

OneAccord

July 2013



2013 International Ministerial Conference

Bringing Many Sons to Glory

High School
Seniors' Graduation
Announcements

Personal Contact:
How to Avoid
Repetitive Prayer

personal from the president

commencement

When I was a senior in high school, I was asked to give a speech at our graduation. It was a small high school in northeastern Arkansas; but for that small town, high school graduation was a big event, attended by a large percentage of the local residents. The gymnasium was always packed for graduation.

This would be my first-ever “public” speech before such a large audience. As a senior in high school, I had been allowed to participate in the Spokesman Club program at Church, but these were small groups of 20 to 30 people. High school graduation would have an audience of 200 to 300 people from the local community. I remember struggling with a topic, and I wrote out virtually every word that I would then read. This was the opposite of what we were being taught in Spokesman Club, where we were encouraged to become an extemporaneous speaker, speaking from the heart and not from a script.

Now, more than 40 years later, the whole event is a dim memory, and I quite honestly couldn’t tell you what I spoke about. The best I can remember is that I spoke about the concept of “commencement” and talked about how our graduation was a beginning and not the end of the journey.

I know that it was important to me at that time to get an education. My uncles, aunts and many of my cousins never finished high school. We were a farming community, and most thought it was not important to get a formal education to be a good farmer. After all, wasn’t “common” sense more important than “book learning”?

As members of the Church back in the 1960s (and today as well), we felt that the institutions of higher learning were a huge failure. And they were and still are when it comes to values. But those brethren who chose to attend didn’t go to these institutions to learn values. We learned those from the Word of God and from the Church of God. My choice back then for continuing my education was Ambassador College, and I never regretted that choice. I had other opportunities, even scholarships; but I never felt cheated with the education I received at Ambassador College.

As our young people graduate from high school and college, I hope we can continue to instill within them the importance of a good education. As members of the Church of God, we are committed to serving others. In fact, our lives are based on the principle of service. But, in addition



to a spirit of service, we also need knowledge—knowledge that will help us make a living or begin a career, and knowledge about how the world works—science, mathematics, history, etc. We don’t need to accept the values that the world is trying to pass on in order to learn these things.

Let me say congratulations to all our seniors and wish them a good “commencement,” a good start in a career or a furthering of their education. More important, I hope that, as Christians, they will consider living lives of service. I would also add a word of caution. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy about a world that would reject Him and what it would be like: “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Timothy 3:7).

The most valuable education you will ever receive won’t come from any college. It is from the Word of God. Knowledge without God is hollow and can never fill the spiritual void that exists in most people today.

Put God first in your life without forgetting the importance of a good education. And consider each step—each milestone, each graduation—along the way to be a commencement on a journey toward becoming a better person, committed to serving others.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Franks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Contents

Cover photo: André van Belkum and David Baker laugh during a writers' breakout session at the ministerial conference (photo by Chantelle West)



Jane McConnaughey listens to a presentation at the 2013 International Ministerial Conference in Dallas, Texas
Bringing Many Sons to Glory, page 4



Sharpening Iron: Finding the Sharp Edge of Success, page 7

2013 Ministerial Conference: Bringing Many Sons to Glory

4

The Journey Begins: 2013 High School Graduates

7

Portraits of Faith: Remaining Steadfast

17

Sharpening Iron: Finding the Sharp Edge of Success

18

Personal Contact: How to Avoid Repetitive Prayer

19

Writer's Block: "I'll See You in the Kingdom"

20

News From the Congregations

22

Announcements

25

Life, Hope & Truth Reaches 1 Million Page Views One Year After Launch

28

CHURCH of GOD
A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

© 2013 Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

Ministerial Board of Directors: David Baker, Arnold Hampton, Joel Meeker, Richard Pinelli, Larry Salyer, Richard Thompson and Leon Walker

President: Jim Franks; **Media operation manager:** Clyde Kilough;
Managing editor: Elizabeth Cannon Glasgow;
Copy editor: Becky Bennett

Doctrinal reviewers: Neil Hart, Jack Hendren, Steve Moody, Frank Pierce

July 2013

One Accord is published monthly, except April and October, online at members.cogwa.org by Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version (© 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

By submitting photographs or articles to the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc. ("Church") or to *One Accord*, a contributor gives the Church permission and a nonexclusive license to use or publish any such submissions without any compensation to the contributor. The contributor further agrees that any such submission will be construed in the broadest possible terms, including, but not limited to, the right to edit, crop or otherwise manipulate the submission.

Bringing Many Sons to Glory

Elders and wives from around the world gathered for an inspiring and educational ministerial conference.

by MIKE BENNETT

photographs by CHANTELE WEST, RAYSHAN SANOON,
SUSAN DEMAREST and ELIZABETH GLASGOW



Approximately 250 elders and wives gathered in Addison, Texas, June 3 and 4 for the 2013 International Ministerial Conference of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association (COGWA).

In his opening address, President Jim Franks introduced the theme of the conference, “Bringing Many Sons to Glory.” He explained that last year’s conference had focused on preaching the gospel, and that this year’s conference would focus on caring for the brethren.

View more photos from the conference at [facebook.com/cogwa](https://www.facebook.com/cogwa)

Mr. Franks encouraged the elders to be the kind of ministers who make a difference for members in their challenges and who help

in bringing many sons and daughters into God’s family.

“50 Years in the Ministry”

A highlight of the conference was a special presentation for six men who have served in the ministry for 50 years or more. The six men and wives honored were:

- George and Karen Meeker.
- Leroy Neff.
- Frank and Charlene McCrady.
- Les and Marion McCullough.
- Leon and Reba Walker.
- Richard and Mary Pinelli.

After a slide show of photos and records of service, the assembled elders and wives gave the honorees a standing ovation.



Other conference presentations included:

“**Pillar and Ground of the Truth**”: Foundation Institute instructor David Johnson gave an inspiring address on the importance of teaching sound doctrine. Since God has entrusted His people and His truth to the Church, He wants the elders to have and to share a passion for the truth.

“**Preparing the Future Leadership**”: Dave Myers gave a lively presentation on the various educational programs for youth and young adults. He shared statistics and quotes about the very successful preteen and teen camps, as well as the Young Adult Leadership Weekends attended by 400 in seven locations. He emphasized that 100 percent of the young adults said they would come to another such young adult weekend, and he said that future young adult weekends are being planned.

“**Shepherds for God’s Elect**”: Doug Horchak, Ministerial Services operation manager, encouraged the elders to re-double their efforts to help provide a healthy environment



Recharging Among Peers

Opposite page, clockwise from the top: Joel Meeker gives an update on the Ministerial Board of Directors; Les McCullough and Larry Salyer connect at the evening mixer; Sandra Fisher and Jeannie Evans at the welcome barbecue

This page, clockwise from top left: Dave Treybig leads a discussion at the writers' breakout session; social media manager Rebecca Gutierrez shows Lonnie Gjesvold how to access Twitter on his iPad; Carol Burke soaks in the sun in the atrium of the Crowne Plaza hotel where the conference was held; the ministers and their wives who have served for over 50 years; approximately 250 elders and their wives along with headquarters staff and guests listen to the seminars



for God's children to grow in. He showed the importance of teaching and training others for service now to help prepare them for eternity in God's family.

“Running the Race While Keeping the Faith”: Mr. Franks concluded the conference with an inspirational reminder to the elders to run the Christian race with endurance and to reassess themselves using the list of qualifications of elders given in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. He gave the elders specific action steps to apply in better serving and loving the members.

Conference reports

The conference also included a number of informative and inspirational reports, including:

Ministerial Services: Mr. Horchak gave an update on the

congregations and the ministry. There are currently 201 total ministers, including 72 pastors around the world. He introduced the 10 new elders ordained in the last year as well as the two whose ministerial credentials were accepted:

- Scott Hammer
- Ron McNeill
- Perry Miller (credentialed)
- James Muir (credentialed)
- Nathan Mukeshimana
- Manuel Nuñez
- John Quast
- Tom Riner

- Carlos Saavedra
- Glenn Smith
- Mark Whynaucht
- Craig Wohlgemuth

Mr. Horchak gave an update on the Focused Mentoring Program where “eight wonderful couples” are being mentored by eight pastors. He also talked about plans to improve the Foundation Institute program to help students in character building and mentioned the “great value” that the FI Online classes have been to the Church.

Mr. Horchak concluded with a tribute to three elders who died in the last year: Thomas Seltzer, Lawrence Hale and Maurice Ledet.

International: Leon Walker introduced the international reports that had been compiled into a single slide show presented by Chairman Joel Meeker. The reports highlighted challenges, growth and inspiring stories of how God is working with members around the world.

Financial: Treasurer Jason Lovelady reported on the positive results of the 2012 financial audit and the current figures showing the Church is on track to finish this year on budget. He also introduced Britton Taylor for a report on a new health insurance contract that will provide the same level of coverage, with the potential of large savings for the Church through a partial self-insurance program.

Ministerial Board of Directors: Chairman Joel Meeker reported on the first annual meeting of the board at the headquarters office. Mr. Meeker said there’s a “wonderful spirit of unity” and that it’s “very encouraging” to work together.

Mr. Meeker said one of the board’s main functions is providing advice, and he concluded by stressing the importance of wise counsel for all of us.

Media: Clyde Kilough presented a stirring video update on the Media department, thanking the elders for their contributions to the Life, Hope & Truth website and encouraging them to continue to produce articles that can have lasting



Edifying One Another

Reba and Leon Walker (seated) visit with elders and wives from Latin America and the Philippines; Osmonde Douglas and David Jackson greet each other before lunch; Dora Jennings smiles for the camera after catering a successful Texas barbecue to welcome the ministers and wives

impact in changing people’s lives.

Mr. Kilough asked the elders to encourage members to subscribe to the weekly newsletter and to become part of the team participating in the Life, Hope & Truth start page project.

Future plans include producing e-booklets and other downloadable articles to engage with readers, as well as a future monthly e-magazine.

The Media session was rounded out with a presentation by David Treybig on “Keys to Better Writing” and breakout planning sessions by the seven teams of elders who are writing and reviewing articles for Life, Hope & Truth.

Foundation Outreach International: Cliff Demarest and Rhonda Waddle, two board members of the new nonprofit organization, encouraged everyone to visit the organization’s website (foundationoutreachintl.org) to see its current projects (in Jordan, the Philippines, Zambia and Ghana) as well as ways local congregations and members can help.

After the conference there were additional meetings for the international ministers, the Ministerial Board of Directors and the Doctrine Committee. ©A

The Journey Begins

2013 High School Graduates

Ethan Adkins

Parents' names: Justin and Deba Adkins

Congregation: St. Louis, Missouri

High school accomplishments: Ethan graduated with academic honors from Holt High School in Wentzville, Missouri. He received the Missouri A+ Tuition Scholarship for academic excellence and community service. He took four years of AP engineering classes as well as AP physics and enjoyed the many projects he was able to complete in those classes.

Church activities/hobbies/interests:

Among his many hobbies, Ethan enjoys fishing, golf and especially designing/producing prototypes on his 3-D printer. In addition, he spends time making improvements and modifica-

tions to his car. He has a special talent for scattering his dad's tools to the four winds. He loves all things mechanical. If it's broken, he can fix it. If it's not, he can make it better.

Plans after graduation: Ethan plans to attend St. Louis Community College for two years, working toward a degree in engineering. He will transfer to Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri, to complete his degree in mechanical engineering.

Erika Alaniz

Parents' names: Joel and Maria Alaniz

Congregation: Harlingen, Texas

High school accomplishments: Erika was a member of the National Honor Society and was a part of Business Professionals of America. She graduated in the

Distinguished Achievement Program and earned 35 college credit hours.

Church activities/hobbies/interests:

Erika's hobby is running.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, Erika plans to attend the University of Texas-Pan American and then potentially transfer to University of Illinois at Chicago to pursue nursing.

Kelsey Victoria Anderson

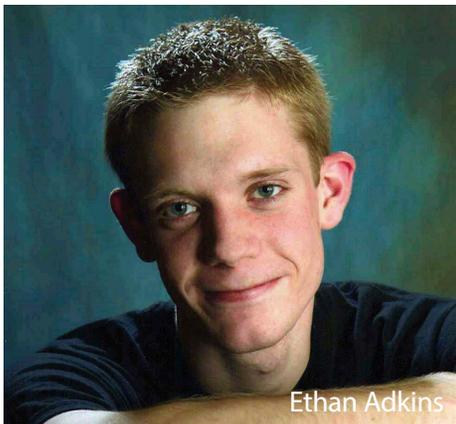
Parents' names: Brian and Laura Anderson

Congregation: Fort Worth, Texas

Church activities/hobbies/interests:

Kelsey enjoys painting, graphic design, computer animation and good ol' paper-and-pencil drawing. She also loves sewing, writing, photography, archery, volleyball, tickling the ivories, baking and cooking. One can often find her speaking Italian to inanimate objects in the kitchen while she bakes. Serving and attending preteen and teen camps have been enjoyable summer highlights. She has used her artistic talents to serve her local congregation, helping with props for the annual preteen play.

Plans after graduation: Kelsey is thrilled to be graduating so she can get on with living her "real" life and exploring all that God has in store for her future.



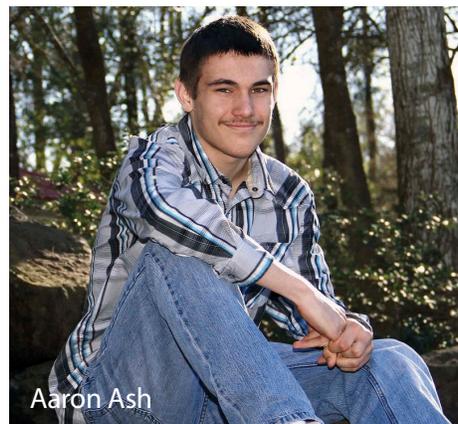
Ethan Adkins



Erika Alaniz



Kelsey Anderson



Aaron Ash

Aaron Christopher Dean Ash

Parents' names: Christopher and Debbie Ash

Congregation: Houston North, Texas

High school accomplishments: Aaron Christopher Dean Ash graduated May 18 after being homeschooled.

Church activities/hobbies/interests:

During his teen years, Aaron attended Camp Carter, played volleyball with his local church volleyball team,

served on the sound crew at the Feast of Tabernacles 2012 and has served on the sound crew in his local church area for the past two years. Aaron has always been intrigued by the way things work. When he got his first computer, he became interested in how software programs were built and started to teach himself how to make his own programs. He now knows several languages and markups, including PHP, HTML, CSS, C# (CSharp) and Javascript; and he is currently tackling Java. Aaron is presently working as a web developer, doing exactly what he loves.

Plans after graduation: Aaron plans to take computer science courses at Lonestar Community College and continue a career in the computer field.

Benjamin Patrick Bradford

Parents' names: Rick and Mary Beth Bradford

Congregation: Trenton, Georgia

High school accomplishments: Benjamin was homeschooled and plans to pursue a degree in engineering with a minor in computer programming. He is interested in aerodynamic engineering (anything that flies).

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Benjamin is pursuing a black belt in karate. He serves his local congregation as an assistant sound technician.

Ben Bradley

Parents' names: Jim Bradley and Sheba Grafton

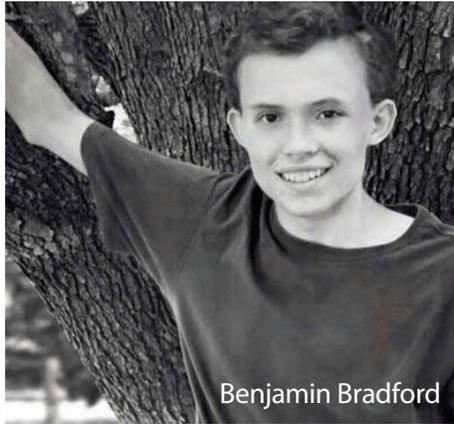
Congregation: Jefferson, Georgia

High school accomplishments: Ben participated in SkillsUSA and history club.

Plans after graduation: Ben is looking forward to going to camp, working and just having fun this summer. In the fall, he plans to attend Athens Technical College.

Zachary James Breland

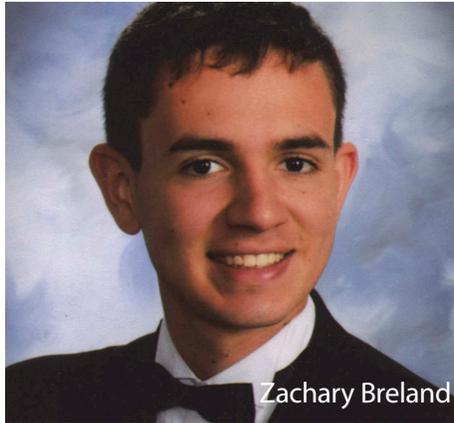
Parents' names: James and Elizabeth Breland



Benjamin Bradford



Ben Bradley



Zachary Breland



Austin Daniel

Congregation: Queens, New York

High school accomplishments: Zachary James Breland graduated from Francis Lewis High School, Fresh Meadows, Queens, New York. Zachary's favorite subject in school was English. He played on the basketball and tennis teams—despite suffering a herniated disc and an injured ankle—until he severely sprained his ankle and could no longer participate.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: For the past several years, Zachary served as a volunteer basketball and tennis coach. Currently, he works as a tennis coach at the New York Junior Tennis and Learning Center. He enjoys reading the *Gone* book series and eating bread pudding.

Plans after graduation: Upon graduation, Zachary will prepare for his freshman year at Queens College of the City University of New York where he will study physical education. Ultimately, he wants to obtain a master's degree in physical therapy and become a sports director.

Advice: Zachary's advice to fellow students is, "Be yourself! Study hard. Don't mess around or cut classes because it will come back to haunt you. Take your future seriously—and make friends!"

Austin Daniel

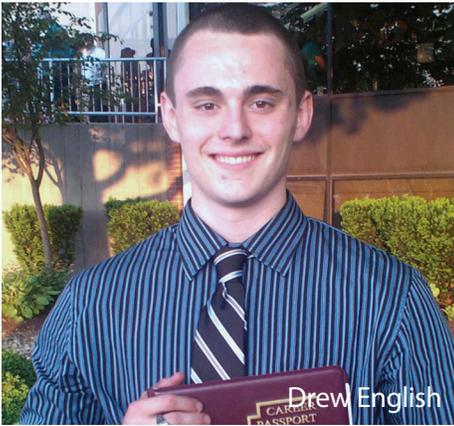
Parents' names: David and De Lynn Buchanan

Congregation: Houston North, Texas

High school accomplishments: Austin Daniel was awarded two academic excellence awards from his high school and was also awarded Latin honor cords for his graduation ceremony.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Besides academics, Austin enjoys playing guitar, longboarding and spending time "learning to be the best Christian I can possibly be."

Plans after graduation: After graduation, Austin will continue to take college courses at Lonestar College in order to add a few extra credit hours to the several he earned from AP tests and dual-credit classes in high school. This



Drew English



Robert Paul Gonzalez

fall, Austin will be attending the University of Houston to pursue a degree in communication disorders. He wants to become a speech language pathologist. Austin's goal in life is to love God with all of his being; but he remarked, "It is nice to have a good physical life while I'm living it."

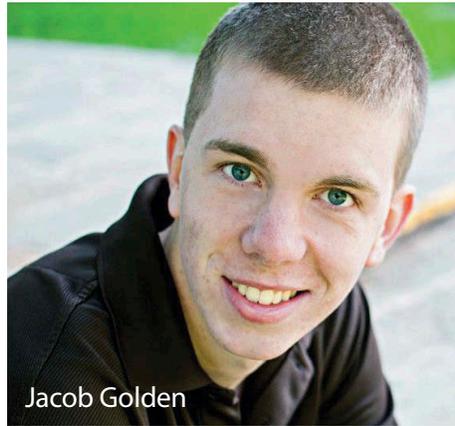
Ellery Drew English

Parent's name: April English

Congregation: Cincinnati, Ohio

High school accomplishments: Drew attended Live Oaks Vocational School during his junior and senior years, where he was certified in machining and where he learned advanced welding. After graduation, Drew began working in his field of machining for a local company where he enjoys the work he does creating parts for jet engines.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Drew has attended summer and winter COGWA Youth Camps. He also enjoys music, working out, welding and machining.



Jacob Golden



Carl Goodchild

Plans after graduation: Drew plans to continue to work in his industry and obtain his journeyman's card, which would allow him to travel to many different parts of the world working and experiencing countless new adventures. He intends to become a master machinist and enjoy his life doing something he truly loves.

Jacob Todd Golden

Parents' names: Jesse Golden and Jania Birdsong

Congregation: Fort Worth, Texas

High school accomplishments: Jacob was a member of the golf team and received a Texas Scholar award for taking all AP classes.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Jacob plays church basketball and volleyball as well as participates in speech club and teen Bible studies. He has given two sermonettes as part of the Fort Worth Teen Service Weekend.

Plans after graduation: Jacob plans to work and attend Universal Technical

Institute to become an automotive/diesel technician. He also wishes to grow into a closer relationship with his Creator, to be baptized and to work to change and shape his life to God's standards.

Robert Paul Gonzalez

Parents' names: Joanne and Lupe Gonzalez

Congregation: East Texas

High school accomplishments: Robert Paul was homeschooled with American School of Correspondence. He is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. At Tyler Junior College, where he was an early admission student, he is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Kappa Delta.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Robert Paul volunteers at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, enjoys writing and loves spending time with the friends he meets.

Plans after graduation: This fall Robert Paul will be studying engineering at Tyler Junior College. Afterward, he plans to study chemical engineering and get certified in business management.

Carl Allan Goodchild

Parents' names: Mark and Penny Goodchild

Congregation: East Texas

High school accomplishments: Carl was homeschooled throughout his school years until he got his GED last November. He has been working at Sonic in Gladewater since he was 16 but is looking forward to turning 18, so he can find a job in the mechanical field.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Besides God and His Word, Carl is interested in almost anything mechanical and loves to fix things. If something seems past repair, he'll often find a way to fix it, sometimes making it better than it was to begin with. He is also interested in nature, animals, history, reading, camping, hunting and building things.

Plans after graduation: Carl's goals are to work in the manufacturing field, possibly getting an apprenticeship as a machinist and eventually owning a small manufacturing business. He also wants to save money to buy enough property to hunt and have a small homestead.

Justin Groves

Parents' names: Tim and Teresa Groves

Congregation: Jefferson, Georgia

High school accomplishments: Justin graduated the salutatorian of his class. He was also a Tiger Seal recipient. Only two students received this award due to the strict requirements, taking all honors courses available at the school and having at least a 4.25 GPA. Justin was also a Palmetto Fellow scholarship recipient. This award gives Justin free tuition and housing for four years at the Winthrop University, where Justin will be attending. He also received department awards in English, Spanish, social studies and science for having



Justin Groves



Sarah Hanson

the highest GPA. He is a member of the Beta Club and a recipient of the state of South Carolina's award for high SAT/ACT test scores.

Church activities/hobbies/interests:

Justin likes attending church camp; and his hobbies consist of reading, playing piano and solving brainteasers.

Plans after graduation: Justin plans on attending Winthrop University, where he will study mathematics.

Sarah Hanson

Parents' names: Van and Polly Hanson

Congregation: Roanoke, Virginia

High school accomplishments: Sarah graduated first in her class of 318 students with a GPA of 4.53 from Jefferson Forest High School in Forest, Virginia. She received the Pamplin Leadership Award and the Berry C. Mosley Scholarship from Virginia Tech. She also received the title of AP Scholar With Distinction and the Citizenship Award from the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust Youth Philanthropy Committee. At school, she served as treasurer of both the National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society. She also participated in Key Club, International Relations Club, Photography Club, Art Club, cross-country and track and field.

Church activities/hobbies/interests:

Sarah has served at Camp Arrowhead as an assistant counselor. She has attended Camp Heritage, Strong Rock, Winter Camp and plans on attending



Claire Helfrich

more camps this summer. In her local church, she enjoys babysitting, serving drinks at potlucks and singing in the choir.

Plans after graduation: Sarah will be attending Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, with plans to earn an undergraduate degree in either electrical or mechanical engineering and a master's degree in biomedical engineering.

Claire Helfrich

Parents' names: Mark and Leanne Helfrich

Congregation: East London, South Africa (1992 to December 2012); Johannesburg, South Africa (since January 2013)

High school accomplishments: Claire graduated in December 2012, as South Africa's school year runs January to December. Claire was awarded cum laude honors for academics and achieved seven distinctions in her final exams. She plays the flute and received a gold award with special mention and the trophy for Best Instrumentalist in 2011 and 2012 in the annual music competition in East London. She was also awarded honors for music and a team/service award for her part in the school concert band. She also served as a library monitor and was part of the Matric Dance Committee and Matric Journal Committee.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: At church Claire takes part in serving tea after services, sings in the choir and plays her flute for special music. She loves drawing, painting, photography, singing, playing guitar and going to the gym.

Plans after graduation: Claire is currently studying for a bachelor of science degree in interior architecture at the University of Pretoria and would love to run her own interior design/architecture business.

Glen Heltne

Parents' names: Greg and Claudia Heltne

Congregation: Dallas, Texas

High school accomplishments: Glen, always full of energy, has participated in gymnastics since he was four. For the last few years he has been coaching students in this sport. He has been active in volleyball, soccer, golf, basketball and tennis as well.

Church activities/hobbies/interests:

Glen is an avid outdoorsman, loving horseback riding, camping, swimming, kayaking and primitive survival. Sharing these loves, he has been a camp counselor at summer camps as well as horseback riding nature camps. He also enjoys playing the piano and guitar and singing in the church choir.

Plans after graduation: Glen plans to enroll in the emergency medical technician program at North Central Texas College and then go on to become a paramedic.

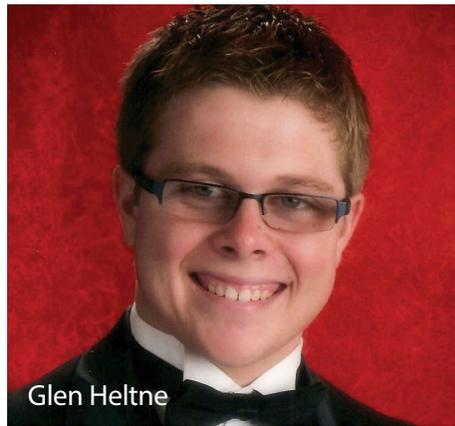
Tori Hudson

Parents' names: John and Rochelle Hudson

Congregation: Dallas, Texas

High school accomplishments: Tori graduated cum laude from high school with a 3.8 GPA. While in high school, she also completed 24 college credit hours, almost qualifying her as a college sophomore. Tori has a passion for singing and has performed special music for several church congregations. During her high school years, Tori also performed in 14 musicals, with one being a professional show. Some of her favorites were: *All Shook Up* (Natalie), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tzeitel), *Once Upon a Mattress* (Queen Aggravain), *Princess Bride* (narrator), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella during one performance; the witch in a second performance), *Chicago* (Roxy Hart), *13: The Musical* (Patrice during one performance; Lucy in a second performance), and *Adrift in New York* (Maggie Clancy).

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Tori has served the seniors in her congregation at the seniors' banquet in Dallas



Glen Heltne



Tori Hudson



Taylor Ivey



Astri Johnson

for several years. She loves to go to the camps and usually attends two to three each year. Besides singing, Tori loves photography, playing the piano, traveling and good friends! Tori also loves playing volleyball for her school and the church teen program.

Plans after graduation: Tori will complete her college core at Collin College and will then transfer to the University of North Texas where she will then pursue her bachelor of arts degree. After college, Tori hopes to own her own music studio.

Taylor Ivey

Parents' names: Wanda and Tom Moffitt

Congregation: New Orleans, Louisiana

High school accomplishments: Taylor is graduating in the top 20 percent of her class with dual-enrollment and honors credits. She played saxophone in her top-ranked school band for seven years, has been an active member of the National Beta Club, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions),

Interact, 4-H and Mu Alpha Theta (math honor society) along with being a member of the performance choir. She received a superior-plus rating in the vocal solo festival in 2013, making her eligible to compete at the state level.

Church activities/hobbies/interests:

Taylor has been a member of the Feast of Tabernacles choir for several years and served in the Festival ensemble. For the past two years, she has served as a Character Counts trainer, teaching younger children about building good character. She also served as a counselor at the Houston preteen camp and enjoys serving wherever she can in her local congregation. Taylor's interests include writing, music and public speaking. Her love for writing has led her to place in the Louisiana Young Author's competition four times.

Plans after graduation: Taylor will be attending the University of Louisiana at Monroe in the fall with a major in mass communications.

Astri Dawn Johnson

Parents' names: Bill and Dawn Johnson

Congregation: Lowell/Worcester, Massachusetts

High school accomplishments: Astri was homeschooled and graduated in May. She was dual-enrolled in Nashua Community College in Nashua, New Hampshire, this past year. She has been taking courses toward her nursing degree. She is also a certified dental assistant and Red Cross-certified in wilderness and remote first aid. Astri has participated in sports in school and church, including volleyball, basketball and track. She was captain of her school volleyball team for the last three years.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Astri plays pedal harp. She has attended many preteen and teen camps as camper and staff. She looks forward every year to Winter Family Weekend. If there is a youth activity going on, she will be ready to be there with her friends.

Plans after graduation: After graduation,

Astri plans to continue attending Nashua Community College to complete the two-year nursing degree and then two more years to become a registered nurse. She plans to play volleyball at Nashua Community College.

Favorite scripture: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9)

Matthew Johnson

Parents' names: Clarenton and Valrie Johnson

Congregation: Miami, Florida

High school accomplishments: Matthew graduated from Miramar High School.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Matthew loves to listen to music, play and watch sports, as well as work on cars. He assists in setup at Sabbath services, including loading and unloading the sound system.

Plans after graduation: Matthew was accepted at the Universal Technical Institute in Orlando, Florida, and he plans to study to become a master technician and engineer.

Favorite scripture: His favorite Bible verse is Psalm 23:4-6.

Jacob Hunter Kennebeck

Parents' names: Mike and Brenda Kennebeck

Congregation: East Texas

High school accomplishments: Jacob graduated from Big Sandy High School

in Big Sandy, Texas, in the top 10 of his class. During his years at Big Sandy, he was a member of the National Honor Society and graduated with distinguished honors. During his freshman and sophomore years, he participated in all sports including his main sport, tennis. Jacob qualified for the state tennis tournament his junior and senior years, placing third as his best result. During his high school tennis career he has been awarded many awards such as most valuable player, and he received the Trinity Mother Frances Athlete of the Week award from Channel 56 news station.

Plans after graduation: After high school, Jacob plans on furthering his education at Tyler Junior College, where he received the Presidential Honors Scholarship. After TJC, Jacob plans on entering a university where he will major in physical therapy.

Abigail Kops

Parents' names: Clayton and Jeanne Kops

Congregation: Harrison, Arkansas

High school accomplishments: Abigail was homeschooled all of her life and graduated through the Homeschoolers Association with a G.P.A. of 3.5.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Abigail has been a part of 4-H in the past and has been involved in theater as well as karate for about three years. She has taken piano lessons for 11 years and is branching out musically, learning guitar and voice on her own as hobbies.

Plans after graduation: After college, Abigail plans to attend North Arkansas Community College under the ACT scholarship for two years and earn her associates of arts degree. After that, she hopes to transfer to a four-year college. Her major is currently undecided.

Kayla Ann Mackey

Parents' names: Willard and Julie Mackey; grandparents, Al and Pauline Pachinger and Willard and Sandy Mackey



Matthew Johnson



Jacob Kennebeck



Abigail Kops

Congregation: Cleveland, Ohio

High school accomplishments: Kayla was homeschooled. She won the 2012 Lorain County Jr. Fair 4-H Leadership Award and has held multiple leadership positions in her 4-H clubs. She also won the BEST Scholarship from the Ohio Cattlemen's Association.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Kayla has been a teen staff member for preteen camp; camp counselor for 4-H camp for several years; Jr. Fair board member for five years; freestyle skater; and skating coach.

Plans after graduation: Kayla has been accepted to the Ohio Christian University into their agribusiness degree program, which she will begin in September.

Chelsie Lachelle McGowen

Parents' names: John and Rachelle McGowen

Congregation: Springdale, Arkansas

High school accomplishments: Chelsie served as senior class president at Westville High School. She was also a member of DFY, choir, speech and drama, and she served on the Peoples Bank board and Arvest Bank board. Chelsie was a starter on the varsity team for volleyball, which she had played since seventh grade. She performed for the Veterans Day program. Chelsie also performed in the senior play and *Puttin' on the Hits*.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Chelsie has attended Pincrest summer camp and has served as a staff worker for preteen camp at Camp Osage and Camp Chattahoochee. Chelsie enjoys singing and has performed in local choir groups, special music, family fun shows and Festival choirs. She has also assisted her family with hall setup in her local area and is always willing to give a helping hand wherever it may be needed! Chelsie has also given many volunteer hours of time to her local community.

Plans after graduation: Chelsie has been accepted to the Paul Mitchell School of Cosmetology in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where she will begin in early July. Upon completion, she plans to attend massage therapy school and some day hopes to own her own salon.

Jace Austin Miller

Parents' names: Jack C. and Blythe Miller

Congregation: St. Petersburg, Florida

High school accomplishments: Jace Austin Miller graduated from Gaither High School. Jace is actively involved in automotive design and repair and participated in the football and wrestling programs.

Plans after graduation: Jace plans to attend Hillsborough Community College and then will investigate options to further his education around automotive design. Jace's other desire is to explore the world. He has a travel bug and wants to visit many places in the United States and overseas.



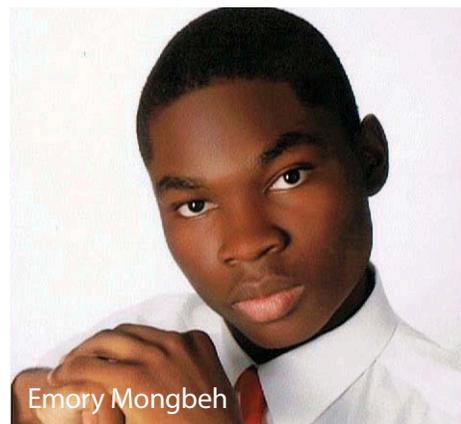
Emory Mongbeh

Parents' names: Radcliff and Faye Mongbeh

Congregation: Miami, Florida

High school accomplishments: Emory graduated summa cum laude and ranked sixth in his class of 450 seniors from the American Senior High School. He maintained a 3.98 GPA on a 4.00 GPA scale and was nominated for the Silver Knight Award. Emory was chosen to participate in an internship with American Airlines during the month of June 2013, where he shadowed aircraft mechanics. He is currently taking aviation maintenance technician classes at George T. Baker Aviation School and is working on earning his Powerplant Certificate.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: At Sabbath services, Emory helps set up and pack up the congregation's sound system. Emory is an inline skater. He also enjoys playing the acoustic and electric guitar and is interested in building computers.



Plans after graduation: Emory plans to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, in the fall of 2013. He plans to earn a master's degree in aeronautical engineering.

Brenden Michael Moore

Parents' names: Michael and Samantha Moore

Congregation: West Palm Beach, Florida

High school accomplishments: Brenden graduated with a 3.6 GPA, completing the digital design magnet program at Jupiter High School. He has become certified in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Adobe Flash and Illustrator. He is also certified in AutoCAD Revit 2011.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Brenden sets up and runs the soundboard for his local congregation. Brenden likes to work out and play every sport. He taught himself how to play three instruments, piano, guitar and drums. He also likes to work on his 2006 Dodge Magnum R/T 5.7L Hemi.



Brenden Moore with his grandmother Febbie Moore



Ian Neal

Plans after graduation: Brenden plans to go to school to study physical therapy and minor in sports medicine.

Leslie Jesse James Murrell

Parents' names: Shirley and Jesse Murrell

Congregation: Houston South, Texas

High school accomplishments: Leslie graduated from Pasadena Memorial High School. Leslie participated in his school's varsity choir all four years, and he was also in show choir. He was on his high school's newspaper staff and was an editor of the yearbook. He participated in the robotics club, National Music Honor Society and National Honor Society.

Plans after graduation: Leslie is going to attend Texas A&M University this fall in College Station, Texas, where he will pursue a degree in business. He has already started college courses this summer.

Favorite scripture: A favorite scripture of Leslie's is Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not



Leslie Murrell



Danielle Rehor

on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" (New International Version).

Ian Neal

Parents' names: Dan and Pam Neal

Congregation: Austin, Texas

High school accomplishments: Ian ranked third in his class and was an AP and UIL Scholar. He was a recipient of several scholarships and participated in band for four years.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Ian participates in special music in the local congregation. He sings and plays piano and clarinet. Ian enjoys music, computers and math.

Plans after graduation: Ian will be attending the University of Texas at Austin. He will be majoring in computer engineering and computer science. He has been selected to be a part of the Turing Scholars Program, a computer science honors program at the university.

Danielle Rehor

Parents' names: Jerry and Tami Rehor

Congregation: Louisville, Kentucky

High school accomplishments: Danielle graduated with an academic honors diploma and was a member of the National Honor Society. She served four years on the newspaper staff, a year on the yearbook staff and two years as a radio deejay for the school radio channel. She was the senior video producer and editor as well as the *Bagpiper* (school newspaper) web editor. She earned both journalism and study-abroad scholarships. She also placed in the Indiana first amendment symposium essay contest. Danielle won the Indiana High School Press Association Harvey Award for best online newspaper as well as the award for Best Multimedia Project and Best Website at the High School Journalism Institute. She also volunteers at the local swim club.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Danielle's church activities include corralling children, performing special music, assisting with the technical needs of Winter Family Weekend and church services, participating in local and Feast choirs and serving on camp staff. Her hobbies include playing piano, constantly singing, photography, writing and boating.

Plans after graduation: Danielle plans to major in communications with a minor in English at Hanover College. Afterward, she hopes to have a career in broadcast or print journalism. She would additionally like to be baptized, get married and raise three respectful munchkins.

Alexia Rickard

Parents' names: Tim and Michelle Rickard

Congregation: Fort Worth, Texas

High school accomplishments: Alexia graduated early from homeschool in December 2012. She is on track to finish her associate's degree in May 2014, currently holding a 4.0 GPA.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Alexia's parents recalled that she was "born in January, and it snowed the next day; but she's been a fireball ever since!" She is determined to do her best, excelling in sports, music, school and her work. Her main passion is basketball, playing 11 seasons in church, homeschool and community leagues. She has played in the homeschool state and national basketball tournaments for the last three years and was recognized as a key player for her team.

Plans after graduation: She hopes to study physical therapy or kinesiology; but most of all, she wants to be successful in whatever she does.

Eh Moo Dah Sein

Parents' names: Tha Sein and Mu Mu

Congregation: Raleigh, North Carolina

High school accomplishments: Eh Moo Dah was born on Jan. 1, 1993,

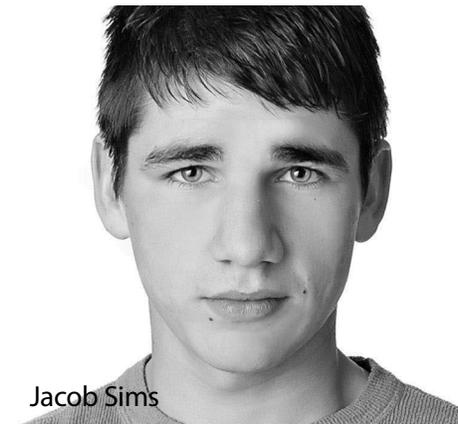
in Karen State of Burma. He is the second child of Tha Sein and Mu Mu. Eh Moo Dah has one older sister, Isabella, and two younger brothers, Doh Htoo and Doh Say. Eh Moo Dah and his family fled the genocide from military dictatorship in Burma. Before they came to the United States, he and his family fled Burma and were settled in Beh Klaw, a Mae Lah refugee camp in Thailand near the border of Burma. Finally in 2008, Eh Moo Dah and his family resettled in the United States. With no English language skills, he studied hard and finally officially graduated from high school this year.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Eh Moo Dah likes to play guitar and basketball. At church, he loves to come early and help with setting up the sound system equipment for Sabbath services.

Plans after graduation: He is planning to continue his education at Durham Technical Community College and study carpentry. He is hoping to become a certified carpenter.



Alexia Rickard



Jacob Sims

Favorite scripture: Genesis through Deuteronomy.

Jacob Logan Sims

Parents' names: Bill and Gena Sims

Congregation: Van Buren, Arkansas

Plans after graduation: Jacob plans to attend Carl Albert State College in Poteau, Oklahoma.

Mitchel Sinon

Parents' names: Chuck and Deneen Sinon

Congregation: St. Petersburg, Florida

High school accomplishments: Mitchel graduated from Northside Christian School in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Mitchel was on the President's List all four years of his high school career, maintaining a 4.0+ GPA. He was inducted into the National Honor Society and was awarded membership in the 1200 Club for outstanding achievement on the SAT or ACT equivalent. In his junior year, he was among those chosen by the American Legion to participate



Eh Moo Dah Sein



Mitchel Sinon

in Boys State at Florida State University in Tallahassee. He played and lettered on the varsity soccer team for four years, and was on the track team in his junior and senior years.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Mitchell enjoys playing the guitar and is a regular song leader for the St. Petersburg congregation. Over the years Mitchel has done charitable work such as volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and feeding the homeless.

Plans after graduation: Mitchel earned the highest-paying Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program award after reaching all the mandatory requirements. He will attend the University of Florida in Gainesville, working toward his MBA.

Charles Allen Smith

Parents' names: Tim and Melodie Smith

Congregation: Dallas, Texas

High school accomplishments: Chas graduated from high school with over



Chas Smith



Ashley Turnquest

1,500 other students. He enjoys math and science and is an accomplished violin player, having played for seven years.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: He regularly attends the Dallas congregation and is active in the teen program. He has attended several summer camps, including Camp Osage, Camp Carter, Camp Pinecrest and Camp Woodmen. Even though he now lives in Texas after moving from Pasadena, California, in 2006, he is still a Lakers fan. He has enjoyed the many church teen volleyball and basketball tournaments during his teen years.

Plans after graduation: Chas is looking forward to attending Collin College this fall to complete his associate degree and then plans to transfer to the University of Texas at Dallas to major in computer science.

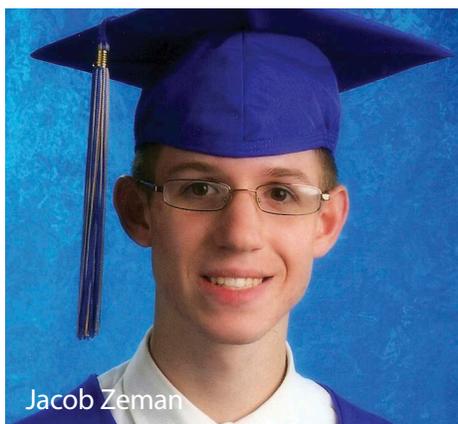
Favorite scripture: Chas' favorite scripture is Proverbs 18:24, "A man who has friends must himself be friendly."

Ashley Turnquest

Parents' names: Kevera and Janace Turnquest

Congregation: Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahamas

High school accomplishments: Ashley graduated with honors. She received academic awards for passing 3 BGC-SEs (Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education) and a merit on a grade-one theory exam with ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools



Jacob Zeman

of Music). She is now in the process of sitting for seven more national exams. Ashley received an award for participation with distinction in the Governor General's Youth Award Program. She also received the Citizenship Award, a Certificate of Merit in Hotel and Catering and Mathematics as well as an award for being very helpful in homeroom. Ashley was also a member of Junior Achievers for two years.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Ashley enjoys dancing, particularly contemporary and hip-hop; and she participates in an annual recital. She also plays the violin and enjoyed playing soccer for her high school. She likes to help people and talk with them when they're going through difficult times.

Plans after graduation: Although she is not sure exactly which field she wants to pursue, she does plan to go to college. She wants to be a successful young Christian woman.

Jacob Irwin Zeman

Parents' names: Charlene (John) Williams

Congregation: St. Petersburg, Florida

High school accomplishments: Jacob graduated from the Pepin Academy in Tampa, Florida. Jacob was inducted into the National Honor Society. During his high school career, he was active in basketball and bowling and served on the staff of the yearbook, magazine and media production. Jacob was awarded the Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholars Award.

Church activities/hobbies/ interests: In his spare time, Jacob volunteers as a courier at the Bayonet Point Regional Medical Center.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, Jacob will attend Hillsborough Community College and then plans to enroll in the University of North Florida in Jacksonville to become a certified American Sign Language interpreter.

Remaining Steadfast

by VELMA (ASHBY) HOLLAND

MARJORIE ASHBY, at the age of 83, IS THE OLDEST MEMBER IN THE BARBADOS congregation. She first learned about the Sabbath when she was nine years old. She tells the story of a visit by a man she refers to only as Elder Sobers, who came to Barbados from Trinidad as a salesman in 1938. But he had another mission—to spread the word about the seventh-day Sabbath.

As Elder Sobers built up his clientele, he got comfortable enough to invite them to Sabbath services. However, Sabbath after Sabbath no one turned up. Realizing that the adults were not interested, he asked them to allow the children to attend Sabbath school. They agreed.

Marjorie, the second of four children, was the only one in her household who showed any interest in learning more about what the man had to say. She recalls attending her first Sabbath school and learning that Saturday was indeed the Sabbath and also about clean and unclean meats. What struck her most was the fact that Elder Sobers constantly read from the Bible to corroborate what he was teaching.

As Marjorie learned new things, she would return home and relate them to her siblings. Her younger sister Elsie stopped eating pork for a period of time but eventually reverted back to her old ways. Their father was a pig farmer. Elsie would eventually become a member of the Worldwide Church of God but died at the age of 37 in the year 1970.

Eventually, Elder Sobers moved away from the area, and Marjorie lost touch with him. Still, she could not get his teachings out of her mind.

At the age of 16, Marjorie was “received” into the Methodist church at the request of Marjorie’s mother. However, the frequency of her church attendance diminished more and more because she did not agree with what they were teaching. One Sunday she asked the organist to ask the pastor which day was the Sabbath. He responded that it was, in fact, Saturday, thus confirming what she knew to be true all along. From that day Marjorie never attended the Methodist church again.

But something was missing! Marjorie longed for the teachings of Elder Sobers but had no idea if he was on the island or had returned to Trinidad. She remembered that she had a partial address; and even though she did not know his first name, she decided to use the information she had and write him a letter. Surprisingly, a few days later, he turned up at her home. She was elated! Elder Sobers told her he had been spreading



Marjorie Ashby

the word throughout the island, and a group of people in the parish of Christ Church had responded favorably. He invited her to attend with them, even offering to give her a ride to services. She readily accepted.

Marjorie recalls being pleasantly surprised at seeing a packed church when she arrived that first Sabbath, and she finally had the feeling of being home! She was baptized in 1950 at the age of 21. She went on to marry Joseph Ashby, who was ordained as the elder of the church after Elder Sobers’ sudden death from appendicitis. His ordination was by the hands of A. N. Dugger, the leader of the Church of God (Seventh Day), who came to Barbados on hearing of the death of Elder Sobers.

Marjorie’s contact with the Worldwide Church of God came about when a friend and fellow member of the Church of God (Seventh Day) immigrated to Florida and heard Herbert Armstrong’s radio program. On a visit home to Barbados, he told Joseph about the program and how similar it was to what they believed. He also furnished him with a copy of *The Plain Truth* magazine. Joseph decided to write to Mr. Armstrong and request his own personal copy of *The Plain Truth*. Mr. Armstrong paid a visit to the island some years later, by which time the membership had grown to 111, including Marjorie, Joseph and their six children.

Then came the ’90s and the split in the Worldwide Church of God. Marjorie, frustrated with the direction the church was going, returned to the Church of God (Seventh Day); but that return was short-lived, as she soon realized that they still did not understand the holy days and how they pictured God’s plan of salvation. She found her way back to the truth when she joined the small congregation of the United Church of God. When the split with UCG happened in 2010, she chose to become a member of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association.

Throughout the years, Marjorie has endured many hardships and health problems, even losing a leg in July 2009 due to poor circulation and diabetes. But she has remained steadfast in her faith and looks forward to the time of Christ’s return! ©A

Finding the Sharp Edge of Success

Making steady, consistent improvements can be the key ingredient to becoming a profitable servant.

by RICHARD PINELLI

IF I WERE ASKED WHICH PRINCIPLE WAS ONE OF THE most helpful in the journey to the Kingdom of God, what would I say?

In Luke 17:10 we are told, “When you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’” On the surface this scripture seems rather harsh, yet it offers a vital lesson in overcoming human flaws and building godly character.

Luke 16:10 reveals an overriding principle to show how we become profitable servants: “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much.”

The principle is simple: You get better by doing small things well. Life is really made up of a lot of small things. Practicing little things—the basics—gives one an edge in life toward success.

I love to cook, especially Italian food like tomato bruschetta and Italian sausage (without the oink). I try to make the recipe better by revving up the uniqueness of flavors through the use of special spices.

In the same way, getting better is based on the principle of continuous improvement, learning and changing and increasing your capabilities and being a constant learner. The sharp edge of success is found in a simple principle—the principle of the slight edge—becoming better little by little.

Victory can depend on the smallest of improvements. In almost every game ever devised, the victory goes to the one who scores merely one point more than the opposition. In a horse race, the difference between winning and second place may be a scant inch, but that can be all it takes to win.



Photo by 123RF.com

In the July 2009 *Good Housekeeping* magazine, there is an article on good health titled “Small Changes to Get Healthier,” where Richard Laliberte gives 10 principles on how to “tithe” your way to better health.

He said, “To be successful at any big undertaking ... you may be better off giving only 10 percent and not worrying too much about the other proverbial 100.

“You’re more likely to succeed by making small changes,” says Catherine Champagne, Ph.D., professor of research at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Louisiana State University System.”

Laliberte confirms, “Micro-improvements do more than chip away at a larger objective—they accomplish plenty on their own.”

Stephen M.R. Covey in his book *The Speed of Trust* writes, “Get Better is ... based on the *principles* of continuous improvement, learning, and change. ... The *opposite* of Get Better is entropy, deterioration, resting on your laurels. ... If you aren’t making a conscious effort to Get Better, you’re not just standing still; you’re getting farther and farther behind.”

Two biblical principles

In Deuteronomy 7:21-24 we’re told the children of Israel would put out their enemies “little by little.” In life each victory in overcoming our enemy is done little by little, by the principle of the slight edge for success. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17 (in the original Greek), “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Learn the principle of gaining the slight edge, and you will find major successes in becoming a truly profitable servant. ©A

Question: I want to vary what I say in my daily prayers, but I often find myself saying the same words. Do you have any suggestions about how I can avoid this pitfall?

Answer: One way to avoid falling into this habit is organizing your prayers so that you emphasize a different aspect of life every day. You should still use the outline that Christ gave in Matthew 6 and Luke 11, but address different subjects on different days.

For example, you could set aside the first day of the week to pray about the problems and needs of the world. This would require you to be aware of world events, so that you could pray about what is currently happening or threatening to occur. There is no end of items about which to pray—from the leaders of various nations (1 Timothy 2:2) to those suffering from sickness, warfare and disease.

You might use the second day of the week to pray about the country where you live. Again, pray for those who are in authority, including those in an executive position (president, prime minister); those working in the justice system; those working with legislation. You can pray about teachers, asking God to make it possible for believers to receive a good education and still hold to their beliefs. You can pray similarly about business leaders, so that believers can have employment. You can pray for safety regarding weather and natural disasters. You can pray for the health of people you know who are sick and/or injured. As you watch the news, issues will readily come to mind.

On the third day, you can pray about the needs and issues of the state or province in which you live, applying all of the guidelines in the above paragraph.

On the fourth day, concentrate on the needs and issues of your family, both immediate and extended family members.

On the fifth day of the week, focus on your personal needs and issues. Do not think it is selfish to pray about personal matters! The Psalms, which are both prayers and songs, show us by example that it is not wrong to do so. Jesus also mentions this in His outline prayer. Setting aside a day to concentrate on personal issues keeps you from praying too much

about yourself on other days. Additionally, it can help you become aware of sin of which you need to repent.

You can use your prayer time on the sixth day to talk with God about matters that you might have missed on previous days. You can review issues you have prayed about during the week or bring up new matters. Think of it as a “catch-up day.”

On the weekly Sabbath, dedicate your prayer time to being thankful to God for all that He is and that He has done, whether for others or for you. Giving thanks to God is mentioned throughout the Bible. Imagine how child-parent relationships in a physical family would improve if the child dedicated one day per week just to being thankful! Being thankful to God improves our relationship with Him too.

On every day of the week, your prayers should include mention of the work and family of God. Experiment with different subjects that work for you, but this general idea should help solve your problem! ☺☺

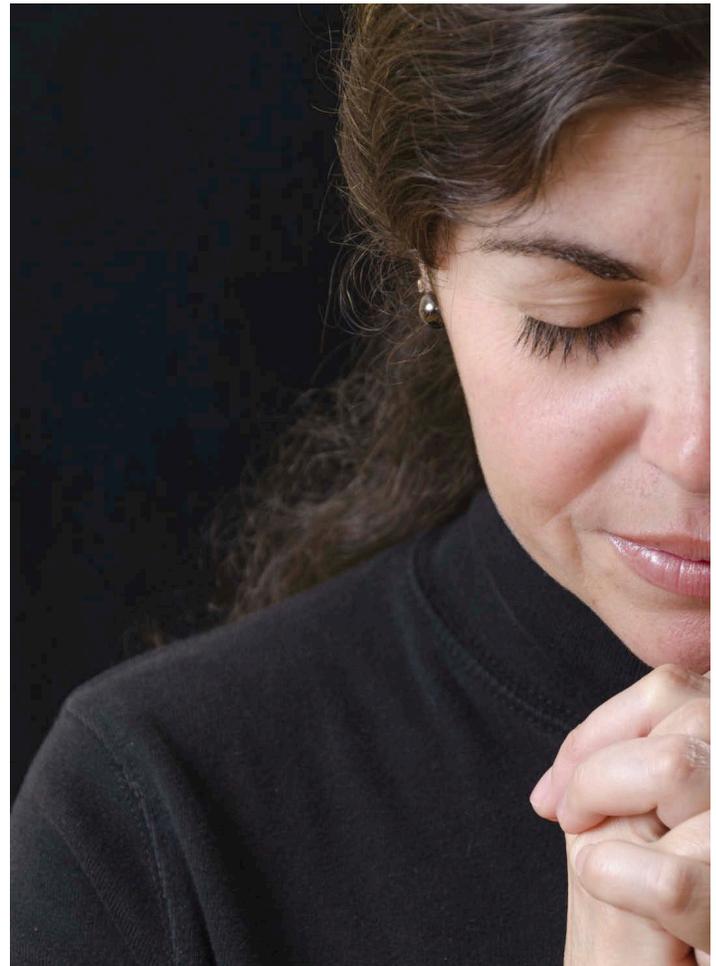


Photo by 123RF.com



Photo by iStockphoto.com

“I’ll See You in the Kingdom”

Almost 38 years after his father’s death, one member reflects on the legacy and mission his father gave to him on his deathbed.

by BARRY RICHEY

IT WAS ALMOST 7:30, AND THE SUN HAD SET on Sept. 18, 1975. Thousands of people were milling around inside rented halls, large arenas and large tabernacle buildings; and the opening service for the Feast of Tabernacles was about to start.

But I would not be there.

From the age of 10, I had attended the Feast with my parents; but now at the age of 20, I would be missing the opening service for the first time. The reason would mold and shape my future in a way nothing else would.

A secret guilt

My mom had died just two years earlier after a prolonged illness. She believed strongly in the return of Christ, under-

stood fully the plan of God, knew the meaning of each holy day and now awaited her resurrection. There was just one problem for me in all this. I secretly carried around a great deal of guilt. Just as I was turning 17, a bit over a year before she died, I moved away from home and said some things in anger to her that I later truly regretted.

In the year that followed, I never went home to see her; never called her to say hi; never sent her a card; and worst of all, I never really thought much about her. She had been sick for years; and to my young mind, it seemed it would always be that way.

Mom’s death, however imminent it was, came as a surprise. In my immaturity I had not anticipated it. My behaviors bore that out, and guilt was the result. Now, as sundown drew near on this opening night of God’s Feast of Tabernacles, there was a lot on my mind. Contemplating the meaning of the Feast and the return of Christ made me think about my mom and the reunion we would have.

A final visit to Tulsa

My young bride and I had left Ohio for the Feast a few days earlier, headed for Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. We were excited to be going, as it was always the highlight of our year. Our second tithe was in hand, and along with it was the anticipation of enjoying all the blessings of having been faithful. But this year was to be different. This year we would make a stop a little out of the way to visit my dad in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

A year after my mom died, my dad felt ill and went to the doctors. A month would pass with many tests that ended with an exploratory operation. During this surgery, they found an aggressive cancer that had already attached itself to all of his major organs. They made no attempt to remove it, nor did they offer any hope for a cure. The surgeon came into the waiting room with a countenance that told us what we would shortly hear. I don’t remember the exact words he used, but one of them was “terminal,” which prompted me to ask him, “How long?” He hesitated, and his response took us all by surprise: In four to maybe six weeks his body would be so consumed by the cancer that it would simply give up. We called upon an elder to anoint him, and we beseeched God to intervene.

As we arrived in Tulsa to visit my dad before the Feast in 1975, it had been 15 months since the doctor’s prognosis. These were 15 months of unspeakable pain and suffering, months where no one could explain why he still lived. I went

But this morning was very different. There was a clarity in his voice I had not heard during the previous days. His comments and very thoughts rang out with purpose as he spoke. He knew who I was, and he had much he wanted to share with me.

from crying out to our Father in heaven to heal him to begging and pleading with God to deliver him from the torment of this physical life. From a healthy weight of 200 pounds, he had withered to less than 90. The cancer consumed everything on the inside and now grew through his body like boils the size of a man's fist all over his abdomen.

We came to Tulsa, knowing it would likely be the last time we would see him. The plan was to visit a couple days and then head for the Feast.

It would take many pages to describe the events that took place during those few days, but the morning my dad died was different from the days before. The cancer had passed through his blood into the brain, and the day before he died he cried as I entered the room. I asked him why he was crying, and he said, "I know you are my son, but I don't know your name."

But this morning was very different. There was a clarity in his voice I had not heard during the previous days. His comments and very thoughts rang out with purpose as he spoke. He knew who I was, and he had much he wanted to share with me. As his strength would allow, we spoke several times that day. Without a Bible in hand, he spoke of many things and remembered verses verbatim, even asking me to memorize a couple that he wanted me to remember and put within my heart.

Article Submissions Requested

One of the best ways we learn is by sharing our growing understanding of God's Word with one another, be it spiritual lessons, Bible study insights or perspectives on the world around us.

We are happy to announce a new section of *One Accord* that

Nearing sundown on the day that would usher in the Feast that year, we talked one last time. He told me now why he made me memorize Isaiah 66:2 and Ecclesiastes 12:13. He told me why he had not died months earlier, why God had neither intervened to heal him nor intervened to let his physical life end. He described in detail many events of his suffering that I had not been present to see and what each had taught him. With the skill of a master sculptor, he carved out of each event a lesson that he had learned and a future application of that lesson for me.

As the conversation was taking place, it was obvious the sun was setting, and the Feast was about to begin. He spoke of God's marvelous plan and the holy time we now entered, and then a few minutes later he asked me to do something that would shape the rest of my future.

Dad's last six words

With the sun fully set now, his final thoughts conveyed, he looked at me and asked me to kneel beside the bed. He then asked me to hold his hand and ask our Father in heaven to let him fall asleep for the last time so that his next moment of awareness would be at the return of Jesus Christ. Then he uttered his last six words, which are now etched deep into my heart. He said, "I'll see you in the Kingdom."

As I finished that tearful prayer and looked up, Dad slept for the final time.

How did this affect me then? I was only 20 years old at the time, but it burned a lasting memory in my mind. How would my dad feel at Christ's return if I were not there? That question forged a mission in my mind to be there too at the return of Christ. Can there be anything more important in a Christian's mind than a vision that stirs and motivates us to that end? Two complete 19-year time cycles will have passed as the Feast begins the night of Sept. 18. My hope remains for the return of our Savior and the reunion that it will usher in.

May that day soon be our reality.

Barry Richey is an elder serving in the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association. He owns a financial planning practice in Lewisville, Texas.

will be dedicated to articles of a spiritual nature, ranging from short insights to articles with more in-depth focus, written by and for the members of the Church.

Interested writers should send their articles to their pastors for review. The pastors will, in turn, send them to *One Accord*. Articles should be between 300 and 1,200 words.

We can't wait to read your articles!

Atlanta, Georgia, Hosts Second Southeast Regional Prom



Cassie Chambers and Elauna Pettigrew class up the photo booth

On April 27, 2013, 32 teens from various states arrived in Atlanta, Georgia, for Sabbath services for the Second Annual Southeast Regional Prom held later that evening. Jadea Blencowe sang “The Holy City,” and Amberley Walton and Meredith Orrell each played an extraordinary piece of music on the piano.

After Sabbath services, the teens changed from their Sabbath attire into beautiful gowns and dashing suits for an evening of food, dancing, fellowship and a photo booth. The theme for the evening was “A Bitter-Sweet Symphony” with inspirational speeches given by the graduating seniors.

Breakfast in the park the next morning gave the teens extra time to spend with each other before heading home. Suggestions for next year’s prom theme were contributed, as the teens were currently making plans to see each other at summer camp.

Chant’a Collier

Members in Columbia, Missouri, Honor Nonagenarian



Audrey Goodrich smiles in shock as her congregation throws a surprise party

Audrey Goodrich, a 40-year member of God’s Church, turned 90 years young on March 4. Since she was visiting family at that time, our Columbia, Missouri, brethren had to delay recognizing this rare occasion until April 6.

As Audrey approached the door, everyone gathered near to greet her. She was surprised to see all of us standing there in front of the beautifully decorated tables spread with tiers of prepared goodies. Her shock was visible as she exclaimed, “You sneaky people!”

After services, Audrey led the line, and everyone enjoyed the delicious array of foods available. There was plenty of fellowship and fun and a great deal of hugging and reacquainting since she had been away several months. We let her know how much she had been missed.

Most would agree that Audrey does not look her age—some even call her Sarah. She certainly is a woman of grace and wisdom, and we are extremely happy to have her back in her home church fold.

Pat Freeman

Fathers Bond With Their Children at Houston Campout



Houston campers go on a nature hike

Normangee, Texas, was the location of a special weekend April 6 to 7, 2013, for Houston North’s father-child campout. The camp is housed on Paul and Christine Whitley’s property, located about 40 minutes north of Huntsville, Texas. About 40 people enjoyed lovely weather, good food and lots of fun. It was a unique Sabbath and weekend that also included the special women’s weekend in the Houston South area. It looks like this might turn into an annual event.

Peter Gabriel
Photo by Brian Hegvold

Jefferson, Georgia, Celebrates 40 Years in God's Church



Nineteen of the original members of the Jefferson, Georgia, congregation gather for its 40th anniversary

The Jefferson, Georgia, congregation met at its church hall on the Sabbath of May 4, 2013, to celebrate its 40th anniversary.

On May 5, 1973, a new congregation of God's Church began in Athens, Georgia. This congregation was made up of brethren who had attended the Greenville, South Carolina, and Atlanta, Georgia, congregations.

Nineteen of the original members who were at the first service were present for the anniversary.

Shirley England had her notes from that first Sabbath in 1973, so we all enjoyed hearing a review of the messages given.

Jim Franks was working as a ministerial trainee at the time and had not yet been ordained. He spoke about how important the beginning of a new church is to God. He also offered a key on how to keep the love in the Church from waxing cold, and that key was not to neglect the little ones.

Mr. Franks was ordained a few weeks later on Pentecost. In the fall of 1974, he was ordained a preaching elder and became the first "resident" pastor of the Athens church. He was only 24 years old at that time.

Ray Wooten's sermon was on the purpose of a local church and what its responsibilities are. He read Ephesians 5:25-27 to show how Jesus Christ is working to prepare a people to present to Himself as a glorious Church. He also stressed the importance of humility along with building and maintaining a close relationship with God, the most important goal any of us can have.

Our minister Bruce Gore was not able to be present on this occasion, so he left us a very inspiring message. It reads, "Forty years ago the Athens congregation began. The same truths that were taught then are still being taught today. In spite of the many destructive things that Satan has thrown at us, you are still faithfully living by those same truths as were taught not only back then, but they are the same ones that were taught by the apostles of Jesus Christ. You proved that to yourself, before you committed to this way. They haven't changed and they won't. Don't let go of them, and you will be assured of an entrance into that glorious Kingdom."

Jim Franks sent us his thoughts and remembrances. He shared with us many of his fond memories of time spent with the brethren in their homes. "We loved all the members and felt loved by them," Mr. Franks wrote. The Franks were with us for four years, and he concluded his message by saying, "Thanks so much to all of you for getting us off to such a great start in the ministry."

After the greetings from Mr. Gore and Mr. Franks, everyone enjoyed a special covered-dish lunch and anniversary cake. It is hard to believe how the years pass so quickly, but it warms our hearts and encourages everyone to know we can endure on the way to God's Kingdom.

**Shirley England
and Donna Quintana**

Columbia, South Carolina, Congratulates New Doctor



Dr. Kerianne Springer and Don Waterhouse

On May 11, 2013, after Sabbath services, the Columbia, South Carolina, congregation gathered together to congratulate and at the same time, say farewell to one of our beloved sisters, Kerianne Springer. We were joined in our celebration by Kerianne's father, Mark Springer, from China Grove, North Carolina.

Kerianne moved to Columbia in 2009 to attend the University of South Carolina's School of Medicine. After four years of long intense study, she gradu-

ated with a doctor of medicine degree.

She has been accepted to the Wright State University Residency Program in Dayton, Ohio. Her residency will be for three years, during which time she will rotate between three different hospitals.

We celebrated her success with cake, punch and many hugs. She has served our congregation in many ways, and she will truly be missed. We wish her the best as she continues in her career as Dr. Kerianne Springer.

Nancy Lochner

Ladies Explore How to Use Their Spiritual Gifts at Houston South Women's Weekend



Ladies at the Houston Women's Weekend sing hymns at Sabbath services

In the peaceful town of Danbury, Texas, over 50 ladies attended the special Women's Weekend "Hands to Work, Hearts to God" April 5 to 7, 2013. The focus of the weekend was on exploring spiritual gifts and discovering how we can use them to spark change in our families, congregations and communities. The weekend was organized by Lisa Ryan-Powell and June Powell with a team of 15 ladies, under the direction of Jim and Judy Servidio.

The weekend began on Friday evening when ladies checked in and participated in a "Getting to Know You" activity. On Sabbath morning, the ladies enjoyed a full brunch followed by church services with a sermon by Larry Salyer. Following church services, Susan Scott Smith and Kathleen Giza presented a workshop on seven spiritual gifts where we all identified our personal spiritual gifts. After the workshop, several ladies presented examples of voluntary efforts they are currently involved in and inspired everyone to volunteer in their community and make a difference to those around us. A lasagna dinner was enjoyed before we watched the documentary *A Powerful Noise*, which highlighted three women, on three different continents, giving back to their community.

On Sunday morning, the ladies participated in group discussions related to the documentary we watched the evening before. They answered questions about the movie and discussed what God instructs us to do to help others in need.

The weekend ended with a quick recap of events and inspiration from women on how they, too, can make a powerful noise!

Sandy Lawler

Photo by Lisa Ryan-Powell

Five Ordained in Austin, Texas



David and Kim Gatley, Renee Mills, Pam and Danny Neal

Five men and women were ordained as deacons and deaconesses on Pentecost, May 19, 2013, in Austin, Texas. From Austin, Danny and Pam Neal were ordained as a deacon and deaconess. Renee Mills, whose husband, Clay, was previously ordained as a deacon, was also ordained as a deaconess. From San Antonio (which met with the Austin congregation), David and Kim Gatley were ordained as a deacon and deaconess.

Needless to say, it was a great day for our congregations, with much happiness and excitement over the ordinations. Many remarked that it had been a long time since there had been an ordination in Austin. Many also thought the people who were ordained had already been ordained because of the service these people were providing.

David Treybig

Georgia Leadership Class Completes Program

This year's leadership class in the Jefferson and Atlanta, Georgia, congregations, had its end-of-the-year class on Sunday, May 5, 2013. The wives were invited, and all enjoyed the table topics session and three fine speeches. Afterward, everyone enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship at a cookout hosted by Wes and Trish Cohron.

This year's class attendance was approximately 15 to 18 men. Mr. Gore, who directs the class, stated, "I feel we had a very good year in our leadership class. Our emphasis has been on understanding the importance of godly leadership, being rooted in humility and service."

God's educational work goes forward, and fall 2013 will mark the beginning of another year of developing godly leadership. In the Jefferson and Atlanta congregations, we can already see the fruits of this class in many ways.

Donna Quintana

Announcements **Baptisms | Births**



Dinah Potts (second from left) stands with Ron Kelley; her sons, Ahmodd Slate and Kywan Potts; her mother, Shirley McLean; and her friend, Bev McKnight

The Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation would like to congratulate Dinah Potts, who was baptized on June 11, 2013. The baptism ceremony was conducted by Ron Kelley. We welcome her to the Church family!

Ronald Kelley

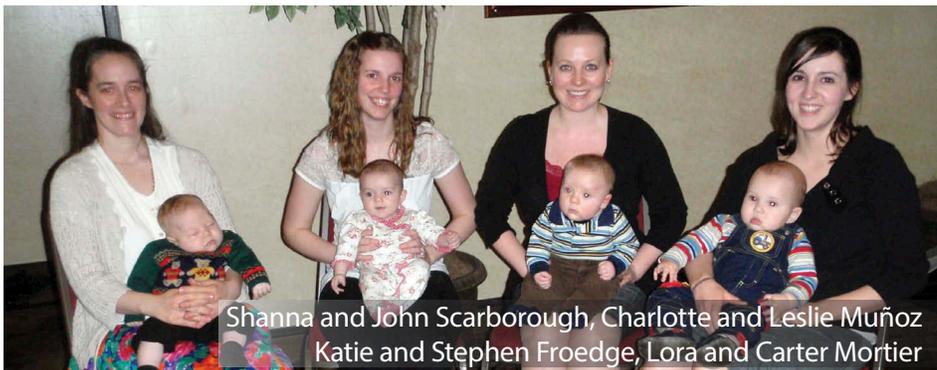


Novaline Aungmin (center with white towel) celebrates her baptism with family and friends

The Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation is very happy to announce the baptism of Novaline AungMin on June 16, 2013!

We would like to congratulate her and welcome her to the Church family. The baptism ceremony was conducted by Raleigh's pastor, Ron Kelley. Also assisting were elders Larry Lambert and Steve Villaescusa.

Ronald Kelley



Shanna and John Scarborough, Charlotte and Leslie Muñoz, Katie and Stephen Froedje, Lora and Carter Mortier

The Kansas City, Kansas, congregation has enjoyed many blessings over the last year, but some of our favorite blessings came in the form of babies—four babies, in fact, in less than six months!

Carter Aaron Mortier was born on July 2, 2012, (much to his mother's dismay as he was due in June) to parents Chad and Lora Mortier. Carter is a very friendly guy who has a big, handsome smile for everyone.

Stephen Caleb Froedje was born on Nov. 7, 2012, to Caleb and Katie Froedje. He is a quiet, sweet and cuddly guy who loves to be held and is very social.

Leslie Maria Muñoz was born a little

over a week after Stephen on Nov. 16 to Charlotte and Juan Muñoz. Besides being incredibly sweet and social, she also has the gift of gab. She will talk your ear off, but you've never heard a sweeter voice.

Daniel John Ezekiel Scarborough was born to Shanna and David Scarborough on Dec. 5, 2012. John is very laid-back and an easygoing baby. He has a very calming presence.

We are very thankful for all the new growth God has blessed us with. It's remarkable how these little bundles of joy have added so much warmth and life into our congregation.

Katie Froedje



Savannah Jane Kovaleski

Ben and Dareth Kovaleski of the Asheville, North Carolina, congregation are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Savannah Jane. Savannah was born on March 19 at 7:57 a.m. She weighed 6 pounds 7 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Ben and Dareth are thoroughly enjoying this precious new addition to their family! Savannah carries on the family name of "Jane." Members of the Asheville congregation watched Dareth and her siblings grow up, and now they are blessed to see another generation grow up.

Announcements **Weddings** | **Anniversaries**



Jedd and
Heather Cole

Mike and Becky Bennett are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter Heather Michelle to Jedd Sterling Cole, son of Laura and Dave LaRavia and Ricki Cole. The wedding took place on May 5, 2013, at the Miami Township Civic Center in Milford, Ohio. More than 100 friends and family members celebrated this special occasion, enjoying a beautiful spring day in the Civic Center's Miami Room, with its three walls of ceiling-to-floor windows.

Heather was attended by her sister, Erica Bennett, and Jedd's sister, Codi Cole. Jedd was attended by good friends Eddie Foster and Tim Foster.

Kyle Metzger was a responsible ring bearer, and Brooke Metzger was a charming flower girl. The ceremony was performed by Jedd's grandfather, Tom Diaz.

Jedd and Heather honeymooned in the Smoky Mountains near Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and then returned to Cincinnati where Heather works in sample administration at Advanced Testing Laboratory and Jedd is continuing his education at the University of Cincinnati.

Friends for many years, Jedd and Heather are excited to begin their journey together as husband and wife.

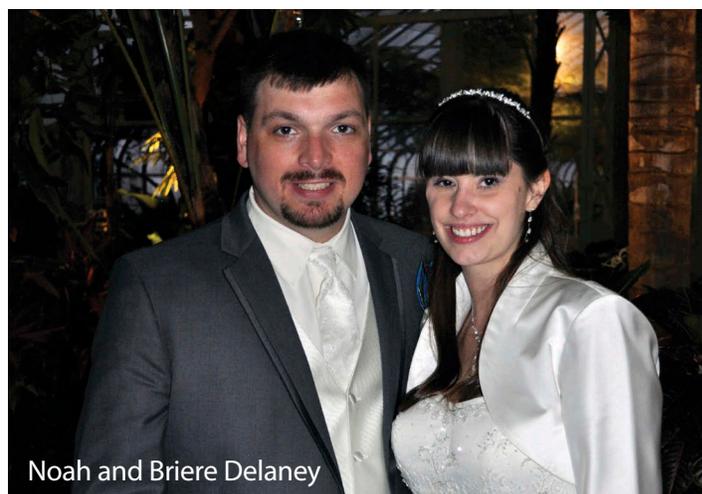
Becky Bennett



Andy and Sharon
Gowens

Andy Gowens from Dover, Delaware, and Sharon Figs from Milford, Delaware, were united in marriage on May 4, 2013 by their pastor Todd Carey. They are members of the Delmar, Delaware, congregation. Lisa Kifer sang "He Gave Me You" accompanied on guitar by Bob Biskup. Family and friends attended Sabbath services in the morning, and more joined us for the wedding and potluck reception in the afternoon. The bride made a delicious wedding cake. The couple will reside in Milford, Delaware.

Tim Walsh



Noah and Briere Delaney

On May 26, 2013, in the beautiful botanical gardens of Buffalo, New York, Briere Kester and Noah Delaney were married. The bride described the experience as surreal, as her parents Wayne and Penny Kester, who serve as deacon and deaconess in the Buffalo congregation, watched her walk down the aisle. After the wedding, Briere and Noah went to scenic Niagara Falls for a mini-honeymoon before their official honeymoon in Maine this July. Congratulations to the new couple! We wish you many happy years ahead.

Anne Koenig

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.

Sarah (Towe) and Stan Hewitt met at Eli Whitney Vocational High School in Brooklyn, New York, in 1965 when mutual friends used them as an alibi in order to date each other secretly. It actually worked out for Sarah and Stan, who became high school sweethearts. They married on March 23, 1968, and this year they celebrated their 45th anniversary!

Stan's mother, Rose, had read the Church of God's material for years, so Stan knew of the Church; but because he didn't like the prophetic understanding, he refused to attend. Stan's mother always saw Sarah reading her Bible; and one day in 1969 Rose gave her a *Plain Truth* magazine, and Sarah found

answers she was seeking. Sarah and Rose began attending in 1970, and Stan started in 1981 after Sarah told him she was a "spiritual widow." Defiantly, Stan came to Church to prove she was no widow, with his Kangol cap fashionably tipped over to one side, arms crossed and a skeptical smirk on his face. He has attended ever since!

They had three children: little Stan, Terence and Nicole. Tragically, Stan Jr., died at 20, and Nicole at just four months. They adopted Sarah's niece, Andrea Towe, after her parents died.

Their advice for a happy marriage is "Keep God involved, and stay on your knees!" They look forward to "reuniting with [their] babies in the Kingdom."



Sarah and Stan Hewitt

Sarah serves on the kitchen staff in the Queens, New York, congregation, and Stan serves on the sound crew and plays saxophone and flute accompaniment during the song service. Happy 45th anniversary, Stan and Sarah!

R. Norrod



Alan and Pauline Pachinger

Following Sabbath services on May 18, 2013, the Cleveland, Ohio, congregation surprised Alan and Pauline Pachinger with a celebration dinner for their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married May 18, 1963, and out of this union they were blessed with

four daughters, Julie (Ed) Mackey, Jacqueline (William) Stetter, Janet and Joan. They have also been blessed with five granddaughters, Kayla, Jordanne, Camryn, Katrina and Ava.

They were both baptized into God's Church in December of 1973. Alan was ordained as an elder on the Feast of Trumpets in 1986; and Pauline was ordained a deaconess on Pentecost 1986. They served in the Cleveland, Ohio, congregation for many years prior to their ordinations, having been the Y.O.U. coordinators for many years, traveling to sports events and supporting the youth.

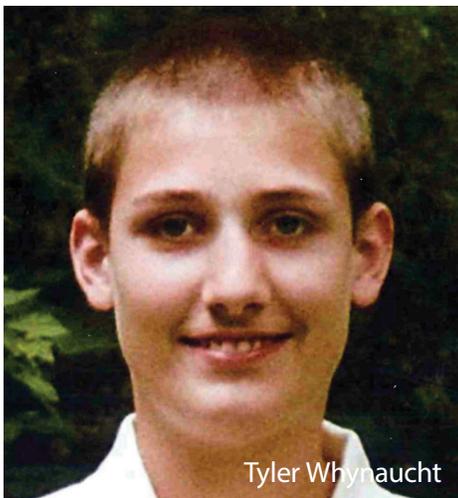
They purchased the family farm in 1965, where they raised beef and dairy

cattle, chickens, ducks and geese, along with grain crops and large gardens. They retired from farming in the late '80s but still reside on the farm. Along with farming, Alan worked as a welder, plumber and pipefitter, and Pauline was blessed to be able to be home with the girls teaching them many life skills.

The Cleveland congregation honored them with gifts, poems, speeches and musical numbers to show them their love and appreciation of all they have done and the example they have given to their family and church family. They have been pillars in our family and congregation, and we are very thankful for their demonstration of love and faith.

Janet Pachinger

Obituaries



Tyler Whynaucht

Tyler Andrew Whynaucht, 17, of Stoutland, Missouri, died Sunday, March 17, 2013, at home with his family by his side. Tyler was the son of Mark and Cheryl Whynaucht and was born on Feb. 14, 1996, in Columbus, Ohio.

Tyler enjoyed being outdoors. He liked to fish, hunt and ride his four-wheeler. He liked to make people laugh especially his two sisters. Tyler loved wolves. After he got sick, friends and family sent him wolf blankets,

animals, books, socks and posters. He loved them all!

He is survived by his parents, Mark and Cheryl Whynaucht; and two sisters, Brittany Martin and her husband, Brent, and Alyssa Degagne and her husband, Kyle. Both of them attend the Columbia, Missouri, congregation.

Tyler was a great example of strength and courage. He will be greatly missed, and we look forward to seeing him again.

Cheryl Whynaucht

Life, Hope & Truth Reaches 1 Million Page Views One Year After Launch

One year after the June 12, 2012, launch of LifeHopeandTruth.com, the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, has hit a milestone by reaching over 1 million page views. Page views represent the number of times a visitor looks at any page on a website.

The most read article in our first year was “[Encouraging Bible Verses](#),” which has been viewed 23,420 times since it was published on July 1, 2012. The next three most popular articles are “[Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God](#),” “[12 Tribes of Israel Today](#)” and “[10 Commandments List](#).”

According to SEO manager William Beech, our next milestone to hit is 100,000 unique visits per month. Currently, LHT receives approximately 70,000 unique visitors per month.

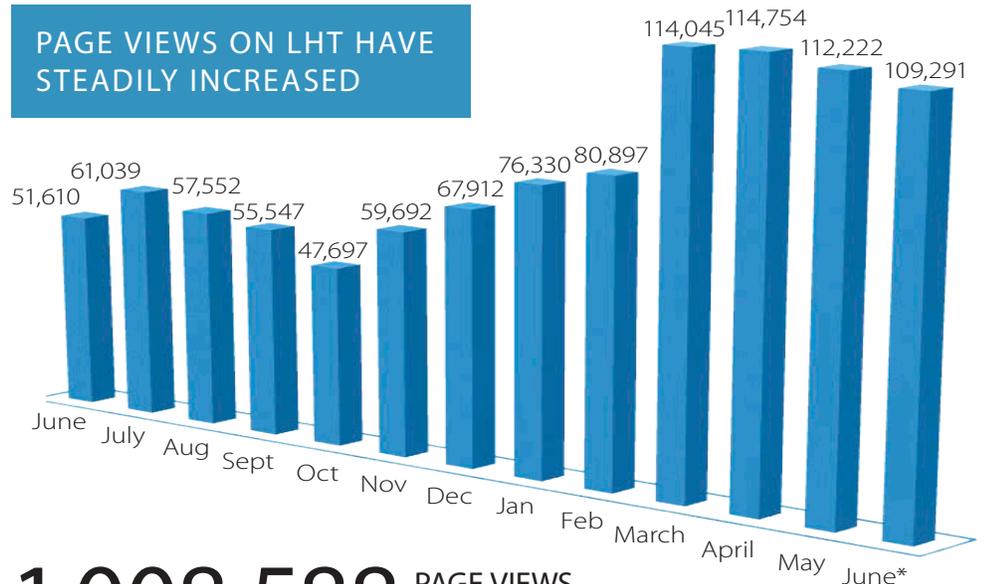
Elizabeth Cannon Glasgow

BE SURE TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



1,225
LIKES

PAGE VIEWS ON LHT HAVE STEADILY INCREASED



1,008,588 PAGE VIEWS SINCE LAUNCH

*as of 6-24-13

WHERE UNIQUE VISITS COME FROM

