

OneAccord

March-April 2016



2016 Young Adult Leadership Weekend

2016 U.S. and Canadian Feast of
Tabernacles Site Descriptions

A Young Person's Guide to
Tracking Down Leavening

personal from the president

The Feast of Tabernacles and You!

Whenever I think about the Feast of Tabernacles, a smile comes across my face. In the Church it is without doubt the most anticipated time of the year, and within days of completing one Feast, we begin planning for the next one!

This year the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, will host approximately 10,400 people at the Feast of Tabernacles in more than 40 locations around the world. As an organization, we don't have a separate "Festival office." We rely on the ministry, the Feast coordinators, volunteer Church members and a Festival team working in conjunction with Ministerial Services to locate new sites, monitor existing sites and update contracts and agreements on an annual basis. It is a difficult and time-consuming job for all those involved, especially for two of our pastors, Mark Winner and Mike Blackwell. In addition to their other duties (pastoring multiple congregations and organizing national church activities, such as the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville and the Presidents' Day Weekend in Branson), they head a small Festival team entrusted with locating new sites and updating our established sites.

Each year we strive to provide new and interesting locations where members can observe the Feast. But in so doing, we must not lose sight of the real meaning of these days. It isn't about some exotic location—it's about brethren gathering to observe one of God's festivals.

Internationally, we normally have two sites in the beautiful Caribbean; at least one site in Europe; one or two sites in South Africa; several sites in Latin America; sites in New Zealand, Australia and Fiji; and, this year, a first-time site in Canada. In the U.S. we'll be meeting at seven locations stretching across the country, along with two smaller satellite sites in Florida and Minnesota. These two satellite sites will help members in Florida who cannot travel the long distance to Orange Beach or Pigeon Forge and members in Minnesota who find it difficult to travel all the way to Branson.

In the midst of all our preparations, though, we must stop and ask ourselves, "What does the Feast mean to me?" Is it a vacation? Is it a religious conference? Actually, it is neither of these. But if you had to give an answer today—"To me, the Feast of Tabernacles is ..."—what would you say? How would you define it in a few words?

I will give you my definition. The Feast of Tabernacles is a celebration (Leviticus 23:34-43). It is an annual reminder that God has not forgotten His people (John 14:3). Jesus Christ promised that He will return to this earth to prevent man from destroying himself and then



Brethren at the satellite Feast site in Wisconsin in 2015

set up His government, reigning on earth with the saints for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4-5). Then will come the period of final judgment (verses 11-14) pictured by the Eighth Day, or Last Great Day. Our challenge is to capture and renew our vision of what that will be like and to not become easily distracted. While we are blessed to be able to go to fabulous resorts in beautiful locations, we can never allow that to take our focus off the real reason we attend the Feast.

I hope everyone enjoys the greatest Feast ever this year. A lot of hard work will go into the preparation. I hope we avoid the distractions and are able to see the real Feast of Tabernacles—the one that pictures a very happy future time when Jesus Christ will be reigning on this earth. Can you imagine what that will be like? I hope you are like me, with a smile crossing your face when you think about the Feast of Tabernacles and everything it pictures!



Jim Franks

President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association
@jimfranks



CHURCH of GOD

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Ministerial Board of Directors: David Baker, Arnold Hampton, Joel Meeker, Richard Pinelli, Larry Salyer, Richard Thompson and Leon Walker

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Doctrinal reviewers: Neil Hart, Jack Hendren, Steve Moody, Frank Pierce

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Young Adults Meet for Leadership Weekend

Branson, Missouri

Anyone who has attended the Presidents' Day Family Weekend in Branson, Missouri, can tell you that the weekend is packed with fun and fellowship. Families have the opportunity to enjoy seminars, dancing, a kids' carnival, mini-golf and more. While the Branson Family Weekend was going on this year, Branson was also playing host to the Young Adult Leadership Weekend.

This year about 20 young adults made the decision to attend this event in Branson. As usual, the majority of the attendees were from neighboring Midwestern states, but we were fortunate to have several visitors from the Carolinas, Texas and Canada. In addition to hearing the seminars that were either recorded or webcast from other locations, we were fortunate to have several ministers on-site.

Justin Adkins, who was the local facilitator of the YALW, also presented an interactive session with the attendees. In this session, the young adults were able to discuss key "game changing" moments in their lives that tested and ultimately increased their faith.

Mike Blackwell, who was busy giving seminars and organizing the family weekend, was also able to stop by and host the "Kingdom first" interactive session. Participants discussed what it looks like to put the Kingdom first in our lives, what things in life are distracting us and what real steps we can take to put the Kingdom first.

Britton Taylor was the final on-site minister whom we were able to fellowship with and learn from in Branson this year. Mr. Taylor's seminar, "The Way, the Truth, and the Life," focused on how we must be rightly motivated if we are going to respond to God's calling and be one of His chosen.

Overall, the YALW in Branson was nothing less than exceptional. In addition to having their own seminars and time to fellowship, young adults were also able to enjoy the family activities, fellowship and Sabbath services with about 300 other brethren. One thing I think all attendees of the YALW would agree on is that this year there was a major emphasis for us to take action in our spiritual life. One thing I think all young adults should do in the next year is to make it a point to attend the next YALW. And maybe you will find yourself in Branson.

Brent Martin



Photos by Daniel Harper

ATLANTA

Atlanta, Georgia

A total of 61 young adults gathered in sunny Atlanta, Georgia, for the fourth annual Young Adult Leadership Weekend. This year's theme, "Will He Really Find Faith? Standing Strong in a Faithless World," was taken from Luke 18:8—"Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes will He really find faith on the earth?" Sabbath morning began with a keynote presentation by guest speaker and COGWA president Jim Franks. His presentation was webcast live to other YALW locations from Atlanta. He spoke of how faith is built, our personal responsibility for our faith and working with what we have where we are. A presentation from Clyde Kilough focused on strengthening our faith to prepare to endure trials.

We enjoyed a delicious catered lunch of barbecued brisket and chicken. Then the Atlanta congregation joined us for Sabbath services. A group of six ladies from the Columbia, South Carolina, and Atlanta and Augusta, Georgia, congregations sang special music with piano accompaniment. Mr. Franks gave an inspiring sermon with lessons from Hebrews 11. After services and some fellowship time, we broke into small groups for an interac-

tive discussion led by Tom Schultz. The thread of the discussion concentrated on events in our lives that led us to having deeper faith—our "game-changer moments." After sunset we dined on-site and enjoyed fellowship and games. Atlanta pastor Bruce Gore kicked off the evening by challenging anyone to a game of Rook. Two accepted the challenge, played valiantly, but lost to age and experience.

Sunday morning started with a seminar by Britton Taylor. He explained that to be among the faithful, we must internalize God's way of life and rise to our calling. Following the seminar was an interactive session led by Mr. Gore. It centered on seeking the Kingdom daily. The final seminar was presented live via webcast by Doug Horchak in Columbus, who spoke about how we should be aware of the world scene, not let Christ's return sneak up on us and not get distracted from seeking the Kingdom.

Following the final seminar, Mr. Franks exhorted the group to stay in contact with each other and to remain strong in the faith. After enjoying lunch together, we all departed feeling inspired with our vessels full, ready to stand full of faith and already looking forward to next year.

Breana Walton



BRANSON



Photos by Justin Adkins

Columbus, Ohio

Winter weather welcomed weary travelers from various areas of the northeast region Friday night, complete with not-so-friendly “whiteout” conditions. Everyone arrived safely, despite some experiences where the words “I can’t see anything!” were used on the way to the weekend activities. New York, Indiana, Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Texas (believe it or not) were all represented, in addition to attendees from the host state of Ohio.

Eighty-nine young adults gathered together for a weekend of inspiration, edification and education in what it means to have faith in a faithless world. The average age of our young adults was reduced dramatically this year, due to the adorable collection of newborns, toddlers and school-aged children among us—12 in all. One youngster emphatically announced before arrival that this would be his “first young adult weekend.”

The event was held at the Proctor Camp and Conference Center in London, Ohio. Hidden off a major state route and surrounded by trees, the event center is comprised of several rooms within the main building, as well as nearby cabins. All of the married couples with children were able to stay in the more spacious “hotel” rooms right in the event center. Two nearby cabins were available for other married couples, single ladies and single men. The cabins were unique in that they had separated sleeping areas but also several common areas. In other words, throughout the entire weekend there were always either conversations or games to join wherever you were, except when you slept! Those of us who never shut up or refused to give up in Dutch Blitz (a fast-paced card game)—even when embarrassingly stuck in last place—thought it was just fantastic.

The timely and well-received seminars and interactive sessions focused us on the faith we so desperately need to develop as Christians. Sabbath services began with a message on seeking wise counsel, followed by the main message by guest speaker Doug Horchak on what builds faith. Saturday night involved table games, as well as a big screen viewing of the NBA three-point shooting and dunk contest (local cheering leaned toward “Go Cavs! ... Boo Golden State!”). With good food, laughs, inspiring messages and time to just be with each other, the weekend was a complete success. Many thanks to all those who worked hard to make the weekend so enjoyable!

Eddie Foster



COLUMBUS



Photos by Autumn Smith

Check out more YALW photos at [Facebook.com/cogwa](https://www.facebook.com/cogwa)

Fort Worth, Texas

Will Christ find faith when He returns? Eighty-four young adults who attended the leadership weekend in Texas are now better equipped to make sure He does!

The weekend in Fort Worth kicked off Friday evening at Red Robin Gourmet Burgers and Brews, giving everyone a chance to meet new people and reconnect with old friends. Over the next two days, young adults from all over Texas, the surrounding states and as far away as Colorado and Ontario, Canada, listened to and participated in seminars, ate a lot and talked even more.

Sabbath morning began with three seminars focused on faith, including an interactive session on game-changing moments in your Christian life. They ate a lunch prepared by the local brethren, which was served in a “chuck wagon” at the hall where the seminars and services were held. At Sabbath services everyone had the opportunity to mingle with the local brethren. Afterward, the young adults ate fajitas at Joe T. Garcia’s, an expansive traditional Mexican restaurant. The evening finished with a scavenger hunt where the young adults split into teams to follow coded clues to various places in downtown Fort Worth’s Sundance Square. Some of the clues included finding a street with three syllables in one word, photographing a mug shot in front of the court house, taking a video of dancing to street music and bringing back a wet wipe from a local barbecue restaurant.

Sunday morning was filled with more faith-building seminars to continue the theme, “Will He Find Faith?” and finished with a picnic lunch.

Some of the highlights of the weekend were the service projects on Sunday afternoon. Young adults had the opportunity to participate in one of three projects: putting on a carnival for children at the local Ronald MacDonald House, preparing a meal at the Ronald MacDonald House or performing ’40s and ’50s music at a nursing home. Each service project was met with appreciation from the recipients and left volunteers with a feeling of satisfaction and wanting to serve more.

See y’all next year at YALW!

Jennifer Bowman



Photos by Chantelle West and Allie Rochelle

FORT WORTH

Portland, Oregon

A total of 44 people attended the Young Adult Leadership Weekend in Portland, Oregon, this year. Attendees came from the Pacific Northwest as well as central California. The venue for the weekend was the Portland congregation hall. The facilities allowed for a comfortable setting for the presentations, as well as a kitchen and dining area for group meals over the course of the two days.

We welcomed Dave and Linda Register as our special guests for the weekend. Mr. Register gave a very inspirational sermon on the Sabbath and facilitated one of the interactive sessions. The group was encouraged, and they remarked very positively about all the sessions over the two-day event. After a hearty lunch on Sunday, the group headed to their homes looking forward to next year’s weekend.

Jon Pinelli

San Diego, California

A small group of 12 met in sunny San Diego for the 2016 Young Adult Leadership Weekend. Although the group was smaller, the benefit of such a weekend was great. All enjoyed the close fellowship, meals together, the opportunity to participate in the seminars and interactive breakouts, and the sermon by Richard Pinelli. Group discussions helped the young adults learn more about each other, and develop a better understanding about “The Faith,” as well as developing faith!

Saturday night the group enjoyed dinner in famous Old Town San Diego. Many of the young adults continued to spend time together into the evening playing charades. The messages were wonderful and the group seemed to come together well. After lunch together on Sunday the group departed. Overall it was another great year!

Paul Carter



PORTLAND

Photos by Jon Pinelli



SAN DIEGO

Photos by Paul Carter



TWIN CITIES

Photos by Gary Black

Twin Cities, Minnesota

A total of 35 young adults gathered in Minnesota for the Young Adult Leadership Weekend. Cory Erickson gave a Bible study on Friday night to kick off the weekend. The study was titled “The Intersection of Godly Character and Personal Influence.” He stressed that leadership involves influence and encouraged the young adults to use the information they glean from the weekend to influence others.

On Saturday we joined with others around the country to watch Jim Franks’ keynote presentation and Clyde Kilough’s prerecorded presentation. Our first interactive presentation was led by Gary Black.

Mike Hanisko gave the sermon and the Twin Cities brethren hosted a potluck for everyone. Saturday evening the young adults stayed at the hall for a game night. There were board games, Ping-Pong and foosball. One of the highlights was a giant four-man jousting inflatable arena. Everyone enjoyed the jousting and Ping-Pong tournaments.

Sunday morning we gathered again for instruction from Doug Horchak and Britt Taylor, as well as an interactive presentation by Mr. Hanisko. Many young adults stayed later on Sunday afternoon for ultimate Ping-Pong.

Those gathered in the Twin Cities found the weekend to be very profitable and inspiring.

Kelsey Black



Branson, Missouri



Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania



New Braunfels, Texas

2016 U.S. and Canadian Feast of Tabernacles Sites

BRANSON Missouri

Branson will host God's Feast of Tabernacles for the 21st time in 2016. Located in the heart of the Missouri Ozarks, this beautiful site provides an almost millennial setting with its fall colors, two beautiful lakes (providing good bass fishing as well as some of the best trout fishing in the Midwest) and miles of hiking trails crisscrossing clear, flowing streams. An afternoon drive through the spectacular scenery brings you into close contact with God's beautiful creation.

Besides the natural beauty of the Ozarks, Branson offers an almost endless variety of recreation and entertainment options for those of all ages. From championship golf courses to adventure zip lines, from shopping at outlet malls to upscale shopping at Branson Landing, there is sure to be something to appeal to individuals and families alike. People come from across the country to enjoy Silver Dollar City, which hosts a festival of crafts during the Feast. Kids will love the go-kart tracks and the miniature golf courses. Music enthusiasts can choose from

more than 90 live music shows. Branson is a mecca for family entertainment.

The White House Theatre has proven to be very popular for serving our families over the years. Spacious seating with over 1,200 seats allows for relaxing fellowship. There is a seating area for families and a convenient mothers' room where moms can feed their babies and get them to sleep. The theater has a large, spacious lobby and an adjacent room for seminars and other activities.

The site will again provide extra educational opportunities at evening seminars, which have proven very popular and beneficial to brethren wanting added instruction while at the Feast.

Branson has a wide variety of housing options to fit any family need and price range. Accommodations range from first-class hotels to kitchenettes and cabins. For those who want or need more space, you can enjoy the spacious beauty of one of many, reasonably priced condominiums overlooking the hills or lakes.

Average high and low temperatures for October are 72 and 49.

Mike Blackwell

LAKE HARMONY Pennsylvania

Significant upgrades, worth millions of dollars, have been incorporated at the Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania, Feast site. The Split Rock Resort now features a new food court, two new restaurants, upgraded sleeping rooms and more. Improvements to the ballroom meeting hall are also planned. "We can't wait to welcome you back to Split Rock!"

Split Rock's Galleria hotel offers economical, cabin-like hotel rooms, as well as one- and two-bedroom suites with kitchenettes. Also, just one mile away, all of the Willowbrook suites have full kitchens. Additionally, Willowbrook's "two-bedroom" suites are actually two adjoining suites, providing two full kitchens and a fireplace (switch-controlled). For other housing options, see the housing brochure.

On Family Day, the first 150 water park passes are free for those staying at Split Rock Resort (Galleria, Willowbrook, Historic Lodge and Mountain Laurel Resort) and discounted for everyone else. Other on-location indoor activities include a pool, arcade, bowling,

fitness center, basketball, tennis and billiards.

We're also pleased to announce that COGWA has a block of seats reserved for a newly released show—*Samson* (Thursday, Oct. 20, at the Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania).

Several good restaurants are located in surrounding communities. Nearby family attractions include the historic town of Jim Thorpe, among other attractions. And about two hours away are the Amish country in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the Statue of Liberty in New York City, and much more.

Kevin Epps

NEW BRAUNFELS Texas

New Braunfels is a small town of 60,000 people located in the hill country of Texas, just 30 miles northeast of downtown San Antonio. Its German heritage is evident in the city's history, culture and cuisine.

Services will be held in the New Braunfels Convention Center. We will have exclusive use of this beautiful facility

throughout the Feast. As was much appreciated last year, we'll provide coffee every day prior to services. Anticipated attendance is 350.

Many recreational opportunities in New Braunfels include water. Whether it is enjoying the famous Schlitterbahn Water Park and Resort, wakeboarding without a boat at the Texas Ski Ranch, floating one of the two rivers in the area, or swimming in the largest spring-fed pool in Texas—there are plenty of ways to get wet!

For those interested in history, there are seven museums to visit and the historic district of Gruene (a district within the city of New Braunfels) to explore. And for dining, there are many restaurants nearby where visitors can sample German dishes, Texas barbecue and contemporary fare.

For those wishing to venture beyond the local area, San Antonio is just 30 miles south on Interstate 35. There one can tour the historic Alamo, wander the River Walk, go up the Tower of the Americas, visit SeaWorld and enjoy the Six Flags Fiesta Texas theme park.

David Treybig

ORANGE BEACH

Alabama

To serve the southeastern area of the United States, we will be returning to beautiful Orange Beach, Alabama, for the Feast in 2016. Orange Beach is relatively new to tourism and therefore not as commercial as other sites on the Florida and Alabama coast. It is a family-friendly location with beautiful, white sand beaches if you want to stay on the coast—or a quaint marina with sailboats in a secluded

harbor if you prefer staying a bit inland.

The housing is varied, ranging from magnificent condos on the beach to hotels and houses inland. No matter where you stay in the area, you are never more than a few minutes from the beach. This year we are adding the new SpringHill Suites hotel that is adjacent to the Event Center. Anyone staying there will help offset the cost of using the hotel's conference rooms for Sabbath school.

Services will be held in the Orange Beach Event Center, located in the Wharf district. The Wharf has many fine restaurants, shopping, a marina and lots of outdoor activities for the whole family.

There are multiple beach locations—stretching across several miles—that allow for parasailing, diving, deep-sea fishing, glass-bottom boats, dolphin tours, beach volleyball and a host of other Gulf-related activities. But if your interest isn't beautiful white sand, then just minutes from the beach are kayaking, canoeing, golf, sailing, a high ropes course and several theme parks for the young at heart.

If your plans call for a beach venue for this year's Feast of Tabernacles, we welcome you to Orange Beach, Alabama!

Tax rate for accommodations: 11 percent. (Be sure to read details on each property listed in the housing information. Some Orange Beach accommodations include taxes and fees in their rates.)

Phillip Sandilands

PIGEON FORGE

Tennessee

Nestled in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, Pigeon



Orange Beach, Alabama



Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Forge, Tennessee, is known as one of the top family vacation destinations in the country. If you enjoy the outdoors, there is much for you. The Feast of Tabernacles takes place during the time when fall colors are in full array, and the area's natural beauty brings out the outdoorsman in everyone. If you enjoy quality family time, good family entertainment, a wide selection of restaurants and plenty of shopping, you will love Pigeon Forge.

Although the area is known for its many crafts stores, its wonderful musicians and its countless go-kart tracks and miniature golf courses, it also boasts one of the most active, well-represented outlet malls in the entire country. Additionally, in neighboring Gatlinburg you and your family can take in the beautiful Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies. We are planning to put together a well-balanced activity schedule sure to interest all tastes.

Housing consists of a variety of motel rooms with many offering a full breakfast in the rate. And, of course, there are also beautiful 1- to 4-bedroom condos or—for those with extended

families wanting to share—there are large chalets and cabins that sleep up to 30! Housing prices begin at \$65 per night and go up from there. This is also an area with several campgrounds for those who might enjoy camping during the Feast.

Pigeon Forge is easily traveled. There is a divided highway through the middle of the town. The Smoky Mountain Conference Center has free parking and has no steps, so it is also easily accessible for everyone. Hope to see you in Pigeon Forge.

Mark Winner

SAN DIEGO

California

This year we are pleased to announce a new Feast site in San Diego, California. Of course, San Diego is internationally known as a top-tier visitor destination with the best year-round microclimate in the United States and many nearby attractions and historical places to visit.

We will be meeting at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel Pavilion for daily services on



San Diego, California



Steamboat Springs, Colorado



Victoria, British Columbia

the Sabbath before the Feast and during the Feast. The resort/business hotel sits on 18 acres of landscaped parkland in the heart of San Diego County, surrounded by its own executive nine-hole golf course, with plenty of free parking and free shuttle service from the San Diego International Airport. The full-service hotel also has a restaurant, a coffee/sandwich shop, lounge, gift shop, exercise room, business center, on-site guest laundry, a large outdoor heated swimming pool and whirlpool/hot tub.

The hotel is offering the Church free meeting space if we fill or exceed our reserved room block. This saves the Church many thousands of dollars on hall rent. We appreciate attendees staying at the hotel, which reduces our expenses. Our contract with the hotel also includes a reduced rate, free Internet, in-room refrigerators and microwaves, and free shuttle service to restaurants and shopping within 5 miles of the hotel. Other nearby hotels and vacation rental

als to fit everyone's budget will also be available.

The Pavilion is a separate, glass-enclosed and bright meeting hall that will seat up to 500 people, and we will have nearby breakout space for teen and young adult hospitality. The hotel is also scheduled to undergo a complete soft goods and paint remodel before we arrive in the fall.

Planned activities will include a Family Day picnic, seniors' luncheon, teen and young adult activities, etc.

Local activities are plentiful, with snorkeling, surfing, kayaking, paddleboards, deep-sea fishing, whale and dolphin watching, dinner or harbor cruises, wineries, mountain biking, golfing, scuba diving, tide pools, shopping and more available.

Nearby attractions include Fashion Valley Mall (3 miles), Old Town San Diego (6 miles), Mission Beach and Ocean Beach (8 miles), the world-famous San Diego Zoo (6 miles), Balboa Park and

museums (6 miles), Sea World (8 miles), downtown San Diego and the Navy Ship Yard with the USS *Midway* (10 miles), Seaport Village (9 miles), La Jolla and Children's Beach (10 miles), San Diego International Airport (10 miles), Sea Lions Park (12 miles), Torrey Pines State Park and Golf Course (12 miles), LEGOLAND (25 miles), Coronado Island (12 miles) and the San Diego Wild Animal Park (25 miles). San Diego is also host to a wide variety of restaurants and fine dining.

Average temperatures in October for San Diego are highs in the mid to low 70s and nighttime lows in the mid to low 60s. We are expecting about 400 to attend this year in San Diego.

Dave Register

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Colorado

This ski resort town of 12,000 offers a number of

attributes attractive to Feast-goers. One of those attributes is our host hotel, the Steamboat Sheraton at 2200 Village Inn Court. It is an excellent facility, offering an array of accommodations, from hotel rooms at \$99 to three-bedroom units at \$200. A resort fee of \$5 per night will be added and covers Wi-Fi and underground parking, among other things.

More economical housing will be available, but it will be a great help to the Church in keeping costs down if everyone who is able will stay at the Sheraton.

Steamboat Springs features a variety of restaurants, including some fine dining establishments and restaurants within the hotel. Recreational opportunities abound: hiking, fishing, hot air ballooning, rock climbing, ice skating, golfing, horseback riding and ATV riding, to name a few.

Some of the better attractions to visit are Fish Creek Falls, Old Town Hot Springs and three nearby state parks (Steamboat Lake, Stagecoach Lake and Pearl Lake).

A free shuttle will take you almost anywhere in town. Denver International Airport is three hours away; and the Yampa Valley Airport is about 25 minutes. Recommended shuttle service to and from Denver International is Alpine Taxi, www.alpinetaxi.com or 800-343-7433.

Larry Neff

VICTORIA

British Columbia

This year we are pleased to announce our first-ever Canadian Feast site for the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, on the outskirts of Victoria, British Columbia. Located on Vancouver Island, this site in Sidney (or Sidney by the Sea, as the locals refer to it) promises to be an exciting venue in which to keep the

Feast of Tabernacles in 2016.

Sidney is located a short 20-minute drive from downtown Victoria, the provincial capital of British Columbia. If you are driving to Victoria, access to the island is available by ferry through either British Columbia or the State of Washington. You can also fly into Victoria International Airport. It is a smaller airport, but located right in Sidney.

The climate in Victoria is considered cool Mediterranean. That means that during the Feast you can expect daytime highs in the 60s, with lows in the 40s. There is always a chance of showers during the fall season.

We will be holding our services at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney. Our meeting room has ample space. We will be able to seat up to 700 people very comfortably in the center.

There is a variety of housing and restaurants in and around Victoria to appeal to everyone's needs and budgets. Several housing establishments are even located right across the street from the Mary Winspear Centre. More housing is also available within a short four-block distance from the center. Restaurants in Sidney are varied in cuisine and price. And, of course, you have even more choices in downtown Victoria.

Activities abound in the Victoria area. Visit historic Butchart Gardens, which is listed on Canada's national historic register. Take in one of a number of the local museums depicting Canadian history and Eskimo culture. Tour some of the local British Columbia wineries or enjoy high tea at the historic Empress Hotel in downtown Victoria. This is just a small sample of things to do in the Sidney area.

If you have never experienced Canada, come spend it with our Canadian brethren at this year's Feast of Tabernacles. You will not be disappointed!

Jon Pinelli

Does It Really Matter If I Volunteer?

By Mark Winner

When I think of the Feast, I think of service.

From the time I was a young boy, I knew the Feast depended on ushers, parking attendants, mothers' room attendants, elders on anointing duty, people cleaning up, door greeters, offering counters, information booth attendants, special music contributors, babysitters and more. There were people helping people everywhere I could see. Unbeknownst to me at the time, I was learning the importance of love through volunteering and helping wherever there was need.

As the years passed, I, too, began to serve at the Feast. Without giving it a lot of thought, I had followed in the footsteps of so many before me and made it a habit to serve in some capacity at the Feast.

But now, after 35 years (20 of those as a Feast coordinator), I have learned just how crucial it really is to the success and overall quality of the Feast to have loving, committed volunteers to help serve in all the different ways that are needed.

Love in practice

We cannot outgive God. The more we give of ourselves to Him and practice His way of give (not get), the more spiritually fulfilled we become. Sometimes it takes getting our minds off of ourselves to ask, What is it that God wants me to do? How can I help others?

When we do this, we grow spiritually, our light shines brightly, and we help provide a much better experience for those who may really need our help.

When reading 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, we are reminded of what love looks like. This concept is reinforced throughout the Bible and modeled perfectly

by Jesus Christ Himself: "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 20:28). So with the inspired Word of God and the standard of Jesus Christ as our example, it's important that we, too, exhibit the traits of a giver.

Serving where you are needed

You may not be aware of the challenges some sites experience regarding volunteers.

Several years ago, when I was coordinating one small site, I shared with my wife that, with all the families and young adults choosing to attend a beach or mountain site, pretty soon we were going to have people in wheelchairs pushing people in wheelchairs to the meeting hall at this site! Now that was a slight exaggeration, but it certainly struck me how much I appreciated those who were there to help others who really needed the help.

It may never have dawned on you how much you would be needed and appreciated at a smaller site. Perhaps talk it over with your family and consider attending and serving at a smaller, less popular site every third year or so. You'll likely find the experience to be wonderful. If we all chose to practice this, each Feast site could have the volunteers it needed every year. The truth is that when we serve God's people, we serve God as well (Matthew 25:40).

When you register for the Feast, you'll have the opportunity to volunteer to serve. Consider the blessing it is to others and, by extension, to yourself when you choose to serve. It is an honor to serve our spiritual family and a blessing to be able to. Wherever you choose to attend the Feast this year, please remember to volunteer.

Africa

Mugina, Burundi
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
Man, Côte d'Ivoire
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ghana
Kenya
Malawi
Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius
Benin City, Nigeria
Giti, Rwanda
Uvongo, South Africa
Kpalimé, Togo
Lusaka, Zambia
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Asia/Pacific

Coffs Harbour, Australia
Pacific Harbour, Fiji
Taupo, New Zealand
Baguio City, Philippines
Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka

Caribbean

Barbados
Grenada
Guyana
Runaway Bay, Jamaica

Europe

British Isles
La Bussière, France

Latin America

Villa la Merced, Argentina
Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Lican Ray, Chile
El Rodadero, Santa Marta, Colombia
Antigua, Guatemala
San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
Huanchaco, Peru

Note: Not all locations in this list are final. Please check feast.cogwa.org for up-to-date information on international sites.

Registration begins April 18

feast
.cogwa
.org



Inspiring New Zealand Camp Ends With Baptism

Eleven campers enjoy a three-day camp together on the Connolly family's lush 2,000-acre farm in New Zealand.

By Andrei Siopan

Photos by Andrei Siopan

Over the first weekend of February, the Church of God in New Zealand held its annual youth camp. The campsite was on a farm managed by members Ben and Hannah Connolly. The farm is 2,000 acres of lush and green pastures located about four hours from Auckland City. The Connollys have 6,000 lambs, 4,000 sheep and 600 cows roaming around this vast area of land. From a distance they appear as white blobs dotting the landscape.

On Friday night, Feb. 5, the group of 11 campers (five boys and six girls, aged 11 to 24 years old) arrived at the farm.

The house served as the location for Christian Living classes and meals, while other activities were organized outdoors. There were seven staff members, including Ben and Hannah Connolly and our pastor André van Belkum. On the Sabbath, we started the day with breakfast, followed by a Christian Living class. Mr. van Belkum introduced his message by showing that God extends His calling to the campers as children of believers (1 Corinthians 7:14). He then focused on the First Commandment, emphasizing why it is important to put God first in our lives and how it ties in with the other nine. The study was interactive and lively. A number commented how they struggle to observe God's laws in a society largely opposed to His way of life. We opened and closed the study with hymns and prayers.

Before lunch, campers were divided into three groups for a discussion on the subject of media, technology and the Bible. Each group was asked to give a report on their conclusions. Then followed a delightful lunch of venison, mutton, lamb and veggies—all produced on the farm. After lunch, Ben Connolly gave an interactive talk about sheep and the Bible, followed by questions from the camp.

Afterwards, Mr. van Belkum gave us exciting news that Timothy James Siopan was going to be baptized in a nearby stream. We were all happy and excited. As we were about to

leave, it started raining, and so the decision was made to do the baptism the next day. That night the campers performed the song "I Can See Clearly Now," with lyrics changed and arranged by the girls to emphasize biblical themes. The day ended with a delightful evening meal, games and a small bonfire.

The next morning we were greeted by bright and sunny weather. In the distance we caught a glimpse of the famous volcano Mt. Ruapehu. After breakfast, we had another Christian Living class conducted on repentance, godly sorrow versus worldly sorrow and how this is a biblical requirement for baptism. The topic was all the more meaningful because of the baptism that followed. Timothy James Siopan was baptized Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016, in a stream under a small bridge. The Connollys later named the bridge "TJ's Bridge" in honor of the occasion.

Later we went for a tour around parts of the farm. We took group photos, and Ben demonstrated how he rounds up sheep in a paddock using one of their dogs, May. It was amazing to see how animals were designed to help us. It took some time since the sheep were scattered. After this fascinating experience we returned to the main house. Then followed something unique for the campers—firing a 12-gauge shotgun, using clay birds for targets.

After our final meal together, we traveled about 3 miles from the house. We experienced darkness and silence—no light from houses, no vehicles in the streets, just dirt roads and open fields and valleys. As we went over a rise, we saw the biggest bonfire we had ever seen—as tall and wide as a small hut. We sat around its warmth and light as we talked and meditated, enthralled by the vastness of the night sky.

We are grateful to God for this memorable experience and for Ben and Hannah Connolly, who were so gracious and hospitable. It was evident to all that God was present in our midst, which made the whole occasion so very special. ☺☺



A Young Person's Guide to Tracking Down Leavening

What is leavening and how does it work? Why do we throw it out before the Days of Unleavened Bread? How can you be an expert leaven tracker?

By Karen Meeker

When the children of Israel began their journey to freedom and the land God had promised them, Moses gave them instructions from God: “Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out of this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten” (Exodus 13:3).

They were to eat unleavened bread instead: “Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your quarters” (Exodus 13:7).

What in the world is “leavening”?

Leavening is the ingredient that makes cake batter and cookie and bread dough puff up or rise when it is baked. The most common type of leavening is yeast, a community of tiny living things called microorganisms. Yeast spores are everywhere. You might see them as a fine white film on the surface of fresh grapes the next time you visit a fruit stand. They are so small that there could be as many as 30 to 60 billion spores in two ounces of yeast!

How it operates

Moist or dry yeast is dormant (inactive, sort of like sleeping) until it’s added to warm water and flour. Then watch out! It becomes active, gobbling up sugars found in the flour and water mixture. Yeast has a real sweet tooth! When the gooey mixture is kept warm and the yeast keeps feeding on sugars, it makes new spores every half hour. It also begins to give off a gas called carbon dioxide, which gets trapped in the dough, causing it to expand and rise.

How did the Israelites make bread?

The Israelites had to “grow” their own leavening. They would mix flour and water together and let the mixture sit exposed to wild yeasts in the air. (Today we call such a mixture a “sourdough starter.”) When leavening was needed, the cook took a small amount of starter, added flour and water and placed the mixture in a warm place to rise. Then it was kneaded, shaped into loaves and baked.

How did they make unleavened bread?

When the Israelites left Egypt, they didn’t take any starter with them. So when they made their bread, they simply mixed flour and

water together with perhaps a little oil and salt. Since there was no starter to add, they baked it right away and *voilà* (French for “before you know it!”), they had unleavened bread.

Also known as ...

Have you ever wondered exactly what is wrong with leavening? Why can we eat it all year long but not during the Days of Unleavened Bread?

Here’s the reason: Sometimes God uses normal, everyday things to remind us of things that are important to Him. If you read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, you will see that leavening is used to picture negative characteristics like wickedness (doing bad things) and malice (wanting to hurt someone). During these seven days in the spring, leaven pictures breaking God’s laws—or sin. When we hunt for leavening and throw it out before the Days of Unleavened Bread, we picture our willingness and desire to search out and remove sin from our lives.

Tracking down leavening

To put sin out, we first have to know what it is and how to look for it. The same is true of leavening. This calls for expert detective work, and labels hold the key.

The main words to look for are:

- Baking soda or sodium bicarbonate.
- Baking powder.
- Yeast.

These ingredients can be sneaky, hiding in things like biscuits, bread, cake, cookies, cereals, candy bars, ice cream cones, cornbread, crackers, breading on chicken nuggets, donuts, muffins, pretzels, some tortillas, pancakes and waffles. The more labels you check, the more leavening you will discover. It seems to be everywhere—just like sin.

Round it up, eat it up or throw it out

Before the Days of Unleavened Bread begin, your family will probably try to eat up all the food containing leavening. But don’t be surprised if you’re sent out on a last-minute search party to look in spots around the house for leavening.

A good leavening tracker is always on the lookout. ©A

MEET THE MINISTER



Larry Lambert first came into the Church through an argument with his wife, Wilma. God had called her into the truth, and Mr. Lambert began studying to prove her wrong. “Little did I know that God was working with me as well,” Mr. Lambert reflects. That was 33 years ago, and Mr. Lambert has been a faithful member of God’s Church ever since.

Mr. Lambert attended Southwestern Community College and later Western Carolina University. Prior to being hired by the Church, he was a manager in information technology and worked in software development and project management. He also managed his company’s customer service department.

Mr. Lambert was ordained on April 17, 2003, and hired into the full-time ministry on Oct. 28, 2013. He now pastors the Princeton and Charleston, West Virginia, as well as the Roanoke, Virginia, congregations.

The Lamberts’ son, Joshua, and his wife, Megan, also recently gave them a new grandson, Cooper.

“If you do not truly love your work and the people you work with, you cannot put forth the effort and passion required to carry out the responsibilities.”



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

A: I did not want to turn away from an opportunity I believe God was offering me.

Q: What do you look forward to most about your future as a pastor in the Church?

A: Caring for and working closely with God’s people and working with future brothers and sisters God will call.

Q: What goals do you have for your congregation?

A: To grow spiritually together at a pace that is pleasing to God (and also growth in new family members). To become even closer to each other. We already are very close.

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

A: A combination of working closely with people in the world and my service as an elder in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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? Why and how did this person impact your life?

A: Herbert Armstrong had a tremendous impact in my life by boldly and clearly teaching God’s truth.

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

A: A genuine love and passion for the work you do and the people you work with. If you do not truly love your work and the people you work with, you cannot put forth the effort and passion required to carry out the responsibilities.

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

A: An aging ministry.

Q: What are you currently reading?

A: *A Higher Call* by Adam Makos.

Q: What are your hobbies, interests, etc.?

A: Hiking, camping, fishing, sports, scale RC model helicopters, going to the beach and reading.

Q

PERSONAL CONTACT

with CECIL MARANVILLE



The Bible teaches that it is God who works in us both to will and to do according to His good pleasure. We are also taught that there is nothing we can do on our own unless Christ does it in us. That is so that no one will boast except in the Lord. What do you understand? If Christ lives in us, who is responsible for our actions?

A

First, let's put the words you quoted about God working in us in their context. They are the last part of a sentence that begins in the previous verse: "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12, emphasis added).

"Working out our own salvation" may seem to run contrary to other scriptures, such as Romans 3:27-29: "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law."

We must carefully read these verses to not take them out of context and misrepresent what Paul was teaching. From the background here in Romans, we see the subject is justification, which is the forgiveness of past sins. There is a vast difference between being justified and the inaccurate idea that from then on "it makes no difference if a believer sins (breaks God's law), because every sin is already forgiven."

Paul concludes this section with unmistakably clear words: "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law" (Romans 3:31). Believers understand that God's law shows them how they should live, and they understand we must keep God's law!

That said, God still gives all humans the ability, and the responsibility, to make decisions and take actions. For believers, Christ is in us through the Holy Spirit, but even then

Christ only guides us as we submit to Him—He never takes over a person's actions. Thus, a person can choose to follow the direction God gives, or a person can choose to follow the inclination of human nature or the lure of temptation.

With every thought, we have a choice to make (see 2 Corinthians 10:3-6)—we can bring "every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ," or we can choose carnal thinking and behavior.

Therefore, the answer is no, everything we do is not really "Christ doing it in us."

Christ and the Father are in us (John 14:23) through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the mind and power of God that enables the believer to understand and to act upon God's will (John 14:26). The issue is whether or not we will work to "let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). That is how God "works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (verse 13).

There are several overlapping doctrines that need to be understood to get the full picture. We recommend a series of articles posted on our website to help you prove these truths from the Bible:

- "What Is Justification?"
- "The Faith of Abraham."
- "Grace: What Does It Mean?" (In this section's right-hand column of related topics, we recommend you also read "What Is Grace?" and "Fall From Grace?")
- "Christ in Us: How Does He Live in You?"

CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?



André van Belkum stands with the Domingo family (top) and the Tuikolovatu family.

TWO CHILDREN BLESSED IN AUSTRALIA

While recently visiting with brethren in Australia, our pastor André van Belkum blessed Serene Domingo, daughter of John and Jasmine Domingo, and Asaeli Tuikolovatu son of Dominic and Charlene Tuikolovatu. Both couples are from the Melbourne congregation.

Jodie Maczek

LADIES IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, VOLUNTEER FOR HILLTOP OUTREACH

The ladies of the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation just finished their first Hilltop Outreach Project by making over 35 handmade scarves for the homeless. The scarves were either crocheted, knitted, sewn or, in one case, knotted like a beautiful friendship bracelet. The scarves were personally handed out to the homeless with many happy *thank yous*.

Emily Stoner



CHARLESTON AND PRINCETON, WEST VIRGINIA, HOST LADIES' TEA

The Princeton and Charleston, West Virginia, ladies joined together on Feb. 6, 2016, for a themed tea titled "Modestea." The ladies dined on assorted finger sandwiches, tea and cookies.

The topic of modesty was addressed in a presentation given by April Burks of the Princeton congregation. Ms. Burks presented a slide presentation on the difficulty of dressing attractively yet modestly in today's fashion choices. The ladies discussed appropriate dress, skirt, and shorts length, and appropriate necklines to maintain modesty and still be fashionably dressed.

Wilma Lambert



OHIO CONGREGATION HOSTS A FUN SHOW

The Columbus/Cambridge, Ohio, congregation shared a potluck meal after services on Jan. 16, 2016, followed by

the second annual Columbus/Cambridge, Ohio, fun show. The first act, "Grandma's Feather Bed," included the youngest and oldest members of the congregation. The next acts showcased the musical, writing and acting talents of many of the members. We all had a great time!

Denise Rambsel



DOUG AND TANYA HORCHAK VISIT CONGREGATIONS IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA

The Sabbath is always a delight and on the Sabbath of Jan. 9, 2016, the members of the Florence and Columbia, South Carolina, and Augusta, Georgia, congregations gathered for an extra special service.

Our guests were Doug Horchak, operation manager of Ministerial Services, and his wife, Tanya. They attended the morning service in Florence accompanied by our pastor and his wife, Don and Donna Waterhouse. The 27 members in attendance enjoyed Mr. Horchak's main message titled "Knowledge vs. Understanding," clearly showing us the difference between the two topics. A potluck lunch and fellowship followed until it was time to leave for the afternoon service in the Columbia area.

The Columbia and Augusta congregations held a combined afternoon service with approximately 50 in attendance. Zandra Haring and Tarah Schulz sang a vocal duet for special music, and they were accompanied on the piano by Amberly Walton. Mr. Horchak also gave the sermon in the afternoon service. A delicious assortment of refreshments followed the service, allowing time for everyone to enjoy the opportunity to meet the Horchaks and, in many cases, renew old friendships.

We thank the Horchaks so much for their visit, and we hope they will be able to come back very soon.

Ann Hewston, Augusta
Faye Campbell, Florence
Nancy Lochner, Columbia



16TH ANNUAL VIRGINIA BEACH WEEKEND FOCUSES ON HOW WE ARE SPIRITUAL REFUGEES

The 16th annual Virginia Beach Weekend, hosted by the Delmar, Delaware, and Williamsburg, Virginia, congregations, was held over the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, Jan. 15 to 17, 2016. The activities were held at the Holiday Inn North Beach and began Friday evening with a Bible study by Todd Carey titled "Not of This World: Our Life as a Spiritual Refugee," which was the theme for the weekend this year. After the Bible study, brethren enjoyed fellowship over a variety of snacks and beverages.

The Sabbath began with a morning Bible study by Dempsey Bruton based on the story of "Stone Soup." Participants contributed personal experiences about a time when they stood up for their beliefs, and everyone benefited from listening to their experiences.

After a lunch break, our guest speaker Tim Waddle, pastor of the Clarksville, Maryland; Bedford and York, Pennsylvania; and Migori and Ochuna, Kenya, congregations, gave the sermon. He spoke about how we, like our forefather Abraham, look for a heavenly country. We seek our salvation like refugees from this present evil world. After Sabbath services, the congregation was invited to the hotel's "lazy river" to witness the baptism of Justin Carey. On Sabbath evening we had a buffet dinner and then a silent auction, art contest, flip challenge and costume dance, featuring everyone's favorite sports team or sports apparel.

On Sunday morning the brethren had a choice of watching a family movie or enjoying an indoor swim and fellowship time at the lazy river before checking out. The Virginia Beach Weekend was a great success. You're all invited here next year!

Tim Walsh



Justin Carey is baptized by his father, Todd Carey, and Williamsburg elder, Dempsey Bruton, during the Virginia Beach Weekend.

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.

BIRTHS

Jesse and Jeana Slaughter of the Cincinnati/Dayton, Ohio, congregation are pleased to announce the arrival of their eighth baby—a fifth boy. Samuel Nixon Slaughter was born Aug. 18, 2015, weighing 8 pounds 3.6 ounces and measuring 20½ inches.



ORDINATIONS



The Irion family

On Jan. 16, 2016, Hervé Irion was ordained a deacon by the elders of the Houston North, Texas, congregation.

This was also the final Sabbath in Houston for Hervé, his wife, Diana, and their daughter Naomi. Mr. Irion has been approved for a position in the Foreign Service of the United States.

He will travel first to Washington D.C. for a seven-month training period and will then be assigned a responsibility in one of the U.S. embassies abroad.

Mr. Irion was born in France, so he will likely end up in a French-speaking area of the world where he will assist State Department officials in the area of computer technology.

Mr. Irion and his family will be missed greatly. One adult daughter, Tamara, will remain in Houston.

Jim Servidio



Dennis Fultz and Nathan Willoughby pose for a photo along with their wives.

On the Sabbath of Feb. 6, 2016, the western Arkansas congregations assembled together to witness the joyous occasion of two elder ordinations.

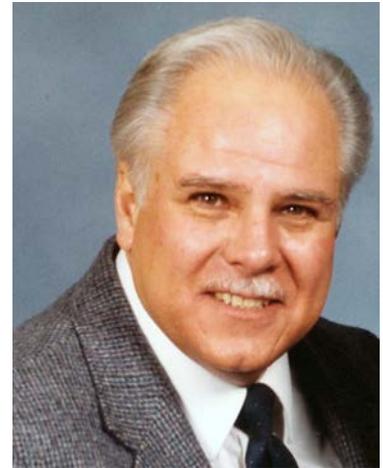
Dennis Fultz and Nathan Willoughby, who attend in the Bentonville congregation, were ordained by Doug Horchak, Ministerial Services operation manager, and Tom Clark, the local pastor. Assisting were Roger West from Dallas, Texas, and two local elders, Jack Willoughby and Bill Gossett.

Both Dennis and his wife, Lyndi, and Nathan and his wife, Amanda, grew up in God's Church and have a long record of service to God's people.

The new elders' parents, Carson and Rachel Fultz and Jack and Vicki Willoughby, along with other family members were present.

It was an honor to have Doug and Tanya Horchak and Roger and Andrea West for a brunch of delicious food and warm fellowship preceding services and the ordination ceremony.

Aurora Gossett



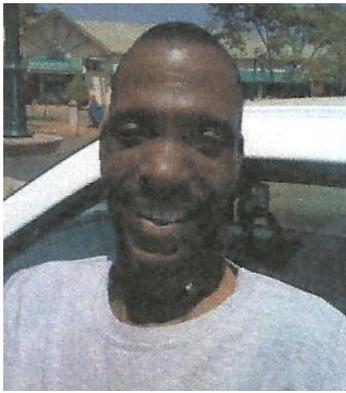
Donald Angert

Donald Angert died on Dec. 7, 2015, at the age of 79, following an extended illness. Mr. Angert was born on July 10, 1936, in Homestead, Pennsylvania (a suburb of Pittsburgh). He was a longtime member of the Church of God, attending congregations in Pittsburgh and Indiana, Pennsylvania. He was baptized in March of 1968 and ordained a deacon in 1985. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Peggy (also a COGWA member and a deaconess); son, Vaun; daughter, Donna; and younger brother, Alan.

Mr. Angert relocated to Indiana, Pennsylvania, in 1972 and established Angert's Auto Trim, serving as owner-operator of the business until retirement in 2006. Among his many interests were cars and all forms of auto racing. He and Peggy frequently traveled throughout the region to attend various races. The Angerts also enjoyed traveling to attend the Feast of Tabernacles at various sites in Europe and across the United States.

Mr. Angert served the Pittsburgh congregation in many ways, including giving sermonettes. He was well-known for his practical messages, always spiced with his humble, unique and humorous perspective. He was a friend to all—always ready to extend a helping hand. He is remembered as a man of faith, steady and committed to the very end, filled with the hope of his calling.

Don Henson



Smart Karisa

Smart Karisa, a member in the Harare, Zimbabwe, congregation died on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016. Smart was with the Church since the days of UCG. After reading Church literature for some time, he eventually was baptized at the Feast in 2008.

Smart was a man of faith. One of the outstanding acts of faith that he displayed was when he undertook a journey of about 350 kilometers (about 210 miles) on foot with no money, trusting only in God to provide. He had visited his home at a place called Mary Mount on the northeastern border of Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Here there was no prospect of ever getting money for the bus to Harare where he wanted to be in order to attend church services. This is when he decided to walk.

After walking the whole morning, he picked up a parcel that contained some food that had presumably dropped from a bus. That day, God provided food for him. On the next morning after spending the night at a rural shopping center around a fire to keep warm, he resumed his journey to Harare. About mid-morning he picked up \$10 on the road. Soon after he stopped and got onto a minibus going to Harare. The bus fare was exactly \$10. By the afternoon, he was in Harare.

This man of faith got sick in November. It took the doctors quite a while to discover the cause of the problem with his chest and loss of appetite. By the time he started on his medication, it was too late.

Harris Hlazo conducted his funeral at Smart's rural home, where about 300 people were in attendance, along with three members of the Church who traveled with Mr. Hlazo. The funeral went very well, and the relatives were very grateful for the service of the Church. Smart leaves behind a wife and three children.

Harris Hlazo



Robert Alvin McClelland

Robert A. (Bob) McClelland, 71, died at his home in Bogart, Georgia, from a rare, aggressive cancer attributed to his exposure to Agent Orange during his service in Vietnam. He was born Oct. 4, 1944, to Alvin and Esther McClelland, who owned a dairy farm in Menomonie, Wisconsin. Here he learned his extraordinary work ethic that began his life of accomplishments and service to others. In 1968, while stationed at Fort McPherson, Georgia, he met and married his lifelong love, Susan Dianne Wilson, and they enjoyed a wonderful life together for 47 years.

Bob had many talents. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He owned several businesses and loved helping others wherever he and Dianne lived. They both were baptized in 1973 and served the Church of God as deacon and deaconess. Bob embraced life and lived it to the fullest. His love for people was evident in his generosity with his time and with his sharing of things. He and Dianne served as youth coordinators in Athens, Georgia; Gadsden, Alabama; Tampa, Florida; and Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He also coached teams and coordinated fund-raising and local church activities. Whatever he found to do, he did it with all his heart and might.

He was always happy, and you could feel his selfless warmth as he enjoyed life and encouraged others. In August of 2014, Bob and Dianne moved to Bogart, Georgia, along with their son Rion McClelland and his family. They attended in Jefferson, Georgia, where eight other family members attend, and were welcomed warmly by the congregation. His death has been a great loss for his Church family. We were all looking forward to many years of service together on our way to the Kingdom. Bob was blessed to be able to continue

work and service until he became ill in September of 2015.

Bob's greatest joys were his children and grandchildren, who were a huge part of his life. He is survived by his wife Susan Dianne; daughter, Jennifer (Eric) Schindeldecker of Eau Claire, Wisconsin; son, Dr. Robert Rion (Hannah) McClelland of Athens; and beloved grandsons Rowan, Liam and Rory McClelland of Athens. Those preceding him in death were his parents, Alvin and Esther McClelland; in-laws, Ralford and Agnes Wilson; a baby brother, Roger; and niece, Kristi Quintana Maxwell.

A celebration of life was held on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015, at the COGWA church hall in Jefferson. Bruce Gore officiated with special honors presented by the local American Legion officers. There are people who leave lasting impressions on your life, those of deep faith and character. Bob McClelland was such a person.

Donna W. Quintana



David Hall Morris

David Hall Morris, 59, died on March 16, 2015, in Brazoria County, Texas. Due to family scheduling conflicts, David's memorial service was delayed for months, but eventually all were able to attend the service on Jan. 2, 2016, at the Houston South church hall.

David was born on July 16, 1955, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to David and Dorothy Morris, both deceased. Two sisters and 10 nieces and nephews survive him. He attended Ambassador College in Big Sandy in the 1970s.

David worked as a substance abuse counselor, held a master plumber's license and taught plumbing classes at Huntsville Prison. He was a hard worker who loved fishing, riding Harleys and had a passion for Kansas State, Kansas University, and Wichita State basketball.

He was a member of the Houston South congregation and now awaits the resurrection.

Susan Scott Smith

Have a spiritually
enriching Passover and
Days of Unleavened Bread!

