

OneAccord

May 2016

Focused Mentoring Program: Meet the Couples

2015 Annual Financial Audit

Writer's Block: Power, Love
and a Sound Mind

personal from the president

"Count Fifty"

Each of the festivals recorded in Leviticus 23 is unique in meaning and observance. Passover required the killing of a lamb. Christ fulfilled the role of the lamb and became our Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7). Unleavened Bread required the removal of leavening and the eating of unleavened bread for seven days. Trumpets is called a memorial (Leviticus 23:24). Atonement is a day of fasting. Tabernacles required living for seven days in a temporary dwelling called a booth. The Eighth Day (Last Great Day) was the conclusion of the annual cycle of festivals. And for the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) we are asked to do something special—to “count fifty days” (Leviticus 23:16).

And that is the time period we are in now. Passover and Unleavened Bread have passed, and we are now looking forward to the next festival. The Feast of Weeks or Pentecost (as it’s called in the New Testament) is the culmination of the 50-day count.

To understand the spiritual meaning of Pentecost, we need to understand the two harvest seasons of ancient Israel—one in the spring and the other in the fall. The spring harvest consisted primarily of grain, and the fall harvest consisted of grain and fruit.

The 50-day count had a definite beginning and a definite end. The count always began with the wave-sheaf offering, which was offered on the “morrow after the Sabbath” during the Days of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:11, 15, King James Version). It is our belief that the “morrow after the Sabbath” was the Sunday that fell during the seven days of Unleavened Bread. The Jews interpret the “Sabbath” in Leviticus 23:15 as the first day of Unleavened Bread (which is always Nisan 15) and therefore have a set date for Pentecost, Sivan 6. We do not agree, since having a set day of the month to begin your count eliminates the very purpose of counting.

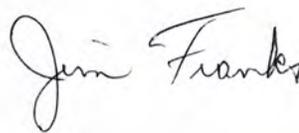
Some years the Sunday during Unleavened Bread actually falls on the first holy day. The year 2021 is one of those years. Since the wave sheaf must fall during Unleavened Bread, in such a case the first day of Unleavened Bread is also the day of the wave sheaf. Some argue that the wave sheaf could not be offered on the holy day, but there is no such prohibition in Scripture. In fact, Scripture records numerous offerings given on the Sabbaths and holy days.

When the count is concluded on the Day of Pentecost, the grain has been cut and removed from the field. If one begins his count on the Sunday during the

Days of Unleavened Bread, the 50th day will also be on Sunday. The grain has been cut from the field and is now stored in the barn or spread out in the field to dry. Pentecost celebrates the first—that is, the spring—harvest. But this isn’t the end of the first harvest. The grain must dry before it will be at its best. After the initial harvest, the moisture content of the grain is too high to be good quality, so the drying process takes place. Today we use modern silos or grain elevators, along with fans, to speed up this process.

Of course, all of this has a spiritual application for us today. Passover is the reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins. Unleavened Bread is the removal of sin from our lives and the replacement of sin with righteousness. But this doesn’t solve the problem of human nature. It is with the coming of the Holy Spirit that the firstfruits are sealed. Pentecost isn’t the conclusion of the harvest, but it is the sealing and separating of the firstfruits from the world. The grain has been taken from the field and stored for maturing.

God calls us out of this world; and through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and upon our repentance, He seals us with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). We now await the return of Jesus Christ, which is pictured by the Feast of Trumpets. Yes, each holy day is special and has its own unique features. And through these holy days, we understand what God has in store for mankind!



Jim Franks

President

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CHURCH of GOD

A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Seven Couples Travel to Dallas for Focused Mentoring Program Weekend

By Doug Horchak

Couples from seven different congregations around the United States traveled to the Church office in Allen, Texas, for two days of training April 1-3. As participants in the Focused Mentoring Program, each of these husband-and-wife teams were recommended by their local pastors to be involved in this training opportunity that COGWA began over four years ago. The following couples participated in the weekend:

- Phil and Jenny Dick from Dallas, Texas.
- Wes and Trish Cohron from Atlanta, Georgia.
- Mark and Emily Hampton from Leicester, Massachusetts.
- Thomas and Julie Burrow from Greensboro, North Carolina.
- Van and Polly Hanson from Roanoke, Virginia.
- Chris and Stephanie Rochelle from Houston South, Texas.
- Tim and Michelle Rickard from Fort Worth, Texas.

The Focused Mentoring Program (FMP) began in 2012 and was designed to provide candidates focused, hands-on experience with the pastor in their local church area. Pastors selected couples based on their current experience in serving the congregation. Prior to their committing to the yearlong program, each pastor discussed the FMP program in detail with the couple in his congregation.



In addition to spending time with the pastor and his wife during that period, Ministerial Services conducts live webinars once a month on Sunday mornings for the couples. Each of these webinars focuses on various aspects of serving and shepherding

God's people, such as "Teaching as You Have Been Taught," "Serving and Its Impact on Family," and "The Importance of Character and Integrity." In addition to the live webinars, each of the FMP participants is provided with 150 hours of online Foundation Institute biblical classes. Since that first year, we have had 24 couples participate in this 12-month experiential process.

During the course of the weekend, classes were presented by President Jim Franks, Clyde Kilough, Doug Horchak and David Johnson. In addition, Tanya Horchak and Sharron Franks conducted a women's session. While the weekend of April 2-3 included six hours of classes for the attendees, the group dinner and



fellowship on Saturday evening provided a wonderful opportunity for the couples to get to know each other and for those of us in the administration of the Church to interact with each of them.

Each of the couples chosen for the mentoring program understands that the goal is for them to become familiar with the "pastoral side" of the ministry and gain knowledge that would benefit them in their future service to the Church in the years ahead. While being involved in this program over a 12-month period of time is a stand-alone opportunity, we hope that this exposure to the dynamics of serving God's people in the full-time ministry will give each candidate couple a good understanding of what the pastoral ministry is like and have a positive impact on their involvement in the Church in the years ahead. ©A

2015 Annual Audit Shows God's Continued Blessing

The 2015 independent audit shows positive stewardship of our finances.

By Britton M. Taylor

We are pleased to share the audited financial statement of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association. This year's report is for the years ending Dec. 31, 2015, and 2014.

The audit was completed in the first quarter of the year—earlier than when we completed last year's audit. The Church received a favorable opinion that the financial statements accurately present the Church's financial position and results of operations for 2015 and, by comparison, for 2014.

Our independent auditing firm, Henry & Peters, P.C., of Tyler, Texas, gave us an "unqualified" opinion on the financial statements. The unqualified opinion reflects our independent auditor's judgment that our financial records and statements are fairly and appropriately presented and are in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

These results not only positively reflect the performance of the financial operations of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc., but the entire organization's approach to its fiscal responsibilities. The Ministerial Board of Directors and administration are committed to continuously improving the Church's operations and being the best stewards we can be of the financial resources God provides to do His work. An "unqualified" opinion is just one indication of that commitment.

We are very thankful to report that income received for 2015 was just over \$11 million, the highest in our short history and an increase of 4.7 percent from 2014. Total expenditures for 2015 and 2014 were approximately \$10.7 and \$10.5 million respectively.

We acknowledge that our blessings come from God the Father and Jesus Christ, who continue to bless our income. We recognize that it is only by God's grace, mercy and continued blessing that we will continue to experience the sound financial health in the future that God has blessed us with these past five years.

We extend our deepest thanks and appreciation for the continuing generosity and faithfulness of the brethren and others who support the Church by giving tithes and offerings. We ask that you continue to pray for us to have wisdom and discretion and follow Christ's lead in our stewardship of the resources He provides.

Below we have presented several statements related to the Church's operations for the year ending Dec. 31, 2015. ©&A

Go to the following link to view the audited financial statements and related unqualified opinion online:
members.cogwa.org/uploads/Church_of_God_a_Worldwide_Association_2015_Audit.pdf

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Tithes and offerings, individuals	\$ 7,958,555	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,958,555
Local congregation contributions	56,598	-	-	56,598
Holy Day/Festival Fund offerings	2,566,312	-	-	2,566,312
Temporarily restricted contributions	-	463,901	-	463,901
Other income	24,482	-	-	24,482
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of program restrictions	463,901	(463,901)	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	<u>11,069,848</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,069,848</u>
EXPENSES				
Program services:				
Public proclamation	1,015,577	-	-	1,015,577
Congregational care	5,014,514	-	-	5,014,514
Education	274,481	-	-	274,481
Festivals	547,312	-	-	547,312
International	1,731,767	-	-	1,731,767
Total program services	<u>8,583,651</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,583,651</u>
General and administrative:				
Headquarters office, management and administrative	840,420	-	-	840,420
Board of directors	4,912	-	-	4,912
Insurance and related	1,240,569	-	-	1,240,569
Total general and administrative	<u>2,085,901</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,085,901</u>
Total expenses	<u>10,669,552</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,669,552</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	400,296	-	-	400,296
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of period	2,425,344	-	-	2,425,344
End of period	<u>\$ 2,825,640</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,825,640</u>

NOTE 9 - SCHEDULE OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

For the year ended December 31, 2015

EXPENSES	Program Services					General and Administrative			Total
	Public Proclamation	Congregational Care	Education	Festivals	International	Headquarters Office, Management and Administrative			
						Board of Directors	Insurance and Related		
Bank services and fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,074	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,074
Building and equipment lease/rental	-	19,261	30,087	57,150	794	152,840	-	-	260,132
Contracted services and fees	78,700	22,732	-	1,716	2,934	108,091	-	-	214,173
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	41,687	-	-	41,687
Furniture and equipment	12,437	3,411	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,848
Grants and charitable support:									
International subsidies	-	-	-	-	887,533	-	-	-	887,533
Domestic support:									
Discretionary assistance	-	229,063	-	119,608	89,416	-	-	43,050	481,137
Discretionary retirement pay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	306,224	306,224
Local congregation subsidies	-	1,157,622	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,157,622
Insurance and health care	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	891,295	891,295
Internet and related	31,598	-	-	-	-	4,800	-	-	36,398
Postage and shipping	78,732	5,479	-	904	1,386	3,204	-	-	89,705
Printing	75,666	16,429	-	-	12,121	-	-	-	104,216
Salaries and related expenses	679,344	2,892,547	106,358	314,923	451,276	356,726	-	-	4,801,174
Supplies	46,855	14,492	13,209	24,001	1,122	38,215	-	-	137,894
Telephone and utilities	996	29,904	-	-	959	50,181	-	-	82,040
Travel, mileage, meals and lodging	9,722	622,011	26,673	26,122	242,018	47,938	4,912	-	979,396
Youth camp and activities	-	-	92,974	2,818	42,208	-	-	-	138,000
Other	1,527	1,563	5,180	70	-	5,664	-	-	14,004
Total expenses	\$ 1,015,577	\$ 5,014,514	\$ 274,481	\$ 547,312	\$ 1,731,767	\$ 840,420	\$ 4,912	\$ 1,240,569	\$ 10,669,552

PORTRAITS OF FAITH

A Lifetime of Faithfulness

Roberta Waddle has been in the Church of God for almost 55 years.

By Judy Swanson

I would like to introduce you to a very special lady and the second oldest member of our London, Kentucky, congregation, Roberta Waddle.

On Nov. 2, 1940, weighing just about 4 pounds, Roberta came into this world right after her twin brother, Roy. She was so tiny that most of her little body could fit in the palm of her father’s hand. Her parents, Robert and Grace Holladay, were living in Glasgow, Kentucky, at the time. Three siblings came later onto the scene.

In January of 1958 a fire burned their house down, and they began living in a little house that only had a radio to listen to. In early February of that year, her brother Roy was sitting at the dining room table, trying to listen to a University of Kentucky basketball game, when the powerful voice of Herbert Armstrong kept bleeding into the station. Her mother, Grace, recognized that voice as the one she heard on the radio sometimes when she wanted to listen to the news. So they continued to listen to him.

She became intrigued with what he was saying, as he was talking about world conditions. From that moment on, they began listening to *The World Tomorrow* program.

They began receiving literature, and the first booklet they read was about the Sabbath day, which they immediately started keeping. Since there were no congregations on the Eastern seaboard in 1958, they kept the Sabbath at home.

When the spring holy days came around that year Roberta and Roy stayed home from school. As a result, their assistant principal wanted to know how to find “this Herbert Armstrong” in the Yellow Pages. She thought he was a minister in town. She dropped the subject, though, when they told her they only knew him from the radio.

Her mother’s faithful example

Their Baptist minister was so irate when they quit attending his congregation that he had his church members gather in

their yard one Sunday afternoon to upbraid them to come back to church. Mrs. Holladay tried to give the minister a *Plain Truth* magazine, but he refused to take it. The minister then went to their landlady and tried to talk her into firing Robert, as he also worked for the landlady as a sharecropper. But the landlady refused to fire him.

Roberta, Roy and Grace worked with Robert in the tobacco fields until Grace no longer wanted to be part of growing tobacco. When she asked her husband if they could stop working in those fields and just work in the other ones, he complied with her wishes.

Her new life as a wife and as a child of God

In 1958 Roberta had her first date with Charles Waddle, who lived next door to her grandparents. Although her brother Roy was accepted to Ambassador College, Roberta decided she wanted to get married instead of going to college. Roberta and Charles were married on Dec. 24, 1959.

On July 7, 1961, while nearly three months pregnant, Roberta was baptized in the Ohio River. Baptized with her were two other ladies who were also expecting and seven other individuals.

Overcoming and growing

Roberta and Charles had six children. Mitzi married Scott Hanna, and they and their three sons live in Louisville, Kentucky. Michael and his wife, Barry Ann, live in Bagdad, Kentucky. Timothy and his wife, Valerie, live in Frederick, Maryland. They have two daughters, and the oldest was married on July 12, 2015. Tim pastors the churches in Clarksville, Maryland; Bedford and York, Pennsylvania; and the congregations in Kenya. Bryan and his wife, Rhonda, live in Houston, Texas, with their three boys. He serves as a deacon in the Houston North congregation. Steve and his wife, Hyon Cha, have one son and live in Iowa City, Iowa. Roberta and Charles' sixth child, Lynda Suzanne, was born with a severe birth defect called microcephaly, a very rare disease that causes the brain to not develop to a normal size. Although Lynda Suzanne died at 10 months, Roberta's faith was not shaken.

Lynda Suzanne's death, however, nearly cost Roberta and Charles their marriage. They had been experiencing serious problems for a long time. When she counseled with a minister about the situation, he told her that she could leave him; however, she didn't think divorcing him was the right thing for her to do. Instead she went to God in prayer, beseeching Him to help her see what she needed to change in herself. Everything changed for the better, and their love revived when she learned that she needed to treat her husband with more respect.

They remained married until her beloved husband Charles died of lung cancer on July 25, 2014. They had been married for 55 years.

Examples of service to God's people and her community

While Roberta and Charles lived in Louisville, she attended the Louisville congregation and for many years helped out with YOU functions, activities, banquets, etc. She also made the



Roberta Waddle

sermon tapes for the church library, which involved sending out tapes to prisoners who were interested in or part of the Church.

For a short time Roberta also worked with children who had learning disabilities in her community, teaching them how to read.

Roberta never floundered, but kept her faith in God and His Word.

Building faith in the midst of trials

In 1994 and 1995, Roberta had to go back to the beginning of her calling and prove all things again to make certain of her beliefs. After Mr. Armstrong died in 1986, the Church started going through a major trial when the leadership started changing major doctrines and allowing heresy to be brought into God's Church. When the Church split in 1995, the congregation in Louisville went from an attendance of over 340 members down to only a little over 100 brethren who continued in the faith. Roberta never floundered, but kept her faith in God and His Word—not the heresy that was being preached!

A new chapter

This May, Roberta moved to Calhoun, Tennessee, to live near her sister Linda, whose husband is ailing. She will also be near her twin brother Roy, who is recovering from a stroke. We in the London, Kentucky, congregation are going to miss her very much, as she has been an inspiration of faith, hope, love and endurance to us all. ☺☺



Power, Love and a Sound Mind

The Feast of Pentecost reminds us that wind can represent the awesome power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible also makes clear that God’s power is always controlled by love and a sound mind.

By Mike Bennett

On the Day of Pentecost after Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection, the disciples were all together. Suddenly great miracles began to get people’s attention and to mark the beginning of the New Testament Church.

The first of those miracles was a “sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind” (Acts 2:2). When we hear about deadly and devastating tornadoes, probably none of us would look forward to hearing such a sound. However, there is a biblical connection between the power of the wind and the power of God’s Holy Spirit given on the Day of Pentecost. But, as we’ll see, God’s power is always controlled by love and a sound mind.

The awesome power of wind

I’ve always had a hard time understanding windstorms. I mean, usually the air around us is invisible, and we don’t even notice it. We walk through the air as if there was nothing there. So when a gust of wind comes up, it is a surprise to me. To imagine wind having power to destroy half-mile wide swaths of towns like Joplin, Missouri, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama, as it did in 2011, seems like science-fiction to me. That air could rip houses apart like balsa wood seems incredible.

The June 6, 2011, issue of *Time* magazine reported some of the stories of people who survived in Joplin. For example, Pamela Merriman and her two kids crouched in their bathroom as the brick fireplace tumbled through the living room floor and the garage door crashed through the wall beside them and the high school bleachers wrapped around a tree in her front yard.

How the Holy Spirit is—and isn’t—like wind

In what way is the Holy Spirit like those windstorms—and in what ways is it not like that?

For one thing, as Jesus pointed out to Nicodemus, the Holy Spirit is invisible like the wind. You can see its results, but you can’t see the air itself (John 3:8). You might even say it’s kind of a play on words, because the “Greek word translated *Spirit* also means ‘wind,’” as it says in the notes of the *Nelson Study Bible*.

So the Holy Spirit is like the wind in that it is invisible and it is powerful. But now let’s look at what makes the Holy Spirit different from the raging, uncontrolled, destructive power of a tornado.

Elijah’s experience

Consider the story of Elijah, who had become discouraged and disheartened, fleeing from evil Queen Jezebel. God was go-

ing to meet with Elijah, and He chose to do it in a very interesting way.

“Then He said, ‘Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.’ And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice” (1 Kings 19:11-12).

God wants us to know He controls the wind—and all the power in the universe—but He can speak softly and gently. His awesome power is always under control.

Jesus’ power over the wind

We can see more about God’s power in Mark 4:35-41. In this passage, after a long day of preaching to the crowds, Jesus and His disciples were sailing across the Sea of Galilee, and Jesus fell asleep even though a terrible windstorm came up! The disciples, several of them seasoned fishermen, were terrified and thought they were all going to die! They woke Jesus up, amazed He could sleep through this, and yelled to Him in essence, “Don’t you care that we’re all going to drown?”

Then Jesus said: “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.”

The disciples were even more afraid now—in awe of Jesus Christ’s power over the strongest forces of their world, the wind and the sea. This was another example that shows that God’s great power is always under His control. And He wants us to be like Him. He wants to give us power, but only power to be used for right reasons. He won’t give us His incredible power if we are going to misuse it.

Sons of Thunder?

Remember the time the Samaritans turned Jesus away, and James and John, the Sons of Thunder, wanted the power to call down fire from heaven to punish these people? Jesus Christ said

they didn’t know what spirit they were of (Luke 9:51-56). It was not His Spirit that was inspiring their feelings of anger and retribution.

We are not called to be the Sons of Thunder, but the sons of encouragement and love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

That’s one list of what God’s Spirit does. There’s another list in 2 Timothy 1:7. Paul wanted Timothy to make use of the wonderful gift of God’s Spirit to empower his ministry and do God’s work, so he told him: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

Love and a sound mind

We’ve looked at the aspect of power—God’s Spirit is the very power that God used to create the universe! It is limitless—it is unimaginable power! But Paul also lists two other elements that show not only what the Holy Spirit gives us, but what we need to grow in to be able to use the power God gives correctly.

We need to have the same underlying motivation and attitude that God has: Love! Outgoing concern for others. An unselfish approach that treats others as God treats us. The kind of love that Jesus Christ showed when He was willing to sacrifice everything for us. He could have called down fire or legions of angels, but instead He prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34).

Along with that love, we need a sound mind. This is not just talking about sanity, but about discipline and self-control. It’s moderation. It’s a self-correcting approach to want to grow and change and have more of the mind of Jesus Christ.

So, as we think of that sound of a mighty rushing wind on Pentecost, we can think of power, yes. But we can also think of the love and sound mind we need to be able to use the power of the Holy Spirit as God wants us to. Then, God can not only give us the down payment of His Spirit in this life, but the fullness of His spiritual power as sons and daughters forever in His Kingdom! ☺☺



MEET THE MINISTER



"As it says in Job 42:5, 'I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You.' I then understood and was able to comprehend that this wasn't the only life; this isn't the only thing that is important."

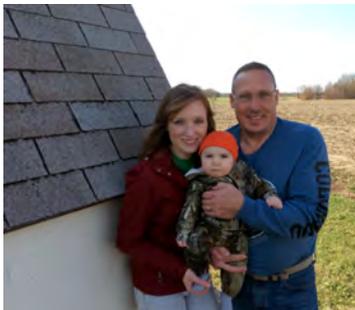


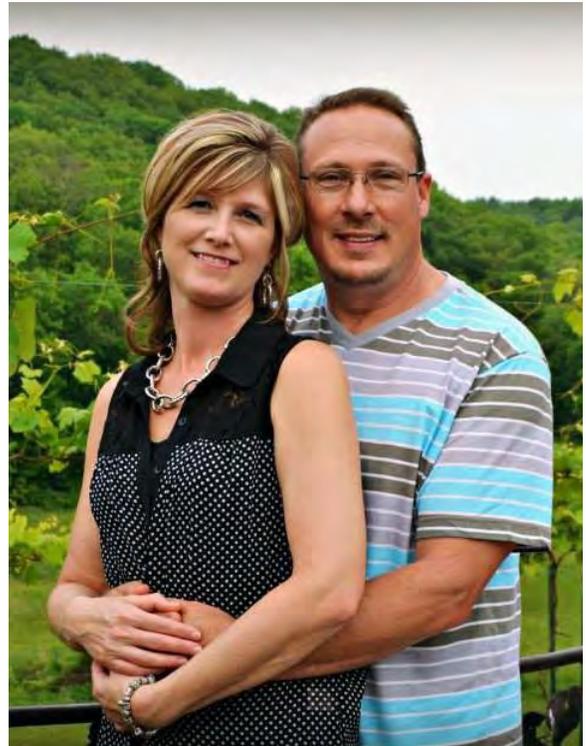
Mark Whynaucht has been in the Church for almost his entire life, ever since his parents started attending when he was 3 years old.

Mr. Whynaucht graduated from DeVry Institute of Technology with an associate's degree in electronics and later worked for Roma Foods as a food salesman.

He and his wife, Cheryl, have two daughters, Brittany Martin and Alyssa Degagne. Their son, Tyler, died on March 17, 2013, at the age of 17 after a long battle with a serious illness.

Mr. Whynaucht was ordained in September 2012 and was hired on July 1, 2014. Prior to becoming a full-time pastor, the Whynauchts lived in Stoutland, Missouri, and attended the Springfield and Joplin, Missouri, congregations, as well as Harrison, Arkansas. He currently pastors the Salt Lake City, Utah, and Grand Junction, Colorado, congregations.





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

A: Well, I had never really considered it because it wasn't something I had ever really thought about. I truly enjoy serving, and that was really my overall goal—to serve the best I could wherever I was.

As the years progressed, I found myself serving in more areas and developed a closer, more intimate relationship with God and His people. I would say the turning point in my life was when our son became very ill. I had prayed that God would heal him, and if nothing else, to give me his infirmity so that he could live a full life.

As his health continued to decline, there was a day when I was on my knees, and it became very clear—as if a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders. As it says in Job 42:5, "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You." I understood. I was able to comprehend that this wasn't the only life; this isn't the only thing that is important. I began praying even more fervently, "Father, Your will be done and whatever Your will is, I will do it." It was about two years later when I was hired by the Church.

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

A: Working with the brethren and seeing them grow to become spiritually mature.

Q: What goals do you have for your congregations?

A: To become closer as a spiritual family and work together in love towards the ultimate goal, the Kingdom of God.

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

A: While working as a food salesman, I worked with a wide variety

of people every day, taking food orders, making sure shipments were on time, teaching them about new products and services, and fixing problems (like not getting the right product, truck not showing up, etc.). Working with and loving people, I believe, gives me some of the skills needed for this new responsibility.

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: My wife. She has always been there to back me up and encourage me in the most difficult times. She helps me think and feel in ways that I normally wouldn't as a man. She is faithful, strong, loving and generous in giving of herself without thinking about what she will get in return. I am so grateful for her and for the impact she has had on my life.

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

A: Wisdom—to better understand how to use all the fruit of the Spirit when dealing with and shepherding God's people.

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

A: Being committed and convicted of the spiritual knowledge that we have received and remaining faithful to what God has revealed to us by standing on our beliefs.

Q: What are you currently reading?

A: *Hidden Keys of a Loving, Lasting Marriage* by Gary Smalley.

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

A: Golfing, hunting, snow skiing, archery, fishing and hiking.

CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?



Members of the western Arkansas congregations fellowship and enjoy their time with visitors.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WESTERN ARKANSAS CHURCH OF GOD

It was indeed an honor to have 112 brethren together in Fort Smith, Arkansas, on March 19, 2016, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Church of God in western Arkansas. Besides those from Arkansas, brethren traveled from Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming.

Fellowship began at 11 a.m. on the Sabbath, followed by services at 1 p.m. Then we had a dinner at 5 p.m. and a dance after sundown. On Sunday, Tom and Mary Clark hosted a delicious brunch, which facilitated more fellowship enjoyed by many brethren.

We were privileged to have Jim and Sharron Franks present. Mr. Franks was the keynote speaker, bringing us a message of encouragement and a warning against drifting spiritually. He also spoke of the experiences of isolation and perseverance of the early Arkansas brethren called by God, including those of his mother, who did not have a congregation to fellowship with until 1961 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. Clark gave a sermonette pointing out various ways through which the gospel has been disseminated over the centuries.

It was inspiring to have two members of the original Fort Smith congregation in attendance—Vendor Barrett, who spoke of his experiences in the early years of the Fort Smith congregation and the hunger that the brethren had for fellowship, and Wanda Newby, who was also a charter member.

Andrea West, Mrs. Newby's niece, spoke on her behalf and told the story of Marie Wann (Mrs. West's mother) and her two sisters, Mabel and Wanda, and their difficulty finding brethren to worship with in those early years. Mrs. West recounted her family's experience listening to Herbert Armstrong on superstation XEG, which would often fade in and out.

Mrs. West's husband, Roger, who was the local pastor for 13 years before retiring, gave an inspiring story of his connection to the western Arkansas Church of God.

These original pioneers relied on their genuine faith in order to endure through the years when there was no physical church locally. They did as Mr. Armstrong suggested and proved God's true Word for themselves from the Bible.

Aurora Gossett



Bunco emcee Gary Summers calls out instructions by the table of white elephant gifts.

AKRON/CANTON, OHIO, HOSTS PENNY ROLL AND BUNCO SOCIAL

On Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, the Akron/Canton, Ohio, congregation enjoyed an evening of fun and fellowship. The activities began with numerous slow cookers filled with a variety of delicious chilies and soups. The wonderful aromas filled the air inside the banquet hall. After the potluck meal, we set up for the annual penny roll. The tables were set into a large "U" where everyone worked together to count their pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters.

The evening segued into the "special auction." The auctioned items included gift baskets, clothing and storage containers. The hot ticket item was the much sought after CYC stitched onesies, which were specially made for the newborns in the area. We wrapped up the auction and followed it with a rousing game of bunco. The most amusing prize won was a dollar bill frozen in a clear juice container labeled, "Cold, Hard Cash." It was a great way to reduce our tier-two expenses while enjoying a fun-filled evening spending time with one another.

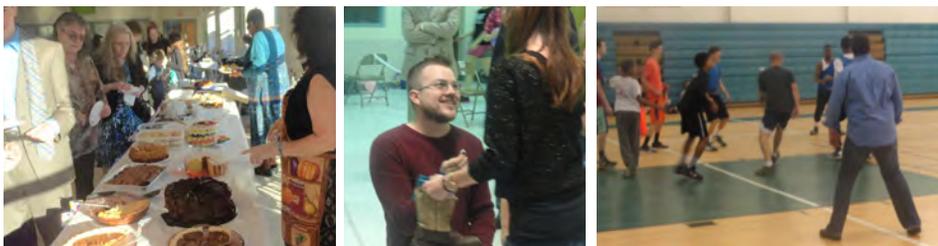
Brian Hawk



BUFFALO, NEW YORK, RAISES \$330 IN ANNUAL COIN ROLL

On Feb. 20, 2016, the Buffalo, New York, congregation held its annual coin rolling and game night social. This event has been a yearly tradition for over 10 years, benefiting the work abroad in many places. This year's collected change added up to \$330 toward supporting God's work in Africa.

Stephan M. Koenig



Brethren enjoy a large potluck; Josh Arnold proposes to Rosalynn Villaescusa; and some of the teens play basketball.

SIXTH SUPER SOCIAL IN GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, STRENGTHENS BONDS OF UNITY

On Friday evening, Feb. 26, 2016, the Greensboro, North Carolina, church family held its sixth annual Super Social. It began Friday evening with delectable snacks and plenty of fellowship as we welcomed our guest speaker and his wife, Clyde and Dee Kilough, as well as other brethren from near and far.

The next morning we were blessed with a very interesting and exciting seminar on Jerusalem. Our theme for the social was “Bonds of Our Unity.” Mr. Kilough discussed the disunity in Jerusalem but also reminded us of the future and permanent state of unity in Jerusalem. After a short break for some delicious food, Sabbath services began with a sermonette on comforting one another, and then Mr. Kilough gave the sermon, titled “The Path to Peace.” Both messages fitly joined together.

After another great meal of soups, sandwiches and desserts after sunset, we began basketball games, board games and—best of all—just good ol’ fellowship. There were also carnival games. At the fishing hole game, one of our young ladies, Rosalynn Villaescusa, was surprised to catch an engagement ring as her fiancé, Josh Arnold, thought of a creative way to propose. It was quite a catch! As always, time went by much too quickly and the jam-packed day came to an end.

On Sunday morning we had the opportunity to hear Mr. Kilough one more time as he spoke on the book of Judges, reminding us that when every man does what is right in his own sight, it only leads to death. Not wanting to leave each other, about 30 of us met at a restaurant for our last meal before going our separate ways. One person commented, “It was truly an enjoyable weekend—especially the messages that we heard to lift us up and draw us closer together to God and each other.”

What an awesome weekend! Put it on your calendar for next year. We will be glad to share the fellowship, food and God’s love. See you there!

Bev McKnight and Ron Kelley



ALLIE ROCHELLE WINS FIRST PLACE IN HOUSTON SOUTH CHILI COOK-OFF

The Houston South, Texas, congregation held its eighth annual chili cook-off after services on Jan. 9, 2016. It is always a challenge to narrow the winners down to the top three; however, the three judges accomplished this daunting task and enjoyed sampling and savoring the 12 entries.

Several of our previous winners made their winning chili to add to our much anticipated dining experience. All the normal toppings—onions, cheese, Fritos, jalapeños, sour cream—along with a variety of salads, hot dogs, beverages and desserts accompanied the entries.

Allie Rochelle, who placed second last year, just behind her dad, managed to come in first place this year. Kathy Seiver and Andrea Keys came in second and third, respectively.

As warm weather and summer arrive, we will only dream about our ninth contest next year!

Susan Scott Smith



SUPPLIES PURCHASED FOR FIJIAN BRETHREN AFFECTED BY CYCLONE WINSTON

On Feb. 20, 2016, the strongest tropical cyclone ever to make landfall over Fiji hit several islands, killing 44 people and causing catastrophic damage. Nearly 80 percent of the Fijian population lost power, and over 9,000 homes were destroyed.

André van Belkum, who pastors the congregation in Fiji, traveled from his home in New Zealand to visit the brethren with his wife, Elize, as soon as airports reopened. “Emori Tolo [our local deacon] and I were able to find a shop that had a good supply of food, especially large bags of flour and rice,” wrote Mr. van Belkum. “A quantity of tinned food was also purchased, as without electricity, perishables such as meat would not last (especially in the Fijian heat and humidity). The provisions were for the people in the Ba region [located in the northwest part of Fiji’s largest island], where there was large-scale destruction of buildings and crops. The vehicle belongs to the company Emori works for, and they kindly allowed him to travel to Suva [located in the southeast part of the island] to collect supplies and attend the Bible study on the Sabbath.

“There were 28 in attendance for our Bible study, including children. All members and prospective members were able to be present.”

Thankfully, none of the members’ homes were destroyed, and they extend their deep gratitude for the financial assistance provided.

Jim Franks

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



Calise Ann Hess

Jeremy and Melody Hess of the Cincinnati/Dayton, Ohio, congregation, are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Calise Ann Hess. Calise was born at 11:54 p.m. on Dec. 27, 2015, weighing 7 pounds and measuring 19¾ inches. Proud grandparents include Randy and Darlene Schmidt of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Jim and Linda Morgan of Gulfport, Mississippi; and Larry and Cheryl Hess of Gulfport, Mississippi. Everyone is smitten and simply delighted with little Calise.

Jeremy and Melody Hess

BAPTISMS



Chantelle Marie West

Chantelle Marie West, of the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation, was baptized on April 2, 2016, at a ceremony that took place at a close family friend's home. Her father, David West, performed the baptism and then participated in the laying on of hands with Chantelle's grandfather, Roger West, and local church pastor Ken Giese. It was a very special evening for the family to be able to welcome Chantelle into the Body of Christ.

Dave and Lori West



Nathan Berg and his mom, Cherine

Nathan Brandon Berg was baptized on March 26, 2016, at the home of Dan Stolley in Trophy Club, Texas. His baptism was conducted by Ken Giese, pastor of the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation, with Nathan's family and friends attending. After the ceremony, the group enjoyed delicious snacks and spent time celebrating his decision. We are delighted that Nathan understands God's plan for mankind, has chosen to walk according to God's way of life, and knows that he can reach out to Him for help at any time.

Nate and Cherine Berg

ANNIVERSARIES

On Dec. 12, 2015, the Hickory, North Carolina, brethren celebrated Haynes and Ethel Baker's 65th anniversary with a homemade cake and warm embraces.

As a freshman in high school, Ethel Hudlery met sophomore Haynes Baker, and they began to date the following year. On Dec. 27, 1950, they made their vows and became Mr.

and Mrs. Haynes Baker. Ten years later, Mr. Baker was baptized. Mrs. Baker was baptized three years after Mr. Baker, as they both began attending the Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation in November of 1963.

Currently, they attend church in Hickory, along with two of their three sons (the other attends in Asheville, North Carolina) and four of their eight grandchildren.

Haven Swanson



Haynes and Ethel Baker

On Feb. 27, 2016, the Houston South, Texas, congregation held a beautiful reception for Ted and Sheri Franek. Ted and Sheri celebrated their 25th anniversary on March 3. Our pastor, Larry Salyer, presented them with a beautiful, decorative serving bowl after services as a gift from our church.

The honored couple met at church. Besides sharing their love of the Church, they love family and enjoy oldies music and working in the yard.

Our elegantly decorated fellowship hall held memories from their memorable 25-year journey. Sheri's daughter and granddaughters joined our celebration. Not only did we enjoy reminiscing about their life together, but we also enjoyed sharing some delicious cake and refreshments.

Susan Scott Smith



Ted and Sheri Franek

OBITUARIES



Bill Doss

Bill Doss Jr., 57, of the Trenton, Georgia, congregation, died at his home on April 8, 2015, after courageously battling cancer for almost four years.

At the age of 15, Bill began working with his father at his locksmith business. He continued with this job until January 2015 when he became unable to continue to do the work he loved. He is survived by his loving wife of 29 years, Debra, and his mother, brother, sisters, numerous nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, cousins and other family members. He was preceded in death by his father, Bill Doss Sr.

Bill was baptized in April 1978 and served God faithfully until the end of his life. A kind and dedicated servant, he was ordained a deacon in March 2010. Bill was a wonderful example to those in and out of the Church during his lengthy illness and is greatly missed by all who knew him. Funeral services were conducted by Tom Kirkpatrick.

Annette Epperson



Carmen Douglas

Carmen Douglas, a member of the Orlando, Florida, congregation, lost her two-year battle with cancer on Nov. 13, 2015. A memorial service conducted by Roy Demarest was held for her the following Sabbath after services on Nov. 21.

Carmen was born on Aug. 18, 1954, in the Bronx, New York, to Juan and Carmen Zengotita. When she was young, her family moved to Ponce, Puerto Rico, where she spent most of her adolescent years. As a young adult, Carmen moved back to New York and started working for *Family Circle*

magazine, where she worked for many years. She was called into the Church in 1990 and was baptized in March of 1991.

She married Glaister Douglas in 2002, and they resided in Deland, Florida. Carmen always enjoyed meeting new people and attending social activities. She always assisted others with a true servant's heart. Carmen was also an avid gardener who spent much of her free time tending to her ever expanding garden. Her many harvests were lovingly shared with the brethren regularly. She will be missed greatly by her physical and spiritual family. She is survived by her husband, Glaister; her mother, Carmen Perez; her siblings, Carlos, Edwin, Luis, Norma and Robert Zengotita; as well as several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Jennifer Demarest



Nancy Gaskins

Nancy Gaskins was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 21, 1937, to John and Jean Vaskovich. She met her husband, Arthur S. Gaskins, on a blind date, and four years later they were married on Aug. 10, 1957. Arthur was in the Army, and they were soon transferred to Paris, France, along with Nancy's son, Albert, from a previous marriage. While in France, they adopted a little girl and named her Angelina.

Nancy began attending the Worldwide Church of God along with her mother in the late '60s and was baptized in August of 1975. Nancy traveled all over the world—from Europe to Alaska—with her family and for the Feast. She loved to travel and was quite the adventurer. She loved riding her motorcycle until she had a bad wreck in her younger years. She also loved to dance and had dreamed of being a ballerina when she was a little girl.

Nancy moved to the east coast of central Florida around 1988 and attended congregations in Port Orange and Orlando. She loved music and dancing—in particular, Elvis and the Everly Brothers. She could often be found near live music at a restaurant or in the audience of a symphony

orchestra. She loved being with people and always enjoyed a good card game. She also loved animals and had dogs, which were extended members of her family, throughout her life.

Nancy was diagnosed with ovarian cancer at the same time that her husband was diagnosed with bladder cancer. They both had surgery; but Nancy did not receive chemotherapy, and the cancer moved into her lymph nodes. Three times over the last several years, she battled the cancer, but it kept returning. On Oct. 17, 2015, her battle ended. As she took her last breath, she was listening to her favorite singer, Andrea Bocelli, singing her favorite song, "Time to Say Goodbye."

Nancy was a vibrant member in the Orlando area for many years, and her youthful spirit and smile will be greatly missed. A memorial was held for her on Oct. 24, 2015, following services in Orlando. Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur. She is survived by her two children, Albert Jerome Campbell and Angelina D. Gaskins.

Jennifer Demarest



Joan Lyles Johnson

Joan Lyles Johnson, 80, of the Trenton, Georgia, congregation died suddenly on March 4, 2015. She is survived by two sons, two daughters, three sisters, eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles, in July 2014.

Joan began attending the Church of God in Gadsden, Alabama, in 1974. She was baptized a few months later. She was very excited to learn about the truth of God and remained dedicated to God's way until the end of her life. She was a pillar in the Trenton congregation. Joan served others in a variety of ways over the years. She even provided refreshments and cleanup on the last Sabbath of her life. She is greatly missed by her family and brethren. Funeral services were conducted on March 8, 2015, by her pastor, Tom Kirkpatrick.

Annette Epperson

GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

WE NEED YOUR BIOS

Class of 2016! We would like to feature all of our high school graduates in the July *One Accord*. Send your answers to the questions below plus a high-resolution photo (no cell phone pictures, please!) by June 15.

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

Also include your phone number or email address (we may use it to confirm spellings, etc.). Please give your bio and photo (conforming with biblical standards of dress and hair length) to your congregation's reporter. We do reserve the right to edit for clarity and a 200-word maximum length.

Thank you!

