of God**, proudly displaying the new name on a new sign easily read by passing motorists. The church is also pleased to announce that **Pastor Dan Landry and wife Carola** have begun their ministry there. The church hosted a Bobby Bowen Family Ministry Band concert in June, welcoming 80 guests despite terrible weather conditions. With a rejuvenated Sunday School and youth program, the church is ready to be more effective disciples of Jesus Christ. [GNP note: Dan Landry was a member of the great 1973 graduating class from Oregon Bible College! Just saying. – GNP]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** and the church extend congratulations to **Marseyne Snow** for a great job well done as chairman of the Autumn on Parade Committee. Also, kudos to **Carl Morris** for winning the trophy for the best antique tractor in the AOP parade with his old Oliver. Thank you goes out to **Jimbo Callaway** and **Bob LaPage** for trimming and mowing around the church and to **Marsha Behrens** for the bulletin board display.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** and the church also have congratulations to pass around. Congrats to **Braden, Conner, and Cameron McColley** who were named grand marshals of the Grand Day Parade for Buffalo Lake Days. It was in recognition of their many years of volunteer work at the Buffalo Lake Nursing Home. The next congratulations go to **Natalie Karl** who was named sophomore homecoming attendant for Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart High School. **Jason Becker** was recently named director of New Century Academy. Congratulations to you, Jason! Last, but certainly not least, in the kudos department is **Amber Messner** who was the state leader in digs for high school volleyball. Your church says “we’re so proud of you” to all of these people.

From the **Golden Rule Church of God in Cleveland, OH** – **Elder Rick Phillis and his wife Lynn** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 2. [What an amazing ac-

complishment! – GNP] Graduation congratulations go to their granddaughter **Ashley** who graduated from high school.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** extends thanks to **Larry Whitacre** and **Mitchell Miller** for mowing and trimming on the church property and to **Renee and Nikki Pierce** for their landscaping work. The church looks great! Happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday to **Betty Young**! Those milestone birthdays never cease to be amazing, do they?

From the **Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH** – **Pastor Dan Cain** has milestone birthdays to announce as well. **Linda Lucas** and **Dorothy Supinger** each celebrated 75<sup>th</sup> birthdays with a party on September 6. August 30 at Troy View COG was Giveaway Sunday where everyone received an envelope filled with cash. The only instructions were to find a way to bless someone else with that money. If you’re curious as to how that all worked, check in with new daddy Pastor Dan at [TroyView@gmail.com](mailto:TroyView@gmail.com). [Sounds like a great way to show how you love your neighbor. – GNP]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Jenny and Felipe Rodriguez** welcome 15-year-old foreign exchange student **Bjorn Oetzel** from Germany. A pool party was held August 16 for the youth and to welcome Bjorn. **Jay Smith** and **Pastor Michael Hoffman** are pleased to announce Prayer Partner Ministry, focusing on specific needs of congregation members. Two individuals will meet each Sunday after church to pray for such concerns. **Gail Tuttle** spearheaded a Habitat for Humanity garage sale September 10-12. The youth, led by Jenny and Felipe, are hosting a talent show on November 8. After devotions about spiritual gifts, the various talents of the congregation will be on display. [Sounds like fun. – GNP]

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** commends the church for raising over \$1000 for the Malawi Relief Fund to help brethren affected by the African flooding this past year.

From the **Minnesota Conference** – Minnesota Fall Conference was held September 11-13 with **Greg Landry** as the guest presenter. The overall topic was Creation or Evolution, with sessions such as “Why Genesis means what it says and why it matters” and “Origin of the universe, origin of life, and introduction to the age of the earth.”

From the **Pleasant Hill Church of God in Pleasant Hill, OH** – **Pastor Scott Deane** and the church congratulate their recent high school graduates: **Evan Pemberton** from Miami East HS; **Bradley Stine** from Milton-Union HS; **Jael Via** from Troy HS; **Nathan Dunn** from Covington HS; and **Judd Thompson** from Newton HS. [Even though gradua-

*(Continued on page 11)*

*(Continued from page 10)*

tion was months ago, we'll gladly receive and print more names if you just send them in. – GNP]

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – Birthday congratulations go out to **Jeanne Smith** (92), **Delma Fuller** (86), and **Kathleen Mull** (88). Highest attendance in Sunday School awards go to **Allison Sisk** (children), **Codie Sloan** (teenagers), and **Judy McAbee** (adults). The Young at Heart group has enjoyed outings at Fischers Orchard for peaches, Sky-Top for apples, and Highlands, NC, to see the leaves.

From the **Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA** – **Pastor Dave Riley** and the congregation welcome two members to the professional staff of the church. Assisting in ministry duties will be **Jack Kmiecik** (and wife Paige, formerly Montgomery) and **Kim Raper** (husband Mitch). Jack will be sharing preaching duties on a regular basis, as well as leading the youth ministry. Kim will be doing a lot of things, but her duties are currently being described as ministry and outreach. The church anticipates a wonderful 2016 with both of these ministers on board for the entire calendar year.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor V. E. Kirkpatrick II** and the church thank **Andrea and Eric Moore** for

planning and leading the service on November 29. Thank you also go out to panel members **Rachel Karl, Lisa McColley, Lee Moore, and Mitchell Moore** for sharing their thoughts and testimonies. A great big thank you to **Melody and Lee Moore** for the delicious meal they served after the worship service.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – We have some milestone birthdays to announce. James Lowery is now 85, and Ruth Fletcher is now 80. Congratulations! Here's hoping your day was happy, and best wishes for many more!

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – It's time for some Christmas thank yous. **Pastor Viv** and the church thank **Linda Sandifer, Dan and Rachel Karl** for decorating the church so beautifully for Christmas. Thanks to the Bereans for assembling the Christmas tree. Thanks to **Amanda Forcier** for all her work planning and directing the Christmas program. Thanks to **Eric and Andrea Moore, Dan Karl, Crystal Moore and Josh Olson** who assembled and purchased treats for the treat bags. The church appreciates everyone who took part in the program and helped with the delicious meal and cleanup afterward.

# 96th Annual Church of God General Conference

will be held July 6-8, 2016

at the

**North Hills Church,  
Springfield, OH**

# Korean Extension Report

## From the Korea Campus

The 2015 fall semester closed successfully with 14 students on December 14. The classes were held at the Yahtop church facility weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Sundays for students from the Seoul-city area and Saturdays at the Daejeon church approximately 100 miles south of Seoul to accommodate students from the southern region.

Many of our students are church lay-leaders from the surrounding areas where I have visited and introduced the Abrahamic faith. The students have a willingness to expand their own Christian knowledge and ministries to impact their own churches. As the students develop their understanding of the Abrahamic faith, they seem to long for the kingdom where some are driven to tears during class lectures. We have experienced these dramatic moments in the past at the Korean Extension campus in Duluth.

The phrase “it is easy to learn but hard to practice” seems to be what most of our lay-leaders understand and still experience. These students are faced with tremendous conflict stemming from exposure to false ideologies from their home churches such as hedonistic blessings, prosperous life in the evil age, guarantees for salvation, Christian dead souls are presently in heaven, and Jesus is God, etc... Most Korean-Christians are not surprised when they see church pastors driving luxurious cars (Bentley, Mercedes, BMWs) because of the false Korean-Christian principle “Good pastors should know how to obtain God’s blessings” extending into the vast Korean-Christian community.

The idea reminds me of the medieval age where Christianity was under Catholicism, and our hope for the Korean Extension students was to inspire reformation within the Korean Christian community upholding the Bible and the Abrahamic faith. Some pastors and elders in the classrooms are severely convicted because of their false teachings. During classes, I have asked them to read Revelation 20:10 where John explains that false prophets will be punished together with the devil for the undertaking. As a result, most feel obligated to retract their false messages that they have advocated to their members.

The Korea campus took a break on September 26 to September 29 to observe the Korean Thanksgiving holiday, which is a Korean tradition that originated from Confucianism celebrating the harvest of the first crops. The premise is that the first crops are offered as a sacrifice to honor their ancestors’ souls, and the community believes that the harvest is a gesture of grace from the dead souls of their ancestors who are believed to be in the heavenly realm. Koreans still practice the tradition where it has become a semi-required function. I was surprised that it can be punishable by law disturbing the ancestors’ worship even for family members.

The Catholic Church in Korea has chosen not to challenge the ancestral worship-tradition and to allow members to continue to follow the tradition. It was declared by Soo Hwan Kim, the first cardinal in Korea who passed away some years ago, who demonstrated ancestral worship publicly in numerous places. Kim’s efforts have inspired many reformed Christians with family members who are non-believers to look to the Catholic Church. Some of my students have asked me for a wisdom to remediate the issue with their non-Christian family members. Evangelism seems to be the only remediation to assist the students in persuading their loved ones to seek the truth.

In terms of recruiting, I have been visiting local churches to present the ABC/COGGC theology as well as American history and culture, and also to assist youth groups to attain English as a second language. In light of the efforts, I also meet with local pastors, lay-leaders, KE graduates, and former KE students to inspire them to sustain the good fight. The recruiting effort is not limited to the Korea campus. It is also to advertise the northeast campus. We provide an option to the prospective students to choose the location of their study, whether it is in Korea or the U.S., or both.

Recently, I received numerous inquiries for training bilingual (Korean and English) Sunday school teachers and youth pastors. I have noticed that the demand for bilingual Sunday school teachers continues to increase alongside of the demand for English language learning in Korea. A certain level of English language proficiency is required to apply for most jobs. According to recent Korean news, a majority of prominent universities are incorporating the TOEIC (Test of English for International Communication) score as a part of the graduation requirement for most of their fields of the study. The increasing demand motivates local churches to hire bilingual Sunday school teachers and youth pastors.

Yeongbeom Kim, a 2009 KE graduate, returned to Korea and completed a master’s program at a well-known seminary. Presently, he is serving as a youth pastor in a local church with 200 members. He has strongly suggested that the Korean Extension offer an additional English training course for Korean students in both campuses. I believe God has already prepared us to inform the Korean students of the Abrahamic faith and English as their second language to fulfill the needs and serve the Korean-Christian community. Several years ago, Sam and I completed a teacher’s certificate course at the University of Georgia (Global TESOL-Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) that permits us to teach English as a foreign language, in which Sam moved on to earn a master’s degree in linguistics specializing in TESOL from Lincoln Christian University. The Korea Campus and the northeast campus are mere reflections of each other, collaborating to develop and enhance courses in order to fill the needs of the Korean-Christian community.



*(Continued from page 12)*

In closing, please accept my deepest appreciation for your support for the Korean missions, and may the blessings of God be with you and your family, and your ministry.—  
Steve An/Vice President of Korean Extension

The Korean Extension spring 2016 semester began on January 18, and we were blessed to have Steve fly in from South Korea to facilitate a week-long intensive block class prior to the beginning of the semester, which was held December 20<sup>th</sup> – December 24<sup>th</sup>. As always, it was a grueling travel schedule for Steve with a 14-hour time difference between Korea and the U.S. During his stay, we met with the most of the KE students, including staff members to announce their return in May. All were extremely excited. We also made some time in the evening to meet with Korean Church Conference pastors and lay-leaders. They too enjoyed our company and the good news.

In addition to the block class, Steve will also facilitate two internet-based classes, Evangelical Theology and the Fundamentals of Theology. We will also have Jae Yun Shim, Yeo Il Jang, and Young Jung Kim facilitating classes throughout the semester. More specifically, Pastor Jae Yun Shim will teach New Testament Survey II, Church History I, and Epistles; Pastor Yeo Il Jang will oversee the Service Ministry class and the New Testament Preaching class; Pastor Young Jung Kim will teach the Instrumental Music II class; and I will provide instruction through Old Testament Survey I class and assist our students to develop their English language skills through three levels of an English language learning class.

We are also excited to announce that the Northeast campus has enrolled six new students for the spring semester with 22 students returning from the previous fall semester, and hope additional late registrations would occur. However, we are disappointed and sad with the loss of a few students who were unable to move on with the program. We pray that they will return soon. The most difficult hurdles our students face is homesickness, lack of financial support, and personal issues back home in Korea. We try as best as we can to help them overcome their issues, but sometimes the help we provide is not enough. Please keep these students in your prayers.

Since October last year, we have been undertaking the re-fueled recruiting efforts with the students both in Korea and the Korean community in the U.S. And we are confident that enrollment numbers will continue to increase with Steve and Young's return.

God bless the entire Church of God General Conference community, and I sincerely thank you for all your support.

Sam An



**Class in Seoul , Korea.**



**Class in Daejeon, Korea.**



**KE Spring 2016 Winter Block Class.**



**Korean Church Conference Pastors' Meeting.**

# Louisiana GoServe Trip

by Jamie Shaull

We were blessed to spend the weekend with youth from Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas. The event was held at a conference center near Hammond, Louisiana and at the Blood River, Church of God. We were able to participate and lead and teach classes. The night we got there we met the kids that we got to counsel and had a worship service and a lesson by Pastor John Wincapaw. After that we played games in the gym.



On Saturday we enjoyed breakfast provided by Jim and Lisa Wilson. After that we attended a worship service and lesson given by Joel Fletcher, then we split the kids up into groups, and they went to different classes taught by the ABC students. Later that night, we received some scary news that there was a tornado warning in our area, so we joined together in the safest place, the gym, and played dodge ball for several

hours. Once the weather got better, we had another worship service and lesson by Talon Paul, and we finished the night off with a movie.

Sunday was our last day there. Once we had breakfast and packed our things, it was time for us to go to Blood River Church of God. We had the privilege of getting to help lead music and hear Kyle McClain give a sermon. After the service we had some time for fellowship and a delicious lunch of jambalaya and fried catfish provided by Tab Lobell. We enjoyed a lot of activities with the youth but most importantly, we got to be a good influence and have a positive impact on their lives. ■



Kyle McClain speaking



Worship leading by Malorie McNeil, Kyle McClain, and Joel Fletcher



Kyle McClain, Talon Paul and Jonathan Foster with youth



**Go Serve Pictures  
(continued)**



Alex Halbrook and Sydnie Barnhart serving youth



Sydnie Barnhart, Talon Paul, and Brook Grant

Please enjoy these pictures from reFUEL!  
(Jan. 15-17 at Camp Mack)



# 43rd Annual Christian Workers Seminar

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee



This Christian Workers seminar will focus on many things that might surprise us in ministry. 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 to continually serve God in your everyday life!

## Theme: Surprised by . . .

Surprised by Youth and Wisdom—Nathan Massie/  
Talon Paul

Surprised by “New” Trends in Evangelism—Dick  
Eldred

Tomorrow's Surprising Headline: Rider on Green  
Horse Carries Palestinian Flag!—Paul Moore

Surprised by Fact or Fiction?—Cathy Cunningham

Surprised by Women—Rebekah Martin

Surprised by Current Scholarship—Joe Martin

Surprised by Hope—Dennis Baldwin

Surprised by Kingdom and God—Help from  
Bishop NT Wright—Anthony Buzzard

Surprised by Historical Prophecy—Ed Bender

Surprised by Spiritual Discipline—Joe James

Surprised by the Holy Spirit—John Railton

Surprised by Success (people coming to biblical  
truth before Jesus comes)—Dan Gill

## Local Attractions:

Dollywood & Dolly's Splash Country  
Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies

Dixie Stampede  
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)**



# 43rd Annual Christian Workers Seminar

April 10-15, 2016

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

Registration Deadline is: 3/7/2016

Check in time is at 3 P.M.

Check In Date - 4/10/2016

Check Out Date - 4/15/2016

Do you give the Church of God General Conference permission to put your address, phone number and e-mail address in a CWS 2016 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 \$139.00 \$25.00 Deposit

12-18 \$209.00 \$25.00 Deposit

Adults

### (PER PERSON RATES)

1 per room: \$675.00

2 per room: \$450.00

3 per room: \$375.00

4 per room: \$338.00

Saturday Night: \$90.00 (per room)

**20% discount for families with 1 or more children (applies to all family members)**

**\$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 3/7/16 (add \$40 per adult /\$25 per child)	\$
<b>Total due at Christian Workers Seminar</b>	<b>\$</b>

## ★5 Easy Ways To Register★

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

# Church News

## Baptisms

Minnesota

Hutchinson – Natalie Karl and Rebecca Messner (8/12/15) by Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick at Long Lake Bible Camp.

Missouri

Countryside Bible Church – Mike Bowie (8/2/15) by Scott Thibault; Aeiranna (Harris) Byers (8/30/15) by Pastor Dale Swartz.

## Deaths

Missouri

Farmington – Cora Cooper, 41, (12/9/15), daughter of Loyd and Donna Cooper, long-time member, by her mother Pastor Donna Cooper.

Ohio

Troy – Rosella Jester, 88, (12/6/15), life-long member at Pleasant Hill, by Pastor Scott Deane.

South Carolina

Pelzer – Nancy Ann Pack Holt, 79, (8/23/15), wife of Lowell Holt. Life-long member of Guthrie Grove Church by Pastor Mike Montgomery.

Texas

Granbury—Doris Brown, 87, (1/6/16), wife of deceased Pastor Raymond Brown. They served churches in Minnesota, Illinois, Kansas, Tennessee, Indiana, Iowa, and Digby, Nova Scotia. After Ray's death, Doris served the Front Royal, VA and Columbia Station, OH churches before retiring and moving to Texas to be near family.

## Pastor Needed

Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, South Carolina is seeking a full-time pastor, on or after January 1, 2016. We are looking for leadership in growing and developing our church both numerically and spiritually. If interested, please contact Todd Impson 864-243-2346, or e-mail: [plzrimpson@aol.com](mailto:plzrimpson@aol.com) or David Sloan 864-420-9088, e-mail [Judyandthepianoman@charter.net](mailto:Judyandthepianoman@charter.net). We will keep all contacts in strict confidence, and will respond in confidential manner to all who contact us.

## 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 2015 semester.

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

An Na Jang  
Eun Joo Jang  
Soon Ho Jeong  
Hyeon Mi Jeong  
Seung Yeon Kim

Young Ok Kim  
Dae Ah Lee  
Kyle McClain  
Jacob Rohrer

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

Josiah Cain  
Yun Seok Cho  
Brook Grant  
Alex Halbbrook  
Hye Young Jung

Dae Hwan Kim  
Young Jung Kim  
Nathan Massie  
Talon Paul

## 25th Theological Conference

April 28<sup>th</sup> - May 1<sup>st</sup>

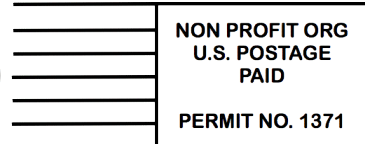
Calvin Center Conference Lodge, Hampton, GA

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](http://theologicalconference.org).

- 1 **Pray for the Bible Prophecy Conference starting today.**
- 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 Denise Cramer, Operations Manager.
- 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 Pastor Robin Todd and Western Washington congregations.**
- 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 his resurrected Son!**
- 28 Praise God for Kim Raper and Robin Taylor who provide administrative support at Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference.
- 29 **Pray for preparations being made for the Theological Conference to be held in April.**
- 30 Praise God for new attendees at your local congregation.
- 31 **Pray for the ministry of Lupe Badillo in Mexico.**

- 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 the promise of Christ's soon return.**
- 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 God's special blessing on those participating in Christian Workers Seminar, which begins today in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.
- 11 **Pray for Sam An as he teaches and assists with the administrative work for the ABC Korean Extension.**
- 12 Pray for opportunities to witness to those without Jesus as their Savior.
- 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 the ministry of 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 Theological Conference that starts today.
- 29 **Praise God that His mercies are new every morning.**
- 30 Pray for the Family of God Fellowship in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

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



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## Prayer and Praise

May 2016

- 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 the ministry of 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 Praise God for your mother and her influence.
- 9 **Praise God for new attendees at your local church.**
- 10 Pray for believers who are in nursing homes and hospitals.
- 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 ABC and ABCKE students as they complete the winter/spring semester today.**
- 14 Pray for the congregation at Omaha, Nebraska, and Pastor Scott and Michele Millard.
- 15 **Pray for efforts to start a new congregation in Houston, TX.**
- 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 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 Importance of Finding a Life of Faith By Dean Moore

**F**inding true peace, happiness, and a real hope of everlasting life seems next to impossible to the average person today. We live in a world of unbelief, false religions, vanity, moral corruption, and rebellion. There has been a great increase in knowledge and education, yet the world grows more dangerous day by day. The lives of millions of people are now in greater danger than any time in history! More and more nations are acquiring nuclear weapons for war, while their leaders boast in their power to destroy their enemies. It is quite evident that the “wisdom” of the world is not real wisdom at all! Mankind needs truth. The need to think and live in harmony with reality!

Much of reality can be seen, but most is invisible to the human eye. This is where faith comes in. It is the confidence or assurance of that which is not visible. As eyes are a gift of our Creator, so faith is His gift. The Bible says: “By grace are you saved through faith; and that is not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” (Eph 2:8). With faith we become aware of innumerable truths concerning God’s work with people in the past, present, and future. We learn to understand wisdom and holiness. Because environment is one of the main influences in a person’s life, we are able to become holy because He is holy. We can become loving because of His love. We can grow in His likeness!

In the beginning man was made similar to his Creator in various respects, but his unbelief and rebellion cor-

rupted his innocence. He lost the ecstasy of loving fellowship with his Maker. Mankind has inherited a degenerate nature that tends to transgress the eternal laws of righteousness. He is inclined to be self-centered, proud, and mainly interested in sensual pleasure. In place of desiring purity, and love that puts the welfare of others first, man tends to choose self. In place of giving credit to whom credit is due and humbly glorifying his Creator, man has his substitutes. He may even deny the existence of his Maker! Separation from all that is ungodly is essential if he is to have association with his Heavenly Father. For this reason we are commanded to “come out” from the thinking of the world. We read: “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Co 6:14-7:1 KJV).

We can see that God has spoken to us by His wonderful works. He has also spoken to us by His written word. We can read the words of Moses, the prophets of Israel, words of Christ, and the writers of the New Testament. Many millions of people have found this witness to be true! They found God’s provisions to be more than adequate for their greatest needs. From the scriptures they learned to see things in the right perspective, not human unbelief!

All people are totally dependent. Without God’s provisions they would die. Notice the following texts:

<sup>17</sup>Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...

(Jam 1:17 KJV). <sup>3</sup>O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. <sup>4</sup>To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. <sup>5</sup>To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. <sup>6</sup>To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. <sup>7</sup>To him that made great lights: for his mercy *endureth* for ever: <sup>8</sup>The sun to rule by day: for his mercy *endureth* for ever: <sup>9</sup>The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. (Psa 136:3-9 KJV).

It is easy to see that our future depends upon the will of God! We see in scripture that He is saying: “look unto me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God and there is none else!” (Isa. 45:22).

Each of us must decide whose thinking we are going to trust. We are created responsible beings that must give account! Our entire future depends upon our response! All history shows that people were blessed or rewarded when they chose God’s way. There was judgment when they forsook His way. An example is the flood in the days of Noah. We read “The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and behold it was corrupt. For all flesh had corrupted His way upon the earth!” (Gen 6:11,12). Jesus warned that this condition would

*(Continued on page 2)*

## The Importance of Finding a Life of Faith *continued...*

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(Continued from page 1)

be repeated just prior to the end of the age. He said: "As the days of Noah were, so shall it also be at the coming of the Son of Man" (Mt 24:37). The time of the flood was a type of the far greater judgment at the close of the age. Human government failed in Noah's day and will fail again, only in a more extensive way. We read: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be. And except that those days be shortened, there would no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

One of the most obvious things that we learn in our study is that judgment comes upon those who have not repented and accepted God's provision for forgiveness. Repentance and forgiveness are essential! They are not optional! Had not Christ suffered the judgment of men, no one would be saved! Everyone would endure his own judgment. We read: <sup>30</sup>And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: <sup>31</sup>Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead." (Acts 17:30-31 KJV) Jesus said, <sup>36</sup>"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." (Mt 12:36 KJV) Paul said, <sup>10</sup>"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. <sup>12</sup>So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Rom 14:10-12 KJV). Peter said, "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; <sup>2</sup>That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. <sup>3</sup>For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: <sup>4</sup>Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*:"

<sup>5</sup>Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead." (1 Pe 4:1-5 KJV).

We should meditate day and night upon the thoughts of God revealed in His word. In this way He leads us out of the world's thinking and into His own. We are told plainly that <sup>5</sup>"Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. <sup>6</sup>For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." (Ps 1:5-6 KJV).

How thankful we should be that our Creator is righteous, loving, patient, and forgiving! At the greatest cost to Himself he provided us with our savior. In all the suffering of the Jewish people throughout the centuries He suffered. We read: <sup>9</sup>"In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old." (Isa 63:9 KJV). How much more was His suffering when He allowed His only loving, precious, sinless son to bear the judgment of sinful mankind! It is not possible to fully comprehend this. Nor can we comprehend the love of Christ. Every day of his life was spent for the welfare of people. He labored for their temporal welfare but primarily for their eternal welfare. He chose his Father's will in place of his own. He placed all of his trust in Him; knowing that He would bring about His great salvation for mankind.

Our response to all of this is of supreme importance. It is easy for us to pay little attention. We could center our thinking on ourselves with other things. However, before long, we would lose everything! God told the people of Israel "The things that I command you for your good always" (Dt 6:24). In view of all that He has done for us throughout our lives, and the cost that He and His son have paid, shouldn't our response be one of humble gratitude that believes and trusts as a small child?

"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." (Isa 57:15 KJV). ■

**G**race and peace to all my fellow believers in Jesus Christ our Lord. As I was preparing my final message as chairperson of the board of directors, I sat down to watch the video of the funeral of Kent Ross, and my thoughts were filled with the sad reality that yet another of our long-time pastors and leaders had fallen asleep in the Lord. The COG has endured much loss the past few years with many of our pastors being taken by the enemy death. As I listened to the words of those speaking at Kent's funeral, one thought in particular grabbed me that was shared. From the book of Jude these words are relevant to us all today, "Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to **contend for the faith** that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people." (Emphasis mine) As I think back on the time I have spent serving you all on the board, I firmly believe that Jude's words ring truer today than ever before. I believe that this charge should be the battle cry in the hearts of us all as we share the gospel message of a soon coming kingdom when the Son of God returns to set up residence on this earth!

The deaths of so many of our church pastors recently should remind us that our time is short. A haunting quote was shared during Brother Ross' funeral that should also remind us of the acute, intense focus we all need to put on sharing with others that gospel message. ***"Our greatest fear should not be of failure, but of succeeding at things that don't really matter."*** Think about that for just a moment. Look around you at all the distractions the evil one confuses God's people with in this world. Isn't it very easy to spend our time working on things that don't really matter, when the only thing that really matters is to get as many people into the kingdom as possible? I challenge anyone reading these words to step up and begin focusing your efforts on joining God in His quest that no one be lost, but that all be saved from the wrath of judgement day. Listen for God's call to show you where He wants you to serve Him. Look for ways to serve in your church, your local community, and your state or national conferences. The opportunities are out there, folks! Don't be fooled in this short life by working to

succeed at things that don't really matter. But seek to serve Him who has the power to save all who come to Him and confess with their mouth that Jesus is **fully** Lord of their life.

In his second letter to the church in Thessalonica, Paul asks for one thing in particular that he knows is crucial to our winning the spiritual battle that rages on against God's people. I want to ask my COG brothers and sisters the same request as we face this challenge, "Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you." Folks, this battle against evil spiritual forces is real. The one constant defense is the power of prayer. Continue to lift up your pastor in prayer for protection against the evil one. Continue to pray for strength and boldness to be part of spreading the gospel message into all the world, proclaiming the soon return of Jesus Christ, where he will turn the kingdom over to God, the Father. Even so, Come Lord Jesus!

Robert Morrison, COGGC/ABC Chair

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 13, 2016**—ABC Graduation  
Cornerstone Bible Church—McDonough, GA
- June 19-24, 2016**—Family Camp  
Camp Mack, Milford, IN
- June 19-24**—Arkansas Camp  
Clinton, AR
- July 5-6, 2016**—Heritage Conference  
North Hills Church, Springfield, OH
- July 6-8, 2016**—96th Annual General Conference  
North Hills Church, Springfield, OH
- July 17-22, 2016**—FUEL  
Manchester University, North Manchester, IN
- August 22, 2016**—ABC Fall Semester Begins
- Feb. 20-24, 2017**—Annual Ministers Conference  
Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

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Coordinators: David Krogh and Joe Martin

Address editorial correspondence to: Joe Martin,  
2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253

## Servant Seat/CAO Report

We continue to focus on our vision statement, what we plan to do in the future, “Joining God...,” and also our mission statement, what we do every day, “Serving Churches and Individuals.” The primary values we try to exhibit are Love, Integrity, Faith, Truth, Teamwork and Service “LIFT<sup>2</sup>S.” Recently we had a beautiful time in Arkansas with Bro. Tom New at the Prophecy Conference. Wally Winner led, and Anthony and I participated in, an anointing service for Tom. I have been gearing up for the Theological Conference. The title of my presentation is “The Ineluctable SHEMA, not to be Avoided, Resisted or Changed.”

Also, I participated in two funerals. One was my Aunt Norma Martin of Pumpkin Center, Louisiana. She was the eldest matriarch of the Martin clan in the area I grew up. The title of my funeral message was “Paradise to Paradise to the Ultimate Paradise.” I began with Rev. 2:7 where Jesus promises the overcomer the right to the tree of life in the paradise of God, the kingdom of God. I compared that to the garden paradise of Eden where “the LORD God [Yahweh], walked in the garden in the cool of the evening breeze...” (Gen. 3:8a). I suggested that the rural area we grew up in, next to the Natalbany River, was in many ways like the paradise of God, where God is to “restore all things.” (Acts 3:21).

The other funeral was that of Pastor Kent Ross (see more later). Our heart goes out to Cheryl and the boys, Seth, Kirk and Zach, as well as Scott, Connie and all the family. Alan Cain had the primary message, while Rex Cain, Dale Swartz and I had remembrances as well. There was a time of sharing by many. Seth has posted a YouTube of the service if you wish to see more.

We are in the middle of the semester at ABC. This is a great place to reach out into the community. As I type this, I hear the cars streaming by, and I think that every time they pass by, they see the sign Atlanta Bible College. Think of all the “community students” that have become a part of the Church of God, or at least gotten a lot closer to the biblical beliefs that we hold dear. I am blessed to be a part of God’s family here.

From my seat, things are hopping, with classes, churches, two houses being built or getting ready,

Christian Worker’s Seminar, Theological Conference, etc. I had several calls about retirement. Most did not read the “desire to retire” when someone is found and just assumed I had already retired. I have not yet. The board had great meetings March 10,11. They are still in process to find a replacement.



Dr. Joe Martin

There is a daily vigilance to oversee the financial situation, knowing our limited budget. We have been blessed with some great giving to the General Fund and the two new houses. Also, I am sure Steve and Young An are looking forward to being back closer to their grandchildren when they move back in May!

Also a major preparation for several is the upcoming trip to Africa. Rebekah and I, Rufus Meyers, Josiah



Africa meeting prep: Rebekah, Jeremy, Kim, Jack, Rufus, Kim (on TV), Josiah

Cain and Jeremy Martin will be going to Malawi and possibly Mozambique on May 23. Mozambique is having some turmoil, and we are still assessing the situation to decide whether to cross over to our

churches there. After two weeks, Rufus and Jeremy will come home and three of us, Rebekah, Josiah, and I will fly to Nairobi, Kenya to meet up with Kim Raper, Jack Kmiecik, and Kim Laurent. You will hear more from this trip at this summer’s General Conference at North Hills Church, Springfield, OH July 6-8! Please plan to attend.

Thanks for giving your time, talent and money to the LORD’s effort as well.

<sup>24</sup> Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

<sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 1:24-25 NASB) ■



## Two Funerals in One Week, with Resurrection Sunday in Between ??

By Joe Martin

***Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*** (Heb 12:1-2 NIV)

Two funerals in one week! How does that work? I suppose by “fixing our eyes on Jesus” and knowing “the joy set before” us. I got a call from my first cousin in Louisiana, Wayne Martin, that Aunt Norma had died. The funeral was March 23, 2016. While there I was reading e-mails from pastors, and Seth Ross sent a note that Kent had died. I shouted out loud “What!!” and woke Rebekah up. His funeral was March 29, 2016. We did two funeral trips in the space of a week!

Aunt Norma was as close to me as a second mother. There were other aunts near, and each one would “whip” you just like your momma if you misbehaved in that rural setting. Funny, but I still think of it as kind of a paradise, the trees, the fields, the fishing, the hunting, the river, etc. To supplement income, the families would have farm crops to eat and to sell. The favorite in the area was strawberries. The three little farms next to each other, Aunt Mabel’s, ours, and Aunt Norma’s used the children as “slave” labor. Towards the end of the berry season the berries would often get soft and could not be shipped too far so the berries were stemmed for preserves or sold to wineries. At that time, little white worms would sometimes be in the strawberries and we had to cut that part out when we packed them. As we were stemming the berries on Aunt Norma’s porch, and cutting out the occasional one with a worm, Aunt Norma would sing... “the worms crawl in, the worms crawl out, crawl in your nose

and out your mouth.” She knew it irritated us, and she sang it louder. She was a comedian at times.

For her funeral I recalled this, and I Googled it. It is from “The Hearse Song,” possibly from the 1920’s, “Don’t you laugh as the hearse goes by, for you may be the next one to die. They wrap you up in big white sheets and cover you from head to feet. They put you in big black box, and cover you with dirt and rocks. All goes well for about a week, until your coffin begins to leak, the worms crawl in, the worms crawl out...” Yuk! Actually, the words of Job are not too dissimilar: ***“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”*** (Job 19:25-27 KJV).

How do we endure this present evil age of death and dying? In Revelation 2:7 Jesus says, ***“...To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.”*** (Rev 2:7 NASB) We all pray, ***“Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven...”*** But do we really listen to those words? Jesus is coming back, the kingdom will be established, and He will turn it over to the Father in the ultimate end.

Another favorite verse on our previous paradise is Genesis 3:8a, ***“Then they heard the sound of Yahweh, the LORD GOD walking in the cool of the evening breeze...”*** The Persian word for garden is paradise. To imagine that eventually we will walk with God again is beautiful. AND WE WILL!! Revelation 21:3 says ***“... God’s dwelling is with humanity, and He will live with***  
(continued next page)



Panorama at Kent’s funeral



Hosted at and by the North Hills Church of God,  
2950 Moorefield Road, Springfield, OH  
July 5 and 6, 2016

The program will begin at 1:00 on July 5 and continue until 4:30 on July 6 leading up to the annual General Conference. A variety of sessions will be presented on historical topics of interest to the membership of the Church of God. A free will offering is accepted for meals Tuesday evening and Wednesday lunch.

## Seeking Worship Leader

Living Hope Community Church in Latham, NY is looking for a part-time paid worship leader to serve for a year (or more). This church is pastored by Vince and Sean Finnegan. The position will average about 10-15 hours per week. For a detailed job description go to: [lhim.org](http://lhim.org). To apply, send a resume and cover letter explaining why you would be a good fit for this position to: [info@lhim.org](mailto:info@lhim.org).



(Continued from page 5)

**them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.**" (CSB) Jesus will have the millennial kingdom to prepare us for the eternal kingdom to be WITH Abba Father! Revelation 21:4 says, "... **THEY WILL SEE HIS FACE !!**" It will be paradise again to be with the Father. We will rule and reign on the earth (Rev 5:8,10).

As I said, while in Louisiana, we heard that Kent had died. Due to Resurrection (aka Easter) Sunday, the family delayed the service until Tuesday. Driving up on Monday, this past Monday, I remembered all the good times with Kent and the Ross family. I worked with Francis Burnett and Kent in youth camps in the seventies. Russ Magaw's one-word summary of Kent's disposition was "intense." Yes, he was. He was always, in King James language "...**earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**" (Jude 1:3 KJV)

I suggested to the family and friends at the service that many scholars are coming to the biblical first-century faith that we are trying to uphold. As I attended the SBL, Society of Biblical Literature, in Atlanta I heard some bold statements which I would fully agree are the true teachings and thoughts of Jesus. This year will be the Twenty-Fifth Theological Conference that was first suggested by Kent. I will present a paper on "The Ineluctable Shema" (Lord willing!). It will remind people of the simplicity and truth of our faith. The Shema,

in Hebrew is just six words, "**Shema Yisrael YHWH Elohinu YHWH Echad!**" Or... Hear O Israel, the LORD (YHWH) our God, the LORD (YHWH) is one. Compare that to the hundreds and thousands of words in creeds filled with pagan philosophy. What shall we believe? I suggest, the simple words of scripture. For Jesus, how about the ten simple words of Peter that Jesus said were from the Father, "**Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" (Mat 16:16 KJV) or... "**You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!**" (Mat 16:16 CSB) Just ten perfect words for biblical Christology!

At Aunt Norma's funeral, I was glad to speak of the hundreds of cousins and relatives, telling them "The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, the voice of the archangel and the trump of God and the **dead in Christ will rise...**" That coming will initiate the kingdom, and eventually paradise, on earth again. I was glad to hear Alan Cain remind us at Kent's funeral that our Redeemer will take his stand on the earth, and we will be resurrected! We will be with Jesus and His Father, our God!

Two funerals in one week are not for the faint of heart. However, as we fix our eyes on Jesus and the joy set before us, we look forward to the time of no more death, no more crying, and the former things passing away. Come, Lord Jesus! ■

# Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner

Thousands of people in the Ukraine experienced a power outage after hackers hit electrical substations during the holiday season, signaling a worrying sign of potential cyberattacks to come.

The power outage in the country first took a regional control center offline resulting in half of the homes in the region to be left without power for several hours on December 23, 2015. The report went on to say that the outage was the result of malware that disconnected electrical substations.

According to security experts who have long cautioned about the possibility for cyberattacks on the power grid, electrical outages can lead to ripple effects that leave communities struggling with things like communication and transportation.

Not long ago, India suffered the world's biggest-ever power outage as transmission networks serving areas inhabited by 680 million collapsed, putting the nation's ramshackle infrastructure on stark display.

The result was trains across the country came to a halt, thousands of hospitals and factories had to operate on generators, hundreds of coal miners underground were temporarily stranded, and businesses losses were estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Recently, Venezuela's main power distribution network failed, depriving 70 percent of the country of electricity and creating traffic chaos in much of Caracas.

Cyberattacks against infrastructure, such as electricity grids, have also been cause for alarm for politicians. In November, UK chancellor George Osborne confirmed almost £2bn in funding to help protect the UK from cyberattacks. "If the lights go out, the banks stop working, the hospitals stop functioning or government itself can no longer operate, the impact on society could be catastrophic," Osborne said at the time.

This year is going to be critical for the world of attacks against internet-connected industries. Malware is only going to become more deadly.

Of the over 500 electric companies in the US, only a few are trying to protect their equipment. Here are four of the most likely reasons why a grid down situation could happen: 1. An earth-directed coronal mass ejection (CME) from the sun. The electromagnetic radiation could fry high voltage transformers; 2. One or more high-altitude

nuclear blasts from an enemy nation causing an electromagnetic pulse (known as an EMP or HEMP). It could fry most electronics; 3. Cyber-attacks that bring down and damage the computers and the electronic equipment that control the grid; 4. Sabotage that is coordinated to target critical points of our electrical grid in order to make it fail.

A recent Air Force briefing warned about the potential threat of America's enemies attempting to shut down its electrical supply for months via a direct physical terror attack or an electromagnetic pulse explosion.

The Washington Examiner, which had a chance to review the briefing, explained that Air Force officials worry that "determined adversaries" such as North Korea and the Islamic State group want to undermine the country's power supply.

The Conservative Tribune reported last year that the Chinese had successfully used cyber-attacks to steal pertinent data about America's critical infrastructure, particularly the electrical power, telecommunications and internet backbones which are vital to the nation's survival.

It is interesting to note that of the known Islamic training compounds in the United States, most are located near electrical power plants.

The U.S. Department of Energy received 362 reports from electric utilities of physical or cyber-attacks that interrupted power services. In 2013, a Department of Homeland Security branch recorded 161 cyber-attacks on the energy sector, compared to just 31 in 2011.

Worryingly, most of the nation's power infrastructure has poor defenses — sometimes only a security camera and fence. In April 2013, PG&E Corp's Metcalf Transmission Substation in CA reported that over 100 ammunition rounds were fired into its transformers, causing over \$15 million worth of damage. The gunmen were never apprehended, nor have the perpetrators of over 300 physical attacks on electricity infrastructure since 2011.

This is not some danger being pulled out of thin air. It is no conspiracy theory. This is a grave danger to the US that is established in scientific fact. All the experts that have looked into the grid down possibility have warned of the dire consequences. Nevertheless, after over a decade of these warnings, no significant action has been taken to protect the lives of millions of Americans.

History is full of examples of people living in false security before destruction came on them. We know such a condition will exist somewhere. Paul says "For when they say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." (1 Thess 4:5) ■



### 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.” ■

### Nominations for the Board of Directors

At General Conference, two directors will be elected to the board of directors. The terms of Julie Driskill and Bob Morrison expire. They may not be nominated. Currently there are two nominees. The board consists of seven directors elected by delegates to the summer conference. The term is for four years.

#### Joe Myers

It is an honor and pleasure to be nominated for the board of directors by the Lakeshore Bible Church of Tempe, AZ. 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. He also officiated over my marriage to  
(continued next page)



(continued from page 8)

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 nine 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 three years I have worked for the State Farm Insurance Company 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.

### **Michael Cisler**

Michael Cisler is nominated by the Ministerial Association. He is the pastor of the North Kent Bible Church in Rockford, Michigan where he and his family have served for over seventeen years. Michael grew up in the Southlawn Church of God in Michi-

gan, and his wife, Melinda, grew up in the Eden Valley Church of God in Minnesota. They have two biological children, two children who they will soon adopt, and, as of this writing, have two foster children in their home.

Michael attended Grand Valley State University and Atlanta Bible College where he received his Bachelor of Theology degree in 1995. He interned with Pastor Stephen Bolhous at the Glad Tidings Church of God. He then served as an associate pastor for both Glad Tidings for one year and Freedom in Christ Ministries for over two years.

After three and a half years in Canada, Michael and his family obeyed the call of God to move to Michigan to pastor the North Kent Bible Church. He and his family are greatly blessed by their work and ministry with the people of North Kent and continue to obey God's calling to be there.

Michael served on the board of the Michigan State Conference for four years. He served on the Rockford Area Ministerial Association leadership team for four years. He is very actively involved in the local school district where he regularly attends meetings of the school board, parent-teacher organization, and parent advisory councils. Through his leadership the national Watch D.O.G.S. program was brought to his local elementary school three years ago. Because of its success, he helped to bring the program to four other elementary schools, one of which is in an adjoining district. He has served at Mid-West Family Camp for years and has worked as a youth worker and on staff at FUEL for years.

His time as a pastor has given him experience working with budgets, time demands, conflict, personality differences, success, failure, difficult financial times, event planning, organizational structure changes, constitution revisions, leadership changes, and much more. Where he has shortcomings in these areas, he depends on God's leadership as he uses reasonable logic to find the best outcome.

Michael has been blessed to be a part of the Church of God all of his life. He appreciates the impact that a congregation of churches and isolated members can make as they work together to spread the gospel in our world. He sees the success of Atlanta Bible College, Turning Point Youth Ministry, Lord's Harvest International, conferences, and events. His desire is to support the continued success of the Church of God General Conference in teaching the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. ■

# Good News

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

From the **Garden Park Church of God in Kentwood/Grand Rapids, MI** – The church is pleased to report that three young people (**Beth Osborn, Mackenzie McClain, and Isabella Osborn**) attended FUEL last year. The congregation has been blessed by the teaching/preaching of many speakers in the past few months. Those include **Richard McClain, Jeff Osborn, Darwin Bronson, James Fyfe, Steven Knapp, Kyle McClain, Nathan Swanson, Pastor Richard Alcumbrack, Pastor Larry Mayberry, Amber McClain, Pastor Michael Cisler, Jeff Ransom, Steve Venema, and Robert Alcumbrack**. Praise the Lord for His good news!

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Youth leaders **Jenny and Felipe Rodriguez** and the youth are hosting a Hobby Night with Potluck on April 24 at the church. All are invited to come bringing a hobby or interest to share and a dish to share for the potluck. [Sounds like a fun evening. Food and hobbies! Can it get better than that? – GNP]

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Elaina Bradley**, executive director of Interfaith Hospitality Network, thanks the church for the generous donation of \$383.50 on December 31, 2015. **Pastor Alan Cain** reminds the church (and any interested people out there in COG-Land) that the church has a YouTube channel to watch recent and past services. Pastor Alan thanks **Nick Everage** for taking care of this ministry for the church. The link that you can save in your bookmarks is [http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgvYzC\\_07Ove2Q1bR002OEA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgvYzC_07Ove2Q1bR002OEA). (There is an underscore between C and 0.) Check it out!

From the **Church of the Open Bible in Farmington, MO** – **Pastor Donna Cooper** reports that the children’s annual birthday party for Jesus raised \$98 in gift bags of loose change. The children wanted to use the money to purchase chickens and fertilizer for kids in Africa. They enjoyed shopping with the LHI catalog, sending in the \$98 with their desired purchases for the African children.

From the **Ripley Church of God in Mt. Sterling, IL** – The church is proud to announce their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving the Lord in October 2015. [Wow! What an achievement and what a testimony to the faithfulness of many generations of people! – GNP]

From the **North Hills Church of God in Springfield,**

**OH** – **Pastor Seth Ross** and the church congratulate **Glenna Davis Engle** for her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. A carry-in dinner, complete with birthday cake, was held in her honor at the church February 28.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** and the church congratulate **Faith Forcier** for being on one of the winning teams at the robotics competition at Lake Superior regional competition in early March. Her team Eagles Mania from Eden Valley-Watkins High School banded with two other teams to be named first in the competition. They now go the World Competition in St. Louis, MO. They also received the Rookie Inspiration Award for their first (yes, just their first) year in the competition.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – Anniversary congratulations go out to **Willman and Martha Gentry** on the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. Birthday wishes go to **Martha Gentry (86), Lee Ellen Lowery (84), and Willman Gentry (84)**. Congratulations to **Rhonda Burdick** on her induction into the Woodmont High School Hall of Fame. Rhonda was a four-year letterman in volleyball and softball from 1985-1989.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Congratulations to **Bjorn Oetzel** for winning the student of the month award in industrial education at Dixon High School. The church sponsored a weekend marriage retreat in February at the Holiday Inn Express in Loves Park, IL. The topic was “Marriage Be-Attitudes and Love and Respect.”

From the **Garden Park Church of God in Kentwood/Grand Rapids, MI** – The church celebrated Valentine’s Day with nicely-decorated bags filled with sweets and surprises. The church has a Facebook page to display pictures that keep everyone up-to-date and informed of events coming up. Everyone is also looking forward to the wedding of **Matt Swanson and Melissa Halbrook** this summer.

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]

*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.*

## KOREAN EXTENSION REPORT

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**KOREA CAMPUS** - We have 14 students for the 2016 spring semester, and Younghee An and I have been teaching 3 Bible and 1 ministry classes. As usual, classes are held at the Yahtop church facility for the students from the Seoul-city area every Monday, Tuesday and Sunday; and in the Daejeon church facility, which is approximately 100 miles south from Seoul-city every Saturday for the students from the southern region.

The students have been able to find the biblical truth, especially the coming kingdom, which is the core teaching of Jesus Christ and the core value of the Abrahamic faith. Our ongoing prayer is that these students become the seeds of the Abrahamic faith and be fruitful in South Korea. The students are somewhat sad to hear that Young and I are returning to the North Campus, and I promised to provide online lectures continually as well as block classes. Moreover, four students have decided to travel with me to the U.S. to continue their studies at the North Campus.

Besides our routine recruiting activities, we successfully obtained a promising opportunity to present the Korean Extension and the Abrahamic Faith to a Korean youth group. We were invited to a winter youth retreat, similar to that of FUEL, for several churches in Namwon city 120 miles southwest from Seoul. I was invited to teach Bible content from 9:00AM to 12:00PM on February 13. There were approximately 50 youngsters and several pastors in attendance, and I presented background information about ABC/COGGC and the Abrahamic faith. I also highlighted training for bilingual youth ministers at the North Campus.

By the help of the Spirit, I was able to manage the two-and-half-hour session including a ten minute break without boring the attendees. I still practice one of the teaching principles from Mrs. Lynne Krogh's Christian Education class, which is "Do not bore people with the Word of God." Most of the attendees showed sincere interest in my presentation, and I had positive feedback and commendation from many of the young adults including the pastors. I hope to be invited again.

It is not possible that the truth that saves God's lost children be preached in South Korea without your support and prayer, and we, the Korean staff and the students, would like to extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation to you!

May the blessings of God be with you and your family.

Steve An/vice president of Korean Extension

**NORTHEAST CAMPUS** - Greetings to all of the members of the Church of God General Conference. I pray that all is well!

The Korean Extension spring semester began classes on January 18 with 27 Korean students. We were set to register 29 individuals, but as a result of bad timing, a couple of students were unable to enroll, so they have delayed their enrollment for fall 2016. Nonetheless, we are thankful that God has blessed the Korean Extension with the opportunity to teach and train the students that we have. More good news regarding future enrollment, Steve and Young will make their return to the U.S. sometime in May, and a few students from the Korea campus are scheduled to accompany them to register for the fall at the Northeast campus. We continue to receive enrollment inquiries, so we are praying that student numbers will exceed our expectations throughout the summer and into the fall.

In terms of our current class offerings, Steve is facilitating two internet-based classes, the Evangelical Theology and the Fundamentals of Theology classes. Pastor Yeo Il Jang is assisting our students through the Service Ministry class by helping students recognize the importance of serving God through every opportunity, and Pastor Young Jung Kim continues to help our students grow closer to God through Christian music and worship classes. Pastor Jae Yun Shim teaches the New Testament Survey, the Epistles, and Church History classes as well as assisting me with administrative duties. I continue to provide instruction through the Old Testament survey class as well as helping students develop proper English language skills through English conversation classes.

The Korean Extension is in the process of developing an accredited English as a Second Language program where students from various cultural backgrounds would have the opportunity to develop English language proficiencies through leveled courses. We are excited about the program as the opportunity would help our institution grow, expanding our educational footprint within the Korean community. I ask for prayer for the program.

In closing, I thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Church of God General Conference and to serve God through the Korean ministry. Although we have been through a rough patch, I am confident that God has a plan, and I know He will work through us.

God bless the entire Church of God General Conference community, and I thank you for all your support.

Sam An

**96th Annual Church of God General Conference**  
**July 6-8, 2016 North Hills Church, Springfield, OH**  
**Theme: Church Well Done**

**Wednesday – July 6**

3:00 – Conference Registration  
5:00 – Cook Out  
7:00 – Evening Worship Service – Home Missions,  
Robin Todd, speaker  
8:30 – Welcome Reception

**Thursday – July 7**

Breakfast on your own  
9:00 – Morning Worship – History Committee  
10:15 – Workshops  
1. Ministers Association  
2. Praise and Worship—Julie Driskill  
3. The Lawrenceville Story—  
Gary and Jill Hedges  
4. Is What We Are Doing with the Youth,  
Really Working?—Andrew Weaver  
5. Islam: Religion of Peace?—Brian Atra  
11:00 – Break  
11:15 – Workshops  
1. Alumni Association Meeting  
2. Presidents Who Believed Like We Do—  
Dan Gill  
3. Doing Church in the Age of Technology—  
Dan Cain  
4. What Every Christian Should Know—  
Dave Hixon  
5. Creating a Plan for a Safe Church—John  
Demmitt  
12:15 – Lunch  
1:30 – Chapel – “The Opportunities through Social  
Media and Websites” — Dan Gill, speaker  
2:15 – Workshops  
1. Meeting of ABC Development Foundation  
Board  
2. Master’s Evaluation Method—Steve An  
3. Responding to a Violent Incident at  
Church—John Demmitt  
4. Your First Love (Rev. 2:4)—Ed Bender  
5. Post Career Ministry—Greg Demmitt  
3:00 – Break  
3:15 – Business Session (ends at 5:15)  
5:30 – Dinner  
7:00 – Evening Worship – Foreign Missions,  
Rick McClain, Speaker

**Friday – July 8**

Breakfast on your own  
9:00 – Morning Worship – Youth – Seth Ross,  
Speaker  
10:15 – Workshops:  
1. Ministers Association Meeting  
2. Taking Church Outside the Walls—Jack  
Kmiciek  
3. Well Done, God! A Study of Praise  
Psalms—Bob Jones  
4. Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant—  
Anthony Buzzard  
5. Drama in Worship—Nola Jones  
11:00 – Break  
11:15 – Workshops:  
1. Open Session with the Board of Directors  
2. Jeff Osborn  
3. True Peace in a Chaotic World—Andy  
Cisneros  
4. Cage Match: Only One Can Win! (The  
deeds of the flesh vs. the fruit of the Spirit)  
—Scott Deane  
5. Priscilla Meeting  
12:15 – Lunch  
1:30 – Chapel – Ministerial Recognition Board and  
Ministers Association Leadership Team Recog-  
nitions  
2:15 – Workshops  
1. Ministers Voluntary Retirement Associa-  
tion biennial meeting  
2. Letting God Lead—Alan Cain  
3. Your Church in Your Community—  
Michael Cisler  
4. Personal Devotions for Dummies—  
Michael Hoffman  
5. The Simplicity of Our Faith—Joe Martin  
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; Communion; “ABC/KE/COGGC”—  
Joe Martin, speaker



Join us for  
**96th Annual Church of God General Conference**  
 July 6-8, 2016  
 North Hills Church, Springfield, OH

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 North Hills 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 2016, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253
4. Or register online at [www.abc-coggc.org](http://www.abc-coggc.org) (or contact Kim Raper 678-833-1839)
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 6 cookout at North Hills 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 COGGC permission to put your information in our event directory? Y \_\_\_ or N \_\_\_\_\_

The program will begin July 6 with a late afternoon cookout and evening service. Thursday and Friday will include a complete schedule of workshops, worship services, meetings of the Ministers, Priscillas, Alumni Association, Retirement Association, and delegate business sessions. The conference will conclude after the Friday evening service.

**Hotel Information** Please call the hotel directly and mention the **Atlanta Bible College** in order to secure these rates.

**Comfort Inn** – 937-322-0707; 121 Raydo Circle, Springfield, OH 45506; \$89.99 plus tax for **king beds only** – full breakfast; price good until **June 6**. After that, subject to availability.

**Country Inn/Suites** – 937-322-2200; 1751 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St., Springfield, OH 45504; \$99 plus tax; two queens; full breakfast; price good until **June 6**. After that, subject to availability.

**Red Roof Inn** – 937-325-5356; 155 W. Leffel Lane, Springfield, OH 45505; \$75.99 plus tax each night except Fri. night is \$99 plus tax; two queens; hot breakfast; price good until **June 6**. After that, subject to availability.

**Church Information: North Hills Church of God, 2950 Moorefield Road, Springfield, OH 45502 937-399-4222 or call Kim Raper cell at 404-791-7662 or Georgia office 678-833-1839.**

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	<b>\$25.00</b>
Registration on or after June 30, 2016 add \$25	
<b>Total due at Conference</b>	<b>\$</b>

## ABC News

### Equipping You Where You Are

In the fall semester, we will deliver classes live through video conferencing for students who want to enhance their Bible understanding and ministry skills but cannot come to the campus. Through the use of a computer with a camera and microphone, students can interact with a live classroom session in real time.

The following classes will be available this fall starting the week of August 22:

**Old Testament Survey I** – (Genesis through Esther) – 3 semester hours with instructor Bob Jones, Tuesdays from 6:30 to 9:10 p.m.

**New Testament Preaching** – 2 semester hours with instructor TBA, Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:20 p.m.

**Introduction to Evangelism and Missions** – 2 semester hours with David Krogh, Wednesdays from 8:30 to 10:20 a.m.

**New Testament Survey I** – (Matthew through Acts) - 3 semester hours with Dr. Joe Martin, Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:15 p.m.

**Systematic Theology I** – 3 semester hours with Bob Jones, Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:10 p.m.

**Introduction to Ministry/Leadership** – 2 semester hours with Jack Kmiecik, Fridays from 9:00 to 10:50 a.m.

For more information, contact registrar Jack Kmiecik.

### Free Tuition

In 2011, the Board of Directors implemented a program of free tuition for students who attend Churches of God that are affiliated with the General Conference. Over the past five years, \$210,146 has been provided in free tuition. These funds have been provided from interest from scholarship endowments and special gifts from individuals, churches, and groups. We are grateful for all those who have made this program possible. Thirty-three students have received this benefit.

Available funds have been nearly depleted, so the board has revised this program. Eligible students will receive a 50% reduction in tuition this fall. For more information about the new policies, please contact David Krogh.

## COMMUNITY AT ABC

Alongside their classmates, students at Atlanta Bible College have a variety of opportunities to grow and lead. Studying begins in the classroom, and practice takes place in various areas. Several of our students serve in different ministries at Cornerstone Bible Church from the cafe, children's ministry, nursery, preaching, leading Sunday School, to assisting during outreach events. Our weekly chapel services also provide students a chance to preach and lead worship. Nathan Massie is pictured preaching on March 31.

Another vital part of life at Atlanta Bible College is the community. Several of the pictures just reinforce how important it is to have



brothers and sisters in the faith to grow alongside and to hold you accountable in all areas of life. The students put together a surprise birthday party for Sierra Hillsdale when her pastor Jacob Ballard was in town teaching a Saturday class.

Josiah Cain is standing in front of one of our new Atlanta Bible College homes! Josiah Cain, Nathan Massie, and Jacob Rohrer moved into the new home in early March!



## Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 adopted by the delegates at the 2015 summer conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

### 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. **ESL Program** - estimated income from new English as a second language program at Duluth campus
8. **Lodging/Apartment Rent** – rent received from students for apartments rented by the college
9. **ABCDF Support** – transfer of investment income from the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation
10. **Interest and Late Fees** – finance charges on outstanding student accounts
11. **Application/Miscellaneous Fees** – charges for specific services for college students, such as application fees
12. **Conferences & Workshops** - net income is tracked separately for each event; together, all events provide a modest net income
13. **Interest** – interest earned on checking account
14. **Other Income** – miscellaneous income
15. **Tenant Income** - income from tenants leasing space in the McDonough, GA office building
16. **Transferred In** – amounts transferred in from Restricted Funds: from interest income and from funds designed to support General Fund expenses

### Expenses

1. **Salaries and Wages** – compensation for all full-time and part-time staff
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. **ESL Fees** - cost of establishing the English as a second language program at the Duluth campus
15. **Staff Periodicals, Books & Dues** – a small allowance is provided to staff to purchase resource material for classes and to participate in professional organizations
16. **Staff Training** – staff is provided opportunities to enhance skills in areas associated with their responsibilities, including pursuit of advanced degrees
17. **Travel** – for board members, advisory committees, special boards/committees, student groups, and staff
18. **Office & Misc. Supplies & Expenses** – paper, printer cartridges, stationery, envelopes, printing supplies, and other office expenses
19. **Professional Services** – costs of annual audit, as required by the constitution and annual fees to accrediting association
20. **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
21. **Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint.** – maintenance agreements and repairs for office equipment and software maintenance
22. **Utilities** – costs of electricity, water, gas, etc. at ABCKE campus, and ABC and ABCKE apartments
23. **Insurance – Property** – costs of insurance for facilities
24. **Repairs/Maintenance – Plant** – costs for plant support and maintenance
25. **Furniture and Equipment** – includes furniture, software, computers, and office machines
26. **Supplies/Expenses – Plant** – cleaning supplies, restroom supplies, etc.
27. **Reserve for Capital R/M** - funds set aside each month for future capital repair and maintenance at the McDonough, GA office building
28. **Property Tax** - Property tax for McDonough, GA office building
29. **Campus Leases** – monthly payments to lease our Duluth campus site
30. **Apartment Leases** – payments to lease apartments for ABC and ABCKE students
31. **Debt Repayment** – used to pay back General Fund outstanding loans
32. **Annuity Payments** -- payments to annuitants who have contracts with the General Conference
33. **Allowance for Doubtful Accounts** — to “write-off” uncollectible A/R accounts
34. **Interest** — for new ABC houses
35. **Fees** — Home Owner Association fees for houses
36. **Other** — miscellaneous expenses
37. **Contingency** — for unexpected expenses

**Budget Proposals - Income**

**Revised 2016-2017 and Proposed 2017-2018**

	<b><u>2016-2017 Approved</u></b>	<b><u>2016-2017 Proposed Revisions</u></b>	<b><u>2017-2018 Proposed</u></b>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>			
General Contributions	390,000	410,000	420,000
ABC Boosters	8,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>398,000</b>	<b>420,000</b>	<b>430,000</b>
<b>SALES:</b>			
Christian Education Materials	16,000	16,000	16,000
Books	16,000	16,000	16,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Tuition*	304,000	257,000	288,000
ESL Program	0	0	6,500
Lodging/Apartment Rent	40,000	40,000	40,000
ABCDF Support	20,000	0	5,000
Interest and Late Fees	2,000	2,000	2,000
Application/Misc. Fees	4,000	4,000	4,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>303,000</b>	<b>345,500</b>
<b>PROGRAM INCOME:</b>			
Conferences & Workshops	3,000	3,000	3,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Interest	50	50	50
Other Income	2,000	2,000	2,000
Tenant Income	165,000	170,000	175,000
Transferred In	5,000	2,500	2,500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>172,050</b>	<b>174,550</b>	<b>179,550</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>975,050</b>	<b>932,550</b>	<b>990,050</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>975,050</b>	<b>932,550</b>	<b>990,050</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**\*Tuition**

**2016-2017**

ABC - \$100,000  
 KE - \$1,800 per sem x 40 FTE =  
 \$144,000  
 SK - \$1,200 per sem x 25 FTE =  
 \$60,000

**Revisions**

**2016-2017**

ABC - \$105,000  
 KE-\$1,980 per sem x 36 FTE =  
 \$142,560  
 SK-\$1,200 per sem x 5 FTE =  
 \$10,000

**Proposed**

**2017-2018**

ABC 110,000  
 KE-\$2,100/40 FTE 168,000  
 SK-\$1,000/5 FTE 10,000



**Budget Proposals - Expenses****Revised 2016-2017/Proposed 2017-2018**

	FY 2016-2017	2016-2017	2017-2018
	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<b>STAFF:</b>			
Salaries & Wages	380,000	360,000	360,000
F.I.C.A. Tax	4,500	4,500	5,000
Employee Benefits	57,500	45,000	45,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>442,000</b>	<b>409,500</b>	<b>410,000</b>
<b>SERVICES:</b>			
Assistance to Churches	10,800	20,000	40,000
Ministerial Association	6,000	6,000	6,000
Youth Program	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>26,800</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>56,000</b>
<b>SALES EXPENSE:</b>			
Printing & Binding	24,000	22,000	24,000
Postage & Shipping	15,500	12,500	13,500
Book Store	14,000	14,000	14,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>53,500</b>	<b>48,500</b>	<b>51,500</b>
<b>ABC:</b>			
Advertising - Recruitment	9,500	4,000	5,000
Student/Staff Meals	3,000	6,000	6,000
Library Periodicals/Books	700	700	700
ESL Fees	0	0	6,500
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	250	250	250
Staff Training	<u>4,500</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17,950</b>	<b>15,950</b>	<b>23,450</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>			
Travel	32,500	35,000	36,000
Office & Misc Supplies & Exp.	11,500	10,000	10,500
Professional Services	15,500	15,500	16,000
Telephone/Internet/Web/Data	32,000	28,000	29,000
Office Machine/Software Lease/Maint	40,000	34,000	35,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>131,500</b>	<b>122,500</b>	<b>126,500</b>
<b>PLANT EXPENSES:</b>			
Utilities	73,000	72,000	73,000
Insurance - Property	16,000	16,500	16,500
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	30,000	28,000	30,000
Furniture & Equipment	1,300	1,000	1,300
Supplies/Expenses Plant	3,100	4,000	4,000
Reserve for Capital R/M	4,800	4,800	4,800
Property Tax	32,000	33,000	38,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>160,200</b>	<b>159,300</b>	<b>167,600</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Campus Leases	30,000	31,000	42,000
Apartment Leases	41,000	24,000	24,000
Student Housing (HOA, mortgage, ins., etc.)		15,000	15,000
Debt Repayment	12,000	8,000	10,000
Annuity Payments	19,000	27,000	27,000
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	15,000	10,000	10,000
Interest		6,500	6,500
Fees		7,000	7,000
Other	16,200	3,000	3,200
Contingency	9,900	9,300	10,300
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>143,100</b>	<b>140,800</b>	<b>155,000</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>975,050</b>	<b>932,550</b>	<b>990,050</b>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>975,050</b>	<b>932,550</b>	<b>990,050</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (Income less Expense)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

# Church News

## Baptisms

Illinois

Oregon – Dylan and Hayden Stormont (3/27/16) by their grandfather John Tuttle.

Michigan – Keilyn Cook (11/8/15) by her grandfather Steven Knapp.

## Deaths

Arkansas

Royal – Roy Humphreys, 86, (2/21/16), graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1954. He pastored churches in Koszta, IA, Chappell, NE, Macomb and Eldorado, IL, and Front Royal, VA. He also preached at churches in Arkansas and other parts of the country. He was camp director for several years of the Arkansas state camp. He was married to Louise (Johnson) for 63 years.

Illinois

Oregon – Donald Capes, 85, (1/29/16), attended OBC 1948-49 and long-time member by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

Michigan

Rockford – Fred VanAssen, 68, (1/8/16), core member for over 15 years at North Kent Bible Church by Pastor Michael Cisler.

North Carolina

Swansboro – Lorraine Baird, 91, (3/1/16) baptized by Clarence Lapp in West Virginia. Active in Baltimore, MD and Fair Oaks Church in Virginia and most recently an isolated member. Her daughter Barbara (Scott) attended Oregon Bible College 1962-63.

Ohio

Springfield – Kent Ross, 74, (3/22/16), life-long member. He was born to the late Stanley and Elna (Ruhn) Ross in Litchfield, MN. He graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1965 and pastored churches in Nebraska, Ohio, Michigan, Arizona, and Georgia. He was an instructor (1981 to 2000) and served as vice president of Oregon/Atlanta Bible College (1990-2000). He served on the General Conference Ministerial Recognition Board, Home Mission Board, and was responsible for organizing the history/heritage annual conference. He also served as youth director 1984-1990 and as editor of the RESTITUTION HERALD 1993 to 1995. He was moderator of the Ministe-

rial Association and president of the Alumni Association. He was the originator of the annual Theological Conference and directed Christian Workers

Seminar for a number of years. In 2015, he celebrated 50 years in ministry. He is survived by his wife Cheryl (Macy) of 51 years and his sons, Pastor Seth Ross, Kirk, and Zachary and spouses; his brother Scott and sister Connie Sorn; and eight grandchildren and numerous foster children and grandchildren. Funeral services were led by Pastor Dale Swartz, Dr. Joe Martin, Pastor Rex Cain, and Pastor Alan Cain. He was buried at the Curtis Cemetery beside the Brush Creek Church in West Milton, OH.

South Carolina

Pelzer—James Henderson (2/12/16) by Pastor Wally Winner; Delma Fuller (3/5/16) by Pastors Wally Winner and Lee Hammonds (grandson).

Texas

Harlingen – Michael Dwight Foster, 56, (1/8/16).



## Pastors Needed

The Pomona, CA church is looking for a pastor because Chuck Jones is leaving June 30. For additional information, please contact: Laureen Steiner 626-339-3048; cell 626-257-0828; [laureen\\_steiner@hotmail.com](mailto:laureen_steiner@hotmail.com); or Charlie Hummell: [Charlie@cmhummelc.com](mailto:Charlie@cmhummelc.com); 909-518-1964.

The Church of God of Abrahamic Faith in Macomb, IL is seeking a full-time or part-time pastor. Contact elder Richard Derry at 309-333-0242 or e-mail [rderry1@logonix.net](mailto:rderry1@logonix.net).

Garden Park Church of God in Kentwood, MI is seeking a full-time pastor. If you feel God may be leading you to serve in this capacity, please send a cover letter and resume in confidence to Garden Park Church of God, 5615 Madison Ave. SE, Kentwood, MI 49508, Attention: Secretary, or e-mail pdf copy to [baosborn@gmail.com](mailto:baosborn@gmail.com).

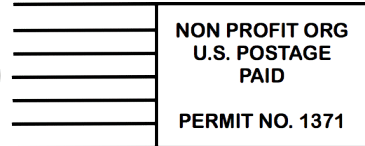
- 1 **Pray for God's blessing on your extended family.**
- 2 Pray for the teams ministering in Malawi, Mozambique, and Kenya this month.
- 3 **Pray for the Midwest Family Camp to be held at Camp Mack later this month.**
- 4 Praise God for the beauty of His creation.
- 5 **Pray that God will speak deeply 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 North Hills Church, Springfield, OH.
- 15 **Praise God for your church family.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the Simple Teachings Bible Church, McDonough, Georgia.
- 17 **Pray for the ministry of the Flagg Center Community Church in Rochelle, Illinois.**
- 18 Pray for Pastor Christy Ross and her work at the Jaynes Street Church in Omaha, Nebraska.
- 19 **Praise God for your Father—your earthly father and your Heavenly Father.**
- 20 Pray for God's direction in our mission efforts.
- 21 **Pray for the Arkansas Camp being held this week.**
- 22 Pray for Anthony Buzzard and the Focus on the Kingdom ministry.
- 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 and believers in Trujillo under the leadership of Pastor Edwin Maricio.**
- 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.**
- 29 Praise God for the dedication of the college/conference staff

## Prayer and Praise

July 2016

- 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 for the Heritage Conference that starts today.**
- 6 Pray for the General Conference meetings at North Hills Church, Springfield, OH.
- 7 **Pray that many will hear God's call into full-time Christian service.**
- 8 Pray for God's blessing and direction on the delegates during General Conference business sessions.
- 9 **Pray for Linda Limbe-Nkomba and her work in Malawi.**
- 10 Pray for God's blessing on your pastor's sermon today.
- 11 **Pray for Pastor Seth Ross and the Youth Advisory Committee as they prepare for FUEL.**
- 12 Pray for students considering enrollment at Atlanta Bible College.
- 13 **Pastor Michael and Charity Bedlock and the work at Le-noir, 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 students arriving at FUEL today.**
- 18 Pray that God will lead many of our young people into ministry at home and abroad.
- 19 **Pray for the brethren in India.**
- 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 the safety for those traveling home from FUEL today.
- 23 **Pray for those who are studying the Systematic Bible Study Course over the internet.**
- 24 Pray for the next generation of young people in our churches.
- 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 and Pastor Merry Peterson.
- 31 **Praise God for efforts being made to plant new churches.**

Atlanta Bible College  
Church of God General Conference  
2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400  
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Address Service Requested

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## Prayer and Praise

August 2016

- 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 spiritual renewal for yourself and for your church.
- 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 Atlanta Bible College students and staff as classes begin today.**
- 23 Praise God for His love and faithfulness.
- 24 **Pray for the leadership of your local church.**
- 25 Praise God that He is sufficient to meet every need.
- 26 **Pray that the financial needs of the conference and college will be met.**
- 27 Praise God for your heritage of faith.
- 28 **Pray that God might speak through you to someone who is hurting.**
- 29 Pray for someone you know who needs to make Christ Lord.
- 30 **Pray for an opportunity to share your faith this week.**
- 31 Pray for Pastor Jake and Amber Ballard and their ministry at Pine Grove Bible Church, Minnesota.



# THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

## Summer Conference Report

By David Krogh

The 96th annual summer General Conference was held at the North Hills Church in Springfield, OH. The theme of the conference was Church Well Done. Attendees were greatly encouraged during the conference to hear of the church planting efforts of the newly formed Home Mission Advisory Board of Evangelism and Church Growth. Robin Todd, the coordinator, spoke at the first evening service during which he informed the audience of a new church to be started on July 17 in Oklahoma City with Pastor Scott Perciful.

The second evening, Lord's Harvest International Coordinator Rick McClain shared of the tremendous strides that are being taken in mission work around the world. He reported that over \$220,000 was raised and distributed in our mission fields during the past fiscal year.

Dr. Joe Martin was the speaker at the final evening service as he shared additional thoughts about our mission work as well as the work of Atlanta Bible College, the Korean Extension, and the South Korea campus.

Jan Stilson and David Krogh represented the History Committee in the Thursday morning worship service by honoring the 25 pastors who have died in the first 16 years of this century. Pastor Dan Gill encouraged the membership by reporting on the great opportunities to advance the message of truth and salvation through social media and websites. He spoke at the Thursday afternoon service. Seth Ross

presented a challenging message about youth ministry at the Friday morning worship service. Pastor Wally Winner and Greg Demmitt introduced two recently licensed pastors: Daniel Calcagno of Glad Tidings Church in Fonthill, Ontario, and Scott Perciful of Oklahoma City. Prayer was offered for them and Daniel's wife, Sarah, at the Friday afternoon service.

### Executive Director Appointed

At the Friday afternoon business session, Board Chairperson Bob Morrison announced that Pastor Seth Ross has been selected as the new Executive Director of the Church of God General Conference and President of Atlanta Bible College. Earlier in the meeting, delegates had approved constitutional revisions which change the title of the administrator of the Conference from Chief Administrative Officer to Executive Director. Seth will assume his duties in January 2017. Following the announcement of his appointment, he spoke briefly to the delegates about his sense of God's leading toward this work while being conflicted about leaving the North Hills Church where he has served for the past twenty years.

### New Board Members

Pastor Michael Cisler and Pastor Joe Myers were elected to four-year terms on the board of directors, replacing retiring members Julie Driskill and Bob Morrison. Plaques were presented to



Julie and Bob by Dr. Martin. Following the election, the board elected officers. Chris James is chairperson; Carrie Briggs is vice chairperson; Dan Knowlton will continue as secretary; and Dennis Sharp is treasurer. The board was installed at the Friday evening service by Pastor Michael Hoffman, representing the Ministerial Association Leadership Team.

### Registration

Eighty delegates consisting of 38 church delegates, 6 state/district conference delegates, 7 board members, and 29 pastors were present. About one hundred thirty were registered for the conference, about 275 attending at least part of the conference. Two hundred attended the first evening service.

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.

### Other Business

Rebecca Dauksas was re-elected by the delegates to a three-year term on the Youth Advisory Council.

*(Continued on page 2)*

**W**elcome, delegates, pastors, pastors' wives, youth, and other members to the business session of the 96th General Conference of the Church of God Abrahamic Faith. *Abrahamic Faith*. I remember reading that on a church sign in Lafayette a block from my uncle's house in the little store front church that served that neighborhood. My friends and I would meet sometimes on that corner, since it was an easy landmark in that area. We thought it was a Jewish synagogue, or something related, because of the "Abrahamic Faith" moniker.

That was over 40 years ago. I was baptized at that church as the start of my spiritual journey, taking Jesus Christ as my personal savior. It's a decision I have never once questioned nor regretted. My understanding of biblical truth started in that little church and grew from the Berean youth camps I would attend throughout the rest of my childhood. It was all due to a love for God and His Son, and a love for preaching the

truth by the several pastors who influenced my life over all these years, and who still do influence my life. Just last month I had another dose of influence from my best friend Tom New, as his persistence in getting me to help at the Arkansas Youth camp finally got me there. I was blessed to witness what Tom referred to as "the fruit of (his) many years of ministering to the good people in Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, and Louisiana." He introduced me to the kids *of the 'kids'* he had in camp a couple decades ago as he labored to build up the camp and the youth groups in those states. What a tremendous legacy to see come to life in the faces of the 93 kids who attended the camp this year! As I begin my journey as a new pastor, I can only hope for even a portion of leaving that kind of legacy and influencing so many kids and adults for the work of the kingdom of God.

It is my great privilege to be speaking to you today, in this my final week on the board. I have been on the board for nine of the last ten years.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Summer Conference Report *continued...*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Delegates approved a revised budget of \$932,550 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. This compares with \$893,050 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The new budget calls for contributions of \$410,000. A proposed budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year of \$990,050 was also approved by the delegates. The minutes of the meeting appear on pages 9-11.

The board asked delegates for a straw vote on increasing the amount requested for each appeal for the Church Builders League. The current amount of \$25 was adopted in 1990. Because of inflation, it would take about \$45 to equal the \$25 set twenty-six years ago. Delegates were supportive of suggesting \$35, and perhaps increasing the amount again in the future.

#### **Appointments**

The Board appointed Cheryl Ross, and reappointed Jim Hamilton and Valerie Smith to terms on the ABC Development Foundation board.

Board members serve on Advisory Committees and organizations within the conference. Chris James was reappointed to the Academic Advisory Committee. Michael Cisler was appointed as the representative of the board to serve on the Youth Advisory Committee. Scott Millard was reappointed to the Lords Harvest Board. Carrie Briggs was appointed to the Investment Committee. Dennis Sharp was appointed to the Home Mission Committee.

We are very grateful for the hospitality of Pastor Seth Ross and the North Hills 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 Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA July 26-28. Make plans now to attend. ■

*(Continued from page 2)*

It's been quite an experience, one that I'm not sure I'd want to do over again, but one that I'm proud and humbled to say I served as best I could, and always tried to put the interest of the conference first, and always... always, tried to listen to God's voice. Which I can say I heard in more ways than one on several occasions.

This year has been a good year to be serving on the board of directors. There are several things I'd like to highlight.

- Exciting year as we began the process of finding a new CAO/Executive Director after Dr. Joe announced he was ready to move on and begin serving where God wanted him next. We began by creating a search committee, who met for months, calling many people. The board then interviewed several really good candidates, and we are now on the verge of announcing who was chosen and asked to serve you in this capacity. We need and ask for your continued help and support to transition to a new staff for the future. I'm hopeful that we all see this as an exciting decision in the COG and that we support this change. I ask that you all support this change with prayer, with encouragement, and financially.

- Assistance to churches has increased substantially as we look to the proposed 2017/18 budget. I remember my first year on the board, the assistance to churches was nearly zero. Next year it's set to be around \$40K. This is due mainly to the great work that Robin Todd is doing with planting churches throughout the west and his work in Washington state.

- SWAT teams are being organized to plant these churches. Core groups are being started and ready to support a church plant in numerous cities. The board accepted the Oklahoma City church to the conference yesterday! We welcome Scott Perciful as their first pastor. Robin Todd is using people working full-time jobs and devoting time to ministry. Wouldn't it be great if some of you in this room would step up to be part of this work. I want to encourage you all to support this project.

- Due to some great effort by Dr. Joe and his staff, giving is up this year! It is so much easier to plan the work of the conference when so many

people support the work and show it by the generous giving that is taking place. Thank you!

- English as a Second Language for the Korean Extension is being implemented at the Duluth campus. This will provide

a possible path toward accreditation to accept students who need to learn English. Plus being a huge help in recruiting new Korean students.

- Steve An is back in the US after his mission work in Korea to get another college extension started. We are so grateful for his work, and Sam's leadership while Steve was gone, and glad to have him and Young back.

- New housing for the college students is well under way. One house is built, and a second was purchased for less than construction cost. This will eliminate the need to rent from the apartments and be at the mercy of increases, and, once loans are paid, will eliminate rent payments to the apartments. Last year about \$60K was spent on rent. This is money which in the future can be used to support the ministry instead of paying a landlord. This is the first year we haven't had to pay rent through the summer!

- Free tuition program for COG students was a success, with many students taking advantage of the opportunity. We now have several minister interns working this summer at our churches, who will soon be ready to pastor churches on their own. I have one of these young men helping me in my own pastorate. But we need donors for future tuition program. Money used was from the interest from scholarship endowment fund. That available money now stands at \$0.

- Mission trip to Africa was a great success. Three church buildings are to be built in Mozambique, and three in Malawi. The team traveled to Kenya and met with twenty prospective pastors for three days. The COG is now legal in Kenya and is starting to boom!

It's a scary comparison to think that we can send a preacher to Africa and can have 400 people show up, many who walk hours to get there just to hear the gospel message of Jesus Christ. Yet,



*(Continued on page 4)*

## Chairman's message to the delegates *continued...*

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in America, if one of you pastors ventures into a city park these days you'd likely be met by five people. One who would ask to see your permit, two who would be there to protest your message, and one who would be there to serve you with an arrest warrant.

But the good news is, I know many of our preachers. And I know we will not be deterred from preaching the gospel to all the world. The coming kingdom is upon us! The Church of God has a bright future. We have a vital role in bringing the truth of God's kingdom, with Jesus returning to establish a kingdom upon this earth, where the dead will rise to meet him, then we who are alive to meet him as well. Where we will rule with Christ, in that kingdom, forever! Amen?

Our mission at this General Conference is to look to the future. And as we look to the future, I would like to take just a moment to honor the past.

I would like to begin by honoring two men who have spent their lives serving the COG and the General Conference: David Krogh and Joe Martin.

This conference marks the seventy-first year in a row that David Krogh has attended a General Conference. He has worked tirelessly for more than 40 years serving at the GC. He has sacrificed by giving his talents and abilities rather than seek more lucrative careers in the secular world. I can't say enough about David's heart for service and his dedication to the work of the conference. I have had great pleasure in working closely with David while on the board.

Joe Martin. What can I say? There aren't enough words to express my respect and admiration to Joe. He has served as CAO since 2009. Joe and I have been through so much together the past seven years. I have been blessed by knowing, and serving with, Joe. Joe has faithfully served the conference and college for many years. He could've had a very lucrative career in construction or teaching at a major university. But he stayed and sacrificed for his Lord and Savior to serve the GC and COG. Like so many pastors in our conference have done. He has been an inspiration to me and so many. David and Joe have created a lasting legacy at the college and conference. And the fruit of their labors is evident in the lives of each of you sitting in this room. I'm excited to see where God leads Joe next in his life.

So I want to take a moment to honor them and the work they've done for these many years!

Along with these two, I want to take a moment to give honor to an often overlooked part of the success of these two, and the success of the pastors of our conference.

I can tell you that, as a new pastor, I have been in a spiritual battle. As Paul tells us in Ephesians 6, our fight is "not against flesh and blood."

But I have had a weapon in my corner: A pastor's wife. Marilyn's prayers for me were crucial. I could sense when she was praying for me, and I knew when she was not ... during those times when Satan was fighting against me. The battle got intense enough that we even went on a prayer retreat one weekend. Let me tell you all something you probably already know. Prayer works!

I spoke earlier of the many pastors who have influenced my life over the years. But today is for honoring the overlooked strength behind those men: their wives!

I want to share the list of pastor's wives from my past who have influenced me as they have been there to keep their husbands going.

Joyce Magaw (my first Sunday School teacher), Paula Kirkpatrick, Peggy Winner, Sandy New, Karen Mayberry, Charlene Graham, Alice Railton, Becky Needham, Marie Johns, Karen Demmitt, Audrey Demmitt, and Jill Taylor. And more recently, Lynne Krogh and Rebekah Martin, and most recently, Marilyn Morrison. I know you all have your own list of pastor's wives who have been a great influence on you as well.

All of those pastors' wives endured countless nights of worry and hurt over things their husbands were going through. All prayed for their husbands countless times. All tried to figure out where the money was coming from to feed the kids, pay the bills... some going without basic necessities, like glasses, dental checkups, or just going out on dates, a decent car, and decent clothes.

Some of this is due to the shame of some churches, who don't recognize the need or feel the pain to provide a decent living for their spiritual leader. Some I know is due to circumstances beyond a church's control, but often it's due to neglect and lack of compassion. If that's the case in your church, please... work to change that.

I'd like to take a moment to honor Marilyn...to thank her for the many times she saw me struggling with the issues

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faced as board chair. She was there always to support and pray for me.

Join me in honoring Lynn... to thank her for the decades of quietly supporting David through countless struggles, meeting budgets and facing criticisms of COG members. Of supporting David's faith and dedication to the conference.

Join me in honoring Rebekah... to thank her for her tireless, dedicated, loving support of Joe as he led the conference through some dark days... often with tears and a heavy heart. Rebekah would always invite me to stay with them during board meetings, and during our drives to the office, Joe and I would often comment on how our wives had to put up with our impatience and critical natures, and just put up with us in general, through our many flaws.

Please join me in honoring all of the pastors' wives... to thank them for their many years of dedication to the ministry of their husbands, supporting their insecurities, along with defending them in the face of trials in their churches.

Where would we be without you all?!

Jesus had women around him who supported him, cared for him, cried for him, prayed for him. Look at these women standing and realize the devotion each of them has for their Lord by the dedication each has shown for their husbands in their ministries. Each could share countless stories of hardship, but also of blessing in serving their God and His Son, their churches, and the conference of the COG.

You all are to be commended for serving from the heart. Nothing compares in this life to the heart of a good wife as she works side by side with her pastor husband.

You have to put up with his insecurities, "Honey, how was my sermon today?" And you have to tell white lies once in a while to protect his fragile ego. "It was very good." "Honey, did you like the way I changed the order of service?" You know from hearing the comments coming from the back row that several thought the changes were terrible. So you find the right way to let your husband know that maybe he could keep working on it. Knowing that you will take the heat if you tell him what was said. Or you try to find a way to let him know that an unexpected bill came today. You have to tell him this, all the while making sure he still feels like he is providing for you and the kids, as a good husband should.

It's not an easy job. But so many of you have done that job very well for so many years.

I began by saying that this was a time for looking to the future. And it is. It's good to honor the past, but we should do that only as a means to encourage further work that needs to be done. Honoring the past is way of highlighting good work in order to lift others up to want to continue doing the good work of the kingdom of God

As we look to the future, I want us to consider the words of Paul.

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." 2 Cor. 1:21, 22

Do you hear what Paul is saying?

God has commissioned you to good work. He has set a seal upon you, His seal of ownership.

And if that's not enough, He made the first deposit or installment by placing His Holy Spirit in your heart as a guarantee for what is to come. Or who you will become. This is better than the six months same as cash deals. It's the first installment on eternal life. The Holy Spirit guarantees that we belong to God. God's Spirit guarantees that salvation is ours now, and that we will receive so much more when Christ returns. It doesn't get any better than this!!!

So I started talking about the list of the positive things that have happened this year for the conference. I want to look at one more aspect of that as we close.

Some of you may think you aren't qualified or have the right talents to serve God in advancing His kingdom. I want to highlight what Robin Todd mentioned last night. If you have a talent, let someone know. Find ways to serve in the great commission. Which, as my friend Rick McClain likes to say, "to get as many people into the kingdom as possible." But you may have doubts as to your ability. If this describes you, let me give you this illustration.

I think this is like when a couple first gets married. Think about that time for those of you who are or have been married. What qualifications

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Dr. Joe Martin presenting a gift to Bob Morrison, retiring chairman and board member

**W**hat kind of experience is it to be a first-year member of the board of directors? If you keep reading, I'd like to tell you about having just completed my first year on the board. First, I want to thank Bob Morrison for asking me to do this and giving me this space where he would normally be writing his chairman's report. Our new chairman is Chris James, and he will be communicating board highlights for the next 12 months.

The board is composed of seven members, elected by the delegates at our annual General Conference. It's a blessing to serve with these board members who put God first, sacrifice their personal time, and are dedicated to make the college and conference forces to sustain and grow our ministry for God. Each board member serves a four-year term. Broadly speaking, it is the responsibility of the directors to oversee and provide fiscally sound programs and strategic direction for the college and conference. This is what I focused on - fiscally sound programs and strategic direction - and where I tried to add value, as a member of the group. Serving as a member of this board is something that I have really wanted to do. We each need to ask ourselves, "What is the best way for me to serve God at this time in my life?" I felt it was the right service at the right time. I had just retired from my job (a little early) and serving on the board was one of five key items in my retirement plan that I wanted to pursue. I am very thankful to the people of the Church of God for giving me that opportunity.

During my first year on the board, my time was focused on understanding the people, the organization, and how it operated. This was very beneficial for me personally, because I have never been involved with the college and conference at the national level. My 50+ years in the Church of God had been largely devoted to my home church - Timberland Bible Church in South Bend, Indiana. I did not have the familiarity with the organization that many have, but serving on the board has given me that opportunity.

It became apparent that four key areas of responsibility would become my prime focus to complement the group. They were finance, the CAO search, Home Missions Board, and the promotion of the college and conference. Some of these were assigned and some pursued of my own interest, which can be easily explained.

My adult work life has been spent in operations management. One lesson I learned very well was that you

cannot understand any organization until you understand their finances: how the money comes in and how it goes out. This was a little different in a non-profit organization. Not only were there still balance sheets, income and expense statements, but also foundations, general funds, restricted funds, money borrowed, and money invested among the items that needed a clear understanding. Like anything else, you study it until you understand it, and you ask questions. Many thanks go to Denise Cramer for her patience in getting answers to my questions.



The second key area was the CAO search, which was presented to us all. Timing is everything, and it was time. Dr. Joe Martin was ready to move on to other pursuits, and we needed to do our part to make that possible for him. The hiring of a CAO to oversee the conference and college is an important board function. This was a valuable experience for all of us, but definitely a rare and rewarding experience for a first-year board member. We had a part in selecting the person that will lead us into the future, cast a new vision, and a new beginning. He will play a key role in growing and developing our people and churches, and he will be a key facilitator of managing the structure that brings the greatest message on earth to all of God's people. Bob Morrison skillfully handled this so that all board members had equal input into the decision. A search committee was formed, a skills matrix was developed to identify the traits and skills we wanted in a CAO, we assembled a list of potential prospects, contacts were made, interviews were conducted, and we prayed a lot. We had a "day of prayer" throughout our churches asking God for guidance and direction. There is no doubt that the process of going through this search caused all of us to closely examine and analyze the college and conference in a way we would otherwise not have done. It was very beneficial, and again, especially for a first-year board member. The entire board felt God's leading, and, as you now know, He led us to Seth Ross, who we were excited to announce as our new Executive Director.

The third key area assigned to me was the Home Missions Board. Each board member serves on a committee, such as overseas missions (LHI), youth, academic

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did you have? What training did you receive before getting married? I was one of the most unqualified men ever to say, "I do."

But what made me qualified? Love. When I looked at Marilyn, I was captivated with her beauty and grace. Do you get the picture? I was in love with her for life.

That also describes my first encounter with Jesus Christ...back at that little storefront church when I gave my life to him. I was in love for life.

But we all need reminders. We need the encouragement like I received from all of those pastors, who came through my life, who did what they did because of the support from good wives. So I say this to all of you. Don't ever underestimate your contribution in growing the kingdom of God!

One thing I've learned is that we will never be completely qualified for anything perfectly. Because we are imperfect human beings. But when love carries us through, we can make the journey.

When asked what the greatest commandments were, Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul." And second is this, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love will carry you through as you seek to serve and seek to get as many people into the kingdom as possible.

The Apostle Paul says it this way: *'Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good*

*works. And let us not neglect the act of meeting together, as some people are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.'*

Let's make this 2016 General Conference about the looking to the future.

We gather together, to strengthen our faith and to strengthen one another in the Lord... and to strengthen our relationship with Jesus and his Father.

...I believe the times are growing short. As the day of Jesus' return gets closer, we will face spiritual struggles, even persecution. But through all of that, we must come together as a conference, come together to support our churches, and come together to support our pastors and their spouses.

Now that the board has named the new Executive Director, I encourage you all to come together to support him and his wife and family. We are all in this together.

We must strengthen our resolve to come together, to edify one another, to strengthen one another, to worship God together. **Amen!** ■



Prayer for newly appointed Executive Director Seth Ross and his wife Stacey.

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advisory, and investment. Home Missions is the counterpart to overseas missions. It is headed up by Robin Todd who works with scattered brethren throughout the United States in an effort to plant new churches. Their first new church, Restoration Christian Fellowship in Oklahoma City, was just granted membership at General Conference. Robin does the vast majority of the work on this. Board members largely serve as liaisons between the committees and the conference providing financial and strategic direction when needed. Already on the radar for future churches are Tulsa, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Denver, Colorado Springs, and cities in Florida and California. There is tremendous potential here and we are very hopeful and excited by the early success and future prospects.

The final key area for me is the promotion of our college and conference. This was a subject the entire

board feels strongly that we need to make a priority. Very simply, every year we need to produce more graduates that will enter the pastoral ministry, and we need to strengthen the connection between our churches and the conference. This year was a good year as we have three students starting pastoral ministry by serving internships: Nathan Massie in Kokomo, IN; Jacob Rohrer in Gatesville, TX' and Talon Paul in Eden Valley, MN. Unfortunately, we don't have enough good years like this one. We need pastors not only to fill the start-up churches mentioned above, but also many of our existing churches struggle to find pastors. The good news is that we have a great college and conference with many experienced and dedicated people. We must do the best job possible of selling and convincing our membership of who we are and what we have to offer. We need to promote! We do a good job of promoting in the RESTITUTION HERALD, but we also

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Simplicity. How could it get any simpler?

Stephen Covey promoted a saying, "Let the Main Thing be the Main Thing." The Bible says it even better, "the more the words, the less the meaning." (Ecc 6:11 NIV) And, "God made man simple, his complex problems are of his own devising." (Ecc 7:29 JB) Having just gotten back from Africa, I have become fascinated even more by the creed of Jesus and the Jews, "YHWH Eloheinu, YHWH Echad." (Dt 6:4, Mk 12:29)

This is also known as the Shema. That's just four simple words (in Hebrew) that we are to listen to and heed. *Shema* is in the imperative, a command. *Akoue*, in Greek (Mk 12) is also in the imperative, a command. The LORD/YHWH our God, the LORD/YHWH is one.



Meeting with Mozambique pastors  
Front Row: Linda, Rebekah, Joe, Rufus, Bango, Tchakka

Why did Jesus quote this at the "first, foremost, chief, and most important" (various translations of *protos*) command? I told the Africans in Mozambique, Malawi, and Kenya that I would live and die with the simple words of the Bible rather than manmade creeds of man, and later Christianity. I am, we are, biblical monotheist. Let's live and die with the simple words of scripture.

But, but, but... what about Jesus? I can hear some now. Let's take a short look at the simplicity of who Jesus is. In Matthew 3:17 after Jesus' baptism, God also had four simple words to begin with about Jesus, "This is my Son... ." He added "...whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (NIV) But please understand the beauty of this simplicity. God/YHWH said simply, "this is my Son." Yes, I

understand there are complications as to "how" and "when" and "why," but the simplicity is absolutely there! Just as the four simple words "in the beginning God..." can get wrapped up in man's theories of chronology and cosmology, could we just for a moment revel in the beauty of the simplicity of these basic things? Take God's word for Jesus. I will live and die for the simple words of God our Father.

How about what Jesus said? He was accused of elevating himself to "God status," and he had a major conversation with the monotheistic Jews of his time. In John 10:29, he says the "Father is greater than all," and then the enigmatic, mysterious, "I and the Father are one." (v. 30) They picked up stones to stone him, claiming he made himself

to be God. Please notice the simplicity in Jesus' rebuttal, in the Greek, four simple words, UIOS TOU THEOU EIMI, (υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ εἰμι). A direct translation, I said, "Son of God I am." In our English, I AM THE SON OF GOD! Why do we complicate this? Jesus "did not grasp at equality with God!" Yet he is the Son of God, the Messiah.

What did Peter say and what did Jesus think about his answer? In Matthew 16, Jesus questioning the disciples said, "But who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Mt 16:16 NIV) Jesus is thrilled with Peter's answer and says,

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need to continually promote at our conferences, seminars, and out in our churches. I have put together a PowerPoint presentation for the purpose of promoting the college and the conference. I have presented it at two of our churches and hope to present it to others as the opportunity arises. It can also be viewed on YouTube by searching Atlanta Bible College Chapel, or the link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8qhYBMezgs>. The presentation is designed to answer the why, where, what, and who of Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference.

I hope I have given you a better understanding of what a board member does. I am thankful and praise God for allowing me to have this opportunity at this time in my life. He gives us so much more than we deserve. I also hope that, perhaps, you will someday consider running for the board of directors. It's a great way to fulfill our mission statement – "to serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom." As Robin Todd said at our recent general conference, "We may be small, but we have a big message." Let's never stop promoting that message! ■



North Hills Church of God

Springfield, Ohio

**Thursday, 7 July 2016**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bob Morrison at 3:17pm. Tom New opened with prayer.

Chairman Bob recognized first-time delegates. Restoration Christian Church in Oklahoma City was welcomed into the General Conference by the board yesterday, and Pastor Scott Perciful is attending as a delegate.

Chairman’s message to the delegates:

He first discovered the COG as a child over 40 years ago. He is pleased to be able to speak to the delegates at the end of his four-year term on the Board.

We are on the verge of announcing a new CAO (or, Executive Director), and we need the support of the people to make this a success.

Assistance to the churches has increased substantially. We are very happy with the US missions work with Robin Todd.

Giving is up this year, and Bob wants to thank the delegates.

English as a second language is being introduced at the ABC Korean Extension. We are happy to have Steve and Young An back from Korea, and we are grateful for the excellent service of Sam An.

We have purchased a house for students and built another. This is the first summer in many years that we have not paid rent for apartments.

Our mission teams had a great experience in Africa. In addition to the work in Malawi and Mozambique, we are now operating in Kenya.

The board would like to honor Joe Martin and David Krogh for their lifetimes of service. David has now been to 71 consecutive General Conferences. Dr. Joe has served as our CAO since 2009 and has taught at ABC for many years. These men have created a lasting



Board chair/search committee chair Chris James and Board chair Bob Morrison announcing the appointment of Seth Ross as the Executive Director of the Conference and President of Atlanta Bible College

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“Blessed are you ...!!” (v. 17) Again, we can live and die on the simplicity and beauty of the straightforward, simple, words of scripture. Seek first, His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Mt 6:33) The beauty of simplicity as found in scripture and first-century Christianity.

New...I have been in a “whirlwind” ... South Africa, Mozambique border pastors meetings, Malawi meetings, a mission home purchase in Blantyre, seeing the Kenyan board formed and organized, losing passports, getting passports to come home, General Conference, new Executive Director come January, family reunion, FUEL time, etc. Rebekah will give a fuller report on Africa (see later pages), but it was awesome to see God at work. In Mozambique, Pastors Bango, Tchakka, and Sande continue to lead Mozambique with over 300 congregations. Tchakka is the one who hid his congregation in the mountains for years during the seventies and eighties revolution in Mozambique.

Malawi is recovering well after several disasters. More than \$200,000 has been raised for missions this past year

as was reported at General Conference. I believe we also saw the Kenyan board come alive and legal in Kenya thanks to the direction of many, especially Maurice Chahilu, James Nyangute and others. We sat for days, answering and asking questions about our faith. They are coming together.

At a very celebratory General Conference, we spoke of the missions at home and abroad and “Church Done Well.” The delegates voted to rename the CAO position to Executive Director. and.... (drum roll...) the board invited Seth Ross to be that new Executive Director come January, and he accepted! Hallelujah, Praise God, Amen! I will continue to teach at ABC and be involved in missions, Lord willing, ‘till Jesus comes... or that other alternative.

Also, it was noted that because of some great key donations, we were in the “black” this year. We operate the conference work from 2020 Avalon Parkway, McDonough, GA, and because of tenants, our “rent” was free! We were in the black on the building as well!

Please read the minutes of the General Conference and other reports for all the details. ■

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legacy for our college and conference. Bob also paid tribute to their wives, Rebekah and Lynne, and all other pastors' spouses.

Bob asks that we come together to support our new leaders and grow together. As the days grow short, we must come together as a Conference to edify one another, to strengthen one another, and to serve God.



Rick McClain, Lord's Harvest International Chairperson, presenting a message about missions

After Bob's message, Rex Cain showed us a photograph of David Krogh during his racing days. David then shared the delegate numbers for this year. There are 29 pastor delegates, 38 church delegates, 6 state conference delegates, and 7 Board delegates, for a total of 80 delegates. This is 10 fewer than last year.

Denise Cramer then presented the financial reports.

On the income and expense reports, contributions were higher than projected, which included a particularly large donation. Salaries are higher than projected, though they are lower than last year with a larger staff.

Bob Morrison pointed out the GC is the only 501(c)3 organization in Henry County that is paying property taxes. Joe Myers pointed out we were paying \$12,000 per month in rent for the Avalon building a few years ago.

On the Restricted Funds report, we see \$219,873 in contributions for missions, a huge increase from last year.

On the Balance Sheet, we see loans payable for the house purchase and the house build were moved into the General Fund.

Chairman Bob paid tribute to Bob Jones for his many years of teaching and service, and to his loving wife Nola. He also spoke of Denise, Kim, and Robin for the excellent work they are doing for the conference now, and of Julie

Driskill for her service on the board. Bob and Julie are both leaving the board after this conference.

Bob opened the floor for nominations for the Board of Directors. Nominations for Michael Cisler and Joe Myers have been submitted before conference, though we need a minimum of three. Scott Millard nominated Michael Cisler on behalf of the Ministerial Association.

Steve Taylor nominated Joe Myers on behalf of Lakeshore Bible Church. Scott Ross nominated Greg Demmitt. Alan Cain made a motion to close nominations. Scott Millard seconded. Motion carried.

Seth Ross nominated Rebecca Dauksas to serve another term on the Youth Advisory Committee. Jake Ballard seconded. Joe James moved that nominations be closed and unanimous ballot be cast for Rebecca. Motion carried.

Steve An presented the report for the ABC Korean campus. Steve and Young have moved back to Georgia, but the work continues in Korea. One of the biggest impediments to teaching there is the prevalent belief in doctrines of personal wealth and prosperity. Still, he has had success in teaching the truth of the coming kingdom in South Korea. Steve showed photographs from a church that is converting entirely to the kingdom message.

Bob paid tribute to Steve's wife, Young, and Sam's wife, Sarah.

Greg Demmitt gave his report for MSN. He continues to work with churches on Natural Church Development. He is trying to encourage second-career pastors.

Denise presented the budget proposals. She reviewed the proposed revisions for 2016-2017 and the proposed budget for 2017-2018. David pointed out we still have some money in the budget for apartment leases, because we expect to need to rent some in the spring semester.



Seth and Stacey Ross as Seth addresses the delegates after the announcement of his appointment as Executive Director/President.

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Installation of the board by Ministerial Association Leadership Team chairman Michael Hoffman. L to R: Chris James, Dennis Sharp, Dan Knowlton, Scott Millard, Joe Myers, Michael Cisler, and Carrie Briggs.

Julie Driskill presented gifts to Joe and Rebekah Martin and to David and Lynne Krogh. She paid heartfelt tribute to the four of them their lifetimes of service.

Secretary Dan Knowlton read the minutes for today's session.

Dale Swartz was pleased to announce the late pastor Tom Fischhaber's mother will be baptized this Sunday at Eden Valley.

Bob Morrison adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

### **Friday, 8 July 2016**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Morrison at 3:17pm. Joe Myers opened with prayer.

We held the first round of voting for the board of directors.

As the votes were being collected and counted, Dr. Joe Martin presented some lovely parting gifts to outgoing board members Julie Driskill and Bob Morrison. David Krogh brought to our attention some information in the delegate packet regarding available publications and volunteers for next year's conference. Bob thanked all the staff for the work they did putting together all this important information for the delegates.

Bob referred to the Church Builders League appeal. The amount requested has been \$25 since 1990. He asked for opinions of the delegates as to whether the board should increase the amount. Dale Swartz suggested leaving an option of \$25 on the mailing, as well as a larger amount. Rebekah Martin suggested raising the amount to \$45. Alan Cain suggested an increase to \$45, though contributors always have the option of giving \$25, or any other amount.

Michael Cisler was elected to the Board of Directors.

We held a second round of voting to select the second board member.

David Krogh gave an explanation to the delegates of the work of the Investment Committee. They have determined three managed investment funds and balance the risk with 5% fixed-rate loans to churches for building projects.

Joe Myers was elected to the board of directors.

Chairman Bob opened the floor to discuss the proposed changes to the 2016-2017 budget. Michael Hoffman made a motion to approve the budget changes as presented. Rebekah Martin seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Bob opened the floor to discuss the proposed budget for 2017-2018. Jim Hamilton made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Maria Knowlton seconded. Motion carried.

We next discussed the amendments to the constitution presented by the board. The board proposed a change of the title of Chief Administrative Officer to Executive Director. Keith Williams moved to accept the amendments as presented. Joe James seconded. After discussion, Bob called for count of raised delegate cards. A constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds vote to pass. Motion carried with 70 votes.

Bob asked for any new business from the floor. With none offered, Bob told a story and gave a tribute to Joe Martin for his years of tireless service as our CAO. Vice Chairman Chris James spoke to the delegates about the CAO search process over the last couple of years. Bob then announced Seth Ross as the board's selection for Executive Director of the Church of God General Conference. Seth gave a speech in which he expressed his love for his church and the difficulty with which he made this decision. He stated he is honored to accept this responsibility, and he is looking forward to working with Joe and the staff and the churches.

Alan Cain said we need to pray for North Hills during this time of transition. Scott Millard said Seth is the right person, and we need the support of all the people to make this a success.

Secretary Dan Knowlton read the minutes for today's session.

David Cheatwood moved to approve the minutes as read and corrected. Alan Cain seconded. Motion carried.

David Krogh read the final delegate numbers. There were 80 total delegates.

Jim Hamilton moved to adjourn the meeting. Alan Cain seconded. Motion carried. Bob Morrison adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Daniel L. Knowlton



The U.S. Missions Board is announcing the addition of another General Conference congregation. As of July 17, 2016, the Restoration Christian Church in Oklahoma City is now in business after a successful launch on that date. They meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of every month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Elks Lodge, 5550 NW 72<sup>nd</sup> St. in Oklahoma City. For more information, call Pastor Scott Perciful at 918-863-5656, or [sp@scottperciful.com](mailto:sp@scottperciful.com).

The first pilot congregation, which is in Washington state, is about to finish its third year. Starting with about a dozen attendees, the Western Washington Church of God now consists of around 50 men, women and children. The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Columbian Hall, 6794 Martin Way in Olympia. A smaller second group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month at the YWCA, 3609 Main St., Vancouver, Washington. For more information, contact Pastor Robin Todd at 360-701-9219, or [robinsings4u@comcast.net](mailto:robinsings4u@comcast.net).

As we identify areas of the U.S. where God and Jesus are already working through previous and current works of evangelism, we will be planning



Licensing of Scott Perciful, Dan and Sarah Calcagno with Robin Todd (left) and the Ministerial Recognition Board members Greg Demmitt and Wally Winner

how we might gather scattered believers together in their communities for the purpose of fellowship, mutual encouragement, spiritual growth, and out-reach. Several cities have been identified at this time, and pre-planning activities have begun. As time and resources become available, and as God and Jesus guide us, we will implement those plans in order to establish more gospel sharing centers across the U.S.



Robin Todd,  
Home Missions Coordinator

As part of this missions effort, an outward facing website has been set up at [www.age2come.com](http://www.age2come.com). It is in its infancy, but the idea is to have a place where interested public can go to get more information about the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Messiah Jesus. The plan includes making videos available on internet television and other media outlets as resources permit. These videos would direct the watcher back to the website. For more information or for comments and suggestions regarding this media effort, contact Pastor Steve Taylor at [lbcsteve@gmail.com](mailto:lbcsteve@gmail.com).

For more information about U.S. missions in general, you can contact Robin Todd at [robinsings4u@comcast.net](mailto:robinsings4u@comcast.net). ■

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Publishing Specialist: Ruth Finnegan  
Proofreader: Robert Jones  
Coordinators: David Krogh and Joe Martin  
Address editorial correspondence to: Joe Martin,  
2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253





## Heritage Conference

History Committee member Jan Stilson addressing the Heritage Conference

The 12th Heritage Conference was held just prior to General Conference on July 5 and 6 at the North Hills Church of God. Sessions were held on a variety of history topics, including a report on a memorial service held for Joseph Marsh in Tecumseh, Michigan on June 26. Over the past two years, the History Committee has raised funds to erect a monument on the unmarked grave of Marsh. Joseph Marsh (1802 to 1863) is a forefather in the faith for the Church of God. Some of his descendants are still active in our movement today.

Pictured are some who attended the service including members of the Ross family, Church of God pastors and families, Marsh family members, and Gene and Jan Stilson. ■



## Ministers of the Gospel in Service to the Church of God Who Have Died in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Mary Vadnais 1918-2000  
Joseph Fletcher 1931-2001  
Cecil Smead 1906-2003  
Francis Burnett 1917-2007  
Emory Macy 1911-2007  
Linford Moore 1922-2008  
Ed Graham 1919-2009  
Stan Lawrence 1927-2009  
Leon Driskill 1929-2009

Earl Poland 1936-2010  
Jack Hearp 1926-2010  
Richard Worley 1936-2011  
Ed Goit 1921-2012  
Sherwin Williams 1944-2013  
James Mattison 1924-2013  
Carl Jennings 1946-2014  
Alva Huffer 1925-2014  
Delbert Rankin 1949-2014

Vernis Wolfe 1922-2014  
Joe Astolfi 1947-2014  
Hollis Partlowe 1925-2015  
Tom Fischhaber 1955-2015  
Ray Hall 1946-2015  
Roy Humphreys 1929-2016  
Kent Ross 1941-2016

## KOREA CAMPUS

The 2016 spring semester was completed with 13 students on May 9th. And shortly after, Young and I returned to the North Campus in Duluth GA. For the 2016 fall semester, my classes taught at the North-east campus will be recorded and provided as media files to pastor Younghee An in Korea, and she will facilitate my classes through video/internet. Also, a block class for the students in Korea is scheduled for the winter, in which I will teach in person. My plan is to lead the students spiritually, as well as providing them with academic knowledge. My main focus is to continue to encourage the students to sustain the Abrahamic Faith that they have been learning in the classes.

I have been continually witnessing dramatic conversions among the student body through the Abrahamic Faith in the classes. For example, the Yebon (meaning likeness of Jesus) Full Gospel Church is located in Namyang-ju City in the Kyunggi-do province approximately 25 miles west of the downtown of Seoul. A woman pastor Yeonok Kim has been enrolled since 2015, referred by one of her friends who is a fellow classmate. Pastor Kim has been under dialysis treatment three times a week due to kidney failure. Pastor Kim has been deeply inspired by the kingdom message, the coming kingdom of Messiah on the earth at the return of Jesus Christ. For some time, she had the typical traditional Korean Christianity which is seeking prosperity in this age, such as money, good health, and so forth. This false idea had caused her to be skeptical about God's promise and Christian faith, and as a pastor, she has been reluctant to announce her health condition to her congregation. Since she found the truth of the kingdom message from the Bible, which is the true promise and the blessing of God, her heart was filled with biblical hope and joy similar to that of Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians. Miraculously, she was convinced of the Christian faith to God's promise, and she announced her health condition proudly like Paul to her congregation. Since then, she has been proclaiming the kingdom message with passion and confidence.

I was invited twice each month for Sunday service messages, including the church's first anniversary service, and I also led Bible studies for the youth

group. I have witnessed the spiritual conversions of the adult and the youth members. I expect that the church will replace the sign of Yebon Full Gospel Church to Yebon Church of God Abrahamic Faith soon.

As I have been experiencing this and many other spiritual conversions, I cannot help but to feel a great admiration for the COGGC/ABC for preserving the priceless treasure of the soul saving truth the Abrahamic Faith, which provides truthful hope and joy to the lost sheep of God living in this evil age. I am confident that COGGC/ABC deserves to be called by our Lord Christ, that "You are good and faithful servants!"

My heart is filled with deep respect and gratitude to all of you, and may God bless you, your family and your ministries.

Steve An/ Vice President of Korean Extension



Yebon Full Gospel Church Youth Group (Pastor Yeonok Kim – 4<sup>th</sup> from right)



Yebon Full Gospel Church/ First Anniversary Service



## Northeast Campus

By Sam An

Thank you to all of the members of the Church of God General Conference for your support of the Korean missions, and it was a blessing and a pleasure to see all of you at the annual conference at the North Hills Church. We also praise God for allowing us to be recertified by the Immigration Department (permission to accept foreign students) on April 21 of this year. God is good!

The Korean Extension spring semester came to a close on May 11 with 28 Korean students. We were also blessed to have six new students join our student body for the spring.

stages of our accreditation process with the Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA). We hope to complete this part of the requirement by fall of 2017 and move on to the next step. The whole process should be completed by summer of 2018. We ask for your support and prayer.

In terms of the fall 2016 semester class lineup, we will be offering six Bible courses, six ministry courses, and eight general education courses by six teaching staff. Steve's classes will be recorded through video and the electronic files will be uploaded to the internet, so the Korean students at our campus in Korea can view the courses. Pastor Young Hee An will facilitate Steve's



Spring 2016 Personal Spiritual Development II Block Class



Spring 2016 Old Testament I Survey Class



Campus Bible Church Chapel Service

Five instructors facilitated classes, including Steve An who delivered two internet-based courses online as well as traveling back to the U.S. temporarily in the winter of 2015 to facilitate an intensive block class.

Immediately following the spring semester, Steve and Young transitioned back to the U.S. safely to once again head-up the KE at the Northeast campus. The KE community as a whole was excited with their return! Many students and church members visited the campus to meet and greet both of them. Student numbers for the fall 2016 look promising. As of July, we have 35 students enrolled, and we continue to receive enrollment inquiries. Currently, Steve and I and the KE administrative faculty are collaborating on the fall 2016 curriculum and semester schedule. As I mentioned in the last Progress Journal, we will be taking the necessary steps to create an accredited English as a second language (ESL) program as a pilot program for the Korean Extension course. Initially, the ESL curriculum will be offered without accreditation alongside our current Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension courses to begin the initial

internet courses in Korea, and she will have the ability to play and stop the video files momentarily to answer questions or to elaborate on particular topics. My wife Sarah will continue with administrative support, as well as preparing the meal preparation with Young.

### Seeking Worship Leader

Living Hope Community Church in Latham, NY is looking for a part-time paid worship leader to serve for a year (or more). This church is pastored by Vince and Sean Finnegan. The position will average about 10-15 hours per week. For a detailed job description go to:

lhim.org. To apply, send a resume and cover letter explaining why you would be a good fit for this position to:

[info@lhim.org](mailto:info@lhim.org).



## ABC Graduation

The 73rd graduation ceremony of Atlanta Bible College was held on May 13 at 7:30 p.m. One student received the Bachelor of Theology degree, Jacob Rohrer; four received the associate's degree in Theology and Ministry, Josiah Cain, Valerie Crawford, Nathan Massie, and Talon Paul; and three received the Foundation Certificate, Grace Mativo, Kyle McClain, and David Smith. The graduation message was delivered by ABC instructor Bob Jones. Others taking part in the service were President Dr. Joe Martin, Anthony Buzzard, Denise Cramer, David Krogh, Rufus Meyers, Kim Raper, and Dustin Smith. ■



(l to r): David Smith, Kyle McClain, Grace Mativo, Valerie Crawford, Talon Paul, Nathan Massie, Josiah Cain, and Jacob Rohrer.

## UP Project

UP Project 2016 was a great success! The group spent time in Tennessee this year helping to spread God's love and serve His people living there! The first part of the week was spent in Nashville, learning about organizations that are attempting to stop hunger and racism in the United States. We got to follow the food from the harvesting process all the way to the hands of the homeless!

The second part of the week was spent in East Tennessee helping a missionary named Becky. She has faced many trials in the last few years, including the loss of her son and husband within six months of each other, her house burning down, and being robbed twice. The group took the opportunity to build a dog kennel, chicken coop, and helped clean up several areas on Becky's mountain which also serves as a missionary training facility!

Thanks for the prayers and love offered up for the UP team! Looking forward to next year! ■



UP Project 2016 in Tennessee!



UP team members serving joyfully and spreading God's love.





# Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner

To be enacted late in July 2016 is a new Russian law that prohibits evangelism and preaching outside state-sanctioned sites. The law will amend a 1997 Russian religion law to ban preaching, praying, proselytizing and disseminating religious materials outside state-sanctioned religious sites.

Among its most controversial provisions, the law increases security agencies' access to private communications, requiring telecom companies to store all telephone conversations, text messages, videos, and picture messages for six months and make this data available to authorities. Members of a religious group would also potentially be barred from e-mailing invitations to people interested in services.

Additionally, it bars things like prayer meetings from taking place anywhere except for officially recognized religious buildings. That would potentially forbid house churches.

Russians who share their faith or distribute certain types of religious messages through mass print, broadcast or online media may face fines or potentially be expelled from Russia.

Well, it is Russia. It is long way from the religious freedom of the United States. Except...

- The Iowa Civil Rights Commission is being sued for claiming it has the right to control the content of church services that are "open to the public."

At issue in the Iowa case are state mandates that protect "transgender rights." Among them are allowing men to enter women's shower rooms, dressing rooms and restrooms if they say they are women, and banning statements in meetings "open to the public" that "might cause individuals to believe that they are unwelcome because of their perceived gender identity."

- The U.S. Supreme Court left standing a lower court decision that Washington state pharmacists who are Christian must violate their faith in order to practice their profession. The second decision came from a federal judge in Mississippi who said county clerks in the state must violate their faith to hold their office.

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, who warned there was evidence that the "impetus for the adoption of the

regulations was hostility to pharmacists whose religious beliefs regarding abortion and contraception are out of step with prevailing opinion in the state."

In the Mississippi ruling from Judge Carlton Reeves, who once punished a school district for allowing a voluntary prayer at an optional awards ceremony, said clerks in the state cannot cite their religious beliefs to excuse themselves from issuing marriage licenses to homosexual duos.

- Missouri State University dismissed a student from a counseling program for expressing opposition to counseling same-sex duos.
- Again in Iowa, Gortz Haus Gallery and Bistro owners Betty and Richard Odgaard were sued by a homosexual duo.
- In Texas, David and Edie Delmore, who own a bakery, were approached by Ben Valencia and Luis Marmolejo about a cake for a "gay wedding." They declined, referring the potential customers to other bakers. Subsequently, their home has been vandalized, and their son has been threatened with rape.
- Family-owned Memories Pizza in Indiana owner was interviewed by a local TV station in the aftermath of the adoption of the state's religious freedom law. Responding to a reporter's question, the owner said that while her restaurant serves "gays," her Christian faith wouldn't allow her to cater a "gay wedding." The restaurant immediately became a focal point of outrage with threats of death and destruction, causing the owners to shut down their business.
- A North Carolina pastor was relieved of his duties as an honorary chaplain of the state house of representatives after he closed a prayer by invoking the name of Jesus.

Ron Baity, pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Winston-Salem had been invited to lead prayer for an entire week but his tenure was cut short when he refused to remove the name Jesus from his invocation.

*Remember this: There are some terrible times coming in the last days...They will have no love for others and will refuse to forgive anyone. They will talk about others to hurt them and will have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good...Everyone who wants to live showing true devotion to God in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Timothy 3:1, 3, 12 ERV* ■

# Good News

*“Like cold water to a weary soul, so is good*

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor Viv Kirkpatrick II** and the entire church thank **Vivian P. Kirkpatrick** for presenting the messages April 10 and 17 while Pastor Viv was recovering from eye surgery. Thank you also goes out to **Eric Moore** for climbing the ladder and bringing down the video projector for bulb replacement and centering it for best viewing. **Braden McColley** and **Logan Karl** provided much-needed muscle power, hauling the heavy sky ladder. **Faith Forcier** was a member of the Eden Valley-Watkins High School robotics team at the Robotics World Championships in St. Louis April 28-30.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** and the church thank the following people for their help in the benefit to raise funds for Kim Laurent’s mission trip to Africa: for sharing their musical gifts (**Kim and Jay Laurent, Chuck Meyers, Lyvvi and Doug Matheson, Felipe Rodriguez, Shelley Myers, Beth Anderson-Hall, Dylan Stormont, Delene Young, Conner Young, Kathie Rager, Ellen Laurent, Gayle Guthrie, Mary Cheatwood, Donna Smith, Peg Deloriea, Chris Welty, Matt Stormont, and Larry Mayberry**); Shelley Myers for helping Kim organize the event; **Judy Myers** for organizing the refreshments; **Joyce Noon, Kathy Canfield Boehme, Dixie Hammer, Linda Hoffman, Pam Matheson, Mary Ann Mortellaro**, and Ellen Laurent for providing refreshments; and to Joyce Noon, **Gary Myers, LeAnn Oltmanns, Abigail and Noah Myers, and Andy and Tember Wilson** for help in setting up, serving, and clean-up. [Many hands, as you see, make for light work. – GNP]

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – The church hosted a pig roast/sharing festival/giveaway on June 4. The congregation brought clothes and items to share with others in the church or in the community. Everything at the festival was free. A bouncy house and games were provided for the kids, and a Christian band played in the parking lot. The pig roast, with dishes to pass, made the day complete.

From the **Resurrection Hope Church of God in Lenoir, NC** – The church is delighted to welcome its new pastor **Michael Medlock and his wife Charity**. He began his pastorate with a message on April 22, and many church

people gathered to help them unload their truck into their new home on April 29-30.

From **Atlanta Bible College in McDonough, GA** – Adjunct instructor **Dustin Smith** debated **David Barron** on the pre-existence of Christ on April 9 at the college building. Several students and others attended the debate, which was lively and interesting. A link to view the debate is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQ1RkLEBIEE>.

From **Western Washington Church of God in Olympia, WA** – **Pastor Robin Todd** is happy to announce the ordaining of its first elder, **Marcus Atkins**. Marcus will help lead a group that lives in the area of Portland, OR, and Vancouver, WA. Congratulations to Marcus and **his wife Veronica** and family for entering the ministry of servant leadership for the people of God.

From **Oklahoma City, OK** – A new Church of God was launched July 17, and the new pastor is **Scott Perciful**, who was introduced to the delegates at the General Conference July 6-8 at North Hills Church of God in Springfield, OH.

From the **Church of the Open Bible in Bedford, OH** – **Pastor Andrew Weaver** and the church congratulate **Jacob Cain** for achieving the level of Eagle Scout. Great job, Jacob!

From **Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, MO** – **Pastor Ed Bender** presented special services on May 26 and 29. The titles of the sermons and lessons were: “A Change in Society: Part 1”, “A Change in Society: Part 2”, and “The Kingdom as Gospel.”

From **Garden Park Church of God in Grand Rapids, MI** – Youth Sunday was June 12, and the church was blessed with skits, sermonettes, artwork, and some new songs. On Fathers’ Day, the service was unique with three generations of ladies (**Keilyn Cook, Sara Cook, and Norma Knapp**) sharing the morning message. Attending Family Camp this year were **Rick, Jill, Amber, Kyle, and Mackenzie McClain and Grace Rodgers**. Thanks go out to Grace for doing the bulletin. Some of the people who have filled the pulpit have been **James Fyfe** (June 26), Kyle McClain (July 3), and **Brian Hall** (June 5). May 14 was a game night with pizza to meet **Bill Dunn** and his family. Bill filled the pulpit on May 15. Bill Dunn will begin his ministry at Garden Park in August.

From the **Oaklawn Church of God in Koszta, IA** – **Pastor Ed Bender** presented special services on May 18 and 22. **Megan Cronbaugh** was inducted into the National

Honor Society, and she has done very well in shooting competitions, winning first prize in several trap shooting contests. [Congratulations, Megan! – GNP]

From the **Pleasant Hill Church of God in Pleasant Hill, OH – Pastor Scott Deane** and several from the church went to a Dayton Dragons baseball game July 13. I'm sure a great time was had by all. [Words spoken by a true baseball fan. – GNP]

From the **Iowa Church of God Conference** – The 129<sup>th</sup> annual Iowa Church of God Conference will be held August 3-7 in Waterloo, IA. [That's truly amazing! 129 years!! Keep it up!!! – GNP] Among the leaders and speakers/teachers will be **Paul Moore, Ron Macy, Kenny Cronin, Nancy Rankin, Tascha Rankin, Chondra Rankin, and Gavin Cronin**. Indoor "campfires" and picnics and great food will also make this a wonderful time for all who attend.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – Congratulations to **Logan Karl**, who was honored with two distinctive awards at his recent band concert. He received the Director's Award for junior high for his dedication and leadership, and he also lettered in band as an eighth grader. **Ben Karl** received Most Enthusiastic Award in choir. The church is quite proud of you, Logan and Ben. Congrats also to **Philip Kirkpatrick** for passing both his Black Tiger exam and his Blue Belt testing in Hapkido. The testing was very intensive, and Philip did 52 pushups in 1 minute. [Wow! – GNP]

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – On July 10 the youth presented pictures from their recent mission trip, and **Brendan Gallagher** preached the message that he did while on the trip. Members of the mission team were: Brendan, **Sarah Skrabacz, Kaliyah Fulton, Preston Holland, Randy Northup, Landon Overholser, Emily Stringer, Shelby Lindner, Garrett Rust, Matt Tattman, Robbie and Amy Davis, Rick, Jennifer, Davin, and Austin Jordan**.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – Birthday celebrations go out to **Edith Gentry** (84), **Colleen Shaw** (82), and **Jeanne Smith** (93). Mother of the year award went to **Judy Turner**, and father of the year was **Todd Impson**.

This is the time of the year to honor those who have graduated. Here are the names that GNP is aware of: **Micayla Moore** – Bethel University (Hutchinson Church); **Denise Rohrer** – Troy Christian High School (Pleasant Hill Church); **Sami Allie** – Capri Beauty School (Oaklawn

Church); **Bailey Dornbusch** – Troy High School (Troy View Church); **Dylan Stormont and Nadia Vanderkolk** – eighth grade and **Olyvianna Matheson** – high school (Oregon Church); **Peter Blair, Matt Brown, Cally Jones, and Jacob Rohrer** – college, **Josiah Cain and Nathan Massie** – associate's college degree, and **Jacob Barger, Isaac Cain, Ethan Kaffenbarger, Hannah Miller, Randy Northup, Allison Sigler, Dillon Driskill, Sarah Skrabacz, and Morgan Turnmire** – high school (Lawrenceville Church); **Faith Forcier** – Eden Valley-Watkins High School and **Amber Messner** – Hutchinson High School (Hutchinson Church); **Marina Anderson** – South Caldwell High School and **Dawson Phillips** – Hibriten High School (Resurrection Hope Church); **Richard Wood** – high school (Bethel Church); **McKenzie Cronin and Blaise Roberts** – Iowa Valley High School, and **Katie Brown, Marisah Richards, Matt Shawver, Adeliah Mulli, and Justin Rankin** – all from other high schools (Belle Plaine Church). An impressive list we have here, and it's always an impressive achievement, no matter what level of schooling that you graduate from. Congratulations to all, and best wishes and our prayers in the future. (GNP)

Anniversary congratulations go out to **Chuck and Becky Dixon** for 35 years (Lawrenceville Church); **Bill and Ginny Cramer** for 50 years (Bedford Church); **Dennis and Linda Massie** for 50 years and **Roy and Alberta Stevens** for 57 years (Lawrenceville Church). And, to save the best and most amazing for last, **Warren and Irene Sorenson** celebrated 65 years and **Don and Mary Overmyer** celebrated 70 years in a joint open house at **Lake-shore Bible Church in AZ**. [Those numbers are almost beyond belief! Congratulations to these couples who show what dedication to marriage is all about. And GNP will probably be in trouble if it does not mention **Nola Jones'** accomplishment of sticking with Bob for 35 years. I guess that's amazing, too! – 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

## Africa 2016

By Rebekah Martin

'How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" ' Romans 10:14-15

These have long been my favorite verses for working in the mission field. Everyone is not able to go to another country. However, everyone *can* spread God's good news because you are in a mission field wherever you are. Thank you so much for your prayers, gifts, and financial support for this trip!

In May, Pastor Rufus Meyers, Jeremy Martin (our son), Josiah Cain, Joe and I started out our trip by going to Malawi. We were greatly blessed by being able to stay in a house in Blantyre, recently purchased for use of people going over to Malawi for Africa missions. This will enable us to leave things there that we usually have to haul over to Africa and back every time, as well as have a home base, and we will be able to stay over there longer in the future.

At one of the churches in Malawi, a 20-year celebration of us working together with them was held, and it was great! Many churches came together, and I think there were about 300 people there. It was so good to see old friends who are brothers and sisters in Christ!

20th anniversary service in Thyolo, Malawi.  
Josiah Cain preaching



All the places we went, there was heartfelt thanks for the support for food and fertilizer. Everywhere, people wanted us to express to you how much they appreciate your help. The flooding and winds destroyed last year's crops.

They planted this year, and with the fertilizer you helped provide, the crops looked great! Then, shortly before the crops were mature, it stopped raining. The ensuing drought killed most of the crops. Unfortunately, the problem of not having enough food exists again, so they will continue needing help for a while.

We were not able to get visas to cross over into Mozambique because of the 'silent war' going on. Many of the Mozambique pastors were able to cross the river and come into Malawi to two different churches near the border where we had services with them. Please pray for our Mozambique brothers and sisters. Their country is unsafe right now, and the only place of refuge is in a church. The rebels will not harm anyone inside a church building. So, whole villages are trying to fit into churches to be safe. They usually stay the night there. I don't know what they do in the daytime.

A word about the two who have not gone to Malawi before:

Josiah was our official photographer/videographer and did an awesome job! He organized his work every night, and posted pictures on Facebook, which I know many of you saw and wrote comments about. He also did a great job with his teachings. His red hair was a big hit. :) The word for 'fire' in Chichewa is *moto*; so, he was called Moto. He is very personable, and was a great asset on the entire trip.

Jeremy also did a wonderful job with teachings! He was very good with the children and a huge blessing on the trip. He's writing about his experiences on the Africa trip, so I'll let him speak for himself. Read his article "What I learned in

(continued on page 21)



(Continued from page 20)



New church building in Kenya

Africa” that will be printed in the next RESTITUTION HERALD Electronic Newsletter and PROGRESS JOURNAL.

Rufus had not been to Malawi for 10-12 years, and was excited about going! Most things were still familiar to him. He is always enthusiastic and upbeat...traits that are always an asset! He and Joe spoke at almost every service. It would have gone too long if each of us spoke every time, so the rest of us took turns at different services.

Jeremy and Rufus left for home after the Malawi trip, and Josiah, Joe and I met Kim Raper and Kim Laurent for the Kenya part of the trip in Nairobi. This was Kim Laurent's first time to Kenya, and she did a fantastic job with everything! (So did Kim Raper!) The two Kims are both great teachers and travel-mates. They are both really good with children, and very loving and compassionate with everyone.

Kenya was amazing! The work there is going on very well. The people we work with are very evangelistic, and God's word is spreading quickly. We had a three-day conference in the NW at Maturu, and a three-day conference in the SW at Kisii. There are currently about 20 churches in Kenya, and the pastors formed a national board of directors while we were there!

Many baptisms were reported in each of the countries we visited. We left money for three church buildings in Mozambique and three in Malawi at about \$2,000 each, nine bicycles in

each country at about \$100 each, two motorbikes for pastors who need to travel long distances at about \$450 each. In Kenya we were able to purchase two different plots of land for church buildings, one for Pastor Aggrey and one for Pastor Chahilu. We purchased and distributed 262 Bibles at \$7 each among the three countries. Highlighters, pens, and eye glasses were donated by some of you (Thank You!!), and distributed in each country. We also gave out some soccer balls and pumps for the children/orphans at several of the churches, and bought clothes and food for orphans.

Thank you for helping serve the African mission field with your love, prayers, and financial support. ■

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**August 15-19**—Atlanta Bible College Block Class

**August 20**—Atlanta Bible College Pre-Semester Briefing

**August 22**—Atlanta Bible College Regular Semester Classes Begin

**October 17-21** – Atlanta Bible College Block Classes

**January 13-15, 2017** – reFUEL – Camp Mack, Milford, IN

**February 20-24** — Annual Ministers Conference, Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

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

**May 18-21** - Theological Conference, Calvin Center, Hampton, GA

**June 25-30** – Family Camp – Camp Mack, Milford, IN

**July 16-21** – FUEL – Manchester University, North Manchester, IN

**July 25, 26 – 13<sup>th</sup>** Heritage Conference, Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

**July 26-28** – 97<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference, Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

# Church News

## Baptisms

Arkansas

McGintytown – Thad Kilpatrick (fall 2015); Ruby Clair Lee (3/27/16) by Pastor Tom New.

Missouri

Morse Mill—Will Dunn (7/3/16) by Lacey and Bill Dunn.

South Carolina

Bethel – Dakota Burdick (6/26/16) by Pastor Wally Winner.

Virginia

Cool Spring – Dorothy Hicks and Joshua Lillard (4/17/16) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher.

## Deaths

Illinois

Eldorado – Robert Lee Leithliter, 90, (4/12/16), baptized at age 77; faithful member by Pastor Brian Atra and Elder Jack Wiggins.

Indiana

South Bend - Kenneth Alwine, 87, (3/30/16), member of the North Salem Church by Pastor Timothy Pearson.

Michigan

Grand Rapids – Betty Alters, (3/8/16), former member of Garden Park Church.

Missouri

Springfield – George Kugler, 86, (1/19/16), long-time faithful member, active in state and national camps.

South Carolina

Bethel – Brittany Nicole Norris, 25, (7-2-16) by Pastor Wally Winner.

Ohio

Brush Creek – Lorna F. (Macy) Pearson, (7/17/16), life-long member by Pastor Dave Hixon.

## Pastors Needed

The Litchfield, MN Church of God is seeking a part-time or perhaps retired pastor to assist us going forward. Litchfield has approximately 7,000 residents, and our congregation consists of 20-25 dedicated people. For more information contact elders Tom Housman at 320-221-3972 or Larry Johnson 320-583-6298.

The Pomona, CA church is looking for a pastor because Chuck Jones left June 30. For additional information, please contact: Lauren Steiner 626-339-3048; cell 626-257-0828; [laureen\\_steiner@hotmail.com](mailto:laureen_steiner@hotmail.com); or Charlie Hummel: [Charlie@cmhummel.com](mailto:Charlie@cmhummel.com); 909-518-1964.

The Church of God of Abrahamic Faith in Macomb, IL is seeking a full-time or part-time pastor. Contact elder Richard Derry at 309-333-0242 or e-mail [rderry1@logonix.net](mailto:rderry1@logonix.net).

## ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE HONORS

In order to be on the President's and Dean's lists, a student must be a full-time student enrolled in 12 or more semester hours of classes. The grading system is based on a 4.0 scale. Congratulations to the following students for their academic accomplishments during the winter/spring 2016 semester. (The vast majority of our students are part-time students who take less than 12 semester hours.)

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

Josiah Cain  
Hyeon Mi Jeong  
Soon Ho Jeong  
Kyle McClain  
Talon Paul  
Eun Joo Yang

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

Brook Grant  
Seung Yeon Kim  
Jacob Paura  
Jacob Rohrer

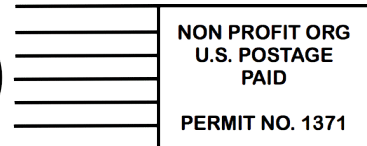
- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1  | <b>Pray for Pastor Dale and Cheryl Swartz and the Countryside Bible Church in Missouri.</b>                     | 15 | <b>Praise God for the prayer partners and financial supporters of the General Conference.</b>  |
| 2  | Pray for Pastor John and Gayle Guthrie and their work at East Oregon, Illinois.                                 | 16 | Pray for your church family and for spiritual growth.  |
| 3  | <b>Pray for Pastor Bob and Marilyn Morrison and the Maple Grove congregation in Kokomo, Indiana.</b>            | 17 | <b>Praise God for the foreign mission opportunities He has provided to us.</b>   |
| 4  | Pray that God might be praised through your worship today.  | 18 | Pray for your own personal desire to love God more.  |
| 5  | <b>Pray for the youth of your local church and the General Conference.</b>                                      | 19 | <b>Pray for mission work in the Philippine Islands.</b>  |
| 6  | Praise God for the faithful ministry of your local church pastor.   | 20 | Pray for your family and your friends.   |
| 7  | <b>Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.</b>  | 21 | <b>Pray for ABC teachers as they instruct our students.</b>  |
| 8  | Pray that God would continue to financially bless the work of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College. | 22 | Pray for all the faithful pastors and workers in Malawi.   |
| 9  | <b>Praise God for the gift of His Son.</b>  | 23 | <b>Pray for those who are seeking God's will for their lives.</b>  |
| 10 | Praise God for His daily mercies.   | 24 | Pray for recently licensed pastor Scott Perciful and his wife Katrina as they work with the new Restoration Christian Church in Oklahoma City, OK. |
| 11 | <b>Pray for the outreach of the church in Lima, Peru.</b>   | 25 | <b>Pray for Pastor Scott and Michele Millard and the Jaynes Street Church in Omaha.</b>  |
| 12 | Praise God for the beauty of each season.   | 26 | Pray for the Lord's Harvest Mission Board.   |
| 13 | <b>Pray for retired pastors and their spouses.</b>  | 27 | <b>Pray that you will let your light shine for Christ.</b>   |
| 14 | Pray for spiritual renewal and growth for ABC students preparing for ministry.                                  | 28 | Praise God for new believers in your church family.  |
|    |   | 29 | <b>Pray for the faith to stand firm when temptation comes.</b>   |
|    |   | 30 | Pray for recently licensed pastor Daniel Calcagno and his wife Sarah in their ministry in Fonthill, Ontario, Canada.                               |

## Prayer and Praise

October 2016

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|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | <b>Praise God for your pastor during October's Clergy Appreciation Month.</b>                               | 17 | <b>Pray for the board of directors as they meet today and tomorrow in Atlanta.</b>  |
| 2  | Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and a new earth in His coming kingdom.                           | 18 | Pray for Atlanta Bible College students and teachers during the Block Classes.  |
| 3  | <b>Pray for a personal hunger to know God and Jesus better.</b>   | 19 | <b>Pray for the work that is being done in India to proclaim God's truth.</b>   |
| 4  | Pray for Pastor Brian Atra and the Restitution Church in Eldorado, Illinois.                                | 20 | Pray for Pastor John and Lila Wincapaw and the Blood River Church in Springfield, Louisiana.                                  |
| 5  | <b>Praise God for your church family and the strength that you receive through it.</b>                      | 21 | <b>Pray for God's blessing on your neighborhood.</b>  |
| 6  | Pray for the Open Bible Church of God in Springfield, Missouri.   | 22 | Ask God to help you love Him and His Son more.  |
| 7  | <b>Pray for a church planting vision for Church of God members.</b>   | 23 | <b>Pray for Pastor Steve and Jill Taylor and the Lakeshore Bible Church in Arizona.</b>                                       |
| 8  | Pray for Africa mission work.   | 24 | Pray for the work of the Blanchard, Michigan church.  |
| 9  | <b>Pray for the youth of your local church.</b>   | 25 | <b>Pray for the ministry of the ABC Korean Extension in reaching students in the Duluth, Georgia area and in South Korea.</b> |
| 10 | Pray for those who are preparing for ministry.  | 26 | Pray for the Grace Fellowship Church in Front Royal, Virginia.  |
| 11 | <b>Pray for Joe Martin, College President/Conference Executive Director.</b>                                | 27 | <b>Praise God for retired Pastor Billie Kennedy and his wife Irene.</b>   |
| 12 | Pray for opportunities to speak to others today about God and Jesus Christ.                                 | 28 | Pray for the Fair Oaks Community Church in Herndon, VA.   |
| 13 | <b>Pray for the financial needs of the Church of God General Conference.</b>                                | 29 | <b>Pray for the Hedrick, Indiana Church, and Pastor David and Wanda Cheatwood.</b>  |
| 14 | Praise God for new contacts who are seeking the truth around the world.                                     | 30 | Praise God for His constant care.   |
| 15 | <b>Pray for the ministry of the Pakistan churches affiliated with the Church of God General Conference.</b> | 31 | <b>Pray for God to send workers into the fields that are ready for harvest.</b>   |
| 16 | Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and the Fort Valley, Virginia Church.                            |    |   |

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



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## Prayer and Praise

November 2016

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|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | <b>Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and the St. Cloud, MN Church and House Light Ministries.</b>      | 17 | <b>Pray for God to provide you with “thankful” eyes this month.</b>   |
| 2  | Pray for our Isolated Member Ministry (IMM).  | 18 | Pray for the boldness you need to share Christ with an unbelieving friend.  |
| 3  | <b>Praise God for the board of directors who willingly serve the Church of God.</b>                       | 19 | <b>Pray for college/conference youth events being planned for 2017.</b>   |
| 4  | Pray for Pastor Kirby Davis and the Wenatchee, WA Church.   | 20 | Pray for the outreach efforts of your local congregation.   |
| 5  | <b>Pray for Lupe Badillo as she continues to minister in Labor Vieja, Mexico.</b>                         | 21 | <b>Praise God for a blessing He provided in your life yesterday.</b>  |
| 6  | Pray for Ruth Finnegan in her duties as publishing specialist for the General Conference.                 | 22 | Praise God for His daily blessings of shelter, food, family, and friends.   |
| 7  | <b>Pray that God will raise up workers to serve in mission fields in other lands.</b>                     | 23 | <b>Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life.</b>  |
| 8  | Pray for Pastor Andy and Kristy Cisneros and their ministry at Timberland Bible Church in South Bend, IN. | 24 | Praise God on this Thanksgiving Day for His goodness in your life.  |
| 9  | <b>Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness.</b>  | 25 | <b>Pray for Pastor Bill and Lacey Dunn and the Garden Park Church in Kentwood, MI.</b>  |
| 10 | Pray for Rick McClain and the work of the Lord's Harvest International mission board.                     | 26 | Pray for the churches within your state or regional conference.   |
| 11 | <b>Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God.</b>   | 27 | <b>Pray for God's greatest blessings on those recruiting new students for the Atlanta Bible College winter/spring semester.</b> |
| 12 | Praise God for baptisms in our churches this fall.  | 28 | Pray for the opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.  |
| 13 | <b>Pray for Pastor Wade and Kim Tierney and the Morse Mill, MO Church.</b>                                | 29 | <b>Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation.</b>  |
| 14 | Pray for the Ministerial Recognition Board as they encourage our pastors.                                 | 30 | Pray for new contacts through the distribution of literature and our website.   |
| 15 | <b>Pray for the pastors in Pakistan who minister under very difficult circumstances.</b>                  |    |   |
| 16 | Pray for Pastor Robin and Marissa Todd and the Western Washington Church.                                 |    |   |