

OneAccord

August 2016



FI Continuing Education Seminars

Pondering the Paradox | Meet the Minister:
That Is Jerusalem | Tom Schultz

personal from the president

Tragedy in Dallas

What happened in Dallas, Texas, on July 7, 2016, was truly a tragedy!

On that Thursday evening I went to bed around 11 p.m., but my wife stayed up to watch the news reports. She finally came to bed in the early morning hours and informed me that four officers were dead. By the time I arrived at work on Friday morning, I learned that the death toll was actually five.

Throughout the day, I searched for information on the shooter. What was his name? Why did he shoot innocent people? How could this help anyone? How could this bring justice? I learned that the shooter was an African-American male who told the police that he wanted to kill white police officers. When cornered in the El Centro College garage, he was alternately singing and threatening the police officers who had him pinned down. Once he refused to surrender, the police sent in a robot armed with an explosive device. He was killed instantly.

Micah X. Johnson was the shooter. He had served in the U.S. Army Reserve in Afghanistan. Since the United States has an all-volunteer army, Micah X. Johnson voluntarily chose to serve his country. It is hard to believe that someone willing to serve his country in combat would kill five policemen who were also serving their country in the local community. Men and women in police uniform were shot by an ex-soldier who, when he entered the Army, took an oath that ended with the phrase, “So help me God.”

In their oath of service, police officers swear (or affirm) to uphold the integrity of their badges and, in most states, the oath also ends with, “So help me God.” We hear this phrase in the courtroom as well. It is often added to an oath to show that a person is serious about his statement. In the case of the police officers here in Dallas, they lived up to their oath, going above and beyond by shielding people with their bodies and running toward the gunshots.

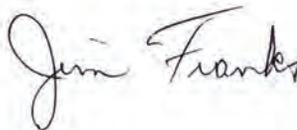
It is interesting that our society uses God’s name in an oath to show we are serious when we join the military or a police department or give testimony in a court of law. But, in reality, God is woefully absent from almost every other institution in this country—most notably our schools and our government.

Tragedies are so senseless that we often struggle with what we should be learning. Jesus Christ referenced two tragedies of His day while teaching others. In Luke 13

we read about the murder of a group of Galileans and the fall of the Tower of Siloam. We don’t know how many Galileans were killed by the Romans, but the story of the tower has 18 innocent people losing their lives. “Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:4-5).

By definition, a tragedy is senseless and unexpected. In the wake of these tragedies we acknowledge that we can’t change the events and we should not judge those who suffer innocently. But we can do something about ourselves. At the foundation of a relationship with God is repentance. God doesn’t accept us just as we are. We must sincerely repent of our sins and strive each day to be a better person than we were the day before. When we were baptized, we didn’t take an oath to prove our sincerity. We were asked if we had repented of our sins and accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior. By answering “yes,” we began an incredible journey built on a commitment to obey God.

There has never been a time in human history when we needed God’s help more than we do today! And there has never been a time in our modern history when God has been so excluded. Genuine repentance is the answer Christ gave in the wake of tragedy, but few are listening. In spite of that fact, as Christians, we pray every day for God’s mercy and His help for those who are suffering, for our country, our families and ourselves!



Jim Franks

President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association
@jimbfranks



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45 Brethren Attend FI Continuing Education Summer Seminars

By Ralph Levy

For the fourth consecutive year, Foundation Institute hosted a group of Church members for a full week of classes in the FI classroom. The seminars are part of FI's Continuing Education program.

The first of two seminars was held from July 11 through July 15. Some of the 24 students who attended came from quite some distance. There were four from Alabama, three from Arizona, two from Arkansas, one from Florida, one from North Carolina, one from Oklahoma, 10 from Texas, and two from Virginia. There were 11 men and 13 women, including seven married couples. The minimum age was around 30, and the oldest participant was, well, older than that! One retired pastor and his wife and one elder and his wife were among the attendees.

They certainly got a varied menu of classes! President Jim Franks taught classes on the divinity of Christ and the proof of the Bible. Treasurer Britton Taylor covered some very practical subjects pertaining to money and its use. French regional director Joel Meeker covered introductions to Daniel and Revelation, as well as a class called "The Path to COGWA," which covered the recent history of the Church. Ministerial Services operation manager Doug Horchak covered the ministers of Jesus Christ and who they are. Resident instructor David Johnson covered 1 John, and resident instructor Ralph

Levy covered three of the Minor Prophets—Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah.

Classes began each day at 8:30 a.m. and ended at 4:20 p.m. Each class lasted 60 minutes, with 10-minute breaks for tea, coffee and refreshments between each class.

In addition to the classes, a delicious lunch was provided on each of the five class days, and many of the students enjoyed a dinner at a Mediterranean restaurant on Monday evening, July 11. On Wednesday, July 13, participants took a tour of the busy headquarters office, which many hadn't seen before. Some students stayed over for the Sabbath of July 16, visiting the Dallas congregation.

The second FI seminar was July 25 to 29. The class offerings were similar; however, since Mr. Meeker had to leave for a five-week pastoral trip, he was unable to teach. Instead Media operation manager Clyde Kilough taught three fascinating classes about three Old Testament characters: Jonathan, Absalom and Josiah. This session included 21 students.

If you have never participated in one of these seminars (or even if you have), we invite you to think about coming to Allen, Texas, for one of the summer 2017 events. And if we don't see you here in Texas, plans are also in the works for FI classes at the Winter Family Weekends in Louisville, Kentucky, and in the Northwest.

We hope to see you soon! @@@





Pondering the Paradox That Is Jerusalem

As the fall festivals approach, consider the meaning of Jerusalem in history and prophecy. Focus on our calling to help bring peace to the Holy City and the world!

By Clyde Kilough

Jerusalem is arguably the greatest paradox on earth! If any city pictures disunity and division, it's Jerusalem. If any city pictures unity and peace in the future, it's Jerusalem. If any city pictures historical suffering, it's Jerusalem; but if any city pictures coming healing, it's Jerusalem. More than anywhere else, Jerusalem symbolizes simultaneously the capacity for human hatred and the capacity for God's love.

Even the Bible calls it both "the holy city" (Isaiah 52:1) and "Sodom and Egypt" (Revelation 11:8). How strange! God Himself characterizes this city as both holy and a type of sin!

Truly, no other city in the world is, or has been, like it.

As we consider the coming holy day season, Jerusalem looms large in the prophesied events that usher in the return of Jesus Christ and His millennial rule.

Among the 800-plus scriptures about Jerusalem in the Bible, we find that one of the greatest prophetic lessons is how it will be the literal and symbolic focal point showing how God will solve the problems that have always plagued humanity.

In the 1800s British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli made this profound observation: "The view of Jerusalem is the history of the world," he said, adding, "it is more, it is the history of earth and of heaven." What did he mean?

Over the centuries, waves of political and/or religious powers have trodden down Jerusalem, leaving it with a sad and horrific legacy of interminable bloodshed. Christians and Muslims in particular have alternately slaughtered each other to wrest control of the "city of peace," with hundreds of thousands dying under the banners of the cross and the crescent. She has been, as Aldous Huxley once called her, the "great slaughterhouse of religions."

Disraeli simply meant that Jerusalem symbolizes the fundamental questions facing all of humanity: Why can't we find peace? Why hasn't religion been able to solve our problems?

As the coming holy days approach, we will rehearse the answers. God's holy days view "the history of earth and heaven" through His eyes, helping us see the problems of Jerusalem and the world. Through the holy days, we understand Satan's role and influence on humanity. We comprehend humanity's spiritual rebellion and rejection of God, and how without God in our lives we will only continue to regress. It's through the holy days that we understand how these

problems will be resolved.

Through the holy days, God has given us a vision for humanity that gives hope and answers. It's such a paradox that, despite Jerusalem's violent history, it is there that the prophets continually pointed to the coming time when God would give peace, love and harmony to Jerusalem, and from there to the rest of the world. It is also where the greatest Prophet and voice for peace—Jesus Christ—was most violently murdered!

Yet, although the worst of human nature has manifested itself in Jerusalem, it is still God's city. It is the place where Christ gave His life to atone for the sins of the whole world, and the place to which He will return to save it.

Until then, God implores us to stay alert, to keep our eyes on Jerusalem and the Middle East. Why? Because of the troubles focused there leading up to the end time.

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples. ... I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it" (Zechariah 12:2-3).

Jerusalem is already a heavy stone for government leaders, but it will become even heavier, the effects of its conflicts eventually spilling over to impact the entire world!

God also revealed to Daniel and John how great military, political and religious powers from the south, north and east will raise these conflicts to a boiling point, with its focal points the areas surrounding Jerusalem.

And Jesus, as He looked over

Jerusalem, warned in the Olivet Prophecy that this time quickly leading to His second coming will be a period of unimaginable distress.

And then another paradoxical event will unfold: in order for the Prince of Peace to bring an end to mankind's violence and strife, He will have to fight a war! Jerusalem will again find itself a bloody battleground. This clash will be short-lived, however, and the King of Kings will immediately establish Jerusalem as the capital city of the only world government that can truly salvage humanity!

In the midst of Zechariah's prophecy about Jerusalem lies perhaps the most inspiring words for Jerusalem's future—

“I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication” (verse 10). It goes on to describe the repentant attitude that will come over people as they learn of the true God, His mercy and His plan.

A few weeks ago, 91 of us on the Foundation Institute tour spent four days in the Holy City. As much as we were awed by the history and future of this unique city, most of all we came away amazed at the great opportunity God holds out for all of His people—to someday arrive there with Jesus Christ and be a part of the great future He is bringing for its inhabitants and for all humanity! ☺☺

PORTRAIT OF FAITH



Lois Rice

By Beverly McKnight

Step back and be prepared to meet your dear, sweet and courageous sister, Lois Rice. Lois was born on a hilltop farm in 1938 in the bluegrass region of Kentucky. Lois graduated from the University of Kentucky's College of Commerce, and in 1960, she was hired by the Social Security Administration. Even early in life, Lois had good work habits, which enabled her to be promoted and transferred to Pikeville, Kentucky. It was there that she met her husband, Charles. They were married in 1963 and were soon blessed with two children.

Learning about the truth

Soon after the last baby was born, God began calling Lois into His truth. She enrolled in the *Bible Correspondence Course*, which she said was the “best thing that ever happened” to her! After Charles was

transferred to Lexington, Kentucky, Lois was invited to Sabbath services. She was baptized on July 4, 1972. She remained in the local area until Charles was once again transferred to the Washington D.C. area in 1978. Unfortunately, Lois felt that the congregation there was unfriendly; and since she did not have transportation to and from Sabbath services, Lois decided to stop attending services. Thankfully, in 1992 she returned to God's family and has been attending ever since! Today she attends the Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation.

A trial of faith

The year 2015 presented Lois with one of the most challenging trials of her Christian life. She began feeling sick just before the Days of Unleavened Bread and continued progressing downhill as time went on. After she underwent medical testing, she was told she had cancer. It was located in her lower abdomen, which interfered with eating and other bodily functions. Lois was anointed and then was swept into the darkness and unknown future.

I remember calling her one day and she told me that she had thought she was going to die the previous day. There was calm in her voice as she relayed to me the conversation she had with her unconverted husband, who did not want to hear about her dying, regardless of God's plan. He just wanted his wife to live now! She assured him she would be just fine, but he still remained very upset. He did not believe or understand God's promises as our dear sister did.

Although she feared death, she was prepared to accept it if it was God's will. I asked her what she would like to pass on to those who are still facing trials. She told me that she wished she would have prayed more, asking God for wisdom and guidance.

The road to recovery

I called Lois one day after she had gone through chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and she calmly told me she would be coming to Sabbath services. The last time I had seen Lois, she was still in bed in the hospital! Sure enough, about two weeks later and with the help of a walker, in walked Lois! Week after week she came and is still coming! Due to the chemotherapy, she had lost her pretty white hair; however, not only did it come back, but it returned thicker and prettier than before! Besides a little weight lost, our sister Lois is back—now without a walker—meeting and greeting the brethren with her awesome smile. She is always passing out encouraging cards or thank you notes for some little service someone has done. It was like the darkness never entered her life!

Lois has managed with God's help to keep peace in her home, shining a bright light to her unconverted mate despite many challenges since their marriage in 1963. She describes her husband as wonderful! Since he does not want her to drive the distance to church services, he brings her every week! Although he is in another room, reading while services are taking place, God's words are being piped into the room where he sits. You never know how God is working!

Recently, our pastor Ron Kelley commented about Lois. “I really thought she was very near death,” he remembered. “It is so amazing how God intervened to obviously and miraculously heal this lady. Only recently she was told again there is no sign of the cancer. I remember talking with her in the church parking lot, looking her in the eye and seeing that sparkle.

“I told her, ‘Lois, you know God has healed you.’

“And she said, ‘Yes, I know.’” ☺☺



Q

Mark's Gospel records Jesus' explanation that most people are spiritually blinded. Won't that be true of the people on earth at the time of God's wrath? Will He punish people who don't know any better? Why would God do that?

Through this column, we want to provide you with a window on the work of the Personal Correspondence Department. Because we interact mostly with people new to God's truth, some topics might not seem directly applicable to you. But think how you would answer the question if someone asked it of you! And many answers will contain spiritual principles that you can apply in your life, even if the question isn't one you would ask.

A

The parallel account in Matthew gives more information. There, Jesus said, "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, *and their eyes they have closed*, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears" (Matthew 13:15, emphasis added throughout).

Jesus was quoting from Isaiah 6:9. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* explains: "Probably Isaiah ... thought that his serving the Lord would result in the nation's cleansing. However, the Lord told him his message would *not* result in much spiritual response. The people had not listened before and they would not listen now. The Lord did not delight in judging His people, but discipline was necessary because of their disobedience. In fact the people, on hearing Isaiah's message, would become even more hardened against the Lord. ... Jesus quoted part of this verse to explain that Israel in His day *could* not believe because they *would* not believe" (edited by John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, 1989, commentary on Isaiah 6:9-10).

Spiritual blindness is not due to a one-sided action by God. The people chose not to listen to Him both in the time of ancient Israel and in the time of Jesus' earthly ministry. The same will be true for most people when God unleashes His wrath. Multiple thousands will repent during the Great Tribulation, but the majority will choose to harden themselves against God. See the attitude of people even after the sixth trumpet plague: "But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these

plagues, *did not repent* of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood. ... And they *did not repent* of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts" (Revelation 9:20-21).

We should not think of God's wrath as a punishment only on those few humans remaining alive after the Great Tribulation. The end-time wrath of God is against humankind in general for its total history of rejecting Him. See our Life, Hope & Truth articles "[Wrath of God](#)" and "[The Wrath of God: How to Survive](#)" for the full explanation of this major prophetic event.

Without looking at Jesus' statement in the broad context of God's plan, the words "lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them" can sound as though people could be converted if only God would allow it. It can sound as though He doesn't want them to understand. That is not true! God wants everyone to live forever (2 Peter 3:9).

God knows that if He had forced open the minds of all people throughout history, most people would have rejected His way of life. That would mean they would perish in the lake of fire. However, by *fully* blinding those who blind themselves, God actually protects them. They can die physically, but they aren't yet being judged in a way that could result in their perishing forever in the lake of fire. God calls people at a time and in an environment that optimizes their opportunity to become His immortal children. ©A

MEET THE MINISTER



Tom Schultz and his wife, Daphne, came into the Church just before the Feast in 1981. They learned about God's truth and the Church of God in a rather unconventional way. "The Plain Truth magazine was put out at the laundromat we used, and we just started reading it. That led to us watching *The World Tomorrow* program and requesting literature."

Prior to becoming a minister, Mr. Schultz worked as a high school social studies teacher. He taught AP European history, world history, AP economics and world geography to mostly sophomores and seniors.

Mr. and Mrs. Schultz were ordained deacon and deaconess in 2005. In 2008 the Schultz family moved from Wisconsin to Atlanta for a teaching position. In December 2011 Mr. Schultz was ordained an elder before being hired into the ministry in July 2015.

Initially, Mr. Schultz assisted Bruce Gore in caring for congregations in Atlanta, Jefferson and Macon, Georgia, and Tallahassee, Florida. Recently, he assumed pastoral responsibilities in Augusta, Georgia, and Columbia and Florence, South Carolina.

Mr. and Mrs. Schultz have three children, Jessica, Elizabeth and Samuel.

"Listening not only helps us get to know others, but it also allows us to understand where others are coming from, which, in turn, will help us to get along."



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

A: I love serving the people; and when I was approached with the idea of becoming a pastor—after a long thought process, prayer and fasting, and much discussion with others—Daphne and I thought that it would be another chapter in our lives of serving the brethren. I would admit that we never thought of wanting to work for the Church, but we also believe that it is an opportunity given to us by God.

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

A: Hopefully, I will be able to bring something to the brethren, not that there is anything new under the sun—and definitely no new doctrines—but with my teaching background maybe I can bring a different approach to the brethren.

Q: What goals do you have for your congregation?

A: That's a hard question to answer because all congregations are different. I would hope to maintain unity within the congregation and continue to help the brethren build a close relationship with God.

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

A: I would have to fall back on my teaching experience in the classroom. Research and developing lesson plans in a variety of subjects has already helped me to prepare sermons and Bible studies. And from my experience managing a classroom, I have become aware that just about anything can happen and that you need to be prepared for that.

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: I do have a couple of people in mind, and I would like to keep their names confidential. But the things that I learned from them have definitely shaped who I am today. My dad, who is not in the Church, has been a big part of my life, and I owe a lot to him. However, the people I am thinking of were ministers in the Church, and it was little things that they would say or



do that made an impact. I was told once, just in a passing remark, that when an opportunity arises it is God helping to build and shape us. To pass up that opportunity would be like saying “no thanks” to God. I have thought about that my whole Church life and definitely have taken it to heart.

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

A: There are two things that come to mind, but I believe they go hand in hand. My first thought was you have to be able to get along with people. But as I thought about that, I realized that listening to people is important. Again, I would fall back on my experience as a teacher and the lessons I learned when it comes to listening to others. Listening not only helps us get to know others,

but it also allows us to understand where others are coming from, which, in turn, will help us to get along.

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

A: The biggest challenge to me is doctrinal integrity. I have seen it played out many times where some have left the Church over strange doctrines—itching ears turning to fables, as Paul put it. That and many other scriptures also warn us about people falling away from the truth. It seems now that COGWA has some very capable and dedicated leaders, who are dedicated to teaching sound doctrine. Unfortunately, Satan is still roaming about with his lies and deceptions. That is something we have to always be on guard against.

Q: What are you currently reading?

A: Right now, besides the Bible and Life, Hope & Truth, I am reading a book about creation and evolution—*The Battle for the Beginning*. I have also just finished two books. The first is sort of a Bible and history mix, *Seven Tipping Points That Saved the World*. The second book is *The Five Thousand Year Leap*. As you can see, there is still a little history teacher in me. And I am always looking for the next good book to read.

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

A: I am a history buff. I love going to museums and reading both historical fiction and nonfiction. I also love to fish, which is something I got from my dad. We used to fish a lot together when I was growing up. And I am a huge Green Bay Packers fan.



CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRETHREN TACKLE MAJOR UPGRADES AT CAMP SEQUOIA

On Memorial Day weekend, May 28 to 30, 2016, the Los Angeles and Bakersfield, California, brethren performed an annual service project at the summer camp we use for both preteen and teen camps each year. Twenty-nine people, including 10 teens and two preteens, participated in the Camp Sequoia service project, making it our best turnout yet! A Hilltop Outreach Program grant helped to fund our project expenses.

In less than 28 hours—from 9 a.m. Sunday to 1 p.m. Monday—we completed several major projects. We built a new low ropes course by burying four telephone poles with top poles, hanging tires and ropes, building a multi-area balance beam, preparing an area for a climbing cargo net, and spreading mulch. We installed a salad bar in the dining hall. We mowed and edged the grass in multiple places. We also cut down several trees, trimmed other trees and shrubs, and split wood for the campfire area. We spread mulch in several areas of the camp and filled in holes and ditches caused by weathering. We also restructured the slip and slide and added a drain. Finally, we cleaned the kitchen, dining hall and the main hall on the hill.

It was a very productive weekend and provided a weekend of fellowship for those who attended. The camp will benefit from this project for years to come!

Paul Carter



KURT TANNERT ORDAINED ON PENTECOST IN ARIZONA

On Pentecost 2016 the Tucson, Arizona, congregation and the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, gained a new minister when Kurt Tannert was ordained by our pastor, James Capó. Two other local elders, Randal Rapp and Dan Anderson, were at hand to assist. Kurt Tannert and his wife, Sherrill, grew up in the Church in the early 1970s. They have two children, Sarah and Joshua. In 2014 they participated in the Focused Mentoring Program and continued their training during the extended phase of the program in 2015. Prior to that, Kurt had served as a deacon in the Tucson congregation since 2009. The whole congregation erupted in a warm applause of appreciation and gratitude for the addition of the Tannert family to the service of God's people.

Miranda Hale



NEW ENGLAND MEMBER GRADUATES WITH DOCTORATE IN PHARMACY

Charlie Larkin graduated from the University of New England on May 21, 2016, with a doctorate in pharmacy. Currently, he is training to be a community pharmacist with CVS Caremark in Charlottesville, Virginia. He became a pharmacist because he wants to make a difference in people's lives.

Charlie has been involved in the choirs in the different church areas he has attended and has also given sermonettes on occasion. He enjoys hiking, playing sports with his children, traveling and experiencing new places with his wife, Maribel, and their three children, Ian, Breanna and Vivienne.

"I have been very blessed to have been able to spend four years with the church in Leicester, Massachusetts," he commented. "It's been a tough but also very enjoyable four years of my life. I was very sad to leave Maine and New England, but we will now be moving to a new adventure in Charlottesville, Virginia."

Lorraine Daudelin



MINNESOTA CONGREGATION CONGRATULATES SABBATH SCHOOL CLASS PARTICIPANTS

Where can you learn about the plan of salvation, the spring and fall festivals, creation, following God, Jesus Christ, God's laws, lessons from the Old and New Testaments, and the fruit of the Spirit all in one school year? In the Twin Cities and St. Cloud, Minnesota, Sabbath school classes!

Following the admonition of Deuteronomy 6:7, our congregations completed a Sabbath school year that covered a wide variety of biblical topics. Six young people, led by two instructors, were recognized for their accomplishments this year on June 18, 2016.

All of the students received certificates for their participation. Those completing a portion of the memory work for their grade level received ribbons, while those completing all of the memory work for their grade level received trophies.

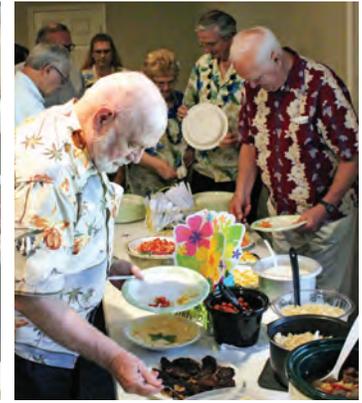
We also honored three high school graduates with cards and a gift from the congregation. Our pastor, Gary Black, described the future plans of each of the graduates. We rejoice with them in celebrating their accomplishments and look forward to seeing what the future holds for each of them!

In addition, one college graduate was recognized.

We are especially excited for five of our young adults who have been accepted to attend Foundation Institute this fall. We will miss them, but are happy for the opportunity they have to all attend FI together!

Following the recognition, the congregations enjoyed a potluck together at festively decorated tables, as well as a special cake in honor of the graduates.

Barbara Lee



AUSTIN CREATES POLYNESIAN PARADISE AT POTLUCK LUAU

Mumuus, leis and aloha shirts brightened the church hall in Austin, Texas, on June 18, 2016. Members donned the colorful clothing for services as well as for the Hawaiian-themed potluck luau afterward. The potluck buffet included Hawaiian-inspired recipes, as well as more traditional dishes.

Three generations of one family teamed up to wear matching shirts and dresses. The tropical apparel turned out to be particularly appropriate, since the building's air conditioner struggled to keep up with unusually high humidity.

Bill Palmer

HAMPTONS JOIN NASSAU CONGREGATION FOR PENTECOST WEEKEND

Caribbean webcast, which allows us to worship with our brethren throughout the Caribbean as well as others who join us from different parts of the world, so it was a joy to have the Hamptons present with us in person.

The messages we received on the Sabbath and Pentecost provided much-needed meat in due season, with the added blessing of having the speaker right there in our hall with us. Though small in number, we really appreciate the opportunities for warm fellowship on the Sabbath.

Additionally, we enjoyed a potluck lunch between services on the holy day. Our menu consisted of lamb, barbecued turkey wings, Bahamian rice and peas, pasta salad, macaroni and cheese, and a medley of fresh vegetables, followed by dessert. Most of us were so well-filled that we had to postpone dessert for later.

Following the afternoon service on Pentecost, Mr. and Mrs. Hampton paid a home visit to Gwen Hutchins, one of our members who is seldom able to come to services due to ongoing health challenges.

Altogether it was a full weekend and a most inspiring Feast of Pentecost.

Janice Mather



COLUMBIA HOLDS ANNUAL PICNIC

On June 5, 2016, members of the Columbia, Missouri, congregation met at Delvin and Carrie Mellerup's home for the congregation's annual picnic.

The weather was warm with a gentle breeze, making it a delightful day for the 35 picnic adventurers. Picnickers enjoyed bountiful food and fellowship, as well as water sports, table games, yard games and the traditional balloon fight at the end of the day.

Carrie Mellerup



ST. PETERSBURG CELEBRATES COLLEGE GRADUATES



Reggie Sinon

On Sunday evening, May 1, Charles Reginald ("Reggie") Sinon graduated from the University of Florida College of Arts and Sciences. Reggie received his bachelor of arts degree in economics with minors in business administration and East Asian language and culture. He is a baptized member of the Church of God and attends the St. Petersburg and Ocala, Florida, congregations. Reggie plans to attend Foundation Institute in Allen, Texas, this fall to add a godly foundation to his academic studies prior

to embarking on his career path.

Chad Alan Haight, son of Alan and Sheryl Haight, graduated from the University of Central Florida on May 5, 2016. He received his bachelor of science degree in health services administration with a minor in medical sociology. Chad currently works as a legal writer at the law firm of Wilkes and McHugh, P.A., and plans to attend law school in the fall of 2017 to pursue his juris doctor degree. Chad attends the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation with his parents and younger brother, Dylan.



Chad Alan Haight

Charles Haughee



SENIORS ENJOY FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP AT ANNUAL LUNCHEON

About two dozen of our Houston South, Texas, seniors gathered early on the Sabbath of May 21, 2016, for the special annual senior luncheon.

The seniors were treated to a variety of sandwiches, salads, chips, cheese, crackers, fruit, pickles, olives, tea, lemonade, coffee, desserts and much more.

Not only did the seniors enjoy having a relaxing, delicious meal served to them, they welcomed the time for extra fellowship with friends they rarely see between Sabbaths.

We give a huge thank you to Leslie Taylor for the enjoyable Sabbath luncheon. We look forward to next year.

Susan Scott Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We encourage members to send announcements to be featured in *One Accord*. We feature events in members' lives, including baptisms, births, engagements, weddings, significant anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.), and obituaries. Typically they run between 50 and 100 words; however, we ask that all submissions stay under 250 words. Please submit a high-resolution color photo along with the written copy to your congregation's reporter.

BAPTISMS



Andrew Travers

On May 8, 2016, Andrew Travers was baptized into the Body of Christ surrounded by his family and friends from the Athens, Ohio, congregation. The baptism and the laying on of hands were performed by his pastor, Bill Jahns. The baptism was followed by a picnic at Andrew's house to celebrate the joyous occasion.

Joshua Travers

BIRTHS



Zebediah Delaney

Zebediah Elias Delaney was born to Briere and Noah Delaney May 31, 2016.

He weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and measured 20½ inches. Baby and Mom are doing well. Brother Eli, Grandma, Grandpa, aunts, uncles and cousins are all elated.



Jorge Santander

Jorge Matías Santander Llanquilef was born on March 1, 2016. He weighed 8 pounds

10 ounces and was 20.1 inches long. His proud parents are Jorge and Yasna Santander of the Osorno, Chile, congregation. The whole family is very happy with the arrival of this little guy.



Máximo Verdugo

It is with great joy that Carlos and Daniza Verdugo, of the Temuco, Chile, congregation, announce the birth of their first child, Máximo Emiliano Verdugo Jara. Máximo was born on April 12, 2016, at 3:30 p.m., weighing 6 pounds 10 ounces and measuring 19.7 inches long. The whole family is thrilled with the birth of this little miracle—an answer to many prayers for years.



Alaïa Zamora

Carlos and Judith Zamora, of the Santiago, Chile, congregation, are happy to announce the birth of their second child. Alaïa Sarai Zamora Rabirú was born on March 1, 2016, at 2:05 p.m., weighing 6 pounds 13 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches long. Big brother Lucas is very excited about the arrival of this baby girl.

WEDDINGS



Jordan and Gisel Yañez

On Feb. 28, 2016, Jordan Yañez and Gisel Díaz were married at the local congregation's hall in Santiago, Chile, where many of their friends and family members attended the ceremony. They now live in Cartagena, a coastal city located near Santiago. Both are happy and excited to start their new life together with the help of God.



Jonathan and Javiera Zamora

Jonathan Zamora and Javiera Gálvez are very happy to announce their marriage. The wedding took place on Jan. 10, 2016, in Santiago, Chile. Many of their friends and family members celebrated this special occasion with them.

They are both from the Santiago congregation; and after being friends for many years, Jonathan and Javiera are excited to begin their journey together as husband and wife.

ANNIVERSARIES



Greg and Marian Sargent

Greg and Marian Sargent celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 26, 2016. Mr. Sargent is the pastor of the Kansas City, Kansas, and Columbia, Missouri, congregations.

The two congregations surprised the Sargents on June 11 in Columbia and June 18 in Kansas City. In Columbia, the Sargents were given a hammered copper container filled with personally selected items. A reception followed with a wide assortment of food and desserts. In Kansas City, they were given a gift basket containing many choice delicacies.

Afterwards, the congregation enjoyed cake, coffee and other treats. On the Sabbath of June 25, their daughter, Elana, and son, Dean, honored their parents at church.

Greg and Marian (Ecker) met at Ambassador College in Pasadena. They were married by Herbert Armstrong one week after Greg returned to Pasadena from Bricket Wood, England, after his senior year.

When asked about the key to a successful marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Sargent replied, "Know the role God has given husbands and wives and express the fruit of His Spirit to one another." Mr. Sargent also gave meaningful advice when he said that throughout their 50 years of marriage they practiced the principle of never going to bed angry and worked through their problems right away no matter how long it took.

Everyone who has had the pleasure of knowing the Sargents and observing their marriage has truly been blessed to see an excellent example of God's way of life in practice. We are very thankful for Mr. and Mrs. Sargent and their countless acts of service and their amazing example of love and unity.

Besides their two children, they have five grandchildren who all live in Colorado.

Penny Harris



Harold and Loree Rhodes

The DeFuniak Springs, Florida, congregation honored Harold and Loree Rhodes July 2, 2016, on the occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary, with a potluck, cake and champagne or sparkling apple cider toast.

The Rhodes were high school sweethearts in South Carolina and were married July 8, 1961.

They have served in many congregations during their 47 years in the ministry, including Atlanta, Georgia; Springfield and Joplin, Missouri; Lake Charles and Alexandria, Louisiana; Houston, Austin and Waco, Texas; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Murphy, North Carolina; Geneva and Mobile, Alabama; and Pensacola and DeFuniak Springs, Florida.

Mr. Rhodes also served as a Feast coordinator for 21 years. The Rhodes have two children and four grandchildren.

Sandra Dreaden



Shalynn, Carrie, Delvin,
and Skyla Mellerup

Delvin and Carrie Mellerup, members of the Columbia, Missouri, congregation, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on June 2, 2016.

The two met in Pensacola, Florida, on a fishing boat at the Feast of Tabernacles in 1987 when Carrie was 20 and Delvin was 24. Delvin said, "We both caught each other and some fish too." They were married on June 2, 1991, in Hamburg, Michigan. They built and designed their own home that they still live in with their two daughters, Shalynn and Skyla. They attend church in Columbia, Missouri.

On June 4, 2016, the Columbia brethren honored them with a reception after services. Cake, coffee and orange Earl Grey tea (a favorite) were served.

Delvin was asked what advice they would give for a happy marriage. "God first, spouse, children, and then self," he said. "Love is about giving to someone, not getting. If a marriage is based on godly love, it should only grow stronger with time. Enjoy the everyday little moments and each day together. Spend as much time together as you can. Talk about everything. Communication and sharing make [you] closer."

At the end of the day, the brethren had one more happy event exhibiting godly love to store in their hearts.

Penny Harris



Les and Maggie Schlosser

On May 14, 2016, the brethren of the Portland, Oregon, congregation were excited to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Les and Maggie Schlosser. The honored couple was presented with two cakes from the congregation.

They met each other 51 years ago when Maggie was attending college and Les was in the Air Force. In December of 1970 their service to the Church began when they were baptized in North Dakota.

In their retirement, they enjoy traveling and spending time with their four children, 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. This summer their whole family will celebrate the momentous event in Southern California, where they plan to go golfing, enjoy wine tasting and relax on the beach.

The Portland brethren are blessed to have their example of a loving and committed couple.

Madison Yost



Ron and Jean Peterson

Ron and Jean Peterson were honored with a surprise 65th wedding anniversary party on June 5, 2016, in Lakeland, Florida.

The Petersons were married when Ron came home from the Navy in 1951. All seven of their children, including three who attend the Church of God, a World-wide Association, were present, as well as many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, Church brethren and friends—114 altogether.

The Peterson family prepared and catered the event, with daughter-in-law Charlene responsible for cooking and coordinating the whole affair. Eldest son Reg Peterson's toast noted that while music, including a family band, has been a big part of the heritage that Ron and Jean have given their children, their legacy was more than that. It was the memories, character, traditions and example of service they provided. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson attend the Plant City, Florida, Living Church of God congregation, where Ron serves as an elder.

Ray Clore

OBITUARIES



Lee Mitteis

Leland (Lee) Ray Mitteis was born in Walnut, New Brunswick, in February of 1936. After battling Parkinson's disease for over 10 years, he finished his race on Dec. 12, 2015, in Creighton, New Brunswick, with his sisters at his side.

He and his wife, Barbara, whom he married on Oct. 16, 1965, celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary on the Last Great Day in 2014. Barb died unexpectedly from breast cancer on Nov. 11, 2014.

Lee was a true cowboy at heart, and he spent most of his life doing what he loved best—raising horses and working cattle. He worked at ranches in Chambers and Taylor, Nebraska, and Torrington, Wyoming. When Barb's father died in the early '90s, they moved to Berthoud, Colorado, to help her mother with the

family-owned mobile home park. Lee also worked at Country General Farm and Ranch in Loveland and Longmont, Colorado, and cut hay in the summer around Walden, Colorado.

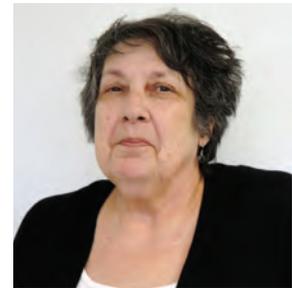
Lee was called into the Church in the '70s. He rejoiced at seeing the full moon after Passover and on the opening night of the Feast. Lee also enjoyed helping the brethren when he could.

Lee was an important part of the Berthoud, Colorado, congregation. His stories, dedication to God, and sense of humor will not be forgotten.

Perhaps the best words to remember him are from a poem that he wrote in 2000, in which he described what it was like to be a cowboy. Even though his days of horses and cattle and the land were long gone, he knew that there was great hope and peace in God's plan:

You see, I had to be a cowboy,
Just like a hawk has to fly;
Like a meadowlark has to sing
On a post in the spring,
Like a coyote has to howl at the sky ...
[But] don't bury me in this city,
Spread my ashes on a hill;
Let them fall then don't cry for me,
Because my dust will be free
And my spirit will wait for the call.

Sera Grabowski



Evelyn Kelley

Evelyn Kelley died unexpectedly in her apartment on June 30, 2016, at age 72. On July 7 the local church in Buffalo, New York, held a memorial service attended by over 70 friends and family members who came to remember her. Evelyn was baptized into the faith in April 2015 and is survived by her family, including her mother Marie Maglio, who is also a member of COGWA.

Stephan M. Koenig

What's Next for the United States and Britain?

Many people are unaware that the Bible foretold the rich blessings that would come to the United States, Britain and the other Commonwealth nations. The story begins with the promises given to Abraham and can be traced throughout history, even to this day.

What does prophecy reveal about the future of these nations, and how will it affect you?

The Bible holds the answers.



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