

## Institutional Long-Range Planning

by Dr. Donna Deane

**D**uring October, about 60 Church of God people met at Atlanta Bible College to work on the Long-range Institutional Study. Eight task forces worked on the issues of Purpose Statement, Atlanta Bible College, Youth, Evangelism, Communication, Publications, Technology, and Finance. It was a great day! There was a good feeling of camaraderie and enthusiasm as we focused on the Lord's work.

### Overview of the Long-Range Study

The work of the task forces will be incorporated into the actions and recommendations of the Board of Directors as we bring the long-range study to closure. The study to build a strategic plan for the College and Conference was approved by the delegates in 1994. Since that time we have studied many facets of the College and Conference, as well as garnering the opinions of many Church of God members and pastors.

Sources of information have included:

- A survey sent to Church of God members with an issue of the *Progress Journal*
- Meetings with people attending Church of God Conferences (Northeast, Southeast, General Conference meetings)
- A review of the programs and policies of the Bible College
- A review of the programs and policies of General Conference
- Interviews with ABC/COG General Conference students, staff, faculty
- A survey sent to all Church of God pastors regarding the needs of the churches
- A review of journals and books regarding Bible colleges and ministry
- Information from the Advisory Committees
- A survey sent to all Church of God pastors regarding the needs of congregations
- A survey sent to all Church of God pastors regarding future directions for the College and Conference

All of the information has been reviewed by the Board of Directors at meetings during the last two years. Responses we've received reflect the diversity of the people, pastors, and churches of the Church of God. Any long-range study, at best, is not an exact science. It isn't as simple as calculating percentages on one or two surveys. We've purposely sought the ideas of many others as we seek to know what God would have us do.

### Highlights of data collected

There are several common and consistent responses in all the data. One is that we must continue to share the distinctive Bible truths of the Church of God Abrahamic Faith. Whatever changes we make must continue to evidence our doctrine. Another consistent admonition is that we do all in concert with God's desire for us; that prayer be a constant in all aspects of the long-range study.

It is also evident in all the information we have that *change* is desired. Change in the College, Conference and churches is needed if we are to better fulfill the Great Commission and lead the lost to Christ.

It may not come as a surprise but one other consistent observation that can be made about all of the responses for the long-range study is that Church of God members are very *diverse* in the



Dr. Donna Deane leading a general session for task force members.

way they think changes should take place. Although we have the same truths, we are led by prayer, and we want change, we don't really always agree on the changes which need to take place!

### Schedule for completion of the study

The study will be finished by the summer of 1998; i.e. all of the decisions about the future plans related to the study should be made. However, the timing for implementing the decisions will vary; some may be implemented in a week, some may have two or three or four-year timelines to accomplish. There are several kinds of actions that are taking place. One is managerial. Some of the comments and input prompt positive changes in managerial decisions such as budgeting process and staff responsibilities and content of specific publications. There are also actions which will require board decisions such as allocation of monies. In addition, any major actions will require delegate vote; some recommendations for delegate action will be acted upon at the July 1998 General Conference meeting in Atlanta (Hope to see YOU there!). Major actions may include such things as revision of the Purpose Statement for the Church of God General Conference or changes in program offerings at the Bible College. The Board of Directors will be finalizing the summer General Conference delegate recommendations at their January and March board meetings. The recommendations will be published in the May/June *Progress Journal* for your review prior to the summer General Conference.

### Specific issues being reviewed

Following is a discussion of several of the prominent issues that have been identified during the study as considerations for change. Some points are made in the form of questions, others in the form of possible recommendations. Keep in mind that these are all under discussion. The October task force groups provided some major directions for a number of these issues. However, *final decisions are still not made*; if you have suggestions about any of them, be certain to let us know.

**1. Purpose Statement.** The relationship between, as well as the purposes of the Conference and of the College are being reviewed. The task force has recommended that a stronger partnership relationship exist between the College/Conference, state conferences, and churches; that a stronger focus be placed on participation of the churches and regional conferences in General Conference initiatives.

**2. Atlanta Bible College.** The current four-year pastoral leadership program of study and the two-year certificate program are being reviewed. The churches and pastors strongly identified the need for the College to prepare leaders for the Church of God. However, how will those leaders be best prepared? Through lay ministry programs, a seminary, the current four-year program? What modalities would work best? Increase the use of technology for distance learning? Have a series of off-campus classes at churches or state conferences? Or, continue with an on-campus curriculum?

**3. Publishing.** There are many diverse opinions on publishing for the Church of God. The task force in October identified some major considerations for this area. Some of those included ways to improve current Christian education materials, developing our own writers through workshops, encouraging young people to write, and producing editorial guidelines for our materials. In addition, they have suggested revision of the *Restitution Herald*, creating a magazine to the unchurched, creating small books on Biblical topics with study guides and quizzes, and providing a clearinghouse for non-Church of God publications. Input from pastors and members has indicated a strong desire for publications which include more information about other churches and people in the Church of God; information which would enable us to more strongly identify with one another.

**4. Evangelism.** What role should the General Conference and College play in evangelism? Preparation of leaders, identifying strategies for the local church? Who should stimulate and facilitate church planting? What services and resources should the College and/or Conference provide which would best serve the evangelism needs of



Members of the Long-Range task forces  
in prayer groups.

the churches, members and conferences? What evangelism experiences can be provided for youth? Responses on the surveys reflect *much diversity* within the Church of God as to the role of the College, the Conference, the pastors, the regional and state conferences and the congregations. The task force recommended a strong partnership between the Conference and the local church to provide the motivation and tools to reach the lost for Christ.

**5. Technology.** There is common agreement that we need to increase the efficient and creative use of technology in the work of the Church of God. The task force strongly recommended updating the computers used on campus by staff and students. Students registered at Clayton State are required to have lap top computers. The use of technology should be incorporated in order to enhance the academic program as well as increase communication between Church of God members, pastors, and churches. The technology task force is recommending that every church/pastor be connected to the Internet within the next three years.

**6. Communication, Marketing, Public Relations, Image.** In the interest of reaching and sharing our truths with the lost, how do we best present a positive, corporate image for the Church of God? How can the Conference and College enhance and facilitate positive communications and public relations within and outside of the Church of God? The task force has made recommendations in the areas of image; sensitivity to current trends and needs of the members as well as the lost; developing a Church of God logo; preparing students to be contributors to Conference public relations; and insuring the effective reporting and sharing of all information from the Conference.

**7. Youth.** Responding to the needs of the youth is one of the biggest areas of common agreement for change. Several recommendations that have been made include sponsorship of a National Day of Prayer for youth and youth ministry (February 15, 1998); expanding the current RYOT program; providing regional youth leader training; sponsoring youth mission trips; and developing and improving youth publications.

**8. Leadership.** Strategies are needed to develop leadership within the Church of God. The Bible College

currently provides a program for pastoral ministry. Programs and resources need to be provided for Christian Education, church leaders, writers, and faculty and administrators for the College and Conference. How will we facilitate the development of future leaders for the Church of God?

**9. Finance.** Finance, of course, overlays all of the programs we decide to develop. The finance task force recommended that the Board strive to share complete financial information with the members in a user-friendly way. They also suggested that financial stewardship and education be emphasized among church members and that appeals for contributions to the Conference go through the local church.

### Conclusions

The questions and discussion noted above are *some examples* of the input we've received from many of you and of the issues the Board is studying to make recommendations for the future of the Church of God. The process has been enlightening and exciting for many of us as we seek the Lord's will for how we should proceed as a College and a Conference. The diversity of the concerns shown by members of the Church of God contribute to the challenge of coming to decisions that will not only please God but will bring strength and cohesiveness to the body. The diversity, if we will tolerate it, can actually bring strength in that we can reach so many more and different people and bring them to know Christ. Pray for all of those involved in the decision making — the Board, the pastors, the churches, the delegates at this next summer's conference. If you have suggestions, let us know those now.



*Members of the Publications task force.*

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# College/Conference News

## Annual Directory

This issue of the Progress Journal contains the Church of God Directory for 1997-98. We appreciate the assistance of church secretaries in producing an accurate listing of churches, conferences, pastors, and church leaders. Additions or corrections should be sent to: Directory, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260.

## Atlanta Bible College Campus Chaplain

Pastor David Cheatwood of the Blessed Hope Bible Church of God in Rockford, Illinois served as chaplain on the Atlanta Bible College campus in mid-October. David spoke in chapel and participated in classes as well as spending time with students and staff.

## Church Builders Appeal #79

The Board of Directors has designated the Gatesville, Texas Church of God as the recipient of Church Builders Appeal #79. The church is currently constructing a new fellowship/dining area, kitchen, and five classrooms. The church presently has two buildings: a brick sanctuary building which includes three classrooms as well as a large foyer; and a fellowship building which includes a study, a classroom area, and a kitchen. The second building is old and in poor condition. It will be torn down after the new building is completed. The building under construction will be phase one of a project that will eventually include a new sanctuary. This project will cost approximately \$95,000. The membership of the Church of God is invited to participate in this appeal to assist the Gatesville congregation.

## Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors met on the campus of Atlanta Bible College in mid-October. The current financial report was reviewed. The audit report for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 1997 was reviewed and accepted.

The following officers were elected: Chairperson, Joe James; Vice Chairperson, Pastor Dale Swartz; Secretary, Dr. William D. Lawrence; Treasurer, Robert Huddleston.

The Board made several appointments as follows:  
Rob Helenburg — ABC Development Foundation Board  
Terri Tschaenn — Investment Fund Board  
Ken Millard — Investment Advisory Committee  
Charles Bottolfs — Ministerial Recognition Board  
Scott Deane — representative of the Board of Directors on the Higher Education Advisory Committee.

The Board made a loan of \$25,000 to the Crossroads Youth Ministry to help with startup costs for Traffic Jam '98 which will be held at Cedar Point, Ohio on September 12, 1998. More than 12,000 young people are expected to participate in this national event. Also, the Board will make available Crossroads Youth Ministry networking material to all churches in the Church of God for one year. Churches who have already subscribed to this material will have a one year extension granted to their subscription.

Freedom in Christ Ministries, Fonthill, Ontario was granted membership in the Church of God General Conference.

The Board of Directors will meet again January 15-17 to discuss reports from the Institutional Long-range Planning task forces.

## New Church Started

Pastor Gary Turner and his wife Glenda have been working for the past several months in preparation for the first service at New Life Bible Church of Winnebago, Illinois. The first service was held on October 26 with seventy in attendance. Winnebago is a rapidly growing city on the west side of Rockford, Illinois. There are twenty-three subdivisions under construction or on the drawing boards in the area. This is the third new church started in the greater Rockford area in the past nine years. Church Builders Appeal #78 provided financial assistance for this new congregation.

## St. Petersburg, Russia

Tracy Savage recently received her residency papers which will be good until October 7, 1998. With her housing allowance, Tracy is purchasing a home which will provide greater opportunities for her contact with people in the community. Tracy appreciates those who are providing prayer and financial support for her.

## Booster Campaign

Once each year Atlanta Bible College sponsors a special Booster Campaign to encourage prayer and financial support for the work of Atlanta Bible College. A portion of the education of students is funded through general contributions of members who recognize the importance of the Bible College. Students pay less than a third of the actual cost of tuition. Those who have not yet responded to this special campaign are encouraged to do so.

## College Invitational

March 6 and 7, Atlanta Bible College will host its annual College invitational weekend. Prospective students and sponsors are invited to attend this event to become familiar with the program and activities of the College. Currently, the College offers three academic programs:

A one-year foundation program consisting of fifteen hours of Bible, nine hours of ministry, and nine hours of general education.

A two-year diploma in church leadership consisting of twenty-four hours of Bible, thirty-three hours in ministry, and thirty-three hours in general education.

A professional studies program in Christian ministry which includes sixty-one hours of Bible, forty-six hours of ministry, and ninety-one hours of general education. This program leads to a Bachelor of Theology degree.

For additional information about the College, call 800-347-4261.

## Goal for Giving Update

During the first four months of the fiscal year, \$108,413 has been received in contributions. This is several thousand dollars more than had been received in contributions last year at this time. Approximately \$32,500 is needed each month to carry out the programs and services authorized by delegates at the annual conference. We are grateful to individuals, churches, and state/district conferences for their faithful giving to College/Conference ministries.

1997-1998  
**CHURCH OF GOD DIRECTORY**

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**Herndon (Fair Oaks Community Church),** 3309 W Ox Road, Herndon 22071 Ph 703-758-9397 (Sunday only)

Carolyn P Kohn, Board Moderator, 7711 Ivymount Terrace, Potomac, MD 20854 Ph 301-983-9130 E-mail cpkpotomac@aol.com

Carolyn M Chapman, Sec/Worship Service Coor, 6046 Finchingfield Road, Warrenton 20187 Ph 540-347-3934

Nedra Helenburg, Treas, 12811 Madeley Court, Fairfax 22033 Ph 703-378-0190

Rob Helenburg, Miss Chair, 12811 Madeley Court, Fairfax 22033 Ph 703-378-0190

#### WASHINGTON CHURCHES

**Bible Faith Church of God,** 14821 SE 16th Street, Bellevue (not mailing address)

Arlen F Rankin, Pastor, 12744 444th Avenue SE, North Bend 98045 Ph 425-831-6805 E-mail afrankin@snovalley.com

Sherry Wiltsey, Sec, 34250 166th Way SE, Auburn 98092 Ph 206-931-3875

Sharon Rankin, Treas, 12744 444th Avenue SE, North Bend 98045 Ph 425-831-6805 E-mail sharonkay@snovalley.com

**Cashmere Church,** Pioneer Avenue at Evergreen Drive, Cashmere 98815

James Rankin, Pastor, 4350 Mission Creek Road, Cashmere 98815 Ph 509-782-2266

April Boyce, Sec, Box 343, Peshastin 98847

**Wenatchee Church,** 1835 Western Avenue, Wenatchee 98801

Kirby Davis, Pastor, 1816 Mulberry Lane, Wenatchee 98801 Ph 509-663-1025

Mary Davis, Sec, 1814 Mulberry Lane, Wenatchee 98801 Ph 509-662-2447

Aaron Davis, Supt, 506 Surry Road, Wenatchee 98801

Nancy Vadnais, Yth Leader, 693 Highline Drive, E Wenatchee 98801 Ph 509-884-4467

#### WISCONSIN CHURCH

**Beloit New Life,** meeting at McNeel Junior High School, 1524 Frederick Street, Beloit 53511 (not mailing address)

Jason Turner, Pastor, 925 Portland Avenue, Beloit 53511 Ph 608-363-8756 E-mail jetmatl@juno.com

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## CHURCH OF GOD MINISTERS

The following have been ordained or granted ministerial recognition by the Church of God General Conference until September 1, 1998. Spouse's name appears in parentheses.

Alcumbrack, Richard (Jan), 7447 Burlingame SW, Byron Center, MI 49315 Ph Off 616-534-9111 Res 616-878-9669 E-mail rca@dnx.net

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Bliss, Dale (Julie), 7212 Courtland Drive NE, Rockford, MI 49341 Ph Off 616-866-9888 Res 616-866-4768 E-mail dbnkbc@aol.com

Bolhous, Stephen (Joyce), RR 2, 2471 Port Robinson Road, Welland, Ontario, Canada L3B 5N5 Ph 905-384-9321 E-mail sbolhous@freenet.npiec.on.ca

Brown, Michael (Diane), 821 W Chase Street, Macomb, IL 61455 Ph Off 309-833-2835 Res 309-836-9118 E-mail matt6.33@juno.com

Burnett, Francis E (Iris), 1244 212th Boulevard, Belle Plaine, IA 52208-9002 Ph Off 319-444-3976

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Cain, Rex (Sharon), 730 Washington Street, Bedford, OH 44146-3652 Ph Off 440-232-3970 Res 440-232-3970 E-mail ie476@cleveland.freenet.edu

Cardwell, Darrell (Tara), 24000 Veterans Road, Lot 121, Morton, IL 61550-9511 Ph Off 309-694-7675 Res/Fax 309-694-1862 E-mail dectLc@mtco.com

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Cheatwood, Jon (Sarah), 2621 Falcons Way, St Charles, MO 63303 Ph Res 314-916-5160 E-mail jonbard@juno.com

Cisler, Michael R (Melinda), 704 Canboro Road, Apt 218, Fenwick, Ontario, Canada L0S 1C0 Ph Off 905-892-5122 E-mail mcisler@freenet.npiec.on.ca

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Fletcher, Joseph A (Shirley), 800 Del Mar Boulevard, Hammond, LA 70403-3608 Ph 504-543-0290

Fyfe, Daniel W (Charlotte), 111 Rugby Forest Lane, Hendersonville, NC 28791 Ph 704-692-0440

Gallagher, Michael (Julie), 7210 Courtland Drive NE, Rockford, MI 49341 Ph Off 616-866-8710 Res 616-774-7149 E-mail mgnkbc@aol.com

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Macy, Emory, 738 E Main, Weiser, ID 83672 Ph 208-549-3104

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Moore, Paul, 338 State School Road, Gatesville, TX 76528 Ph 817-865-5067

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- Smith, Jeff (Jill), 1252 S Jay Street, Kokomo, IN 46902-1751 Ph Off 317-452-5766 Res 317-452-7202 E-mail jnjjeff@aol.com
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- Sorenson, R Warren (Irene), 3006 E Hilldale Avenue, Simi Valley, CA 93063 Ph Off 805-522-5955 Res 805-527-8411
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- Young, Richard L (Kathy Jo), Route 3, Box 37, Mt Sterling, IL 62353 Ph Off 217-773-4441 Res 217-773-2253 E-mail revyoung@adams.net
- Zimbelman, Stephen R (Patricia), 3029 17th Street, Rockford, IL 61109 Ph Off 815-399-1541 Res 815-229-6028

## REPORT OF BAPTISMS:

2,000 by the Year 2000

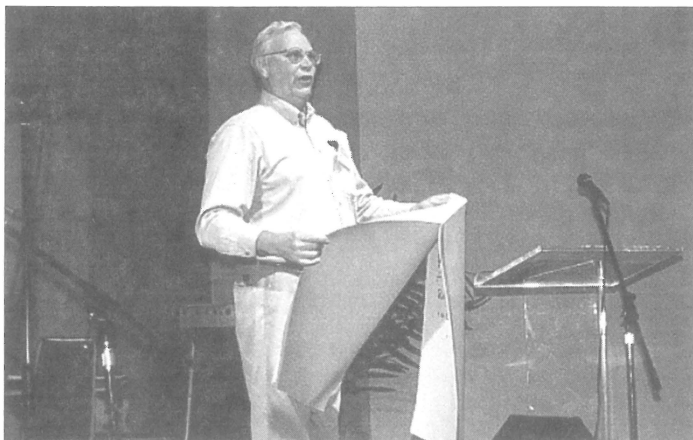
April 1, 1997 - October 31, 1997*	71	Total 1,254
April 1, 1996 - March 31, 1997	158	
April 1, 1995 - March 31, 1996	164	
April 1, 1994 - March 31, 1995	162	
April 1, 1993 - March 31, 1994	142	
April 1, 1992 - March 31, 1993	164	
April 1, 1991 - March 31, 1992	170	
June 1, 1990 - March 31, 1991	168	
January 1 - May 31, 1990	55	

Jan. 1,  
2000

\* More complete figures are being collected from non-reporting churches.

### Calendar of Events

March 6-8	College Invitational
March 29-April 3	Christian Workers' Seminar, Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN
April 24-25	Southeast Women's Retreat
May 2-5	Ministers/Spouses Retreat, Clock Tower Resort and Conference Center, Rockford, IL
June 14-19	Midwest Family Camp, Camp Mack, Milford, IN
July 3-7	78th Annual Summer Conference, Renaissance Atlanta Hotel - Concourse, Atlanta, GA (same location as 1994 Conference)
July 26-31	RYOT, Taylor University, Upland, IN



*Charles Bottolfs, reporting on results of Communications task force.*

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

December, 1997

- 1 Pray for Seth Ross as he pastors the North Hills, OH church.
- 2 **Pray for Francis and Iris Burnett and the Oaklawn Church of God at Koszta, Iowa.**
- 3 Praise God for the dedicated service of College and Conference Staff.
- 4 **Pray for the Badillos and the work in Mexico.**
- 5 Pray for Jason and Marcee Turner and the congregation at Beloit, Wisconsin.
- 6 **Pray for contacts around the world produced by literature.**
- 7 Praise God for your pastor as he shares God's Word today.
- 8 **Pray for David Riley as he leads the Cornerstone Bible Church of God, McDonough, GA.**
- 9 Pray for Jon Cheatwood as he speaks at Farmington, MO two Sundays per month.
- 10 **Pray for those making preparations for the 1998 Christian Workers' Seminar.**
- 11 Praise God for the ministries of your local church.
- 12 **Pray that God would lead you in the way of righteousness.**
- 13 Pray for those who are leading the work in the Philippine Islands.
- 14 **Praise God for the changing seasons and the beauty of creation.**
- 15 Pray for Dick and Carol Eldred and the New Beginnings Ministry in Michigan.
- 16 **Praise God for His word.**
- 17 Pray for Pastors Stephen and Joyce Bolhous and Michael and Melinda Cisler and the Freedom in Christ Ministries in Canada.
- 18 **Pray for Steve and Pam Grant and their work in the Middle East.**
- 19 Pray for the "Focus on the Kingdom" radio broadcasts that are presenting God's truth.
- 20 **Pray for Lee McMinn and the members in Columbia, South Carolina.**
- 21 Pray for an individual you know who has not accepted Christ.
- 22 **Pray for Tracy Savage as she works in St. Petersburg, Russia.**
- 23 Pray for ABC instructor Joe Martin.
- 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 recruitment efforts at Atlanta Bible College.**
- 27 Pray for Stan and Hilda Lawrence and the North Salem, Indiana Church.
- 28 **Pray for the work of native workers in Malawi.**
- 29 Pray for Jeff and Terri Moore and their work in Minnesota.
- 30 **Pray for revival throughout the Church of God in the coming year.**
- 31 Praise God for the way He has blessed you in 1997.

# PRAYER AND PRAISE

January, 1998

- 1 Pray that Jesus will return to the earth soon.
- 2 **Pray for ABC students as they return from their Christmas break.**
- 3 Pray that our membership will be open to God's work in our churches.
- 4 **Pray for the work in Peru.**
- 5 Pray for ABC students as they begin their winter quarter today.
- 6 **Praise God that we can be a part of the family of God.**
- 7 Pray for anyone in your church who has a health need.
- 8 **Pray for Warren and Irene Sorenson and the Simi Valley, CA Church.**
- 9 Praise God for a recent answer to a prayer.
- 10 **Pray for the outreach ministries of your church.**
- 11 Pray for Kent Ross as he teaches at Atlanta Bible College.
- 12 **Praise God for those who give generously of their time to further the Lord's work.**
- 13 Pray for Gary and Glenda Turner and the New Life Bible Church of Winnebago, IL.
- 14 **Pray for the Today's Good News Television Ministry under the direction of Steve Taylor.**
- 15 Praise God for financial and prayer supporters of the College/Conference.
- 16 **Praise God for the freedom to worship God.**
- 17 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Jesus as Savior.
- 18 **Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.**
- 19 Pray for Dan and Amy Kennedy in their work at New Friends Bible Church of God, Morrow, GA.
- 20 **Pray for the congregation in Nashville, Tennessee.**
- 21 Pray for your pastor and family.
- 22 **Pray for teachers in your local church.**
- 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 Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and their ministry at Blanchard, MI.
- 26 **Pray for Gary Burnham as he serves as Controller of the College/Conference.**
- 27 Pray for opportunities to start new churches.
- 28 **Pray for Larry and Karen Mayberry and the Pennellwood Church.**
- 29 Praise God for the direction He provides for your life.
- 30 **Pray for Pastor Steve and Jill Taylor and the New Hope Community Church in Lafayette, Indiana.**
- 31 Pray for "shut-in" members who cannot meet regularly with other believers.

# Positions to Be Filled

The Board of Directors is giving consideration to employing a full-time youth coordinator who would also be involved in student recruitment for Atlanta Bible College and teaching youth ministry classes at the College. A full-time youth coordinator's position was established some years ago by the delegates, but the position has not been filled in recent years. One of the recommendations of the youth task force was to consider filling this position. Though no decisions have been made on filling this position or when it might be filled, the Board would welcome resumes of individuals who have an interest in this position. Please send the resumes to the President at P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260.

We will also be filling a full-time secretarial position after the first of the year and an apartment manager's position will be open in the fall of 1998. Interested individuals should send resumes to the President.

We are always glad to hear from individuals who may have an interest in serving in any position at the Conference. A file is maintained of resumes of individuals who would like to serve the College/Conference at some point in the future. This information is valuable when positions become available.

## Christian Workers' Seminar 1998

March 29 – April 3, 1998

Holiday Inn — Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Springtime in the Smokies.

Insightful classes, warm fellowship, inspiring sessions.

### LOW RATES!\*

	Early Bird**	Regular
4 to a room	\$189.00	\$209.00/person
3 to a room	\$209.00	\$229.00/person
2 to a room	\$249.00	\$269.00/person
1 to a room	\$359.00	\$379.00/person

\* Breakfast on your own.

\*\* Early bird registration fee (applies through February 27).

There will be classes on prayer, personal renewal, worship, joy, loving God, faith, Bible truths, dealing with abusive situations, leadership, youth groups and much more.

Returnees who bring a friend who has never been at seminar before will receive a 10% discount off the registration fee.

— Kent Ross, Coordinator

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# Admission of Churches to the General Conference

One of the duties of the Board of Directors, according to the Constitution (By-Laws, Article II, Section 6 (G)), is to take action regarding the admission of churches to the Church of God General Conference.

According to the constitution, Article II, Section 2, “a member church is a Church of God which adheres to the statement of faith contained in this document, and which has on record at headquarters a statement of affiliation with the General Conference.”

The Church of God General Conference is an association of churches made up of congregations that share a common understanding of Bible truths that have formed the basis of our organization since its creation in 1921. It has been the practice of the Board to welcome into membership, congregations that wish to affiliate who are in agreement with the statement of faith as printed in the constitution. By accepting churches into the Conference, the Board is not endorsing a church’s form of government, style of worship, or other practices or beliefs that are not specifically addressed in the statement of faith adopted by our delegates. The Board of Directors does not have constitutional authority to intervene in the internal affairs of individual congregations. Churches in our Conference are independently governed by members and leaders of the individual churches. The General Conference is a service organization that seeks to assist Church of God members, churches, and conferences to perform their commission.

Over the past two and a half years, several churches have applied for membership in the General Conference which were formed as a result of conflict within a “mother church” that belongs to the Conference. The Board accepted these churches into membership in the General Conference because they complied with the constitutional requirements cited above.

However, the Board’s action should not be construed to indicate that the Board endorses or condones division and church conflict. The Board is deeply concerned about church divisions. Several notable scripture passages suggest the importance of unity within the church (1 Corinthians 12, Psalm 133:1, etc.). The Board of Directors is very dedicated to the unity of the members in each local church. This commitment to unity is widespread throughout our conference, and therefore, many years ago, a Board of Counseling and Arbitration (now Conciliation Board) was organized to

provide assistance to churches facing conflict. The Board continues to encourage the use of this board at an early stage when conflict arises. Often, relatively minor problems can escalate into major divisions if they are not addressed early.

In examining church conflicts, it seems apparent that there are usually faults on both sides of the dispute. Rarely is one side in a dispute 100% correct in their view and their handling of the situation and the other side 100% wrong. Other than providing assistance through the Conciliation Board, the Board of Directors does not have the resources nor the ability to investigate each conflict completely and decide who is at fault and who is not. The Board feels that the resources of the General Conference should more appropriately be spent in trying to resolve disputes and bringing about unity, rather than carrying on investigations and assigning fault.

Recently, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution which it is hoped will be a positive step in the process of admitting churches as follows: “Any church application for membership must be approved by a state or district conference of the Church of God, where one exists, before being considered for membership into the General Conference.” The Board recognizes the vital ministry carried on by our state/district conferences. They were the backbone of the Church of God even before the General Conference was organized. The Board continues to believe that there is value in having churches in a state or district work together to promote the well-being of the churches within the Conference and to be involved in the process of starting new churches. State conferences and officers often are in a better position to know details about a new church than is the General Conference Board. Because they are closer to the situation, they are more likely to know the personnel involved and the motives behind starting a church. Therefore, the state conference is in a better position to evaluate and make a decision on applications for membership.

Local churches and the state/district conference, represented by their delegates and pastor delegates, are the ultimate authority in the General Conference. The Board of Directors is elected by the membership and is charged with carrying out the purposes for which the College/Conference was organized. The Board always welcomes input from members and churches as it carries on its designated duties.

— David Krogh, President

## QUIZ NEWSLETTER

Anyone interested in being on mailing list for Quiz Newsletter contact: Quizzing, PO Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260 or call 1-800-347-4261.

## BAPTISMS

### GEORGIA

*Cornerstone* — Patty Hellam (9/7/97) by Pastor David Riley.

### ILLINOIS

*Fox Valley* — Boris Parra (8/10/97) by Ron Macy.

### INDIANA

*North Salem* — Carrol Alwine, Brittanie Byers and Justin Fluckey (7/24/97); Justin Turnage (8/3/97); Kenneth Alwine (9/14/97) by Pastor Stan Lawrence.

*Timberland* — Sue Lea and Norma Eby (10/15/97) by Pastor John Railton.

### IOWA

*Conger Street* — Dan McGowan (6/18/95); Erin Payne, Kris Beenken, and Karla Beenken (7/14/97) by Pastor Linford Moore.

### MISSOURI

*Farmington (Church of the Open Bible)* — Kevin Yawney (8/24/97) by Pastor Jon Cheatwood.

### OHIO

*Brush Creek* — Jackie Reye (4/13/97); Stephen Stubbs (6/15/97) by Pastor Dale Swartz.

*Chapel Hill* — Amanda Clark (7/27/97) by Pastor Jack Hearp.

*Columbia Station* — Steve Kobelka (10/26/97) by Pastor David Swartz.

*Lawrenceville* — Dustin Bandy (8/31/97); Nick and Drew Fields (9/7/97) by Pastor Mark Tschaenn.

*North Hills* — Tara Runkle (7/20/97); Paul and Dottie Weber (11/2/97) by Pastor Seth Ross.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

*Bethel* — Billy Hammonds (7/6/97); Joe Goodman, Benjamin Bryant, and Crystal Lee (9/14/97); Brandy Hicks (9/21/97); Jeanette Whitlock (10/5/97); and Darby and Ann Hicks (10/12/97) by Pastor Alan Cain.

*Guthrie Grove* — Michael Esuary (6/5/97), Gloria Ausburn (6/21/97), and Michael Smith (7/6/97).

### VIRGINIA

*Virginia* — Amanda Kraft (Oregon, IL Church of God), Dixon, IL; Holli Merchant, Bentonville, VA; Mackenzie A. Whittington, Front Royal, VA (7/29/97), by Pastor J. Roy Humphries. Amanda and Holli are granddaughters of J. Roy Humphries.

### WISCONSIN

*Beloit* — Johnathan Wincapaw, Jodi Van Eyke, Jessie Haseman, Carol Bridges, and Robin Thiering (8/3/97) by Pastor Jason Turner.

## MARRIAGES

### ILLINOIS

*Fox Valley* — Carol Macy and Boris Parra (8/30/97) by Pastor Jon Cheatwood.

### IOWA

*Marengo* — Aaron Cronbaugh and Trisha Shade (7/19/97) by Pastor Francis E. Burnett.

### LOUISIANA

*Baton Rouge* — Sarah Landry and Joe Hood (7/26/97) by Pastor Dan Landry.

### MICHIGAN

*Blanchard* — Shane Riley and Tammy Bosanic (9/27/97) by Tim Eldred, Pastor Dick Eldred, and Pastor Paul Riley.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

*Guthrie Grove* — Jennifer Simmons and Joey Martin (4/5/97); Jennifer Smith and Dean Durham (6/21/97).

## DEATHS

### ARKANSAS

*Royal* — Walter Mayberry, elder of the Forest Hills Church of God (10/5/97) by Pastor Billie Kennedy.

### ILLINOIS

*Beardstown* — Victor Ralston, member of Ripley Church of God (8/5/97) by Pastor Gordon Landry.

*Flagg Center* — Ward Countryman, board member (4/15/97) by Pastor Gordon Landry.

*Oregon* — Glenn Canfield (9/26/97), long-time member, by Pastors Michael Hoffman and Hollis Partlowe.

### MICHIGAN

*Blanchard* — Ronald Riley (9/9/97), long-time member, by Pastors David Riley, Paul Riley, Dick Eldred, Tim Eldred, and Chris Seiders.

### OHIO

*Brush Creek* — Russell Dale Shellhaas (8/29/97) by Pastor Dale Swartz.

*Golden Rule* — Willie Hobbs (10/1/97) by Pastor David Swartz.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

*Bethel* — Truman Davenport (7/8/97) by Pastors Richard Smith and Alan Cain.

*Greenville* — Orpha Ferrell, wife of Pastor T. M. Ferrell (3/12/97). Orpha with her husband Terry had served many Churches of God during their more than fifty years together. The memorial service focused on the second coming of Christ, the trumpet sound, and the resurrection of the saints. Conducted by Pastors E. Richard Smith, Alan Cain and Wally Winner at Guthrie Grove Church of God.

*Guthrie Grove* — Avie Stone (7/10/97), long-time member; Jared McGowen Dobbs (7/14/97), died at birth; and Wilton Leopard (7/23/97), long-time member.

## Wanted: Part-Time Youth Pastor

The Blessed Hope Bible Church of Rockford, IL is looking for a part-time Youth Pastor. If you are interested in this position please contact Pastor David W. Cheatwood at: 3046 16th Street, Rockford, IL 61109 or call at 1-815-399-1541. We have a good group of young people coming up in our church who need your leadership and care.

## Jump Into Quizzing

Teen Bible quizzing for 1998 will be based on the book of James. Young people interested in being on a quiz team should start studying the material now. A mid-south Bible quiz tournament will be held Saturday, February 21, 1998 at the McGintytown Church of God. Chapters 1 and 2 of James will be covered. For more information call Tom New at 501-679-3037 or contact him by e-mail at [tnew@cyberback.com](mailto:tnew@cyberback.com).



# Institutional Long-Range Planning

by Dr. Donna Deane

**D**uring October, about 60 Church of God people met at Atlanta Bible College to work on the Long-range Institutional Study. Eight task forces worked on the issues of Purpose Statement, Atlanta Bible College, Youth, Evangelism, Communication, Publications, Technology, and Finance. It was a great day! There was a good feeling of camaraderie and enthusiasm as we focused on the Lord's work.

## Overview of the Long-Range Study

The work of the task forces will be incorporated into the actions and recommendations of the Board of Directors as we bring the long-range study to closure. The study to build a strategic plan for the College and Conference was approved by the delegates in 1994. Since that time we have studied many facets of the College and Conference, as well as garnering the opinions of many Church of God members and pastors.

Sources of information have included:

- A survey sent to Church of God members with an issue of the *Progress Journal*
- Meetings with people attending Church of God Conferences (Northeast, Southeast, General Conference meetings)
- A review of the programs and policies of the Bible College
- A review of the programs and policies of General Conference
- Interviews with ABC/COG General Conference students, staff, faculty
- A survey sent to all Church of God pastors regarding the needs of the churches
- A review of journals and books regarding Bible colleges and ministry
- Information from the Advisory Committees
- A survey sent to all Church of God pastors regarding the needs of congregations
- A survey sent to all Church of God pastors regarding future directions for the College and Conference

All of the information has been reviewed by the Board of Directors at meetings during the last two years. Responses we've received reflect the diversity of the people, pastors, and churches of the Church of God. Any long-range study, at best, is not an exact science. It isn't as simple as calculating percentages on one or two surveys. We've purposely sought the ideas of many others as we seek to know what God would have us do.

## Highlights of data collected

There are several common and consistent responses in all the data. One is that we must continue to share the distinctive Bible truths of the Church of God Abrahamic Faith. Whatever changes we make must continue to evidence our doctrine. Another consistent admonition is that we do all in concert with God's desire for us; that prayer be a constant in all aspects of the long-range study.

It is also evident in all the information we have that *change* is desired. Change in the College, Conference and churches is needed if we are to better fulfill the Great Commission and lead the lost to Christ.

It may not come as a surprise but one other consistent observation that can be made about all of the responses for the long-range study is that Church of God members are very *diverse* in the



Dr. Donna Deane leading a general session for task force members.

way they think changes should take place. Although we have the same truths, we are led by prayer, and we want change, we don't really always agree on the changes which need to take place!

### **Schedule for completion of the study**

The study will be finished by the summer of 1998; i.e. all of the decisions about the future plans related to the study should be made. However, the timing for implementing the decisions will vary; some may be implemented in a week, some may have two or three or four-year timelines to accomplish. There are several kinds of actions that are taking place. One is managerial. Some of the comments and input prompt positive changes in managerial decisions such as budgeting process and staff responsibilities and content of specific publications. There are also actions which will require board decisions such as allocation of monies. In addition, any major actions will require delegate vote; some recommendations for delegate action will be acted upon at the July 1998 General Conference meeting in Atlanta (Hope to see YOU there!). Major actions may include such things as revision of the Purpose Statement for the Church of God General Conference or changes in program offerings at the Bible College. The Board of Directors will be finalizing the summer General Conference delegate recommendations at their January and March board meetings. The recommendations will be published in the May/June *Progress Journal* for your review prior to the summer General Conference.

### **Specific issues being reviewed**

Following is a discussion of several of the prominent issues that have been identified during the study as considerations for change. Some points are made in the form of questions, others in the form of possible recommendations. Keep in mind that these are all under discussion. The October task force groups provided some major directions for a number of these issues. However, *final decisions are still not made*; if you have suggestions about any of them, be certain to let us know.

**1. Purpose Statement.** The relationship between, as well as the purposes of the Conference and of the College are being reviewed. The task force has recommended that a stronger partnership relationship exist between the College/Conference, state conferences, and churches; that a stronger focus be placed on participation of the churches and regional conferences in General Conference initiatives.

**2. Atlanta Bible College.** The current four-year pastoral leadership program of study and the two-year certificate program are being reviewed. The churches and pastors strongly identified the need for the College to prepare leaders for the Church of God. However, how will those leaders be best prepared? Through lay ministry programs, a seminary, the current four-year program? What modalities would work best? Increase the use of technology for distance learning? Have a series of off-campus classes at churches or state conferences? Or, continue with an on-campus curriculum?

**3. Publishing.** There are many diverse opinions on publishing for the Church of God. The task force in October identified some major considerations for this area. Some of those included ways to improve current Christian education materials, developing our own writers through workshops, encouraging young people to write, and producing editorial guidelines for our materials. In addition, they have suggested revision of the *Restitution Herald*, creating a magazine to the unchurched, creating small books on Biblical topics with study guides and quizzes, and providing a clearinghouse for non-Church of God publications. Input from pastors and members has indicated a strong desire for publications which include more information about other churches and people in the Church of God; information which would enable us to more strongly identify with one another.

**4. Evangelism.** What role should the General Conference and College play in evangelism? Preparation of leaders, identifying strategies for the local church? Who should stimulate and facilitate church planting? What services and resources should the College and/or Conference provide which would best serve the evangelism needs of



*Members of the Long-Range task forces  
in prayer groups.*

the churches, members and conferences? What evangelism experiences can be provided for youth? Responses on the surveys reflect *much diversity* within the Church of God as to the role of the College, the Conference, the pastors, the regional and state conferences and the congregations. The task force recommended a strong partnership between the Conference and the local church to provide the motivation and tools to reach the lost for Christ.

**5. Technology.** There is common agreement that we need to increase the efficient and creative use of technology in the work of the Church of God. The task force strongly recommended updating the computers used on campus by staff and students. Students registered at Clayton State are required to have lap top computers. The use of technology should be incorporated in order to enhance the academic program as well as increase communication between Church of God members, pastors, and churches. The technology task force is recommending that every church/pastor be connected to the Internet within the next three years.

**6. Communication, Marketing, Public Relations, Image.** In the interest of reaching and sharing our truths with the lost, how do we best present a positive, corporate image for the Church of God? How can the Conference and College enhance and facilitate positive communications and public relations within and outside of the Church of God? The task force has made recommendations in the areas of image; sensitivity to current trends and needs of the members as well as the lost; developing a Church of God logo; preparing students to be contributors to Conference public relations; and insuring the effective reporting and sharing of all information from the Conference.

**7. Youth.** Responding to the needs of the youth is one of the biggest areas of common agreement for change. Several recommendations that have been made include sponsorship of a National Day of Prayer for youth and youth ministry (February 15, 1998); expanding the current RYOT program; providing regional youth leader training; sponsoring youth mission trips; and developing and improving youth publications.

**8. Leadership.** Strategies are needed to develop leadership within the Church of God. The Bible College

currently provides a program for pastoral ministry. Programs and resources need to be provided for Christian Education, church leaders, writers, and faculty and administrators for the College and Conference. How will we facilitate the development of future leaders for the Church of God?

**9. Finance.** Finance, of course, overlays all of the programs we decide to develop. The finance task force recommended that the Board strive to share complete financial information with the members in a user-friendly way. They also suggested that financial stewardship and education be emphasized among church members and that appeals for contributions to the Conference go through the local church.

### Conclusions

The questions and discussion noted above are *some examples* of the input we've received from many of you and of the issues the Board is studying to make recommendations for the future of the Church of God. The process has been enlightening and exciting for many of us as we seek the Lord's will for how we should proceed as a College and a Conference. The diversity of the concerns shown by members of the Church of God contribute to the challenge of coming to decisions that will not only please God but will bring strength and cohesiveness to the body. The diversity, if we will tolerate it, can actually bring strength in that we can reach so many more and different people and bring them to know Christ. Pray for all of those involved in the decision making — the Board, the pastors, the churches, the delegates at this next summer's conference. If you have suggestions, let us know those now.



*Members of the Publications task force.*

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## COLLEGE/CONFERENCE UPDATE

### ANNUAL GIVING REPORT

On pages 2 and 3 of this *PROGRESS JOURNAL* is a review of contributions and gifts to Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference during the past year. We are grateful to all who have made it possible for this work to go forward.

### SUMMER MINISTRIES PROGRAM

Again this summer, Atlanta Bible College will be sponsoring a ministry program. Churches interested in having a team assist with Bible school, calling, or other special activities should contact Sarah Buzzard at 1-800-347-4261 for more information. Individuals who can give one or more weeks to serve on a summer ministries team are needed. Both paid and unpaid workers are needed. Please contact Sarah for more information.

### STAFF TRAVELS

During 1997, members of the Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference staff visited nearly half of our churches and several state conference gatherings. We welcome the opportunity to fill pulpits, assist with special programs, present seminars on missions, youth ministry, and Christian education, and to provide information about the work of the College and Conference. Please feel free to contact individual staff members or visits can be coordinated through the office of the President.

### SECOND QUARTER BEGINS AT ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE

The second quarter began on January 5. Classes offered this quarter are: New Testament Preaching, Joe Martin; Old Testament II, Joe Martin; Church History II, Kent Ross; New Testament I, Anthony Buzzard; Systematic Theology II, Kent Ross; and Pauline Epistles, Anthony Buzzard. In addition, all students are involved in a small discipling group. Chapel services are held weekly for students and staff. All students are also involved in Christian service projects at one of the local churches.

Judy Myers, Chairperson of the Lord's Harvest International Mission Board, was on campus in January to talk to students about opportunities for mission services.

### NEW WEB PAGE

Today's Good News television ministry has a new web site: [www.angelfire.com/biz/tgnews/](http://www.angelfire.com/biz/tgnews/)

This web page provides additional information about this exciting ministry.

### 1998 SUMMER CONFERENCE

The 78th annual General Conference will be held at Renaissance Atlanta Hotel – Concourse, Atlanta, Georgia, July 3-7, 1998. A picnic and evening service will also be held on the campus of Atlanta Bible College. The theme is "A People After God's Own Heart—A Call to Spiritual Maturity." Evening sermons will be on: A People Called Out; A People of Active Faith; A People of Confession; and A People of Worship. Morning devotion themes are: A People of the Word; A People of Prayer; and A People Who Give Away Christ. In addition to business sessions, a number of workshops and Bible studies will be available. There will be a nursery, classes for children, and a program for young people. There are many family sightseeing attractions on the way to Atlanta, as well as in the Atlanta area. Atlanta is also a good stopping place for those who may want to travel to Florida before or after Conference.

One position on the Board of Directors will be filled. The term of Pastor Billie Kennedy expires. One position on the Youth Advisory Committee will also be filled. Tim Eldred currently serves in this position. State and district conferences are encouraged to make nominations for the Board position prior to May 1 so résumés can be printed in the *PROGRESS JOURNAL*.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

During the past couple of months, all funds borrowed for general operations over the past several years were repaid through the sale of a piece of property in Colorado Springs. In the 1996-97 fiscal year, no funds were borrowed for general operations. Thus far in this fiscal year, contributions have been sufficient to meet the needs of daily operations. Though contributions are less than the goal for giving, expenses have also been less during the first six months of the fiscal year. We continue to praise God for His faithfulness in providing for our needs through the faithful giving of members, churches, and conferences.

# 1997 CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOALS FOR GIVING

## (For General Operations)

Individuals and Families	517	151,943
Churches	70	140,749
Conferences	9	15,217
Groups	53	16,301
Miscellaneous	17	4,555
<b>Total Contributions to Goals for Giving</b>		<b>\$328,765</b>

## 1997 CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL FUNDS

Library Memorials		1,001
ABC Foundation		2,502
Scholarships		34,830
Church Builders' Appeal		25,599
Foreign Missions		1,607
ABC Alumni Chapel		305
Russia		21,269
Conference Ministries Fund		1,843
Miscellaneous		4,568
Fund the Dream Campaign		29,989
Radio Ministry		19,375
Bequests		43,594
Trust Received		350,000
<b>Total Contributions to Special Funds</b>		<b>\$536,482</b>

**Grand Total to All College/Conference Ministries** **\$865,247**

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## IN MEMORIAM 1997

Grace Adamson  
Richard Appleby  
Pastor Harold J. Doan  
John Craig English

Pastor Delbert Jones  
Mary Helen Mattison  
Sybil Stilson McLeod  
Lucian Murphy

Pastor C. F. and Helen Pryor  
Shirley Urish  
Pastor Dale Ward

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## SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

for Atlanta Bible College during 1997

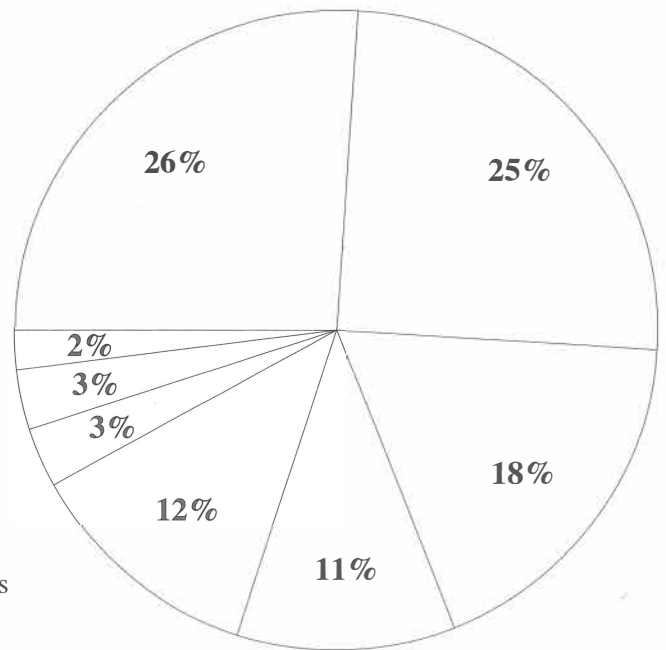
The following grants and scholarships were awarded to Atlanta Bible College students. Other individuals, churches, and groups provided assistance to students in addition to these scholarships and grants administered by the college.

ABC/OBC Alumni Association	Jean Elton Fortney Memorial	Ruby L. Chaplin Memorial
Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation	John and Ruth Lewis Memorial	Southeast Conference
Berean Youth Fellowship	Lawrenceville/Overholser	Southwest members in memory of Norman McLeod, S. J. Lindsay, Harold J. Doan, and C. E. Randall
Brush Creek Sewing Circle	Lois Blakely Memorial	Stan Ross Memorial
Burnham-Stadden	Lucian Murphy Memorial	Virginia Sate Conference
Burr Oak Church	Mary Helen Mattison Memorial	Washington Grove Church, Oregon, Illinois
Harold J. Doan Memorial	Michigan State Conference	Wenatchee Church
Harry and Emily Berry Memorial	Mildred Schroeder	William and Rhoda Hanson Memorial
Harvey U. Krogh, Jr. Memorial	Ministerial Association	Zelma Weaver Memorial
Hattie Bottolfs Memorial	Minnesota State Conference	
Helen Overholser Memorial	Monroe Elton Memorial	
Holbrook Church	New Hope Church, Little Rock	
Indiana Conference	Ritenour Trust Fund — In memory of Eliza Boyer Ritenour, Virginia Ritenour Kincheloe, and Seraphine Ritenour Cleek	
Iris Elton Memorial		
James A. Patrick Memorial — Northeast Conference		

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# Sources of Income for ABC/COGGC

Contributions from Individuals and Families	26%
Contributions from Churches	25%
College Tuition, Fees and Room	18%
Sales and Service	11%
Trust Income	12%
Contributions from Groups	3%
Contributions from Conferences	3%
Miscellaneous	2%



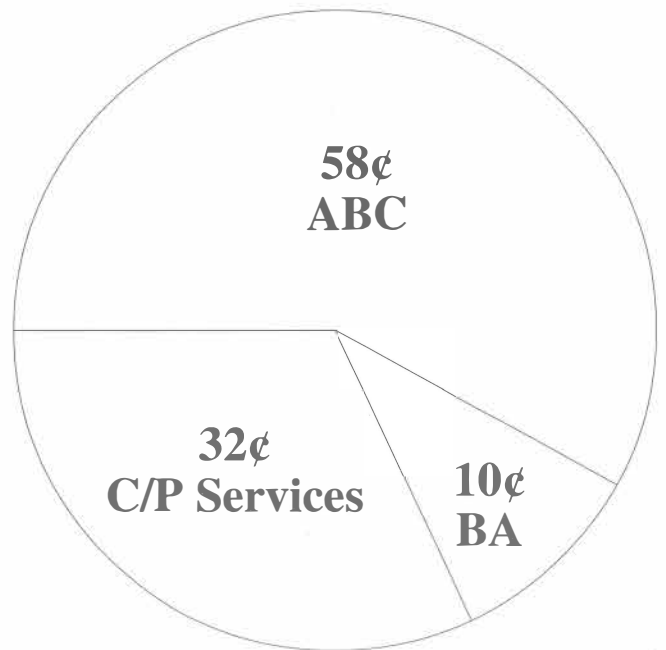
Contributions from individuals and families continue to rank number one as the largest source of income for the Conference/College. Each member family of the Church of God is vital to the ongoing ministries of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference.

## How Each Contribution Dollar Is Used

ABC 58¢

Church/Pastor Services 32¢

Business Administration 10¢



## REPORT OF BAPTISMS:

2,000 by the Year 2000

April 1, - December 31, 1997*	90	Total 1,273
April 1, 1996 - March 31, 1997	158	
April 1, 1995 - March 31, 1996	164	
April 1, 1994 - March 31, 1995	162	
April 1, 1993 - March 31, 1994	142	
April 1, 1992 - March 31, 1993	164	
April 1, 1991 - March 31, 1992	170	
June 1, 1990 - March 31, 1991	168	
January 1 - May 31, 1990	55	

Jan. 1,  
2000

\* More complete figures are being collected from non-reporting churches.

You are invited to . . .

## The 1998 Annual General Conference

Renaissance Atlanta Hotel – Concourse; Atlanta, Georgia

July 3-7, 1998

A People After God's Own Heart  
— A Call to Spiritual Maturity

### Calendar of Events

<b>February 15</b>	National Day of Prayer for Youth and Youth Ministry
<b>March 6-8</b>	College Invitational
<b>March 29-April 3</b>	Christian Workers' Seminar, Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN
<b>April 17-19</b>	Theological Conference, ABC Campus
<b>April 24-25</b>	Southeast Women's Retreat
<b>May 2-5</b>	Ministers/Spouses Retreat, Clock Tower Resort and Conference Center, Rockford, IL
<b>June 14-19</b>	Midwest Family Camp, Camp Mack, Milford, IN
<b>July 3-7</b>	78th Annual Summer Conference, Renaissance Atlanta Hotel - Concourse, Atlanta, GA (same location as 1994 Conference)
<b>July 26-31</b>	RYOT, Taylor University, Upland, IN
<b>November 6, 7</b>	Midwest Men's Retreat, Camp Mack, Milford, IN

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

February, 1998

- 1 **Pray for your pastor as he brings God's message to you today.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Beloit, New Life Church.
- 3 **Praise God for your family and friends.**
- 4 Pray for Tracy Savage in Russia.
- 5 **Pray for the students at Atlanta Bible College.**
- 6 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ.
- 7 **Praise God for the ministry of Pastor Beder Ucanay in Peru.**
- 8 Pray for Pastor Alan and Susan Cain and the Bethel, SC church and their building project.
- 9 **Praise God for His daily blessings on your life.**
- 10 Pray for the members of your church family.
- 11 **Pray for the leaders of your government.**
- 12 Praise God for the opportunities He has provided for outreach in Russia.
- 13 **Pray for those recently baptized at Winnebago New Life Church.**
- 14 Pray for the ministries of your local church.
- 15 **Pray for youth and youth ministries in the Church of God.**
- 16 Pray for those making preparations for the upcoming Christian Workers' Seminar.
- 17 **Pray for someone you know who is in need of healing (physical, emotional, or spiritual).**
- 18 Praise God for a recent answer to prayer.
- 19 **Pray for the brethren in the Philippines.**
- 20 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Jill Smith and the work at Kokomo, Indiana.
- 21 **Praise God for the work of the Sunday School quarterly editors.**
- 22 Pray for Pastor Dale and Julie Bliss and the work at Rockford, MI.
- 23 **Pray for the staff at the College/Conference.**
- 24 Praise God for the Board of Directors and its leadership.
- 25 **Pray for Jim Graham and youth ministries of the Conference.**
- 26 Pray for the ministry of Pastor Steve and Joyce Bolhous and the Freedom in Christ Ministries in Canada.
- 27 **Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and earth.**
- 28 Pray for the teachers in your local church.



# PRAYER AND PRAISE

March, 1998

- 1 Pray that God will raise up missionary candidates.
- 2 Praise God for the faithful leadership of the Badillo family in Mexico.
- 3 Pray for Pastor Tom and Debbie New and the work at McGintytown, Arkansas.
- 4 Praise God for those who provide prayer and financial support for the College/Conference ministries.
- 5 Pray for Pastor Greg and Kim Shaw in their ministry at Valley View, Arizona.
- 6 Pray for those attending College Invitational at ABC this weekend.
- 7 Pray for those considering attending Atlanta Bible College in the future.
- 8 Pray that God will provide safety for those returning home from College Invitational.
- 9 Pray for someone you know who is discouraged or depressed.
- 10 Pray that God's spirit might be felt at the upcoming Christian Workers' Seminar.
- 11 Pray for Pastor Michael and Diane Brown and the Macomb, IL Church of God.
- 12 Pray for Pastor Dan and Amy Kennedy and the New Friends Bible Church in Morrow, Georgia.
- 13 Pray for Pastor Wally and Peggy Winner and the work at Guthrie Grove in South Carolina.
- 14 Praise God for all who have dedicated their lives to ministry.
- 15 Pray for churches seeking pastors.
- 16 Pray for a special need in your life.
- 17 Praise God for those who have provided spiritual instruction for you.
- 18 Pray for an opportunity to share God's love with someone.
- 19 Pray for those who are searching God's Word for answers to life's problems.
- 20 Pray for Pastor Earl and Dee Poland and the Tri-County, IN church work.
- 21 Pray for the brethren in India.
- 22 Pray for Steve and Pam Grant and their ministry in the Middle East.
- 23 Pray for ABC students as they begin the spring quarter today.
- 24 Praise God for your Christian friends all over the world.
- 25 Pray for eyes to see those who are in need and a heart to reach out to them.
- 26 Pray for the work in Malawi.
- 27 Praise God for the promise of Christ's soon return.
- 28 Pray for your pastor and his family.
- 29 Pray for Pastor Mike and Myra Montgomery as they serve at the Fredericktown, MO Church of God.
- 30 Praise God for new attenders or members at your local congregation.
- 31 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

# Christian Workers' Seminar 1998

March 29 – April 3, 1998

Holiday Inn — Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Springtime in the Smokies.

Insightful classes, warm fellowship, inspiring sessions.

## LOW RATES!\*

	Early Bird**	Regular
4 to a room	\$189.00	\$209.00/person
3 to a room	\$209.00	\$229.00/person
2 to a room	\$249.00	\$269.00/person
1 to a room	\$359.00	\$379.00/person

\* Breakfast on your own.

\*\* Early bird registration fee (applies through February 27).

There will be classes on prayer, personal renewal, worship, joy, loving God, faith, Bible truths, dealing with abusive situations, leadership, youth groups and much more.

Returnees who bring a friend who has never been at seminar before will receive a 10% discount off the registration fee.

— Kent Ross, Coordinator

(continued from page 8)

### NEW YORK

Paul "Corky" Weidensall, 50 (1/8/98), attended Oregon Bible College 1966-68.

### OHIO

Bedford — Frank Pekins, 91, former licensed Church of God pastor (1/9/98). Served as pastor of Golden Rule and Bedford, Ohio churches.  
Golden Rule — Pat Beam, 67 (11/28/97), by Pastor David Swartz.

### DIRECTORY CHANGES

CALIFORNIA, Simi Valley — Pastor Warren Sorenson's home telephone number is (805) 527-8441

CANADA, Glad Tidings — Donna Payne, Supt/Jr Yth Leader, 7843 Trackview Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2H 2V6 and Margo Shute, Asst Supt/Jr Yth Leader, 18 Northhaven Road, Welland, Ontario L3C 1X1.

ILLINOIS, Blessed Hope — Pastor Steve Zimbelman, Supt, 3029 17th Street, Rockford 61109 Ph 815-229-6028.

MICHIGAN, Pennellwood — Pastor Larry Mayberry, 7541 Burlingame SW, Byron Center 49315 Ph 616-878-7118

MINNESOTA, Hector — Pastor Vivian E. Kirkpatrick II, E-mail vekii@means.net

OHIO, Bedford — Rex Cain, E-mail rexocain@juno.com

### DIRECTORY ADDITION

CHURCH OF GOD MINISTERS — Pastor Frank Toth, 9 Pancake Lane, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E2, E-mail fjtoth@warplink.com

# Supplies Order Form

Prices Effective February 1, 1998 • Atlanta Bible College • Box 100,000 • Morrow, GA 30260

PART A

Quantity		Cost
<b>BOOKS</b>		
...	<i>The Case Against Pornography</i> (Wildmon)	1.00
...	<i>The Coming Kingdom of the Messiah</i> (Buzzard)	4.95
...	<i>Daring to Differ</i> (Sidney Hatch)	9.95
...	<i>The Doctrine of the Trinity</i> (Buzzard)	9.95
...	<i>Emphatic Diaglott</i> (Wilson)	5.95
...	<i>One God</i> (Judd)	3.95
...	<i>Our Fathers Who Aren't in Heaven</i> (Buzzard)	13.50
...	<i>Prophecies of Daniel</i> . . . (Mark Mattison)	2.95
...	<i>Prophecies of the End of the Age</i> (Jim Mattison)	4.00
...	<i>Systematic Theology</i> , hard cover (Huffer)	15.95
...	<i>Systematic Theology</i> , soft cover (Huffer)	11.95
...	<i>Triumph of the Resurrection</i> , 176 pp., soft cover (Huffer)	4.95
...	<i>Truths for Today</i> (Stan Ross)	4.00
<b>HYMNALS</b>		
...	<i>Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs</i>	10.95
...	(loose-leaf version for musicians)	14.95
<b>BOOKLETS</b>		
...	The Abrahamic & Davidic Covenants	1.75
...	Christ or Confusion (Gospel Pub. League)	.95
...	Christ Speaks to the Church	1.95
...	Concerning the Nations (Gospel Pub. League)	.95
...	Daniel's Prophetic Outline of History (Partlowe)	.95
...	Except (baptism, Bilton)	1.15
...	First Principles (Marsh)	.75
...	Fundamentals of the Christian Faith (Lyon)	.75
...	God's Covenant with Abraham (Lindsay)	.75
...	God's Great Plus Sign to the World (Partlowe)	.75
...	The Last Will & Testament of Jesus	.75
...	The Law, Sabbath & N.T. Christianity (Buzzard)	1.95
...	Making the Most of Your Marriage (Partlowe)	1.95
...	The Miracle of Pentecost (Partlowe)	1.95
...	The Mortality of Man (Landry)	2.95
...	Must Not Fight (Bilton)	.95
...	Russia, Israel, Christ and You (Bilton)	1.25
...	Scripture Searcher's Assistant	.95
...	What Happens When We Die? (Buzzard)	2.95
...	Who Is Jesus? (Buzzard)	2.95
...	Words of Truth, Subject Concordance	1.50
<b>CHURCHSUPPLIES</b>		
...	Baptismal Certificates (doz. 5.00)	ea. .50
<b>EVANGELISMFLIPCHART</b>		
...	Opportunity of Eternal Life	1.50

<b>SUNDAYSCHOOLSUPPLIES</b>	
Please specify starting date for quarterlies.	
...	Early Elementary Creative Teaching Aid Packet 9.95
...	Early Elementary Teacher's Guide 3.75
...	Early Elementary Stories (for teachers) 2.50
...	Early Elementary Make-It/Take-It (students, kinder.-grade 1) 2.50
...	Early Elementary Bible Beginnings (students, kinder.-grade 1) 2.50
...	Elementary Creative Teaching Aids Packet 9.95
...	Elementary Teacher's Guide 3.75
...	Elementary Student lessons (2 books) (grades 2-3) 4.95
...	Upper Elementary Creative Teaching Aids Packet 9.95
...	Upper Elementary Teacher's Guide 3.75
...	Upper Elementary Student lessons (grades 4-5) 2.75
...	Middle School Creative Teaching Aids Packet 9.95
...	Middle School Teacher's Guide 3.75
...	Middle School lessons—The Rock (grades 6-8) 2.75
...	High School Creative Teaching Aids Packet 9.95
...	High School Teacher's Guide 3.75
...	High School lessons—I. D. (grades 9-12) 2.75
...	Adult Teacher's Guide 3.75
...	Adult Student books 3.25
...	Free sample pack of materials available Free
...	Superintendents' and Workers' S.S. Manual 1.95
...	Sunday School Openings Idea Book 2.50

<b>BIBLESTUDYCOURSES</b>	
...	Berean Scripture Studies, No 2 (52 lessons) 1.95
...	BYF Focus (10 for \$17.50) ea. 1.95
...	The Nature and Destiny of Man (13 lessons) 1.95
...	Where Do I Fit? (8 lessons—Partlowe) 1.95

<b>BIBLE COURSES (29 lessons)</b>	
...	<i>Systematic Theology</i> correspondence course Free by enrollment
...	Loose-leaf edition 2.95
...	Bound edition 3.95

<b>GOD'S PLAN FOR THIS PLANET (Slide-Cassette Programs)</b>			
...	Oneness of God	...	Worth of Each Person
...	Salvation Through Christ	...	The Empty Tomb
...	World's Only Hope	...	Christ's Coming Kingdom
5.00 each individually or the complete set of six programs for 25.00			

<b>PERIODICALS</b>	
...	<i>The Restitution Herald</i> 12.00 per year
...	<i>A Journal from the Radical Reformation</i> 24.00 per year

Total Cost of Part A \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Part B:** The tracts listed below are available at \$4.50 per hundred (please order each tract in lots of 50). You may order individual tracts at 8¢ each, but with a minimum of 25.

<b>EVANGELISM TRACTS</b>	<b>BIBLE DOCTRINE TRACTS</b>
... ABC's of Salvation	... Baptism
... An Invitation	... Christian Tithing, An Act of Faith
... An Invitation to Life	... God's Laws Concerning Marriage
... Bible Faith Stands the Test of Time	... God's Retirement Plan for You:
... The Blood Bank of the Bible	The Benefits [Formerly: "Resurrection"]
... Can God Help Me?	... The History of Baptism
... Can You Believe?	... Is Going to Heaven Our Reward?
... Do You Ever Think About God?	... Jesus Christ,
... Have a Good Day	the Only Begotten Son of God
... Here's My Tip	... The Marriage God Planned
... One Step From Death	... The Meaning of the Word "Soul"
... Your Introduction to the Church of God	... The Nature of the Soul
<b>BIBLE PROPHECY TRACTS</b>	... Seven Bible Reasons
... God's Tomorrow	for Christian Baptism
... The Kingdom of God	... Should Christians Keep the Sabbath?
... The Kingdom of God (Spanish)	... What Happens After Death?
... The Premillennial Coming of Christ	... Who Owns the Wool?
... The Purpose of the Millennium	<b>MISCELLANEOUS TRACTS</b>
... Signs of Jesus' Coming	... Chart of the Ages
and the End of the World	... From One Who Cares
... Signs of the Times	... How to Grow in Christ

... How Your Pastor Can Help You	Total Number of Tracts _____
... What Can We Read Tonight?	
<b>FREE CHRISTMAS TRACTS</b>	Total Cost of Part B \$ _____
... Welcome to Christmas	
... What Christmas Means to Me	

**Postage and Handling**

Order up to \$10: add \$2.90  
 Order \$10 to \$20: add 20%  
 Order \$20 to \$99: add 10%  
 Order \$100+: add 5%  
 Overseas: Actual Cost

Total of Part A	\$ _____
Total of Part B (Tracts)	\$ _____
Amount of Complete Order	\$ _____
Postage & Handling	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PART B

## CHAPEL HILL NEWS

A dream of founding Pastor Fred Pensyl became a reality when on October 2, 1997 a steeple was erected on the Chapel Hill Church of God, Urbana, Ohio. Memorial gifts from members and friends played a significant part in its purchase. The steeple arrived on Monday, and was erected by members of the congregation on Thursday night . . . less than twenty-four hours before we hosted the Fall Northeast Conference. Indeed, "The people had a mind to work!" (Nehemiah 4:6). It has greatly enhanced the appearance of the church, and is visible from a mile away. The dedication took place during the morning worship service on Sunday, October 19, 1997. Many fine comments have been heard from members of the community concerning this and other recent improvements. — Jack Hearp, Pastor

## WANTED: PART-TIME YOUTH PASTOR

The Blessed Hope Bible Church of Rockford, Illinois is looking for a part-time youth pastor. If you are interested in this position, please contact Pastor David W. Cheatwood at 3046 16th Street, Rockford, IL 61109 or call 1-815-399-1541. We have a good group of young people coming up in our church who need your leadership and care.

## FREEDOM IN CHRIST MINISTRIES, FONTHILL, ONTARIO

It was with much joy and thanksgiving that we met together on Saturday evening, Dec. 6, to celebrate our first anniversary as a distinct body of worshippers. We enjoyed a potluck supper followed by a worship service led by our pastor, Stephen Bolhous.

We believe that there is one God and He has power over all things in heaven and on earth. His Son, Jesus Christ, was sacrificed for the sins of the world, was raised to life from the dead and ascended to the Father. We are anticipating the soon second coming of Jesus to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth. We also believe that God has called us to salvation through accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. We embrace the call to be disciples and to minister freedom in Christ to people who are hurting.

Our services include singing, praising, sharing, prayer, and biblical sermons. We praise God and Jesus for who they are and what they have done, are doing, and will do in people's lives. We spend time in sharing praises as well as ministering to requests for blessings of healings and other providences. We have experienced several miraculous answers to prayer. GOD is so good!

For the time being we feel God has called us to meet on Saturday evenings. Attendance ranges from 15-45 people who come from several different denominational backgrounds. We all come to hear the truths of the Gospel and to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth and with joy. We start our worship at 7:00 p.m. and services usually last around two hours. Anyone is welcome to come.

Our pastor, Stephen Bolhous, and assistant pastor, Michael Cisler, also conduct Wednesday evening Bible study and prayer meeting and other special interest groups for the youth and younger adults in homes during the week.

"Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God" (Acts 5:38, 39).

— Rebecca Peterson

## BAPTISMS

### ILLINOIS

*Flagg Center* — Helen Stone (10/12/97) by Pastor Gordon Landry; Dar Ponce (10/12/97) by Rick Eldred.

*Oregon* — Cathleen McCause (11/30/97) by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

*Rockford* — Florence Irene Myers (12/14/97) by Pastor David Cheatwood.

### INDIANA

*Timberland* — Daniel Knowlton (12/3/97) by Don Nunemaker.

### MICHIGAN

*Blanchard* — Emily Kunst (10/22/97) by Terry Kunst and Pastor Chris Seiders.

### OHIO

*Bedford* — Daniel Cain (11/30/97) by Pastor Rex Cain.

*Columbia Station* — Kevin Illius (12/7/97) by Pastor David Swartz.

*Springfield* — Rees Keplinger (5/20/97) by Pastor Seth Ross.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

*Bethel* — Milford and Grace Dixon (12/21/97); Shannon Brooks and Shilah Brooks (12/28/97) by Pastor Alan Cain.

## MARRIAGES

### CANADA

*Freedom in Christ* — Adam Bolhous and Colleen Reeves (10/4/97) by Pastor Stephen Bolhous.

### MISSOURI

*Raymore* — Lisa Theone Bennett and David Andrew Smead (7/26/97) by Pastor Cecil A. Smead.

## DEATHS

### CALIFORNIA

*Pomona* — Sybil McLeod, 70 (12/97), long-time member of Church of God, by Dr. Alva Huffer, Pastors Jim Raymond and Warren Sorenson.

### CANADA

*Freedom In Christ* — Gerald Rose, 87 (10/6/97), long-time Church of God member, by Pastor Stephen Bolhous.

### ILLINOIS

*Oregon* — Dale Koontz, member (11/11/97) by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

June Cullen, member (11/28/97) by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

*Ripley* — Thelma Ransom, 89, long-time member of Ripley Church (8/22/97) by Pastors Thomas Schmitt and Richard Young.

### INDIANA

*Timberland* — Thomas H. Williams, 82, member of Timberland Bible Church (11/30/97) by Pastor John Railton.

### IOWA

*Waterloo* — Pastor Harry Payne, 79 (11/20/97), a 1950 graduate of Oregon Bible College and a licensed minister for forty-seven years. He grew up at Glad Tidings Church, Fonthill, Ontario. He is survived by his wife Mabel Fletcher Payne. Services were conducted at the Waterloo Church by Pastors Charles Currier and Linford Moore.

### MICHIGAN

*Blanchard* — Claudia Riley, active member of the church for 24 years (11/10/97), by Tim Eldred, Don Needham, and Pastors Dick Eldred, David Riley, and Paul Riley. She taught, played the piano, and helped at the church where needed.

(continued on page 6)

Atlanta Bible College  
Church of God General Conference  
P.O. Box 100,000  
Morrow, GA 30260

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# 78th Annual Summer General Conference

July 3-7, 1998

Renaissance Atlanta Hotel — Concourse  
and  
Campus of Atlanta Bible College  
Atlanta, Georgia

Delegates to the annual conference will be voting on nine recommendations which have emerged from a three-year long-range institutional study. Two of the nine recommendations are constitutional amendments. According to the constitution members must be notified of proposed amendments or revisions in at least three consecutive issues of *The Restitution Herald* and/or PROGRESS JOURNAL, the first appearance to be at least thirty days prior to the convening of the conference at which they are to be considered.

Members are encouraged to review these two proposed amendments which consist of a change to the preamble and the purpose statement of our organization. Questions may be addressed to any member of the Board of Directors or the President. Members should express their opinions on these changes to delegates selected by their church.

Changes to the constitution require a 2/3 majority vote of delegates present at the General Conference meeting.

Other recommendations to be voted upon by the delegates will be published in the May PROGRESS JOURNAL (on May 7, the May PROGRESS JOURNAL containing all of the recommendations and reports to be considered at the General Conference will be available on our Internet website at: [www.abc-coggc.org](http://www.abc-coggc.org)). A third notice of these constitutional amendments will be published in June.

**RECOMMENDATION 1: Revise the Statement of Purpose of the Church of God General Conference.**

Current By-Laws statement: *The purpose of the College/Conference is to assist Church of God members, churches, and conferences to perform their commission, which is to make disciples by bringing the lost to Jesus Christ, and by leading the believer to maturity by providing leadership, resources, and services.*

**Proposed: The Church of God General Conference, through partnership with conferences and local Churches of God, assists them and their members in the performance of their commission to make disciples. The Conference serves as an advocate of the Church of God to the world.**

(There is no recommendation for change in the Purpose of the Atlanta Bible College at this time — Article I, Section 2.)

**RATIONALE:** The switch to a stronger partnership between the Conference, College, state/district conferences and local churches is strongly supported. The organization exists to be in partnership so that it can be a vehicle of assistance as churches perform their commission of making disciples. It also clarifies and emphasizes the responsibility of the Conference to represent the organization and be an advocate to the world; the Conference responds to and reaches out to others who request information about our churches and our doctrine; it represents our association of churches to all who inquire. The Conference and College also take the initiative to make the Church of God more visible to the world, i.e. to the scholarly community through the Theological Conference and publications.

**RECOMMENDATION 2: Revise the Preamble to the Constitution.**

Current preamble: *The Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference is a not for profit organization. Delegates and interested members of the Church of God will meet at a designated place and time to confer in all matters pertaining to the spiritual life and business of the churches.*

**Proposed: The Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference is an association of churches united by a common understanding of Scripture, a commitment to ministry, and a desire to work together to teach and preach the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, leading to the conversion of the lost and the nurture of all believers. It is a not-for-profit organization. Delegates and interested members of the Church of God will meet at a designated place and time to confer in all matters pertaining to the spiritual life and business of the churches.**

**RATIONALE:** The proposed preamble further clarifies our organization as an association of churches and the factors that unite us. It emphasizes our historical belief that the Good News includes teachings on the Kingdom of God and Jesus Christ based on Acts 8:12.

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**1998 Annual General Conference**  
**ATLANTA, GEORGIA - July 3-7**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr Mrs Miss First Middle Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Street

\_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Age (if under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_

Church Name

2. Workshop Preferences (9:30 a.m.)  
 Sat. \_\_\_\_ Sun. \_\_\_\_ Mon. \_\_\_\_

Adult Preferences (11:00 a.m.)  
 Sat. \_\_\_\_ Sun. \_\_\_\_ Mon. \_\_\_\_

3. Fees—Number per room \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name(s) of person(s) sharing room

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Babysitting Service FREE  
 Children's names and ages

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Pastor Discount, if applicable \$ \_\_\_\_\_

6. Fees (line 3 minus line 5) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

7. Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

8. BALANCE DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

9. I wish to help with special music

Early-bird fees apply June 5 or before.

**HOW TO REGISTER (use one form per person)**

1. Enter the name and address information for yourself and your church. Please include age if under 18.
2. Indicate your workshop and adult preferences, by number, from the chart found on page 8 of the March/April 1998 PROGRESS JOURNAL, also available on the Church of God website at: [www.abc-coggc.org](http://www.abc-coggc.org)
3. Conference Fees: (all inclusive)  
**Housing** is in air-conditioned rooms with private bath. Please indicate the number of occupants per room and *name* the persons sharing your room. If the names of those in the room are not listed, we cannot guarantee the desired arrangements.  
**Meals** will begin with the Friday evening meal and end with the Monday evening meal.

	Early-Bird*	Regular
4 to a Room, Per Person	\$189	\$209
Ages 3-10**	149	169
3 to a Room, Per Person	219	239
Ages 3-10	169	189
2 to a Room, Per Person	279	299
Ages 3-10	239	259
1 to a Room (single)	449	469
Full-time commuter (with all meals)	109	119
One-day commuter (lunch and dinner)	29	39

\* Registration postmarked by June 5, 1998.

\*\* Ages 2 and under may attend at no charge.

4. Free babysitting service. Service will be provided for children two years and under Friday from 7:00-8:30; Saturday - Monday from 8:15-12:00, 1:30-3:45, and 7:00-8:30. Please list children's name(s) and age(s).
5. Active and retired pastors and their families (children living at home) may subtract 10% of the amount on line 3. Enter this amount on line 5.
6. Fees due (line 3 minus line 5).
7. Please indicate the amount sent with registration. *Note: A non-refundable deposit of \$25 per person is required.*
8. Balance due (if any).
9. Please check this box if you wish to help with special music.

Send your check with completed registration form to:  
 Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260.

Any special meal or housing requests need to accompany your application.

## Summer Conference Theme:

# A People After God's Own Heart — A Call to Spiritual Maturity

### SPECIAL FEATURES:

#### Sermons:

A People Called Out — Gary Burnham

A People of Active Faith — Alan Cain

A People of Confession — Jeff Fletcher

A People of Worship — Jim Graham

#### Morning Devotions:

A People of the Word — Paula Kirkpatrick

A People of Prayer — Jodi Werhanowicz

A People Who Give Away Christ — Bill Lawrence

4th of July picnic  
on ABC/Conference campus

Special music

Informative workshops and classes

Habitat for Humanity work blitz  
for young people of high school age

Children's classes

Beautiful facilities overlooking  
Atlanta Hartsfield International  
Airport

Free baby-sitting service

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Atlanta Bible College  
Church of God General Conference  
P.O. Box 100,000  
Morrow, GA 30260

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# **78th Annual Summer General Conference**

**July 3-7, 1998**

**Renaissance Atlanta Hotel — Concourse**

**Theme: A People After God's Own Heart —  
A Call to Spiritual Maturity**



**Church of God General Conference**

**Annual Report**

**1997-1998**



## 78th Annual Conference

The Church of God General Conference will meet at the Renaissance Atlanta Hotel – Concourse and the campus of Atlanta Bible College, July 3-7. Included in this issue is information about the program. Application forms were printed in the March/April PROGRESS JOURNAL. Registration may also be done by e-mail at [atlbc@mindspring.com](mailto:atlbc@mindspring.com) or on the Internet: [www.abc-coggc.org](http://www.abc-coggc.org).

A special Habitat for Humanity work blitz will be held for young people grades 7 to 12. Please see page 5 for more information about this special program. A nursery and children's Bible school classes will also be offered.

## Summer Conference Phone Number

The telephone number at the Renaissance Atlanta Hotel – Concourse is 404-209-9999.

## Holy Land Trip

Atlanta Bible College is sponsoring its fifth trip to the Holy Land June 10-18, 1999. David and Lynne Krogh will be the tour leaders. The cost of the basic trip to Israel is \$1,749 from New York City. There are optional extensions to Egypt and a Greece/Aegean cruise. Those who make reservations in the next 60 days will receive a complimentary copy of a Holy Land satellite map taken 580 miles above the earth from the US Landsat-5 Satellite. This photo map presents a striking panorama of the Holy Land from Eilat on the Red Sea to Mount Herman in the north, and from Amman, Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea. Call 1-800-347-4261 for a brochure.

## Team to Russia

Lord's Harvest International Chairperson Judy Myers has announced the names of team members for a work trip to Russia this summer. They are Joe and Rebekah Martin, Zachary Ross, and Travis Hamilton. The team will be helping Tracy Savage with some house repairs. Funding will be needed for the team members. Contributions may be sent to the General Conference earmarked for the Russia '98 trip.

## Meeting Place in Peru

Church of God members have generously responded to a need to raise approximately \$400 per month to help the congregation in Lima, Peru rent an appropriate meeting place. The lease has expired on their present meeting place and they are unable to renew it. Juan Baixeras is a commercial pilot who lives in Miami, FL. He and his wife were baptized by Anthony Buzard two years ago. He flies to Lima occasionally and has been meeting with the group there. He brings back very positive reports of the work. As soon as the new meeting place is secured, radio broadcasts in Lima will resume. It was the radio work several years ago that attracted many people who are now attending the church.

## RYOT '98

The theme of the 1998 RYOT (Radical Youth Overcoming Today) is "Don't Blame the Truth if You Love the Lie." Each day at RYOT there are classes that focus on the truth of the Word of God, recreation, and fellowship. Special guests this year include: Christian music by The Waiting; master storyteller, Marilyn Lazlo; artist Ben Glenn; comedy sketches by a group called CPR; and a new band called Satellite Soul. The cost to attend is \$200 for students and \$100 for youth workers.

## Financial Update

At the end of the first 10 months of the fiscal year which began July 1, \$255,531 has been contributed. We are grateful for all churches, conferences and individuals who faithfully provide support for College/Conference work.

## Campus Guests

Pastor Scott Ross, Omaha, NE, was campus chaplain at the end of April. He spoke in chapel and spent time with students and staff.

The College campus hosted the 7th annual Theological Conference in April. Approximately 60 were in attendance.

## Personnel Changes

Michelle Turner has been employed to serve as assistant to the Controller and Mailroom Coordinator. She resumed this position after being gone for a year. Carrie Krogh filled this position during the past year.

Kirk Ross has served as Apartment Manager during the current school year. He has resigned and will be replaced by Andy Cisneros.

Russell and Joyce Magaw have resigned as Editors of the Adult Sunday School Quarterly and Teacher's Guide. They also have been responsible for layout and design. Daniel Smead has been appointed as the new editor and the layout and design will be done by the publishing department.

Tara Doerr has been employed as Secretary to the President and Denise Enyart is serving as Secretary to the Vice President.

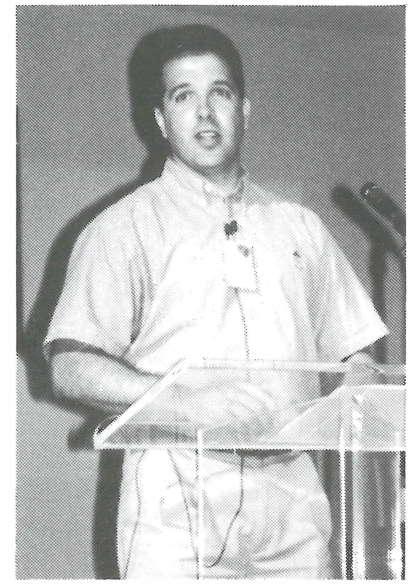
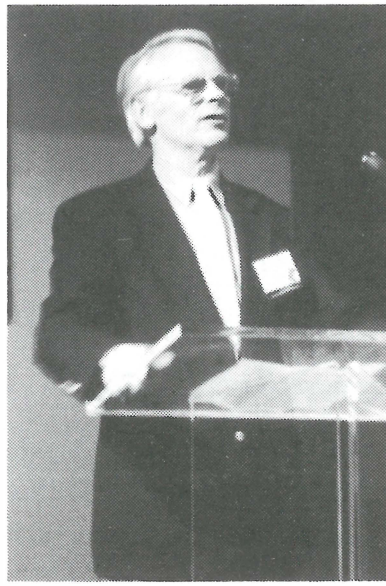
Paul Madonia has joined the ABC Recruitment Team.

We are glad to welcome new employees to our staff and we appreciate the service of those who have resigned.



John Cunningham of Belfast, Ireland presenting a paper on "The Suffering Servant: Isaiah 52:13ff."

Anthony Buzzard, ABC instructor and Theological Conference co-director with Kent Ross. He spoke on "A Digest of the Abrahamic Faith's Protest Against Orthodoxy."



Juan Baixeras, a commercial airline pilot from Miami, Florida, who spoke on "The Indwelling of the Spirit."

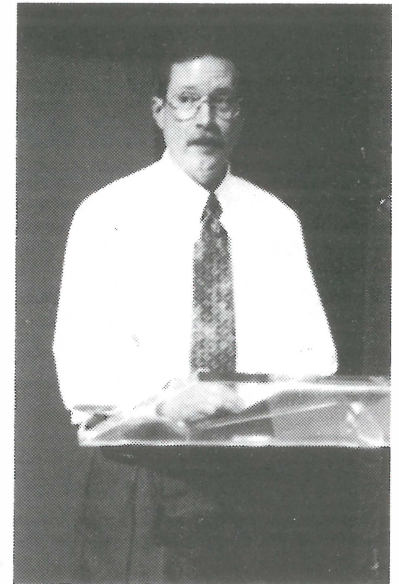
### 7th Annual Theological Conference April 17-19, 1998 ABC Campus

Church of God members, college students and staff, and many guests from North America and Ireland gathered on the campus of Atlanta Bible College for the 7th annual Theological Conference. Sessions began on Friday evening and continued through the morning worship service on Sunday.



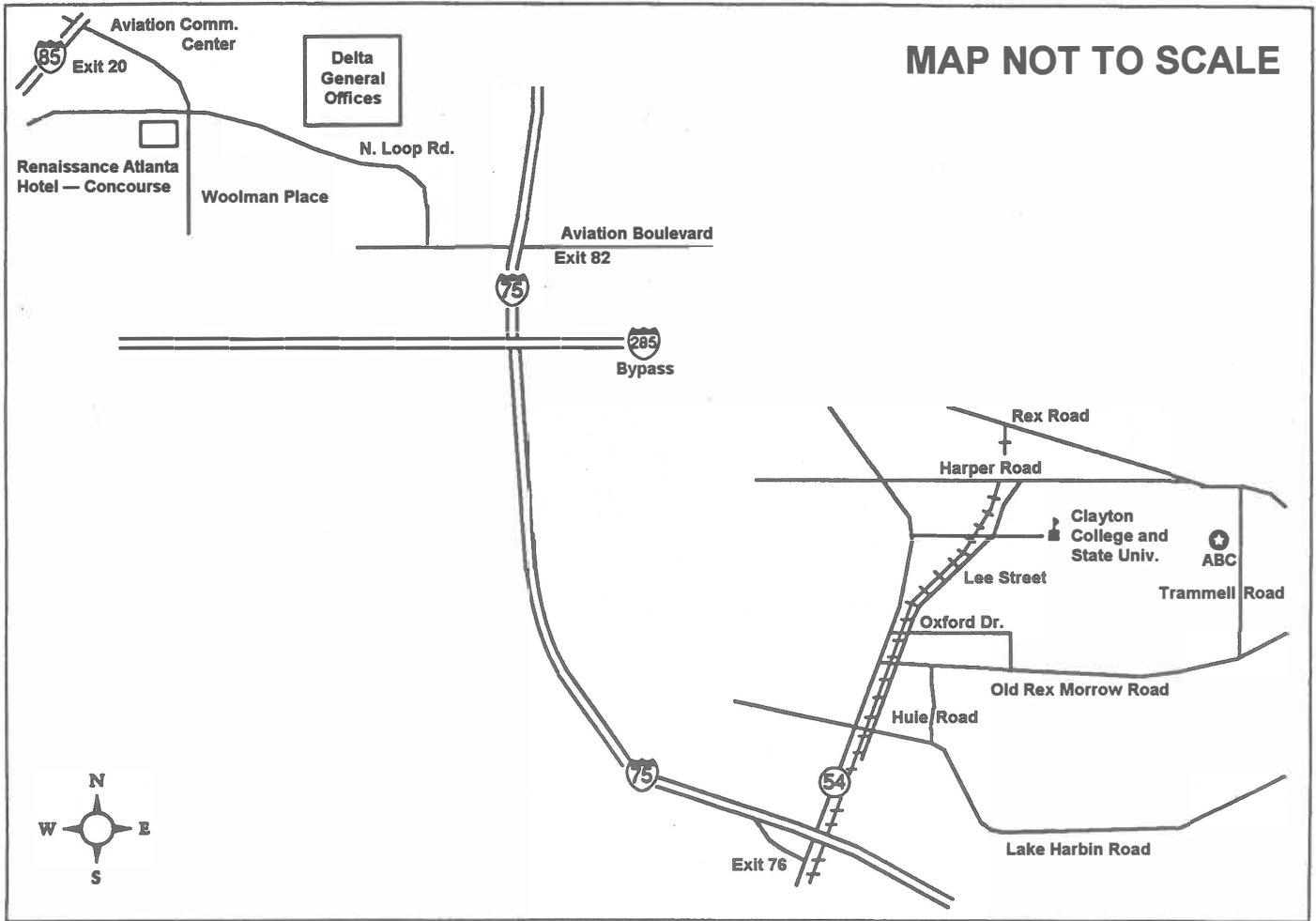
Dr. Theodore Letis, a graduate of Emory University and Director of the Institute for Renaissance and Reformation Biblical Studies, spoke about the beliefs of Erasmus, Isaac Newton, and Joseph Priestley who held similar views to the Church of God regarding the natures of God and Jesus.

Kent Ross, ABC instructor and Theological Conference co-director, receiving a book and theological journal for the ABC library from Pastor Scott Wells who spoke on "European Socinianism, Yesterday and Today."



Mark Coomer of Evansville, Indiana speaking on "The Church: The Israel of God."

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**Directions to Renaissance Atlanta Hotel — Concourse**

**Traveling south on I-85** — to exit 20, Loop Road. Proceed on exit ramp through traffic light. Hotel is one block on the right.

**Traveling north on I-85** — to exit 19A Virginia Ave East. At top of exit ramp, turn right onto Virginia Ave East. Take the first right at the light onto Toffie Terrace. Proceed through the first traffic light. Take the first left after the light onto Hartsfield Center Parkway. Hotel is directly on the right.

**Traveling north on I-75** — right lane, exit 82, Aviation Blvd/Air Cargo Exit. At the top of the ramp, turn right onto Aviation Blvd. At the first traffic light turn right onto North Loop Road. Go to the 4th traffic light and turn left onto Woolman Place. Hotel is one block on the right.

**Traveling south on I-75** — take I-85 south to exit 20, Loop Road. Proceed on exit ramp through traffic light. Hotel is one block on the right.

**Directions to Atlanta Bible College Campus**

**Traveling south on I-75** — exit on State Route 54 (Jonesboro Road) at exit 76. Turn left and travel north for 1 1/2 miles and turn right on Harper Road. Harper is the seventh light after leaving the Interstate. Continue one mile until Harper Road merges with Rex Road. Continue straight approximately 1/5 mile to Trammell Road. Turn right. The College is on the right (west) side of the road. The address is 5823 Trammell Road.

**Traveling north on I-75** — exit on State Route 54 (Jonesboro Road) at exit 76. Turn left and travel north for 1 1/2 miles and turn right on Harper Road. Harper will be the sixth light after leaving the Interstate. (Follow directions above from this point.)

## FRIDAY, JULY 3

- 8:00 Board of Directors' meeting  
 2:00 Registration  
 5:00 Dinner  
 7:00 Evening Service, "A People Called Out," Gary Burnham  
 8:30 Welcome Reception

# Schedule 1998 Annual Conference July 3-7

*A People After God's Own Heart  
 — A Call to Spiritual Maturity*

## SATURDAY, JULY 4

- 6:30 Prayer Session  
 7:00 Breakfast/Fellowship  
 8:15 Morning Devotions — Paula Kirkpatrick; "A People of the Word"  
 Children's Class  
 9:15 Break  
 9:30 Workshops  
 Youth Classes  
 10:30 Coffee Break  
 11:00 Ministers' Meeting  
 Priscillas' Meeting  
 Adult Options  
 Youth Classes  
 12:00 Lunch  
 1:30 Prayer Session  
 Children's Class  
 1:45 *Business Session*  
 • Welcome by Chairman  
 • Chairman's Message  
 • Preliminary Business  
 • Nominations for Board of Directors  
 • Nominations for Youth Advisory Committee  
 • Review Reports  
 • Recommendations  
 3:30 Prayer Session  
 3:45 Go to ABC campus  
 5:30 Picnic on ABC campus  
 7:00 Evening Service, "A People of Active Faith" Alan Cain  
 Licensing of New Pastors  
 Junior Church, ages 3-12  
 8:30 Free Time  
 Alumni Association Meeting/Campfire

## SUNDAY, JULY 5

- 6:30 Prayer Session  
 7:00 Breakfast/Fellowship  
 8:15 Morning Devotions — Jodi Werhanowicz; "A People of Prayer"  
 Children's Class  
 9:15 Break  
 9:30 Workshops  
 Youth Classes  
 10:30 Coffee Break  
 11:00 Ministers' Meeting  
 Priscillas' Meeting  
 Adult Options  
 Youth Classes  
 12:00 Lunch  
 1:30 Prayer Session  
 Children's Class  
 1:45 *Business Session*  
 • Reading of Saturday's Minutes  
 • President's Message  
 • Election of one Director  
 • Election for Advisory Committee  
 • Recommendations  
 • Discussion of Budget  
 3:30 Prayer Session  
 3:45 Free Time  
 Optional tour of new Cornerstone building  
 5:30 Dinner  
 7:00 Evening Service, "A People of Confession" Jeff Fletcher  
 Communion  
 Junior Church, ages 3-12  
 8:30 Free Time  
 MVRA Meeting

## MONDAY, JULY 6

- 6:30 Prayer Session  
 7:00 Breakfast/Fellowship  
 8:15 Morning Devotions — Bill Lawrence; "A People Who Give Away Christ"  
 Children's Class  
 9:15 Break  
 9:30 Workshops  
 Youth Classes  
 10:30 Coffee Break  
 11:00 Ministers' Meeting  
 Priscillas' Meeting  
 Adult Options  
 Youth Classes  
 12:00 Lunch  
 1:30 Prayer Session  
 Children's Class  
 1:45 General Session — Robert Johnson  
 2:15 Installation of Board  
 2:30 *Business Session*  
 • Reading of Sunday's Minutes  
 • General Business  
 • Adoption of Budget  
 • Reading of Final Minutes of 1998 General Conference  
 3:30 Prayer Session  
 3:45 Foundation Board Meeting  
 Free Time  
 5:30 Dinner  
 7:00 Evening Service, "A People of Worship," Jim Graham  
 8:30 Free Time

# ANNUAL REPORT OF ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE/ CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE

Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference was originally organized in 1921 as an association of churches committed to the proclamation of the gospel of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ.

Today the Church of God General Conference directly serves approximately 5,000 baptized members, 84 member churches, 13 non-member churches, 12 state/district conferences, and the public at large.

"Delegates and interested members of the Church of God meet annually in July or August to confer in all matters pertaining to the spiritual life and business of the churches" (Preamble). "Each member church of 15 or more members, which has held at least six preaching services during the year, shall be entitled to one delegate for each fifty of its active members or fraction thereof" (Article II, Section 1).

"A member church is a Church of God which adheres to the Statement of Faith contained in (the Constitution), and which has on record at the General Conference office, a statement of affiliation with the General Conference" (Article II, Section 2).

This report summarizes the work of our Association of Churches for the benefit of members. It also serves as background information for delegates who will meet at the annual summer Conference, July 3 to 7 at the Renaissance Atlanta Hotel - Concourse, Atlanta, Georgia.

In reviewing the work of the past twelve months, the College/Conference has served you, our constituency, in the following ways:

## COLLEGIATE SERVICES

Atlanta Bible College remains dedicated to preparing lay and professional Christian workers primarily for our churches. We also welcome students from any church background who wish to take classes.

The program of Atlanta Bible College consists of Bible/Theology and Ministry courses. Students receive their general education courses at Clayton College and State University located adjacent to our campus.

During the past year, Anthony Buzzard, Joe Martin, and Kent Ross were the primary instructors and David Krogh was a part-time instructor.

Three seniors graduated at the end of the 1996-97 school year: Mark Cain, John Nelson, and Tim Spickler. Mark is pursuing additional education; John is employed as a part-time youth pastor at Blessed Hope Bible Church, Rockford, IL; and Tim is currently serving as pastor of Family Bible Fellowship, Rockford, IL.

Enrollment at the College this year was slightly higher than last year. This year, a total of 23 students have been enrolled for one or more classes. Based on full-time equivalency (FTE — the total number of credit hours divided by a normal full-time course load of 15 credit hours), the students were enrolled at ABC 10.27 FTE and 3.93 FTE at Clayton College. The number of high school graduating seniors in the Church of God continues to decline. As recently as twenty years ago, there were nearly 200 young people graduating from high school each year. We currently have 58 names in our database of high school graduating seniors, a 71% decline. Recruitment of students who are interested in preparing for lay or professional ministry is an ongoing project. Zuaquis Alford, Andy Cisneros, and Kirk Ross have directed recruitment efforts this year.

The annual College Invitational Conference to which prospective students are invited was held in March with 49 students and 8 sponsors on campus. They participated in special presentations and tours, served in evangelism outreach projects, and were involved in other programming.

Again this year, the school year began with a two-day retreat at a beautiful conference center west of Atlanta. Pastor Alan and Susan Cain from the Bethel, South Carolina Church of God were guest leaders of the retreat. Other sessions were led by staff members. A solid spiritual foundation was laid for the school year.

An integral part of life at Atlanta Bible College is the Christian Service Program. Students participate in a weekly chapel service and discipling group, attend a local Church of God for worship and Bible study, and participate in practical Christian ministry. Students are involved in teaching and leading children and youth classes, preparing and leading worship services, serving

in evangelism projects, building houses with Habitat for Humanity, feeding the homeless, visiting nursing homes and prisons, and counseling. Our students have also been involved with gospel teams which have traveled to churches for weekend services. Other students have participated in the Summer Ministries Program in churches around the country.

Joe Martin continued in his doctoral degree program from Columbia Theological Seminary. He has started work on his dissertation.

During this school year, Sarah Buzzard served as Librarian; Kirk Ross as Apartment Director; Gary Burnham as Controller; Denise Enyart as Secretary to Vice President Kent Ross; Jennifer Andrews as Secretary to the President; and Merry Peterson as Receptionist and Secretary. The maintenance staff employees were Glyn Craig, Brian Bormes, and Tracy Swartz.

The College sponsored a trip to the Holy Land on February 10 to 21. Instructor Anthony Buzzard led a group of eight travelers. Another trip is scheduled for June, 1999.

Jeff Osborn served as Student Government President. Students were involved in an activities committee which sponsored social events.

In cooperation with the Ministerial Association, pastors have been invited to serve as campus chaplains for a week at a time. The Ministerial Association helps to fund this program. Pastor David Cheatwood of the Blessed Hope Bible Church in Rockford, IL was on Campus in October.

In January, Judy Myers representing the Lord's Harvest International Board was on campus to talk to students about missionary careers.

During the past year, individuals, churches, and groups have provided financial assistance to ABC students. We appreciate the generous support which enables the tuition at ABC to be kept reasonably low.

### **PASTOR/CHURCH SERVICES**

The Conference provides services to strengthen and assist local congregations and to facilitate the starting of new churches.

### **Missions**

Foreign mission outreach efforts in the Church of God predate the organizing of our General Conference in 1921. Through much trial and error over the past 85 years, many important lessons have been learned in how to present the gospel in other cultures. Through the work of the Lord's Harvest International Mission Agency, policies have been developed which will assist us to channel our resources into effective mission projects.

We continue to work in two types of mission projects:

Mission Fields — these are fields where a Church of God trained missionary will go to establish a work. The goal will be for the missionary to establish the work and reach lost individuals who will be nurtured and given responsibilities for carrying on the work. These missionaries will secure prayer and financial support from their home church and conference, from individuals, and from other church groups. Funds will be channeled through the Conference for recordkeeping purposes and to facilitate the disbursement of funds.

Other projects will be called teaching fields. These are countries where churches, workers, and congregations have already been established. Short-term mission teams will travel to these fields to help native workers understand the Scriptures better and be more effective in ministry.

There continues to be a need for individuals to hear God's call to a foreign field and to prepare for cross-cultural ministry. Assistance is currently being given to Tracy Savage who is working in Russia. Contact is being maintained with teaching fields in Malawi, Mexico, India, Peru, and the Philippines.

### **Youth**

1998 is the 100th anniversary of the first organized youth ministries in the Church of God. The youth of Illinois organized in Lanark in 1898. In August 1898 the Iowa youth organized in Marshalltown. These early groups called themselves Bereans (Acts 17:11). Though we have a wonderful heritage of youth work, we realize that the past is only the foundation upon which we build for the future.

The purpose of our youth organization is to "work together to bring youth into discipleship by: advocating excellence in youth ministry, modeling discipleship and providing opportunities for expression of their faith and love."

RYOT (Radical Youth Overcoming Today) which is held each summer is a special event to inspire and encourage our young people. It also provides an opportunity for youth workers to receive additional training for their work with young people during the year.

Crossroads Youth Ministry is an organization created by Church of God youth leaders to serve youth workers. A quarterly publication called the "Atlas" is available which contains programming ideas, planning guides, product reviews, and personal devotional tools for youth workers. During the past year, the Board of Directors offered to provide the Atlas free to Church of God youth groups. For groups already subscribing to the Atlas, the General Conference will extend their subscription by one year.

The General Conference is committed to helping to strengthen youth ministry in the Church of God. Funds are provided as a subsidy for the summer RYOT. Consideration is also being given to hiring a full-time Youth Coordinator who would help to strengthen local youth programs. Resumes are being received from individuals who are interested in serving in this position.

The present Youth Coordinator position is a very limited part-time position. Pastor Jim Graham serves in this position. He is assisted by a Youth Advisory Committee consisting of Pastor Dale Bliss, Pastor Timothy Eldred and Mr. Joe James.

### **Christian Education**

The Christian Education Advisory Committee has recommended the publication of an adult elective for use in Sunday School classes or home Bible studies. A royalty agreement has been signed with Cook Communications Ministries to revise and edit a Christian lifestyle series of lessons. Plans are being made to have this material available by the summer of 1998.

A revision is currently under way of our doctrinal distinctive series of lessons which will begin in December, 1998.

Gayle Guthrie serves as the Coordinator of the Christian Education Advisory Committee. Carol Ring, Christy Ross, and Pastor Billie Kennedy serve on the committee.

### **Media**

*The Restitution Herald* is in its 87th year of publication. Pastor Jeff Fletcher is the editor. Current circulation is about 780.

During the past year, the Truth Seekers Sunday School Curriculum was revised and the age groupings were changed. The Early Elementary is for Kindergarten and Grade 1; Elementary for grades 2 and 3; Upper Elementary for grades 4 and 5; Middle School for grades 6 to 8; High School for grades 9 to 12; Adult for college age and adults. A royalty lease agreement between Cook Communications Ministries and Church of God General Conference enables us to revise the Cook publications to meet the needs of the Church of God. The Church of God editors are: Early Elementary — Irene Sorenson; Elementary and Upper Elementary — Paula Kirkpatrick; Middle School — Warren Sorenson; High School — Terri Moore; and Adult — Russell and Joyce Magaw.

Daniel Smead is the Technical Director of Publishing and Sarah Buzzard is Proofreader.

During 1997, over 250 15-minute programs were prepared by Anthony Buzzard for the "Focus on the Kingdom" radio program. (See "Special Reports" section for more information.)

The *Journal from the Radical Reformation* continues to be published four times each year. It is distributed to seminary libraries as well as to other interested subscribers.

Kent Ross and Anthony Buzzard serve as senior editors with Jeff Fletcher and Scott Deane as associate editors.

### **Other Services**

**Loan Funds** — The Church of God General Conference has two loan funds available to churches that are members of the Church of God General Conference. The Hearp-DeLap loan fund was established by Jack and Louise Hearp many years ago in memory of their parents. The Church of God Investment Fund was established by action of the delegates in 1982. Churches that have received Church Builders appeals and that cease operations are required to return Church Builder funds to the Investment Fund. This fund has also grown through interest earnings. Other College/Conference restricted funds are also available to be borrowed. At the present time, nine churches have borrowed a little over \$400,000 for construction projects.

**Church Development Aid** — The purpose of the Church Development Assistance Program is to provide financial assistance, consultation, and training where needed to churches that are unable to support a full-time ministry, and churches which are able to financially expand their staff and ministry to utilize their growth potential. It is the intention that the recipient church grow and become self-supporting. The following churches have received aid during 1997-1998: Beloit New Life, WI; Cornerstone, GA; Blessed Hope, Rockford, IL; North Kent, MI; Family Bible, IL; and Winnebago New Life, IL. The aid begins at \$600 per month and declines over six years.

**Church Planting Aid** — The purpose of the Church Planting Aid Fund is to provide financial assistance to start new churches. It is the intention that the recipient church have a commitment to outreach and growth, and become self-supporting. Financial aid begins at \$400 per month and declines over a four-year time period. The following churches received assistance during 1997-98: New Friends, GA; Beloit New Life, WI; Cornerstone, GA; and Winnebago New Life, IL.

**Church Builders' League** — The Church Builders' League was organized in 1958 to provide assistance to new and existing churches, and to Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference, in the mission of making disciples by bringing the lost to Jesus Christ. Appeals may be issued for start-up and operating expenses for new churches, groups buying or constructing church buildings that have not owned a building previously, groups that are meeting in a building of their own that is not specifically suitable for worshipping, groups relocating to a more desirable site, groups purchasing land for a new building and groups which have outgrown their present facilities and are enlarging, buying, rebuilding,

or exchanging. In the event that no group request is approved for Church Builders' League assistance, the appeal will be used for capital expenditures for Atlanta Bible College/General Conference, or the appeal will be issued on behalf of the Church of God Investment Fund or one of the College/Conference endowment funds designated by the Board.

Appeal number 78 issued in the spring of 1997 provided support to start the Winnebago New Life, IL Church. Appeal number 79 issued in the fall of 1997 went to the Gatesville, TX Church for the construction of a fellowship/dining area, kitchen, and five classrooms. The number of individuals, churches, and groups contributing to each appeal has declined to under 400. At one time, approximately 1000 people were regularly giving to this valuable program. Interested individuals, families or groups are invited to join the League.

**Summer Ministries** — The Summer Ministries program provides assistance to local churches and state conferences for conducting Bible Schools, assisting with classes, and providing help with evangelistic calling and outreach. The program also provides opportunities for young people to gain experience in ministry.

During the summer of 1997, teams participated in eleven activities: Vacation Bible Schools at New Friends, GA; Family Bible Fellowship, Rockford, IL; Blanchard, MI; Farmington, MO; Brush Creek, OH; Columbia Station, OH; Cool Spring, VA; Fort Valley, VA; and Hope Second Advent Church in Monroe, NC. Teams also helped with camps in Minnesota and Washington.

**Lending Library** — A large collection of video and audio tapes and other resources are available without charge to churches and individuals. A catalog of all materials is available from the College library.

**Miscellaneous Services** — The General Conference operates the Ministers' Voluntary Retirement Association and provides assistance to churches through the Christian Conciliation Board. The Ministerial Recognition Board licenses pastors. Additional information on these services is provided under "Special Reports" in this issue of the JOURNAL.

## BUSINESS AND FINANCE

The business office under the direction of Gary Burnham, Controller, handles all accounting and financial records, purchases, sales, student housing, rental property, computer operations, maintenance, and the College bookstore. Carrie Krogh served as assistant to the Controller, and supervisor of the mailing department. Aaron Wells has assisted our computer operations by modem from his location in Illinois.

## Contributions

Sixty-two of the 86 churches that are members of the General Conference contributed to the general operations Goal for Giving in 1997. Three churches which are not members of the Conference also contributed. Contributions from churches provide 25% of the income to support Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference. We appreciate the faithfulness of each church that contributes a portion of their income to support the work here. Individuals and families contribute 26% of the income for our organization. We are grateful for the 517 individuals and families who contributed during 1997. We are also thankful for the state conferences and groups that contributed 6% of our income.

At this point in the fiscal year, contributions to the Goal for Giving are approximately 8% less than last year at this time.

## Sale of Properties

The Golden Rule Administration Building in Oregon, Illinois, the only remaining unsold property of the Illinois campus, was sold on July 15. In November, a 5.4-acre site in Colorado Springs was sold. Currently, the only properties owned by the College/Conference are the 12 1/2 acre campus and 4 duplex properties in Morrow, Georgia.

## Indebtedness

**Relocation Loans** — approximately \$230,000 of relocation loans will be repaid as follows: \$170,000 from a contract for deed on the sale of the women's dormitory in Illinois (regular payments of interest and principal are being paid on the contract); and the balance from the Fund the Dream Campaign. Approximately \$60,000 in unpaid commitments remains to be received from this campaign. We are grateful to the 136 individuals, families, and groups that are participating in the Fund the Dream Campaign.

**Operating Loans** — All operating loans that had accumulated over the past 15 years have been paid in full from the sale of the Colorado Springs property, and a small portion of a trust that was received in August 1997.

**Duplex Loans** — The only indebtedness for property is secured by four duplexes on Trammell Road across from the campus. These properties were purchased for \$308,749. Rents are being used to cover expenses and to repay the loans that were taken out for the purchase. There is a current balance of \$234,000 owed on these properties.



## Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are contributions given by donors which are earmarked for specific projects or activities. In some cases the donor specifies that the principal is to be preserved and only the interest earnings are to be used.

The larger restricted funds are as follows:

Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation — \$1,181,052 — Only the interest earnings may be used to assist Atlanta Bible College. (See "Special Reports" for information on how these funds are used.)

Ministers' Voluntary Retirement Association — \$941,012 — earmarked for retirement benefits for Church of God pastors and College/Conference staff. (See "Special Reports" for additional information.)

Atlanta Bible College Scholarship Funds — \$310,328 — funds given in memory of various individuals to be used for scholarships for Atlanta Bible College students.

Elton Fund — \$113,860 — designated to help provide scholarships for Atlanta Bible College interns.

Mission Endowment Fund — \$211,233 — designated by the donor to be used to fund special mission trips and projects.

Investment Fund — \$78,076 — for loans to churches. (See "Special Reports" for additional information.)

Canadian Development Fund — \$79,000 — from the sale of property in Digby, Nova Scotia to be used for church work in Canada.

Hearp/DeLap Loan Fund — \$62,700 — for loans to churches.

Church Planting Fund — \$16,594 — for assistance in church planting projects.

Annuity Fund — \$201,370 — income is used to pay interest to annuitants until their death at which time the funds are released to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Savage Endowment Fund — \$20,000 — interest earnings to be used to assist Atlanta Bible College.

Hanson Trust Fund — \$40,000 — income to be used for scholarships, missions, Conference ministries, Atlanta Bible College, etc.

In addition, there are a multitude of small funds for the Russia mission work, other mission fields, ministers' loan fund, publishing reserve fund, vehicle replacement fund, radio ministry fund, furniture and equipment fund, Christian Workers' Seminar Scholarship Fund, RYOT Scholarship Fund, etc.

The assets of restricted accounts continue to grow through the generosity of donors and investment income. These monies fund important programs and activities of the College/Conference.

## CONCLUSION

During the past three years, an institutional long-range planning study has been under way under the direction of Kent Ross and Dr. Donna Deane. Last October task forces met in Atlanta to discuss possible recommendations for the future. Many excellent ideas were proposed. Some have already been implemented by staff at the direction of the Board of Directors. Others are requiring additional study and research. Some will be acted upon by delegates at the summer Conference.

As we look to the future, we do so with an attitude of optimism and faith based upon our confidence in our God who is able to do more than we ask for (Eph. 3:20). We continue to believe that the best days of the Church of God are in the future. Though we face many challenges, our confidence is not in our abilities or work, but in the God whom we serve. Wise Solomon said "whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Ecc. 9:10). Working in partnership with each of you, as a board and staff, we intend to use every available resource and all of our energy to do whatever will advance the cause of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ.

This report was prepared by David Krogh. It was reviewed by the Board of Directors at their meeting on March 27 and 28. It is presented to you as a report of the Board to the membership of the Church of God General Conference.

# SPECIAL REPORTS

## Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation

The Development Foundation was organized in 1982 by action of the delegates at the summer Conference. The original goal was to raise one million dollars for the Endowment Fund. Currently the Foundation has a fund balance of \$1,181,053.00. During the 1997-98 school year the Foundation has funded the following programs:

- \$35,000.00 - basic grants to students
- \$4,000.00 - purchase of equipment and library books

- \$3,000.00 - library periodicals
- \$5,000.00 - Holy Land grants
- \$5,000.00 - Presidential Scholarships awarded as incentives for new students
- \$3,000.00 - staff training
- \$4,000.00 - recruitment
- \$2,000.00 - grants for students to General Conference and/or Christian Workers' Seminar
- \$61,000.00 - Total disbursed to the College

In addition, \$7,000.00 in interest earnings is being added to the Foundation principal and \$2,000.00 covers the cost of the annual audit.

For the 1998-99 school year the Trustees have approved the use of \$5,000.00 as grants toward laptop computers which are required by Clayton College. For \$200.00 per quarter, ABC students enrolled at Clayton College will receive a laptop computer, Internet access, training in the use of the computer, and a 24-hour help line. Grants will be available to ABC students at the beginning of each quarter. Students not receiving a GPA of "C" or better in Clayton courses during any quarter will not be eligible for a computer grant in the following quarter. These computers will be a help to students doing their work not only at Clayton College but also at Atlanta Bible College.

The Trustees of the Foundation are: Pastor Billie Kennedy, President; Mr. Charles Bottolfs, Vice President; Dr. William Lawrence, Secretary; Mr. Robert Huddleston, Treasurer; and Directors Mr. Lynn Berry, Pastor David Cheatwood, Pastor Scott Deane, Mr. Jim Hamilton, Mr. Rob Helenburg, Mr. Joe James, Mr. Robert Petry, Pastor Dale Swartz, and Mrs. Terri Tschaenn.

#### **Ministers' Voluntary Retirement Association**

This Association exists for the benefit of Church of God pastors and employees of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference and their families. During the past year, total assets in the Association increased by over 17%. Retirement benefits are being distributed to five pastors and eight spouses. Lump sum settlements have been disbursed to 28 pastors.

The Association currently consists of 36 active members and 2 pastors who are currently non-participating members. There are 40 churches and 6 conferences that are active members.

The Association is administered by Trustees Gary Burnham, Bill Gaspar, and David Krogh.

— David Krogh, Secretary

#### **Church of God Investment Fund**

The Church of God Investment Fund makes loans to churches for purchasing property, remodeling, constructing buildings, purchasing parsonages, etc. Four churches have outstanding loans from the Fund. The Fund balance is a little over \$78,000.00 as of March 31, 1998.

The Trustees of the Fund are: Robert Smith, William D. Lawrence, Terri Tschaenn, Joe James, and David Krogh.

— David Krogh, Secretary

#### **Today's Good News**

This past year has been a year of significant improvements for the Today's Good News television ministry, improvements which have allowed us to grow in our potential effectiveness and outreach.

During the year we were able to purchase a used studio camera, which has allowed us to improve our overall image. We were also able to purchase a signal converter, which allows us to convert computer graphics for use directly in our productions. This device, along with a

donated computer, allows us to import an unlimited variety of fonts, backgrounds, pictures, etc.

Another milestone for our work was the development of a website. Justin Taylor devoted many hours to this work and was able to develop a very impressive site at no cost to us. If you haven't visited our website, please do so. Our address is <http://www.angelfire.com/biz/tgnews>.

Programming content for our programs during this past year consisted of Sunday messages by Pastor Taylor and numerous guest speakers including Anthony Buzzard. Programs were shot in our facilities in Lafayette, Indiana which are equipped with studio lighting. They were done utilizing a three-camera shoot and post-production editing.

One major frustration that I experience in this work is the lack of the use of these resources by the Church of God. Opportunities exist in nearly every community for free or low-cost cablecasting and no churches are availing themselves of these opportunities. With our large stock of U-Matic tapes, programs can be loaned for use at no cost. The opportunity also exists for churches and/or pastors to produce programs from our Lafayette facility. I invite pastors to visit us for the purpose of videotaping messages for cablecast. I also invite those interested to contact us so that we can develop short church commercials or promotionals.

If you haven't seen work that we have recently produced I urge you to contact us for a demo tape. I also invite suggestions as to how we can better promote and utilize this vital tool that the Lord has entrusted us with.

Our special thanks to all who have worked with and supported Today's Good News during the past year: volunteer staff workers — Andy VanBuren, Bill Wyatt, Bob Morrison, Joshua Morrison, and Justin Taylor; financial supporters — Hedrick Church of God, Glad Tidings Church of God, Church of God General Conference, Oregon Missionary, Indiana State Conference, and those who participate in the Lifeline telephone long-distance program (my apologies to anyone I have inadvertently omitted!)

Surely we can all agree that an important part of the Lord's plan for the Church of God Abrahamic Faith is that we participate together with the Lord in the fulfillment of His prophecy in Matthew 24:14: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come." Today's Good News television, with your involvement and support, can be a vital tool in this work of our Lord.

— Pastor Steve Taylor, Director

#### **Focus on the Kingdom**

A conversation (unplanned) between Jim Ring and myself at Christian Workers' Seminar in 1996 initiated a plan to see what might be done by way of radio to spread the unique message of the Abrahamic Faith — the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Inquiries into Christian radio in Atlanta revealed that some stations require programmers to sign a statement of faith. One large station (50,000 watts) which had no such restriction was WGUN 1010 AM, known locally as the "big gun." In January of 1997 we started a series of a year's

programs entitled "Focus on the Kingdom." These are 14 minutes and 30 seconds long, including the intro and the outro. The intro provides 10 seconds of music and the outro offers free literature to be requested at ABC's toll-free number. The Gospel of the Kingdom is discussed from every angle and in connection with the promises made to Abraham. I attempt to relay the great scheme of God for the salvation of individuals and the world.

Broadcasts continued in Atlanta for a year and a month. After beginning on WGUN we bought time on KPBC, Christian University of the Air, 770 AM in Dallas. This station has produced the greatest response so far. From January to December 1997 we received some 250 calls from the two stations. We then sent out a personal letter to each Texas resident who had received my Kingdom book, inviting them to meet at a hotel in Dallas. A generous listener and convert to the Kingdom message arranged for the meeting place and some 30 persons turned out for a two-hour session during which I presented something of the theology behind our ministry. From this group several are now beginning to be in contact with each other and one lady has requested baptism.

WGUN provided a forum for me to be in the studio live on Wednesdays for a call-in session. Fifteen minutes is really not an optimum time for live conversation, but we were able to interact with a number of regular callers.

Peg Eckel of Pennsylvania has taken on a ministry of copying and distributing tapes of the programs. Several complete sets of the 260 programs were sent to Margaret Sakala in Malawi and also to the Philippines. Many more copies were sent out to inquirers within and outside the COG in the USA. Restoration Fellowship now has several sample programs which can be listened to on our website (<http://anthonybuzzard.home.mindspring.com>).

Due to the generous contributions, we have embarked on a second year at KPBC in Dallas. The programs will be played twice daily, 11:15 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., and new ones will be interspersed as time allows for their production. We also ran the programs on KSKY (660 AM) in Dallas which provided Internet service in addition to local coverage.

As of February 16, 1998 the broadcasts are being aired on WLUV, 1520 AM (11:00 a.m. weekdays), Rockford, IL. In addition there is a Sunday airing in Wenatchee, WA; over the Welland, Ontario area; and in Charlotte, NC. These programs are supported by the local church. Others of our local churches have expressed an interest in running the programs locally.

Beginning March 1, we are beginning to broadcast over shortwave WHRI out of South Bend, IN. This provides coverage over North America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia and can also be received anywhere in the world on Internet and Satellite. "Focus on the Kingdom" airs at 6.04 Mhz on the shortwave dial weekdays at 8:15 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time) and again weekdays at 3:00 p.m. at 13.76 Mhz.

One of the side benefits of the programs has been their circulation outside the arena of radio itself. We calculate that some 7,500 programs are now in circulation. A group of Delta pilots (whom we met in the home school community) became interested in the Kingdom message and

invited me to address them at a weekend seminar in north Georgia. Many of these pilots have been involved in the Navigator organization. Their reaction was one of amazement that the Kingdom of God had not formed part of their movement's Gospel. The radio tapes are used as backup and for further clarification of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

In the near future we intend to put out one-minute advertisements on numerous major stations over the USA and invite people to receive our free book on the Kingdom of God. We also have a project to send the Kingdom book to all the pastors of Peachtree City, GA.

We are delighted with the opportunity which radio has afforded for making contact with many sincere Bible searchers across the States and abroad. If the Word of the Kingdom (Matt. 13:19) is to make progress it must be announced to many potential believers. Fish are caught only when the net is widely spread. Everyone must hear the Gospel of the Kingdom before the end of the age (Matt. 24:14).

Funding for this project was initially provided by several Church of God families and several non-Church of God families. Funding is also now being provided by state/district conferences and local churches.

I am grateful for the opportunity which this ongoing project has provided for learning the ins and outs of radio. It is hard to measure results. At an individual level many have been impacted as they come to learn of the Abrahamic faith. A great deal of literature has been circulated, and I have been touched by the generosity of our sponsors and donors.

Please tune in or listen to the programs on the Internet or at our website.

— Anthony Buzzard

### Ministerial Recognition Board

The Ministerial Recognition Board, both appointed and elected, is responsible for granting ministerial recognition in the form of license to those seeking accreditation by the Church of God General Conference. In addition, this Board is responsible for maintaining the integrity and good standing of those licensed.

Typically we meet three times each year: 1) before or during Ministerial Conference, 2) before and during General Conference, and 3) one other time, generally in early December. There are other occasions when it is necessary to have phone conferences.

This is the typical order, or sequence, by which we license:

a. The student that anticipates graduation in June will receive Part I of his application for ministerial recognition in early November of the preceding year.

b. The student is to complete Part I of the application process early enough for it to be copied and distributed to members of the M.R.B. to read and consider before the first interview.

c. An interview is arranged, generally around the time of Ministerial Conference.

d. If the interview is deemed satisfactory, the student is notified that he/she will receive his/her three-year Provisional License at a ceremony, generally during General

Conference. If there is something that arises during the first interview, the M.R.B. may ask for further study by the applicant on some particular item in the application, or something that has arisen during the interview. This three-year Provisional License is for the one year of internship and two years of the mentoring program.

e. A second interview is arranged near the end of the intern year. The interning pastor is sent Part II of the application during this year, approximately three months prior to the second interview. By the time of the second interview Part II of the application has been received, copied and distributed to the M.R.B.

f. After the two-year mentoring program relationship has been arranged, a third interview is scheduled near its end.

g. If the interview indicates satisfaction with the developing ministry of the applicant, arrangements are made for permanent licensure.

Provisional Licenses have been granted this year to Chris Seiders, Frank Toth and John Raymond.

Those now involved in the mentor program include the following:

Mentorees

Lee McMinn  
Mike Cisler  
Mark Tschaenn  
Seth Ross  
Chris Seiders  
Tim Spickler  
John Raymond  
Frank Toth

Mentors

David Krogh  
Michael Hoffman  
Craig Waggoner  
Craig Waggoner  
Ray Hall  
John Railton  
Scott Ross  
Rex Cain

Permanent Licenses were granted this year to Jeff Moore, Greg Shaw and David Swartz.

— Kent Ross, Secretary

### Christian Conciliation Board

The Christian Conciliation Board is available to assist and consult with church congregations and local church leadership where conciliation efforts are needed in order to further the Lord's work. It is the desire of the Conciliation Board that involvement be preventive through early consultation and education. Also, the earlier potential problems are identified and resolved, the better the prognosis for healing and moving on in effective ministry of the church.

During the past year the Conciliation Board members have consulted with several churches by phone or visits. In one situation a member assisted in the preparation and installation of a new pastor. Board members also taught at Christian Workers' Seminar and participated at Ministers' Conference. Churches or church leadership may contact the following for services of the Christian Conciliation Board: Joe E. James, Michael Hoffman, Michele Millard, or General Conference President David Krogh.

— Joe E. James, Chairman

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DELEGATE ACTION

### Long-Range Planning Recommendations

The following recommendations from the Long-Range Institutional Study are submitted by the Board of Directors to the delegates for consideration and vote:

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** Revise the Statement of Purpose of the Church of God General Conference.

Current By-Laws statement: *The purpose of the College/Conference is to assist Church of God members, churches, and conferences to perform their commission, which is to make disciples by bringing the lost to Jesus Christ, and by leading the believer to maturity by providing leadership, resources, and services.*

Proposed: **The Church of God General Conference, through partnership with conferences and local Churches of God, assists them and their members in**

**the performance of their commission to make disciples. The Conference serves as an advocate of the Church of God to the world.**

(There is no recommendation for change in the "Purpose of the Atlanta Bible College," — Article I, Section 2.)

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** Revise the Preamble to the Constitution.

Current Preamble: *The Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference is a not-for-profit organization. Delegates and interested members of the Church of God will meet at a designated place and time to confer in all matters pertaining to the spiritual life and business of the churches.*

Proposed: **The Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference is an association of churches**

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Proposed: **The Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference is an association of churches**

united by a common understanding of Scripture, a commitment to ministry, and a desire to work together to teach and preach the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, leading to the conversion of the lost and the nurture of all believers. It is a not-for-profit organization. Delegates and interested members of the Church of God will meet at a designated place and time to confer in all matters pertaining to the spiritual life and business of the churches.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** Study and identify ways in which the Church of God can improve public relations with members and with those outside the church to better foster a distinct identity and increase the visibility of Church of God distinctives to those outside its membership.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** Expand the current ABC program of study to include a distance learning program that will provide education for lay ministers and local church leadership.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:** Study and identify ways to improve the Atlanta Bible College program with the intention of achieving excellence and meeting accreditation standards within the next five years.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:** Strengthen the programs and increase the resources allocated for youth work in the Church of God.

**RECOMMENDATION 7:** Further integrate the use of technology in the work of the College and Conference.

**RECOMMENDATION 8:** Strengthen the programs and increase the resources allocated for evangelism.

**RECOMMENDATION 9:** Provide publications that can best enable the Church of God to fulfill the Great Commission.

#### **Additional Recommendation**

**RECOMMENDATION 10:** By the year 2000, secure 1,000 active members of the Church Builders' League.

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## **Rationale for Recommendations and Actions to Be Taken**

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** Revise the Statement of Purpose of the Church of God General Conference.

**RATIONALE:** The switch to a stronger partnership between the Conference, College, state/district conferences and local churches is strongly supported. The organization exists to be in partnership so that it can be a vehicle of assistance as churches perform their commission of making disciples. It also clarifies and emphasizes the responsibility of the Conference to represent the organization and be an advocate to the world; the Conference responds to and reaches out to others who request information about our churches and our doctrine; it represents our association of churches to all who inquire. The Conference and College also take the initiative to make the Church of God more visible to the world, i.e. to the scholarly community through the Theological Conference and publications.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** Revise the Preamble to the Constitution.

**RATIONALE:** The proposed preamble further clarifies our organization as an association of churches and

the factors that unite us. It emphasizes our historical belief that the Good News includes teachings on the Kingdom of God and Jesus Christ based on Acts 8:12.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** Study and identify ways in which the Church of God can improve public relations with members and with those outside the church to better foster a distinct identity and increase the visibility of Church of God distinctives to those outside its membership.

**RATIONALE:** Various concerns and recommendations stated during the study indicate the importance of our image internally to our members and externally to the lost that we want to reach. This has been identified as a critical issue for the Conference and the College as well as for the local churches. How do we mold together into one voice while recognizing and appreciating the richness of the diversity in the Church of God? The diversity will, if we are serving the Great Commission, not diminish but only continue to change and grow. Examples of the recommendations which have been noted include: develop an identifiable image; publish a more user-friendly book on our

distinctives; determine the influence of current financial strategies on the image; identify improved recruiting strategies; provide a consistent "look" for all of our publications; identify ways to present a positive and visible presence; and identify ways to enhance our "public relations" whether at the Conference level or at the local church level.

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:** The Board of Directors will appoint a one-year task force (made up of individuals outside the current Conference, College staff) to study this issue and provide recommendations to be taken. Also, any recommendations which are acted upon as a part of the long-range study will take the concerns of image, identity, public relations and communication into account. Current staff and students at the Atlanta campus will identify ways in which the Conference and College could enhance the image and identity of the Church of God through their ongoing activities (worship teams, recruiting, discussions with local churches, communications, college activities, etc.). More publications will be encouraged among COG pastors and scholars (in both COG and non-COG publications). In order to reach the lost visibility is critical for establishing an image and identity related to our distinctives, both internally and externally.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** Expand the current ABC program of study to include a distance learning program that will provide education for lay ministers and local church leadership.

**RATIONALE:** This recommendation is a revised version of the recommendation made by the workshop group in October. The intent is to continue the current program while making a shift toward the inclusion of lay ministry and distance education offerings. The workshop group in October had also recommended the establishment of a seminary. After prolonged discussion by the Board, they decided not to recommend a switch to a seminary at this time. A number of reasons were noted. The Board has not sensed a strong call for more highly degreed pastors; in fact, some of our churches have chosen to employ pastors without baccalaureate degrees. Most churches are not in a position to pay a salary commensurate with someone holding a Master's degree. Few potential students can be identified. The Church of God seminary leadership resources, i.e. qualified individuals with doctorates, is limited.

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:** After action of the delegates, the Higher Education Advisory Committee

will assist the College staff in the development of the new programs which will then be presented to the Board for action.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:** Study and identify ways to improve the Atlanta Bible College program with the intention of achieving excellence and meeting accreditation standards within the next five years.

**RATIONALE:** Aspirations of accreditation for the Bible College have continued over the years; accreditation affirms standards of excellence in educational programs. We wish to meet accreditation standards within the next five years.

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:** The Higher Education Advisory Committee and the College staff will identify strategies to be taken to achieve accreditation. Those strategies will be reviewed by the Board; systematic actions will be taken to assure the meeting of accreditation standards.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:** Strengthen the programs and increase the resources allocated for youth work in the Church of God.

**RATIONALE:** Many responses on the surveys reflect a concern on the part of our membership for reaching, discipling and leading our youth during the coming years. The "youth" includes toddlers through young adults. Development of resources, publishing, training of teachers and youth workers, youth programs, development of missions activities, and increasing the visibility of youth in the COG should all be included in order to respond to the concerns of our members.

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN:** Employ a full-time staff member to serve as youth coordinator and recruitment coordinator. The goal will be to fill this position by the fall of 1999. The coordinator would be responsible for activities such as networking with youth and youth leaders nationwide; shepherding youth leaders; visiting local youth groups and assisting with programming; developing courses in youth ministry to teach at ABC, RYOT, Christian Workers' Seminar and summer General Conference; and coordinating the ABC recruitment program. Additional monies will need to be allocated in order to accomplish this recommendation.

The Youth Advisory Committee will also be asked to do some further work on the prioritizing of actions to be taken. Their report should be available for the Board's January 1999 meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION 7:** Further integrate the use of technology in the work of the College and Conference.

**RATIONALE:** The need for a better use of technology has been reflected in the input we have received in many areas: communication, education, publication, evangelism, visibility outside of the Church of God. In particular it will be needed in order to manage a distance learning program for ABC.

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:** Incorporate the use of computer software and the Internet in ABC course requirements. Position the Atlanta campus so that it can efficiently facilitate communication between all constituents of the Church of God — Web pages, Internet, e-mail. Provide a variety of technology classes, workshops at Christian Workers' Seminar, General Conference, RYOT, for the next 3 - 5 years. There are many talented people in the Church of God who could offer classes on a variety of topics. In particular, prepare every pastor/church to be on the Internet within 3 years. Initiate immediately the development of distance learning technology and programs — video development, on-line courses. Enter more of the General Conference, Atlanta Bible College information on the computer — student records, personnel records, library system, archives. This ACTION requires investment in equipment, supplies, and qualified personnel. A coordinator could be identified; the talents of many Church of God members could be tapped to assist with the development.

Also a part-time technology coordinator will be hired to facilitate the increased and effective use of technology.

At their last meeting, the Board allocated up to \$50,000 from the Morgan estate to be used to update the present computer system which was initially designed ten years ago. Upgraded hardware and software is greatly needed to improve present functions performed by faculty, staff and students, and will be vital if this recommendation is adopted by the delegates. As new computers are purchased we are keeping in mind the Clayton College requirement for students to rent a laptop computer. This decreases the need for a large number of student computers, but printers, software, and appropriate interfaces with the Clayton computers are being assured. The ABC Foundation is providing grants to cover the rental of laptop computers from Clayton College.

**RECOMMENDATION 8:** Strengthen the programs and increase the resources allocated for evangelism.

**RATIONALE:** This area is critical to the ability of the Church of God to fulfill the Great Commission. There has been consistent input that the churches and pastors want the Conference to provide information and resources regarding evangelism. They want evangelism to go beyond church planting and include a variety of strong resources for making evangelism work in current churches. There has also been a clear message that we look more specifically at the ministry needs and how we reach special groups — seniors, single parent families, victims of violence and abuse, divorce, etc. Somehow we must look more broadly at the needs and decide what role the General Conference should assume to empower local churches, members, and pastors to reach the lost in future years. How do we identify the most appropriate mission fields for the Church of God and prepare programs and people for working in that ministry?

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:** A full- or part-time spiritual life and evangelism coordinator will be hired. The goal will be to fill this position by the fall of 1999. The conference will develop and provide resources on evangelism; they will serve as a clearinghouse for evangelism resources. Classes and workshops will be offered at Conference-sponsored meetings. The College will continue to include ministry and evangelism content and experiences in the academic program — content and experiences which serve in both the planting of churches and the work of existing churches.

The Board is proposing that \$200,000 be raised for the planting of 6 new churches in the next 5 years (approximately \$36,000 per church with payments spread over 5 years).

**RECOMMENDATION 9:** Provide publications that can best enable the Church of God to fulfill the Great Commission.

**RATIONALE:** This area needs a great deal of attention. The task force in October made great strides in clarifying needs and issues.

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:** The publishing task force information will be forwarded to the Christian Education Committee. They will be asked to make more definitive and prioritized recommendations regarding publications to the Board of Directors by January,



1999. Contacts will be made now to ask individuals to initiate publishing projects such as creating a user-friendly booklet on our distinctive teachings, developing a series of short study booklets on doctrine, and developing home Bible study courses.

#### Additional Recommendation

**RECOMMENDATION 10:** By the year 2000, secure 1,000 active members of the Church Builders' League.

**RATIONALE:** Financial support is needed to enlarge buildings, acquire land, and construct buildings for present and new congregations. At one time, there

were 1,000 members of the Church Builders' League. Currently there are less than 400 active participants.

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:** Churches receiving appeals during the next two years will be strongly encouraged to enroll at least 50% of their membership in the Church Builders' League. All churches will be encouraged to appoint a Church Builders' League Coordinator who will receive a printout from the General Conference showing who are the active participants of the league in their local church. They will be encouraged to institute a campaign to enroll at least 50% of the member families of their church in the league.

## NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### Greg Demmitt

Married Karen Demmitt, Aug. 18, 1979  
Children: Daniel, Allison, Michael

#### Pastor:

Lakeshore Bible Church, October, 1992-present  
Happywoods Church of God, Sept. 1986-Oct., 1992  
Country Chapel Church of God, Sept., 1980 - Aug., 1986

#### Associate Pastor, youth minister:

Valley View Bible Church (then called the Bible Church of God), Sept. 1979-Aug. 1980

#### Internship:

Valley View Bible Church, Sept. 1978-June, 1979  
1978 graduate of Oregon Bible College

Staff of RYOT, National Youth Congress: 1975-1997

Quizzing director, 1984-88, 1997

co-editor, *Challenge Magazine*, 1987-90

An associate editor for *A Journal from the Radical Reformation*, 1998

Adult Truth Seekers quarterly editor, 1988-89

contributing writer to adult quarterly, 1981-1997

Greg believes the Church of God General Conference should serve member churches by providing resources for the church's ministry. Youth ministry, publishing, and Atlanta Bible College are three vital entities which it maintains. The Conference should also coordinate and support missions and church-planting efforts.

Atlanta Bible College's primary purpose should be the education of ministerial students. Excellence of faculty and educational facility must remain an ongoing priority.

As a member of the Board of Directors Greg would work to clearly articulate a purpose statement for the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College, identify key priorities for each entity, then direct maximum effort toward achieving excellence in those areas.

He has two areas that he would want to make a high priority.

Concerning Atlanta Bible College, he thinks we should put the utmost effort toward developing an institution which offers a professional degree in ministry utilizing the best resources available. We should seek to set the 21st-century standard for ministerial and theological education. Our targeted student body should be adults with undergraduate degrees or significant life experience. A special emphasis should be placed on off-site education utilizing emerging technologies.

Concerning youth ministry in the Church of God, the top priority should be the recruiting and professional training of a full-time staff person. This person would both direct the youth ministry of the COG and teach youth ministry at Atlanta Bible College.

— Ministerial Association

(Please see the next page for an additional nomination.)

# NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTINUED

## Paul D. Duncan

Paul has been a member of the Church of Resurrection Hope, Lenoir, North Carolina since it became a part of the General Conference in 1961. He serves as pianist, organist, Sunday school teacher, and elder. He is a former president of the Southeast Conference.

He and his wife Mary have a daughter, Elizabeth Anne. Paul is the son of deceased pastor Z.B. Duncan.

He has an AB degree in mathematics from Lenoir-Rhine College and a MAT in mathematics from Duke University. He has been a teacher of mathematics at Hibriten High School since 1969 and department chairperson since 1984. He also is an adjunct instructor for Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina.

In addition to other responsibilities at the Lenoir church, he fills the pulpit in the absence of the pastor as well as at several local Advent Christian churches. He has been the guest speaker for the Virginia youth camp and the revival at Hope Second Advent Church in Monroe, North Carolina. It is Paul's desire to serve God in any capacity to which He may direct.

He believes that the College/Conference exists for the purpose of supporting and building up the congregations of the Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith throughout the nation and world. The College/Conference should provide instruction and guidance for laymen and pastors of the churches and provide a basis for sound doctrine on which existing churches can grow and new churches can be formed. He believes the College/Conference should assist the churches of the Conference to spread the glorious gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His coming Kingdom.

As a member of the Board of Directors, he would like to help the Church of God General Conference provide a firm foundation of truth and sound doctrine in the Lord upon which its members can rely as a basis for the spreading of the gospel. It is his desire to accomplish the will of God in all activities of the College/Conference so that the College/Conference will remain strong and will be able to provide the future leadership for the churches that will be needed to carry the gospel to the world.

— Southeast Conference

PROPOSED BUDGET: July 1, 1999 – June 30, 2000  
Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference

### ANTICIPATED EXPENSES:

#### STAFF:

Salaries and Wages .....	\$361,000
Social Security .....	\$10,900
Employee Benefits .....	\$36,000

#### SERVICES:

Assist. to Churches .....	\$37,000
Ministerial Assoc. ....	\$6,000
Youth Ministry .....	\$5,000

#### SALESEXPENSES:

Printing and Binding .....	\$50,000
Postage .....	\$21,000
Purchases – Bookstore .....	\$8,000
Purchases – Cook Material .....	\$12,000
Royalties .....	\$800

#### ABC:

Basic Grants .....	\$28,000
Clayton Rebates .....	\$2,000
Advertising-Recruitment .....	\$3,000
Special Speakers .....	\$300
Library Periodicals .....	\$3,000
Library Books .....	\$3,000
Period., Books, Dues .....	\$2,500
Staff Education .....	\$2,500
Program Development .....	\$1,000

#### ADMINISTRATION:

Travel .....	\$35,500
Motor Vehicle Exp. ....	\$5,000
Office Supplies and Expense .....	\$8,000
Professional Services .....	\$3,200
Telephone .....	\$13,000
Insurance – non-plant .....	\$1,500
Supplies and Expense .....	\$11,000
Repairs/Maintenance – non-plant .....	\$5,000

#### PLANTEXPENSES:

Utilities .....	\$25,000
Property Insurance .....	\$7,000
Repairs and Maint. ....	\$5,000
Furniture and Equipment .....	\$8,000
Supplies and Expense .....	\$3,500

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

Other .....	\$3,700
Contingency .....	\$20,000
Vehicle Replacement .....	\$3,000

**TOTAL .....** \$750,400

### ANTICIPATED INCOME:

#### SALES:

S.S. Material .....	\$48,000
Books, Tracts .....	\$10,000
Subscriptions .....	\$6,500

#### ABC:

Tuition .....	\$100,000
Housing .....	\$32,000
Laundry .....	\$1,400
Late Fees/Rent .....	\$1,000
Fees .....	\$1,000

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

ABCDF Interest .....	\$49,000
Interest .....	\$1,000
Other .....	\$1,000
Transfers In .....	\$12,000
Bequest Distribution .....	\$4,900
Transfer from Morgan Fund .....	\$90,000

**TOTAL EARNED INCOME .....** \$357,800

### TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

July 1, 1999 – June 30, 2000 .....

Contributions needed for 98-99 .....

## Explanation of Budget

The proposed budget for July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000 will fund the following programs and activities of the College/Conference in accordance with our mission.

### Anticipated Expenses

1. Salaries and Wages - compensation is provided for 24 employees (6 part-time quarterly editors, 5 part-time coordinators, 6 part-time student workers, 1 ten-month instructor, 1 five-month instructor, and 7 full-time workers. This budget also includes support for Summer Ministry team members.) This budget includes the addition of a new employee in the area of Spiritual Life and Outreach, and a Technology Coordinator.
2. Social Security - amount matched by the employer
3. Employee Benefits - health insurance, workmen's compensation, conference premium for Ministers' Voluntary Retirement Association, and registration fee for summer General Conference.
4. Assistance to Churches - funds provided for eight churches on a declining scale of payments each year.
5. Ministerial Association - support for programs and other expenses of the Church of God Ministerial Association.
6. Youth Ministry - funding to help subsidize the cost of the annual RYOT.
7. Printing and Binding - includes all materials printed by the College/Conference and the binding of permanent materials for the library.
8. Postage - shipping charges for the *PROGRESS JOURNAL*, *The Restitution Herald*, *A Journal from the Radical Reformation*, tracts, books, and all correspondence.
9. Purchases - Bookstore - textbooks and other materials which are purchased for resale.
10. Purchases - Cook material - Creative Teaching Aid packets and other Cook material that is resold as a part of our Sunday School curriculum.
11. Royalties - fees paid for the use of the David C. Cook curriculum and copyrighted material used in our publications.
12. Basic Grants - assistance to ABC students in the amount of up to \$120 per semester hour to subsidize their tuition at ABC.
13. Clayton Rebates - during the first three semesters of education, ABC students who attend Clayton College and State University are eligible for a rebate to offset the out-of-state tuition until they can establish residency.
14. Advertising - Recruitment - includes travel, telephone calls, printing, and postage primarily to promote ABC.
15. Special Speakers - honorarium paid to graduation speaker and other guests on campus.
16. Library Periodicals - religious and theological journals and other magazines for the library collection.
17. Library Books - newly published books are acquired to keep the library collection up to date.
18. Periodicals, Books, Dues - a small allowance is provided to professional staff to purchase resource material for classes and to participate in professional organizations.
19. Staff Education - professional staff members are encouraged to attend at least one seminar each year to remain current in their field of study.
20. Program Development - the purchase of resources to enhance teaching programs at ABC and for the Lending Library.
21. Travel - includes travel for Board members, advisory committees, special boards and committees, Gospel Teams, Summer Ministries, and staff.
22. Motor Vehicle Expense - license plates, insurance, and maintenance for three vehicles.
23. Office Supplies - paper, printer cartridges, stationery, envelopes, etc.
24. Professional Services - the constitution requires an annual audit.
25. Telephone - basic and long distance service, including the cost of all "800" number calls which are provided toll-free to the caller.
26. Insurance - non-plant - liability insurance for employees and directors.
27. Supplies and Expenses - printing supplies, piano tuning, towel and paper products, and other operational expenses.
28. Repairs/Maintenance - non-plant - maintenance agreements and repairs for office and library equipment.
29. Plant Expenses - includes all expenses for buildings and property.
30. Contingency - this budget is being prepared 15 months before the fiscal year begins. This item provides a cushion for adjustments when the fiscal year begins on July 1, 1999.
31. Vehicle Replacement - money is set aside in a restricted account to be available when a vehicle needs to be replaced.

### Anticipated Income

1. Sunday School Materials - includes all sales of Sunday School curriculum.
2. Books, Tracts - sale of textbooks as well as other materials to the membership and the public.
3. Subscriptions - subscriptions for *The Restitution Herald* are \$13 per year, \$24 for two years, \$33 for three years; *A Journal from the Radical Reformation* is \$24 per year.
4. Tuition - income is based upon projected enrollment of the equivalent of fifteen students at ABC taking an average of 12 credit hours (students are also enrolled for additional hours at Clayton College) and 20 extension students taking an average of 5 semester hours during the year.
5. Housing - rent received from ten apartments on the College campus.
6. Laundry - income from laundry facilities in apartment building.
7. Late Fees/Rent and Fees - interest income and registration fees from students.
8. ABCDF - transfer of interest income from the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation.
9. Interest - money earned on checking account through the year.
10. Transfers In - funding for church planting is supplemented by restricted trust funds.
12. Bequest Distribution - the College/Conference is the recipient of annuity payments on a contract of a deceased member.
13. Transfer from Morgan Fund to subsidize budget.
14. Contributions Needed - to accomplish the goals of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference for the 1999-2000 fiscal year, contributions of \$392,600 will be needed from churches, conferences, and individual families. This is approximately \$32,000 per month.

In 1997, churches, conferences, and groups gave over \$177,000 to the Goal for Giving. We are thankful for this faithful giving and encourage each member church to designate a portion of its income to assist with the work of the College/Conference.

To close the gap between contributions needed and the amount provided by churches, conferences, and groups, we rely upon faithful giving of individuals and families. Approximately \$215,000 is needed in contributions from individuals and families. In 1997, giving families contributed an average of \$294 during the year. There is a need for additional support from other member families to help underwrite the work of the College and Conference.

## Cost Centers by Function

Below is the proposed general operating budget for 1999-2000 classified by function.

	<i>Expense</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Covered by Contributions</i>
<b>ABC:</b>			
<i>Instruction</i>	\$88,275	\$81,000	\$7,275
<i>Student Service</i> - admissions, counseling, financial aid administration, registration, student organizations	30,257	10,000	20,257
<i>Student Grants</i>	30,000	30,000	0
<i>Academic Support</i> - library, lending library, audio visual services	27,650	20,000	7,650
<i>Institutional Support</i> - board, investment, alumni relations, audit, fund raising, printing, public relations, purchasing, telephone, transportation, reception, recruitment, staff training, gospel teams, vehicles	141,684	49,500	92,184
<i>Plant</i> - maintenance, utilities, property insurance	47,925	34,400	13,525
<b><i>Totals for ABC</i></b>	<b>\$365,791</b>	<b>\$224,900</b>	<b>\$140,891</b>
<b>Church/Pastor Services:</b>			
<i>Youth</i>	\$24,368	\$0	\$24,368
<i>Christian Education</i>	4,575	0	4,575
<i>Missions</i>	7,743	0	7,743
<i>Outreach</i> - Church Builders, Church Aid, Church Planting, Summer Ministries	82,347	16,900	65,447
<i>Media</i> - Publishing, Radio/TV	128,935	71,000	57,935
<i>Pastor Support</i> - aid to Ministerial Association, Licensing, Retirement	10,563	0	10,563
<i>Conciliation</i>	2,165	0	2,165
<i>Institutional Support</i> - board, investment, audit, fund raising, printing, public relations, purchasing, telephone, transportation, reception, staff training, vehicles	53,681	45,000	8,681
<i>Plant</i> - maintenance, utilities, property insurance	15,975	0	15,975
<b><i>Totals for Church/Pastor Services</i></b>	<b>\$330,352</b>	<b>\$132,900</b>	<b>\$197,452</b>
<b>Business:</b>			
<i>Housing</i>	\$1,815	\$0	\$1,815
<i>Bookkeeping</i>	28,499	0	28,499
<i>Auxiliary Enterprises</i> - Rental properties	3,890	0	3,890
<i>Mailing Department</i>	11,938	0	11,938
<i>Sales</i>	4,020	0	4,020
<i>Computer</i>	4,030	0	4,030
<b><i>Totals for Business</i></b>	<b>\$54,192</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$54,192</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$750,335</b>	<b>\$357,800</b>	<b>\$392,535</b>

# REPORT OF BAPTISMS:

2,000 by the Year 2000

Jan. 1, 2000

April 1, 1997 - March 31, 1998*	137	Total 1,320
April 1, 1996 - March 31, 1997	158	
April 1, 1995 - March 31, 1996	164	
April 1, 1994 - March 31, 1995	162	
April 1, 1993 - March 31, 1994	142	
April 1, 1992 - March 31, 1993	164	
April 1, 1991 - March 31, 1992	170	
June 1, 1990 - March 31, 1991	168	
January 1 - May 31, 1990	55	

\* More complete figures are being collected from non-reporting churches.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM FOR SUMMER CONFERENCE

### Nursery

A free nursery will be provided for children 3 years of age and younger Saturday through Monday from 8:15 to 11:45 a.m.; 1:30 to 3:45 p.m.; and 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Friday through Monday. Please check the box on the registration form to schedule this free service.

### 4 years through 6th grade

Classes will be held Saturday through Monday 8:15 to 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:45 p.m. Activities will include singing, story time, crafts, and play time.

A junior church program will be offered during the evening services.

### 7th grade through high school

Young people attending the summer General Conference will participate in a Habitat for Humanity house-raising project each day, Saturday through Monday. There will also be an opportunity to help feed homeless people early Sunday morning.

## Calendar of Events

June 14-19	Midwest Family Camp, Camp Mack, Millford, IN
July 3-7	78th Annual Summer Conference, Renaissance Atlanta Hotel — Concourse, Atlanta, GA (same location as 1994 Conference)
July 26-31	RYOT, Taylor University, Upland, IN; Quiz finals
1999 April 12-16	Christian Workers' Seminar, Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN
April 26-30	Ministers' Conference, ABC campus
April 30-May 2	Eighth Annual Theological Conference, ABC campus
July 12-15	79th Annual Summer Conference, Henry VIII Hotel, St. Louis, MO
July 25-30	RYOT, Taylor University, Upland, IN

# PRAYER AND PRAISE

June, 1998

- 1 Pray for Pastor Don and Joyce Ward and the Countryside Bible Church in Missouri.
- 2 Pray for believers in the Philippine islands.
- 3 Praise God for the beauty of His creation.
- 4 Pray for Pastor Dan and Charlotte Fyfe and their work at Anderson Chapel, Hendersonville, NC.
- 5 Pray for the Atlanta Bible College students as they make decisions for the future.
- 6 Pray for John Nelson in his work as youth pastor at Blessed Hope Bible Church, Rockford, IL.
- 7 Pray that God might speak to you through the services of your church today.
- 8 Pray for boldness to share your faith.
- 9 Pray for the ministry of your local church.
- 10 Praise God for those who regularly remember our Conference and College with their prayers and contributions.
- 11 Praise God for your pastor and his family and their dedication to ministry.
- 12 Pray for Pastor James and Linda Hill and the work at Royal, AR.
- 13 Praise God for your family and circle of friends.
- 14 Pray for Pastor John and Elizabeth Raymond and the work at Blood River, LA.
- 15 Pray for Pastor Gordon and Barbara Landry and the work at Flagg Center, IL.
- 16 Pray for the radio ministry in Peru.
- 17 Pray for Pastor Sydney and Deirdre Kirkpatrick and the work at Pine Grove, MN.
- 18 Pray for final preparations for the summer General Conference next month.
- 19 Praise God for a recent answer to prayer.
- 20 Pray for believers in Peru.
- 21 Praise God for your father.
- 22 Pray for churches and pastors who are making changes this year.
- 23 Praise God for the editors of our Sunday School curriculum and our printed publications.
- 24 Pray for the Grant family, members of the Valley View Bible Church who are serving in the Middle East.
- 25 Pray for God's direction in future mission efforts.
- 26 Pray for God's direction in the preparation for RYOT (Youth Congress).
- 27 Praise God for your church family.
- 28 Pray for the Summer Ministries teams as they work in churches this summer.
- 29 Pray for the Board of Directors as they lead the College/Conference.
- 30 Praise God for the dedication of the College/Conference staff.

# PRAYER AND PRAISE

July 1998

- 1 Pray that God might move the Church of God forward in new areas of ministry.
- 2 Pray that many will hear God's call into full-time Christian service.
- 3 Pray for those traveling to the summer General Conference today.
- 4 Pray for delegates at the summer Conference as they make decisions regarding the future of our ministry.
- 5 Pray for a spirit of unity at the summer Conference.
- 6 Pray for God's Spirit to be present in the activities of the General Conference this week.
- 7 Pray for safety for those traveling home from General Conference today.
- 8 Pray for the brethren in India.
- 9 Praise God for efforts being made to plant new churches.
- 10 Pray for Pastor Russell and Joyce Magaw and the work at Eden Valley, MN.
- 11 Pray for your pastor as he prepares to share God's message tomorrow.
- 12 Pray for the soon return of Jesus.
- 13 Praise God for the leadership of your church family.
- 14 Praise God for His great love shown to us by the sacrifice of His Son.
- 15 Praise God for the abundant life you have in Christ.
- 16 Pray for the Badillo family and the work in Mexico.
- 17 Pray for Pastor Michael Mattison and the work at Baton Rouge, LA.
- 18 Pray for the Family of God Fellowship in Minneapolis, MN.
- 19 Pray for the Bible schools being conducted by the Summer Ministries teams.
- 20 Pray for Pastor Emory Macy and his work in Weiser, ID.
- 21 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ as Savior.
- 22 Pray for Pastor Hollis and Hilda Partlowe and the work at Dixon, IL.
- 23 Pray for the New Beginnings Church in Michigan.
- 24 Pray that God will lead many of our young people into ministry at home and abroad.
- 25 Pray for new students to enroll at Atlanta Bible College this fall.
- 26 Pray for safety for those traveling to RYOT (Youth Congress) today.
- 27 Pray for Pastor John and Alice Railton and the work at Timberland, IN.
- 28 Pray for the staff of RYOT and the influence they are having on the young people.
- 29 Pray for Freedom in Christ Ministries and Pastor Stephen and Joyce Bolhous and Pastor Michael and Melinda Cisler.
- 30 Pray for Pastor James and Rebecca Ritch and the work at Lenoir, NC.
- 31 Pray for the safety of those traveling home from RYOT today.

## Thank You

The Gatesville, TX Church of God would like to thank the members of the Church Builders' League for the financial assistance provided for their building project. The new fellowship/dining area, kitchen, and five classrooms have been completed and are being used. They are a tremendous blessing to the congregation. We would like to thank everyone who helped us with this expense.  
— Gatesville members

## Youth Ministry Celebrates 100 Years

1998 is the 100th anniversary of the first organized youth ministries in the Church of God. The youth of Illinois organized in Lanark, Illinois in 1898. In August of 1898, the Iowa youth organized in Marshalltown, Iowa. Many lives have been influenced through the youth ministries of the Church of God during the past century. We continue to recognize the tremendous importance of youth ministry in light of the fact that 75% of all people who accept Christ do so in their early teen years.

## Steeple Erected

Pictured (at right) is the erection of a steeple in memory of Pastor Fred Pensyl on the Chapel Hill Church of God, Urbana, OH.



Pictured (at left) is a steeple being erected on the Cornerstone Bible Church of God, McDonough, GA. The church has been completed. The first service was held in the new building on April 12.

### Help for the Needy

Young people at the Columbia Church of God, Columbia Station, under the direction of Mike Swartz, secured a junk car from which they removed the seats. They placed it in their fellowship hall and asked the congregation to help fill it with food and supplies for



n e e d y people. By the time the project was over, the inside of the car was filled and running over.

### Pastors Needed

New Life Bible Church of Winnebago, Illinois is looking for a part-time associate pastor. Responsibilities will include working with all age youth in the church and several single, post-high young adults. The person that fills this position will be groomed to fill the church planting pastor's role in the fifth church to be planted in the greater Rockford metropolitan area in the fall of 1999. We are also looking for Church of God families who would be interested in relocating to this area for the sake of working with new churches. Musical talents and teaching skills are greatly needed as we continue to grow. For more information contact Pastor Gary Turner at (815) 335-2941 or E-mail him at grtwinn@aol.com.

The Troy View Church of God is currently seeking a person to serve as an associate pastor on a part-time basis. We are specifically looking for someone qualified in and passionate for the areas of youth and music. If you would like more details you may contact Pastor Craig Waggener at 937-335-2914. Troy View is a progressive church with a heart for exalting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, edifying one another in the body of Christ, educating one another to maturity in Christ, and evangelizing our community for the sake of the Kingdom of God. We are working hard to develop effectiveness in the areas of growing disciplined youth and creating an exciting music experience. If you want to be a part of this dynamic growth experience please contact us. We look forward to your reply.

The Jay Street Church of God in Kokomo, Indiana has an opening for a full-time minister to begin in September 1998. We are seeking a pastor who:

1. is spiritually mature and has spiritual insight,
2. is a powerful and skilled preacher of the word,
3. is a strong leader who is self-motivated and can motivate others,
4. can serve as the shepherd to the members by providing guidance and nourishment.

Our congregation consists of 30-40 members and attendees with much potential for spiritual and numerical growth. We have six acres of land which has been purchased and now maintain a building fund of more than \$18,000. We hope to begin building in the near future under new leadership and direction. We currently offer a weekly salary, a parsonage with paid utilities, health insurance and other benefits. If you are devoted to God and the calling of ministry, interested in serving as pastor to our church, and meet the above qualifications please contact Janet Snyder by phone at 765-453-1233 or by E-mail at Snyder51@juno.com.

### Address Changes

Bolhaus, Stephen (Joyce), 42 Rice Rd #30, Welland, Ontario, Canada, L3C 5Y6 Ph 905-714-9527 E-mail sbolhaus@iaw.on.ca

Welch, Jon E-mail jtwelch@i1.net

### Marriages

#### Georgia

Cornerstone — Ben Collier and Amanda Henry (3/7/98) by Pastors John Railton and David Riley.

### Deaths

#### Iowa

Belle Plaine — Helen Fritz, 73 (2/19/98) by Pastor Delbert and Nancy Rankin and Brian Fritz.

#### Michigan

Blanchard — Madalynn Joann Walkington (3/12/98), infant daughter of Jason and Carrie Walkington, by Pastors Richard Eldred and Chris Seiders.

#### Ohio

Bedford — Virginia Humphrey, 80 (3/4/98) by Pastor Rex Cain.

### **J. Arlen Marsh**

J. Arlen Marsh, 84 (3/21/98). Arlen pastored the Blessed Hope Church of God 1943–1951; the Golden Rule, Cleveland Church 1952–1953 and 1977–1984; and Bedford Church of the Open Bible, 1954–1962. He edited and wrote the *Berean Paper* 1945–1955. He was editor of the *Adult Truth Seekers Quarterly* 1946–1950. He served as secretary of the General Conference Board of Directors from 1947–1951. He also was the editor of two commercial magazines: *Occupational Hazards* and *Product News*. He is survived by his wife Mary (Beth), and his children Cheryl Koryta, William, Doreen, Richard, and Kevin.

A memorial service was held at the Bedford Church of the Open Bible 3/25/98 led by Pastors Rex Cain and Jack Hearp.

Urbana — Jim Klepinger, 63 (2/17/98).

#### *South Carolina*

Bethel — Roy Davenport (1/11/98) by Pastor Alan Cain and Richard Smith.

#### *Texas*

### **Harry Goekler**

Pastor Harry Goekler, 87, Harlingen, TX, died 3/24/98. He served the following churches during his ministry: Happy Woods (two times of service) and Blood River, LA; Hector, MN; Harlingen, TX (two times of service); Oregon, IL. He and his wife Thelma have lived in Harlingen, TX since 1965. He faithfully served God for more than 60 years. In addition to his pastorate he wrote many lessons for the Adult S.S. Quarterly and articles for *The Restitution Herald*. He and Thelma have two children, Sylvia and Dennis. Services were conducted by Kent Ross on 3/26/98.

### **Baptisms**

#### *Illinois*

Flagg Center — Caleb Foster, great-great grandson of S. J. Lindsay (2/22/98) by Pastor Gordon Landry.

#### *Iowa*

Oaklawn — Beau Jack, Amber Ealy, Brittini Ealy, and Reece Ealy (4/5/98) by Pastor Francis Burnett.

#### *Michigan*

Blanchard — Andrew Shaw (3/1/98) and Bobbi Jo Bush (3/8/98) by Pastor Chris Seiders.

Garden Park — Lorraine DeYoung (2/22/98) by Pastor Ray Hall.

#### *Missouri*

Countryside Bible Church — Nancy K. Doll (2/1/98) and Wayne W. McKnight (3/1/98) by Pastor Don Ward.

#### *Ohio*

Bedford — Michael Koryta, (3/15/98) by Pastor Rex Cain.

Pleasant Hill — Jodi Otten (2/4/98); Tim Goines, Natalie Goines, Nikki Goines and Betty Zant (3/29/98) by Pastor Scott Deane. Joseph Cheatwood (3/29/98) by Mark Cheatwood.

#### *South Carolina*

Bethel — Teresa Bryant (2/1/98) by Alan Cain.

### **Completed Systematic Bible Study**

Gerry Ehmke has successfully completed the Systematic Bible Study course.

Atlanta Bible College  
Church of God General Conference  
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Morrow, GA 30260

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## Report of Summer Conference

The 78th Annual Summer General Conference was held at the Renaissance Atlanta Hotel — Concourse, Atlanta, Georgia, and the campus of Atlanta Bible College in Morrow. 160 were registered for the conference and approximately thirty others attended evening services and the 4th of July picnic. The theme was "A People After God's Own Heart — A Call to Spiritual Maturity." Sermons, devotional periods, and workshops focused on the life of King David. The titles of the evening sermons were: A People Called Out, A People of Active Faith, A People of Confession, and A People of Worship. Morning devotion themes were: A People of the Word, a People of Prayer, A People Who Give Away Christ.

Paul Duncan from the Church of Resurrection Hope in Lenoir, NC was elected to a four-year term on the Board of Directors to replace Pastor Billie Kennedy whose term expired. A plaque of appreciation was sent to Billie who was not able to be at the Conference.

Tom New was elected to a four-year term on the youth advisory committee replacing Tim Eldred who chose not to be renominated.

The Board appointed Clarence Jones to a three-year term on the Investment Fund Board. Pastor Greg Demmitt and Wanda Gerullis were appointed to three-year terms on the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation Board to replace retiring Board members Robert Petry and Terri Tschaenn. The Foundation Board elected officers as follows: President Charles Bottolfs; Vice President Wanda Gerullis. The Secretary and Treasurer of the Board of Directors automatically serve in the same capacities for the Foundation Board.

Delegates voted on nine recommendations pertaining to the Long-Range Planning Study as follows:

Recommendation 1 — revision of purpose statement — adopted with the addition of the words "of Jesus Christ" following the word "disciples."

Recommendation 2 — revision of preamble to the Constitution — adopted.

Recommendation 3 — improve public relations — adopted.

Recommendation 4 — distance learning program for Atlanta Bible College — adopted.

Recommendation 5 — improve ABC programs with the intention of seeking accreditation — adopted.

Recommendation 6 — strengthen programs and increase resources for youth ministry — adopted.

Recommendation 7 — integrate the use of technology in the work of the College/Conference — adopted.

Recommendation 8 — strengthen programs and increase resources for evangelism — adopted.

Recommendation 9 — provide publications to enable the Church of God to help fulfill the Great Commission — adopted.

An additional recommendation regarding securing new members for the Church Builder's League was also adopted.

A motion was also adopted to appoint a task force to study the organizational structure of the College and Conference.

A budget for the 1999–2000 fiscal year was adopted by the delegates. It calls for contributions of \$392,600.

The Christian Education Advisory Committee announced that a new quarterly for pre-kindergarten age children will be added to our Sunday school curriculum for the special doctrinal distinctive series, which will be for the December, 1998 through February, 1999 quarter. If there is sufficient interest in a curriculum for this age group, the curriculum will continue to be offered in the future.

This issue of the PROGRESS JOURNAL contains additional information about the Conference.

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# Chairman's Message to Delegates

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Joe E. James

The Board of Directors and staff welcome you to this 78th annual General Conference of the Church of God. We are pleased to have all of you — delegates, pastors, staff, families and other attendees — assembled in Atlanta, Georgia for this important General Conference. We look forward to the next few days as the classes, workshops, and sermons develop the theme of the Conference — “A People After God’s Own Heart — A Call to Spiritual Maturity.” We extend a special “thank you” to President David Krogh and the other members of the program committee who planned the conference program.

There are a lot of good things happening in our Conference. We need to take note of some of these things.

This spring a record number of participants attended and celebrated the twenty-fifth Christian Workers’ Seminar held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. We especially appreciate the efforts of Kent Ross and the staff who planned and carried out the seminar program and activities.

The seventh annual Theological Conference was held in April at Atlanta Bible College. The Theological Conference is recognized for biblical scholarship and excellence. We give special recognition to co-chairmen Anthony Buzzard and Kent Ross for annually planning and carrying out the Theological Conference.

The Church of God Ministers’ Conference/Retreat was held this spring in Rockford, Illinois. Our ministers need this time of retreat, renewal, mutual support, and professional growth.

An exciting and stimulating Youth Congress — RYOT — is planned for July 26-31. We are very grateful to Jim Graham, his advisory committee, and the RYOT staff who commit their time and energies to contribute to the spiritual development of our young people.

We are very fortunate to have President David Krogh and a staff of dedicated and committed spiritual people to carry on the day-to-day programs and functions of the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College. These individuals serve sacrificially to provide an academic program and all the services and endeavors of the General Conference. We are very appreciative of their work.

The advisory committees, the Ministerial Recognition Board, the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation Board, the Board of Directors, the editors and writers of our publications, and numerous volunteers all make important and significant contributions to the operation of our Conference and College.

This will be a very busy and intensive General Conference. It is one of the most important Conferences we have ever had. The decisions made here will define the pur-

poses of our College and Conference and establish the direction of our programs and resources. All of us should prayerfully seek God’s leading and will as we consider the issues and decisions of this Conference. We firmly believe that you are the people called to this Conference to make these important decisions.

There will be three business sessions. In these sessions we will elect a member to the Board of Directors and to the Youth Advisory Committee, act on ten recommendations, and approve a budget. We trust that following the conclusion of this Conference each of you will share with excitement in your local churches and conferences the decisions that have been made and the directions that have been charted.

At this time I would like to express on behalf of the Conference special appreciation to Donna Deane and Kent Ross who co-chaired the Long-Range Institutional Study. The scope and intensity of this study spanned a period of three years. Grassroots participation was included through many interviews and surveys. Last October a large cross section of the Church of God membership assembled in Morrow, Georgia in work groups. These work groups dealt with specific areas of our College and Conference. The work groups ultimately concluded with the content of the nine recommendations which you will consider in this Conference. We are very thankful for the time and hard work of all who participated in these work groups.

It is one thing to gather in Conference and make decisions regarding the purpose and directions of our organization. The real challenge is to commit ourselves, including our resources, to become personally involved and also involve others in implementing and supporting the decisions that are made.

Yes, there are challenges before us. Some of these challenges will be with us for a while. We tend to be a very independent people — independent thinkers. Our independent ways tend to give rise to diversity. The General Conference is not a governing body over our local churches and conferences. Maintaining an association of churches with this diversity is a challenge. We are blessed with a core of Bible understandings — doctrines — and a hope that bind us together. Methods and style are not rigidly prescribed by the Word of God and these are areas where flexibility is appropriate. The message entrusted to us is biblically based and prescribed. Where the Word speaks directly we must be in compliance with it.

Another challenge involves what I would call “identity issues”: Who are we? What are we? In times when we

struggle with these issues, it is wise to go back and renew and reclaim our discipleship. It is a time to discover anew the message of the Word of God and the gospel message God would have us share with the world about us.

We are the Church of God — we are His. We are not our own. We have been bought with a price — the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Let us perform in this Conference with this in mind.

What we are about this week is God's business. This is God's church and we are His workmen. With the help of Almighty God, let us rise to meet all challenges in doing His will, in loving one another as commanded, in carrying out the Great Commission as Jesus intended and in being "steadfast and unmovable in the work of the Lord." Our labors will not be in vain.

May God bless and direct us in this General Conference and as we return to our homes and local churches to serve Him.

---

## Minutes of the General Conference Business Sessions

### Renaissance Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia

**Saturday, July 4, 1998**

1. Chairman Joe James called to order the Saturday, July 4th delegate business session of the 1998 General Conference at 1:45 p.m.

2. Pastor Michael Hoffman offered prayer.

3. Chairman James welcomed all delegates and other Conference attendees. Those specially recognized included: first-time delegates; newly licensed pastor, John Raymond; Open Bible Church of Farmington, Missouri, being represented for the first time; and first-time attendee Bill Bryant from Alabama.

4. Chairman James delivered the Chairman's address, noting that the decisions made during this year's business sessions are critical because they will shape the purpose and direction of our College and Conference for years to come. He urged all delegates to become personally involved in carrying out the decisions made and to enlist the support and personal involvement of others in their home churches.

5. Michelle Turner, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, reported that the final delegate count at the close of the 1997 General Conference business sessions was 6 members of the Board of Directors, 62 church and conference delegates, and 36 pastors. Several delegates attending this year's business sessions still need to see Michelle to receive their delegate card.

6. Chairman James read to the delegates a letter from Cornerstone Bible Church, relating Tracy Swartz's financial need due to recent gallbladder surgery without the

benefit of medical insurance or other assistance to help pay her bills.

7. The Annual Report printed in the May PROGRESS JOURNAL was considered. An opportunity was given for questions to be asked.

8. The Special Reports printed in the May PROGRESS JOURNAL were considered. An opportunity was given for questions to be asked.

9. Gary Burnham made comments about, and fielded questions regarding, the financial reports printed in the delegate packet.

10. The floor was opened for nominations for a four-year term on the Board of Directors. David Riley nominated both Pastor Greg Demmitt and Paul Duncan. Francis Burnett moved and Charles Webster seconded that nominations be closed. The motion passed. The nominees were introduced and delegates were encouraged to ask them questions later in the day at the picnic on the ABC campus. The election will be held during the Sunday afternoon business session.

11. The floor was opened for nominations for a four-year term on the Youth Advisory Committee. Fred Gerullis nominated Pastor Jon Welch. Wally Winner nominated Pastor Tom New. Jerold Brewer moved and David Riley seconded that nominations be closed. The motion passed. The election will be held during the Sunday afternoon business session.

12. Dr. Donna Deane was called upon to introduce the recommendations for delegate action coming out of the

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Institutional Long-Range Planning Study. She reviewed the process used over the past four years to gather input and to produce those recommendations.

13. Robert Coverstone moved and J. E. Fauntleroy seconded adoption of Recommendation 1, to revise the Statement of Purpose of the Church of God General Conference. Passage requires a 2/3 majority vote.

14. Michael Hoffman moved and Dale Brown seconded to amend the motion, inserting the words "of Jesus Christ" after the word "disciples." The motion to amend passed.

15. Frank Toth moved and Michael Brown seconded to amend the motion to replace the word "partnership" with the word "cooperation." The motion to amend failed.

16. The recommendation, as amended, reads, "The Church of God General Conference, through partnership with conferences and local Churches of God, assists them and their members in the performance of their commission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The Conference serves as an advocate of the Church of God to the world." The motion to adopt Recommendation 1, as amended, passed 79 to 5.

17. Francis Burnett moved and Ed Goit seconded adoption of Recommendation 2, to revise the Preamble to the Constitution. Passage requires a 2/3 majority vote.

18. Phyllis Raymond moved and Don Ward seconded to amend the motion, replacing the words "and the nurture of all believers" with the words "and the nurturing and equipping of all believers." The motion to amend failed 37 to 41.

19. Bill Gaspar moved and Sarah Ross seconded to amend the motion, inserting the words "as being inspired by God" after the word "Scripture." The motion to amend failed.

20. The recommendation reads, "The Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference is an association of churches united by a common understanding of Scripture, a commitment to ministry, and a desire to work together to teach and preach the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, leading to the conversion of the lost and the nurture of all believers. It is a not-for-profit organization. Delegates and interested members of the Church of God will meet at a designated place and time to confer in all matters pertaining to the spiritual life and business of the churches." The motion to adopt Recommendation 2 passed by an overwhelming margin.

21. Charles Bottolfs moved and Mark Tschaenn seconded adoption of Recommendation 3, to study and identify ways in which the Church of God can improve public relations with members and with those outside the church to better foster a distinct identity and increase the visibility of Church of God distinctives to those outside its membership. This recommendation, and all additional recommendations to be considered, require a simple majority for passage.

22. J. E. Fauntleroy moved and John Raymond seconded to amend the motion by adding the sentence "The Board of Directors will appoint a one-year task force to study this issue and provide recommendations to be taken." The motion to amend failed.

23. Recommendation 3 passed.

24. Charles Webster moved and J. E. Fauntleroy seconded to adjourn today's business session. The motion passed.

25. Following adjournment, Pastor Seth Ross led a brief prayer session.

#### **Sunday, July 5, 1998**

1. Chairman Joe James called to order the Sunday, July 5th delegate business session of the 1998 General Conference at 1:45 p.m.

2. Pastor Scott Ross offered prayer.

3. The minutes of the Saturday afternoon session were read. No corrections were noted.

4. Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference President David Krogh delivered the President's message. President Krogh reminded the delegates that one day the work of the Church of God will be passed on from us to others. Further, he shared his conviction that as long as we are continuing to build a solid foundation, those who come after us will do a good job of carrying forward the work of the College and Conference. That foundation continues to be built around commitment to four things: strengthening existing churches, starting new churches, educating for both lay and professional ministry, and representing the Church of God to the world at large.

5. Michelle Turner, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, reported that the current delegate count is 6 members of the Board of Directors, 63 church and conference delegates, and 31 pastors, for a total of 100 delegates.

6. Paul Duncan was elected to a four-year term on the Board of Directors.

7. Pastor Tom New was elected to a four-year term on the Youth Advisory Committee.

8. John Raymond moved and Jeff Fletcher seconded adoption of Recommendation 4, to expand the current ABC program of study to include a distance learning program that will provide education for lay ministers and local church leadership. President Krogh presented general information regarding a distance learning program. The motion passed.

9. Jeff Fletcher moved and David Riley seconded adoption of Recommendation 5, to study and identify ways to improve the Atlanta Bible College program with the intention of achieving excellence and meeting accreditation standards within the next five years. President Krogh presented information about an organization through which the College would hope to receive accreditation. He also fielded numerous questions. The motion passed.

10. Wanda Gerullis moved and Dale Brown seconded adoption of Recommendation 6, to strengthen the programs and increase the resources allocated for youth work in the Church of God. Following considerable discussion about the roles and work of the person to be hired, the motion passed.

11. J. E. Fauntleroy moved and Howard Shute seconded adoption of Recommendation 7, to further integrate the use of technology in the work of the College and Conference. The delegates viewed a brief video prepared by Pastor Steve Taylor supporting this recommendation. The motion passed.

12. Frances Burnett moved and Jeff Fletcher seconded adoption of Recommendation 8, to strengthen the programs and increase the resources allocated for evangelism. The motion passed.

13. Robert Coverstone moved and John Raymond seconded adoption of Recommendation 9, to provide publications that can best enable the Church of God to fulfill the Great Commission. The motion passed.

14. Charles Webster moved and J. E. Fauntleroy seconded adoption of Recommendation 10, to secure 1,000 active members of the Church Builder's League by the year 2000. The motion passed.

15. Pastor Scott Ross asked for someone to address the reasons the Board of Directors chose not to present the concept of developing a seminary program as suggested by the Atlanta Bible College Task Force members. Dr. Donna Deane addressed the question: need for Doctoral

Degree staff, costs of such staff, costs for churches to hire Masters Degree pastors, and a desire to more fully develop a distance learning program.

16. President Krogh presented information about the proposed 1999 – 2000 fiscal year budget. He also fielded several questions. The budget will be voted on during Monday's business session.

17. President Krogh recognized retiring Board of Directors member Billie Kennedy.

18. The 1999 General Conference will be held July 12-15 at the Henry VIII Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri.

19. Ed Goit moved and Charles Bottolfs seconded to adjourn today's business session. The motion passed.

20. Following adjournment, Pastor Seth Ross led a brief prayer session.

### **Monday, July 6, 1998**

1. Chairman Joe James called to order the Monday, July 6th delegate business session of the 1998 General Conference at 2:30 p.m.

2. Pastor Scott Deane offered prayer.

3. The minutes of the Sunday afternoon business session were read. No corrections were noted.

4. Chairman James announced that Pastor Greg Demmitt and Wanda Gerullis were each appointed by the Board of Directors to a three-year term on the ABC Development Foundation Board.

5. President Krogh reviewed with the delegates various items included in the delegate packets. He also urged attendees to fill out the Conference evaluation forms enclosed in those packets.

6. *The Restitution Herald* editor, Jeff Fletcher, urged delegates and attendees to take advantage of the \$11/year special new or renewal subscription price available during this Conference.

7. Pastor Wally Winner made the delegates aware of a Berean Bible Study Booklet that has been reprinted and is available for sale.

8. Youth Coordinator, Jim Graham, gave a brief update about the Church of God youth program and the plans for this summer's R.Y.O.T. (Radical Youth Overcoming Today) to be held at the end of this month on the campus of Taylor University in Upland, Indiana.

*(Minutes conclude on page 10)*

# President's Message to Delegates

David Krogh

I am thankful to each of you for coming to this Conference. As Chairman James mentioned in his message, we believe that you are a chosen people that God has called here to accomplish His purposes (1 Peter 2:9). We believe that the decisions made here will declare God's praises.

The theme of this 1998 Conference is: A People After God's Own Heart — A Call to Spiritual Maturity. We have been focusing upon the life of King David. In Acts 13:22 God said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do." We know that David also did some things that God did not want him to do, but he was committed to obedience.

He serves as a tremendous model to those who would seek to recognize God's sovereignty in their lives. He serves as a model to those who want to know God in an intimate way and be obedient to everything He asks them to do. My greatest desire is to be a man after God's own heart and my second greatest desire is for the entire Church of God to be a people after God's own heart.

Lately I have been thinking much about the unique position that the Church of God occupies in our world today. Among all of the religions of the world, and among all the denominations and church groups, God has given to the Church of God a special role that we have been fulfilling for well over 150 years.

Recently, upon the death of Pastor J. Arlen Marsh, I was reminded of his great-great uncle Joseph Marsh who lived from 1802 to 1863. Though the Church of God was not founded by any one individual but by many truth seekers, Joseph Marsh was influential in promoting many of the truths that we hold today. For those who are interested, his book *The Age to Come*, has been reprinted and is available from the General Conference.

Speaking of history, this year is the 100th anniversary of youth work in the Church of God. In 1898 youth groups were formed in Illinois and Iowa. These early groups led to the organizing of our National Berean Society in 1913. The Bereans were instrumental in bringing our Conference into existence in 1921.

I am deeply grateful for my heritage in the Church of God. My great grandfather, Herman Mehrens, was baptized 130 years ago this year by a Church of God pastor. My great grandfather strongly held to the biblical truths taught by the Church of God. He taught these truths to his family and they were passed on through several generations to me. In fact my great grandfather was so

committed to truth that on his large tombstone his family engraved the words "Asleep in Jesus." He believed in the sleep of the dead until the time when Jesus returns.

Many of you have a long heritage in the Church of God, going back one or more generations.

But, could we see a show of hands of those of you who are the *first* generation in your family to be a member of the Church of God. [A few hands were raised.]

That is both commendable and of concern. It is commendable that the faith has been passed down from generation to generation and I am deeply grateful that each of you has remained faithful to what you have been taught. But it is of concern if we are not bringing others outside our families to a knowledge of the truth.

If the Church of God is to continue to be faithful to our heritage and message, two things must continue to happen:

1. We must be certain to pass the message of truth and salvation to our children and grandchildren.
2. We must be certain to pass the message to our world.

If the Lord tarries, one day we are going to have to pass our work on to others. Three years ago when we had our 75th annual Conference, there were five individuals who were still living who had been present at that first conference in 1921. Three of them have since died and only Albert and Alice Harper remain. Just like King David, of whom it says in Acts 13:36, "When David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep," our forefathers in the faith served their generation and fell asleep. But they also did what it says in Psalm 78:1-7. The faith has been passed from one generation to the next.

I am sure that our early leaders could not have envisioned the work that we have today nor could they be sure that their successors would carry on the work. In fact, though it was a dream of our early leaders to have a General Conference, many of them died before that dream was finally realized in 1921.

Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 2:18 and 19, "I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the work into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun."

As with Solomon, the time will come when the leadership of the Church of God will pass to others. To whom will we pass it? If we do our work well, we will not need to worry about the future. If we have built a solid foundation, our work will stand and those who come after us will be wise and faithful servants of God.

Part of the foundation that we are laying is the action that you are taking at this Conference on the recommendations from our long-range study. As we are about to step into a new century and a new millennium, it is the desire of the staff and Board of Directors to move ahead. God has chosen to bless us with substantial financial resources. I have a strong conviction that God would not have given these resources to us if He did not feel that we would use them wisely. He did not give them to us to stash in the bank to provide security for our movement. I believe that we need to invest these resources, not hoard them. I believe that the recommendations that have been proposed are an appropriate way to invest these resources to help each of our churches be more fruitful in ministry.

I am thankful for each of our churches that stand as beacons of hope in our world. I am thankful for the dedicated service of our pastors and members who faithfully serve week in and week out. Some are serving in difficult situations and yet their faith does not waiver and they continue the work.

The strength of this organization rests in the hands of hundreds and thousands of people who love the Lord, love truth, and love the lost. Working together, much will be accomplished.

If the recommendations before you are passed, there are several positions on our staff that will be filled. We will be looking for people who have a passion for youth ministry, for evangelism, and who believe strongly that technology can help us proclaim the message. We will look for people who have both the passion and the skills necessary to do the work. We will not fill the positions just so they will be filled.

Our Conference and College are committed to standing beside you to serve you to the best of our ability. As long as we have resources and energy, we will continue to serve.

Our vision remains unchanged. It consists of four parts:

1. Our commitment is to serve every one of our churches. Through the institutional study we have a better understanding of the needs of our churches and how we can help meet your needs.

2. We continue to recognize the importance of starting new churches. We will not waiver in our support for those who have caught the vision of reaching out into new fields.

3. We are committed to education as we equip lay and professional workers for Christian service. With your approval, we will pursue providing education beyond the campus through modern technology and through courses delivered in other parts of the country by our staff.

4. We will continue to represent the Church of God to the public at large.

I have recently been challenged by the parable of Jesus in Luke 12:35-48. He challenged us in verses 35-36: "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return." He also challenges us in verse 48 when He says "from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

We of the Church of God have been given much. We have been entrusted with much and therefore God has great expectations of us. It is my conviction that with His help we can live up to those expectations and do everything that God wants us to do. God will not ask us to do things we cannot do.

I would like to make you aware of a special prayer focus that we are going to implement this fall. In light of our long-range study and many challenges we face in ministry as we enter a new century and millennium, the Board of Directors would like to have a special emphasis upon prayer. The motto of our prayer emphasis will be "Praying the Church into the Twenty-First Century." We are going to seek partners in prayer from among our membership. Please be watching your mailboxes in the fall and I trust that all of you as key leaders in our churches and Conference will choose to be prayer partners as we together seek God's direction and blessing upon our work.

Now is the time for renewal as we build upon the foundation of the past and look forward with an attitude of optimism and keen anticipation for the soon return of Jesus to this earth. Let us be ready for service and make sure that we keep our lamps burning, like people waiting for their Master to return.

## College/Conference News

### Students Honored

At the conclusion of the spring, 1998 quarter, a special honors banquet and program was held to recognize students for their accomplishments during the school year. Five students successfully completed the freshman foundation year program and received certificates: Denise Enyart, Timmy Gould, Carrie Krogh, Paul Madonia, and Sarah Ross.

Three students successfully completed the two-year church leadership program and received diplomas: Jim Cramer, Brian Hall and Zachary Ross.

We are thankful for these students who are preparing themselves for lay or professional ministry.



### Summer Ministries Update

Merry Peterson and Sarah Buzzard, Summer Ministries Coordinators, planned a busy schedule of summer ministry at the following churches: North Hills, OH; Pennellwood, MI; Blanchard, MI; Minnesota camp; New Friends, GA; Cool Spring, VA; Hedrick, IN; Wenatchee, WA camp; Farmington, MO; East Oregon, IL; and children's classes at the summer General Conference.

Atlanta Bible College students also assisted with other camps around the country during the summer.

### Lay Speaker Course

Kent Ross, Academic Dean and instructor at ABC, conducted a lay speaker extension course in Columbia, MO on May 30 and June 13. Twelve individuals participated in one or both weekends of training.

### Senior Ministry Coordinator Appointed

Pastor Jack Hearp has accepted an appointment by the Board of Directors to serve as Senior Ministry Coordinator for the General Conference beginning this fall. Several of our churches have very active programs for senior citizens. Ideas will be shared with all of our churches to assist them in planning and implementing effective programs for those who have been long-time faithful members of the church. Information will be mailed to churches in late August or early September.

### Prayer Emphasis

This fall, Church of God members will be invited to become prayer partners in a special prayer movement: "Praying the Church into the Twenty-first Century." In light of decisions made by the delegates at the summer General Conference, it is important to undergird our plans for the future with earnest prayer. Throughout North America several national organizations are promoting a bold movement toward prayer and spiritual renewal. Many Christians seem to recognize the spiritual warfare that is going on in the world for the hearts and minds of humanity. They are being driven to their knees in prayer seeking to unleash spiritual forces against evil in our times. As we approach a new millennium with all of its challenges, we must renew our focus on prayer.

Additional information regarding this prayer focus will be mailed to the membership this fall.

### Financial Update

Delegates at the summer General Conference adopted a budget for the coming year which will require contributions of \$32,700 per month. This is approximately \$200 per month more than was needed in the previous fiscal year. In addition to contributions from churches and conferences that are members of the General Conference, giving is needed from individuals and families to meet the budget. The faithful support of churches and individuals in the past is greatly appreciated.

*(Continued on page nine)*



## College/Conference News

(Continued from page 8)

### New Church Starting

Pastor Dan Kennedy and his wife Amy and several other Church of God individuals have formed a core group to plant a new church in Sharpsburg, GA which is about 40 miles west of the college campus. Dan is resigning as pastor of the New Friends church and will devote full time to working with the new congregation. A Bible study has been meeting on Sunday nights for several months and the church will more officially organize and begin services in October. Church planting and church development aid is being provided by the General Conference. Other financial assistance is being given by New Friends Bible Church of God and Cornerstone Bible Church of God.

Kent Ross and Joe Martin will provide leadership for the New Friends church.

### Berean Bible Study Book

The Southeast Conference has reprinted Book 1 of the Berean Bible Study Series which was originally published by the National Berean Society. The booklet is entitled "The Gospel Plan." Copies are available from the Church of God General Conference for a cost of \$5 each. Other booklets in the series will be published in the future as follows: Life and Immortality, God's Kingdom, The Gospel and Christian Living, The Church of God, and Building for the Ages.

### Calendar of Events

July 26-31	RYOT, Taylor University, Upland, IN; Quiz finals
November 6, 7	Midwest Men's Retreat, Camp Mack, Milford, IN
1999 April 12-16	Christian Workers' Seminar, Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN
April 26-30	Ministers' Conference, ABC campus
April 30-May 2	Eighth Annual Theological Conference, ABC campus
July 12-15	79th Annual Summer Conference, Henry VIII Hotel, St. Louis, MO
July 25-30	RYOT, Taylor University, Upland, IN

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

August, 1998

- 1 Praise God for the beauty of His creation.
- 2 **Pray for spiritual renewal for yourself and your church.**
- 3 Praise God for the faithful ministry of the ABC/General Conference staff.
- 4 **Pray for Joe and Rebekah Martin, Travis Hamilton, and Zachary Ross as they assist with the work in Russia.**
- 5 Pray for the Bethel church, Pelzer, SC, as they construct an addition to their building.
- 6 **Pray for Connie Scott and her ministry at Pine Grove, Minnesota.**
- 7 Praise God for His faithfulness in your life.
- 8 **Pray for the Board of Directors who lead the ministries of the Conference.**
- 9 Pray for your church family as you join together in worship today.
- 10 **Pray for your pastor and his family today.**
- 11 Pray for the brethren and leaders in Peru.
- 12 **Pray for students who are making plans to attend Atlanta Bible College this fall.**
- 13 Pray for the Focus on the Kingdom radio ministry.
- 14 **Pray for the Cornerstone Bible Church of God, McDonough, Georgia.**
- 15 Praise God for the faith of the brethren in the Philippines.
- 16 **Praise God for the challenges He sends your way.**
- 17 Pray for the Grant family, members of the Valley View church, who are serving in missions ministry.
- 18 **Pray for a personal hunger to know God.**
- 19 Pray for individuals who feel led by God to pursue mission careers.
- 20 **Pray for ABC students and staff as they attend a retreat to begin the fall semester.**
- 21 Praise God for His love and faithfulness.
- 22 **Pray for the leadership of your local church.**
- 23 Pray for the brethren in India.
- 24 **Praise God for the editors of Conference publications.**
- 25 Pray for Pastor Dale and Cheryl Swartz and the work at Brush Creek, Ohio.
- 26 **Praise God for Pastor Cecil Smead's many years of service for the Lord.**
- 27 Praise God for your heritage of faith.
- 28 **Pray that God might speak through you to someone who is hurting.**
- 29 Pray for someone you know who needs to make Christ Lord.
- 30 **Pray for an opportunity to share your faith this week.**
- 31 Pray for Pastor Steve and Pat Zimbelman and their work at Blessed Hope, Rockford, Illinois.

# PRAYER AND PRAISE

September, 1998

- 1 **Pray for the youth of your local church and the General Conference.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor John and Gayle Guthrie and their work at East Oregon, Illinois.
- 3 **Pray that God might be praised through your worship today.**
- 4 Praise God for Tracy Savage and her ministry to Russia.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and the Blanchard, MI Church of God.**
- 6 Praise God for Roberto and Lupe Badillo's ministry in Mexico.
- 7 **Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.**
- 8 Pray for Pastor David and Karen Swartz and their work at Golden Rule and Columbia, Ohio.
- 9 **Praise God for the gift of His Son.**
- 10 Praise God for His daily mercies.
- 11 **Pray for the outreach of Beder Ucanay in Lima, Peru.**
- 12 Praise God for the beauty of each season.
- 13 **Pray for David Krogh and Kent Ross in their leadership roles at ABC.**
- 14 Pray for spiritual renewal and growth for ABC students and staff.
- 15 **Praise God for the prayer partners and financial supporters of the Conference and College.**
- 16 Pray for your church family and any guests who worship with you today.
- 17 **Pray for Sergey and Lucya as they continue in Bible study in Russia.**
- 18 Pray for your own personal desire to love God more.
- 19 **Pray for Seth Ross in his ministry at North Hills, Ohio.**
- 20 Pray for your family and your friends.
- 21 **Pray for Pastor Mary and Ray Vadnais and their work in Champion, MI.**
- 22 Pray for Pastor John Nelson and his ministry at Blessed Hope, Rockford, IL.
- 23 **Pray for Steve and Pam Grant in the Middle East.**
- 24 Pray for Pastor Frank Toth and the Glad Tidings Church in Fonthill, Ontario.
- 25 **Pray for those who are seeking God's will for their lives.**
- 26 Praise God for His Word which provides guidance for your life.
- 27 **Pray that you might be an example to an unbeliever.**
- 28 Praise God for new believers in your church family.
- 29 **Pray for the faith to stand firm when temptation comes.**
- 30 Pray for the soon return of Christ and that you might remain faithful.

## Minutes of Conference Business Sessions Continued from page 5

9. Dale Brown, Missouri Conference President, spoke briefly regarding the 1999 General Conference, strongly urging the delegates to make plans to travel to St. Louis to attend the Conference and to do some family sightseeing as well.
10. Pastor Seth Ross moved and Kirk Ross seconded that a task force be appointed to conduct, and to give the delegates a progress report about, a formal review of the Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference organizational structure to optimize the effective implementation of our strategic initiatives.
11. Bill Lawrence moved and Charles Webster seconded to table the motion. The motion to table failed 34 to 38.
12. Bill Lawrence moved and Fred Gerullis seconded to amend the motion to implement it only after we receive input from the accrediting association through which Atlanta Bible College will seek accreditation. The motion to amend failed.
13. Chairman James asked for a vote on the call for the question cutting off debate. The call for the question passed.
14. The original motion to appoint a task force passed.
15. Charles Webster expressed his concern about the constitutional requirement that a local church must have 15 members before being permitted to have a delegate to represent them during the General Conference business sessions. Chairman James briefly described the process through which a local church could initiate a constitutional amendment on this issue or on any other issue.
16. Jon Welch moved and Bob Collier seconded the adoption of the 1999 - 2000 budget. The motion passed.
17. Michelle Turner, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, reported the final delegate count is 6 members of the Board of Directors, 63 church and conference delegates, and 31 pastors, for a total of 100 delegates.
18. The minutes of the Monday afternoon business session were read.
19. Charles Bottolfs moved and Robert Coverstone seconded the approval of the minutes of the 1998 General Conference business sessions. The motion passed.
20. Bob Collier moved and Ed Goit seconded to adjourn today's business session. The motion passed.
21. Pastor Seth Ross offered prayer.

### Systematic Bible Study Course Completions

The following individuals have successfully completed the 29 lessons of the Systematic Bible Study Course: Eric, Andrea, Crystal, Cassandra, Matthew and Andrew Moore, and Brian Johnson. These individuals are all part of the Hector, MN Berean group.

### Free Organ

The Countryside Bible Church has a Wurhlitzer Organ, cherry wood, in working order. It has several key boards and is possibly 20 years old. The recipient will only need to pay the shipping costs. Any church interested should contact Countryside Bible Church, 217 S State Route, J Highway, Peculiar, MO.

### 100th Anniversary

The Illinois State Conference is celebrating its 100th anniversary this fall. The Oregon Church of God is hosting the celebration on the third weekend in October (Oct. 16-18).

Former members and friends are invited to join us in this celebration.

For more information about times of services, housing or other questions contact the Oregon Church of God, 860 W Oregon Trail Rd, Oregon, IL 61061; phone 815-732-6847 or e-mail Pastor Michael Hoffman at [mhoffon@aol.com](mailto:mhoffon@aol.com).

### Cornerstone Dedication

215 people gathered on May 31 to dedicate the newly constructed Cornerstone Bible Church of God in McDonough, GA. Special guests included a choir from Fayetteville, GA. The highlight of the day was two baptisms at the morning worship service.



### Name Change

The Columbia Church of God is now named Columbia Christian Fellowship. The church has changed its name to eliminate confusion in our area with many other congregations called "Church of God." — David Swartz, Pastor

### Directory Changes

Pastor Roger Mattus, 7043 Old Clarksville Pike, Joelton, TN 37080 Ph 601-746-2342

Pastor Jon Welch, E-mail [jtwelch@ll.net](mailto:jtwelch@ll.net)

### Marriages

#### Georgia

McDonough (Cornerstone) — Jeremy Martin and Heather Jones (4/25/98) by Pastor Dan Kennedy; Andy Cisneros and Kristy Whitehurst (5/16/98) by Pastor Dale Bliss.

### Baptisms

#### Georgia

McDonough (Cornerstone) — Susie Emerick and Amanda Dunlap (5/31/98) by Pastor David Riley.

#### Illinois

Macomb — Derek Carle (4/19/98) by Pastor Michael Brown.

Winnebago — Coty and Dora Qualls and Tim and Lori Pennington (12/97) by Pastor Gary Turner.

#### Indiana

Michigantown (Country Chapel) — Justin Wyrick and Nicholas Dunn (4/26/98) by Pastor Ken Howe.

#### Louisiana

Blood River — Stacy Valardo Gainey (1/4/98); Gary and Marcia Ballard (3/1/98); Jimmy Pomeroy (6/14/98); Charles Smith (6/20/98) by Pastor John Raymond. Erin Smith, Melissa Smith, Leas Smith, Daniel Smith, Ellen Wilson, and Wesley Wilson (6/20/98) by Charles Smith. Tiffany Branum, Monique Branum, Amber McElveen, Josh Hemphill, Wayne Mangerchine, Tracy Mangerchine, Staci Mangerchine, Traci Porter, Jennifer Kinchen, Sarah Kinchen, Bret McKinney, Jonathan Jouette, Matt Hutchinson, Brittany Hutchinson, Craig Spier, Aaron Langley, and Jacqueline Edwards (6/21/98) by Pastor John Raymond.

#### Ohio

Columbia Station — Jessika White (5/31/98) by Pastor Dave Swartz.

(Continued on page 12)

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## Deaths

### Arizona

Lakeshore — Howard Saylor, long-time member (5/27/98), by Pastor Greg Demmitt.

### Canada

Fonthill — Frances Peterson, member, 85 (5/29/98), by Roger Denchfield and Pastor Stephen Bolhous.

### Minnesota

Eden Valley — Madge Savage, 95, long-time member (5/19/98), by Pastor Russell Magaw.

Minneapolis — Grace Lawson, 79, long-time member (5/3/98).

### Nebraska

Omaha — Doris A. Johns, 83, wife of former member of the Board of Directors, Russell Johns (5/4/98), by Pastor Scott Ross.

### Virginia

Front Royal (Grace Fellowship), — Georgia May Thayer, 82, long-time member (4/12/98), by Pastor Dennis Baldwin.

## Pastors Needed

The Fox Valley Church is in need of a pastor. We are located in Naperville, IL west of Chicago, in the middle of a rapidly growing area. We have a strong desire to serve God in ways that would glorify Him and further the work of His kingdom. If you would like to know more about this opportunity please contact Elder Gary Smith 630-739-0216 or Pastor Robert Alcumbrack 630-236-0282.

New Life Bible Church of Winnebago, Illinois is looking for a part-time associate pastor. Responsibilities will include working with all age youth in the church and several single, post-high young adults. The person who fills this position will be groomed to fill the church

planting pastor's role in the 5th church to be planted in the greater Rockford metropolitan area in the fall of 1999. We are also looking for Church of God families who would be interested in relocating to this area for the sake of working with new churches. Musical talents and teaching skills are greatly needed as we continue to grow. For more information contact Pastor Gary Turner at (815) 335-2941 or e-mail him at grtwinn@aol.com.

The Litchfield Church of God, Litchfield, MN is still searching for a pastor. At this time we can only pay a part-time pastor salary, but with leadership and growth we would hope to be able to pay a full-time salary. If you are interested in serving in a small community (around 6,000) with great schools and friendly people in a warm loving church, please call or write to Gaye Wood, Church Secretary, 310 East 10th Street, Litchfield, MN 55355, phone 320-693-3917.

The Hope Second Advent Church in Monroe, NC is seeking a pastor to fill a full-time position. For more information please contact Neal Connell at 704-289-5413 days or 704-753-1265 evenings. This church participates in activities of the SE Conference.

The Troy View Church of God is currently seeking a person to serve as an associate pastor on a part-time basis. We are specifically looking for someone qualified in and passionate about the areas of youth and music. If you would like more details you may contact Pastor Craig Wagganer at 937-335-2914. Troy View is a progressive church with a heart for exalting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, edifying one another in the body of Christ, educating one another to maturity in Christ, and evangelizing our community for the sake of the Kingdom of God. We are working hard to develop effectiveness in growing disciplined youth and an exciting music experience. If you want to be a part of this dynamic growth experience please contact us. We look forward to your reply.

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Atlanta Bible College  
Church of God General Conference  
P.O. Box 100,000  
Morrow, GA 30260

Address Correction Requested

- 03608 001  
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JONESBORO GA 30236

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# archives preservation project

## Preservation of Adult Truth Seekers' Quarterlies

Bob See of the Eden Valley Church in Minnesota has started the process of scanning all of the Adult Quarterlies produced by the Church of God General Conference, since January 2, 1927. When the project is completed, all of the texts and comments on the texts that have been published during the 71 years of publication will be available on computer disk, or each of the books of the Bible with their comments can be printed out for study and review. In essence, this will be a Church of God commentary produced by hundreds of Church of God scholars over the years.

Thus far, 2,500 New Testament and 1,008 Old Testament verses and comments have been scanned.

We will keep you posted on the progress of this project.

## Do you have old Adult Truth Seekers' Quarterlies?

To facilitate the scanning project, we would like old copies of the Adult Quarterly donated to the General Conference. The issues that belong to the General Conference have been bound and it is more difficult to scan those than quarterlies that are loose. It is also best if the quarterlies have not been marked. Recently, Pastor Francis Burnett sent several decades of the quarterlies to the Conference. If you are able to help with this project, please call David Krogh at 1-800-347-4261.

## Preserving Restitution Heralds

*The Restitution Herald* has been published continuously since 1911. In order to preserve this material and make it more readily available to our membership, the Board of Directors has authorized a project to place this material on CD-ROM. A digital camera is being purchased which will enable us to record the material.

Offerings were received at the summer General Conference to assist with this project. Along with other gifts that have been received we now have a little over \$3,000 towards this project which will cost over \$10,000.

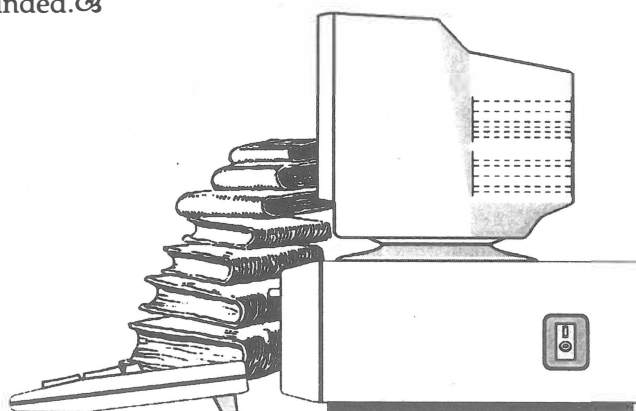
Recently, John Lindsay (grandson of S.J. Lindsay, the first editor of *The Restitution Herald*), donated bound copies of the first 11 volumes of the *Herald* to our archives. These volumes are in excellent condition and will facilitate our preservation project.

## Preservation of Other Material

In addition to preserving the Adult Quarterly and *The Restitution Herald* we also will preserve other books, magazines, and articles produced by Church of God writers over the years.

Our plan is to use volunteers to scan this material into a computer. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to come to the campus to help with this project. Lodging will be provided. If you can help for several days or for several weeks, your help will be deeply appreciated.

Our Board recognizes that we must balance our focus on the past with pressing needs in the present and the future. The Church of God needs to focus upon evangelism and outreach if we are to be obedient to the Great Commission. At the same time, we recognize that the heritage of the past is the seed that will bring forth the harvest in the future. It is important for us to understand who we are as a distinct people and to benefit from the Bible study and writings of our forefathers in the faith. We feel it would be a tragedy to lose some of the material upon which our movement was founded. ☪



# progress journal

atlanta bible college/church of God general conference

september - october 1998 - volume 40 - number 8

# college/conference update

## College Classes Resume

The first semester of the 1998-99 school year began on August 24. Students and staff gathered August 20-22 for orientation and a retreat at the Timber Ridge Conference Center on the west side of Atlanta. Twenty-five students are enrolled this semester. Courses offered this semester include: Old Testament Survey; New Testament Survey; Introduction to Church Growth, Evangelism and Disciplemaking; the Pentateuch; Synoptic Gospels; Personal Finance; and Introduction to Christian Education. Students are also involved in weekly discipleship groups. Pastor Ray Hall of the Garden Park Church in Kentwood, Michigan will be campus chaplain in October.

## Evangelism Booklet

Bill and Mardy Lawrence of Phoenix, Arizona served on the Evangelism Task Force as a part of the Institutional Long Range Planning Study. They have written a booklet entitled "Sharing Christ with Friends, Relatives, and Co-Workers." A copy of the booklet has been sent to all Church of God members who are on our mailing list. The project has been underwritten by the Lawrences. Additional copies are available from the General Conference office.

## R.Y.O.T. '98

The annual gathering of young people sponsored by the Church of God General Conference was held in July with an attendance of 218 students, 32 youth workers, 14 guests and 44 staff for a total of 308. Ten young people made decisions for Christ.

Thirty-two young people participated in this year's quiz program. The Louisiana Team won the competition. The 1998 All Star team was made up of: Amanda Hammer, Jonathan Hoon, Melissa Turney, Krystal Turney, and Hillary Harshman. Those receiving Honorable Mention are: Tiffany Barnum, Shelly Kinchen, Craig New, Michelle Bliss, and Jenny Kinchen. The quiz material for 1999 will be a portion of the book of Acts. Pastor Tom New is the Quiz Master.

## Doctrinal Distinctives Curriculum

For the quarter beginning in December, the Sunday School Curriculum for the Church of God General Conference will focus exclusively on the distinctive Bible truths taught by our association of churches. A new pre-kindergarten teacher's guide and student's book have been added to the curriculum. The Christian Education Department under the direction of Gayle Guthrie has oversight of this special curriculum. Some of the material has been re-written from its original publication.

## Holy Land Trip

Atlanta Bible College's fifth trip to the Holy Land is scheduled for June 10-18, 1999. The cost of the basic trip to Israel is \$1,749 from New York City. There are optional extensions to Egypt and a Greece/Aegean Cruise. A brochure including the itinerary can be obtained by calling 800-347-4261.

## Team Returns from Russia

Joe and Rebekah Martin, Travis Hamilton, and Zachary Ross returned safely from a short term mission trip to Russia in mid-August. They assisted with repairs to the home of Tracy Savage. Thanks to those who provided contributions for this special project. (See page four.)

## Focus on the Kingdom Radio Program

Stations in South Bend, IN and the Washington DC area are now broadcasting a 15 minute radio program Monday through Friday. Anthony Buzzard is the speaker. The staff of the College/Conference receive calls from listeners requesting information. The program is also broadcast on shortwave to most nations in the world. Recently a number of responses have been received from Africa.

## Atlanta Bible College Accreditation

Delegates at the Summer General Conference adopted a recommendation authorizing the Board and staff to improve the College program with the intention of achieving excellence in meeting accreditation standards. Following General Conference, an initial application form was submitted to the Accrediting Commission International. Atlanta Bible College has received a certificate granting Candidate Status to the College. A survey team will be visiting the campus on November 10.

The Accrediting Commission International was organized in 1979. Currently, 130 schools in 10 countries on 5 continents with 21,000 students are accredited by this Commission.

The ACI fosters ethical practices, encourages experimental and innovative programs, insists on consumer protection for students, encourages clearly identified needs, and fosters responsiveness to public interests.

## Financial Update

The fiscal year of the College and Conference ended on June 30. At the end of the fiscal year it was necessary to borrow \$10,000 to cover expenses. The new fiscal year which began on July 1 will require contributions of approximately \$369,000 or \$30,787 per month. Special thanks to all members, churches, and conferences that support the work of the College and Conference.

# church builder's league

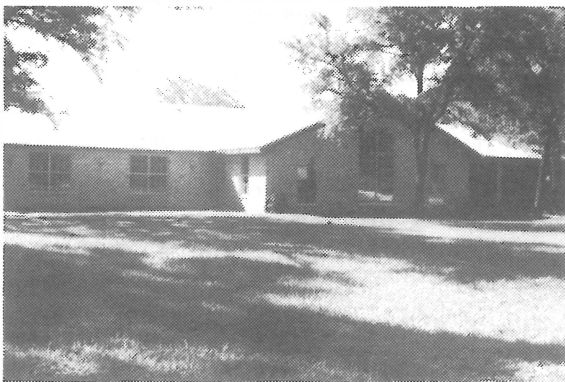
## What Is It?

The Church Builder's League is an association of individuals, churches, and groups that contribute \$25 or more per appeal twice a year to help start and expand churches.

## How Are Funds Used?

Church Builder's assistance is used primarily for the following projects:

1. Start up and operating expenses for new churches.
2. Groups buying or constructing new buildings which have not owned a building previously.
3. Groups which are meeting in a building of their own that is not specifically suitable for worshipping, or buying or constructing church buildings.
4. Groups relocating to a more desirable site.
5. Groups purchasing land for a new building.
6. Groups which have outgrown their present facilities and are enlarging, buying, rebuilding, or exchanging.



The Gatesville, Texas Church of God received assistance from Church Builder's Appeal #79 last fall. Pictured is their new fellowship/dining area, kitchen, and five classrooms which is located beside their sanctuary and other classrooms.

## Church Builder Appeal Results

Since the inception of the program in 1957, 80 appeals have been issued. Nearly 3/4 of a million dollars has been contributed and invested in churches over the past forty years.

## Current Active Membership

Currently there are approximately 476 active, participating members in the Church Builder's League. They contribute an average of \$13,000 to each appeal.

## Our Goal for the Future

Delegates at the 1998 Summer General Conference approved a recommendation to secure 1,000 active members of the Church Builder's League by the year 2000.

## An Invitation to You

You are invited to join this valuable League. Only two appeals are issued each year: one in the spring and one in the fall. Suggested contributions are \$25 per appeal. Your assistance is greatly needed.

## How to Become a Member

1. Call 1-800-347-4261 and tell us you would like to become a member of the league.
2. Fill out the coupon below and send it to: Church Builder's League, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260.

## Church Builder's League Membership Form

The growth and development of the Church of God is important to me. To help to do my part I will participate as a member of the Church Builder's League. Contributions of \$25 are suggested for each appeal (two per year).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# russia mission trip

The Team consisted of Joe and Rebekah Martin of Atlanta Bible College along with Travis Hamilton of Indiana and Zachary Ross of Georgia. We applied for visas only thirty days in advance as required and received them the Saturday before Youth Congress. We left for Russia Sunday afternoon, August 2, on Lufthansa, stopped in Frankfurt, Germany the next morning and arrived eventually in St. Petersburg at 2:30 p.m. With an eight hour time difference, we had traveled for about 14 hours with layovers.

Tracy hired two cars to take us to Roshino a small community about sixty miles north of St. Petersburg and only about sixty miles from the Finland border. She has a modest cottage across from a government built apartment complex. Our main task was to encourage Tracy and help in any way possible. Primarily, we put a roof on her home but we did many other things as well. She has a nice garden and she and Rebekah even did some canning. That area of Russia is on about the same latitude as Anchorage, Alaska. The sun set at about 11:30 p.m. and rose about 4:30. Lots of time to work and tour!

Another important aspect of the trip was to meet some of Tracy's contacts and encourage them. We spent time with Sergey and Luce, a couple from St. Petersburg; Nina, who lives just around the block from Tracy; and Stepan, a friend and carpenter who worked with us on the roof. We also met some children in the area. On Sunday morning, August 9, we had a devotional service in Tracy's home with each person sharing a favorite passage of scripture and telling how it is meaningful to them.

Also, we did some touring. Without a car, we usually caught the bus that took us to the train station that took us to some interesting destinations. One day we visited the Bay of Finland and saw a beautiful rainbow and sunset. A couple days were spent in St. Petersburg at the Hermitage (the Czar's winter palace) and the Summer Palace, which is about twenty minutes north of St. Petersburg by boat. The last evening we attended a Russian folk dance presentation. Travis and Zachary were chosen from the crowd of two hundred to get up and dance with the costumed ladies!

The Lord blessed us with safety also. Lightning hit near the house one day and I got a "buzz" from it. Tracy



Tracy Savage with Luce and Sergey, who live just a block away in their summer rental cottage. Sergey works as a radio programmer in St. Petersburg.

At about a 20/12 pitch or 60 degree angle, the roof was a challenge for Zach at the bottom, Travis, in the middle and Joe on the top. Luckily you could climb it like a ladder.



was bumped by a bicycle in St. Petersburg and knocked down. The long line at the airport required God's intervention for us to leave on August 14 (He literally parted the crowds!). We had a great time and want to encourage you to remember Tracy and the Russian people in your prayers. Since we left there has been a large devaluation in the Russian ruble, which puts tremendous pressure on the common hard working people.

Thank you for supporting this trip and Tracy. May God be praised!

Joe Martin

P.S. If you want more details, Rebekah has a forty page diary of the trip! She was great at taking notes!



## update on church planting

## prayer and praise october 1998

### **Jubilee Christian Fellowship Church of God, Sharpsburg, GA.**

Pastor Dan Kennedy of the New Friends Bible Church of God completed his work at the church the end of August. He is now devoting full-time to the work of a new church which is being started in Sharpsburg, GA which is approximately 35 miles southwest of the College campus. Dan has been leading a Bible study with interested families in the area since February. Over twenty people are currently meeting. During the month of September, contacts will be made with families living in housing developments within the area. The official beginning of the church will be in October.

Sharpsburg is located in a rapidly growing community. New subdivisions are sprouting up all over the county.

The church was recently accepted as a member of the SE Conference and the General Conference. Financial aid will be provided by these two Conferences, the New Friends Bible Church and other churches and mission groups.

### **New Life Bible Church of God, Winnebago, IL**

Pastor Gary Turner reports enthusiasm and excitement at this new church that was started in October, 1997. The church was launched after 1,500 calls were made in the area. 70 were in attendance at the first service. Since then, some families have been lost and new families have been gained. A successful Bible school was held in mid-July with good participation by church attendees. Plans are being made for a Friends Day celebration in October. Residents of 400 - 500 homes that have been built in the area in the last year will be contacted.

The church currently is meeting in Winnebago Town Hall. The church is outgrowing this facility and is exploring other meeting-place options.

Plans are underway to hire a part-time associate pastor who will work with youth. The person filling this position will be groomed to help plant a fifth church in the greater Rockford Metropolitan area, hopefully in the fall of 1999. The church is also looking for Church of God families who would be interested in relocating to the area to help with music and teaching in the church.

- 1 Pray for Pastor Richard and Jan Alcumbrack and the Southlawn Church in Wyoming, MI.
- 2 Pray for the Board of Directors as they meet today and tomorrow in Atlanta.
- 3 Pray for a personal hunger to know God and Jesus better.
- 4 Pray for the Restitution Church in Eldorado, IL.
- 5 Praise God for your church family and the strength that you receive through it.
- 6 Pray for Pastor George Kugler and the Cross Timbers, MO church.
- 7 Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and a new earth in His coming kingdom.
- 8 Pray for the Litchfield, MN church.
- 9 Praise God for retired Pastor Billie Kennedy and his wife Irene.
- 10 Pray for Community Bible Fellowship in Culver, Indiana.
- 11 Pray for Tim and Shelly Spickler in their work at Family Bible Fellowship.
- 12 Pray for a church planting vision for Church of God members.
- 13 Pray for the Burr Oak, IN church.
- 14 Praise God for new contacts who are seeking the truth around the world.
- 15 Pray for Beder Ucanay as he works in Lima, Peru.
- 16 Pray for the Fort Valley, VA church.
- 17 Pray for the work that is being done in India to proclaim God's truth.
- 18 Pray for retired pastor Jim Mattison and his wife Martha.
- 19 Pray for your pastor and his leadership.
- 20 Pray for Pastor Jack and Louise Hearp and the Chapel Hill Church in Urbana, OH.
- 21 Praise God for those who have supported Atlanta Bible College through the Booster Campaign.
- 22 Ask God to help you love Him and His Son more.
- 23 Pray for Today's Good News television ministry in Lafayette, IN, led by Pastor Steve Taylor.
- 24 Pray for retired pastor Linford Moore.
- 25 Pray for the Hedrick, IN church and Pastor Joe and Karla Astolfi.
- 26 Pray for Pastor Dennis and Rachel Baldwin and the Grace Fellowship Church in Front Royal, VA.
- 27 Pray for Steve and Pam Grant in their ministry in the Middle East.
- 28 Pray for Pastor Steve and Jill Taylor as they lead New Hope Community Church in Lafayette, Indiana.
- 29 Pray for Pastor Chuck and Gloria Currier and the Waterloo, IA church.
- 30 Praise God for His constant care.
- 31 Pray for 2,000 baptisms by the year 2000.

# prayer and praise

## november 1998

# REPORT OF BAPTISMS:

2,000 by the year 2000

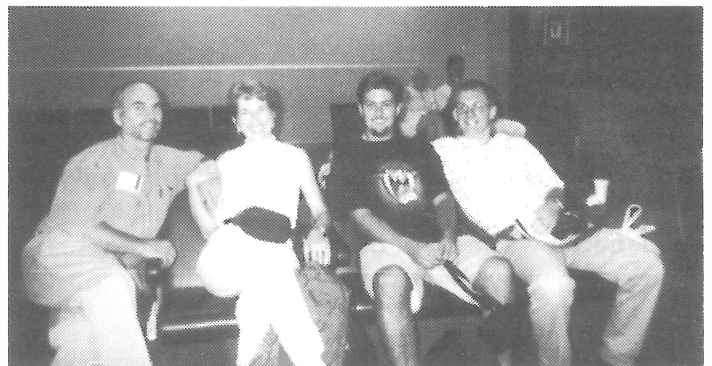
	Jan.1, 2000
	Total 1,353
April 1, 1998 – June 30, 1998*	29
April 1, 1997 – March 31, 1998*	141
April 1, 1996 – March 31, 1997	158
April 1, 1995 – March 31, 1996	164
April 1, 1994 – March 31, 1995	162
April 1, 1993 – March 31, 1994	142
April 1, 1992 – March 31, 1993	164
April 1, 1991 – March 31, 1992	170
June 1, 1990 – March 31, 1991	168
January 1 – May 31, 1990	55

\* More complete figures are being collected from non-reporting churches.

- 1 Pray for the St. Cloud, MN church.
- 2 Pray for the Fair Oaks Church in Virginia.
- 3 Pray for the Badillo family in Labor Vieja, Mexico.
- 4 Praise God for men and women who are studying at Atlanta Bible College for Christian service.
- 5 Pray for Daniel Smead in his duties as Technical Director of the publishing department of the General Conference.
- 6 Pray for those attending the Midwest Men's Retreat at Camp Mack this weekend.
- 7 Pray for Pastor Kirby and Bonnie Davis and the Wenatchee, WA church.
- 8 Pray for Gayle Guthrie as she serves as coordinator of the Christian education department of the General Conference.
- 9 Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness.
- 10 Pray for Judy Myers and the work of the Lord's Harvest International Mission Board.
- 11 Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God.
- 12 Pray for Pastor Gary and Glenda Turner and New Life Bible Church in Winnebago, IL.
- 13 Pray for Pastor Wade Tierney and the Morse Mill, MO church.
- 14 Pray for wisdom for the Ministerial Recognition Board (formerly License Board) as they serve.
- 15 Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.
- 16 Praise God for the peace of Jerusalem.
- 17 Pray for Pastor Paul Moore and the work of the Gatesville, TX Church of God.
- 18 Pray for the boldness you need to share Christ with an unbelieving friend.
- 19 Pray for Jim Graham, Youth Coordinator of the General Conference.
- 20 Pray for the outreach efforts of your local congregation.
- 21 Praise God for His daily blessings of shelter, food, family and friends.
- 22 Pray for Pastor Jim and Charleen Graham and the Valley View Church in Arizona.
- 23 Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life.
- 24 Pray for the Fredericktown, MO church.
- 25 Pray for the ministries of Ralph and Iona Childs in Ohio.
- 26 Pray for the churches within your state or regional conference.
- 27 Thank God for His goodness to you.
- 28 Praise God for many baptisms in our churches this fall.
- 29 Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation.
- 30 Pray for new contacts through the distribution of literature.

## Calendar of Events

- September 25** Midwest Women's Retreat, Camp Mack, Milford, IN
- October 9-11** Upper Midwest Fall Adult Retreat, Waterloo, IA
- October 16, 17** Southeast Men's Retreat, Marietta Baptist Camp
- October 16-18** Illinois Conference 100th Anniversary Celebration, Oregon, IL
- November 6, 7** Midwest Men's Retreat, Camp Mack, Milford, IN
  - Southeast Conference Young Adult Retreat, Camp Awanita
- 1999 March 4-6** College Invitational Weekend
- April 12-16** Christian Workers' Seminar, Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN
- April 26-30** Ministers' Conference, ABC campus
- April 30-May 2** 8th Theological Conference, ABC
- July 12-15** 79th Annual Summer Conference, Henry VIII Hotel, St. Louis, MO
- July 25-30** RYOT, Taylor University, Upland, IN



Joe and Rebekah Martin with Travis Hamilton (of Indiana) and Zachary Ross (of Georgia) at the beginning of the trip.

# church news

## Arkansas State Camp

There were 103 in attendance. 15 attended from Gatesville, TX. Special guests were Dale and Travis Ramsey from the Cool Spring Church of God in Virginia.

## Marriages

### Georgia

Cornerstone — Melissa McClain and Roy Clack (8/8/98); Luanne Martin and Brian Brinkley (9/4/98) by Pastor David Riley.

### Indiana

North Salem — Sue Ann Neff and Oren L. Sliter (6/14/98) by Pastor Stan Lawrence

Timberland — Kathy O'Neil and Howard Kidd (6/6/98) by Pastor John Railton and Pastor Ed Bender

## Baptisms

### Arkansas

McGintytown — Stacey Wilkins by Pastor Mark Good; Scott Jew, Chris Turnate, and Jave Colvurn (8/9/98) by Pastor Tom New.

### Canada

Glad Tidings — Sarah Payne and Taylor Shute, Sarah is a seventh generation member of the Church of God and Taylor is a sixth generation member; (6/7/98) by Pastor Frank Toth.



Tracy, Zachary, Travis, Joe, and a Russian friend, Stepan, sight-seeing in St. Petersburg.

### Georgia

Cornerstone — Kori McMurtry and Joseph Wood (7/19/98); Kaitlyn Hellam (8/9/98) by Pastor David Riley.

### Illinois

Oregon — Jennifer Froehlich and Kayla Andrew (7/12/98) by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

### Minnesota

Eden Valley — Jolene Drews and Brady Piram (6/26/98) by Pastor Russ Magaw.

### Ohio

Lawrenceville — Barney Lockwood (6/14/98); Kyle Clarkson, John Bevan, Richard Stevens, Suzan Stevens, and Rebecca Bandy (7/19/98) by Pastor Mark Tschaenn.

## Deaths

### Canada

Glad Tidings — Dorothy Elizabeth Napper, 79, long-time faithful member (3/25/98) by Pastor Frank Toth.

### Illinois

Macomb — Mary J. Pestle, 87, charter member of Macomb Church (6/19/98) by Randall Paine and C. Jesse Pestle.

### Indiana

Culver — Norman Kelly, 73, member of Culver Community Fellowship (7/19/98) by Pastor John Railton.

North Salem — Wilma Wollington Osborn, 81, (5/30/98) and Lester L. Capron, 76, (6/30/98) by Pastor Stan Lawrence.

### Minnesota

Eden Valley — Norvald Sogge, 73, member, church treasurer (12/24/97) by Pastor Russ Magaw.

Madge Savage, 95, member, Children's Page Editor in *The Restitution Herald*, (5/18/98) by Pastor Russ Magaw.

### Nebraska

Alliance — Morris E. Zeller, 98, long-time member, baptized by Almus Adams, (8/8/98) by Pastor Scott Ross.

Omaha — Alice Harper, 92, long-time member, attended the first General Conference in 1921 (7/27/98) by Pastor Scott Ross.

# pastors needed

The Restitution Church of God, Eldorado, Illinois is looking for a pastor. For more information, please contact Jack Wiggins at 618-273-3676 or Carlis Medley at 812-838-6437. Until a pastor is found, if a pastor is traveling in the Eldorado vicinity and would be willing to speak on Sunday, please call one of the numbers above to make arrangements.

The Fox Valley Church is in need of a pastor. We are located in Naperville, IL west of Chicago, in the middle of a rapidly growing area. We have a strong desire to serve God in ways that would glorify Him and further the work of His kingdom. If you would like to know more about this opportunity please contact Elder Gary Smith 630-739-0216 or Pastor Robert Alcumbrack 630-236-0282.

New Life Bible Church of Winnebago, Illinois is looking for a part time associate pastor. Responsibilities will include working with all age youth in the church and several single, post high young adults. The person that fills this position will be groomed to fill the church planting pastor's role in the 5th church to be planted in the greater Rockford metropolitan area in the fall of 1999. We are also looking for Church of God families who would be interested in relocating to this area for the sake of working with new churches. Musical talents and teaching skills are greatly needed as we continue to grow. For more information contact Pastor Gary Turner at (815) 335-2941 or e-mail him at grtwinn@aol.com.

The Jay Street Church of God in Kokomo, Indiana has an opening for a full-time minister to begin in September 1998. We are seeking a pastor who:

1. is spiritually mature and has spiritual insight,
2. is a powerful and skilled preacher of the word,
3. is a strong leader who is self-motivated and can motivate others,
4. can serve as the shepherd to the members by providing guidance and nourishment.

Our congregation consists of 30-40 members and attendees with much potential for spiritual and numerical growth. We have six acres of land and a building fund of more than \$18,000. We hope to begin building in the near future under new leadership and direction. We offer a weekly salary, a parsonage with paid utilities, health insurance and other benefits. If you are devoted to God and the calling of ministry, interested in serving as pastor to our church, and meet the above qualifications please contact Janet Snyder by phone at 765-453-1233 or by E-mail at Snyder51@juno.com.

The Litchfield Church of God, Litchfield, MN is still searching for a pastor. At this time we can only pay a part-time pastor salary, but with leadership and growth we would hope to be able to pay a full-time salary. If you are interested in serving in a small community (around 6,000) with great schools and friendly people in a warm loving church, please call or write to Gaye Wood, Church Secretary, 310 East 10th Street, Litchfield, MN 55355, phone 320-693-3917.

The Hope Second Advent Church in Monroe, NC is seeking a pastor to fill a full-time position. For more information please contact Neal Connell at 704-289-5413 days or 704-753-1265 evenings. This church participates in activities of the Southeast Conference.

Fair Oaks Community Church (in Herndon, Virginia) would like to secure the services of a pastor. We are looking for a pastor who senses God's gifting in the areas of "people skills" and outreach as well as preaching and teaching.

The ability to be open-minded and flexible is important as well. Though our church family is small at this time, we are in the midst of the fast-growing Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. If you believe God may be calling you to pastor in such an urban area, please contact Carolyn Kohn for more information: 7711 Ivymount Terrace, Potomac, MD 20854.

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Atlanta Bible College  
Church of God General Conference  
P.O. Box 100,000  
Morrow, GA 30260

**Address Correction Requested**

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