

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

I Found God!! Eureka!

By Dr. Joe Martin

Have you ever had a discovery that was so exciting? Recently Rebekah and I met with a doctor about my continued sciatic problems, bad lower back pain, shooting pain in the right leg, a numb, and even floppy, right foot that had a mind of its own. About every two or three years, it kicked in, usually after I had tried to be “macho man” lifting things I shouldn’t have tried to lift. I remember going to chapel at the Morrow campus and just lying on my back on the carpet in the back of the chapel to get some relief for the pain. I also remember cutting a giant limb over my mother’s house. The next day I was writhing in pain and going to the emergency room for help. They gave me some “good” drugs that relieved the pain, but had me seeing money floating in the air that I was trying to reach to keep Rebekah from going shopping and spending it. Ask her! The last incident was after lots of bumpy roads in Africa on our mission trip and also lugging around several fifty-pound suitcases. I could barely walk in Nairobi at the end of our trip. I had to lean on someone often just to walk.

Let’s fast forward to the doctor’s appointment. After Africa, I eventually in September got an MRI from our medical clinic, Kaiser Permanente. We carried the CD of that to the doctor who had access to my files. Having never met the guy, I didn’t know how his “bedside manner” would be. Rebekah and I were surprised when he walked in with a weird grin and said, “You have a broken back!” Well, so

much for bedside manner, just straight-forward facts. He was very polite after that, and even made a few jokes, but at least I knew what my situation was. He did not recommend surgery, possible fusion of the vertebrae above



and below the broken one, L5, lumbar vertebrae. It would likely be worse after the surgery, he said. He also said, “No more heavy lifting! If it gets worse, call me.”

On the way home, Rebekah and I both were stunned, but at least we then knew what the source of my ever recurring situation was! I now have a legitimate excuse to say “I can’t help you move. I have a broken back!”

What if we all had a similar problem with joy and happiness? Nothing we do helps, new car, new house, new spouse, new job, new boss, new church. Nothing helps. Eventually we remain the same sad, sorrowful, full of

pain person. Oh, the new truck might give us a buzz, but eventually it gets a scratch and the “joy” fades quickly. Oh, the new spouse might give us a “buzz” for a while, but eventually he/she gets on our nerves like the former spouse/s. Second marriages get divorced about 65% of the time. Third marriages get divorced about 75-80% of the time. We know this is true.

Where then do we get “relief” or true joy, or happiness? The Bible gives us some clear hints. “The joy of the LORD is your strength.” (Neh. 8:10) Also, the perpetual happiness seeker Solomon notes in Ecclesiastes 2:25, “For without HIM, who can eat or find enjoyment.” (emphasis on HIM added) Solomon, in the later years of life, found the “one” thing. Eureka!

Thirty-one times in Ecclesiastes he uses the term “vanity”, compared in some translations to “chasing the wind.” Twenty-nine times (KJV) he uses the term “under the sun.” What is the point? Under the sun...without God in our lives... we will never find what we seek in everything else, true joy and happiness! I have suggested in my classes, seven “P’s” that Solomon considers trying to replace God... Pleasure, People, Power, Places, Projects, Possessions and Position. Possibly for our age throwing in “pharmaceuticals,” and alcohol would fit that too, even in Solomon’s times.

When we do find the real source of blessing. . . What a blessing! “Seek

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I Found God, Eureka! *continued...*

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ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you!” (Mt. 6:33) Would not the God who created us know what will be best to eventually bring us true joy, happiness and peace? Yes! The Psalmist is clear “Delight yourself in the LORD; And he will give you the desires of your heart.” And... they will not be the same desires you or I have had before we set God as the ultimate priority.

I have been on a quest to find YHWH in the Hebrew scriptures for the last seven or eight years, since the new “Bibleworks” software has come out. I could search the tetragrammaton, YHWH, in all its forms, and the number I kept continually getting was 6,828 times! In the pure form, four letters, 6,007 times. I looked through all the prefix forms, L, to or for, B, in or by, V, and M, from out of, but I could never find all 6,828! Usually I found only 6,815 or so. The other day, my study day at home, I decided to look at all the verses, yes all 6,828, for the

form. Imagine looking at יהוה, the name of God 6,828 times! Then, in the middle, after about 3,000 verses of looking, in Psalm 68:21 I found a double prefix, VLYHWH, or And To YHWH, Eureka! With that I eventually found all the rest KMYHWH, YBYHWH, and the tricky two HYHW (The YHWH) and SYHWH (Who YHWH). I am not a Hebrew scholar, but I found every time the name of God is used in the Hebrew Bible!

I haven’t “fixed” my back yet, but I know the source now, and how I need to watch myself carefully. Similarly, I haven’t found true joy, happiness nor peace since I believe that will only come, come kingdom come. However, I know the source! Through God’s plan in Christ Jesus, I can have an abundant, peaceful life anticipating the great abundance and peace of the kingdom itself. Hallelujah, Praise God, Amen! I found God, as the source, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God bless you in your quest also! ■

GIVING STUDENTS A HOME

Giving students a safe place to live in community with others, while attending Atlanta Bible College is extremely important. We are blessed to have two houses within walking distance of ABC... one for male students, the other for female students.

Each house can legally house 6 students, and our men's house is at capacity. The women's house is half-full. If just one more male student enrolls at ABC and needs housing, we don't have room. Our hope, of course, is that more than one additional student enrolls, but it would necessitate renting an apartment nearby. That poses at least 2 problems... 1) it's expensive, and 2) that student is cut off from the others and is not able to live within their student community.

Recently Don and Marj Overmyer have generously given \$100,000 to be used for the construction of an additional home. The cost of a furnished student home is approximately \$140,000-\$150,000. The board will launch a campaign this winter inviting



Student house built earlier this year

others to join Don and Marj Overmyer to build and furnish a home debt-free for students. If you would like to join them in this effort, more specific details will be available soon. Your participation will help create a place where students can form life-long relationships while studying God's word for the purpose of ministry in one of our churches. Our students and churches matter, and this is one small way to support what God is doing throughout our General Conference for the kingdom of God.—Seth Ross

Things are getting closer in the transitioning stage of Seth Ross coming down in January to be the new Executive Director. The board is meeting this month, October, to further review. Seth has an offer on a house in Georgia, contingent on the sale of his home in Ohio, which is now on the market. I recently attended the Catalyst event in Atlanta with some staff, students, and Seth. Brian Houston (Hillsong Church), Andy Stanley, and others presented. Simon Sinek presented on the situation with “Millennials.” He offers insight into their low esteem, considering the possibility that they received “trophies” for everything, even participation, and knowing they didn’t deserve anything, reacted in an opposite way, feeling *lower* esteem. Nonetheless, our job is to continue to reach out to every generation with Christ and the kingdom, even the “Nextgen”, whatever we will call them. That is why I think this is a healthy transition at this time. There will always be issues with change, but it will be a good time for the college and conference.

Rebekah and I continue to look at options for the future. With the home in Malawi, surely more time, Lord willing, will be spent there. After a discussion with David Krogh, for the coming semester, I will still be teaching at least three days a week with a ten-hour teaching load, which is full-time in some institutions. With our children in both Phoenix and Knoxville, we will have some choices of where to spend more time in the future, just not right now.

I had some “interesting” information recently. I have had what I thought was “sciatica” problems, numbness in the right foot and pain in the right leg. At a recent specialist doctor’s visit to review this, he walked in and exclaimed, “You have a broken back!” Evidently, in the past, my L5 lumbar vertebrae was broken in half and floats between my back muscles. He does not recommend surgery, since it might worsen the situation. But he said no more heavy lifting! Now I have an excuse when someone wants me to help them move!

The response to the Louisiana flooding was great. We have received about thirty thousand dollars for that. With the news of the hurricane in Haiti, there is a need there. Plus, other mission fields are in partial distress as well. Please review the mission reports. I am still very proud of the over two hundred thousand dollars given in missions last year. The trip to Peru was a great success.

Please continue to reach out from our local churches.

Theologically, the COGGC is in a very special time. In a recent survey of U.S. Christians, it was noted that most Christians believe that Jesus is the greatest creation of God!

(This goes against the current orthodoxy of Nicaea and Chalcedon.) Professor Daniel Kirk speaks of the human Jesus as the second Adam as Paul does. Seventy percent agreed there’s only one true God. (Jn 17:3) Most believe “the Holy Spirit is a divine force but not a personal being.” This is an interesting report that maybe the regular Christian in the pew, or chair, is simply reading the Bible plainly, though the survey author was talking about how “heretical” America is becoming.

Financially, we seem to be in good shape the first several months of the fiscal year. We still need to compliment our givers on giving and keep them informed. We have had some wonderful special gifts this past year. I have been able to give some raises to staff for their services. At the same time, we remember the need to help fund the new transition time next calendar year. From eight years ago when I first came into leadership, there seemed to be some question of trust and how funds were used. We have grown tremendously it seems.

I will let the other reports speak for themselves. ABC is doing fine and the discounted class offers are producing results. ABCKE (Korean Extension) is back under the leadership of both Steve and Sam An. LHI continues well under the committee and Rick McClain, with substantial needs popping up all over. In Mt. 26:11, Mk. 14:7, and Jn. 12:8, Jesus did say, “You will always have the poor with you...” Robin Todd, per his report, is anticipating more funding as well for the Home Missions efforts through the Fall Builder’s Appeal. The new church in Oklahoma City under Scott Perciful is off to a good start. Seth will be naming a new youth director at the first of the year. I think we need to do more to help families do Deuteronomy 6:7 in the home, but I don’t know how to “fix” it.

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Dr. Joe Martin

With each passing day, I feel that time goes by quicker and quicker. It seems to me that I began my pharmacy career just a few years ago. It, however, has been 20 years that I have been a pharmacist. Likewise, it seems it was just a few days ago that I began my time of service on the board of directors. Yet, here I am in the midst of my fourth year of service.

We have experienced several changes in the past three years. A couple that come to mind are the purchase of new housing for students and a newly constructed second house for students and the development of the home missions board. We have other changes that are still yet to take place, but are just a few short months away.

I want to ask our membership to be in constant prayer. Pray for Joe and Rebekah Martin as Joe transitions from the position of CAO/Executive Director to a position of teaching. Pray for Seth Ross and family as they transition from Ohio to Georgia for Seth to become our new Executive Director. Pray for the staff and students of the Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College as they are experiencing these transitions as well. Pray for God to guide, guard, and direct all of these individuals through this transition. Pray for blessings for all

(Servant Seat continued from page 3)

This will be my twenty-fifth year of serving the college, the last eight, going on nine years, in administration. Add to that about ten years as pastor, and it has been a nice “run.” I am looking forward to the next years with great anticipation for what the LORD does for ABC and the COGGC, me and my family!

Thank you for your giving and service as well.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 13-15—reFUEL – Camp Mack, Milford, IN

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

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

of them for their many years of past service and also for their many future years of service.

I want to commend our conference as a whole (staff, students, member churches, pastors, and individual members, i.e. everyone) for the outpouring of love and support shown to the Louisiana flood victims and to victims of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti. It is amazing how quickly needed funds were gathered and sent to provide aid during a devastating time. I am so glad to be a part of a loving and caring family of God.

I want to ask for continued support, both financial and prayerful, for other efforts. If you are not a member of the Church Builders League, please become a member today. The current appeal is being collected and will be used to support our home missions. For further details, please contact the Church of God General Conference or one of the members of the board of directors.

I will close by saying thank you. Thank you for your time spent in prayer. I thank you for your financial support. I thank you for your encouragement, and thank you for your love and being a blessing to others who are/were in need.

Respectfully, Chris James, Chairman

March 3-5—Bible Prophecy Conference
Conway, AR

April 23-27—44th Annual Christian Workers Seminar, Pigeon Forge, TN

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—13th Heritage Conference,
Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

July 26-28—97th Annual General Conference
Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

Truth or love – is it really a choice? Is one greater than the other? It often seems that these two great subjects of scripture are treated that way. At what point do we “cast out” or “have nothing to do with” one whose views differ from ours? Or, conversely, should love cover all differences? After all, we are to love even our enemies. We can’t just say we love someone as an intellectual exercise because we understand the commands from scripture. Doesn’t it have to come from the heart and be acted upon?

I find this topic increasingly relevant. As one expands their level of involvement in church matters, it leads to an expanded exposure to a variety of ongoing conflict. For the purpose of this article, we will mostly limit our discussion to how we should deal with each other when this conflict involves our sincerely-held beliefs. No doubt you have heard the well-known saying that “all problems are people problems,” and all organizations are made up of people—imperfect people. We are all imperfect human beings, flawed and living in a sinful world, which despite our best efforts, wrongly influences us. Paul says in Philippians chapter 3 that he has not been made perfect, he has not taken hold of it (perfection), but that he presses on toward the goal, and so should we.

Please read the next sentence carefully and think about it. *It’s easy to love the people that are easy to love.* That’s very simple, and it’s very easy to do. We all know people who are easy to love because they always seem to be happy and have a smile on their face. When we talk to them, they let the conversation be about us or subjects that are important to us. They never create or become embroiled in conflict. There is a woman in our church who fits this description perfectly. She is easy to love, and everyone loves her. Before and after church when people are socializing, she will instinctively find people who are alone and strike up a conversation with them. This behavior seems to come naturally to her, but is not inherent in many of the rest of us. Most of us don’t have that gift, myself included, so we have to work at it. If we only love the people that are easy to love, we fall short. That road is wide and well-traveled. It takes effort to love all people – a road that is narrow and less traveled. Jesus said, “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute

you...so that you may be sons of your Father in heaven....if you love those who love you, what reward will you get?” That is a simple, straightforward, and tough teaching. It will take work, effort, and sacrifice. That’s why John 6:29 is one of my favorite verses, because Jesus tells us that belief is work. Jesus is teaching us that love and unity require effort and discipline. Jesus directs his teaching on love toward all people, the evil and the good. Therefore, when our issues are with fellow believers, obedience to this teaching is imperative, because love brings unity, and division is the enemy that tears us apart and weakens our cause.

The great truths of the Abrahamic Faith are the reason that religion has been a sustaining force in my life. Belief in the one God, Jesus our Messiah, the kingdom of God, and sleep of the dead are all critical parts of broader statements of faith held by our conference and churches. These beliefs are at the crux of my life and devotion to the Church of God. Jesus says in John 4:23 and 24, “...the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” Jesus doesn’t say we should worship in spirit and truth, he says we must worship in spirit and truth. How can we do that? Again, it takes some work and effort. Jesus is our teacher (Rabbi), and we must, with an open mind, study and understand his teachings. Nicodemus said to Jesus, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God.” If the God who created and loves us has given us a teacher, should we not fully utilize the life-giving teachings of Jesus? Jesus says in John 14:23, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching.” We can only obey his teaching if we know his truth. We will only know his teaching and truth if we read and study his word. Paul tells us in I Timothy 4:16, “Watch your life and doctrine closely.” Paul establishes a direct association between our life and what we believe – truth. We cannot and should not separate ourselves from what we believe—that which defines who we are. Our statements of faith must be common ground. Outside of them we will have disagreements, but unity demands we are in agreement on these core beliefs.

So how do we reconcile these two great subjects? Certainly much more can be said about love as well

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as truth, but the priority and importance of each is evident. The fact is that we don't have to reconcile them. God has already done that for us. Love is the foundation for truth. Because He loved the world, God gave us His Son. The reason we have a Savior/Messiah and His teachings of truth is because God loves us. Paul tells us in Ephesians to "speak the truth in love" and that is how we grow up in Christ. He tells us in 2 Thessalonians to "love the truth". The consequence of not loving the truth is that we are not saved. We are perishing. Have you truly made every effort to reconcile your differences with your brother/sister in Christ? As God's word directs us, have you gone to them alone, have you then taken the relevant people with you, and finally, have you gone to the church? There is a method to resolve these issues because they *must* be resolved, so that as Paul says, "we may be bound together in perfect unity." Division is our enemy. It destroys what we have worked so hard to build.

When asked by a teacher of the law to identify the most important commandment, there is a reason why Jesus begins his answer with the Shema. He replies, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one." Then Jesus continues with "Love the Lord your God with all your

heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." To be completely effective, this most important commandment that God is one must be built on the foundation of love—both loving God and loving each other. Matthew underscores this by telling us, "All of Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Therefore, all truth is most effectively presented when done with genuine love for each other. If conflict is not resolved and unity is not achieved, we are not only ineffective. We fail to follow the instructions of the most important commandment.

Jesus famously said in his Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Sons of God." Sid Hatch, a wonderful pastor and teacher who I had the good fortune to be acquainted with, correctly pointed out when explaining this verse that Jesus said "peacemakers" and not "peacekeepers." He explained this was because before you can keep the peace, you have to make the peace. We must make peace. We must live in love and unity. Who do you need to make peace with? Let us exert every effort to make peace and receive the blessings of being "sons of God." ■

ABC News

ABC started this semester with 67 students - 23 new and 44 returning at the south campus. Thirteen are distance learning students, and one is from Kenya. Sixteen are Church of God students. Eight students are living in the two ABC houses.

The following instructors are teaching this semester: Anthony Buzzard, Rebecca Dauksas, Sean Finnegan, Bob Jones, Jack Kmiecik, David Krogh, Joe Martin, Rebekah Martin, Jogi Mauger, and Dave Riley. They are delivering 17 courses. Twenty Moodle and distance learning courses are being delivered for a total of 71 semester hours.

We are grateful for the contributions that were received at Christian Workers Seminar and the summer General Conference to cover the cost of a tuition reduction for Church of God students. We believe this assistance has made it possible for students to attend who might not have been able to attend or to attend full-time.

We are still rejoicing that ABC was recertified by INS on April 21 to receive international students. Our certification expired on May 28, 2014, and the recertification

process was started on February 2013. Our certification will need to be renewed by April 20, 2018.

The annual ABC Booster Campaign is underway. We have received some contributions as a result of the promotion of the college in our churches. Bulletin inserts and envelopes were sent to our churches in late August, requesting that one Sunday in September or October be designated as Booster Sunday. If you have not become a booster for this school year, we invite you to provide prayer and financial support.

In addition to our Moodle and distance learning offerings, we have started using Zoom for our classes. One student is taking a campus class by Zoom, and five students joined one of our October block classes. Zoom has also been helpful for several students who have had to be out of town for one or more of their campus classes. We have a student who is a military contractor who has to be in North Dakota 4 or 5 times during the semester. He really wants to make progress toward his degree, so he is able to continue in school with Zoom.

A Go Serve Team is traveling to the Blood River Church in Springfield, LA to assist with an event for youth in Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana.—David Krogh

Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner

The popular James Bond movies relied on the politics created by the Cold War.

The Cold War caused military and political world tensions starting in the late 1940s. The big players were the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). They each had their allies. Mostly, it was a verbal war with an occasional war by proxy.

Through a series of internal setbacks and the lost influence of the Communist Party, the USSR formally dissolved on December 26, 1991. It seemed that the Soviet threat to the world had ended. Each one of the individual republics of the former union were now left to struggle for their own survival.

Rising from what seemed like a mortal wound were the Russians, the largest and most powerful of the states from the former Soviet Union. As the seat of the Soviet empire that existed for over 70 years, the Russians wielded tremendous power both within the USSR and in the international sphere. They began exerting a growing muscle in the Middle East. They have grown to become a dominate influence in world affairs once again.

Just look at some of the most recent headlines.

From the *Washington Examiner* August 23, 2016—“Recent events seem to indicate Russian moles have made off with every surveillance secret held by the United States... which means the country probably has the ability to crack almost any form of virtual security, including that of American intelligence agencies.”

From *Reuters* October 1, 2016—“Russia is sending more warplanes to Syria to ramp up its air campaign...as the United States said diplomacy to halt the violence was “on life support”... Fighting continued to intensify a week into a new Russian-backed Syrian government offensive...”

Again from *Reuters* October 8, 2016—“Russia has moved nuclear-capable Iskander-M missiles into the Kaliningrad enclave bordering Poland and Lithuania...A U.S. intelligence official said Friday that Russia had started moving the Iskander-Ms into the enclave on the Baltic in what he said could be a gesture to express displeasure with NATO.”

Now this, as reported through several news sources: A warning from Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, a Russian ultra-

nationalist ally of President Vladimir Putin, that the US is at risk of being dragged into a nuclear war. Russian officials and their families have been warned to come back to Russia as global tensions rise. This warning is said to have come directly from Vladimir Putin. He called for them to bring their families back to the “Motherland.”

Russian political analyst Stanislav Belkovsky is quoted by the *Daily Star* as saying: ‘*This is all part of the package of measures to prepare elites to some ‘big war’.*’

The Russians have extended the boundaries of their country to include a wide variety of non-Russian people. The Russian czars have a long history of expansionist policies. An important part of the Russian national identity is that of leader of a large empire.

Such an individual leader identified as Gog moves a group of nations toward Israel. The text of Ezekiel 38 and 39 seem to indicate that some type of nuclear or contaminating weapons is involved. God intervenes to keep Israel from being obliterated.

Gog is identified as the “chief prince” of the attackers. The Hebrew phrase translated “chief prince” is *nesi rosh*. The word *rosh* can be “head” or “first”. It can also be a place named “Rosh”. Rosh is the root of the word Russia. Some writers are emphatic that it is meant to be a proper name. This is why so many Bible students have insisted that the text is about a Russian invasion.

Gog leads into battle people who come from the list of nations in Genesis 10.

Magog (Scythians): Professional warriors that eventually settled in the area of present-day Russia. They left their mark from the Caucasus Mountains of Russia to the Great Wall of China. Kurgans (grave sites) of Scythians are found in Siberia.

Meshech (Moscow?): One of the sons of Japheth that dwelled in Turkey.

Tubal (Tobolsk?): Another son of Japheth living along the southeastern shores of the Black Sea. These all fit the geography of remote north (Ezekiel 38:6, 15; 39:2). Who is farther north to Israel than Russia? Moscow is directly north of Jerusalem.

Whoever is the identity of the principles in these two chapters, it doesn’t end well for them. They find defeat here, and God will be glorified! ■

44th Annual Christian Workers Seminar

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee ■ April 23-27, 2017

**Theme: Kingdom First—Seek First the Kingdom;
Love Not the World**



Through the eyes of workshop leaders and speakers you will leave with encouragement, stronger relationships, new information, and better tools to be effective in your ministry. We invite you to come spend the week being trained, challenged, and inspired.

Classes:

Andy Cisneros - Finding Your Way Back to God
Michael Montgomery - "First Things First" Some of the Great 'One Thing' Verses in God's Word
Eileen Moore - "Mission Ready" Spiritual Training and Disciplines Learned from Military Techniques
Joe Martin - I FOUND GOD, A YHWH Study
Greg and Karen Demmitt - It Is Not Good To Be Alone, God's Design For Marriage
Dick Eldred - Getting the Kingdom in the Hearts of People

Susan Landry - Everything Homeschool—Staying on Track, Exploring Learning Styles, Am I Equipped to Homeschool High School, and COG Homeschool Network
Greg Landry - Creationism vs. Naturalism
Paul Moore - They Sought The Kingdom of God, God Added America
Seth Ross - The Church of God Going Forward
Dennis Baldwin - Advocating for YHWH
Rebekah Martin - The JOY Of The Kingdom!

Evening Speakers:

Seth Ross, Joe Martin, Susan Landry, Kyle McClain, Andy Cisneros

Afternoon Sharing Time Sessions:

Monday- "Political View of God's Kingdom" Steve An
Tuesday- Open Session with Seth Ross
Wednesday- Homeschooling: What? Why? How? Susan Landry

Local Attractions:

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

Childcare provided during morning classes (9:30-12:50) and evening service (7:15-9:00)

44th Annual Christian Workers Seminar

April 23-27, 2017

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

Registration Deadline is: 3/20/2017

Check in time is at 3 P.M.

Check In Date - 4/23/2017

Check Out Date - 4/27/2017

Do you give the Church of God General Conference permission to put your address, phone number and e-mail address in a CWS 2017 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 3/20/17 (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: \$575.00

2 per room: \$350.00

3 per room: \$275.00

4 per room: \$238.00

Saturday Night: \$87.00 (per room)

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

★5 Easy Ways To Register★

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

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

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension – North Campus Report

Greetings to all of the members of the Church of God General Conference!

I pray that all of you found the time to rest and enjoy the wonderful summer season that God blessed us with. I know Sarah and I and our children were thankful for this time to spend with my parents Steve and Young after their return. We were able to catch up and reconnect. I know Caylee and Caleb enjoyed the break with Grandma and Grandpa An. Praise God!

The Korean Extension began the fall 2016 semester on August 22 with 32 Korean students who were excited to have Steve facilitating classes in person, once again. Some students were unable to continue with their studies and returned to South Korea as a result of financial and personal family issues. And, we informed the students that they are able to continue their studies in the Korea Campus, and Steve may contact them in Korea during the winter recruitment travel. In light of the loss, we are blessed and pleased to have enrolled nine new students for the fall and 23 returning students.

In terms of teaching faculty and the class lineup, Pastor Steve An is educating our students through the Gospel of John, Systematic Theology I, Romans, and the American History and Culture classes. Also, Steve facilitated the Introduction to Evangelism and Missions class as an intensive block course during the summer. Pastor Jae Yun Shim is providing our students with historical church knowledge through the Church History I class, as well as fulfilling his duties as the academic disciplinary counselor. Our Christian music teacher Pastor Young Jung Kim continues to instruct our students through the Hymnology class. As



Systematic Theology I – Pastor Steve An

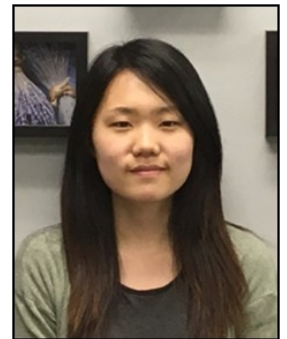
for my teaching responsibilities, I am currently teaching the English Conversation class and continue to oversee day-to-day operations on campus. My mother Young continues to provide good nutrition through our food ministry by preparing meals for our students.

In addition, Steve and I are currently collaborating and preparing to insert an English as a second language program. The endeavor will take some time, but we are confident that we can implement the program. We are in the first step of ironing out a curriculum to begin the pilot program, which is the precursor to the initial application for accreditation. We ask for your prayers for the efforts.

On behalf of our staff and students, I thank you for your prayers, your Christian service, and your support for the Korean ministry.—Sam An

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension Student Profile

Mi Yeon Cho Spring 2014 Enrollee



Mi Yeon Cho is a registered Korean student at the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension. She was born in Goon-sahn, South Korea, and she grew up in the Catholic church as well as being baptized in the church at a young age. Ms. Cho departed South Korea to study at San Diego University in California. Shortly after, she visited her aunt who resides in Duluth, GA, and she discovered the Korean Extension and decided to enroll.

Currently, she attends a local Korean church here in Duluth. However, she feels conflicted because of the



English Conversation – Sam An

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

truth she is learning at the north campus in contrast to what the church pastor is teaching in the church. Ms. Cho committed her life to the Lord in 2012 and continues to search for the truth. She appreciates all that she has experienced and learned at the Korean Extension, and, according to Ms. Cho, she enjoys the kindness and generosity that she receives and witnesses every time she is on campus. In addition, she is inspired by the level of Christian knowledge that the staff offers in class and wholeheartedly recommends the school to anyone who feels called to share in the Lord's work.

Korea Campus

The Korea Campus started the fall semester on September 5 with 9 students, and Pastor Younghee An has been administering courses with video recorded classes taught at the Korean Extension. Six students from the Seoul area continue to meet at the Yahtop Church facility, and three students from the southern area meet at the Rodem Church facility in Daejeon City.

Steve An

Louisiana Flooding Thank Yous

In the recent electronic issue of the Restitution Herald Newsletter and Progress Journal, Pastor Michael Mattison gave an update of the situation with the members of our Louisiana churches and thanked everyone for their generous contributions to provide relief. Here are additional thank yous. (Also see another update by Michael Mattison on page 16)

Dear Folks, the funds you sent to New Beginnings Christian Church (in Hammond) for flood victims were disbursed among those who had damage. I am one of those who lost my home, all furnishings and car in the flood. I am very appreciative for your help as I must start all anew. May God bless you for the kindness of your hearts in blessing me and many others.—Nelda Harper

Dear Church of God family, We want to thank you for the generous gift after our home and vehicles flooded. We were so touched. It will help so much with purchasing new items for our house once we are able to move back in. Thank you again, and God bless! Love, John and Sheryl Kovalcik (from Divine Harmony Baton Rouge Church)

Deceased Pastors

Ministers of the Gospel in Service to the Church of God Who Have Died in the 21st Century

Mary Vadnais 1918-2000	Leon Driskill 1929-2009	Delbert Rankin 1949-2014
Joseph Fletcher 1931-2001	Earl Poland 1936-2010	Vernis Wolfe 1922-2014
Cecil Smead 1906-2003	Jack Hearp 1926-2010	Joe Astolfi 1947-2014
E. Richard Smith 1921-2003	Richard Worley 1936-2011	Hollis Partlowe 1925-2015
Francis Burnett 1917-2007	Ed Goit 1921-2012	Tom Fischhaber 1955-2015
Emory Macy 1911-2007	Sherwin Williams 1944-2013	Ray Hall 1946-2015
Linford Moore 1922-2008	James Mattison 1924-2013	Roy Humphreys 1929-2016
Ed Graham 1919-2009	Carl Jennings 1946-2014	Kent Ross 1941-2016
Stan Lawrence 1927-2009	Alva Huffer 1925-2014	

During the summer General Conference, the names of these pastors were read to acknowledge their faithful service to the Church of God. The name of E. Richard Smith was inadvertently missing from the original list.

Next Gen

By Kim Raper

One of the best parts of being the student life director is having the opportunity to witness the growth that happens in student lives on so many different levels. First of all, watching the students participate more in our weekly chapel services has been very refreshing. Sierra Hillsdale is continually growing in her leadership role as a worship leader, and it is such a blessing to watch her as she is cultivating that gift through different opportunities. Madison Cisler has stepped right in and has been assisting with worship and other areas as part of the chapel planning team. Two of our females students, Alex Halbrook and Sierra Hillsdale, both have shared messages during a chapel service. Also, the majority of our students living on campus have jobs! This is a huge praise, and I am so proud of them.

Last week ABC provided some of our students the opportunity to attend Catalyst Conference in Atlanta. Jesse Allen, Sierra Hillsdale, Jamie Shaull, and Kyle McClain were able to attend for some or all of the two-day event. It was not only an incredible and insightful event, it provided an opportunity for strengthening of our relationships and worshipping together. I believe we all left encouraged, challenged, and ignited with new dreams/passions to do kingdom work and to be more intentional leaders!

I have asked two of our students to share about their experience at ABC as well, so you can get some insight from their perspective.

“Atlanta Bible College has provided me with an unforgettable experience already – and I have only been here a little more than a month! I am living in one of the two houses that ABC owns for students. My roommates and I have made it into our home away from home. I am at the administration building so often, I practically live there as well. In the classroom, ABC has so much to offer. The teachers have the same goal in mind: to teach their students about the Bible.”

“The people here are what really make ABC unforgettable. Both staff and students are willing to go out of their way to serve one another. This could mean giving spontaneous rides to Wal-mart, or going to Pie Five for a birthday celebration. We all laugh together, and even sometimes cry together. The point is, we are in this together. We are not just a bunch of college students coincidentally attending the same college. We are by each other’s sides, even when the road is hard. We are

a group of people striving to seek out God’s purpose for our lives. God has blessed me for this opportunity of attending ABC.”

—Madison Cisler, freshman

“This is my second year at the Atlanta Bible College, and I love it. I’ve had a desire to go to the Bible college ever since I was quite young, and I am glad I am here now. It is a great time to buckle down and spend my time learning more about God and His Word and drawing closer to Him. I don’t have any other job, so my full-time job is learning more about God. My knowledge has grown so much since I’ve been here. I see great progress in everybody who has dedicated their life for the time being by going to the Bible college.”

“While here at the houses, I enjoy the company of my housemates. We all have different backgrounds and interests, but we get along very well. Believe it or not, I actually enjoy hanging out with my professors or other staff at the Bible college as well. I thoroughly enjoy being here at Atlanta Bible College, and I would recommend it to anyone considering it at all. It is totally worth your time!”

—Kyle McClain, sophomore



Catalyst!



The annual Martin Mayhem barbecue

Good News

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

Prov. 25:25

From the **Ripley Church of God in Mount Sterling, IL** – **Hallie Laning** hosted a lock-in at the church for her Sunday School class on August 12. She was assisted by superintendent **Karen Laning**. The theme was “Going for the True Gold.” The evening was filled with hands-on activities, devotions, games, pizza, and a little bit of sleeping. There were eight in attendance.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Felipe and Jenny Rodriguez** welcomed **Aaron Locher** from Switzerland August 23. Aaron is a 15-year-old exchange student who will be spending the year as a sophomore at Oregon High School. In October, Felipe and Jenny reprised Felipe’s Mexican cooking class with two two-night sessions of learning the fine art of delicious Mexican cuisine. Youth activities led by Felipe and Jenny have included an October 9 bonfire service and lock-in, complete with campfire songs and other activities. On Columbus Day October 10 the youth concluded the lock-in by going on a Photo Scavenger Hunt throughout Oregon. Cell phones and knowledge of where photos were taken were required. First team back to the church with all their photos captured on their phone was declared the winner.

From the **Guthrie Grove Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – The church enjoyed “First Sunday” on October 2, making a care package for **Kevin Farr**, who is serving his country in Afghanistan. They want him to know his church family is thinking of him and missing him. On October 9 **Pastor Mike Montgomery** and the church enjoyed a worship service at Sadlers Creek State Park on beautiful Lake Farwell. The weather, the view, and the worship were all beautiful. The theme was “Spark the Park,” and **Glennis Walters, Myra Montgomery, Wendi Robinson, and Joseph Partain** all talked of being a spark in others’ lives. Pastor Mike reminded us that Jesus is the light of the world, and, that as His followers, we must be a spark or light in the world. In the dessert contest, **Grant Alcumbrack** won grand prize, **Anita Naumoff** won most artistic, and **Martha Ann Monroe** won honorable mention.

From the **Garden Park Church of God in Grand Rapids, MI** – The church was delighted to welcome new pastor **Bill Dunn** and family on August 6. **Kyle**

McClain was home from ABC and Kyle spoke about his Grandpa **Ray Hall** as his example of faith and leadership. On August 28 many came from all over Michigan to the Michigan State Conference Picnic. Many thanks to **Richard and Jan Alcumbrack, Lynn and Marilyn Berry, and Jim Grimminck** for their hard work and organization. October 1 was a cleaning day at the church, and now it is “all sparkly and clean.” (per **Norma Knapp**)

From the **Guthrie Grove Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – Every month on the first Sunday, all of the youth classes join together for doughnuts, songs, a Bible story, and a project. The September 4 project was making “Survival Kits for Law Enforcement Officers.” These goodie bags contained LifeSavers (because they save lives), kisses (to show love for them), gum (because we all have to stick together), Tootsie Rolls (because they have to roll with the punches), peppermint patties (to help keep them cool), Mounds (for the mounds of courage they show), and Laffy Taffy (to remind them that laughter is a great stress reliever). [What a great idea, and it hits my sweet tooth in several ways. – GNP] Two officers came to pick them up, and they talked to the kids, showing them some of the equipment they use.

From the **Birthday and Anniversary Department** – From the **Church of the Open Bible in Farmington, MO**, birthday wishes go out to **Pastor Donna Cooper**. Donna turned 75 on September 20. Three happy couples celebrated their 50th anniversaries. While we’re mentioning her, **Loyd and Donna Cooper** celebrated 50 years on August 7 with food and special music. **Bob and Janie LaPage (Oregon Church of God)** had a 50th anniversary dessert celebration on September 18. Their actual anniversary will be December 17. Our third honored couple is **Harry and Diana Bashore (Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH)**, who celebrated their big day on October 29 with an open house at the church.

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.

2017

ARKANSAS BIBLE PROPHECY CONFERENCE

MARCH 3-5 CONWAY, AR

2017 ARKANSAS BIBLE PROPHECY CONFERENCE

MARCH 3-5 CONWAY, AR

Conference Location: Hilton Garden Inn 805 S Amity Rd. Conway AR 501-329-1444

Friday, March 3

4:00PM - Registration Open

6:30PM - **Session 1:** Pastor Paul Moore *"The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: Part 1"*

7:15PM - Break

7:30PM - **Session 2:** Pastor Dennis Baldwin *"Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory"*

Saturday, March 4

9:00AM - **Session 3:** Dr. Joe Martin *"God and Prophecy: Amos 3:7's Assurance, Ezekiel 37's Boldness"*

9:45AM - Break

10:00AM - **Session 4:** Pastor Dan Landry *"Resurrection Hope at the Second Coming"*

10:45AM - Break

11:00AM - **Session 5:** Pastor Dan Gill *"The God of the Apocalypse and His Christ"*

11:45AM - Break for Lunch (There are several restaurants within walking distance)

2:00PM - **Session 6:** Sir Anthony Buzzard *"The Joy of Reading Matthew 24"*

2:45PM - Break

3:00PM - **Session 7:** Pastor Greg Demmitt *"Living in the Last Days"*

3:45PM - Break and Free time

4:00PM - **Session 8:** Pastor Dennis Baldwin *"Examples of Prolepsis in the Bible"*

4:45PM - Break until Dinner

6:00PM - Banquet Dinner in the Ball Room (Included with Registration Fee)

7:30PM - **Session 9:** Pastor Paul Moore *"The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: Part 2"*

Sunday, March 5 (Events will move to McGintytown Church of God 509 Hwy 225 E. Greenbrier, AR 72058)

10:00AM - **Session 10:** Sir Anthony Buzzard *"The All Important Millennium and Beyond"*

11:00AM - **Session 11:** Dr. Joe Martin *"Four Simple Words... I WILL COME AGAIN"*

12:00PM - Lunch provided by the McGintytown Church of God

Sponsored by the Arkansas State Conference and McGintytown Church of God

2017 ARKANSAS BIBLE PROPHECY CONFERENCE

MARCH 3-5 CONWAY, AR
(Hilton Garden Inn 805 S Amity Rd Conway AR 501-329-1444)

REGISTRATION FORM

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State/Province:** _____ **Zip/Postal Code:** _____

Country: _____ **Telephone: (_____)** _____

Email: _____

CONFERENCE FEES

1. **Registration Fees** Includes all seminar sessions, materials and two meals (1 dinner banquet and Sunday lunch at McGintytown Church of God). Breakfasts and lunch on Saturday are not covered with your registration.

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE REGISTRATION FEE:

	BEFORE/ON FEBRUARY 15	AFTER FEBRUARY 15
Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (Early Bird)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 (Regular)
Student (Ages 18 & Under)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 (Early Bird)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (Regular)

If you received a sponsorship, check Do not pay a registration fee. Still complete this registration form.

Person/Organization of Sponsorship: _____

2. **Special Meal Request** Do you require a vegetarian meal for the banquet dinner? Yes: No:
3. **Transportation** Do you require transportation to/from Little Rock Airport? Yes: No:

If so, Date & Time of Arrival: _____ Date & Time of Departure: _____

Cancellations/Changes and Refunds: Fees for missed meals, late arrivals, and early departures will not be refunded. Fees will be refunded if cancellation or change resulting in a refund is received no later than February 24, 2017. After that date, fees are non-refundable. All refunds will be processed after the conference. Substitutions are allowed at no charge.



PAYMENT METHOD Cash or check is accepted. Please make all checks out to: **McGintytown Church of God**

Please mail registration form with payment to: Tom New, 29 Sheila Dr., Greenbrier, AR 72058

For questions or more information call or email: Pastor Tom New, (501) 581-5505; tnew@cyberback.com

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

PLEASE NOTE: The registration fee for the Arkansas Bible Prophecy Conference DOES NOT include lodging. You must arrange lodging by contacting the Hilton Garden Inn directly or contacting one of the other local hotels.

Update On Louisiana Flood

By Michael Mattison

About 75 of the families' homes in the three Louisiana churches of God flooded. The interior wall covering has to be cut away about 2 or 3 feet above the flood line, because the water wicks up the insulation. So even a few inches of flood water is devastating. Many homes were flooded several feet deep, some to the ceiling. A few families plan to abandon their house and relocate.

The donations of financial assistance and labor from fellow church members and Atlanta Bible College people were deeply appreciated. Several ABC students traveled to help in late August.

For lots of pictures and general news, search online for "2016 Louisiana floods". Christians have come from all over the country to help in the cleanup. These have included our own Church of God, Amish, Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, Mormons, Pentecostals, Presbyterians, and on and on. The only group I have not seen represented in the assistance are atheists. I'm not saying there aren't any here, but where would we be without Christians?

Estimates of the total number of homes and businesses that flooded are over 100,000. These included Wal-Mart, Target, Winn Dixie, strip malls, schools, hospitals, even cemeteries.



Pictured are Pastor Michael Mattison and Dr. Joe Martin

Hundreds of caskets floated out of the ground. About 1/3 of the state was affected by flooding.

There is occasionally a humorous story. Mrs. Kathleen Foretich, aged 87, our retired church piano

player, had to be evacuated by boat. The rescuers couldn't get the door shut, which is a little tricky to close. Her son, Paul, who was also flooded, went over the next day to check her house. There was a deer in her bed! At least the deer was high and dry for a day. The deer managed to find the exit without breaking any windows.

My neighbor had a pet boa constrictor in a cage. They evacuated to a shelter. The shelter made them keep the

snake in their car! How inconvenient!

The Baton Rouge food bank lost 300 tons of food. Rain kept falling for several weeks.



Rubble after cleaning out Billie and Irene Kennedy's house

Mosquitoes were able to breed in the water pockets of the debris in front of homes, and we would be "eaten alive" in the early evenings outside. The debris caused quite a stench! Most of the debris has now been removed. Statewide this was about 200,000 truckloads of carpet, wood, appliances, furniture, family pictures, and memories.

Walking through my neighborhood now is like walking through a ghost town. About 80% of the homes flooded and are still vacant.

The gutted homes have been sprayed for mold, dried out, and some remodeling has begun. Many people have to refinance their homes to rebuild. Moving back into a home can take three or four months. Temporary housing has included living with friends and family or in trailers or RVs. Jon has lived in a Blood River Church classroom, Billie and Irene are living with Charles and Sylvia Bottolfs, and Dan and Carola have married children and their grandchildren living with them.

One of the difficult realities of recovery is dealing with paperwork and negotiations with flood insurance companies and FEMA. Even when it's over, it's not over. Some people from the New Orleans area with settlements from Hurricane Katrina from 11 years ago are just now being told by FEMA they have to refund part of their grants because the FEMA adjusters made mistakes.

I hope this gives you a little "feel" for what the long-term recovery from a flood is like.

Your generous gifts have helped significantly. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness and help!

Pastor Michael Mattison
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Peru Trip Report

A successful trip to Peru took place July 29 to August 8. Visits were made to Lima where we have had a work for nearly 30 years and to Trujillo that was visited for the first time. Over the last two years, the work in Peru has grown substantially. There are 10 cities where groups affiliated with the General Conference are meeting. Work is also being done in Ecuador to the north of Peru and also in Nicaragua in central America.



Peru Bible School – Amber McClain and Aaron Winner standing; Lynne Krogh seated

Pastor Gaston, Maria, and Joaquin continue to lead the work in Lima. Edwin Mauricio and his wife Aleida lead the work in Trujillo, as well as overseeing the work in other cities scattered throughout Peru. Edwin makes periodic trips to Ecuador to meet with those who share our understanding of Scripture. Alex Davila has a home Bible study in Managua, Nicaragua.

Alex joined our team to assist with translation and teaching and preaching in Trujillo. Other team members were: Rachel Carr, David and Lynne Krogh, Rick, Amber, and Mackenzie McClain, Alane Rozelle, and Aaron Winner.

The team participated in the Second Annual National Peruvian Bible Conference and Bible School. Sessions were



Children playing games by the Pacific Ocean in front of the meeting place



Participants at the Second Annual National Peruvian Bible Conference and Bible School

held for adults from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. A variety of Bible topics were presented by team members, Alex Davila, and Pastor Edwin Mauricio who organized the conference. Several other attendees helped with the teaching. Approximately 20 children participated in a Bible School that met during part of the time that the adults were meeting. Sunday services were also held for members who live in Trujillo.

Many of the attendees at the conference traveled up to ten hours by bus to participate. They are believers who have come to see Bible truths that they had not been taught before. Many of these people have made great sacrifices in order to believe and teach the truth.

In Lima, the team had morning and evening services on Sunday as well as spending the afternoon meeting with the leaders to encourage them in their work. At the close of the meeting, the Lima congregation presented a gift of \$200 to LHI Chairman, Rick McClain, to be used for mission work. They have appreciated the help that has been given to them over the years, and they want to have a part in spreading the gospel other places. To gain perspective of what this \$200 gift represents, this is the amount that it costs to cover the operating expenses of the church building for a whole year! What tremendous generosity!



LHI Chairperson Rick McClain receiving contribution from the Lima congregation

Church News

Baptisms

Illinois

East Moline – Mrs. Carrie, 8/14/16, by Pastor Paul Moore.

Rockford – Blessed Hope — Kyle and Justin VanWambeke, 8/7/16, by their grandfather, Elder Dave Hixson.

Deaths

Illinois

West Chicago – Anne R. (Carpenter) Weyrauch, 98, (2/24/16) former member of the Oregon Church of God.

Michigan

Blanchard – Verna Walkington, 81, (9/27/16), long-time member by Pastor Richard Eldred.

Grandville – Southlawn Church – Betty Jannereth, 85, (8/9/16), long-time member by Pastor Richard Alcumbrack.

Grand Rapids – Garden Park – June Holquist, 75, (8/6/16) life-long member by Pastor Bill Dunn. David Ratering, 80, (8/23/16), life-long member by Pastor Bill Dunn.

Ohio

Brush Creek – Lorna Pearson, 96, (7/17/16), life-long faith member by Pastor Dave Hixon.

Willoughby – Richard G. Phillis, 81, (10/5/16), pastor/elder of the Golden Rule Church in Cleveland, OH since 1989. He is survived by his wife, Lynn, and their children Richard T. and Vicki. He died following surgery several weeks previously for the removal of a kidney.



South Carolina

Pelzer – Earl Elwell, 94, (10/4/16) life-long member by Pastor Michael Montgomery.

Blessed Hope Church, Rockford, IL

After much prayer and direction from the Lord, it was decided by the congregation to sell the church building. The last service was held on September 4. The church has served in the Rockford area for 86 years.

On Saturday, August 20, the church held a “Farewell Open House” to celebrate the many years of service in the area. Former members, pastors and friends gathered for a time to reminisce and share fond and humorous memories of the church. Visitors in attendance were former Pastor Dave and Wanda Cheatwood from West Lebanon, IN; George, Barb and Connie Scott from Brooklyn Park, MN; and Jason and Caleb Turner from Beloit, WI. Jan Stilson of Oregon, IL was present and helped identify many of the people in pictures from the 1950s and 1960s.

The church contributed proceeds from the sale of the church to the Church of God General Conference.

Home Missions

The Home Missions Board has created a new website, designed to be an outward-facing focus for the Church of God General Conference. It contains a few videos and downloadable tracts and articles. More will be added as we are able. We welcome thoughts and suggestions as to what this new site should contain, and we invite you to widely and freely share it with others. The address is: www.age2come.com. Address suggestions to Pastor Robin Todd: robinsings4u@comcast.net.

New Church Started in Oklahoma

On July 17, the new Restoration Christian Fellowship began meeting in Oklahoma City under the direction of Pastor Scott Perciful. The church was accepted into the Church of God General Conference by action of the board of directors at the summer conference. The Ministerial Recognition Board granted Scott a license during the conference. Scott has been connected with the Church of God for a number of years, beginning when he lived in Arkansas. He and his family attended the McGintytown Church and was well acquainted with Pastor Tom New. Scott filled in as pastor at the Forest Hills, AR church for a while. Several years ago he was transferred by his work to Oklahoma. Robin Todd, the coordinator of our Home Mission Advisory Board of Evangelism and Church Growth, has worked with Scott to identify prospects in the Oklahoma City area.

Pastor Needed

Maple Grove Community Church in Kokomo, Indiana has begun a pastoral search for a permanent, full-time pastor. I have been serving as interim pastor for Maple Grove for a little over a year, and we are now in a position to find a new pastor to serve the church in the Kokomo community. The church currently has between 35-50 attendees each Sunday and wishes to grow well beyond that number. It is a caring, vibrant church community of believers, and the church building is located in a growing area of Kokomo with several good sized sub-divisions in the area.

Please contact Bob Morrison (765-543-4945; morrir59@gmail.com) or Janet Snyder (765-453-1233; janet.snyder805@comcast.net) with further questions, or if you know of someone who might be interested in meeting with our search committee. Please pray for our church in this search that God will call and bring the right person to fill this important position.

Guthrie Grove Church, Pelzer, SC

We have so much to be thankful for as we have a wonderful pastor, teachers and so many to teach to. We have so many blessings from God as lots of our sick are doing better as we know that prayer gives results from God and his Son. Recently we had our church service at Lake Hartwell with an attendance of about 150. Everyone enjoyed the service and food, games and just relaxing at the lake. Bro. Terry Ferrell made a trip recently to California to his brother's 90th birthday. Terry is an amazing man at age 95.—Bobby Partain, Sr.

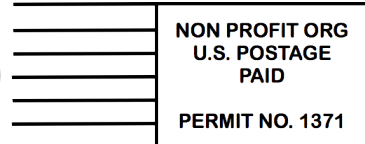
- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Beloit New Life, WI church.**
- 2 Praise God for your pastor for preaching the gospel.
- 3 **Pray for our missionaries all over the world.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Karen Fletcher and the Cool Spring Church in Browntown, Virginia.
- 5 **Pray for the North Hills, OH church as they search for a pastor.**
- 6 Pray for the Lord's Harvest International Mission 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 half tuition discount 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 on January 9.
- 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 2016.**

Prayer and Praise

January 2017

- 1 Pray that God will direct every area of your life in 2017.
- 2 **Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as they prepare for their winter/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 ABC teachers as they start the winter/spring semester today.
- 10 **Praise God for a recent answer to a prayer.**
- 11 Pray for Seth Ross, Executive Director of Church of God General Conference. and President of ABC.
- 12 **Pray for ABC students beginning the winter/spring semester this week.**
- 13 Pray for our youth attending reFUEL at Camp Mack in Indiana January 13-15.
- 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 someone you know who needs to accept Jesus as Savior.**
- 17 Pray for teachers in your local church.
- 18 **Pray for Pastor Bill and Lacey Dunn and the Garden Park Church in Kentwood, MI.**
- 19 Praise God for the freedom to worship Him.
- 20 **Pray for the American and Korean congregations in Nashville, Tennessee.**
- 21 Pray for your pastor and family.
- 22 **Praise God for the work of those preparing Christian education materials.**
- 23 Praise God for those who give of their time and talents in serving on conference advisory committees.
- 24 **Pray for your nation's leaders.**
- 25 Pray for God's blessings on ABC Korean Extension students and staff.
- 26 **Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.**
- 27 Pray for opportunities to start new churches.
- 28 **Pray for Pastor Larry and Karen Mayberry and the Pennellwood Church in Wyoming, MI.**
- 29 Pray for the church in Magazine, AR.
- 30 **Praise God for the many students who are preparing for ministry at ABC.**
- 31 Pray for "shut-in" members who cannot meet regularly with other believers.

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



Address Service Requested

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Prayer and Praise

February 2017

- 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 Scott and Katrina Perciful and the new church in Oklahoma City, OK.
- 17 **Pray that God will raise up donors for ABC's financial needs.**
- 18 Pray for the Annual Ministers Conference starting on the 20th.
- 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 Jack and Paige Kmiecik and their ministry at Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA.**
- 22 Pray for someone you know who is in need of healing (physical, emotional, or spiritual).
- 23 **Pray for the staff at the college/conference.**
- 24 Pray for the Refuge retreat to be held in Indiana on Feb. 24-26 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 Jacob Rohrer as he serves in his internship at the Cornerstone Church in Gatesville, TX.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD

& PROGRESS JOURNAL

The Son of God

By Kegan Chandler

Christian usage of the word “God” in our day is usually reserved for a reference to the one God of the Bible. Yet, in the times of the biblical authors, the term was used much more freely, even to describe human beings or angels. There are only two instances in which the word “god” (Greek: “theos”) is used of Jesus for certain in the New Testament. (There are seven other highly disputable texts: Jn 1:18, Rom 9:5, Tit 2:13, 2 Pet 1:1, 1 Jn 5:20, Acts 20:28, 2 Thes 1:12). These have been widely doubted as identifying Jesus as “God” by textual analysts for a variety of reasons. Trinitarian Christopher Kaiser notes that “explicit references to Jesus as ‘God’ in the New Testament are very few, and even those few are generally plagued with uncertainties, of either text or interpretation” (Christopher Kaiser, *The Doctrine of God* – London: Marshall Morgan & Scott, 1982, p. 29). Trinitarian William Barclay agrees: ‘On almost every occasion in the New Testament on which Jesus is to be called “God” there is a problem either of textual criticism or of translation’ (William Barclay, *Jesus as They Saw Him* – Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978, p. 21.) It is often said by Trinitarians that these instances qualify as the best proof that the biblical writers believed the man was nothing less than the one and almighty God, and that this is the central most overwhelming revelation of the New Testament. Our suspicions are raised, however, when, in the over 1,327 occurrences of the word “god,” only two of them refer to Christ. The lack of evidence for consistent appli-

cation of the word “God” to Jesus is widely considered, even by Trinitarians, to be problematic. One scholar writes:

“For example, Jesus never used the term “God” when referring to Himself, none of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, or Luke) ever explicitly gives the title “God” to Jesus, no sermon in the Book of Acts attributes the title “God” to Jesus, no existing Christian confession(s) of Jesus as “God” exist earlier than the late 50s and, although there are seventeen texts that are considered to be possible “Jesus-God” passages, only four of them appear in the approximately fifty Greek New Testament manuscripts that predate the fourth century. Also, and perhaps the biggest obstacle in ascribing the title “God” to Jesus, the existing New Testament manuscripts differ in *all* potential passages that explicitly call Jesus “God.” (Brian J. Wright).

Furthermore, “god” is found to be used just as many times of other persons in the New Testament, once of Herod (Acts 12:22), and another time of Satan (2 Cor 4:4). The standard lexicons provide these usages of the Greek word “theos”: “a god or goddess, a general name of deities or divinities, whatever can in any respect be likened unto God or resemble him in any way, God’s representative or vice-regent, magistrates and judges.” (Strong’s) Looking back to the Old Testament,



we find that the Hebrew for “god” (el or elohim) is used in this same way for other men or angels (Ps 45:6; Ps 82:1-6; Ex 7:1). In Psalm 8:5, the Hebrew text refers to “elohim” (god), but when the passage is quoted in the New Testament, the Greek says “angels”. Similarly, in the Septuagint version of Job 20:15, the Hebrew word “god” (el) was even replaced with the Greek “angel” by the Jewish scribes. Because the title “god” is often found in the biblical documents describing kingly persons with god-like authority, such as human judges of Israel (Jn 10:34) or angels (Ps 8:5), many popular English editions of the Bible even translate “god” as “judge” or “ruler.”

Identifying other beings who were not Yahweh as “god” did not pose a “theological problem” for either the ancient Hebrews or the New Testament Jews. As mentioned previously, the biblical principle usually at work

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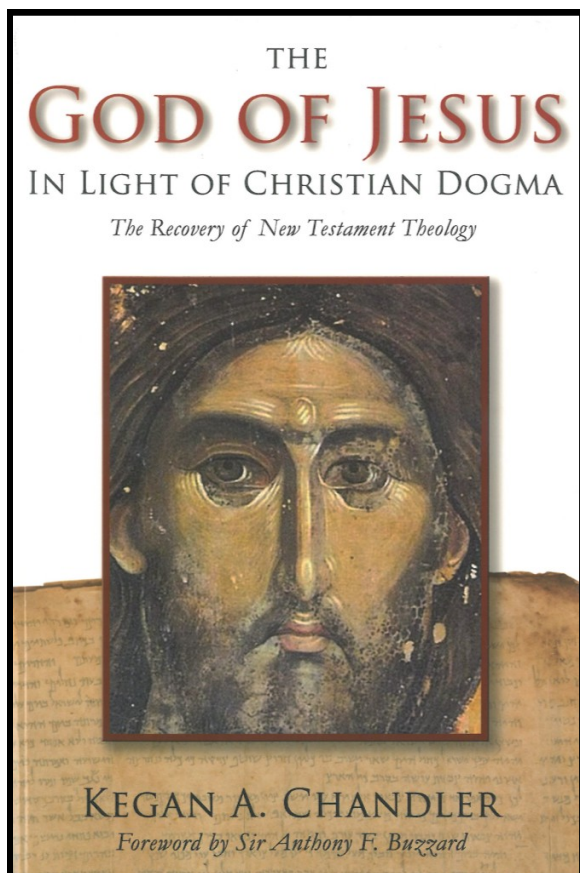
The Son of God continued...

(Continued from page 1)

here is known as “the law of agency.” When God imparts his authority to his agent, that agent may himself be called “God,” and may speak and act as God on his behalf. Again, Moses and the judges of Israel were addressed as “God”: “Then Yahweh said to Moses, ‘See I have made you God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet’” (Ex 7:1). “I said, ‘You are gods, you are all sons of the Most High’” (Ps 82:6). Exodus 22:8 also speaks of the human rulers of Israel in this way; the Hebrew refers to these persons as “God” or “the gods,” but the Amplified Bible translation makes it clear: “the house owner shall appear before God, the judges as His agents, to find whether he stole his neighbor’s goods.”

There are in fact many “gods” mentioned in the scriptures, though for the nation of Israel, there is clearly only one *true* God, the others are evidently gods in a representational, derived, or secondary sense. The Apostle Paul even defines

The God of Jesus is available from the Church of God General Conference for \$17 plus postage.



which god is the true god of the New Testament community: “There are many gods, but for us there is but one God, the Father” (1 Cor 8:6). Indeed, as Christ agreed, “the Father” is “the only true God” (Jn 17:1a, 3). It is this great God who designates certain other persons, those whom he has directly authorized or inspired, as “God.” Christ himself explains the principle:

Jesus answered them, has it not been written in your Law, ‘I said you are gods’? If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said ‘I am the Son of God’?” (Jn 10:34-36).

Jesus being called “the Son of God,” or even “god,” does not mean that he is to be identified himself as Yahweh. Certainly Christ is the supreme agent of God, but he is no more Yahweh than Moses is, according strictly to the language involved. Nevertheless, the claim persists that the New Testament clearly identifies Jesus as the one God due to the use of “theos” to describe him.

Hebrews 1:8, which applies the classic Psalm 45:6 to Jesus, is a prime citation in this popular argument: “But of the Son He says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of his kingdom’” (Heb 1:8). Certainly the writer identifies Jesus as “God” in this passage. However, the original Psalm the writer is quoting was evidently addressing the *human* king of Israel at that time:

I address my verses to the king... Grace is poured upon your lips, therefore God has blessed you forever... Your throne, O God, is forever... you have loved righteousness, therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy above your fellows... King’s daughters are among your noble ladies; at your right hand stands the queen... (Ps 45).

As the king of Israel, this man was representationally “god”. He sat on God’s seat of authority over the nation (see 1 Chron 29:23). Of course,

(Continued on page 3)

The Son of God continued

(Continued from page 2)

this pattern applies directly to Jesus as the Messiah, the ultimate king of Israel (Jn 1:49). It is also important to note that the very next verse applied to the Son in Hebrews says that the Son, like the human king to whom the hymn was originally addressed, actually has a God himself:

“Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy above your fellows” (Heb 1:9). This reference to the king’s own God serves as a helpful mechanism for achieving a better view on his exalted status. Jesus, as king of Israel, may be recognized as “divine,” but that “divinity” is diffused through a subordinationist prism, and ultimately reflected back onto his God as a representational divinity.

The writer of Hebrews furthermore argues here that because Jesus had “loved righteousness,” his God had now highly exalted him, making him even superior to the holy angels (Heb 1:4). In the next chapter of the epistle, it is even argued that Jesus has now been deemed worthy of even more glory and honor than Moses (Heb 3:3). This, of course, is an entirely pointless argument if both the writer and the other Christians at that time believed Jesus was Yahweh. It would have gone without saying that God was greater than Moses. Certainly the writer’s intentions are not to identify the man Jesus as “god” in the exact same sense that Yahweh is God. Nevertheless, we will here perform an in-depth examination of the surrounding context in Hebrews to prove our point.

Before verse 8 we read that the son:

- Was not speaking to the fathers in ages past (1:1-2)
- Had to become superior to angels, meaning he previously was not (1:4)
- Gained an inheritance he didn’t previously have (1:4)
- Would be considered a son to God (*not God himself*) (1:5)
- Was “begotten” by God (1:5)
- Is a representation of God (*not God himself*) (1:3)

Now, after verse 8 we read that the Son:

- Has a God (1:9)
- Has been anointed above his fellows (1:9) (*God has no fellows and no need for anyone to anoint him*)

- Was made lower than the angels (2:9)
- Is now crowned with glory and honor because he died (2:9) (*he wasn’t crowned beforehand*)
- Is the pioneer of man’s salvation (2:10) (*i.e., the first to receive salvation*)
- Calls men his brothers (2:11) (*God does not have brothers*)
- Says that he will put his trust in God (2:13)
- Was made like his brothers in every single way (2:17)
- Was tempted (2:18) (*God cannot be tempted*)
- Is now counted worthy of more glory than Moses (3:3) (*if he is Yahweh, this should go without saying*)

In light of the immediate context, how pressed are we to deduce that the writer is not describing an exalted human being, but the Almighty Yahweh, the monolithic Creator of all things? Of course, Jesus is never explicitly called Yahweh by the writer of Hebrews or by any other biblical author, but he is described as “a man” (Acts 2:22; 1 Tim 2:5; Jn 8:40) who has been invested with divine authority (Matt 28:18). Jesus is thus certainly “god” in the sense that he is a chief dignitary, a holy prince, and a powerful ruler who represents God. The Father himself had *given* Jesus this lordly status (Acts 2:36; Phil 2:9), and the writer of Hebrews clarifies that it is precisely because of his great service to God that he has “now been crowned with glory and honor” (Heb 2:9). Jesus has thus been made “a god” in the most biblical sense of the term.

Ultimately, the “law of agency” interpretation remains the best choice for making sense of the New Testament community’s view of Jesus while avoiding conflicts with Jewish monotheism. ■

Kegan A. Chandler is a Christian author and the co-founder of theGodofJesus.com online ministry. This article is an excerpt from his book that was published in mid-2016. He and his wife attended the Theological Conference in May 2016 sponsored by Atlanta Bible College and Restoration Fellowship.

Legacy. Responsibility. Opportunity.

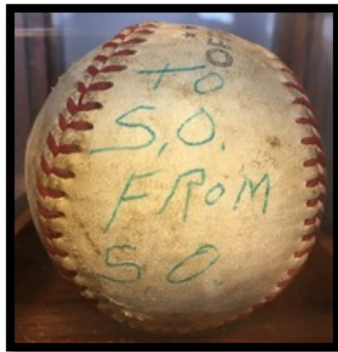
Hi, my name is S.O. Ross, and I'm the new Executive Director of the Church of God General Conference. I never thought I'd type that line, but there it is. And there's much in that statement that inspires and drives me. There's a legacy. There's a responsibility. There's an opportunity.

Legacy: Honor the Past

The Church of God (COG) has been around a long time. I have not. I've only been around since 1971. My grandfather, S.O. Ross, served as the Executive Director of the Church of God General Conference from

1968-1980. Some reading this will remember him, and many will not.

When I was born, I was named so that I might bear the same initials as my grandfather, so I am also S.O. Ross. He was Stanley Otto, and I am Seth Owen. He gave me this baseball (see picture) when I was born, and it sits on a shelf in my office. It reminds me from where I have come, and it reminds me of those who have gone before. The Church of God has a rich legacy of service, faith, and sacrifice. There have been many who served faithfully for many years. We are here today because of them. We'll not forget them.



Responsibility: Live in the Present

But it's possible to dwell so much on our past successes that we fail to live in our present moments. Consequently, we run the risk of being complacent with the message and blessings that have been handed to us by others. We have a task. We have a mission. There's much to do. We have amazing people across the country who serve in our churches. We have much more going for us as a conference than we often recognize. God has blessed us.

So the question begs, "What are we doing with what we've been given?" It's a question of stewardship. As a people of faith, we've been given truth, talents, abilities, resources, and relationships that all ought to be leveraged to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God. So let me rephrase the question, "What are YOU doing with what YOU'VE been given?"

To the best of my ability, I intend to handle the General Conference and its member churches with great care. Not to coddle them, but to encourage, inspire, occasionally nudge, and heal where necessary. Leadership of the General Conference has been handed to me for a time, but not forever. It's my stewardship for now. But stewardship is temporary, and we are accountable.

Opportunity: Build for the Future

There's a corollary to the principle of stewardship. The more responsible we are with the blessings given to us, the more likely it is that God will trust us with more. This is a biblical principle of which we're all aware.

The culture is changing, people's church involvement is changing, people's attitudes are changing, the world's geopolitical scene is changing, and technology is changing. Everything is changing. But that's always been the case, though the rate of change seems to be increasing.

But change represents opportunity. There are new ways to reach people, there's a new openness to scriptural truth, there's new willingness to listen to our viewpoint theologically. Can those new attitudes and opportunities lead in negative directions? Sure, but they also can lead to more people coming to a love of the truth. The world was full of sin when Jesus showed up, but that didn't stop him from speaking truth into his culture. The world is going crazy, but let that not stop us from speaking truth into our culture.

There are people to reach, people to equip, people to train. There are churches to plant, churches to inspire, churches to grow. There are students to

(Continued on page 5)

teach, pastors to train, church leaders to grow. There is work to do, and we have talented people to do it. Those people attend our churches, thus churches need support, encouragement, connection, and partnership.

One More Thought: Flipping the Script

Our history is a rich one. It's a history of both independence and cooperation. That paradoxical combination has led us to where we are today. The balance between independence and cooperation has fluctuated over the years. There's an ebb and flow. Both swings and corrections.

Originally a bunch of independent churches that were willing to stand theologically outside the mainstream began to find each other and cooperate. Eventually they collectively formed a Bible college that existed to support those churches by providing training for pastors and teachers. Over time that equation seems to have been reversed. It was not on purpose. It was not intentional. It's the natural tendency of organizational drift. Eventually it seemed as if the churches existed to support the Bible College. Even if that's not the case in reality, it has often felt like that to many people in their perception. And we know that in many cases perception is reality.

My hope is to reverse that focus once again. Churches are on the front line of ministry. That's where the magic happens. It is my intention to spend much of my time traveling to churches, visiting people, talking with people, and listening to people. Listen, assess, and discern... listen, assess, and discern... listen, assess, and discern. There is much wisdom in counsel according to Proverbs. Together we can make measurable changes in attitudes, direction, involvement, and engagement that can have long-term positive effects.

I'm excited about what lies before us as a people and as a conference of churches. I invite you to share in the adventure. With all of us working together, seeking God's will, wisdom, and direction, great progress can and will be made for His purposes.

Looking forward to serving alongside each of you.

S.O. Ross



WOW! I did it again. I simply cannot believe it! I procrastinated like crazy on getting my article written. I had great hopes and aspirations for writing my article when it was first made known to me the due date. Like so many times before, I said to myself "Oh, I'll do that later. I've got plenty of time and I need to" But here it is, January 13, 2017, and I'm writing my article which is due today.

I'm sure some of you recognize that routine. Others, who do not, I admire. I cannot explain it. Perhaps I work best under the stress of a deadline. Perhaps I have too much on my plate. Perhaps I take too much time for myself. Or perhaps I just think I have all the time in the world to get everything done, but at a later time.

I, however, hope we are not procrastinating in our lives where it truly counts! I hope we are all daily and diligently working, waiting, watching, and praying for Jesus to come again.

There are so many opportunities available to us, not only in our home churches, but in our General Conference. We have mission teams both "at home and abroad" spreading the news of the coming kingdom of God. We have students engaged in learning God's word in order to eventually be a pastor, a worker in their home church, a stronger Bible student, a mission team leader, etc. We have seminars, youth camps, and various conferences where we can study, fellowship, strengthen our faith, and grow our knowledge of God's word.

We're beginning an exciting new year. As one leader begins lessening his administrative role and focusing on teaching and having some semi-retirement time, we have a new leader starting his administrative role with some new ideas for growing and strengthening the Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College.

So, what is my point, you may be asking about now. My point is simply as follows. Let us all stop procrastinating. If we've been planning to volunteer for a mission team, planning to sponsor a student, planning to take an on-line course, planning to attend a seminar or conference, planning to make a financial contribution, planning to _____ (fill in the blank), let's do it now! Today! This month! This year!

The Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College organization will be stronger and will continue to prosper with any contribution of our time, our attendance, our talents, our prayers, our finances, and our dedication to seeing the news of the coming kingdom spread throughout all the world. What are we waiting for? The time is now.

I'll close with some words I found this morning before I started writing this article. These words just touched my heart. I felt encouraged and uplifted as I read this passage of scripture. "But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life." (Jude 20-21)

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

With a most loving heart,

Chris James

Chairman of the Board

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

The last weekend of January I will be flying to Pomona, California to firm up an April 30 launch date of a new congregation in Los Angeles, as well as hopefully some revitalization of Pomona with new members. A month ago I sent out letters and e-mails to around 70 people who have real potential interest in fellowship with us. Anthony Buzzard will be the guest speaker at this service.

Please pray for our success in southern California. Also I have begun conversation with a man in Dallas who is willing to be our point man to launch in that city. My projection for that is July, but will know more in a month or two.

Please also pray for our biggest challenge, which is leadership in these locations. Even here in my Olympia, Washington location, I am in need of local or other leadership to take my place so that I can move on to other projects which require my attention. This need is fairly urgent in my mind. The challenge is that these are non-salary positions to start, making relocation less attractive. For this reason local leadership probably remains the best hope. But I don't want to overlook any potential desire among our own ministry and college graduates.

Thank you for maintaining an interest in what the U.S. Missions Board for Church Planting is doing. And thank you to those who have been contributing in every way that we can think of right now and have resources to do so. This effort will gain momentum as we go, God willing.

Additional cities that we have identified for potential new congregations are: San Francisco, CA; Denver and Colorado Springs, CO; Ft. Worth and Houston, TX; Miami, Orlando, and Tampa, FL.

Something we could use this coming summer might be a student team to place door hangers on homes in the Oklahoma City area in support of our recently installed congregation and pastor there. Also, Steve Taylor and I continue to be interested in screening videos that would fit our vision for the new, outward-facing Age2com.com website.

I can be reached at: robinsings4u@comcast.net

The Lord's Harvest International Mission Board met in Atlanta. Among items discussed were:

- ▶ a new gift catalog of mission projects to be distributed in early December and again as a part of our Marching for Missions campaign.
- ▶ a Church Builders appeal has been submitted to the Board of Directors for the construction of a church/headquarters building in Maturu.
- ▶ approved a trip to Malawi and Kenya from late May to mid-July 2017.
- ▶ \$750 was approved to help support annual theological conferences in Kenya and Peru with \$750 each.
- ▶ continuing support of \$1,500 per month will be provided for the work in Haiti to help with reconstruction from the earthquake in 2010 and the hurricane in 2016.
- ▶ plans were approved for a trip to Peru in late July and early August.
- ▶ it was decided to continue with our current policy of building three churches in Malawi and three in Mozambique each year. It was reported that there are about 300 pastors in Mozambique and 125 in Malawi.
- ▶ the board connected with Maksim in Russia by Skype to thank him for his work. It was approved to continue to provide church aid for the work in Russia, along with funds for Bibles and for Maksim's involvement with the Big Brother program. Funding was approved for the translation and printing of Focus on the Kingdom magazine and other articles in Russian. Money was also provided for him to travel to visit members who are widely scattered in Russia and nearby countries.
- ▶ in addition to the seven churches that we work with in Pakistan, contact has been made with individuals in Lahore and Karachi who have taken the Systematic Bible Study course. We also are glad for the contacts and visits to Pakistan by Hadayat Din who lives in Memphis, TN. He is teaching Bible truth to pastors that he knows in northern Pakistan.

Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner

The media has created the world's biggest lie ever. They are joined by most of the world's politicians, and the world's leaders, teachers and ministers: the so-called "occupation" of "territories" in Israel and the so-called Israeli "illegal settlements". East Jerusalem today is also considered to be part of the "occupation".

The whole world is about to be rocked by this single issue!

The UN Security Council resolution that was passed on December 23, 2016 was one of the most significant events that we have witnessed in decades. Resolution 2334 made all Israeli settlements in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem illegal, it set the 1967 ceasefire lines as the border between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and it granted every single inch of East Jerusalem to the Palestinians. But it stopped short of giving official UN Security Council recognition to a Palestinian state, and that is why a conference was set on January 15.

Representatives from 70 different countries gathered in Paris, France for an unprecedented global conference. The stated goal of the conference was to promote a "two-state solution" as the way that lasting peace will be brought to the Middle East. In Israel, there is a tremendous amount of concern that whatever is agreed upon at this conference will immediately be used as the basis for a UN Security Council resolution that would permanently divide the land of Israel and create a Palestinian state. Donald Trump has already made it exceedingly clear that he would never support such a resolution while indicating a move of the US embassy to Jerusalem.

France has repeatedly tried to breathe new life into the peace process this year, holding a preliminary conference in June where the United Nations, European Union, United States and major Arab

countries gathered to discuss proposals without the Israelis or Palestinians present.

The meeting over the issue of ownership of Jerusalem and peace in the Middle East held in France may lead to larger events. The destruction of the nations may be on the agenda.

The gematria (assigned numerical value to a word/name/phrase) of the words "Gog and Magog" in Hebrew according to the Jewish scholars have the numerical value of 70. The Torah (Table of Nations Genesis 10 & 11) speaks of 70 nations making up the world.

Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority, Mahmoud Abbas says 2017 will be the year of Palestinian statehood! If it came to pass, it would mean that Yeshua, the Jew of Jews, would be banished from Israel.

Of course this is the exact opposite of God's word! We know the hundreds of Bible verses declaring that the land of Israel was given by God to the Jews.

Genesis 17:7-8 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you (Israel) and your descendants after you, in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. I will give to you and your descendants the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan (Israel) as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Note in the verse that "all" of the land of Israel has been given by God to the Jews. This includes all of Jerusalem.

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem."

"And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it." Zechariah 12:2, 3.

Winter/Spring Semester

As is our custom, the new semester was launched with a pre-semester briefing on January 7. Because of a threatened “blizzard” of 1 to 2 inches of snow, only a few attended. However, we are pleased to welcome about a dozen new students and many returning students.



The new ABC president, Seth Ross, spoke at the first chapel service of the semester on “Transitions.” He told us that these are times to trust God more and to grow spiritually. Sometimes transitions are thrust upon us, but God is faithful to see us through them.

In addition to welcoming our new President, Seth Ross, we also want to welcome other new staff members this semester: Cheryl Ross, who is serving as a resident assistant in the women’s house, and Amber McClain, who is teaching our Beginning Spanish class. Returning instructors this semester are Rob Bernheisel, Anthony Buzzard, Sean Finnegan, Bob Jones, Jack Kmiecik, David Krogh, Lynne Krogh, Joe Martin, Jogi Mauger, and Rufus Meyers.

Update on New House

In the previous issue of the RESTITUTION HERALD/ PROGRESS JOURNAL, it was reported that Don and Marj Overmyer had generously given \$100,000 to the college to be used for the construction of an additional home for student housing. The board and our president, Seth Ross, challenged our membership to contribute the additional \$50,000 needed to build and furnish the house. At this point we have received over \$16,000 toward this need. Thanks to all who have quickly responded to this project. It is our hope to

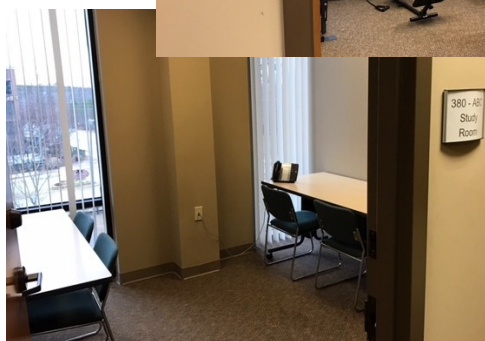
begin construction soon so that the house will be completed in time for the fall semester that will begin in mid-August. If you are able to help with this project, please send your gift to: Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253.

Veterans Administration

We are expecting to receive confirmation from the VA that Atlanta Bible College has been approved for veterans to use their education benefits at ABC. We have many vets who have inquired about using their benefits here, and with this approval, we will be able to serve them.

Additional Space

A suite of offices on the first floor that is vacant has been converted into a student center. It includes an exercise room, game room, and an area of couches. Several other offices have been converted to study rooms. If tenants become available, some of the space will be converted back to offices.



2016 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	Patricia Piter
Lorraine Baird	John and Ruth Lewis	Kent Ross
Joseph Fletcher	Lucian and Thelma Murphy	Harry VanKirk
Michael D. Foster		

Scholarships and Grants for Atlanta Bible College

Grants and scholarships provided assistance to Atlanta Bible College students during 2016 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	Kent Ross Memorial
Glen and Violet Booth Memorial	Mary Helen Mattison Memorial	Stan Ross Memorial
Harold J. Doan Memorial	Michigan State Conference	Treva Williams Memorial
Harry and Emily Berry Memorial	Mildred Schroeder Memorial	Troy View/Demmitt/Overholser
Harvey and Mary Krogh Memorial	Monroe Elton Memorial	Wenatchee, WA Church of God
Hattie Bottolfs Memorial	New Hope Church, Little Rock	William G. and Nina G. Hicks
Helen Overholser Memorial	J. O. and Mary Lou Pack Memorial	Memorial
Indiana Conference	Orine Richardson Robinson Memorial	William and Rhoda Hanson Memorial
Iris Elton Memorial	Ritenour Trust Fund - In Memory of	Zelma Weaver Memorial

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)

Josiah Cain	Young Jung Kim
Madison Cisler	Kyle McClain
Hyeon Mi Jeong	Se Jun Oh
Soon Ho Jeong	Eun Joo Yang

Dean's List (3.00 to 3.49)

Eun Young Ahn	Yun Ok Lee
Mi Yeon Cho	Sung Bum Mo
Ji Su Choi	Ji Youn Park
Seung Yeon Kim	Daniel Wall

26th Theological Conference—May 18-21—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.

2017

ARKANSAS BIBLE PROPHECY CONFERENCE

MARCH 3-5 CONWAY, AR

Conference starts at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3 and ends following lunch on Sunday, March 5.

REGISTRATION FORM

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State/Province:** _____ **Zip/Postal Code:** _____

Country: _____ **Telephone: (_____)** _____

Email: _____

CONFERENCE FEES

- 1. Registration Fees** Includes all seminar sessions, materials and two meals (1 dinner banquet and Sunday lunch at McGintytown Church of God). Breakfasts and lunch on Saturday are not covered with your registration.

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE REGISTRATION FEE:

BEFORE/ON FEBRUARY 15

AFTER FEBRUARY 15

Participant

\$50 (Early Bird)

\$60 (Regular)

Student (Ages 18 & Under)

\$40 (Early Bird)

\$50 (Regular)

If you received a sponsorship, check Do not pay a registration fee. Still complete this registration form.

Person/Organization of Sponsorship: _____

- 2. Special Meal Request** Do you require a vegetarian meal for the banquet dinner? Yes: No:
- 3. Transportation** Do you require transportation to/from Little Rock Airport? Yes: No:

If so, Date & Time of Arrival: _____ Date & Time of Departure: _____

Cancellations/Changes and Refunds: Fees for missed meals, late arrivals, and early departures will not be refunded. Fees will be refunded if cancellation or change resulting in a refund is received no later than February 24, 2017. After that date, fees are non-refundable. All refunds will be processed after the conference. Substitutions are allowed at no charge.

PAYMENT METHOD Cash or check is accepted. Please make all checks out to: **McGintytown Church of God**

Please mail registration form with payment to: Tom New, 29 Sheila Dr., Greenbrier, AR 72058

For questions or more information call or email: Pastor Tom New, (501) 581-5505; tnew@cyberback.com

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

PLEASE NOTE: The registration fee for the Arkansas Bible Prophecy Conference DOES NOT include lodging. You must arrange lodging by contacting the Hilton Garden Inn directly or contacting one of the other local hotels.

Other Hotels in the Area: Country Inn & Suites (with free complimentary breakfast) is located just across the street from the Hilton Garden Inn 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 or Hotels.com

Good News

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

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – Congratulations to the following for perfect attendance in Sunday School: **Allison Sisk, Jason Sisk, Samantha Wood, and Betty Owens**. The ladies hosted a fall Carolina Conference brunch with ladies from Resurrection Hope and Guthrie Grove attending. The Young at Heart group enjoyed a trip to Flat Rock, NC, for a fall outing to gather apples and have a lunch. Children, youth, and youth leaders enjoyed a combined Fall Youth Blast with Joy Fellowship. Approximately 70 came, enjoying games, activities, hayride, and campfire at Henderson Family Farm.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – The church thanks all who bought items from the youth Christmas craft tables. The impressive total of \$334 was made from the sale. Thank you goes out to **Sharon Cain, Renee and Nicki Pierce, and Larry and Judy Domigan** for donating items to sell at the table.

From the **Iowa State Conference of the Church of God** – The 129th annual state conference began on August 3. The theme was “Jesus as Savior, Teacher, Mediator, Shepherd, Friend, and King.” **Ron and Terry Macy** were guests for the week. Classes, services, swimming, food, and campfire fun were all on the agenda and enjoyed by everyone. Teachers were **Sarah Cronin, Nancy Rankin, Tascha Hauber, Chondra Rankin, Ken Cronin, Paul Moore, Ron Macy, and Gavin Cronin**.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – On October 31 the church honored breast cancer survivors on Pink Sunday. Honored ladies were **Sonja Smith, Judy Turner, Martha Vinson, Revonda Lippert, and Kim Spearman**. On November 6th the church celebrated its 65th anniversary. [Superb testimony to the faithfulness of many members throughout the years! – GNP] Veterans were honored November 13, and those recognized were **Tyler Cunningham, Michael Gentile, James Lowery, Steve Riddle, David Sloan, and Jim Turner**. [We can never thank enough those who served for us. – GNP] Bethel members have helped many in need, such as 45 blessing bags for the homeless shelter, 28 shoe boxes and \$37 for Operation

Christmas Child, and sponsoring three children at Christmas through the Angel Tree.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – The church held the annual Harvest of Hope Celebration on November 20, also celebrating the church’s 15th anniversary. [Congratulations! – GNP] **Pastor V.E. Kirkpatrick II** and the church thanks **Linda and Monte Sandifer** for cleaning the church and serving as greeters in November. Thanks also to **Brad McColley** for raking leaves, to Linda Sandifer for fall decorations in the sanctuary and fellowship hall, and to **Lisa McColley** for delivering 23 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to Maplewood Academy.

From the **Iowa Church of God Family Camp** – Family camp was held in June at the **Belle Plaine Church of God** facility. The theme was “Superheroes of the Bible,” using Marvel superheroes to compare the two types of heroes. **Dan Foster** presented a message about Bible heroes and superheroes. Lessons were about Shiphrah and Puah, Amram, Jochebed, Miriam, Pharaoh’s daughter, Moses, Aaron, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, David, and Goliath. Many campers from Illinois joined the Iowa campers for a great weekend.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Chelsey Crabtree** shared her passion for Haiti October 23, and nearly two hundred people attended, giving a large offering (\$10,794 total, divided between Lord’s Harvest International and Living Water For Haiti) to Haiti relief. [All I can say is “Wow!! That’s amazing!” – GNP] **Pastor Alan Cain** and the church thank all who supported Rainbow Table 2 on Tuesdays in October. There was a fantastic turnout, and it was a lot of fun as well. Congratulations to **Karolyn (Kansas) Detrick** who won the chili cook off. \$236.13 was raised for the junior and senior youth.

From the **Birthday and Anniversary Department** – Anniversaries take front page here with three couples hitting the magical 50th milestone. **Gary and Judy Myers (Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL), Bob and Janie LaPage (also Oregon COG), and Joe and Rebekah Martin (Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA and Atlanta Bible College)**. [Kudos to all three couples for reaching that milestone! – GNP] Birthday milestones are **Margaret Foster** at 95, (**Flagg Center Community Church of God in Ro-**

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

chelle, IL), Betty Maurer at 90 (**Lawrenceville COG**), **Kathleen Mull** at 89 (**Bethel COG**), **James Lowery** at 86 (**Bethel COG**), **Ruth Fletcher** at 81 (**Bethel COG**), and **Roy Stevens** at 80 (**Lawrenceville COG**). [Congratulations and many happy returns to all of you! – 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

CHECKING THE CALENDAR

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

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

March 3-5
Bible Prophecy Conference
Conway, AR

April 23-27
44th Annual Christian Workers Seminar
Pigeon Forge, TN

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
13th Heritage Conference,
Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

July 26-28
97th Annual General Conference
Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

*97th Annual Church of God
General Conference*

will be held July 26-28, 2017

at the

Cornerstone Bible Church,

McDonough, Georgia

Korean Extension Report

KOREA CAMPUS

Nine students registered for the 2016 fall semester, and the classes were facilitated by Pastor



Pastor Younghee An administering class

Younghee An through video/internet classes taught at the Korean Extension such as Systematic Theology, American History & Culture, and Gospel of John and the semester was finalized on December 6. During each class session, Pastor An paused and replayed videos and answered questions and provided further explanation of crucial subject matters. Also, Young and I traveled to Korea during the winter break and met students. It was a great spiritual fellowship time, and I had an opportunity to answer to their additional questions. We, with the affection of Christ Jesus, encouraged them to sustain the Abrahamic Faith that they have been learning in the class and to continue their studies.

Many of the students are lay-leaders from the local churches that I have visited and presented the Abrahamic Faith, in the past. They are willing to expand their knowledge to enhance their ministries. We believe the Korea Campus classes have



Yebon Church – First-year anniversary



Healing Church

been God-given opportunities to lead group conversions. We have been witnessing numerous dramatic church conversions by their pastors who have been taking classes such as Yebon Church in Namyang-ju City and Healing Church in Seoul. The beginning of Korea Campus is small, but we believe the latter end would greatly increase by the power of the kingdom message which is like a mustard seed.

My heart is filled with deep respect and gratitude to all of you, and may God bless you and your families and your ministries in the new year.

Steve An/ Vice President of Korean Extension

North Campus Report

Praise God as He continually blesses our Church of God community. Our family enjoyed the holidays with my parents Young and Steve, as it was the first time we were all together for the holidays since 2013. It was certainly a blessing!

The Korean Extension completed the fall 2016 semester with 32 students who enjoyed learning and connecting with God. If you recall in our last Korean Extension article, I presented a student profile for Mi Yeon Cho who expressed her deep appreciation at the end of the semester for who we are and what we do. It is rewarding to receive such a positive feedback from one of our young Korean students.

Furthermore, we were extremely honored to have Youn Ok Kang, the assistant pastor of Healing

(Continued from page 14)



Pastor Youn Ok Kang (third from the right) visiting south campus

Church in South Korea and a registered student at the Korea Campus, registered to the Korean Extension this past fall. Pastor Kang registered for classes at the Korea campus in the spring of 2016. She is a passionate student seeking to learn the truth. What was surprising was when Young and Steve announced their departure from South Korea last summer, Pastor Kang immediately applied



Chapel service (Service Ministry)

and attained a temporary 90-day visa through the U.S. embassy and followed my parents to the U.S. in order to undertake Steve's classes. Mrs. Kang took classes for three months at the Korean Extension in person and one month at the Korea Campus online. We pray that Pastor Kang will have another opportunity to return to the north campus in the near future.

As we look to the spring, the new 2017 semester will begin on January 23rd. We are also offering a pre-semester intensive block class that will begin January 16th. In terms of student enrollment, we

are pleased to have 28 students returning, in addition to eight new students, and we are currently assisting two individuals to secure their student visas.

In terms of classes and teaching faculty, Steve will facilitate the Introduction to the Abrahamic Faith as a block class and the Kingdom of God as Gospel and Systematic Theology II during the regular semester period.

Pastor Jae Yun Shim will educate our students through the New Testament I and Church History II classes, and Pastor Young Jung Kim will teach the Instrumental Music I class. I will continue to help our Korean students to become more proficient English speakers, meanwhile attempt to bridge cultural gaps through the English II class. My mother Young will continue to provide good nutrition, serving our students home-cooked Korean meals.

In light of the details of the spring semester, most of you may already know that the Korean Extension at the north campus is in the process of transitioning to a new space. Presently, we are in the final stages of negotiation with the owner of the new location. The prospective space is conveniently located on a main road in the Korean community. Prior to choosing the new location, we researched a variety of spaces, and the student



Hymnology III (Chorus)

body and the staff collectively chose the new location. We ask for your prayer with the move.

In closing, I sincerely thank all of you for your prayers and support for the Korean missions.

God bless
Sam An

44th Annual Christian Workers Seminar

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee April 23-28, 2017

Theme: Kingdom First—Seek First the Kingdom; Love Not the World



Through the eyes of workshop leaders and speakers you will leave with encouragement, stronger relationships, new information, and better tools to be effective in your ministry. We invite you to come spend the week being trained, challenged, and inspired.

Classes:

Andy Cisneros - Finding Your Way Back to God
Michael Montgomery - "First Things First" Some of the Great 'One Thing' Verses in God's Word
Eileen Moore - "Mission Ready" Spiritual Training and Disciplines Learned from Military Techniques
Joe Martin - I FOUND GOD, A YHWH Study
Greg and Karen Demmitt - It Is Not Good To Be Alone, God's Design For Marriage
Dick Eldred - Getting the Kingdom Message into the Hearts of the Confused

Susan Landry - Everything Homeschool—Staying on Track, Exploring Learning Styles, Am I Equipped to Homeschool High School, and COG Homeschool Network
Greg Landry - Creationism vs. Naturalism
Paul Moore - They Sought The Kingdom of God, God Added America
Seth Ross - The Church of God Going Forward
Dennis Baldwin - Advocating for YHWH
Rebekah Martin - The JOY Of The Kingdom!

Evening Speakers:

Andy Cisneros—The Tangible Kingdom: How We Can See the Kingdom Today
Joe Martin—The Simplicity of God: FunaFunani Ufumu Wa Mulungu
Kyle McClain—If You Love Jesus, Then Spread the Gospel of the Kingdom
Susan Landry—Do Not Be Deceived
Seth Ross—Big Prayers

Afternoon Sharing Time Sessions:

Monday- "Political View of God's Kingdom" Steve An
Tuesday- Open Session with Seth Ross
Thursday- Homeschooling: What? Why? How? Susan Landry

Local Attractions:

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

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

44th Annual Christian Workers Seminar

April 23-28, 2017

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

Registration Deadline is: 3/20/2017
Check In Date - 4/23/2017

Check in time is at 3 P.M.
Check Out Date - 4/28/2017

Do you give the Church of God General Conference permission to put your address, phone number and e-mail address in a CWS 2017 directory to be distributed to all attendees? **Please circle: Yes / No**

Through the generosity of a donor, the cost per person has been rolled back \$100 for 2017

Last Name _____
 First Name (s) _____ / _____
 Children:
 Name _____ Age _____
 Name _____ Age _____
 Name _____ Age _____
 Name _____ Age _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone Number _____
 E-mail Address _____
 Room Occupant (1) Name _____
 Room Occupant (2) Name _____
 Room Occupant (3) Name _____
 Room Occupant (4) Name _____

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

Adults (x) ____	\$
Children (x) ____	\$
Saturday Night Stay	\$
Subtotal	\$
Any Discounts/Deposits	\$
Registrations Postmarked After 3/20/17 (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: \$575.00
 2 per room: \$350.00
 3 per room: \$275.00
 4 per room: \$238.00
 Saturday Night: \$87.00 (per room)
 Commuter: \$75

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.

★5 Easy Ways To Register★

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

Church News

Baptisms

California

Pomona—Jonathan Favors (10/24/16) by Pastor Bruce Reye

Ohio

North Hills—Savannah and Shannon Hackathorn (7/3/16); Stella Campbell (9/15/16); Cody Miller and Vicky Borders (11/20/16); Andy and Kim Hartsell (12/4/16); Cayden Honeyman, Sheyenne and Alexis Lowe (12/18/16) by Pastor Seth Ross

Deaths

Illinois

East Peoria—Paul Schaer, 97, (1/16/17) one of the earliest members of the East Peoria Church by Pastor Curt Rowden.

Oregon—Karen Little, 74, (11/16/16) long-time member by Pastors Dale Swartz and John Guthrie.

Indiana

Timberland—Milton O'Neil, 85, (11/4/16) long-time member by Pastors Andy Cisneros and John Railton.

Louisiana—Laura Mae Bankston Morse, 86, (10/26/16) long-time member of Happy Woods (now New Beginnings Christian Church) by Pastor Dan Landry and Sam Voorhies.

Michigan

Grand Rapids—Arleyne Kamp, 90, (11/30/16) long-time member by Pastor Michael Cisler. Robert Hardesty, 98, (1/1/17) 1944 graduate of Oregon Bible College and former pastor of the Omaha, NE and Southlawn, MI churches.

Ohio

Bedford—William Arlen Marsh, 65, (12/8/16) son of deceased Arlen and Beth Marsh by Pastor Andrew Weaver. Stephen Weaver, 61, (11/3/16) long-time member by Pastor Alan Cain.

Troy View—(Harold) Bill Newnam, 90, (1/11/17) charter member of the Troy View Church by Pastor Dan Cain.

South Carolina

Guthrie Grove—Earl Elwell, 94, (10/4/16) long-time-member by Pastor Mike Montgomery. Emmie Lee Chandler, 79, (3/24/16) long-time member by Pastor Mike Montgomery.

Texas

Grapevine—Dennis Goekler, 64, son of deceased Pastor Harry and Thelma Goekler, (11/24/16).

Church News

On December 10, Simple Teachings Bible Church passed out 120 dinner trays, 32 oz. Gatorade bottles, water bottles and hygiene packets which consisted of deodorant, tooth paste/took brush, socks, razors, lotion and soap in a zip lock bag to homeless men and women in McDonough, Stockbridge and Atlanta. Thanks to those who have helped our work over the past 13 years of our existence. We are helping people to have hope by helping with resources, prayer, and delivering God's Word.

Pastor Needed

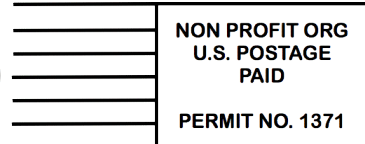
Maple Grove Community Church in Kokomo, Indiana has begun a pastoral search for a permanent, full-time pastor. I have been serving as interim pastor for Maple Grove for a little over a year, and we are now in a position to find a new pastor to serve the church in the Kokomo community. The church currently has between 35-50 attendees each Sunday and wishes to grow well beyond that number. It is a caring, vibrant church community of believers, and the church building is located in a growing area of Kokomo with several good-sized sub-divisions in the area.

Please contact Bob Morrison (765-543-4945; morrir59@gmail.com) or Janet Snyder (765-453-1233; janet.snyder805@comcast.net) with further questions, or if you know of someone who might be interested in meeting with our search committee. Please pray for our church in this search that God will call and bring the right person to fill this important position.

- 1 **Pray for a spirit of unity in the bond of peace.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Tom and Debbie New and the work at McGintytown, Arkansas.
- 3 **Pray for the Bible Prophecy Conference starting today.**
- 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 Seth Ross, Executive Director/President.**
- 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 and Bethel Church in 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 the Wenatchee, Washington congregation.**
- 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 **Pray for the ministry of your church elders.**
- 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 May.**
- 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 the Macomb, Illinois Church of God.
- 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 Praise God for his resurrected Son!
- 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 God's special blessing on those attending the Christian Workers Seminar which begins today in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.**
- 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 Duluth Korean Extension and the branch campus in South Korea.**
- 28 Pray for the soon return of Jesus.
- 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



Address Service Requested

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Prayer and Praise

May 2017

- 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 Bill and Lacy Dunn and the Garden Park, Michigan Church of God.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Scott Perciful and the new work in Oklahoma City.
- 5 **Pray for the missionary work in Mexico.**
- 6 Pray for the ministry of Pastor Ken and Eva Howe and the Country Chapel, Indiana Church of God.
- 7 **Pray for God to raise up workers for our churches.**
- 8 Pray for Pastor Scott and Michele Millard and the work at Omaha, Nebraska.
- 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 Pray for ABC and ABCKE students as they complete the winter/spring semester today.
- 13 **Praise God for the strength He provides each day.**
- 14 Praise God for your mother and her influence.
- 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 **Pray for Pastor David and Wanda Cheatwood and the church at Hedrick, Indiana.**
- 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 the work in Western Washington.
- 31 **Praise God for all that He has done and is doing in your life.**

THE RESTITUTION HERALD & PROGRESS JOURNAL

... when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ~Acts 8:12

If You Loved Me

By Michael Mattison

Each one reading this has probably tried to imagine what it would have been like to have been with Jesus when He walked the earth. Making a pilgrimage to Israel can be an attempt to partially experience that. I've wondered how much of what He said would I have comprehended at the time. How would I have reacted, given my background and conditioning as a Jew or a Gentile? Would I have been an adoring disciple, a self-centered consumer of His miracles of healing and food, or a self-righteous Pharisee or other doubter? If a follower, how would I have reacted to His reproofs? At the time, thousands made it through these issues to believe and love Him.

Then, especially to his closest twelve, He partially got through to them that it was all about to end—He was going away where they couldn't follow. In their confusion, they were troubled and afraid (John 14:27). Jesus responded to their inner turmoil by saying, "You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I." (John 14:28). This seems like a self-centered attitude? It seems like Jesus is saying, "Even though you'll be left behind, I'll be ecstatic so you should be happy for me and ignore your misery and loneliness." It's also a strong assertion that they don't love Him! "If you loved me" you'd have a different emotional reaction. Could I have taken that in stride?

Jesus continued to dose out strong medicine: "I am the true vine, and every branch (each disciple) must bear fruit or be discarded, and if it does bear fruit it must be pruned." (Ouch!) But he proceeded to promise if they would keep His commandments, just as He was keeping his Father's, they would be filled with love and joy (John 15:7-13).

Then He capped it off with an astounding insight. Not only was it to be a joy for Him to go away, it would also be better for them! (John 16:5-7). Jesus went on to explain that as long as He was with them in person, He couldn't be with them in spirit. So, far from being selfish, He was leaving them for His and their benefit. Jesus even applied that to us by saying after His resurrection, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..., teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20).

Our response to Jesus is to be the same as He wanted from the apostles. Not only are we more blessed to have His Spirit with us than to have Him in person right now, we are also to rejoice that He is with His beloved Father! After realizing this, I experienced several days of pure rejoicing on Jesus' behalf. What a way to lift us above our daily issues, to empathize with Jesus! If you love Jesus, you will rejoice that He is with His Father.

(Continued on page 2)

“If You Loved Me” *continued...*

(Continued from page 1)

In addition to that, we can empathize with Jesus' way of handling pain and grief as a way of dealing with our own. We are to "fix our eyes on (imitate) Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1,2). This shows us the motivation of how to endure our own pains and trials. Just as Jesus did, we also can look beyond them, obey the divine commands now, and anticipate the joy of being permanently with our Father.

(Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible.)

READER'S RESPONSE:

One thing that impacted me was that He was going to see His DAD. I've always thought of Him going to be with God and sit at His right hand, but I guess the thought never really hit me that He was going to be with His Daddy. How intimate that makes it. He could deal with His suffering here as a mortal, knowing the joy that was set before Him.

Some day real soon, I believe, the trumpet will sound and Michael will put his arms around his Dad, Jim Mattison. Makes it all worth the battle, doesn't it?

Love you, Brother, praying for you.
Pastor Richard Eldred

RH**CALENDAR OF EVENTS****June 25-30**

Midwest Family Camp @Camp Mack
(Milford, IN)

July 7-15

UP Project @Minneapolis, MN

July 16-21

FUEL @Manchester University
(N. Manchester, IN)

July 25-26

Heritage Conference @Cornerstone
Bible Church (McDonough, GA)

July 26-28

General Conference @Cornerstone
Bible Church (McDonough, GA)

Aug 4-6

Midwest Campout
Chain O'Lakes S.P.—Albion, IN

Aug 14

ABC Fall Semester Begins

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2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253

Opportunities Before Us

By Chris James, Board of Directors Chair

I hope you all have had a recent wonderful celebration of Easter. I hope it was a rewarding day spent in church services with family and friends and gathering around the family table for a nice large meal. Most of all, I hope it was a day spent with the reminder of just how fortunate we are for the sacrifice made by our Lord and Savior. By his wounds, by his death on the cross, and by his resurrection we have been healed. We have hope!

All around us there is turmoil brewing. There are foreign conflicts, wars and rumors of wars, and tragedies in our lives or lives of our families, friends, or acquaintances. Praise God for his infinite wisdom and for his plan of salvation. Praise God there will be a day with no more tears, no more pain, no more fears, and no more death. Even so come, Lord Jesus!

I am writing what, for now, will be my last brief article as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Church of God General Conference. Four years of service has seemed like a long time at certain periods. Yet, as I reflect back on the past four years, it also seems like a very brief period of time.

Currently, there are many activities on the calendar. Christian Workers Seminar was in April. Graduations for both Atlanta Bible College and the Korean Extension were in May. Summer camps will be in full swing soon. Then, before we know it, FUEL and General Conference will be upon us.

We have many other opportunities in the works as well. The Korean campus of Atlanta Bible College will be relocating to a

more feasible location. Construction will hopefully soon be under way for a new student house.

I want to say a few more words about one event and focus on our pastors for a moment. College graduation is an important event. Pray for the men and women who graduated and plan to start a pastoral service. Encourage them with words that will lift and build them up and strengthen them as they strive to faithfully serve and minister to churches and congregations somewhere in our conference. Please do this not only for our new graduates or new ministers, but please do this for our current ministers/pastors and their families who support them. Pray for those who are, or may be, considering attending Atlanta Bible College in the future. We are in need of men and women who desire to be pastors, and we must be a source of encouragement and strength for them in their ministry.

I wish you all a safe and productive season of travel for vacations, conferences, camps, seminars, etc. May you receive a blessing and a strengthening of your faith from all upcoming events that you are able to attend.

Respectfully,

Chris James
Chairman of the Board of Directors

RH

Why the Church of God Abrahamic Faith Matters

By Seth Ross, Executive Director

I was born into the Church of God General Conference. My grandfathers on both sides pastored Churches of God. My father and uncle both pastored Churches of God. My uncle has served in various national positions including as chairperson of the national board of directors. My father taught many years at Oregon/Atlanta Bible College and served as Academic Dean. I have large family trees on both sides (Ross and Macy) that trace several generations. I'm related to everyone it seems. I had to marry someone who was born outside the Church of God lest my family tree quit forking.

And so I grew up knowing the truth of scriptures. God is one, and Jesus is his son... really. He died for our sin. God raised Him from the dead. Jesus ascended to heaven and now sits at the right hand of God. Baptism represents the putting on of



Grand Rapids 1978

Christ. The dead are asleep in the grave until the resurrection at the last trumpet. Jesus will return riding on a white horse, and the millennium will begin. Death will be conquered and the kingdom of God will be established on a renewed earth. Jesus must remain in heaven until the "restitution of all things." I even knew what the title of this periodical referenced (Acts 3:21, KJV). It was all true, and I knew it. I assumed it. It was just part of me, my family, my life. It was life.

The truth was like air to me. It surrounded me. I breathed it, walked through it, and

lived with it daily. And, like air, I took it for granted. I didn't think about it. It was always with me, so I never had to think about it. It was ever-present in my life. It just was.

But you only take air for granted when you have it. Truth is like that. You only take truth for granted when you have it. When a person doesn't have air, they grasp for it, they reach for it, they get desperate for it. So it is with the truth. A person sitting at a desk experiences and appreciates air in a very different way than a drowning man who finally reaches the surface.

I suspect that of many of my peers who grew up in Churches of God, and perhaps even entire churches, have taken truth for granted to some degree. It's not that we no longer believe it, but maybe we've believed it for too long? It's not intentional; we just tend to drift in that direction. We've had truth in our hands as long as we can remember, so why even think about it? We already have it.

A blessing of my new position is that I regularly meet people who are "not us" but have found the truth as we understand it. And what we have perhaps taken for granted, they relish with great fervor, like air to a drowning man. People who did not grow up with the truth as the Church of God understands it experience truth differently than I did growing up. I wasn't particularly excited about it, because I'd always had it. But I'm excited about it again because I no longer take it for granted. The people I meet who spent years of their lives without truth have made me ever more grateful for the truth I had grown up knowing. I count myself as fortunate. If you're in a Church of God, you are also fortunate.

However, you might feel your church is too small, the building is too old, music is too slow or fast, your carpet is outdated, your fellowship hall needs painting, and your kitchen needs to be remodeled. It's easy to feel we're falling behind the Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, non-denominational, You-Pick-The-Brand church down the street. But we have something that matters... truth.

And people are out there trying to find us, to find you, to find your church, to find anyone who might believe in one God, Jesus as the human Messiah, the resurrection of the dead at Christ's literal return, and the kingdom of God on earth. You know... all that stuff you can take for granted. They don't take it for granted, and they want fellowship with you desperately.

In the past two months, we've had visitors to Atlanta Bible College from Korea, the Netherlands, and Australia. They just wanted to see it. Why? Because it's "the only biblical unitarian college on the planet." We teach the truth. And here's the funny part. They wanted to get a picture with the President of Atlanta Bible College. Yes, that seems odd, because it's just me. It's just us. It's just ABC. It's just the Church of God Abrahamic Faith. We can easily take these things for granted because



Seth Ross and Gyeongbok Park (S. Korea)

we've always had them. They're familiar. They're comfortable. They're like air. Air to us, air to them... but vastly different.

So to all the individuals reaching out to us, asking where "one God" churches are... people from Los Angeles, Houston, Salt Lake City, Decatur (AL), Sofia (Bulgaria), Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Norway, Denmark,



Jouke (Netherlands), Seth, and Jeff (Australia)

the Netherlands, Korea, etc, I have a message for you:

"Come on. We have a safe place for you to land. We welcome you with open arms. You've found a place to belong. We are the Church of God Abrahamic Faith."

And to all of you who belong to Churches of God, I also have a message for you:

"You matter. Truth matters. The Church of God Abrahamic Faith matters. Let's appreciate and celebrate that."

RH

BONUS

As I was typing this article, the following message came to our Church of God General Conference page on Facebook...

"Hello my brethren! I'm [a] Biblical Unitarian Minister of the Gospel and I'd like to know this Church and its Doctrine. Please send me literature! Address: Pastor José... [removed] ... Rio de Janeiro - Brazil. Thanks!"

THE FATHER AND THE SON

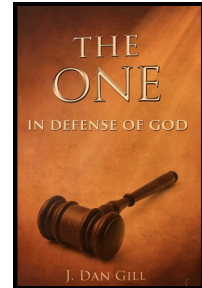
The Splendor of Dichotomy; The Joy of Submissive Unity

By Dr. Joe Martin

Walter Bauer challenged the whole of Christianity and current orthodoxy in his book, *Orthodoxy and Heresy in Earliest Christianity*. In it he said, “must not the historian, like the judge, preside over the parties and maintain as a primary principle the dictum *audiatur et alter pars* [let the other side be heard]?” (p. xxi). We are that other side at this point, but things are changing. Or in the words of Bob Dylan, “The Times They Are A Changin.” Bauer is cited by Dunn, Ehrman, Hurtado, etc. as the basis of a new review of what first-century Christianity believed. Hurtado, in his book *One God, One Lord* (2005), says “It is the thesis of this book that a historical understanding of the rise of Jesus veneration must include both factors... ‘divine agency’... and that early Christian religious experiences produced... the cultic veneration of God’s chief agent, in this case the risen Christ.” (p. 12) Hurtado’s response to a question at the SBL session (2015) on the gospel of Mark, “Did Jesus ever think he was God?” His response was an emphatic “H***, no!” Our dilemma today is to honor God, the overwhelming theme of the Bible, but also to honor Jesus as the true biblical human Messiah, the Son of God. I see this clear distinction in the notion of “The Father and the Son, a true dichotomy of God and man (I Tim. 2:5). Yet a dichotomy brought together in Jesus’ absolute submission to YHWH, our and his Abba Father. How could enough be said about Abba YHWH?

In Dan Gill’s book, *THE ONE*, his chapter five is most interesting, *Monotheism, An Insufficient Truth*. He says, “To them [God’s prophets], it would not matter whether people believed in one god or not, if that one

God is not YHWH... He is their Father (Deut. 32:6).” (p. 87) People who say they are monotheist may, in fact, be more bi-theists, or tri-theists, or poly-theists. An example he gives is Hindus, who may believe in many, even millions of “manifestations” of God, but feel still there is one God. (p. 90)



In a stirring challenge for Levites, teachers, priests, Malachi says:

⁷ "For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD [YHWH] of hosts? ¹⁰ "Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?" (Mal 2:7-10 NAU)

YHWH is that one Father, one God?

IN THE BEGINNING GOD

These are *four* simple words that explain the origin or our creation and the cosmos. I love thinking about cosmology, parallel universes, multi-verses, the third heaven, black holes, dark matter, quarks and quirks. Here is a quick peek at historical cosmology and the ultimate end:

*The future? Wikipedia says: “The **heat death of the universe** is a plausible ultimate fate of the universe in which the universe has diminished to a state of no thermodynamic free energy and therefore can no longer sustain processes that increase entropy. Or...*

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“And there will be no night there and light will not be needed for them or a lamp or the light of the sun, because the LORD God illuminates them and their king, forever and ever.” (Rev 22:5 MGI)

At a tour of the Atlanta Temple, the largest synagogue in Atlanta, we Columbia Theological Seminary students queried the rabbi? I asked, “Where do Jews start arguing over biblical issues?? He said the first word, *bereshiyth*, (בְּרֵאשִׁית) The Hebrew is “B” for “in” and “reshiyth” for “beginning.” In the beginning... whose beginning, what beginning, the angels’ beginning, humans’ beginning, God’s beginning, etc.

My understanding is that this is “our beginning.” Angels were already there. “When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:7 KJV) Sons of God = (בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים) *Benelohim*?”

YHWH ELOHENU YHWH ECHAD Deut. 6:4

Again, here is a challenge to simplicity, since “in many words there is emptiness. Rather, fear God.” (Ecc. 5:7 NASB) Though God is the most complex complicated entity thought of, He presents Himself... straightforward, simply, plain, transparent, uncomplicated, intelligible, reasonable, lucid, etc. (thesaurus.com)

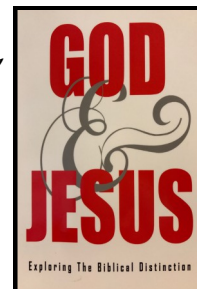
Jesus brilliantly affirms this truth in Mark 12:29. “Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.’ (Mark 12:29 NKJ) This One, *Echad*, *Eis*, is a particular one, not a multiple manifestation one, not a schizophrenic personality one, He is YHWH our Father, and the Father of Jesus, and Jesus’ God as well (John 20:17). “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to

my God and your God.” (NIV) Your God is not Jesus. Your God is YHWH, Abba Father? Jesus is His Son!

Baruch Atah Adonay YHWH Elohenu Melech Ha Olam

Blessed are you Lord YHWH our Go? King of the universe

At one theological conference, I shared electronically the “over 700 times” Jesus is distinguished from the Father. Joel Hemphill acknowledged this list when he produced one of his books, *God & Jesus*. (ISBN? 978-0-9825196-5-3)



The “dichotomy” is clear? Dichotomy, *a division two things* or “a division into two especially mutually exclusive ... entities.” (merriam-webster.com). Yet, there is a splendor in this dichotomy, one is the God, who is “not a man,” and the other is a human being, yet Son of God. God is still God, and while Jesus was a true human being, now He is a perfected human being that has been given God’s nature on the basis of His submission to the Father’s will. Luke 22:42, “not my will, but thy will be done!” (P.S., We are given the same hope!)

“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature...” (2 Pet 1:4 NASB)

I want to live forever! I want to have no more death, mourning, crying or pain! (Rev. 21:4). [And remember, I have a broken back.]

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My favorite review of YHWH God is Exodus 34:6-7— the eight attributes. God shows up to Moses, pronounces his name,

“⁶ So Yahweh passed before him, and proclaimed, - Yahweh, Yahweh, A GOD of compassion, and favour, - Slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and faithfulness: ⁷ Keeping lovingkindness to a thousand generations, Forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin, Though he leave not, utterly unpunished.” (Ex 34:6-7 ROT)

Basically, C, G, SA, AL, AT, ML, FWRS, YDNLTGU! (using the NIV mostly) These are repeated often. This is God by... God! Don't miss out on his personal self-explanation!

The New Testament continues the true witness to the oneness of YHWH:

ὁ μόνος ἀληθινός θεός

John 17:3 in nominative form, the only true God:

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (John 17:3 NASB)

What of the simple beauty that can be compared to “In the beginning God... .” Do you want that eternal life with no death, mourning, crying or pain? Get to know the only true God and Jesus!

Regarding Jesus, John 17:3, for eternal life we must know the only true God... and Jesus Christ! I consider this the “joy of submissive unity.” Luke 22:42, “Nevertheless, not my will, Thy will be done.” Another great current song is *Thy Will Be Done* by Natalie Grant. It is a sad story about a miscarriage, yet submission to God's will and direction.

Jesus humbled himself, he “did not grasp at equality with God.” How could He, He “... did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped.” (Phi 2:6 NASB)

I love the theology and Christology of Revelation 1:4-6. In verse four we see God, who is, was, and is to come. This is a great “Existing One,” YHWH, Halleluyah! In verse five, ... and from Jesus. “And Jesus” occurs 134 times in the New Testament, and this one in Rev. 1:5 may be the best. Notice the list... Christ, faithful witness, firstborn from the dead, ruler of kings of the earth, He loved us, He washes us from sins with His own blood, He made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father!

I also love the theology and Christology of Revelation 2 and 3. With each introduction to the churches (ESPTSPL), Jesus gives an attribute of who he is! This then is “Jesus by Jesus” as we saw “God by God” in Exodus 34:6-7. How does Jesus describe himself? It ...adds SKR, adds up for the SeeKeR?

- Rev. 2:1- He is among the churches in charge of the churches & angels...
- Rev. 2:8- He died, was dead and has come to life, the first and last...
- Rev. 2:12- He has the double-edged sword, the Word of God... (?)
- Rev. 2:18- He is the Son of God...
- Rev. 3:1- He is in charge of the spirits and stars (angels)
- Rev. 3:7- He has the key of David (keys of the kingdom!) & is holy and true
- Rev. 3:14- He is the ruler of God's creation (NIV) (cp. Rev.1:5) *archon/arche*

(Continued on page 9)

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A REBUT The Greatest Rebuttal by Jesus... ever Jn. 10:36

Google says, "to claim or prove that (evidence or an accusation) is false. The dictionary says a rebuttal is to deny, repudiate, repel, refute! In John 10, the ultimate rebuttal is by Jesus against the Pharisees. Yes, Jesus said many challenging and controversial things to "stir them up" (remember "I can of my own self do nothing...") and to get them to think. On this occasion, Jesus' statement "I and the Father are one," got them going? The Greek is **ἐγὼ καὶ ὁ πατήρ ἓν ἐσμεν.** (John 10:30, BGT) They picked up stones to stone him! His reply, *rebuttal*:

³⁵ "If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶ do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?" (John 10:35-36 NAU)

Again, four simple words in Greek:

υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ εἰμι
(John 10:36 BGT)

If I ever got into an argument with my mother, (generally would not happen with my father!) first I could be accused of "sassing my mama" which generally in the South requires corporeal punishment or in the least washing the mouth out with soap. If she rebutted in a substantially loud voice, "I said... ", repeating her already noted commands, I surely should listen and revise my attitude. In response to Jesus being accused of usurping authority from God (cp. "grasping at equality") He said, "*I said, ... I am the Son of God.*" Write it down for the first graders and pseudo-orthodoxy, He is the Son of God.

What did God say at Jesus' baptism? "This is my son, my beloved!" (Mt 3:17) **οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱός μου ὁ ἀγαπητός.** (Mt 3:17, BGT)

What did God say at the transfiguration? "This is my Son, my beloved, listen to him!" (Lk 9:35) **οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱός μου ὁ ἐκλελεγμένος, αὐτοῦ ἀκούετε.** (Lk 9:35 BGT)

What did God say to Jesus in the Passion Week? Jesus cried out to His Father...

²⁷ "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'?" But for this purpose I came to this hour. ²⁸ "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."
(John 12:27-28 NASB)

ὁ χριστός

¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."
(Matthew 16:15-17 NASB)

"Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." (Rev 11:15 NAU)

THY WILL BE DONE

The absolute submission of Jesus to the total will of God allows for the true exaltation the Father gives to Jesus, to the right hand of God.

³⁹ And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

(Continued on page 10)

⁴⁰ And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? ⁴¹ "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

⁴² He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

⁴³ Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more."
(Mt 26:39-44 NASB)

"²² I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb."
(Rev 21:22-23 NASB)

"Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Rev 22:1 NASB)

Apologies to the dying earth notion.

To Jesus:

**Baruch Atah Adonee Yeshua
Melech ha Eretz**

**Blessed are you Lord Jesus
King of the Earth/World**

I will live and die by the simple faith of
God's straightforward plan:

In the Beginning God...

YHWH Elohenu YHWH Echad...

The Only True God...

ὁ μόνος ἀληθινός θεός

and Jesus, who said?

υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ εἰμ?

the Christ...

ὁ χριστὸς

Who said, Thy will be done...

And... *seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.*

Progress? Most Americans do not accept traditional orthodoxy. For instance 56% agreed that "the Holy Spirit is a divine force but not a personal being." (Shane Morris, "Survey Finds Most American Christians are Actually Heretics, Oct. 10 2016 web). More than half, especially younger believers are getting close to a biblical perspective on Jesus. Besides, God says, seven-seven times, "They shall know that I am the LORD/YHWH!" We are just working with God on folks knowing him.

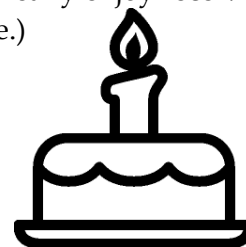
RH

June Andrew is celebrating her 90th birthday on June 29, 2017, and would really enjoy receiving a birthday card from friends across the Church of God. (No gifts please.)

Her address is:

Mrs. June Andrew
602 South 7th St
Oregon, IL 61061

Something to celebrate



Mission Trip to Africa

By Rick McClain

Another mission trip to Africa is under way. Joe and Rebekah Martin are leading a team that will make stops in Kenya, Malawi, and Mozambique. Joe and Rebekah left home on May 29 and will return on July 12. Rollin Carlblom, Brendan Gallagher, Kim Laurent, and Seth Ross will accompany Joe and Rebekah during different portions of the trip.

It is amazing to see how the kingdom message has spread so quickly in Africa! There are now about 450 churches in Africa that believe in the same truths that we do. There are more Church of God Christians in Africa than there are in the United States. We have planted and watered through the years, but God has clearly made this ministry grow beyond our expectations. It is a good lesson to us about what great things God is capable of doing if we are willing to faithfully go out and preach the good news.

We have also literally helped our brothers and sisters in Africa with planting of seeds so they can overcome the severe droughts and flooding they have experienced the last couple of years. Many of you have donated funds so we could help feed those in need. Ten dollars can feed a family of four for a month, so the financial support we have given them has helped tremendously. They have told us how extremely grateful they are for the help we have given them. They are still currently experiencing a lot of hardship due to the food shortage, but the good news is that their crops are looking great and should provide a good food source within the next month or so when it is time to start harvesting the crops.

The mission team is hopeful they will see the results of an abundant harvest when they go

there, but that is not the main purpose of their trip. Rebekah shared the purpose of the trip saying, "We will be going around to different villages preaching and teaching, encouraging, giving out Bibles, tracts, highlighters and reading glasses, and helping with the orphans. The people in these countries are eager to hear God's Word, and it is a joy to share it with them. They live in extreme poverty, and the message of salvation through King Jesus is very real and exciting to them. We are trying to fulfill the command in Mark 16:15 to 'go into all the world and preach the gospel'."

Please keep this team in your prayers while they are in Africa. Please pray for their health and safety, but most importantly pray that God will use them to further His kingdom so more people will be able to live eternally in that coming kingdom.

If you are interested in participating in this trip by donating funds to help pay the costs of those going on the trip, send your tax deductible donations to Atlanta Bible College and notate that it is for the Africa trip (you may also stipulate that the gift will help a certain individual by stating their name as well). Your support in preaching the gospel to all nations is greatly appreciated!

RH



Prophecy: Damascus

By Wally Winner

Does the United States cruise missile strike on Syria have prophetic significance? Specifically, "could it lead to the fulfillment of Isaiah 17?"

Isaiah prophesied the destruction and abandonment of Damascus over 2,700 years ago.

"An oracle concerning Damascus. Behold, Damascus will cease to be a city and will become a heap ruins." ~Isaiah 17:1 (ESV)

Yet, the city continues, despite so many Middle East wars. In fact, it is called "the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world".

Given that, you would think there is little debate that this prophecy is plainly unfulfilled. Yet, you will find Bible commentaries that mention how Isaiah 17 was fulfilled in other events of the Bible, such as in 732 BC when Assyria defeated the Arameans and their capital Damascus (2 Kings 16:9). The problem is that although the prophecy has been partially fulfilled in the past, this does not mean it does not have dual fulfillments, as is often the case with Bible prophecies. Usually all parts of the prophecy are not fulfilled until a later, final fulfillment. In this case, the part about Damascus ceasing to be a city and becoming a heap of ruins is plainly not accomplished. That's a bleak picture that stands in contrast to Damascus' status as the oldest city. (In fact, Bible skeptics use Isaiah 17 as proof that the Bible is not true!)

If this is correct, then Isaiah 17 is a dire warning for this capital city of 2.5 million people. One day the city will suffer tragedy of some kind leaving a heap of ruins in its place.

Israel has long had an arsenal of nuclear bombs and is also a frequent target of attacks from Syria. In fact, Israel has already been in several major wars with Syria between 1948 to 1973.

Because Israel's enemies are so numerous and able to overrun the tiny nation so easily, Israel has adopted a nuclear policy called "The Samson Option." Named after the judge of Israel who took his own life by



knocking out the support pillars of the temple he was in to avenge himself on his enemies around him. According to this policy, Israel would nuke the cities of her enemies if she was overrun or about to be defeated. Hitting the leadership of Syria at Damascus would be part of this retaliatory attack.

The idea of Damascus' doom coming from a war with Israel is not surprisingly indicated by several plain verses. Isaiah 17 continues by describing what happens along with Damascus' destruction:

3 Fortified cities will disappear from Ephraim, and the kingdom will disappear from Damascus. The remaining few from Aram will share Israel's honor," declares the LORD of Armies.

4 "When that day comes, the honor of Jacob's people will fade away, and they will

(Continued on page 13)

Prophecy *continued...*

become skin and bones 6 Only a few people will survive. They will be like an olive tree that has been beaten. Only two or three olives are left at the top of the highest branch, four or five olives on the rest of the branches" ~Isaiah 17:3-6 (GW)

When this happens, northern and central Israel are named as taking damage and casualties, although comparatively less than Damascus (Damascus loses the kingdom, but Israel only the fortress). War is never completely one-sided. If Israel is prompted to attack Damascus, they will certainly suffer casualties in the process. Going further in the prophecy we can see that, as has usually been the case, Syria will not be acting alone against Israel:

Ah, the uproar of many peoples, that roar like the roaring of the seas; and the rushing of nations, that rush like the rushing of mighty waters! The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters... 14 At eventide, behold, terror; and before the morning they are not. This is the portion of them that despoil us, and the lot of them that rob us. ~Isaiah 17:12 (ASV)

A multitude of nations attack "us" or the nation that Isaiah addressed in his prophecies: the southern kingdom of Judah (as opposed to the northern nation of Israel). The Jewish people make up the modern state of Israel (which is why they almost called it the state of Judah). Therefore the description fits yet another Middle East war where Israel is attacked by her mainly Arab and Islamic neighbors such as Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan (maybe Iran who is not Arab). Yet, like before, Israel will be victorious — and probably even quicker than in the Six-Day War of 1967. Notice in verse 14 that it takes only from one evening until the next morning to achieve decisive victory. It sounds just like the Samson Option is exer-

cised after Israel is left with no choice but to use her nuclear weapons against multiple enemy nations and cities. Their armies will literally be gone, not to mention a large segment of their civilian populations. The nuclear war casualties could easily surpass tens of million people. No wonder Isaiah says that the situation shifts overnight from terror for Israel to tragedy for her enemies.

We can be concerned by the increasing tensions for war across the globe. However, our focus is what happens in the Middle East. It is what happens there that leads to the return of Christ.

RH**Church of God Online**

Church of God General Conference
coggc.org

Atlanta Bible College
atlantabiblecollege.com

Turning Point Youth Ministry
tpym.com

Lord's Harvest International
lhicog.com

Abrahamic Faith Resources
abrahamicfaith.org

ABC Korean Extension
abcke.weebly.com

Other Sites to Explore

focusonthe kingdom.org (A. Buzzard)

restitutio.org (Sean Finnegan)

21stcr.org (Dan Gill)

trinities.org (Dr. Dale Tuggy)

thegodofjesus.com (Kegan Chandler)

Good News From COG-Land

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

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Faith Forcier** announced that she went on a missionary trip to the Dominican Republic with some of the girls on her softball team May 17-24. The girls played softball games, shared their testimonies, served at a local daycare and at a prostitution rehab center, and spent some time at a remote village while there. She thanks you for your prayer support, as well as any financial contributions you gave.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Congratulations go out to the following: **Jenny Rodriguez** for accepting a new position within Honeywell; **Zach Myers** for signing a letter of intent to play college baseball for Rockford University this fall; and **Jamie ReVelle** who was inducted into the University of Evansville Hall of Fame (softball). [Kudos to all! – GNP]

From the **Northeast Conference** – **Sir Anthony Buzzard** was the guest speaker/teacher for the Northeast Prophecy Conference held at the **Brush Creek Church of God** March 17-19.

From the **Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH** – **Pastor Dan Cain** announced a Fazoli’s spaghetti dinner fundraiser on March 26 for **Rachael Moore** to help cover the Moore’s medical expenses following Rachael’s accident. Half of the proceeds went to help with their medical expenses. [So great that church family can help each other out in tough times such as that. – GNP]

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – Congratulations to **Kinsey Henderson** for her MVP award in basketball and to **Peyton Winner** for being third runner-up to Ms. Sophomore. The Bethel ladies had their annual beach retreat in January. It was a great weekend of fun, fellowship and beautiful sunrises. The junior youth enjoyed a trip to a train show exhibit as well as supper at Chick-Fil-A. A total of twenty junior and senior youth and adults enjoyed a bowling outing recently. The junior church kids have had two Africa mission projects. \$500 was raised to build a church in Africa, and over \$600 was raised to help feed children in Africa.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – Congratulations to **Amber Messner** and **Jayden Fleck** for being named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester 2016 at Southwest

(Continued on page 15)

Church Classifieds

Seeking Pastor

Pelzer, SC

The Guthrie Grove Church of God located in Pelzer, SC is seeking the services of a full-time pastor. The church provides a full-time salary, health insurance, mileage reimbursement, and a large parsonage with utilities. Interested pastors may send a notice of interest and resume to? Joe James, 100 Buck Drive, Piedmont, SC 29673 or email jjames2964@charter.net.

Monroe, NC

Hope Second Advent Christian Church of Monroe, NC, is currently seeking a full-time pastor. As a committed group, we believe the word of God is true and inerrant, and our steadfast hope is in the

soon return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We envision, with great optimism, a new earth, everlasting in scope and perfect in nature. Our congregation is filled with children of all ages, young adults, and older folk who are in need of a dedicated leader as we continue in the work of our Lord. Being part of a rural community affords us many opportunities for growth. We are “trusting in God, through Christ Jesus, to supply all our needs.” If interested, or for more information, please contact the following:

Jeff Greene, 704-609-3352
JGreene@charlottepipe.com

Neal Connell, 704-201-0120
joandneal@frontier.com

Minnesota State University with high honors. Congratulations also go out to **Mindy Forcier** who was named to the fall semester 2016 Dean's List at University of Northwestern – St. Paul with high honors. Finally, congrats to **Natalie Karl** for being inducted into the National Honor Society at Buffalo Lake-Hector High School. Your church is so very proud of all of you!

From the **Ripley Church of God in Mount Sterling, IL** – The church wants to express its gratitude for many recent blessings. **Karen Laning** did a special reading on Valentine's Day. **Rob Laning and Janaia** both sang specials. Janaia has been playing piano for church. [Do we too often get too caught up in things that we forget to acknowledge the blessings that God gives us on a regular basis? Thanks for reminding us that blessings are everywhere. – GNP]

From the **Garden Park Church of God in Grand Rapids, MI** – The church is enjoying getting to know new **Pastor Bill Dunn** and family, and a yummy Easter breakfast was one step along that path. **Jill, Rick, and Mackenzie McClain**, and **Shelby Upton** and **Grace Rodgers** attended Refuge. **Amber McClain** and **Josiah Cain** are engaged and planning a September 16, 2017 wedding. Rick and Mackenzie McClain shared pictures and stories from their mission trip to Peru,

and a potluck dinner followed with favorite dishes from around the world. [Why wasn't I able to be there for that? – GNP] Finally, eighteen people from the church family attended CWS, and some were first-timers. [Wow! Eighteen!! – GNP] All enjoyed a great week of fellowship and learning about being bold and sharing the kingdom message.

From the **Birthday and Anniversary Department** – Birthday wishes to **Willman Gentry** (85 years young) and anniversary wishes to **David and Judy Sloan** who celebrated 52 years of marriage (all from Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC). [Great milestones! – 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 COGLand 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



Kingdom Hope Filled Korea Classes

By Steve An

Greetings to the brothers and sisters in the kingdom hope,

I am unable to put into words to express my heart-filled appreciation to all of you for passing on the kingdom message to me and our fellow Korean Christians.

In this spring semester, total of 39 Korean students in both the Korean Extension and the Korea campus have been able to build up hope of the resurrection and the kingdom through the Abrahamic Faith in this evil age – murky situations in the politics, economy, environment, education, homeland security and human rights. I am personally saddened, but at the same time joyful. The sad part is that all the troubles were caused by the human sin, turning back from God and building the Babel Tower, but at the same time, I am joyful to witness the Babel Tower is in the process of destruction. The prophecy of the Bible is perfectly right! It may sound crazy to the people who belong to the present evil age as Paul was told by Festus "You are out of your mind!" However, I would be completely sad if the Babel Tower, the present evil world, is prospering and contradicting the Bible and the prophets of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is not difficult for Korean students to realize that the man-made present world, Babel Tower, is in the process of destruction as it is written in the Bible, but do not panic! It is not the end! God promised that the kingdom will be established on the new earth under a perfect government system by the Messiah, Son of God, with the absolute sovereignty bestowed by God such as the sole executive (kingship), legislative, and judicial authorities (There is only one lawgiver and judge...

James 4:12 NIV), with us who have been longing for the kingdom through the Abrahamic Faith "...at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne; you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Matt. 19:28 NIV. "Do you not know that the saints will judge the world" (1 Cor. 6:2 NIV). Then, "there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the older order of all things has passed away." (Rev. 21:4 NIV)

The Abrahamic Faith is only the way to enter the kingdom, and it is our God-given duty to preserve and convey it to our neighbors and the next generation to expand the kingdom. We, the staff and the students, pledge ourselves to perform our holy duty with all our heart and strength.

Once again, on behalf of the Korean students and Christians, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for inheriting the Abrahamic Faith to us. Please continue to pray and support us until the kingdom comes. "Come, Lord Jesus!"

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with God's people who are longing for the Kingdom!

Steve An



Korean Campus On The Move

By Sam An

North Campus Report

Greetings from the Korean Extension! Praise God as He continues to bless us each season allowing us to experience and to enjoy the miracles that He brings each school year. For the spring, I am excited to announce the acceptance of 10 new young Korean students who are eager to learn the biblical truth and to put into practice what they have learned and experienced through our Christian program. The additional enrollment increases our student number to 37. Most of our recent enrollees were references from our current student body and it is encouraging to know that we as Christian servants are making an impact in our students' lives where they minister and introduce our program to others. In addition, the KE is proud to announce that we will have nine graduates completing the program. Praise God!

Pastor Steve An Kingdom of God as Gospel I

Concerning classes, administrative staff, and teaching duties. We are currently offering Bible and ministry courses in the mornings and general education classes in the afternoons. Pastor Steve An is teaching the Kingdom of God as Gospel I, Christian Education, and service ministry classes. Pastor Jae Yun Shim continues to facilitate the New Testament and Church History classes, and Pastor Young Jung Kim provides Christian musical instruction and knowledge through the Hymnology class.

Pastor Steve An Christian Education

Along with administrative duties, I continue to assist our Korean students to become more proficient English speakers

through the English II class, and my mother Young carries on with the food ministry by providing home-cooked Korean meals to our students.

Pastor Young Jung Kim Hymnology II



As we look to the fall, the new 2017 semester will begin on August 21st with a pre-semester briefing beginning August 14th at our new north campus location.

New KE Campus 10700 Abbotts Bridge Road Suite 180 Johns Creek, GA 30097

Although there is still much more work to be done, we give thanks and praise to God for the relocation. The new facility is located street-side on a main road versus our current campus, which is hidden inside an industrial park. The new campus is conveniently located within the Korean community in walking distance to nearby restaurants, cafes, and retailers. In the beginning of the search, we had several locations to choose from, and the KE staff and students collaborated and chose the new site. As I write the report, we are in the process of permitting and building-out the space. We are anticipating a late-May move-in date. Please pray for a smooth transition.

God bless
Sam An

ABC News

We currently have seven students living in the **Church of God housing** along with Amber McClain, the dorm mom, Jacob Paura, Josiah Cain, Madison Cisler, and Kyle McClain are all receiving the reduced tuition rate for Church of God students. Lots of exciting things are going on in the lives of our students from working, seeking out internships, and serving in our local churches. We have continued to have our student/staff pizza lunch on Thursday afternoons after our weekly chapel service.



Students at CWS

Several of our students were able to attend **Christian Workers Seminar** in April as part of our Go Serve initiative. It's a great addition having students attend, serve in various ways, and strengthen relationships with other believers who are in attendance. Kyle McClain was one of our evening speakers, and Jamie Shaull was the overseer of the children's program. Some of the opportunities for them to serve included leading a small group in the mornings to pray with others and facilitate conversations about the evening's messages, being on the worship team, attending workshops, serving in the children's program, and helping with media needs throughout the week.

It is such a blessing to see several of our students not only serving and growing in their

leadership at Cornerstone Bible Church and Atlanta Bible College, but some are pursuing ministry opportunities at our Church of God churches over the summer.



2017 Graduation: Atlanta Bible College

Our **graduation** ceremony for Atlanta Bible College took place on May 12.

- Foundation Certificates were earned by: Ana Ababei, Madison Cisler, Jacob Paura, and Stefan Swanson.
- Associates in Theology and Ministry were earned by: Madison Cisler, Grace Mativo, Kyle McClain, and Jacob Paura.
- A Bachelor's Degree in Theology was earned by: Jesse Allen. After graduation he is planning to begin his 9-month internship with John Wincapaw at Blood River Church of God (Springfield, LA).



Student lunch with staff

WELCOME TO OUR 13th Annual Church of God

July 25 and 26, 2017

Cornerstone Bible Church of God
180 Nail Dr.
McDonough, GA 30253



Theme: Diversity of History to the Glory of God

Tuesday, July 25

- 12:00 Registration
- 1:00 Opening the conference – David Krogh
- 1:15 Keynote Address: State of the General Conference – Seth Ross
- 2:00 Statistics on Youth Conferences – David Krogh
- 3:00 Coffee Break
- 3:15 The Lost History of Christianity: A Book Review – Greg Demmitt
- 4:15 Speak Lord, for Your Servant is Listening – Edward Bender
- 5:15 Dinner
- 6:00 Larry Mayberry, Mini-Concert
The Doctrine of Immortality in the Early Church – John Roller
- 8:00 Ice cream and open forum for sharing ideas, histories, photos, etc.

Wednesday, July 26

- 8:00 Coffee
- 8:30 History of Brush Creek and the Curtis Cemetery – Sharon Kauffman Hastings
- 9:30 Photinus of Galatia: Unitarian of the Fourth Century – Kegan Chandler
- 10:15 Coffee
- 10:30 System Restore – Scott Perciful
- 11:15 Sydney Magaw – Jan Stilson
- 12:00 Lunc?
- 1:00 The Macy's in Texas – Cheryl Ross, Emory Macy, Karla Biggar
- 2:00 Words of Wisdom From My Journey of Faith – Anthony Buzzard
- 3:00 An Interesting Topic in Reformation History – Scott Deane
- 4:00 Wind Up: Feedback & Ideas For Next Year – Jan Stilson, David Krogh, Greg Demmitt
- 5:00 General Conference Cook Out

There is no charge for the conference, but contributions toward the meals provided are encouraged. Registration is required to participate in the meals.

Send e-mail to: dkrogh@atlantabiblecollege.com or call 678-833-1839.

Nominations for Board of Directors

At General Conference, two directors will be elected to the board of directors. The terms of Chris James and Dan Knowlton 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.

Susan Landry



I am blessed far more than I deserve, married to my favorite person, and mother to two godly young men. I grew up in Minnesota, attending Pine Grove Bible Church. My father is Bill Savage, son of Tom and Madge Savage, who some of you may remember. In high school and college, I traveled to Mexico four times with short term mission teams. I attended Atlanta Bible College, earning my two year degree there. Also at that time, I earned my teaching degree from Georgia State University. I married Greg Landry and taught second grade in Georgia until we moved to Minnesota in 1999. Since then, I've taught various ages, worked as a job coach and mediator for folks with disabilities, and eventually we decided to homeschool. Now that my boys are nearing graduation, I'm still homeschooling, although more hands off. I also tutor part-time and have ventured into the world of blogging. Greg and I not only teach and serve actively in our home church, but also at Midwest Family Camp and FUEL each year, and this year at Christian Workers Seminar.



Jeff Osborn

Garden Park Church of God nominates Jeff Osborn for election to the General Conference board of directors.

Jeff grew up near South Bend, IN where his family attended Timberland Bible Church of God. Jeff was actively involved in the youth group at Timberland, where he became a baptized member in 1990. Church youth events and National Camp played a vital role in Jeff's adolescence and inspired him to attend Atlanta Bible College in the fall of 1993. While attending Atlanta Bible College, Jeff participated in student government, gospel teams, children's ministries and the planting of Cornerstone Bible Church.

In 1999, Jeff married Beth Hall and transferred his membership to Garden Park Church of God, in Kentwood, MI. He has served in various capacities at Garden Park, including missionary chairman, deacon and leading worship. He has also held positions on the board, as head deacon and congregational representative. He is currently serving as an elder and youth leader. Jeff and Beth have enjoyed planning and executing youth and community events, participating in local, regional and national Church of God events, serving and attending at Midwest Family Camp, as well as FUEL. Jeff and Beth have six children and are actively involved in their education as a homeschool family.

(continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 20)

Jeff received his degree from Atlanta Bible College through correspondence and has also attended Grand Valley State University, where he has three classes remaining to complete a degree in international relations.

Much of Jeff's vocational experience is in transportation management. He currently works as a behavioral detection security supervisor for the Department of Homeland Security. This position includes managing people, ensuring customer service in high-pressure and often stressful situations, performing administrative duties, mentoring officers, and developing and improving upon systems and procedures.

Jeff acknowledges that his greatest work for the kingdom of God may very well be the six children that God has entrusted in his care. However, he is also confident that we will be better equipped to effectively spread the kingdom message if we can build and maintain a healthy and relevant conference of churches to support individuals and families seeking to do God's will. Jeff feels fortunate to have been born into the Church of God, and he would like to do all that he can to ensure that more people will come to know the one true God and treasure the truths we share. He is running for the board of directors as an expression of his thanks to those who have come before him, a sense of duty to those who will come after him, and ultimately, as an act of obedience to his Heavenly Father.

Jeff can be reached at jlosborn74@gmail.com or (616) 558-7881, if you have any questions for him.

Atlanta Bible College Honors Spring 2017

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 from campuses in McDonough, Duluth, and South Korea for their academic accomplishments during the winter/spring 2017 semester.

President's List (3.5 and above)

Josiah Cain
Mi Yeon Cho
Madison Cisler
Soon Ho Jeong
Kyle McClain
Eun Joo Yang

Dean's List (3.00 to 3.49)

Ana Ababei
Yun Seok Cho
Yun Tae Hwang
Eun Ju Kim
Jin Kook Kim
Seung Yeon Kim
Young Ok Kim
Kyu Hyeong Lee
Sang Min Pak
Soo Hyung Park
Jacob Paura
Daniel Wall



General Conference Schedule

Wednesday, July 26

- 4:00 Registration
 5:00 Welcome Cook-out
 7:00 Worship Service: Ministry Highlights Across the Church of God
 8:30 Welcome Reception

Thursday and Friday, July 27-28

- 9:00 Chapel
 10:00 Break
 10:30 Workshops (repeat Thur & Fri)
 - Small Church - Ed Bender "First Love"
 - Culture & Christianity - Jacob Ballard
 - Science & Faith - Jay Laurent
 - Theology & KG - Anthony Buzzard
 - Theology & OT - Bob Jones
 - Meeting: MALT (Th & Fr)
 12:00 Lunch
 1:30 Chapel
 2:15 Workshop (repeat Thur & Fri)
 - COG History - Jan Stilson
 - Technology in Ministry - Andrew Hamilton
 - Student Ministry - Rebecca Dauksas
 - Children's Ministry - Lynn Krogh & Stacey Ross
 - Church Safety - John Demmitt
 - The Church & Homeschooling Families—Susan Landry
 - Meeting: ABCDF (Th) + OBC/ABC Alumni (Fr)
 3:30 Break
 4:00 Business Meeting
 5:30 Dinner
 7:00 Worship Service

97th Annual Church of God General Conference

July 26-28, 2017 at Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

PLEASE NOTE: Fees for General Conference DO NOT include lodging. You must arrange lodging by contacting the hotel directly. Fees for the conference cover costs of the meeting and meals. Contact numbers are provided below for hotels close to Cornerstone Bible Church, but you may choose any hotel you desire or make other arrangements. Rates listed are good only for a limited time.

1. Please fill out the following form. Rates are per person.
2. Early Bird Discounted Rate is available until July 14, 2017.
3. Ways to Register
 - Mail this form to: General Conference 2017, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253
 - Register online at www.coggc.org
 - Register by phone by calling Kim Raper at 678-833-1839
4. 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 26 cookout at Cornerstone 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 _____

Do you give permission to include your information in our event directory? Y or N

The program begins July 26 with a late afternoon cookout and evening service. Thursday and Friday include a complete schedule of workshops, worship services, meetings of the Ministers, Priscillas, Alumni Association, Retirement Association, and delegate business sessions. The conference concludes after the Friday evening service.

Hotel Information

Please call the hotel directly and mention the Atlanta Bible College to secure these rates. Those coming early for the Heritage Conference or the board meeting can get these rates Mon and Tues nights in addition to Wed, Thurs, and Fri with checkout on Sat, July 29.

Early Bird Discount: Adults at \$110 per person Registered BEFORE July 14, 2017	\$
Regular Rate: Adults at \$135 per person Registered ON or AFTER July 14, 2017	\$
Children ages 6-12 at \$35 per person	\$
Commuters: no meals at \$35 per person	\$
Subtotal	\$
10% Pastor Discount—subtract	(\$)
non-refundable \$25 deposit per person—subtract	(\$)
Total due at Conference	\$

Best Western: 770-898-1006; 805 Industrial Blvd. McDonough, GA 30253; \$89 per room per night; 4 to a room; full breakfast; price good until June 26. After that, subject to availability.

Comfort Suites: 678-216-1900; 64 Highway 81 W. at Exit 218; \$99 per room per night; up to 6 people per room; full breakfast; price good until June 26. After that, subject to availability.

Holiday Inn: 678-782-1100; 1315 GA-20, McDonough, GA 30253; \$109 per night; 4 to a room; full hot breakfast; price good until June 26. After that, subject to availability.

Cornerstone Bible Church 180 Nail Drive, McDonough, GA 30253 or call Kim Raper at GA office 678-833-1839

Budget Proposal: Income 2017-2018 revisions and Proposed

	2017-2018	2017-2018	2018-2019
	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
		<u>Revisions</u>	
CONTRIBUTIONS:			
General Contributions	\$430,000	\$415,000	\$420,000
SALES:			
Books & Curriculum	\$32,000	\$19,000	\$20,000
BIBLE COLLEGES:			
Tuition, Housing, ABCDF support	\$345,500	\$348,600	\$385,100
PROGRAM INCOME:			
Conferences & Workshops	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Tenant & Other	\$179,500	\$174,500	\$174,500
Income Total	\$990,000	\$960,100	\$1,002,600
Expense Total (from other sheet)	\$990,000	\$960,100	\$1,002,600
(Income less Expense)	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 adopted by the delegates at the 2016 summer conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Income Sub-categories

(complete line-item budget available)

- General Contributions** – non-specific giving by individuals, churches, and conferences
- ABC Boosters** – an annual giving program that raises funds for the college
- Christian Education Materials** – includes all sales of quarterlies & Kingdom Quest materials
- Books** – sales of class and non-class books
- Sale of Assets** – income from the sale of unused assets
- Tuition** – estimated income from ABC/ABCKE classes
- ESL Program** – estimated income from new English as a second language program at Duluth campus
- Lodging/Apartment Rent** – rent received from students for apartments rented by the college
- ABCDF Support** – transfer of investment income from the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation
- Interest and Late Fees** – finance charges on outstanding student accounts
- Application/Miscellaneous Fees** – charges for specific services for college students, such as application fees
- Conferences & Workshops** – net income is tracked separately for each event; together, all events provide a modest net income
- Interest** – interest earned on checking account

Other Income – miscellaneous income

Tenant Income – income from tenants leasing space in the McDonough, GA office building

Transferred In – amounts transferred in from Restricted Funds: from interest income and from funds designed to support General Fund expenses

Expense Sub-categories

(complete line-item budget available)

- Salaries and Wages** – compensation for all full-time and part-time staff
- FICA Tax** – required payment of employer taxes
- Employee Benefits** – tax coverage, health insurance premiums, workers compensation, as well as conference premiums for Ministers' Voluntary Retirement Association for some employees
- Assistance to Churches** – grants to churches; Church Development Aid and Church Planting Aid
- Ministerial Association** – support for programs and expenses of the Ministerial Association
- Youth Program** – funding to subsidize the cost of Turning Point Youth Ministries and TPYM's production of FUEL and other events
- 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
- Postage and Shipping** – shipping charges HERALD / JOURNAL, tracts, books, and all correspondence
- Book Store** – textbooks and other materials which are purchased for resale
- Advertising-Recruitment** – includes newspaper, television, radio advertising (telephone calls, travel, printing, and postage are included under other line items)

(Continued on page 25)

Budget Proposal: Expenses 2017-2018 revisions and Proposed

	2017-2018 Approved	2017-2018 Proposed Revisions	2018-2019 Proposed
STAFF:			
Salaries & Benefits	\$410,000	\$473,500	\$477,500
SERVICES:			
Churches, Ministers, Youth	\$56,000	\$56,000	\$61,000
ADMINISTRATION:			
Travel, Office, Software, Mail	\$143,750	\$117,200	\$120,650
AVALON CAMPUS:			
Utilities, Maintenance, Equipment	\$197,450	\$122,100	\$126,800
KOREAN EXTENSION(s):			
Campus & College expenses	\$48,500	\$67,000	\$90,700
HOUSING:			
Mortgages, Utilities, HOA, Repair	\$39,000	\$46,000	\$46,950
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Insurance, Fees, Debt Service	\$95,300	\$78,300	\$79,000
Expense Total	\$990,000	\$960,100	\$1,002,600
Income Total (from other sheet)	\$990,000	\$960,100	\$1,002,600
(Income less Expense)	\$0	\$0	\$0

(Continued from page 24)

Student/Staff Meals – meal expenses for ABC and the ABC Korean Extension

Library Periodicals – journals and other magazines for the library collection

Library Books – newly published books are acquired to keep the library collection up to date

ESL Fees – cost of establishing the English as a second language program at the Duluth campus

Staff Periodicals, Books & Dues – a small allowance is provided to staff to purchase resource material for classes and to participate in professional organizations

Staff Training – staff is provided opportunities to enhance skills in areas associated with their responsibilities, including pursuit of advanced degrees

Travel – for board members, advisory committees, special boards/committees, student groups, and staff

Office & Misc. Supplies & Expenses – paper, printer cartridges, stationery, envelopes, printing supplies, and other office expenses

Professional Services – costs of annual audit, as required by the constitution and annual fees to accrediting association

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

Office Machine/Software Lease & Maint. – maintenance agreements and repairs for office equipment and software maintenance

Utilities – costs of electricity, water, gas, etc. at ABCKE campus, and ABC and ABCKE apartments

Insurance – Property – costs of insurance for facilities

Repairs/Maintenance – Plant – costs for plant support and maintenance

Furniture and Equipment – includes furniture, software, computers, and office machines

Supplies/Expenses – Plant – cleaning supplies, restroom supplies, etc.

Reserve for Capital R/M – funds set aside each month for future capital repair and maintenance at the McDonough, GA office building

Property Tax – Property tax for McDonough, GA office building

Campus Leases – monthly payments to lease our Duluth campus site

Apartment Leases – payments to lease apartments for ABC and ABCKE students

Debt Repayment – used to pay back General Fund outstanding loans

Annuity Payments – payments to annuitants who have contracts with the General Conference

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts – to "write-off" uncollectible A/R accounts

Interest – for new ABC houses

Fees – Home Owner Association fees for houses

Other – miscellaneous expenses

Contingency – for unexpected expenses

Church News

Baptisms

Georgia

Cornerstone – Jaelyn Marlow (3/12/17); Micah Cramer (4/2/17) by Pastor Jack Kmiecik.

Indiana

Kokomo – Lynn Smith (2/26/17) by Elder Carol Smith and Pastor Robert Morrison.

Hedrick – John Blackburn (5/14/17) by Pastor Dave Cheatwood.

Missouri

Farmington – Brent Cooper (8/9/16) by his father, Loyd Cooper; Summer Cooper (8/9/16) by her grandmother Pastor Donna Cooper; Olivia Fowler (8/14/16) by her grandmother, Sally Brooks.

South Carolina

Bethel – Riley Elliott (2/5/17) by Pastor Wally Winner.

Ohio

Lawrenceville – Roma Kaffenbarger, 89, (1/23/17) life-long member by Pastor Alan Cain.

Toledo – David Lyle Lewis, 52, (12/27/16) raised in the Macomb, IL Church, son of Lyle and Dorothy Lewis.

Missouri

Florissant – Dortha Langley, 93, mother of Sandy and Gene Gerber (5/14/17) by Wade Tierney.

North Carolina

Hendersonville – Charlotte Ida Boyer Fyfe, 85, (5/25/17) by Paul Duncan.

South Carolina

Bethel – James Lowery (1/22/16) by Pastor Wally Winner.

Deaths

Illinois

Oregon – G. Gordon Landry, 88, (1/25/17). Gordon graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1949. He married Barbara Kump and they raised 7 children: Ric (Ruby), Dan (Carola), David (Tammy), Joel, Gigi (Terry) Wight, Jennifer (Dan) Foster, and Barry. Gordon pastored churches in Ripley, IL, a mission effort in Douglas, AZ; the Blood River Church in Springfield, LA; 17 years at the Baton Rouge, LA church; and 35 years at the Flagg Center Church near Rochelle, IL. In 1974 he was employed by the Church of God General Conference in the General Conference publishing department as associate editor and continued in that position until 1993 when the department was moved to Morrow, GA. Funeral services were held at the Oregon Church of God Jan. 28 with Pastor Michael Hoffman and a memorial service was held Feb. 4 at the New Beginnings Christian Church in Hammond, LA.

Michigan

North Kent, Rockford – Deborah Jannereth, 64, (2/22/17) by Pastor Michael Cisler; Lonnie Russell, 71, (3/4/17) – member of North Kent Bible Church by Pastor Michael Cisler.

Marriages

South Carolina

Bethel
Amanda McCall and Kevin Cash (11/4/16) by Pastor Alan Cain.

Tyler Gregory and Kareeanne Fletcher (3/25/17) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher.



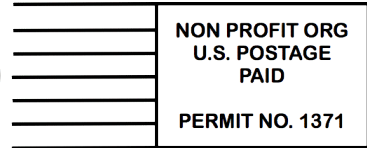
Prayer & Praise—June 2017

- 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 June 25-30.**
- 4 Pray that God will speak deeply into your heart today.
- 5 **Praise God for the beauty of His creation.**
- 6 Pray for boldness to share your faith.
- 7 **Pray for Pastor Dan following the death of his wife, Charlotte, and the 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 **Pray for the Arkansas Camp being held this week.**
- 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 Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA.
- 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 Praise God for your Father—your earthly father and your heavenly Father.
- 19 **Pray for Seth Ross in his duties as Executive Director and President of the Conference/College.**
- 20 Pray for God's direction in our mission efforts.
- 21 **Praise God for your pastor and his family and their dedication to ministry.**
- 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.**
- 30 Praise God for the dedication of the college/conference staff.

Prayer & Praise—July 2017

- 1 **Pray for Maksim Ryzhik as he ministers in Russia.**
- 2 Pray for the next generation of young people in our churches.
- 3 **Praise God for the abundant life you have in Christ.**
- 4 Praise God for the leadership of your church family.
- 5 **Pray for a great hunger and thirst for righteousness in your church.**
- 6 Pray for Pastor John and Alice Railton and the work of th Family Bible Church in Granger, Indiana.
- 7 **Pray that many will hear God's call into full-time Christian service.**
- 8 Pray for the many people in our churches who have been baptized recently.
- 9 **Pray for Linda Limbe-Nkomba and her work in Malawi.**
- 10 Pray for the mission work in Peru.
- 11 **Pray for Pastor John Wincapaw 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 Medlock and the work at Lenoir, NC.**
- 14 Praise God for His wisdom.
- 15 **Praise God for the continuing opportunities to present the gospel of the kingdom over the radio, shortwave, and the internet.**
- 16 Pray for students arriving at FUEL today.
- 17 **Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ.**
- 18 Pray that God will lead many of our young people into ministry at home and abroad.
- 19 **Pray for the staff of FUEL and the influence they are having on the young people this week.**
- 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 safety of those traveling home from FUEL today.**
- 22 Pray for the brethren in India.
- 23 **Pray for those who are studying the Systematic Bible Study Course over the internet.**
- 24 Pray for those traveling to the General Conference this week.
- 25 **Pray for the Heritage Conference that starts today.**
- 26 Pray for the General Conference meetings at Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA.
- 27 **Pray for God's blessing and direction on the delegates during General Conference business sessions.**
- 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
 McDonough, GA 30253



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Prayer & Praise—August 2017

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Pray for Pastor Andy and Kristy Cisneros and their ministry at Timberland Bible Church.</p> <p>2 Pray for David Krogh, Kim Raper and Rufus Meyers as they recruit new students for Atlanta Bible College.</p> <p>3 Pray for Pastor Connie Scott and her ministry at Pine Grove Bible Church, Minnesota.</p> <p>4 Praise God for the faithful ministry of the ABC/General Conference staff.</p> <p>5 Pray for Tony and Angela Moore as they lead the Knightstown Family Fellowship in Knightstown, Indiana.</p> <p>6 Praise God for the beauty of His creation.</p> <p>7 Pray for new students as they prepare to attend Atlanta Bible College later this month.</p> <p>8 Praise God for the incredible gift of His Son!</p> <p>9 Pray for the board of directors as they lead the ministries of the college/conference.</p> <p>10 Pray for your pastor and your pastor's family.</p> <p>11 Pray for Pastor Mark and Terri Tschaenn and the New Covenant Bible Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.</p> <p>12 Pray for ABC instructors as they prepare to teach classes at Atlanta Bible College.</p> <p>13 Pray for the Focus on the Kingdom ministry.</p> <p>14 Pray for Atlanta Bible College students and staff as classes begin today.</p> | <p>15 Praise God for the faith of the brethren in the Philippines.</p> <p>16 Praise God for the challenges He sends your way.</p> <p>17 Pray for spiritual renewal for yourself and for your church.</p> <p>18 Pray for God to raise up more pastors.</p> <p>19 Praise God for His love and faithfulness.</p> <p>20 Pray for the ABC Korean Extension in South Korea as classes begin soon for the fall semester.</p> <p>21 Pray for individuals who feel led by God to pursue mission careers.</p> <p>22 Pray that God will bless your community through your church.</p> <p>23 Praise God for His love and faithfulness.</p> <p>24 Pray for the leadership of your local church.</p> <p>25 Praise God that He is sufficient to meet every need.</p> <p>26 Pray that the financial needs of the conference and college will be met.</p> <p>27 Praise God for your heritage of faith.</p> <p>28 Pray that God might speak through you to someone who is hurting.</p> <p>29 Pray for someone you know who needs to make Christ Lord.</p> <p>30 Pray for an opportunity to share your faith this week.</p> <p>31 Pray for the ministry at Pine Grove Bible Church, Minnesota.</p> |
|--|---|



CHURCH OF GOD
GENERAL CONFERENCE

THE RESTITUTION HERALD & PROGRESS JOURNAL

... when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ~Acts 8:12

The Servant of YHWH יהוה

By Dr. Joe Martin

We are looking at the context, *Sitz im Leben*, of Isaiah, knowing that an ox knows its owner, a donkey knows its master, but Israel does not know YHWH, the LORD, and has even abandoned Him. (1:3,4) This seems like déjà vu, for our times. Does anyone know Yahweh, the LORD God? Jesus said,

“You believe in God, believe also in me.”
(Jn. 14:1 KJV)

Joel Hemphill suggested, “We need to tell Christianity in our age, ‘You believe in Jesus, believe also in God.’” God has a plan through His servant Jesus.

The call is still to “come, let us reason together, says Yahweh.” (1:18) In the middle of a call for judgment we know of “Immanuel” (7:14), then a child will be born (9:6), for a kingdom of righteousness (9:7), from a shoot/branch of Jesse (11:1), but hell/Sheol is excited over us, so that it can quiet our evil (14:9). Woe to the earth (24:1); woe to rebellious children (30:1); and woe to the one who quarrels with His maker (45:9). In 722 b.c. disaster came, the Northern Kingdom fell, ten of twelve tribes gone! But, “comfort you, comfort you, my people” says your God (40:1) for the “glory of the LORD/YHWH will be revealed.” (40:5) These “Deutero-Isaiah”¹ passages bring hope. “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” (40:31 KJV). Within that context, a new hope is clarified, “Behold, My Servant!” (42:1) הֵן עַבְדִּי The Ebed YHWH, The Servant of the LORD!

In the middle of Matthew 12:18-20, the author takes the time to explain the activities of Jesus, especially healing, with a quote from Isaiah 42:1ff., with what has become known as one of several “Suffering Servant Songs.” (Isa. 42, 49, 50 & 52/53, possibly 61³) Matthew quotes the beginning of Isaiah chapter 42:

“Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen; My Beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased; I will put My Spirit upon Him” (Mt. 12:18 NASB)

Then Peter in the book of Acts, with a formerly lame man clinging to him in the temple, explains the healing with “The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned... .” (v. 13). Quoting Dt. 18:18 in verse 22, Peter says we should have listened to him (Jesus), “For you first God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning everyone of you from your wicked ways.” (3:26) Later, in chapter four, Peter and John defend themselves before the Sanhedrin, quoting Psalm 2, “‘Why do the Gentiles rage... against the LORD and against His Christ.’ For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed...and now Lord take note of their threats...while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” (Acts 4:25-30)

I believe the passages in Isaiah, as well as the other

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The Servant of YHWH יהוה

(Continued from page 1)

promises and prophecies about the Messiah, make up what could be termed “Jesus’ Job Description,” or a “Messianic Job Description.” Great promises like...

- Gen. 3:15, “the seed of the woman;”
- Gen. 12:3, “the whole world blessed through Abraham’s descendant;”
- Gen. 49:10, “the scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet;”
- Dt. 18:18, “I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him (cp. Jn. 12:49 NIV);
- II Sam. 7:16, “Your throne shall be established forever;”
- Micah 5:2, “From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler;”
- Zech. 12:10, “...they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son...a firstborn,” etc.

Also in Acts 8 when Philip is led by the Spirit to join the Ethiopian’s chariot while the African was reading Isaiah 53. “He was led as a sheep to slaughter....” (v. 32) This song begins in Isaiah 52:13, “Behold My servant will prosper....”

In Acts 8:35 the story continues, “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.” This scripture is a foundational scripture, with the other “Suffering Servant Songs,” about what Jesus was to accomplish as he submitted to the Father’s will, not his own.

I would like us to see that in those “songs” of Isaiah, one may find as many as 100 points of Jesus’ “job description.” “Behold, My Servant,” scholars have suggested that this is similar to God’s announcement to Samuel looking for the first King of Israel, Saul.

“When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, “Behold, the man⁴ of whom I spoke to you! This one shall rule over My people.” (1 Sam. 9:17) If God says it, it is a “royal designation.” God is to be pleased with this servant from Isaiah. Remember the voice of God at Jesus’ baptism and transfiguration, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased!” (Mt. 3:17, etc. voice at baptism, Mt. 17:5, voice at the transfiguration). The Spirit is to be the key leading in his life (Mt. 3:16 et. al.) He will bring forth justice, be gentle, and be a “country preacher” vs. a mostly city preacher? Faithfully bringing forth justice seems similar to the Messiah’s duties of Daniel 9:24, “to make reconciliation...bring in everlasting righteousness.”

Jesus is the agent (*shaliah* or *shaliach* in Hebrew) via this guilt offering and servanthood portrayed in these songs of Isaiah. He has “power of attorney” for us.

A *shaliah* (Hebrew: שליח pl. שליחים *sheliḥim*) in Halakha is a Jewish legal emissary or agent. Accordingly, a *shaliah* performs an act of legal significance for the benefit of the sender, as opposed to him or herself.⁵

Yahweh will cause him to prosper; he will be “satisfied;” and by His knowledge, YHWH’s Servant will justify many. Isaiah 53:12 notes “great.” The right hand of God (21x in N.T.) is very great. Because of His death, we are cleansed.

A final note on Isaiah 61, which some feel is a “fifth” Suffering Servant Song.” Though the term “servant” does not appear, Jesus in Nazareth perceives this to be part of his job

(Continued on page 3)

The Servant of YHWH יהוה

(Continued from page 2)

as well as noted in his first sermon which he delivered at the Nazareth synagogue. (Luke 4:16 ff) It is the beginning of his ministry.

The spirit of Lord Yahweh is on me for Yahweh has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the news to the afflicted, to soothe the broken-hearted,² to proclaim liberty to captives, release to those in prison, to proclaim a year of favour from Yahweh and a day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn... (Isa 61:1-2 NJB)

What a beautiful passage. Spirit anointing, good news, liberty, and the “favorable year of Yahweh” preached to all of us sinners. It was the best beginning of ministry ever seen. A ministry that began with the good news of the kingdom from YHWH’s Suffering Servant, is to continue through us. In southern Louisiana, the French Cajuns have a saying, *Laissez les bons temps rouler*. (“Let the good times roll.”) We have good news for a messed-up world, just like in Isaiah’s time. “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus the Messiah/Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3) gives us the basis of preaching the kingdom that is surely coming. Jesus is primarily a servant (Mark 10:45). He told us to be servants, giving us an example of foot washing servanthood in John 13 (and Luke 17:10). Let’s join Him in obedience to the Father.

RH

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END NOTES

¹Many have noted the “Second Isaiah.” I feel it is maybe just a change from doom and gloom to God giving relief. I have appreciated the several discussions... Claus Westermann, *Isaiah 40-66*, Westminster Press, 1969, etc.

²First identified (total of 4) by Bernhard Duhm, in a 1892 commentary on Isaiah. However, note biblical identification first, maybe not of all four, but of the Servant.

³Barry Webb, *The Message of Isaiah*, InterVarsity Press, 1996.

⁴Compare John 19:5, Pilate says... “Behold the man.” *Ἴδε, ὁ ἄνθρωπος*

⁵<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaliah>.

CHURCH OF GOD ONLINE

Church of God General Conference
coggc.org

Atlanta Bible College
atlantabiblecollege.com

Turning Point Youth Ministry
tpym.com

Lord’s Harvest International
lhicog.com

Abrahamic Faith Resources
abrahamicfaith.org

ABC Korean Extension
abcke.weebly.com

OTHER SITES TO EXPLORE

focusonthekingdom.org (A. Buzzard)
restitutio.org (Sean Finnegan)
21stcr.org (Dan Gill)
trinitities.org (Dr. Dale Tuggy)
thegodofjesus.com (Kegan Chandler)

From the Chair

By Joe Myers, Board of Directors Chair

"So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." 2 Kings 6:16-17.

These are special and exciting times to be counted as a member of the Church of God General Conference! With the increase in technology it has become clear that there are many, many people who hold fast to the truths of Scripture as we believe and teach. We are not the small insignificant group that too many perceive us to be. The problem is for too long we, like Elisha's servant, did not have the eyes to see just how significant the number is that adhere to the One God theology, mortality of man and the literal return of Jesus in order to raise the dead and establish the kingdom of God on earth! And you want some more good news?! I believe we are just experiencing the tip of the iceberg of what is about to happen.

Some of us have had the opportunity to know, love, teach and preach these truths for well over a half century. Some even decades longer than that. When we have had this blessing for a long time, the tendency is to not be able to recognize all the exciting new things that are happening. But there are many wonderful things which are taking place!

I encourage you to research all that is happening within and outside our General Conference. Africa is exploding! The Korean ex-

ension of Atlanta Bible College is having their best enrollment in years. Under the leadership of our new Executive Director, Seth Ross, groups similar to us are meeting with Seth and discussing our similarities, not our differences.

In less than 3 years, should the Lord tarry, we will be celebrating our 100th summer conference as the Church of God. That's 99 years of preaching and teaching the truths of scripture and the coming kingdom of God! And if you are reading this then you can celebrate that you are a part of this wonderful organization, or at the very least you have found an organization which you can connect with!

500 years ago, Martin Luther nailed his theses on the door of the Catholic Church in Germany. In his lectures on Ecclesiastes (1526) Luther asserted that the dead are "completely asleep" and do not "feel anything at all...they lie there not counting days or years; but when they are raised it will seem to them that they only slept a moment." So you see what many of us believe concerning death and dying has been around a very, very long time.

Today noted and respected theologians and authors are writing about the One God and His son Jesus. Just contact the General Conference office and ask for material concerning these things.

My prayer for those affiliated with the Church of God General is that our eyes will be opened. Our hearts will be moved. And

(Continued on page 5)

our spirits be revived as we celebrate that so many are coming to a knowledge of the truth and wanting to know more.

As a conference we must be prepared to meet this coming demand. We covet your prayers and support as we position ourselves for the next generation of truth seekers.

RH



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 6-10
ABC Block Classes with Scott Deane

Nov 22-26
ABC Thanksgiving Break

Jan 12-14, 2018
reFUEL at Camp Mack (Milford, IN)

Feb 19-22
Ministers Conference at Cornerstone Bible Church (McDonough, GA)

Feb 23-25
Refuge at Camp Mack (Milford, IN)

Mar 1-4
Arkansas Bible Prophecy Conference at Hilton Garden Inn (Conway, AR)

Apr 8-13
Christian Workers Seminar (CWS) at Holiday Inn (Pigeon Forge, TN)

May 3-6
Theological Conference at Calvin Center (Hampton, GA)



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2017 General Conference Delegate Session Minutes

Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

Thursday, 27 July 2017

Meeting called to order by Chairman Chris James at 4:00pm. Michael Cisler opened with prayer.

Seth Ross addressed the delegates regarding his transition to Executive Director. Seth started in this role on the first day of 2017.

Chairman Chris recognized his father, Joe James, on this his 81st birthday. Chris then recognized the first-time delegates and allowed them to introduce themselves.

Chairman's message to the delegates:

Four years is a long time, but it has come and gone quickly. When he was contemplating running for the board, after getting a phone call asking him, he decided to stop over thinking it and turn to prayer. He feels richly blessed by the honor and privilege of serving in this capacity.

At the beginning of his four-year term, Dr. Joe Martin suggested it was about time for him to step back from the CAO role. Now Joe is retired from that position, but still teaching full-time at Atlanta Bible College.

Also, in the last four years, we have purchased five adjacent lots for student housing, as well as an already-built house nearby. We have completed building of a new house, and another is in progress.

Our missions in the US and abroad continue to grow. We are going out into the world and spreading the Good News as we are commanded to do.

We do not know what lies ahead, but our God does. We must remember we are his la-

borers, and we must seek His blessings and guidance and to to do His will.

After the address, Denise Cramer listed the delegates for these meetings. There are 7 board members, 36 church and state conference delegates, and 26 pastor delegates, for a total of 69 delegates. This is 11 fewer than last year.

Denise then presented the financial reports.

On the income and expense reports, we are a little over budget on salaries and wages. This is not too bad considering the addition of a full-time staff member. We are the only 501(c)3 non-profit in Henry County paying property taxes, and our appeal is still in progress. In the meantime, we had to pay 80% of the tax assessment so far this year.

ABC Development Foundation will be transferring in \$34,000 in the new fiscal year. ABCDF investments did very well in the past year, and there is a formula in place to determine how much to transfer.

Chris asked for the names of nominees for the board of directors. The terms of Chris James and Dan Knowlton are expiring. Anne Fischhaber, Jeff Osborn, and Susan Landry were presented. Their names had been submitted before conference. Chris then opened the floor to additional nominations. With no additional names, David Cheatwood moved to close nominations. Rob Laning seconded. Chris asked the three nominees to step forward and say a few words.

David Krogh then presented the Atlanta Bible College report. We had one bachelor's degree, four associate's degrees, and four

foundation certificates given this year. Steve An presented the ABC Korean Extension report. The campus was recently relocated from Duluth to a new suite in Johns Creek. There were 37 students last semester, with 6 graduates. So far there are 20 new student applications.

David Krogh presented the LHI report. Rick McClain, the LHI chairman, regrets he was unable to attend. The giving to missions has been over \$200,000 in the last two years. There was another successful trip to Africa this year. The planned trip to Peru was canceled due to the threat of dengue fever, though some COG members are there now. There is a silent auction for missions going on here at General Conference.

Denise Cramer presented the budget proposals. She reviewed the proposed revisions for 2017-2018 and the proposed budget for 2018-2019 and took questions.

Andrew Hamilton addressed the requested budget increases for the youth program, Turning Point Youth Ministries. They have made as many cuts at FUEL as they can to prevent tuition increases. There will be inevitable cost increases in the next few years, and the TPYM leadership want to keep tuition the same as long as possible. Currently, the lowest tuition rate at FUEL is \$375. They want to be able to spend more on youth worker training and student development. There is currently no money budgeted to travel to churches and train youth leaders.

Seth Ross addressed the importance of giving to the general fund.

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

Chris James adjourned at 5:39 pm. David Krogh closed with prayer.

Friday, 28 July 2017

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris James at 4:02 pm. Pastor Michael Montgomery opened with prayer.

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

As the votes were being collected and counted, Seth Ross recognized Rollin Carlblom for setting up a new server at the Avalon building, saving us thousands of dollars.

Seth then recognized outgoing board members Dan Knowlton and Chris James, presenting us with plaques. We are both grateful for these lovely parting gifts.

The first round was nullified when it was discovered we did not fully explain the need to only vote for one person per round. A new set of ballots was distributed.

It was announced that Christian Workers Seminar 2018 will be held April 8-13. Church of God Heritage Conference 2018 will be July 10, 11 at Oregon, Illinois. General Conference 2018 will be held July 11-13 at Oregon Church of God, Illinois. FUEL 2018 will be July 22-27.

There was not a majority in the first round, so another round was held, choosing between Jeff and Anne.

Jeff Osborn was elected to the board of directors.

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

During the vote counting, board member Michael Cisler passed around something called a question ball, and hilarity ensued.

Anne Fischhaber was elected to the board of directors.

Chairman Chris opened the floor to discuss the proposed changes to the 2017-2018 budget. Michael Hoffman made a motion to approve the budget changes as presented. Daniel Smead seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Chris opened the floor to discuss the proposed budget for 2018-2019. Jeff Fletcher made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Daniel Smead seconded. Motion carried.

Scott Ross commented on the importance of promoting giving among the people of our churches to support the work of the General Conference.

Chris opened the floor to new business. Hearing none, he asked Secretary Dan Knowlton to read today's minutes.

Jake Ballard moved to accept the minutes as written. Norma Knapp seconded. Motion carried.

Denise Cramer presented the final delegate count. There were 72 total delegates: 7 board members, 38 church and conference delegates, and 27 pastor delegates.

Dan Cain made a motion to adjourn. David Cheatwood seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Andy Cisneros closed with prayer. Chairman Chris adjourned the meeting at 4:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Knowlton

Atlanta Bible College: 1-Week Course "Church of God Distinctives" March 22-27, 2018

High School Students Invited to Spend Spring Break in Class!

Every year at FUEL, students who quiz are awarded certificates for one free class at Atlanta Bible College. This year, high school from Arkansas and Louisiana asked if they could use the certificates to take a class during Spring Break. Yes! Not every school system has the same week off, so we've spanned 1 week of classes over 2 weeks. It may require some missed school days, but it's worth it.

How can I register for this class?

1. Fill out the online application at atlantabiblecollege.com (we'll waive the \$30 application fee).
2. Purchase the required books (a list will be sent to you when you register).
3. If you don't have a "free class" certificate, you may audit the class for \$99 without receiving college credit, or you may take the class for credit. Students from Churches of God are granted a 1/2 tuition scholarship, so this 2-semester hour class will cost \$179 for Church of God students.

Let Amazon Support the Church of God! Christmas shopping? Try this.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.



You shop. Amazon gives.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and shop.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select Atlanta Bible College-Church of God General Conference to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Search for "Atlanta Bible College-Church of God General Conference." Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

Can I receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from my purchases on AmazonSmile?

Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.

OLD: shop at amazon.com
NEW: shop at smile.amazon.com

Prophecy: Times of the Signs

By Wally Winner

Prophetic significance was attached to the Great Solar Eclipse of 2017. After all, Salem, South Carolina was the SAME EXACT distance away from dead center totality line as the Salem in Oregon!!! Of course, there was more. The eclipse also included Salems in Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Wyoming and Idaho. Seven is God's number and JeruSALEM ends in Salem. It must be a sign.

Not enough? The next solar eclipse will be SEVEN years from now (seven-year tribulation?). On April 8, 2024 (save your solar glasses) the eclipse will cross through Salem, Kentucky. It will go from Texas to Maine thus providing an "X" of solar eclipses. God is "Xing" off the United States.

Wait! There is more.

September 21st (Feast of Trumpets) will find the moon under the feet of Virgo and the sun in Virgo and her feet to the east. On September 23, 2017 there are four planets in the vicinity that complete the sign and its ultimate uniqueness. Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Jupiter play their parts. Above the head of Virgo is the constellation Leo. In Leo at this time there will be Mars, Venus, and Mercury. With Leo being a constellation of nine principle stars, the three wandering stars make it twelve at this time. Thus the garland of twelve stars is upon the woman. The final piece of the sign is Jupiter. Jupiter was known by the Jews as the planet of the Messiah. This completes the prophecy of Revelation 12:1, 2. So with the trumpet blast from the Feast of Trumpets be ready to go, all you rapture people. For those that don't believe in a rapture, you will have to wait around for a while. Maybe until the next solar eclipse here in the United States.

One more. Maybe you have seen this one circulated recently. It goes something like this:

NASA has confirmed that the Earth will experience 15 days of total darkness between November 15 and November 29, 2015. The event, according to NASA, hasn't occurred in over one million years.

Astronomers from NASA have indicated that the world will remain in complete darkness starting on Sunday, November 15, 2015 at 3 a.m. and will end on Monday, November 30, 2015 at 4:15 p.m. According to officials, the "November Black Out" event will be caused by another astronomical event between Venus and Jupiter.

According to experts this blackout will be caused by an astronomical event between Jupiter and Venus. During this specific period Jupiter and Venus will come in close proximity of each other and will be separated by just 1 degree. Venus will move to the south-west of Jupiter, and, as a result, it will shine 10 times brighter than Jupiter. Venus' bright light will heat up the gases in Jupiter causing a reaction which will release an absurdly high amount of hydrogen into the space. This reaction will come in contact with our Sun at 2:50 am on November 15th. It gets a little wild after that. You won't need your solar glasses, but how is your night time vision?

Signs, signs, everywhere! Or, are they signs at all?

The problem with many so-called signs from the Lord, is that they are not signs from our Lord at all! And when this becomes manifest

(Continued on page 11)

Prophecy *continued...*

in sign-failure, it causes the faith of many to be rocked. You can't tell them that they shouldn't have put all their hope and trust in one egg-basket, although that may be true.

There is a whole world of believers out there at varying stages of spiritual growth, maturity and strength. What about all the prodigals that were just ready to return? What about the field-day that failed signs presents to the media and other critics of the church? We all make mistakes and go wrong here and there on our way, but it's the real big ones that are the problem.

Many believers are also turned off by prophecy altogether when there is a big sign-failure. You see, there is no such thing as a failed prophecy. There are only failed interpretations or applications. When one or more of these fail, it does not change the truth one little bit, but rocks the faith of the weak or new.

We are heading very shortly for some dramatic times, with many signs. The signs, as you can imagine, are like a minefield, but there is a clear path through them that won't get you blown up!

Some say we should seek the Lord and not the signs. Well, that's a totally ignorant argument and a contradiction of dozens of verses. If that is true, Jesus wasted a lot of time talking about the conditions before His second advent.

There is nothing wrong with seeking signs. Seeking signs obviously involves seeking our Messiah.

Beware of prophetic hype. Sign-seeking at-

tracts boneheads, muttonheads, blockheads, birdbrains, lamebrains, numskulls, morons, kooks, crackpots, oddballs, screwballs and fruitcakes. They write books to capitalize on the event(s). Remember "*88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1988*" and the sequel, "*89 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1989*." Did you buy both of them? Were you ready for the world to end on Y2K? How about the Blood Moons?

Acts 8:9-10

There was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying 'this man is the great power of God.'

Sign-seeking is exciting, but unfortunately sometimes we need to wade through the distracting voices of many who have not done their homework. They blindly follow the crowd as if this is some big game.

We are in a fast-moving world of digital everything. Information spreads like lightning. This has made Bible study so much easier. It has encouraged us to be lazy slobs in regard to Bible study.

There is a dangerous, erroneous confirmation-bias found in the media. People give authority to YouTube, or TV, or the radio, or the newspaper. They think that it automatically contains the truth. After all, it must be right, it's been published!

2 Peter 1:20

"Know this, that no prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation."

The time that we are in is full of signs all over the place, but as with all things scrip-

Prophecy *continued*...

tural, there are certain rules and disciplines we must stick to, to be successful.

Acts 17:11

"These (Bereans) were more fair minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

1 John 4:1

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

What a wonderful time to be alive!

RH

What is Faith Factory? faithfactory.org

Coming this December!

A new website from the granddaughters of Dan & Sharon Gill. Lexie Walden & Leslie Jones are both college students with a passion for college students & young adults. This website is being built to reach that group of people. Here is a description & vision from them...

We believe it is crucial for our generation to grow our faith in a powerful way. This is the driving force behind Faith Factory. We want to build a community of young people who share like-minded beliefs, creating an environment where creative minds come together to spread our message. Most importantly, Faith Factory is a place where you can grow as you embark on your walk with the LORD through high school, college, and into the work force.



Faith Factory serves **two main purposes** among youth/young adults.

First, it is a place where you can see what people your own age are doing to live out their faith. Through blog posts and videos, you will see faith, learn faith—and grow your own faith.

Second, Faith Factory is a point of connection to existing ministries throughout our movement. Faith Factory will link to multiple resources within COG and beyond. We will have updates from ABC, LHI, 21st Century Reformation and other ministries advancing our faith.

Africa Report

By Rollin Carlblom

I was blessed to be able to be part of the team traveling to Kenya, along with Joe and Rebekah Martin, and Kim Laurent. We landed in Nairobi where we stayed the night, then flew the next morning to Kisumu on the west side of the country at the top of Lake Victoria. From there, we traveled up and down the west part of Kenya between Kilgoris (close to Tanzania) and Maturu (which is close to Eldoret.)



Here are some of the highlights of our trip:

Meeting with Pastors James Nyangute and Amos Anyanga from COGAF in Kilgoris, Kenya. The Twiga school meets here during the week. A large crowd of kids and adults greeted us and were so excited to see us. It was a joy being able to play with them and see their bright smiles. We held services for the adults and Kim Laurnet taught a class for the kids. In the main service, the kids shared songs and scriptures that they'd learned in school. So cute and inspiring!



Kim Laurent teaching

One of the first churches we visited: Pastor Joshua Obala's, has grown so much, they no longer fit in the home in which they were meeting. We had church services outside under the trees. There was a time for Q & A afterwards, and many questions were answered about the unity of God and Jesus as God's Son.

After long discussion, one man stood and said, "I now stand with you in these truths because of the scriptures you've shown us." Three others enthusiastically agreed with what he said. We also met with the men regarding a possible location on their property for a future church building to be built.



Service outside at Joshua Obala's

The Second National Churches Conference was held in Maturu, Kenya, which was a big evangelistic meeting. Bishop Maurice Chahilu and his team put together a wonderful weekend of worship, song, teaching and services. There were powerful worship services, as well as a meeting with pastors for Q & A Sunday afternoon. Wow! What a powerful time!!

Many pastors said that questions they'd had for years had been answered, and they felt their ministries could be so much more powerful and effective now.

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Rollin teaching with Pastor Maurice translating The school at the Maturu church with 92+ kids (see picture below) was also an incredible outreach. Along with their educational learning, they’re learning spiritual truths. We met so many wonderful brothers and sisters in the Lord who have such an excitement and enthusiasm for worshipping God and fellowshipping together.



Maturu Church

This is just a sampling of the many churches we visited. We were thrilled with all the amazing, enthusiastic worship that reaches every age group. Each age group would share songs they’d learned at the beginning of each service.

Everywhere we went, the people expressed being so thrilled and blessed to have had us come and showed us such an incredible welcome. But, I felt that I was even MORE blessed, to have been able to meet each one of them! Wonderful brothers and sisters in the Lord!

RH

Church Builders League Churches Helping Churches

Appeal #119 (Fall 2017) Kenyan Church of God Headquarters

This Church Builder’s Appeal is to raise funds to build a headquarters for the Churches of God in Kenya. We’ve worked with the Kenya effort for about ten years. The Kenya Church of God board is now officially formed.

They wish to build a nicer facility for a headquarters in Maturu, Kenya. The desire is to build a building in phases to replace the existing tin church building. This would include small dorm areas, a restroom and a kitchen area. It could also be used for two-week seminars led by American and Kenyan teachers. Kenya has about 24 pastors with whom we are working. The work is growing.

Ways to Give

By Mail

Send a check to Atlanta Bible College.

Online

1. visit www.coggc.org, click on “Give”
2. Select “Church Builders—Kenya HQ”
3. Select amount and payment method

Mobile

1. Download the “Givelify” app
2. Sign up and search for “Church of God General Conference”
3. Click on “Give”
4. Select an amount
5. Select “Church Builders—Kenya HQ”

Yesu Wabwino: Jesus is Good

By Brendan Gallagher



I found myself gazing out the window of the plane. I watched as the ground passed below at hundreds of miles an hour. I was in disbelief as I flew in a jet for the first time, especially under these circumstances. I was only just beginning what would be a trip that would change my perspective of myself, Christianity, and the world we live in. I sat with a book in between my clammy hands, unsure of what to expect, but excited to see what God had in store for this trip to Africa.

It all began when I went to the annual General Conference in 2016. The first night that I could attend the services the team who had gone to Africa that summer had shared their stories from the trip and the effect it had on their lives. I had always had a passion for mission work, but hearing about missions in Africa this night really caught my attention. At the end of the service, after listening to the stories that each team member told from their perspective, I decided I was going to go out on a limb and speak with the leaders of the team, Dr. Joe and Rebekah Martin. Without knowing what to expect, I expressed interest in the trip. After over six months, I received a call and was offered a position on the team if the Lord's Harvest International board approves the addition of a not-quite eighteen-year-old to the team.

Once I received the approval I began to get ready, getting the necessary shots, my passport, and the necessary supplies. Before I knew it, I was visiting my future college, graduating high school, hosting a graduation party, and flying out to begin my trip all within the course of a single week. I flew

from Ohio to Georgia where I landed, over-nighted with the Ross family, and began the process of getting ready to fly out for the long haul. We went to the airport, but were unable to depart, since I didn't have the documents I needed to land in South Africa since I was a minor. Our flight was delayed for the next few days as everything that could possibly go wrong did go wrong. However, despite the frustrating delay, I was able to build a relationship with the Ross family who were more of a blessing than I could've hoped. As Paul writes in Romans 8:28, "[a]nd we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." It is through this trip that I truly experienced God working in through the most unexpected moments. On Thursday, June 18th, Seth and I finally boarded our sixteen-hour flight to South Africa.



This image shows Seth Ross (right) and I (left) taking our first dose of medication before we leave to board the flight.

Seth and I landed in South Africa, over-nighted in a hotel, then took a connecting flight to Malawi. Upon landing we were picked up by the rest of our team which included Dr. Joe and Rebekah Martin, Kim Laurent, Rollin Carlblom, and Linda Limbe. We began the drive to the house that we

were staying in. I gazed out the window at the passing buildings. Each building was surrounded by a six-foot tall wall, often with shards of glass or electric wire on top to repel intruders. Some buildings had a nice brick wall while some only had a wall made from thatching. Trash littered the dusty streets and people dressed in dirty, hole-filled clothes walked within only a couple feet of the car as we drove through the city. We made it to the house, unpacked, and rested for the remainder of the evening.

The next morning, we went to speak at a small church in a village which became daily procedure for the next few weeks as this was what we came to do. We drove as close to the village as we could, but we had to get out of the car and walk the rest of the way through maize fields on the side of a small mountain. As we got closer, we could hear the people singing in Chichewa, the native language in Malawi. We emerged from the corn and found a large group of people singing and clapping as they greeted us into their village. The village was nothing more than quickly eroding clay huts with thatched roofing. A couple scrawny chickens roamed around the piles of clay bricks that the people were in the process of making. The people themselves were gaunt from the lack of food, and they wore clothes that were torn apart and dirty, and most didn't have shoes. However, despite the conditions, I could see nothing but joy in the eyes of the people as they shook each of our hands and greeted us into their home village.



This image shows Linda (left) and Kim (right of Linda) speaking to a group of children with the church of the village in the background.

We entered the small church and got situated as 100-200 people completely filled and surrounded the church. It was not big enough to fit everyone. They began to worship and dance with more passion than I had ever seen before. I couldn't believe the joy that radiated from this group of people who, in comparison to American standards, had absolutely nothing. We spoke, sang, prayed, and danced with the people of this village and connected with them in ways that I had not connected even with people from my home. We played with the children who enjoy soccer more than I do, which was another miracle of itself. Each day was filled with services like these which never failed to captivate me.



This image shows me (left) with a group of children at one of our services.

For the next part of our trip, we traveled to Mozambique to preach the word of God. However, unlike Malawi's friendly public, Mozambique presented a rougher atmosphere. Due to a sixteen-year-long civil war, the heart of the general public was hardened. The hotel the we stayed in also had no running water, and the electricity went out on multiple occasions during our stay. We were exposed to living conditions that we weren't used to, and we felt the effects of it through each passing day, which only began to put into perspective the living conditions of the people we spoke to in each village. However, our team worked with three major pastors during our time there who were the epitome of brotherhood and leadership. These pastors were inseparable and were whole-heartedly invested in preaching the word of God, which encouraged us in our efforts.

Each day we would go to one of their churches and hold a similar service to those that we held in Malawi. By this point I had begun to preach at every church we went to alongside Dr. Joe and Rebekah. Being a seventeen-year-old boy from America, I was beyond intimidated speaking in front of hundreds of Africans who traveled from across the country just to hear us speak. I couldn't even speak in front of a class at home without my knees shaking, but as I sought God through this experience I found peace. Each time I spoke I found words leaving my mouth before I even thought of them. I found myself making connections in ways I had never done before. Despite my inexperience and my weaknesses, I found God speaking through me and using me, as he used my love of soccer to connect with the people of each church.



This image shows me (right) playing soccer with a group of young men.

This trip to Africa was an unbelievable experience that changed the way that I see life. It took me out of my comfort zone to the other side of the world to invest in the lives of people who, in my perspective now, are wealthier than I. I found people filled with joy and passion for God's word who are investing all that they are into spreading the gospel. Although I ran into complications along the way, I found a peace that comes only from God as I learned to accept what he has in store, even when I don't understand what is going on. In this poor, broken part of the world I found true joy. Not that comes with an easy life or possessions, but that comes with knowing the one true God.

RH



The image above shows a musician with his homemade guitar from a village

COGland Good News Page

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

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – Congratulations go out to **Kaylee and Mindy Forcier** who were named to the college women’s softball first team of the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference. They were also named to the UMAC All-Defensive Team.

From the **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – Congratulations to **Mason Landry, Misha Zhykovich, Cameron Landry, and Liam Johnson** as members of the Minnesota state quiz team that won the National Bible Quiz Championship at FUEL this past summer. There were six teams in the competition over material from the book of Matthew. Mason Landry also placed second chair on the national all-star team.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – Congratulations to **Naomi Grice** for being chosen to have her art work displayed at the Art Museum in Charleston. Kudos to **Na-**

than Sisk for earning a superior rating at the middle school band solo and ensemble competition. Congrats to **Peggy Winner** for being named Mother of the Year and to **Wally Winner** for being voted Father of the Year.

From the **Church of the Open Bible in Farmington, MO** – **Isaac Killian** received wonderful presents for his tenth birthday. It was the repair of a “hole” in his physical heart and having his spiritual heart made “whole.” [Happy birthday indeed! – GNP]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Thank yous from **Pastor Michael Hoffman** and the church go out to many people. To **Steve Myers** for installing new locking doorknobs on the classrooms. To **Bob LaPage** for mowing. To **Marsha Behrens** for the new bulletin board display. To **Macklynn Rager** for donating a painting to the church. To **Kim Laurent** and **Jay Smith** for sharing in the pastor’s absence. To the **Roy Keebler** family for donating flowers in memory of **Gladys Keebler**. To **Dennis Cheatwood** for teaching the

(Continued on page 19)

Church Classifieds

Seeking Pastor

Pelzer, SC

The Guthrie Grove Church of God located in Pelzer, SC is seeking the services of a full-time pastor. The church provides a full-time salary, health insurance, mileage reimbursement, and a large parsonage with utilities. Interested pastors may send a notice of interest and resume to Joe James, 100 Buck Drive, Piedmont, SC 29673 or email jjames2964@charter.net.

Michigantown, IN

Country Chapel Church of God located near Michigantown, IN, is seeking a pastor. We are a very

small congregation and would like to secure a part-time minister. We could possibly share a pastor with another church.

We have always supported a full-time pastor. Although our small group of believers is currently struggling, we do hope to grow in the future. Our current full-time pastor is retiring April 1, 2018.

Our prayer is that God will send us the right person to supply our needs.

Please contact Norm Huffer 765-249-2190 or Tom Glassburn 765-419-2606.

pastor's Sunday School class. To **Linda Hoffman** and crew for serving food at the carry-in dinner. To all of the volunteers who serve selflessly at sunrise service, carry-in dinners, funeral meals, and in many other ways.

From the **Garden Park Church of God in Grand Rapids, MI** – Thank you to **Amber McClain** (now Cain) and **Grace Rodgers** for updating and painting the church sign by the street. Many of the young people were greatly involved at FUEL doing video or tech stuff, leading sessions, etc. Eight from the church attended General Conference in McDonough, GA, and **Jeff Osborn** was elected to the board of directors. Several families attended Camp OUT at Chain-O-Lakes in Indiana.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – **Pastor Alan Cain** extends a huge “thank you” to **Rick and Jennifer Jordan** for stepping up as youth leaders and serving for three years. “Your love and care for the students at Lawrenceville and the work of Christ in this community is so greatly appreciated. I can’t imagine the hours it took of your life to plan, coordinate, and love on the students, but I’m sure it spoke some life back into you as well! Thank you again on behalf of your grateful church!”

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Carson Andrew** has begun working in the ER at KSB Hospital as a physician’s assistant. Congratulations on the beginning of a wonderful career. **Kayla Raper** received the National Administrator’s Service to Agriculture award. Congratulations! On the subject of awards, **LeAnn Oltmanns** won an administrator’s award for service to agriculture for outstanding team accomplishment. Congratulations to **Conner Young** for completing his 22 mile walk in his Mission 22 to sup-

port veterans. He has raised well over his \$3,000 goal already. Great job, everyone!

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – Thanks to **Andrea Moore** for mowing the church lawn this year. The church appreciates your weekly “workout.” Congratulations to **Philip Kirkpatrick** for earning a brown belt in Hapkido. Philip also was a member of the third and fourth grade Pirates baseball team that won the Hutchinson Little League Majors. Congratulations to **Natalie Karl** for being chosen as a member of the Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart High School homecoming court for 2017. Thank you to the **Eric Moore and Dan Karl** families for an enjoyable afternoon of cruising Belle Lake on their boat and pontoon. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful sunny day and the great fellowship.

From the **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – **Sierra Hillsdale** has accepted an internship at the **Cornerstone Church of God in Gatesville, TX**. She will be leaving in January. The church will be sad to see her go, but also excited for this ministry opportunity for her.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – The children enjoyed an outing to the Upcountry History Museum to see the Curious George Exhibit along with other history exhibits. The outing ended with yummy treats at Krispy Kreme. Bethel and **Joy Fellowship** had a combined fall festival with hot dogs, games, cake walk, face painting, costume contests, hay rides, bouncy house and slide, and a bon fire. Lots of fun! Lots of great fellowship! October 29 was Pink Sunday as the church honored its breast cancer survivors: **Sonja Smith, Judy Turner, Martha Vinson, Revonda Lippert, and Kim Spearman**.

(continued on page 20)

Good News From COG-Land

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

(Continued from page 19)

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Several members joined the group who walked the river front in Dixon for HOPE LIFE Pregnancy Center. With a goal of raising \$30,000, they were overjoyed to raise over \$33,000, an amount that saves 27 babies. OCOG church walkers alone raised \$1,295.99, enough to save one baby.

From the **New Covenant Bible Church in Indianapolis, IN** – Congratulations to **Christina Tschaenn** on the completion of her high school tennis career and best wishes as she attends the University of Southern Indiana this fall. The church has enjoyed meals, cookouts, and games as a church family this past summer, as well as many members attending Family Camp and the COG Midwest Camp-out.

From the **Birthday and Anniversary Department** – Milestone anniversaries are 45 years for **Steve and Norma Knapp** of Garden Park COG (celebrated with a trip to Branson, MO); **Jim and Judy Turner** (53 years) and **Barney and Betty Owens** (57), both of Bethel COG; 50 years for **Gayle and Scott Ross** of Omaha Church of God; and **Lester and Betty Hollenbeck** (parents of Linda Hoffman) celebrated 70 years (no, friends, that’s NOT a misprint!) in Florida. Wow! Michael Hoffman’s mother **Virginia Hoffman** celebrated her 90th birthday in Arizona. [Lots of celebrating for Michael and Linda.] Other big birthdays celebrated were **Edith Gentry** (85), **Colleen Shaw** (83), and **Jeanne Smith** (93), all from Bethel COG. Congratulations to everyone from GNP!

From the **Honoring Our Graduates Department** – **Liam Johnson, Mason Landry**, and **Sarah Blanchard** (all high school, all Pine Grove Bible Church), **Britanee Massie, Katie Williams, Brendan Gallagher, Davin Jordan**, and **William Miller** (high school, all Lawrenceville COG), **Lacy Walker** (high school, **Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA**), **Logan Impson** (high school, Bethel COG), **Summer Lee** (GED, Bethel COG), **Sarah Blanchard** (associate’s college degree as well as the high school diploma), **Christina Tschaenn** (high school, New Covenant Bible Church), **Janaia Vega** and **Todd Hedrick** (eighth grade, **Ripley Church of God in Mt. Sterling, IL**), **Ashley Church** and **Mackenzie McClain** (high school, Garden Park COG), **Andrea Moore** and **Kaylee Forcier** (both university, Hutchinson COG), and **Todd Pursel** (associate’s from college, Hutchinson COG). I’m sure there are many more that we (GNP) aren’t aware of, but congratulations to all who achieved a major step in their educational goals. Great job, and keep up the hard work! We’re so proud of you!

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

Atlanta Bible College Update

By David Krogh, Academic Dean

ABC News - October 2017

ABC welcomed 17 new students for the fall semester. Nine students started the semester living in the two completed ABC houses. A third house is under construction and will be completed in time for the next semester. Nine Church of God students met the requirements for a tuition discount this semester. Thanks to churches and individuals who have contributed to help cover these discounts.

Instructors this semester are Scott Deane, Sean Finnegan, Jack Kmiecik, Bob Jones, David Krogh, Joe and Rebekah Martin, Jogi Mauger, Donna McWhorter, Dave Riley, and Aaron Winner. A total of 35 semester hours are being delivered plus 6 semester hours that are offered twice. This represents 17 courses. 14 courses are being delivered by distance learning/Moodle.

Chapel services this semester have been led by ABC students, and most of the speakers have been ABC students. We also were glad to welcome Tracy Zhykhovich to speak while she was here for the fall meeting of the

Lord's Harvest International mission board meeting.

The course schedule for next semester has been prepared. We are pleased to have several new instructors join our adjunct faculty. Seth Ross will be leading a Leadership Practicum for graduating seniors. Mike Montgomery will be teaching our Personal Spiritual Development course. Jake Ballard will be teaching Beginning Youth Ministry and Christianity/Church for 20 Somethings during one of our block weeks.

In October, the President of the Accrediting Commission International, Dr. John Scheel, conducted a site visit for the renewal of our accreditation. Site visits are required every eight years. He was very complimentary of our program and facilities. The results of his visit will be released in November.

Pictured is ABC President Seth Ross addressing some of the students at the pre-semester briefing at the beginning of this semester.



ABC Korean Extension Update

By Steve An and Sam An

2017 Spring Semester and Graduation

Praise God for blessing us continually so many ways. Our prayer is that all of you have enjoyed the warm summer season. The Korean Extension wrapped up the spring semester with 39 students, including two from the Korea Campus in the early part of May. We also held the 74th graduation ceremony awarding the Bachelor of Theology to six graduates. Mrs. Cheryl Ross led the opening prayer, and the Executive Director Seth Ross provided an encouraging message along with phrase-by-phrase translation to Korean by Steve An. Currently, two of our graduates are taking internship trainings at the Campus Bible Church of God, three graduates are serving God through their ministries in local churches, and one graduate, who returned to South Korea prior to the ceremony, has been serving as a youth pastor in his home town church.

Our fervent prayer is that they resist temptations and deceptions wisely, and keep the Abrahamic Faith intact. We will continually contact and encourage them by every means available.

Campus Relocation

The campus relocation to our newly renovated space (4131 square feet) located on a main road in Korea town was completed on June 5th. The facility consists of two classrooms sized to accommodate 40 and 20 students, three offices, a library, two restrooms, and a kitchen. Most of the office and classroom furniture was reused except for a few items which were damaged during the move. All 20,000 library books and the book shelves were moved into the new library successfully.

We are forever grateful to all of you for providing the Korean Extension this beautiful campus which is ideal for teaching and learning God's words. We will put forth our best effort so that your contributions will be fully dedicated to God's plan, that this campus will be a training camp for kingdom citizens.

An informal video tour of the North campus facility is available online.

1. visit [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
2. Search "Korean Extension virtual tour"

2017 Fall Semester

It was somewhat hectic during the summer, but exciting! In the midst of our campus relocation, the recruitment effort has been successful, and the enrollment number continues to increase. So far, we have accepted 20 new enrollment applications for the fall 2017 semester. What is surprising is that, beside the students from Korea, we have also accepted two students from Portland, Oregon; one from Auburn, Alabama; and one from Indiana. It was not too difficult to track some of these students' referral sources, but some were mysterious. When we asked them during the enrollment interviews, the common answers were "my friend's friend" or "my parents' friend's friend." We had come to the realization that it was a part of God's Work. Now we are ready! We have a newly renovated campus to meet our needs, additional students, and the Abrahamic Faith with our Bibles. "Our cups are overflowing with God's Blessings!"

Again, thank you very much for your prayers and contributions!

Korean Extension



Seth Ross—Encouragement message



Cheryl Ross—Opening Prayer



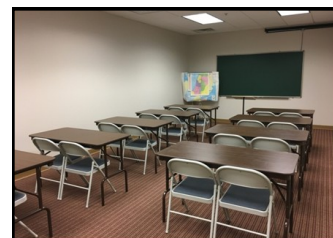
L to R: Cheryl Ross, Stacey Ross, Eun Joo Yang, Hyeon Mi Jeong, Bae Sik Kim, Seth Ross, Caylee An, Steve An, Jae Yun Shim, and Yeo Il Jang



Chapel/Classroom 1
(40 students)



Interior Sign



Classroom 2 (20 students)



Classroom 1 (side view)



Roadside Sign



Library

Church News

Baptisms

Georgia

Cornerstone – Nick Ross (8/27/17) by Mitchell Raper

Indiana

Maple Grove—Jack Snyder (8/20/17) by Janet Snyder

Michigan

North Kent—Camden Bormes and Tanner Bormes (8/26/17) by Pastor Michael Cisler

Minnesota

Hutchinson—Logan Karl (8/16/17) by Monte Sandifer and Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick II

Missouri

Countryside Bible Church—Jewel Hunter (7/23/17), Michael Harris (9/10/17), Charlie Evans (9/24/17) by Pastor Dale Swartz
Morse Mill—Joe Middleton (8/13/17) by Pastor Wade Tierney

Ohio

North Hills—Todd Baker (10/8/17), Michelle Baker (10/8/17), Alexis Baker (10/8/17) by Mark Hackathorn

Virginia

Front Royal—Cherie Costa (8/13/17), Taffy Mabe (8/27/17), Walt Mabe (8/27/17) by Pastor Jon Welch

Deaths

Missouri

St. Charles— William “Bill” Brown, 74, (8/7/17), by Brian Atra

Washington

Whidbey Island—Orville Westlund, 88, (9/11/17)

South Carolina

Pelzer—Edith Gentry, 85, (10/26/17) by Pastor Wally Winner

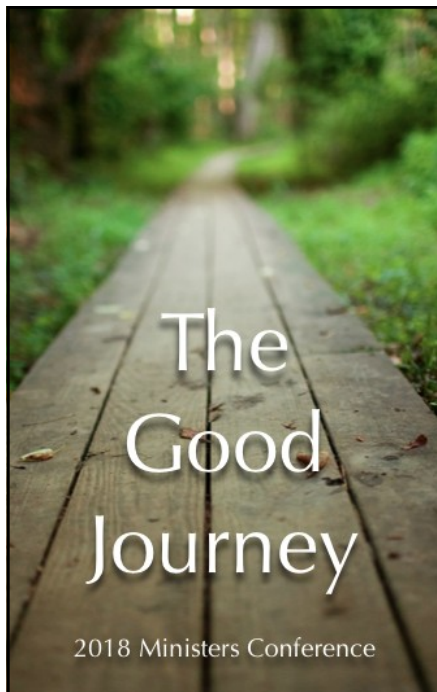
Marriages

Virginia

Front Royal
Luke Ramsey and Veronica Redmond (7/15/17) by Pastor Jon Welch

Amanda McCall and Kevin Cash (11/4/16) by Pastor Alan Cain

Tyler Gregory and Kareeanne Fletcher (3/25/17) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher



2018 Ministers Conference

Feb. 19-22, 2018

\$125/person

Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

To Pastors:

If financial assistance is needed, please contact our Pastor’s Pastor, Jeff Fletcher at...

Phone: (864) 353-4310 or Email: revjeff@charter.net

To Churches:

We strongly encourage you to make it possible for your pastor to attend. Participating in this event can have a great impact on your church by investing in the emotional health and professional development of your pastor.

2018**ARKANSAS
BIBLE PROPHECY CONFERENCE**

MARCH 2-4 CONWAY, AR

8 Speakers | 12 Sessions

Hilton Garden Inn, 805 Amity Rd, Conway, AR 72032 | 501-329-1444

Friday, March 2

- 4:00 PM Registration Opens
 6:30 PM Session 1: Cathy Cunningham *"Around and Around We Go"*
 7:15 PM Break
 7:30 PM Session 2: Pastor Wally Winner *"Treading Prophecy"*

Saturday, March 3

- 9:00 AM Session 3 : Dr. Joe Martin *"The Last Ten Years"*
 9:45 AM Break
 10:00 AM Session 4: Seth Ross *"Positioning the Church for Prophetic Fulfillments"*
 10:45 AM Break
 11:00 AM Session 5 : Pastor Dan Gill *"Apocalyptic Preaching"*
 11:45 AM Break for Lunch On Your Own (several restaurants are within walking distance)
 2:00 PM Session 6 : Sir Anthony Buzzard *"Olivet Discourse"*
 2:45 PM Break
 3:00 PM Session 7: Associate Pastor Lonnie Craig *"Where Are We Going, and Where Have We Been?"*
 3:45 PM Break and Free Time
 4:00 PM Session 8: Pastor Dan Landry
 4:45 PM Break until Dinner
 6:00 PM Banquet Dinner in the Ballroom (Included with Registration Fee)
 7:30 PM Session 9 Cathy Cunningham *"Seven Generations"*
 8:30 PM Session 10: Pastor Wally Winner *"Who Needs A Temple?"*

Sunday, March 4

- *Events will move to McGintytown Church of God 509 Hwy 225 E. Greenbrier, AR 72058
 10:00 AM Session 11: Adults - Sir Anthony Buzzard *"The Importance of Truth"*
 Youth - Cathy Cunningham
 11:00 AM Session 12: Pastor Wally Winner *"Final Exclamation"*
 12:00 PM Lunch provided by the McGintytown Church of God

Sponsored by the Arkansas State Conference and McGintytown Church of God

For more information contact:

Pastor Tom New 501-581-5505 tnew@cyberback.com

2017 Heritage Conference Review

By Jan Stilson

Planning the 13th Heritage Conference began January 3, 2017. From there we designed a program that was both classical and current in subject matter. By classical is meant the first several centuries of church history, and by current is meant the 19th and 20th centuries.

The roots of the Church of God began throughout the centuries of church history in Europe, but did not coalesce as the Age to Come movement until Joseph Marsh withdrew from William Miller's Second Advent movement in America around 1845. Marsh's work eventually merged with Benjamin Wilson's work in Illinois to form the Abrahamic Faith movement which became the Church of God in 1921.

Over the last thirty years Church of God historians have studied the formative years in the 19th century involving the publishing of religious journals. Journals such as the 'Advent Harbinger' and 'The Restitution' were forerunners to 'The Restitution Herald'. They advanced key doctrines we still love, and provided news to churches and isolated members. These truths include oneness of God;



David Krogh

Jesus Christ his Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit; conditional immortality (sleep of the dead and resurrection of the just and unjust for reward or judgment); the second coming of Christ to establish the kingdom of God on earth. The covenant with Abraham, and the return of the Jews to their homeland with their conversion to accept Christ were also important, making Age to Come and Abrahamic Faith very different from the standard evangelical church of the day.

This year the Heritage Conference opened one day prior to General Conference at Atlanta Bible College with a keynote address by our new Executive Director of the General Conference and President of Atlanta Bible College, Seth O. Ross. Seth inspired us as he shared his love for history and truth, and his hope for the future of the organization. We also enjoyed a presentation by Pastor Ed Bender reflecting the important truths we have advanced since the inception of our work entitled, 'Speak, Lord, Your Servant is Listening', and Pastor Scott Perciful of our new church, Restoration Christian Church in Oklahoma City, who presented, 'System Restore', demonstrating his passion for sharing the truth and for preaching. Keegan Chandler of Houston, TX, presented 'Photinus of Galatia: Unitarian of the Fourth Century'. Keegan pastors a small group in Houston and is the recently-published author of 'God of Jesus in Light of Christian Dogma' (2016).

Another program enlightening us on the beliefs of the early church fathers was Dr. John Roller on the topic, 'The Doctrine of Immortality in the Early Church'. He illustrated how patriarchs of the first three centuries believed in sleep of the dead. Their dedication, inspiration and persecution for the truth is an example for us.

In contrast to the classics, David Krogh began a two-part series on the history and statistics of the youth movement in the Church of God. This was pertinent to us all as many or most of us have been part of the camp movement within our state



Cheryl Ross presenting history related to the Macy family

and national youth programs. He will complete the program in 2018. Along these same lines, Sharon Hastings, a camper from Quaker Haven and Camp Mack of years gone by, presented the History of the Brush Creek Church of God near Tipp City, Ohio. Another interesting and fun program was presented by the Macy Sisters, Cheryl Ross and Karla Macy, with cousin Linda Allen, on the history of Emory and Mid Macy’s ministry in Texas.

Other presenters included Sir Anthony Buzzard who shared his faith story, and spoke about the truths with examples of those who are raising questions and coming to understand. Anthony is the author of several books on the important truths, and Focus on the Kingdom, a monthly newsletter.

Finally, Jan Stilson presented a ‘tour’ of the archives with books, documents and photos from the collection. The archives is a rare book room with materials and artifacts reflecting Church of God history. This collection houses the works published by our authors in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. The history of Oregon Bible College, Atlanta Bible College, the General Conference, with collections provided by local churches, pastors, teachers, and state conferences are represented in the collection.

Looking to the future, many archival religious periodicals and books are being digitally scanned

in order to preserve them for use in computers. Many of these titles are available to members for research. Inquire at the General Conference to receive your CDs. Donations to fund this expensive project are greatly appreciated. Please specify ‘Archives’ when donating. Thank you in advance for helping us fund our heritage.

The **14th Heritage Conference** will be hosted by the **Oregon Church of God July 10-11, 2018**, one day prior to the beginning of the 98th annual General Conference. If you would like to present a program on a topic of history pertinent to Church of God history, please contact Jan Stilson, at jstilson21@comcast.net.



Linda Allen, Cheryl (Macy) Ross, and Karla Macy presenting a musical piece

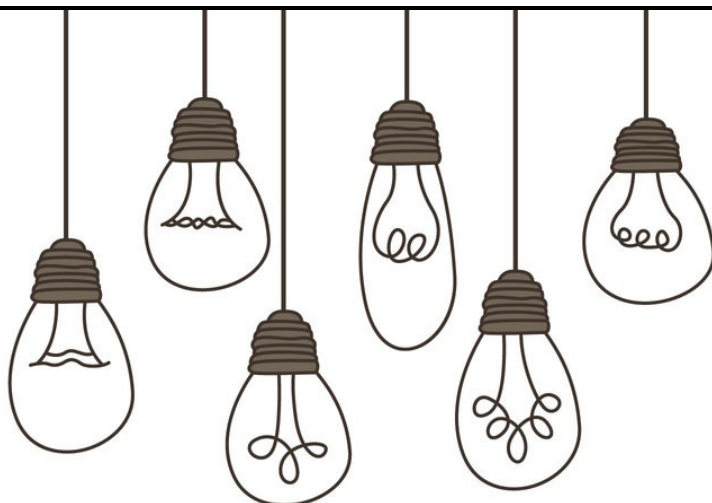
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Church of God General Conference
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CHURCH OF GOD
GENERAL CONFERENCE

“Be a Catalyst. Make Change.”

Christian Workers Seminar
April 8-13, 2018

Holiday Inn | Pigeon Forge, TN

Childcare program | Worship | Ministry training | Family Friendly

Mark your calendar. Full schedule coming in the Winter edition of RHPJ.