



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

## Overdue

There's an elephant in the room. Yes, yes, I know this issue of the Restitution Herald is LONG overdue. We apologize. OK, actually I apologize. This will be a shorter than normal edition, so we can get another issue out quickly & get back on track.

This issue won't follow the traditional format by including all the typical articles. It will focus on some good news, sad news, old news, and new news. You'll see familiar things for sure, but perhaps not everything you're expecting. At least this time around. But I hope you'll still enjoy reading these pages.

~Sincerely seeking grace, Seth Ross

## Legacy and Faith

By Seth Ross

Deaths, baptisms, retirements and licenses.

What do these have in common? They all represent legacies of faith. Legacies completed, legacies beginning, legacies written, and legacies about to be written. They're all part of the ebb and flow of the Christian faith through time connecting generations of people. The train of deaths, baptisms, retirements, and licensing never stops. Faith begins, and faith concludes (for a time). Ministries begin, and ministries conclude. Life stories begin, and life stories conclude. Legacies.

And so we want to highlight a few individual ministers and ministries in this issue. Over the past 6 months, we've witnessed the deaths of some people who had lengthy ministries (both pastors and lay people) and who leave behind strong legacies of faith. We've seen a number of people baptized who are listed in this issue and are just beginning their journeys of faith. We've seen some pastors retire from full-time

ministry or step into new roles. We've seen some receive their pastoral licenses.

It may seem a disservice to some that we're highlighting a few individuals in this issue and not mentioning others. As you flip through these pages, names of others will come to mind that likely deserve to be mentioned as well, but aren't. You may think, "But what about... [fill in the name]."

But that's the point. The lives & ministries highlighted here only serve as a snapshot of many, many people who matter to God, who have served faithfully for a long time, and who have left their own legacies of faith. This is not a complete list. It can't be. The list never stops growing.

After all, Jesus said that even the gates of Hades couldn't stand against the ever-expanding group of people known as the "church." You're a part of that too.

## Legacies of Ministry

### **Rex Ferrell Cain, 79, (12/22/17)**

Springfield, OH - Rex graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1961. He was a pastor for 50 years in the Church of God General Conference and served a term on the Board of Directors.

### **Marion Burnham, 87, (11/25/17)**

Bill and Marion had been married for over 55 years when Bill died in 2013. They served at Columbia Station Church of God in Ohio, East Oregon Chapel in Illinois and Cornerstone Bible Church in Georgia. Bill was a former member of the Board of Directors and a former employee of the college/conference.

Marion Burnham, age 87, (nee Hitchcock), beloved wife of the late Wilbur R., loving mother of Gary B., Scot C. (Kim) and Karen A. Fletcher (Jeff), grandmother of seventeen, great-grandmother of eight, sister of the late Richard Hitchcock.

### **Frances "Babe" Johnson, 93, (11/12/17)**

Frances "Babe" (VanderVoort) Johnson was born at her family home in Bijou Hills, South Dakota, on September 15, 1924. As the tenth child in her family, her nickname became "Babe" and the name stuck for the rest of her life as most of us didn't even realize that her given name was Frances.

Babe moved to Osceola Township, Hector, MN, after graduating from high school in SD. On March 15, 1944, Frank and Babe were married at

the Church of Hope in Osceola Township. Frank and Babe lived on a farm in rural Hector, MN, until 2013 when they moved to The Pines in Hutchinson, MN. Babe worked alongside Frank on the farm as wife, mother, and homemaker. That marriage was blessed with 73 years, 8 months, 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren.

Babe was very active in the Hector Church of God where she sang many specials with her beautiful alto voice. Later she was a member of the Litchfield Church of God. Babe loved playing golf and was a member of the Oakdale Country Club where she played as much as possible and was also inducted into the Oakdale Hall of Fame.

### **Terry M. Ferrell, 96, (1/29/18)**

Easley, SC - Known to many as "Preacher Ferrell", Terry was born January 20, 1922 in Pomona, CA, the son of the late Chester A. and Marjorie McLeod Ferrell. He was a 1943 graduate of Oregon Bible College in Oregon, IL, and retired after 76 years as a Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith minister. He was husband of 54 years to the late Orpha Katherine Hoskins Ferrell.

Faithful servant of God, he served many churches across the country, finally in SC where he laid down roots and spent the rest of his life. He developed a passion for antiques, becoming an authority in SC pottery.

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## Missions: LHI

By Rick McClain

During Marching for Missions gift catalogs were distributed after being revamped in November. This is a good way for people to learn about the different ministries happening around the world and lets people know how they can contribute to those ministries. There was also a prayer calendar so people could be praying for specific items each day of the month. Bulletin inserts each week of March featured different ministries.

We currently communicate with the local churches in the U.S. through Facebook, newsletters, and the website. We want to continue using these communication avenues, but we also want to start using a new method: text updates. This would be used for brief updates and prayer requests from time to time. Watch for details to come.

We are working on the details of two trips this summer: Africa and Peru.

# Atlanta Bible College: Korean Extension

By Steve & Sam An

## 2018 Spring Semester

The 2017 spring semester began on January 15 with 50 students at the North campus. We lost some students as a result of course completions and dropouts. A lack of financial support from their families in Korea attributed to some students unable to continue with their studies, leaving these students with no choice but to return home. Some have voiced that they would like to temporarily put their studies on hold and return to undertake their studies in the future. However, recruitment efforts continue in full stride. We've enrolled 12 new students for the spring, and two additional students have already committed to enrolling in the fall. The new students for the current spring semester come from South Korea, Korean communities in Japan, Tennessee, Alabama, and California.

Spirits and morale are up at the North campus. Students, staff, and friends from our local community were pleased to complete the first semester at the new campus. We have all adjusted to the new space, and at the moment, the new campus is a great fit! We appreciate your support. Nevertheless, we hope to depart from the lease option one day and perhaps move into a more permanent facility, Lord willing.

## Church and Branch Campus Planting in California

Young and Steve visited Pastor Hyunjoo Kim in December 2017 in Irvine, California to discuss the details of planting a church and a branch campus such as facility, instructors and tuition amount. During the meeting, we explained to her how the Korean Extension commenced 15 years ago without an initial

expense budget. Pastor Kim enrolled in the KE from the second semester, fall of 2003, and she remembered numerous episodes during her enrollment.

According to her, there are several prospective students from her Bible study group who had been monitoring our KE chapel services online on YouTube, and the individuals have expressed their eagerness and passion to learn the all about the Abrahamic Faith. We will continue to collaborate with Pastor Kim and discuss how best to implement a course of action that will harmonize with our current operation.

## CHURCH OF GOD ONLINE

Church of God General Conference  
[coggc.org](http://coggc.org)

Atlanta Bible College  
[atlantabiblecollege.com](http://atlantabiblecollege.com)

Turning Point Youth Ministry  
[tpym.com](http://tpym.com)

Lord's Harvest International  
[lhicog.com](http://lhicog.com)

Abrahamic Faith Resources  
[abrahamicfaith.org](http://abrahamicfaith.org)

ABC Korean Extension  
[abcke.weebly.com](http://abcke.weebly.com)

## OTHER SITES TO EXPLORE

[scatteredbrethren.org](http://scatteredbrethren.org) (Robin Todd)

[focusonthe kingdom.org](http://focusonthe kingdom.org) (A. Buzzard)

[restitutio.org](http://restitutio.org) (Sean Finnegan)

[21stcr.org](http://21stcr.org) (Dan Gill)

[trinities.org](http://trinities.org) (Dr. Dale Tuggy)

[thegodofjesus.com](http://thegodofjesus.com) (Kegan Chandler)

# Legacy: Memoir from a Daughter

By Sarah An

What can I say about you, dad, Rex Ferrell Cain, that would sum up your life, your godly example and imprint and impact on my life, and your other children's lives and their families? You were a kind and gentle husband to Grace and my mom. You touched more lives than you even knew about. My emotions, love, and feelings for you can not be put into words. They are inadequate. My love for you as an amazing godly father, provider, and just as a person has no human expression. You gave me an amazing, happy, and ideal childhood, and I have the best memories growing up. I could write pages and pages of why I love you and never be finished.

I loved and cherished our motorcycle rides together where we went on our secret ice cream runs and putt-putt golfing. You would drop me off at school on the motorcycle, and I felt like the coolest kid ever. Dad, I miss sitting on your cuddle bump and snuggling. It was where I would ask you many questions about the Bible and the world, and though you would patiently answer them, you would affectionately call me jabber jaws because I never stopped talking. You were so wise, and I consider those conversations we had priceless.

Your nickname for me was Snooks, which you always used affectionately and with great love. It made me feel treasured. You even made a shirt for me with Snooks printed on the back which I wore with pride.

I thank you for your godly discipline and guidance which I know I did not appreciate at the time. You were soft-spoken and rarely got mad, but when you did, we knew you meant business. It was usually when Danny and I were in one of our infamous fights, and you had had enough.

You loved animals and had a soft spot for all of God's creatures. I had begged for a pet, and you finally bought me a cat named Scout. She wasn't the nicest or smartest cat, but even though she was my cat, she ended up loving you more than anyone. She would sit on your lap in the recliner and sleep with you at night and just purr with contentment. You took care of her when I went to college, took her to the vet, and buried her when she died. I remember you calling to tell me she had passed away, and though you tried to be nonchalant about it, your voice was trem-

bling. You even got mad one time when Danny and Shilah were hurting a frog and you gave them a what-for, and they came inside looking very stricken and sorry.

During long family car trips you loved talk news radio, Paul Harvey, and oldies music so we all had to love it too. There was nothing else to do in the car back then. You loved your old black and white TV shows especially Andy Griffith, westerns, Matlock, and the news. Some of those shows I thought were so boring, but now would give anything to sit down and watch them with you again. I love the times before everything was digitized where we would get out the slides and projector when all the family got together, and we would pop popcorn and look at family pictures with much chatter and laughter.

Dad, you had a way with words and I loved your daily e-mails. You always thought your e-mails were boring, and that you were just a senile old man whose life of mowing the lawn, getting a senior coffee at McDonalds, and watching the birds in the Wal-mart parking lot was mundane and uninteresting. You had no idea that your e-mails were the highlight and best part of my day. They always left a smile on my face. I loved how you were so detailed and organized and kept everyone else on track. You remembered everyone's birthday, anniversary, and baptism birthday. You kept in touch with so many people through cards and e-mail. Though you didn't like to physically exert yourself, much to my mom's chagrin, so much love was given and sent from your favorite spot in your recliner along with hugs. I will always picture you with your laptop typing away, fingers flying as you kept in touch with everyone.

You loved to date and organize everything and I guarantee if anyone turns over a stapler, tape dispenser, chair, or any object in your house that they will know the date it was bought, the price, and where it was bought. You loved your pocket calendars and small spiral notebooks which date back years and which were filled with notes on everything you can imagine. Everyone would ask you the date of something and you had only to go to a file cabinet or your laptop to find the answer.

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

You had such a big and generous heart. You were the kind of man who, when we went to visit my Grandma Lila, would fix anything on her honey-do list. You even lovingly took your mother-in-law on your 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary road trip which she was thrilled about and loved. She talked about how much fun she had with you and mom, and what a special trip that was. You were blessed in this life to be loved by two incredible godly women. Grace, who gave you three amazing children, Laura, Alan, and Mark, who I am proud to call my siblings, and my mom who blessed you with two more, myself and Danny. Both of whom were Proverbs 31 women. Mom took care of you to the very end and hardly left your side. She would tell you she loved you and give you a kiss, and she said you would give her a small smile with a tear, squeeze her hand, and tell her not to go. As Proverbs 31:12 says, she brought you good and not harm all the days of her life. A stronger more faithful woman I have never met.

Dad, from you has come a huge family that keeps growing. It grew yesterday with the birth of Gideon Cain. The circle of life continues, and your legacy lives on. I feel like God in our grief is sending us a bundle of joy in the new baby that I know you would have loved. I am proud and full of joy to be in this family you created. I love my brothers and sister with all my heart and am so thankful the boys were close by to take care of you and comfort you until the end. We all love and adore you with all our hearts and strive to live as you did.

You were there from the beginning of my life, raised me, baptized me, married me, and then were there to love and dote on your grandkids. You were a simple man with a soft and benevolent heart. I will miss your subtle, smart, witty, and amazing sense of humor. I will miss your mischievous smiles and your laugh. You listened more than you spoke. When you did speak, it was something that needed to be said. You lived what you preached, remained humble, and let your actions speak louder than your words. Through your illness I never once heard you complain, though I am sure you were hurting. You faced your illness with grace and dignity just as you did the rest of your life. I will always remember you in your suspenders, your plaid shirts, jeans, bib overalls, your burgundy jacket, the ruby ring on your finger, your goatee, the wave in your hair, and your cap you liked to

wear. My heart is broken right now, and you will be missed more than words can say and more than you will ever know. As one song you like said "Unforgettable, that's what you are, unforgettable in every way."

I am so glad that we have the hope of the resurrection. One of the songs we both loved was "The Old Rugged Cross." It says, "So 'I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down, I will cling to the old rugged cross and exchange it someday for a crown." I cling so tightly to the hope of the cross right now. Daddy, you have laid your earthly trophies down. You worked so hard in this life, and you were tired. You are now at peace and rest and are awaiting your crown. I will try my best to live in a way that makes you proud of me. I love you now and forever with my whole heart and my whole being. I can't wait for that day when I see you again in God's kingdom when I can sit on your cuddle bump again and give you a hug. Come, Lord Jesus, in the twinkling of an eye, as you would often say.

Your Loving Daughter Sarah,  
Forever Your Snooks



Rex Cain

# Legacy: Memoir from a Granddaughter

By Caylee An

Hello my name is Caylee An.

I am the granddaughter of Rex Cain, whom I called "Grandpa."

Today we are here to celebrate a man who lived almost eighty years of hard work, happiness, hope, relaxation, and family.

My grandpa wouldn't want us to mourn his death, but to move forward, and look forward. This is a quote from the Bible that describes the hope this wonderful man has: John 14:1-2 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you."

This speech was to tell you all not to mourn his death, but to celebrate his long life of hope, faith, and determination. We all know that for quite a few months he was put through surgery, dialysis, hospitals, pain, and suffering. I think he is glad that he has let go because now he has a long and peaceful sleep ahead of him. Our world is chaotic and is getting more chaotic by the second. He doesn't have to live in this present evil age anymore. He is at rest.

We need to live every moment of our lives with a purpose. Grandpa did. Rex Cain will always be in our hearts no matter what, and I can't wait to see him again. I want to help others like he did, but in my special kind of way.

Don't lose hope. Grandpa didn't.

# Legacy: 40 Years of Ministry

Pastor Ken Howe

*[NOTE: These excerpts were taken from the March 2018 newsletter for Country Chapel Church of God in Hillisburg, IN.]*

We've been pastoring now for 40 years, the last 27 of those being here at our home church, Hillisburg/Country Chapel. Many great memories, many sobering losses. It's never easy to part company with friends, but our love for each of you will endure. God bless.

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### A Note From Ken

This is my final Country Chapel newsletter. My last Sunday service will be April 8, the week after Easter. I know many of you have obligations, but if you're free and in the area, please stop by. Our worship gathering begins at 10:30.

I want to thank all of you for your spectrum of support through the years. I'd appreciate

your continued prayers on behalf of Eva and myself, as well as the Country Chapel family. This is an immense change for all of us, and we surely need our Creator's presence to guide us through the twists and turns of future days. Thanks again for everything.

Love and grace and peace to all ... Ken



## Good News Page (GNP) from the Church of God

### GOOD NEWS FROM COG-LAND

From the **House Light Ministries in Verndale, MN** - College graduates to be congratulated are **Jared Hoemberg** and **Victoria Moore**. **Samuel Moore** took first place in state in shot put and discus. [Congratulations! Great job! - GNP] Samuel also starred in football for the Verndale Pirates, so much that he signed a letter of intent to play football for the North Dakota State Bison. Samuel will also throw shot put and discus for the Bison. [Wow! Now that's some good news!]

From the **St. Cloud Church of God in St. Cloud, MN** - **Tracy Zhykhovich** and **Terri Moore** have each been guest speakers several times in recent months. **Tanner Maehren** graduated from high school, and he is now studying engineering at St. Cloud State University.

From the **New Covenant Bible Church in Indianapolis, IN** - The church appreciates the ministry of **Pastor Mark Tschaenn**, and the church celebrated Pastor's Appreciation Day in October by enjoying a camping trip together at McCormick's Creek Park with a campfire service and lots of good food.

From the **New Beginnings Christian Church in Hammond, LA** - The church enjoyed a back-to-school bash on August 4 with water slides, hot dogs, and an ice cream machine.

From the **Minnesota Missionary Society** - The annual Missions Conference was held March 18 at the **St. Cloud Church of God**.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** - The church has some congratulations to hand out. First of all, kudos to **Halle Becker** for winning first place in the Peace Poster contest sponsored by the local Lions Club. The contest was for all sixth graders in Glencoe-Silver Lake School. Her picture goes to the state competition now. Secondly, **Pastor Vivian Kirkpatrick II** and the church also congratulate **Natalie Karl** for receiving the Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart A.L.L. Mustang Award for academic, sports, and leadership excellence. Your church is so proud of both of you!

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** - On November 12 the church honored its veterans: **Michael Gentile**, **Steve Riddle**, **David Sloan**, and **Jim Turner**. Thank you for your service! The veterans and their spouses were treated to lunch at Sweet P's Southern Kitchen. [I don't know this place personally, but it sounds like a great eating place. - GNP] The church participated in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox program, setting a new record with 69 shoeboxes collected this year. ["Whoo-Hoo!"] This year's children's Christmas program was "The Christmas Window." All of the kids did a great job [Bravo!] in helping the church to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

From the **House Light Ministries in Verndale, MN** - House Light Ministries sponsored the workshop "Mission Ready" presented by **Eileen Moore** of Oregon, IL in November. The workshop was held at **Pine Grove Bible Church**. It was a full day of solid teaching that challenged, inspired, and equipped participants as Christian warriors.

From the **Special Birthdays and Anniversaries Department** - We have some special anniversaries to celebrate. **Irene and Ralph Underwood** (**Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH**) celebrated 70 years on November 27. [Wow! - GNP] **Dean and Virginia Moore** (**Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL**) celebrated 60 years on October 11, and **Dan and Sharon Bliss** (also Oregon COG) celebrated 35 years on August 7.

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 ([rjones@atlantabiblecollege.com](mailto:rjones@atlantabiblecollege.com)), and we'll put you in print!  
Robert L. Jones

## 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 from campuses in McDonough and Johns Creek for their academic accomplishments during the fall 2017 semester.

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

Josiah Cain  
Okran Choi  
Madison Cisler  
Luke Elwell  
Soon Ho Jeong  
Eun Jin Lee  
Kyle McClain

Eun Kyung Seo  
Sun Hwa Shin  
Myeong Joo Song

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

Junho An  
Mi Yeon Cho  
Kathryn Fletcher  
Jin Kook Kim

Seong Back Kim  
Yoon Jee Kim  
Young Kon Kim  
Young Ok Kim  
Yoon Ah Koh  
Hye Jung Na  
Soo Kyung Park  
Jacob Paura  
Swan Yong Shin

## Atlanta Bible College: Student Trips

September 29<sup>th</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>, some Atlanta Bible College students went to North Carolina to be a part of their annual retreat. The students were Luke Elwell, Jacob Paura, Kyle McClain, Alyssa Sharp, and Jenna Goodrich. People from North and South Carolina gathered together in the mountains to worship God and all His glory. The theme of the weekend was, "Good, Good Father," and we talked about what makes God a good father to us and to His people.

While we were there, we experienced the love that people had for one another and how connected we all are. The youth were always together, whether it be hiking, worshipping, or playing games. I learned about how great God truly is based on His creation, mercy, and love that He provides.

Over the weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, there was a youth retreat in Ohio. All the youth from the Northeast Conference were invited, and the Atlanta Bible College also brought four students along: Luke Elwell, Kayla VanAssen, Stefan Swanson, and Kyle McClain. About 20-25 kids showed up to go with multiple, willing helpers. It was a good

time had by all filled with games, food, music, and devotions.

On Friday night, people went over to the bowling alley to play a game or two of bowling. Multiple students were not able to attend, as they were rooting on, or participating in, their Friday night football game. Saturday afternoon, everybody met up at John Demmit's house. There were games to play, as people were arriving, such as corn hole, basketball, and volleyball. Then there was a devotion led by Kyle McClain on the Great Commission, and how we need to make disciples in our schools. Then the kids split off into four groups, with an Atlanta Bible College student to lead, to continue talking about the theme of the Great Commission. Next, everyone went to a corn maze, which was a blast in and of itself. After everyone completed the maze, there was food prepared for all back at John Demmit's house. Finally, to end the night, there was a campfire led by Luke Elwell, and devotions led by Stefan Swanson and Kayla VanAssen, continuing the theme of the Great Commission. All in all, everyone had a great time with some positive spiritual growth.



## Atlanta Bible College

By David Krogh

The ABC enrollment for the winter/spring semester is 43. Of the 43 students this semester, 15 are new and 28 are returning. Eight are distance learning students. Five are international students (a new student from Benin, Africa) and 15 are from the Church of God.

Sean Finnegan is delivering a Greek class 3 days a week by Zoom from New York. We have two local students enrolled, along with 2 students enrolled from Indiana.

We are pleased that we will grant 7 Bachelor's degrees at the end of this semester (Josiah Cain, Madison Cisler, Valerie Crawford, Kyle McClain, Jacob Paura, Talon Paul, and Cheryl Ross). Two students will receive the Associates degree, and five will receive the Foundation Certificate. We are very pleased with the quality of the students who are finishing programs.

Seth Ross is working with several students to arrange internships after graduation. Talon Paul is already working with Bob Morrison at Maple Grove Church in Kokomo as he finishes his course work.

Arrangements are also being made for students who will be involved in summer ministry at several churches. We believe that these summer ministries provide valuable

experiences for our students as well as providing assistance to our churches. Academic credit is offered to those who serve.

We have been in the process of standardizing our freshman, and sophomore course requirements, and we are not offering as many electives each semester. This eliminates some choices for students, but it helps them focus on courses we think are most important, and it also increases class sizes. Students are exposed to a variety of instructors. Currently courses are taught by eleven different instructors.

After our accreditation site review, we received notice from the Accrediting Commission International that ABC is now a comprehensive member with honor. This level of accreditation is awarded "to an institution that has been accredited for ten years or more and has more than one program and has shown exceptional credibility. The school must have had at least two on-site visits. The president of ACI must approve this level of accreditation personally."

We have been accredited with ACI since 1998. The commission was founded in 1979. This was our third site visit. Dr. John Scheel, the president, was very complimentary of our facilities and program.



**Atlanta**  
 B I B L E C O L L E G E

## Prayer List: November 2017

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and the St. Cloud, MN Church and House Light Ministries.**
- 2 **Pray for our Isolated Member Ministry (IMM).**
- 3 **Praise God for the board of directors who willingly serve the Church of God.**
- 4 **Pray for Pastor Robin Todd and the Wenatchee, WA Church.**
- 5 **Pray for Lupe Badillo as she continues to minister in Labor Vieja, Mexico.**
- 6 **Pray for expanding publishing opportunities for the General Conference to spread Kingdom truth.**
- 7 **Pray that God will raise up workers to serve in mission fields in other lands.**
- 8 **Pray for Pastor Andy and Kristy Cisneros and their ministry transition in summer 2018.**
- 9 **Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness.**
- 10 **Pray for Rick McClain and the work of the Lord's Harvest International mission board.**
- 11 **Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God.**
- 12 **Praise God for baptisms in our churches.**
- 13 **Pray for Pastor Wade and Kim Tierney and the Morse Mill, MO Church.**
- 14 **Pray for the Ministerial Recognition Board as they encourage our pastors.**
- 15 **Pray for the pastors in Pakistan who minister under very difficult circumstances.**
- 16 **Pray for Pastor Scott Perciful and his ministry in central Oklahoma.**
- 17 **Pray for God to provide you with "thankful" eyes this month.**
- 18 **Pray for the boldness you need to share Christ with an unbelieving friend.**
- 19 **Pray for college/conference youth events being planned for 2018.**
- 20 **Pray for the outreach efforts of your local congregation.**
- 21 **Praise God for a blessing He provided in your life yesterday.**
- 22 **Praise God for His daily blessings of shelter, food, family, and friends.**
- 23 **Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life.**
- 24 **Praise God on this Thanksgiving Day for His goodness in your life.**
- 25 **Pray for Pastor Bill and Lacey Dunn and the Garden Park Church in Kentwood, MI.**
- 26 **Pray for the churches within your state or regional conference.**
- 27 **Pray for God's blessings on those recruiting new students for the Atlanta Bible College winter/spring semester.**
- 28 **Pray for the opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.**
- 29 **Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation.**
- 30 **Pray for new contacts through the distribution of literature and our website.**

## Prayer List: December 2017

- 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 church in Springfield, OH church as they prepare 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 Pastor Bruce & Debbie Reye and the Church of the Open Bible in Pomona, CA.**
- 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 for pastoral internships of Atlanta Bible College graduates.**
- 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 Johns Creek, GA ABCKE 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 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 2017.**

## Prayer List: January 2018

- 1 Pray that God will direct every area of your life in 2018.
- 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 McDonough, GA.
- 4 **Pray for outreach work in Lima, Peru.**
- 5 Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and their ministry at Fort Valley, VA.
- 6 **Praise God that we can be a part of the family of God.**
- 7 Pray for the outreach ministries of your church.
- 8 **Pray for retired Pastor Warren and Irene Sorenson.**
- 9 Pray for ABC teachers as they start the winter/spring semester.
- 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.**
- 13 Pray for our youth attending reFUEL at Camp Mack in Indiana this winter.
- 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 Jeff and Jeannie Ransom and the Pennellwood Church in Wyoming, 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 their retirement to South Carolina.**
- 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.

### Church of God 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Conference Oregon Church of God | Oregon, IL July 10 and 11, 2018



#### Tuesday, July 10

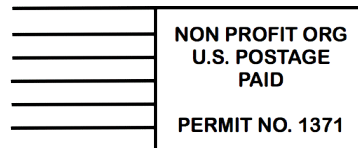
- 1:00 Welcome and Announcements (Jan Stilson)
- 1:15 Keynote Address: History of Oregon, Illinois with 1953 film. History of the buildings used/ owned by the COG and OBC (Michal Burnett)
- 2:00 Oregon Bible College 1968 Class Reunion (David Krogh)
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 History of Korean Missions in America and South Korea (Steve An)
- 4:15 The History of the ABC Korean Extension (Steve An)
- 5:15 Evening Meal
- 6:00 Greg Demmitt
- 7:00 History of the COG Youth Movement. Part 2 (David Krogh)
- 8:00 Ice Cream Social with video of final service of Golden Rule, Cleveland, OH

#### Wednesday, July 11

##### *Breakfast on your own*

- 9:00 Music and Church Planting (Robin Todd)
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 History and Function of Media Technology in the Church of God (John Smead)
- 11:00 Church of God Books I have Enjoyed (Scott Ross)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 The Cleveland Project (Jan Stilson)
- 1:30 My Years as Editor of The Restitution Herald (Russell Magaw)
- 2:30 History of the Belle Plaine, Iowa Archives (Nancy Rankin)
- 3:30 Tours of former General Conference building and Oregon Piano Factory

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



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◀ *Yesterday*  
▶ **Today**  
▶ *Forever*



CHURCH OF GOD  
GENERAL CONFERENCE

General Conference  
July 11-13, 2018

Oregon, IL

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**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

## A Conversation Worth Having

By Seth Ross

The Church of God General Conference is made up of a wonderful & diverse group of people. Every church is independent, and every person is independently-minded. We come from different backgrounds with different priorities and different viewpoints. And each one of us is 100% right in the way we think and in the opinions we hold. How is that possible? And yet, there it is. It's been almost 100 years, and we've continued to work together despite differences of opinion and even theological discrepancies. It's really quite amazing.

"The history of the Church of God... is unique in many ways. It did not originate under the leadership of a single individual, or at a specific time period. It lays claim to no special revelation or vision granted to an individual. Its reliance has not been on the writings of men or the creed adopted by a council or group of men. Its sole dependence has been upon the Word of God for divine guidance. The searching of the Bible by individuals scattered in many places and lands led to the discovery of certain truths which freed them from being fenced in by creedal forms. As Jesus said: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). As individuals searching the Scriptures discovered these truths that make men free, they came out from under proscribed creeds and rituals of denominationalism and each individual became a priest in his own right. The priesthood of the individual believer has been a hallmark of these lovers of truth."<sup>1</sup>

So what holds us together? Our shared commitment to some core, fundamental beliefs. What are those? Maybe you know... maybe you think you know, and maybe not. Before the General Conference even existed, churches collectively decided which commonly held beliefs were most important for cooperation. Here's what they agreed on in 1910 when they met at Waterloo, IA.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH, 1910

We believe:

1. In one God who is the Maker of heaven and earth (Psa. 146:5, 6) and all things therein. (Gen. 1:1; Isa. 40:28; 1 Cor. 8:6; Gal. 3:20; Heb. 3:4; 1 Tim. 2:5; John 1: 3.)
2. That Christ has the right to the literal throne of David, and at his second coming will sit thereon to rule the world, and over the house of Jacob forever. (Luke 1:30-33; Isa. 9:6, 7.)
3. The literal return of the Jews to the land of Palestine. (Jer. 31; Ezek. 36:9, 11, 22, 24; Acts 1:6, 8.) The reestablishment of the kingdom of Israel.
4. That man is wholly mortal, and immortality is obtained only through Christ, and put on at the resurrection. (Rom. 2:6, 7; 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:53, 54; 1 Tim. 6:13-16; 2 Tim. 1:9, 10.)
5. In the literal resurrection of the dead to a life of everlasting happiness, with Christ upon his throne. (Job 19:26; Psa. 17:15; Isa. 26:19; 35:10; Dan. 12:2; Luke 14:14; John 5:28, 29; 11:23; Acts 4:2; 24:15; 26:8; Rom. 6:5, 8, 11; Col. 3:34; 1 Thes. 4:15, 16.)

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## A Conversation Worth Having (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

6. The Church, the Bride of Christ, will rule the world jointly with him on David's throne. (Eph. 3:5; Rom. 8:16, 17; Luke 1:31, 33.)
7. The earth will be the final and eternal home of the saints. (Psa.37:9, 11, 29, 34; Prov. 2:21; 10:30; 11:31; Zech. 14:9; Matt. 5:5.)
8. In baptism by immersion for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3, 4; Luke 24:46, 47; Col. 2:12.)
9. In the second personal appearing of Christ, at which time will be the restitution of all things. (Dan. 7:13-22; Matt. 25:31; Acts 1:9, 11; Heb. 9:28; John 14:3; Acts 3:20; 2 Thes. 2:1; 1Thes.1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13, 17; Rev. 22:12.)
10. The law was done away in Christ, and the law of faith established, in which we stand. (Rom. 10:4; 8: 1, 4; 7:1, 4; Gal. 3:11, 12.)
11. In the promises made of God unto the fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as to our future inheritance, and to David as to rule and kingdom. (Gal. 3:8, 16, 29; Acts 26:6, 7; Luke 1:30, 33; Acts 2:29, 31.)
12. In the restitution of all things spoken of by the mouth of all the holy prophets, which includes restoration of life, and the earth from under the curse. (Acts 3:19, 21; John 6:35; Rom. 5:17; Rev. 22:3.)
13. And as a prerequisite to salvation, a holy and righteous life. (Rom. 6:22; Gal. 5:22, 26; 2 Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:10, 14.)
14. The Bible to be the only rule for our faith and practice. (John 3:39; Isa. 66:2; 2 Cor. 10:13; Gal. 6:16.)
15. The Bible to be the only true Word of God. (Mark 16:20; Col. 1:25; Tit.1:2, 3; John 17:6; 14:17.)
16. In the final destruction of the incorrigible wicked. (Mal. 4:13; Psa. 37 :10-20; Rom. 6:23.)<sup>2</sup>

### Who We Are

This is who we are as a people. It's our core. You'll notice many things NOT listed that continue to be discussed to this day. Some things are just held as differences.

In the spring of this year (2018), the Board of Directors and I decided to look for organizations that share our belief that God is one (the Father alone is God, i.e. Biblical Unitarians) in order to encourage them in their pursuit of truth. We don't agree with everything other organizations teach (or, they'd all be Church of God). But even in the Church of God, there are many theological differences on topics such as women in ministry, divorce & remarriage, the role of the Holy Spirit, the personality of Satan, spiritual gifts, prophecy (pick your topic), alcohol, wine or grape juice in communion, open or closed communion, and the list continues. And yet, we share a great cause.

At our annual Theological Conference people from varied backgrounds gather to discuss shared beliefs & explore truth. There is a great cause that binds. This year Anthony Buzzard's son-in-law, Carlos, extended the following invitation: *"Communion is, like anything else, up to you. If you don't want to take communion, no one's going to look down on you (or whatever). That's up to you. I know there are different things we are working through towards unity.... Basically, I think the glue that is holding this whole deal together is that we are staunchly non-Trinitarians.... We have other permutations, differences, disagreements. That's fine. Work toward unity."*

At Christian Workers Seminar, we announced that we were giving gifts to two different Biblical Unitarian organizations outside of the Church of God. There were both positive and negative reactions to that decision.

All of these things point to a conversation that's worth having. How should we interact with groups that disagree with us? What's our role among Biblical Unitarians? If we're to lead, then what does that look like? Should we encourage or battle? Should we reach out or circle up? How much agreement is necessary for fellowship? Communion?

The Church of God has been around nearly 100 years, teaching important truths of Scripture. We have an opportunity to lead. We have longevity on our side. We have stability on our side. We have truth on our side. And to quote Sean Finnegan's Restitutio podcast, *"Truth has nothing to fear."* We have a professional ministers association, we have a network of established churches, we have a Bible college, we have a national youth work, we have shared mission efforts globally, we have shared events for fellowship and teaching. We have it all.

If we position ourselves as generous and encouraging, we have a chance to make an impact. If we treat others with grace and generosity, we have a chance to make an impact. If we lead from a position of strength regarding our beliefs, we have a chance to make an impact.

We are the Church of God, and we are not afraid.

We are not afraid of engaging those who do not believe like us, because our doctrines align easily with Scripture. Again, truth has nothing to fear. We do not want sit on the sideline, watching the world pass us by.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## A Conversation Worth Having (continued)

*(Continued from page 2)*

We are not afraid of making mistakes, because it means we're doing something, refusing to bury our talents. Not everything is a great idea, but we often learn from failure. And we occasionally stumble upon wonderful things when we step out and attempt new things. If I were afraid of making mistakes, I would have stayed comfortably in Ohio and never moved to Georgia.

We are not afraid of those who are not "us." We have all benefitted from people who have come to us from "outside" groups: Anthony Buzzard, Dan & Sharon Gill, Sean Finnegan, Kegan Chandler, Dr. Dale Tuggy, ZB Duncan, Stan Ross, Steve An, Anne Fischhaber, Dave Hixon, Dr. Joe Martin, Joel Hemphill, Joe Myers, Robin Todd, Rex Cain, and many more. Dare I say, every founding member of the Church of God was from the outside. Your local church probably has examples as well.

We are the Church of God, and we are not afraid. Why? Perfect love drives out fear. We should strive toward love. We are the Church of God, and we can lead.

This is a conversation worth having. These conversations happen at our annual General Conference where churches send delegates, and we work things out as a people. And so I invite you to join us at this summer's General Conference in Oregon, IL (July 11-13) where we can have this conversation. How can we lead? How should we lead? What will that look like?

To achieve great ends, it's valuable to know how we got here. Our past gives us direction to the future. Here's how it started.

### A Quick Story

"On November 9-12, 1920, a meeting was held at Oregon, Ill., for the purpose of carefully studying the scriptural instruction relative to the Church of God. This with a view to a better realization of God's plans with reference to His Church, and a better realization of our present duties and opportunities.

This meeting was more than ever confirmed in the abiding conviction.... That with a view to uniting our efforts to aid one and all to put forth the best possible service in these rapidly closing Gentile days, and to aid each other in coming to a unity of faith and knowledge a General Headquarters and a Central Working Body are advisable for the utilization of such opportunities and means as are impossible to the individual, or to the few, but are possible and advantageous to the larger numbers who stand united."<sup>3</sup>

"The report was mailed on February 18, 1921, to nearly 2,500 addresses. It was estimated that these addresses represent approximately 6,000 persons who claim membership as of this people. It is realized that there are many others whose names and addresses have not yet been received."<sup>4</sup>

... the Committee as gathered, after having made honest effort to obtain the judgment of every person of the Church, decided that they had but one course open to them, namely, to begin the work then and there, of formulating suggestive plans for a General Headquarters and Central Working Body...<sup>5</sup>

... (The reader is requested to constantly keep in mind that these suggestions include no thought of trying to organize the "Church." The Church—God's Church—has already been organized. These suggestions are only with a view to bring into cooperative activity members of God's Church, with a view to prosecuting certain defined lines of work. Any such unification of effort does not in any sense designate or determine bounds of fellowship. If accepted by the people of the church, it unites them as a working force.)"<sup>6</sup>

The committee made five suggestions. The fourth is highlighted here because it relates to who we are.

(4) Our whole policy shall be conducted with a view to maintain the unity of Christian spirit. With such unity we purpose to unite in a common effort to affirm by print and voice the following Biblical truths, and such as are in harmony therewith, all of which are commonly accepted by the people of the Church of God:

- a. The oneness and omnipotence of God.
- b. The inspiration of Scriptures.
- c. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, as a means for the remission of sins and salvation.
- d. Immortality only through Christ.
- e. The resurrection of the dead.
- f. The second coming of Christ, followed by the establishment of the kingdom of God.
- g. Belief, repentance and baptism for the remission of sins.
- h. A Godly life.

This General Assembly shall not encourage anyone in advocating a doctrine not commonly accepted and which tends to cause division....<sup>7</sup>

The Committee having received invitation from the Executive Board of the Iowa State Conference to hold a General Conference on their grounds at Waterloo, Ia., it has decided to accept said invitation, and to call a General Conference of the "Churches of God" ...<sup>8</sup>

*(Continued on page 4)*

## A Conversation Worth Having (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

With such "unity of spirit" any brotherhood can assemble and consider all questions of Christian service and faith to the edification of all concerned. And as it is with the earnest wish that the Scriptural and Christian course may be determined upon relative to the whole question of a General Headquarter for our work, it is to be hoped that one and all who hold the cause of Christ dear, will endeavor to attend the forthcoming General Conference...<sup>9</sup>

I, Seth Ross, extend the same invitation to you to join us this summer in Oregon, IL for a meeting of the people of the Church of God General Conference. And I extend this invitation in the same spirit and with the same words as the invitation in 1921 reprinted here (in part).

### PLAN YOUR VACATION TO ATTEND A GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHURCHES OF GOD

Therefore, ever holding in mind the purposes before us, and pledging yourself by your presence that you will personally endeavor to maintain the Christian spirit in all speech and conduct, you are hereby invited and urged to attend a General Conference of the Churches of God, at... [Oregon, Illinois, July 11 to July 13, 2018.]<sup>10</sup>

Such a General conference should give us, not only a larger outlook upon the promises of God, and the Christians' hopes, but also a better vision and grasp of the needs of our kinsfolk in Christ and of our brother-men.

Such a conference should aid in reducing the number of doctrinal tangents that so often result from lone individual research, unmodified by the counsels of others who search deeply for rich truth. There is perfect harmony in scriptural truth. "Rightly dividing the word of truth," will reveal that harmony and its beauty. But no one human intellect can fathom it all. Thus, unwittingly, sometimes, be it said with regrets, through selfish bigoted egotism—in earnest zeal for the radiant beauty of a given element of truth, doctrinal tangents, or factions are created. All such, from whatever cause, weaken the ability of the Christian Church—the body of Christ. A General Conference, maintained in the unity of the Spirit, should do much to eliminate such errors and weaknesses and increase unto greater effectiveness the accuracies and strength of the members of His body.<sup>11</sup>

The future depends wholly upon the decisions then and there made—so far as this Committee knows.

All are urged to have but one mind—a mind to serve Christ faithfully. With such mind, or spirit, all are urged to attend and deliberate, freely and fully relative to every question.<sup>12</sup>

We have come to the final announcement relative to General Assembly of the Church of God....

May we urge that each and every isolated church, and that each and every conference will so far as possible, send representatives to the coming General Assembly of the Church of God, with a view to aiding as much as possible in arriving at the most Scriptural and Christian decision relative to all matters arising, pertaining to our Christian growth.<sup>13</sup>

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Each member in the United States and Canada should feel themselves personally responsible for the success or failure of this movement. The Committee are giving their best efforts to carry forward the work, and the Iowa Conference has offered hospitality. But the members from Maine and California are just as much of the family as those residing in Waterloo. The success of the meeting will depend quite as much on the attitude of the members each toward the other as on anything the Committee may do. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and our program will be weakened in proportion to those who fail to assume their own personal responsibility for its success.

-Grace M. Marsh<sup>14</sup>

These are our people. YOU are our people. We are God's people, serving his risen son, Jesus Christ.

I hope you come to General Conference. I hope you participate. I hope you prepare your heart to have the same spirit in which these original letters were written.

### END NOTES

1. *Historical Waymarks of the Church of God*, by Clyde Randall, 1976. p. 6
2. Op. cit., p. 21
3. *An Effort to Discover the One True Church of God: Its Architect, Its Structure, Its Purpose*. By committee (JW Williams, James Patrick, Grace Marsh, FE Siple, Alta King, Judd Lyon, Rolla Hightower, Leota Hanson, DE Vanvactor), (1920)
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. *Notes Relative to General Assembly of the Church of God. No. 1.* by F.L. Austin, 1921.
12. Ibid.
13. *Notes Relative to General Assembly of the Church of God. No. 2.* by F.L. Austin, 1921.
14. Ibid.



## Future Fascination

By Glenn Van Ekeren, CEO of Vetter Health (sent by Scott Ross)

*"Leaders are fascinated by future. You are a leader if and only if, you are restless for change, impatient for progress and deeply dissatisfied with status quo. Because in your head, you can see a better future. The friction between 'what is' and 'what could be' burns you, stirs you up, propels you. This is leadership."*

~Marcus Buckingham

Throngs of people are in love with tradition and go to great extremes to hang on to 'what is.' They simply don't want to admit that times are changing and refuse to buy into the thought that they will need to make any adjustments.

Companies like Blockbuster, Radio Shack, BlackBerry, Kodak (there's a theme here) were convinced their business model was impenetrable. Not so.

At one time, these companies endeared the respect of countless customers and Wall Street admirers. Unfortunately, blinded by their own success and blindsided by other company's innovations, they faltered and failed. Tradition, not innovation, drove them to near extinction

Seth Godin reminds us that, "Transformational leaders don't start by denying the world around them. Instead, they describe a future they'd like to create instead."

Intel, Apple, Facebook, Uber, Amazon all seem to understand their supremacy is only as secure as the innovative future they are envisioning and constructing. Leaders in these companies are not allowing their teams to sit on their hands and think they can forever enjoy the fruits of yesterday's efforts.

If you retired today, would you be remembered as a leader who embraced the future and continually refined your image of what the future would look like? Or, remembered as the one who fell in love with the status quo and warmly allowed others to do the same?

Tennis great Roger Federer embraced a healthy mentality about success. "I always questioned myself in the best of times," he said, "even when I was world number one for many, many weeks and months in a row. At certain times during the year, I said, 'What can I improve? What do I need to change? Because if you don't do any-

thing or you just do the same thing over and over again, you stay the same and staying the same means going backward."

Great message: don't be consumed or too impressed with your past success. Keep asking what needs to get better so I don't stagnate.

Reshaping the present and shaping the future is imperative for continued success and even survival.

Bill Gates believes, "Success today requires the agility and drive to constantly rethink, reinvigorate, react and reinvent."

### Questions to Ponder:

1. When is the last time I changed anything in my daily routine?
2. How is my vision of the future different than the reality of the present? What am I doing to bridge the gap?

### 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

scatteredbrethren.org (Robin Todd)  
**focusonthekingdom.org** (Anthony Buzzard)  
**restitutio.org** (Sean Finnegan)  
**21stcr.org** (Dan Gill)  
**trinities.org** (Dr. Dale Tuggy)  
**thegodofjesus.com** (Kegan Chandler)

# My Journey

## By David Cheatwood

I was knit together in my mother's womb in the late fall of 1940. I came forth from that womb on July 1, 1941 at the Perrysburg, OH hospital. God brought me into a loving and caring family. They loved Christ, the church, and people. They taught me to do the same. This is the foundation of my care for others and my ministry. Their influence on my life was such a blessing for me. I am thankful to God for His grace to me.

At a Methodist church in McClure, OH, during a revival service, I accepted Christ as my Savior. I was not baptized at that time because we were attending a Methodist church in Napoleon, OH, and they didn't practice baptism by immersion. The pastor of that church in Napoleon, OH, accepted Christ at a Billy Graham service in Miami, FL, when he mustered out of the Navy. He was the first person to suggest to me that the pastoral ministry might be right for me.

When our family moved to Springfield, OH, at the end of my freshman year of high school, a fellow named E. Richard Smith stopped by our house one day and walked out into our garden and asked my Dad and I if we would like to come to church at the Lawrenceville Church of God. Our family had not yet picked a church home, and Dad told him we would give it a try and thanked him for inviting us. My journey in the Church of God Abrahamic Faith began that following Sunday.

It was there that I heard Pastor E. Richard share from his pulpit the words: "Don't believe what I am saying because I am saying it, but check it out in your Bible and see if it is true". In my fourteen years of attending church I had never heard a pastor challenge anyone to check out what they were saying. He challenged me to listen and study and see what God was telling us. I started paying better attention.

I was blessed with faithful men of God who talked with me, loved me, encouraged me, and stirred me to service and to honor God in my life. I will always be thankful for their love and influence in my life. It was there that I was baptized. There was one fellow by the name Charlie Graham who kept talking to me about going to OBC and studying for the ministry. During one of our youth group's gospel team efforts to the Cleveland, OH, Golden Rule Church, he asked me to preach. He suggested I take a tract from the entryway at church and put together my sermon using it as a outline. Dale Swartz's father re-

corded that message during the service and I got to hear my voice on tape for the first time. That was sure a strange experience. It was a good day in my life and pastoral ministry didn't seem like a bad idea after all.

During my senior year of high school, I started taking an interest in a young woman that a former girlfriend convinced me I should go out with. At this point in my life I had dated a lot of girls, and my Mom used to say: "If I had more than two dates with a girl, she was afraid I was getting serious." She also told me this girl was different. My reply was: "Sure, Mom, she's just a girl". As you might have guessed, she was right. Wanda and I started going steady that year, and her wonderful influence on my life is a blessing from God Himself. Thank you, Father.

With about one year left in the Navy, Wanda and I were married at Lawrenceville by E. Richard, and we will have 57 years together as man and wife on March 11th of this year. She is my best friend, lover, helper and greatest supporter. She comforts me when I am hurting, corrects me when I am out of line, stands beside me in all that we experienced in ministry and our daily lives. God has blessed us with four sons that are precious to us and a blessing in our lives. Watching them and their families grow and mature is part of our joy.

After I got out of the Navy in 1962, Wanda and I moved to Oregon, IL to attend the Bible College. Just before classes started that fall, I was laid off from my job and we learned that Wanda was pregnant with our first child. Her sister and brother-in-law came out to visit us one weekend and suggested we move back to Ohio. We made that move, because we didn't see how we could stay and go to school without an income.

I worked at several jobs during the next five years and did very well in those jobs, but I wasn't challenged by them or fulfilled in my work. Meanwhile Charlie Graham kept asking me when I was going back to OBC.

After General Conference in 1967 Wanda and I went out to Oregon, IL, to see if I could find work and housing so I could take classes at the college. That Friday I was hired at Kable Printing in Mount Morris, IL, and we found an apartment to stay in. This took one afternoon. We felt we had God's blessing and were on the right track. Did I mention that we now had two children and another on

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

the way? Maybe not the easiest decision in our lives but it was the right one.

During my junior year at OBC, I started traveling to St. Louis, MO, every other weekend to preach at our church there. During the second semester, I was speaking to St. Louis one weekend and the Lombard Church of God in Lombard, IL, on the other weekend. It was a busy time. Wanda dutifully was raising the children without much help from me. At the end of my junior year at OBC, the Lombard Church hired me as their pastor, and I drove back and forth to OBC my senior year. I spent Monday and Tuesday nights at the men's dorm, went into Lombard to lead Bible study on Wednesday evening, spend the night with my family and return to OBC early Thursday morning. Thursday evening to stay at the men's dorm and returned to Lombard Friday afternoon. I don't remember how many miles I drove that year, but it was a bunch.

After college I got involved in the charismatic movement and was asked to resign at Lombard, or I would be let go. This was a crushing time for me and I went into deep depression for a time. I resigned and asked God to let me know if He still wanted me in pastoral ministry or not. I shared that I understood if He wanted me doing something else. I asked Him to let me know by next September (nine months away) if He wanted me back in the pulpit. Pastor Clarence Lapp was a great encouragement to me during this time. We moved back to Ohio, lived in one of my father-in-law's apartments and started the healing process. I was offered a very secure position with the company I was working for and explained that I couldn't give them an answer until September. They were willing to hold the job for me until then. This offer came just before Easter. Now what was I supposed to do? Was this God telling me to stay put? Then stuff started happening.

We received calls from the Little Rock Church of God, the Raymore Church of God, the Open Bible Church in Bedford, OH, the Rockford, IL, Church of God and the St. Louis Church. Wanda asked me what are we going to do. We turned down the Little Rock church because of some troubles they were experiencing that wouldn't have been good for us to deal with at this time in our lives. We went to Raymore for a trial sermon on Easter Sunday, and they didn't have an offer yet and said they would get back to us on Tuesday. Meanwhile, all the other churches that had contacted us are willing to wait in line for our decision. This just doesn't happen, does it? The Bedford church had asked us to come and was pressing for a

decision. They called Tuesday evening to see what we had decided about Raymore. They had not been able to meet because of a tornado warning. Bedford said they would call again Wednesday evening. Meanwhile, on our way to Bible study at the North Hills Church in Springfield, OH, Wanda asked me what we were going to do. We asked the brethren at North Hills to be praying for us because we had to make a decision soon. When we got home, we heard from the Raymore Church with an offer and didn't feel it was right for us. We decided that I would ask three questions of the Bedford Church, and if we got the right answers, we would go there. When they called we got the right answers, and I told them they had a new pastor. It was a very good decision. They were a blessing for us and a great encouragement to us the six years we were with them. Later we learned that the Overholzers from Lawrenceville had recommended us and that is why we were asked to come without a trial sermon.

After six years at Bedford, I was getting restless and felt we needed to move on. I wanted my children to experience rural America and I wanted to find a larger church that I could work with full-time, if possible. We resigned at Bedford, and everyone wanted to know where we were going. I told them we didn't know. Finally, in February on Valentine's Day, I asked God to send us a call because the Bedford Church was not looking because they thought we would stay. I had just gone to sleep, and the phone rang. It was the Eden Valley, MN church, and they offered me the pastorate right there sight unseen. We made our move. Later we learned that Edith Eades, my dorm mother at OBC had recommended me, and they made their decision on her recommendation. It seemed God was working behind the scenes as usual, and we were just being blessed.

Because of health issues, I resigned at Eden Valley. I wish I could have moved the whole town and our families south. We loved our time in Eden Valley. They were good years, and the boys sure got to see rural America.

Rockford, IL, was our next pastorate, and we spent 17 years at the Rockford Church. I have lots of good memories of those years and a lot of stuff happened in our lives while we lived a good part of our ministry years with these folks. We had several calls from other churches during those years, but just didn't feel it was time to move on.

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

Because of a shakeup in our secular work, we were more open to a move and accepted the call from the Macomb, IL Church of God. We spent four years at the Macomb Church and felt it was time to retire. Things just seemed to be nit picking, and we were able to retire and start healing after some trying times.

We retired to West Lebanon, IN and purchased a house about a half mile from our youngest son, Tony. After eight years with the congregation at the Hedrick Church of God, our pastor (Joe Astolfi) died of cancer, and the church asked us if we would come out of retirement and lead the church. This was an easy decision because of the wonderful people at Hedrick and the way they had helped us heal after our years at Macomb.

I am happy in ministry, fulfilled in my life, and thankful to God He is still willing to use me in His service. Wanda continues to walk side by side with me, and she is such a blessing in my life. It is nice to be living near family, and we are only three to five hours away from our boys and their families. God is good.

During my years in ministry, I am thankful for those who taught me, those who encouraged me, and even for those who discouraged me.

My time with fellow ministers at conferences was always a special time for me. The fellowship of believers is one of the most valuable things we have on this earth. Don't be a loaner when God has surrounded you with faithful people who care about you. Surround yourself with people you can trust and go to them with your heart and share your needs with them. Most will support you and help you if you will open up to them.

It is good to be back in the pulpit. It gives me purpose and direction for my life, and I am thankful for this opportunity. Helping others know our Heavenly Father, His Son and His direction for their lives is a wonderful privilege. Thanks for letting me share my journey with you.





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# Good News Page (GNP) from the Church of God

Collected by Robert Jones

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – **Pastor Vivian E. Kirkpatrick II** and the whole church congratulate the following for their accomplishments: **Mindy and Faith Forcier** were the heart and soul of the University of Northwestern softball team that won the UMAC tournament with three decisive victories; **Halle Becker** received first place at the Lakeside Elementary science fair for her “Vegetable Power” project with LED lights powered by potatoes and carrots; **Natalie Karl** was awarded first place in Social Media Marketing at the Ridgewater College 2018 Skills Fest. Congratulations to all of you! Know that your church is so proud of you!

From the **Troy View Church of God in Troy, OH** – The ladies of the church enjoyed a Ladies’ Night Out with pizza, popcorn, pj’s, and a movie on March 9. Appropriately, they watched the movie “Mom’s Night Out.” The fun, food, and fellowship were great!

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Connor Young** repeated his 22-mile walk to raise money for veterans who suffer from PTS or TBI from last year, and he added another challenge. This year Connor wore a combat vest with weight plates totaling 25 extra pounds while he walked. His goal was to raise \$5,000. [What a wonderful thing to do for such a great cause! – GNP] Congratulations go out to **Jennifer Hoffman** for being awarded Telecommunicator of the Year for 2017 by the Illinois Sheriff’s Association for Ogle County. Your church family thanks you and is proud of you.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – The church congratulates **Peyton Winner** for winning second runner-up in the junior class beauty pageant and **Allison Sisk** on her induction into the Junior Beta Club. The Bethel ladies enjoyed a January weekend retreat in Myrtle Beach with 13 in attendance. **Pastor Wally Winner** presented a seven-week “What If?” sermon series, during which the church collected canned goods for a local food pantry, diapers for the pregnancy crisis center, and shoes for Shoes4Water. The church joined with Guthrie Grove Church of God on Resurrection Sunday for a Sunrise service. Bethel Church hosted a breakfast following the service.

From the **Garden Park Church of God in Grand Rapids, MI** – The church welcomed back **Joyce Knapp** from her visit in Georgia. **Kyle McClain** and **Jamie Shaull** are engaged, planning a wedding later this year.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Gardeners and green-thumb enthusiasts held a plant exchange on April 30. Plants were shared, traded, and picked up as desired. Lunch was provided afterward. [What a novel idea! Others should try it! – GNP] **Sarah Bliss** will host a Joyful Living Conference on June 16 at the church via simulcast. It is for women of all ages, focusing on exploring God’s word and growing closer to Jesus. **Pastor Michael Hoffman** and the whole church thank the following for their contributions to the church: **Steve and Dixie Hammer** (sharing a meal at the Veterans Drop-In Center in Rockford); all of those who helped in some way with Sunrise service and the breakfast (**O.K. and Ken Welty, Mike Rager, Linda Hoffman, Sharon and Sarah Bliss; Mary Cheatwood; Melody Welty; Steve and Dixie Hammer; Earlyne Warmolts;** and others) (you know who you are, and God knows you, too).

**Birthday and Anniversary Department** – **Maria Capello** celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at Garden Park COG with her church family on March 2. **Willman Gentry** (Bethel COG) turned 86 on March 24, and **David and Judy Sloan** (Bethel COG) celebrated their 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on January 26.

**Congratulations to Graduates** – **Kayla Jancze** and **Noah Middleton** (Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA) (high school); **Katlyn Caldwell** and **Ashlee Barger** (Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH) (high school); **Rylie Supinger, Wade Alcorn, and Maddie Cain** (Troy View COG) (all high school); **Isaac Cain, Josiah Cain, Andrew Hedges, Breanna Oakes, and Nikki Pierce** (Lawrenceville COG) (all college). [Way to go, all of you! We are all proud of you and wish you God’s very best in your future. - GNP] [I know there are lots more COG high school and college graduates out there. PLEASE let GNP know so we all can celebrate the accomplishments that our young people are achieving. – PLEASE!!]

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]

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 ([rjones@atlantabiblecollege.com](mailto:rjones@atlantabiblecollege.com)), and we’ll put you in print! ~Robert L. Jones

## Prophecy Page

By Wally Winner



The United States has officially moved its embassy to Jerusalem, the capital city of the nation of Israel! This is not by chance nor is it a coincidence that the official opening of the embassy was on May 14th, the same day that Israel was reborn as a nation, 70 years after Israel became a nation. Seventy years ago on May 14th Presi-

dent Harry Truman declared Israel as a nation, the first world leader to do so, seventy years later President Donald Trump has opened the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, coincidence? I don't think so!

About 800 guests attended the ceremony. The U.S. was represented by a formally designated "Presidential Delegation" led by Deputy Secretary of State, John J. Sullivan, and including U.S. Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, Presidential Advisor Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner and Jason Greenblatt, the White House's lead negotiator. A bicameral congressional delegation and other U.S. dignitaries were present for the ceremony, which was also attended by top diplomats from 33 nations.

In a video message, President Trump called this "a great day for Israel", saying: "Israel is a sovereign nation, with the right like any other sovereign nation to designate its capital."

Contrary to what politicians and pundits may say, Israel, not the United States, not Russia, but Israel, is the most important nation on earth. Jerusalem, not Washington, not Moscow, not Peking, not Paris, not London, is the most important city on earth. Jerusalem is the most contentious city in the world.

In his remarks, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin thanked American leaders for making the move possible. "The American congress has, for many years now, recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. And I want to thank the many members of the Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike, for their love and support for Israel."

There are now uprisings in the Islamic community, uprisings against Israel, forces seeking her destruction. The fact is that they will use any reason to attack Israel. This is only one more reason.

But the truth remains the truth and always shall, regardless of who believes it or not. The city of Jerusalem, Israel, is God's chosen city. It is the capital of Israel, and God has written His name upon it!

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked the U.S. president calling this "a great day for Israel" and a great day for America." He echoed the president's sentiment, saying "I believe it's also a great day for peace. You can only build peace on truth. And the truth is that Jerusalem has been and always will be the capital of the Jewish people, and the capital of the Jewish state."

When we talk about Jerusalem from a prophetic point of view, we are talking about a lot more than ancient stones and modern buildings. We are essentially talking about the Jewish people and God's prophetic word to them, as well as the physical city. We are talking about God's plans and the world's opposition.

Even as we are seeing now, world opinion is going to continuously harden against Israel. What we read in the newspapers is already read in the Word of God. **"And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it."** (Zech. 12:3)

It is here the last battle of the last war, will be fought. **"For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle."** (Zech. 14:2-3)

David exhorted in **Psalm 122:6, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem."** Now why did he not say pray for peace on earth? Because there will be no peace on earth until there is peace in Jerusalem. There will be no peace in Jerusalem until the Prince of Peace returns.

# Missions: Africa 2018

## By LHI (Lord's Harvest International)

### Team members:

Joe & Rebekah Martin, Jacob Rohrer, and Rollin Carlblom

### Itinerary:

May 21-23 travel to Malawi via Johannesburg

May 23 – June 4 Malawi

June 5-15 Mozambique

June 16 – July 2 Kenya

### Malawi May 23 – June 4

In Malawi, we'll visit approximately ten of our churches and meet with the Malawi board for one day. On this trip we will have community services in the morning and have personal meetings with the pastors right after lunch to get to know them better and hear their hearts. We are encouraging a self-perpetuating, indigenous, work through the board members. When we get in the churches, we let the churches know that the board has already determined which church buildings are to be built next. We will also be able to buy approximately 200 Bibles for each country, because a lot of funds have come in for this project. Generally, we do not determine who gets a Bible. Instead, we let the overseer of particular areas make those decisions in conjunction with their own pastors. We will be able to stay in the mission home for most of the time in Malawi. With the campaigns of "Bibles, Bicycles, and Buildings" (church), we distribute from the funds that have been given to LHI. Also, items donated for from the Missions Catalog are reviewed and then coordinated giving is done appropriately, for example to the churches with orphanages. The board members of Malawi are Pastor Fraser, Pastor Moyo, Pastor Maxwell, Pastor Christina, Pastor Howard, and Pastor Namaona, with Linda Limbe acting as coordinator for both Malawi and Mozambique.

### Milange, Mozambique June 5–June 15

In Mozambique, things are a little tougher. First, we have to go to the embassy to get a visa and also have papers on our truck in order to cross the border. The Mozambique board consists of three of the hardest working evangelists around, Pastor Bango, Pastor Tchakka, and Pastor Sande. Pastor Tchakka is the one interviewed by Josiah Cain on our website and tells of going through war for more than a decade hiding out in the mountains and still having church. We will be there about ten days through June 14. For housing, we stay at the "Pensao Lili" in the governmental village of Milange, only about ten miles from the Malawi border. The churches are un-

der the three pastors, each pastor overseeing about 100 churches. We are doing the same in Mozambique, as the money comes in, three church buildings, as many bicycles that have been donated for, and Bibles, etc. Pastor Bango's area is to the north from our home base, Pastor Tchakka's area is to the east towards the ocean, and Pastor Sande's area is to the southeast of our home base at Pensao Lili. The exciting thing about this visit is that we now have a headquarters church facility in the Villa. This was required for official church registration in Mozambique. We will follow a similar schedule in Mozambique as in Malawi. We'll have regular church/community services in the morning and then after lunch meet with the area pastors.

### Kenya June 16–July 2

We will start in Nairobi and stay at a hostel. We have several new contacts with whom we are meeting. The next day we will fly to Eldoret, in northwest Kenya. We will have several days teaching there. From there we go the headquarters church in Maturu, with Pastor Maurice Chahilu. Maurice has planned special meetings focused on prophecy and the biblical teachings we share. We will be in that area approximately June 21 to June 25. The Maturu church was the recent Church Builder's Appeal, for the Kenya headquarters. We will review plans with Maurice and hopefully begin the foundation for the new building. Then we will travel to two areas in the southwest area, meeting with board members there, especially Pastor James Nyangute and Pastor Amos Anyango. Both Maurice and James have church schools that they operate. Usually we rent a place and have intense Bible teachings for the pastors in the region for two or three days. Kenyans know English fairly well and often we do not need a translator for the different dialects. Kenya has forty-two tribes which means forty-two dialects! Lord willing, we will be back July 3, in time to celebrate Independence Day, the next day, in America!



## Missions: Peru Highlights 2018

By LHI (Lord's Harvest International)

### Peru Summer Happenings:

- Annual Peru Theological Conference: Huanuco, Peru
- Lima Church Renovation: Installing new front door to keep trespassers out, leveling concrete floor, remodeling kitchen soon after
- New Ministry: Children's Classes in Lima, Peru on Sunday mornings

### LHI Peru Trip: June 25–July 3

- Team spend 3 days in Lima meeting and teaching with new friends and old
- Team spend remainder of trip in Huanuco where we will meet with Peruvians from several regions. While there, we will lead a Vacation Bible School, help lead worship, preach, and build everlasting relationships.
- Team Members: Rick McClain, Aaron Winner, Josiah Cain, Amber Cain, Mackenzie McClain, Carey Clark, Jenny Clark.
- Alex Davila from Nicaragua will meet us there to fellowship, teach and learn.



## Kingdom Missions Academy National Conference and Missions Training

Friday October 5, 5pm – Sunday October 7, 2pm  
Higher Ground Church, White House, TN

Do you want to be more prepared and more useful in ministry and on short-term and long-term mission trips?

Do you want training to be more effective reaching out to your neighbors, to refugees, immigrants, and international students coming to the United States?

Are you interested in effectively doing kingdom work and obeying the Great Commission, online and in the field?

## The Harvest is Plentiful, But Workers are Few

- How to share and defend biblical truths while dialoging in person and online
- Internet evangelism & how to reach the lost in our communities, surrounding towns, states, and world from each of our churches
- Overview of our current mission fields and contacts
- Overview of world religions and world views
- Learn more about future mission training camps and mission trips (Kingdom of God Ministry & Missions partnering with MN Missionary Society and Lord's Harvest International)
- Prayer for the nations

### Speakers & Trainers

Dan & Sharon Gill, Carey Clark, Alane Rozelle, Joe & Rebekah Martin, Restoration Fellowship, Tracy Zhykhovich, and maybe others...

More info @ <http://kogmissions.com/kingdom-missions-academy-conference-training>



## Missions: Russia Highlights 2018

By LHI (Lord's Harvest International)

### Printing

We printed 1000 copies of each title:

- *Our Fathers Who Aren't in Heaven*, by Anthony Buzzard
- *The Doctrine of the Trinity*, by Anthony Buzzard

### Translation

- Monthly translation and printing of "Focus on the Kingdom", by Restoration Fellowship
- *The One*, by Dan Gill has been translated and is being proofread. Lord willing, we hope to soon have this book on our site and then raise money to print.

### Baptisms

In 2017 Maksim baptized Sister Nataliya (Novosibirsk, Russia), Sister Aigul (Turkmenistan), Brother Vohid, and he baptized his wife, Sister Nadezhda (Tadzhikistan). Maksim also baptized sister Ksenia, from Samara.

### Ministry Online

- Over 72,000 followers on one of Maksim's Unitarian "Facebook-type" group.
- Over 56,000 people have visited his website. <http://unitarian.su/>
- People have visited the website from Russia, the former Soviet Republics, Israel, Germany, Romania, France, China, Poland, Turkey, USA, Canada, Mexico, South Africa, Peru, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Finland, Serbia, and Greece.

### Evangelism

- 27 saved in 9 different countries
- 6 are awaiting the resurrection
- Maksim visits "closer" (within a night's train ride) brethren every other weekend, taking turns who he sees. He also spends the weekend with a boy from the orphanage as a Big Brother every other weekend.



# FUEL 2018

Manchester University  
North Manchester, IN  
July 22-27, 2018

Register at

**[tpym.com](http://tpym.com)**

# Atlanta Bible College: Korean Extension

By Sam An



Dear brothers and sisters of the General Conference,

The Korean Extension thanks all of you for your unfailing support for the Korean missions! God has blessed us again with another remarkable school year. The KE closed the spring 2018 semester with 50 students at the North Campus. We are truly honored and privileged that God continues to provide us with the opportunity and the strength to teach and guide our students to become more intimate with Him.

The highlight of the semester took place on April 30th. On this day, the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension's 75th graduation ceremony took place. We had two KE students and two Korea Campus students complete our program: Mr. Hojung Kim and Mr. Jaehyun Bang from the North Campus and Ms. Kyoung Sun Choi and Ms. Jong Soon Baek from the Korea Campus. All four individuals have worked hard to complete their studies. In attendance were some of our Korean students, staff members, our Executive Director Seth Ross who delivered the message, and our Academic Dean David Krogh who provided us with the invocation. A reception lunch was provided afterwards.

## 2018 ABCKE Campus Graduates



L to R: David Krogh, Seth Ross, Hyejung Na, Jaehyun Bang, Hojung Kim, Steve An, and Jaeyun Shim



Hojung Kim (left) and Jaehyun Bang (right)



KE students and staff, Seth Ross, and David Krogh



L to R: Young An, Kyoung Sun Choi, and Jong Soon Baek

## Church Classifieds

### Michigantown, IN—Pastor

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've 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 retired 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.

### Bristow, OK—Pastor

Bristow Advent Christian Church is seeking a pastor. "The mission of the Bristow Advent Christian Church is to bring people into a personal relationship with God; through Jesus Christ and to disciple them by the spiritual application of biblical principles in daily living."

They have provided key documents if interested: job description, church mission statement, and Bristow, OK demographic information. These can be sent upon request.

Inquiries should be directed to either of the following:  
Jack Smith is board chairman, 918-688-1891  
Kristi VanOrsdol is secretary, 918-645-8461

Any questions or referrals should go to them.

### Latham, NY—Contemporary Worship Leader Living Hope Community Church

Are you looking for an adventure where you can really put your faith into practice? Come to New York and serve as our worship leader for a year (or more). Join a multi-generational community centered on proclaiming God's glory and his coming kingdom as we endeavor to follow Christ authentically. We are looking for a creative individual who can work with others and lead us in engaging worship on a weekly basis.

This part-time position will average about 10-15 hours per week. Compensation is \$15.00 per hour. Included is a

fully-furnished room in our three-bedroom guest house located next to the church and offices. Google or Bing "460 Old Niskayuna Rd, Latham, NY" for a street view of the guest house. The address for the church is 458 Old Niskayuna Rd, Latham, NY.

#### Job Description:

- pick songs for each Sunday service and send to secretary by Thursday
- prepare all necessary song sheets and other materials for praise team
- lead rehearsal one evening per week w/ praise team (currently Thursdays)
- arrive Sundays at 8:30am for practice and coordination for 10:30am service
- attend a monthly planning meeting to schedule services 4-6 weeks out
- lead music on Easter (April 21), Christmas Eve, Kingdom Fest (Sept 7-9), and other church events

#### Qualifications:

- able to train vocalists and musicians and develop team depth
- work well with others, including the pastors, other musicians, and the audio/video team
- recruit members to the praise team and empower them
- humble to receive instruction
- proficient with guitar (other instruments are a plus)
- able to download and copy musical content and manage song lists in digital format
- ability to work independently and use sound judgment

#### Apply:

Send a resume and cover letter, explaining why you would be a good fit to Sean Finnegan at sean@lhim.org.

References and video or audio demonstrating your musical qualifications will be needed upon request.

## Church News

### Baptisms

#### Indiana

Maple Grove—Rita Cline (12/10/17) by Robert Morrison

#### Louisiana

New Beginnings Christian Church – Brennan Domingues (9/10/2017) and Blain Gibbs (9/17/17) by Dan Landry

#### South Carolina

Bethel—Nathan Sisk (11/12/17) and Colby Winner (11/12/17) by Wally Winner

### Deaths

#### Arizona

Tempe— Wanda Carr, 104, (1/30/18), by Steve Taylor

#### Colorado

Colorado Springs—Dorothy Landry, 88, (1/11/18)

#### Illinois

Oregon— Helen (Burnett) Jones, 85, (6/11/17) by Michael Hoffman

Oregon—June Andrew, 90, (4/20/18) by Michael Hoffman

Flagg Center—Margaret Foster, 96, (2/11/18) by Ron Macy

#### Indiana

Terre Haute—Elizabeth Gonzalez, 71, (12/24/17) by David Cheatwood

#### Ohio

Trotwood—Ralph Childs, 87, (7/25/17) by Rex & Alan Cain

Bedford—Nancy Koston, 75, (4/3/18) by Andrew Weaver

#### South Carolina

Sumter—Dace Pruitt, age unknown (10/24/17), no service was held



A 50 Year Reunion and Celebration for the Oregon Bible College Class of 1968 is being planned for July 14 this summer in Oregon, Illinois, following General Conference. Our class wants to invite the fellow students who were at Oregon Bible College those years that we were there to join us for this reunion and celebration, whether you were in the classes before or after our class. Additional information about the day will be available soon.

~Scott Ross

### What is AmazonSmile?

It is a simple and automatic way for you to support the General Conference every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://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.



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On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](https://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](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation of 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

**98th Annual Church of God  
General Conference  
July 11-13, 2018  
Oregon Church of God, Oregon, IL**



**Theme: Yesterday, Today, & Forever**

**Wednesday – July 11**

- 4:00 – Conference Registration
- 5:00 – Welcome Cook Out
- 7:00 – Worship Service
- 8:30 – Welcome Reception

**Thursday & Friday – July 12-13**

*Breakfast on your own*

- 9:00 – Chapel
- 10:00 – Break
- 10:30 – 2-Day Workshops (Th & Fri)
  - Marriage Mentoring In Our Churches (Eileen Moore)
  - Leading With Truth (Dennis Sharp)
  - Adorned Women (Sharon Bliss & Melody Welty)
  - The Dangers of Trying to Marry Scripture with Naturalism (Greg Landry)
  - How Childhood Brain Development Impacts Doctrinal Instruction (Stacey Ross)
  - Ministers' Association Meeting

12:00 – Lunch

1:30 – Chapel

2:15 – 1-Day Workshops

**Thursday Workshops**

- Passing On the Difference (John Bliss)
- Africa Report (Joe & Rebekah Martin)
- God's Science-Defying Power: Miracles in the Old Testament (Bob Jones)
- Truth Matters! (John Railton)
- Observations from 40 Years of Pastoring in the COG (Richard Alcumbrack)
- MVRA Meeting (2:15-3:00) + ABCDF Meeting (3:00-3:45)

**Friday Workshops**

- Social Media and the Church: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (Jay Smith)
- Identifying and Discipling Dragons (Terrence Raper)
- Insights into COG Doctrines from Translating Psalms and Proverbs (Dustin Smith)
- Mentoring & Discipling Men: Tools, Burgers, Free Sports Games, & Recliners (Dan Cain)
- Raising Children to Adore God (Susan Landry)
- OBC/ABC Alumni Meeting

3:45 – Break

4:00 – Business Session (ends at 5:15)

5:30 – Dinner

7:00 – Worship Service

**Register for General Conference at**

**coggc.org**

**or call 678-833-1839**

## Prayer List: February 2018

- 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 Restoration Church in Oklahoma City, OK.
- 17 **Pray that God will raise up donors for ABC's financial needs.**
- 18 Pray for the Ministers Association members (licensed ministers of the Church of God).
- 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 students who attend scheduled retreats.
- 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 the churches in Africa.

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## Prayer List: March 2018

- 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 advance planning and preparation for the annual Prophecy Conference held in Arkansas each spring.**
- 4 Pray that God will raise up missionary candidates.
- 5 **Pray for the advance planning and preparation for Christian Workers Seminar held each spring.**
- 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 Pray 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 Pray for Robin Taylor who runs the office at Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference.
- 29 **Pray for the advance planning and preparation for the Theological Conference to be held each spring.**
- 30 Pray for new attendees at your local congregation.
- 31 **Pray for the ministry of Lupe Badillo in Mexico.**

## Prayer List: April 2018

- 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 our work 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 Andy & Kristy Cisneros.**
- 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 Pray for dedicated Church of God ministers.
- 19 **Pray for retired pastor Ken Howe.**
- 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 attenders of Christian Workers Seminar which is held each spring.**
- 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.

### Church of God 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Conference Oregon Church of God | Oregon, IL July 10 and 11, 2018



#### Tuesday, July 10

- 1:00 Welcome and Announcements (Jan Stilson)
- 1:15 Keynote Address: History of Oregon, Illinois with 1953 film. History of the buildings used/owned by the COG and OBC (Michal Burnett)
- 2:00 Oregon Bible College 1968 Class Reunion (David Krogh)
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 History of Korean Missions in America and South Korea (Steve An)
- 4:15 The History of the ABC Korean Extension (Steve An)
- 5:15 Evening Meal
- 6:00 Greg Demmitt
- 7:00 History of the COG Youth Movement. Part 2 (David Krogh)
- 8:00 Ice Cream Social with video of final service of Golden Rule, Cleveland, OH

#### Wednesday, July 11

##### *Breakfast on your own*

- 9:00 Music and Church Planting (Robin Todd)
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 History and Function of Media Technology in the Church of God (John Smead)
- 11:00 Church of God Books I have Enjoyed (Scott Ross)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 The Cleveland Project (Jan Stilson)
- 1:30 My Years as Editor of The Restitution Herald (Russell Magaw)
- 2:30 History of the Belle Plaine, Iowa Archives (Nancy Rankin)
- 3:30 Tours of former General Conference building and Oregon Piano Factory

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



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**July 11-13, 2018**

**Oregon, IL**

Childcare | Worship | Ministry training | Fellowship | Vision | Heritage





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

## General Conference 2018 Supplement

*We have come to the final announcement relative to General Assembly of the Church of God.*

*We want to thank one and all for the interest taken in this effort to date.*

*May each one remember that those who have been promoting this work have been prompted entirely with a desire to labor only to the honor of our Lord and Master. We are not saying that we have the only right thought or method to propose. We have merely done our best to arouse one and all to a consideration of the opportunities that such a united work should present.*

~F.L. Austin, 1921

## Candidate: Board of Directors



It is an honor to be nominated for a position on the Board of Directors by the Oregon Church of God. For those who do not know me, please consider the following: I grew up in the Hope Chapel/Timberland church, and at age thirteen was baptized into the faith by Pastor Ed Bender. I have been married to Donna (Welty) of the Oregon church for thirty-two years, and together we have two boys, Cassel (3 yr.) and Caissen (1 yr.). We currently live in Oregon, Illinois.

After attending the Bible College I served as pastor to churches in Dixon, IL, Nashville, TN, Ripley, IL, and am currently the co-pastor at Flagg Center in Flagg Center, IL. I also had the opportunity to serve as a pastor and/or leader in several churches outside of our denomination, all without compromising my belief in our distinctive doctrines. Donna and I owned two successful businesses spanning more than twenty years. The first, an entertainment management company, and the second, a retail business.

While at the Bible College I became involved in radio, and went on to host my own radio show on two separate Christian radio stations, one in Rockford, IL, and the other in South Bend, IN. I also studied communications at Northern Illinois University, and film production at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles, CA.

I am frequently called a creative and “out of the box” thinker, and take great pride in using my creativity to help others grow in their faith. I have a special interest in sociology, church trends, and how the Body of Christ can use social media, video and other forms of mass media to spread the good news of God’s coming Kingdom to the rest of the world. I believe that my experience as a pastor and business owner combined with my education and special interests make me a viable candidate for the Board of Directors and an asset to the General Conference as we navigate our way through the digital age. For this reason, I ask that you prayerfully consider my nomination.

I welcome all questions and comments at: [cjaysmith@live.com](mailto:cjaysmith@live.com).

Serving Christ Together,  
Jay Smith

## Proposed Budget: Income

2018-2019 revisions & proposed

	2018-2019	2018-2019	2019-2020
	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
		<u>Revisions</u>	
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>			
General Contributions	\$420,000	\$400,000	\$390,000
<b>SALES:</b>			
Books & Curriculum	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
<b>BIBLE COLLEGES:</b>			
Tuition, Housing, ABCDF support	\$385,100	\$372,300	\$397,100
<b>PROGRAM INCOME:</b>			
Conferences & Workshops	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Tenant & Other	\$174,500	\$184,500	\$184,500
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$1,002,600</b>	<b>\$979,800</b>	<b>\$994,600</b>
<b>Expense Total (from other sheet)</b>	<b>\$1,002,600</b>	<b>\$979,800</b>	<b>\$994,600</b>
<b>(Income less Expense)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 adopted by the delegates at the 2017 summer conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

#### Income Categories

(complete line-item budget available)

**Contributions** – non-specific giving by individuals, churches, and conferences

**Sales** – includes all sales of quarterlies, class & non-class books, and unused assets

**Bible Colleges**— estimated income from ABC/ABCKE classes, rent received from students for housing rented by the college, transfer of investment income from the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation, charges for specific services for college students, such as application fees

**Program Income**—net income is tracked separately for each event; together, all events provide a modest net income

**Miscellaneous Income**— income from tenants leasing space in the McDonough, GA office building, interest income, and other revenue

## Proposed Budget: Expense

2018-2019 revisions & proposed

	2018-2019 Approved	2018-2019 Proposed Revisions	2019-2020 Proposed
<b>STAFF:</b>			
Salaries & Benefits	\$477,500	\$472,000	\$473,000
<b>SERVICES:</b>			
Churches, Ministers, Youth	\$61,000	\$53,000	\$55,000
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>			
Travel, Office, Software, Mail	\$120,650	\$94,000	\$95,000
<b>AVALON CAMPUS:</b>			
Utilities, Maintenance, Equipment	\$126,800	\$136,400	\$141,450
<b>KOREAN EXTENSION(S):</b>			
Campus & College expenses	\$90,400	\$89,600	\$94,850
<b>HOUSING:</b>			
Mortgages, Utilities, HOA, Repair	\$46,950	\$47,550	\$48,050
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>			
Insurance, Fees, Debt Service	\$79,000	\$86,700	\$86,500
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>\$1,002,600</b>	<b>\$979,800</b>	<b>\$994,600</b>
<b>Income Total (from other sheet)</b>	<b>\$1,002,600</b>	<b>\$979,800</b>	<b>\$994,600</b>
<b>(Income less Expense)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### Expense Categories

(complete line-item budget available)

**Staff** – compensation for all full-time and part-time staff, required payment of employer taxes, tax coverage, health insurance premiums, workers compensation, as well as conference premiums for Ministers' Voluntary Retirement Association for some employees

**Services** – grants to churches; Church Development Aid and Church Planting Aid, support for programs and expenses of the Ministerial Association, funding to subsidize the cost of Turning Point Youth Ministries and TPYM's production of FUEL and other events

**Administration**– includes Travel, Professional Services, Staff Training, Periodicals, Books, Dues, Office Machine/Software Lease/Maintenance, Printing & Binding, Postage & Shipping, Book Store

**Avalon Campus**– includes Utilities, Telephone/Internet/Web/Data, Repairs/Maintenance, Furniture & Equipment, Office & Misc. Supplies & Expenses, Property Supplies & Expenses, Student/Staff Meals, Library Periodicals/Books, Advertising/Recruitment, Property Tax

**Korean Extensions**– includes the cost of maintaining & operating the Korean Extension campus (Johns Creek, GA) and the campus in South Korea... campus lease, Utilities, Telephone/Internet/Web/Data, Repairs/Maintenance, Furniture & Equipment, Office & Misc. Supplies & Expenses, Property Supplies & Expenses, Student/Staff Meals, Library Periodicals/Books, Advertising/Recruitment

**Housing**– Mortgages, Home Owners Association, Utilities, Internet, Insurance – Property, Repairs/Maintenance/Security System, Furniture & Equipment, Supplies/Expenses, Property Tax

**Miscellaneous**–insurance (package policy), reserve for capital R/M, debt repayment, annuity payments, allowance for doubtful, accounts, interest, credit card fees, other



**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

## Chairman's Address

By Joe Myers

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, coming down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, coming down upon the edge of his robes." (Ps 133:1,2).*

It has now been several months since we gathered in Oregon, IL for our annual Church of God General Conference. Our thanks to the brethren at the Oregon church for hosting such a wonderful conference. It was "good and pleasant" to be in attendance and to spend time with dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

All aspects of the conference were encouraging. The morning chapels, the diverse classes, the wonderful food and fellowship around the tables, the inspiring music, the energizing preaching, especially the evening services, and, yes, even the business meetings, all blended to produce a very meaningful conference.

It was so good to be re-united with friends from many years ago, and to meet new brothers and sisters for the first time! What an encouragement it was to see so many people from so many churches! How great it was meet people who attended conference for the very first time. It was refreshing to know that the message of the scriptures is held in high esteem from people we previously had not had the opportunity to meet.

That thought leads me to this. Are we as a conference of people ready and prepared to welcome new believers or people new to our conference into the fold? It is important that we prepare ourselves for that certainty!

It is always pleasant and comfortable to join in fellowship once again with those whom we have known for years. People whose faces and voices we recognize. People that we are eager to hug and to find out what is happening in their lives and in their church.

But I believe it is even more important to welcome with arms wide open others who are desirous of joining our fellowship. As word of our long-held and beloved tenets gets out and accepted, we need to be prepared to say, "Yes! Come one, come all!".

It wasn't always like that, even in the early church. The church in Jerusalem was hesitant, to say the least, in welcoming the Gentile brethren. A paraphrase of Acts 15 tells us that Paul and Barnabas had to travel to Jerusalem in order to confront and encourage the messianic Jews to accept the Gentile believers into the community. The church in Jerusalem eventually did, but not everyone was happy about it.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### FEATURES

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### NEWS, EVENTS, & INFORMATION

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- p5 ..... Wenatchee, WA Celebrates 120 Years
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- p9 ..... AmazonSmile
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- p14 ..... Prayer & Praise Calendar
- p16 ..... General Conference 2019

## Chairman's Address

(continued)

(Continued from page 1)

What about the Church of God General Conference? Are we ready? People are coming, I am sure of it. And I believe we need to be ready and willing to hear them out and to love them in. We need not compromise. We need not change one thing concerning our doctrinal positions. Indeed we cannot do that and remain the Church of God. At the same time we must be careful not to impose on people rules and restrictions which the Bible does not impose, anymore than the believers in Jerusalem were initially guilty of doing. It is a fine line. But we must not be afraid, and we must embrace the tension. After all, the church, like our body's muscle, must experience tension if we are to expand the Kingdom of God. If we fail to do so, we will be missing out on some wonderful blessings of God.

It has been nearly 50 years ago since I attended my first Church of God service in Dixon, IL. Little did I know at that time how that small church on Morgan Ave would be the start of a fantastic and meaningful journey in my life. I am so thankful that the good people in that congregation welcomed me with open arms. We must do the same thing today! With God's grace we shall!

RH

### CHURCH OF GOD ONLINE

Church of God General Conference  
[coggc.org](http://coggc.org)

Atlanta Bible College  
[atlantabiblecollege.com](http://atlantabiblecollege.com)

Turning Point Youth Ministry  
[tpym.com](http://tpym.com)

Lord's Harvest International  
[lhicog.com](http://lhicog.com)

Abrahamic Faith Resources  
[abrahamicfaith.org](http://abrahamicfaith.org)

ABC Korean Extension  
[abcke.weebly.com](http://abcke.weebly.com)

### OTHER SITES TO EXPLORE

[scatteredbrethren.org](http://scatteredbrethren.org) (Robin Todd)  
[focusonthe kingdom.org](http://focusonthe kingdom.org) (Anthony Buzzard)  
[restitutio.org](http://restitutio.org) (Sean Finnegan)  
[21stcr.org](http://21stcr.org) (Dan Gill)  
[trinities.org](http://trinities.org) (Dr. Dale Tuggy)  
[thegodofjesus.com](http://thegodofjesus.com) (Kegan Chandler)  
[KOGmissions.org](http://KOGmissions.org) (Tracy Zhykhovich)

## Good News from COG-land

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – The whole church congratulates the following young people for their accomplishments: **Becca Messner** graduated with honors and had a 4.00-plus GPA for her last semester. Becca also received the Kelby Macemon scholarship. **Natalie Karl** graduated with high honors was the only recipient of the red cord from the American Red Cross for her blood donations and volunteer work. Natalie also served as an NHS officer, an executive board member for two years on the BLHS student council, was academic all-conference in volleyball, Student of the Month in May and received the Lions Award for outstanding senior English student.

From the **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – New pastor **J.J. Fletcher** and the church congratulate **Liza Zhykhovich**, who was the 12<sup>th</sup> grade winner of the Bible content test at FUEL, earning her a \$1000 scholarship to ABC. **Trevor Shull** was the 9<sup>th</sup> grade winner. [Great job! Looking forward to seeing you both down here soon! – GNP] Kudos also go to **Misha Zhykhovich** for earning first chair on the all-star quiz team at FUEL. Misha “quizzed out” of every match, meaning he answered the maximum questions possible in each match. [An old quizzer here says “Great job!!”]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Pastor Michael Hoffman** and the whole church want to thank everyone who helped make the recent General Conference such a huge success. Thanks also go to these people (but certainly many others helped in meaningful ways as well): **Pam Buse** for making the display quilt for conference; **Marsha Behrens** for the welcome banner; **Steve and Dixie Hammer** for serving the Veterans' Drop-In Center; the work day helpers (**Michael and Linda Hoffman, Mike Rager, Ellen Laurent, Gary and Connie Stauffer, Eileen Moore, Dan and Sharon and John Bliss, and John Tuttle**); and the many (you know who you are and God knows, too) who helped with the meal for Kim Dial's funeral.

From the **Troy View Church in Troy, OH** – **Pastor Dan Cain** is proud to announce two huge financial successes. Thanks to all who helped make Strawberry Fest a huge success, the church profiting \$7,663. The rummage sale was also a big success, raising close to a \$1000 toward the goal of being debt free. [Great job, folks! – GNP]

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## Good News from COG-land

(continued)

*(Continued from page 2)*

From the **House Light Ministries in St. Cloud, MN** – **Samuel Moore** set new records in shot put and discus at the sectional level, advancing to state competition. He took first in the state in the shot put with a throw of 62'3-1/2" and finished second in discus. Samuel has a football scholarship at North Dakota State University. **Terri Moore** worked at the Kingdom of God Ministry & Missions booth at a county fair, talking to people about the kingdom of God message.

From the **St. Cloud Church in St. Cloud, MN** – Several people manned the Kingdom of God Ministry & Missions booth at a six-day county fair. Plans are underway to present the Leslie Ludy "Joyful Living" conference via simulcast October 27 at the St. Cloud Church building.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Good news! The church treated everyone to a special dinner after church at Alfano's [The best pizza ever! – GNP] on September 16 as a thank-you for making 2018 General Conference a success. [Wish we could be there, too! – GNP]

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – More congratulations for achievements by our young people. **Logan Karl** received the Best Attitude Award and the Helping Hand Award in band and also received the FFA Greenhand Award. **Ben Karl** received the Good Sharing Award in science and social studies, Most Enthusiastic Award in choir, and FFA Discovery Degree. **Philip Kirkpatrick** recently earned his red belt in Hapkido (the highest belt before entering the adult program), mastering 147 Hapkido moves, and he also was chosen for Math Masters program for fifth grade. **Amber Messner** made high honors Dean's List with a 4.0 GPA at Southwest Minnesota State University. **Jayden Fleck** was named to the 2018 Google Cloud Academic All-America second team. Jayden was also named SMSU's defensive player of the year in baseball. **Mindy Forcier**, University of Northwestern-St. Paul leadoff hitter in softball, was named to the third team of the All-Midwest region.

**Congratulations to Graduates** – Adding to the list of graduation congratulations from the last RH/PJ, here are some more. **Giancarlo Malerba** (college) and **Micah Cramer** (eighth grade), both from **Comerstone Bible Church in McDonough GA**; **Jeremiah Smead** (high school – **Pine Grove Bible Church**); **Arianna Moore** (eighth grade), **Cheyenne Brooks** (high school), **Ashley Dial** (high school), and **Zach Hall** (college), all from **Oregon Church of God**; **Den-**

**ise Kirkpatrick** (master's degree in counseling), **Natalie Karl** (high school), and **Rebecca Messner** (high school), all from **Hutchinson Church of God**. [I know there must be lots more COG high school and college graduates out there. Please let GNP know so we all can celebrate the accomplishments that our young people are achieving. – PLEASE!!]

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 COG-Land! 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 TO*

*([rjones@atlantabiblecollege.com](mailto:rjones@atlantabiblecollege.com)), and we'll put you in print!*

~Robert L. Jones

### 50 Year Celebration Fonthill, Ontario, CAN

Glad Tidings Church of God is celebrating 50 years at their current location on 1 Pancake Lane, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada and we are planning special events for this November 16 – 18, 2018.

If you have fond memories of Glad Tidings, please plan on joining us for a time of reminiscing and fellowship.

For further information, please visit:

**[facebook.com/gladtidingschurchofgod](https://www.facebook.com/gladtidingschurchofgod)**

OR

**[GladTidingsChurchOfGod.com](http://GladTidingsChurchOfGod.com)**

***We look forward to seeing you there!***



## Memories of the Fourteenth Annual Heritage Conference in Oregon, Illinois

By David Krogh and Jan Stilson

The 14th Annual Heritage Conference of the Church of God General Conference was great fun. This year our meetings were held at Oregon Church of God and preceded the General Conference sessions by two days.

We planned for an estimated crowd of 35 and realized over 70 registered, with others stopping by. The extra people were not a problem for Chef Steve Seger. Meals were based on recipes of the Lindsay family, furnished by Margaret Foster through her granddaughter, Chondra Rankin.

Michal Burnett was outstanding in opening the conference with focus upon Oregon, Illinois, its place as residence of members and General Conference employees, and its history as well. She showed a digitized movie of Oregon, Illinois from 1953 which had extensive coverage of the church, the college and the General Conference. Michal also prepared several picture boards with captions to demonstrate various families and events in and around the Oregon community and Church of God.

This year, we featured programs related to the Golden Rule Church of God at Cleveland, OH and the Blush Church of God in Missouri. Dan Cain furnished a video of the last service at Golden Rule, and Jerry Graham of Phoenix, son of Roy Graham, deceased Church of God minister, discussed the Blush Church. He had photos to share. The Graham family has roots in Missouri and helped build the Blush church.

Jan gave a short presentation on a possible project in Cleveland focusing on the parsonage built by L. E. Conner in 1909, using the services of short-lived architectural firm White and Shupe. The city of Cleveland inquired of David Krogh if we'd be interested in saving the building or mounting a historical marker if the current congregation demolished the house. The importance of this parsonage to the Church of God is that Pastor Conner called four other ministers together in November 1910 and organized the Church of God Ministerial Association which is still functioning today. It predated the organization of the General Conference by 11 years! We elected to apply for a marker and made application. To date, we have not heard if Remarkable Ohio has accepted our application.

David Krogh presented Part Two of his research on the history of the youth movement in the Church of God which began in 1898 and continues today for a

remarkable 120 years! This has been such a source of generous information, he promised us a part three next year, giving us our first program for 2019!

John Smead, who is a member of our History Committee, gave a program on the upgrades in technology that have been useful in processing Church of God media from the archives. He is currently working on digitizing the photos in Pastor Rex Cain's photo collection of General Conferences and Minister's Conferences. To date, John has digitized the movies of Melville Lyon, the works of his father Cecil Smead, and other projects.

Chondra Rankin, from Belle Plaine, Iowa Church of God, shared plans for developing the Church of God Archives, a collection of historical materials available to researchers in the Midwest! This was very interesting as they seek to fulfill the dream of her father, Delbert Rankin.

Retired Pastor Scott Ross brought his archives to the conference! He had several boxes of books that were written by Church of God authors over the years, including 19th, 20th and 21st century books. He skillfully gave a short summary of each book. It is amazing that the Church of God has a wonderful collection of authors, most of whose works are also stored in the archives in Atlanta.

Retired Pastor and Editor Russ Magaw gave a power point presentation of the issues of THE RESTITUTION HERALD he edited during his tenure in the position of editor. It was an amazing view of the changes in appearance over the years and the emphasis he had upon doctrine and social issues.

Greg Demmitt gave two excellent books reviews on church history, and plans another for next year. We try to have a balance in our year-to-year scheduling of classical church history versus Church of God in America history. We always need to be reviewing our knowledge of the Church Fathers from the first through fourth centuries, and even beyond!

Steve An, Vice President of the Korean Extension of Atlanta Bible College, presented a history of the Church of God Korean work in America and the work of the Korean Extension of ABC. Robin Todd, Coordinator of Home Missions for the General Conference, spoke about church planting projects of the past several years and those that are underway.

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

The Oregon Bible College class of 1968 is celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation. David Krogh presented a PowerPoint presentation of the years 1964 to 1968 at OBC experienced by the class members and so many other students who were present during that time. The class hosted a reunion on Saturday following General Conference for all who attended the college during those years. 33 individuals and spouses attended the activities of the day that included many enjoyable activities. The day started with a presentation by David Krogh at the Oregon Depot that has been restored by the Oregon community. The Restoration Committee asked David to provide a history of the Bible Training Class (forerunner of Oregon Bible College), Oregon Bible College, and Atlanta Bible College. The reunion continued with lunch, followed by a cruise on a paddle-wheel boat (The Pride of Oregon) on Rock River.

After the cruise, Michal Burnett arranged a tour of the former Men's Dormitory on 7th St., the former General Conference building on 3rd Street, and Conover Square which was the former piano factory where many students worked over the years. Also, the Ogle County Historical Museum was visited by some class members along with the Eagles Nest Art Gallery located on the upper floor of the city library. The day culminated with a banquet at Maxson's Riverside Restaurant, located on property that was the home of Oregon Bible College from 1943 to 1950. Many enjoyable memories were shared by those in attendance.

Some of these same places were also visited at the end of the Heritage Conference led by Michal Burnett.

Current members of our History Committee are David Krogh, Jan Stilson, John Smead, Michal Burnett, Greg Demmitt, Keegan Chandler and Arlen Rankin. Arlen has been battling an ailment the last two years but reports recently he is back to his research and plans to be with us, Lord willing, in 2019!

RH



Blackhawk statue and river boat

## Freelance Offer Jacob Paura

Hello, my name is Jacob Paura, and I am a recent graduate from Atlanta Bible College. I am very passionate about incorporating media into ministry, and it is my goal to help churches provide high-quality media for their Sunday church services, special events, as well as any other form of ministry the church is involved in.

Over the past few years, I have been working alongside pastors at Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, Georgia and Lakeshore Bible Church in Tempe, Arizona as well as the Church of God General Conference, through Atlanta Bible College, to provide media such as photography, videography and graphics to help engage and promote what they are doing. I provide professional photos, videos, graphics, and websites to help promote the churches ministry of spreading the good news of the gospel.

If you are interested in learning more about my professional experience as a photographer and videographer, or if you would like to use my services to better promote your church and engage your surrounding community, please contact me at

**[jacob.paura@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.paura@gmail.com)**

or check out my website at

**<https://jacobpaura7.wixsite.com/photocinema>**

God bless,  
Jacob Paura

## Celebrating 120 Years Wenatchee, WA

Wenatchee Church of God, Faith of Abraham celebrated 120 years of biblical truth in the valley. The church hosted a weekend of events including speakers, worship, and fellowship. We look forward to another great century.



Present Church



Original Church



## Prophecy: Club of Rome

By Wally Winner

The 50th Anniversary Conference of the Club of Rome will be held on October 17-18, 2018, and will bring together cutting-edge speakers, both from outside and from within the Club of Rome.

The Club of Rome was founded in 1968 by Alexander King and Aurelio Peccei at the Accademia dei Lincei in Rome, Italy. Members include current and former heads of state, UN bureaucrats, high-level politicians, economists, and business leaders. The mission of the Club of Rome is to "promote understanding of the global challenges facing humanity and to propose solutions through scientific analysis, communication, and advocacy."

Back in 1972, the group published a report entitled "The Limits to Growth," promoting the reduction of the Earth's population for the sake of saving the planet and the economic system.

The idea has countries like China, Vietnam, Hong Kong, and Singapore practicing a two-child limit per family. In July 2007, the think tank Optimum Population Trust (now Population Matters) advocated what the Daily Mail described as a "'two-child' policy" to combat population increases and climate change in the United Kingdom. The article stated:

"According to the report, published by the Optimum Population Trust, Britain's high birth rate is a major factor in the current level of climate change, which can only be combated if families voluntarily limit the number of children they have." ("Families should have no more than two children - thinktank". London: The Daily Mail. Retrieved 29 October 2012.)

In 1973, a computer program was developed at MIT to model global sustainability. It was originally created by the computer pioneer Jay Forrester, who was commissioned by the Club of Rome to model how well the world could sustain its growth.

World One, the computer program (an interesting name), looked at the world as one system. The report called it "an electronic guided tour of our behavior since 1900 and where that behavior will lead us."

The program produced graphs that showed what would happen to the planet decades into the future. It plotted statistics and forecasts for such variables as population, quality of life, the supply of natural resources, pollution, and more. Following the trend lines, one could see where the crises might take place.



Club of Rome created in 1968

World One predicted that there would be a global collapse if the expansion of the population and industry was to continue at the current levels by 2040. What the computer envisioned in the 1970s has, by and large, been coming true.

In fact, 2020 is the first milestone envisioned by World One. That's when the quality of life is supposed to drop dramatically. The presented scenario that will lead to the demise of large numbers of people says:

"At around 2020, the condition of the planet becomes highly critical. If we do nothing about it, the quality of life goes down to zero. Pollution becomes so seriously it will start to kill people, which in turn will cause the population to diminish, lower than it was in the 1900. At this stage, around 2040 to 2050, civilized life as we know it on this planet will cease to exist."

Alexander King, the leader of the Club of Rome when the projection was developed, evaluated the program's results to also mean that nation-states will lose their sovereignty, forecasting a New World Order with corporations managing everything.

"Sovereignty of nations is no longer absolute," said King. "There is a gradual diminishing of sovereignty, little bit by little bit. Even in the big nations, this will happen."

As one measure to prevent catastrophe, the Club of Rome predicted some nations like the U.S. would have to cut back on their appetites for gobbling up the world's resources. It hoped that in the future world, prestige would stem from "low consumption".

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Prophecy (cont)

*(Continued from page 6)*

The group was also known for a plan to divide the world into 10 bioregions as a means by which the autonomy of individual sovereign nations would be sacrificed for being part of a collective bioregion. The European Union was the primary test model for this global strategy and since then other bioregions have been formed, although the European Union is the only one, which to this date has sought not just economic union, but also political union. The NAFTA agreement between America, Mexico and Canada was also seen to be the forerunner of a North American Union. These plans have been thwarted by President Donald Trump, who is in the process of dissolving NAFTA.

For some Bible prophecy students, the idea of a "New World Order" and the world being divided into 10 bioregions brought prophecies from both Daniel and John to mind. Daniel (Dan. 7:7, 8) saw ten horns on a beast and John (Rev. 13) saw a beast with ten heads.

It certainly appears the Club of Rome has some influence in the political systems of our world, and their predictions are interesting. However, the one thing they cannot influence is God's timing for the return of His Son.

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only...Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come...Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. (Matt. 24:36, 42, 44)

RH



## 2 Churches Join the Church of God General Conference

We're pleased to share the news that two churches joined the Church of God General Conference this year.

### Higher Ground Church (White House, TN)

This church began independently, but has always believed like the Church of God. This is the home church of Dan & Sharon Gill who began attending Church of God events about 20 years ago and have become good friends with many across the General Conference. Dan's son-in-law, Mark Jones, serves as pastor of this church.

You may know some who attend Higher Ground Church. Dr. Dale Tuggy (trinities.org) and his family attend there after moving from New York. Bill Schlegel and his family have moved close to White House to be part of Higher Ground after losing his job at Master's University in Israel earlier this year, when he shared with others that he no longer felt the trinity was true. Four of their students attended FUEL this summer: Leslie Jones, Andre Hunter, Sean Jones, and JJ Tuggy.

2717 Hwy. 31 W  
White House, TN 37188

[HGCnashville.org](http://HGCnashville.org)

### Clark Chapel (Branch, AR)

This church began in 1943 and has been a part of the Arkansas State Conference for decades. At least one student, Jason Brown, attended Atlanta Bible College, and he continues to serve at the church by speaking every Sunday. They consider themselves very rural and very faithful. We're glad to have them "officially" join our family of churches.

17329 S. Hwy 41  
Branch, AR 72928

### How can you apply?

If your church is interested in aligning with the Church of God General Conference and our efforts to proclaim the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus, we invite you to request an application at your convenience

**678.833.1839**  
[info@coggc.org](mailto:info@coggc.org)

# Missions: Peru Trip 2018

By Amber Cain

With excitement and humility, a team of eight returned to Peru this summer to worship, learn, and teach alongside our Peruvian brothers and sisters. During our time in Peru, we focused our efforts on teaching kids and adults, street evangelism, and edifying existing relationships while making many new friends. Here is a brief overview of our trip by the numbers:

## 1 God

We are so thankful to be part of an international family who love and worship the same God. It is amazing how far we can travel from home into the crowded cities and breathtaking mountains of Peru, yet still feel God's constant love and faithfulness exactly as we do in our backyard in Michigan. Our God is mighty.

## 2 Cities (Lima & Huánuco) & 2 Evangelistic Missions at local markets

During this trip, we spent three days in Lima meeting and teaching with old friends and new. We also spent a morning and an evening at local markets, playing instruments, dressing up in costumes, and inviting children and adults to meet us at church, with the help of Raúl, a friend with a portable loud-speaker.

We then flew to Huánuco, a city in the mountains, where we attended an annual conference with Peruvians from several regions. While at the conference, we led a vacation Bible school, helped lead worship, preached, and built everlasting relationships.



Street ministry

## 3 Meetings with church leadership

One of the most valued times is meeting with the leaders of the different churches. We each come with excitement, trials, questions, and stories to share of our experiences in ministry. It felt like we could chat for days and days on end.

## 4 Flights & 4 Mornings of VBS

The children melted our hearts. While in Huánuco, we walked to the local park a few blocks away from the church building to fellowship with the kids. I can easily say we learned just as much, if not more, from the kids as they did from us. Their openness, laughter, free love, and curiosity is the perfect reminder to humble ourselves and become like little children.

## 5 x 10 (=50!) Kids were taught that God has a special plan for them at VBS

We started the VBS in Huánuco, Peru with six kids from the church, but we ended up reaching 50 children! As we played games, shared Bible stories, hand-made crafts, ate snacks and sang songs in the park, more and more kids came. They are eager to hear of God's love, provision, and plan for their lives.



Teaching kids

## 6 Full days of teaching & learning

Each day brought new joys and challenges. We were reminded that 'church' does not only happen in a designated building, but rather as we love God through loving our neighbors. We had a lot of fun loving and being loved by our neighbors through late night testimony swapping, dinner at the local mall with church family, singing and playing instruments through the streets, interviews with church leaders and evenings of home-fellowship.



Children

(Continued on page 9)

## Peru (cont.)

(Continued from page 8)

### 7 Nights & 7 Baptisms!

Yes! SEVEN people declared Christ as their Savior! In Lima, we rented a hotel room with a bathtub right up the street from the church for a night so that we could baptize our new brother, Alfredo. In Huánuco, we celebrated baptisms on two different afternoons at our hotel pool. The people are captivated by the love and hope God pours into their lives.



Baptism

### 8 Team members

From the United States, our team consisted of Rick McClain, Aaron Winner, Mackenzie McClain, Carey and Jenny Clark, and Josiah and Amber Cain. One of the greatest blessings of this trip was to fellowship and learn from Alex Davila, a devout brother and church leader in Nicaragua. Among Alex's many skills, he speaks both Spanish and English fluently, which proved to be a major asset in preaching, teaching, catching cabs, and interpreting jokes between languages. Since our trip, Alex edifies and teaches the Lima congregation each Sunday through a live video chat.

### 9 Church services

With only six full days on the ground, your brain might be wondering how we squeezed-in nine church services. Because we were blessed with eight team members, we were often able to divide and conquer responsibilities. While some taught the children at VBS or evangelized at the local market, others used their talents to meet with the adults. Often, the church services ended around 10PM!



Church

### 10 Regions represented worldwide

People from Huariaca, Huánuco, Trujillo, Lima, Venezuela, Nicaragua, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Michigan gathered to worship God. However, YOU are a vital part of this mission! Thank you for being a part of missions in Peru through your prayers for our trip and your continued prayers for our brothers and sisters in Peru. Thank you also for your financial sacrifice that allowed us to go on this trip. We each play a unique role in carrying out missions and your role is so important to us. The family of God is a really fun thing to be a part of!

RH

### What is AmazonSmile?

It is a simple and automatic way for you to support the General Conference every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://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.



### Can I use my existing Amazon.com account?

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 get started on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](https://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](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation of 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

## Missions: God is Working, Africa is Booming

By Joe & Rebekah Martin

Things really are booming. We started our trip in the first mission country, Malawi. Malawi has about 70 churches, and they had over 300 baptisms there this last year. Every year we try to first meet with the boards of the countries that we visit. The board in Malawi, is Rabson Namaona, chair, Zebulon Moyo, vice chair, Frazer Nauliya, secretary, Maxwell Chintengo, Howard Matwere, Christina Mogumba. They work with us through **Linda Limbe**, who coordinates for both Malawi and Mozambique.



Frazer, Howard, Rabson, Zebulon, Maxwell, Linda, Rebekah and Joe

The “big” news in **Malawi** is that LHI has approved seeking funding to have Linda as a paid coordinator of the work. She and Rebekah work diligently to meet the needs. She does many things. She teaches women to read and write, goes to many of the women’s meetings, helps them take care of sick and elderly in their area, has women’s conferences, and regional Bible studies.



Linda translating at a service in Malawi.

She also makes sure the orphans sponsored by our churches receive the food, clothing, and anything else that we send money for her to buy them, and helps them in any way she can. When a church building is to be built, seed or fertilizer to be given, etc., Rebekah sends money to our bank account which is in Blantyre. Linda, who is on the account, gets the money and delivers it to the pastor of the church and/or the overseer of that area.

Linda is invaluable with the help she gives us and her untiring desire to help spread the truth and help her fellow believers. She has helped for many years without financial support from LHI. The decision to help her with funding was announced at the recent General Conference. Several people have already started their support of her, for which we are very thankful.

From Malawi, we focused on Mozambique. From the mission home in Blantyre, it is about 120 kilometers to the Mozambique border. Because of various situations, we were unable to get visas to cross the border this year.

However, many **Mozambique** pastors crossed over the river to three of our border Malawi churches to have meetings. The Mozambique board consists of Fabiano Bango, chairman, Italiano Tchakka, vice chair, and Aneva Sande, Secretary-Treasurer. Pastor Bango, with a little less than 200 churches under him, is to the north of the border town of Milange. Pastor Tchakka, reporting 94 churches, is to the east. Pastor Aneva Sande is to the south, and this year he reported 87 churches.

The big news in Mozambique is the building of a headquarters church in the Villa (governmental center) in Milange. They/we are currently working on officially registering the church with the government. Linda is helping with that. This building could also be used with possible ABC classes for pastors and further teaching and seminars. It will be a larger facility built with building specifications that the town requires. Aneva Sande is heading up that project.

LHI approved the developing of several sites to start this process of certified Bible education in Africa. We will focus on Kenya and Mozambique to begin with. However, we also are looking into the possibility of more in Malawi and the new area of Uganda.

**Kenya** is also booming. The last CBA (Church Builder’s Appeal) went to the building of a national headquarters church in Maturu, under Maurice Chahilu. As of this writing, footings have been dug and poured with concrete, the area is backfilled, and soon the slab and columns will be poured. This is a larger building measuring 17 meters by 25 meters which could accommodate seminars, conferences and potential ABC classes. Further fund seeking has been approved by LHI for this project. Seth Ross, David Krogh and Joe have developed a one-year foundation through block classes. The plan is to begin in Maturu, and spread out from there. The first block seminar is scheduled for June 2019, Lord willing.



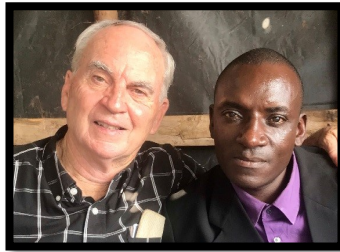
Pastor Maurice Chahilu of the new Kenya HQ church

(Continued on page 11)

## Africa (cont.)

(Continued from page 10)

While in Malawi, the name Emmanuel Gubika, of Uganda, was given to us by Anthony Buzzard. We corresponded with him from Malawi and learned he was only three or four hours from Maturu, Kenya where we were to hold a conference. He came over to Kenya shortly after we arrived, stayed in the hotel where we were, went to the meetings, and, after long discussions, was baptized. He works with three groups in Uganda and is now in a process to have the church officially registered there.



Joe with Emmanuel Gubika

The Kenya board consists of Maurice Chahilu, chairman, Pastor Dorcas, Pastor Aggrey, Pastor James Nyangute, Pastor Amos Anyanga, and Pastor Richard Mogeni. The Kenya board is working with about 24 churches study groups. The church building in the southwestern area approved to be built this year is for Pastor John Aminga.



(Pictured above are Rebekah, Pastor and Mrs Mogeni, Pastor Maurice Chahilu (in the purple tie), Rollin Carlblom from Arizona, and Pastor James Nyangute, kneeling. The 3 Kenyan men are board members.)



Jacob Rohrer singing in Kenya.

Jacob Rohrer was with us the entire trip, which lasted over six weeks. He was a huge blessing in many ways and a big hit with his singing. Many people said they didn't know we were going to bring a 'star' to them!

We were all blessed and encouraged with all the work going on in the different countries we visited. Praise God!

RH

## African Bible College Concept

Here's a beginning outline for a 1 Year Foundation Degree for an African Bible college. This is built on the African class model of attending school 5 days per week once or twice each month. Please pray over the development of this project.

### African Bible College: YEAR 1

1 block = 1 week (20 hrs class time)  
Foundation Degree = 360 hrs (36 semester hours)

### Certificate in Bible & Theology

(total 6 blocks = 120 hrs)

- OT Survey (2 blocks)
- NT Survey (2 blocks)
- Basic Bible Doctrine (2 blocks)

### Certificate in Ministry & Leadership

(total 6 blocks = 120 hrs)

- Intro to Ministry & Leadership (2 blocks)
- Christian Education Principles & Practice (2 blocks)
- Principles of Church Growth (1 block)
- Intro to Worship & Music (1 block)

### Certificate in General Education

(total 6 blocks = 120 hrs)

- Church History (2 blocks)
- Personal & Church Finance (2 blocks)
- Intro to Biblical Languages (2 blocks)

### Is there a name?

We're not really sure what we'd call it. Some ideas might include...

- African Bible College (ABC)... too confusing?
- African Bible College—Kenya Extension (ABC-KE)... still too confusing?

If you've got a brilliant idea, sent it to us at:

[info@atlantabiblecollege.com](mailto:info@atlantabiblecollege.com)

### Please pray about this

There is so much opportunity! We have a student from one of our Malawi churches who joined us at Atlanta Bible College half-way through this semester. We received another application from Malawi. An African Bible college is a project worth pursuing. Please pray, pray, pray over this... for wisdom, leaders, government cooperation, funding, and students to be trained.

## Church Classifieds

### Michigantown, IN—Pastor

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've 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 retired 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.

### Bristow, OK—Pastor

Bristow Advent Christian Church is seeking a pastor. "The mission of the Bristow Advent Christian Church is to bring people into a personal relationship with God; through Jesus Christ and to disciple them by the spiritual application of biblical principles in daily living."

They have provided key documents if interested: job description, church mission statement, and Bristow, OK demographic information. These can be sent upon request.

Inquiries should be directed to either of the following:

Jack Smith is board chairman, 918-688-1891  
Kristi VanOrsdol is secretary, 918-645-8461

Any questions or referrals should go to them.

### Latham, NY—Contemporary Worship Leader Living Hope Community Church

Are you looking for an adventure where you can really put your faith into practice? Come to New York and serve as our worship leader for a year (or more). Join a multigenerational community centered on proclaiming God's glory and his coming kingdom as we endeavor to follow Christ authentically. We are looking for a creative individual who can work with others and lead us in engaging worship on a weekly basis.

This part-time position will average about 10-15 hours per week. Compensation is \$15.00 per hour.

Included is a fully-furnished room in our three-bedroom guest house located next to the church and offices. Google or Bing "460 Old Niskayuna Rd, Latham, NY" for a street view of the guest house. The address for the church is 458 Old Niskayuna Rd, Latham, NY.

### Job Description:

- pick songs for each Sunday service and send to secretary by Thursday
- prepare all necessary song sheets and other materials for praise team
- lead rehearsal one evening per week with praise team (currently Thursdays)
- arrive Sundays at 8:30am for practice and coordination for 10:30am service
- attend a monthly planning meeting to schedule services 4-6 weeks out
- lead music on Easter (April 21), Christmas Eve, Kingdom Fest (Sept 7-9), and other church events

### Qualifications:

- able to train vocalists and musicians and develop team depth
- work well with others, including the pastors, other musicians, and the audio/video team
- recruit members to the praise team and empower them
- humble to receive instruction
- proficient with guitar (other instruments are a plus)
- able to download and copy musical content and manage song lists in digital format
- ability to work independently and use sound judgment

### Apply:

Send a resume and cover letter, explaining why you would be a good fit to Sean Finnegan at:

**sean@lhim.org**

References and video or audio demonstrating your musical qualifications will be needed upon request.

## Turning Point Youth Ministries

By John Wincapaw

It's been just few months since FUEL: Mission. It was a great week where we saw the power of God at work in the lives of our young people. Our numbers were up a little from previous years. We had roughly 245 participants join us at the Manchester University in North Manchester, Indiana. The week was filled with worship, sermons, singing, classes, workshops, games, activities and sports. It was a great environment with likeminded believers.

The youth were challenged with the same mission that Christ gave his disciples in Matthew 28: Go and make disciples! Before sending out his disciples for their mission, Christ took roughly three years to prepare them. We started with Jesus saying, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." It was an understanding that when we come to Christ, he starts a work in us. He gives us a mission and prepares us for the work that we are called to do.

Each session focused on a word in that preparation process that ended with "mission": omission (feeling left out), intermission (neglected, but also the start of something new), demission (the act of humbling), submission (recognizing and respecting authority), remission (turning from sin and finding forgiveness), manumission (the liberation of a slave), commission (now that you have been equipped, accepted, loved, taught, forgiven and set free, go share what you have with someone else).

We closed our evening ceremonies with some exciting news. We are looking to see the excitement of FUEL continue throughout the year. One of the biggest reasons people enjoy FUEL is because of the lifelong relationships that are built there. What if we could encourage those relationships with other events through out the year? We are looking to partner with churches that already have events and open them up to other groups in the conference. If you are in charge of an event or facility that could be opened up to a larger group, please contact me. We had our first partnered event planned this fall in Louisiana on October 26-28. It was a youth/young adult retreat for ages 9-22.

We also revamped our website to have new information on a regular basis. There will be lessons from our FUEL teachers and speakers, devotions, details on our upcoming events, youth worker resources, pictures and more ways to stay connected. Check it out at [tpym.com](http://tpym.com).

If you have any questions or ideas to help our youth program let me know.

John Wincapaw | 225-610-2844  
[pastorjohn@bloodriverchurch.org](mailto:pastorjohn@bloodriverchurch.org)

## Church News

### Baptisms

#### Indiana

South Bend—Alex Austin (3/11/18) by Andy Cisneros

South Bend—Caleah Kiel (6/22/18) by Matt Kiel

South Bend—Alex Kizer (8/3/18) by Steve Mattison

#### Michigan

Rockford—Angela Cisler (6/24/18) by Michael Cisler

Rockford—Caitie Wood (9/9/18) by Arlene Renico

### Deaths

#### Indiana

South Bend—Diane Huddlestun, 85, (9/4/18) by Jake Ballard

South Bend—Donald Kizer, 89, (9/8/18) by Jake Ballard

South Bend—Normal Kizer, 89, (9/17/18) by Jake Ballard

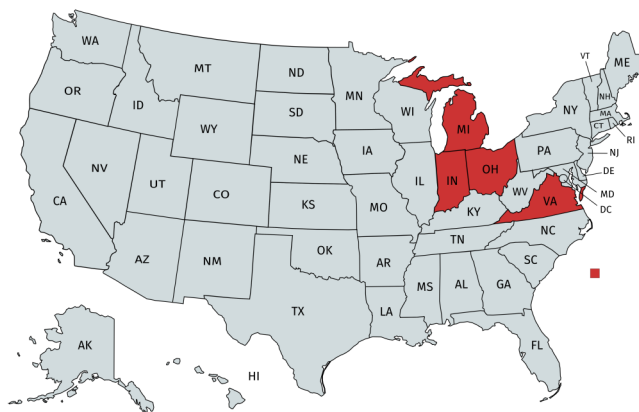
#### Ohio

Springfield—Donna June Doughman, 81, (10/1/18) by Alan Cain

### Weddings

#### Virginia

Hume—Clarise Adams to Michael Norris, (9/1/18), by Jon T. Welch





## A month of prayer items

- 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 Church of God in Michigan.**
- 4 Pray for the church work in Oklahoma City.
- 5 **Pray for the missionary work in Mexico.**
- 6 Pray for the new work beginning in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.
- 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 continue their studies.
- 13 **Praise God for the strength He provides each day.**
- 14 Praise God for the Higher Ground Church in White House, TN.
- 15 **Pray for the growth of the congregation in Kingwood, TX under the leadership of Kegan & Lauren Chandler.**
- 16 Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.
- 17 **Pray for Pastor John and Lila Wincapaw and the Blood River Church of God in Springfield, Louisiana.**
- 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 Tempe, 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 instructors at Atlanta Bible College.**
- 26 Pray for the international students attending Atlanta Bible College.
- 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 young church in Lacey, Washington (metro Seattle).
- 31 **Praise God for all that He has done and is doing in your life.**

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## A month of prayer items

- 1 **Pray for God's blessing on your extended family.**
- 2 Pray for the teams ministering in Malawi, Mozambique, Kenya, and Uganda next year.
- 3 **Pray for the Midwest Family Camp to be held at Camp Mack next summer.**
- 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 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 Campground that is continuing to be renovated and improved.**
- 12 Pray for the Forest Hills Church in Royal, Arkansas.
- 13 **Praise God for your family and circle of friends.**
- 14 Pray for a shared spirit of unity across the General Conference.
- 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 General Conference & Atlanta Bible 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 Pray 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 advance for the preparation of FUEL (our annual student conference) next summer.
- 27 **Pray for the believers in Lima, Peru and the believers in Trujillo.**
- 28 Pray for children who attended Bible Schools at many churches this past summer.
- 29 **Pray for the board of directors as they lead the college/conference.**
- 30 Pray for the dedication of the college/conference staff.

## A month of prayer items

- 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 the 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 plan for FUEL far in advance.**
- 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 that students in our churches grow toward spiritual maturity and sound doctrine.
- 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 adults who work with students in our churches and the influence they have on young people.**
- 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 ministries of individuals across the Church of God.**
- 22 Pray for the brethren in India.
- 23 **Pray for those who are studying the Systematic Bible Study course over the internet.**
- 24 Thank God for those who take time each year to travel to and attend General Conference.
- 25 **Pray for the History Committee as they work to honor our past through the Heritage Conference each year.**
- 26 Pray for the General Conference churches as they strive to fulfill the mission God has given them.
- 27 **Pray for God's blessing and direction on the leaders of our churches.**
- 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 to gather like-minded believers in various cities in the hopes that new churches might begin.**

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**CHURCH OF GOD**  
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# 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

## What I Learned in My Years at ABC

By Joe Martin

Seth asked me to put into words my thoughts on my almost thirty years of service at Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference. Here is a short list of what now seems important to me.

**One**, DO NOT try to out-plan God. When Rebekah and I were first approached in 1990, we were asked about coming for a year only! This was to fill in for Anthony Buzzard since he did not want to move right away with a daughter as a senior in high school. A couple verses come to mind that may support this, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Rom 8:28 NASB) It may not totally be "time and chance," but God can work in a way that we cannot see. He can take things we do and expand them beyond our wildest imagination. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." (Eph 3:20 NIV) I never imagined I would serve as President/CAO. I never imagined Rebekah and I would be working with so many churches in Africa, as a result of going "one time." "Yes, I know what plans I have in mind for you, Yahweh declares, plans for peace, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jer 29:11 NJB) He knows his plans, not us.

**Two**, it has to be grace and truth, not one or the other. I have needed a LOT of grace in my life. I have re-



Joe Martin joined the staff in 1991

ally appreciated the verse about Jesus, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14 NIV) Truth without grace is judgmental. Grace without truth is license to do or believe "whatever." It has to be a dynamic blending of God's blessings. Exodus 34:6,7 gives the eight attributes of God: love, compassion, grace, forgiveness, etc., but only one tells us what happens if we do not take hold of his grace, "yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished." Jesus' ministry was

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## What I Learned in My Years at ABC

*(Continued from page 1)*

full of grace and truth. We should strive for the same. Grace is sometimes just being nice to people in spite of differences and arguments. Truth is holding to the standard of God despite everything else to the contrary.

**Three**, Simple is Better. Occam's razor states, "Entities should not be multiplied unnecessarily." There can be times of complexity of explanations, but I have found the Bible is generally VERY straightforward. The Shema for instance, "YHWH Elohenu YHWH Echad." The LORD our God, The LORD is one. People may argue all day long, but I will "live and die" by the simplicity of God's word, rather than the creeds of men. I am still fascinated by DNA, and the four simple proteins that compose it, A C T G, yet the vast complexity of our various forms and features that come from it are simply amazing. We are "fearfully and wonderfully made." Regarding Jesus, when he said, "I said, I am the Son of God." This goes against Jews, Muslims and many Christian beliefs. The simplicity of the Greek, "UIOS TOU THEOU EIMI," or "I am the Son of God." I will live and die by the simple words of Jesus also. The great truth we hold about God, Christ and the Kingdom are clear as crystal.

**FOUR**, Without HIM, there is no true happiness. You can get a "buzz" (short time happiness) off of anything, but only God will be the source of our eternal happiness, joy. I love hunting, fishing, projecting, and buying. By "project-ing" I mean projects. I love to build things; I love to "fix" things, sometimes to my detriment. "...For without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?" (Ecc 2:25 NIV) Solomon's big complaint "under the sun" is "...vanity of vanities, all is vanity." Until a person connects with God ... "over the sun," his or her life will be a continual searching for meaning. We can buy "stuff", but it produces only a short time buzz. One of my professors at seminary noted that the biggest issue in this age is the "horrible meaninglessness of life without God." As Rebekah and I have tried to draw closer to God, we are drawn closer to each other. Regular Bible reading, regular prayer, regular worship, gets us in tune with our creator, who can give meaning.

**FIVE**, Perseverance over time is vastly underrated, and getting old is not for wimps! I persisted in education, but I knew I wanted to teach. Jesus continually reminds us in his letters to the churches in Revelation 2,3, "to him who overcomes... ." For instance, "To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God." (Rev 2:7 NAU) We know that paradise will be the "restitution

of all things" on earth, to the way they were in the garden of Eden. But a good lesson is persistence and perseverance. Sometimes, I did not "enjoy" my trips to Africa. I usually got back very tired, and I almost always made a list of what NOT to do next time. But the effort is so important, we just keep going back. Just to state the obvious, it does get a little tougher as one ages. That is why I am also a big proponent of turning it over to the nextgen, yet working for the kingdom in whatever way we can as we get older.

**SIX**, Relationships are critical to the kingdom of God. Relationships are the bridges of God in our reaching out. I have appreciated my long tenure as a teacher. I am now teaching students who are children of my former students. At a recent graduation, Mike and Melinda Cisler came down for Madison's graduation. That picture of the four of us, Mike, Melinda, Madison, and me, is a treasure. I have SEVEN grade books. In each book is a listing of all the classes and students for about four years of classes. "One day" I will make a list of all the students who are now serving in the local church. What a blessing! I have also appreciated the continued relationships of pastoral buddies as well. For instance, Ray Hall and I went to school at OBC together. I just performed the wedding ceremony for Kyle and Jamie McClain. Kyle is Ray's grandson.

**SEVEN**, Keep praying, you never know what God is going to do next. In 2011, a man walked in to the college on the fourth floor and asked to speak to me. He said, "I hate to tell you this, but this building is in foreclosure." We were only renting the top floor at the time. I asked, "Could we TRY to buy it?" He said, "Sure, get in line. The bank which I represent will sell it in three to six months!" The staff and I walked around the building seven times, each staff meeting day, like Joshua and the people of Israel around Jericho. We didn't want it to fall down, but to FALL INTO OUR HANDS. With the blessing of Jack Hearp's trust (who would have ever thought!!), we bought the building for cash!!

I ask God's blessing on each one of you as we continue in kingdom work until Jesus comes. My heart is with the college, Seth, and staff, but I am still open to God working further in Africa and "unknown" areas for Rebekah and me. Let us be active in God's work, when and wherever. P.S. My new goal is to be alive until Jesus comes... LORD willing. Do you think I will make it?

**RH**

## Good News from COG-land

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – On behalf of 90 patrons, the retired Springfield firefighters thanked the church for the donation of warm coats, hats, and mittens. The church missions department is collecting children's tie blankets to be passed out at Rainbow Table 2 and the Clifton Food Pantry in December. The missions department served at Springfield Community Kitchen on December 11 and at Clifton Food Pantry on December 15. Other items, such as teddy bears, new or gently used coats, hats, scarves, mittens, warm clothing, boots, shoes, and blankets, are also being collected to be passed out on December 15. **Chelsey Christensen** travels to Haiti December 12-19, and she will be delivering shoes collected by the senior youth. Baskets of food can be purchased as well for her to pass when she goes to Jeremie, Haiti. [Wow! What an incredibly giving group we have here! Keep it up! – GNP]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – The whole church thanks the following people for their selfless work: **Sarah and Sharon Bliss, Pam Buse, Dennis Cheatwood, Debbie Grove, Dixie Hammer, Hammond Ladies, Lisa Keebler, Kitchen Help, Judy Myers, Noah Myers, Virginia Moore, Gail Tuttle, John Tuttle, Melody Welty, O.K. Welty,** and picture contributors and others who made the surprise 30<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary party for **Pastor Michael and Linda Hoffman** such a success. "Linda and I can't express enough thanks for all the efforts made for the celebration of our thirty years of ministry here. Your love and expression of it really touched our hearts. It is an honor and privilege to serve with all of you." (Pastor Hoffman)

From the **Troy View Church in Troy, OH** – **Pastor Dan Cain** showed clips from the movie "Son of God" on Sundays as part of a sermon series, but the church enjoyed a night together watching the whole movie at church on November 4. [I'm sure a good time was had by all. – GNP] The church did a live nativity on November 30 and December 1 as a community outreach. [What an excellent ministry! – GNP]

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – **Pastor Wally Winner** and the church announce that all had a good time and a great meal when they honored the veterans (**Michael Gentile, Steve Riddle, David Sloan,** and **Jim Turner**) with a Thanksgiving dinner on November 11. Congratulations go out to **Bonnie Impson** (Mother of the Year) and **Jim Turner** (Father of the Year).

**Congratulations to Graduates** – Adding to the list of graduation congratulations from previous RH/PJ lists, here are some more. **Mandy Hood** (Medical University of South Carolina), **Ashley Wilson** (Southern Wesleyan University), **Brittney Burdick** (high school), and **Jeremiah Strickland Jr.** (high school), and all of those are from Bethel COG. [I know there must be lots more COG high school and college graduates out there. PLEASE let GNP know so we all can celebrate the accomplishments that our young people are achieving. – PLEASE!!]

From the **Birthday and Anniversary Department** – **Edward and Faye McCullough** (Bethel COG) celebrated 51 years of marriage on September 15. **Joe and Earlene Mabry** celebrated 57 years on November 17, **Jim and Judy Turner** celebrated 54 years on April 28, and **Barney and Betty Owens** celebrated 58 years on July 3 (all from the Bethel COG as well). Birthday wishes (albeit some a bit belated) to **Shirley Kastner** (87) and **Dorothy Capes** (90 on September 12), both from Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL. **Colleen Shaw** (84 on June 21) and **Jeanne Smith** (95 on July 8, although she claims it's 39 again!) celebrated birthdays recently, both from Bethel COG.

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! ([rjones@atlantabiblecollege.com](mailto:rjones@atlantabiblecollege.com)),

Robert L. Jones

# Prophecy: It's About Time

By Wally Winner

A city-slicker was walking past an apple orchard in West Virginia when he noticed a country boy holding his shoat up so that it could eat apples out of an apple tree. What's a shoat? A shoat is a young pig. So he asked the country boy "Why are you holding that pig up like that?" The country boy said "So he can eat the apples." The man said "Well, doesn't that waste a lot of time?" The country boy said "Shucks, Mister, what's time to a pig?"

Time ain't nothing to an old pig, but it is something to us. We have wall clocks, watches, calendars, cell phones, all to tell us the time. We use day planners, organizers and post-it notes to help us get the most use of time. We will celebrate New Year's Eve to note the passing of time and the approaching of another time period.

Time is important to God, too. In Luke chapter 2 we have one of the accounts of Jesus' birth.

*"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered...And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth." (Luke 2:1, 4-6 ESV)*

*"But when the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him." (Galatians 4:4a CEV)*

This is the timing of God in the eternal plan. Look at some of the factors that came together that made this the right time for maximum evangelism of the message of salvation through Jesus and the gospel of the kingdom.

**1) The Dispersion of the Jews.** Prior to the birth of Christ, the Jewish people were dispersed throughout the Roman Empire. They helped lay the theological foundation of monotheism, sin, substitutionary sacrifice and redemption among many different people groups for the acceptance of the gospel. These areas of Jewish influence became the seedbeds of evangelism once the church began to spread out from Jerusalem.

**2) The Religious Tolerance.** The Romans were tolerant of the various religions of the people they conquered as long as they paid allegiance to Caesar as God. A citizen would have to burn a pinch of incense every year and say "Caesar is Lord." That worked

fine with every religious group except the Jews. The Jews refused to do that. After decades of killing the Jews, the Roman government gave up and granted them an exception. For the first forty years of the church's existence the Roman government did not distinguish Christianity from Judaism. Christianity was tolerated long enough for it to take root. By the time the Romans got around to persecuting the church, it was too late. It had already taken root and proved to be indestructible.

**3) The Peace Dividend.** There was more civil war during the reign of Julius Caesar than under any other Roman emperor. Julius Caesar was assassinated, and Augustus Caesar came to the throne about 25 years before Christ. "And all of a sudden, PEACE broke out. For the next two centuries there was relative peace. Because of that peace, instead of the Roman Empire doing battle, they built roads. Travel was relatively safe. These conditions combined to make it much easier for Paul and other missionaries to travel and carry out the great commission.

**4) The Common Language.** Because of the far-reaching influence of Alexander the Great, everybody in the Roman Empire spoke Greek as a common language. Just as English is the universal language of business, Greek was the universal language of Rome, and it greatly facilitated the communication of the gospel.

**5) The Philosophers.** Plato, Aristotle and other Greek philosophers had done a great job of raising the important questions of life. Of course, they didn't have the answers, but they did have the questions. They had "inquiring minds." People of that day loved to debate questions like "What is truth?" The time was right for Jesus who came along and said "I am the Truth."

That is some of the story about God's timing in the lives of mankind in the past. In Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Solomon says some interesting things about time. *"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men." (Ecclesiastes 3:11)*

Eternity! It is not lots and lots of time, but rather the absence of time. It can't start until the Messiah comes.

The big question every believer wants to know is: how much longer until the coming of the Lord? So many prophetic things are all lined up and ready to

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Prophecy: It's About Time

(Continued from page 4)

go. It's like all the actors are in the wings, the lights are dimming, but the curtain is still down.

Prophetic events are like a fuse burning; a ticking time bomb; a clock with one minute to go! It's like an elastic band stretched out and wound up. It's like the ultimate war-lord with a hand hovering over the big red button.

Acts 17:31 "He has appointed a **day** on which He will judge the world in righteousness, by the Man whom He has ordained."

Zechariah 14:7-8 "It shall be one **day** which is known to the Lord...and in that **day** living waters shall flow from Jerusalem...And the Lord shall be King over all the earth."

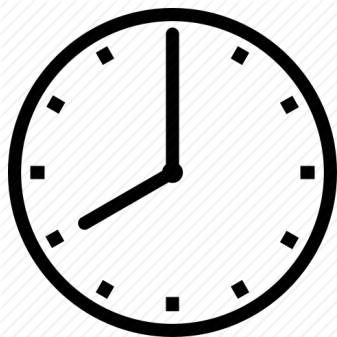
Hebrews 10:25 "...As you see **the Day** approaching."

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5 "You brethren are not in darkness, so that **this Day** should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. Therefore let us not sleep as others do, but let us watch and be sober."

How close are we to that day? What conditions are coming together to lead us to the Second Advent? There are several possibilities. Here are a few.

**1. The Human Race Has The Ability To Exterminate Itself.** Jesus said that "if that time of troubles were not cut short, no living thing could survive; but for the sake of God's chosen it will be cut short" (Matt. 24:22 REB). If God does not intervene in world affairs, the human race will be faced with extinction.

**2. Israel Receives A World Focus.** Geopolitically, the central focus of end-time events is Jerusalem and its environs. "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near . . . For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled" (Luke 21:20, 22).



**3. An Extremely Self-Engrossed Society.** We see people are involved in self-seeking and pleasure-seeking. Meanwhile we see an increase in lawlessness. "Remember this: There are some terrible times coming in the last days. People will love

only themselves and money. They will be proud and boast about themselves. They will abuse others with insults. They will not obey their parents. They will be ungrateful and against all that is pleasing to God. They will have no love for others and will refuse to forgive anyone. They will talk about others to hurt them and will have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. People will turn against their friends. They will do foolish things without thinking and will be so proud of themselves. Instead of loving God, they will love pleasure." (2 Tim. 3:1-4 ERV)

**4. Departure from the faith.** We have gravitated into a "what feels good to me" religion. Bible principles have been abandoned. "Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first." (2 Thess. 2:3a NASB; also 1 Tim. 4:1, 3-4; 2 Tim. 3:5; 4:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:3-4)

**5. The Gospel Will Be Preached In All The World.** In His major end-time prophecy, Jesus answers the question posed by the disciples: "When will these things be? And what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3). After listing a number of signs of the nearness of His coming, He reveals that "this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14, And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come. American King James Version).

The gospel is the good news of the coming kingdom of God. Radio and television were good, but the Internet is changing everything. It is much harder for governments to control. The gospel message of the coming kingdom of God is still going out to the world. It will finish when God has decided that His work is completed and the time is right for the final end-time events to take place.

Our Lord knows the exact day.

"Be patient brethren, until the coming of the Lord...Be patient. **Establish your hearts**, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." James 5:7-8

So here we sit, waiting patiently or not so patiently. Will someone please hit that big red button already!

RH

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## Confessions of an Accidental Pastor

By Kegan A. Chandler

“Well, now what?” My internet searches had come up dry. Even in one of the largest, most diverse cities in the United States, there were no churches that I could ever call home. What was I going to do? Growing up in a family of pastors and teachers, church had always been a big part of my life. I had enjoyed teaching classes every Sunday and Wednesday. I had enjoyed the fellowship, the food, and the spiritual support. And when I first made radical changes to my theological beliefs—when I first became a “biblical unitarian”—I had prepared myself for the coming challenges: no more church gatherings, no more teaching, no more corporate worship, no more sense of belonging. Those were prices I had been willing to pay. And the truths I had recently discovered about who the one God is, about who Jesus is, about the sleep of the dead and the coming kingdom of God—these were certainly more precious than even the best Sunday potlucks in the fellowship hall. These truths were now my daily bread. Of course, sacrificing “church” for the sake of the truth seems easy enough to do when you’re on your own. But now I had a small family. Didn’t these people I was leading need fellowship? Didn’t they need children’s programs? Didn’t they need all the trappings of traditional church? Indeed, “Now what?”

At first, we tried to live in both worlds. I took my family to a mainstream evangelical church in hopes of gleaning as many perks as we could. I told myself I would just keep quiet about my newfound beliefs. That’s what you have to do as a biblical unitarian trying to blend in. You have to keep your mouth closed. Just one peep about the one God, or the humanity of Jesus, or the sleep of the dead, and you’ll quickly be shown the exit (politely, of course, if you’re in Texas). But what about letting your light shine? Wasn’t it wrong of me to keep these truths under a bowl? Didn’t other Christians out there deserve to know what I had found? Didn’t people need help?

I remember stuffing these questions away for later—we were late for church. The worship service had already started by the time we barged in, stroller and diaper bag in tow. Thankfully, the music was loud enough to distract the worshippers from our untimely entrance. But there on the screen, much to my dismay, were the unfortunate lyrics: “We believe our God is Jesus!” Over and over again, the chorus boomed like a battle cry: “We believe our God is Jesus! We believe our God is Jesus!” My heart sank. I looked around the auditorium to find every single person enthusiastically chanting what I simply did not believe, and what I could not believe. I’m still not

sure what I was expecting that day, but I quickly recognized that my experiment had failed. There was no way I could ever keep quiet about the truth. If my mouth didn’t give it away, then the look on my face surely would! I could not live in two worlds.



Kegan Chandler, Kingwood, TX

Nevertheless, we needed a church home. I was happy to discover that there were several virtual gatherings to choose from—and thank God for those faithful communities! Attending church online is often one of the only options for many people who have changed their theology and subsequently asked, “Now what?” Certainly “internet church” sustained us for a while. But if our experience is emblematic of the isolated believer, and I think it is, then even the most “connected” virtual-fellowshippers still long for in-person contact. Human beings are simply wired this way. To be seen and to be heard is far more valuable than some of us would like to admit.

It became clear that if there weren’t any biblical unitarian churches around us, then we would have to create one. That makes the birth of our church sound far more deliberate than it actually was (I am an “accidental pastor,” after all). In reality, our fellowship began by simply responding to the call to spread the truth. We decided that keeping our theology under a bowl wasn’t the way to go, and to our surprise this path was confirmed pretty quickly. The conversations with friends and family were fruitful. Soon we had a small crowd. I made more phone calls, found other interested believers through the Scattered Brethren network, and before we knew it, the number of “biblical unitarians” in our city began to grow, either through conversion or discovery. I was reminded of the prophet Elijah, who had complained to God that he was the only one left in the land who still followed him. But God revealed that there was actually a quiet host of other believers out there that Elijah did not know about. We prayed that God would send us those kinds of people. Of course, when he did, those people needed a place to go.

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We opened up our home to fellowship. Twelve to eighteen adults and four small children now gathered every weekend in a small living room. Others would join us when they could. At first it was all rather informal (it still is), but soon we had some structure: fellowship time (in which we shared personal victories, prayer requests, and prayer updates gained throughout that week); children's church (a short lesson for the kids complete with relevant crafts, usually involving macaroni and glue); a weekly lesson (prepared by myself, with a few others pinch-hitting from time-to-time); worship (a few songs on acoustic), followed by prayer and more fellowship. The value of these meetings was immediately obvious. We had all seen church-done-wrong. But something about this was right.

Everything, as they say, is bigger in Texas—especially the churches. In a former life, I attended Lakewood—the megachurch led by celebrity pastor Joel Osteen. I've seen firsthand how easy it is to attend a big church and still be isolated. Very often these big churches, at least in my view, can be “too much of a good thing.” Having too many faces in the crowd makes it very easy to become just another one of them. That kind of setting has a tendency to direct the attention and life of the church towards the pastor. Rather than intimate discipleship, “church” becomes an all-too-predictable event in which people routinely wheel themselves up to the Super Christian at the pulpit and plug in their I.V.'s for their weekly dose. This is not to say that good things can't or don't happen at big churches. But it sure is nice when the pastor actually knows your name.

For us, doing “house church” was not only the antidote to our isolation as non-orthodox Christians, but the cure for a range of problems which even the biggest, most well-funded, churches still struggle to resolve. Having a smaller group has enabled us to foster real relationships and entertain personal, impactful conversations on a weekly basis. We operate on our own time-table. We discuss the biblical topics relevant to us. We ask the hard questions rarely asked in “big church” and regularly strategize as a group regarding how we are going to talk to certain friends, family members, and co-workers about the truth. In this way, our church has become an “evangelism engine” and not simply a repository for the evangelized. Over the past few years, I have learned that there is simply no substitute for discipleship. There is nothing wrong with potlucks and children's programs (we love those things), but each “church gathering” should be laser-focused on not

only spiritually nurturing people, but equipping them to go out and be lights in the world. Certain settings and arrangements are simply more conducive to those goals. This is why so many megachurches have now turned to insisting on “small groups” and “home fellowships” during the work week. They realize that vital elements of the Christian life have been lost in “big church.” In this light, having a “house church” doesn't look like a substitute or a bargain bin version of “real church” at all. In fact, it looks exactly like church is supposed to. Our weekly meetings look more like something to be deeply cherished, something to make available to others at all costs.



Backyard fellowship

One episode in particular made me realize the great value of what God has allowed us to build in our home. I received an email from a man from Africa who was now living in Houston and looking for fellowship. When we first met, he revealed that he had been kicked out of every church and Bible study he had ever found, both in Africa and in the States, due to his theological beliefs—beliefs which he shared with us. He confessed that he had been looking for in-person fellowship for nearly forty years! To put it lightly, he was glad to find us. “I thank God,” he said, in a stunning display of gratefulness, “That he did not make me wait for fellowship too long and brought us together so quickly!” For him, the forty-year wait to find fellowship was nothing compared to the great value he understood that fellowship could bring him. If only each one of us likewise understood Christian fellowship to be the pearl of great price that it is!

It is easy to blame a lack of time, a lack of finances, or other people, or even where one lives—but sometimes it is our own lack of vision (or lack of proper perspective) that hinders us from building up the body of Christ. Unfortunately, when we say the word “church” in modern America, a certain image usually

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comes to mind. But we don't need heaps of cash, a dedicated building, sound systems, or anything other than a passion for the truth and a love for God's people to make a difference in our communities. Our humble group is living proof of that. In any given city, if only a few believers decided to gather regularly, and to make their presence known through social media, word-of-mouth, or ads in the paper—what might God do with that show of faithfulness? What benefits might be had by not only those founding members, but the others out there who have been prayerfully searching for their company?

As an accidental pastor, I've learned a lot, and far too much for this brief memoir. But if I have any advice for biblical unitarians who find themselves asking the question "Now what?", it would be this: (1) No matter what you do, don't keep your light under wraps. God has given you his truths for a reason. There is someone out there who needs what you have. Be a good steward and let it shine, no matter the cost to yourself. That's what Jesus did, and God blessed him for it. (2) Don't limit what God can do with you or your group, no matter how small it is. The entire world was changed by twelve men. What could he do with you in your city? (3) Don't put "church" in a box. Very often God's plans for our ministries are very far from what we first imagined. The world's mark of a successful "church-plant" looks like Lakewood. But if the career of Jesus is anything to go by, God's definition of success looks very different. Ultimately, if your local gathering, big

or small, was able to lead just one person to the kingdom of God, wouldn't that be worth the effort? (4) Always ask yourself not what "church" might do for you, but what you might do for the body of Christ. This is the difference between Christians who gather for "friendship and fun" and a church that meets to make a difference in the world. The former is valuable, yes, but should be a byproduct of the latter. True fellowship is built around the work of Christ, and that work is always a work of service.



Teaching children

Keeping all of these things in view can work wonders for our perspective, and for the gospel mission of Jesus. The right vision can help turn our "accidents" into "purpose," and turn "isolated believers" into "church," and turn God's dream for his earthly family into a reality. Whether the sheep be many or few, whether they graze in a small pasture or a large valley, we each have an obligation to feed Christ's flock using the resources God has given us. We don't have to be wealthy and wise to do so. We just have to be ready and willing.

**RH**



Kingwood, TX, church

## Glad Tidings Church of God Celebrates 50 Years at Current Location

By Daniel Calcagno

This past November, Glad Tidings Church of God in Fonthill, Ontario celebrated 50 years at our current location. However, since the Fonthill Church of God has been in existence since the mid-nineteenth century, it was an opportunity to celebrate its entire history. Not having grown up in the Church of God and only having been a part of Glad Tidings for four and a half years, I've had to do a little research and investigation to be familiar with our long history. The Church of God in Fonthill began as a result of one man: Peter Bouk. In the 1840s, Bouk heard an evangelist proclaim the message that "a restored earth would be the future home of God's people." Based on this unique message, Bouk was baptized on February 2nd, 1846. For the rest of that century, Bouk spread these biblical truths to others, and established a congregation. In 1904, our church hired its first pastor: F.L. Austin. Austin is a significant figure in the history of the Church of God General Conference, since he moved from Fonthill to Oregon, Illinois in the early 1920s to take on a variety of roles: our conference's first Executive Secretary (as it was called then); a founding instructor of the Bible Training Class (now Atlanta Bible College); and an editor of the Restitution Herald (which you are reading right now). After Austin, other pastors served the Fonthill Church of God in the mid-twentieth century, including G.E. Marsh, Grover Gordon, Clyde Randall, Melville Lyon, and Edward Goit. A building right in the heart of Fonthill served as our church's building from 1908 to 1968. However, due to church growth, there was a need for a new building at a new location, and that location turned out to be Pancake Lane. Interestingly, the pastor at the time was Emory Macy, who is our current Executive Director Seth Ross's grandfather. After Macy, Jack Hearp, Steve Bolhaus, Frank Toth, Michael Montgomery, and Michael Brown served as pastor. My wife Sarah and I have been serving at Glad Tidings since 2014.

Fifty years to the weekend of the original dedication service of our building on November 17, 1968, we commemorated our anniversary with two special events. On Friday November 16, 2018, we held a fun night of reminiscing, which included showing a documentary video we made and our newly renovated church history archive. Accompanied by our former



50th Anniversary service at Glad Tidings Church of God



Seth Ross with Pastor Daniel & Sarah Calcagno

organist, Lillian Lampitt, Eleanor Cook led us in some of the classic hymns, while Joanne Gray helped us relive the 1960s through an amusing skit. Most important was the time of reconnecting and fellowship: 67 were in attendance, many of whom were former church members. Then on Sunday November 18, 2018, we gathered together for worship, to honour the past, and to look ahead to the future. Our elders, Gerry Cook and Elaine Shute, participated in the service, with Elaine leading the rededication ceremony. We had several special guests join us this weekend, including Seth Ross and his family representing the General Conference. Seth shared a few words with the congregation, and it was very much in concert with the theme for the day that we must move forward into the future. Along those lines, the message that I went on to share that morning was one of emphasizing that our message (the gospel of the kingdom) is a message that is unchanging and enduring, but we must find fresh ways to present this message. Over 80 people were in attendance that day, and many stayed for a time of great fellowship with a wonderful catered lunch prepared by Morgan Shute.

I thank God that He has given me the privilege to pastor a church with such a great legacy and with such important biblical truths to offer the world. Our anniversary weekend afforded us the opportunity to look back to many good times in our church's history and to remind ourselves of what worked so well in the past, with the goal to replicate that past success in today's context. Moving into the future, we believe that God is going to do great things in and through us. Though we've been at our current location of 1 Pancake Lane for 50 years and have been in Fonthill for almost 175 years, we know that God has much more for us to do. And we will continue to do His work until Jesus returns!

RH

## A Story of Generational Faith

### By David Krogh

2018 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the baptism of my great grandfather, Herman Mehrens. According to a number of early Church of God publications (*The Restitution, The Present Truth, The World's Hope, The Last Days*) that printed his obituary in 1914, he was baptized in 1868 by a Church of God pastor, William P. Shockey (see footnote for information about him). Since he had married Josephine Boice in 1866, I am assuming that she was baptized at the same time because I have records and photos showing that she was also active in the Church of God.



Herman Mehrens



Josephine Boice

It is my understanding that Herman and his family wholeheartedly accepted the teachings of the Church of God, among which was a belief in conditional immortality, also known as the sleep of the dead or soul sleep. This teaching focuses upon the places in scripture where death is referred to as a sleep. It emphasizes the passages that indicate that the reward of the faithful will happen at the return of Jesus at which time the dead in Christ will rise and the living Christians will be changed and made immortal. (1<sup>st</sup> Thess. 4:16-18; Heb. 11:39 and 40; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 15:35-58) Rather than a person having an immortal soul which either goes at death to heaven or "hell" where a person will supposedly be tortured for eternity, conditional immortality says that people are not inherently immortal. However, through acceptance of Jesus as Savior, they are preparing for immortality when Jesus returns. Immortality is based on the condition of accepting Jesus. The wicked do not have immortality and after being judged are annihilated in the lake of fire. Romans 2:7 mentions "seeking for immortality." If everyone already has it, there is no need to seek for it.

As an indication that Herman and Josephine held to this belief, pictured is their tombstone in Blair, NE that says: "Asleep in Jesus."



Tombstone for Herman and Josephine

I find it interesting that an increasing number of theologians from many denominations have adopted a conditionalist belief. They have come to realize that the kingdom of God about which Jesus taught extensively (in Acts 1 it says he spoke about it for 40 days, as well as throughout his ministry), is going to be located here on the earth when he returns. A belief in going immediately to one's reward in heaven at death, does not mesh with these other passages.

Another distinctive belief of the Church of God is about the nature of God and Jesus. We believe the scriptures teach the oneness of God and the unique role of Jesus as the Son of God, but that Jesus is not part of a triune God. Since the Bible never uses the word "trinity," it is thought best to use biblical terms to describe God and Jesus. Jesus seemed to prefer and used the term "Son of Man" to describe himself many times in scripture, although he also used "Son of God." John 17:3, where Jesus is praying to his Father, makes the oneness of God clear. "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." Also 1 Tim. 2:5: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Throughout church history, there has been controversy about how to describe the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Various church councils were held in

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## A Story of Generational Faith

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the 300s A.D. with various conclusions. Later, there was violence between those who held different views. John Calvin ordered Dr. Michael Servetus (1511 to 1553) to be burned at the stake because of his anti-trinitarian views.

Once my great grandparents came to understand these Bible truths, they taught it to other family members. Josephine's sister, Nancy Compton, and her husband John were active in the Church of God in Nebraska and at one time served on the isolated member committee that attempted to connect Church of God members across the country who lived where there were no Church of God congregations. Herman and Josephine passed the truth on to their children and spouses. My grandmother Birdie Mehrens Krogh taught her husband Harvey Sr., and his father, Carl Krogh, who was baptized in 1916 by Almus Adams, the great grandfather of Warren Sorenson. Harvey and Birdie Krogh helped start a congregation in Blair and were faithful believers through their life. They taught the message to their children, including my Dad, Harvey Krogh Jr. He and his sister Dorothy Paulson attended the Bible Training Class (forerunner of Oregon and Atlanta Bible College) in Oregon. Dorothy's son, Bill Paulson and my sister, Rachel Carr, and I attended the Bible College.

I am very grateful for the faith of our ancestors which was passed along to each succeeding generation. I am so thankful I was raised in a Christian home where I could learn the truth about God, Jesus and the coming kingdom and have hope of eternal life.

### William P. Shockey (1814-1882)

According to Jan Stilson in the *Biographical Encyclopedia*, "Evangelist William Shockey was contemporary with the organization of the One Faith in Geneva, IL. An Indiana clergyman from Cambellite background, he became convinced that he needed to make a change."

"Once he accepted the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Shockey moved to the frontier. He began around Rensselaer, IN, during the pioneer days of that region. He very likely studied the Gospel through the outreach of the Rensselaer Church of God. On the frontier he lived and worked throughout Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. In one report to the Gospel Banner and Millennial Advocate, Shockey said 150 people were with the One Faith

across those four states. He had traveled over 3,000 miles, and baptized 38 believers in and around the state of Kansas. In the six months since his previous report, he had preached 273 times. His ministry was self-supporting, showing a \$483 profit one year. At the annual conference in Nebraska, it was decided to return Bro. Shockey and S. E. Adams to the field to increase the growth."

"William Shockey was a good Bible student, and he was interested in helping others study as well. He wrote a series of lessons entitled 'Bible Instruction Analysis.' The first one appears in The Gospel Banner."

One of my family members found an interesting piece in the Troy, Kansas "Weekly Kansas Chief" (their local newspaper) on May 18, 1882:

"W. P. Shockey died at Ozark, Anderson County, Kansas on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. inst. (1882), of congestion of the brain, aged 68 years. He introduced the 'Soul Sleeping Doctrine' into this country. By this time, he is in a position to test the doctrine".

RH

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## Church News

### Baptisms

#### Illinois

Oregon—James Arnold (7/29/18) by John Guthrie

#### Indiana

Kokomo—Paul Pepka (7/26/18), Angie Pepka (7/26/18), Clair Pepka (7/26/18), Samantha Pepka (7/26/18), by Bob Morrison

Mason Ogle (7/26/18) by Talon Paul

#### South Carolina

Pelzer—Lauren Winner (5/27/18), Kara Henderson (6/10/18), Kinsey Henderson (6/17/18), Samantha Wood (6/17/18) by Wally Winner

### Deaths

#### Arkansas

Royal – Anita Humphreys Howell, 84, (7-29-18) attended Oregon Bible College 1955-57 by Larry Mayberry

#### California

Pomona—Ric Landry, 68, (10/20/18) by Bruce Reye

#### Illinois

Eldorado—Velma Y. Wiggins, 82, (11/24/18) by Dr. Brian Atra

Oregon—Ivan Magaw, 94, (10-26-18) life-long member, son of former Restitution Herald editor Sydney (Margaret) Magaw by Pastor Ron Macy.

Oregon—Charles W. Hitchcock, 82, (5/5/18) by John Guthrie

Oregon—Robert Long, 71, (11/7/18) by Willy Little

Ripley—Lyle Lewis, 89, (8/3/18) by Dick Young. He was a long-time member and a brother to John Lewis, former Oregon Bible College president killed in an auto accident in 1978.

#### Indiana

Hedrick—Frank Taylor, 87, (11/14/18), by David Cheatwood. He was a long-time member.

Hedrick—Roger Kidd, 83, (11/9/18) by David Cheatwood

South Bend—Carson Langel, 83, (11/18/18) by Jake Ballard

South Bend—Jim Derbin, 71, (12/4/18) by Jake Ballard

#### Louisiana

Springfield – Pastor Billie Kennedy, 84, (6-24-18). He graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1957. He served as pastor of churches in Harlingen, TX; Blanchard, MI; Lawrenceville, OH; Eden Valley, MN; and Blood River, LA. During his ministry he served many years on the staff of the youth camp of the General Conference. He served on the General Conference Board of Directors for two terms. He was elected in 1974 and served as chairman 1975-1977. And was elected again in 1994 and served until 1998.



His long ministry impacted hundreds and thousands of people—both youth and adults in the churches and communities where he served.

Pastor Billie is survived by his wife of 63 years, Irene Richardson Kennedy, six children: Laurie (Tom) McCann; Donna (Phyllis Picard-Staton) Kennedy, Mark (Kim Portier) Kennedy, Brenda (Rick) Thielen, James (Jackie) Kennedy, Dan (Amy) Kennedy.

Funeral services were conducted by John Win-capaw.

#### Michigan

Grand Rapids—Joyce Knapp, 89, (12/12/18). She was a founding member of the Garden Park Church of God in 1964 and a long-time member of the General Conference Sunday School Board. She was also one of the founders of Christian Workers Seminar.

#### Minnesota

Hector – Kathy Johnson, 68, (10-13-18) by Seth Ross

#### Missouri

Morse Mill – Judy Lee, 48, (4-2-18) by Bill Dunn III

#### North Carolina

Lenoir—Jerold Brewer, 81, (11/28/18) by Michael Medlock

Lenoir—Larry German, 76, (10/18/18) by Michael Medlock

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## Church News

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### Ohio

Springfield—Judy Domigan, 75, (11/30/18) by Alan Cain

Tipp City—Bill Smith, 82, (10/28/18) by Dave Hixon

### South Carolina

Pelzer—Mollie White, 90, (3-14-18) – life-long member of Guthrie Grove by Michael Montgomery

Pelzer—Justin Allison, 35, (11/10/18) by Wally Winner

### Texas

Waco – Tom Zirkelbach, 85 (6-21-18). Graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1955. Service by Robert Baugh and Greg Demmitt

### Virginia

Front Royal – Fay Carroll, 97, (3-22-18) by Dennis Baldwin and Jon Welch

### CANADA

#### Ontario

Fonthill – long-time members Hilda Payne, 92, (3-12-18); Ruth Micheline, 96, (7-5-18); Joanne Payne Ferbrache, 71, (7-29-18); Reuben McArthur, 93, (9-5-18) long-time elder at Glad Tidings Church and member of General Conference Ministerial Recognition Board by Daniel Calcagno



States and provinces where these baptisms and deaths took place

## Church Classifieds

### Michigantown, IN—Pastor

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've 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 retired 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.

### Bristow, OK—Pastor

Bristow Advent Christian Church is seeking a pastor. "The mission of the Bristow Advent Christian Church is to bring people into a personal relationship with God; through Jesus Christ and to disciple them by the spiritual application of biblical principles in daily living."

They have provided key documents if interested: job description, church mission statement, and Bristow, OK demographic information. These can be sent upon request.

Inquiries should be directed to either of the following:

Jack Smith is board chairman, 918-688-1891  
Kristi VanOrsdol is secretary, 918-645-8461

Any questions or referrals should go to them.



## “Contending for the Faith” Mission Conference

Kingdom of God Ministry & Missions held their first annual national missions conference in October at Higher Ground Church in White House, Tennessee. Messages focused on the theme "Contending Earnestly for the Faith" (Jude 3) to encourage, inspire and challenge attendees. There were a wide variety of missions and evangelism topics, and we heard from those in the fields and on the front lines around the world.

Speakers included: Dan & Sharon Gill, Anthony & Barbara Buzzard, Carlos Jimenez, Alane Rozelle, Joe & Rebekah Martin, Dick Eldred, Carey Clark, Steve An, Bill Schlegel, and Tracy Zhykhovich. God’s truths were emphasized and boldly preached, and we were reminded of the need to remain faithful to the teachings of Jesus in our outreach.

You can find more details at:

<https://kogmissions.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/10-Missions-Newsletter-Conf-Special-edition.pdf>

A special thanks to Higher Ground Church for hosting, and to Sharon Gill for doing the video work. Once the recordings of this year’s conference are up, we will publicize the link.

Plans are underway for next year’s conference. Watch for more information in the Restitution Herald and at kogmissions.com.



Steve An presenting

Dr. Dale Tuggy, from our Higher Ground Church, in White House, TN will be engaging with Dr. Michael Brown of Ask Dr. Brown Ministries. It will be an excellent opportunity to create exposure for non-trinitarian understanding of scripture. Check out Dr. Tuggy’s website [www.trinities.org](http://www.trinities.org) where he discusses many of the problems with trinitarian theories and interviews many people on theological issues.

The Church of God General Conference is underwriting this event in the hopes that our viewpoints (which are shared by many around the world) will be seen by an even greater number of people and considered. People from around the Church of God have helped organize and promote this event, and so we invite you to attend and support Dr. Tuggy and the spread of truth. The event will be recorded and later posted online, so large audience would be beneficial.

**Lodging:** A block of rooms is available at the Wingate By Windham, Charlotte Concord Mills/Speedway, 7841 Gateway Ln. NW, Concord, NC 28027 phone 704-979-1300

**Event Location:** FIRE Church 4323 Concord Pkwy S. Concord, NC 28027

## Christmas: What You Need to Know

By Robert Morrison

As I turned on the local news this morning, I heard the newscaster say, "Here's what you need to know this morning." Here's what I need to know? I know, I'm being picky, but I was curious what she thought I needed to know. First, the cause of a certain house fire was deemed 'undetermined.' Not sure I needed to know that, but OK. There was an earthquake in Tennessee early this morning. My ceiling wasn't cracked, so I'm good there. There was a man doing lewd things from his car yesterday to women in town. I might need to know that, but I think it would be better for him to know that I'd better not be the one who sees him doing this to women. And there is a chance for rain tomorrow afternoon. OK, I might need to know when it rains, but I didn't need to know if it's not going to rain today. ...So, what exactly do we really NEED to know?

This is the time of year most of the country celebrates Christmas. This means so many different things to so many people. For many, it's a time of shopping till our credit is maxed out. For others, it's a time of getting together with family and sharing a big meal. For some, it's a painful time of remembering loved ones who are no longer with us. For a few, it's a time to be offended when someone offers a 'Merry Christmas.' But for the people who know Jesus, it's a time to remember that he was born into this world. In the gospel of Luke, he begins his historical narrative this way, "Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught." (Luke 1:1-4) It appears that Luke knows some things that he feels his friend Theophilus needs to know so that he can be certain of the truth of everything he was taught. One thing important to see is that Luke said that he carefully investigated the reports from the early disciples. There's nothing as credible as an eyewitness when describing a certain event. Luke, the doctor, made sure what he was about to write about was true, from the very witness of the people who saw what had happened.

So, when it comes to the Christmas season, what things do we need to know to be certain of the truths we were taught? I think Luke gives the answer a few verses later in his account of the birth of Jesus. He describes a visit to Mary, the fiancé of Joseph, from an angel named Gabriel. Gabriel tells Mary, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with

you!" Then the angel tells her why the Lord is with her. "You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his kingdom will never end!" (Luke 1:28-33) While there is enough contained in this passage to write entire books, and many have been written, let's simply leave it as a short list of what we need to know about the Christmas season. A son was born of a virgin named Mary after being conceived of God's Holy Spirit. She named him Jesus, following the instructions of the angel Gabriel. This son was very great and is the true Son of the Father, YAHWEH. He is the descendant of David and will be given the throne of David in a coming kingdom that will never end. That's our promise, and that's the true meaning of why we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

So, as you see the sights and sounds, and feel the weight of how the world wants to celebrate, or ignore Christmas, look past the noise and remember the true meaning of the birth of our Lord. As the song shouts to us, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!" We know the truth about the coming of the Lord. It gives us an unshakable foundation that others do not have. Let others see this in you and how you respond to situations. Share this faith with those who will listen, so they too can have a part in the kingdom that will never end. Have a wonderful Christmas season, peace be with you all!





## 2019 ARKANSAS BIBLE PROPHECY CONFERENCE MARCH 1-3 CONWAY, AR

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

### Friday, March 2

- 4:00 PM– Registration Open
- 6:00 PM– **Session 1:** Cathy Cunningham
- 7:30 PM– **Session 2:** Pastor Wally Winner

### Saturday, March 3

- 9:00 AM– **Session 3:** Dr. Joe Martin
- 9:45 AM– Break
- 10:00 AM– **Session 4:** Anthony Buzzard
- 10:45 AM– Break
- 11:00 AM– **Session 5:** Pastor Dan Gill
- 11:45 AM– Break for Lunch (There are several restaurants within walking distance)
- 2:00 PM– **Session 6:** Lonnie Craig
- 2:45 PM– Break
- 3:00 PM– **Session 7:** Seth Ross
- 3:45 PM– Break and Dinner
- 6:00 PM– Banquet Dinner in the Ball Room (Included with Registration Fee)
- 7:30 PM– **Session 8:** Pastor Wally Winner

### Sunday, March 4

- (Events will move to McGintytown Church of God 509 Hwy 225 E. Greenbrier, AR 72058)
- 10:00 AM– **Session 9:** Adults/ Youth – Cathy Cunningham
  - 11:00 AM– **Session 10:** Pastor Wally Winner
  - 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](mailto:tnew@cyberback.com)

# 2019 ARKANSAS BIBLE PROPHECY CONFERENCE

MARCH 1-3 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 2 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 25, 2018. 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 at 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.

## A month of prayer items

- 1 **Thank God for your pastor this month and seek ways to encourage your pastor.**
- 2 Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and a new earth in His coming kingdom.
- 3 **Pray for a personal hunger to know God and Jesus better.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Brian Atra and his work with the Restitution Church in Eldorado, IL.
- 5 **Praise God for your church family and the strength that you receive through it.**
- 6 Pray for the Open Bible Church of God in Springfield, MO.
- 7 **Pray for a church planting vision for Church of God members.**
- 8 Pray for Africa mission work.
- 9 **Pray for the youth of your local church.**
- 10 Praise God for those who are preparing for ministry.
- 11 **Pray for Joe Martin as he transitions to a new phase of life and ministry.**
- 12 Pray for opportunities to speak to others today about God and Jesus Christ.
- 13 **Thank God for the financial supporters of the Church of God General Conference.**
- 14 Praise God for new contacts who are seeking the truth around the world.
- 15 **Pray for the ministry of the Pakistan churches affiliated with the Church of God General Conference.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and the church at Fort Valley, VA.
- 17 **Pray for the work that is being done in India to proclaim God's truth.**
- 18 Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as they continue their school year.
- 19 **Pray for the board members to be led by God as they guide the General Conference.**
- 20 Pray for Pastor John and Lila Wincapaw and the Blood River Church in Springfield, LA.
- 21 **Pray for God's blessing on your neighborhood.**
- 22 Ask God to help you love Him and His Son more.
- 23 **Pray for Pastor Steve and Jill Taylor and the Lakeshore Bible Church in Arizona.**
- 24 Pray for the work of the Blanchard, MI church.
- 25 **Pray for the ministry of the ABC Korean Extension in reaching students in both Georgia and in South Korea.**
- 26 Pray for the Grace Fellowship Church in Front Royal, VA.
- 27 **Praise God for Kegan & Lauren Chandler as they lead a young home church in Kingwood, TX.**
- 28 Pray for the Fair Oaks Community Church in Herndon, VA.
- 29 **Pray for the church at Hedrick, IN and Pastor David and Wanda Cheatwood.**
- 30 Praise God for His constant care.
- 31 **Pray for God to send workers into the fields that are ready for harvest.**

## A month of prayer items

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and the St. Cloud, MN Church and House Light Ministries.**
- 2 Pray for believers scattered around the country without a nearby Church of God to attend.
- 3 **Praise God for volunteers who willingly serve the Church of God on various committees.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Kirby Davis and Pastor Robin and Marisa Todd and the Wenatchee, WA church.
- 5 **Pray for Lupe Badillo as she continues to minister in Labor Vieja, Mexico.**
- 6 Pray for the growing work in Uganda as many people are coming to faith.
- 7 **Pray that God will raise up workers to serve in mission fields in other lands.**
- 8 Pray for Pastor Andy and Kristy Cisneros and their ministry at Guthrie Grove Church of God in Pelzer, SC.
- 9 **Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness.**
- 10 Pray for Rick McClain and the work of the Lord's Harvest International mission board.
- 11 **Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God.**
- 12 Praise God for baptisms in our churches.
- 13 **Pray for Pastor Wade and Kim Tierney and the Morse Mill, MO church.**
- 14 Pray for the Ministerial Recognition Board as they encourage our pastors.
- 15 **Pray for the pastors in Pakistan who minister under very difficult circumstances.**
- 16 Pray for the Western Washington Church in Olympia, WA.
- 17 **Pray for God to provide you with "thankful" eyes this month.**
- 18 Pray for the boldness you need to share Christ with an unbelieving friend.
- 19 **Pray for college/conference youth events being planned for 2019.**
- 20 Pray for the outreach efforts of your local congregation.
- 21 **Praise God for a blessing He provided in your life yesterday.**
- 22 Praise God for His daily blessings of shelter, food, family, and friends.
- 23 **Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life.**
- 24 Pray for the churches within your state or regional conference.
- 25 **Pray for Pastor Bill and Lacey Dunn and the Garden Park Church in Grand Rapids, MI.**
- 26 Praise God for the wealth of our nation that allows us to spread the gospel around the world.
- 27 **Pray for God to raise up talented students who will desire to prepare for ministry at Atlanta Bible College.**
- 28 Pray for the opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.
- 29 **Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation.**
- 30 Pray for new contacts through distribution of literature and our website.

## A month of prayer items

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Beloit New Life, WI church.**
- 2 Praise God for those who lead worship at your church.
- 3 **Pray for our missionaries all over the world.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Karen Fletcher and the Cool Spring Church in Browntown, VA.
- 5 **Pray for North Hills Church in Springfield, OH as they transition to a new pastor Kyle McClain and his wife Jamie.**
- 6 Pray for vision for the Lord's Harvest International Board.
- 7 **Praise God for the dedicated service of the staff for our college and conference.**
- 8 Praise God for the promise that Jesus will come a second time.
- 9 **Pray for Pastor Richard and Jan Alcumbrack and the Southlawn Church in Wyoming, MI.**
- 10 Pray for Atlanta Bible College graduates serving in pastoral internships and are preparing for what God has next for them.
- 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 Dr. Brian Atra and his work with the Fredericktown Church in Fredericktown, MO.
- 15 **Pray for your next door neighbor(s) today.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Mark Jones and the Higher Ground Church in White House, TN.
- 17 **Pray for Jason Brown as he leads Clark Chapel Church in Magazine, AR.**
- 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 on the ABCKE campus in Johns Creek, GA .
- 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 separated relationally from family and friends.
- 25 **Praise God for the gift of His Son, Jesus.**
- 26 Pray for preparations for the new semester at ABC that will begin after the first of the year.
- 27 **Pray for Pastor Bob and Susan Collier and the North Salem, IN Church.**
- 28 Pray for the work of local 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 online.**
- 30 Pray for revival throughout the Church of God in the coming year.
- 31 **Praise God for the way He has blessed you in 2018.**

**Help your donations  
go further!  
Ways to give...**

### **BEST**

Checks or Online Bill pay  
Pro: No money lost to fees  
Con: none

### **BETTER**

Debit Card  
Pro: convenient  
Con: 1% of your donation lost to fees

### **GOOD**

Credit Card  
Pro: convenient  
Con: 3% of your donation lost to fees  
  
Last year, over \$10,000 of donations and event payments went to pay credit card fees.

## **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**

**scatteredbrethren.org** (Robin Todd)  
**focusonthekingdom.org** (Anthony Buzzard)  
**restitutio.org** (Sean Finnegan)  
**21stcr.org** (Dan Gill)  
**trinities.org** (Dr. Dale Tuggy)  
**thegodofjesus.com** (Kegan Chandler)  
**KOGmissions.org** (Tracy Zhykhovich)

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Church of God General Conference  
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Join us for the 99th Annual  
General Conference  
next summer.



**S H A L L P R E V A I L**

**July 24-26, 2019**

**Pelzer, SC at Guthrie Grove Church of God**

Childcare | Worship | Ministry training | Fellowship | Vision | Heritage