

OneAccord

February 2016



Winter Camp 2015

Jordan Volunteers | Meet the Minister

personal from the president

2015 Report

This is my first “Personal From the President” of the new calendar year. Each month my *One Accord* column is written two weeks before the first day of the next month. It was around Dec. 15 that I wrote my January column. Here we are in the middle of January, and I am writing my February column.

The Church of God, a Worldwide Association, operates on a fiscal year that begins Jan. 1 and ends Dec. 31. The 2015 year-end reports are now available, and we know that it was a very good year in all areas—finances, Church attendance, new contacts, unique visitors to Life, Hope & Truth and page views for Life, Hope & Truth.

We all know that statistics can be used in many different ways, often to make one’s case without being completely accurate. You see it all the time in politics. President Obama quotes statistics to prove that the economy is great. Republicans quote statistics to prove that the economy is falling apart. Which is correct? Probably both have a degree of accuracy, but each has a spin or a bias.

George Canning, an English politician from the early 19th century said this about statistics: “I can prove anything by statistics, except the truth.” The 20th-century American crime writer Rex Stout wrote, “There are two kinds of statistics, the kind you look up and the kind you make up.”

Back in December we launched a new publication here in the office called the “President’s Report” for the purpose of reporting *accurate* statistics. It is different from anything we have done before and is only circulated within the office and shared with the Ministerial Board of Directors. My goal in this new publication is to provide these statistics on a monthly basis for use in publications, articles, etc., and my desire is that we all use the most accurate information we have available. While it is easy to promote good news, we also must be willing to share the not-so-good news. Whichever is the case, it must always be accurate.

In the January “President’s Report” we published a number of end-of-the-year statistics from 2015 and compared them to 2014. Here are a few that I want to share with you.

- Total unique visitors to Life, Hope & Truth in 2014: 2,600,725.
- Total unique visitors to Life, Hope & Truth in 2015: 8,405,179 (223 percent increase).
- Total page views for Life, Hope & Truth in 2014: 5,390,081.

- Total page views for Life, Hope & Truth in 2015: 17,170,529 (218 percent increase).

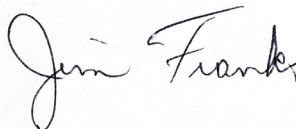
But Media wasn’t alone. Ministerial Services recorded statistics that were also very encouraging. There were no 200 percent increases like the ones we saw in Media, but the improvement was solid.

- Total new contacts (individuals who found us on the Internet and made contact with a local pastor) was our highest ever at 335 for 11 months. That is approximately one new contact every day.
- Our church attendance in the United States was 5,813. These are people listed in our database as attending services, including shut-ins and those on a webcast. Our highest actual attendance was 5,147.
- International attendance is 4,600. When added to the U.S. numbers, we have a worldwide attendance of approximately 10,400. Some of the internationals are isolated families or single members who are unable to attend a local congregation.

In the financial area, our income showed a very nice gain over 2014 and was 7 percent above budget at the end of 2015. In addition, we finished the year right on budget for expenditures.

God truly blessed us in 2015! I hope you find these statistics as encouraging as I do, but we must be sure that we give God the thanks. Paul said it this way: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6).

Please pray that during the 2016 fiscal year we will be able to do even more, never forgetting to give God thanks for what He has already done.



Jim Franks

President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association
@jimfranks



CHURCH of GOD

A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Photos by Amy Duncan

Winter Camp 2015

Campers and staff enjoyed the fresh snow together, a new activity called “Human Foosball” and drawing inspiration from this year’s camp theme “The Pearl of Great Price: Find It and Keep It.”

By Gary Black

A miracle snowfall preceded Winter Camp after a winter storm watch was announced just a few days before camp. The perfect band of snow—instead of the ice-snow mix that fell just a little south of us—came right through Montello, Wisconsin. We all believe that God answered our prayers.

With the snow came 68 campers who put it to good use. In addition to friendly snowball fights, campers enjoyed a mix of indoor and outdoor activities. This year we introduced “human foosball,” which turned out to be a favorite. What is human foosball? Imagine a giant snowy foosball table (the field) where campers try to kick a ball through a goal while holding onto a rod with two other campers.

Although many more volunteered, only 22 campers and staff were accepted to participate in winter camping this year. These brave campers and staff camped out in three snow quinzhees piled up and hollowed out for shelter.

The camp theme was “The Pearl of Great Price: Find It and Keep It.” Many campers commented that they were inspired by the Christian Living messages and felt more committed to continue in God’s way after returning home from camp.

The wonderful campers and staff, together with God’s blessing and presence, made it a great camp. ☺☺



Campers participated in activities such as soccer, swimming in the Ñuble River and daily Bible studies where they were encouraged to focus on building their spiritual house.

Chile Youth Camp

By Corbin Jackson

Young people from Chile, Argentina and Peru, as well as two young people from Germany and the United States, traveled to San Fabian de Alico, Chile, for summer camp. On the hot Sunday afternoon of Dec. 27, a total of 109 people, including 90 campers, arrived at the campsite. The campsite itself was a familiar one to the campers and staff, as this was the fourth consecutive year that the camp was held in the small but fully equipped boarding school in the mountains of the southern countryside of Chile. After settling into their dorms, receiving general camp instructions and being organized into their team groups, the 2015-2016 summer youth camp officially got underway.

Monday morning marked the start of the official camp activities. As in years past, each day was filled with a number of similar and special activities. Each day started off with breakfast, followed by a Bible study given by the camp director and pastor of Chile, Saul Langerica, and other staff members selected to assist with the youth camp.

After the daily Bible study, the campers were given the opportunity to discuss assigned biblical questions within their team groups during the Christian Living sessions. The discussions were led by the youth team captains and supported by the attending staff members. The group discussions were followed by presentations from each group on the assigned topics. After each Christian Living session, campers presented short speeches. Each day, a few brave campers had the opportunity to address the entire camp on a topic of their choosing. Topics included personal stories, life lessons, Bible topics and reflections on past experiences.

This year's mini conferences were exceptionally well done and inspiring for all those who had the opportunity to listen. This year's camp was filled with a number of entertaining activities. Each day, the four teams of campers played volleyball and soccer games. There was even an all-star volleyball game played between the camp staff and the most skilled campers, with the campers taking the victory this year!

Campers also played group games and activities, such as dodgeball and archery.

On a few occasions the campers had the opportunity to go hiking and then swimming in the Ñuble River, which runs through the beautiful landscape of the San Fabian region. Each day ended with a special activity for the entire camp. The campers and staff alike enjoyed a bonfire, a group chocolate-eating competition, a karaoke night, a youth dance, a movie night and a talent show night during the weeklong camp.

An underlying theme connects the physical activities of the camp environment in Chile with the spiritual lessons of the Christian path that camp teaches our young people. This year's camp theme was "Building Upon the Rock." All of the Bible studies and Christian Living sessions and a number of the mini conferences focused on the instructions given to us in Ephesians 2:20-22. The campers were encouraged to focus on building their spiritual house upon four important spiritual elements:

1. Jesus Christ as our cornerstone.
2. The teachings of the ministry of God's Church as our foundation.
3. Spiritual characteristics like the fruit of the Spirit as our materials.
4. A heart like that of King David, one committed to God and His will.

The 2015-2016 summer youth camp in Chile provided the campers with a week full of spiritual instruction and physical fun. With the four elements of spiritual construction as the guide for the construction of our spiritual house, the campers were given the necessary tools to continue developing the God-like character our Lord has called each and every one of us to have. While the physical fun of camp has ended

for this year, we hope that the spiritual lessons learned during the week will stay with the campers throughout the rest of their lives. ☺



FOUR BUILDERS IN THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

At the invitation of the royal family, these four volunteers continue a legacy of service and volunteer work in Jordan that began for the Church of God in 1982.

By Cory Erickson



In August of 2015, four young adults—Johnathan Armstrong, Elyse Ashcraft, Crystal Bradley and Zach Cartwright—left the United States for a new experience immersed in the culture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. At the invitation and sponsorship of the royal family, these volunteers continue a legacy of service and volunteer work in Jordan that began for the Church of God in 1982. Since the inception of the project, we have sent 181 volunteers to Jordan. Since the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, was founded in 2011, we have already sponsored 15 young adults to carry on this legacy.

Starting with our current volunteer group, we have implemented a new, unique leadership development program. Participants in the FOI Leadership Fellowship, led by former volunteer and life coach Leslie Bosserman, go through various training modules (see sidebar). So far, this program has been a success, and we look to improve it with each subsequent project year.

Why would a young adult take on a big commitment such as this? As all former volunteers will tell you, the experience offers incredible international experience, unique cultural immersion and tremendous opportunities for travel. All of these help paint an incredible mosaic of lifetime experiences and look great on a resume! But more important, volunteering in Jordan provides the opportunity to carry on a legacy of Christian service, a legacy of representing the Church and a legacy of representing the tremendous future of the Kingdom of God. For that reason, we have named the current group of volunteers “The Four Builders.” They are a group of young pilgrims and sojourners building on this incredible legacy in the Church. They are doing a wonderful job of building, thanks to God’s gracious blessing and help!

NEWS

FOI FOUNDATION
OUTREACH
INTERNATIONAL

APPLY TODAY!

Foundation Outreach International and the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, are excited to announce an opportunity for four young adults to serve in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from mid-August 2016 through mid-June 2017.

We are looking for energetic and dedicated young men and women interested in representing God’s Church while experiencing both an exciting international volunteer opportunity and a newly developed leadership development program. We welcome both single and married couple applicants.

Jordan remains a relatively safe oasis in a truly unique part of the world that contains very interesting biblical and cultural history, and the Church serves in Jordan at the invitation of the royal family. Positions in teaching, coaching, tutoring and administration are available at the Amman Baccalaureate School and at the YMWA Centre for the Mentally Challenged.

We currently have two outstanding young men and two outstanding young women enjoying very successful service opportunities, and we are looking for four new individuals to carry on this important legacy of service and outreach. If you are seriously interested in this project, please do the following:

1. Visit the FOI website for more information.
2. Fill out an application online or on hard copy.
3. Email Cory Erickson at coryderickson@gmail.com for answers to any questions you may have and to receive any additional information needed.

The deadline for application is Friday, March 25, 2016. Thanks in advance for your interest in this exciting growth opportunity.



Elyse Ashcraft, Johnathan Armstrong, Zach Cartwright and Crystal Bradley

Johnathan Armstrong

Johnathan Armstrong was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas. He recently graduated with a Ph.D. in physics and afterward attended the 2014-2015 class of Foundation Institute. Johnathan is excited about this unique opportunity to travel to Jordan and the surrounding areas to serve others and to be immersed in another culture. He believes this will be a life-changing experience.

Elyse Ashcraft

Elyse Ashcraft graduated from Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas, in May 2014 with an associate's degree in American Sign Language (ASL) and deaf studies. Before that, she attended a college in San Antonio and earned her bachelor of arts in English. In August of 2014, Elyse went to Foundation Institute and graduated in May 2015 before traveling to Jordan. She hopes to gain experience and knowledge that can benefit others.

Crystal Bradley

Crystal Bradley is from Toccoa, Georgia, and attends in the Atlanta, Jefferson and Macon congregations. She graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology with a bachelor of science in science, technology and culture. She wanted to serve on the Jordan project, and she wanted to jump in and serve while she was still able to get away easily. The timing was perfect.

Zach Cartwright

Zach Cartwright was born in Sherman, Texas, and raised in Denison, Texas. He always had the desire to travel, but never had the opportunity until volunteering to serve in Jordan. Zach has always had a strong motivation to work with and serve people with special needs. As he began the project in Jordan, his immediate desire was not to gain anything but to help others gain. He wants to help his students gain more of an opportunity to pursue a life and a career.



FOI FOUNDATION OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL

The first year of the Foundation Outreach International (FOI) Leadership Fellowship Program is now halfway complete with four fellows in Jordan! The purpose of this new fellowship program is to provide young adults with core leadership training to enhance their overall leadership development and character education.

In addition to a 10-month service internship in schools in Amman, fellowship experience includes another five core components:

- **Cross-Cultural Education Dialogue**
and training to enhance cross-cultural appreciation and understanding.
- **Self-Assessment Opportunities**
Two valuable self-assessments around personal character strengths and emotional intelligence.
- **Leadership Training**
Ten monthly modules that cover a variety of leadership skills and competencies, such as group and team dynamics.
- **Goal Setting and Personal Reflection**
Ongoing coaching and accountability around goals and opportunities for reflection, strengths identification and development, emotional intelligence, energy management and perspective taking, among others.
- **Capstone Project**
Culminating project where fellows design, create and implement something of value in their project sites.

Our four leadership fellows are learning about topics such as character-based leadership, core values and strengths development, group and team dynamics, among other leadership areas. Ultimately, this experience aims to develop the next generation of purpose-centered leaders who are dedicated to making a difference in the Church, the world around them and the Kingdom of God. Please go to www.foundationoutreachintl.org if you are interested in applying for the 2016-2017 year.

familiesglorifyingGOD

March 25-27, 2016 · Twin Cities, Minnesota

It's almost time for the annual
Families Glorifying God Weekend!

We are pleased to invite our Church family, young and old alike, to the annual Families Glorifying God Weekend, March 25-27, 2016, in the Twin Cities, Minnesota. Join us for Sabbath services, seminars, food, fun and fellowship!

The deadline for registration is Monday, March 14. We look forward to welcoming you in the Twin Cities!

Details and registration information will be posted on our website:

www.FamiliesGlorifyingGod.org



An Evening to Treasure

Pittsburgh/Wheeling Teen Prom · April 2-3, 2016

\$33 per person

Ramada Inn—Washington, Pennsylvania, located south of Pittsburgh on I-70.

Room rate is \$79.56 (includes tax).

Call (724) 225-9750 and mention COGWA.

Activities include Sabbath services at 2 p.m., a recognition ceremony for the graduating seniors, dinner and the dance. This year, the after-prom will be an indoor brunch with active, indoor games.

www.pitt-prom.com



Q

I don't have a question, but I want to comment. Matthew 24:15 says, "When you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." "You" meant those Jesus was speaking to. It does not mean us 2,000 years later. And it doesn't mean people at any other point in time.

A

We appreciate the fact that you are thinking critically (by which, we mean analytically) when you read the Bible as well as our website material. We would like to respond. We readily understand your point, that when Jesus said, "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,'" He was speaking directly to His disciples.

But we respectfully disagree with your conclusion that His words have no application for anyone else. Before explaining further, let's establish that our purpose in responding is purely for information, not for argument or debate. We are responding to your critical thinking with critical thinking! In order to understand any part of the Bible accurately, we have to read it in context.

Daniel wrote of the abomination of desolation in three separate areas of his prophecy, but he never wrote the words, "Whoever reads, let him understand." So, Matthew wasn't quoting that sentence from Daniel. That means that God inspired Matthew to add it. Why? Why not reveal the meaning only to the people who would literally see "the abomination of desolation"? There can be only one reason: Jesus' words are directed to every believer throughout history. The purpose for doing that lies in discerning the effect the words would have on every believer down through the ages.

That is, the warning would inspire every reader to be alert to the fulfillment of the prophecy and to remain spiritually vigilant, always prepared for Christ's return. Clearly, Matthew 24:15 means it is important to understand the abomination

PERSONAL CONTACT

with CECIL MARANVILLE



of desolation. Even more important are the additional benefits that have come to everyone who took this prophecy personally. Jesus masterfully stirred every Christian throughout the centuries by the few words of this verse.

We noticed that you wrote this comment to us from our article "Daniel the Prophet." Look again at the next to last paragraph of the article:

"Even though Daniel prophesied during the early part of the sixth century B.C., his prophecies were sealed until the end time. Similar to the instruction he had received to 'seal up' a vision he had been given earlier (Daniel 8:26), Daniel was again told, 'But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase' (Daniel 12:4)."

Daniel leaves no doubt that the prophecy is genuinely for the end time. This verifies what we wrote above: The prophecy about the abomination of desolation was not just for Daniel. It also verifies that the prophecy wasn't only for the disciples who literally heard Jesus say, "When you see."

(You can read about the various fulfillments of this prophecy in our article "[Abomination of Desolation: What Is It?](#)")

In conclusion, this concerns more than just Matthew 24:15. If readers of the Bible used the approach that your comments suggest, Scripture would be only a book of history. It is that, but so much more. It is the dynamic, living Word of God, applicable to all people throughout the ages.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to your thoughts. ©A

MEET THE MINISTER



Phil Sandilands grew up in the Church of God after his grandmother was first called in 1961. She passed an issue of *The Plain Truth* magazine to his mother, and they began attending in Indianapolis, Indiana.

He received his undergraduate degree in theology from Ambassador College and his MBA from the University of Dallas in telecommunications management. When he was a junior at Ambassador College in May of 1980, Mr. Sandilands began working with Fred Gilreath, the manager of telecommunications in Pasadena. He continued working for the college until December of 1989 when he was transferred to Big Sandy, Texas, to work on the phone system there. That was the year of the big consolidation and building projects.

In 1995, when the doctrinal changes were introduced in the Worldwide Church of God, Mr. Sandilands resigned from Ambassador College and went to Dallas where he continued to work in telecommunications.

He was ordained an elder on Jan. 31, 2009, and hired as a full-time pastor in 2013. He now serves as the pastor for the New Orleans, Louisiana, and Laurel, Mississippi, congregations. He and his wife, Marlys, have two grown children, Emily Prince and Justin Sandilands.

"A leader must come to realize that he is both leader and pupil. Once a leader feels he has reached the pinnacle of character development, he ceases to be a good leader."

Q: Why did you want to work for the Church?

A: The real question is, "Why did I want to work again for the Church?" After working for the college for 15 years, it was one of the saddest days of my life when I resigned from the college. Both Marlys and I had worked for either the Church or college since we attended Ambassador, and going from that environment to corporate America was a hard step. I had always dreamed of getting back to working for the Church.

Q: What did you look forward to most about becoming a pastor in the Church?

A: Getting back to working full-time with the people of God! What a joy to be able to see and interact with people of like mind. There can't be a better job on the planet than working with the Church of God!

Q: What goals do you have for your congregation?

A: My biggest desire is twofold: First, to see the personal growth and stability in the people who have already been called and constitute the church areas I pastor. To get growth, we need stable local congregations. While waiting for future growth, we will be working on stability.

Second, to see the growth that God brings to the Church. I see the potential rising to the surface; and if God provides the calling, I plan on being very busy as more people start to contact us!

Q: What personal experience do you feel most prepared you for your new responsibility?

A: This would also be a twofold

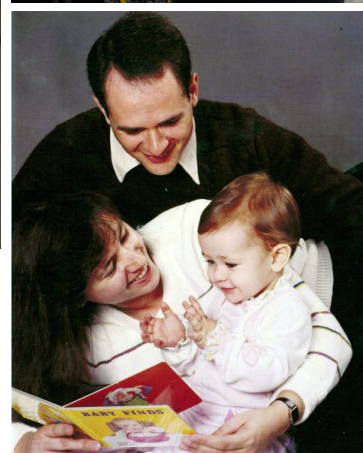
answer. First was the opportunity to work in the Dallas church area. This is a vibrant and large area where I was able to get involved in many local programs that helped prepare me for whatever responsibilities might be presented in a local congregation. We had teen, young adult and leadership programs running all the time. What tremendous exposure Marlys and I had!

Second, working in corporate America also has given me a perspective that is perhaps different from the majority of the pastoral ministry. Not better, just different. I feel that this exposure has given me an insight into the world's system that allows me to share with others the perspective of working in a world while not being a part of it. It has also allowed me to work closely with the Church administration with the training and management experience I had while in telecommunications.

Q: Can you name a person who has had a tremendous impact on you as a leader? Maybe someone who has been a mentor to you? How did this person impact your life?

A: My personal mentor was Doug Horchak. As the pastor of the Dallas congregation, for years he helped develop me in local leadership roles that eventually led to my ordination as a deacon and then as an elder.

With all of the rough edges I had as a person, he patiently chipped away at me until I was somewhat usable in the local area. He continued to believe in both Marlys and me when we sometimes doubted ourselves.



Clockwise from top left Marlys and Phil Sandilands on their wedding day; Mr. Sandilands plays guitar with his granddaughter, Eden; the Sandilands at the ruins of Ephesus; the Sandilands with their daughter, Emily; Mr. Sandilands hangs out with a feathered friend; Mr. Sandilands plummets to the ground while skydiving; the Sandilands family: Emily, Justin, Marlys, Mr. Sandilands' mother (LaFern), and Phil.

Q: What is one characteristic that you believe every leader should possess? Why?

A: This list would have to be a long one, but I must choose one. Let me answer this from the perspective of a new pastor—patience. I once heard a business leader tell his staff that we were not in a sprint but a marathon. That is also true of us as Christians—and as leaders. We get baptized and want Christ to return immediately, but then we discover that we are in a long race not a dash!

As leaders, we must slow our people down to see the Kingdom of God and work on living this life while growing toward that goal. I must have patience, and I must also teach patience. A leader

must come to realize that he is both leader and pupil. Once a leader feels he has reached the pinnacle of character development, he ceases to be a good leader.

Q: What do you feel is the biggest challenge facing the Church today?

A: The same challenge since A.D. 31—Satan! He changes his methodology, but the design is the same. He wants people to take their focus off of the goal of the Kingdom of God and become myopic on the issues of today.

Q: What are you currently reading?

A: *One Voice, Two Lives* by cantor David S. Wisnia. It's the story of a Polish native during WWII who went from being an

Auschwitz prisoner to working with the 101st Airborne troopers.

Q: What are your hobbies and interests?

A: Interests change over the years. Today it is being a grandfather! I also have had a passion for playing the guitar since I was 15. I love to study history—a passion that I didn't have while at Ambassador College, which I now regret since I was surrounded by so many knowledgeable people.

Q: What do you think your spiritual gift is?

A: Perhaps teaching. I love to visualize sermons as I put them together and enjoy finding the flow that I think will catch the listener's interest. ☺☺

CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?



AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, CONGREGATION ENJOYS A SUNNY PICNIC TOGETHER

On Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015, the Auckland, New Zealand, congregation enjoyed a fun church picnic at Long Bay Regional Park. Long Bay is located at the northern end of East Coast Bays on Auckland's North Shore and is only a 30-minute drive and 25 kilometers north of Central Auckland. The place is perfect for picnics and outdoor activities.

We rented a barbecue site at the park and enjoyed playing games such as volleyball, soccer and a little of the country's national sport, rugby. The day was blessed with wonderful sunny weather, which we enjoyed under the protective shade of the trees. Some youth enjoyed a swim in the cool waters, and others took some time to explore the park. One of the highlights was the shared lunch, a delicious collection of culturally distinct barbecue dishes that was proof of the diverse backgrounds of the members.

We were all thankful to God for the wonderful time of fun and fellowship we had together as His people. It was a classic day; everyone was a little exhausted because of too much enjoyment.

Andrei Siopan



CLARKSVILLE HOSTS FUN-FILLED VARIETY SHOW

On Saturday evening Jan. 2, 2016, members of the Clarksville, Maryland, congregation were treated to a night of fun and laughs with what they hope will be the first of many variety shows to come.

The performances ranged from youthful vocal solos to seasoned singers, from American jive dancing to Latin American folkloric dancing and from comedy sketches to audience participation.

Everyone is already preparing for next year's show.

Laetitia Demarest



HELPING THE COMMUNITY ONE CANNED GOOD AT A TIME

The West Palm Beach, Florida, congregation has been participating in the Hilltop Outreach Program for the past year. We did not need any subsidies from Foundation Outreach International because our goal was doable for all brethren. Since we are a small congregation and have many elderly and retired brethren, we thought of something everyone—including children—could get involved in.

Each Sabbath every family brings one nonperishable food item. Once we have received a substantial amount, we either donate it to a needy family or a food bank. So far we have helped five families and one food bank. We give the donation in reusable shopping bags along with a handmade card from the Philippine brethren. Inside the card, we include a business card for Life, Hope & Truth and *Discern* magazine. We also include information about who we are and our website.

This is our way of serving the community as well as preaching the gospel.

Mike and Cindy Correio



ROANOKE CONGREGATION COMES TOGETHER FOR THEIR SECOND ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

On the Sabbath of Nov. 14, 2015, the Roanoke, Virginia, congregation enjoyed their second annual Thanksgiving potluck.

All in attendance that day were blessed with a very inspiring service that included a sermon by our local deacon, Van Hanson, about the greatness of God. At the end of services, the turkey came out of the oven, everyone began setting the hall up for the potluck and then the process began of setting the tables for a Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings. The main dish was, of course, freshly roasted and carved turkey. But, in addition to that, we enjoyed many wonderful side dishes, such as mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, dressing, green bean and other

casseroles, and fresh fruits. Then, to top it all off, we had some of the most luscious homemade desserts that you could imagine: coconut pie, pecan pie, chocolate cake, cookies and cupcakes.

We are so very blessed by—and thankful for—all of our ladies who worked so hard in preparing this feast for us. We are also grateful to everyone else who pitched in together and turned the setup and subsequent cleanup of the hall into more fun than work. I don't think anyone left hungry, and we can't wait till next year. This was a truly joyous occasion, and we are all indeed thankful for the wonderful food and fellowship that God blessed us with this day.

Robert Worsham



MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA, HOSTS A BOWTIE SOCIAL

On Dec. 12, 2015, the Meadville, Pennsylvania, congregation enjoyed a "bowtie" social. Sabbath attire naturally included dressing with bowties for the men and bows for the ladies. The buffet table was adorned "bowtifully" for an evening meal. Table highlights included many imaginative presentations, such as bow-wrapped utensils, bowtie pasta and soups, bowtie meatloaf, bowtie fruit and bowtie-decorated desserts. The evening continued with classic board games along with plenty of laughter and fellowship.

Bruce Courtney

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

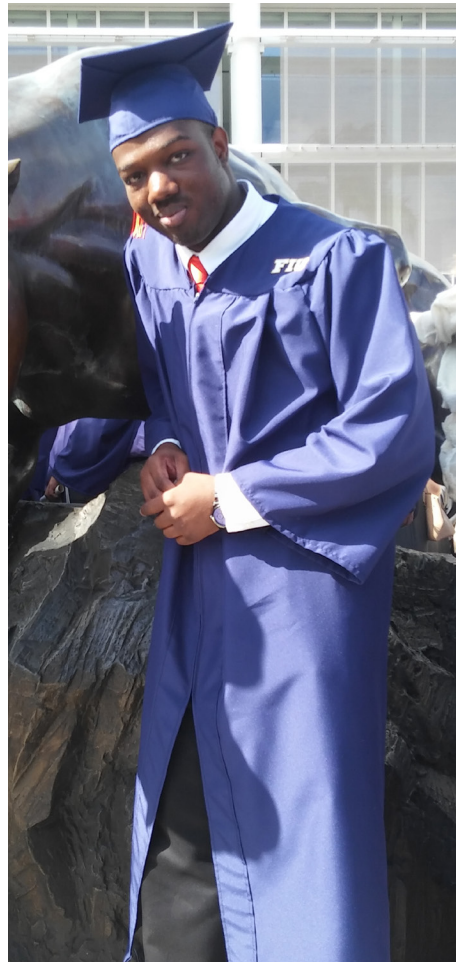


Mac Brams Chirwa (top) and James Kazembe

Mac Brams Chirwa and James Kazembe were baptized in Malawi by Elifazi Salawila on Dec. 13, 2015. Mr. Chirwa is from Blantyre, and Mr. Kazembe is from Ntcheu in the central region. It was a remarkable and very exciting event!

Elifazi Salawila

GRADUATIONS



Seth Mongbeh

With joy, Radcliff, Faye and Emory Mongbeh announce Seth Mongbeh's graduation from Florida International University on Dec. 14, 2015, with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering! Before embarking on a career in the mechanical engineering field, it is Seth's desire to attend Foundation Institute. He and his family are members of the Miami, Florida, congregation. Mom's advice to Seth: "As you spread your wings, let God be the wind beneath them and don't be afraid to soar!"

Radcliff, Faye and Emory Mongbeh

OBITUARIES



Theresa and Jack Beilstein

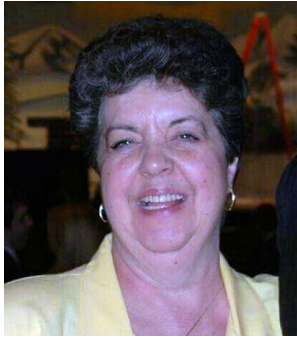
Jack Beilstein, a longtime member and deacon of the Church of God, died on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015, at Thompson Hospital in Canandaigua, New York. He was 82.

Mr. Beilstein is survived by his wife of 57 years, Theresa, as well as six children and eight grandchildren. He loved spending time with his family, listening to music, playing golf and reading. He also had a passion for baseball, which he played up to age 61.

Mr. Beilstein was baptized on Jan. 1, 1963, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was ordained a deacon on March 18, 1978. He was a faithful member of God's Church and attended the Central New York congregation where he was deeply loved and admired for his dedication to God's truth and his tireless service to the brethren. Over his five-decade membership in God's Church, Mr. Beilstein was a faithful pillar, opening up his home to others and serving in various ways. Despite the intense pain he was in during the months preceding his death, Mr. Beilstein was almost always at services and still an encouragement and blessing to others.

Mr. Beilstein will be remembered most for his zeal for God's way and his love for his family. He will be fondly missed by his loving family as well as the members of the Upstate New York congregations.

Tinenenji Banda



Patricia Martin

Patricia Martin died unexpectedly on Oct. 3, 2015, at the age of 70, while attending the Feast of Tabernacles in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, with her husband, Donald, and other family members. Mrs. Martin was born on June 8, 1945, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was a faithful member of God's Church for more than 37 years. She and her husband were both baptized in 1978.

The Martins celebrated their 53rd anniversary earlier in the year, having married in 1962. Together they had six children: Patricia (Donald) Knouse, Jacqueline (Marc) Carfi, Donald Jr. (Heather), Michael (Della), Mark and Chad. There are 18 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren ... and still counting.

Mrs. Martin had a very active Facebook account. One of the joys of her life was to share news and pictures of her family and to pass on inspirational and humorous pictures and comments. She was also an avid collector of memorabilia. She treasured the souvenirs and knick-knacks from her own travels and greatly appreciated gifts from friends.

Mrs. Martin served the local congregation in many ways along with her husband, who was ordained a deacon in 2004. She was a good friend to all, known for sending cards of encouragement and friendship to those who had requested prayers.

She was the kind of person who made new friends quickly, and even those who had just met her felt as if they had known her for a long time. She was a steady, strong and devoted Christian who will be deeply missed by family, friends and brethren for her quick sense of humor and her down-to-earth, matter-of-fact personality.

Don Henson



Wayne King

Wayne King of the Tucson, Arizona, congregation died on Dec. 10, 2015. Wayne had been confined to a wheelchair for the past seven years due to complications of multiple sclerosis. He broke the femur in his left leg on Dec. 7 and underwent successful surgery to repair the break on Dec. 9, but while recovering in the hospital he suffered cardiac arrest on Dec. 10.

Wayne was born in Tallapoosa, Georgia, in February of 1938 to William M. King and Floy Mixon King. He attended Tallapoosa public schools and enlisted in the army in 1957. He returned to Tallapoosa after his discharge from the army. There he met his wife, Glenda Williams, in January of 1961. They were married in September of that same year. Wayne worked for the Arrow Shirt Com-

pany before moving his family to Tucson in 1977. In Tucson, he worked for Pima County Health Department as a driver/messenger, delivering supplies to various health clinics around the city. Wayne's health problems forced him to leave his job in 1997.

Wayne's wife, Glenda, began attending Worldwide Church of God with her parents in the Atlanta, Georgia, congregation in 1970 and was baptized that same year. When the Rome, Georgia, congregation was started, Glenda attended there until the family moved to Arizona in 1977. Wayne yielded to God's calling in 1979 and was baptized in 1980.

The family loved going to the Feast sites by the beaches in Florida with other family members, sometimes having four generations in attendance. The last year Wayne was able to attend the Feast was 2010.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Glenda; two daughters, Annette (Jerrel) John of Camarillo, California, and Cheryl Aldeire of Tucson; three grandchildren, Laura, Thomas and Matthew Dunlap; and his brother, Bruce King of Tallapoosa, Georgia.

A celebration of Wayne's life was held on Dec. 20, with pastor James Capo delivering the eulogy and Laura Dunlap reading a poem she had written in honor of her grandfather.

Faye Campbell



Joseph Clyde Bone

Joseph Clyde Bone, 84, a member of the Florence, South Carolina, congregation, died on Dec. 4, 2015, at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

He was born in Florence County on April 27, 1931, a son of the late Joseph Crawley Bone and Livia Cora Flowers Bone.

Survivors include his five children, Barbara Bennett of Florence, South Carolina; Shirley Fowler of Fort Payne, Alabama; Rhonda McLellan of Pawleys Island, South Carolina; Donna Rockett of Gastonia, North Carolina; Bobby Bone of Florence, South

Carolina; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and one sister, Daisy Jeffords.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased in death by his wife, Mamie Louise Jeffords Bone, in 2009, and his two brothers, James and Van.

Clyde first heard about God's Church through *The Plain Truth* magazine and *The World Tomorrow*. He began attending church services prior to his baptism in March of 1983. He attended faithfully until health issues slowed him down the past 2½ years.

Clyde was a farmer before he started his own business repairing old tractors. He was an avid gardener who shared his vegetables with friends and at church potlucks. He used his many talents and skills to serve others.

On Dec. 12, over 200 people attended the memorial service for Clyde Bone. Don Waterhouse, pastor of the Florence, South Carolina, congregation officiated. Following the service, the family invited everyone who attended to join them for a meal to celebrate his life. Clyde was a dad, friend and a wonderful example to all who knew him.

Faye Campbell

04.02.16

ATLANTA PROM SAVE THE DATE

A TIME TO
DANCE

DINNER AND DANCING

BRAWNER HALL - 7 PM



2016 COGWA ATLANTA PROM

