

OneAccord

November 2012



Feast of Tabernacles: Investing in the Harvest

from the president

welcome home from the feast

Welcome home from the Feast of Tabernacles! This year was an exceptional year! Even though world conditions continue to deteriorate, the people of God, based on all the reports, were truly shining as lights in “a crooked and perverse generation” (Philippians 2:14)!

Because of the events that happened in the Middle East just prior to the Feast, we had to seriously consider if the Feast in Amman, Jordan, would still be possible. We were in contact with the Festival coordinator for the site, Cory Erickson, who was in touch with the U.S. State Department and others within Jordan who were constantly monitoring the situation. Eventually we decided that it was safe enough to go forward with the Feast; and for 61 people, I believe it was a trip of a lifetime! All 61 have returned home safe and sound.

This year at the Feast we saw a slight increase in total attendance, but it was a somewhat different distribution when compared to previous years. We had almost an evenly divided attendance between the U.S. and sites outside the U.S. This was partly due to the fact that we had four new international sites this year—Amman, Jordan; St. Kitts; Fiji; and the U.K. I believe that because of these options the number transferring outside the U.S. was considerably higher than last year.

The holy day offerings in the U.S. were also very good (even though more people traveled outside the country). We anticipate that when all the offerings are received the amount will be slightly more than last year; but for a couple of the fall holy days, the “per person” amount was up considerably in comparison to last year.



Another item from this year’s Feast was the number of shut-ins and people who were home watching a webcast. This number was higher than we have seen in recent years. I believe this is testimony to the fact that a growing number of people are either physically or financially unable to travel to the Feast. We believe it is important to find ways to better serve these members, and we are considering several new ideas. I truly believe that it is unacceptable in this day and age, given the available technology, for a member to be unable to view and hear a sermon. Since a major portion of our responsibility is to care for the brethren, we need to find better and more efficient ways to provide that care.

I hope you had a wonderful Feast. Here in the office, everyone came back inspired and ready to go to work! I hope you are making plans to participate in the FI Online classes scheduled to begin in November and, if you’re younger, the Young Adult Leadership Weekends, which are also scheduled for November. God has been very good to us, and we must never take His blessings for granted. If we do our part every day (not just sporadically), I believe we will continue to see excellent progress in the work of the Church!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Franks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct "J" at the beginning.

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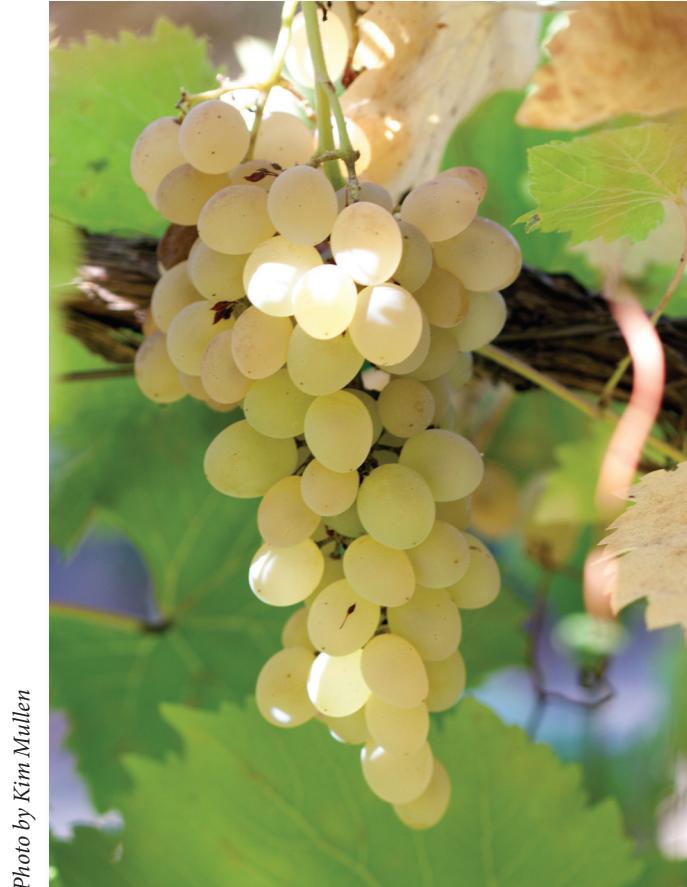


Photo by Kim Mullen



Photo by Neil Becker

David Johnson gives the sermon at the Feast site in Hermanus, South Africa
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CHURCH of GOD
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November 2012

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Feast of Tabernacles

mendoza

ARGENTINA / The Feast of Tabernacles in Mendoza, Argentina, was exceptional in every way. This year 345 brethren from different countries including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, United States, Peru and Ecuador met at the Savoia Hotel for services and activities. Sermons and Bible studies discussed various aspects of the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles, including our part in the Millennium when Christ begins His 1,000-year reign.

The brethren enjoyed perfect weather, with temperatures near 75 degrees most days. A welcome dinner was held Monday evening after the first holy day of the Feast. The dinner included Argentine-style barbecue and was followed by wonderful entertainment performed by the brethren that included dances and songs from Latin America. There was even some unexpected participation from those in the audience who were persuaded to join the dancers and try their best "Latin" dance steps. Everyone had a wonderful time visiting with family members, talking to old friends and making new ones.

On Wednesday evening an entertainment night was held, with members and children of various ages participating in the event. The dancers were absolutely stunning in their authentic costumes, and the dances were performed flawlessly. Afterward all the members ate dinner together.

Some of those attending the Feast took time to go on a wine tour, do a little Feast shopping at the mall or boutiques downtown or dine at the many cafes and restaurants.

On the eve of the Last Great Day, we heard the wonderful news about the baptisms of nine new members into the family of God.

Sermons on the Last Great Day were filled with meaning and longing for

that time in the future when most of humanity will have their first chance to be called by God. After the final service there were many handshakes, kisses and hugs among friends and family as we all left for home.

David Buchanan

coffs harbour

AUSTRALIA / This year 40 brethren enjoyed a solid and satisfying spiritual and physical Feast in Coffs Harbour, Australia.

The weather was outstanding for all of the family-orientated activities, especially the 600-meter toboggan ride and waterslides at the Big Banana. Once again, the open house gave everyone an opportunity to connect and reacquaint with old friends. The barbecue and games afternoon at Diggers Beach gave the young and young at heart many chances to burn off energy and a great opportunity to fellowship with their Church family.

Our four shut-ins did not miss a message thanks to Skype, which also gave brethren time to socialize online after services. The sadness of leaving the Feast was mixed with the anticipation of coming back next year in 2013. A hearty thank you to everyone for making this Feast one in which we all felt so close to one another. It was a true glimpse of the soon-coming Kingdom of God.

David Maczek

dover beach

BARBADOS / The Feast in Barbados was held at Divi Southwinds Beach Resort on the South Coast with sunny weather throughout. Those attending were from Barbados in addition to four members from the United States

The visiting minister, Bruce Rivers, and his wife interacted well with the brethren. He delivered four inspiring sermons, while Stephen Crosby gave four sermonettes. When Mr. Rivers

was not speaking, we joined St. Kitts' webcast.

Family Day was held at Divi, where we played indoor games and watched a movie. The children also played basketball.

On Friday evening we joined the Bible study in St. Kitts via webcast; and on Sabbath after the morning service, we joined St. Kitts for services.

Special music consisted of the children's choir performing and the music that we received from the webcast.

Great weather, inspired messages and a relaxed and peaceful atmosphere made this Feast special.

Stephen Crosby

cochabamba

BOLIVIA / For the very first time in the history of the Church of God in Bolivia, a large group of brethren gathered to fellowship and rejoice before God in peace, harmony and unity.

A total of 97 people from six different nations (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, United States and Peru) traveled to Cochabamba and stayed in the Casa Campestre Convention Center, seven miles from the city center.

The whole Feast was focused on the future Kingdom of God and how these days picture the Millennium. The brethren had the opportunity to receive spiritual instruction during the eight days and fellowship with one another in this beautiful place.

The opening night message was given by Ralph Levy, academic officer of Foundation Institute, emphasizing the power of laughter and its importance during the Feast days. Other messages included the miracles in our lives, the faith we have to have in this way of life, the patience and the faith of the saints, what it will be like to be a king in the Kingdom of God, the example of Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite,



the plan of God and how to be a light in this world. President Jim Franks' sermon (with Spanish voice-over by Saul Langarica, who pastors congregations in Chile and Bolivia) and Spanish director Leon Walker's morning message on the Last Great Day (live via Internet from Lican Ray, Chile) on the search for peace were also well-received.

Fun activities for all ages abounded during the eight days, beginning with a first-night welcome activity for the visitors prepared by the members from Bolivia, which included typical Bolivian dances and even a mariachi band.

The young people had a party, spending time with friends, old and new. Also, a

This page: The brethren in Barbados; children's choir sings in Argentina; David Maczek flies down an alpine slide in Australia; Ralph Levy (middle) stands with two Bolivian dancers



talent show featured the many different talents of the brethren. We took a tour of the city, visiting different places in the city of Cochabamba, including the Palacio Portales and the Simon Patiño Cultural Center, and the local Cochabamba market.

The family dance was another highlight, and the youngest enjoyed a children's party that included games, food and different activities. One afternoon the ladies and the elderly joined together for an afternoon tea, where they shared food and conversation, and watched a prerecorded video about the work done by ladies of the Church of God in Bolivia, Argentina and Chile. Two Bible studies (one for the young people and the other for the general membership) provided additional spiritual food.

For most of the visitors, this was their first time in Bolivia, and they all want to thank the Bolivian brethren, who did everything possible to make the Feast a great success. And, of course, all the honor and glory goes to our God, who made possible this wonderful Feast with wonderful people in such a beautiful place.

Manuel Iturra and Ralph Levy

maloca

BRAZIL / Thanks to God, we had a Feast of love, good fellowship, peace and harmony. The weather was hot, but we kept a good attitude throughout the Feast. We had a high attendance of 21. We had to do the sermon video from Mr. Franks in two parts as we toiled on the translation into Portuguese. We wanted to make sure the message got across to the audience.

One evening a daughter of the local deacon, Geraldo de Souza, requested a special session to answer some questions she had. The questions dealt with tithing, offerings, the different traditions of burying the dead and other topics. She and her husband were very pleased with the explanations that were provided.

All present were very joyful during the Feast. Numbers did not matter in order to enjoy the Feast to the maximum. All of us had much fun. We all wish to thank the Church for the support we had in order to enjoy the Feast. We all feel we were very blessed at God's Feast.

Gary Adkinson

lican ray

CHILE / This year, the Feast of Tabernacles was held in Lican Ray, Chile, a small town by a lake about 500 miles south of Santiago. Just as we always have, this year all of the members stayed at the Complejo El Conquistador. The attendance was 195 people, who all got the best out of this holy Feast. We all stayed in cabins with fireplaces, which made the atmosphere rural and cozy.

Lican Ray truly is a paradise during this time of the year; it is surrounded by abundant flora, lakes and rivers, and you can see crops, mountains and white volcanos everywhere. We even had peacocks and other exotic birds walking around in the hotel where we stayed! We were all amazed to see God's creation so close throughout the Feast. Some of us took a small trip on the lake in a boat for about 50 people.

We were blessed with abundant peace, harmony, joy, good food and God's protection. There was little need for anointing because just a few people got sick or hurt. God's Spirit was clearly working in the hearts of everyone who was keeping the Feast.

Halfway through the Feast, Mr. and Mrs. Walker and Mr. and Mrs. Langerica flew in from Colombia and Mendoza respectively. This increased even more the enthusiasm that was felt at the Feast.

At the beginning of the Last Great Day, five people were baptized, which made our Feast even more joyful. It was great to start this year's last holy day with such wonderful news.

We now have the commitment to maintain this same spirit so as to get to the next stop in our Christian pilgrimage: the Passover. Thank God that we also have the blessing to reunite every Sabbath and keep on receiving His spiritual food. May God help us to remember this wonderful Feast whenever we have to face the spiritual challenges that the next year will bring. Let's not lose the spiritual strength we have gained!

Fermin Nain

viti levu

FIJI / Thirty-five brethren of various nationalities attended the Feast on Fiji's main island, Viti Levu. It was the first Fijian Feast to include international visitors for some 20 years. Most of the current Fijian brethren and their children were meeting overseas brethren for the very first time.

Services were held in a traditional Fijian *bure* (meeting place) on the grounds of the Pearl South Pacific Resort. The *bure*, along with the presence of the local brethren, added to a relaxed ambience and warm fellowship. Feast messages centered on the coming Kingdom of God and our common experiences as brethren living in an increasingly dangerous and hostile world.

Activities included a Fijian *lovo* meal, with food prepared in an underground oven for special celebratory occasions. The Fijian brethren also prepared a special barbecue with local flavors and dishes for the entire congregation. Young and old enjoyed beach walks, swimming, snorkeling, jet skiing and relaxing in the beautiful grounds overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Art Verschoor

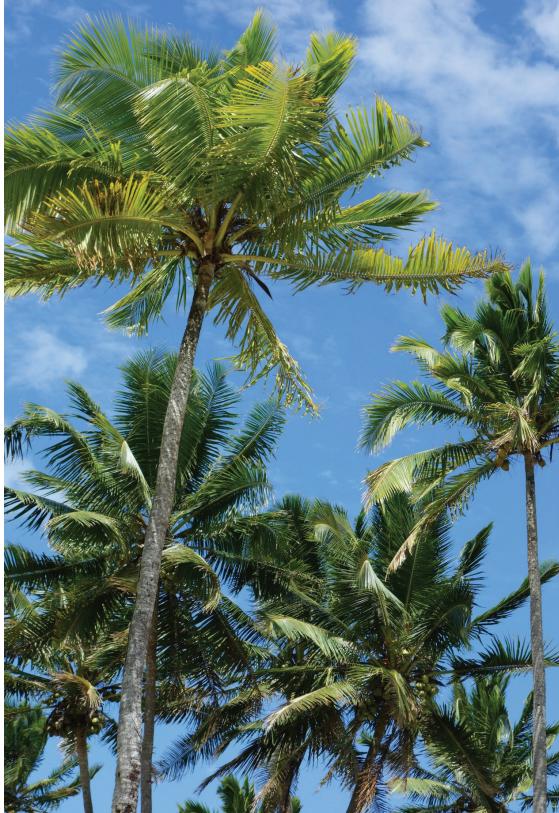
mfensi

GHANA / Over 570 brethren in Ghana kept the Feast of Tabernacles 2012 all together at one site for the first time since 2009. It was very encouraging to the brethren to all be together once again—in some cases seeing brethren they hadn't seen in two or three years!

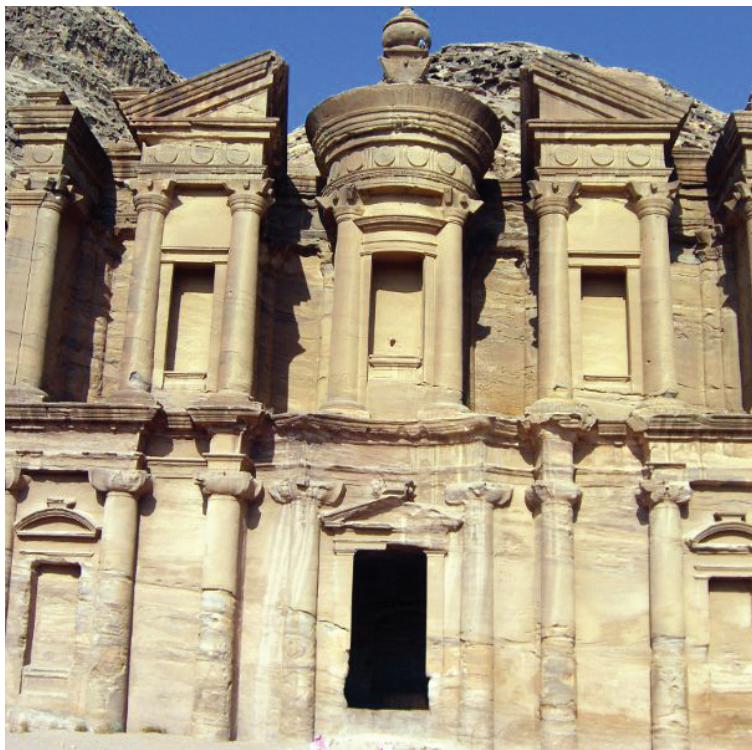
God's hand in providing this location could be clearly seen. Slightly more than a month before the Feast the facility with whom we had originally contracted backed out, saying we could no longer use their facilities. This was due to someone else who wanted some of the same dates, and they were willing to pay more than we had agreed upon. This is one of the difficulties the Church faces in various parts of the world, and sadly this is not the first time something like this has happened in Ghana.

However, God opened the doors for a beautiful facility in Mfensi, a town just northwest of Kumasi. The facility included the meeting hall, accommodations for most of the members and a football field (soccer) on a beautiful campus setting.

There were challenges to overcome, such as power outages that occurred almost daily, torrential rains that also came through almost daily, and at times a lack of water for bathing and cooking. Water had to be trucked in to fill the large water tower, providing water and water pressure to the buildings. At times this meant the brethren had to



Clockwise from top left: Fijian brethren celebrate the Feast with international brethren for the first time in 20 years; palm trees in Fiji; gentlemen from the Guatemalan congregations serve traditional food for the Ladies' Breakfast in Antigua; the stage decorations in Guatemala showcase a lion and a lamb made entirely of flowers; 570 brethren celebrate the Feast in Ghana; children in Chile perform at the talent show; brethren in Grenada spend Family Day by the beach



Left to right: The Treasury in Petra, Jordan; ladies in colorful, traditional dresses perform at the talent show in Mexico



hurry to get ready for services once the water arrived.

In addition to regular services, children's classes, a general Bible study and a married couples Bible study, this year also included a special video presentation on health, and some much-anticipated football (soccer) games. The married men faced off against the single men, and the married women faced off against the single women. In both cases the married teams ended up victorious, giving some credence to the old saying about age and cunning overcoming youth and skill!

The spiritual food—the most important part of the Feast—focused quite naturally on the Kingdom of God, including the need for peace, family, rejoicing, building righteous character and praying earnestly “thy kingdom come.” The sermons were given in rotation by all six Ghanaian pastors and the senior pastor for Ghana, Tom Clark.

The Feast ended on a high note as everyone began their travels back home, already looking forward to coming together again for the Feast of Tabernacles 2013!

Tom Clark

point salines

GRENADA / Eight members from Grenada and Barbados enjoyed the Feast at the La Heliconia Hotel. The brethren heeded God's command to rejoice and were inspired with heartfelt singing, special music and spiritual messages webcast from St. Kitts.

Lennie Wilson's comment summed up the Feast for us: "This was a tremendous blessing from the Eternal." We fellowshipped, prayed and ate together, which really brought us together to form a great godly bond.

We also basked in some leisure activities: a Family Day with a beach picnic, shopping day in the capital and a bus tour viewing God's magnificent creation of the mountainous terrain, the Grand Etang Lake and the rain forest.

Several attendees visited shut-in member, Anne De Gale. She was in good spirits and most gratified to see us.

Everyone made this year's Feast not only a success, but a truly special and memorable one. We left with the theme for the Feast in the Caribbean in our minds: "Be Kingdom Bound: Serve the Eternal in One Accord."

Karl Scantlebury

antigua

GUATEMALA / It was 7 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 30, when more than 500 people gathered for the opening service of the Feast of Tabernacles 2012 in Antigua, Guatemala. One could sense an atmosphere of great joy and thankfulness.

The special music was presented that night by a group called Los Pioneros (The Pioneers), which included people from all of Central America. They have been a part of the Church for many years and have been faithful in their struggle to follow God's ways.

If there was one word to define this Feast, it was "unity." We sensed it in each of the messages presented by the servants God prepared for this Feast. The messages were full of teaching, encouragement, hope, correction and faithful promises, which taught that if we are obedient we will one day come to reign with Jesus Christ. The Feast demonstrated that we will one day have the full potential to be part of the family of God. The words of one of our visitors from the United States who came to Antigua for the first time sum up what the Feast really was. The visitor



The fun day saw friendly rivalry between houses Judah and Israel. Many enjoyed the usual trip to the Dunn's River Falls and a tour of the Sun Valley Plantation. All had a great Feast indeed!

Madge Thompson

JORDAN / Known for its Bedouin hospitality, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan once again welcomed brethren to its territory to observe the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day 2012. Hailing from the United States, the United Kingdom and New Zealand, most of the 61 attendees arrived late Sunday afternoon, just in time for a special Lebanese dinner at the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman, which would serve as the first host hotel. After dinner, Feast coordinator Cory Erickson gave a short orientation and welcome message. Since most people had traveled many hours by airplane to get to the site, the opportunity to get a good night's sleep as the Feast began was greatly appreciated.

After a relaxing first day of the Feast, featuring an afternoon service, the pace soon quickened. On the second day, everyone quickly boarded buses after the early morning service to tour the area to the west and north of Amman. On day three, the group again left quite early to begin a long day of travel south to explore the famous Nabataean city of Petra and eventually, at the end of the day, ended up in the exquisite Mövenpick Hotel in Aqaba, which served as the second host hotel. From this location on succeeding days, the group rode jeeps through the Wadi Rum desert and enjoyed snorkeling and/or diving in the pristine waters of the Red Sea.

Services were held in two different hotels and on two days in outdoor historical locations. The speakers focused on the coming thousand-year reign of Christ and the need for us to be prepared for His return. David West did an outstanding job of twice leading hymns without the aid of musical ac-



Left to right: Doug and Tanya Horchak with brethren in Malawi; a boy enjoys some snacks by Lake Malawi; the Feast in Malawi started with a slight setback when a bus transporting brethren to the site caught fire



said, "I arrived feeling like an outsider, and I'm leaving as part of the family." We were very happy to hear this.

Now we're back home, and we've begun our preparation for the Feast of 2013 with a collective day of fasting, which was held Sunday, Oct. 14, to give thanks for all the blessings we received and to ask God to guide our paths so we may return to the Feast next year or see each other in the coming Kingdom.

Alberto Mazariegos and Luis Mundo Tello

ochos ríos

JAMAICA / Despite intermittent rainfall, nothing could dampen the spirits of some 115 brethren who gathered here.

President Jim Franks and his wife,

Sharron, attended. He gave both sermons on the first day, reminding us why we were there.

The following days' sermons and sermonettes exhorted daily devotion and dependence on God for everything, encouraged us to be Christians at all times and to do all to the glory of God, and reminded us that the creation waits for the revelation of the sons of God.

Children, youth, adult choirs and the pianist contributed to the congregation's joy, while Bible studies and instructive classes completed the rich, spiritual fare.

Brethren were glad to see Mrs. Mather, widow of the beloved Kingsley Mather, former regional pastor and Feast coordinator. Tribute was paid to him during the family talent show.

companiment. Special music included vocal solos and small group presentations, two of which were performed a cappella. By the end of the Feast, the small group had reviewed the meaning of the Feast, marveled at the amazing sites and become close friends.

After the Feast, 51 members of the group spent five days touring Israel. Key sites visited included Masada, Qumran, the Mount of Olives, the Temple Mount, the City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel, the Dead Sea, the Israel Museum, Yad Vashem, the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee and Megiddo.

David Treybig

senga bay

MALAWI / The Feast was held at Senga Bay on the shores of Lake Malawi in the Salima district, with 53 brethren attending.

At 7:10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 30, about 24 brethren left Blantyre for Salima in a bus owned by AXA Bus Company, with a capacity of 78 passengers, for Salima. We were to cover a distance of 240 kilometers (150 miles) and at Salima connect with a hired truck to Senga Bay. After traveling around 190 kilometers (118 miles), we could smell burning rubber from the rear, right-hand side of the bus. And there was commotion in the bus.

The driver stopped and, with the conductor, went to check on the tire. About three minutes later, they assured us passengers that everything was okay. Then 10 kilometers (six miles) later the bus stopped at Ngodzi station to drop off some passengers. While it was at a standstill, we heard a shout from outside, "The bus tire is on fire!"

Then we saw smoke from the rear right-hand side window. Suddenly, everyone rushed to escape. The aisle between the rows of the seats was too small for the rush to the only exit, the bus door in the front. Some escaped through the emergency windows, while the rest came out through the only bus door.

We are thankful to the Almighty God that He allowed us all to come out, and most of our luggage was taken out before the fire engulfed the whole bus. Ironically, the name of the station, Ngodzi, means accident.

The fire on the tire started at 12:40 p.m., and by 1:10 p.m. the whole bus was a skeleton of metal frames.

Those of us going to the Feast, rushed to plan B. We hired a minibus and proceeded to the Feast site. At Salima we met our brethren from Lilongwe, who also hired a pickup to Senga Bay, the Feast site.

Despite this accident, the Almighty God was with us. This year's Feast was the best ever. Everything went on very well. The breeze of the air from Lake Malawi added to the enjoyment of the Feast. Our guest speaker this year was Doug Horchak, who came with his wife, Tanya.

They were with us for three days, before they proceeded to Zambia.

Other speakers were Elifazi Salawila, Tielmans Chirwa and Henry Khembo, who also came from the U.S. with his family.

We were very encouraged with the inspiring messages from all speakers who focused on God's love and His soon-coming Kingdom. It was a wonderful time to have 53 brethren from different parts of our country and abroad meeting together.

Apart from the spiritual food, which focused our readiness to the coming Kingdom, we also had tasty meals and a number of activities: swimming, football, sackjumping, running, etc. And children had their own day's treat.

Tielmans Chirwa

san miguel de allende

MEXICO / The peaceful, charming and colorful city of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, once again embraced about 260 of God's people with cool weather and clear skies as we all came

together to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day. The activities and fellowship were fantastic, and emotions of joy were frequently seen on the faces of all.

From the opening night message on, we were all reminded about our temporal existence in our journey through this life and about God's wonderful plans for a permanent future in the Kingdom of God. Many expressed their deep appreciation for God's invitation to enjoy this year's Feast of Tabernacles in San Miguel de Allende and His clear intervention in our lives and in all the Feast activities.

Daily Bible studies and children's classes enriched the spiritual part of the Feast, and the many family activities only added to the abundant enjoyment and happiness we all felt from being together once again at God's feasts.

Some of the activities this year were: a family day, a dance, youth activities, senior breakfasts every day of the Feast, two movie nights, a talent show, a photograph contest, a church barbecue and a soccer tournament. As well, there was plenty of time to shop, eat, enjoy the fellowship, view the city or just enjoy the folklore of the many arts and crafts this typical colonial Mexican city has to offer.

Mr. Frank's message, "Purpose in the Feast: Turning From Darkness to Light," set the theme for the whole Feast and got us off to an inspiring start. Many positive and encouraging comments were made about the Feast video, which was translated into Spanish well before the Feast and was very much appreciated.

We had visitors from the United States and the Dominican Republic who expressed their gratitude and excitement for the warmth of the Mexican brethren. They plan to return next year and continue enjoying the food, fun and rich spiritual meat that abounded during eight exciting and fun-filled days in San Miguel.

We are all very thankful to God for allowing us to so richly enjoy His Feast, which was, once again, our best Feast ever!

Larry Roybal

taupo

NEW ZEALAND / Seventy cheerful and joyful people gathered for the Feast in picturesque Taupo, located in the center of New Zealand's North Island. Services were held in the Suncourt Hotel, overlooking Lake Taupo with snow-capped volcanoes in the distance.

Nine nationalities were represented and added a special element to this site. A talent evening demonstrated this international flavor with participants performing unique musical and dance routines and a number of hilarious skits. Other activities included an over-50s luncheon, Feast dinner, pizza and games night, a day at the Action World fun park and a swimming and waterslide afternoon at geothermal-heated pools.

Speakers from four countries presented inspiring messages that stressed the need to prepare now to participate in a government that will finally solve the huge problems besetting mankind. This was truly a Feast filled with rich spiritual food, fellowship in unity, and fun.

André van Belkum

huanchaco

PERU / Once again, we celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles in Huanchaco, a

picturesque and peaceful seaside town located seven miles from Trujillo.

Our activities were hosted in the Bracamonte Hotel, where we had a large tent. The hotel also provided us with comfortable bedrooms, a nice dining hall, a swimming pool, ample gardens, a playground for children, a parking lot and high-speed connection to the Internet. Since this is our 13th time celebrating the Feast in Huanchaco, we have developed a cordial relationship with the businesses in town, which contributes to our pleasant stay.

Our highest attendance was 193. We had visitors from Argentina, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador and the United States. They commented how much they enjoyed the Peruvian cuisine. We all enjoyed delicious dishes, desserts and drinks. We certainly heeded the instruction given in Deuteronomy 14:26: "And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires; ... you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household." Several of us were joking that our clothes were getting smaller as the days of the Feast were passing by.

We had activities for all ages. We had a very colorful and lively talent show, a family dance and another dance where attendees dressed representing a country or an area from Peru. Also the ladies had a very fun afternoon with lots of dancing and playing.

The seniors of our congregations also had a get-together in which they shared inspiring personal stories. The young people had the opportunity to get more acquainted with each other. We had our traditional beach games and our children's party, among other activities.

We also received solid, spiritual food through messages given by our minister and the men serving in that capacity. At each service during the Feast we also had very uplifting special music dedicated to our Creator.

The nice, warm weather was only surpassed by the love and affection shown by the brethren. We could truly experience Psalm 133:1, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" A lady who was at the Feast with us three years ago and came back this year commented, "Great unity and harmony is perceived amongst members from all the congregations in Peru. Besides that, you have a truly unified, nice group of young people."

Fredy Caceres Vargas

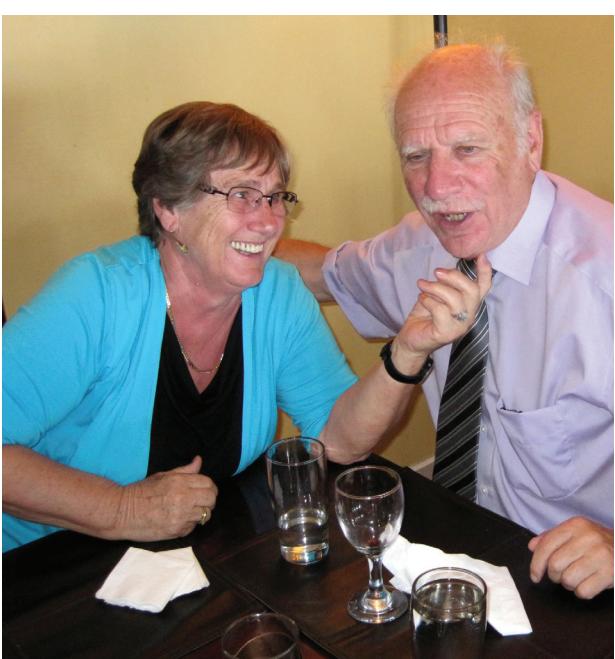
iloilo

PHILIPPINES / It seemed like we were reliving the Feast in 2011 when the brethren gathered at the same site for the Feast of Tabernacles at Iloilo, Philippines.

The joy of seeing each other after a year was very obvious, with members

Left to right: Two young dancers in traditional dress take to the stage in Peru; over-50s luncheon in New Zealand; a ladies' choral group performs in Peru





Clockwise from top left: Brethren in the Philippines; children in Sri Lanka play a relay game at Family Day; brethren in Hermanus, South Africa, enjoy a smorgasbord of food; sharing a laugh in Uvongo, South Africa; chefs work mightily at the Family Afternoon Braai in Uvongo; teens and young adults in Hermanus get ready for an afternoon of zip-lining **Opposite page:** Brethren in St. Kitts explore the island; the choir in the United Kingdom performs

warmly greeting one another as they arrived. Our visiting minister and his wife, Jim and Lois Haeffele, were very accommodating and outgoing. Mr. Haeffele gave inspiring messages for the Festival.

With all the Feast activities—like Family Day, youth and singles' day, as well as the seniors' night—almost every day was filled with opportunities for all ages to come together for fellowship. Movies were also shown during free time.

A few of the days were dampened by some light rain, but it eased the heat and kept the dust on the pavement.

The highest attendance was 181. God blessed His Feast, and His people enjoyed it tremendously.

Eriz Dizon

hermanus

SOUTH AFRICA / A total of 101 men, women and children gathered at the beautiful coastal location of Hermanus, including 25 from America and one from England.

The weather was very favorable, with sunshine, some coastal breeze and one evening and day with light rain.

The Feast was characterized by exceptionally fine fellowship; happy, uplifted spirits; and the exemplary conduct of the 22 young people.

Jim Franks' recorded sermon was played on the opening day. The Festival guest speaker, David Johnson, and his wife, Becky, arrived halfway through the Feast from the Uvongo Feast site. Mr. Johnson spoke on "Why Are You Here?" "From Darkness to Light," "Judge Righteous Judgments" and "The Meaning of the Last Great Day." Tony Levy spoke on "How to Live at Peace" and "The Last Great Day and Death." Neil Becker spoke on "The Wonderful World Tomorrow" and to the youth on "Lessons From Joseph."

A Family Day barbecue was enjoyed in a botanical garden. The young people and some adults enjoyed an afternoon of zip-lining. All enjoyed walking along



the cliff paths and watching the great southern right whales frolicking in beautiful Walker Bay.

Neil Becker

uvongo

SOUTH AFRICA / A truly inspiring and spiritually rewarding Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day was enjoyed by the brethren attending at Uvongo on the south coast of KwaZulu-Natal. The average attendance was 92; the highest, 107.

We were blessed with blue skies and sunshine for the first five days; and although some rain fell towards the end of the Feast, it certainly didn't dampen our spirits.

David Johnson and his wife, Becky, spent the first half of the Feast with us before heading to Hermanus, the other site in South Africa. Mr.

Johnson gave the opening address on the first night, and the DVD sermon by Jim Franks was played during the afternoon service of the first day.

Mr. Johnson then spoke again on the second and third days of the Feast. The remainder of the Feast sermons were given by Morgen Kriedemann, senior pastor for Southern Africa, and Neville Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were able to join the "senior brethren" for a delicious lunch and although they unfortunately missed the Family Afternoon Braai (barbecue), they were able to fellowship with many of the brethren during their short stay.

Neville Smith

negombo

SRI LANKA / The Goldi Sands Hotel in the western coastal city of Negombo

provided a beautiful setting for the Feast of Tabernacles in Sri Lanka. Though the number in attendance was small, the 15 of us enjoyed warm fellowship and a full slate of Festival and family-style activities.

Hotel accommodations were very comfortable, and the entire group enjoyed meals together in an open-air dining facility. The weather was beautiful, with virtually no rain. The warm daytime temperatures were moderated by a tropical breeze off the Indian Ocean and refreshing evening air.

Family Day included a set of rousing relay races and a closely contested game of "Minute to Win It." The day was topped off by a nature video. The talent show was a great success, highlighted by musical performances by several family members.

The peaceful setting, coupled with the welcoming and warm fellowship of the brethren, helped to make this a most memorable and enjoyable Festival experience.

Don Henson

frigate bay

ST. KITTS / For the first time, the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, observed the Feast of Tabernacles in St. Kitts-Nevis. Services were held at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort, with 200 attending from the United States, Africa and the Caribbean.

Many expressed the view that the St. Kitts Feast site was exceptional because of the diversity of inspiring speakers, who explained the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles in God's plan for mankind. The sense of family was there, as we gathered in unity of purpose.

We were treated to a wonderful selection of special music by the chorale, children and other talented members.

While the Family Fun Day, all-terrain-vehicle outing, catamaran cruise and island tour were planned activities, the late addition of the family dance generated much excitement and participation.



This page: The children's choir in Branson, Missouri, waits patiently to perform; Jimmy and Janette Thomas at the seniors' dinner in Branson

Opposite page: Robert Zamora plays special music in Kerrville, Texas; the beautiful autumn foliage at Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania

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For most of us, the time was too short, as we experienced a foretaste of the Millennium. Let us take the lessons learned into the coming year.

Glenville Bart

milford-on-sea

UNITED KINGDOM / Brethren from England, Northern Ireland, Norway, South Africa and the United States gathered at Shorefield Country Park in Milford-on-Sea on the south coast of England. The atmosphere throughout was friendly and joyful in spite of a few technical problems.

The encouraging messages from visiting ministers Paul Suckling and Doug Johnson followed the important theme of the recorded Festival message from Church president Jim Franks. British members much appreciated the visiting Feastgoers who added so much through special music, technical skills and a joyful spirit.

Our highest attendance was on the Last



Great Day, with 113 present, including a number of guests from nearby Church of God congregations.

We were blessed with generally mild and sunny weather—high winds and heavy rain coming mostly at night. This helped our enjoyment of visits to some of the local points of interest, like Windsor Castle, Hampton Court, Stonehenge and the ancient city of Winchester.

A number of the local brethren were not present this year due to financial and health issues. Members at Shorefield signed cards expressing our best wishes and prayers for them; and when the cards arrived at their homes, the missing members replied with text messages of gratitude.

Peter Hawkins



branson

UNITED STATES / Amid changing colors and fall weather, 550 people gathered to keep a wonderfully inspiring Feast of Tabernacles in Branson, Missouri. Spirits were high as everyone gathered to hear Greg Sargent give the opening message on the first day. There was a spirit of peace and unity that seemed to permeate the whole atmosphere. Young and old—our youngest attendee was a couple of months old and our oldest was 97—rejoiced together and worshipped our great God in the beautiful Ozark mountain setting. We had some people celebrating their first Feast, while others had been keeping the Feast of Tabernacles for over 60 years.

A theme quickly developed as speakers painted a picture of what the Kingdom of God is and what it means to the world and to us. It seemed that each



message built on the theme; and by the time the Feast was over, members left with the vision of the Kingdom of God refreshed once again. Many comments were heard that this was the most inspiring Feast in a very long time.

A highlight of the Feast, in terms of activities, was a “Sabbath fellowship in the park”—which actually had to be moved inside due to cold weather. Members brought finger foods and snacks for an afternoon of visiting, fellowship and old-fashioned hymn singing.

Senior citizens were treated to an Italian dinner, bingo and games. Over 50 teens spent an afternoon playing laser tag and miniature golf at the teen activity.

This year in Branson we had a lot of “new blood” involved in vital areas. All three of our song leaders were leading at the Feast of Tabernacles for the first time. Five of the men who gave sermonettes were speaking at the Feast for the first time. All came through with flying colors—and we now have a larger pool from which to draw. This attitude of service was widespread, as we saw many people getting involved at the Feast for the first time. We would like to thank everyone who served at the Feast 2012.

Mike Blackwell

kerrville

UNITED STATES / This year 360 brethren kept the Feast at Kerrville in the Texas Hill Country. We were blessed with gorgeous sunny weather that enhanced the outdoor activities. Many brethren stayed on-site at the Inn of the Hills and enjoyed fine meals, fellowship and an easy walk to services.

The folks who attended Family Day, the Country and Western dance and the fun show commented on the joy of being together in a relaxed atmosphere. The Festival choir and the children’s choir provided excellent music along with several individual solos.

The speakers focused on the hope found in God’s plan. Brethren commented that all the messages were focused on the meaning of the Feast, the coming Kingdom and eternity in the family of God.

The Feast in Kerrville was exceptional this year, exceeding our expectations for a spiritual, joyful Feast. We all left renewed by God’s blessings on the Feast.

Jack Hendren

lake harmony

UNITED STATES / Between 400 and 450 people enjoyed the millennial setting of Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania, this year, which was also the 45th



anniversary for the Feast to be held in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Spectacular autumn colors, peaceful surroundings, abundant fine lodging and dining options and an overall spirit of unity combined to make this a very special Feast. Wildlife sightings, including many deer, some bears, wild turkeys and other wildlife around the area, were additional bonuses for many members.

Family Day was an old-fashioned picnic with many games for all ages, attended by a high proportion of Feastgoers. Senior citizens enjoyed a unique "Seniors Rendezvous" of nostalgic games—hosted by Clyde and Dee Kilough—including naming TV shows and songs from past decades, and a lively version of the "Oldyweds Game."

Young adults had an afternoon of bowling, a hike and a study on the Sabbath. Teens enjoyed a night playing "Minute to Win It," plus an afternoon of bowling and a social evening in the lodging of Don and Heather Martin.

Audio challenges in the first two days of the Feast were solved by the tech-ops crew mounting speakers high over the ballroom, resulting in good sound for the remainder of the Feast, both for the messages and the very uplifting special music.

Paul Luecke

park city

UNITED STATES / A total of 372 brethren enjoyed a 6,900-foot-high altitude celebration in Park City, Utah, for this Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day.

Unseasonably warm daytime temperatures in the high 60s and low 70s allowed many to get out and enjoy all the outdoor activities that Park City has to offer. Family Day was a big hit among those participating. With alpine slides, coasters and ski lifts, everyone had an opportunity to experience the thrills of a mountain used to host the 2002 Winter Olympics.

With messages focused like a laser on God's rescue plan for mankind, including sermons by guest speakers Richard Thompson and Richard Pinelli, the brethren at Park City were inspired and encouraged to press forward to the wonderful World Tomorrow!

Jon Pinelli

pigeon forge

UNITED STATES / Words don't adequately describe the atmosphere at the Feast in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, this year. With a full room (and I do mean full room) of nearly 1,200 people, it was snug for sure; but there was no denying the energy and spirit. God blessed us with a tremendous spiritual diet, and the result was healthy fellowship.

Pigeon Forge is a beautiful area and has countless activities, but what made it so outstanding was God's blessing coupled with so many families enjoying one another's company. The stage was full when the choir sang and largely full when the children's choir sang, and they sounded wonderful. There was a zeal and energy that was contagious from start to finish.

Colors were just beginning to turn on the foliage, which is part of what makes the Smoky Mountains so popular at this time of year. Many left stating they were already looking forward to coming back next year.

Mark Winner

santa rosa

UNITED STATES / The vineyards of California's Sonoma Valley provided a millennial backdrop for 425 attendees celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles in Santa Rosa, California. The site offered much physical feasting at numerous fine restaurants and much spiritual feasting on the outstanding sermons and sermonettes focused on God's plan.

The Hyatt Vineyard Creek, a Tuscan villa-styled hotel located in Santa Rosa's historic downtown, was the beautiful venue for services and a number of social events, including a reception after the opening night service and a family dance.



Feastgoers enjoyed a variety of activities, including a zip-line adventure in the nearby majestic redwood forests, canoeing on the Russian River, visits to the California coast and, of course, winery tours. Those visiting the Benziger Family Winery experienced the rare privilege of dining in its 27,000-square-foot wine cave!

Seniors and their younger friends enjoyed an evening with dinner, bingo and lots of prizes. Weather for the Family Day picnic in a nearby park was sunny with very comfortable temperatures. Attendees enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs, free rides on a carousel and miniature train, and lots of fellowship!

In the final sermon Richard Thompson encouraged members not to have post-Feast letdown, but to look forward to the next festival in God's plan!

Ken Giese

sheboygan

UNITED STATES / More than 300 brethren were welcomed to the Feast of Tabernacles at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, with spectacular fall colors, a glowing full moon shining across Lake Michigan, sunny skies and 70-degree weather. The sunrise over the lake on the morning of the first holy day was truly breathtaking. Following opening night services, many brethren stayed for a reception on the terrace overlooking Lake

Left to right: Children in Park City, Utah, on their way to services; laughing and fellowshipping in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee; a beautiful vineyard near Santa Rosa, California; Ethan Cox practices being a king in Sheboygan, Wisconsin; an inspiring sunrise in St. Augustine, Florida



Michigan and enjoyed refreshments, fellowship and a gorgeous view.

Feast activities included a family dance, Family Day activities on the Blue Harbor grounds and beach area, senior citizens' hospitality with games, sing-along and gourmet hors d'oeuvres, a stuffed animal giveaway for children and a Feast fellowship dinner on Friday evening before Bible study. Brethren also donated non-food items to the Sheboygan area Head Start Essential Needs Program.

The high attendance of 316 was on Sunday, Oct. 7. God blessed us with excellent spiritual food and a joyful Feast of Tabernacles in Sheboygan.

Michael Hanisko

st. augustine

UNITED STATES / Just under 1,000 brethren made the journey to

the world-famous Renaissance World Golf Village in St. Augustine, Florida. Good weather, except for a very welcome rain early in the Feast, gave Feastgoers a foretaste of the community of tomorrow. The Feast of Tabernacles pictures peace and good fellowship, and this was much the case here at this four-diamond resort.

Brethren from all over the United States, Canada and faraway places produced an animated fellowship in a beautiful setting. Messages were very encouraging and reminiscent of the early years, and some of our longtime pastors rehearsed God's plan in a variety of ways. Activities included Family Day; a family dance; teen, singles and young adult outings; a golf tournament; and a seniors' luncheon, among other events.

The Feast provides time for fellowship and allows time for enjoying a walk

on the beach or sharing a meal with longtime friends. Special music was outstanding, with choral and individual efforts that added excitement and inspiration to the services.

The Bible commands us to rejoice, and brethren seemed to do that with a flair. Smiles and animated conversation filled the air. The Feast has become not only a commanded assembly but a time to renew friendships and rehearse God's plan for mankind.

We are scheduled for another year at this facility next year. Why not consider sunny Florida next year? You won't be disappointed!

Larry Greider

lusaka

ZAMBIA / A total of 194 happy brethren kept the Feast at the Church property 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of Lusaka, Zambia. Sermons featured

conditions in the Kingdom and the need to be part of the soon-coming government.

Brethren all stayed in tents and ate together under the cool, shady trees abundant on the property. Mealtime was characterized by lively fellowship and hearty laughter. It threatened to rain, but thankfully did not.

There were two highlights. One lady lost a purse with money; and another, her cell phone. Both are extremely valuable possessions in Zambia. To the relief and delight of all the brethren, both items were found and returned to the owners. In our country, such news will only be heard when the Kingdom we just celebrated comes.

On the Last Great Day, two young ladies were baptized by Doug Horchak, guest speaker and operation manager of Ministerial Services. He was accompanied by his wife, Tanya. She lost her luggage in transit and had to make do with travel clothes. The ladies enjoyed her no-airs, easygoing style.

On the whole, this was the most peaceful Feast in living memory.

Kambani Banda

bulawayo

ZIMBABWE / A total of 122 members of the Church of God gathered at Tuli Hill Camp, 25 kilometers (16 miles) south of Bulawayo for a very inspiring Feast in a nice family environment. Members came from different regions of the country, including Shurugwi, Masvingo, Gweru, Harare and Kadoma. Physical food was very abundant; and we appreciate the assistance given to us, which allowed us to once again observe the Feast of Tabernacles.

Doug Horchak and his wife, Tanya, arrived in Zimbabwe on Sept. 28; and on the Sabbath of Sept. 29, he gave a



Top to bottom: Brethren fellowship over a meal in Zambia; the choir in Zimbabwe performs special music

very inspiring sermon on how God is preparing us as a people for His Kingdom.

The next day, brethren from Gokwe arrived, tired and hungry, but happy that they had arrived safely despite the bad state of the roads.

Mr. Horchak's opening night message was about the sanctity of the Feast and how it pictures the return of Jesus Christ. The next day he spoke on how we are pilgrims, living in temporary dwellings.

On the second day he gave two inspiring messages before leaving for the airport. We then had the opportunity to watch the video sermon by our president, Jim Franks.

During his time with us, Mr. Horchak baptized five people, four ladies and one man, whom we have been counseling for some time. They are Gracious Charumbira, Susan Gorondo, Egenes Matobi, Blessed Majaya and Eddie Moyo.

On the remaining days of the Feast, the two elders in Zimbabwe gave messages describing and pointing the members to the Kingdom of God and what we all need to be doing in order to enter God's Kingdom. Sermonettes were equally inspiring and educational.

We were also able to watch videos, which included international updates and *In Accord*.

Activities included Family Day, where the young and old participated in soccer and netball; and after the games, we roasted chicken and goat meat. The meal was followed by ice cream.

Workers at Tuli Hill Camp told us that usually—every day, in fact—electricity is switched off for up to six hours at a time. But during our stay it was only switched off for a few minutes.

We thank God, the Church and the leadership for making this the best Feast ever.

Stephen Tshabalala



Feast of Tabernacles Attendance

The following are the high attendance figures recorded at each of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Feast sites around the world for 2012. Total combined attendance was 9,862.

United States

Big Sandy, Texas	7
Branson, Missouri	542
Kerrville, Texas	360
Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania	435
Park City, Utah	372
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee	1,139
Santa Rosa, California	425
Sheboygan, Wisconsin	316
St. Augustine, Florida	996
U.S. Total.....	4,592

Shut-Ins/Webcast

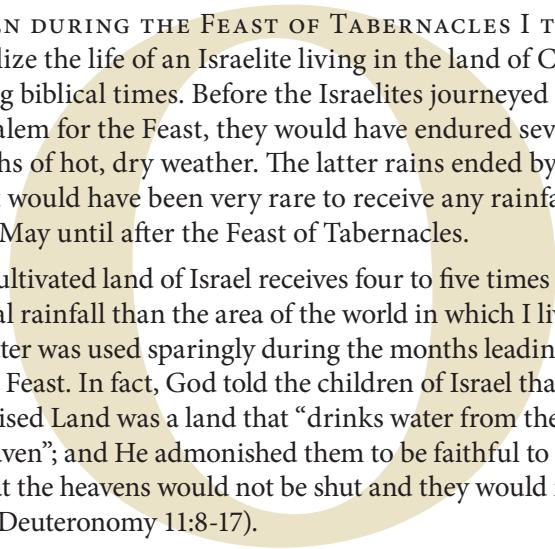
U.S. Shut-ins (no Internet)	400
U.S. Webcasts (# of connections)	250
Roku TV (# of connections)	76
Latin America Shut-ins & Webcasts	
Mexico	37
Argentina	6
Colombia	6
Bolivia	4
Brazil	4
Chile	5
Total Shut-Ins/Webcast.....	788

International

Malawi	53
Argentina	350
Australia	40
Barbados	70
Bolivia	97
Brazil	21
Burundi	137
Chile	197
Colombia	61
Congo	40
Côte d'Ivoire (2 sites)	60
Fiji	35
France	102
Ghana	572
Grenada	8
Guatemala	543
Jamaica	115
Jordan	61
Kenya	142
International Total.....	4,482

Investing in the Harvest

by Dave Baker



OFTEN DURING THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES I TRY TO visualize the life of an Israelite living in the land of Canaan during biblical times. Before the Israelites journeyed to Jerusalem for the Feast, they would have endured several months of hot, dry weather. The latter rains ended by April, and it would have been very rare to receive any rainfall from May until after the Feast of Tabernacles.

The cultivated land of Israel receives four to five times less annual rainfall than the area of the world in which I live. So water was used sparingly during the months leading up to the Feast. In fact, God told the children of Israel that the Promised Land was a land that “drinks water from the rain of heaven”; and He admonished them to be faithful to Him so that the heavens would not be shut and they would receive rain (Deuteronomy 11:8-17).

During the Feast, the Israelites prayed to God asking Him to bless them with the early or former rains. In fact, Zechariah 14:17 associates rainfall with observing the Feast. For many Jews, the water-pouring ceremony that was conducted during the Feast of Tabernacles was symbolic of rain (*The Jewish Encyclopedia*, “Feast of Tabernacles,” 1906). It was probably in reference to this ceremony that Christ said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” (John 7:37-38). Christ associates living water with the Holy Spirit.

Prior to the Feast, the Israelites would have harvested figs, dates, pomegranates, grapes and olives. The Feast was a time of great joy, coming at the end of the harvest season. When the Israelites returned home after the Feast, they were faced with a lot of hard work. Shortly after the Feast, the early rains began to fall. The much-needed water began to soften the hard-baked earth, which allowed the farmers to begin planting their grain for the spring harvest.

The Bible contains several references to plowing in order to ready the field for the seed, but one author described the process as being more like scraping and scratching. Breaking up the hard, stony soil for planting was hard work. But if the farmer was willing to invest himself in this hard work, he would enjoy the fruit of his labor during the spring harvest.

Psalm 126:5-6 instructs us, “Those who sow in tears shall

reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”

Why would one sow in tears? Tilling and planting could be agonizing work for the Israelite farmer. If he procrastinated, hoping that more rain would make his task easier, he ran the risk of running into winter weather. Evidently the lazy chose not to invest in the necessary hard work at the right time for a good harvest. “The lazy man will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing” (Proverbs 20:4).

Perhaps there is a lesson that we can learn from the experience of the Israelites. We have experienced a very joyous Feast with fellow members of God’s Church. We heard wonderful messages about the Kingdom of God and enjoyed good food and fellowship with our brethren. Now that we have returned home from the Feast, it is easy to experience post-Feast letdown. We are faced with problems that we left behind as we enjoyed the Feast. Sometimes we face persecution for taking time off from work or school. Our co-workers, neighbors or relatives do not share the same vision of the future. We return to a society that has very different values than those of the Kingdom of God. We have returned to a world steeped in pagan holidays such as Halloween, All Saints’ Day, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Valentine’s Day and Easter, just to name a few. At times we can feel as though we are being assaulted on all sides.

Now that we have returned from the Feast, we must “go forth weeping,” being willing to invest the necessary hard work for spiritual growth. Our plowing consists of regular prayer, Bible study, meditation and fasting. With God’s guidance and help, we can face our trials and overcome our problems or shortcomings. Through the power of His Spirit, we can be an ambassador for His Kingdom.

Then as we gather with our brethren for the spring holy days, we can do so with joy, knowing that we have produced spiritual fruit that is pleasing to God and reflects the Kingdom that we pray for each day. As we examine ourselves prior to Passover, the beginning of the spring harvest, we will be able to measure spiritual growth that we have experienced. Let’s invest the effort now so that we can enjoy a wonderful, joyous spring feast! ☺@

Georgia Brethren Spend Sabbath in God's Beautiful Creation

Members of the Trenton, Georgia, congregation, along with several visitors, enjoyed their first annual (perhaps even biennial) "Sabbath in the Park" on June 2, 2012, at the Cloudland Canyon State Park in Rising Fawn, Georgia. Although unseasonably cool for June, the day in the North Georgia Mountains was picture perfect with a wonderful view of the canyon in the distance.

Sabbath services were conducted by Tom Kirkpatrick, pastor of the Birmingham, Alabama, and Trenton, Georgia, congregations. It was a Bible study format, covering the book of Philemon.

During the study, Dr. Kirkpatrick discussed the use of tact and how as Christians we should be using tact in our dealings with others so as to avoid offending, as the apostle Paul did in his dealings with Philemon. Afterward, a



delicious potluck meal was served followed by much fellowship.

The day was a great success with everyone commenting how nice it was to be outdoors to experience God's beautiful creation on the Sabbath. Plans are being made for a second "Sabbath in the Park" in the fall!

Debra Doss

St. Petersburg Bids Fond Farewell to Relocating Deacon and Deaconess



Blessed with beautiful weather, 63 friends gathered at the home of Chuck and Deneen Sinon in Largo, Florida, on Aug. 12, 2012, to bid a fond farewell to Walter and Wanda Smith.

Walter first heard *The World Tomorrow* while stationed with the U.S. Army in Germany in 1961. He and Wanda were married on April 1, 1964, and began attending services in October 1967.

Walter was baptized on Nov. 1. Wanda followed suit on their fourth wedding anniversary. Walter was ordained a deacon on March 27, 1994, and Wanda as a deaconess on June 4, 2006.

After services on Aug. 25, the St. Petersburg congregation presented Walter and Wanda with a gift card, and all enjoyed cake and light refreshments.

The longtime Florida residents will be relocating to the Dallas, Texas area.

Charles Haughee

Food, Baptism and Basketball at Athens Picnic

On June 22, 2012, the Athens, Ohio congregation held its annual picnic at the Dairy Lane Park where Josh Travers was baptized. Afterwards, everyone continued to fellowship as they enjoyed



the delicious food, which included a variety of pies and cookies, chicken, sandwiches and other delightful foods. Bill Jahns led some of the Church's younger members in a few friendly games of basketball, while others took advantage of the park's miniature golf course. One of the members brought a game of chess, which amused many of the members. Everybody left the picnic encouraged and joyous, eagerly looking forward to next year's picnic.

Josh Travers

Barbados Picnic Strengthens Bonds of Brotherly Love

On Sept. 2, 33 brethren of all ages, including our elder Osmonde Douglas, came together for a picnic at the beautiful Bath Beach, located on the east coast of Barbados.

The day started out with a scenic bus ride along the picturesque west coast. Traveling north, we rode through the first settlement area in Barbados, the historic Holetown, and also caught a glimpse of the new sprawling marina, Port Ferdinand.

Though the weather was very warm, God blessed us with the gentle breezes of the northeasterly trade winds. At Bath, we treated ourselves to traditionally prepared local refreshments, including golden apple juice supplied by Steve Holland, our activities coordinator. The tasty dishes and famous bread and cake were very much wel-

come as well. The meal was blessed by Leroi Moore.

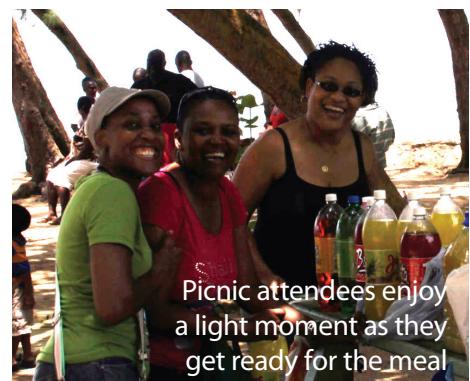
Activities at the picnic included dominoes, Chinese checkers, walks along the beach and fishing. Karl Scantlebury and Prince Sealy showcased their fishing skills, and they were joined by the older preteens. Mr. Scantlebury came up with the catch of the day: six swallowtail fish. Mr. Sealy's toil disappointingly yielded no catches!

Overall, brotherly love and fellowship was the hallmark of this picnic as we shared together, reminding us very much of the early Church being of one accord. We thank God for His protection and blessings on us for such a great day. We are already looking forward to our next outing when we can continue to forge even greater bonds.

Cindy Ann Lawrence



Prince Sealy shows good spirit despite not catching any fish
(photos by Eric White)



Picnic attendees enjoy a light moment as they get ready for the meal

Longtime Pastor and Wife Retire After 47 Years of Service



Roger and Andrea West were also honored on July 21, 2012, in the Mena, Arkansas, congregation, where they received a plaque and a money tree as an expression of thanks

On the Sabbath of Aug. 25, 2012, the combined congregations of Springdale, Van Buren and Mena, Arkansas held a retirement celebration for Roger and Andrea West.

Joining the brethren in the celebration was their newly assigned pastor, Tom Clark. Also visiting for the occasion were Doug Horchak, Ministerial Services operation manager, and his wife, Tanya, and Mike Blackwell, pastor of the Springfield and Joplin, Missouri, and Harrison, Arkansas, congregations, with his wife, Carol.

During the announcement period of services, the Wests were presented with a Target gift card, photo albums from the members and an iPad. With each gift, Mr. Clark read a personal message from the congregation that expressed the members' appreciation for the Wests' years of service and caring for the brethren.

Before beginning the sermon, Doug Horchak presented them with a plaque from the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, which read, "With Deep Appreciation for 43 Years of Faithful Service, Dedication, and Devotion to God and Serving His People." It also quoted Ephesians 4:11-12.

Following services, the brethren enjoyed finger foods and beautifully decorated cakes. One cake displayed a pond with a fisherman in a boat to represent Mr. West and his love of fishing. Another displayed pictures of the Wests, and yet another had the written message "Thank you for your many years of service in God's Church."

The Wests have served in God's Church for 47 years (43 years in the full-time ministry). Over these years, they have served congregations in California, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas.

Mr. and Mrs. West plan to move to the Dallas, Texas, area to be nearer their three children and their families.

Lori Hull

Scorching Temperatures Heat Up Annual North Carolina Picnic

The second annual North Carolina Picnic occurred during one of the most scorching summers ever experienced, but the weather only seemed to stoke the fire for fostering family fellowship!

Held on July 8, 2012, at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons, North Carolina, the venue offered a host of activities for brethren to enjoy, including horseback riding, swimming, fishing and even a morning golf tournament! Children's water-centered games provided some relief from the heat and were just good fun!

And the food! Thanks to coordinator Judy Ferenciak, our serving tables were teeming with grilled meats,



The children cool off after playing water-centered games

mouth-watering sides and yummy desserts!

All the North Carolina brethren who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves and look forward to our third annual North Carolina Picnic!

Rebekah Leyden

Morgantown Auction Raises \$1,400

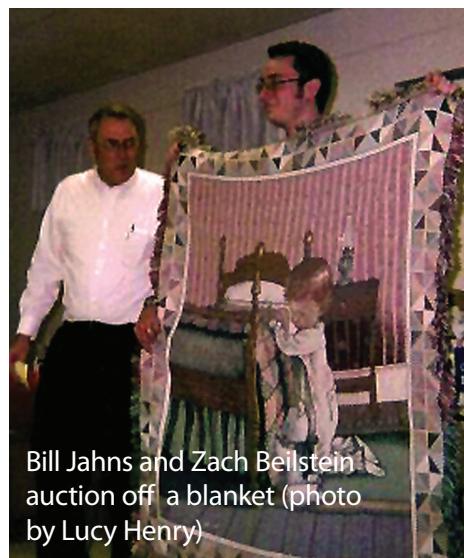
The Morgantown, West Virginia, congregation held its annual auction on March 24, 2012. The day began with late afternoon services followed by a lasagna dinner. The food was provided by the congregation and, as usual, was delicious. One thing the Morgantown congregation is known for is its hearty snacks and potlucks.

After the Sabbath, there was a silent and a live auction. Members brought in donated items to sell. As the old saying goes, one man's trash is another man's treasure. There were many items—including an African painting, homemade barbecue sauce, crocheted doilies and furniture—to bid on. One member made homemade ice cream, which was sold by the scoop during intermission. The evening was filled with laughter as the bidding went on.

At the end of the night, the auction

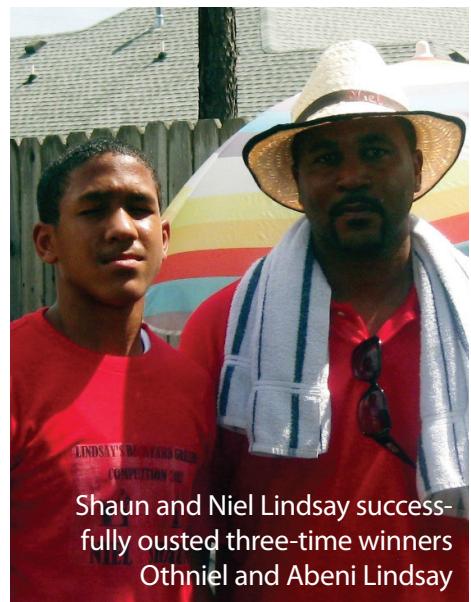
proved to be a great success. The congregation raised \$1,400, part of which was sent to Malawi. Everyone enjoyed the evening and is looking forward to next year's event.

Sherry Beilstein



Bill Jahns and Zach Beilstein auction off a blanket (photo by Lucy Henry)

New Grill Master Claims Title at Annual Augusta Competition



Shaun and Niel Lindsay successfully ousted three-time winners Othniel and Abeni Lindsay

A sizzling late summer afternoon in Georgia got even hotter as nine grills were fired up for the fourth annual Grill-Out Competition, held Sept. 2 at the home of Ryan Lindsay. Over 100 guests were present for the event, some traveling from as far away as the Bahamas to attend or compete. Many brethren from the Augusta, Georgia, and the Columbia, South Carolina, congregations were also on hand to sample the savory fare hot off the grill, including chicken, beef ribs and a chef's choice of any item prepared on the grill such as vegetables—and even desserts.

Team Lindsay (Othniel and his daughter Abeni) held onto the title of Grill Master for three years, but had to pass the honor, as well as the bragging rights, on to eldest son Niel and grandson Shaun. The food, atmosphere and warm hospitality of Othniel, his wife Elva, and the extended Lindsay family made for a very enjoyable and fulfilling afternoon.

Ann Hewston

Announcements

Births



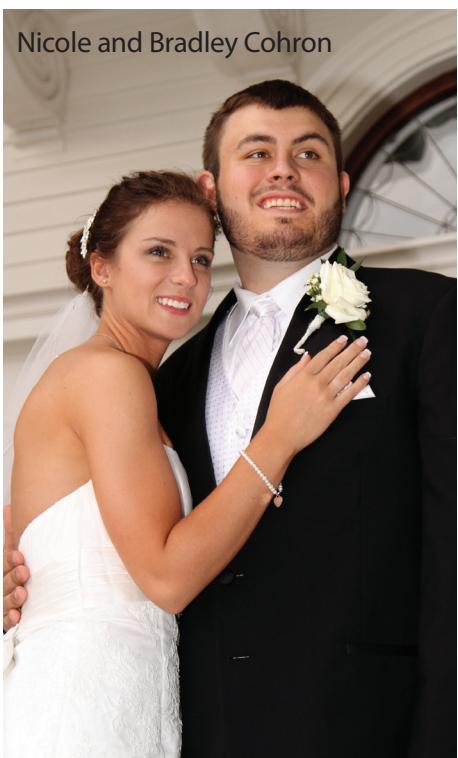
Luke Tranquada presents his little brother, Joey

Andrew and Amy Tranquada of the Roanoke, Virginia, congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their second son, Joseph Gary Tranquada. Joey was born May 30, 2012, at the Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and measured 20½ inches long. His big brother, Luke, is thrilled with the new addition to the family.



Brooklyn Scarbrough

Kevin and Michelle Scarbrough of the Charleston, West Virginia, congregation are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Brooklyn Alexandra Scarbrough. Brooklyn was born Aug. 12, 2012, at 2:31 a.m., weighing 7 pounds 2 ounces and measuring 19¼ inches long. Her parents hope and pray to diligently raise Brooklyn in the spirit of Deuteronomy 11:19.



Nicole and Bradley Cohron

Weddings

riage at 5 p.m., beautiful Nicole walked down the path on the arm of her father, Edwin Karn, and took Bradley's hand. Bruce Gore officiated the ceremony before an audience of friends and family.

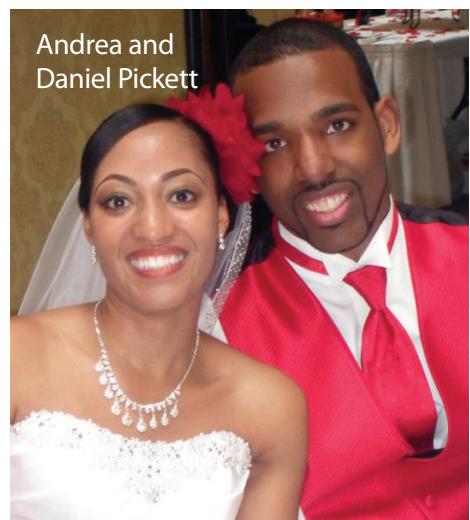
Bradley's sister, Kelley Cohron, was Nicole's maid of honor; and Bradley's father, Wes Cohron, was his son's best man. Five bridesmaids and five groomsmen, as well as flower girl, Taylor Cohron, and ring bearer, Trey Cohron, were in the wedding party.

Beautiful wedding music was provided by Classy Chicks string quartet. Guests were received in the back garden, where they enjoyed a buffet dinner and dancing.

Nicole's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Karn, and Bradley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wes Cohron also of Buford, Georgia. Nicole and Bradley both work in the Buford area and now make their home there as well. They attend the Jefferson, Georgia, congregation.

On the beautiful spring day of May 20, 2012, Nicole Karn and Bradley Cohron, began their life together at The Bonna Allen Jr. Home in downtown Buford, Georgia. A late afternoon rain cloud appeared that cooled and refreshed the air for a most comfortable afternoon.

Arriving in a white horse-drawn car-

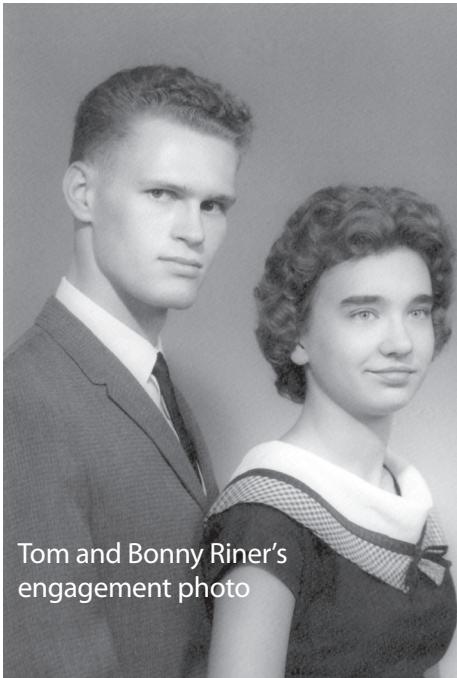


Andrea and Daniel Pickett

Larry and Reba Jones are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Andrea Nicole Leverett, to Daniel Christian Pickett. Daniel is the son of Star and Juanita Pickett of Vineland, New Jersey. Daniel and Andrea were married Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Smyrna, Georgia, where 110 family members and friends celebrated the special day with the couple in a picturesque Tuscan setting. The ceremony was conducted by Bruce Gore. The couple resides in Smyrna, Georgia.

Donna Quintana

Chant'a Collier



Tom and Bonny Riner's engagement photo

Tom and Bonny Riner of the Macon, Georgia, congregation celebrated 50 years of marriage on July 8 this year. Their local congregation presented them with a cake. Then a few weeks later their family got together and presented them with a cake and a book of memories and greetings from friends and family they have known over the years from all over the country.

The Riners first came in contact with the Church shortly after they were married, while living in Saskatchewan, Canada. Mr. Riner heard *The World Tomorrow* broadcast and mentioned it to Mrs. Riner, who was soon very convinced that what she heard preached was truly God's way of life. The Riners moved back to Georgia, where Mr. Riner became a police officer (during the riots of the 1960s!).

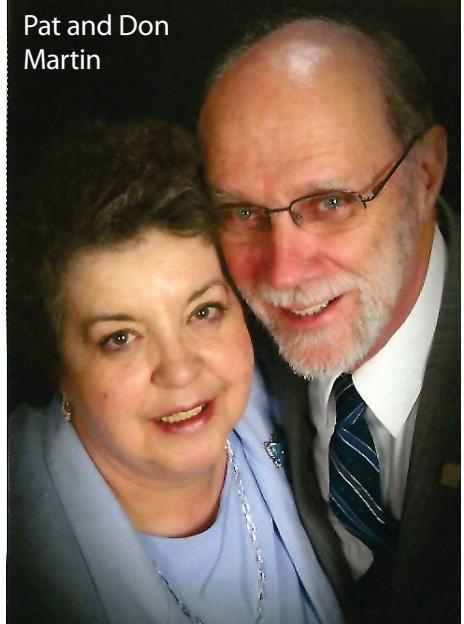
By the spring of 1969, Mrs. Riner was finally invited to come to Church, but Mr. Riner insisted that she could not come unless he came too. No one was going to brainwash his wife! But God had plans, and Mr. Riner was so impressed by that first service that he came back.

During the spring holy days, Mr. Riner went home after the First Day of Un-



Tom and Bonny Riner today, celebrating 50 years of marriage

Anniversaries



Pat and Don Martin

leavened Bread, resigned as a police officer and came back for the Last Day of Unleavened Bread. He had also realized that this was the way of life he needed to be living. They were both baptized that summer.

There have been many trials and miracles over the years, including being shot at (the bullet never made it!), having a driver's education student drive Mr. Riner off a cliff, having a brick thrown through a front window and landing on a pillow where moments before a child had been, and many healings and other stories too numerous to mention.

In 1978 Mr. Riner was ordained a deacon, and a few years later Mrs. Riner was ordained a deaconess. After all the children left home, Mr. Riner went back to school and got his doctorate in business administration.

The Riners have been the backbone in their local congregation, serving in many different capacities (including speaking, song leading, pianist, coaching, Feast ensemble, etc.), opening their home to many families in need over the years, and providing a shining example of Christianity.

Mary Clark

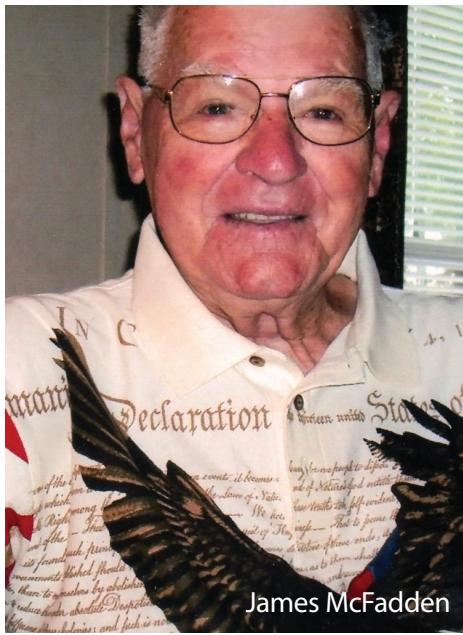
Don and Pat Martin of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, congregation celebrated 50 years of marriage on Aug. 4, 2012.

They were surprised with a party given by friends and family in their honor to commemorate their many years together. As a gift to Don and Pat, their children purchased a beautiful maple "money tree" on which guests placed some "little green leaves." As the kids were growing up, Don always told them that money didn't grow on trees, but they proved him wrong!

A couple weeks later, the congregation also had an opportunity to show appreciation to the Martins with a cake in their honor. Don and Pat spoke to the congregation, sharing some heart-warming thoughts from their years together. What a great example to the Church of marriage and family, growing onward and upward, in a grand family tree.

Lisa Kifer

Obituaries



James William McFadden, 84, of Lynchburg, Virginia, died on Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012, at the Veterans

James Christopher Jackson, known by all who loved him as "Pokey," died on July 9, 2012, from leukemia. He was a deacon in God's Church and is survived by his wife of 59 years, Lois, who still serves as a deaconess. They both have been known in the Church and community as very loving and giving people, who always tried to help others as they had also been blessed.

Pokey was born on Aug. 27, 1932, in Ottawa County, Oklahoma. He was the youngest of 13 children. He and Lois were married on April 27, 1953, in Delaware County in Oklahoma. They made their home in Zena, where they raised their three children. Pokey worked pipeline construction for H.C. Price Co. until 1983, when he was called into God's Church.

Knowing he had to keep the Sabbath, he quit to run his own excavation business. After several successful years, he retired to start a used furniture store in Grove, Oklahoma. After he sold that

Administration Medical Center in Salem, Virginia. He was the husband of Marion Coffey "Dot" McFadden.

Born in Nelson County, Virginia, on Aug. 14, 1928, he was a son of the late Otha and Mary Alice Jennings McFadden. He was retired from the U.S. Navy with 20 years of service and served during both the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War.

Mr. McFadden was a member of the Roanoke, Virginia, congregation, where he attended along with his wife. He came into contact with the Church through family members and was baptized in 1982.

Mr. McFadden enjoyed traveling and attended many different Feast sites around the country with his wife, and he enjoyed telling of his travel adventures.

store, he retired to help Lois care for grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a wonderful influence in all their lives and a true example of a husband, father and grandfather. All of his children and two of his grandchildren are members in the Church, and five great-grandchildren attend.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three children, Judith (Jack) Rector, Shirley (Bill) Hendricks, and Wesley (Judy) Jackson; and six grandchildren, including Matthew (Katie) Jackson, and Brittni (Josh) Dozier. He is also survived by eight great-grandchildren, hundreds of nieces and nephews, and many other family members and friends.

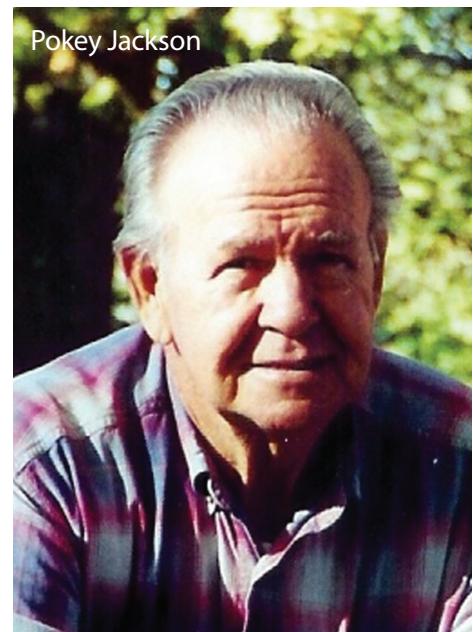
He will be greatly missed by his family, as well as his local congregation in Joplin, Missouri. He was loved by all.

"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

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, James E. McFadden and his wife, Shelia, and Steven McFadden and his wife, Vicki; one daughter, Dora M. Eanes; six stepchildren, Kathy Carroll, Judy Ellis, Janice Staton, Jennifer Moore, Ted Staton and Daniel Staton; one brother, S.T. McFadden; three sisters, Elsie Price, Anna Dixon and Ella Baldock; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012, at the Gladstone Cemetery. John Foster, the pastor of the Roanoke, Virginia, and Princeton and Charleston, West Virginia, congregations, officiated the service. Military honors were provided by the American Legion Post 104 and VFW Post 9855.

Polly Hanson



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).

Katie Jackson

Dean Jefferis of the Van Buren, Arkansas, congregation died Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012, at the age of 74 at his home in Booneville, Arkansas.

Most people have fond memories of Dean in his denim overalls. He enjoyed organic gardening and the outdoors.

Dean is survived by his wife, Shirley; four daughters; three sons; a sister; a brother; 19 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren.

He first started attending services with his neighbor, and both were eventually baptized. Their wives both joined them at services and were later baptized as



Peter Thompson

Susan Janis Cottrill, a member of the Augusta, Georgia, congregation, died on Aug. 21, 2012. She had battled cancer for over 22 years. A stroke in April left her too weak to continue the fight.

Susan was born to William and Janice Schwingel on Dec. 29, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois. Her family later moved to Tampa, Florida, where she and her five brothers were reared. Susan met her husband, Keith, in 1973 and married the following year. Keith and Susan soon moved to Big Sandy, Texas, to attend Ambassador College.

Through the years, as the Cottrills moved to various locations, Susan was actively involved in serving the brethren in many capacities, including youth and Family Day activities at the Feast

well. Right away, they started serving in any way they could.

Always there for a friend in need, Dean was a great friend, neighbor and brother in the Lord.

Dean was excited about his calling and took it seriously. He was a true witness to his friends and family all the way to his final breath, talking as if he was just leaving for a trip. He eagerly looked forward to the coming Kingdom of God. And we look forward to seeing him again, fully restored, on that great and wonderful day!

Lori Hull

Peter Francis Thompson of the Van Buren, Arkansas, congregation was born June 16, 1968, at Beth Island Hospital, New York City, New York. He died Thursday, July 19, 2012, at the age of 44.

Peter loved sports. His favorite teams were the Arkansas Razorbacks and the Dallas Cowboys. He collected mementos, baseball cards, buttons and badges from all teams. He loved living on the farm, with its gardens in the summertime and his cats, dogs, chickens and goats.

Peter was preceded in death by his father, George Thompson.

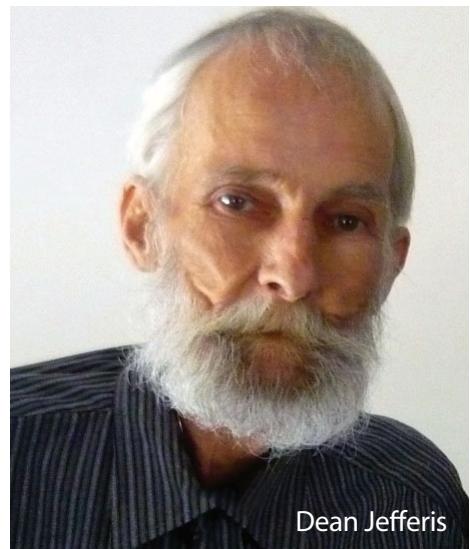
He is survived by his parents, Gary and

of Tabernacles. The Cottrills settled in North Augusta, South Carolina, earlier this year.

In addition to her husband, Keith, Susan is survived by their three sons, Russ, Alan and Jerry; two daughters, Amber Cottrill and Ginger Hicks; 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

A memorial service was held in Augusta, Georgia, on Aug. 25 and was conducted by Don Waterhouse, pastor of the Augusta congregation. A second memorial service, conducted by Richard Thompson, was held in Jacksonville, Florida, on Sept. 8. A combined total of well over 175 people attended one or both of the services.

Susan will be remembered for her



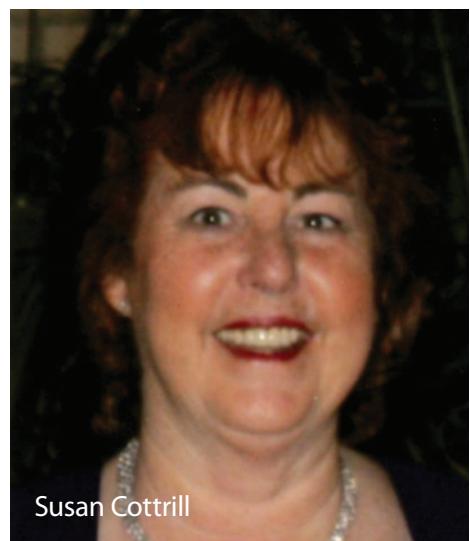
Dean Jefferis

Ruth Wells; a son, Arlen Lewis; one brother; nine sisters; and many other relatives and friends.

Peter was always happy to see his Church family. He would just light up with a great big smile when he talked to them. He would often come in toting a freshly baked batch of brownies. He had been really looking forward to going to his fourth Feast of Tabernacles in Branson, Missouri, this year.

To the brethren, he was a special treasure that left too quickly. We look forward to the time when he will be resurrected, completely healed.

Lori Hull



Susan Cottrill

warmness, kindness and faith, as she touched the lives of everyone she met.

Ann Hewston

Time to Register for the 2012 Winter Family Weekend

The Winter Family Weekend runs from Friday evening, Dec. 21, through Tuesday night, Dec. 25, 2012—so it's more than just a weekend! We'll start things off on the Sabbath with a Friday evening Bible study by Clyde Kilough, Media operation manager. The next day we will have seminars for all ages. In the afternoon we will have services, with Doug Horchak, director of Ministerial Services, delivering the sermon. Come sundown, the next four nights and three days will be jam-packed with activities for everyone!

This year's theme is "Pursue Righteousness." Matthew 6:33 is an often quoted scripture. The Church has appropriately emphasized the need to "seek first the Kingdom of God," but we must not forget the rest of the verse. While it is critical to focus on and pursue the Kingdom of God, our success in that endeavor is tied directly to our pursuit of His righteousness. What things are we doing or not doing in our lives that reflect righteousness? All of the Sabbath morning seminars will be built around this theme. Additional seminars on a variety of topics will be offered Sunday through Tuesday.

**The Galt House Hotel and
Conference Center
140 N. Fourth St.
Louisville, KY 40202
www.GaltHouse.com**

Please register (beginning on Oct. 29) by going to <http://members.cogwa.org/wfw>. Make checks payable to COG-Louisville and mail them to COG-Louisville, P.O. Box 1598, Louisville, KY 40201-1598. We ask that each person register separately if he or she will be on any of the teen or adult basketball or volleyball teams, as that is a great help in planning. Contact ken.treybig@cogwa.org if you have questions or problems registering.



For more information, updates and registration, go to the Winter Family Weekend website:

<http://members.cogwa.org/wfw>

**We Look Forward to Seeing
You There!**