

# OneAccord

July 2012



## Life, Hope and Truth Website Launched

*Feature: 2012  
High School  
Graduate  
Announcements*

*Sharpening  
Iron: Where  
God Sets  
His Name*

*Personal  
Contact: Why  
Not Publish All  
PCD Answers?*

# from the president

## ministerial conference

W

We live in a jaded society. It seems that hardly anything done today can impress us. We have seen it all and done it all as a society, and sadly sometimes we experience that same feeling within the Church. On one hand, you can't blame anyone. We have seen a lot over the past 17 years in the Church that has not been very encouraging. We seem to struggle to get it just right and often fall far short of getting it even close to right!

We just completed a wonderful ministerial conference here in the Dallas area. I hesitate to use too many adjectives to describe what went on, but I really felt this conference was very different from the ones in the past and was a watershed moment in our short history. I am also acutely aware of the fact that my view will be considered prejudiced. After all, I was one of those who helped organize the conference.

Many others worked hard on the conference preparation as well—both staff and local brethren—and I want to take a moment here to acknowledge their diligent efforts and service. God is surely pleased when we all pitch in as a team without seeking attention. I would also like to personally thank all of you for your prayers.

Rather than trying to come up with the right words to describe this special event, I would like to share one of the many emails we received after the conference. This is from a longtime pastor and Church administrator, André van Belkum. Mr. van Belkum has been to more than his share of conferences over the years, going back to the days when he was a regional director in the Worldwide Church of God. Mr. van Belkum wrote:



“Greetings from New Zealand.

“Thank you so much for the special and privileged opportunity to attend our ministerial conference. It has to be said that this was a high point in the recent history of the Church; and after our initial period of settling down, we are well on our way to fulfill the twofold responsibility Christ has given us.

“It was interesting to note that after Clyde’s ‘liftoff’ presentation, people streamed out of the door to wipe tears from their eyes and to return to their rooms to give God thanks for what He had accomplished in such a short period of time. As someone behind me said, ‘I know where we are all going!’ In the upstairs passage leading to our rooms I met Erlene Becker, who was crying with sheer joy, proclaiming how remarkable the progress has been over just a few months. Others I spoke to felt the same.

“We have prepared the ‘good ground,’ and we are excited to see just how much Christ will produce in the years ahead. Of course, the

continued on page 4

# Contents

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Clyde Kilough discusses various media for preaching the gospel at the 2012 Ministerial Conference, page 5



East Texas graduating seniors Jonathan Johnson, Crescina Shipman and Zachary and Payton Hahn, page 6

With One Accord	5
2012 High School Graduate Announcements	6
<i>Sharpening Iron: Where God Sets His Name</i>	14
<i>Personal Contact</i>	15
<i>News From the Congregations</i>	16
<i>Announcements</i>	19

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**CHURCH of GOD**  
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*“Ministerial Conference,” continued from page 2*

extent of the progress we make is according to His will and purpose. We together left the conference with a desire and a ‘mind to work’ as was evident during the time of Nehemiah.

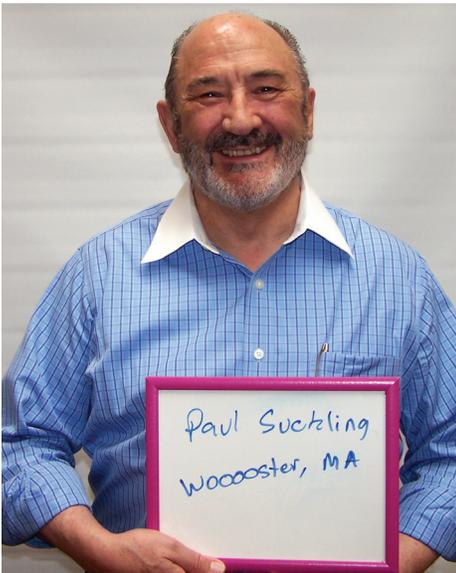
“Again, thank you for the hard work and effort you and others put into the various presentations and organizing the activities.

“In gratitude,

“André and Elize (I have shared the information with her).”

The conference focused on the two aspects of our work—preaching the gospel to the world and caring for the people of God. I summarized these two aspects as “passion” and “compassion.” We must have a passion for preaching the gospel in all the world (“all the nations”) as we read in Matthew 24:14 and 28:19; and we must “tend My sheep” as Christ said to Peter in John 21:15-17. If these two words—passion and compassion—properly describe the work we are doing to fulfill these commands, I am confident God will bless us! It was a remarkable conference!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Franks".



**With One Accord**

Pastors and elders of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, traveled from every corner of the world to attend the 2012 Ministerial Conference. The conference was highlighted by the launch of the brand-new public proclamation website [www.LifeHopeandTruth.com](http://www.LifeHopeandTruth.com), which was developed by 30 Degrees North, a web design and development company co-owned by members of the Houston, Texas, congregation.

**Opposite page clockwise from top left:** Jon Pinelli, James Capo and Dick Thompson share a laugh; Bernard Hongerlout and Nancy Kelley (foreground) and others fellowship at the welcome barbecue at the new headquarters office; Larry Salyer talks with Saul and Carmen Langarica; Chuck Stevens, David Buchanan and Jim Franks talk with Harold Rhodes (seated). **This page clockwise from top left:** Paul Suckling poses for his ministerial mug shot; director of web management William Beech educates the audience on how we can harness the power of the Internet to preach the gospel; over 220 ministers, wives and guests were in attendance; 30 Degrees North marketing strategist Mary Ann Hegvold speaks on the marketing methodology behind the website development; Paul Carter poses for a close-up in the new studio at the headquarters office.

Photos by Paul Carter

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## 2012 High School Graduates

### Jennifer Baker

*Parents' names:* Jeff and Nancy Baker

*Congregation:* Asheville, North Carolina

*High school accomplishments:* Jennifer was a part of the National Honor Society and a part of Mu Alpha Theta, which is a club for students with high honors in math. She was on the high honors roll during high school. She also served as a student ambassador during her junior and senior years.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:*

Jennifer has played field hockey for the past five years and was voted team captain during her junior and senior years. She also won All-Conference during her senior year. She played lacrosse during the spring of her senior year. One of her hobbies is singing, and she has taken voice lessons for the past three years. She performed at Arts Day this



year and at her graduation.

*Plans after graduation:* Jennifer will be attending Appalachian State University in the fall.

### Makenna Danae Barkley

*Parents' names:* Jason and Amber Brock

*Congregation:* Sherman, Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Makenna graduated from high school with a full year of college credits. She also played four years of varsity basketball and two years of varsity volleyball with the Denton County Cougars. Kenna volunteered in the homeschool community, teaching basic skills in basketball and volleyball to elementary children.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:*

Kenna wrote for two years for the Dallas church newsletter, sang in the Sherman youth choir and enjoyed many teen sports tournaments playing for the



Dallas, Texas, teen teams. Her favorite chapter in the Bible is 1 Corinthians 13.

*Plans after graduation:* Makenna will attend North Central Texas College in the fall to achieve her associate degree and then plans on attending Texas Woman's University in Denton for a bachelor's degree.

### Zachary Beilstein

*Parents' names:* David and Sherry Beilstein

*Congregation:* Morgantown, West Virginia

*High school accomplishments:* Zachary was editor-in-chief of yearbook and was treasurer of Physics Club, Student Council and Envirothon Team. He also participated in Recycling, Make-a-Wish and French Club. Zachary was a member of National Honor Society and Student of the Month Rotary Club. He won the American Legion Award, Challenge Program Community Service Award, Leo Club 100 Hours Service Award, Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science first place at CalU and Chief Nerd Award.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:*

Zachary serves on the sound crew and as Camp Arrowhead staff. He is the co-president of Teen Speech Club. Zachary enjoys playing the guitar, table tennis, horseshoes and video games.

*Plans after graduation:* Zachary plans to attend Penn State-Behrend to study engineering.

### Crystal Bradley

*Parents' names:* Jim Bradley and Sheba Grafton

*Congregation:* Jefferson, Georgia

*High school accomplishments:* Crystal was a junior varsity cheerleader, earned a Greenhand Degree in Future Farmers of America and received the Freshman Biology Award during ninth grade. As



a sophomore, Crystal joined Beta Club and received an award for excellence in AP U.S. history. She spent her junior and senior years in the Advanced Academy of Georgia on the University of West Georgia campus. Because of that, she had the opportunity to become an active member of Amnesty International and a part of the Bhutanese Refugee Project, a group of students who collect and deliver donations to the Bhutanese refugees in Atlanta and provide help to the teens in furthering their educations. She was also an honors graduate at Franklin County High School.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Crystal enjoys playing basketball and fellowshiping at Winter Family Weekend as well as spending time with her Church family throughout the year.

*Plans after graduation:* Crystal will be entering her junior year at Georgia Institute of Technology this fall to pursue a degree in science, technology and culture.

### Jessica Brock

*Parents' names:* Jason and Amber Brock  
*Congregation:* Sherman, Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Jessica's high school career was jam-packed with activities ranging from playing varsity basketball and coaching an elementary homeschool basketball team to singing in the Sherman, Texas, youth choir and earning a full year's worth of college credits. She attended youth camps and wrote in the Dallas, Texas, church newsletter for two years. Church, school and basketball consumed most of her time, and she loved every minute of it.

*Plans after graduation:* Jessica plans to finish earning her associate degree at North Central Texas College and then would love to attend Texas Woman's University soon after to earn her bachelor's of science in nursing. She would like to volunteer in Jordan one day!

### Jennifer Lauren Brunner

*Parents' names:* Ben and Susan Brunner  
*Congregation:* Ocala, Florida



Jessica Brock



Jennifer Brunner



Bronson Carey



Maci Chapman

*High school accomplishments:* Jennifer graduated summa cum laude with a GPA of 4.58. She received the Golden Citrus Scholar Award for English/Literature and was recognized as the top student in the county. She also received the AP Scholar Award.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Jennifer enjoys photography, card making, hiking, camping, bicycling, traveling (she has traveled to all 50 states), badminton and reading.

*Plans after graduation:* After graduation, she plans to travel and visit family in the summer as well as attend Strong Rock Camp. She will attend University of Florida in the fall to study environmental engineering. She also plans to get baptized.

### Bronson Todd Carey

*Parents' names:* Todd and Gloria Carey  
*Congregation:* Williamsburg, Virginia

*High school accomplishments:* Bronson will graduate this year from the Shiloh Academy. Bronson completed four years

of piano and participated in spring recitals.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Bronson plays special music for holy days, sings in the adult and teen choir, helps out in the kitchen and recently began working with the tech ops crew. Bronson's recreational interests include volleyball, soccer, cooking and baking, especially cookies and pastries.

*Plans after graduation:* Bronson plans to attend college locally and is in the process of writing music for himself and hopes to pursue a career with his music, playing solo piano or organizing a smooth jazz quartet that he will call "The Philly Flash."

### Maci Chapman

*Parents' names:* Jim and Romney Chapman

*Congregation:* Castle Rock, Colorado

*High school accomplishments:* Maci played varsity tennis for three years and was a member of National Honor Society. She was also her high school's



Nicole Cobb



Sydney Dominguez



Kelley Cohron



David Everman

valedictorian and is a National Merit Scholar finalist.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Maci enjoys tennis, horseback riding and working as a technician assistant at Franktown Animal Clinic.

*Plans after graduation:* Maci will attend the University of Texas at Dallas on a scholarship, studying biology and business with a focus on pre-med.

### **Nicole Cobb**

*Parents' names:* Darren and Renee Cobb

*Congregation:* Castle Rock, Colorado

*High school accomplishments:* Nicole graduated with honors, lettered in student government and tennis and enjoyed assisting in unified sports.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Nicole enjoys attending church youth camps and has also been an assistant counselor for the Colorado preteen camp. Hobbies include dancing and photography. She loves working with children and looks forward to becoming a teacher.

*Plans after graduation:* Nicole plans on attending Arapahoe Community College for two years, then transferring to Colorado State University in Fort Collins to pursue an elementary education teaching degree.

### **Kelley Cohron**

*Parents' names:* Wes and Trish Cohron

*Congregation:* Jefferson, Georgia

*High school accomplishments:* Kelley received honors in English and history classes as well as AP literature. She was a member of the Spanish Club, an active Thespian Society member and spent four years on the varsity tennis team. She was named First Team All-Area in girls' singles in the *Gainesville Times* newspaper.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Kelley has enjoyed attending Church camps for many years, including Woodmen and Strong Rock. This year she will be part of the Strong Rock activity staff. She enjoys sports; loves tennis; and likes to run, play golf and fish during the summer.

*Plans after graduation:* In the fall of 2012 she plans to attend Brenau University in Gainesville, where she will play college tennis for Brenau. Go Lady Tigers!

### **Sydney Dominguez**

*Parents' names:* Marc and Jennifer Dominguez

*Congregation:* Front Range, Colorado

*High school accomplishments:* Sydney graduated with honors from Highlands Ranch High School. During her junior and senior years, she was a tutor and a mentor for freshmen. She played the flute in band during her sophomore and junior years. This fall she will be attending Washington College, located in Maryland. She wants to major in biology and continue on to medical school and get a doctorate in medicine. She wants to become an ob-gyn and travel to developing countries to help people with their medical concerns.

### **David Allen Everman**

*Parents' names:* Mark and Flavia Everman

*Congregation:* Columbia, Missouri

*High school accomplishments:* David graduated from Warrenton High School as salutatorian, recognized by both the United States Marines and the United States Army for academic and athletic achievements. David was section leader of the band, a member of National Honor Society and a member of the Imagine Higher Education club. He competed in football, basketball, cross-country and track during his four years of high school.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* David has been to Pinecrest and Winter Camp and is currently attending a speakers' workshop presented by Richard Pinelli. He likes running and most sports.

*Plans after graduation:* David plans to attend Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri, to major in mathematics and education.

## Caleb Michael Frost

*Parents' names:* Gerald and Lynda Frost

*Congregation:* Ocala, Florida

*High school accomplishments:* Caleb took AP Psychology and AP English. He also earned one college credit for Intro to Computer Science.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Caleb loves writing and psychology. He is also a voracious reader.

*Plans after graduation:* Caleb will get a job for the summer and plans to go to Santa Fe College before going to a four-year university to study psychology. He may go on to graduate school to earn his Ph.D.

## Payton Hahn

*Parents' names:* Bill and DaAnn Hahn

*Congregation:* East Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Payton is the second of four children. He attended Big Sandy ISD until the eighth grade and has been homeschooled since 2007. He has achieved As and Bs throughout school, with history being one of his favorite subjects.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Payton enjoys spending time with family and friends. His hobbies include basketball, fishing, researching old and new cars, working on his truck, listening to music and helping his brother Zachary with his movies. He also likes to mow the yard and maintain the family's vehicles. He has played teen basketball for five years and has attended Camp Carter for four years. He likes animals and has a Siamese cat named Charles.

*Plans after graduation:* Payton plans to attend Kilgore College to pursue a degree in auto body repair. He then hopes to work at a body shop to gain experience in collision repair estimating and eventually become an auto appraiser.

## Zachary Hahn

*Parents' names:* Bill and DaAnn Hahn

*Congregation:* East Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Zachary

is the third of four boys. He attended Big Sandy ISD until the eighth grade and has been homeschooled since 2007, maintaining an A/B average.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Zachary enjoys making short videos as a way to develop his skills in visual effects and editing. He has played on the church basketball team for five years and has attended Camp Carter for four years. In his free time, Zachary enjoys cooking meals for his family, playing basketball and taking his Boston terrier, Daisy, on walks through the woods.

*Plans after graduation:* Zachary hopes to one day travel to New Zealand and would also like to visit the British Museum in London. Zachary plans to attend Kilgore College and then transfer to Stephen F. Austin University where he hopes to earn a degree in cinematography. He then wants to pursue a career as a visual effects compositor.

## Chad A. Haight

*Parents' names:* Alan and Sheryl Haight

*Congregation:* St. Petersburg, Florida

*High school accomplishments:* Chad was a member of National Honor Society and Thespian Honor Society. He won the Outstanding Senior Mathematics award. He was also an honor graduate and received the AP Scholar award. He was a member of the Hillsborough High School wrestling team.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Chad enjoys reading, playing a variety of sports and acting in theater productions.

*Plans after graduation:* Chad plans to attend the University of Central Florida this fall to study medicine.

## Dhon Nie Ksor Johnson

*Parent's name:* Janet Johnson

*Congregation:* Raleigh, North Carolina

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Dhon enjoys soccer, tennis, drawing, designing and music.

*Plans after graduation:* Dhon plans to attend North Carolina State for a bachelor's degree in graphic design.



Caleb Frost



Zachary Hahn



Payton Hahn



Chad Haight



Dhon Johnson



Harrison Jones



Jon Johnson



Kristen Koontz

**Jonathan William Johnson**

*Parents' names:* Bill and Dawn Johnson

*Congregation:* East Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Jon was homeschooled and graduated with a GPA of 3.3. He attended dual-enrollment classes at Tyler Junior College his last two years and will obtain a welding certificate this summer. One of Jon's biggest accomplishments was receiving his Eagle Scout rank at the age of 13. He proved his leadership and planning skills through many projects, including one for the community of Spruce Pine, North Carolina, building a professional sand volleyball court, horseshoe rings and two benches. Jon has received many awards for basketball and was the captain of the basketball team for King's Academy Christian School in Tyler during his junior and senior years.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Jon's interests include the great outdoors, hiking, camping, playing his guitar, four wheeling and other sports. He has

enjoyed many years of preteen and teen camps as well as Winter Family Weekends.

*Plans after graduation:* Jon's goals after graduation are to turn welding into a career and/or to pursue an associate of science and/or business degree and to one day own a successful business.

**Harrison Christopher Jones**

*Parents' names:* Chris and Renee Jones

*Congregation:* Raleigh, North Carolina

*High school accomplishments:* Harrison graduated from Woods Charter High School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Harrison has attended various summer camps and has worked at the Houston preteen camp. He enjoys guitar, digital music, fishing and snow skiing.

*Plans after graduation:* Harrison plans to attend University of North Carolina at Greensboro to study accounting.

**Kristen Haley Koontz**

*Parents' names:* J.F. and Cheryl Koontz

*Congregation:* Ocala, Florida

*High school accomplishments:* Kristen graduated with honors, AICE credits, Beta Club, HOSA and dual enrollment credits.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Kristen enjoys playing piano, reading, playing video games, singing and being sociable. Church activities include going to camp annually and participating in as many social gatherings as possible. Kristen's other interests include traveling, going to musicals and plays, photography, doodling and setting goals for herself.

*Plans after graduation:* Kristen plans to attend the College of Central Florida. She plans to major in English literature and minor in music. After the 2012-2013 college year, she hopes to apply to serve on the Jordan Project. Hopefully then, her craving to travel and her love for literature will begin to be quenched.

**Nathaniel Martin**

*Parents' names:* Don and Heather Martin

*Congregation:* Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

*High school accomplishments:* Nathaniel earned the *maxima cum laude* award on the National Latin Exam. He participated in the Ohio River Basin Student Summit and the STEM program at Robert Morris University.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Nathaniel has been an active member of the Great Lakes Speech Club, where he has served as sergeant at arms and copresident. He has also served as a teen staff volunteer for the local preteen camp for the past several years. A member of the Wissahickon Nature Club and Three Rivers Birding Club, Nathaniel enjoys hunting, archery and fly-fishing.

*Plans after graduation:* Nathaniel will be attending Penn State University in the fall; he has yet to declare his major.

**Rachel Mez**

*Parents' names:* Henry and Rhonda Mez

*Congregation:* Atlanta, Georgia

*High school accomplishments:* Rachel attended Woodland High School in Cartersville, Georgia, where she graduated with honors. She was the secretary of the National Honor Society. She ran varsity on the track team for three years, ran on the cross-country team for two years and was on the swimming and diving team for one year. Rachel was selected for both the All-County Track and Cross-Country Teams. She also received the Sandy Segars Joy Memorial Scholarship.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Rachel enjoys sports, especially running; and she also enjoys photography, playing the piano and just living God's way of life.

*Plans after graduation:* Rachel will be attending Kennesaw State University in the fall to major in nursing.

### **Rebekah Mez**

*Parents' names:* Henry and Rhonda Mez

*Congregation:* Atlanta, Georgia

*High school accomplishments:* Rebekah graduated from Woodland High School. She was a member of the National Honor Society and International Thespian Society. She received the Performing Arts Seal along with many other awards for theater, including Best Overall Senior award. She was a four-year member of an elite musical theater company at her school called CATS.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Rebekah has attended Church camp for the past six years and attends the many teen activities in the area. She enjoys singing, acting and reading.

*Plans after graduation:* Rebekah plans on relaxing and attending Church camps over the summer. She will be attending Kennesaw State University in the fall of 2012. She plans to major in her love, musical theater, with a minor in communications.

### **Isabella Sein**

*Parents' names:* Tha Sein and Mu Mu

*Congregation:* Raleigh, North Carolina

*High school accomplishments:* Isabella graduated from Chapel Hill High School.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Isabella enjoys fellowshiping, Bible studies and potluck socials.

*Plans after graduation:* Isabella plans to study nursing.

### **Crescina Shipman**

*Parents' names:* Toby and Jean Shipman

*Congregation:* East Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Throughout her high school years, Cina served as junior class president, Spanish Club president, Prom Committee president, National Honor Society vice president and Drama Club vice president. She was a member of the Student Council for the past two years and worked on the yearbook staff as photographer and design team member. Cina also participated in Model United Nations, UIL Persuasive

Speaking, UIL Prose Reading, as well as the UIL One Act Play every year of high school. During her junior year, her school's production of *The Cripple of Inishmaan* advanced through four competitions and made it to the regional meet. This year, for their production of *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller, Cina received honorable mention All-Star Cast for her performance at the zone competition and was also awarded All-Star Cast at the district meet.

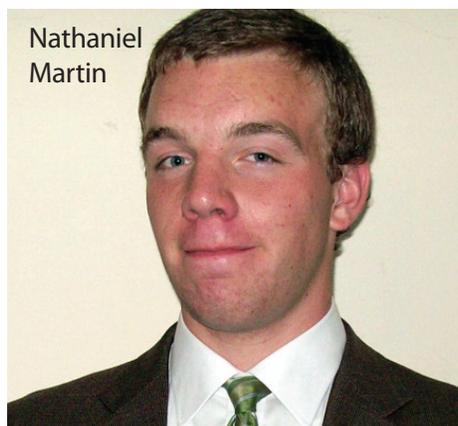
*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Cina enjoys hanging out with family and friends.

*Plans after graduation:* Cina will be attending the University of Texas at Tyler to pursue a degree in early childhood education and hopes to become a teacher and administrator.

### **Ethan Michael Snyder**

*Parents' names:* Michael and Shelly Snyder

*Congregation:* Portland, Oregon



Nathaniel  
Martin



Rebekah Mez



Rachel Mez



Isabella Sein



Crescina Shipman



Victoria Stolley



Ethan Snyder



Jake Stoner

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Ethan has been involved in numerous Church activities with the youth group such as basketball, volleyball and teen camp. He also enjoyed being a part of the fund-raisers, in particular providing mosquito nets for children in Africa. Ethan enjoys hunting, fishing, mountain biking, camping and music.

*Plans after graduation:* Ethan is interested in a career as an electrician or in metal fabrication and CNC machining. His favorite scriptures is “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

### **Victoria Stolley**

*Parents’ names:* Dan and Rebekah Stolley

*Congregation:* Fort Worth, Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Victoria graduated from Byron Nelson High School. During high school, Victoria was a member of the National Honor Society and the Academy of Medical

Professions. She obtained a Patient Care Technician certification, an Emergency Medical Tech certification and was recognized as an AP scholar. She also received the Eagles on the Rise Scholarship from the University of North Texas in recognition of her academic achievements.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:*

Victoria has been an active member of the Fort Worth teen club, speech club, basketball team and volleyball team. Additionally, she obtained a black belt in tae kwon do at the age of 13.

*Plans after graduation:* Victoria will attend the University of North Texas in the fall and will major in kinesiology. She plans to pursue a degree in holistic medicine. Victoria’s favorite scripture is Psalm 130:5: “I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.”

### **Jake Stoner**

*Parents’ names:* Jim and Emily Stoner

*Congregation:* Louisville, Kentucky

*High school accomplishments:* Jake

earned academic honors and was fifth in his class. He also was on the honor roll and a member of Spanish Club and Beta Club.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Jake runs the sound system and is a member of Leadership Club. Jake enjoys hunting, fishing and working on his dirt bike.

*Plans after graduation:* Jake will work this summer for Inwood Office Furniture. This fall he will be attending Purdue University at New Albany to study mechanical engineering.

### **Joseph Taylor**

*Parents’ names:* Father and step-mother, Jerome and Deborah Taylor; mother, Kelly Leonard Taylor.

*Congregation:* Atlanta, Georgia

*High school accomplishments:* Joseph graduated from Calhoun High School.

### **Joshua Travers**

*Parents’ names:* Greg and Carla Travers

*Congregation:* Athens, Ohio

*High school accomplishments:* Joshua was a member of National Honor Society, Beta Club and was on the Principal’s List. He graduated with honors and earned an award of merit—Student of the Month for February 2012. He was also a teacher’s aide and participated in broadcasting club.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Joshua has served as an assistant counselor at Arrowhead and currently serves on sound crew and as the congregation’s reporter. Joshua enjoys reading and writing as well as history and Spanish.

*Plans after graduation:* Joshua plans to attend Ohio University in Athens and earn a double major in Spanish and secondary education, as well as a minor in history and creative writing.

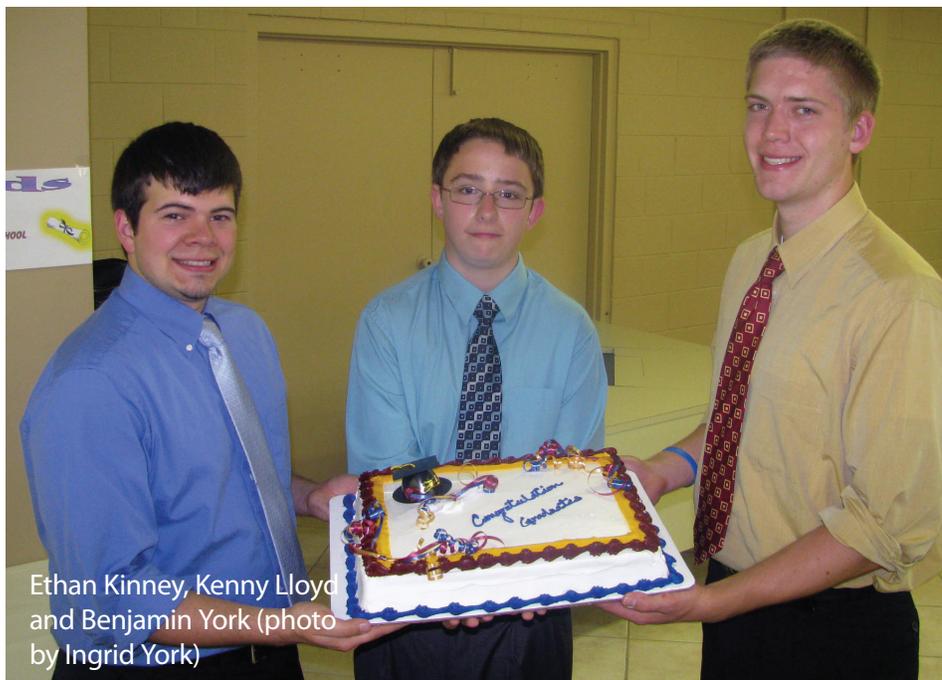
### **Breana Rachel Walton**

*Parents’ names:* Ken and Jeanne Walton

*Congregation:* Augusta, Georgia

*High school accomplishments:* Home-

# Beloit, Wisconsin, Honors Graduates at Pizza Social



Ethan Kinney, Kenny Lloyd and Benjamin York (photo by Ingrid York)

The Beloit, Wisconsin, congregation had a pizza social to honor three graduates.

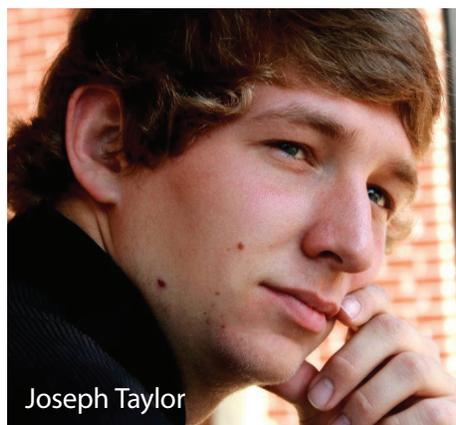
schooled since kindergarten, Breana graduated from the Academy of Home Education with a 4.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale and has a full tuition scholarship. She belonged to the National Honor Society and held the offices of food drive coordinator (three years) and treasurer (senior year). She has been a member of the National Fraternity of Student Musicians for eight years and has belonged to the FLAIR Foreign Language Honor Society. She enjoys volunteering at several institutions, including a hip-therapy center, a hospital and a soup kitchen. As a junior, she volunteered as an assistant physical education instructor for preteens.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Breana serves as the congregational pianist. During the Feast, she has played hymns as well as offertory and special music. Loving to work with children, she has served at preteen camp, Winter Family Weekend and Festival Youth Instruction classes. She participated in

Kenny Lloyd graduated from Stephen Mack Middle School in Rockton, Illinois, and is looking forward to the

the LifeNets ND Triathlon. In her spare time she enjoys playing the piano, reading and drawing. She likes to play the flute, make jewelry and play badminton; and she loves spending time with her family and friends.

*Plans after graduation:* While attending Augusta State University, Breana will be enrolled in the honors program and will major in biology and minor in music. Afterwards, Breana plans to attend medical school to become a neonatologist.



Joseph Taylor

next big step into high school.

Benjamin York graduated from McHenry County College with high honors with an associate of science degree. In the fall, Benjamin will be attending University of North Dakota to pursue a degree in geology.

Ethan Kinney graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Ethan has already secured a position with a company and looks forward to the next challenge this stage of his career has to offer.

After a few words from local pastor Mike Hanisko and each of the graduates, we broke bread (i.e. pizza and cake) and enjoyed the fellowship that followed.

**Brian York**



Joshua Travers



Breana Walton

# Where God Sets His Name

by David Johnson, corporate secretary

WHEN GOD FIRST GAVE ISRAEL DETAILED instructions about observing the annual holy days in Leviticus 23, He clearly listed the timing for each one and enjoined the Levites to make sure the days were proclaimed in their proper seasons. Since Israel was together in one place, He gave no specific instructions about where the days should be observed.

However, at the end of their wilderness wanderings, when they were preparing to enter into and live in the Promised Land, God made it clear that these days were not to be observed anywhere people felt it was convenient or interesting or “fun,” but in specific locations selected by God Himself. Six times in the first 17 verses of Deuteronomy 16, God tells His people to observe His feasts at the place where He chooses to put His name.

Since we know that God does nothing capriciously and all of His instructions have purpose, we may rightly ask why the annual holy days had to be observed at a specific location, selected by God. And further, is there any lesson in this instruction for us as well?

First, it should help us to recognize that there is more to keeping God’s holy days than simply observing the correct days. It is not possible to observe God’s feasts at some location other than where He has “placed His name,” even if we have the correct days.

Deuteronomy 16:16 says, “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles.” We have often explained that the word “times” would better be understood as “seasons.” In principle, this is fine; but the Hebrew word translated “times” can actually refer to a rhythmic footfall or footstep. It is probably better understood to mean three “walks” or “pilgrimages.”

Why would God insist that all the males must leave their homes and make a pilgrimage to the place where He “chooses to make His name abide” three times each year?

God knew the tendency of every person to try to make life as comfortable and stress-free as possible. He knew Israel would quickly acquire a local perspective and focus all of their energies on their own area. So, He instructed them to assemble at the place where He would put His name. They were continually reminded that the place where they lived could never become the main focus of their lives.

Many of us remember being reminded that God has not called us just so we could have personal salvation. We are called to be an active part of a much bigger work.

Many of us remember being reminded that God has not called us just so we could have personal salvation. We are called to be an active part of a much bigger work—a work that requires us to keep our focus turned outward instead of inward. The place where we live, the activities, the relationships, the challenges of our personal lives and our church areas can never become the main focus of our lives either.

As we make our plans for where we will observe God’s Feast this year, it’s a good time for us to consider where our hearts are focused and to make sure we are not distracted from the work and Kingdom where He has ultimately placed His name. ©A

**Question:** Many members over the years have expressed their desire to have us publish answers as well as a summary of topics covered monthly by the Personal Correspondence Department. So why don't we publish all PCD questions and answers?

**Answer:** We appreciate the interest in the work of the Personal Correspondence Department! In fact, that is one reason why we make the summary of the questions (published in the *Ministerial Newsletter* and the members news at [members.cogwa.org/news](http://members.cogwa.org/news)) as informative as we do: We want our Church family to see some of the fruits of the work of which we all are a part. But we understand and regret the frustration that we inadvertently cause by not publishing the answers. Certainly, such a report would provide information that many would find interesting and educational. Yet there are two main reasons why we do not publish the answers with the summary of the topics.

The first reason is the fact that many of the topics represent exchanges of correspondence between our office and the writer. They are, in fact, a type of counseling. People write to us of mistakes they have made; they write of sins they have committed; they seek help in repenting or overcoming.

Their letters can be quite detailed about their issues, and the writers are obviously looking to the Church privately. Some write about serious marriage problems or family and other relationship issues. Some write about financial problems. Some write us about problems they are having with other people in the Church!

They all want counsel. Just as we maintain confidentiality with face-to-face counseling, we also maintain confidentiality for those who write to us. Whether the letter is from someone in our Church, a different Church of God or from someone not yet attending, we do not want that individual's life details made public. (For the same reason, even when we summarize the questions asked, we do not include details that would make the writer easily identifiable.)

So, we don't publish some answers because doing so would break our policy of maintaining confidentiality.

You might ask, why not just give the essentials of the issue and then the answer. Answers to the same question may vary depending upon the circumstances. Just as you would, we answer someone with a great deal of spiritual understanding differently than we answer someone who knows only a little of the truth.

by Cecil Maranville, manager of the Personal Correspondence Department

For example, an answer we would give someone new to the truth about tithing would seem incomplete to people who know all about the tithing laws. Similarly, the answer will vary if we have a relationship with the person. That is, the answer might be different if the questioner is a first-time contact or someone with whom we have corresponded several times. We answer someone who is argumentative differently than we answer someone who truly wants guidance.

It might help if you think of the fact that these topics represent exchanges of personal letters, rather than published articles on a specific subject. There is a big difference between the two types of communication.

The second overall reason we do not include the answers in with the topic summaries is that to do so would require a huge amount of space! Remember, what we publish on the member news web page is just a summary, not a detailed report of every question received in a given month. Were we to include the details of the questions, instead of summarizing them, we would need more time and space to do so.

But the biggest job would be reproducing the answers to all the questions! Some questions and/or counseling situations require several pages to provide a complete response. To reproduce the questions and the answers that we send out monthly would be a major job. And publishing this information would obviously swell the several-page *Ministerial Newsletter* to many times its present size! It simply is not practical to assemble and produce such a huge document monthly.

Lastly, we assure you that there is nothing "secret" in our responses to letters! Answers to doctrinal questions explain the traditional Church teachings. The counseling we provide is the same that any elder would give a person seeking the Church's advice. If you read about any question to which you do not know the answer, simply ask your pastor or one of the elders in your area. They have access to our PCD form letters on our ministerial website. ©

*The Personal Correspondence Department responds to questions from people who contact the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, about the Bible and Christian living issues, as well as general inquiries about COGWA.*

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## News From the Congregations

# Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, Congregations Rejoice for Newly Ordained Elder



Kathy and Randal Rapp along with pastor, James Cap...

Applause rang out at the combined Phoenix and Tucson Pentecost service over the ordination of Randal Rapp to elder.

His wife, Kathy, and daughter, Rashele Hoyer, with her husband, Craig, and three children, rejoiced with the brethren.

Randal grew up in Pasadena. His father, Bill Rapp, worked for Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God at the time. Randal attended Imperial Schools and then Ambassador College in Pasadena, graduating in 1974. After continuing employment at the college for three years, Randal and his wife, Kathy, who attended Ambassador in 1976, moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where they have lived for the past 35 years.

Randal has worked in manufacturing, owning his own manufacturing business for a dozen years. For the past 15 years he has been a construction superintendent in the commercial construction field. Kathy owns her own finance and insurance agency.

Randal and Kathy have two grown children, Rashele and Ryan. Randal and Kathy have enjoyed serving in their local congregations, learning from many pastors over the years, and plan to continue serving as long as God sees fit.

**Gale Maranville**

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# Buffalo, New York, Congregation Gathers 1,600 Pounds of Food for the Church and Community at Double Food Drive

On May 19 and 20, 2012, the Buffalo congregation held a double food drive.

On the Sabbath of May 19, the congregation accumulated over 300 pounds of food and items for brethren in need. It also enabled the Church to set up a food pantry for those in need.

The event was coordinated through the efforts of Anne Koenig, a 12-year-old in the congregation. This marks the first Church of God, a Worldwide Association, food drive in the area.

On the following Sunday the congregation held an external food drive, which was coordinated with various entities in the Cheektowaga, New York, area. Thanks to the help of various members of the congregation, the event helped accumulate 1,300 pounds of food and various items for the Food Bank of

Western New York. The food bank was grateful for the food, especially since the organization receives less in food donations at this time of the year than

at any other. The Buffalo congregation hopes to do more events like this in the future.

**Stephan Koenig**



The food drive helped stock the congregation's food pantry for brethren in need, as well as furnished a sizable donation to a community food bank

## New Deacon Ordained in Cincinnati/Dayton, Ohio

Cody Kitts was ordained a deacon in the Cincinnati/Dayton, Ohio, congregation April 7 during Sabbath services by pastor Lyle Welty with the assistance of David Johnson.

Cody and his wife, Bobbi, have faithfully served the local area over several years wherever and whenever they have seen a need—coordinating hall setup and assistance, giving sermonettes and teen Bible studies, arriving to services early and staying late and providing excellent examples to all members, young and old.

After services, Cody and Bobbi were treated to hugs, handshakes and congratulations from a congregation that is proud to have them and is excited for the continued growth and development of its new deacon and deacon's wife.

**Jennifer Foster**



Bobbi and Cody Kitts

## Queens Preteen Wins Spelling Bee



Jordan Khembo

Jordan Chara Khembo won first place in his sixth grade spelling bee on Feb. 16, correctly spelling “bacteriology” and “serrated,” among other words. Jordan is 11 years old and attends the Brooklyn-Queens Leah Home School. He also serves on the Queens congregation sound crew. Congratulations on your achievement, Jordan!

**R. Norrod**

## Defuniak Springs, Florida, Brethren Carry On Decades-Old Fish Fry

Brethren from the DeFuniak Springs, Florida (formerly Geneva, Alabama), and Tallahassee, Florida, congregations gathered for the area's much-anticipated annual fish fry April 22, 2012, at the rural home of Ron and Lora Degagne near Malone, Florida.

Don Waterhouse, who pastored the area for nine years until July 1987, and other avid church fishermen started the annual get-together. Since Mr. Waterhouse moved away, the fish fry has often been planned to coincide with his visits back to the area to see his son and daughter and their families.

Harold Rhodes, who has pastored the area since July 1993, is also a fishing enthusiast and more than encourages this decades-old tradition!

Mingling in groups around the Degagnes' 100-year-old house and under oak trees even older, the 60 brethren in

July 2012



Brethren seek shade under ancient trees as they enjoy the fish fry

attendance enjoyed food, karaoke and fellowship on a gorgeous and unusually cool, breezy spring day.

The perfect weather was even more appreciated when members remembered

how lightning struck a nearby tree at a previous year's fish fry! Everyone looks forward to carrying on the fish fry tradition for years to come.

**Sandra Dreaden**

# Teens Take Over Sabbath Services in Fort Worth, Texas

The Teen Service Sabbath this year was on March 31, 2012. The work that is put into making our Sabbath services enjoyable and comfortable is done with diligence by our faithful and hard-working adults each Sabbath. But this was the day we teens got to help serve as the adults do each week.

Many teens served in many different ways, including opening and closing the hall, setting up, decorating and taking down the stage, working the video camera, making coffee and setting out snacks, greeting members and guests, leading hymns, giving the sermonette, playing piano for hymns, asking opening and closing prayers, working the sound equipment, taking photos, helping write this article and performing special music.

When asked what this day was about, Olivia Rodriguez (door greeter) said, "It is about learning to serve the people and God." Chantelle West (special music) responded that it was about "young people having the opportunity to serve for the Church and practice for the future."

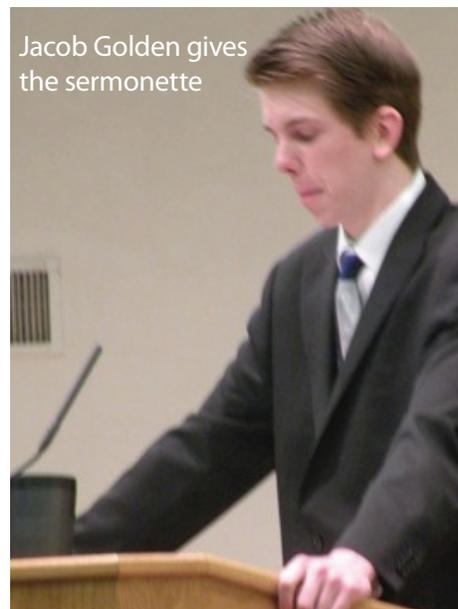
Courtney Houghton (coffee room) said that she wished to say to the adults, "Thanks for helping." Lexi Anderson (piano accompaniment) added that she would tell the adults, "Thank you for setting a good example."

Seth Cooksey (opening prayer) said he plans to help with setup on a regular basis when he gets older. Alexia Rickard (piano accompaniment) plans to continue helping with special music and hymns as she does now.

Jacob Golden said he "was very nervous" prior to giving the sermonette. Yet he gave an excellent message on anger and didn't seem nervous at all. The Teen Service Sabbath helps reveal how many people are needed to make services run

so smoothly each week. Due to a few teens being ill or away on Teen Service Sabbath, it also showed how we as a body are able and willing to help each other to get the job done. All in all, the teens' service was a success. It allowed 24 teens to help out and show their appreciation to the adults.

**Article by Danielle Williams (teen historian); photos by Tara Williams (stage decorations)**



Jacob Golden gives the sermonette



Alexia Rickard practices hymns on the piano

# Longtime Deacon and Deaconess Honored for Years of Service in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Peggy and Don Angert

On the Sabbath of Feb. 18, 2012, the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, congregation had the opportunity to show appreciation to Don and Peggy Angert for their many years of service.

Don came into the Church in 1968, and Peggy followed in 1979. On Dec. 7, 1985, they were ordained deacon and deaconess, and they have served faithfully ever since.

They were in total surprise when local pastor Don Henson called them to come forward during the announcements to receive a small token of the congregation's appreciation for all they have done and continue to do.

They were presented with a glass serving tray engraved with Hebrews 13:16: "Do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

**Judy Henry**

## Baptisms



Clyde Kilough baptizes  
Thierry Mabry

Recently, the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation warmly welcomed a new member into the body of Christ.

On May 4, 2012, Thierry Ann Mabry, daughter of Thom and Bonnie Mabry,

was baptized in the pond at her home. The baptism and laying on of hands was performed by Clyde Kilough and attended by her immediate family.

**Anthony Reisdorff**



As often as she can, Bridgitt Jones travels 4½ hours to attend services

The newest member of the Wichita, Kansas, congregation is Bridgitt Jones. She was baptized March 24, 2012.

God began calling Bridgitt when she and an old friend, a member of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, reconnected at their 30th high school reunion in July of 2011. Bridgitt had always faithfully attended her church, but there were so many questions that were never fully answered. As she asked her friend questions and received answers backed up by Scripture, she was amazed and wanted to know more and more. She found herself genuinely wanting to be a part of the Church.

“My counseling started the day I walked into Church,” Bridgitt says. “God was showing me His way and the

## Announcements

Alex Lord (photo by  
Anne Koenig)



On March 24, 2012, a new member was added to the spiritual family in the Buffalo, New York, congregation. Alex Lord, 21, was baptized in a private setting in Rochester, New York. Alex is the son of Buffalo’s pastor Scott Lord and his wife, Monica. Alex will also be attending the inaugural class of Foundation Institute this fall.

**Stephan Koenig**

truth. I feel so fortunate that God called me and am so thankful! It’s just so exciting! I’m a different and better person, and it’s exciting to know God chose me. I thank Him every day for that and for my Church family. I love them all!”

Bridgitt says the hardest thing for her is knowing her family does not understand her enthusiasm. But she adds, “I’m learning to deal with it and pray about it. The best thing is just the amazing feeling I have and my whole outlook on life now!”

Her advice to someone contemplating baptism? “Really listen. Study and ask questions. Pray and understand what God is telling you, and you will know when it’s right.”

**Lynda Wasser**



Connor Michael Schultz

Mike and Katrina Schultz of the Orlando, Florida, congregation are elated to announce the birth of their first child, Connor Michael Schultz. He was born on March 5, 2012, weighing 6 pounds and 15.5 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches long. Connor is an absolute miracle in their lives after trying to have children for five years. The entire Schultz and Kobernat families are thrilled about the new addition.



Hana Moriah Oren

Joshua and Jessica Oren welcome their newest addition to the family. Hana Moriah Oren was born on Aug. 17, 2011, at 12 a.m., weighing 8 pounds and measuring 21 inches. She was born at home into both of her fathers' hands—her Father in heaven and her daddy's. Welcoming Hana are her grandparents Gay and Charlie Oren, NavaYah and Yachanan Gray and Bill Yandle, along with her aunties, uncles and cousins.

## Births



Isaac Robert Oliver Wear

Jonathan and Johanna Wear of the Columbia, Missouri, congregation are pleased to announce the arrival of their first child, Isaac Robert Oliver Wear. He was born Feb. 20, 2012, weighing 8 pounds and 1 ounce and measuring 21 inches long. Mom and Dad are very excited to be parents and are very thankful for Isaac.



Jennifer and Jonathan Hart hold their daughter, Elise Madeline

Jonathan and Jennifer Hart of the Salt Lake City, Utah, congregation are happy to announce the birth of Elise Madeline Hart on June 5, 2012. Elise weighed in at 7 pounds 15 ounces and measured 19½ inches long. Grandparents Chris and Angela Moen and Neil and Beth Hart have enjoyed welcoming a new little girl to the family.

## Anniversaries

Angie and John Duncan



On April 21, 2012, the Nashville, Tennessee, congregation surprised John and Angie Duncan with a reception to celebrate their silver anniversary. Twenty-five years ago on May 3, John and Angie said “I do” and committed to one another before God. Both John and Angie have been attending church since they were very young. When asked what makes a successful marriage, Angie replied, “Each spouse must put God first separately, and love each other second.”

Unbeknownst to John and Angie, the Nashville brethren decorated the lounging room with the couple’s wedding photos provided by their daughters. There were finger foods, refreshments and snacks to enjoy; and one friend brought a 25th anniversary cake. The reception was quite a success, and John and Angie were sincerely appreciative of their Church family’s efforts to commemorate their special day.

**Amy Duncan**

Ron and Jane Stahl



On April 21, 2012, the Morgantown, West Virginia, congregation celebrated a very special day—the 50th anniversary of Ron and Jane Stahl. Mr. and Mrs. Stahl, who have been longtime, faithful members, were presented with a gift and cake for their golden anniversary.

**Sherry Beilstein**

Judy and Bill Swanson



Bill and Judy Swanson celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 9, 2012.

Mr. Swanson was born in Nacogdoches, Texas, and met Judy Marshall, who was originally from Merrill, Wisconsin, at Ambassador College in 1960. They were married in 1962. They jokingly say they healed the Mason-Dixon Line.

While in the Navy, Mr. Swanson had been studying the Scriptures and realized he shouldn’t be serving in the military. By a miracle, he received an early honorable discharge in 1957 and set out for Pasadena to attend Ambassador College.

In 1963 Mr. and Mrs. Swanson were sent out to serve in the southern part of Oregon and Northern California for three years. Mr. Swanson was ordained in 1964, two weeks before their first child arrived. The next 48 years involved pastoring over 35 congregations from California to New York, raising up eight new congregations, working as a Festival coordinator and serving in the Philippines.

They have four children, Loma Jean (Eric) Evans, Richard (Kris) Swanson, Allen (Michelle) Swanson and William (Sharon) Swanson. They have 10 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Mrs. Swanson writes for Examiner.com and for the Godly Women’s Blog on the cogwa.org website. Mr. Swanson is now retired but continues to serve the London, Kentucky; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Asheville, North Carolina, congregations. He also writes on the Prophecy team for the LifeHopeandTruth.com website. They reside in London, Kentucky.

Their words of advice on making a happy marriage work are making your spouse feel like he or she is the most important person in your life and having a sense of humor.

**Jeannie Evans**

# Obituaries



Dee Daniel

Dee Daniel, 72, a member of the Austin, Texas, congregation, died on Sabbath, April 21, 2012, while listening to the Houston webcast. Dee died after a brief struggle with and rapid decline due to lymphoma. She is survived by her children, Rick, Steve, Linda, Daniel and Joy, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dee was born on Nov. 3, 1939, and grew up in Maryland where she was baptized in the 1960s. She eventually made her way to Pasadena where she attended Ambassador College, worked on campus, sang in the choir and raised five children as a single mother. She would later live in Florida before settling in Texas. Dee loved living in Texas!

Dee's life revolved around her faith and her family. She spent the last part of her life raising her grandson, Austin. During her illness, Dee had gone to stay with Rick in Missouri, where she was then buried. Since her Austin friends and family were unable to be at the service there, on May 5 the Austin congregation hosted a memorial service for Dee. Jim Franks came to perform the service.

She is greatly missed by her family and friends! Life involved many trials and hardships for Dee, but she endured to the end. She finished her race and is awaiting her crown of righteousness.

**Pam Neal**

Larry Jay Jantzen was a faithful member of God's Church up until his recent death. He trusted God throughout his battle with lymphoma cancer and never lost sight of the hope and promises that God has given to us all.

Larry's journey through life began June 6, 1955, in Satanta, Kansas, and ended March 27, 2012, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He attended Ambassador College, where he excelled in track. He ran the 400- and 800-yard dashes, and many of his friends still remember his swiftness around the track. It was there that Larry met his future wife, Sue.

After his graduation from college, he worked for several years in the accounting department for Worldwide Church of God before continuing his career in Kansas and, finally, Colorado.

Larry received a post-graduate degree from the University of Southern California and became a successful businessman and bank president of several banks, most recently, the Mountain Valley Bank in Walden, Colorado.

Larry was an avid outdoorsman and sports enthusiast. He was also passion-

ate about God's truth and following His way of life. Larry was active in his local congregation in Castle Rock, Colorado, where he led songs and gave messages. In 2011 he served as the business manager at the Feast in Keystone, Colorado.

Larry also managed the family farm in Springfield, Colorado, before his death. Over the years Larry was involved in planting and harvesting wheat, as well as raising cattle and sheep. Because of this, Larry could attest that the sheep indeed know the shepherd's voice and would run to him only, which he often spoke about as showing the validity of what is recorded in the Scriptures.

Larry Jantzen was a great friend to many and one of the most giving individuals one could ever meet. He always seemed to be planning projects in his life and on the family farm. Helping others was a huge part of those plans.

Larry was preceded in death by his wife, Sue (Charles) Jantzen; his father, Alvin Ray Jantzen; and most recently his mother, Verline Jantzen. Larry is survived by his sisters, Kay (Randy)



Larry Jantzen

Schreiber in Phoenix, Arizona, and Loma (Jeffery) Fowler in Parker, Colorado; his son, Benjamin Jantzen; and his daughters, Ariel Jantzen and Jennifer Lorhammer.

When Larry smiled, he beamed. He will be remembered as a very upbeat and positive individual and a light to all who knew him.

**Sera Grabowski**

cogwa.org



Eleanor Suckling-Baird

Eleanor Doreen Suckling-Baird “came to her conclusion” at the grand old age of 92 years and 43 days on Monday, May 7, 2012, following a brief and rapid decline. She was surrounded by family and loved ones who sat vigil with her in her final days and hours.

Mrs. Baird was born on March 25, 1920, in a small mining village in the Rhondda Valley of South Wales, United Kingdom. Her formative years were a challenge, as she grew up with the ominous backdrop of the Great Depression, World

War II and poverty. Nonetheless, she determined to better herself and her children’s lives.

In her early 20s, religion became a major part of her life. Eventually, in 1962, her eldest son, Paul, who now serves as pastor of the Worcester, Massachusetts, and Portsmouth, New Hampshire, congregations introduced her to *The Plain Truth*. She had discovered her path to spiritual maturity.

Mrs. Baird was baptized in 1963 and soon was invited to be the telephone receptionist at Ambassador College in Bricket Wood, England. She remained with the college until its closure in 1974 and then continued as the receptionist in the church offices until her retirement, after almost 25 years of dedicated service.

She met Joseph Baird at church services in Corpus Christi, Texas. The “Towering Texan” eventually charmed her into marriage, and she moved to the United States. Tragically, Joe and Eleanor Baird were involved in an automobile accident that killed Joe and seriously injured Eleanor. She recovered and remained forever grateful for those 19 happy months.

Mrs. Baird lived her life as a loving, determined and tenacious mother, grandmother and great-grandmother with an unwavering belief in the resurrection.

Her children chose a fitting eulogy that portrayed her strength of character to mark her grave. It reads, “As Sir Winston Churchill said, we shall never surrender—she never did. Tenacious to the end.”

She set a good example, remained faithful and left a good legacy for her family to follow. Her family will miss her greatly.

**Paul, Arthur and Diane Suckling**

Winston Howard died Dec. 9, 2011. Mr. Howard was born on Dec. 8, 1930, in Damascus, Georgia. He spent his early years in Georgia as a sharecropper, moving to Miami at the age of 19. He learned about the Sabbath at an early age, and at one point had his own congregation.

After the death of his first wife, he directed his members along with himself to attend the Worldwide Church of God, afterwards to United Church of God and then to Church of God, a Worldwide Association.

Throughout his life, Mr. Howard was a pillar of faith in the Miami congregation. His love of life and immense desire to follow God’s way touched anyone who met him. He had a loving heart, gentle spirit, a sense of humor and a great love for God.

Cherishing his memory are two daughters, five sons, seven step-children, 18 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

**Linda Bacheller**

Karen Denise Collins died Dec. 15, 2011, after a long struggle with heart disease and diabetes. Karen was born on March 29, 1962, in Miami, Florida, to Freemon and Vivian Collins. She was the oldest of six children. Karen worked at Florida International University as an executive secretary for 19 years until 2005 at which time her illness left her disabled and unable to continue employment. At the time of her death, Karen was enrolled in college courses with a desire to pursue a bachelor’s degree in accounting. Karen was an active member of the Miami congregation and will be greatly missed.

**Linda Bacheller**

We encourage members to send announcements to be featured in *One Accord*. We feature events in members’ lives, including baptisms, births, engagements, weddings, significant anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.), graduations and obituaries. Typically they run between 50 and 100 words; however, we ask that all submissions stay under 250 words. Please submit a high-resolution color photo along with the written copy to your congregation’s reporter.

# Relationships

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