



CHURCH OF GOD
GENERAL CONFERENCE

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

College/Conference Update

Relocation Updates

Over the past few months, relocation activity has been ongoing. Here are some quick updates.

The three empty lots reserved for future student houses in McDonough, GA, were sold to a builder for \$110,000.

The rezoning meeting in North Hampton went well, with much local support. The rezoning of the property was approved, and it may now be used for religious purposes.

A survey of the property was done, and a title search was concluded successfully.

The Rex Cain Foundation donated \$250,000, which will cover the \$200,000 purchase of the OH property and other associated costs, such as surveys, permits, etc.

Dave Kizer is a retired architect who is a long-time Church of God member from IN who designed a number of churches across the Church of God. He offered to do some preliminary consulting for us as we consider our building needs and design ideas. The board met with Dave to discuss his thoughts and our next steps. One step he recommended is finding an architect in OH who knows the local area.

The board met with Kapp Construction, a local design/build company, to interview them to potentially do our architectural work and construction.

We will continue to share plans as they develop so everyone can follow the progress.

Bible College Name Suggestions

Unsurprisingly, relocating Atlanta Bible College from Atlanta to OH will lead to a name change. While there isn't an official naming contest, people have sent suggested names. It's no surprise that the new location is not part of any of them. These are suggested names in alphabetical order:

Abrahamic Bible College
Christ College
Church of God College
First-Century Bible College
Kingdom Academy
Kingdom Bible College
Messiah Theological Seminary
National Bible Institute

New Creation Bible College
Restoration Bible College
Restoration Theological Institute
Resurrection Academy
Truth Seekers Bible College
Turning Point Bible College
Wilson Bible College (after Benjamin Wilson)



If you have a name you'd like to share, please email your idea to us at info@atlantabiblecollege.com.

Michael Cisler, Doctoral Degree Completed

Michael Cisler has been pursuing his doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration for the past three years, in addition to his duties as the academic dean of Atlanta Bible College. We want to congratulate him on completing his degree work and receiving his doctorate on Dec. 11 from the University of Southern Mississippi. He will now appear in our college catalog as Michael Cisler, Ed.D. He continues to bring excellence to our college and conference.

Talon Paul, North American Missions

Talon Paul has been named the Director of North American Missions. North American Missions is a department of the Church of God General Conference designed to help existing churches grow stronger, develop local leaders who add value to their churches, and work with small groups hoping to begin a new church. Much of this is still in development, and Talon is enthusiastic about helping spread the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ by investing in local churches. If you have questions or are interested, you can reach him at kingdomgospel138@gmail.com.

Bobby Partain, Archives

We want to thank Bobby Partain for his prior work with North American Missions before Talon's appointment. Bobby's passion and skill sets uniquely position him to continue working with the Church of God archives to capture and preserve historic documents. The archives preserve important materials from our history that not only document our movement's development, but they also establish a record of our doctrinal foundations. The Church of God has a varied and diverse background that should not be lost.

Blood River Church Fund Raiser—Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival

While we were working on our church building projects, it was apparent we would need to raise some external money to complete the last phase. We decided to look into the Strawberry Festival. The first Strawberry Festival was in 1972 and 15,000 people attended. Last year approximately 500,000 people attended the festival over three days! The objective of the festival is to support local strawberry farms and provide opportunities to local non-profits.

We had an individual that had worked in three previous booths at the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival and had connections on the festival board. This individual was tasked with securing information about participating. We were informed that we could sell crawfish pies. They are a Louisiana delicacy that looks like a half-moon pastry that contains a spicy sauce and peeled crawfish tails. Each nonprofit on the festival grounds is allowed one protected food item and the freedom to sell others as well as drinks from one of the festival sponsors.

In the meantime, one of our church members dined at a New Orleans seafood restaurant and had an appetizer of crawfish queso and chips. They adapted a cheese sauce recipe that they had, to create our own cheese sauce and added crawfish tails. It was decided to include this on the menu.

The first year, we made 48 gallons of the queso! The second year we made 72 gallons of queso. In the winter, we had many of our church members taking home prepared kits of ingredients and a recipe to cook the queso and freeze it until the festival in the spring. We had cheese drives and built a wall of donated Velveeta bricks in the front of the church. One day a visitor saw the wall of bricks and asked if Velveeta sponsors our church.

There are many challenges every year such as unthawing the frozen queso and crawfish tails fast enough during the peak times of the festival. Other

challenges included weather (heat, cold, rain), festival traffic, putting up a booth, tearing down the booth, transporting the booth, transporting equipment, preparing food, cooking food, serving food, dealing with vendors, buying supplies, festival board meetings, Louisiana state requirements, coordinating the booth, and the biggest is having an incredible work force that comes primarily from the church, our relatives and friends.



We have made money to help with our building project every year, even the year we rained out on a Saturday, the biggest and longest day of the festival. On a good year we now make about seven times more than the first year. Although the money is measurable and important, the closeness that comes from working toward a common goal and working together to achieve far beyond what we imagined, has made our body of believers, as well as those participating, collectively and individually stronger and closer! Not to mention the impact on those around us that marvel at how we treat each other and work together.

You may have noticed that I have not mentioned a single name, there are two reasons; 1. It is not possible to mention everyone that has had a hand in this ministry. 2. The timing, the way things have come together and the success we have enjoyed is just a glimpse of how God works through His people when we are all pulling in the same direction!—Jim Wilson

The Blood River Church is located in Springfield, LA and is pastored by John Wincapaw.

PROGRESS JOURNAL
VOLUME 53 NUMBER 1—January-March 2026 © 2026
 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.

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.



Atlanta Bible College Report
Michael Cisler, Academic Dean

Six students participated in our Fall Ministry Trip from October 11-19: Will Dunn (Garden Park Church of God, MI), Andrew Madonia (Family Bible Church, IN), Nik Ransom (Pennellwood Church of God, MI), Coleton Stacey (Lawrenceville Church of God, OH), Dylan Stormont (Oregon Church of God, IL) and John Evans (McGintytown Bible Church, AR), who joined us for our time in Arkansas. These students participated in leading worship services, preaching, joining in fellowship, and service. This ministry trip gave our students an opportunity to practice many of the concepts they have been learning in the classroom, while meeting folks from our churches and serving them through worship.

The team visited New Hope Church (AR), Clark Chapel (AR), McGintytown Bible Church (AR) pictured below, Forest Hills Church of God (AR), Cornerstone (TX), isolated members in Oklahoma City (OK), TruthPoint Bible Church (AZ) pictured above right, and Lakeshore Bible Church (AZ). These churches opened their homes to us, provided meals, and blessed the team in wonderful ways. Thank you to



those churches and people who provided the opportunity and support for this trip. You can find pictures of this trip below.

Atlanta Bible College celebrated a significant milestone recently. Our total scholarship balance surpassed \$1,000,000 for the first time! We only surpassed \$500,000 for the first time in 2020. To honor



the wishes of our donors, this money is restricted with a majority in principal for blessing and service to students. None of this money came from donations to the general fund. It is all part of the scholarship restricted funds.

Here is how we have realized such a blessed position. Since 2020, ABC has received over \$175,000 in memorial gifts, including seven families establishing memorial scholarships on behalf of loved ones or families remembering ABC scholarships in their estate planning. We appreciate those who remember ABC in these ways. In 2020, we also began using a sustainable approach to scholarship principal by restricting a portion of the earnings to increase the principal each year. One of our donor families designed this approach for the scholarship in memory of their loved one years ago, and it has served as a positive example for all of our scholarships today. It should also be noted, some of the \$1 million is earmarked for specific use beyond typical scholarships, such as staff education, internships, and counseling services for our students.

In the time that we increased our principal, we also provided over \$150,000 in scholarships to students, supported two students through counseling services, funded internships for five graduates, and provided support for two Masters degrees and one Doctorate for staff continuing education. We also have the resources to provide for the scholarship needs of our spring semester and the internship of our next graduate, John Evans.

If you are not already an active financial supporter of Atlanta Bible College and appreciate the ministry we are providing to our students and churches, please consider becoming a monthly donor (See coggc.org for giving online). Please consider remembering Atlanta Bible College in your estate planning, or in honoring a loved one. Your support is a tremendous blessing to our students.



Lord's Harvest

INTERNATIONAL

Annette Osborn, Coordinator
lhiannette@gmail.com

We are thankful to have been awarded the fall Church Builders' Appeal. The churches in Malawi and Mozambique were excited to learn they have not been forgotten following Hurricane Freddy in Feb.-Mar. 2023. Your gifts will help repair or replace their churches.

As we are in the winter season in North America, our foreign fields are in spring/summer. Please pray for timely rains as they plant their gardens, and for God's blessing of a good crop.

Each mission region is planning conferences for 2026. We will keep you updated as these unfold. In January there will be pastor/leadership training in Kenya, and in February and March. E and SW Uganda have outreach seminars planned.

The demand for the "Words of Truth" subject concordance to be translated and printed into new languages continues to be strong. This booklet, prepared years ago by Pastors Harry Goekler, Emory Macy, Gordon Landry, and James Mattison, lists scripture texts for many of the distinctive doctrines

which the Church of God holds dear. You can view this document at coggc.org under resources, archives, and pamphlets.

We made a large purchase of Bibles for Malawi and Mozambique.



A generous gift was given to replace a motorbike in Mozambique. We hope to provide for some others in the coming year. Some travel distances are too great for bicycles to be practical.

LHI is planning two trips to Africa in 2026: one to Malawi and another to Uganda. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for the team, please contact me to receive more information.

Thank you for your response to our Giving Tuesday campaign. We will have other fundraising suggestions throughout the year.

LHI is sending monthly updates to pastors and mission chairpersons. If your church is not receiving them, please contact David Krogh (dkrogh@atlantabiblecollege.com) to be put on this list.

With God's blessings coming through you, the truth is marching on!

LHI board: Sarah Johnson, Rebekah Martin, Steve Mattison, Annette Osborn, Marcia Railton, Moriah Railton, and Jon Welch

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension Report



We kicked off the 2025 fall semester on August 17, welcoming three new and twenty-six returning students, bringing our total enrollment to twenty-nine. They have collectively registered for 336 credit hours.

We are currently offering four Bible classes, two ministry classes, and two general subject classes, all taught by five dedicated instructors. Our core focus remains on teaching biblical truth and helping our students grow spiritually. One student, Siwon Woo, will graduate at the end of the semester. She has already applied for the Master of Arts in Divinity degree program at Reformed University in Lawrenceville, GA, which is accredited by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and has received an uncondi-



tional acceptance letter. Over the last three years, four students have enrolled in the Master of Arts in Divinity degree program at this school, located approximately 10 miles north of us. We anticipate having an ample number of instructors in the future. We, including the Korean Conference pastors, will continue to support our graduates in maintaining the Abrahamic Faith they acquired in the classrooms.



One inspiring event is the journey of Gyeong-gyun Kang (left), a student from South Korea who enrolled in the fall semester of 2021, led by his friend. Inspired by the Abrahamic Faith taught in the classroom, he has encouraged (almost insisted upon) his family in South Korea to leave
(continued on page 5)

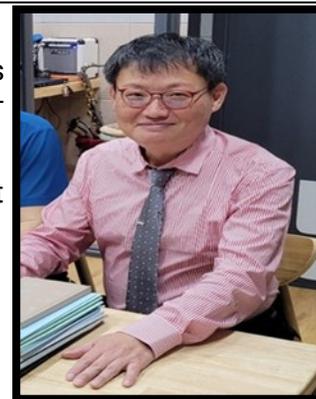
(continued from page 4)

their previous church and join the Yah-top Church of God in a nearby city. This church was planted and is currently pastored by Younghee An, a graduate of the Korean Extension. Pictured right is Sangho Kang, father of Gyeong-gyun.

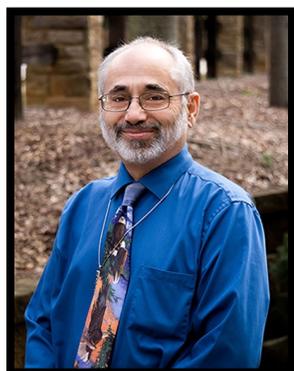
I believe it pleases God that the father and his family in South Korea, and his son at the North Campus, are learning the same truth: the Abrahamic Faith.

Steve An

Vice President ABC Korean Extension



Good News from COG-Land



From the **Ripley Church of God in Mount Sterling, IL** – **Pastor Rob Laning** shared a special in song – “The Peace My Savior Has Given.” The church always appreciates when people share their talents with the congregation.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – Several members of the congregation are to be congratulated for their achievements. **Heather Butler**, daughter of **Ken and Mary Welty**, earned the Illinois 9-1-1 Coordinator of the Year, and she was recognized at IPSTA, the state conference in Springfield on October 21. **Mandi Callaway** received the 2025 Holly Jack Outstanding Service Award for her work as administrative assistant to the superintendent and Board of Education and district office manager of Oregon CUSD 220. **Nickolas Hoffman** received his “Gold Wings” for 250 flights as a flight paramedic with “Flight for Life” in Burlington, Wisconsin. **John Tuttle** received the “Volunteer of the Year” award from the Oregon Chamber of Commerce. [Congratulations to all of you as you exemplify Christ’s character in your daily lives.]

From the **Eden Valley Church of God in Eden Valley, MN** – **Jill Peresko** coordinated a fundraising event for the Sunday School. A Hunter’s Lunch (hamburgers and soup) was held November 15. Everyone enjoyed a time of food and fellowship.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – The church was pleased to have **Pastor Isaac and Madison Cain** in October for special meeting services. There was a church dinner on Sunday, and each night ended with light refreshments. October also saw Fall Fun Night with a hot dog meal and all the trimmings, desserts, games for all ages, candy bags, and crafts for the kids. The church collected 59 boxes in the shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child program.

From the **Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN** – A women’s outing on Sunday November 9 went to the Minneapolis Gift and Art Expo. [Sounds interesting! – GNP] On November 15 the annual Harvest Supper was enjoyed by all who were in attendance.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – Many of the ladies of the church gathered for Ladies Night Out on November 14. The theme for the food was 1800s inspired dishes, such as Shoofly Pie, Beef Wellington, Butter Tarts, Panettone, Beef Stew, and the like. [My mouth is watering! – GNP] Games and delicious food were enjoyed by all. The church coordinated Blessing Bags for the homeless and helpless. The youth filled the bags with things that would be a blessing to someone in need. Members were encouraged to take a bag or two and give it to a homeless person they met in the coming weeks.

From the **Maple Grove Community Church in Kokomo, IN** – On October 3 the church handed out Bibles to over six hundred adults and children, along with some candy. [Great work, folks! – GNP]

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Dan and Rachel Cain** and family stopped in for a visit on September 29. Those who attended to renew our friendships enjoyed picnic suppers, games, and spirited conversation at Mix Park Shelter. The church has regularly collected boxes of needed goodies for deployed servicemen. This year the church asks for non-perishable items or money for postage or to purchase those things, such as hygiene products, dry food items, socks, batteries, hard candy, etc. One of the deployed servicemen is **Connor Young**. Saturday October 11 **Jenny Rodriguez** celebrated her retirement with an open house. Snacks, a meal, and a campfire were the order of the day for all to enjoy.

From the **Hutchinson Church of God in Hutchinson, MN** – The church was blessed to have **Jeff Moore** as a guest speaker, once in August and once in September. In November the church collected diapers to donate to the city’s Common Cup Ministry.

(continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

From the **Minnesota Conference of the Churches of God** – The third annual Women’s Enrichment Weekend (WEW) was held September 26-28. The theme was “Daughters of the Almighty Adorned with Grace.” Those who shared over the weekend included **Paula Kirkpatrick, Amanda Forcier, Nancy Rankin, Megan Hauber, Hannah Bormes, Jeff Moore, Carla Baixeras, Ashley McGarry, and Chondra Rankin.**

From the **Birthday and Anniversary Department** – **Roy Keebler** celebrated his 90th birthday at the Oregon COG. **Janie LaPage** (also Oregon COG) celebrated her 75th birthday on Saturday November 22. **Miriam Howard** (Pine Grove Bible Church) was honored at an open house in celebration of her 90th birthday. **Gaynell Hicks** (Bethel COG) celebrated turning 86 on October 18. **Don and Lynn Piram** (Eden Valley COG) celebrated their 50th anniversary on August 30 with an open house at their farm. Mu-

sic, hay rides, great food and fellowship were on the agenda. **Pastor Wally and Peggy Winner** (Bethel COG) celebrated their 53rd anniversary on October 21. [Congratulations to all of you folks! – GNP]

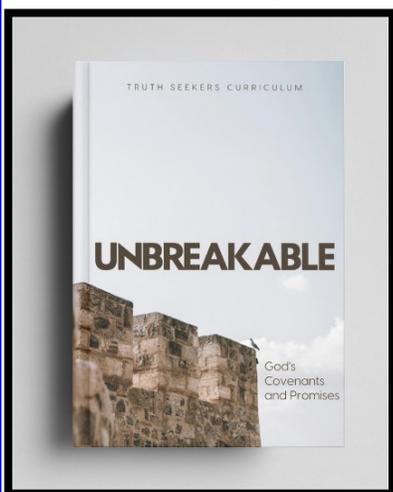
From the **Congratulations to Our Graduates Department** – **Kylie Pauls** (Eden Valley COG) graduated from Paynesville HS in May. **Hannah Bormes** graduated from North Lake Academy. **Sam Bormes** (also Pine Grove) graduated from Project Reach. **Philip Kirkpatrick** (Hutchinson HS), **Lauren Prissel** (Ellsworth, WI HS), and **Misha Zhykhovich** (St. Cloud State University), all from Pine Grove Bible Church, graduated recently. [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. Send to (rjones@atlantabiblecollege.com), and we’ll put you in print! Robert L. Jones

Truth Seekers Curriculum

Truth Seekers Curriculum was created to help people seek God’s truth together. This resource is designed for both individuals and churches, providing a solid biblical foundation for God’s truths. Whether you are a lifelong Christian or a new believer, Truth Seekers Curriculum can encourage and prompt you to take the next steps in your relationship with God and His Son, Jesus.

Truth Seekers Curriculum has had a real impact on the lives of those who use it. Talon from Indiana shared, "This booklet was an excellent read for anyone, no matter their level of biblical education. We used it in our weekly Bible Study with people from multiple backgrounds and everyone enjoyed it greatly! It is easy to read and digest, while also providing a solid biblical foundation."



Similarly, Cheryl from Nebraska said, "When I read this, parts of God that I logically knew about just clicked for me." These testimonies give insights into how the curriculum encourages and equips people to pursue spiritual growth.

To buy the latest edition, use the QR code to purchase *Unbreakable: God’s Covenants and Promises* on Amazon! This 13-lesson curriculum explores how God has faithfully fulfilled His covenants, including the ones with Adam, Abraham, and David. The same God who fulfilled those covenants is the same God who continues to keep His promises to believers today. Therefore, we can trust that He will still keep His promises to answer prayers, provide peace, and bring His perfect and future kingdom.

To stay informed about new curriculum releases, email truthseekers@coggc.org with your name to sign up for emailed updates!

This QR code takes you to the Amazon listing for Unbreakable - the latest curriculum.



The Development of Summit Youth Camp Ministries (SYCM)

by Leah Via

The Past

When the Ohio (Northeast Conference) summer youth ministry camp first started, it was called Northeast Junior Youth Camp. It was a summer camp where kids could connect with each other and develop a relationship with God. Year after year a group of hardworking and devoted adults hosted this camp for kids to escape “reality” and gather with like-minded believers. In the 1970s, it was under the direction of pastor Jim Ritch, who was at Lawrenceville. Later the camp was led by pastors Michael Hoffman, Steve Fewell, Seth Ross and Mark Tschaenn. Others joined to help: John Huston, Susan Bradley, Andrew Weaver, and Chris Lucas, who took over as director in 2022.

The name of the camp program was changed to SUMMIT (Students Understanding Ministry Motivated In Truth). In 2014, Chris Lucas initiated a base camp for SALT (Student Action Leadership Team) members after realizing that in order to truly reach kids, SUMMIT was going to need to be more than a summer camp. The base camp teams did work in the community of Troy. In 2022 the base camp program transitioned into more extensive mission work by traveling to other areas. Teams went to Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, as well as serving our local churches in Ohio. In 2025 we went to Kokomo, Indiana.

The Present - Personal Experience

I have attended SUMMIT Youth Camp for the past eleven years as well as the mission trips for the past four years. I started camp because my mom, Karen Via, became the

camp cook in 2014, and my older sister was there too. I always enjoyed the activities and lessons, and I can't really remember a summer without it. My favorite themes when I was a camper were Camp Christmas and Armor Up.

Once I reached high school age, in 2021, I became a SALT member and then in 2022, I joined the mission team. I'm not sure what led me to be a part of the mission team, but I'm glad that I did it because now I can say that helping other people is comfortable for me. As an introvert who was always shy and unsure in group settings, the mission trips didn't seem like my “place.” Over time, I became comfortable with the uncomfortable and found the strength to test my communication. I just recently graduated, and I can firmly say that since helping at camp and serving others, I now feel ready to help people outside of group missions. This year I was a counselor, a job that demands patience, communication, and responsibility. I loved it, and I can't wait to continue connecting with young kids who aren't very different from how I was just eleven years ago at my first camp.

The Future - Expanding

Looking toward the future endeavors of SYCM, we have plans for retreats for the older age group (high school-college), expanding our mission trips, and reaching more people. We will alternate between local and out-of-state trips. The hope is to do more work in the community, like working at soup kitchens, food banks, and various other service projects. With these mission trips, SYCM is seeking to not only work for our churches, but also for their communities. Attending mission trips is a fantastic way to build a firm foundation rooted in faith and service. Therefore, anyone is welcome to do missions with SYCM.

A CHURCH CAMP KID

by Chris Lucas

Several years ago, as we were sitting under the big white tent at camp during the week of SUMMIT, Julie Driskill asked me “How much time do you put into helping plan SUMMIT?” I was standing near the front of the tent, sweat dripping off my face and mosquitos buzzing my head. I had to pause for a moment to think. I then asked the question, “like how many days?” Julie nodded yes. I said, “I think about it like almost every day.”

I began helping at church camp around 1987 when it was Northeast Youth Camp under the direction of Michael Hoffman. I continued to join the staff of dedicated adults who gave up a week of their summer to pour into the lives of students grades 4-8 every year. I will forever cherish the friendships made over the years as I served on staff. Whether it was from late night chats, planning and playing practical jokes on other staff, or sitting in the kitchen retelling stories and getting in the cook's way, friendships were strengthened, and memories were made. I have since been able to watch many of the students who have passed through the weeks of SUMMIT grow into exceptional adults who serve in their church, some on SUMMIT staff, and others in their community. I have witnessed very shy students become chapel speakers, campfire leaders

and teachers as they continue to come back each year to serve on the SUMMIT staff.

Camp has proven to be a great steppingstone for many of the students into adulthood as they learn to develop godly relationships with others and learn to strengthen their own relationship with God. Camp has provided many students with a week away from the chaos at home and school and provided them with a week of peace and understanding where they can be themselves and be accepted. For some students it's a week they look forward to from the last day of camp to the first day of camp the next year. Many have asked if they could just stay at camp all year. Secretly that, too, is my wish, or have it for more than just one week. Kids love camp and the peace and security it provides. I am thankful for the many weeks that I spent as a camper, developing friendships and strengthening my foundation in Jesus as I continued to learn and grow.

I love to see on Facebook the state/district conferences within our General Conference that hold youth camps. I believe it to be a very vital time for students to learn to grow and develop stronger relationships with God and Jesus. It is a time where they can come together to worship and develop godly habits in their daily walk that will enrich their lives as they grow into adulthood.

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

I was a church camp kid, and I am certain that those weeks spent at camp helped develop who I am today. I was shy and felt awkward growing up, but camp was different. I didn't feel awkward at camp. I felt acceptance and I felt that it was okay to be awkward. If you grew up as a camp kid, you can probably relate to how important camp is in the development of a student's life. Camp gives us one week out of 52 to give a student the best Kingdom-like experience that will hopefully change their life for good.

Just a few weeks after we wrapped up our SYCM activities last June, tragedy struck a church camp in Texas where 27 students and staff lost their lives to a devastating flood. As I watched the news in the days after I couldn't help but think how I would have felt, acted, or spoke after such a tragic loss. I sent an email to our SYCM staff to let them know how much I appreciated their selflessness in volunteering for weeks to serve on staff for the SYCM activities. I also shared with them my heartache over such a tragedy, and that we too mourn with the families, staff and students who were affected by such loss. We mourned because we had a shared bond of church camp.

Camp has a way of uniting people across many boundaries and cultural differences because we all meet at camp

for the same purpose, to grow in our faith and to teach students to do the same. If your conference still provides a camp for the students that attend your churches, you are rich beyond measure. If not, look at some of the states nearby and encourage your students to participate in them. Camp should be an experience every student has the opportunity to experience while they are growing up.

As a church camp kid, I would like to thank all those adults who served on the staff of the camps I attended. The fact that each of you gave up a week during your summer to be involved in the lives of students seeking to have a kingdom-like experience is greatly appreciated. Our students need camp experiences now more than ever to get a healthy biblically-based foundation to build their lives upon.

If you are part of a conference that is having a summer church camp, begin praying for the staff as they plan for next year's camp and praying for the students who attend. If you are able to get involved in helping on the staff, do so. It will be a life-changing experience. Camp is an experience I believe everyone should have at least once in their lifetime. Take it from a church camp kid.



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



Transition of Leadership

I want to thank Bobby Partain for his tireless efforts on North American Missions over the last few years, and for his personal mentorship in preparing me to become the new director. Working together on this for the last three years has been one of the biggest blessings to my ministry experience.

to have fellowship that are not close to a COGGC church, please reach out.

Church Planting Material Creation

We have been working this last quarter on creating material to help those who are interested in church planting. We plan to have a booklet, study guide, and video content available in 2026. In addition, we will be attempting to create a church planting "Coaching Network" of experienced church planters to aid and encourage those who are attempting to create a church fellowship. More to come soon!

Church Planting Opportunities

We continue to receive contacts from people that desire fellowship across the country, making connections in at least five states over this last quarter. This is truly great news as more people come to the truths that the COGGC proclaims! Through those connections, we are actively pursuing *new* church planting opportunities in the following areas:

1. Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas
2. Central Missouri

Please be praying for the efforts to create fellowships in these two areas in 2026. If you are aware of anyone in these areas who would like to be involved, please reach out. Also, if you know of any others who desire

Our entire goal behind this is to make church planting as easy as possible for anyone that wants to create a church fellowship in their area. If you are interested in starting a church fellowship, please reach out. We would love to help!

Existing Church Assistance

As always, we want to continue helping our existing churches who might need assistance. We are seeking to offer Church Health Surveys for free, digital and in-person workshops to help strategize with your church towards growth, and financial assistance through the Ministry Outreach League. If your church could benefit from some assistance, please reach out. We all need a "hand-up" at some point. Let us help you grow together.

Churches Helping Churches



You are invited to become a member of the Church Builders' League. The League is a plan for sharing the cost of facilities for new and existing churches here and overseas.

Church of God members voluntarily join the League by asking to be included each time a new appeal is mailed. Two appeals per year are sent – in the fall and spring. Members are asked to contribute at least \$25 to each appeal, though many contribute more.



The League was organized in 1957 by action of General Conference delegates. Since its inception, 135 appeals have been issued, generating

\$1,724,155!



The current appeal is for construction and/or repair of churches in Malawi and Mozambique. Hurricane Freddy, the longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record, with a duration of 36 days, destroyed many churches in its path in the spring of 2023. Immediate help was given to these churches through contributions to the Lord's Harvest International, but many more buildings still need to be rebuilt or repaired.

The cost of rebuilding a church ranges from \$2,000 to \$2,500. Buildings that need to be totally replaced will cost at least \$3,000 each. Many of these congregations have 100-200 people in attendance per Sunday.

At one time, more than 1,000 Church of God members, churches, and groups participated in this League. If you do not currently receive appeals, please join by sending your name to: info@coggc.org or to 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253. If you wish to give to the current appeal, you can mail a check to this address, or you can give online at coggc.org – donate – and scroll down to Church Builders League – fall 2025. This is a meaningful way to easily serve those who are in need.

Calendar of Events

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

June 4-6—National Women of the Truth Conference, Oregon Church of God, Oregon, IL

June 15-20—Midwest Family Camp at Milford, IN

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

July 29-August 2—140th Annual Iowa State Conference at Waterloo, IA

August 4-5—21st Annual Heritage Conference at Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

August 5-7—106th Annual General Conference at Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

Sept. 25-27—Women's Enrichment Weekend at Long Lake Bible Camp near Eden Valley, MN

Future Heritage and General Conferences:

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

Church News

Baptisms

Georgia

McDonough – Cornerstone – **Brandon Mercier** (11/23/25) by David Krogh and **Brandon Mercier, Jr.** (11/23/25) by his father Brandon Mercier.

Illinois

East Oregon – **Nikolas Mummert** (8/10/25) by Rick Eldred.
Oregon – **Johanna Hahne** (11/2/25) by Pastor Michael Hoffman and **Randy O'Brien** (11/2/25) by Pastor Nathan Massie.

Deaths

Arkansas

McGintytown—**Mary Louise Holloway**, 74, (5/21/24), long-time member.

Illinois

East Oregon—**Tracy Gilbert**, 59, (10/22/25), member by Talon Paul.

Macomb—**C. Jesse Pestle**, 91, (10/18/25), 1960 graduate of OBC; pastored churches in Dixon, IL and Columbia Station, OH.

Oregon—**Jimbo Callaway**, 61, (10/3/25), long-time member; **Bill Snow**, 70, (9/30/25); **Ann Martin**, 86, (12/1/25), member, all by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

Indiana

Plymouth – North Salem—**James Leatherman**, 80, (9/6/25), long-time member by Pastor Bob Collier.

New York

Latham, NY – Living Hope Community—**Mimi Finnegan**, 75, (9/10/25) wife of Pastor Vince Finnegan and mother of Pastor Sean Finnegan.

Ohio

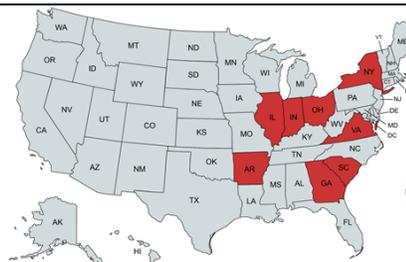
Urbana - Chapel Hill—**Don Wood**, 89, (9/6/25), long-time member by Pastor Jeff Ludden.

Springfield – North Hills—**Michael Daugherty**, 87, (8/22/25), isolated member.

South Carolina

Pelzer – Bethel—**Judy McAbee**, 82, (9/25/25), member by Pastor Wally Winner.

Pelzer – Guthrie Grove—**Jeff Fletcher**, 62, (11/22/25), graduated from Oregon Bible College in 1986. He pastored the East Oregon, IL Chapel, started a church in Milton Keynes, England, and served the Happy Woods Church in Hammond, LA, Bethel Church in Pelzer, SC, and Cool Spring Church in Browntown, VA. He also did chaplaincy work. He was active in Church of God national youth ministry; served as editor of THE RESTITUTION HERALD and co-editor of the Journal from the Radical Reformation. He was pastor's pastor for the Church of God Ministerial Association. He served a term on the Board of Directors.



Places where baptisms and deaths took place

Jeff received his Master of Divinity degree from Eastern Mennonite Seminar in 2018 and completed his Doctor of Ministry from Vanderbilt in 2024.

Jeff and Karen (Burnham) raised 11 children, and he is also survived by 17 grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at the Guthrie Grove Church led by Pastors Andy Cisneros, Jon Welch, and Alan Cain, with participation by many others.

Catherine McAlister, 71, (11/23/25) life-long member by Pastor Mike Montgomery.

Virginia

Front Royal—**Debbie Humphreys Walty**, 68, (11/17/25) daughter of deceased Pastor Roy Humphreys by Pastor Chris Seiders.

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; Eden-valleychurchofgod@hotmail.com. Please respond by Feb. 1. 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 Eliska Fautleroy 985-320-9067 or Carola Landry 225-275-9202, carola.r.landry@gmail.com.

Upcoming Women's Conferences

National Women of the Truth Conference, June 4-6, 2026 at Oregon, IL Church of God. The theme is "Grounded" based on Colossians 2:7. Watch for details at oregoncog.com.

Women's Enrichment Weekend, Sept. 25-27, 2026 at MN State Conference Campground. Watch for information/registration at mncogconference.org.

Prayer and Praise Items

January

- 1 **Pray that God will direct every area of your life.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Steve and Jill Taylor and TruthPoint Bible Church in Payson, AZ.
- 3 **Pray for Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the Simple Teachings Bible Church in Locust Grove, GA.**
- 4 Praise God for the purchase of land in North Hampton, OH for the new college/conference facilities.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and their ministry at Fort Valley, VA.**
- 6 Praise God that we can be a part of the family of God.
- 7 **Pray for the outreach ministries of your church.**
- 8 Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as they start their spring semester studies next week.
- 9 **Pray for ABC instructors as they teach during the spring semester.**
- 10 Praise God for a recent answer to a prayer.
- 11 **Pray for Seth Ross, Executive Director of Church of God General Conference and President of ABC.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Levi and Katelyn Salyers and the Lakeshore Bible Church in Tempe, AZ.
- 13 **Pray for youth in our churches.**
- 14 Praise God for Korean Churches of God in South Korea.
- 15 **Praise God for financial and prayer supporters of the college/conference.**
- 16 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Jesus as Savior.
- 17 **Pray for teachers in your local church.**
- 18 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Jeannie Ransom and the Pennellwood Church in Wyoming, MI.
- 19 **Praise God for the freedom to worship Him.**
- 20 Pray for Higher Ground Church in White House, TN.
- 21 **Pray for your pastor and family.**
- 22 Praise God for the work of those preparing Christian education materials.
- 23 **Praise God for those who give of their time and talents in serving on conference advisory committees.**
- 24 Pray for your nation's leaders.
- 25 **Pray for God's blessings on ABC Korean Extension students and staff.**
- 26 Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.
- 27 **Pray for opportunities to start new churches.**
- 28 Pray for retired Pastor Larry and Karen Mayberry.
- 29 **Pray for the church in Magazine, AR.**
- 30 Praise God for the students who are preparing for ministry at ABC.
- 31 **Pray for "shut-in" members who cannot meet regularly with other believers.**

February

- 1 **Pray for our Ministerial Association Leadership Team.**
- 2 Pray for the students at ABC and ABC Korean Extension to know God's leading in their lives and ministries.
- 3 **Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ.**
- 4 Praise God for your family and friends.
- 5 **Pray for Anthony and Barbara Buzzard and the Restoration Church of God in Fayetteville, GA.**
- 6 Pray for the members of your church family.
- 7 **Praise God for the direction He provides for your life.**
- 8 Pray for Pastor Alan and Susan Cain and the Lawrenceville, OH church.
- 9 **Pray for the brethren in the Philippines.**
- 10 Pray for God to show you how and where to serve.
- 11 **Pray for the development of plans for the relocation of the college/conference to North Hampton,, OH.**
- 12 Praise God for the opportunities He has provided for outreach in numerous foreign countries.
- 13 **Praise God for the board of directors and its leadership.**
- 14 Pray for the ministries of your local church.
- 15 **Pray for youth and youth ministries in the Church of God.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Younghee An and the work in South Korea.
- 17 **Pray that God will raise up donors for ABC's financial needs.**
- 18 Pray for the preparation for the annual ministers conference next month in Rockford, MI.
- 19 **Pray for churches that are seeking pastors.**
- 20 Pray for Pastor Scott Ellison and the Rock Solid Church in Howard City, MI.
- 21 **Pray for Pastor Nathan and Sarah Massie as Nathan serves as associate pastor of the church in Oregon, IL.**
- 22 Pray for someone you know who is in need of healing (physical, emotional, or spiritual).
- 23 **Pray for the staff at the college/conference.**
- 24 Pray for the students who attend scheduled retreats.
- 25 **Pray that Jesus will return to earth soon.**
- 26 Pray for the Board of Directors and Seth Ross as they make decisions about the relocation of the college/conference to Ohio.
- 27 **Pray for Pastor Isaac and Madison Cain and the Jaynes St. Church of God in Omaha, NE.**
- 28 Pray for our pastors in Africa.

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

Address Service Requested



_____	NON PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 1371

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

Prayer and Praise Items (continued from page 11)

March

- 1 **Pray for a spirit of unity in the bond of peace.**
- 2 Pray for retired Pastor Tom and Debbie New.
- 3 **Pray for Pastor Josiah and Amber Cain and the work at the North Kent Bible Church in Rockford, MI.**
- 4 Pray that God will raise up missionary candidates.
- 5 **Pray for the planning and preparation for Christian Workers Seminar 2026.**
- 6 Pray for Denise Cramer, Operations Manager at the Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College.
- 7 **Pray for those considering attending Atlanta Bible College in the future.**
- 8 Pray for strength to overcome temptation and for power in the battle against sin in the world.
- 9 **Pray for Pastor Peter and Jeannie Anson and the work of the Cornerstone Church in Gatesville, TX.**
- 10 Praise God for a new day.
- 11 **Pray for Pastor Daniel and Sarah Calcagno and the Glad Tidings Church, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada.**
- 12 Praise God for those who have provided spiritual instruction for you.
- 13 **Pray for Pastor Wally and Peggy Winner and the work at Joy Fellowship and Bethel Churches in South Carolina.**
- 14 Praise God for all who have dedicated their lives to ministry.
- 15 **Pray that God would give vision to those serving on the board of directors as they guide the General Conference.**
- 16 Pray for the annual ministers conference that begins today at the North Kent Church in Rockford, MI.
- 17 **Pray for the contacts with churches and Bible colleges in South Korea.**
- 18 Pray for an opportunity to share God's love with someone.
- 19 **Pray for Pastor Robin and Marissa Todd and the Western Washington congregation.**
- 20 Pray for students and staff of the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension.
- 21 **Pray for those who are searching God's Word for answers to life's problems.**
- 22 Pray for God's blessing on your family.
- 23 **Pray for the leaders of your government.**
- 24 Praise God for your pastor's commitment to ministry.
- 25 **Praise God for those who provide prayer and financial support for the college/conference ministries.**
- 26 Pray for the church work in Malawi, Mozambique, Kenya, and Uganda.
- 27 **Pray for the ministry of your church elders.**
- 28 Pray for Pastor Chuck and Marilee LaMattina and Grace Fellowship at Front Royal, VA.
- 29 **Praise God for the sacrifice of His Son for our sins.**
- 30 Praise God for new attendees at your local congregation.
- 31 **Praise God for the ministry taking place in the African Churches of God connected to the General Conference.**