



One Accord

February 2015

WINTER CAMP CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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**Camp in Southern
Chile Energizes
Campers to Live
God's Way**

Writer's Block

**Four Gifts You May
Not Want ... But
Absolutely Need**

Personal Contact

**Wasn't Jesus
Resurrected on
Sunday?**

personal from the president

What Christ Thinks of the Church

One of the great joys of my job is to visit the brethren. In the month of January Sharron and I visited four different congregations over a period of four weeks. On the Sabbath of Jan. 10 we were in Dallas, Texas. On the Sabbath of Jan. 17 we were in Mexico City. On the Sabbath of Jan. 24 we were in Barbados. And on the Sabbath of Jan. 31, we were in Austin, Texas. During the month of January we visited approximately 500 brethren in four congregations in three different countries.

When I travel to a local congregation, I find the brethren to be warm and friendly; and they always make me feel welcome. I hope that everyone who visits one of our congregations has the same experience. In the second chapter of James, the issue of partiality within a congregation is addressed (James 2:1-4). James uses a man dressed in wealthy attire and a man dressed in “filthy clothes” coming into the assembly as an illustration. The lesson isn’t about Sabbath dress, but it is about showing the same respect and love for everyone, without partiality and without regard for their financial position.

The late John R.W. Stott wrote a book in 2003 titled *What Christ Thinks of the Church*. It was based on the messages to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3. From these messages, Stott constructed a model of the Church as it should be. That model pictured a local congregation that was zealous, loving and doctrinally pure.

In his introduction Stott wrote in reference to Jesus Christ, “What then is His view of His Church?” In the book he took one particular aspect from each of the messages to construct seven marks of a true and living church that, taken together, tell us what Christ thinks of His Church, both as it is and as it should be.

We believe that Revelation 2 and 3 give a prophetic overview of the Church down through the ages, but we should not forget that these were real congregations and that the messages were written as a warning to the Church during all time periods—and especially in the end time. The very first message to Ephesus warns about losing their “first love,” and the final message to Laodicea warns about complacency. Both speak to the same issue, but from different perspectives.

From Scripture, we see the ideal congregation as a loving and dedicated group of people, welcoming to visitors. How do we stack up against that model today? We probably don’t



have a lot of visitors from one Sabbath to the next, but what if that changes? This past year we had 2.6 million visitors to our website LifeHopeandTruth.com, an increase of 450 percent from 2013. How will that translate into visitors at services? We simply don’t know. That outcome is beyond our control, but how visitors are treated once they do come is very much within our control.

I wonder what Christ would think if He came along for a visit to one of our local congregations. Would He find a warm and friendly group, dedicated to worshipping God? In reality we don’t have to ask what Christ thinks of the Church; we can read it in the messages to the seven churches of Revelation. The real question is whether we, on a weekly basis, are living up to the high standard set by Jesus Christ, the true Head of the Church! Our hope is that each and every congregation will be a place of joy, warmth and enthusiasm, where visitors and members are welcome!

JIM FRANKS
President of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association
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FEBRUARY 2015



CHURCH of GOD

A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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One Accord is published monthly, except April and October, online at members.cogwa.org by the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

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Winter Camp Celebrates 20th Anniversary

By GARY BLACK

Campers arrived to frigid temperatures to begin Winter Camp at the end of December. The snow didn't come until the Sabbath (the second to last day of camp), but that didn't dampen the spirits of the campers.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of Winter Camp. It began in 1995 with 43 campers and 18 staff members. This year's camp drew 64 campers and 38 staff members. The number of attendees has consistently risen over the past four camp sessions.

In addition to the Midwest states, participants came from Florida, Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky. We even had individuals from Canada and New Zealand.

Activities included ice-skating, broomball, volleyball, flag football, "Amazing Race," dance, team challenge, capture the flag and a winter survival class. This year we added gaga ball.

Winter Camp is unique in several ways, and one of them is that sundown comes rather quickly—around 4:30 p.m. So we get to spend quite a bit of time doing indoor bonding activities that help everyone get to know each other better. These activities included a bunco party, two dances, a game night and a variety show.

This year's camp theme was "The Narrow Way: Accept the Challenge." Campers heard Christian Living topics on being a shining light, setting a good example, lessons from Luke 18:18 and what it takes to enter the Kingdom of God, continuing on the narrow way when we get home, what it's like for teen members who live in Ghana, the importance of courage, what is at the end of the narrow way, and the importance of keeping this world's garbage out of our minds. The girls and guys split up for life skills class. The ladies identified various challenges they face in walking the narrow way, and the men talked about how to become a true gentleman.

To mark the 20th anniversary, the camp video team put together a special tribute that was shown at the final camp dance. It included video comments from various campers and staff who have been to camp over the years and showed pictures from the "old days."

Many comments thanked Gale and me for our involvement over the years. We were surprised and touched.

Thank you all for your prayers and support. God certainly blessed us with a wonderful Winter Camp this year. We look forward to being there again next year. ☺☺

Summer Camp in Southern Chile Energizes Campers to Live God's Way

By DANIEL SEPULVEDA SOLÍS

This year, God once again blessed us with an excellent summer camp at a boarding school 30 kilometers east of the beautiful town of San Fabián de Alico, in the south of Chile. Campers came from several congregations in Chile, including those in Osorno, Temuco, San Carlos, Talca and Santiago. We also had the blessing of hosting three campers from Bolivia and three from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

All 85 campers arrived on Dec. 26, 2014, on buses hired by the Church. Once they got settled in, the campers were immediately filled with energy and joy to be at camp once again. That evening we had the Sabbath dinner all together in the boarding school's dining room.

Before camp, many congregations in the area fasted to ask God for His support and guidance for the activities we would have during camp. And certainly God answered, since we had no problems or accidents at all during the eight days of camp. God also gave us excellent weather, beautiful sunny and rainy days and, most importantly, the spirit of happiness that only He can provide. There is no doubt He was with us all the time.

At this year's camp the theme was "God Is Real." We believe that we all—young and old alike—must have a strong conviction of God's existence and learn to act upon it. Some campers got baptized this last year, and we are very happy to see that these camps have had a positive and evident effect on God's youth.

Perhaps one of the most significant activities of camps is public speaking. Campers voluntarily give speeches on any topic of their choice. This year, one of the speeches was titled "Why You Should Not Leave God's Way," and many chose a similar topic. Certainly, this showed us that our young people do understand what the Church is, the benefits that come from



being part of God's people, and what a marvelous and unique opportunity it is to live according to God's law.

As usual, we had a welcome bonfire on Saturday night, directed this year by Rodrigo Zuñiga, a member of the Church in Temuco who helps in the organization of youth activities in the south of Chile. All the new campers introduced themselves and were welcomed by the rest. That introduction makes it easier for all to interact, stay together and take part in activities during the rest of camp.

In the mornings, we had Bible studies

given by one of the adults as well as times set aside for all the teams to study the Bible in what we call "Remember Your Creator." This year, their study focused on the last chapters of the book of Job. After lunch, the campers took part in sports activities—like soccer, volleyball, archery or ski racing—or just sat under a tree talking.

At the end of camp, each team presented a play inspired by the lives of Joshua, Esther, Elijah or Daniel. With only a few things on hand and a lot of creativity, all four teams managed to perform excellent Bible-inspired plays—all encouraging, inspiring and well-made presentations. This activity showed all the skills that our young people have to organize themselves and come up with amazing ideas.

I cannot finish this report without mentioning and thanking all the support received from our youth, youth coordinators and staff. All of them had a spirit of cooperation and responsibility. We truly hope that God is pleased with everything that transpired during this year's camp. We are absolutely sure that our Creator helped us throughout, and He chose this special time to show Himself in a close, clear and strong way to our youth. ☺☺



Campers in South Africa Enjoy Full Week of Bonding Activities

By LEANNE HELFRICH

The second COGWA Youth Camp in South Africa began on a lovely summer day on Dec. 14, 2014. Twenty-four campers and five staff members came together in the beautiful Magaliesberg mountains at the Bekker High School. The length of the camp was increased to a full week compared to five days last year and included a much-needed Sabbath rest after five days of enjoyable activities.

Staff and campers spent the first morning at camp in service to a local farmer, assisting in the harvesting of green peppers and spinach. Though the work was tough—especially in the hot sun—it was very rewarding. We began to see eating green peppers and spinach in a different light now that we know what it takes to get them to the dinner table!

Other activities throughout the week included volleyball, softball, soccer, swimming, group dynamics and a morning hike. Campers immediately joined forces and worked as a team when confronted with the challenge of how to cross a channel of water on the hike. An old, fallen tree was placed over the water, and campers and staff assisted each other to reach the other side. A stick held between two boys became a sturdy handrail to use for balancing.

We also added orienteering and archery to the schedule this year and thoroughly enjoyed those two new activities.

Neil Becker and Neville Smith gave encouraging and uplifting Bible studies in the mornings and evenings, and campers also enjoyed video messages by Joel Meeker and Clyde Kilough. Our first Sabbath spent at camp was most enjoyable. The girls assisted in setting the tables on the Friday evening, and the chef prepared a special meal for us. We spent Sabbath morning singing hymns together; and after the church service in the afternoon, campers and staff enjoyed a leisurely late afternoon walk.

It was another very successful and enjoyable camp, and our thanks go to all those who contributed. ☺☺



FOUR GIFTS YOU MAY NOT WANT ... BUT ABSOLUTELY NEED

Everyone likes to receive a gift. But what about the gifts you've been receiving all along and didn't appreciate? How can you make the most of them?

by DEBBIE PIERCE

We all like to get presents. Sometimes we receive gifts without even realizing it. And sometimes we mistake a gift as a curse.

Why is it that some people seem to rise above difficult circumstances, while others get stuck? Many factors go into making or breaking a person. But consider this: Everyone has challenges that arise throughout his or her lifetime. But instead of viewing these challenges totally negatively, we can view these things as gifts.

How we view these gifts, though, and how we respond to them, will shape our lives forever.

1. THE GIFT OF ADVERSITY

Hard times are a universal part of life; there's no way to avoid them. Just as we push our body through tests of endurance to see what it can handle, our personal character is also revealed through adversity. We come to see ourselves, our strengths and weaknesses, when life is at its hardest. If we welcome tough times because we understand that they are a necessary part of learning, then we handle them differently.

The Bible teaches us that we can "count it all joy" when we face the adversity of trials, "knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:2-3).

2. THE GIFT OF SUFFERING

Adversity often brings with it some form of suffering. Our attitude, however, plays an important role in how it will shape us. If we feel that life has treated us unfairly and allow seeds of frustration to put down roots, then resentment, anger and bitterness will be the final result.

Consider these words in 1 Peter 2:19-20: "For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take

it patiently, this is commendable before God.”

When we suffer because of a poor choice we made, we can consider what to do differently next time and patiently endure the painful consequences. But if we suffer wrongfully, we need not dwell on the unfairness of it.

Learn the lesson and move forward.

3. THE GIFT OF HARD WORK

We could all accomplish great things, if they didn't require so much effort! Unfortunately, too many of us don't want to work for things; we want what we want, but only if it comes easily. Yet have you noticed that we often don't place as much value on things that have been given to us freely? It is only through applying ourselves wholeheartedly to a task that we gain the benefits that come from it.

Read our article “[Hard Work](#)” for a biblical perspective on a proper work ethic.

4. THE GIFT OF FAILURE

So you've tried and failed—now what? Do you throw up your hands and declare it a waste of time? Or do you look for the opportunity hidden within that setback? Success rarely occurs without first failing, often many times! In fact, the sooner you fail, the faster you get to figure out what you've done wrong, correct it, and try again.

Consider those who are known for their successes and how many times they tried before achieving that success: the Wright brothers, Albert Einstein, Bill Gates and Walt Disney (just to name a few).

There is much to be gained from experiencing these four gifts. Here are only three of the numerous benefits that can result:

1. Resiliency

Resilience is the ability to recover quickly from setbacks. Imagine a rubber band for a moment. Its very purpose is to be stretched and pulled out of shape.

Consider the story of Joseph. He was a young man who was badly treated by his older brothers, sold into slavery, wrongly accused of sexual assault and then thrown into prison for several years. What happened after that is a beautiful example of how a person can reach beyond his own painful experiences to make a positive impact on others. Joseph demonstrated



“SUCCESS RARELY OCCURS WITHOUT FIRST FAILING, OFTEN MANY TIMES! IN FACT, THE SOONER YOU FAIL, THE FASTER YOU GET TO FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE WRONG, CORRECT IT, AND TRY AGAIN.”

incredible resiliency in all he went through. Read Genesis 37-45!

We, too, are often stretched out of our comfort zones by situations that are unfamiliar, uncomfortable and even painful. But we need not be broken by these situations. We can be elastic—we can recover!

2. Compassion

Compassion is a deep awareness of the suffering of others, coupled with a desire to help. It involves action. If, in our suffering, we turn inward and ruminate on “Why me?” then we miss the opportunity to make a positive difference for someone else.

Joseph was also an excellent example of compassion. Not only did he have concern for all those who would be affected adversely by an approaching famine (Genesis 41:34-36) but also on his brothers who were the cause of his suffering (45:15; 50:19-21).

3. Contentment

We talk a lot about wanting to be happy. Happiness is a short-term feeling that often relies on things not fully in our control. For example, we may say, “I'll be happy when I have a new job” or “I'd be happy if only I had someone who truly loved me.”

Contentment, however, doesn't depend on future events; it is satisfied with the here and now.

The apostle Paul understood this. “For I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need” (Philippians 4:11-12, English Standard Version)

Do you long to come out of your current circumstances a better person? These four gifts—adversity, suffering, hard work and failure—are what you need to grow to your fullest potential.

There are no shortcuts, so don't look for them! Instead, embrace life's trials and challenges as the opportunities that they truly are.

To learn more about how to deal with the problems we all encounter in life, read our article “[Coping With Anxiety](#).” @

Debbie Pierce is a licensed psychotherapist and has practiced for 20 years. She and her husband are co-owners of an equine-based counseling and riding facility in Wyoming. They attend the Salt Lake City, Utah, congregation.

Editor's note: This article appeared on the [Changing Your Life](#) blog on April 1, 2014.



Q

You claim that Jesus was not resurrected on a Sunday. Please explain Luke 24:21. That very day—the third day—they were walking and conversing. Jesus said He would rise on the third day. Wasn't the third day the first day of the week—Sunday? So why are you contradicting the Bible? (Written after reading “[Sign of Jonah: Did Jesus Die Good Friday, Rise on Easter?](#)”)

A

Thank you for your follow-up question. Teaching that Jesus was resurrected before Sunday (“the first day of the week”) does not contradict the Bible. Scripture, when properly understood, must agree within itself. Jesus said that “Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). That means Scripture has no weak point that would enable anyone to unravel or loosen its teaching. Every comment on the same topic fits together. Read on to see how that is true regarding the chronology of Jesus’ resurrection.

As you read in the article, Jesus said the following things would occur after His death:

1. He would be in the grave for three days and three nights (Matthew 12:40).
2. He would be resurrected the third day (Matthew 16:21).
3. He would rise again after three days (Mark 8:31).

The only way that these varied comments, which came directly from Jesus, can be true would be for Him to be resurrected exactly 72 hours after His burial. Since His resurrection would occur after three days, but not into the fourth day, it could also be called “the third day.” And it is the only way to fulfill Jesus’ precise description of being three days and three nights in the grave.

The events of Luke 24 did occur on the first day of the week. But the reference to “the third day” in verse 21 cannot be used to prove that Jesus was resurrected on the first day of the week. Indeed, the first few verses of the chapter say that He had already been resurrected before the women arrived at His tomb in predawn darkness.

In order to understand any scripture accurately, you must read it in context. In this case, going back to Luke 24:19 shows that the two disciples discussed Jesus’ ministry, persecution, arrest, trial, conviction, crucifixion and resurrection! That encompassed a very long time and certainly is not what the men meant by three days!

But did something significant to the resurrection happen on Thursday, three days before the first day of the week?

Sometimes, the Bible covers parts of a subject in different locations. In this case, the mystery is solved by Matthew: “On the next day [Thursday], which followed the Day of Preparation [Wednesday, when Jesus was crucified and buried], the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, ‘Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, “After three days I will rise.” ... Pilate said to them, ‘You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.’ So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard” (Matthew 27:62-66).

It was three days later when the disciples on the road to Emmaus spoke with Jesus. What they were referring to in Luke 24:21 were the events surrounding Christ’s crucifixion, which culminated in the sealing of the tomb. Remember, “The Scripture cannot be broken.” From what is recorded in the Bible, we believe this is the best explanation for “indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened” (Luke 24:21).

We appreciate the opportunity to clarify this often misinterpreted scripture for you. ☺☺

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

BAPTISMS



Amy Fracheur and Ron Kelley

Amy Fracheur of the Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation was baptized on Dec. 18, 2014. The ceremony was conducted by her pastor, Ron Kelley.

ANNIVERSARIES



Chant'a and Rodney Collier

On Jan. 14, 2015, Rodney and Chant'a Collier celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Chant'a and Rodney reside in Chattahoochee Hills, Georgia, and attend the Atlanta congregation of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association.



Kaye and Charles Haughee cut their 60th anniversary cake; a Scottish piper greets the couple

On a beautiful evening on Jan. 1, 2015, approximately 80 friends, family members and neighbors honored Kaye and Charles Haughee with a surprise celebration on their 60th wedding anniversary. The event was hosted and catered by Jeff and Charlene Peterson.

They were chauffeured to the Mainlands of Tamarac

clubhouse in Pinellas Park, Florida, by their grandson, Douglas Mason (of El Dorado, Arkansas) and his parents, Tay and Joan Haughee Mason (of Mabank, Texas). A piper in full Scottish regalia greeted and serenaded them and then escorted them to meet the awaiting guests.

Unbeknownst to Kaye and



Charlie, their younger daughter Beth Adair (of Plano, Texas) and their younger son, Richard (of Cypress, Texas), had flown in for the event. Their firstborn son, Gordon (of Dallas, Texas), was unable to attend.

Following hugs, kisses, tears and toasts, everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner. The Peterson Family Band (Mike, Jeff, Pat and Matt) then provided music for an evening of dancing.

Charlie was serving in the U.S. Air Force when he had a chance meeting with Kaye in April of 1954. She repeatedly denied his request for a date but finally acquiesced; and, as the saying goes, "the rest is history."

Living in North Carolina when they heard God's call, they were baptized on June 15, 1968. They served congregations in North Carolina, Illinois, Iowa, California and Texas before they settled in Florida. Charlie was ordained an elder in December of 1995, and they currently serve in St. Petersburg.

OBITUARIES



Jean Servidio

Jean Servidio, 93, a member of the Meadville, Pennsylvania,

congregation, died in Erie, Pennsylvania (her home for over seven decades) on Dec. 27, 2014. Jean came into contact with the Worldwide Church of God in the 1960s and was baptized in September of 1968. She set a sterling example for all who knew her in more than 46 years of faithful service to God and His people.

Jean (née Trask) was born in Findlay, Ohio, in April of 1921 and graduated from high school there. She met her husband, Naz Richard Servidio, while attending Findlay University; and they were wed in April of 1940. They were married for more than 62 years

until her husband's death in February 2003. She was also predeceased by their oldest son, Ronald, in December 2011. Her other six children survive her: Gary, Jim (pastor of the Houston North, Texas, congregation), Sally, Diane, Mary and Jill. Jean had 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Never one to seek the limelight, Jean had her special way of adding joy to church services and activities just by her presence. One of her greatest enjoyments was to be part of church events, especially the Feast of Tabernacles. Over the years, she attended the Feast in sites as diverse as Hawaii

and Italy—and seemingly just about everywhere in between! She will be greatly missed by both her family and her church family.

The funeral service for Jean was held in Erie on Dec. 31, officiated by her pastor of the last nine years, Doug Johnson.

Doug Johnson

Charles Johnson, 78, died July 8, 2014, in the Cherokee County Nursing Home in Centre, Alabama, where he had resided for several months.

He began attending Sabbath services in 1974 and was baptized in 1975. He attended for many years in Gadsden, Alabama, and more recently in Trenton, Georgia.

In 2001 he retired from his job with the City of Cedar Bluff, Alabama. He had lived in Cedar Bluff for about 47 years.

He is survived by his wife, Joan, of almost 55 years, as well as four children, eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Those who knew and loved Charles will always remember him as a person who could make others laugh. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service was held on July 11, 2014, and approximately 120 people attended. It was conducted by Tom Kirkpatrick, pastor of the Birmingham, Alabama, and Trenton, Georgia, congregations.

Annette Epperson

Raymond Epperson III, 57, a member of the Trenton, Georgia, congregation, died on June 27, 2014. He was born in Bentonville, Arkansas, to Ray Jr. and Okemah Epperson. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Annette, and daughters, Amber and Emily Epperson. He is also survived by his father, two sisters, one brother, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

Raymond attended Ambassador College and worked for

the Church in Pasadena for many years. He was a deacon; and he loved leading songs,



Raymond Epperson

serving at the Feast of Tabernacles and meeting new people. His friendliness, smile, and sense of humor drew people to him, and he had friends of all ages from many countries.

In July 2013 Raymond was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Knowing he was in God's hands, he faced a difficult trial with courage and integrity. He saved his strength to attend as many Sabbath services as possible and attended on the last Sabbath of his life.

Raymond was a devoted husband and father and is greatly missed by his family and many friends.

Funeral services were conducted on June 30, 2014, by Dr. Tom Kirkpatrick, pastor of the Trenton, Georgia, and Birmingham, Alabama, congregations.

Annette Epperson

The Roanoke, Virginia, congregation recently grieved the death of longtime member, Lawrence Collins. Born on Dec. 2, 1928, Mr. Collins recently celebrated his 86th birthday and had been a member of the Church of God for over 37 years.

Mr. Collins is survived by his wife of 57 years, Gladys Collins. Lawrence first became acquainted with the Church in the 1950s and was baptized in June of 1977. Although his family never shared his faith,

Mr. Collins always stayed true to his calling and continuously set a tremendous example for all who knew him.

During his long life Mr. Collins was many things. He was a Korean War Army veteran, a television and appliance repair store owner, a bus driver, a musician, a craftsman who made many musical instruments, a father and a husband. But above all else, Lawrence was a Christian. He trusted God, even in difficult times, and always put Him first.

Lawrence was a great example of Matthew 6:3, "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know



Lawrence Collins

what your right hand is doing." While he owned his appliance repair store, Lawrence often altered invoices for customers if he believed it would be difficult for them to pay or if they didn't have the money. He quietly and humbly served others.

Mr. Collins was a pillar in the Roanoke congregation; and although we understand the world he'll wake up to will be much better than the one he left, we will miss him greatly.

Mary Lallier

Michael Douglas Westberry, a deacon in the Dallas, Texas, congregation, died Sept. 29, 2014, at the age of 63. He was placed in the hospital a year earlier for a health condition, only to suffer a heart attack while in the hospital. He

subsequently endured a variety of ailments as he remained in long-term health care in various facilities until his death. It was an extremely challenging time for Mike, but he greatly appreciated the brethren's visits and his son's devotion throughout his ordeal.

Surviving immediate family members include his only brother, Robert Delaney Westberry; his son, Rob; and Rob's sons, Vincent Douglas Santoyo and Ethan Thomas Santoyo.

Mike was born in Houston, Texas, on Feb. 8, 1951, to Robert and Annie Jesse Westberry. Mike's son, Rob, came to live with his father at the age of 2 when Mike and his wife divorced.

Mike was a computer specialist but also worked as a private investigator at one point in his life. On one occasion, his investigative work led to the capture of a fugitive on the *America's Most Wanted* television show.

Mike was called into the truth in 1977 and was a faithful member until he finished his race. For many years, he ran the tape duplication and church library and made sure sick members and shut-ins received the messages. He was an avid reader, researcher and writer, authoring several works, chiefly *The Place of Sacrifice* (2008) and *The Mystery of God and Man* (2009). Mike loved contemplating the deep things of God and His way of life. He treasured conversations with members about the things of God, and those who engaged in these discussions with him felt similarly.

Mike's greatest work and service, along with raising his son Rob, came in his dedication to and love for God and Christ, the truth, God's way of life and the brethren.

The Dallas congregation hosted a memorial service and meal on Nov. 8 after the Sabbath service that day. Andy Burnett, pastor of the Dallas and Sherman, Texas, congregations, officiated.

Andy Burnett

THE ATLANTA TEENS WOULD LIKE TO
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE
Southeast Regional Prom

Enhancement
UNDER THE



BE THERE
OR
BE SQUARE

MAR
21
2015

Come and join us in Atlanta, Georgia, on the weekend of March 21, 2015, for the annual teen prom: "Enhancement Under the Sea." Teens (aged 13 to high school senior) from all over the southeast region will meet for an evening of dinner and dancing.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Marriott Atlanta Northwest. Discounted rooms are available at the Marriott for \$79 plus tax. Call 770-952-7900 and mention "COGWA church prom" to get the special price.

The cost for the prom is \$34 per person. This year we invite the parents to join us for the dinner and evening as we honor our 2015 graduates.

After registration, you will receive details on payment options.

For those who can stay over until Sunday morning, we are planning a breakfast in a park in Marietta, Georgia, so everyone can spend extra time together while enjoying good food and recreation.

If you have any questions, please send an email to cogwa.atlanta@gmail.com or call Bruce Gore at 678-376-0543.

For continuing updates, find us on Facebook: COGWA Southeast Regional Prom.

Register for this event at www.tinyurl.com/SEProm2015