



One Accord

August 2015

A Year in Jordan

**Foundation Institute
Hosts Summer Sessions**

**Proclaiming God's
Will and Victory**

personal from the president

Foundation Institute

This month Foundation Institute will begin its fourth year. So far, 16 students have been accepted, and we have two or three students from international areas still working on visas. So our final number won't be known until orientation, which is set for Sunday, Aug. 16.

In four academic years (including the year ahead of us), there will be more than 70 full-time students; and in three summers, approximately 120 people have attended the continuing education classes (some of these were repeat students). That means in less than four years almost 200 individuals have directly participated in an education class at Foundation Institute. Over the past three years hundreds more have attended classes at the Winter Family Weekends in Louisville, Kentucky, and Portland, Oregon. And our FI Online program has provided classes for an additional 1,500 students.

If you add all these numbers together, you can see that perhaps 2,000 people from around the world have directly benefited from the Foundation Institute program. With three years under our belts, I believe we can say FI has been a huge success. But this coming year we want to improve.

The modern history of education in the Church of God can be traced back to 1946 when Herbert Armstrong announced the beginning of Ambassador College in Pasadena, California. Due to various delays, the opening of the college took place in the fall of 1947. I still have a copy of the 1946 member letter written by Mr. Armstrong explaining that education shouldn't just be about knowledge—pouring information into someone's brain—but it should teach the true values of life and how to live. Almost 70 years later, I have seen the value of that approach repeated over and over again.

I began my freshman year at Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas, in the fall of 1968. The motto was "Recapturing True Values." I was not attracted to Ambassador College because it was a Bible college. I had a scholarship to an engineering school in Arkansas that I was planning to pursue, but Ambassador College had a particular draw to me as a Church attendee in the 1960s. I have never regretted my decision to attend.

This year at Foundation Institute we have rewritten our mission statement to reflect this goal of helping students



FOUNDATION INSTITUTE

CENTER FOR BIBLICAL EDUCATION

form a foundation for life and not just a foundation for knowledge. We will still teach the entire Bible, but we will also have classes about Christian living, defending the faith and serving in local congregations. We are very happy that three students from last year's class will be volunteering for the Jordan project, which Foundation Outreach International (FOI) sponsors. We hope to instill in our students a spirit of sacrifice and a willingness to serve for the benefit of others.

In the first year of Ambassador College, there were only four students. It had to be terribly disappointing, but Mr. Armstrong was not deterred, and ultimately Ambassador College grew to three campuses with thousands of students attending in the 50 years of its existence. For many, it was a wonderful experience—truly life changing. I am happy to say that I am one of those.

Foundation Institute isn't designed to be another Ambassador College, but it is designed to pass on the truth from the Word of God while teaching students how to live the life of a Christian, serving and helping others. Please be on the lookout for our new website and take a look at our new mission statement along with what a student can expect from FI. And get ready for a new FI Online season, beginning after the Feast. This next year we will have two classes. David Johnson will teach the book of Hebrews, and I will teach the Fundamental Beliefs of the Church.

Please continue to pray for the success of Foundation Institute! We have only begun to tap its potential!



JIM FRANKS
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CHURCH of GOD

A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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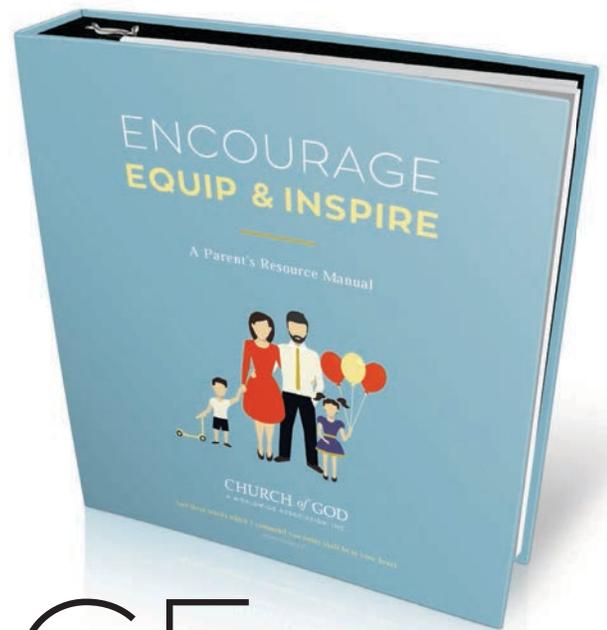
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ENCOURAGE EQUIP & INSPIRE

Find out about a new parenting manual coming out at the Feast of Tabernacles.

by DAVID MYERS

A new manual is being produced by the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, to encourage parents and help them carry out their God-given responsibility to joyously instruct their children in the truth. *Encourage, Equip & Inspire: A Parent's Resource Manual (EEI)* is designed to encourage, equip and inspire parents to draw parenting principles, instruction and inspiration from the only source of true knowledge—the Holy Scriptures. There is no greater responsibility or pleasure than to pass on the truths of God to our children! The manual is scheduled to be distributed to families at mainland U.S. Feast sites during the Feast of Tabernacles.

In today's busy world, parents at times may be overwhelmed and intimidated by the task of teaching their children about the truths of God. *Encourage, Equip & Inspire* is a tool to assist parents by providing an easy-to-use format for parents to instruct their children in God's way. Here are the major sections of the manual:

Section 1—The Christian Family: An Introduction

This section is designed to introduce the manual to parents and inspire them to fulfill their calling to teach their children God's truth. Here are some of the subjects you'll find here: Prologue—A Call to Action; Where to Start; The

Christian Family; Teaching Our Children to Pray; and Families Study God's Word.

Section 2—The Word of God: Studying, Learning and Applying

This section delves into instructing our children in the core teachings of the Bible—the doctrinal understandings we glean from the Scriptures. You'll find instruction on the following: the Sabbath day; God's holy days; the 10 Commandments (God's law); our Fundamental Beliefs, etc.

Section 3—Shepherding the Heart: Moral Precepts for a Teachable Heart

This section strives to help parents mold the hearts of their children and guide them in the great moral precepts found in God's Word. Doctrinal understanding without a yielded heart is of little worth. Some things you'll find here are lessons on obedience, serving, courage, kindness, gratitude, honesty, self-control, purity, godly communication, perseverance, responsibility, dependability, giving, thoughtfulness, respect, godliness, etc.

Section 4—People of the Bible: Lessons We Learn From Their Lives

This section of the manual strives to familiarize families with characters spoken of in the Bible—both the good

and the bad—and what we can learn and apply from their stories. Here are some of the titles of lessons in this section: Abraham and the Promises; Isaac Takes a Wife (Faith); The Little Maid From Israel; David; Timothy; Esther—Courageous Queen; Israel Learns a Lesson (Manna); Timothy; Daniel—Man of Prayer; Esau and Jacob; Simeon—the Patient Waiter; and Nebuchadnezzar (Pride).

Section 5—Memorizing Scripture: Putting God’s Word in Your Heart

This section of the manual is designed to take away the fear and intimidation many feel about memorizing Scripture. This section contains lists of scriptures your child can memorize! You’ll also find a dozen or more methods described that will help parents in making Scripture memory both enjoyable and effective.

Section 6—Resources: Applicable Ways to Engage and Interact

This section of the manual is designed to feature resources parents can draw on for materials, websites and activities to supplement the teaching of their children.

Each family with minor children at home will receive a free three-ring binder with tabs for the above sections. As you can see, the binder will contain many topics in each category. But these just scratch the surface! The manual is also designed for almost endless expansion by being linked together with the companion website from which parents will be able to download new material. Our youth education team—as well as any parents or other members who wish to contribute—will continually add new material for parents to print and add to their manual. Continually updating the manual provides at least two benefits: (1) we are able to address more topics, and (2) we can keep the manual fresh and current. The companion website will also contain an “upload” feature so anyone can submit lessons, information and resources to be reviewed by our review team and then shared with other parents.

Encourage, Equip & Inspire is aimed to primarily serve families with children up to age 12, but it certainly can be used for all ages! God’s Word is both ageless and timeless! Those organizing and teaching Sabbath schools will find a wealth of material that they can adapt to use in the classroom setting.

As mentioned, the printed version of *Encourage, Equip & Inspire* will be supported by a companion website on which all of the material will be posted. Not only will families be able to obtain more material to print, they will also be able to view pictures and videos of hands-on activities, projects and methods to use in teaching their children! By subscribing (free) to the site, parents can receive regular updates as new material is posted.

A sermonette on the first day of the Feast will describe more about the manual as it is launched. We look forward to providing this wonderful resource to our parents to encourage, equip and inspire them as they teach their children God’s way of life! ☺📖

FAQS

1. How will it be introduced? Will more be explained?

Ask your pastor for a copy of the two-page summary of the manual to give you a better idea of what it will contain. On the first holy day of the Feast of Tabernacles a video sermonette will describe the manual before it is distributed at each mainland U.S. site.

2. Who is eligible to receive a manual?

Each COGWA family that has minor children at home and each family that might soon have children (younger married couples). Due to budget constraints, we are only able to print manuals for primary caregivers. The entire manual and all updates will be available on the website after the Feast for anyone to be able to print and use. So if you do not qualify for a printed copy, you may print your own from the website.

3. How will material be updated?

New material will regularly be placed on the *Encourage, Equip & Inspire* website. The URL will be published in the manual once it is finalized and advertised later to our families through our Church publications and updates. Families may subscribe to the website so they will receive email notifications when new material is posted. The website will have a “What’s New?” section to show the latest information that has been added and the date it was posted.

4. How will others get this information in the future?

The entire manual and all updates will be available on the website. Anyone will be able to download the material, print it and place it in his or her own binder. As mentioned earlier, families may subscribe to the website so they receive email notification when new material is posted.

5. Is there a relationship between *Encourage, Equip & Inspire* and local Sabbath school programs?

Sabbath school instructors will find a wealth of material from which they will be able to draft lessons for the children in their Sabbath school programs.

6. Is there a relationship between *Encourage, Equip & Inspire* and Growing Kids God’s Way/Parenting From the Tree of Life?

The two programs should complement one another nicely. *Growing Kids* is an outside program primarily containing instruction on overall parenting principles (and not available in many congregations); *Encourage, Equip & Inspire* is a Church-generated resource designed to be a hands-on manual to help parents teach their children God’s truth and His way.

7. Can members volunteer to help build the manual?

The *Encourage, Equip & Inspire* website will have an “upload” feature that will allow anyone to submit material he or she feels would be of value to other Church parents. After a quick review for accuracy and appropriateness, this material may be posted for use by all.



A YEAR IN JORDAN

A returning Foundation Outreach International volunteer reflects on her experience volunteering in Jordan.

By JENNIFER BOWMAN

I hurried through the Chicago airport on a layover to catch my flight to Jordan. A man at the end of the corridor to the gate stopped me and asked what I was rushing for.

“I’m catching a flight to Jordan,” I said.

“Slow down, it’s right there,” he said, pointing to a swarm of people who were starting to board. “There’s still lots of time. Welcome to Jordan.”

It was an accurate welcome—friendly, not too concerned about time—and the lineup looked more like a mess of people than a line. The only thing that changed when I was actually in Jordan was that “Welcome to Jordan” was often said in Arabic—*ahlan wa sahlan*—and the lines weren’t just messy. They were nonexistent.

Not quite a tourist

Jordan. It took a while to sink in that I was actually living there.

I’ve always loved the idea of traveling the world, living in a developing nation while giving back to the local community, but the Middle East was never on my list of places to live. In fact, it was

one of the few places that I consciously put on my mental list of places where I *did not* want to live—that is, until I found out about the opportunity through Foundation Outreach International.

The program works with two schools in Amman, one a low-income special needs school and the other an international school working with the privileged of society. The positions volunteers fill vary as dramatically as the schools. My roommate and fellow volunteer, Chelsea Murphy, worked at the special needs school as an art teacher. I was placed in the Amman BaccaLaureate School in the External Relations department. My primary job was creating the yearbook, but I dabbled in as many other areas as one could imagine—teaching kindergarten, assisting with the music and drama programs and working with students on a school garden, among other things.

Living in a foreign country is different from being a tourist. There are still dishes to do, bathrooms to clean, a job to go to early each morning (even if it’s as a volunteer). We didn’t immediately go to the tourist attractions but to the grocery store. We walked our neighborhood, watched the sun set from the roof and washed the apartment floor long before we ventured to Petra.

Goals to accomplish

My goals for the trip were pretty usual and included taking the opportunity to travel, getting to know the culture, giving back to the community in Jordan, bringing home authentic souvenirs and learning to cook Jordanian food. Some goals were a little more unusual, such as reading the Koran, being able to hold a conversation in Arabic, creating a documentary on my experiences as a white woman in a Middle Eastern country and being a light to the people around me.

The usual goals were pretty easily attained; the unusual goals took more effort and were accomplished in varying degrees. I read through the first two very short chapters of the Koran. I was able to hold Arabic conversations with taxi drivers when it consisted of which direction to go and the weather. I’m still working on the documentary, and only God can truly judge how bright my light shone.

Jordan is an Islamic country, so part of experiencing the culture included learning about the religion so we could be wise as serpents and harmless as doves in our interactions. We learned much through conversations and also just by being there.

The call to prayer, which resonated from each of the four mosques around our apartment five times a day, quickly became background noise and stopped waking us up each morning before sunrise. Its purpose was to remind people to say the customary prayers at the given times. Ramadan, which started just before we left Jordan, was the time when people fasted during the day, prayed more, focused on doing good for the less fortunate, worked less since business hours were shortened and then feasted every night after sunset. It’s also when people face withdrawal from tobacco and coffee, don’t get enough sleep and when children are up late playing in the streets.

A year in pictures

This page Jennifer holds a toddler from a local village. *Opposite page* The sun shines on the King Hussein Mosque in Amman; kindergarten students in a poorer area of Amman welcome students from the Amman BaccaLaureate School, who brought them supplies; Jordanian families traditionally eat sitting in a circle on the floor, using pita instead of cutlery to pick up their food; northern Jordan in the spring; Jennifer teaches her kindergarten students how to make maple syrup.



Travel hazards

As with any life adventure or trip, there were challenges and victories that came up in ways I did not expect.

Some of my challenges came from isolation from family, friends and brethren, the limited access to nature while I was in the city and shifting my expectations of what I would be doing to the reality of my job there.

The moments that I felt the greatest depth of joy and victory were related to working through the challenges. I connected with local people over dinner in their homes and reconnected with my loved ones in a long Skype conversation. I joined a hiking group in January, which allowed me to travel to many beautiful places in Jordan and experience the sun setting on the Dead Sea after a long hike in a desert canyon. I also found out floating can be more difficult than it looks. I assisted in extra areas inside and outside of the school to broaden my role as a volunteer. At one point, I taught kindergarten students how to make maple syrup and watched their excitement when they saw a photo of my home in Canada and the woods where we assist in making maple syrup.

The unexpected

There were surprises too. Two snowstorms shut down the city for a few days. Trash and cigarette smoke were everywhere, and Jordan was filled with incredible and diverse landscapes and a general feeling of safety.

The feeling of safety was particularly unexpected, as we arrived during a period of unrest between the Israelis and Palestinians. Jordan lives and breathes in the shadows of security guards. They are in little security booths on the sidewalks, keeping watch over the streets. They are there on the street, pulling over buses for criminal checks on all the men to catch any wrongdoers. They are at the door of the mall and at the school where I was volunteering, monitoring the metal detectors. After the initial intimidation wore off, I began to feel safer with them around, knowing they are part of the country's security—even if some of them seemed rather inattentive.

My experience in Jordan has changed my perspective in unexpected ways. Today when I read of trouble in the Middle East in the news, I remember the security I felt. I also remember the Lebanese woman I met who told me how safe it would be to visit many places in Lebanon that were not directly affected by the unrest, especially since I was a white woman. I have more empathy for the immigrants who are struggling to make a living, even if I can't understand their English very well. I have more confidence after being in so many new situations, but I am still nervous to take a taxi in my small town.

Back home

When people ask how my Jordan experience was, all I can say is, "Incredible." How do you sum up a year of life in a foreign country where everything is different and yet everything is the same? When things that seemed odd and different a year ago now seem so normal that you don't even think of mentioning them? When the depth of the experience has yet to settle in?

After being back home in Canada for a month, I am still excited to hug my family, go swimming in the lake, eat a Tim Hortons' doughnut and drive my own car. But I also miss my Jordanian friends and family, the long desert hikes, Arabic food and the interesting taxi rides.

But it's time to pass the baton to this year's volunteers. I am writing this on the airplane flying to Minnesota to help with the orientation for them as they begin their adventure in Jordan. While I approach my gate at the airport, I automatically thank the airport security by saying *shukran* instead of "thank you," and I know Jordan will always be a part of me. 🇯🇴

To see more of Jennifer's adventures in Jordan, check out her Facebook page [facebook.com/onceuponadayinjordan](https://www.facebook.com/onceuponadayinjordan).



STUDENTS GET A TASTE OF FOUNDATION INSTITUTE AT SUMMER SESSIONS

Foundation Institute Continuing Education hosted two sessions on July 13 to 17 and July 27 to 31.

By DAVID JOHNSON

When most members think of Foundation Institute, they probably think of the nine-month residential program held at the headquarters office in Allen. It's true that the on-site program is at the core of our educational efforts, but the Church has long recognized that education—especially biblical education—is really a lifelong need for all of us. Therefore we are always looking for ways to share biblical information with those who may not be able to attend the full-time program. The Continuing Education program was developed as one way to share more of the biblical instruction with those who are interested.

The Continuing Education efforts encompass five different programs, three for the general membership and two for the ministry.

Each summer we hold one-week seminars at the FI classroom in Dallas. Interest has been so strong that we have been able to offer two sessions for the last two summers. Each session involves 29 hours of classroom instruction over five days, with the same material being covered in each weeklong session. This year 50 participants heard five different instructors presenting a variety of subjects, including overviews of two Old Testament books, three of our Fundamental Beliefs, a survey of 27 important women in the history of Israel, the incredible human potential and a verse-by-verse study of 1 Peter. The

modest fee for the seminars also covers group lunches, and we share a casual group meal one evening.

Each year at the Winter Family Weekends in Louisville, Kentucky, and in the Northwest we have presented two to three days of biblical classes. The Winter Family Weekends offer a variety of activities for all age groups, and many have found the Continuing Education classes to be a stimulating addition to the mix of activities available.

Beginning in the 2012-2013 academic year, Foundation Institute instructors were able to share classes with the membership through the weekly FI Online program. The first year we offered the Harmony of the Gospels class followed by the Acts of the Apostles class the next year. Last year Ralph Levy covered Jeremiah, Lamentations and Esther; and this year, beginning shortly after the Feast of Tabernacles, we will be offering two subjects—the book of Hebrews and the first half of the Fundamental Beliefs classes.

In addition to these classes for the membership, some of the FI classes are also being used by the Focused Mentoring Program and for the Ministerial Continuing Education program.

Research has shown there are many benefits for those who continue to learn throughout life. Utilizing these FI Continuing Education classes—classes focused on providing a deeper understanding and appreciation for the Scriptures and our calling—can provide a boost for all ages. ©A



PROCLAIMING GOD'S WILL AND VICTORY

Psalm 68 was written about 3,000 years ago by King David. How could a victory song by an ancient king be relevant to our lives today?

By TAMMY VALLEY

I recently attended Foundation Institute (FI) by God's grace and the generosity of my Church brethren. Their donations, combined with my fund-raising efforts, provided the exact amount I needed for tuition at FI. I'm convinced that God helped and made it possible for me to attend FI this past year.

Divine intervention

This may seem like a small miracle to some, but it was very meaningful to me. It showed God's involvement in my life. The other students of my FI class had similar stories. I recently shared this with some other Church members, and I could tell that they were surprised and encouraged.

A closer look at Psalm 68:11

At the time I didn't think anything of sharing the story, but I realized something when I read a particular verse in Psalm 68. This psalm was written by David about a military victory. Verse 11 caught my attention. It reads: "The Lord gave the word; great was the company of those who proclaimed it."

The English Standard Version translates it slightly differently: "The Lord gives the word; *the women* who announce the news are a great host" (emphasis added). Similarly, the New American Standard Bible puts it: "The Lord gives the command; the women who proclaim the good tidings are a great host."

These translations, as well as many others, clearly say that women were a part of announcing the military victory, which the song is about. BibleHub.com gives a number of resources that show this was likely talking about women announcing the news.

An ancient custom?

In ancient Israel it was a custom for the women to dance and sing as part of rejoicing in victories. In Exodus 15, after the crossing of the Red Sea, Miriam took an instrument and began to sing and dance, praising God and rehearsing the events that led up to that victory and how God had intervened: "Sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!" (verse 21). There are also many more examples of this in the Bible, including Judges 11:34; 21:21; and 1 Samuel 18:6-7.

What really caught my attention was a comment from *Barnes' Notes on the Bible*:

"The idea here is, that when there was a proclamation of war—when God commanded his people to go out to battle, and to take with them the ark, the females of the land—the singers—were ready to make known the proclamation; to celebrate the will of the Lord by songs and dances; to cheer and encourage their husbands, brothers, and fathers, as they went out to the conflict."

An attitude of celebration

Sometimes it can be hard to accept God's will if it's different from our own. I'm sure that some of the women had a hard time accepting that their husbands, brothers, fathers and sons had to go to battle. But since it was according to God's will, they sang it out with joy. Knowing God's will for us is one of the greatest blessings we can have.

How can we proclaim God's will and victory today?

As Christians, we always strive to obey God's commandments—but what is our attitude like? Do we celebrate the will of God in our lives? Do we joyfully share God's victories in our lives? What about trials or difficulties for our friends and family? Do we encourage others in our lives with a reminder that God's will is being worked out and that He will ultimately prevail? Let's look toward the example of the women of Israel and do these things with joy and thanksgiving.

Tammy Valley is a member of COGWA in Houston, Texas, and a recent graduate of Foundation Institute. This was previously published on the Godly Women Blog on members.cogwa.org.

Q

A friend of mine is about to make a really poor choice. I know I am not to judge, but this may very well affect his future for the rest of his life. In addition to that, common sense tells me that what he is doing is just not a smart thing to do. Could you please pray for him before he makes that decision and it is too late?

A

I prayed about this situation as soon as I read your request. And I recognize that a single choice could affect a person for the rest of his life.

See our article “[Intercessory Prayer: How Does God Want Us to Pray for Others?](#)” for biblical examples of God answering such prayers from third parties. One instance shows God saying no, albeit in a gentle way. That’s because God will not always force someone to do what is right, if he chooses a different path. Your friend might make the wrong choice, even though we have prayed for him.

Why wouldn’t God stop someone from making a decision that could have extensive negative consequences?

For the answer, we have to look at God’s purpose for creating man and God’s strategy for enabling people to achieve that potential. He wants mankind to become members of His eternal family, a future more awesome than even most readers of the Bible have grasped. (And no, it isn’t heaven.) It is too much to explain here, but download our booklet *The Mystery of the Kingdom* and read the part under the heading “God’s purpose for you.”

As for God’s strategy, it might seem obvious that He should make everyone do what is right. Then He would have perfect children, right? Actually, that would not work. God wants children who voluntarily choose do what is

PERSONAL CONTACT

with CECIL MARANVILLE



right—children who will do what is right even against opposition and temptation, children who will live His way of life in good times and bad.

Being forced to avoid mistakes would not enable a person to achieve that. God is working with our entire character, which develops through repeatedly choosing His way, repeatedly resisting the enticements to cave in to opposing desires and repeatedly putting forth the necessary effort to live by God’s laws. God wants children who are motivated by love, not fear.

God encourages, instructs, reminds, inspires, forgives mistakes upon repentance, adds strength through His Spirit and intervenes in numerous ways to help us to become His sons and daughters. But He knows that the decision has to be ours. We show this in more detail in “[Free Will: What Is It?](#)”

God loves your friend, even more than you do. He wants your friend to choose well, as do we. But we have to pray according to God’s will, which is to say, in line with His thinking. Therefore, we ask God to make your friend fully aware of the consequences of the choice before him. But in the end, God will allow your friend to decide his course. 🙏📖

Author’s note: The friend chose poorly. But the man who wrote us came to understand how and why God works—that it is in his friend’s best interest in the long term.

CHURCH POTLUCK

News and events from your local congregation

2015 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Hannah Shipman

HANNAH SHIPMAN

Parents' names: Toby and Jean Shipman

Congregation: East Texas

High school accomplishments: Hannah graduated from the American School of Correspondence on May 22, 2015. Previously she attended Big Sandy ISD until her sophomore year when she began home-schooling for her remaining high school career.

Plans after graduation: Hannah is currently preparing to go to Ghana in August with Foundation Outreach International to help serve as staff for a youth camp. In the fall Hannah will be attending Le Tourneau University for a bachelor of science degree in psychology. She then hopes to go on to obtain her master's degree. She plans on taking her degree into the branch of abnormal psychology, which deals with abnormal behavior, psychotherapy and disruptions of thoughts and feelings.

KATHERINE ELIZABETH TROTTER

Parents' names: John and Dee Trotter

Congregation: East Texas



Kate Trotter

High school accomplishments: Kate was very involved during her four years at Big Sandy High School. She participated in FFA, Spanish Club, Student Council, Harvest Festival Jr. Board, band, tennis, Model United Nations, UIL, prom committee, gifted and talented, National Honor Society and livestock judging. She advanced to Regional UIL Feature Writing her junior and senior years. In FFA, she was an officer for three years, showed Boer goats for three years and showed ag mechanics projects for two years.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Kate has enjoyed dance in all its forms for 10 years, concluding as a preprofessional student at Tyler Junior College. In addition, she has played various church sports, assisted with Sabbath school and attended church teen camps. Always up for an adventure, she has snowboarded, gone skydiving and surfed, but her lifetime hobby of marksmanship will always be one of her favorites.

Plans after graduation: Kate is known to be more stubborn than her goats, which will come in handy as she ventures to Texas A&M University to pursue a doctor of veterinary medicine degree. She plans to establish a large animal practice in rural Texas and volunteer with Veterinarians Without Borders.



TREASURER BRITTON TAYLOR VISITS MEXICO

The brethren that make up the congregation in Mexico City welcomed the treasurer of Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Britton Taylor and his wife, Donna, with great happiness and excitement. The couple attended services with the Mexican brethren on the Sabbath of June 20 as part of the ministerial visit program that the headquarters office in Texas maintains with Mexico.

We benefited from a joyous atmosphere during the afternoon service as Mr. Taylor gave a message about the relationship that God commands us to have with riches and, most importantly, with our Creator.

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:31-33).

Later in the afternoon, after sharing a meal together with more than 45 people in attendance, we had our regular Bible study in which Mr. Taylor once again was asked to give the message. He reminded us about faith and the miracle that God performs in us and in our own lives, and how we have come to be called. He also recounted some of the miracles that the Bible reminds us of as well.

At the end of the evening we said goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, expressing our pleasure in having met them and our gratitude to the ministers at the headquarters office. Likewise, we are delighted to know that they will return to our congregation soon, and we are already preparing to be their hosts once again.

Jorge Iván Garduño
Translated by Corbin Jackson



TULSA CONGRATULATES HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

ROANOKE AND WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA, BRETHREN CELEBRATE PENTECOST TOGETHER

On Pentecost weekend, the Roanoke and Williamsburg, Virginia, congregations combined for the first time for services at the Holiday Inn in beautiful Staunton, Virginia.

On the weekly Sabbath we were blessed with special music by our combined children's choir, as well as a guitar and piano duet by Mr. and Mrs. David D'Andrea. Split sermons were given by pastors Todd Carey and Larry Lambert.

On Pentecost Chancy Arnold performed a beautiful piano selection for offertory music, and the combined adult choir sang "Fall Like Rain" for special music in the afternoon service. Sermonettes

were given by Don Shaw and Van Hanson. Sermons were given by Todd Carey and Larry Lambert. All of the messages were inspiring, as well as spiritually filling.

This double Sabbath weekend was certainly made more enjoyable by our two congregations being able to come together in fellowship and worship. We deeply appreciate Mr. Carey and Mr. Lambert planning this event and working on the preparation for it for the past several months. It was a wonderful weekend that everyone enjoyed, and we sincerely hope that we can make this an annual event for our congregations.

Robert Worsham

After services on May 16, 2015, the Tulsa, Oklahoma, church family shared a congratulatory presentation of a gift and special cake to Monica May, our first high school graduate from this congregation.

Monica graduated in the top 10 of her class of over 600 fellow classmates from Owasso, Oklahoma, and will be attending the University of Tulsa. She is a recipient of several senior awards, university scholarships, an academic scholarship, honors scholarship and a Heritage Award. She was also an Oklahoma Academic Scholar and a Distinguished Graduate.

Watching Monica grow into a very special young lady over the years has been such a pleasure. Now we are all looking forward to her college graduation. Congratulations, Monica!

Lynne Simms

HOUSTON SOUTH CELEBRATES SABBATH SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

On the warm Sabbath of June 20, 2015, the Houston South congregation was thrilled to celebrate the graduation of 11 Sabbath school students and two high school students, Sophia Pierce and Alexandria Rochelle.

In a short commencement address, our pastor, Larry Salyer, discussed the importance of education for our youth and stated that true wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord. After he chronicled the hard work of the students, their parents and the Sabbath school staff, Aaron West and Larry Salyer awarded the graduates' certificates. Mr. Salyer gave a short bio of our two high school graduates and then presented each of them with a small gift.

After services, everyone enjoyed a celebration of snacks, cake and punch.

Susan Scott Smith



Sophia Pierce and Alexandria Rochelle pose with their graduation cake; Sabbath school students show their certificates.



Top photos Some of the ladies help prepare the picnic spread, and brethren fellowship after a good meal in South Carolina. *Bottom photos* Children play parachute games and the grillmasters prepare the meat in Florida.

SOUTH CAROLINA BRETHREN ENJOY ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC DESPITE RAINY CONDITIONS

Sunday, June 7, 2015, was the anticipated date for many brethren from the Columbia, South Carolina, and Augusta, Georgia, congregations to gather together again for our annual spring picnic.

The lovely Gibson Pond Park in Lexington, South Carolina, was once again our favorite tranquil setting for the event.

While other preparations for the picnic were being completed, the aroma of grilled chicken, beef brisket and spareribs filled the air, promising a delicious meal soon to

follow. Many sides, as well as a delectable selection of desserts and homemade ice cream, accompanied the delicious main course.

Although the weather became somewhat of a factor as stormy skies and rain moved in, it did not dampen our love for games and fellowship.

We thank those who give their time each year to make this event a success.

**Ann Hewston and
Nancy Lochner**

OCALA HOSTS A DAY OF FOOD AND FUN AT ANNUAL PICNIC AND BARBECUE

On Sunday, June 7, 2015, the Ocala, Florida, congregation held their annual picnic and barbecue at Silver River State Park in Ocala, Florida. Per tradition, about 40 or so members from the Ocala and St. Petersburg congregations gathered for a day of food and fun under the Florida sun. Members enjoyed barbecue-smoked chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs and all the sides. The children (as well as some adults)

played water balloon games, ball and spoon races and hula hoop activities. Someone always gets surprised with an unexpected water balloon! It's such an inspiration when the members of all ages come together and share extra time—in addition to the weekly and annual Sabbaths—to fellowship with each other.

**J.F. and Cheryl Koontz
Photos by Billie Walter**



Alyssa Anderson and pastor Gary Black present a Sabbath school certificate to Cheyenne Creed.

MINNESOTA CHURCHES HONOR HIGH SCHOOL AND SABBATH SCHOOL GRADS

On the Sabbath of June 20, 2015, the Twin Cities and St. Cloud, Minnesota, congregations celebrated Sabbath school graduation.

The themes of this year's lessons were: "Plan of Salvation/Fall Festivals," "Learning About God," "Creation/Following God," "Jesus Christ," "God's Laws," "Lessons From the Old Testament," "Plan of Salvation/Spring Festivals," "Lessons From the New Testament" and "Fruit of the Spirit."

We encouraged the children to do basic Bible memory for God's holy days and what they picture, the 10 Commandments, the fruit of the Spirit, the books of the Bible and more. We also introduced basic memory scriptures to encourage the children to remember themes discussed throughout the year.

Eleven children participated this year and were taught by four instructors. The children were awarded with certificates for participating, ribbons for completing some of the memory work and a trophy for completing all of the memory work.

We also presented gifts to three high school graduates and cards to two college graduates.

Everyone enjoyed snacks provided by the congregation. We are proud of the accomplishments of our young people and look forward to seeing what their future holds!

**Barbara Lee
Photo by Kelsey Black**

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.), 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



Ron Kelley and AJ Bradley

We are very happy to announce the baptism of August James (AJ) Bradley of the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation. The ceremony took place Sunday, July 19, in the Atlantic Ocean at Fort Macon State Park Beach, North Carolina, which is near AJ's home in Morehead City. Pastor Ron Kelley conducted the ceremony with a few family and friends looking on.

Ron Kelley



Mr. and Mrs. Ajenore Edafe

about the coming end time of the false prophet and the beast power.

The sermon was followed by the baptism of two members, Mr. and Mrs. Ajenore Edafe. The baptisms were performed by Mr. Waddle, who congratulated and welcomed them into God's family. Several Church members were present to witness this occasion.

After the baptisms, we had light refreshments and fellowship. At 3:30 p.m. the Bible study on the book of Habakkuk began, which taught us about the challenges of true Christians and the need to embrace the truth at all times. Mr. Waddle then quoted Hebrews 11:6 and stressed that "without faith it is impossible to please [God]."

After the Bible study, the congregation fellowshiped again with one another, and the newly baptized members could not hold back their joy of being part of God's family.

We now look forward to continuing to encourage and build up these members in God's faith.

Rachael Aghimien

On June 27, 2015, 23 members, including senior pastor Tim Waddle were in attendance for the Sabbath service in the Benin City, Nigeria, congregation. The Sabbath service started at 12:30 p.m., which began with hymns led by Osabomwen Aghimien. Everyone, both young and old, sang hymns with great enthusiasm.

Mr. Waddle gave announcements (including an update from the International Ministerial Conference) and the sermon, in which he spoke

ANNIVERSARIES



Wanda and Dean Klepfer

On June 25, 2015, the East Texas congregation celebrated the 60th wedding anniversary of Dean and Wanda Klepfer.

The Klepfers were married in 1955. They lived in the tiny south Texas towns of Pharr and San Juan and first met in August of 1954 at a drive-in restaurant, where Wanda worked. One day Dean pulled his car up to her side of the restaurant and began a friend-

ship that eventually led to a marriage!

Dean Klepfer's parents began attending the Worldwide Church of God first, and Dean and Wanda joined them. They attended the congregation in Corpus Christi in the early 1960s, and Dean and Wanda were baptized at the same time. Tony Hammer was the pastor.

The Klepfers then moved to East Texas, where Dean worked at the Ambassador College farm for 23 years, managing the operation the last two years of its existence.

The Klepfers have five children, nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one more on the way. All of them live close by except for one son and his family who live in Oklahoma. Hearty congratulations to the Klepfers for their steadfastness to each other and to the Church through all these decades!

Nancy Diraison

OBITUARIES



Ronald Schuler

Ronald Lloyd Schuler, a deacon in the Phoenix, Arizona, congregation, died peacefully at home in Prescott Valley at the age of 77 on Jan. 3, 2015, after a

several-month battle with colon cancer.

He was born on March 7, 1937, in Tuttle, North Dakota, to Edward and Violet (Reiser) Schuler. The family farmed near Washburn, North Dakota, until a bad winter forced them to move to Bismarck so the kids would not miss too much school. Little did they know that their new home would be across the road from Ron's future wife.

After graduating from high school and serving in the Marines for two years, Ron married his high school sweetheart Lucretia Anderson on Nov. 12, 1958. They took over the family farm near Washburn, North Dakota,

for five years and then moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, in February of 1965 to be near a congregation. Ron was baptized shortly after on April 14, 1965.

For the next 35 years he was active in many church activities and was ordained a deacon on Feb. 19, 1983. Ron retired in 1999, and he and Lucretia moved to Prescott Valley, Arizona. They attended and served in the Church in northern Arizona and Phoenix until his death.

Ron is survived by his wife,

Lucretia; four children, DeAnna, Jerry (Twila), Rodney (Paula), Marla (Eric); nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; six siblings; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a grandson, 12-year-old Zachary Schuler.

Memorial services were conducted by his pastor, James Capo, on Sunday, Jan. 11, in Prescott Valley, followed by a service with full military honors at the Prescott National Cemetery.

Lucretia Schuler



Grace Warren

Grace Allene Warren was born Jan. 12, 1924, to Leo Little and Norma Elizabeth Young of Dardanelle, Arkansas.

On Jan. 12, 1942, she married Manford Warren of Rosetta, Arkansas. Although their first child, a son, died 12 hours after birth, they were blessed with six other children (five boys and one girl). In 1952, they moved to Colorado, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Grace worked as a waitress and a cook until she took a job at Teledyne Water-Pik, where she worked until she retired 20 years later.

She lived to see 14 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren and loved them all dearly. Although her husband, Manford, died in 2006, Grace continued to be a joy and a light to all who knew



her. Even after she moved into Eagle Crest Assisted Living, she was an avid correspondent with many members of the Colorado congregations. No one could help but feel better after talking to or receiving a letter from her! Her journey ended March 24, 2015, not long after a stroke.

She is survived by sons, Bobby Dwayne, Kenneth Eugene, Stanley Allen and Jeffery Dean; a daughter, Norma Lynn Snyder; a brother, Roy Young; and a sister, Nora Phillips. Preceding her in death were her husband, Manford; sons, Charles Lewis and Quentin Dale; and grandson, Michael Dan Snyder.

Sera Rose

TRIBUTES



Graemme Marshall

Graemme Marshall was born in Western Australia and, after a seven-year banking career, left for Bricket Wood, England, in 1962. There was no congregation in Western Australia when he left, but he had been listening to the Radio Church of God broadcast and was convinced that this was “where God was working.”

After graduating from Bricket Wood, he married Lynn Johnstone, and both went to work in the Sydney, Australia, office. After a year, he was transferred to New Zealand to open an office there and to become regional director for New Zealand and the South Pacific. They were very exciting, pioneering years. Our first Bible study had 37 in attendance. Our first Feast had 333, and our last Feast had 1,100. After New Zealand days, he was area coordinator in Australia for several years and after that was pastor of the Calgary, Canada, congregations. He had a pivotal role at the beginning of United Church of God in Australia, as well as the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, in Canada. Since the 1970s he has written for every Church publication.

Graemme’s wife, Lynn, recalls how he always loved God’s work; and even just two days before he died, he was still helping with the office work in Canada. He loved what COGWA stood for—sincerity and truth. Many inside and outside the Church described him as a person with high integrity who always stood for the truth through some very difficult times. “He was an inspiring person to live with,” Lynn said, “and I am so grateful for our time together. He died on April 26—just short of our 49th wedding anniversary. I have been immensely enriched by his presence. I can’t wait to see him again, along with so many of God’s saints who are now sleeping, awaiting that marvelous time ahead. So, rest in peace, my beloved husband and friend, until that day comes.”

He touched the lives of many people in different countries and was deeply loved by his Church family.



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