



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 Invitation to Continued Prayer

We ask you to continue praying for God’s wisdom and guidance as decisions are made over the coming months. We want to be good stewards, make wise decisions, and recognize God’s leading, not only in issues related to relocation, but as we partner with churches and ministries spreading the truth about Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.

Architectural Program

Before contacting potential builders, we worked with Dave Kizer, who walked us through developing an “Architectural Program” that defines what the building(s) should accomplish. This includes a list of rooms, their uses, suggested sizes, how they should interact with other spaces, occupancy expectations, and required equipment. An Architectural Program also includes details on aesthetics, build quality, budgets, operating costs, and timelines. It was a complex process but very valuable.

Builder Interviews and Selection Process

Board member Alan Cain contacted several local design/build companies that could work with us. After narrowing down the list, the board met via Zoom with two builders, both of whom have previously worked with COG churches.

Before meeting with them, we sent each of them the Architectural Program we developed with Dave Kizer. Each builder provided a very preliminary estimate of the project’s total cost based on our needs. The first builder estimated the project cost at \$7-\$8 million. The second builder estimated the project cost at approximately \$4-\$4.5 million. Both estimates exceed the \$3.2 million discussed at General Conference for construction. However, they include site preparation costs, which were not included in the General Conference projection.

We are working with the company whose estimate was lower of the two to design the new campus. They built the current Pleasant Hill Church of God in 2020. The first phase includes preparing design and engineering drawings, which should be completed within several months. During this period, additional financial discussions will take place, and no decision to proceed with construction will be made until a solid plan is developed. They will work with us to control construction costs when that time comes.

OH Meeting

Michael Cisler, Seth Ross, Dave Kizer, and Alan Cain met with our design/builder at Lawrenceville COG on Jan 23. We spent several hours discussing the first draft of building designs for two buildings (an administrative/classroom

building and a student residential building). Dave brought several architectural sketches and design ideas that were very helpful. We are now awaiting a second round of drawings reflecting the changes we suggested.

Bible College in OH

In communicating with the Ohio Department of Higher Education, we were pleased to learn that we can continue to use the word 'college' in our name. We also confirmed that, as a religiously exempt institution, we will not be permitted to award bachelor's or associate's degrees unless we gain accreditation. This was not a surprise, and we are not anticipating any issues with the move from the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Property Sale

The sale of the three vacant building lots in McDonough, GA, closed successfully on Nov. 17, 2025. We are discussing the appropriate timing to list the Avalon building.

Donations to the Archives

We are grateful for two recent donations to the General Conference archives. First, thank you to Wendy Johnston, who donated a portion of the flannelgraph characters used by Verna Thayer (right) during her ministry to children. Verna settled in McGintytown, AR, in the 1950s and lived there for her remaining years. Second, thank you to Roger and Aline Jones for donating handmade Bible and prophecy timeline banners created by her grandfather, C.E. Weaver, in the 1930s. They measure over 10 feet in length and colorfully illustrate his understanding of biblical prophecy.



Focus on Prayer

by Marcia Railton



The Church of God General Conference is at a unique point in history. Now is a fantastic time to pray for the needs of our conference, college, staff, students, people and programs, decisions to be made, finances to be healthy, our campus to be built well, and our work, both individually and corporately, to be pleasing to the Lord God. We need God's wisdom and direction during this exciting time as decisions made could have long term financial and spiritual implications for the Church of God. We also need God's help and guidance to be spiritually healthy churches, families and individuals, which also plays a vital role in the health, direction, and opportunities of the General Conference.

What a privilege it is to come before our Maker, and in fact, the Maker of the entire universe in prayer! "Cast all your cares on Him because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7) and sustains you (Psalm 55:22). Jesus tells us the parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18 to remind us to be consistent and persistent in bringing our requests to God in prayer. But it is not just our cares and requests God desires to hear. It can be helpful to think of the acronym ACTS when we pray.

Adoration (*Psalm 34:1*)
 Confession (*Psalm 66:18-19*)
 Thanksgiving (*Psalm 107*)
 Supplication (*Philippians 4:4-7*)

Prayer is not merely turning in our fix-it list to our all-powerful God, so we can then return to our comfy couch or selfish pursuits. Prayer is a beautiful opportunity to bring our hearts to the One who created them – acknowledging how great and awesome He is, how we have failed, how much we need Him, how thankful we are for what He has already done, as well as our needs and what we desire. There is nothing we can tell God that He doesn't already know (Psalm 139:4). He is not surprised by our needs (Matthew 6:8). But our Heavenly Father still loves to hear from His children. And, as we take time in prayer, we can also hear from Him what it is that He wants us to do for Him.

Here are some prayer list ideas grouped together in the ACTS format which can be used in prayer time for you, your ministry, your church and the General Conference and college. God bless you in your time of prayer with Him. May we seek Him always and draw closer and closer to Him and what He desires for us individually, for our families, for our churches, and for the Church of God General Conference.

PRAYER LIST IDEAS

ADORATION

Dear God - we praise You for who You are! Some of Your amazing characteristics which make You worthy of our praise are _____. (You can tell God how you have seen these characteristics in Him and why they are important to you.)

CONFESSION

Forgive me, Father, for the times I have not put You first, have chased false gods, and have failed to do Your work, in Your way, with all that You have provided. (Bring your own examples to God).

I confess my sin (name yours). Selfishness, stubbornness, pride, greed, fear, etc... keeps me from You. Help me see more clearly my own sins and faults, recognize how You want me to change and grow, and be dedicated to the task of becoming more and more like Your Son Jesus.

Help me forgive others, so I can be forgiven by You, Lord. As an individual, as a family, as a church, as a conference, as the body of Christ, as a country, as the human race, we are sinners, and we have fallen short. Help us turn to You to be forgiven, cleansed, heard, and healed.

THANKSGIVING

Father God, we thank you for Your forgiveness!

The awesome beauty and incredible function of God's amazing creation (list some you are particularly thankful for today).

The gift of human life, the miracles of seeing and hearing and tasting and breathing and speaking and heart pumping and every organ and cell with its specialized job.

All God has given to us in the gifts of Jesus, God's Spirit, scriptures, salvation, adoption into His family, and our Kingdom hope.

Our churches, pastors, leaders, our brothers and sisters in Christ, the spiritual gifts and talents from God - our own as well as those given to others to build up the body of Christ, and the mission You have given Your people.

The devoted staff and students of the General Conference and college – past, present and future. We thank God for the heritage of the previous 105 years of the organized Church of God General Conference. Thank You, God, for those who introduced us to Jesus and taught, are teaching, and will teach us, God's Word (name those you can). The headquarters and campuses through the years in Oregon, Morrow, and McDonough and the lives changed in each. And, we thank God for the 10.42 acres of land in North Hampton, Ohio, which we believe God led us to, allowed us to purchase at a great price, and provided the funds to do so. We thank God for the lives that will be impacted there.

The many donors and every financial and material gift generously given to our churches, the General Conference, our college, and ministries in order to do the work God has appointed.

God's faithfulness, again and again and again! From Creation to the coming Kingdom and every day in between!

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(Thank God for how He has shown His faithfulness to you.)

(What else do you give God thanks for?)

SUPPLICATION

Help us to be thankful! Help us to not take for granted the goodness of all Your gifts, including the people You have put into our lives.

Help us to be faithful with all You have given, including the gift of time. (See thanks list above, including your additions. What will it look like to be faithful with each of these gifts?)

Help me, my family, my church, and the General Conference, college and ministries stand strong daily in the truth of God's Word, continually learning and also passing along a love for You and the truths You have revealed. Show us and guide us in exactly how You have called us to share both Your love and Your truth to our families, churches and the world in need.

We pray for your Spirit of wisdom, love, unity, protection and guidance upon each of the conference and college staff, ministries, and committee members: the Executive Director and President, Academic Dean, Teaching Faculty, Korean Extension, Library and Archives, Church Services, Business Office (including Financial Director, Office Manager, Front Desk, HR, IT, Maintenance and Event Planning), Student Housing, Publishing, Marketing, Fundraising, Recruiting, North American Missions, Turning Point Youth Ministries, Lord's Harvest International, ABC Development Foundation, Investment Committee, Alumni Association, and the Board of Directors. We pray for their strength, health and dedication to You, and also for their families.

We pray for the current and future students of our Bible college, including the Korean Extension. Bless their desire to learn Your Word and grow in their knowledge, understanding, wisdom and ministry skills. May they be encouraged and supported and become strong spiritual leaders forever devoted to You and Your Son and the mission of helping people become more like Jesus in preparation for the coming Kingdom of God.

We pray for the North Hampton, Ohio, General Conference headquarters and college campus building process - for wise decision making, design and building details, safety and health for all workers, a peaceful and joyful job site, and a favorable timeline that will all result in a beautiful, functional home for the conference and college to work for the Lord.

We pray for the finances needed to fully design, prepare, build, finish, furnish, and beautify the buildings and grounds as well as to continue the current daily responsibilities, and also support any additional ministries that God leads us to. Guide the fundraising efforts, and the financial decisions so Your money is generously received and also used wisely so that Your work will continue well

through the next generations. Bless all the givers.

We pray for those who have faithfully answered Your call to ministry and serve as Church of God pastors. Keep their hearts devoted to You. Give them wisdom and endurance to lead their flock through the narrow gate. Protect their health and families.

We pray also for those in other church leadership roles and every congregation. Working together, may Your church bring honor to You in the ways they worship, serve, make disciples, fellowship, and evangelize. May our love for You and for others be evident and contagious. Help our churches grow spiritually.

Fill us with Your compassion for the sick and the lost. May our concern for the lost never take us outside of Your will and way. I specifically pray for... (insert names of 1-4 family/friends in need of a Savior) and my ministry to them. The harvest is plentiful. We pray for more workers, pastors, teachers, Bible college students, church members to respond to the need and serve. Help me, our churches and conferences be an active, bold, bright light: teaching, baptizing, and making obedient disciples until Jesus' return.

Help us find and support those who are seeking You, Your truth, and Your way. Lead us to open doors and keep us from going in directions You do not want us to go.

Protect us, our families, churches, the General Conference and college from evil. May we stand strong against temptation, deception, and worldly influences. Give us discernment and keep us from both beliefs and behaviors that go against You and Your Word.

Help me yield to You, Lord God, so Your will becomes my will, even when it's something I did not desire on my own. Show me what You want from me, God. Your will and Your way is always better than my own.

May our work, attitudes, actions, and words be pleasing to You, God.

May Your Spirit fill us, unite us, empower us and lead us.

May we be faithfully serving with clean hands and pure hearts until we rest in the grave and/or we hear the trumpet sound. May we hear our Master Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

As we move forward in faith and in ministry - pray continually. As we see in Daniel 9:23, sometimes as soon as God's people start praying, God sends an answer. Maybe sometimes, God waits for us to ask before He acts. Please pray continually, for your work and your heart, your pastor, your church, our General Conference and college, to be led by God where only He can take us.

(Marcia attended Oregon Bible College in 1989-90. She and her husband Jason attend the Timberland Church in South Bend, IN. They have three children, Moriah, Josiah, and Makayla (she is married to ABC student Camden Bormes, and they are active at the Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA). Marcia was elected to the Board of Directors of the college/conference in the summer of 2025.)

Summer General Conference

The 106th Annual General Conference will be held August 5-7, 2026 at Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA.

The theme of the conference is: **Pillars and Pathways**. We not only will be focusing during the coming year on the construction of a new campus in North Hampton, OH, but also on the ministries that will help us promote truth and strengthen our churches.

Registration fees are \$100 per person ages 18+ and free for ages 0-17. This fee covers meals and the administration of the conference. Enrollees will make their own lodging arrangements.

For online event and registration information, go to: generalconferenceevent.com.

For contact information call 678-833-1839 or email info@coggc.org.

Check-in will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5 followed by dinner at 5:00. The conference will end on August 7 after the evening service.

The program will include morning devotions, followed by workshops and meetings of the Ministers Association, Priscillas, Alumni Association, and Ministers Voluntary Retirement Association. Evening services will include messages along with a presentation of Distinguished Alumni Awards, recognition of newly licensed ministers, and the installation of the Board of Directors.

Make plans to attend this important conference, as well as take advantage of many sightseeing opportunities in the Atlanta area.



Annual Ministers' Conference

The theme of the 2026 Annual Ministers' Conference was Journey to Wholeness based on Colossians 3:12-15. The conference was held at North Kent Bible Church in Rockford, MI.

The program included a discussion of the statement of faith contained in the General Conference constitution. Several proposed revisions were approved which were submitted to the Board of Directors. The Board is proposing these changes as found on page 5 of this issue. They will be voted on at the summer conference by the delegates. A session was held on the restoration of Israel. The guest presenter was Sean Nemecek, the author of "The Weary Leader's Guide to

Burnout." His sessions were helpful in learning how to prevent burnout and recovery from it.

At the business session, Jon Welch was elected to serve as Pastor's Pastor. J. J. Fletcher, Brian Froehlich and Curt Rowden were elected to positions on the Ministerial Association Leadership Team (MALT).

It was announced that the 2027 conference will be held at Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA, February 22-25.



Proposed Constitution and By-Laws Amendments

The Bethel Church of God (Pelzer, SC) proposes adding the following sections 9-11 to Article IV of the Church of God General Conference constitution. (Existing sections 1-8 deal with the election of officers for the board, qualifications of directors, how nominations and voting is handled, the length of term, and how to handle vacancies).

ARTICLE IV Officers of the Conference

Additional Sections

Section 9. No candidate for director or elected director shall have a close relative (spouse, child, parent, sibling) as a paid employee of the college/conference.

Section 10. No candidate for director shall have a close relative (spouse, child, parent, sibling) already on the Board of Directors.

Section 11. No candidate for director shall have a person from their home congregation already on the Board of Directors.

Explanation: The purpose of the proposed new section 9 is to avoid the appearance of impropriety between the Board of Directors and the paid employees of the College/Conference. If the Board of Directors found it necessary to review an employee's conduct and needed to consider the dismissal of the employee, a close relative may not be able to make an unbiased decision.

The purpose of the proposed new section 10 is to avoid the appearance of impropriety among the members of the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors who are close relatives may be perceived as a voting bloc that could pressure the decisions of the other members.

The purpose of the proposed new section 11 is to avoid the appearance of impropriety among the members of the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors who are from the same congregation may be perceived as a voting bloc that could pressure the decisions of the other members.

By-Laws, Article 1, Statement of Faith

After consideration by the Church of God Ministerial Association at its meeting in March, the Board of Directors proposes the following changes to the Statement of Faith.

Recommended Change #1

It is proposed to revise the wording of point **A. GOD**

Current: We believe that only one person is God, and that He is a literal corporeal being—almighty, eternal, immortal, and the Creator of all things.

Proposed: We believe that there is only one God, the Father alone, who is almighty, eternal, immortal, and the creator of all things.

Explanation: Remove the phrase, "a literal corporeal being," because of the confusion caused by the word "corporeal." Some believe the word "corporeal" recognizes God's physical appearance in Scriptures and also allows for Him to exist as spirit. Others believe the word inhibits God's ability to appear as spirit and contradicts the Scriptures' assertion that God is also spirit. The inclusion of "corporeal" is unnecessarily divisive and does not add anything to the Statement of Faith that is fundamentally consequential.

Recommended Change #2

It is proposed to revise the wording of point **B. JESUS CHRIST**

Current: "We believe that Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary, is the sinless and only begotten Son of God. **He existed only from his birth.**"

Proposed: "We believe that Jesus Christ is the sinless and only begotten Son of God, who came into existence at his conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary."

Explanation: Including "existed only from his birth" denies his existence as a person within the womb of Mary. Recognizing his existence from conception is consistent with our understanding of human life both scientifically and Scripturally, since God knows us in the womb.

Recommended Change #3

The Ministers Association is asked to select one of the two following proposed revisions to the wording of point **G. THE CHURCH OF GOD**

Current: "**G. THE CHURCH OF GOD.** We believe that the Church of God is **the** scriptural name for that body of people who have been called out from among all nations through obedience to the gospel plan of salvation. Christ is the head of the Church, and the nature, work, and government of the Church are set forth in the New Testament.

Proposed Change: "**G. THE CHURCH.** We believe that the Church is the body of people who have been called out by God from among all the nations through obedience to the gospel plan of salvation. Christ is the head of the Church, and the nature, work, and government of the Church are set forth in the New Testament.

Explanation: This change broadens the reference to the church so that it is not limited to our organization, the Church of God. It acknowledges that God is working through the church established by Jesus, rather than identifying that work exclusively with our denomination.

These proposed amendments are being published in multiple conference publications prior to the 2026 summer Conference and will be voted on by the delegates August 5-7 at Cornerstone Bible Church, 180 Nail Dr., McDonough, GA.

Nomination for Board of Directors

At the summer conference, one director will be elected to the board of directors. The term of Talon Paul expires, and he may not be re-nominated. The board consists of several directors elected by delegates. The term is for four years. Continuing board members are Robert Alcumbrack, Alan Cain, Mark Cain, Shane Martin, Joe Myers, and Marcia Railton. The following individual has been nominated.

Larry Bolhous

My name is Larry Bolhous, and I am honored to be nominated by the Oregon, IL Church of God for a position on the conference board. These are exciting times for our conference, and I look forward to the possibility of being a part of them.

I have been married to Virginia Kastner for over 54 years. We are blessed with three children and eight grandchildren.

I grew up in Oregon Illinois. While working at Pineway Super Market, I met Don Needham and worked with him in the meat department. We had good discussions about religion, and I discovered my beliefs aligned closely to the Church of God doctrine.

After high school graduation, I attended OBC for 1½ years. I was drafted and served in the Army for 2 years. Virginia and I moved back to Dixon, Illinois where I worked for a small grocery chain as a meat manager and store manager.

Eventually, we bought a grocery store in Winnebago Illinois which we owned for over 30 years. After closing the store, I worked as a meat merchandiser and buyer in Kenosha Wisconsin. When asked to move to the Nebraska warehouse that was eight hours from family, I declined. I accepted a meat supervisor position over 25 stores with Piggly Wiggly. My central location was Monroe, Wisconsin, which was just an hour away from family.

The Oregon Church of God has been our home church since we returned home from the Army. We raised our children in that church. I have served as a youth leader, Sunday School teacher, Sunday School director, board director and elder in the Oregon Church. I have served with pastors Clarence Lapp, Hollis Partlowe and Michael Hoffman.

I have been retired for three years. I have been enjoying a part-time job at the local golf course in the pro shop. Retirement has allowed me much more time to read and study the Bible. I enjoy preaching, and I have the privilege to speak at a small church 30 minutes

from Monroe once a month. The rest of the time we are back home at the Oregon Church of God.

Thank you for your consideration. Larry Bolhous

CHURCH OF GOD ONLINE

Abrahamic Faith Resources—abrahamicfaith.org
 Atlanta Bible College—atlantabiblecollege.com
 Church of God General Conference—coggc.org
 ABC Korean Extension—abcke.org
 Lord's Harvest International—lhicog.com
 Turning Point Youth Ministry—tpym.com

OTHER SITES TO EXPLORE

focusonthe kingdom.org (Anthony Buzzard)
KOGmissions.com (Tracy Zhykhovich)
restitutio.org (Sean Finnegan)
21stcr.org (Dan Gill)
scatteredbrethren.org (Robin Todd)
thegodofjesus.com (Kegan Chandler)
trinities.org (Dr. Dale Tuggy)
unitarianChristianalliance.org (Dale Tuggy, Kegan Chandler, Mark Cain, and Sean Finnegan)
thegoodnewsherald.wordpress.com (Michael Brown)

Women's Conference 2026

grounded

Building a firm foundation

Colossians 2:6-7
 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

June 4th - June 6th

Early Bird Registration by May 7th
 Adults \$35
 Teens \$25
 Household of 4+ \$100
 After May 7th add \$10
 Price includes dinner Thursday,
 Lunch and Banquet Friday,
 and Lunch Saturday
 To register go to:
<https://forms.gle/mbM7vWWBjnFLiZTL9>

Oregon Church of God
 860 W. Oregon Trail Rd.
 Oregon, IL 61061

Hurricane Helene—North Carolina Ministry Trip

By Tab Lobell

My wife, Lynette, and I were on a trip for our 30th anniversary just after Hurricane Helene hit and devastated parts of South Carolina and North Carolina. Our son-in-law, Levi Walters, who grew up in the Guthrie Grove Church in Pelzer, South Carolina, was putting together a trip with his friend Addison, also from the area, to go help their families and others in and around Pelzer.

We own one of those big platforms that plugs into a receiver that we had loaned to someone, and we could not remember who. I made a post on Facebook, trying to reach all my “friends” to see who might have it, since it was needed to haul supplies to the affected area. This has worked for us in the past. Because of this post, friends from across the country assumed that we would be going to lend a hand in affected areas. People from as far away as Washington state started offering and Venmo-ing money to support a trip that didn’t even exist yet.

As Lynette and I sat at supper and the texts rolled in, we discussed whether or not we should make a trip. I reached out to a few of the guys at Blood River Church who are usually open for a trip like this (and can stir a black iron pot) to see if they were interested. Sure enough, they were. Josh Patterson, Frank White, and a local guy (not a church member yet), Michael Arnone, were all ready to go. A couple of the guys who ended up making the trip initially said they were not going to make it. John (Z Man) Zeigler and Chuck Mayeaux (Brent Simon’s father-in-law). Both are great cooks and fun to have around. One had a wedding to attend. Another said he was getting too old for that kinda trip. As I explained our agenda to them, I did not sugarcoat it. I told them we’re going to drive a lot, cook a lot, not sleep very much, and drive a lot back. I did not want to mislead anyone about what we were getting into. They both eventually called me back and said, “OK, give me the details. I think I’m gonna make this trip with y’all.”

With the cooking group established, we started putting out requests for funds to help make the trip, and it was no surprise when money started rolling in. The generosity of the people around us who have lived through very similar circumstances was overwhelming. Not only local people, but folks from across the country were willing to chip in.

Now starts the logistics of getting enough supplies up there to cook 2400 plates worth of food in a couple of days.

- 650 pounds of sausage (cut up)
- 500 pounds of boneless skinless chicken thighs
(Compliments of Sanderson Farms)
- 450 pounds of onions (did I mention cut up)
- 50 pounds of bell pepper
- 240 pounds of rice
- 240 pounds of pasta
- 80 gallons of green beans
- 15 gallons of diced potatoes
- a couple of gallons of Cajun seasoning
- lots of minced garlic
- 2400 plates and forks
- divider papers
- many loaves of bread
- and whatever else I am forgetting

Above, I mentioned the onions needed to be cut up along with the bell peppers. Josh and Frank are very active with the local Boy Scout troop, so they bribed them into coming over to our house and cutting up all of that in trade for them having a fun afternoon swimming. They jumped on it, and the crying from onion cutting was shared by many. And let’s not forget about the giant black iron pots (cauldron for you northern folks), burners, and gas to cook all that.



The folks at Guthrie Grove Church of God were happy to pitch in, not only to help us cook and serve, but also to give us a place to sleep. They put a camper at the church for a couple of the guys to sleep in. Jim and Cory Shaull were generous enough to open up their camper at their house and a spare bedroom.

We left Louisiana midday Friday and got to Pelzer, SC that night. We elected not to try to cook in Burnsville on Saturday morning for the lunch meal because it was about one hour and 40 minutes away. The South Carolina hospitality continued with breakfast that morning before we left. We left in time to get there and have things cooked for supper.

We planned to cook three times and approximately 800 servings per cooking. Once in Burnsville on Saturday and twice in Hendersonville on Sunday. Mike had stayed just outside of Burnsville that Friday night, so he went in and found us a parking lot where they were distributing various things and secured us a place to set up.

We rolled into Burnsville, got a corner spot in a grocery store parking lot, and started scattering out all of our equipment. It was such a blessing to have around 15 people from Guthrie Grove that day to help us out. As we were cooking, people came by to ask what it was and when it would be ready. When we told them we were from Louisiana and what we were cooking, most of them were pretty
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excited. A combination of pastalya, jambalaya, and green beans, along with a Little Debbie and bread, brought a smile to their faces.

A trip like this is about helping other people, but it is really doubly rewarding whenever you get to see people who are not ordinarily involved in this type of operation getting involved. They were using the big stainless-steel paddles to stir the 60-gallon pots, opening numerous cans of green beans, getting them ready, and helping brown 60 pounds of onions at a time. They were also assisting in the logistics of having it all ready at the appropriate time, and getting the assembly line in order to be able to move that many plates efficiently.



When the cooking was done, and we started waving people in to eat, it did not take long for the line to form. We used whatever social media platforms were available at the time and put the word out where we were and what we were cooking. We had a giant LSU flag flying to make us easy to spot. It did not take long for those pots to get empty. The people in Burnsville, NC, were very appreciative. Many of them

wanted to donate to our cause, but we told them to keep that money there in their town, where there has been so much devastation.

When we were done, we packed the trailers back up and headed back south to Guthrie Grove. Many people at the church pitched in that night and cooked supper for us.

The next morning, we headed to Hendersonville, North Carolina. It was only about 45 minutes away. We got a good early start and had been invited to set up in a Jeep dealership parking lot. We got there and decided where to set up to make distributing plates easiest. We started heating up the pots and getting the first batch of jambalaya, pastalya, and green beans going.

The people at the Jeep dealership had publicized this and assured us that people would show up. As it was getting about time to serve, there were not very many people showing up. We got a little bit nervous, but apparently, around 12 o'clock when church got out, there was a line of people coming our way. It did not take long, and the first 800 plates were gone. As the pots emptied, we refilled them for another round.

A similar thing happened that evening. There were not very many people, and we had ALL this food. Then all of a sudden, they showed up. We had mentioned to people earlier that we were doing a second cooking if they wanted to come back. Sure enough, they did. Lots of the same faces came back through. I guess that is a pretty good sign that it was fit to eat.

When the pots were emptied for the second time, we started packing up. The

young lady from the dealership asked if we could close out the day with a prayer. Everyone left in the parking lot gathered in a circle, held hands, and thanked God for a successful day and for blessings and strength for the continuing recovery of the area.



And we are headed back south to Pelzer again. Now, Sunday evening, it had been a long, tiring few days. As we headed toward Pelzer, all I could think of was Atlanta traffic, Monday morning rush hour. "If ya know, ya know". If ya don't, it is worse than you're imagining. I suggested to the guys that we get back to the church, say our good-byes, sing "friends are friends forever," and get our butts through Atlanta tonight. We all agreed it was a good idea. We didn't like it, but we understood it.

We said goodbye to our gracious hosts and hit the road. We went through Atlanta at 11:30 on a Sunday night, and the traffic was still bad. We made it through town and outside the loop. Stopped in Newnan, GA (birthplace of Alan Jackson) and found us a hotel. We slipped into bed about 12:30 or 1:00. Remember that "drive a lot, sleep a little" part?

The next morning, as we saw the traffic reports all around Atlanta and all the roads looked like red spaghetti, we agreed that getting through town the previous night was the right call. We stopped down the road at "The Z Man" (Mr. Johnny's) favorite place to eat... Waffle House. After some scattered, smothered, peppered, and chunked, we headed back toward Blood River.

I forgot to mention that we had put stickers on top of each box with the scripture reference Matthew 25:35 and "Blessings from Springfield, LA and Pelzer, SC." No church names. A few weeks later, there was a message sent to our Blood River Church Facebook page. It was from a lady who grew up in Livingston Parish. (That is kinda like Livingston County in the rest of the country). She moved away in 1985 to "WNC" as she put it. She said that someone delivered one of our meals to her, and tasting that food took her back to her childhood and dinner on the grounds after church. She wanted to thank us for a refreshing taste of her childhood in a trying time. We were so glad that she took the time to track us down.



As I close this, I certainly don't wish hard times or devastation on anyone, but chances are, it is gonna happen. I hope that our black iron pot brigade, aka "Team Bellpepper," can make future trips and spread a little cheer and some good food to people who are in need of it.

Memorials and Scholarships

2025 Memorials

We are very thankful for all who helped support the work of Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference during the past year by giving gifts in memory of friends and loved ones.

Gifts were given in memory of the following:

Rachel Carr
 Jeff Fletcher
 Charles and Joyce Knapp
 Harvey and Mary Krogh
 Paul Riley
 Paul Shaw
 Warren and Irene Sorenson

Scholarships and Grants for Atlanta Bible College

Many grant and scholarship funds have been established in memory of family and friends over the years. Most of these are endowment funds where the principal is preserved and the interest earnings are used to provide assistance to Atlanta Bible College students through the reduced tuition program. During 2025 additional contributions were made to the following funds and/or interest earnings were disbursed to the college for the benefit of the students. Thanks to the many individuals, churches, conferences, and groups for advancing the education of men and women for ministry and honoring their friends and loved ones.

ABC/OBC Alumni Association
 Arkansas State Conference
 Bob and Melody Ballard Memorial
 Burnham-Stadden Memorial
 Caroline Brown Memorial
 Cecil Smead Memorial
 Delbert and Bernedene Jones Memorial
 Don and Marj Overmyer Scholarship
 Francis and Lila VanFleet Memorial
 Fulton Ramsey Memorial

Glen and Violet Booth Memorial
 Golden Rule Church Scholarship
 Harold J. Doan Memorial
 Harry and Emily Berry Memorial
 Harvey and Mary Krogh Memorial
 Hattie Bottolfs Memorial
 Jeff Fletcher
 J. O. and Mary Lou Pack Memorial
 John and Ruth Lewis Memorial
 John Smead
 Kathryn Bailey and Mary Ludden Scholarship
 Kent Ross Memorial
 Lawrenceville Church in memory of Paul and Ruth Overholser
 Lois Blakely Memorial
 Lucian and Thelma Murphy/James and Mildred Dennis Memorial
 Martha Jones Mattison Memorial
 Mary Helen Mattison Memorial
 Michigan State Conference
 Mildred Schroeder Memorial
 New Hope Church, Little Rock
 Northeast Conference – James A. Patrick
 North Kent Bible Church, Rockford, MI
 Oregon, IL Church of God
 Orine Richardson Robinson Memorial
 Paul Riley Scholarship
 Pine Grove Church, Brooklyn Park, MN
 Rex Cain Memorial
 Ritenour Trust Fund - In Memory of Eliza Boyer Ritenour, Virginia Ritenour Kincheloe, and Seraphine Ritenour Cleek
 Southwest Members in Memory of Norman McLeod, S. J. Lindsay, Harold J. Doan and C. E. Randall
 Stan Ross Memorial
 Treva Williams Memorial
 Troyview, OH – Demmitt/Overholser Scholarship
 William G. and Nina G. Hicks Memorial
 William and Rhoda Hanson Memorial
 Zelma Weaver Memorial



**John Wincapaw,
Coordinator**

As spring is upon us, we are getting ready for FUEL. Logistics have started. The staff is assembled. The theme and teaching outlines are done. Classes are being structured. Pray for our teachers and speakers. May the word of God inspire them to challenge our youth.

This year's FUEL theme is "Burn the Ships." We will dive into the topic of commitment and the areas of our life that may challenge it. Make plans to join us for a week of fellowship, worship, discipleship all while having a bunch of fun.



Set your calendars for FUEL and start recruiting students to join July 19-24 in Manchester, Indiana. Registration will be available soon.



**Atlanta Bible College Report
Dr. Michael Cisler, Academic Dean**

As I write this, our spring semester is already half over. Dr. Jerry Wierwille was on campus in mid-February teaching a block course, Apologetics. A few of our students attended Ministers Conference in mid-March in Michigan. Our students will attend and serve at Christian Workers Seminar in late April. Our graduation ceremony will be Friday, May 15 with John Evans and John Tullis receiving their Bachelor of Theology degrees and a few students earning the Associates in Ministry and Theology or the Foundation Certificate. This semester we have two students living in student housing, two community students studying in-person, and six students studying remotely.

Our fall semester President’s and Dean’s Lists are included on this page. Congratulations to those students whose hard work and study allowed them to earn this honor.

Meet John Tullis.

John is currently the Pastor at the Chapel Hill Church of God in Urbana, Ohio. Previously, he was the lay pastor for a few years at the North Hills Church of God. He is also a chaplain with the Champaign County Sheriff’s Department. John retired from a 30-year career as a high school social studies teacher and track/football coach for Graham High School in Saint Paris, Ohio.



He has been blessed with 36 years of marriage to Neola Hart (Macy). Together they have raised four children into adulthood. They are very proud of their three beautiful grandkids: Addi, Levi, and Lainey! Of his experience at ABC, John says, “Studying at ABC has been a life-long goal. Once I retired from public education, I decided to follow God’s call on my life to prepare for full-time ministry. I am very aware that I am not the traditional student! Working online has allowed me to take the same classes and work with the same materials as traditional students. ABC has been very accommodating with transfer credits and life experience credit for ministry. My classes have included a mix of live classes taken through Zoom

and digital videos. Either way, the content is exactly the same as that required of a traditional student. As is true of higher learning, the remote student should be prepared to do a lot of reading and writing. The online learning platform makes it very easy to turn in assignments and solicit help from instructors. The faculty has been very good at providing meaningful feedback with assignments, which is key for remote learning. My education at ABC has prepared me by broadening my understanding of key teaching, especially teachings about the Kingdom of God. I have also learned some of the ‘nuts and bolts’ of everyday practice inside a church ministry. Perhaps most of all, it has allowed me to develop friendships with current General Conference/ABC leadership, other pastors, new students, and their families. Making connections with these fellow believers provides support and fellowship. ABC is a proud family of believers. I appreciate the advice and encouragement of the ABC staff.”

Thank you for supporting Atlanta Bible College with your prayers and finances. We are providing education and ministry preparation for our students and they are learning both a firm foundation in the Bible and also the skills necessary to engage in ministry in many ways in our churches.

Fall 2025 President's and Dean's Lists

President’s List (3.5 + GPA)

- Camden Bormes
- Eunjeong Jeong
- Eun Suk Kim
- Jayeong Kim
- Kyle Sylvest
- John Tullis

Dean’s List (3.0-3.49 GPA)

- Juyeong Ha
- Jaewoo Hong
- Jaehyun Kim
- Taehoon Kim
- Yunji Lee
- Hyunmin Park
- Kyeongchun Park
- Coleton Stacey
- Sungyeol Yoo

Upcoming Women’s Conference

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

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension Report



Steve An

Vice President ABC
Korean Extension

Dear brothers and sisters,

We wish you a blessed and joyful new year filled with grace and peace from God. May this year bring you closer to Him and His Kingdom.

We kicked off the 2026 spring semester on January 11th, welcoming one new student and twenty-four returning students. This brings our total to twenty-five students registered for 279 credit hours. Regarding our student body changes: one student returned to South Korea for two years of military service, one student graduated, and three students withdrew due to personal difficulties. We offer five Bible classes, three ministry classes, and one general subject class taught by five instructors.

On December 17 of last year, Siwon Woo completed the Bachelor of Theology program and was granted unconditional acceptance into the Master of Arts in Divinity degree program at Reformed University in Lawrenceville, GA. Their campus is located approximately ten miles north of our institution and is fully accredited by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

We are also pleased to announce three upcoming graduates at the conclusion of the spring semester: Eun Suk Kim, Taehoon Kim, and Hanjun Park. Hanjun Park has applied for an internship with the Korean Church Conference, where he will serve under the supervision of Pastor Yeoill Jang. Eun Suk Kim, who has been a dedicated member of the choir at the Korean Community Presbyterian Church of Atlanta in Suwanee, GA, is currently prayerfully considering application for a Bible-teaching ministry.



To support our graduates in sustaining the faith they developed through our curriculum, we invite them to join the Korean Church ministers' continuing education classes and other communal gatherings. Many of our alumni attend these sessions diligently.

Among them is Junghwa Choi, a May 2024 graduate. Currently enrolled in the Master of Arts in Divinity program at Reformed University, Junghwa frequently visits our campus to offer guidance and encouragement to our current students.

Our staff, Korean pastors, and alumni in both the United States and South Korea are currently organizing a summer recruitment campaign. This initiative will target prospective students both locally and throughout South Korea.

Pastor Saehyun Lee, a 2017 graduate, currently serves as an assistant pastor leading a youth group at Sejong Church in South Korea. During our 2024 visit, Young and I observed an active congregation of approximately forty to fifty young attendees. We have been coordinating with Pastor Lee to dedicate significant time during our upcoming visit to presenting the academic and ministerial pathways to the congregation, including opportunities for higher education and pastoral ministries.

The primary presenters will be Sam An, Administrator of the Korean Extension, and adjunct instructor Sarah An, both of whom relate well to the target group's age. Supporting them are South Korea-based alumni currently in active ministry, such as Pastor Younghee An and Pastor Yeongbeom Kim. Together, they will lead our recruitment and outreach initiatives during these meetings.

Thank you for your continued prayers and steadfast support of the Korean Extension!

Calendar of Events

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 7-12—Minnesota State Youth Camp, MN State COG Campground

June 8-12—Arkansas State Camp, The Vines 4-H Center

June 12-14—Minnesota Spring Conference, MN State COG Campground

June 21-26—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. 19—Women of Truth Conference: Overcoming, North Kent Bible Church, Rockford, MI

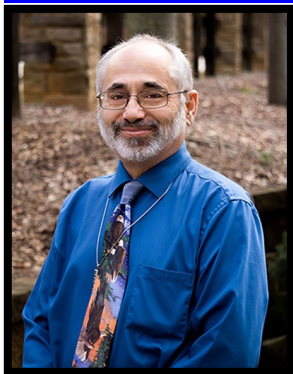
Sept. 25-27—Women's Enrichment Weekend at Long Lake Bible Camp near Eden Valley, MN

Future Conferences:

Feb. 22-25, 2027—Annual Ministers Conference, Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA

August 3-6, 2027—Heritage and General Conference at Lawrenceville Church, Springfield, OH

Good News from COG-Land



From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – The Missions Committee (**Connie Stauffer, Jenny Rodriguez, Earlyne Warmolts, Bubbles Casinger, Marianne Jones, Marsha Behrens, and Dixie Hammer**) spearheaded a drive for donations to Love Drive to Lifeline in Oregon and Loaves & Fishes in Mt. Morris. Many items were donated, and \$500 was donated to each of the organizations to help purchase meat and other items. In March, the focus was on missions activities sponsored by Lord's Harvest International.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – The church held its meal gatherings with Thanksgiving in November and a soup and sandwich lunch following a congregational participation Christmas program entitled "Be the Light." There was an ugly sweater contest, and the winners were **Gaynell Hicks** for the adults and **Aiden Gregory** for the children. On February 15 the church held a celebration of love with a Valentine's breakfast. Some of the church ladies enjoyed a weekend get-away/retreat at the beach in January.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – The church received thank you notes for financial support given. The Jonah Project and Clark County Jail Chaplaincy Program were grateful for the \$300 of support in 2025. **Michael Cisler**, academic dean at Atlanta Bible College, expressed the gratitude of the college for the church's continued support through the Helen L. Overholser Memorial Scholarship and the Lawrenceville/Overholser Scholarship. **Pastor Alan Cain** thanked **Joey Rohrer** for heading up the Night to Shine event. On January 7 the church resumed watching the series "House of David". Dinner was at the church, and classes were provided for young adults and children.

From the **Birthday and Anniversary Department** – **Scott Ross** (Jaynes Street Church of God in Omaha) turned 80 on March 5. **Ansel Guthrie** turned 85 on December 11, **Ruth Fletcher** turned 91 on December 26, and **Earlene Mabry** (all from Bethel COG) celebrated the new year with her 84th birthday on January 2. **Faye Goodman** (also

Bethel COG) turned 81 on February 4. **Bobbie Weaver** (Brush Creek Church of God in West Milton, OH) celebrated her 90th birthday on January 19, and her church and family threw her a surprise party on the 18th. **David Krogh** (Atlanta Bible College and Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA) celebrated his 80th birthday December 20. **Wanda Cheatwood** (Hedrick Church of God in Hedrick, IN) turned 85 on January 27. And we have an anniversary of note. **Dave and Wanda Cheatwood** celebrated their 65th wedding with a party at the church on March 14. [Congratulations to all of you folks! – GNP]

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

Hey, there COG-Land! GNP wants to hear what YOUR good news is! We know there's good news everywhere, so send us e-mails, bulletins, phone calls, etc. to tell us your good news. PLEASE SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS to rjones@atlanta-biblecollege.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.

PROGRESS JOURNAL
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There is No Success without Sacrifice

by Michael Cisler

During my pastorate at North Kent Bible Church, one of the Sundays we looked forward to the most each year was Sacrifice Sunday. The habit of Sacrifice Sunday preceded my time there and has continued after. Sacrifice Sunday was always celebrated the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving and included two aspects. One was a thoughtful consideration of those things in life we needed to sacrifice to God and the other was a sacrificial financial offering given. A lot of excitement surrounded this day, and it was an important part of our church life. Of course, it helped that we also had a holiday meal after church that day called Thanksmas (a combining of the traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas meals).

At North Kent, the Sacrifice Sunday offering was used in many different ways. Typically, part of the offering was used for a larger capital project at the church with the other part of the offering used for ministry in some way. For example, half would go to the new roof project and half would go to the local food bank.

In recent years, I have learned of other churches being blessed by their intentional sacrifice of giving and wanted to share with all of our churches what is happening elsewhere.

The first Church of God Sacrifice Sunday occurred at the Garden Park Church of God in Kentwood, Michigan in 1979. Cheryl (Kamp) Norwood recalls Garden Park having a need for funds to cover the costs of bonds due on their building. Members were encouraged to sacrifice for a month in ways like adding a gas tax of 50 cents per gallon of gas or bypassing pizza nights. They called the month "Thanksgiving Month," and these sacrificial funds were then given to the church on Sacrifice Sunday, late in the month of November. Cheryl recalls with fondness the blessing that the church experienced by sacrificing together.

Pastor Joe Myers remembers the Pennellwood Church of God in Wyoming, MI holding a Sacrifice Sunday in 1980. Remodeling debt was constantly lingering, and Pastor Joe had a vision to pay it off in full. They held a Sacrifice Sunday on October 26, 1980. Pastor Myers sent a picture (below) of that time with a large banner in the back of the church reading, "THERE IS NO SUCCESS WITHOUT SACRIFICE!" Great anticipation and excitement built throughout the six weeks leading up to that day. According to the RESTITUTION HERALD, some called this Sunday "Miracle Sunday". The goal was to raise the entire \$9,112.20 to pay off the church debt. God provided \$12,179.70 on that Sacrifice Sunday.

When the North Kent Bible Church was planted in 1984, Cheryl Norwood was one of the founding members and encouraged the church to adopt Sacrifice Sunday as part of the annual calendar. Again, this practice was an annual blessing of spiritual growth in sacrifice and encouragement through God's faithfulness to the church through its members.

Pastor Michael Hoffman of the Oregon Church of God in Illinois recalls a Sacrifice Sunday around 1990 for their building project. The church suggested a week's pay as a sacrifice, but any amount was appreciated. Although the total raised is not recalled, there is a clear remembrance of the excitement surrounding the day and joy surrounding the results of the offering.

In December of 1992, the *Progress Journal* included a report from President David Krogh which included the sentence, "Other churches paid off a debt through a sacrifice Sunday and special giving." Then again in December of 1993 we find, "We are mindful of ... churches that sponsored 'Sacrifice Sun-

days' to pay off debts, to provide funds for church planting, and to fund other projects."

The Pennellwood Church held more Sacrifice Sundays for different projects in the early 1980s while Pastor Scott Millard was pastoring there. Fast forward to 1998 when Scott was an elder at the Jaynes Street Community Church in Omaha, NE. The church's budget was running in the red and ideas were sought as to making the budget near the end of the year. Scott suggested Sacrifice Sunday from his experiences at Pennellwood and under the leadership of Pastor Scott Ross, Jaynes Street began a habit of holding Thankfulness Sunday each year. According to Pastor Isaac Cain, Thankfulness Sunday is a huge blessing to the church. As in other churches, there is an element of considering the spiritual aspects of sacrifice and thankfulness. Over the last number of years, the church has used the Thankfulness Sunday offerings exclusively for ministry to others. In November, 2025, Jaynes Street raised over \$30,000 and used it in ministry to others within their church, their community, and even the General Conference. They supported individuals, organizations, families, and even provided gift cards to staff members at a local elementary school to encourage and support their work within the community. Another great blessing is that the church continues to recognize joy that comes from self-sacrificial love extended to others.

According to the RESTITUTION HERALD, the Troy View Church of God in Troy, Ohio held a Sacrifice Sunday on March 29, 2014. Over \$5,000 was raised to reduce the church debt and to provide for some needed repairs at Higher Ground Campground.

In 2024, Pastor Makenna Landry, who grew up with Sacrifice Sunday at North Kent Bible Church and serves as Associate Pastor at Pine Grove Bible Church, suggested that Pine Grove Bible Church have a Thankfulness Sunday. Pastor Scott Ross was a guest speaker around this time and after sharing his experiences with Thankfulness Sunday as well, the church decided to have one in 2024 and again in 2025. This past year, a little over \$12,000 was generously given, with the offering paying for a full tuition and housing scholarship for an ABC student, support for feeding the hungry within their community, and the funding of a deacons' fund for ongoing ministry to those in need within the church. This special Sunday has provided excitement and blessing to the church.

Clearly Sacrifice/Thankfulness Sundays have been a huge blessing to churches in the past and continue to show God's provision and blessing to those who participate.



52nd Annual Christian Workers Seminar April 26–May 1, 2026

LeConte Hotel & Conference Center (a Choice Hotel)
410 Pine Mountain Road Pigeon Forge, TN 37868

Register at ChristianWorkersSeminar.com

Sunday (April 26)

3:00-5:30 pm Check In near Mill Creek and Canes
Creek conference rooms

6:00-7:00 pm Dinner (catered)

7:15-8:30 pm Evening Service

8:30-9:00 pm Check In for late arrivals

Monday – Thursday (April 27 – April 30)

8:00-9:00 am Complimentary hotel breakfast

9:00-9:30 am Morning Devotions—led by Jeffrey
Seiders

9:45-10:30 am Workshop Session 1

10:30-10:45 am Break

10:45-11:30 am Workshop Session 2

11:30-11:45 am Break

11:45 am-12:30 pm Workshop Session 3

12:30-12:45 pm Break

12:45-1:30 pm Lunch (catered)

1:30-6:00 pm Free Time

6:00-7:00 pm Dinner (catered except Wednesday on
your own)

7:15-8:30 pm Evening Service

8:30-9:30 pm Ice Cream Social (Thursday)

Friday (May 1)

Complimentary hotel breakfast and safe travel home

Morning Workshop Sessions:

Conflict Resolution - Joe James

Leadership Under Pressure - Michael Hoffman

Where Did We Get the Bible? - Ron Macy

Creating Digital Content - Cayce Fletcher

Developing Leaders - Seth Ross

God and the Family - Dennis Sharp

Afternoon Sessions:

Relocation Chat - Seth Ross, Michael Cisler

CWS 2026-2027 Follow Up and Brainstorm - Seth
Ross, Melinda Cisler

Children's Workshops (ages 1-11) - Caleah Kiel &
Volunteers

Cost:

Adult \$150.00

Adult No Meals \$65.00

Kid (3-11) \$40.00

Child (0-2) Free

(April 4 and after, adults increase to \$170; without meals
to \$80)

Lodging is not included in this price. Reservations must be
made directly with the hotel separately from your CWS
registration. The Convention Center rooms are \$119 per
night. Contact the hotel at 865-428-8350.





21st Annual Heritage Conference
Cornerstone Bible Church
180 Nail Dr.
McDonough, GA 30253
August 4, 5, 2026

Tuesday, August 4

- 9:15 Coffee and Registration
- 9:45 Welcome – David Krogh, Chairperson of the History Committee
- 10:00 Composers and Lyricists in the Church of God (including those published in COG hymnals and contemporary individuals) – Michael Cisler
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 The Restitution – its contents and organization – Jan Stilson
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 The 19th Century and Influences that Affected Groups Who Had an Interest in the Return of

- Christ and Conditional Immortality – Jeff Mezera
- 2:30 Bobby Partain – archives update
- 3:30 Break
- 3:45 History of the Ministers Voluntary Retirement Association – David Krogh
- 4:45 Memories of Summer Camps – Vicki Dick
- 5:30 Dinner
- 7:00 History of Churches in Georgia over the past 35 years – David Krogh

Wednesday, August 5

- Breakfast at your hotel
- 9:30 Remembering old time Sunday School and youth choruses – Dale Swartz
- Memories of Golden Rule and Columbia churches – Dale Swartz
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Transcendentalism and Its Detrimental Influence Upon Biblical Unitarianism in the 19th Century – Nathan Massie
- 11:15 Kent Bolin
- 11:45 Lunch
- 1:15 The History of Church of God Hymnals – David Krogh
- 2:15 View archival displays at 2020 Avalon Parkway
- 4:00 Registration for the 106th Annual General Conference
- 5:00 Dinner

Cost: \$50 per person—covers the meals and snacks. Register through the registration link for the summer General Conference at: generalconferenceevent.com.

Gift to Archives

There are probably only a very few readers who will know what this object is. It is a ladle that was used in the print shop originally operated by The Restitution Herald Publishing Company and then by the Church of God General Conference in Oregon, IL. Using the technology of the time, COG publications were printed from lead “slugs” of metal that were created by the linotype machine. These metal slugs were laid out in forms which were then placed on the bed of the printing press from which copies were made. After the job was done, the metal slugs were melted down into a molten mass and then using this ladle, the metal was poured into forms which created bars of metal, known in the trade as “pigs.” The ladle is over 3 feet long.

When the printshop was sold in 1967, Paul Johnson, who had worked in the shop for 56 years, was given this ladle. When he died, it was passed to his daughter, Louise

Humphreys, and then passed to her daughter, Virginia Kraft. Ginnie, who is a member of the Oregon Church of God, wanted it to become a part of the General Conference archives and recently the transfer was made. Thank you, Ginnie, for this gift that has brought back a lot of memories for me. I had the privilege of working in the shop for three years while I was a student at Oregon Bible College. I was the last of many people who were taught how to operate the linotype machine by Paul Johnson. Steve Bolhous and I were among the last to use this ladle to make “pigs” 😊—David Krogh



Pastors Needed

Hammond, LA

New Beginnings is seeking a pastor to serve its congregation. Please contact Eliska Fauntleroy 985-320-9067 or Carola Landry 225-275-9202, carola.r.landry@gmail.com.

Blanchard, MI

The Blanchard Church of God is pleased to announce that we have grown enough to seek the services of a pastor. We are a rural church with a multi-generational congregation. We are looking for an individual who has a passion to reach the lost of our communities. Our pastor would need to live within the community. Interested parties should contact Elder Tom Siderius at: sidtom@gmail.com.

Rockford, MI

North Kent Bible Church is seeking a Christ-centered and team-oriented associate pastor. This role is designed for a relational, dynamic leader who shares in shepherding, teaching, vision-casting, and organizational leadership.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The associate pastor will serve in shared leadership across teaching, discipleship and ministry development to support the mission of the church.

- Share preaching and teaching responsibilities
- Serve as a co-pastor in strategic planning, evange-

- lism and community outreach
- Give and receive constructive feedback to strengthen teaching and leadership
- Identify, mentor and train leaders and teachers
- Coach and co-create lessons with Sunday Study leaders
- Provide pastoral care
- Organize, support and strengthen volunteer teams
- Participate in regular leadership meetings with cabinet members and elders

QUALIFICATIONS

- Licensed pastor through the Church of God General Conference (preferred)—pastoral experience (preferred)
- Team-oriented, humble, and teachable
- Relationally gifted and emotionally mature
- Dynamic teacher and speaker
- Organized and self-directed

COMPENSATION

- \$18/hour (part-time)
- Housing in the church parsonage (6 bedrooms, 3 baths) and coverage of standard utilities

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please send a resume and cover letter highlighting your interest in the job, relevant skills, experience, and motivation for applying to northkentbiblechurch.com.



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



**Talon Paul, Director
North American Missions**

Church Planting Materials

We have continued working on creating material to help those who are interested in church planting. *We are excited to announce that we*

have a church planting booklet now available online: we hope to have more materials published this year to supplement that booklet. Our entire goal 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!

Church Pathway Development

In conjunction with the Board of Directors, we are working to create a pathway to membership in the Church of God for new groups and existing groups across the country who agree with our Statement of Faith, and are interested in being affiliated with us. *This pathway is under development and more information will be coming soon.*

New Groups

We are working with multiple groups in different states, including: Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas.

We are seeking to help new groups get formed and to help existing groups join together with the Church of God's network. If you have any questions about the efforts in these regions, or would like to be involved, feel free to reach out!



Lord's Harvest
INTERNATIONAL

It has been a tumultuous beginning to 2026 in the United States. The weather has produced challenges for worship in many areas. Even in the pouring rain, however, the African churches meet regularly.

The established boards are doing well with planning. In South Kenya, women have been selected to oversee women's ministry. The pastors and wives met to assess 2025 activities and plan for 2026.

One topic of interest for the youth was use of the internet and how to keep yourself pure and safe from evil.

We have helped purchase chairs for some churches, as well as tracts and teaching materials.

We are thrilled that Michael Cisler made it possible for LHI to offer Bible Basics through ABC4U. We have ten pastors participating. Others are interested, but access to a computer is a limitation. We will be looking into that.



Sadly, we are unable to take a trip in 2026. Please consider and share the following:

- WHO - you
- WHAT - visit our sister churches in Africa
- WHEN - 2027. Let me know when you have two weeks to donate
- WHERE - Uganda
- WHY - because our mission is to "train, equip and encourage"
 - to see the challenges and successes of spreading the gospel in these poor areas
 - to be uplifted by the excitement of these growing congregations
 - to be the answer to the prayers of the people

Thank you for your activities during Marching for Missions. I can't wait to share how you met our Bible challenge.

Kim Johnson Mission Endowment Fund

Have you thought about serving on a foreign mission field? Has God been speaking to you about our foreign mission ministries? What country has God placed on your heart— Kenya, Malawi, the Philippines, or another mission field? Are there individuals in your church—young or old—who feel the pull to serve God on foreign soil?

What is the next step?

Consider a mission study path at Atlanta Bible College. Scholarship funds could be available to you through the Kim Johnson Mission Scholarship Endowment. The endowment fund is administered by the Minnesota Missionary Society, under the umbrella of the Minnesota Church of God Conference.

Please send a letter of interest to: mn.missionary.society@gmail.com.

Why is it called the Kim Johnson Mission Endowment Fund?

Kimberly Sue Johnson, daughter of Larry and Kathy Johnson, was an active member of the Church of God in Hector, MN. In her teenage years, she taught Sunday School, presented special music both vocally and on her flute, and was a member of two state Bi-

ble quiz teams. During Kim's two and a half year battle with cancer, she served as a counselor for Minnesota Youth Camp and became an active community volunteer in the local school system and public library.

Kim was the spark that ignited the short-term mission involvement for Minnesota Church of God youth. In 1987, she was the first young person from Minnesota to apply and be accepted for a summer mission trip to Mexico. (Many Minnesota youth later followed in her footsteps.) In 1988, she made a second mission trip to Mexico, just three weeks after she underwent surgery to remove a cancerous tumor.

Throughout her courageous struggle with cancer, Kim displayed a quiet trust and hope in her eternal God. This unspoken yet final mission effort of Kim's was an inspiration to all who came to know her, and everyone who cherished her. Kim died December 31, 1990 at the age of 20.

In 1993-94, the Minnesota Missionary Society established a Mission Endowment Fund for mission training in Kim Johnson's name as a memorial of her work in the mission field of Mexico.

Prayer and Praise Items

April

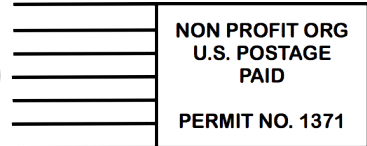
- 1 **Pray for your pastor and family.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor Wesley and Brandi Riggs and the Countryside Bible Church In Peculiar, MO.
- 3 **Pray for churches seeking pastoral leadership.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Talon and Rebbecca Paul and the Maple Grove Church in Kokomo, IN.
- 5 **Praise God for the resurrection of Jesus our Savior.**
- 6 Praise God for the incredible beauty of "new birth" we see every spring!
- 7 **Praise God for new life in Christ.**
- 8 Pray for those whose eyes are blinded to the gospel.
- 9 **Pray for final preparation for Christian Workers Seminar later this month.**
- 10 Pray for the Macomb, Illinois Church of God.
- 11 **Pray for Sam An as he works with Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Seneca Harbin as he and his family serve on the south side of Indianapolis.
- 13 **Pray for Pastor Deb and Neil Bryant and the ministry of the Abundant Life Community Church in Rockford, Illinois.**
- 14 Pray for plans to relocate the college/conference to North Hampton, OH in the summer of 2027.
- 15 **Pray for the students and staff of Atlanta Bible College.**
- 16 Pray for opportunities to witness to those without Jesus as their Savior.
- 17 **Pray for the New Hope Church in Little Rock, Arkansas.**
- 18 Praise God for dedicated Church of God ministers.
- 19 **Pray for Anthony Buzzard's correspondence with truth seekers around the world.**
- 20 Praise God for the promise of Christ's soon return.
- 21 **Pray for Pastor Josiah and Amber Cain and the North Kent Bible Church in Rockford, Michigan.**
- 22 Praise God for His faithfulness.
- 23 **Pray for the Midwest Family Camp held each summer at Camp Mack in Milford, IN.**
- 24 Pray for volunteers to be short-term missionaries this summer.
- 25 **Pray for God's blessings on your next-door neighbors.**
- 26 Pray for those attending Christian Workers Seminar this week.
- 27 **Pray that God might use you to lead your family toward an even deeper relationship with Him.**
- 28 Pray for the soon return of Jesus.
- 29 **Praise God that His mercies are new every morning.**
- 30 Pray for Pastor Steve and Jill Taylor and TruthPoint Bible Church in Payson, AZ.

May

- 1 **Pray for those traveling home from Christian Workers Seminar today.**
- 2 Pray for Madison Cain as she serves as editor of the Truth Seekers Adult Quarterly.
- 3 **Pray for the ministry of Pastor Bill and Lacy Dunn and the Garden Park Church of God in Michigan.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor Steve and Young An and the Korean Extension in Johns Creek, GA.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Jeffrey Seiders in his new ministry with the Eden Valley and Litchfield, MN congregations.**
- 6 Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel message with someone today.
- 7 **Pray for God to raise up workers for our churches.**
- 8 Pray for Pastor Jacob and Andrea Rohrer and their work in Rhode Island.
- 9 **Praise God for new attendees at your local church.**
- 10 Thank God for our mothers.
- 11 **Pray for Jon Kizer as he assists with the work at the Hedrick Church of God.**
- 12 Pray for ABC and ABCKE students as they continue their studies.
- 13 **Praise God for the strength He provides each day.**
- 14 Pray for the ministry of Pastor Michael and Linda Hoffman and the Oregon, Illinois Church of God.
- 15 **Pray for Pastor Darrell and Laura Cardwell and the new work at The Well in Mankato, MN.**
- 16 Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.
- 17 **Pray for Pastor John and Lila Wincapaw and the Blood River Church of God in Springfield, Louisiana.**
- 18 Pray for someone you know who doesn't yet know Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- 19 **Praise God for the faithful work done by our retired pastors and their wives.**
- 20 Pray for Pastor Mark and Becky Jones and the Higher Ground Church in White House, TN.
- 21 **Pray for Pastor David and Wanda Cheatwood and the church at Hedrick, Indiana.**
- 22 Pray for those developing plans for the construction of a new college/conference campus in Ohio.
- 23 **Pray for the ministry of Pastor Scott and Theresa Deane and the church at Pleasant Hill, Ohio.**
- 24 Pray for those who are preparing for Christian service.
- 25 **Pray for Michael Cisler in his work as Academic Dean at Atlanta Bible College.**
- 26 Pray for the international students attending Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension.
- 27 **Praise God for his amazing grace.**
- 28 Pray for Church of God members throughout the world as they minister to others.
- 29 **Pray for your family members who do not know Christ.**
- 30 Pray for Pastor Donna and Loyd Cooper at the Farmington, MO church.
- 31 **Praise God for all that He has done and is doing in your life.**

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Prayer and Praise Items (continued from page 19)

June

- 1 **Pray for God's blessing on your extended family.**
- 2 Pray for the pastors ministering in Malawi, Mozambique, and Kenya.
- 3 **Pray for generosity from donors for the current Church Builders Appeal.**
- 4 Pray that God will speak deeply into your heart today.
- 5 **Praise God for the beauty of His creation.**
- 6 Pray for boldness to share your faith.
- 7 **Pray for the work at Anderson Chapel in Hendersonville, North Carolina.**
- 8 Praise God for His power and knowledge.
- 9 **Pray for the ministry of your local church.**
- 10 Praise God for those who regularly remember our conference and college with their prayers and contributions.
- 11 **Pray for the events being held at the Minnesota Campground this summer.**
- 12 Pray for the Forest Hills Church in Royal, Arkansas.
- 13 **Praise God for your family and circle of friends.**
- 14 Pray for a shared spirit of unity across the General Conference.
- 15 **Praise God for your pastor and his family and their dedication to ministry.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Peter and Jeannie Anson and the work at Cornerstone Church in Gatesville, TX.
- 17 **Pray for Dan Foster, Rick Eldred, and Brian Froelich in their work at the Flagg Center Community Church in Rochelle, IL.**
- 18 Praise God for your church family.
- 19 **Pray for Pastor J. J. and Hope Fletcher and the work on Pine Grove Bible Church in Brooklyn Park, MN.**
- 20 Pray for God's direction in our mission efforts.
- 21 **Praise God for your Father—your heavenly Father and your earthly father.**
- 22 Pray for Pastor Scott Ellison and the the Rock Solid Church in Howard City, MI.
- 23 **Pray for Pastor Dan and Sharon Gill and their work with 21st Century Reformation Ministry.**
- 24 Praise God for those who write lessons for our adult Truth Seekers Sunday School curriculum.
- 25 **Pray for pastors who are considering changing pastorates this year.**
- 26 Pray for God's direction for the preparation of FUEL (our annual student conference) in July.
- 27 **Pray for the believers in Trujillo, Peru.**
- 28 Pray for children involved in Christian Education ministries of our churches.
- 29 **Pray for the timing of the sale of college/conference properties in Georgia in preparation for the move to Ohio in the summer of 2027.**
- 30 Praise God for the dedication of the college/conference staff.