



## CHURCH OF GOD PROGRESS JOURNAL



**Atlanta**  
BIBLE COLLEGE

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

## Report of 105th Annual General Conference

Again this year, members of the Church of God gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the past and to make decisions for the future. The theme was "Fix Your Eyes on Jesus" based on Hebrews 12:1, 2. It was highlighted by evening speakers Alan Cain, Talon Paul, and Seth Ross.

The main item of business was consideration of a recommendation by the board to relocate the Church of God General Conference and Atlanta Bible College to the west-central Ohio region. After extensive discussion during business sessions on successive days, the delegates approved the recommendation 77 to 10 – an 89% approval. The board was given authority to identify and execute the necessary real estate transactions to accomplish the move.

Mark Cain and Marcia Railton were elected to four-year terms on the Board of Directors, replacing J. J. Fletcher and Jon Welch who were presented plaques of appreciation for their years of service by Executive Director Seth Ross. The board was installed by the Ministerial Association moderator Michael Hoffman. Prayer was offered for each board member. (Below right, members are pictured, l to r: Alan Cain, Mark Cain, Joe Myers, Bob Alcumbrack, Marcia Railton, Talon Paul, and Shane Martin.

Following the board election, the new board met to organize itself for the coming year. Joe Myers is chairperson; Mark Cain is vice chair; Alan Cain is secretary; and Shane Martin is treasurer. Robert Alcumbrack, Talon Paul, and Marcia Railton are the other directors.

The delegates approved a revised budget for 2025-2026 of \$1,241,399 with contributions needed of \$545,000; and a budget for 2026-2027 of \$1,274,250 with contributions needed of \$550,000. Other income is generated by college tuition and lodging fees, transfers from several restricted funds for scholarships and other needs, sales, and rental income from space in the Avalon building which is not used for conference/college purposes.

Forty-six church and six conference delegates, along with thirty-four pastors and seven board members conducted the business of the conference. Total delegates were two more than last year. About 200 attended all or part of the conference.

The Maple Grove Community church provided generous hospitality by preparing and arranging meals and making

their beautiful facility available for conference use. Many volunteers made the conference an inspiring and productive event.

The Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation met during conference and elected officers for the coming year. Cheryl Ross was chosen as president and J. J. Fletcher is the vice president. The secretary and treasurer of the Board of Directors also serve as secretary and treasurer of the Foundation Board. Alan Cain is secretary and Shane Martin is treasurer. The Foundation currently has assets of \$1,784,187. Interest earnings help to fund the operation of Atlanta Bible College. During the coming year, \$51,500 will be distributed to the college. Over \$1.6 million has been distributed to the college since the Foundation was created.

During the conference, the ABC/OBC Alumni Association met for its annual meeting. David Cheatwood was re-elected as vice president of the Association. The president, Nola Jones, presented Distinguished Alumni awards during an evening service to honor deceased Pastor C. E. Lapp and Pastor Alan Cain.

The Ministerial Recognition Board presented plaques to four recently licensed pastors: Mason Ogle, Jeffery Seiders, Stefan Swanson, and John Truitt. Prayer was offered for these new pastors. The Ministerial Association moderator, Michael Hoffman, recognized Rob Laning, Merry Peterson, and Curt Rowden for 25 years of pastoral ministry.

The 2026 106<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held at the Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA August 5-7. It will be preceded by the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Heritage Conference on August 4 and 5.



## Message from Seth Ross, President/Executive Director

### Fall Updates

#### Property Search and Prayer

At our summer conference, the delegates voted in favor of relocating the General Conference offices and Bible college with an 89% (77-10) approval.

Michael Cisler and I traveled to OH in late August to view potential properties. We were joined by three board members — Alan Cain, Marcia Railton, and Mark Cain. The property search is underway.

It is easy to engage in discussions of the pros and cons of various locations, but we eagerly desire that God would lead us to the ideal property that meets our needs and His purposes.

We invited pastors and churches to join us for a day of prayer and fasting over the property search. We desired that the entire Church of God join together in seeking God's guidance on Monday, September 8. There is power when we collectively seek the Lord together.

If you receive this after September 8, you can corporately pray over this in your church services each Sunday going forward. However, we also hope that people will seek God's guidance individually. There is value in ongoing prayer.

We encourage people to pray that . . .

1. God would lead us to the ideal property. There are three properties not currently for sale that meet our criteria for an ideal location. Please pray that God would open the right door for at least one of these properties to become available.

2. God would give the board and staff wisdom to recognize the right opportunities when they present themselves.

3. God's Spirit will rest upon us all, and God will establish the work of our hands both today and in our future, so we are pleasing to Him.

As our relocation progresses, we anticipate that there will be more "days of prayer" for various phases along the way. Each day of prayer will have a specific focus.

We also invite you to regularly pray for our ongoing ministries, beyond the relocation, as we strive to partner with churches and ministries in spreading biblical truth of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ.

#### MVRA

The letters MVRA stand for Ministers' Voluntary Retirement Association. This program was established in

1968 to provide a voluntary non-profit retirement program for the ministers of the Church of God General Conference (COGGC) and full-time lay employees of the General Conference. Any minister licensed by the COGGC and who serves regularly in the duties of a pastor or denominational leader is eligible to participate. All member churches of the COGGC are eligible for membership in the association, whether or not they have a pastor. Additionally, state and regional conferences are eligible for membership in the association. Participation is voluntary and must be requested.



The contributions of ministers, churches, and conferences who choose to participate are calculated in these ways: ministers contribute 2% of their ministry income, churches contribute 2% of their operating income, and conferences contribute an amount equal to the average contributions of participating churches. Quarterly, the total contributions of the churches and conferences are shared equally among the accounts of participating pastors. Each pastor's contributions go directly toward their own retirement accounts.

This program has been a tremendous blessing to our pastors. Over the past nearly six decades, 73 pastors have received benefits of approximately \$2,838,000. Today's value of all the investment accounts is over \$2,010,000. Currently, 16 pastors, 5 conferences, and 25 churches participate in the MVRA program. Eleven churches contribute, though they do not have a pastor participating. If your church does not currently participate, and you are interested, you may contact David Krogh with questions at [dkrogh@atlantabiblecollege.com](mailto:dkrogh@atlantabiblecollege.com).

#### MALT Planning Meeting

Members of the Ministerial Association Leadership Team (MALT) will meet in Oregon, IL (Sep 21-22) for their annual meeting to discuss issues specific to pastors. They will discuss ways to support pastors effectively, as well as make plans for the next Ministers Conference, which is currently scheduled for March 16-19, 2026, at North Kent Bible Church in Rockford, MI. The leadership team includes Michael Hoffman (moderator), Jacob Ballard (secretary), Jesse Allen, Levi Salyers, and Mark Tschaenn. The primary function of this team is to provide proactive leadership to the Ministers Association toward the realization of its purpose. The purpose of the Ministers Association is to empower pastors through (a) upholding Christ as our model for service, (b) promoting mutual respect, support, and encouragement, and (c) fostering excellence in ministry skills and in doctrinal integrity.

## Chairman's Message to the Delegates at the 2025 General Conference Business Session

I am Joe Myers from the Lakeshore Church in Tempe, AZ. I have pastored churches in Denver, CO, New Hope in Little Rock, AR, Pennellwood in Grand Rapids, MI, Lakeshore in Tempe, and Cornerstone in McDonough, GA. I currently serve as an elder and board chair under the leadership of pastor Levi Salyers, who along with his wife Katelyn await the birth of their first child, a son, whose name has yet to be revealed, although I have suggested that the name Levi Joseph has a nice ring to it.

I am a 1973 graduate of Oregon Bible College and a 1972 husband of Dana Eckerd Myers. We have two children, Bethany Ligon, who recently completed a four-year term of serving on the board of directors and our son Sam, who is a claims specialist working the past thirteen years for State Farm. We are blessed with three grandchildren, Whitney age 14, Charlotte age 6, and Easton age 2!

I became a baptized believer in Jesus on my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. I was baptized in Lake Waubee at Camp Mack in the summer of 1970 by Pastor Ed Graham. This is my tenth year of having the responsibility of serving on the Church of God Board of Directors, six years as chairman. I love the Church of God General Conference and the truths and church family which comprise this organization.

Two years ago I recognized what I believed to be a "crossroads" moment in the long history of the COG. Specifically, it became apparent to me that the time was approaching as to whether or not our college and conference would remain in McDonough, GA for the foreseeable future or whether or not a relocation away from Georgia to another locale was a consideration. I wanted to be involved in that decision-making process, hence I ran for the board, and many of you were gracious enough to place your trust in me, and I was elected. It has been an honor to serve along side vice chair J. J. Fletcher, treasurer Shane Martin, secretary Jon Welch, your pastor at Kokomo Talon Paul, Bob Alcumbrack and pastor Alan Cain under the direction of our Executive Director Seth Ross. You should know these are all good, godly men whose hearts are in the right place and who seek to follow in the direction God leads them and the Church of God General Conference.

Before I address the subject of relocation, I would like to share with you some of the very important items your board has been working on over the past twelve months. Yes, it is possible to "walk and chew gum" at the same time as you are about to hear.

**The Disciple Collective** – approximately a year ago the board was approached by pastors Josiah Cain and Levi Salyers with an idea to create an online presence, highlighting not only COG theology, but practical daily guidance in matters which affect all Christians. On Friday, Josiah will be leading a workshop introducing and explaining in great detail the goals behind this project. I believe this project holds the potential of being one of the greatest efforts of influence for the COG perhaps in decades. Your board has thrown its full weight of support behind the project. Such a significant project requires significant financial resources and your board is fully prepared to assist in that way.

**Organizations Outside the Direct Umbrella of the COG** – it has become apparent to the board that we have a wonderful opportunity to make ourselves known to other organizations not directly under the COG umbrella. Organizations such as the Unitarian Christian Alliance, known as the UCA. It is an organization dedicated to proclaiming the truth that God is one, and one means one. I quote from their website: "The mission of the UCA and its growing membership is two-fold: to promote unitarian theology, and to connect like-minded believers across the globe." Perhaps you have heard the names of Mark Cain, Sean Finnegan, Dale Tuggy, Dustin Smith, Will Barlow, Bill and Stephanie Schlegel, Anne Fischhaber, Dan Gill, Kegan Chandler. To mention a few – they all are contributors to the UCA podcast.

While not adhering totally to all our doctrine positions, your board believes that making ourselves known, not only to this organization, but others like Spirit and Truth, which involves Jerry Wierwille and Gary Burnham, Living Hope International led by Sean Finnegan, and Allegiance to the Kingdom led by John Truitt has merit. All of these four men are COG licensed ministers. These connections will enhance opportunities to encourage others to consider attending the one and only Bible college in the country which proudly proclaims and teaches a one, and only one, God theology.

The board in recent months, thanks to the encouragement of new member Robert Alcumbrack has begun investigating how we might create similar one-issue programs, such as conditional immortality, Kingdom of God, sleep of the dead, etc. Stay tuned for more on this.

**Lord's Harvest International (LHI)** is a part of every board agenda. Dr. Joe Martin and his dear wife Rebekah, along with sister Annette Osborn, board member Jon Welch and many other mission-loving individuals continue to pour their lives into international missions. Because of COVID, personal health issues, and government unrest, it has been difficult to travel to our sister churches in recent months and years. One

*(continued on page 4)*

*(continued from page 3)*

of the biggest challenges has been accountability concerning funds distributed. But LHI continues to work in responsibly bringing the good news to these foreign lands.

On the home front, your board, in cooperation with Bobby Partain and Pastor Talon Paul are seeking to expand our influence in the United States through the North American Missions Ministry. We are working to increase the number of churches under the COGC umbrella and support those already member churches.

With the help of Madison Cain and Katelyn Salyers we are working to expand and enhance our publishing department. Including, but not limiting ourselves to, the General Conference website and other publications. Speaking of other publications, last year the board voted to financially assist and publish a new systematic theology book. Author Dustin Smith has nearly finished his project and with the assistance of editors Scott Deane and Jeff Fletcher, we anticipate a late fall release of this new book!

Our dear friends Steve and Young An, along with their son, Sam and a dedicated staff, continue to minister and prepare students in the Korean populations. It is worth noting, had a move from Oregon, IL to Morrow, GA not taken place, it is safe to assume these beloved people would have never crossed our path. Personally, I consider the ABCKE to be one of the great success stories of our journey from IL to GA. Which leads me to wonder what unknown blessing lies ahead should our delegates approve a motion to relocation to Ohio.

Let me finish by addressing the major motion which is before our delegates this week. I do not believe it is hyperbole to state that issues such as this do not, nor should not, occur each year. What we are asking our delegates to consider over the next two years will be generational in its impact. So, as pastor Alan Cain stated so eloquently last night, we discuss and decide only after much prayer, discussion, and with all humility.

Your Board of Directors, along with our Executive Director, unanimously recommend we relocate the conference office and Bible college from the current McDonough, GA location to central Ohio. There will be plenty of time given to answer your questions and concerns in our meeting today and tomorrow. So, I will not attempt to do so in this already lengthy address. But, be assured any questions and concerns you may have, your current board of directors in the recent past have also wrestled with. This in no manner has been a quick, or hasty decision. This unanimous recommendation is the result of literally years of discussion, prayer, and consultation with many of you seated here today. Two committees were formed

for the purpose of discussing how the model of the college should look like and where best that model should be located in order to succeed. While the college model committee reached agreement quite quickly, the location committee after numerous meetings, could not reach a consensus. And that's okay. It only served to show us the importance of doing our homework in order to come to what the board believes as the best assessment.

Our recommendation basically centers around three main points: 1) a campus, 2) proximity (to be located near as many churches as possible), 3) centrality (near the center of the Church of God).

**Campus** – first let me address the return of a college campus. OBC campus, Morrow campus. When Dana and I moved to Georgia in 2007 to assume the pastorate of the Cornerstone Bible Church, I lived in the dorm for the first 3½ months. There can be little doubt that having a centralized college campus enhances the college experience and creates bonds which last a lifetime. Our current location does not allow for the campus experience such as I describe to take place.

**Proximity** – currently ABC students have the experience to learn and grow under the influence of the Cornerstone Bible Church. Many students have had wonderful experiences in the Cornerstone setting. However, it is the board's belief that a more ideal option would be for students to experience ministry in multiple congregations. Being within an hour of multiple pastors provides greater opportunity for mentorship.

**Centrality** – I remember my days as a student at OBC and the chorale under the leadership of Dale Ramsey. Prior to this we had gospel teams and currently we have Go Serve teams that visit our churches. Obviously, conference staff and students can visit churches anywhere, but traveling from the Atlanta area makes most trips at least a day away or requires a flight. Being close to more churches allows for more visits.

In summary, the proposed relocation will allow us: 1) an enriched on-campus student experience; 2) to develop closer relationships with more churches; 3) to offer a wide variety of student ministry engagements.

Conclusion: If Dr. Alva Huffer were here today, I can hear him say, "We live in very exciting times and the best days of the Church of God are ahead." Yes! And I believe such a statement is not only true, but possible.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege and honor to serve on this board for ten years. It is a highlight of my life. I am honored. As we move forward these next couple days, may we do so in love and unity, seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.



**Minutes of the Annual General Conference  
Delegate Business Agenda  
August 7-8, 2025  
Maple Grove Community Church  
Kokomo, Indiana**



*Board Secretary Jon Welch*

**Thursday, August 7, 2025, 1:30 PM**

1. The 105th General Conference Delegate business meeting called to order by Chairman Joe Myers at 1:33 PM.

2. The meeting was opened in prayer by Joe James from Guthrie Grove, SC COG.

3. Welcome by chairman including special welcome to first-time delegates and newly licensed ministers, Mason Ogle and Jeffrey Seiders.

4. Chairman Joe Myers presented his message to the delegates. (See attached document.)

5. Melinda Cisler reported on how many pastors, board members, and church/conference delegates have registered for this conference.

Church - 43  
Conference Delegates - 6  
Pastors - 31  
BOD Members - 7  
Total - 87

6. Denise Cramer spent time updating staffing and programming processes of the financial department. Denise explained various lines in the following reports:

General Fund income report  
General Fund expense report  
We are \$103,143 in the black  
ABC-GC balance sheet  
Ministry spending  
Church of God events

7. Joe Myers opened the floor for nominations for the Board of Directors. The terms of JJ Fletcher and Jon Welch expire and were recognized for their service over the past four years.

Marcia Railton was nominated by Steve Mattison on behalf of the Family Bible Church and the Indiana State Conference.

Mark Cain was nominated by Karen Cain on behalf the Bedford Church of the Open Bible.

The floor was opened for additional nominations.

Scott Ellison was nominated by Josiah Cain on behalf of the North Kent Church, Rockford, MI.

Peter Blair was nominated by Tim Woodard on behalf of the Lawrenceville, OH COG.

Joe James moved to close nominations. Annette Osborn seconded. Motion carried. Nominations are closed.

Each nominee was asked to speak for five minutes.

Marcia Railton, Family Bible Church (Indiana)  
Mark Cain, Bedford COG (Ohio)  
Scott Ellison, Solid Rock Church (Michigan)  
Peter Blair, Lawrenceville COG (Ohio)

8. Denise Cramer presented and explained the proposed revised budget for 2025-2026. Denise Cramer said to contact her if anyone had any questions concerning the proposed budget for 2026-2027.

9. Presentation of Relocation Recommendation.

JJ Fletcher moved to accept the recommendation made by the BOD as printed in the Progress Journal: *"The Board of Directors presents to the delegates of the Church of God General Conference, subject to a 2/3 delegate approval of the delegates, the relocation of the Church of God General Conference and the Atlanta Bible College to the west-central Ohio region. The delegates give authority to the Board of Directors to identify and execute the necessary real estate transactions."*

Jerry Wierwille seconded. The floor was open for discussion.

- Steve Mattison had a question as to which staff would relocate if the relocation took place.

- Willie Little had a question concerning the possibility of land purchase in the Kokomo, IN area.

- Bob See made comment on the Kokomo, IN area.

- Alan Shaw asked the question concerning the possibility of a lag where we might not have a Bible college between selling and purchasing properties.

- Nancy Vadnais raised question concerning acquiring existing buildings in which to relocate facilities.

- Daniel Smead asked what percentage of HS students would be attending ABC. He also asked how the potential relocation will impact the Korean Extension (ABCKE)?

- Jake Ballard sought clarification that if we relocate Ohio will award a diploma only and not a Bachelor's Degree.

- Bobby Lee Partain asked how many students would move if we relocate? Are we relocating more for the college or the GC?

- Bob See commented on his experience at the Bible College.

- Larry Newman wanted clarification is there a need for a campus at all because of the online age in which we live.

- Anne Fischhaber asked if there were conditions on the \$500,000 that was offered? She also asked questions about the current assets of the COGGC. Has a feasibility study been done about the area of which we desire to relocate?

- Joe James shared his reluctance to the recommendation of relocation. He would like  
(continued on page 6)



*Pastor Alan Cain delivering the opening message of the conference*

(continued from page 5)

to see our energies used toward strengthening our local churches.

- Peter Blair shared his thoughts in support of the possible relocation, particularly the draw of students from that area.
- Annette Osborn shared that as a member of a dying church, the relocation would be tremendous for them.
- Nola Jones shared that we are in a building that is totally paid for. What happens if someone purchases the property in GA and we have to pay rent?
- Eva Jo Fisher asked what title the current college would hold in Ohio? Would it still be college, learning institute, etc.?
- Hoyt Alexander shared various concerns he has concerning the possible relocation. He also shared concerns about focusing on churches that are struggling. We might consider an independent consulting firm to help us determine as to where we might relocate would work.
- Mark Cain shared thoughts on the advantages of relocation and staffing and re-staffing.
- Nik Ransom shared his thoughts that as a new student to ABC, distance made him hesitant in attending the current location. Other young people he knows have the same hesitation.
- Brian Garrett asked what it would be like for the people who are staying and for the people who are relocating, if the relocation takes place. Also he asked about revitalization of churches.
- Executive Director Seth Ross addressed the delegates and shared his thoughts about ABC, COGGC, and the ministries within the COGGC in relation to the possible relocation.

10. Joe Myers dismissed the meeting with prayer.

11. Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

### **Friday, August 8, 2025, 1:30 PM**

1. Meeting called to order at 1:34 PM by Chairman Joe Myers.
2. Pastor John Railton opened the meeting with prayer.
3. Melinda Cisler reported on how many pastors, board members, and church/conference delegates have registered for this conference.  
Church - 46  
Conference Delegates - 6

**Pictured are delegates during a business session**



Pastors - 34  
BOD Members - 7  
Total - 93

#### **4. Relocation Recommendation:**

- The floor was opened for discussion.
  - Nancy Vadnais made a motion to amend the original motion to substitute the location of "west central Ohio" with "central Midwest." Tom Siderius seconded. Motion failed.
  - Jake Ballard encouraged the delegates to vote yes for the relocation recommendation.
  - Robert Alcumbrack shared several reasons why he is in favor of the relocation recommendation.
  - Mark Cain shared that he thinks we should not be landlords in maintaining facilities for other people, and we should sell the property.
  - Rene' Welch spoke to the positives of being unified and faithful.
  - Elaine Newman spoke to the idea that we should have faith like that of Abraham.
  - Camden Bormes shared the positives he has experienced at ABC. He also shared that a physical campus setting would make up for what is lacking.
  - Ruth Schupp would like to see us move closer to accreditation. She is not opposed to the move but thinks there are things we should be doing before we move.
  - Jeff Ransom addressed the idea that accreditation, although important, is not as important as the heart of the leader. He also shared that the youth of today are not only the church of the future but the church of today.
  - Vicki Dick shared her excitement about the COGGC moving into the future of God's Kingdom work. There is a spirit here this week of us moving forward.
  - Joe James commended the BOD for the work they have done in preparation for this meeting.
  - Joe James moves to table the action on the floor until next year. Dean Smith seconded. Motion failed.
  - Joe James called for the question.
  - Chairman Joe Myers read the original motion. Ballots were distributed
  - While the votes were being counted:  
A video promoting a new theology book written by Dustin Smith was played.  
Paula Kirkpatrick shared that she has four 3-D printed "Fruit of the Spirit" available to give away for free.
  - 87 ballots counted. 77 in favor. 10 not in favor. Motion passed.
  - Joe James asked for all delegates to stand as a sign of unified support of the relocation effort.
5. Budget Vote: Action on revised budget for 2025-2026 fiscal year. Steve Mattison moved to approve the pro-
- (continued on page 7)



(continued from page 6)

posed revised budget for 2025-2026 fiscal year. Bethony Ligon seconded. Motion passed.

6. Budget Vote: Consideration of proposed budget for 2026-2027 fiscal year. Carolyn Smead moved to approve the budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Kent Bolin seconded. Motion passed.

7. Board of Directors Election: The election of two directors for the Board of Directors for a four-year term.

- Ballots were distributed for the four people running, Marcia Railton, Mark Cain, Peter Blair, and Scott Ellison. Delegates were asked to vote for one.

- While the votes were being counted:

Executive Director Seth Ross handed out a plaque of appreciation to outgoing BOD members JJ Fletcher and Jon Welch.

A promotional video for ABC was shown.

- A majority vote was not reached. Scott Ellison and Peter Blair's names were dropped from the second vote because there was a tie. Vote for either Marcia Railton or Mark Cain.

- While votes were being counted:

Michael Cisler gave a report on ABC.

Camden Bormes shared experiences he has had at ABC and the impact those experiences had in his life.

- Vote ended in a tie. Delegates asked to vote again.

- While the votes were being counted:

Makenna Landry read a report on behalf of her sister, Madison Cain, on the Truth Seekers curriculum.

- Mark Cain was selected as a member of the BOD.

- Delegates were asked to vote for either Marcia Railton, Peter Blair, or Scott Ellison.

- While the votes were being counted:

Annette Osborn shared a report from LHI.

Steve An shared a report about ABCKE.

Bobby Lee Partain, Jr. shared what is happening with the Digital Archives and North American Missions (NAM).

- Marcia Railton was selected as a member of the BOD.

- Thanks was given to Peter Blair and Scott Ellison for putting their names in for the Board of Directors.

## 8. New Business

- Proposed Constitutional Amendment for vote in 2026 from the Bethel Church of God was mentioned and will be voted on next year.

- Robert Alcumbrack said a few things about the Unitarian Christian Alliance (UCA). He encouraged everyone to register their names and churches on the UCA website.

- The floor was opened for any other items of new business from the delegates.

- Michael Hoffman gave an update on Jeff Fletcher and had a time of prayer.

9. Secretary Jon Welch read the minutes from Thursday, August 7, 2025, and Friday, August 8, 2025. Alan Cain moved to approve all the minutes of the 2025 General Conference. JJ Fletcher seconded. Motion passed.

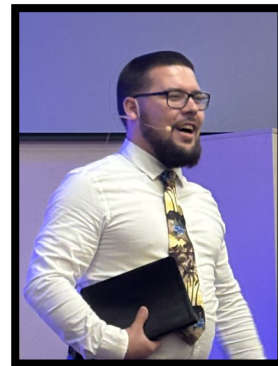
10. Motion to adjourn. Rachel Newell moved to adjourn.

11. Chairman Joe Myers adjourned the delegates with a word of prayer.

12. Meeting adjourned 3:57 PM.

Humbly submitted,

Jon T. Welch, Secretary



Local pastor Talon Paul speaking at an evening service

## Calendar of Events

Oct. 31– Nov. 2—reFUEL South

Jan. 16-18—reFUEL North

March 16-19, 2026—Ministers Conference, North Kent Bible Church, Rockford, MI

April 26—May 1—52nd Annual Christian Workers Seminar—LeConte Hotel/ Convention Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

July 19-24—FUEL—Burn the Ships at Manchester University, North Manchester, IN

### Future Heritage and General Conferences:

2026—Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA August 4-7

2027—Lawrenceville Church, Springfield, OH August 3-6

## PROGRESS JOURNAL

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 4—October-December 2025 © 2025

Proofreader: Robert Jones

Editor: David Krogh

Address editorial correspondence to: David Krogh, dkrogh@atlantabiblecollege.com or 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253

Permissions: Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference grants permission for any original article (not a reprint) to be photocopied or duplicated for use without change, provided the material is distributed free and the copies indicate the name of the publication and the name of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference, and our mailing address.





### Atlanta Bible College Report Michael Cisler, Academic Dean

The fall semester at Atlanta Bible College is well underway. We have 17 enrolled this semester, with six Church of God students living in our campus housing. We continue in providing education and ministry preparation for men and women to serve in churches and ministries worldwide that are spreading biblical truth of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. We are also starting to look for options for a new college location in Ohio. I (Michael) am in my final semester of my Higher Education Administration Ed.D. program. We are also putting plans together for our third fall ministry trip this year during our fall break in October. All of these things, and more, are helping us align with higher education common practices, better equip our students for a lifetime of leadership and ministry, and better connect our college and students with the churches in our General Conference.



## Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension Report

The 2025 spring semester, which included twenty-nine students, concluded without issue on May 8. One student, Sunkyu Park, graduated. He and Jung Hwa Choi, who graduated

in May 2024, were unconditionally accepted into the Master of Arts in Divinity degree program, which requires 72 to 96 credit hours to complete, at Reformed University in Lawrenceville, GA. Their campus is about 10 miles north of us and is accredited by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). I believe the university recognizes the quality of our education through Eunkyung Seo, who graduated from our school in December 2022 and has been enrolled since August 2023. To help them maintain the faith they acquired through our classes, we've invited them to the Korean Church of God pastor's continuing education classes and other gatherings, and they've been diligently attending so far. We envision that those graduates will be the future instructors of the Korean Extension after completing the degree.

Throughout the summer break, our staff has been working diligently on recruiting, with strong support from Korean pastors and alumni in both the U.S. and South Korea. Due to our efforts, we have three new South Korean students registered for the fall semester, and we also have two additional prospective students who are still in the process of obtaining their entry visas at the U.S. Embassy in South Korea. We continually provide them with the experiences of students who have successfully obtained entry visas.

Meet Camden Bormes who is a junior at Atlanta Bible College this fall from the North Kent Bible Church in Rockford, Michigan. Camden preached and served in other ways at Family Camp this summer. He also preached and served on staff at FUEL this summer. He has served at reFUEL South, Christian Workers Seminar, and on the fall ministry trip in 2024. While on that trip, he preached multiple times and sang on the worship team. When asked about his time at ABC, Camden responded, "My time at ABC has been extremely beneficial in many ways. I have been able to deepen my understanding of God and learn how to minister to His people through my classes. I have also been able to make relationships with classmates that will last a lifetime as we do ministry together in the future. ABC has also given me the opportunity to experience many different forms of hands-on ministry that have helped me tremendously as I move towards pastoral ministry."



Your support helps Camden in his education and ministry preparation, along with other students like him. Please consider making a financial donation to the college to help us continue to provide ministry opportunities and education to our students. Please also consider praying for the students, staff, and ministry of ABC. Thank you for your generosity to this important ministry.



My wife, Young, and I (Steve) converted to the Abrahamic faith in 1999. Since then, we have been visiting seminaries and local churches in South Korea, including those pastored by Korean Extension graduates, to share our beliefs. In 2003 and 2004, we were joined by Kent and Cheryl Ross, Joe Martin, Anthony Buzzard, and Brian Atra. The MZ Generation (Millennials and Gen Z, born between 1981 and the present) now make up most of the church members in South Korea. With the support of Lord's Harvesting International (LHI), Sam and Sarah An (right), who are close to this generation and can empathize with them well, plan to join next year's mission trip to begin inheriting our role.



As the scripture says, *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow" (1 Corinthians 3:6)*. With assistance from Kent and Cheryl Ross, Joe Martin, Anthony Buzzard, and Brian Atra, my wife and I planted the seed of the Abrahamic Faith in South Korea. Now, Sam and Sarah An will water it, and God will make it grow, so that an abundance of fruit will soon follow.

Steve An/ Vice President  
Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension





**Lord's Harvest**  
INTERNATIONAL

**Annette Osborn, Coordinator**  
lhiannette@gmail.com

We enjoyed the opportunities to share about missions during this year's annual General Conference. The Q & A session was well-attended, and we shared accomplishments and challenges.

In Africa, we currently serve in Malawi, Mozambique, South Kenya, two areas of North Kenya and three regions in Uganda. There are two congregations in Pakistan (unrelated to our previous work there) with whom we are in contact. By utilizing Zoom on the internet, Americans can preach at the Pakistani services. Kingdom of God Ministry and Missions produces regular newsletters with updates on Maksim's work in Russia. They can be requested through KOGmissions.com.

Several regions have held conferences for youth, women, and families this year. They have been well-attended by

persons in the community as well. Special donations have allowed repairs to Malawi churches to move forward.

A contact in Tanzania communicates with Jay Smith; one in Democratic Republic of Congo interacts regularly with Sarah Blanchard. A pastor in Uganda recently translated "Words of Truth" subject concordance into Mashi, a local language in DRC.

We're excited to share that Sam and Sarah An will join his parents (Steve and Young) on their annual trip to South Korea in May, 2026. They will meet with ABCKE graduates, visiting their ministries and discussing their work. The possibility for mission trips will be examined. If you are able to contribute to the costs of this trip, indicate "South Korea" on your donation.

We welcomed Moriah Railton from Granger, IN. Marcia Railton will be our liaison with the Board of Directors. Jon Welch, Steve Mattison, Sarah Johnson and Rebekah Martin complete the LHI board. We welcome your questions and comments and appreciate your prayers for guidance.



## Report on Young Adult Getaway



Last June's Young Adult Getaway was a great success with 28 in attendance. Along with worship times, there were messages on how we are "Designed to Work." There were discussion groups on "What Works Well at Your Church," "Tech and Faith Space," and "Breaking Bad Habits." There was



time to strengthen relationships through games, hiking, pickleball, frisbee, and shared meals.

The event was held at the Big Oak Lodge in Gatlinburg, TN.





John Wincapaw, Coordinator

We had an awesome time at FUEL this past summer as we looked to our Great Physician, Jesus Christ, to help direct us in everything we do.

Mark 2:17 Jesus said: "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."



We all need the Great Physician. We spent the week diving into some of those areas of need — our mind, influences, actions and future. Through it all, we humble ourselves and seek Christ — his example and instruction.

We had over 200 people from 20 states joined in a week of worship, learning, accountability and fellowship.



From worship services, classes and a wonderful night of prayer to a ridiculous scavenger hunt, giant game of Operation and finale glow dance party, the week was truly wonderful spending time with one another.

Though it is always sad to say goodbye, we look forward to seeing our friends again!



Bible Quiz competition has been a part of our youth program for decades. This year the Indiana team was in first place, Ohio in second place, and Arkansas/Missouri was in third place. We are glad for the teams that competed this year.

Make plans to join our upcoming events:

reFUEL South: October 31 - Nov 2

reFUEL North: January 16-18

Fuel 2026: Burn the Ships - July 19-24

## CHURCH OF GOD ONLINE

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

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

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

ABC Korean Extension—[abcke.org](http://abcke.org)

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

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

## OTHER SITES TO EXPLORE

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

[KOGmissions.com](http://KOGmissions.com) (Tracy Zhykhovich)

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

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

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

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

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

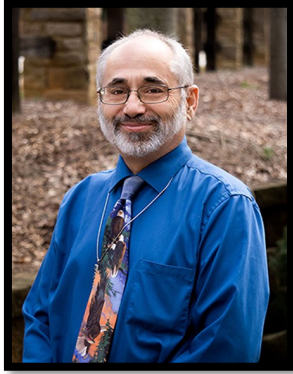
[unitarianChristianalliance.org](http://unitarianChristianalliance.org) (Dale Tuggy, Kegan Chandler, Mark Cain, and Sean Finnegan)

[thegoodnewsherald.wordpress.com](http://thegoodnewsherald.wordpress.com) (Michael Brown)

**Retired elderly couple outside Phoenix, AZ seeking COG couple to live with them to help with housekeeping, yard work, care, etc. as needed. Large house; private quarters. Interested? Contact Velma Graham at 602-501-3365 for more details.**



## Good News from COG-Land



From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – Discovery on Adventure Island was this year's VBS theme. Teachers and leaders were decked out in their Hawaiian shirts and island themed decorations were amazing with palm trees, a blue tinsel waterfall, a light house, island birds and flowers, and

much more. Beacon the Puffin was a big hit as he helped our explorers find the infinity lanterns of love, faith, and hope. VBS ended with a luau and tropical island bounce house for the kids (of all ages?). Sunday July 27 brought Christmas in July. The celebration consisted of Christmas songs, beach and snowman decorations, Christmas apparel, gifts, and a barbecue meal following the morning service. School supplies were handed out. The June and July mission project was helping a family in need and a ministry retreat that had storm damage from Hurricane Helene. Congratulations to **Hack Hammond** for being named Father of the Year.

From the **Garden Park Church of God in Grand Rapids, MI** – **Susan Hall, Norma and Steve Knapp** attended CWS in Pigeon Forge, TN. A Christmas in July service was held July 27.

From the **Ripley Church of God in Mount Sterling, IL** – The church had Sharing Sunday, and many had something to share. **Kristi** read a poem entitled "Land of the Free" and shared some church history that **Tessa Laning** had recorded. **Carolyn** shared "Guards of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." **Jake** read a poem entitled "The Simple Things." **David** sang a song that he wrote entitled "What Would You Say to Jesus?" The church thanks all of those who were willing to share that day.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – The church supported several summer mission trips. **Amber Ballard** went to Singapore in July to help build a sign language school. **James and Molly Stringer** went to Brazil with Central Brazil Mission July 15-25. They helped out on a medical boat going down the Amazon River, stopping at villages along the way. **Olivia Overholser** went to Peru. **Laura White** went to an Indian reservation in South Dakota. **Philip Seger** went as a leader on the Northeast Conference mission trip to Kokomo, IN on June 21-27.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – The church held a garage sale June 13 and 14. Fifty per-

cent of the proceeds went to missions and fifty percent to Family Camp scholarships.

From the **Minnesota Conference of the Churches of God** – Minnesota Youth Camp was held June 8-13. The theme of the camp was "Train Up! 1 Corinthians 9:25." Students entering grades four through ten attended.

From the **Birthday and Anniversary Department** – **LaVonne Taylor** (East Oregon Chapel in Oregon, IL) turned 75 on June 20. A surprise party for her was held June 22 at the church. **Barbara Keplinger** (Bethel COG) turned 86 on July 26. **Steven and Norma Knapp** (Garden Park COG) celebrated their 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on August 5. **Joe and Dana Myers** (Lakeshore, Tempe, AZ) share their anniversary with Steven and Norma. They were married 15 miles apart in Oregon and Dixon, IL, and their weddings were an hour apart. **Barney and Betty Owens** (Bethel COG) celebrated 65 years of marriage on July 3. **Alan and Darlene Shaw** (East Oregon Chapel) celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 22. [Congratulations to all of you folks! – GNP]

From the **Congratulations to Our Graduates Department** – Michael Jacinto (East Oregon Chapel) graduated from Oregon High School on May 18. [Congratulations!]

From the **GNP desk** – Remember to send in the names of your milestone anniversary or birthday people. We want to celebrate the milestones along with them, and we want everyone in COG-Land to know about it. **[PLEASE]** help us out! – GNP]

Hey, there COG-Land! GNP wants to hear what YOUR good news is! We know there's good news everywhere, so send us e-mails, bulletins, phone calls, etc. to tell us your good news. PLEASE SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS ([rjones@atlantabiblecollege.com](mailto:rjones@atlantabiblecollege.com)), and we'll put you in print!  
Robert L. Jones

### Electronic Version of the Progress Journal

For those who receive a print copy of the Progress Journal, if you would like to receive an electronic version instead, there are several great reasons to make the switch:

1. You will get your issue quicker.
2. You will be able to enjoy color photos and headings.
3. You will save the General Conference the cost of paper, printing, and postage.





NORTH AMERICAN  
MISSIONS

**North American Missions (NAM)** of the COGGC partners with churches and conferences to promote: 1) Church Planting, 2) Church Revitalization, and 3) Leadership Development. — Q3/2025

**"A DISCIPLE IS NOT ABOVE HIS TEACHER, BUT A DISCIPLE WHEN HE IS 'FULLY TAUGHT', WILL BE LIKE HIS TEACHER."**—LUKE 6:40 (NASB).

**North American Missions  
Coordinator and Archivist  
Bobby Lee Partain**

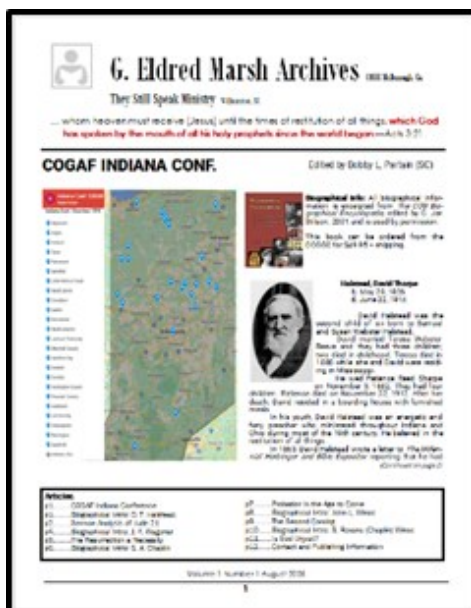


To support the **Leadership Development** needs of the local church, as well as the regional and national conferences; the following Fall 2025 classes are being offered to COGGC churches through the ABC4U Ministry for \$100 per class: To register, churches should contact ABC Academic Dean Michael Cisler: [mcisler@atlantabiblecollege.com](mailto:mcisler@atlantabiblecollege.com)

**Old Testament Survey I** (Bob Jones) encompasses a survey of the Pentateuch and the Old Testament books of history: historical setting, introductory matters, content outline, exploration of important themes and doctrines.

**Pastoral Leadership and Administration** (Michael Cisler) provides a study of the leadership style and methods of the pastor in the local church. Consideration is given to the customary administrative duties of the pastor and general leadership skills.

### ACTIVITIES COMPLETED OR IN PROGRESS



**ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER.** A 12-page newsletter was presented at the Heritage Conference this year with articles and bios of key leaders in the Indiana Conference. A digital copy of this newsletter is posted to the Heritage Conference Facebook page linked here: [2025 HC News-letter](#)

**THE RESTITUTION:** 21 volumes from 1874-1903 are completed. This material provides theological insight of the COG movement as well as historical information about the early conferences and evangelists.



### ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2026:

1. Scan the remaining **Gospel Banners**, 1854-1859, edited by Benjamin Wilson.
2. Create a searchable **AI Library** of 1000 scanned items from the G. E. Marsh Archives.
3. Publish 2 (150+ page) books of topical writings from COG authors to augment the material used in the four foundational NAM Classes: Basic Bible Doctrine, the Kingdom of God as Gospel, Church of God History, and Systematic Theology.

## Report of 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Conference

Immediately preceding the annual General Conference, members and friends gathered to learn more about the heritage of the Church of God. Among the highlights of this conference were presentations by:



**Mark Drabenstott** – he shared the history and background of a group of churches that also carry the name Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith that trace their history back to Benjamin Wilson and to some of our early leaders.

This group separated from our group of churches in the early 1900s, but continue to share a love for the same truths that have guided our churches. They have some connections and fellowship with Christadelphians whose early leaders also collaborated with our early leaders. Mark's message focused on our common roots. He also addressed the challenges that all Christians face today standing for truth and righteousness. He shared the words of Jesus in Luke 18:8 – "when the son of man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" As the leader of the Williamsburg Christadelphian Foundation, he shared their vision of: helping renew a transforming faith in the community of believers, inspiring and equipping youth for a life of faith, and showing how faith transforms life for good. He reminded us that together we have honored the name Abrahamic Faith for more than 150 years. The challenge we face is not those years, but the ones that remain until Jesus comes.

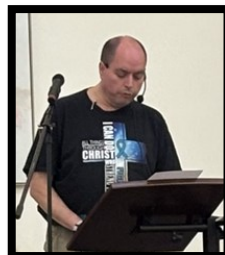
**Janet Snyder** – she is the great-granddaughter of the founders of the Kokomo Church. She provided important information about O. J. Parker and D. G. Harvey and their ministry in starting the church.



**John Bliss** – John is a great-great-grandson of these same founders. He provided additional insight into those who started the church nearly 100 years ago.



**Kent Bolin** – a member of the History Committee, shared additional regional history by speaking about the history of the Indiana Conference. He also spoke about the life and ministry of D. E. VanVactor, a leader from Indiana who served on the Committee of Ten that was in-



strumental in the formation of the General Conference in 1921.

**Jan Stilson** – a founder of the History Committee, presented a tribute to four members of the committee who died in recent years: Kent Ross, Arlen Rankin, Greg Demmitt, and John Smead.



**Bobby Lee Partain** – he provided an update on the scanning of materials for the G. E. Marsh Memorial Archives as well as talking about the importance of learning about the legacy of the Church of God and the importance of the legacy that we will leave for the next generation.

**Marilee LaMattina** – in September, the Virginia Conference will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Marilee presented a history that she prepared which highlighted the impact of this conference on the work of the Church of God.

The conference concluded with a field trip to visit the previous location of the Kokomo church on Jay St. Many attenders have memories of attending services and conferences in this facility which was sold in the late 1990s. The group also traveled to Country Chapel in Michigantown, IN where members of the congregation shared photos and historical information about the church and served refreshments.

Next year's conference will be held in McDonough, GA August 4 and 5.

## 100th Anniversary

You are invited to the Virginia Conference 100th Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, September 20, 2025 at Grace Fellowship Church of God (pictured below), 55 Westminster Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630 1:00 - 6:30 p.m. (dinner at 5:15 p.m.)





# Church News

## Baptisms

### Arkansas

McGintytown – **Aisley Isom** and **Casen Isom**, (6/13/25) by ABC student John Evans.

### Indiana

Milford – Family Camp – **Abigail Rogers** and **Ellie Rogers** (6/18/25) by Steve Mattison; **Lily Devries** (6/18/25) by Jeani Ransom; **Abbigail Bienz** (6/19/25) by Andrew Hamilton.

### Michigan

Rockford – North Kent Bible Church – **Joella Kaltenberg** (6/15/25); **Eddie Graves**, **Naomi Graves**, **Wesley Graves** (7/20/25) all by Pastor Josiah Cain.

### Minnesota

Brooklyn Park–Pine Grove–**Daniel Eiken** and **Shawn Eiken** (8/23/25) by Pastors J. J. Fletcher and Makenna Landry.

### Missouri

Morse Mill – **Ryan Thompson-Brown** (7/6/25) by Pastor Wade Tierney.

### Ohio

Tipp City – Brush Creek – **Benjamin Schommer** (6/23/25) by Pastor Dale Swartz.

### South Carolina

Pelzer – Bethel Church – **Logan Impson** (6/8/25) by Pastor Wally Winner.

### Washington

Round Lake Tonasket – Aeneas Valley Church – **Elijah Mattix** (8/24/25) by Paul Miller, his uncle.

## Deaths

### Arkansas

Royal – Forest Hills Church – Pastor **James Hill**, 70, (6/27/25), life-long member; 1979 graduate of OBC; internship with Pastor Scott Ross at the Jaynes St. Church; licensed minister serving churches at Kokomo, IN; Fredericktown, MO; and Forest Hills Church in Royal, AR; by his cousin Pastor Larry Mayberry.



### Arizona

Phoenix – **Ed Bond**, 82, (6/21/25), former member of Valley View Church.



Tempe – Lakeshore Bible Church – **Paul Shaw**, 87, (7/27/25), 1961 graduate of OBC; national youth director 1963-69; licensed minister serving in East Oregon, IL; New Hope in Little Rock, AR; and Beaumont, TX; served on Board of Directors by Pastor Levi Salyers and Pastors Joe Myers, Steve Taylor, and his son Greg. **Irene Sorenson**, 101, (7/24/25), life-long member, wife of Pastor Warren Sorenson; she traveled with child evangelist Verna Thayer and graduated from OBC in 1950 by Pastors Levi Salyers and Joe Myers.

### Illinois

Eldorado – Restitution Church – **Carlis Medley**, 86, (4/6/25), long-time member.



Ireland



Places where baptisms and deaths took place

Frederick – **Tony Wessel**, 82 (7/5/25), husband of former member of the board Brenda Wessel by Pastor Richard Young.

### Michigan

Wyoming – **David Parker**, 71, (8/25/23).

### Missouri

Peculiar – Countryside Bible Church – **Lynnete Brown**, 69, (7/2/25), long-time member; wife of former board member Dale Brown by Dwight Brown.

### Ohio

Springfield – Lawrenceville – **Joyce Davis**, 71, (8/24/25), member by Pastor Alan Cain.

### South Carolina

Pelzer – Bethel Church – **Joe Mabry**, 83, (6/25/25), member by Pastor Wally Winner.

Pelzer – Guthrie Grove – **Debbie McCoy**, 71, (6/15/25), member.

Northern Ireland – **John Cunningham** (5/28/25), ABC Theological Conference attendee.

## Wedding

### Indiana

Amanda Black and Craig Cooper (7/24/25) by Pastor Rob Laning.

## Pastors Needed

### Eden Valley and Litchfield, MN

The Eden Valley and Litchfield, MN Churches of God are jointly seeking a dedicated, spirit led pastor with a heart for community and Christ centered ministry to shepherd these two closely connected congregations. Our hope is to interest someone with a strong preaching, leadership and pastoral care aptitude to lead this dedicated body of believers. We are offering a package in the \$70-75,000 range. Please submit a resume with background and ministry experience and an indication of when you would be available. Please include three references with at least two from pastors. Letters of intent can be sent to both church emails: [litchfieldchurchofgod@gmail.com](mailto:litchfieldchurchofgod@gmail.com); [Eden-valleychurchofgod@hotmail.com](mailto:Eden-valleychurchofgod@hotmail.com). For more information, contact elders: Marv Nordmann – 320-420-2760; Larry Johnson – 320-583-6298.

### Hammond, LA

New Beginnings is seeking a pastor to serve its congregation. Please contact the board chair, Eliska Fauntleroy 985-320-9067; or Carola Landry 225-275-9202, [carola.r.landry@gmail.com](mailto:carola.r.landry@gmail.com).



## Prayer and Praise Items

### October

- 1 **Pray for retired Pastor Jeff and Karen Fletcher.**
- 2 Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and a new earth in His coming kingdom.
- 3 **Pray for Pastor Darrell and Laura Cardwell and the new church called The Well in Mankato, MN.**
- 4 Pray for retired Pastor Dennis and Rachel Baldwin.
- 5 **Pray for the Board of Directors as they work with Executive Director Seth Ross to implement the decision to relocate the conference and college to west central Ohio.**
- 6 Pray for the Open Bible Church of God in Springfield, Missouri.
- 7 **Pray for a church planting vision for Church of God members.**
- 8 Pray for the vision for Africa mission work.
- 9 **Pray for the youth of your local church.**
- 10 Praise God for those who are preparing for ministry.
- 11 **Pray for Seth Ross, College President and Conference Executive Director.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Anne Fischhaber and the Eden Valley, Minnesota congregation.
- 13 **Praise God for your church family and the strength that you receive through it.**
- 14 Praise God for new contacts who are seeking the truth around the world.
- 15 **Pray for Christians in Pakistan who are suffering because of persecution and violence.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Michael and Diane Brown and their work with the Greenville, SC congregation.
- 17 **Pray for recently licensed intern Jeffrey Seiders as he makes decisions about his future ministry.**
- 18 Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as they study during the fall semester.
- 19 **Pray for the college/conference staff as they serve us each day.**
- 20 Pray for Pastor Maurice and Pamela Chahilu and their work in Kenya.
- 21 **Pray for the pastor spouses and their ministry.**
- 22 Ask God to help you love Him and His Son more.
- 23 **Pray for Bob Jones and his teaching ministry at Atlanta Bible College.**
- 24 Pray for retired Pastor Vivian E. and Paula Kirkpatrick.
- 25 **Pray for the ministry of the ABC Korean Extension in Johns Creek, Georgia.**
- 26 Pray for retired Pastor Bob and Marilyn Morrison.
- 27 **Praise God for Joe and Rebekah Martin and their ongoing missions ministry.**
- 28 Pray for retired Pastor Dale and Connie Ramsey.
- 29 **Pray for Pastor David and Wanda Cheatwood and the Hedrick, Indiana church.**
- 30 Praise God for His constant care.
- 31 **Pray for God to send workers into the fields that are ready for harvest.**

### November

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and the St. Cloud, MN Church and House Light Ministries.**
- 2 Pray for members who are isolated from one of our churches.
- 3 **Praise God for the board of directors who willingly serve the Church of God.**
- 4 Pray for recently licensed Pastor Mason Ogle as he serves as associate pastor of the Maple Grove Church in Kokomo, IN.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Sean and Ruth Finnegan in their work at Living Hope Church in Latham, NY.**
- 6 Pray for expanding publishing opportunities for the General Conference to spread kingdom truth.
- 7 **Pray that God will raise up workers to serve in mission fields in other lands.**
- 8 Pray for retired Pastor James and Rebecca Ritch.
- 9 **Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness.**
- 10 Pray for retired Pastor Scott and Gayle Ross.
- 11 **Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God.**
- 12 Praise God for baptisms in our churches.
- 13 **Pray for retired Pastors Scott and Shelly Millard.**
- 14 Pray for recently licensed Pastor Stefan Swanson and his ministry in Springfield, OH.
- 15 **Pray for Pastor Mark and Sandy DeYoung and Tree of Life Fellowship in Piedmont, SC.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Bob and Susan Collier and the work at North Salem, IN.
- 17 **Pray for God to provide you with "thankful" eyes this month.**
- 18 Pray for the boldness you need to share Christ with an unbelieving friend.
- 19 **Pray for college/conference youth events being planned for 2026.**
- 20 Pray for the outreach efforts of your local congregation.
- 21 **Praise God for a blessing He provided in your life yesterday.**
- 22 Praise God for His daily blessings of shelter, food, family, and friends.
- 23 **Pray for the opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.**
- 24 Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life.
- 25 **Pray for retired Pastor Joe and Dana Myers.**
- 26 Praise God for the churches within your state or regional conference.
- 27 **Praise God on this United States Thanksgiving Day for His goodness and faithfulness.**
- 28 Pray for God's blessings on those recruiting new students for the Atlanta Bible College winter/spring semester.
- 29 **Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation.**
- 30 Pray for new contacts through the distribution of literature and our website.

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

**Address Service Requested**



_____	<b>NON PROFIT ORG</b> <b>U.S. POSTAGE</b> <b>PAID</b>  <b>PERMIT NO. 1371</b>
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	

---

THE PROGRESS JOURNAL is owned and published by Church of God General Conference, 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253. Published quarterly. David Krogh, Editor, Robert Jones, Proofreader. Telephone 678-833-1839 ; FAX 678-833-1853. Website: [www.coggc.org](http://www.coggc.org)

---

## Prayer and Praise Items (continued from page 15)

### December

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Beloit New Life, WI church.**
- 2 Praise God for your pastor for preaching the gospel.
- 3 **Pray for our missionaries all over the world.**
- 4 Pray for the Cool Spring Church in Browntown, Virginia.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Kyle and Jamie McClain and the North Hills Church in Springfield, OH.**
- 6 Pray for the Lord's Harvest International Mission Board.
- 7 **Praise God for the dedicated service of the staff of our college and conference.**
- 8 Praise God for the promise that Jesus will come a second time.
- 9 **Pray for Pastor Richard and Jan Alcumbrack and the Southlawn Church in MI.**
- 10 Pray for Pastor Mark and Terri Tschann and their work at Country Chapel, Michigantown, IN.
- 11 **Praise God for the ministries of your local church.**
- 12 Pray that God would lead you in the way of righteousness.
- 13 **Pray for those who are leading the work in the Philippine Islands.**
- 14 Pray for David Krogh and his work at the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College.
- 15 **Pray for your next-door neighbor(s) today.**
- 16 Pray for churches that are looking for pastoral leadership.
- 17 **Pray for a personal hunger to know God and Jesus better.**
- 18 Thank God for His goodness to you.
- 19 **Pray for the financial needs of the Church of God General Conference.**
- 20 Pray for the Korean Church that meets in the Johns Creek, GA ABCKE campus.
- 21 **Pray for an individual you know who has not accepted Christ.**
- 22 Pray for the pastors serving God in Pakistan.
- 23 **Pray for ABC Academic Dean Michael Cisler.**
- 24 Pray for encouragement for those who are separated from family and friends at this Christmas season.
- 25 **Praise God for the gift of His Son, Jesus.**
- 26 Pray for preparations for the new semester at ABC that will begin in January.
- 27 **Praise God for your pastor and/or elders and the ministry of your church.**
- 28 Pray for the work of native workers in Malawi and Mozambique.
- 29 **Pray for retired Pastor Connie Scott.**
- 30 Pray for revival throughout the Church of God in the coming year.
- 31 **Praise God for the way He has blessed you in 2025.**