

OneAccord

January 2016



Winter Family Weekend 2015

Ministerial Board of Directors
Hold Their Annual Meeting

Two Veteran
Pastors Retire

personal from the president

Works of Service

In Hebrews 6:10 we have a promise: “For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

I don’t think any of us believe that God is unjust, but in case the thought crossed your mind, we are reminded that He isn’t! We are told that when we repent of our sins, they are removed as far from us as east is from west (Psalm 103:12). They are forgotten! But your work and labor of love for the brethren will not be forgotten.

In describing the end time in Matthew 25, Christ spoke about the judgment. The difference between the sheep and the goats in the judgment is that the one helped a person in need and the other did not. Christ said, “And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me’” (verse 40). He referred to being hungry, being thirsty, being a stranger, being naked, being sick and being in prison. Each of these examples describes a person in need of help.

I thought about this topic recently with the retirement of two men from the full-time ministry: Richard Thompson and Jack Hendren. Both Mr. Thompson and Mr. Hendren requested that their retirements be effective at the end of 2015. So, as you read this column in *One Accord*, both men will be officially retired.

I had the opportunity to travel to Ocala, Florida, on Dec. 19 for Mr. Thompson’s final Sabbath as pastor. It was a bittersweet experience. We were happy that he was able to retire while in good health, but we will sorely miss his pastoral skills. Mr. Thompson is moving back to Mississippi, where he plans to continue serving as an elder in the local congregation. But the day-to-day responsibilities of a pastor came to an end after more than 47 years.

I first met Dick Thompson and his wife, Onnie, while I was a student at Ambassador College in 1969. And as a senior in the fall of 1971, I was hired to work for him in the business office. He was wonderful to work for, and it was easy to see his love for and dedication to God’s people. He has never lost that love, nor has he ever stopped “ministering” to the saints through all the years and difficulties within the Church. As students, we all loved him and his wife and considered them our friends. He has been a true servant and a leader within the Church of God for more than four decades.

I did not meet Jack and Mary Hendren until much



Children in the Ocala, Florida, congregation presented retiring pastor Richard Thompson with a pillow decorated with their names and handprints.

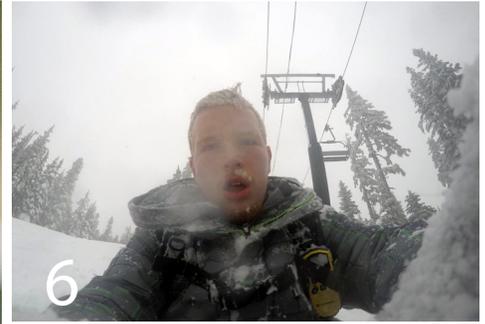
later in my ministerial career. But I know from others that, when it comes to serving, their reputation is similar to that of Mr. Thompson’s. Jack and Mary were ordained deacon and deaconess in the 1970s. They, too, have served and “ministered” to the people of God for more than 40 years. In retirement they will be living near their daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters in the Austin, Texas, area. Mr. Hendren will continue serving as an elder in the local Austin congregation, but he also leaves a void that will be difficult to fill.

I consider it an honor to know both these men, and I look forward to getting together with them whenever I can. Since God will not forget their works of service, neither should we. I know that I am a better minister having witnessed their dedication to the people of God. And I know that many brethren in different parts of this country and the world will remember their “work and labor of love.” Serving others, especially those who are called saints, is a privilege that should never be taken for granted. I personally want to thank Dick Thompson and Jack and Mary Hendren for the “work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”



Jim Franks

President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association
@jimfranks



CHURCH of GOD

A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Family Fun Fair



WFW Encourages Ambassadors for Christ

Brethren from across the United States met in Louisville, Kentucky, for five jam-packed days.

by Jason Hyde

Photos by Mary Lallier, Kelli Hogg and Stefanie Rochelle

Over 800 individuals convened in Louisville, Kentucky, for the annual Winter Family Weekend. This year's theme focused on the scriptural reminder that we are ambassadors for Christ. Ambassadors from across North America and the Caribbean joined together for fellowship, fun and biblical education over a five-day period.

On Tuesday evening, Dec. 22, attendees sported costumes representing their hometowns at a family dance. Abe Lincoln, John Glenn, an antique clay pot, Kentucky Wildcats and other interesting characters were in attendance. Hugs and laughter filled the ballroom as friends and family reunited to kick off the WFW.

On Wednesday through Friday, many participants enjoyed volleyball, basketball and speedway. Organized preteen activities, including a return to the popular Sky Zone Trampoline Park, filled each day.

The schedule was packed each evening as well. On Wednesday evening,

the audience and contestants alike enjoyed the Family Novelty Olympics—an annual WFW highlight filled with challenging and laughter-inducing competitions. On Thursday evening, attendees enjoyed the traditional pizza dinner followed by the Family Fun Fair, which featured, among other things, inflatables, a mechanical bull and a variety of fair games for children. A children's clothing swap was also organized this year to allow families to share gently used clothing with others. Cornhole and karaoke on Wednesday and Thursday evenings also provided opportunities for fellowship.

In keeping with the theme "Ambassadors for Christ," the extended weekend provided daily opportunities for biblical education. Jim Franks, Doug Horchak, David Johnson, Clyde Kilough and Ralph Levy conducted continuing education seminars Wednesday through Friday. Britton Taylor presented a Bible study on Friday evening exploring the need to set boundaries individually in our lives. This was followed by a hymn sing for all those interested.

On the Sabbath, the ambassadorial training continued with seminars designed for teens and adults. These seminars translated the WFW theme into practical, day-to-day guidelines. Sabbath school classes for preteens rounded out the morning. In the afternoon service, Jim Franks delivered a sermon focused on the need to reflect the standards of the Kingdom of God in our individual lives and Church culture. The service was webcast to 408 web connections.

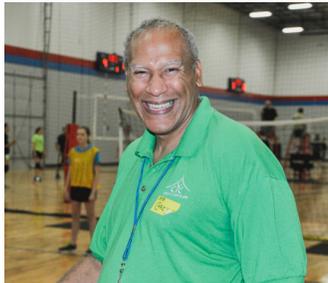
On Saturday evening, the WFW wrapped up with a "favorite food"–themed dance for teens as well as a dance for adults. Young ones enjoyed two movies before the night ended.

We thank the WFW coordinator Mark Winner and the countless volunteers who helped make this event a success. The activities, seminars and Sabbath promoted the spiritual training for the ambassadors for Christ in attendance. We encourage you to make plans now to attend next year's WFW! The dates for next year are Friday evening, Dec. 23, through Tuesday night, Dec. 27. ©©

Novelty Olympics



Sports



Seminars



Sabbath Services



See more photos from the Winter Family Weekend on our Facebook page facebook.com/cogwawfw



"Ambassadors" From Eight States Attend the Pacific Northwest WFW

The Portland, Oregon, congregation welcomed 84 brethren to attend this year's Pacific Northwest Winter Family Weekend.

by Jon Pinelli

"The weekend was so much fun! We are coming back next year!" That was the constant and consistent refrain from attendees of this year's Pacific Northwest Winter Family Weekend. The theme this year was "Ambassadors for Christ," and 84 attendees representing eight states enjoyed spiritual education, food, fellowship and fun.

The weekend's activities began on Wednesday with an optional ski day. Five brave souls ventured up to Mt. Hood's Timberline Ski Resort to enjoy a day of skiing and snowboarding. While small in numbers, they all had a great time. That same evening, 30 volunteers converged on the Oregon Food Bank in Portland, Oregon. The group packaged almost 30,000 pounds of food for those in need.

Thursday was volleyball and basketball day. Young and slightly older scrimmaged on the basketball courts or played volleyball. That evening everyone met at the local Portland congregation hall for a pizza dinner. Following dinner, the group was fortunate to have an interactive Bible study, "Come Out From Among Them," presented by our guest speaker for the weekend, Dave Myers. Mr. Myers and his wife, Pam, were able to spend the entire weekend with us, which enhanced the weekend. Following the study, everyone enjoyed fun and fellowship with several games of Bunco.

Friday was another full day of activities, with swimming, kids' games, racquetball and a challenge course. Our Friday night Bible study was conducted by Paul Carter. Mr. Carter's

study, "Ambassadors for Christ," centered on being part of the household of God. He further showed us that as members of that household, we need to be ambassadors in the image of Jesus Christ. After the study, everyone enjoyed dessert treats before calling it a night.

The Sabbath was a busy day from start to finish. Jon Pinelli and Mark Whynaucht gave morning seminars. Mr. Pinelli's seminar, "Speaking as an Ambassador for Jesus Christ," covered the aspect of speaking with diplomacy and tact when we give an answer for the hope that lies within us. Mr. Whynaucht's seminar, "Ambassadors for the Kingdom of God," covered seven lessons to help us become sojourners to the Kingdom of God.

Following a group lunch for all in attendance, Sabbath services convened with the sermonette and the sermon by Steve Anderson and Dave Myers respectively. Mr. Anderson spoke on diplomacy in speech. We were privileged to have very special music by Debbie Pierce, one of our attendees from Wyoming. Following the special music, Mr. Myers delivered the sermon, "Aliens Are Among Us." He focused on the fact that we have been transformed by the indwelling of God's Spirit. As such, we are very different and live very differently from the world around us.

Following Sabbath services, the annual men's chili cook-off took place. With judging complete, the group feasted on 10 different types of chili! Once dinner was finished, karaoke took over. With young and old participating, it was a fun and memorable evening. By the end of activities late Saturday night, everyone was exhausted but filled with memories of a most successful Pacific Northwest Winter Family Weekend. ©Ⓐ

MBOD HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

The Ministerial Board of Directors held its annual conference at the headquarters office Dec. 7 to 9.

by Joel Meeker

The administration had been hard at work for months preparing the 2016 annual strategic plan, operation plans and the budget. A week before the American Thanksgiving holiday, we received what was, in effect, a small book containing all three documents. This gave the MBOD plenty of time to read and study the plans and to go through the budget line by line.

We began the meetings Monday, Dec. 7, at 9 a.m. with an opening prayer, our practice for every meeting. In my introductory comments, I pointed out that in just a few days we would arrive at the fifth anniversary of the beginning of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association. Time has flown by.

I then read through a list of some major world events that occurred during those five years.

A changing world

The events known as the Arab Spring started in Tunisia just about the time our association was founded. It led to revolutions, the overthrow of governments and the rise of ISIS. It has radically changed the situation in the Middle East and around the world.

Earthquakes in diverse places have killed tens of thousands of people. There has been an increase in terrorism in many places, including in the United States. North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test. China soft landed a spacecraft on the moon and has an unmanned rover there now. Israel has seen great unrest and many terrorist attacks. Airliners have crashed, been shot down and have even simply disappeared.

Immigration is radically and rapidly changing the face of several nations including the United States.

My point in all this was that we're living in chaotic and troubling times, in a world that is changing in unpredictable ways. We cannot say how much longer we will be able to operate freely and effectively in preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God to the world.

Jim Franks and I hadn't consulted in advance about our remarks, but in his State of the Church report, he also commented on the chaos in the world and how this might well impact us as we do our work. He reminded us of Christ's command in Mark 13:37 to "Watch!" The world is indeed changing, and we need to remain aware of trends and current events as Bible prophecy is fulfilled. We must have a sense of urgency in our work.

Encouraging stats and highlights

Mr. Franks also shared some encouraging statistics that have become available, in part, from our new database and tracking program. For example we know that 5,821 people in the U.S. are connected to a local congregation. Thus far, we've had a 12 percent increase in weekly income over 2014. And 11 percent of

our income this year has come from nonmembers. There are more encouraging statistics that Mr. Franks and others will give in succeeding letters and reports.

Following a break, Mr. Franks underscored highlights of the strategic plan as they pertained to the work of Ministerial Services and Media.

Ministerial Services operation manager Doug Horchak emphasized engaging and developing the younger generation in the work of the Church and in service in local congregations. Another emphasis is providing educational opportunities for our membership in general—for families in particular—and continuing education for the ministry. A third priority is continuing the development of leadership development programs and pastoral development programs to ensure future leadership for the Church.

Media operation manager Clyde Kilough then covered how Media plans to continue developing the Life, Hope & Truth website, especially the new Learning Center, which will increasingly showcase video content and an online, interactive Bible study course among other new features. The plan also calls for increasing the print run of *Discern* magazine to 15,000 during 2016.

Then international liaison Leon Walker discussed developments and plans for the work of the Church outside the U.S. All these reports highlighted the Church's solid and stable situation, which we believe will serve as a launch pad for further growth and enhancements in our efforts.

After lunch we had a private session to discuss salaries and related financial questions that need to remain confidential. This rounded out the first day of work.

Approving the budget and operation plans

On Tuesday morning our main topic of discussion was the proposed budget, which treasurer, Britt Taylor, went over in detail, while answering questions from the board.

Right after lunch the board passed a unanimous resolution approving the plans and the budget. We heard an update from Don Henson, the chairman of the Doctrine Committee, on what that very busy committee has accomplished this year. There were also updates on Foundation Institute, FI Online and Foundation Outreach International.

We had a brief private session to discuss retirement planning and facilities planning, and a final roundtable discussion that touched on a number of useful subjects.

One of the final items of business was a discussion of the chairmanship. Since my first term on the board would officially end in December (even though it will be my privilege to serve another term of eight years), it was appropriate to discuss whether the board wished to make a change at this time. I'm humbled and appreciative to have received the confidence of the board to continue serving in this capacity.

Those of us who remember nearly weeklong meetings four times a year in our previous association were pleasantly surprised to be able to finish our complete annual agenda more than half a day early. We had planned for Monday through Wednesday at noon (keeping Wednesday afternoon free in case we needed more time), but we finished at the end of the workday on Tuesday.

That evening Mr. and Mrs. Franks invited the board members and our wives to their home for a Texas barbecue dinner. We very much appreciated their hospitality, the meal and the fellowship.

On behalf of the board and administration, thank you for asking God's blessing on our deliberations and our work this year. We are convinced God answered those prayers very positively. ©A



A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

Ladies from several U.S. congregations worked together to provide essential supplies for ladies in Africa.

by Kathy Giese

The Fort Worth, Texas, congregation will soon complete its first year working with the highly successful Days for Girls International program, which provides sustainable feminine hygiene products for girls. The organization's website states that it is a "global alliance of 550+ chapters, companies, governments, NGOs, and passionate people" that has reached over 200,000 girls in more than 85 nations.

COGWA initially became associated with DFG in 2013 when Carol Deadman, a member in our Sacramento, California, congregation, shared with her local pastor a magazine article describing the program and suggested that it could be a worthwhile project for local congregations. After researching the nonprofit's website, it was clear that they were meeting a genuine need with a quality product that was shared through caring, efficient and effective means.

That same year, several women from the Northern California congregations successfully completed 35 kits and had them delivered to female members in Zambia.

Days for Girls team expands

This past year a group of ladies from the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation formed a local team and were assisted by ladies from congregations in Georgia, Texas, Arkansas and Pennsylvania. Together, members assisted in making and arranging delivery for over 250 kits, which were sent to several of our African congregations in nations including Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Ghana. Each completed bag required the purchase and/or donation and assembly of all of the materials plus the cutting and sewing of more than 21 pieces of fabric per kit, adding up to a total of over 2,750 individual pieces!

Diane Hendee coordinated the Fort Worth team; and many others in the congregation donated material, money and time. We applied for and received two FOI Hilltop grants to assist with expenses.

Our team reports to the state chapter office in Georgetown, Texas, which has been responsible for overseeing the assembling of over 1,400 kits for girls from around the world this year. Several of our members in the Austin congregation are affiliated with this chapter as well. Those kits included over 100 that were donated to our Church of God congregations, most of which will be delivered to Rwanda in January.

Various traveling ministers, church pastors and FOI representatives have delivered the kits and have been responsible for distributing educational materials to women leaders in the congregations who then pass the kits and instructions on to the female recipients.

Many of our talented, meticulous seamstresses and generous brethren, as well as dedicated volunteers from outside our Church, have all come together and churned out an extraordinary amount of work this year! After meeting the needs of ladies within their local congregations, our African brethren were able to share additional kits with others in their communities, which enabled them to be engaged in their own outreach project. We have received multiple thank-you notes and photos from some very pleased and appreciative women and girls who have received the kits. It has been a gratifying project for all those involved and a wonderful opportunity to see the 1 Corinthians 12 Body of Christ metaphor at work on a global scale!

In its April newsletter this year, Days for Girls International excerpted a portion from Joel Meeker's April 1, 2015, travel blog in which he wrote about his distribution of kits to ladies in La Mer, Côte d'Ivoire. If you are interested in finding out more about Days for Girls, visit www.daysforgirls.org. ☺



Ladies in Côte d'Ivoire receive their Days for Girls kits made by ladies in the United States; the DFG team in Fort Worth, Texas, display the kits they made; some of the ladies from the Sacramento, California, team measure fabric for DFG kits.

THE WORLD AWAITS

DALLAS TEEN FORMAL
MARCH 5, 2016

Embassy Suites Dallas
Park Central
13131 N. Central Expwy.
Dallas, TX 75243

Register at www.cogwadallas.org/teens.
If you have questions, contact Dora Jennings
at thejenningsfour@gmail.com or at
214-695-7484

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TURNING A PAGE IN CHURCH HISTORY

Richard Thompson retired from the ministry after 47 years of service.

by Jim and Karen Blount

Dec. 19, 2015, was a memorable day for the Ocala, Florida, congregation as they shared in closing out a very special and significant era of Church history.

The occasion, attended by 165 well-wishers from various congregations, was the retirement and farewell reception of local pastor Richard Thompson. Special guests who added greatly to the afternoon were Jim Franks, Doug Horchak, Britton Taylor and Clyde Kilough.

The Church leadership took this opportunity to present Mr. Thompson with a crystal tribute plaque in appreciation for his loyalty and faithful dedication in teaching, training and shepherding God's people for 47 years. He had been the pastor of the Ocala congregation since June 1, 2002.

The youth of the local church gave a short presentation using the letters of his name to express the good qualities of Mr. Thompson's character. They also presented him with a homemade pillow decorated with colorful imprints of their hands as well as the last scripture Mr. Thompson

used in his final Ocala sermon, Matthew 25:21.

The local congregation presented Mr. Thompson, who is a lifelong fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers, with a baseball bat personally autographed by his favorite player, Hall of Famer Duke Snider, along with a wood and glass display case.

There were many other cards and personal gifts from his friends and those he had served in various church areas over the years.

Following the gifts and presentations there was cake, coffee, beverages and fellowship. And, of course, plenty of picture taking. All of them had their own stories of how Mr. Thompson touched their lives and

the lives of their family members. In every conversation we could hear of his loyalty, how he was never too busy or too tired to visit someone in need. His kindhearted love and concern for all of God's people was also often mentioned.

Though he is retiring and returning to his home state of Mississippi, Mr. Thompson will continue to serve on the Ministerial Board of Directors, and we are sure he will continue to serve wherever he goes because that is who he is.

We here in Ocala will continue on serving as he taught us, growing in the direction he pointed us. We will always remember him encouraging us to "seek first the Kingdom of God." ©

IN DAYS TO COME

by Larry Salyer

Dick, as you retire and move back to your roots

We would like to highlight a few wonderful fruits

You came to the college from Mississippi State

And ever since then you've been pulling your weight

Though you held a degree in mathematics and numbers

You were out digging ditches in Big Sandy's summers

Your accent was different but at the end of the day

You finished freshman year with the high G.P.A.

Time won't allow us to recount all the tales
Even if we had hours then our memory would fail

To rehearse all the stories surrounding your work

As you labored with zeal—whether provost or clerk

And how many times have we heard brethren say,

I could listen to Mr. Thompson preach every day?

We doubt that you want to be preaching that much

But it's certainly not 'cause you're losing your touch

But the time has now come for less work and more rest

We trust with good memories your life will be blessed

Not only of the brethren but of the softball field

Of the grounders scooped up—of the bat you could wield

And of faculty football where you played so well

And of students you mentored so they could excel

Whether sports or academics the facts are the same

For high commendations attach to your name

Though retirement brings changes for us and for you

We don't want you scrambling for something to do

The country is beautiful, take this chance to go look

Or sprawl in the hammock, immersed in a book

Enjoy just whatever fills up your downtime
Not everything has to have reason and rhyme

We'll offer encouragement and hope you will hear it

Spend your days in refreshing your body and spirit

You've served with distinction, now savor the years

Hang on to the end, till the Kingdom appears

And know this for sure as full leisure you find

Both God and His people have you ever in mind



A TIME TO HONOR

Jack Hendren retires from the ministry this month.

by Kathy Giese

On the evening of Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015, all of the pastors who currently serve in Texas and Louisiana—and all but one of their wives—came together at the home of Royden and Julie Morgan to honor Jack and Mary Hendren on the occasion of his upcoming retirement and for their years of service to the Church of God.

After a delicious Mexican dinner, regional Ministerial Services Team member Larry Salyer read an appreciative and encouraging poem, which he had authored for the occasion. It was followed by the presentation of a crystal commemorative plaque from the Church and gifts from those present. After Mr. Salyer's remarks, Jack acknowledged the vital role that Mary had played in his ministry and his appreciation for her support throughout the years.

Life before the ministry

Jack and Mary married in 1964 following his completion of the U.S. Navy

Officer Candidate Program and their graduation from Hanover College in Indiana, where he received his undergraduate degree in math and physics. He was commissioned as an ensign and served the next seven years in the Navy, earning a master's degree in operations research from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and serving as program officer for Vice Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, while he was Commander of Naval Operations during the Vietnam War.

Over the course of Jack's two Vietnam tours, he was involved in approximately 18 missions, carrying 400 to 800 tons of bombs to the Marine Air Squadron in Chu Lai, Vietnam. As program officer working for Vice Admiral Zumwalt, Jack helped plan the turnover of 160 bases to the South Vietnamese Navy.

While Jack was enrolled in graduate school, he and Mary began listening to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast and reading Church literature. Mary was baptized in 1970 and Jack was baptized in 1971 after resigning from the military as a conscientious objector. He then began a successful career in the computer industry. They were ordained deacon and deaconess in 1977 while members of the Washington D.C. congregation where they had attended for the previous seven years. A business transfer moved the family to San Jose, California, in 1979. Over the next 17 years Jack held a number of management positions with Motorola and IBM and was president and CEO of Ashlar, an engineering design software company. He was ordained an elder in 1986.

Becoming a pastor

Jack was asked to assume his first pastorate by Global Church of God and was sent to Boston, Massachusetts, in 1996. Over the next five years he served in nine congregations located in seven different states and provinces stretching from Hartford, Connecticut, north to St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. In 2001, he was hired by United Church of God to assist Paul Suckling in pastoring his three northeastern congregations in addition to serving as pastor for Bethlehem, Lewiston and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Jack and Mary completed their years of full-time service in

MEDITATIONS ON RETIREMENT

by Larry Salyer

It's time to go fishing or play some golf
Without even asking if you have the day off
Pick up the grandkids and go for a swim
Or take your sweet wife to the show on a
whim

We're not suggesting you can't still serve
Or preach now and then when you have
the nerve

After all these things are part of your
chemistry

Used to great benefit in a 30 year ministry

But now as you look t'ward the autumn of
life

It's time to spend quality time with your wife
And others we probably don't need to
mention—

Your friends and your children all want some
attention

Give them that joyfully, but keep back some
time

For sitting on the porch with a glass of good
wine

For taking a stroll that will lift up your spirit
The clock isn't ticking, there's no need to
fear it

Your brethren will miss the great sermons
you gave

Giving them lessons on how to behave
And lovingly helping them truth to behold
While comforting faithfully—guarding the
fold

No doubt you have things you've been
wanting to do

Reliving old favorites, discovering some new
Go do what you please, no permission
required

Live life to the full, it's for real—you're retired

Your fellow ministers will bravely continue
In preaching the gospel, whatever the
venue

But we will inevitably know that we lack
The added good counsel of Mary and Jack

While retirement may offer a few variations
It's clear Christianity will remain your
vocation

Look back with contentment, a long road
you've trod

Look forward with hope to the Kingdom of
God

CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?



Larry Salyer presents a plaque to Jack and Mary Hendren for their service in the ministry.

the Corpus Christi, Harlingen and Victoria, Texas, congregations in the fall of 2015. Jack will be retired in January of 2016.

Over the years Jack served as a regional pastor, YOU and Festival coordinator within the greater Church of God, was a member of the Godly Leadership Task Force and was involved in administration for Church of God, a Christian Fellowship. Both he and Mary enjoyed serving at Camp Carter, and both of them edited and/or wrote for various Church publications.

Jack and Mary are well respected among their peers and congregants for their humble, genuine and caring approach. Jack demonstrated outstanding initiative in developing programs to assist in the growth of his members, and Mary has been consistently appreciated for her wisdom, willing ear and kindness to all.

The following statements summarize some of the things the Hendrens most enjoyed over their years of serving together. They were often inspired by the miracles they witnessed within the lives of Church families and individuals. They have treasured the opportunities to work so closely with each other as they drew on the wisdom of their senior members and developed lasting friendships with both brethren and ministry in a wide variety of locations and venues. Lastly, they have valued the many memorable and bonding events they experienced, whether they were baptisms, the blessing of little children or weddings.

Though the full-time service of the Hendrens will be missed, they are servants at heart. No doubt the Church will continue to benefit from their gifts. They have moved to Austin to be near their son-in-law and daughter, Nick and Sarah Slaughter, as well as their two granddaughters, Isabella and Sabrina. They hope their eldest daughter, Kim, will soon be able to join them there, as well. They look forward to enjoying travel, including Texas day trips, spending time with their family and supporting local volunteer organizations. Take note ... Jack is also willing to speak in Texas congregations when the need arises! ☺☺



ARKANSAS AND TENNESSEE CONGREGATIONS BID FAREWELL TO STEVE AND VIVIAN MOODY

On the Sabbath of Oct. 17, 2015, the congregations of Sedgwick and Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, hosted a farewell reception for Steve and Vivian Moody. Mr. and Mrs. Moody have served in these three congregations for over 18 years. Recently they were assigned to pastor the San Antonio, Victoria and Corpus Christi, Texas, congregations.

Eighty members attended at the hall in Sedgwick and heard a sermonette by Justin Adkins on making correct decisions. The sermon, presented by Mr. Moody, was titled "How Well Do You Know God?" Mr. Moody identified Romans 8 as his favorite chapter because it is so powerful. His quote to us throughout the years has been "Love God with all your heart, mind, life and strength." (Yes, Mr. Moody, we have been listening!)

A reception followed services, and a meal was served. The Moodys were presented with gifts, including a photo album of the families and special events throughout their time in the area.

The congregations are pleased to welcome our new pastor, Justin and Deba Adkins and their family. Farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Moody. Thank you for your years of service and inspiration to all three congregations. We love you.

After services, we moved all the fellowshipping a mile away to host a teen and young adult game night and pizza party. Charles and Valerie Petty volunteered their home to host the activity together. The evening was filled with food, fun and fellowship, as we hosted 20 young people to our first combined game night. We had a total of 32 young or young at heart join in the activities. We began with a pizza party, added some games and threw in some karaoke for good measure! The most asked question was, "When can we do this again?" It was a wonderful evening, and we look forward to being together as one big family with our sister congregations very soon!

Peggy Dame and Deba Adkins



HORCHAKS SPEND TIME WITH BRETHREN IN MEXICO

On the Sabbath of Nov. 7, the Church members here in Mexico City were delighted to have the opportunity to spend time with Doug and Tanya Horchak, who were visiting from the headquarters office.

During the afternoon service Mr. Horchak delivered the main message about what God reveals to us and what He decides not to reveal to us for our own good. But, just as we know neither the day nor the hour of our Lord Jesus Christ's return, we should also be focused on continuing on the path that our Creator has called us to, knowing that we have to fulfill what He has revealed to us from His law.

Later that afternoon, after sharing a meal, a Bible study was held for the approximately 50 people in attendance. Mr. Horchak spoke to us about the protection that God would give His people during the end time and the Great Tribulation.

At the end of the evening we said good-bye to the Horchaks, wishing them a great trip back to the United States, but not before thanking them for visiting us here in Mexico City and for sharing the day of rest with a handful of their brethren here in Mexico. We already hope to have them back soon to visit our congregation.

**Jorge Iván Garduño and
Corbin Jackson**

BUFFALO HOSTS HIGHLY ANTICIPATED VARIETY SHOW



Ci Holdsworth performs a solo; Madison Koenig and Sydney Dominguez perform a flute duet.

One of the most anticipated events held in the Buffalo, New York, congregation is the annual variety show. This year's show was held at the church hall on Nov. 14. Typically this event showcases various talents, ranging from poetry and comedy to inspirational singing and personal videos. Although there are some repeat performers that participate every year, this year's event drew a few more acts, including a flute duet with Madison Koenig and Sydney Dominguez and a solo piece by Ci Holdsworth. This was his first time participating. The final act of the evening was a video showing the individual stories of various people in the congregation. Needless to say, this annual event will remain a favorite for years to come.

**Stephan M. Koenig
Photos by Anne Koenig**



Top to bottom Sonya Jeffords and Bill Butler play chess; Greg Swartz, Brandon Burrow and Ashley Robertson play Apples to Apples.

GREENSBORO HOSTS WESTERN-STYLE POTLUCK AND GAME NIGHT

On Saturday evening, Dec. 12, the Greensboro, North Carolina, brethren enjoyed a Western-style potluck. The evening was filled with board games, good food and fellowship, as well as fresh popcorn and natural popsicles—much to the children's delight.

Bev McKnight

ARKANSAS MEN'S LEADERSHIP CLUB HOSTS LADIES' NIGHT

The Men's Leadership Club of Van Buren, Arkansas, held their last meeting of the year on Oct. 24, 2015. Those in attendance included members from the Bentonville, Mena and Van Buren congregations and included their wives and other guests.

After a delicious dinner, the men took part in thought-provoking table topics, speeches and one-minute impromptu speeches. One impromptu speech was given by Vendor Barrett, a member in God's Church since 1955. Everyone enjoyed a great evening!

Aurora Gossett

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



Julius AungMin stands with his parents.

Julius AungMin, of the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation, was baptized on Nov. 22, 2015, with many family members and friends attending. The baptism was conducted by Raleigh pastor Ron Kelley. After the ceremony, we enjoyed a delicious meal of traditional Burmese food to celebrate this special event.

Ron Kelley



Steve and Alex McVickers

We are happy to announce the baptisms of Steve and Alex McVickers on Tuesday, Dec. 8, near their home in Selsey, near Chichester, West Sussex. We welcome them into the Church of God family here in the United Kingdom!

Peter Hawkins
Photo by Sonja Hawkins

BIRTHS



Herchial Luwanja

James and Loveness Luwanja of the Li-longwe, Malawi, congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their second son Herchial. Herchial was born at 6 p.m. at Ethel Mutharika Maternity Wing on Sept. 16, 2015, weighing 2.7 kilograms (5 pounds 15 ounces). His brother Harris, who is 8 years old, is excited to have someone he'll soon be able to play with.

Tielmans Chirwa



Kate Winner

Vince and Melissa Winner of the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation announce the birth of their second child, Kate Alexandra Kaye Winner. Kate was born March 30, 2015, at 1:05 a.m., weighing 7 pounds 1.5 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches. Big sister Claire is thrilled to have an innocent baby upon which to unleash her maternal energy. Proud grandparents are Mark and Colleen Winner, Debra Rogers, and Dave and Karen Fergen.

ENGAGEMENTS



Sydney Proctor and Zach Evans

On Aug. 22 Zachary Evans, youngest son of pastor Eric and Jeannie Evans of Knoxville, Tennessee, proposed to Sydney Proctor, daughter of Ken and Mary Pat Proctor of Memphis, Tennessee; and of course, she said, "Yes!"

The event took place without Sydney knowing that her parents and siblings and Zach's parents, siblings and grandparents and a few friends were all watching from above the garden area of the Gaylord Opryland House in Nashville, Tennessee. Zach knelt down on one knee and asked Sydney to be his wife. What a shock to Sydney when she heard us all clap when he put the engagement ring on her finger!

The wedding will take place in Memphis on Sunday, May 22, 2016.

Dec. 19, 2015, was a very special day for Zach as he graduated from University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menominee, Wisconsin, with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering technology—mechanical design.

Because his graduation was on the Sabbath, Zach chose to receive his diploma through the mail.

An open house was held on Friday, Dec. 18 to showcase all of the senior projects, including 3-D printers and a robot arm. Zach worked on a flight simulator.

Congratulations, Zach, as all your hard work, determination and effort paid off!

Judy Swanson

OBITUARIES



Leon Hendershot

Leon Hendershot, 74, an active and well-loved member of the Ocala, Florida, congregation died Nov. 3 at Haven Hospice in Chiefland, Florida.

He was born in Marine City, Michigan, the youngest of seven brothers and three sisters.

Leon was a meat cutter by trade.

He was baptized into the Church of God in April of 1963 and was an active and loyal servant, serving as a song leader and sermonette speaker right up to the end. He was constantly talking about the Kingdom of God.

Mr. Hendershot is survived by his wife, Helen, nine children, 19 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and many friends and brethren who were inspired by his love for God and God's people.

A memorial service was held in Ocala on Nov. 21. It was conducted by Richard Thompson and followed by a PowerPoint presentation of his life and family.

Jim and Karen Blount



June Brewer

June Brewer, of the Corpus Christi, Texas, congregation, died Nov. 6 at the age of 92. Mrs. Brewer was married in 1943 and

had three sons before her husband died in 1960. She came into the Church in 1961, was baptized in 1963 and was ordained a deaconess in 1968. June is remembered for her love of God, her joy in serving the Church, her generosity and her love for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. For the last 3½ years of her life, June lived in Sherman, Texas, with her son Jim.

Jack Hendren

Charles H. Fair, age 90, of the Hickory, North Carolina, congregation died Nov. 3, 2015, after a short illness. He served in the Army and was a WWII veteran. Charles was employed as plant manager at Drexel Heritage Furniture for 23 years and retired in 1989. He was a beloved member of the congregation. The graveside funeral was conducted by his pastor, Ron Kelley.

Ron Kelley



Elmer Monson

Elmer Monson Jr., 68, died as a result of an automobile accident on Sunday, Nov. 22. Elmer was a member of the St. Cloud, Minnesota, congregation.

Elmer Monson was born Feb. 10, 1947, in Little Falls, Minnesota, to the late Elmer Sr. and Carmen "Clarice" (Probasco) Monson. He was united in marriage to Patricia Holland in Little Falls. Patricia died in March of 2013. Elmer enjoyed canning, family genealogy, farming with his horses and visiting with family, friends and total strangers (who became new friends). He enjoyed preserving history.

He is survived by five siblings, seven children and 12 grandchildren.

Elmer was a unique member of the congregation. When someone from another congregation met a member from Minnesota, a common question would be "Do you know Elmer Monson?" He made it a point to talk to the kids, and he treated them with the same respect he gave adults.

He was like a grandpa to the young people of the congregation and always had a big hug for them. Elmer normally had a story or a joke to tell. He was jovial, bighearted and one of the most outgoing and inclusive people many of us have ever met.

His personality led him to encounter a wide variety of people and circumstances. He was a brave man who stood up for what he believed in, which made him fearless when discussing Scripture and sharing the hope he had inside. He was generous in every aspect of the word. He wanted to share what he had and treated most everyone like family.

We will remember the funny expressions he used and his welcoming presence. There will be an empty place in our congregation without him, and he will be sorely missed.

Barbara Lee



Karl Mattox

Karl Walter Mattox, age 93, a member of the Florence, South Carolina, congregation, died on Aug. 19, 2015, at his residence in Darlington, South Carolina. He was born July 26, 1922, to Walter Isom and Dessie Dease Mattox. He was predeceased by his parents; his brothers, Fred and Charlie Mattox; and his sister, Ollie Wharton.

Karl is survived by his brother, Johnnie Mattox, of Florence, South Carolina; his sisters, Betty Stanley, of Wilmington, North Carolina, Connie Raber, of Laurinburg, North Carolina, and Peggy Smith, of Wagram, North Carolina; and his niece, Gayle Mattox, of Darlington.

Karl was baptized in August 1989. He lived in Yuba City, California, for many years and had moved back to his native Darlington in the year 2000.

Don Waterhouse, pastor of the Florence, South Carolina, congregation, officiated the funeral and interment at Grove Hill Cemetery in Darlington.

Faye Campbell

Feb. 6, 2016

Grapevine, Texas

Boot Scoot & BBQ

You're invited to join the North Texas congregations on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016, at 7 p.m. for the 10th Annual Boot Scoot, benefiting the COGWA Youth Camp Activity and Scholarship Fund!

The evening is full of a variety of activities, starting with a beef rib dinner and bake sale, followed by a silent auction, raffle and a dance. The event will be held at the Grapevine Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas.

All money raised will provide much-needed equipment for our camp program, as well as help campers who need financial assistance to attend. Our goal is to make sure that every Church teen who wants to attend camp is able to go and that each camp has the equipment to make each activity as enjoyable as possible!



Register or make a donation online by Jan. 17 at
bootscoot.org
