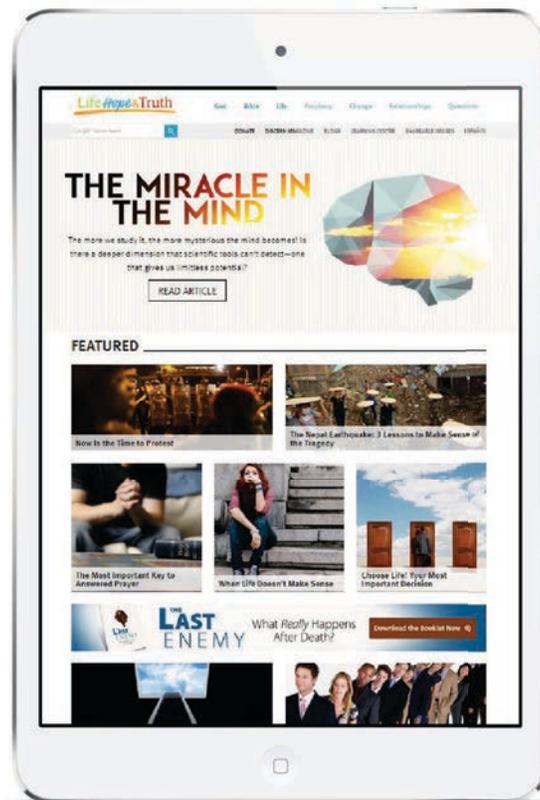


# OneAccord

May 2015



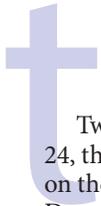
Bringing  
**Life Hope & Truth**  
to the World

**So, You'd Like to Sing in  
the Festival Choir**

**Eye-Opening Experiences  
at Foundation Institute**

# personal from the president

## On This Rock I Will Build My Church



Two major events are coming this month. First, on May 24, the Day of Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks, will occur on the 50th day after the wave-sheaf offering during the Days of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:15-16).

Pentecost celebrates the establishment of the New Testament Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. It also pictures the calling of the firstfruits (Ephesians 4:30). It is not the conclusion of that first harvest, nor does it celebrate the ultimate reward of the firstfruits, which is portrayed in the next festival, the Feast of Trumpets. In ancient Israel, both barley and wheat were harvested in the spring, beginning on the day of the wave sheaf. But the cutting of the stalks of grain from the field did not complete the harvest. Once cut, the stalks of grain were taken to the threshing floor to separate the grain from the chaff. Once this was accomplished, it was stored in barns or left out in the open so that the moisture content could be reduced. It wasn't until that process was complete that the grain was ready for use. In a similar fashion, Pentecost shows us that the grain (firstfruits) must first be reaped or cut (taken from the field), then threshed and dried before it is ready to use. Likewise, even though we have been called and chosen, we still must be faithful before we can be firstfruits in the Kingdom of God (Revelation 17:14).

The second major event in May takes place one week after Pentecost. From May 31 to June 2 ministers and wives from around the world will gather here in the Dallas area for our fourth international ministerial conference, counting our initial conference that started COGWA in January 2011. It is hard to believe that as an organization we are already in our fifth year!

Success is measured by many standards—some of which are hard to quantify—but by most standards we have made considerable progress since we began. Income is only one of those standards, but I am happy to report that it has increased each year, and so far this year our income is at its highest level since our beginning. We believe a portion of that increase is coming from new people (donors and co-workers), which is probably the most positive sign we have seen since we began in December of 2010.

We're taking the theme of our international ministerial conference from Matthew 16:18: "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and *on this rock I will build My church*, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (emphasis added). It is on *this rock* (Jesus Christ) that the Church is being built.



We know that Christ is still building His Church. But what are His priorities? What Christ is doing today is the same as what He did in the first century (Hebrews 13:8). He preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and He showed compassion for the people who followed Him. To me, one of the most remarkable scenes in the Gospels is when Christ looked out at the crowds following Him and was moved with compassion because they had no shepherd (Matthew 9:36). It is no different today. In a world staggering about with no spiritual focus, the Church is committed to preaching the gospel and shepherding God's people. It is why we exist!

So the next few weeks will be an exciting time for the Church of God, a Worldwide Association. On Pentecost we will look back on the founding of the Church along with the coming of the Holy Spirit, and then the next week we will lay out a vision for the future. What a month it will be! Stay tuned for the reports!

JIM FRANKS  
President of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association  
@jimfranks

# OneAccord | Contents

MAY 2015

Life Hope & Truth

God Bible Life Prophecy Change Relationships Questions

Google Custom Search

DONATE DISCERN MAGAZINE BLOGS LEARNING CENTER SHAREABLE IMAGES ESPAÑOL

## THE MIRACLE IN THE MIND

The more we study it, the more mysterious the mind becomes! Is there a deeper dimension that scientific tools can't detect—one that gives us limitless potential?

READ ARTICLE



### FEATURED



## CHURCH of GOD

A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

© 2015 Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc. All rights Reserved.

**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

**One Accord** is published monthly, except April and October, online at [members.cogwa.org](http://members.cogwa.org) by the 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.

4 Bringing Life, Hope & Truth to the World

7 **Personal Contact** What Are Your Thoughts on the Illuminati?

8 **Writer's Block** So, You'd Like to Sing in the Festival Choir

9 **Writer's Block** Eye-Opening Experiences at Foundation Institute

11 **Church Potluck**

15 **Announcements**

# BRINGING LIFE, HOPE & TRUTH TO THE WORLD

In this Media update, learn how the Media team is continually improving the efforts to bring the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the world.

by ELIZABETH GLASGOW

**Y**ou may have noticed the Life, Hope & Truth website undergoing some changes over the past few months. In an effort to constantly update and provide fresh material to our audience, the Media team has been hard at work planning major additions to our website. And the results have been overwhelmingly positive.

In this media update we'll go through a number of exciting changes that we've been developing since July 2014 and what you can expect to see in the coming months.

## Website revamp phases

In July of 2014, the Media team sat down with our web developers at 30 Degrees North to map out a three-phase plan to overhaul the Life, Hope & Truth website and to put into place the infrastructure necessary for future updates.

### Phase 1

In Phase 1, which we completed in November of 2014, our goal was to give Life, Hope & Truth a face-lift and create a section called the Learning Center. In the Learning Center, visitors can find all of our booklets, study guides and infographics. They can subscribe to our blogs, newsletter and *Discern* magazine, as well as take our "Bible Question of the Day" quiz. As we continue to grow and expand the work, the Learning Center will be one of our main focuses for providing an educational opportunity for the people God is call-

ing through Life, Hope & Truth. We also added a new section to our website called Shareable Images. These unique images featuring Bible scriptures and Sabbath greetings have been extremely successful in generating social media engagement on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and have promoted our website to audiences who may not take the time to read our articles. With shareable images, we're able to target a broader audience with the Word of God in a quick and appealing way.

### Phase 2

We're now working hard to complete all parts of Phase 2, focusing on creating an "I'm New" page, developing our new online/interactive Bible study course and shooting a brand-new video series.

The "I'm New" page will serve as a starting point for visitors who come to Life, Hope & Truth for the first time. It's here that they will be introduced to the people and the Church behind the website and how to go forward in their learning journey. We are now in the process of creating our new welcome video, which will describe why Life, Hope & Truth exists and what our mission is.

We're also creating our brand-new interactive Bible study course, which will be a key tool in helping our website visitors take the next step in understanding and committing to God's truth.

The plan is for the course to begin with the following 12 core topics:

- Why the Bible is relevant today.

- How to study the Bible.
- The nature of God.
- Jesus Christ.
- The true gospel.
- The purpose of life.
- The 10 Commandments.
- The Sabbath.
- God's holy days.
- Conversion.
- True Christianity.
- Keys to Bible prophecy.

"The most exciting part of the new course is the element of interactivity the lessons will have," commented Erik Jones, who is coordinating the project. "The new Bible study course will have features that are impossible to produce in a printed course. Students will be expected to read lessons, watch video instruction and read their Bible in order to complete the lesson. They will also be able to take a quiz at the end of the lesson and receive immediate feedback on their progress.

"If history is any indication, those who complete the course will potentially find their way to Church services and, hopefully, baptism."

The last major addition to Life, Hope & Truth in Phase 2 is a new YouTube video series, in which our presenters will cover major doctrines, such as the 10 Commandments, the holy days, and why God established the Church, in short, helpful, easy-to-share video clips.

"We're designing this new video series with the hectic, modern-day schedule in mind," commented scriptwriter Jeremy

## PHASE 1

- Redesign the home page of Life, Hope & Truth.
- Create a new Learning Center section, a one-stop shop for all booklets, study guides, Bible Question of the Day, infographics and subscriptions.
- Create a Shareable Images section.

## PHASE 2

- Add new video series to the Learning Center.
- Create an "I'm New" page, introducing new visitors to Life, Hope & Truth and outlining our mission.
- Launch a new online interactive Bible study course.

## PHASE 3

- Add a new feature called "MyLHT." On the MyLHT profile page, visitors will be able to manage their subscriptions, keep track of their progress in our Bible study course and bookmark their favorite articles, blogs and booklets.

# SOCIAL MEDIA EXPANDING

Life Hope & Truth's presence on social media continues to grow. We are now active on Instagram in addition to Twitter and Facebook. We crossed the threshold of 5,000 Facebook page "likes" on April 28, 2015.

Part of our recent Facebook growth can be attributed to a post promoting our new Clean and Unclean Meats infographic. The post generated lively discussion and, through shares and likes, led to our largest audience reach in the history of all of our Facebook posts—all within a few days of its being posted! A post "reaches" a "user" when it shows up in his or her Facebook news feed. Users who are not already fans of the Life, Hope & Truth Facebook page can be reached when you like, comment or share each image on your Facebook timeline.

According to research by eMarketer published in March 2014, posts with photos and images are 83 percent more likely to be shared and liked. We certainly experienced that trend with our Clean and Unclean Meats post, and we plan to include more original visual content with our Facebook and Twitter posts going forward.

Our original shareable images are also popular on social media. We are now posting multiple images each week for you to share. Last quarter, our most popular shareable image was based on John 13:34 and reached 5,816 Facebook users.

Do you have a favorite verse you would like to see featured in a shareable image? Email your suggestion to [socialmedia@cogwa.org](mailto:socialmedia@cogwa.org).

**Post Details**

Life, Hope & Truth  
Posted by Kelli Hogg 179 · April 18 at 10:27am · 🌐

God expects all who desire to have a relationship with Him to live holy lives. The Bible says following God's instructions regarding the meat we eat is one aspect of living a holy life.

Download this fun infographic to help you learn the difference between clean and unclean meats! <http://lifehopeandtruth.com/.../infograp.../clean-unclean-meats/>

Animals: Goat (all species), Lamb, Ox, Pheasant, Turkey

**Clean & Unclean Meats**

LifeHOPEANDTRUTH.COM

8,388 people reached

Like · Comment · Share · 109 🗨️ · 9 📄 · 53 📌

**Reported stats may be derived from what appears on posts**

**8,388** People Reached

**223** Likes, Comments & Shares

145 Likes	109 On Post	36 On Shares
19 Comments	9 On Post	10 On Shares
59 Shares	53 On Post	6 On Shares

**706** Post Clicks

1 Photo Views	577 Link Clicks	128 Other Clicks
---------------	-----------------	------------------

**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

1 Hide Post	1 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

**Post Details**

Life, Hope & Truth added a new photo.  
February 6 · 🌐

A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU,  
THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER;  
*as I have loved you,*  
THAT YOU ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

— JOHN 13:34 —

LifeHopeandTruth.com

5,816 people reached

Like · Comment · Share · 102 🗨️ · 1 📄 · 72 📌

**Reported stats may be derived from what appears on posts**

**5,816** People Reached

**452** Likes, Comments & Shares

359 Likes	102 On Post	257 On Shares
19 Comments	1 On Post	18 On Shares
74 Shares	72 On Post	2 On Shares

**77** Post Clicks

77 Photo Views	0 Link Clicks	0 Other Clicks
----------------	---------------	----------------

**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

1 Hide Post	1 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

Lallier. "Most people don't have time to squeeze a 60-minute lesson into their daily routine, but trying to compact God's truth into three-minute videos means leaving out a lot of important content. So what we're doing is taking these really heavy topics and breaking them up into accessible, bite-size segments.

"Rather than sit down and watch something about God's entire holy day plan, you can just watch a four-minute video on the Days of Unleavened Bread. Or instead of a video on every one of the 10 Commandments, you can hear about the Fourth Commandment today and the Fifth Commandment tomorrow. And, of course, if you have the time to watch all 10, you can do that, but each video stands on its own so that people can fit as many as they'd like into their schedules without feeling like they just don't have time.

"As we add to this series, we're hoping to provide potential members with answers to

important questions in a format they feel comfortable with, making it easier for them to invest their time and attention into the life-changing truths of God's Word."

## Phase 3

In Phase 3, we plan to personalize the Life, Hope & Truth experience for our visitors by creating a new feature called MyLHT. Visitors will be able to log in to Life, Hope & Truth and create a profile page where they can manage their subscriptions to the blogs, newsletter and *Discern*. They will also be able to monitor their progress in the Bible study course and store articles and booklets that they are in the process of reading.

As we move forward, we plan to make Life, Hope & Truth an ever-improving, dynamic tool for preaching the gospel to the world, including providing robust content for users to dive deeper into topics. Please send us suggestions for how we can

continue to improve the user experience on the website by emailing [info@cogwa.org](mailto:info@cogwa.org). Your feedback is valuable to us!

## Booklets

In March we completed our ninth booklet, *The Book of Revelation: The Storm Before the Calm*, which was published online at the end of April. This booklet covers the events leading up to Jesus Christ's return as outlined in the book of Revelation and what God expects from those who understand His great plan of salvation. Download the booklet today from the Learning Center on Life, Hope & Truth.

Currently in the works is a new booklet on the United States and British Commonwealth in Bible prophecy, primarily written by staff writer Erik Jones.

"Historically, this subject has garnered a lot of interest and has been one of the Church's most requested booklets," said Mr. Jones. "The new booklet will have

similarities to past booklets on the topic, but will contain some historical information not covered previously. It will also include a strong call to repentance on a national and personal level. The booklet is not just being written to inform our readers about the modern identity of the Israelite nations, but to help our readers see what is coming in the future and their personal need to repent and change their lives.”

We’re planning to publish the new booklet online later this year.

## Personal Correspondence

One of the most encouraging and inspiring developments has been the overwhelming increase in questions sent in to our Personal Correspondence Department. In the past several months, we’ve seen our monthly mail triple, causing us to scramble to keep up with the high volume of responses from our website.

Last year the Personal Correspondence Department averaged 92 emails per month, but as January 2015 approached, our correspondence began to explode, which prompted the Church to expand the team.

“It was like a tsunami,” said Cecil Maranville, Personal Correspondence Department supervisor.

In February, Jim Franks and Doug Horchak set up an emergency triage, asking the ministers in the headquarters office to help take on the flood of correspondence that PCD could not address by itself. In March we received 307 emails. Now the team has grown to 20 ministers, 13 on the regular team and seven more on the “overflow team.” Ina McLemore and Becky Bennett manage the distribution of mail, which includes sorting, proofreading and editing.

“I call it an ‘accordion’ management,” Mr. Maranville explained, “because we can expand or contract the workload of each team member as necessary. Naturally, a pastor is confronted with unanticipated situations that demand his time, and we have to

work around vacations, camps and trips to international areas. Pastors inform us of changes in what they can handle, and Ina McLemore adjusts the work distribution accordingly.”

We look forward to seeing this number grow as more and more people come to us with questions about their lives and what the Bible teaches.

## Growth by the numbers

“By far and away, the most exciting development in the past year for media was to see the tremendous spike in visitors to Life, Hope & Truth that began in June of 2014,” commented Clyde Kilough, Media operation manager.

To date, Life, Hope & Truth has had 6,264,250 unique users—a staggering number considering Life, Hope & Truth is only three years old. To put that in perspective, two years ago we had 701,782 unique visitors from 227 countries and territories. In the last year alone we’ve had 5,438,363 unique visitors from 238 countries and territories.

Our top page continues to be the “10 Commandments List,” with 420,233 visits in April 2015, which is a result of our high ranking on Google for that search term. However, the Encouraging and Inspiring Bible Verses pages continue to dominate the next spots for top page views, and together they have brought 720,667 unique users in April. After the pages on the 10 Commandments and Encouraging Bible Verses, the next five pages with the most unique page views in April were:

- “Do We Go to Heaven When We Die?”
- “The 12 Tribes of Israel.”
- “How Do You Know You Have the Holy Spirit?”
- *God’s 10 Commandments: Still Relevant Today.*
- “Bible Study Topics.”

A total of 121 pages were viewed 1,000 times or more, and 639 pages were viewed 100 times or more in April.

Our most popular booklet currently is *God’s 10 Commandments: Still Relevant Today*, which has been downloaded 6,706 times since it was published in June of 2013.

Here are the booklet downloads for April 2015:

- *God’s 10 Commandments: Still Relevant Today*, 1,274 downloads.
- *Change Your Life!* 619 downloads.
- *The Mystery of the Kingdom*, 347 downloads.
- *The Last Enemy: What Really Happens After Death*, 262 downloads.
- *From Holiday to Holy Days: God’s Plan for You*, 244 downloads.
- *The Sabbath: A Neglected Gift From God*, 87 downloads.
- *Why Does God Allow Evil and Suffering?* 33 downloads.

Mr. Kilough continued, “I certainly hope we continue to see the increasing numbers of visitors to the website, and subsequently more returning and digging deeper into God’s truth.”

With nearly 1 million visitors coming to our website every month (930,839 in April 2015 alone), we are increasingly focused on our mission to help those God is calling to come to an understanding of His truth. It’s a mission that is not only humbling but extremely inspiring.

We are continually amazed and grateful for the way God has blessed our efforts to preach the gospel to the world. Through Life, Hope & Truth we’ve been steadily increasing how many people around the world come in contact with the life-changing message of the Kingdom of God; and as we continue to develop newer and better content, we’re excited to see the fruit it will produce. ☺☺

Title	Online Subscriptions
<i>Discern Magazine</i>	<b>4,786</b>
<b>FI Online</b>	<b>2,585</b>
<b>Insights Into Changing Your Life</b>	<b>1,366</b>
<b>Insights Into Knowing God</b>	<b>1,359</b>
<b>Insights Into News &amp; Prophecy</b>	<b>5,919</b>
<b>Insights Into Relationships</b>	<b>5,535</b>
<b>Insights Into the Meaning of Life</b>	<b>1,245</b>
<b>Life, Hope &amp; Truth Newsletter</b>	<b>2,892</b>
<b>Daily Bible Verse Blog</b>	<b>9,542</b>
<b>Total Subscriptions</b>	<b>35,229</b>
<b>Total Unique Subscribers</b>	<b>24,848</b>



Q

A

## What are your thoughts on the “illuminati”?

The term *illuminati* comes from the Latin *illuminatus* for “enlightened.” Some use it as the name of a specific group, and others apply it to a variety of groups they believe have several common characteristics, including:

- Their members are supposedly “enlightened” with great knowledge and insight.
- They conspire to control the world, whether for noble motives (to rid it of injustice) or selfish ones (purely for financial gain).
- The identity of members, their methods and their actual deeds are secret, so no one can prove their existence with certainty!

There seems to be no end to conspiracy theories about secret organizations running or plotting to run the world. People of power and wealth have exercised wide influence in every possible aspect of life throughout history.

The first biblical record of a grand conspiracy is in Genesis 11. After humankind’s population rebounded following the Flood, Nimrod organized a group of talented people. They conspired to free themselves from God’s authority by designing and building a city that they thought could not be destroyed, even by God who had destroyed the world with the Flood. While their objective might sound silly in hindsight, they were just as serious as any “illuminati” throughout history.

The Bible reveals that the tendency to conspire to control events is within *every* person. “Selfish ambitions” (listed among the characteristics of human nature in Galatians 5:20) is from the root Greek word *eritheia*. In the Bible, it usually refers to those “who seek only their own. Contention, strife, rivalry. It represents a motive of self-interest, mercenary interest (Phil. 1:16; 2:3). It also meant *canvassing for public office, scheming*. (Rom. 2:8; 2

Cor. 12:20; Gal. 5:20; James 3:14, 16.)” (Spiros Zodhiates, ed., *Complete Word Study Dictionaries*, 2003, emphasis added).

Not everyone gives in to this tendency. And few people truly have the charisma and/or wealth to extend their control very far. Yet history attests to the fact that large-scale events involving entire economies, governments and major wars were influenced by ambitious people.

Do we believe that a secret group of people now controls the world? No, we don’t, but the Bible prophesies an economic “illuminati” with religious underpinnings will successfully conspire to rule the world just before Christ’s return. Even then, the underlying power won’t be human, but rather evil spirits. Their leader will be the greatest evil “enlightened” one—Satan, says the Bible, who “deceives the whole world” (Revelation 12:9). Notice that *he has been* deceiving already.

Because it suited God’s plan, He has allowed Satan to influence every level of human affairs since the Garden of Eden. (Our article, “[Michael the Archangel](#)” shows from the Bible how powerful evil spirits were the unseen force behind major wars in human history.) Satan will continue his conspiracy until forcibly stopped by Jesus Christ.

Even people who are quite familiar with the Bible have missed what it reveals about this genuine “spiritual illuminati,” how it began and how it will end. If you have never heard about or considered it, the idea might seem incredible! We have put together the pertinent scriptures in this article: “[God vs. Satan](#).” In light of your question, I recommend that you read it. Truth is stranger than fiction. ©©

# SO, YOU'D LIKE TO SING IN THE FESTIVAL CHOIR

Singing in the choir at the Feast can inspire your fellow Feast-goers and honor our great God! For the maximum benefit, keep the following in mind.

by JANEL JOHNSON

**T**he anticipation is over! You've registered for the Feast, and you're making plans with family and friends to rejoice and serve together. One very rewarding way to serve is by singing in the Festival choir, and we'd love to expand our ranks! If you're thinking about singing in the Festival choir, here is some helpful information from your Festival special music coordinators (SMC).

## "May I sing, or can I sing?" That is the question!

We would like to encourage you to join the Festival choir if:

- You can sing. Unfortunately, desire to serve isn't enough. If uncertain, ask for evaluative input from your local church choir director or the hymn accompanist or another musician from your local church area.
- You sing in your local church choir.
- You sing in your school choir.
- You're mature enough to accept the responsibility of preparation and commitment.

## What can you expect if you volunteer?

You can expect:

- To be contacted by email by the SMC shortly after Festival registration. Please be courteous and respond. If you "don't do email," please telephone the SMC for information.
- To receive access to music about two months before the Feast through password-protected Internet websites. Listening to these audio files and practicing directly from your computer, iPod or smartphone couldn't be easier! This crucial preparation on your part guarantees readiness for the Feast.



## There is nothing to equal joining voices to praise God and inspire His people!

- A two-hour music rehearsal the afternoon before the opening evening service. *This rehearsal is critical.* It is here that the choir director will hear the blend of voices for the first time to put final touches on the week's special music. If circumstances beyond your control prohibit you from attending this rehearsal, please advise your director.
- The Festival choir to sing three to five times during the Feast with one to two selections each time. Your SMC will work with the Festival coordinator to avoid practice conflicts with other events, such as teen or young adult hospitalities.
- A mandatory morning rehearsal each day the choir sings. The rehearsal is for the sound crew to run a microphone

- sound check (not for learning parts).
- To abide by a modest, Sabbath-wear dress code.

## What does the special music coordinator expect of you?

Your SMC expects:

- Communication! If you change your plans about attending that Festival location or volunteering to sing after registering for that Festival choir, please be courteous and advise the SMC.
- That you learn the music before the Feast.
- No "walk-ons." Much preparation and communication has gone into the Festival special music long before the opening service. Please respect this by preparing in advance.

- That the email address you've given as contact information on the Festival registration is current and up-to-date.

### A few more "notes"

Do you have a strong solo voice? By all means, please contact the SMC with an audition piece for a potential solo spot; but also consider joining the choir and making a valuable contribution by participating.

Do you play the piano well enough to accompany a choir selection? Please notify the SMC of your desire to serve and to fill this need.

Gentlemen: Your participation is needed for all Festival choirs. Please consider adding your voices.

Concerned about the time commitment? Prepare in advance. Your service is required only on the days the choir sings.

Concerned about your age? If you're 13 years old or older, you're welcome to join a Festival choir. While a teen choir is of-

ten an option for one day of special music at many of our Festival sites, we'd also love for you to sing with the Festival choir for the whole week. Talk about this service option with your parents. If they have any further questions, please ask them to contact the SMC.

With 30 percent of our church attendees under the age of 30, we'd love to see participation from this age demographic!

### Commitment, service, preparation

The experience of serving in the Festival choir will surround you with lasting memories. Choral music teaches not only the musicianship of how to blend voices but also artistic expression, focus and esprit de corps. It's an opportunity to inspire and to be inspired. There is nothing to equal joining voices to praise God and inspire His people!

So, you'd like to sing in the Festival choir? We couldn't be happier to welcome you into this act of service to the Church through song! @👏

# EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCES AT FOUNDATION INSTITUTE

I attended Foundation Institute in 2014-2015 to learn more about the Bible. The program gave me not only that but an unexpected, and very valuable, lesson!

By GERRY LYND

I had dreamed of attending Foundation Institute (FI) since it began in 2012, eagerly looking forward to receiving the in-depth instruction that FI provides. Before actually attending this year (2014-2015), that was my main desire for the program.

But, after spending nine months as a student at FI, I found the program provided me a whole lot more!

There are 18 other students attending FI this year, and almost all of them are under 35. I am somewhat older (a lady doesn't tell her age). At first they seemed like any other energetic group of young people. From day one, they were full of enthusiasm, energy and excitement. But as the year progressed, I found myself not thinking of them as just any other group of young people. I have found myself greatly admiring them. Throughout this year, I have moved from pleased to impressed to awe.

What I've witnessed is not a one-time event; it happens every day. Here is what I see in these students.

### Inclusion

The first thing I noticed was their example of inclusion. Many of them attended camp and knew each other before they came, but some came not knowing anyone. It was inspiring to see how they were all welcomed with open arms and accepted quickly. While there are groups of friends, there are no separate cliques where they only associate with each other. If one of them plans an activity, the others are asked to go along.

I have experienced this inclusion personally. Every day, I receive

hugs from the students. Even though I am somewhat older than they are, I am included in the social events among the students. They often invite me and encourage me to join them. I have night blindness and do not like to drive after dark. Several of the students often offer to drive me home so I can attend the later activities. I don't live close, and this is a sacrifice of their time and gas money.

### Selfless support

The students often have financial, transportation or other personal issues come up during their time at FI. I have seen many examples of the students' supporting each other through challenging times. For example, some students have transportation issues. The other students with cars are always there to help—even when it means driving late at night to pick up other students from work and bring them back to the FI apartments. If a student is going through a hard situation, the others are there with hugs and words of support.

### Service and sacrifice

The students are very eager to serve. Some serve by working or volunteering in the headquarters office. Others volunteer to serve in the local Dallas congregation. Some have served on the snack team, sing in the choir and even babysit during the "Growing Kids God's Way" classes. One Sunday, a group cleared the leaves from a member's yard. They have also visited members who are unable to



attend church regularly. When the call came for volunteers for Foundation Outreach International, several students applied to help, which would mean giving another year of their lives in service to the Church.

### Initiative

Before the Days of Unleavened Bread, each student was assigned an area to clean. They eagerly attacked the tasks and posted signs notifying others that an area was “leaven-free.” The two students responsible for delevaning the kitchen closet not only removed the leavening products, but reorganized it to make things easier to find!

I went to FI to learn about the Bible. But, during my nine months here, I’ve gained another benefit that I never expected: inspiration. I am genuinely inspired by the example and friendship of the younger students and am more encouraged than ever about the future of the Church.

For more information about this nine-month program in of biblical instruction, visit the [Foundation Institute](http://FoundationInstitute.org) website. ©



### The FI Experience

FI students volunteer at the headquarters office stuffing envelopes; the ladies of FI, including the author (far right), enjoy an evening together; an FI study group prepares for a test

WHERE SCRIPTURE  
COMES TO LIFE

**FOUNDATION  
INSTITUTE**  
CENTER FOR BIBLICAL EDUCATION

Learn more and apply at  
[FoundationInstitute.org](http://FoundationInstitute.org)

# CHURCH POTLUCK

News and events from your local congregation



## ELDER ORDAINED IN OHIO

The Last Day of Unleavened Bread was a very special day for the Columbus/Cambridge, Ohio, congregation as Chad Messerly was ordained an elder. Chad and his wife, Jennifer, both grew up in God's Church and have two beautiful daughters, Abby and Anna. The Messerlys participated in the Church's Focused Mentoring Program and are continuing in the program's current phase. Chad is a very warm and caring leader. It is tremendously encouraging to witness the spiritual growth of God's family!

**Denise Rambsel**



## TWIN CITIES TEENS PACK 27,216 MEALS FOR LOCAL CHARITY FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

After the Sabbath on a cold January evening in Minnesota, teens and young adults from the Twin Cities congregation ate a quick dinner before carpooling to a food packing facility in Eagan, Minnesota, to volunteer for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC).

At the facility they washed their hands, donned gloves and hairnets and got to work packing vitamins, veggies, soy and rice. They packed a total of 126 boxes of food—27,216 individual meals—to be sent to Zimbabwe to feed 75 children for a year.

FMSC is a nonprofit charity dedicated to providing food to malnourished children and adults in 70 countries around the world. The charity was founded in Minnesota but has ex-

panded to include packing facilities in Arizona and Illinois.

All of the food is purchased with monetary donations and packed by volunteers. The meals are specially formulated to provide nutrition to malnourished children, while being able to be easily shipped and stored in a variety of environments.

Working in the packing facility proved to be a valuable service and learning opportunity for the youth in the Twin Cities. They expressed pleasure at working together to help others and, as a result, have not only determined to make it a regular event but to seek out more service opportunities in the future.

**Sally McConaughy**  
Photo by Olivia Witt

## HOUSTON-BASED GIVING HEARTS & HANDS PREPARES TO EXPAND THEIR DISHCLOTH SERVICE



Nelda Pierce, Crystal Williams, Irene Roy and Shirley Scott busy at work

Five eager crafters convened on a winter Sunday afternoon on Feb. 22, 2015, to get an update on the efforts of the Giving Hearts & Hands service group and to continue working on more dishcloths.

Up to that date in February, we had made 360 dishcloths. This is enough to furnish two dishcloths to each Meals On Wheels recipient for two local programs. On that Sunday our crafters finished 24 more dishcloths, which will be used for a third local area.

We also received a donation from COGWA

member Alex McCrae whose wife, Laverne, recently died. The contribution of her crochet needles, yarn and a monetary donation will help make our goals a reality.

Attendees fellowshiped over a Crock-Pot full of homemade chili with all the toppings—cheese, Fritos, onions, and cornbread—along with warm, homemade cookies.

We are expanding our service to several local hospitals by making caps, booties and blankets for premature babies.

**Susan Scott Smith**



## HARDY SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN BROTHERS GO ICE FISHING

On Sunday March 8, 2015, 16 members and guests from the Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, Michigan, congregations decided to walk on water—*frozen* water, that is—to embark on an ice fishing adventure together!

Jim and Anna Ward provided lessons in various gear essentials and baiting techniques, as well as offering a cozy, heated shanty for any who needed a break from the cold. Thankfully, the day was bright and sunny, making us able to still enjoy fellowship with one another even though no one was able to catch fish. Maybe next time!

**Rebekah Leyden**



## ANNUAL ORLANDO CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL IS A BLAST FROM THE PAST

This year's Classic '50s Sock Hop theme was a huge hit! The evening kicked off with a "classic diner"-style potluck, full of an assortment of foods and yummy desserts. Following the meal, the festivities began with the children's costume contest, where poodle skirts and slicked back hair ruled the scene. Several members also showed off their skills in the "Crazy Socks Contest," where participants designed and modeled their silly socks.

The rest of the evening was filled with games and activities for the children and young-at-heart, as well as Bible trivia for the adults. Another fun feature this year was a themed photo booth, where everyone could show off their classic '50s style. A big thanks go to so many in the congregation who were involved in putting this year's festivities together. It was a wonderful time of fun and fellowship, especially for the children.

**Jennifer Demarest**  
**Photos by Amy Ranew and Rob Kurtzreiter**

## LOUISVILLE CONGREGATION GROWS UP!



What did you want to be when you grew up? A superhero? An Olympian? Princess? Animal rescuer? Medical professional? A weather lady with a green screen? A mad scientist? All of these characters and more descended on Louisville, Kentucky, on Saturday evening, Feb. 28, for a costume dance party. Visitors from our sister congregations—Henderson, Kentucky, and Nashville, Tennessee—also joined in all the fun.

Deejay "Real Man" Mark Winner mixed tunes while attendees danced, fellowshiped and admired one another's costume creations. A photo booth with additional costume gear gave attendees an opportunity to document their fashion choices. Ample laughter and smiles filled the wonderful evening.

After judges selected the top five characters for both children and adults, it was up to the shouts and applause of the crowd to decide the winner. Aviator Zane Beech stole the show, winning first place among the children. Dave Pennington's authentic hippie attire pushed him into first place for adults.

We offer our thanks to the evening's organizer, Vivian Waddle, as well as the volunteers and costumed characters that made the event a grand success.

**Jason Hyde**



## TWIN CITIES FAMILIES GLORIFYING GOD WEEKEND STRENGTHENS ESPRIT DE CORPS

“Elect Together: The Importance of Fellowship” was the theme for the annual Families Glorifying God weekend in the Twin Cities, Minnesota, which took place April 11-12, 2015.

We were pleased to have Clyde and Dee Kilough, as well as a number of guests, arrive early to spend the Last Day of Unleavened Bread with us.

The weekend began with many arriving early for Sabbath services to enjoy the abundance of fellowship opportunities.

Mr. Kilough set the tone for the weekend with his sermon on esprit de corps. We can't become what God wants us to be without His version of esprit de corps. Mr. Kilough went on to describe what God wants us to achieve through fellowship with several examples. Fellowship is a God-plane relationship, which keeps us serving one another. It is linked to behavior and action.

The remainder of the weekend provided ample opportunity to practice these principles. In the afternoon, following fellowship and snacks, a men's seminar and a women's seminar, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Kilough, took place simultaneously.

Afterwards, Gary Black presented a seminar to the teens on the power of friends, and Cory Erickson presented a seminar on spiritual mentoring.

Following the seminars, everyone enjoyed a dinner together in a nicely transformed church hall. During dessert, the games began with “Who Wants to Be a Bible Millionaire?” Bibles and phones were not allowed—this was a test of our knowledge without the help of Google! The evening transitioned to races and games for the preteens, a Ping-Pong tournament, card games and plenty of fellowship.

Over 35 teens and young adults enjoyed a formal dance with the theme “Northern Lights.” Four graduating seniors were honored during the evening.

On Sunday morning, about 70 participants went to AirMaxx, a laser tag, mini-golf and trampoline location in the Twin Cities.

The weekend had a Feast-like atmosphere, and everyone enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones. We look forward to next year's event and hope you can join us then!

**Barbara Lee**

## EAST TEXAS PUTS ON VARIETY SHOW “A SONG IN THE NIGHT”

On Saturday night, Feb. 28, 2015, the East Texas congregation held its first variety show called “A Song in the Night.” Aubrey Jenison—who also managed to perform twice herself—expertly organized the 15-act show, which was indeed full of variety and fun for everyone. The 1½-hour show featured everything from skits to poetry to music, including original and classic tunes. The show ended with all performers assembling on stage and leading the audience in “God Bless America.” Despite a very cold night and rain that prevented some Dallas guests and performers from making it, we had an excellent turnout and can't wait to do this again!

**Nancy Diraison**

## BUFFALO RAISES \$400 FOR FOI



On March 7, 2015, the Buffalo, New York, congregation held its annual international night and coin rolling social. Over the years the event has raised money for different Church programs, all from collecting members' pocket change. This year we raised \$400 dollars for Foundation Outreach International.

**Stephan Koenig**



## HOUSTON PRETEENS PRESENT "GO, GO JONAH!"

On the evening of Feb. 28, 2015, the Houston North and South Combined Children's Choir presented the musical, "Go, Go Jonah!" Both young and young at heart enjoyed the entertaining singing and dancing that told the story of Jonah's thrilling journey as he learned that God is always there!

After Sabbath services, the preteens dispersed to their dressing rooms in preparation for the show. The audience took their seats at 6:50 as doors to the main hall closed five minutes before the show started.

After a thoroughly exhilarating performance, the entire cast did one final curtain call where they graciously presented bouquets of flowers to the producers and directors of the show. A dessert reception

for cast members, the production crew and the audience was held in the fellowship hall afterwards to top off a most excellent evening with rave reviews from all!

The producers and directors of the show were Kathleen Giza, Tammie Smith, Mary Ann Hegvold and Liz West. Early and ongoing advertisement via bulletin announcement, social media sharing (accompanied by a very professionally done poster) and plain old word of mouth resulted in an extremely well-attended program.

A special thanks and acknowledgment go out to the entire production staff, stage crew, cast, Houston congregations and pastors!

**Peter Gabriel**

**Photo by Tammie Smith**



## NORTH CAROLINA BRETHERN HOST ANNUAL SUPER SOCIAL

The Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation hosted its fifth annual Super Social on the weekend of Feb. 27 to March 1, 2015. FI instructor David Johnson was our guest speaker. We began with a Friday evening welcoming reception with a delicious variety of foods. We had over 200 in attendance for Sabbath services, including brethren from our four North Carolina congregations, as well as congregations in Virginia and South Carolina. Mr. Johnson provided an FI seminar Sabbath morning and the sermon in the afternoon.

After being fed spiritually, the ladies served great sandwiches and good hot soup with many delectable desserts! The evening was filled with fellowship, basketball, volleyball and a variety of games for young and old alike. On Sunday morning we were treated to a final seminar by Mr. Johnson at the hotel.

**Bev McKnight**



### OX ROAST ONLY

\$5 per person  
\$20 per family

### CRAIG AND ALI HARPER

356 Peacock Lane  
Davisville, WV 26142  
arharper356@yahoo.com  
304-488-4765

## Ox Roast

PLEASE INDICATE THE NUMBERS BELOW:

\_\_\_ OX ROAST ONLY

\_\_\_ OX ROAST AND SUNDAY ACTIVITY

PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAMES OF ALL ATTENDING AND INCLUDE AGES OF THE CHILDREN:

---



---



---

**Make checks payable to:**  
Church of God, Parkersburg

**Send checks to:**  
Elbert Cline  
172 Leachtown Lane  
Walker, WV 26180

It's time again to sign up for the annual Parkersburg, West Virginia, ox roast!

Join us on June 27 and 28 for a weekend of great food and even better fellowship. Sabbath services will begin at 3 p.m. on June 27, featuring our guest speaker Jim Franks. Then at 6 p.m. the ox roast begins. In addition to the main course, we will also serve salad, potatoes, vegetable side dishes, baked beans, rolls and dessert. Please be sure to bring your personal hymnal, a lawn chair, nice casual clothes for Sabbath services, a nonalcoholic beverage, and a salad or dessert. If possible, please bring an ice chest filled with ice.

On Sunday, June 28, spend the day swimming and having fun at the Marietta Aquatic Center or taking a paddlewheel boat trip to Blennerhassett Island. Details to come.

You are welcome to camp on Friday and/or Saturday night; however, you will have to provide your own food for all meals *except* for the Saturday night ox roast, Sunday breakfast and Sunday dinner. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served at the Harpers' farm after the Sunday activity.

We can't wait for you to come! Please pray for a safe and happy weekend, as well as beautiful weather!



# 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



Seth Mongbeh, Jim Haeffele and Emory, Faye and Radcliff Mongbeh

Good news! Emory Mongbeh made the decision to accept God's calling to become a part of the Body of Christ!

On Sunday, March 15, 2015, before family and friends, Emory became a "new babe in Christ"! James Haeffele, pastor of the south Florida area, conducted Emory's baptism with the assistance of Richard Rand and Dennis Garland.

Welcome to the family, Emory!



Benjamin Baker and his uncle, David Baker

We are very happy to announce the baptism of Benjamin Baker of the Hickory, North Carolina, congregation. Ben is the son of Mark and Stephanie Baker. The baptism took place at his home in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and was conducted by his uncle, David Baker, with the assistance of Hickory pastor Ron Kelley.



Jack Hendren and Arnold Mendez baptize Ann Dudley

Ann Dudley was baptized on March 22, 2015, in San Antonio Bay, Seadrift, Texas, by Jack Hendren, pastor of the Victoria congregation. He was assisted by Arnold Mendez, an elder in the Corpus Christi congregation. Mrs. Dudley is a third-generation member of the Church of God. Several Church of God members in her family along with other Church members were present at the baptism.



Neil and Erlene Becker and Russell, Linda and Richard Moore

After counseling with his pastor Morgen Kriedemann, Russell Moore was baptized after Sabbath services on Feb. 21, 2015, by his grandfather Neil Becker, pastor of the East London, South Africa, congregation. Russell, along with his aunt and father, managed to keep the plans for his baptism a secret until the last minute, which made this special occasion a wonderful surprise for his mom, brothers, grandparents and cousins. Mr. and Mrs. Kriedemann and Neville Smith (pastor of the Durban, South Africa, congregation) were also present.

Russell is a fourth-generation Christian, having attended church since birth. He attends in Johannesburg, South Africa, along with his parents, brothers, aunt, uncle and cousins.



## GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WE NEED YOUR BIOS

Class of 2015! We would like to feature all of our high school graduates in the July *One Accord*. Send your answers to the questions below plus a high-resolution photo (no cell phone pictures, please!) by June 1.

1. Graduate's name.
2. Parents' names.
3. Congregation and pastor's name.
4. High school accomplishments.
5. Church activities/hobbies/interests.
6. Plans after graduation.

Also include your phone number or email address (we may use it to confirm spellings, etc.). Please give your bio and photo (conforming with biblical standards of dress and hair length) to **your congregation's reporter**.

We do reserve the right to edit for clarity and a 200-word maximum length. Thank you!