

OneAccord

September-October 2012



Foundation Institute Begins

2012 COGWA
Youth Camps
Reports and
Photos

Personal Contact:
Is There a
Waiting Period
Before Baptism?

*Portraits
of Faith:*
The Sky Is
the Limit

from the president

foundation institute orientation 2012

On Aug. 12, 2012, another milestone was reached in the history of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, with the first orientation for Foundation Institute. The very first year of the new Bible school began with 21 students (19 were present; 2 more arrived later in the week)—approximately double what we expected!

The Church of God has a long history of education programs, and we are pleased to add Foundation Institute to that list. Education has been part and parcel of preaching the gospel for the past 2,000 years. Matthew 5:1-2 tells us that Jesus sat down on a hillside and “taught” His disciples. Later, the Church was founded on the Day of Pentecost with 3,000 baptisms (Acts 2:41). The first-century apostles took the gospel message to the world (Matthew 28:19-20), “teaching” as they went.

After the original apostles dispersed from Jerusalem, the apostle Paul traveled throughout Asia Minor and taught Timothy, who taught others. From the streets of Jerusalem, the message was taken into the desert of Jordan to an area called Pella in A.D. 69, prior to the destruction of the temple.

From Polycarp to Polycrates, the names of teachers and students testify that God’s truth would be taught in every generation, no matter the personal cost. In the Middle Ages God’s people were called Anabaptists, Albigenians, Waldensians, Cathari, Petrobrusians,



Culdees, Lollards, Pasaginians and Arnoldists by their enemies.

History records that during the Middle Ages, the people of God traveled through India, China, Italy, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Bohemia, Poland, Lithuania, Albania, Lombardy, Milan, Rome, Venice, Florence, Constantinople, Bulgaria, Croatia, Dalmatia and Britain, teaching God’s way of life along the way.

In southern France in the 11th century, a group is recorded to have taught the truth of the Millennium and the Kingdom of God. They developed a college and a community to teach others this wonderful truth. In the 17th century a group in London taught others the truth of God. A local pastor was hanged outside of London in 1661 because of these teachings.

From Britain to Newport, Rhode Island, the truth was taught. From Newport to Hopkinton, Rhode Island, there were teachers and students and baptisms in the Pawcatuck River. Boom Bridge and Brown University are products of Sabbath-keepers from southern Rhode Island.

The truth was carried from Rhode Island to Piscataway, New Jersey, and from New Jersey to Marion,

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CHURCH of GOD
A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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“Foundation Institute Orientation 2012,” continued from page 2

Iowa. From Marion, Iowa, the message was taken to Eugene, Oregon; and from Eugene, Oregon, to Pasadena, California. Men and women were taught, and the truth was disseminated.

As the modern-day descendants of these people, we believe that until Christ returns we must continue to teach others who will pass on this truth to the next generation. More students must be taught, and more students must become teachers.

The responsibility to teach the truth is as vital a part of God’s Church today as it was in A.D. 31. For this reason, we are excited to introduce Foundation Institute, and we pray that it will become a valuable tool for biblical education in this modern age!

John Franks



Foundation Institute Begins
Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Ralph Levy teaches the new Foundation Institute class of 21 students; Allen Holl, Jean Talbott, Abigail Berdúo and Greg Meade take notes during class; Jim Franks teaches Fundamental Beliefs of the Church of God

This page, clockwise from top left: Chase Chambers and Jared Vaughn compare scavenger hunt lists; students and faculty listen to icebreaker speeches at the orientation mixer; students participate in a mixer game; Erik Jones (front) shares his icebreaker as Stephanie Alexander and Alex Lord peer over his shoulder; Sydney Wolbert and Kaitlin Messerly laugh as they share their icebreakers.



Raising the Bar in 2012



Camp Sequoia



Thirty-one campers and 31 staff converged at the Sierra Christian Service Camp in Posey, California, for Camp Sequoia July 22 to 29. All enjoyed a fun-filled week of activities, Christian Living classes, fellowship and beautiful weather. The days were in the mid to upper 80s, and nights were in the 60s.

Four ministers—Paul Carter, Jon Pinelli, Ken Giese and James Capo—and two minister’s wives—Tracy Carter and Kathy Giese—served in various capacities throughout the week.

Camp began with orientation and a welcome dance. Campers met other teens from various parts of the country from the Southwest, Northwest, Texas and even from the opposite coastline of North Carolina.

The first day’s activities included novelty Olympics, which ended with an 80-foot slip-and-slide. The novelty Olympics began with the sound of the Olympic fanfare, and Mr. Giese carrying an artificial Olympic torch.

Throughout the week, campers enjoyed such activities as dancing, speedaway, archery, riflery and skeet shooting, volleyball, basketball, swimming, ultimate Frisbee, hiking, life

skills and a challenge course run by Mrs. Carter. Rock climbing was added back into the program and included a traverse across a ravine.

Campers learned to raise the bar in such areas as personal achievement, friends, language and in the way they look at their potential for the future.

Each day was started with a Compass Check to point everyone in the right direction, and evenings ended with Christian Living and campfire. Camp Sequoia had its own “star search,” hosted by Jon Pinelli, at campfire one evening. All were treated to some very talented campers against the backdrop of a beautiful sunset and campfire.

Activities concluded Sabbath afternoon with a Bible Bowl, followed by a fine banquet and a camp dance.

Much gratitude goes to the staff who also raised the bar this year in their service to the camp. Many staff members served in multiple areas, making this year’s camp another very successful year. Thank you to all the campers and staff for a fabulous camp 2012!

Paul Carter, Camp Sequoia director



Strong Rock Camp



Camp Carter



Camp Heritage



Camp Carter

Eighty-three campers and 41 staff met once again at YMCA Camp Amon Carter in Fort Worth, Texas, for a fun-filled week of activities, Bible-based instruction and fellowship in early July. Thankfully, the weather stayed on the “cool” side (mid-90s) in comparison to last year. Most of the campers came from the southern region of the United States, but we also welcomed several from Florida, one from Tennessee, one from Ohio and four from the Great White North—Alberta, Canada!

Six ministers—Andy Burnett, Doug Horchak, Larry Salyer, Britt Taylor, David Treybig and Ken Treybig—and three minister’s wives—Lisa Burnett, Judy Salyer and Kathy Treybig—served in various capacities during the week.

“Raising the bar” was this year’s camp theme. President Jim Franks came Friday and taught a softball class and then gave the Sabbath sermon on the topic of the inappropriateness of allowing any form of lying in our lives. Media operation manager Clyde Kilough gathered film footage Thursday and Friday and presented the Bible study Friday night on developing godly character. He challenged campers by asking them to answer this question in their own lives: “As I leave camp, what three areas of godly character am I going to work on?”

In addition to Compass Checks given by various staff members immediately following breakfast each morning, Ministerial Services operation manager Doug Horchak taught this year’s Christian Living classes, which covered the questions of “Are there moral absolutes in today’s society?” and “How good is good enough when it comes to setting standards for our behavior?” On two evenings, staff fielded Bible and Christian Living questions from campers.

Campers participated in a full schedule of activities, which included archery, basketball, couples and line dancing, horseback riding, tubing and water-skiing at Lake Worth, low ropes and high ropes challenge courses, gaga ball, riflery, skeet shooting, softball, speedway, strength training, and volleyball. Evening activities provided an opportunity for campers to choose the activity in which they wanted to participate.

This year we added kickball and capture the flag to the list, which were big hits with the campers. Campers also enjoyed staff-camper mixers in basketball and volleyball. Proficiency certificates were awarded to campers who met proficiency standards in basketball, volleyball, strength, water-skiing, high

ropes pamper pole challenge and the mile swim.

Carter held two “all camp” dances, one on Tuesday and another on Saturday night. Thursday night’s “campfire” activity brought with it a lot of laughs, as campers represented their dorms in various zany contests. On Friday evening, campers and staff were treated to a charcoal-grilled steak or chicken dinner with all the fixin’s.

Plans are already underway for next year’s camp, June 30 to July 7. We hope to add at least two new activities to our program: fishing (as an open activity option in the evenings) and an orienteering “Amazing Race” game.

We’re thankful for the dedication of our volunteer staff members who in many cases give up vacation time to serve our young people. In addition, a big thank you goes out to the Fort Worth congregation and their pastor, Mr. Taylor, for assisting Camp Carter by providing several services, including a meal for our staff during staff training, laundering camp shirts and coordinating van rentals. Lastly, we deeply appreciate the parents of our campers. Your tireless efforts were evidenced by your children’s good conduct at camp!

Andy Burnett, Camp Carter director

Camp Heritage

Heritage Reservation (near Farmington, Pennsylvania) was the location once more for COGWA Youth Camps in the northeastern United States. It was our second summer for the camp program, but the location is very familiar to many since the first Church of God camp was held here in 1996 (making this the 17th consecutive year we’ve used this facility). Thirty-six campers and 27 staff members converged on the camp, which ran Aug. 12 to 19, 2012.

Following a trend established last year, we added some new “wrinkles” in 2012. Prominent on this list was the Zipline

Adventure Park in Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania. Basically an obstacle course run 30 feet above the ground, the course ends with a 200-foot zip line. This activity was for both Adventure level campers (aged 12-14) and Challenge level (aged 15-18). Our oldest camper, Drew English, came within 10 seconds of tying the course record time of 54 seconds, running the course in 1 minute 4 seconds. Others conquered their fear of heights in “raising their bar” of accomplishment.

Younger campers avidly tackled the 25-foot climbing wall and the shotgun

range (trapshooting). The older group once more went white-water rafting down an eight-mile course on the lower Youghiogheny River. Softball, soccer, volleyball, basketball, life skills, archery, riflery, swimming and sailing (first time since 2002 at Heritage!) rounded out the list of activities.

This year saw a clear “raising of the bar,” with active cooperation by all, campers and staff alike. Many commented on the smooth operation of camp this year, despite some challenges.

Look ahead to 2013!

Doug Johnson, Camp Heritage director

Challenger: Rocky Mountain Adventure

In early July, 10 young adults and five staff members came together for the Challenger program in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. After arriving in Denver on Sunday, we drove to Steamboat Lake State Park, which was our base for the first several days.

Monday was filled with all-day instruction on orienteering and map reading, wilderness first aid, mountain hiking and camping, safe water, bear protocols, team dynamics and many other skills we needed to be prepared both for our upcoming backpack trip and any future ones we may organize on our own.

Each day started off with a Compass Check by Paul Luecke, James Capo, Jon Pinelli or Cody Kitts, focusing our minds on the spiritual lessons and analogies related to the activities in which we were engaged. Each evening we had a discussion focused on a specific subject related to leadership or spiritual growth, followed by singing “God Is Our Refuge” together (a cappella).

The next two days we rock climbed on nearby rock formations. We all climbed hard and pushed ourselves and encouraged one another, so that on the second day several expressed amazement at how much everyone had improved in just one day. The second day also included rappelling and a cable traverse across a scenic gorge. Compass Checks and Christian Living discussions on these days focused on spiritual lessons drawn from rock climbing, such as being anchored to our Rock, being “on belay” for each other and teaming up with people who have the same climb in mind.

Unexpected challenges

Early Thursday morning, after carefully packing, weighing and repacking our backpacks, we began a 10½-mile trek into the scenic Mount Zirkel Wilderness to live in the mountains for the next five days. Much of our hike was on the Continental Divide at about 11,000 feet elevation, and the views were spectacular.

Just as we were arriving at our destination—Luna Lake—we got our first taste of an impressive mountain thunderstorm. The thunder was so loud we felt as though we were in the middle of the cloud, and it was an awesome display of God’s power. It was also very cold and windy, and included some hail, making for an unexpected challenge since we didn’t have shelters set up yet. The team pulled together, however, to make the best of the situation. The first group who arrived erected a tarp shelter in the pouring rain and started some hot water boiling, so that when the second group arrived cold and soaked, the less-soaked group was able to pass out hot liquids and assist them in getting into dry clothes.

We kept our Jetboils—small, efficient camping stoves—busy heating water for rehydrating our meals and making hot chocolate, coffee or tea.



We spent Friday fishing around beautiful Luna Lake, drying out and enjoying the magnificent creation around us. Over two days we caught 43 trout altogether (in addition to some catch-and-release), which we filleted, covered in flour and seasonings, and fried in oil. Served with rehydrated mashed potatoes, they made for a very tasty dinner!

On the Sabbath, the “Mount Zirkel congregation” met on “Church Rock,” an outcropping of rocks near our campsite, with a beautiful view of Luna Lake providing an impressive backdrop for services. Zach Smith led us in singing hymns, Mr. Kitts gave a sermonette on the salt of the earth, and Mr. Luecke gave the sermon on “Leadership and the Two Trees.” Three participants provided special music for the group with an a cappella rendition of “Be Not Afraid.”

Sunday was another day at Luna Lake and an excursion by several to explore nearby Lake of the Craggs. Although we didn’t catch fish there, the stunning beauty of the lake was well worth the trek! Monday morning we dismantled our base camp and loaded up for the trip out. Our first order of business after coming out of the mountains was taking some much-appreciated showers and eating a delicious dinner at a microbrewery.

Sara Jo Luecke, Challenger Camp participant

Who Am I?

As we prepare for the Feast of Tabernacles, we should also make time to consider how our example at the Feast will reflect on God and Jesus Christ.

by Mark Winner

WHEN I WAS A BOY, WE OWNED A DECK OF CARDS known in our house as the “Who Am I?” cards. Each card had four clues that led to the answer. The first clue on the card was more difficult and vague; but as you continued to read the clues, they became easier and more specific. We had several different decks of these cards, and all of them pertained to individuals from the Bible. The goal was to get the answer as quickly as possible, using as few clues as possible. Perhaps some of you grew up playing “Who Am I?” also. When you think about it, that’s a great question to ask ourselves, isn’t it? Just exactly who am I?

Each year as the weather becomes cooler in the northern hemisphere (warmer in the southern hemisphere) we come before God at His appointed time, where He has placed His name to keep four specific holy days. We close the annual holy day cycle by leaving our homes and keeping the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day. It is a true highlight of the year to both God and His people. And it’s a natural time to again ask the question “Who am I?” because we are all taking a look at what lies ahead for both God’s first-fruits as well as the rest of mankind.

In 2 Corinthians 5:20 Paul states, “We [he and Timothy] are ambassadors for Christ.” That was who they were. This leads to the question, what is an ambassador? According to *Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary* an ambassador is “an official envoy; especially: a diplomatic agent of highest rank accredited to a foreign government or sovereign as the resident representative of his or her own government or sovereign or appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment; *an authorized representative or messenger.*”

Representing Christ

Just as Paul and Timothy were ambassadors for Christ, we, too, became ambassadors for Christ when we repented and were baptized and given God’s Holy Spirit. So as we go about our lives in our neighborhoods and go to school or work and, yes, when we go to the Feast of Tabernacles, we participate as “an authorized representative.” In short, we represent Jesus Christ. So when you think about the ques-

tion “Who am I?” in that light it, can be a rather sobering question, can’t it?

As we know—with rare exception—this world we live in does not know or understand much about God or His holy days. The only time many people may even hear the term “Feast of Tabernacles” or “Last Great Day” or even “Church of God” may be when we come to their community for eight days. As ambassadors for Christ, what are they going to see in you and in your family? Are they going to see men, women and children who represent God the Father and Jesus Christ in such a way that God would be well pleased? I’m sure He hopes so.

Growing up in the Church, this was stressed in our home. My sister and I were taught that both God’s name and our family name were important to God. Our example was

As ambassadors for Christ, will people see men, women and children that represent God the Father and Jesus Christ in such a way that God would be well pleased?

important to Him. How many times I remember hearing, “It doesn’t matter what anyone else does; it matters what we do.” I must say, I’m truly thankful that principle was taught in our home. The truth is, our example does matter. It’s what tells everyone around us “who we are.”

As ambassadors for Christ, we are expected to represent Him in how we carry ourselves at all times. This includes something as simple as tipping housekeeping at the Feast or teaching and training our children while we are out and about. Whether we are talking to people in the grocery store or driving in traffic, we must remember that we are ambassadors for Christ. Let’s make sure we think about this before and during the Feast this year, and anytime we hear the question “Who am I?” ©

Mark Winner is the pastor of the Nashville, Tennessee, as well as the Henderson and Louisville, Kentucky, congregations. He is the Festival coordinator for Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

I Must by All Means Keep This Feast

We are all burning hot with Feast fever, anticipating another great eight days of learning and growing with God's brethren. Before we go, let's make sure we align our priorities with God's intended purpose for the Feast of Tabernacles.

by Mike Blackwell

The words of the apostle Paul showed his desire and intent to keep God's feasts. During the time Paul lived, there was one place to keep the Feast, and there weren't a lot of distractions. In a month we will all be leaving home to go to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. We have beautiful sites around the world where God's people will gather together as family to celebrate the Feast—picturing the coming, wonderful Kingdom of God.

Feast fever should be burning hot in our lives as we prepare to celebrate what is the highlight of the year for most members of the Church of God. Whether this is your first Feast or your 50th, we all look forward to it with excitement as it draws nearer. But as we anticipate the Feast, there is an important principle we need to remember. In all the excitement about the trip and the exotic locations with fun things to do, don't forget why we are keeping the Feast of Tabernacles. We must not have the mind-set that we are going on vacation with the hope that a Feast will incidentally occur. We are to be going, as Paul instructs, to "keep this Feast" before God.

All the feast days of God are called "holy convocations" in Leviticus 23. This means a coming together for a holy purpose—to assemble before God and to learn. At the Feast we will have roughly as many services and Bible studies as we have in almost 25 percent of the rest of the year. We need to remember that the most important activities we will participate in during the week are the ones that focus on God—the services, studies or seminars. The messages during the Feast are designed to help give us a better vision of the Kingdom of God and prepare us for it. There are lots of things to do at the Feast sites, which is good; but keep your priorities straight so you will have a great Feast.

The purpose of Festival tithe

In the instructions about use of the second tithe—the Feast tithe—in Deuteronomy 14, we are told to do several things.

We are to eat of the tithe of our increase before the Lord in the place He chooses to place His name "that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always" (Deuteronomy 14:23). A major part of our attending the Feast of Tabernacles is to learn to fear and stand in awe of our God always. During the Feast the messages, events and activities should deepen and increase our awe and appreciation of God. This requires that we keep our focus on the important things of God at His Feast.

After each Feast of Tabernacles, we should come home with a more complete understanding of God's plan, an expanded view of His greatness and a deeper awe and respect for Him. We should come back recharged spiritually to continue our trip to the Kingdom of God. In order to do this, we need to fully participate in the Feast. Don't let the physical things crowd out the more important aspects of the Feast.

In the above-cited passage about the Feast tithe, we are also instructed to rejoice before the Lord our God at the Feast. It is generally very easy to rejoice at the Feast, but sometimes things get in the way, and we can become grouches. As you go to the Feast, resolve to not let anything get in the way of your rejoicing before our God at the site where He has placed His name. This rejoicing includes your family and "the fatherless and the widow." Plan things that will help the Feast be a time of rejoicing for every member of the family of God. Give the children time to run and play. Buy them a special toy or two for the Feast, plan family activities during free time that every member of the family can rejoice in at their own level.

The Feast of Tabernacles is just around the corner. I have a case of Feast fever. I must keep this Feast—and I look forward to seeing many of you there doing the same thing! ©[®]

Mike Blackwell is the pastor of the Harrison, Arkansas, as well as the Joplin and Springfield, Missouri, congregations. He is the Festival coordinator for Branson, Missouri.

Uncompromising Faithfulness

by David Baker

The 1960s were an exciting time in God's Church. It was during this time that the Church experienced incredible growth, and God often called individuals in remote areas around the world.

What if you were baptized and after a couple of years moved to a remote area with little opportunity to see another member of God's Church for several years? Could you survive spiritually? Are your convictions strong enough to carry you through tough times with little support from other members of the Church? What if you were not able to attend regular Sabbath services with a congregation for almost 30 years? What if you were finally able to attend weekly Sabbath services and did so with great joy, but within a few years the basic doctrines of that church begin to change? What would you do? I would like to introduce you to a person who did not compromise with God's truth to the day she died, even when faced with such a scenario.

Dr. Dossibai Ali, a longtime member of God's Church, died Friday morning, July 27, 2012, at her home in Secunderabad, India. She was 84 years old.

Dr. Ali was born on March 31, 1928, in Hyderabad, India. Her father was a Parsi and a member of the Zoroastrian religion. One of her great-grandmothers was Dutch and of Jewish ancestry. She first learned of the Bible while attending an Australian Anglican church school. Dr. Ali attended Isabella Thoburn College in Lucknow, India, for her undergraduate studies in intermediate science, after which she completed five years of medical school.

Dr. Ali and her husband, a Muslim, moved from India to England in 1959 for postgraduate studies. They were accompanied by their three small daughters. While living in England, Dr. Ali came into contact with the Church. She heard *The World Tomorrow* broadcast on Radio Luxembourg and requested literature. She was baptized on Aug. 1, 1960, at Stockton-on-Tees by Raymond McNair and Robin Jones.

Her husband then became hostile toward her new religion. The Ali family returned to India in 1962, and her husband's hostility continued to the point that she was beaten severely at times. Fearing for her life, Dr. Ali lived in a hostel for a year. The Alis divorced in 1965. Because Dr. Ali was not Muslim and would not raise her daughters as Muslims, the court granted custody of the daughters to her husband. For years the daughters lived at their father's house and would visit their mother during the day. After her divorce, Dr. Ali

worked as a medical officer in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Goa.

From the day that Dr. Ali and her family returned to India in 1962 until the Feast of Tabernacles in 1973, Dr. Ali did not meet another Church member. During those 11 years she endured incredible hardships but always remained faithful to her

calling and God's way of life. Even after 1973, there was no local congregation where Dr. Ali could attend regular Sabbath services. Weekly Sabbath services were not held in her area of India until the late 1980s or early 1990s—at least 15 years after attending her first Feast and more than 28 years after her baptism. Dr. Ali set a beautiful example of faithfulness while facing incredible challenges as she lived God's way of life.

Dr. Ali is survived by her three daughters: Roshan, who lives in Scotland, and Arjumand and Nargis, who live in Secunderabad, India. Arjumand and Nargis are baptized members of the Church.

Dr. Ali has finished her race; and like the apostle Paul, she could state, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

I have been saddened by the death of Dr. Ali, and her daughters are feeling a terrible loss by her absence. But she fought the good fight and ran her race with success. Rather than be saddened by her death, we can be inspired by the example that she set for us all. With that said, please pray for her daughters that God would comfort them during this time. As they said to me recently, "We are at a terrible loss, but we do not want to forsake God's truth." ©A



Dr. Dossibai Ali

In 1983, as a 13-year-old boy, Martin Brown came into contact with the Church of God through his grandmother and started attending Sabbath services with her and his mother. The first article he read was “The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse,” and he was absolutely fascinated by the imagery and the prophecies portrayed.

Martin grew up as a teenager in the Church and attended the Summer Educational Programs sponsored by the Church. At school Martin excelled in sports and gained provincial colors in high school for high jump in track and field and in acrobatics. Martin also became a professional ballroom and Latin American dancer.

As with all young, white South African men during the 1970s and '80s, Martin was expected to complete his compulsory military training once he had matriculated. He became a religious objector and was sentenced to 2½ years of community service in the Civil Protection Services, where he lectured on first aid.

After he had completed his community service, Martin joined the fire brigade as a reservist. During this time he completed several courses as a basic ambulance attendant, and he also completed a four-year diploma course on ambulance emergency critical care technology.

But then in December 1997 Martin tragically broke his neck during a diving accident in a river. This accident has left Martin a complete quadriplegic.

During the 3½-year period that followed, Martin learned to adapt to his situation. He went through the phases of acceptance, adapting and moving on. He saw this situation



Martin Brown and his mother, Louise Steyn

in his life as “the reality of life” and forced himself to “deal with it,” despite the fact that he was wheelchair-bound and totally dependent on his mother, Louise, for everything—getting dressed, eating, washing—everything!

In 1999 Martin started his first business by

The Sky Is the Limit

by Tony Levy

designing web pages for small legal practices. At this time he recognized the major role that the computer would play in his life in terms of it becoming his hands and feet and in providing an income. A second business followed in 2001 in which he was a labor broker for the construction industry.

In 2001 an Australian company provided Martin with a battery-powered wheelchair. Although a blessing, the manufacturer of the wheelchair designed it smaller than the specifications provided, resulting in Martin ending up in bed with serious pressure sores for three months. Once Martin had recovered from the pressure sores, he started modifying the chair and rebuilt it entirely for his specific needs.

As a result of this reverse engineering process, Martin’s current business—Radical Holdings (Pty.) Ltd.—was born. This business started in a double garage with one worker until the floor area became too congested to accommodate an increasing business, and larger premises were required. Since that humble beginning, Martin has built customized wheelchair systems to meet the specific and environmental needs of customers.

Over the next 10 years Martin’s business has continued to grow. He has made approximately 600 chairs to meet specific needs and requirements and has caught the attention of business leaders in South Africa. As a result, he won the 2010 Entrepreneur of the Year from Sanlam and Business Partners (an insurance and a finance company in South Africa) in the Small Medium Entrepreneur division. In 2011 he received the National Business Leadership Award from Inseta. In 2012 he received two out of four awards from the Small Entrepreneur Development Agency for Entrepreneur, Job Creation and Best Entrepreneur, Disability.

Martin believes in living life to its fullest every day. Opportunities do exist. It all depends on how high one is prepared to jump to reach them. He sees his future as extremely bright. His business goal is to capture the market by providing the best prices, the best quality and the best service in Africa with regards to mobile wheelchairs. As Martin says, “God provides the wind, but we need to set our sails.”

Martin is a member of the Church of God South Africa Kempton Park Spokesman’s Club and is also a public speaker. Besides running his business, Martin is currently studying for his Bachelor of Commerce degree in entrepreneurship, which will help him to manage his business more effectively and will also increase his knowledge of entrepreneurship for his public speaking career. ©A

COGWA Young Adult Leadership Weekends:

Serving the Body of Christ

On the weekend of Nov. 2-4, 2012, the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, will host an educational weekend for ALL young adults in three regional locations around the United States. Portland, Oregon; Columbus, Ohio; and Atlanta, Georgia, will be the first to play host to these special meetings in November. We also plan to sponsor the same Leadership Weekend for young adults in the South/Central U.S. in Dallas, Texas, on Presidents' Day weekend—Feb. 15-17, 2013.

Nov. 2-4, 2012
Columbus, Ohio
Atlanta, Georgia
Portland, Oregon

Feb. 15-17, 2013
Dallas, Texas

While the Church has sponsored special regional weekends for our young adult population many times over the years, this will be the FIRST time we have done so with one fundamental theme and purpose.

We know that within the Church is a large group of enthusiastic young adults who desire to be a part of the work of God. The Church considers it essential to invest in the development of younger adults to better enable them to contribute their talents and abilities to the work of God. All young adults—from recent high school graduates to those in their 30s, both married and single—are strongly encouraged to attend.

These special weekends are designed to help educate, motivate and inspire our younger members to fulfill their leadership roles in the Church of God.

We believe the time is now for those qualified and motivated of the younger generation to step into roles of service within the Church. During that weekend, we plan to cover such topics as "The Heart of a Servant," "Serving in the Local Church," "The Importance of Integrity and Character," "Humility:

The Key to Godly Leadership," and "The High Calling of God: The Ministry," to name a few.

At present, we plan to link up all three of these initial locations via video on the web so that the presenters at each location (Jim Franks, Doug Horchak and Clyde Kilough) can speak "live" to the other two locations for their class presentations.

Each of the host church areas has secured quality but affordable accommodations at hotels or retreat

facilities. Plans for group meals have been made as well.

Registration and further information about the Young Adult Leadership Weekends will be announced in all local congregations prior to the Feast of Tabernacles.

We encourage all young adults to reserve Nov. 2-4, 2012, or Feb. 15-17, 2013, to attend a weekend of education, inspiration and fellowship aimed at strengthening their commitment to serve in the work of God!





Question: I am interested in baptism. Is there a waiting period before one can be baptized? If so, how long is it? Does the Church require a learning curve before it will baptize, or is repentance and belief enough?

by Cecil Maranville, manager of the Personal Correspondence Department

Answer: The Church has no set amount of time for a person to wait after asking to be baptized, but the nature of preparing properly takes time. Conversion involves the greatest change of perspective, the greatest change of mind and the greatest change of motivation a person can make. So, such a major undertaking will require time.

Yes, repentance and belief are requirements for baptism. Yet how one comes to this point in life is unique to each individual, even though everyone undergoes a similar process. For that reason, the amount of time it takes to prepare for baptism varies from person to person.

And, yes, there is a certain “learning curve.” While it includes some intellectual learning, it is mostly a spiritual learning curve. Your comments show that you know there is more to baptism than just the ceremony, because you mentioned repentance and belief. Both require a certain amount of understanding that can come only as a result of Bible study, reading pertinent articles and baptism counseling. A person has to learn what repentance is and what to repent of—that is, how he personally has sinned.

We have much helpful material on <http://lifehopeandtruth.com/> to direct a person preparing for baptism. We recommend the several articles on or linked to these pages: <http://lifehopeandtruth.com/change/christian-conversion/>; <http://lifehopeandtruth.com/change/repentance/>; <http://lifehopeandtruth.com/change/baptism/>; <http://lifehopeandtruth.com/change/faith/what-is-faith/>.

It will take time for a person to be able to recognize his personal sins. Many people spend years attending the Church of God without deeply personalizing the knowledge gained. A person being baptized has to appreciate that *his* sins required the death of Christ. Preparation also requires putting forth the necessary effort to attempt to turn from breaking God’s law to keeping it. Typically, deeply concentrating on repenting leaves a person somewhat frustrated, because sins keep appearing.

No one will be able to change everything completely without the help of the Holy Spirit that is given at baptism, but everyone will be able to change enough to demonstrate what John the Baptist called “fruits worthy of repentance” (Matthew 3:8). They show that the person has the necessary commitment to stay with the faith the rest of his life.

Once you ask for baptism, your pastor (or an elder the pastor designates) will begin a series of baptism counseling sessions. The sessions are not invasive; you don’t “confess your sins” to a minister, for confession is done privately to God. They are personal in that they afford a wonderful opportunity for the minister to get to know you and vice versa. He discusses Church doctrine with

A person being baptized has to appreciate that *his* sins required the death of Christ.

you, answers any questions you have and walks through the steps of the process of conversion to make certain you are prepared.

The counseling is both necessary and helpful. Through these sessions, the minister helps you put the finishing touches on the preparation you have done. It bolsters your confidence when the minister, too, concludes that you are ready to make this great commitment.

As far as how long the counseling process is, the minister takes as long as necessary, but no longer than necessary, for each person! That’s for your good, as well as for the good of the Church overall. ©A

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.

News From the Congregations

Houston North Women's Christian Living Workshop Focuses on Lessons From the Proverbs 31 Virtuous Woman

With over 50 ladies in attendance, the Women's Christian Living Workshop was relaunched on April 21, 2012, with an interactive workshop on the virtuous woman found in Proverbs 31.

The workshop was given by Sandy Lawler, a member of the Houston North, Texas, congregation, where she provided the women with background information and insight into the Proverbs 31 passage. The ladies were then given an opportunity to share ideas, perspectives and experiences about the virtuous woman, guided by interactive activities, all while enjoying a wonderful potluck of goodies.

The mission of the Women's Christian Living Workshop Program is to provide an opportunity for women in God's Church to come together to share



Sylvia Jones, Laurie Curry, Judy Servidio and Connie Nickerson share ideas

ideas, knowledge and life experiences in an effort to spiritually enrich their lives and bring them closer to other women of God.

The ladies enjoyed studying the virtuous woman and are looking forward to the next workshop.

Sandy Lawler

Twin Cities Youth Inspires Selfless Generosity in Community

There are many things we can learn from the examples of little children. The Twin Cities, Minnesota, congregation has recently been blessed with one exceptional example in the generosity of Amira Youssef.

In the fall before her fourth birthday, Amira found a dollar bill in a snowy parking lot. She told her mother that instead of keeping the dollar, she wanted to give the money to buy food for "hungry children." She saved that dollar, and when her birthday arrived in late April, she asked her friends and family to bring donations of food or cash for the local food shelf instead of birthday gifts.

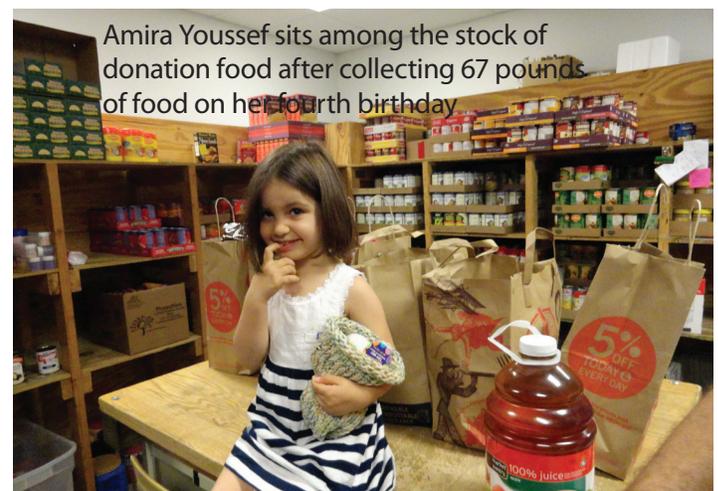
Her generous spirit was contagious. At her birthday party, Amira collected \$102 (including the first dollar) and 67 pounds of food. She personally delivered the donations to a local food shelf where they gave her a tour and allowed her to stock a shelf.

Following her birthday, the community newspaper honored her with a front-page story about her donation. Her mother, Aimee Lemen, was so inspired by her daughter's example that she approached her employer about partnering with the food shelf. The food shelf was chosen over other proposals

because her employer was impressed by Amira's passion for giving.

Ever since she discovered that dollar in the snow, every penny Amira has earned doing chores around the house has been dedicated to that "hungry children box." Amira's generosity is one reminder of how we are to be like little children.

Sally M. Reynolds



Amira Youssef sits among the stock of donation food after collecting 67 pounds of food on her fourth birthday

Two Men Ordained in Colorado Front Range Congregations

In order to better serve the brethren of the Colorado Front Range congregations, two new elders were ordained in the last year. On Jan. 21, 2012, during a combined service, Robert Harvey, a faithful servant and deacon was called upon to become a local elder. Mr. Harvey runs the sound equipment for the Berthoud and Castle Rock congregations each week, in addition to his speaking and song-leading duties.

Jim Chapman, another active member and dedicated servant, was ordained an elder on Pentecost. His father, Jim Chapman, a retired pastor from the Red Bluff, California, area, asked the prayer and was joined by Doug Horchak, Larry Neff and Mr. Harvey for the laying on of hands. Mr. Chapman



Robert Harvey



Jim Chapman

has been speaking, conducting teen Bible studies and working with the youth.

These additions to the congregational

structure were all the more welcome since there were no men serving as elders previously.

Sera Grabowski

Putting a Face to a Name: Brethren in Grenada



The small congregation in the Caribbean island of Grenada observed Pentecost this year together with Osmonde Douglas, who is an elder in Barbados. From front to back, the Grenadian brethren are Leah and Lennie Wilson, Dennis Edmund, Agnes Wilson, Eunice Harbin (Grenada's oldest member), Carlyle Hurley, Greg Wilson, Norma Johnson and Osmonde Douglas. Leah and Greg Wilson are the only youths in the Church in Grenada.

Osmonde Douglas

New Deacon Ordained in Louisville, Kentucky

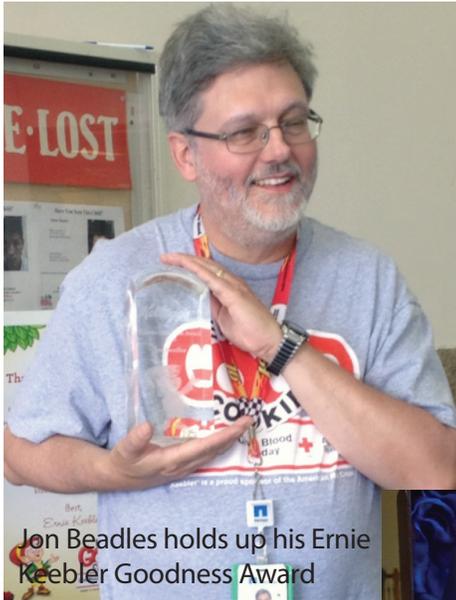


Emily, Ava and Jason Hyde

The holy days are always an exciting and encouraging time for all of us. But Pentecost, May 27, 2012, gave the brethren of the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation even more cause to rejoice as Jason Hyde was ordained a deacon. Jason and his wife, Emily, along with their little daughter, Ava, have been an active part of the congregation in Louisville and have also served the sister churches in the circuit—Henderson, Kentucky, and Nashville, Tennessee. We are excited to have a new deacon and look forward to his continued service with our Church family.

Carolyn Winner

Kansas Member Wins National Award for Regularly Donating Blood



Jon Beadles holds up his Ernie Keebler Goodness Award

Jon received a crystal trophy of Ernie Keebler, a one-year supply of Keebler cookies, and two \$500 Wal-Mart gift cards, one for his own use and one for the charity of his choice. Jon was also interviewed on a local radio station in connection with the blood drive and the award.

Jon was chosen because he has personally donated 55 pints of blood, and he serves as the blood drive coordinator where he works. Jon credits both his employer for providing the time to organize the drive every two months and his generous coworkers, whom he recruits to donate and volunteer at the drives.



On July 16, 2012, the first Ernie Keebler Goodness Award was presented to three individuals nationwide, including Jon Beadles of the Wichita, Kansas, congregation. As part of its "Be a Good Cookie" program, Keebler recently created the Ernie Keebler Goodness Award to recognize people who are frequent blood donors and who encourage others to donate or volunteer at local blood drives.

Over the past four years, the drives have expanded to include other local businesses as well. The American Red Cross supplies more than 40 percent of the nation's blood. Blood collected in these local drives provides the needs of hospital patients in Kansas and northern Oklahoma.

Lynda Wasser

Ontario Member Graduates With Journalism Degree



Jennifer Bowman

Jennifer Bowman graduated from Loyalist College in Belleville, Ontario, Canada, with an advanced diploma in online, print and broadcast journalism on June 8, 2012. She is now working at the *Bracebridge Examiner*, a weekly newspaper in Bracebridge, Ontario. Jennifer attends the Toronto and Barrie congregations and accompanies hymns at the Barrie service. She also serves as a *One Accord* reporter.

Lynn Marshall

West Virginia Ox Roast Draws 80 People From Five States

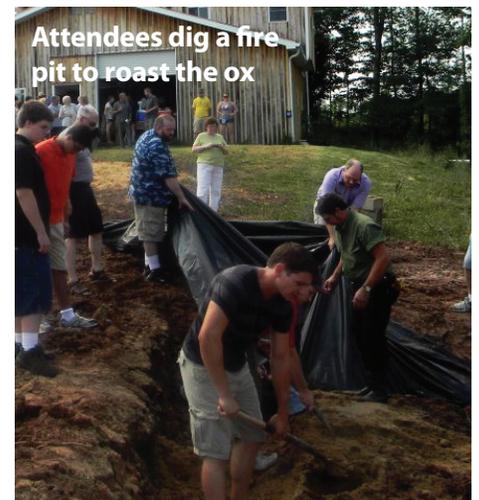
This year 80 people from at least five different states attended the annual ox roast held on June 30, 2012, at the Harper farm in Parkersburg, West Virginia. Not even the furious derecho (ugly storms with tornado-force winds), power outages and low gas levels could keep the determined ox-eaters away this year. Despite the lack of electrical power, everybody enjoyed themselves, the ox and the fellowship.

Services began when Ron Kelley, the guest speaker who pastors the Greensboro, Hickory and Raleigh, North

Carolina, congregations, asked the attendees if they had a fire in their belly. Then local pastor Bill Jahns gave a sermon about confronting the challenges of life.

After services were over, everyone prepared to eat! When the ox was finally out of the ground, where it had been roasting in a fire pit, everyone was able to partake of the excellent food. There was no doubt in the minds of anyone attending that this year's ox roast was a great success!

Josh Travers



Attendees dig a fire pit to roast the ox

Dallas and Sherman Host a “Farewell” Reception for Horchaks

On April 21, 2012, the Dallas and Sherman, Texas, congregations hosted a surprise “Top Shelf Farewell” for Doug and Tanya Horchak, befitting the style, grace and service they have given the brethren over the last 11 years. Mr. Horchak has now assumed the role of director of Ministerial Services. The surprise started with flowers, a special framed football jersey, a weekend away for two and a plaque commemorating their years of service in Dallas and Sherman, presented by local elders Phil Sandilands and John Lusk during the announcements.

Following services, over 200 members gathered in the fellowship hall to give the Horchaks a proper send-off, even though they are not going anywhere! We are the most blessed congregation to say good-bye to our longtime minister and wife and still see them on the Sabbath. What a deal!

The elegant appetizer reception with all the trimmings had the feel of a cocktail party without the cocktails. The congregation brought various appetizers to set out on the sophisticated decorated serving tables. Beautiful background music, furnished by Justin Glasgow, provided a pleasant backdrop for the buzz of conversations scattered throughout the room. Robbie Hansen, Gay Oren and Jane Carpenter coordinated the lovely table and hall decorations. Dora Jennings and Susan Demarest created a beautiful, four-layer cake with handmade sunflowers cascading along the side for dessert,



Doug and Tanya Horchak still attend the Dallas congregation while serving in Ministerial Services

served together with specially ordered napkins imprinted with “My good and faithful servants.”

We all felt this was the proper way to say “thank you” to the Horchaks for their support, service, guidance, example and love to us for all these many years. Many thanks to all who helped behind the scenes to provide the Horchaks’ reception!

Gay Oren

Burnetts Get a Big Texas Welcome in Dallas and Sherman



Dallas presents the Burnetts with yellow roses, Texas hats and all sorts of loot

After moving to the Dallas area to be the new pastor of the Dallas and Sherman congregations, Andy Burnett and his wife, Lisa, attended their first service in Dallas on May 12. Our congregation wanted to show them our support and eagerness to serve along with them in the years to come.

Their gift basket included coffee mugs, kitchen towels, Texas gingersnaps and cowboy cookie mix. However, the very first thing to buy was Mrs. Burnett’s red rhinestone cowgirl hat,

knowing that would come in handy to enhance her new Texas wardrobe! Not wanting to make Mr. Burnett feel neglected and knowing how much of a sports fan he is, Cowboys, Rangers and Mavericks caps were selected, so he, too, could feel right at home in Dallas!

The bucket was filled with Texas flags, dish towels and, of course, a six-pack of Dr. Pepper, Texas Shiner Bock beer and mild, medium and hot sauces. And to ease them into Texas cuisine, some sweet and sassy jalapeños and a Texas jigger glass were included. Other goodies included Texas wines, honey and jam. In fact, willing instigators Robbie Hansen and Gay Oren had to exchange the first red bucket for a larger one! Well, we do say things are bigger in Texas, and that includes a welcome basket! Two dozen yellow roses were also given to them, which served dual purpose as the lectern arrangement that day.

It was truly a pleasure to welcome the Burnetts into our Dallas congregation. We hope that opening our big Texas hearts, with a big Texas “Howdy y’all,” to the Burnetts made them feel right at home with the Dallas congregation—a congregation that likes to show friendliness and love to all who attend and visit!

Gay Oren

Jumping Off the Fence

by Lynda Wasser

The newest member of the Wichita, Kansas, congregation is Alan Ellis. He and his wife, Pearl, have a close-knit family, with four sons, two daughters and 13 grandchildren living nearby.

After studying the truth for several years, Pearl began attending God's Church in 2008 and was baptized the following year. Alan could see that she was "changing from a very stressed-out person to someone calm and confident in the promises of God." He explains, "I watched her grow in grace, knowledge and patience. Our relationship was changing from one of stress around each other to wanting to be with each other."

He adds, "The love and respect grew in such a manner that I was intrigued. I love this woman more today than I did the day I fell in love with her, and I am sure she would say the same of me."

They studied the Bible together from that point on. As Alan continued to learn, he says he was astonished at what he had never heard before. He joined Pearl in attending the Feast of Tabernacles, many Sabbath services and other holy days for the next two years and came to both respect and love the people he met in the Church.

"You just cannot find people like the people in God's true Church," he affirms.

When asked why he finally chose to be baptized, he said, "I actually started wanting to be baptized last fall just after Feast of Tabernacles. It took a while, though, to be brave enough to step out in faith."

All the while, Pearl kept assuring him



Alan and Pearl Ellis (photo by Diane Martin)

to trust in God. When he realized that he was safely sitting on the fence, he began sincerely counting the cost. He continues, "I did not take this decision or my commitment to God lightly. I wanted to be sure of my decision, and I wanted God to know it was in earnest. I entered into counseling with my decision made and commitment sure."

He was baptized July 21, 2012, in Wichita in, as he says, "the presence of my brethren—what a wonderful, awesome feeling!" The Wichita congregation is fortunate to meet in a location that has a built-in baptismal pool. After a hearty round of applause, everyone enjoyed a delightful potluck.

Alan says the most difficult part of his decision was trusting in God that he would not lose his job when he told his bosses he could not work on the Sabbath or holy days. He prayed fervently

before talking with them, and God answered those prayers. He adds, "That was when I knew—and was sure—that God would always be there for me."

The hardest change for him to deal with was spending the Sabbath not working, and the second hardest was discovering what a blessing the Sabbath truly is. His advice to someone else considering baptism? "Don't let anyone rush you into a decision, as this is a lifetime commitment; and secondly, don't be afraid of your decision. Trust in God!"

The only thing he would do differently now is that he would walk "straight forward into my decision instead of 'sitting on the fence' so long." He knew he was being called, yet he had a hard time believing that God actually wanted him! He continues, "I still don't know why, but I am very thankful for God's calling." @ @

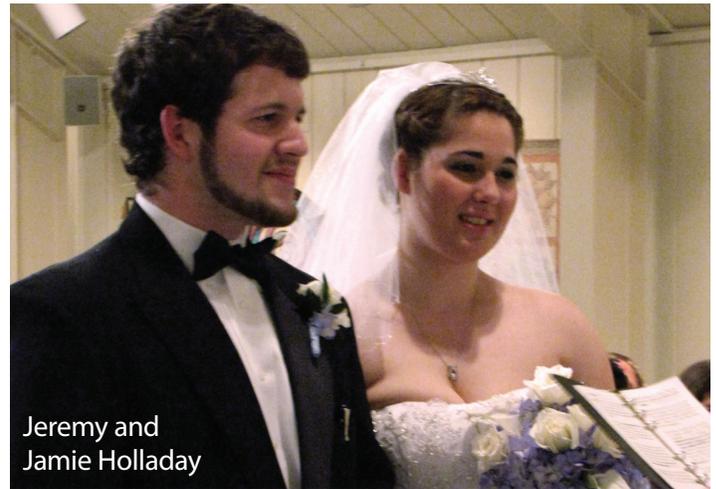
Weddings



Jacqueline and James Myers

Eric and Jeannie Evans are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Jacqueline Kristine Evans, to James Curtis Myers, son of Steve and Kathe Myers, on July 8, 2012. Their wedding took place in the beautiful Madison Event Center in Covington, Kentucky. The couple resides in Milford, Ohio, where James is pursuing a career in breeding and reining show horses. Jacqueline currently works for Farmers Insurance Group.

Jeannie Evans



Jeremy and Jamie Holladay

The hills of the Blue Ridge Highlands in Virginia had tornadoes on June 1, 2012. But no matter the weather, this was a very special day for Jamie Decker and Jeremy Holladay.

Jamie and Jeremy were married at the Reynolds Homestead in Critz, Virginia, surrounded by 64 dear family and friends who came to celebrate this special occasion. Attending the bride was her maid of honor, Amy Foster. Jeremy was accompanied by his best man and brother, Nathen Holladay.

To make their wedding even more memorable, a double rainbow appeared in the sky after the wedding.

They attend the Jefferson, Georgia, congregation, pastored by Bruce Gore.

Donna Quintana

Anniversaries

On the Sabbath of April 22, 2012, the Houston North, Texas, congregation honored Bill and Joanne Hudson on 60 years of marriage with a reception after services.

Mr. and Mrs. Hudson met at North High School in Akron, Ohio, while they were high school seniors. Mr. Hudson entered the Marine Corps after school, and they had a long-distance relationship for four years. They were married on April 26, 1952.

After leaving the Corps, Mr. Hudson earned a degree in printing from Rochester Institute of Technology. He got a job with Gulf Printing in Houston, Texas, and they moved there in 1959. Houston has been their home ever since.

Mr. Hudson started listening to Herbert and Garner Ted Armstrong in about 1965. Mrs. Hudson took the *Correspondence Course*, and they were baptized together in 1968. Mr. Hudson was ordained a deacon in 1973 by Larry Salyer.

Mr. and Mrs. Hudson have four children, Jim, Ken, Jeanine and John; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The Church has greatly blessed the lives of two people born



Bill and Joanne Hudson

in the Depression, who lived through World War II and worked hard and long to achieve the blessings they have received. Their advice to young people is to love and respect each other; to love and enjoy your children, for your time with them is so short; and to live your life as God planned it. You can't go wrong if you do!

Jeanine Burt

On June 1, 1952, Velma Kathryn “Becky” Becker and Newton Levi “Newt” Baker were married in the Lutheran Church in Bellevue, Ohio. They met when Becky, a farm girl, moved into Bellevue and met Newt’s sister Kathleen (Kate). Becky was a sophomore, and Newt was a senior in high school. When Newt graduated in 1949, he joined the Air Force and was sent to San Antonio, Texas. During the holiday break in 1951 while Newt and Becky were visiting Newt’s other sister and her husband, Newt presented Becky with an engagement ring. Becky said, “Yes!”

Most of their family and friends didn’t think the marriage would last. It was thought that the uniform was what got Becky. Plus, years prior, Becky had told Kate that she would never marry her brother even if he was the last man on earth. Sixty years later, they are still married with three children: Jeanna Marie, Gwendoyne Gayle, and Newton Levi Jr. They are blessed with seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The Bakers used to listen to a radio broadcast called *Music Until Dawn*; and afterward, *The World Tomorrow* broadcast would come on. Both were baptized in 1969 and have faithfully served in the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation for many years. Mr. Baker serves as the church librarian, and Mrs. Baker collects cans and donates the money to the Church. Mr. Baker is 81 years old, and Mrs. Baker is 79.

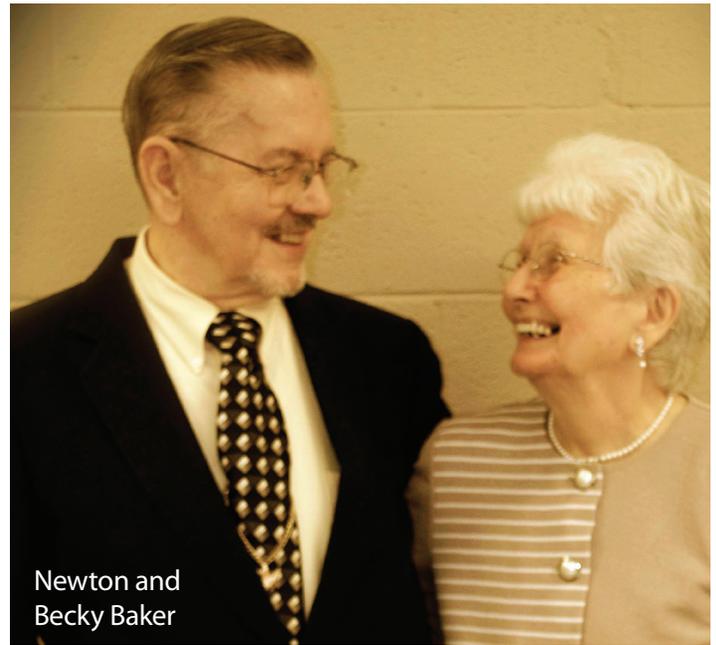
The Fort Worth congregation was proud to help celebrate the Bakers’ anniversary on June 2, 2012, with a cake and punch

On April 16, 2012, Fred and Mary Sorg of the Jefferson, Georgia, congregation celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. The Sorgs spent that evening at an in-home Bible study attended by a number of brethren and their family. A cake and refreshments were served, and lots of smiles and hugs were exchanged.

The Sorgs, who are 96 and 88 years old respectively, have always been active in God’s Church until recently when Mr. Sorg’s health began to decline. Mr. Sorg, who is a deacon, and his wife have served faithfully for many years and continue to do so. The couple ran a food bank, providing food for people both inside and outside of the Church. Together they have enjoyed their many years of visiting the widows, the sick and elderly and hosting a monthly in-home Bible study. Their life has been a testimony of hospitality as they continue to encourage and share.

Before they were baptized in 1976, they listened to Herbert Armstrong and were coworkers for years. Both worked for a local school system, and their positive example made it possible for God’s Church to use the school facilities for church activities. This was a blessing for everyone involved.

They currently live in Monroe, Georgia, near their daughter, Ellen McCulley, and her husband, Cliff, as well as their son Mike and his wife, Ginger. They also have a son Carl.

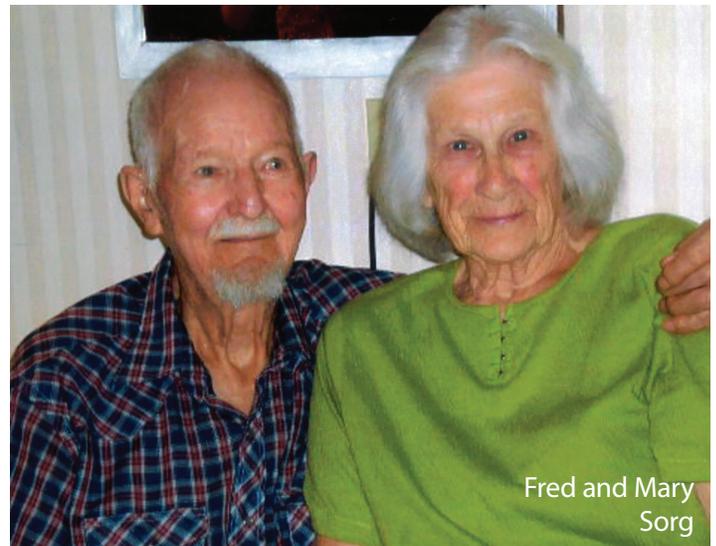


Newton and
Becky Baker

social after services. Local pastor Britton Taylor presented the Bakers with an engraved photo frame.

The 60 years of marriage that Mr. and Mrs. Newton Baker have shared are similar to a diamond. Diamonds are very rare, solid, able to withstand the harshest of elements and most pleasing for the eye to see. Likewise is the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Baker.

Michelle Rickard



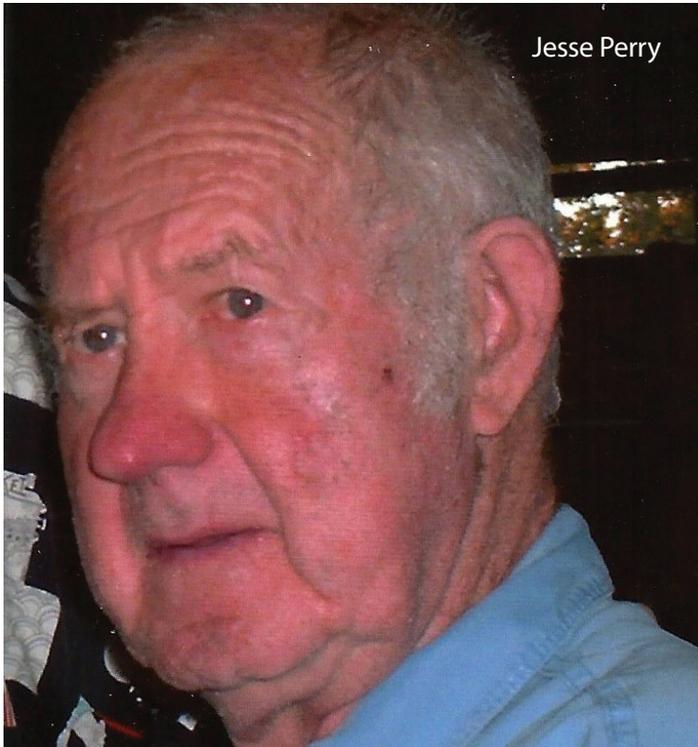
Fred and Mary
Sorg

They are blessed with five grandchildren.

Now that health limitations prevent the Sorgs from attending regular Sabbath services, holy days and the Feast, the Sorgs cherish the many visits by brethren. They now are able to watch sermons on their computer, which makes such a difference for shut-ins who can now feel like they are part of services with the rest of the congregation.

Donna Quintana

Obituaries



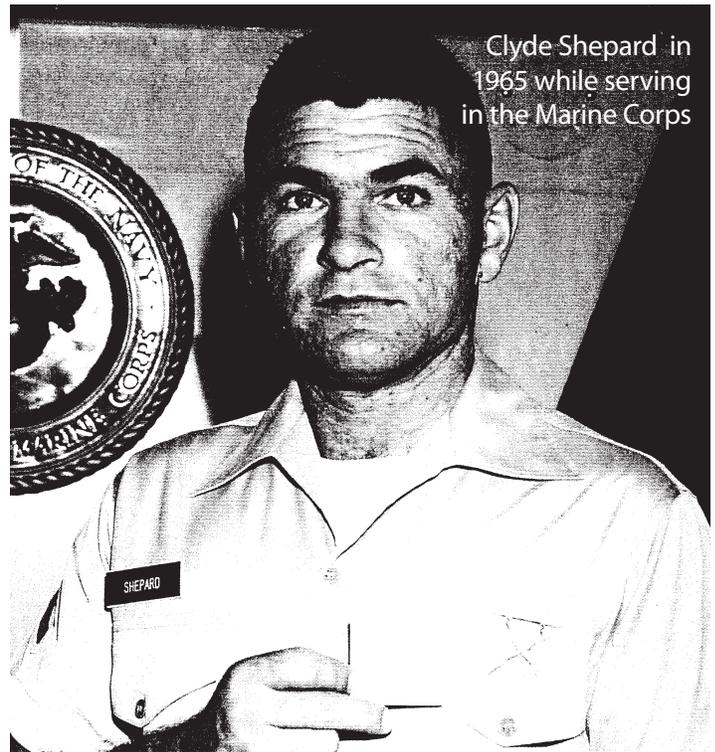
Jesse William Perry, of the Austin, Texas, congregation, died July 27, 2012, at the age of 77. He had been a member of God's Church for 41 years.

Mr. Perry was born on June 12, 1935, to William and Lucy Perry in Thorndale, Texas. He had many talents. He learned to play the guitar at around age 8. His dad was a fiddle player, and Jesse would play his guitar with him and learned to play the fiddle as well. He had his own band when he was a young man. He also had talent as an artist. Although he never had art lessons, he was very good at painting and drawing and even made his living by painting houses.

For most of his life, Mr. Perry lived on a farm near Thorndale where he tended cattle. He had an extensive garden for several years and sold or gave away the produce. He continued to live on the farm until his memory began to fail, and he moved into a mobile home beside his nephew, Bruce, and his wife, Catherine, in Baytown. Despite his memory loss, he did not forget how to play the guitar, which he loved to do. When his condition required constant care, he was moved to Renaissance Villa in Rockdale where he died due to complications of pneumonia.

He is survived by his sister, Alice Lane; nephew, Bruce Perry; great-nephew, Steven Perry; and great-nieces, Hannah and Sarah Perry. Jesse will be missed by those of the Austin congregation who knew him. We look forward to the great family reunion when we will be reunited with Jesse.

Carl Cooper



Longtime Columbia, South Carolina, member Clyde W. Shepard, age 77, died at his home from cancer on June 15, 2012, surrounded by his family. He was born in International Falls, Minnesota, on Feb. 24, 1935, and was the son of the late William Henry and Dorothy Marian Shepard.

Mr. Shepard served in the Marine Corps and the Army and retired after 24 years of service. During his many years of service, he received numerous medals and commendations. After he retired from the military, he worked at the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

He is survived by his wife, Olga Shepard; their three children, Joanne Brachel, William Shepard and Patty Mailly; two sisters; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Services were conducted by Don Waterhouse, pastor of the Columbia congregation, on June 19. He was buried in the Fort Jackson National Cemetery with full military honors.

Mr. Shepard was a very caring, loving person and will be missed greatly by all of his immediate and Church family that loved him. His hope and faith were in the resurrection to come.

Nancy Lochner

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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.

Life, Hope & Truth Proclamation Website Takes Off

by Clyde Kilough

When we launched the website LifeHopeandTruth.com (LHT) in early June with cautious optimism, we were excited by a great product with terrific potential but tempered with a healthy dose of realistic expectations. The fact is, new websites usually start slowly, requiring patience and time before they begin to make their mark.

Ten weeks after going online, however, the growth of LHT has exceeded our best expectations! At right is a chart giving just a few basic statistics illustrating the rapid escalation we are seeing. To help you interpret the numbers, here are the definitions as they apply to the terms on the chart:

Queries

A “query” is when someone enters a “key word” or “key phrase” in a Google search. The Queries column in the chart indicates the number of unique search key words or phrases that Google recognizes on the LHT site for each week.

Impressions

When someone enters a key word/phrase in a search, each web page Google lists in response is an “impres-



Ending Period	Queries	Impressions	Clicks
06/11/12	12	250	150
06/18/12	72	2,000	400
06/25/12	379	5,500	600
07/02/12	728	10,000	900
07/09/12	1,031	15,000	1,000
07/16/12	1,384	22,000	1,300
07/23/12	1,779	35,000	1,600
07/30/12	4,051	75,000	2,000
08/06/12	5,064	90,000	2,500
08/13/12	6,610	140,000	1,600
08/21/12	7,945	200,000	2,000

sion.” The Impressions column in the chart indicates the number of times LHT “pages” were brought back in Google search engine response pages.

Clicks

A “click” is registered when someone selects a web page that Google brings up in a search. The Clicks column in the chart indicates how many times people selected an LHT page.

There are, of course, many ways to interpret statistics and results. While

the actual numbers on this chart are still relatively small, it is the rate of growth after just over two months that has us excited! The speed with which we have reached these numbers has far surpassed our expectations, and the consistent trend leads us to believe it is a sign of much greater growth to come. We will continue to keep everyone informed on a regular basis.

Clyde Kilough is the operation manager for Media.