

One Accord

January 2017

Winter Family Weekend 2016

Ministerial Board of Directors' Meeting | Foundation Institute Etiquette Dinner

personal from the president

STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR 2017

Strategic planning is something every organization goes through. Sometimes it can be a complicated process, but in our case it isn't that difficult. Once you establish your mission statement, you identify the strategic issues and your strategies for accomplishing the mission.

"The mission of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc. is to take the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the whole world, to make disciples of those whom God has called and to teach those disciples to observe all that Jesus Christ has commanded (Matthew 24:14; 28:19-20)."

Our mission statement has two aspects that can be summarized as follows: (1) preach the gospel in all the world and (2) care for the brethren and those whom God may yet call.

So what are the strategic issues that the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, faces in the year ahead? Recently, the administration prepared a document, titled "2017 State of the Church, Strategic Plan, Operation Plans and Budget," for the Ministerial Board of Directors (MBOD). It was approved by the MBOD the first week of December 2016. We then shared a summary of the document with the ministry. Going forward, our desire is that the information from this document also be shared with the Church.

The three primary strategic issues for 2017 are facility development, leadership development and media expansion. We are developing strategies to address each of these issues. Here is a summary of what we hope to accomplish in 2017.

1. Facility development. We are currently leasing 8,184 square feet on two different floors in our office building at 1301 Central Expressway South in Allen, Texas. Our original lease was extended in 2015 for two years with a one-year option. In November 2016 we notified our landlord that we would exercise the one-year option, taking us through May 31, 2018.

According to the terms of our current lease, we pay approximately \$13,000 per month. This figure does not include utilities, which amount to another \$1,600-plus per month. When you add up all the costs (including utilities), we have spent over \$700,000 since March of 2012 leasing office space. We have no equity or anything to show for this money.

In 2015 we began a very low-level search for property—either an existing building to renovate or

property on which we could build a new facility. In 2016 we developed a specific plan to focus on buying property for constructing an office building by the end of our lease in 2018. And during their recent meetings, the MBOD approved a resolution authorizing the administration to locate and purchase property with the goal of building our own facility.

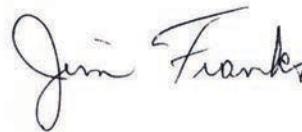
2. Leadership development and training.

Ministerial Services spearheads the development of leadership in the Church. We are facing a crisis in the years ahead, as more ministers reach retirement age. We also need to develop younger men and women for leadership in local congregations. We have been aware of and working on these issues for years, of course, and this coming year Ministerial Services will launch a new leadership program that will be used in all areas around the world. The title of the program is "Christian Leadership Training Program" (CLTP).

3. Media expansion. We plan to expand in all areas of Media this coming year. In 2016 we increased our subscribers to *Discern* magazine by more than 50 percent. Our current subscribers are equally divided between members and nonmembers. In 2017 we plan to continue adding subscribers to *Discern* while also promoting our other literature.

These are the major issues that we will be addressing in 2017. I am asking that you join us in praying for another successful year in our efforts to preach the gospel and care for the brethren. The words of the apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 3:1 seem appropriate for our work today: "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you."

There is much to do going forward, and God has blessed us greatly over the past year. Thank you so much for your prayers and your support as we look ahead at another year and new challenges!



Jim Franks

President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association
@jimfranks



CHURCH of GOD
 A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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One Accord is published monthly, except April and October, online at members.cogwa.org by the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

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Family Fun Fair



WFW Sows Faith and Hope in a Troubled World

Around 900 attendees enjoy a fun-filled and inspiring weekend in Louisville, Kentucky.

By Jason Hyde

Photos by Melissa Winner, Angie Duncan, Steven Duncan and Abby Ware

On Friday, Dec. 23, about 900 members from across the United States, as well as St. Kitts, Jamaica, Grenada, Canada, France and South Africa, converged at the annual Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky. Warm embraces, delighted smiles and happy greetings filled the hallways, as old and new friends joined together for what has become a family reunion for many.

Introducing this year's theme, "Faith and Hope in a Troubled World," David Johnson presented an engaging Friday evening Bible study, encouraging attendees not to limit the power and ability of God.

The biblical education continued on Sabbath morning as teens and adults were treated to seminars highlighting the crucial spiritual tools of faith and hope. Afternoon services included several pieces of special music and a sermon by Joel Meeker. In his sermon Mr.

Meeker contrasted the results of collaborating or resisting while living in an increasingly troubled world. Fellowship continued throughout the afternoon. On Saturday evening, attendees enjoyed a free pizza dinner followed by themed dances for both teens and adults.

Beginning on Sunday morning, volleyball and basketball games kicked off at the nearby Mid-America Sports facility. Preteens were occupied with organized games and activities each day. This included a new art class activity. The sports portion of the weekend wrapped up on Tuesday with a competitive tournament, as well as an afternoon of speedway.

For those not involved in sports, Continuing Education classes were offered each day by Ralph Levy, Clyde Kilough, David Johnson and Joel Meeker. Drawing upon lessons from Joel, Haggai, Ezekiel, 2 Peter and the life of David, each class reinforced and amplified the central theme.

Each evening was packed with fun. The perennially lauded Family Novelty Olympics and the Family Fun Fair drew boisterous crowds and left attendees with numerous (and often hilarious!) memories. The Children's Clothing Boutique returned for another successful year. Karaoke and cornhole ensured that fellowship continued late into each evening.

New activities this year included an EEI "Make It, Take It, Teach It" workshop and a cornhole tournament.

The weekend closed with the traditional family dance on Tuesday evening. Attendees left in high spirits, committed to living by faith and full of hope. We thank WFW coordinator Mark Winner and the many volunteers who helped make the annual event a great success.

We encourage you to mark your calendars for the 2017 WFW, which will begin Friday evening, Dec. 22, and continue through Tuesday, Dec. 26. ©A

Novelty Olympics



Costume Dance



Sports



Seminars



Sabbath Services





Northwest Winter Family Weekend Offers Something for Everyone

Attendees enjoy a jam-packed weekend of snow, service and sports.

By Madison Yost

Photos by Jon Pinelli and Doug Horchak



COGWA members gathered in Portland, Oregon, for another successful Northwest Winter Family Weekend. The weekend was filled with seminars, activities, food, friendship and fun. Guest speakers Paul Carter and Dave Register from California and Doug Horchak from the headquarters office gave encouraging and thought-provoking messages centered around the theme of “Faith and Hope in a Troubled World.”

The weekend kicked off on Thursday, Dec. 22, with a snow day on Mount Hood. Originally scheduled to be a ski day, it actually turned into a snowshoeing day. The activity allowed all participants to enjoy the beauty of God’s creation. Later that evening was the annual service project at the Oregon Food Bank. During the 2½-hour shift, members bagged pears and packaged oats, which will be distributed to families in need throughout the state of Oregon.

Friday began at a nearby school for gym activities and swimming. Young and old alike joined in on basketball games or just shooting hoops for fun. In addition to basketball, many enjoyed a game of indoor football at the gym facility. Over at the pool, kids took part in races and games. The evening concluded with a pizza dinner and a Bible study given by Mr. Horchak.

The Sabbath began bright and early with seminars from Mr. Carter and Mr. Register, followed by lunch and church services. Every COGWA congregation on the West Coast joined the webcast. That evening was the much-anticipated men’s chili cook-off. After rigorous judging, the winner was named, and everyone got to try the chili for themselves. The evening ended with karaoke and lots of laughter, as singers performed songs from a variety of artists, ranging from the Bee Gees to Elvis Presley.

On Sunday, a new activity was introduced—the first-ever NW Car Rally. Competitors dressed up with their teams and decorated their vehicles. Then they took off on a four-part scavenger hunt around town. Teams worked together to navigate the course while answering questions and earning bonus points with Church trivia. Prizes were given for best costume and overall car rally champion. Participants then traveled to the church hall for lunch, games and fellowship. From bingo to card games to trivia, there was something for everyone. The weekend closed with a farewell dinner, but everyone was reluctant to leave.

The weekend left a positive and lasting impact on everyone who attended, and its attendees are already excited for next year. Come and join us next year in the Pacific Northwest! ©A



MBOD Holds Annual Meeting in December

MBOD chairman recaps the strategic plan, operation plans and budget for 2017.

By Joel Meeker

The Ministerial Board of Directors met for its annual meeting Dec. 5-7, 2016, at the Church's headquarters office in Allen, Texas. The MBOD only has one regularly scheduled face-to-face meeting each year. Other meetings are sometimes held around ministerial conferences, and ongoing work is handled through e-mail or teleconferences.

The December meetings specifically allow the board to discuss and approve the annual strategic plan, the annual operation plans and the annual balanced budget. It receives these documents from the administration just before the American Thanksgiving holiday, which allows board members to study them for nearly two weeks before convening.

The current and future state of the Church

As the meetings began on Monday, Jim Franks gave a state-of-the-Church report with encouraging information from the previous year. Here are several items included in this report:

- Worldwide Feast of Tabernacles attendance in 2016 was 10,496, which is 270 more than in 2015.
- This year's holy day offerings increased approximately 3 percent over last year.
- Cash reserves are now equal to more than 10 weeks of income. This has been a goal since the association began.
- The percentage of our income provided by nonmember donations increased from 10 percent in 2015 to 13 percent in 2016.

- The Church has 270 congregations and 210 credentialed ministers around the world.
- Personal Correspondence letters and emails answered this year increased more than 50 percent over 2015.

Following this report, the board listened to formal presentations of the strategic plan and the operation plans and had the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Franks gave an overview. Doug Horchak presented the Ministerial Services operation plan, and Clyde Kilough presented the Media operation plan. International liaison Leon Walker gave a report about plans for areas outside the United States. As is the case every year, the key challenge outside the U.S. is developing men who are called by God and capable of replacing our aging pastoral ministry.

The strategic plan included information about key challenges facing the Church today. These include:

- Facility development. The headquarters' team has outgrown its current offices. After discussion, the MBOD has agreed that the administration should locate land near the current office to build our own facility. The board passed a resolution that authorizes the administration to locate and purchase land for constructing a building with up to 25,000 square feet of space in 2017.
- Media expansion. Since our mission is to preach the gospel to the world and care for those whom God may call, we must continue to expand our media efforts. In 2016 there were, on average, 900,000 unique visitors each month to our primary website (Life, Hope & Truth) with a return rate each month of approximately 250,000. More money and energy will be invested in



our websites in 2017, including the French and Spanish sites.

- Leadership development. The Ministerial Services team is developing leaders for the future of the Church. Retiring pastors must be replaced over the next decade. To assist with this, a new leadership development program was unveiled just prior to the Feast and will be fully implemented in 2017. Other programs are ongoing.

The board also received an update from Jason Ranew, the Church’s legal counsel. This news was encouraging: COGWA is not facing any legal threats or litigation. The last item of the day was the presentation of the proposed budget, covered line by line by treasurer Britt Taylor.

Other business

Tuesday morning the board met for breakfast at the local hotel where traveling members were staying. This allowed us to visit two properties previously scouted by the administration in order to give the board an idea of the kind of property we would need and what is available fairly near our present offices. The plan is to secure a property near our current address so that commute times for employees would not significantly lengthen.

The remainder of the morning was spent discussing the plans and budget, which led to a unanimous ballot to approve all three documents.

In the afternoon the board entered private session to discuss various personnel matters, including retirement planning. There were also updates from the Doctrine Committee by its chairman Don Henson and updates on Foundation Institute, FI Online and Foundation Outreach International.

Tuesday evening, the Franks kindly opened their home to the board and office staff for a dinner and lively fellowship. The excellent working relationships and friendships that bind us make such events encouraging and joyful.

Wednesday we finished with a discussion of our current thresholds of years of service required to hold certain leadership positions in our association. It was generally decided that in some cases the thresholds could be lowered. This decision will be refined and presented formally to the ministry as soon as practical.

On behalf of the Ministerial Board of Directors, thank you for your prayers for God’s blessing. We believe He answered those prayers, as we seek always to be guided by Him. It is an exciting time to be part of the work of God. ☺

New York NY
Dallas Teen Formal
 Saturday, March 11, 2017

Embassy Suites Dallas Park Central
 13131 North Central Expressway
 Dallas Texas 75243
 (972) 234-3300

Register at:
www.cogwadallas.org/teens

Questions:
 Contact Dora Jennings at
thejenningsfour@gmail.com
 or 214-695-7484



FI Class of 2017 Etiquette Dinner

Students get classy for an evening of elegance.

By Codi Lyn Cole-LaRavia



Photos by Kelly Cunningham

Gentlemen in ties and vests and ladies in high heels and elegant dresses all stood at the beautiful front door of Tom and Becky Sweat’s home. Straightening our postures, the Foundation Institute class of 2017 walked in, ready to spend an evening of sophistication in a beautiful atmosphere.

Each student had his or her own place card, and the tables were adorned with fine plates, glasses and utensils—almost too many to count. But count them we did, with every delicious course that came our way.

We began with hors d’oeuvres of cheese and fruit. Then after sitting down, our servers gave us spanakopita pastry wheels with savory crème fraîche. A perfectly seasoned bone broth and green salad followed.

Nothing was rushed, as all of our serving staff (our FI instructors) seemed to know the right amount of time to allow for conversation and how much time we needed to truly enjoy the dishes. A sorbet cleansed our palettes for the main course (which could possibly have been the most tender meat ever tasted!)—braised short ribs over potato puree and kale with horseradish cream.

Everyone enjoyed a variety of conversation, ranging from travel, upcoming Feast sites, our views on the book

of Job (which we were studying at the time) and plenty of laughter, which continually filled our dining room.

Finally, we were served the last course, a collection of mini tarts—chocolate, lemon and fresh berries—along with a full-bodied Sumatran coffee.

In class a few days prior, Joel Meeker went over some essential practices of etiquette with us in preparation for the evening. Before giving pointers on such things as how to dip the soup spoon away from you in the bowl, however, Mr. Meeker brought out the foundational principles of Christian etiquette that carry over into every part of our lives. During the etiquette dinner, one or two of us may have used a finger to push food onto a fork, but as I looked around at our class and those serving that night, I saw those foundational principles in my brothers and sisters in Christ, who treat one another with love and respect.

It was a wonderful treat to dress in lovely things, have our pictures taken and walk around with champagne glasses of sparkling juice. After a solid four months together as a class, we have come to enjoy our time together, whether in our classroom, downtown Dallas, crowded in the apartments for a chill night of pizza and a movie—or at a formal affair, such as the etiquette dinner for Foundation Institute class of 2017. ☺☺



Calling All Volunteers!

Get together with others and use your talents to serve in an FOI Hilltop Outreach Program.

By Rhonda Waddle

Hilltop Outreach Program, sponsored by Foundation Outreach International, is expanding and increasing the types of programs that can receive funding. The program funds projects for good works that are created and completed by members of the Church. We give grants of up to \$500 for supplies needed to complete the project, and the main requirement is that members who organize the project must work together with at least five other brethren. By requiring a minimum of five members to participate, we hope to cultivate fellowship and relationships. These projects put members together, working to accomplish something good for others.

Use your talents!

The flexibility of the program also allows for creativity in how the participants serve others. If you have a talent for creating items, put it to work by serving others! Here is a sampling of some of our different congregations' projects.

The Cincinnati Hilltop Knit and Crochet group knits scarfs for the homeless. They also create scarfs and headbands for the children at a Ronald McDonald house.

Cincinnati area members also made fleece blankets that were donated to foster children.

The Birmingham Men's Club worked together to make repairs to two widows' homes in their area.

Campers at Camp Lone Star, the COGWA preteen camp in Texas, decorated 90 cans with stickers and paint for campers in Kenya. The Texas campers stuffed the containers with small gift items such as pencils, glow sticks and building toys. They each wrote a note to the children in Kenya, encouraging them to "build on the Rock" (the theme of camp) and to have a great time at camp. The FOI volunteers for Kenya distributed these gifts at camp this past December.

Hilltop projects will be featured at each of the Young Adult Leadership Weekends this year, expanding the projects put together by the Fort Worth young adults at the 2016 YALW.

Also, Embark program participants must complete a Hilltop program as part of the Embark curriculum.

We are always looking for more participants; so if you are interested, visit foundationoutreachintl.org for more details! @@@

Q

I have shared one of your excellent articles on my Twitter page, as it is very well-explained. I do, however, have questions that need clarification:

1. Thou shall not lie: Sometimes we have to tell white lies when, for example, others ask personal questions or we do not want other people to know some of our personal business, for it will lead to fights and drama. Or when we do not want to hurt other people's feelings. Will God hold these occasional little, white lies against us?

2. Thou shall not steal: I do my work diligently and never want to slack off. I do, however, have plenty of free time. I read a lot—mostly books on the Kingdom of God and God's teachings. My employer doesn't mind because I perform my job very well. However, I can't help but feel a bit guilty about this. Will God hold me accountable for this?

3. Thou shall not fornicate: If I am in a serious relationship and down the line we become engaged, would we be allowed to sleep together since we would now be engaged?

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.

PERSONAL CONTACT

with CECIL MARANVILLE



A

We appreciate the positive feedback, as well as your sharing our article on your Twitter page. We also respect your commitment to living by God's Commandments, and we will be happy to give you further guidance. Let's begin by analyzing the phrase *little, white lie*.

"Little" and "white" imply good, harmless intentions. On the other hand, a "lie" is clearly labeled a sin by God's Word. (See our Life, Hope & Truth articles "[Ninth Commandment: You Shall Not Bear False Witness](#)," "[Lying vs. Telling the Truth](#)" and "[Speaking the Truth in Love](#)" for explanations of why lying is a sin.)

Clearly, the concept of a little, white lie is inherently contradictory! A sin is neither "little" nor "harmless." And a sin is never "necessary," regardless of how pressured one might feel. If you are committed to being honest, you can answer difficult questions honestly without revealing your personal business. Sometimes, blunt answers are necessary for overly bold questions: "That's personal" or "That's inappropriate." Or you can gently deflect questions from well-meaning people with replies such as: "I'd rather not say" or "I appreciate your concern, but I'm not comfortable with answering that." Even the commonly used

example of lying for the boss who says, "If so-and-so calls, tell her I am not in" can be handled honestly with "I'm sorry, but my boss is not available to take your call."

First, commit to being honest all the time. Next, pray for guidance, and then meditate about (think through in advance) how to handle challenging questions. With God's help, it is possible to eliminate every type of lie.

On your second question, there is nothing wrong with how you use your time in the scenario you described. The defining point is that your employer has no problem with your doing these things "on the clock." We discuss this issue in "[Avoid Time Theft](#)."

Regarding an engaged couple having sexual relations, societal expectations are different from God's expectations. Sexual intimacy outside of marriage is a sin, even when it is between committed couples. We recognize that this is a potentially controversial matter, and we address it fully in several forms. They include "[Living Together Before Marriage](#)," "[Why Sex Is Never Casual](#)" and "[Questions About Sex Answered by the Bible](#)." You can see from the Bible that becoming sexually active before marriage (even when engaged) breaks God's law. ©🕊

CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?



AUSTIN POST-FEAST POTLUCK

The Austin, Texas, congregation had its annual post-Feast of Tabernacles potluck on Nov. 5. At these potlucks, brethren bring international food and share Feast photos. Some people brought food representative of their Feast sites, like the Nanaimo bars of British Columbia. Taquitos were a nod to Latin America, but they might have just been Tex-Mex. No international potluck in Texas would be complete without amazing barbecue beef (from Rudy's). Every year, the best part of the post-Feast potluck is seeing the photos. Tom Rocheleau made a slide show, which was then projected in the fellowship hall. There were photos from France, Victoria, San Diego and New Braunfels.

Sabrina Slaughter



ALAN CRANKSHAW TURNS 90 YEARS OLD

Alan Crankshaw achieved a milestone in his life when he reached 90 years of age on Dec. 7, 2016.

As a young man, Alan emigrated from Lancashire, England, to Newcastle, South Africa, where he married his wife, Nola, and lived for most of his life. Alan and Nola have been faithful members of God's Church since the early 1970s and now live in the town of Ladismith in the Western Cape province.

Alan's daughter Faye wrote the following: "Congratulations, Dad, on your 90th birthday today! What an amazing achievement and to have reached this age in such good health and good spirits! You are an example to us all with your cheerful attitude to life and all those around you. We love you and wish you many more happy and healthy years ahead!"

Neville Smith

AARON BARKER BLESSED ON SAME DAY AS GRANDFATHER ORDAINED

It is always a special Sabbath when the little children are blessed in services. It's a chance for everyone to observe and give thanks to God for caring for these little ones. This year's Blessing of Little Children was a very special day as little Aaron Barker had hands laid on him by London, Kentucky, pastor Eric Evans and elder Bill Swanson. Aaron's thankful parents are Gary and Monica Barker, and his grandparents are Rufus and Glenna Wooten. Big brother Avery was also pleased. What made the event even more special was the ordination of Aaron's grandfather Rufus as a deacon in God's Church on the same day.

Judy Swanson





MR. AND MRS. VÁZQUEZ CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Adel and María Vázquez, members of the Mexico City congregation, are incredibly delighted to be celebrating, in the company of their children and grandchildren, 50 years of marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Vázquez had their first contact with the Church of God toward the end of 1985 through a neighbor whom they met while attending the Seventh-day Adventist Church. That same neighbor gave them a subscription to *The Plain Truth* magazine, and before the end of the year, both of them had started attending services regularly. They are currently a marvelous example for the members of the congregation in Mexico.

Mr. and Mrs. Vázquez were married on

Dec. 23, 1966. God blessed their marriage with three children: Sandra, Leonel and Marco Antonio. They are grandparents to two marvelous children from their daughter's marriage to Ernesto Arteaga, who is one of the two local elders in Mexico City.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Vázquez, a deacon in Mexico City, retired after having worked 30 years at a typewriter manufacturing company. He and his wife Maria currently work at a family grocery store business, which they started almost 25 years ago.

Congratulations and happy golden anniversary!

Jorge Iván Garduño

GREENSBORO HOSTS SQUARE DANCE

On Saturday evening, Dec. 3, the Greensboro, North Carolina, brethren hosted a fun-filled evening of fellowship with a Western-themed meal and square dancing!

Our professional caller got us warmed up with simple instructions that even the children were able to follow. As the evening progressed, the adults took on the challenge of incorporating more involved steps. Some we mastered; some we didn't—at least not at the very beginning. We were able to laugh at ourselves, since fun was what this evening was all about.

Bev McKnight



CLARKSVILLE CHILI COOKOFF

The sixth annual chili cook-off for the Clarksville, Maryland, and Bedford, Pennsylvania, congregations was held on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016, at the LeMarrs' farm in Point of Rocks, Maryland. The weather was sunny and pleasantly warm, as was the fellowship and chili. (The chili was sometimes hot!) There were some really creative chili recipes, and the competition is getting harder every year. With all the chili, side dishes and desserts to enjoy, no one left hungry. It was great fun for all, and everyone got to judge their favorite chili. Third place went to Linda Rosier, second place to Gina Schroeder, and first place to Rod Williams.

David LeMarr



NASHVILLE HOSTS SECOND CHILI COOK-OFF

On Dec. 3, 2016, the Nashville, Tennessee, congregation held their second chili cook-off and "Minute to Win It" game night. The chili competition was stiff this year, as the hand-selected judges were given scorecards that rated taste, aroma, color and consistency. The winners received goodies, gift cards and bragging rights.

Following the meal, everyone was divided into four teams of all ages to play Minute to Win It. Each team scored points when it finished a challenge in a minute or less. Games included "dizzy mummy," "penny towers," "rapid fire" and "spudnik." Two teams tied, and an overtime round determined the winners.

Amy Duncan



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



Willa Rose Glasgow

Justin and Elizabeth Glasgow of the Dallas, Texas, congregation are happy to announce the arrival of Willa Rose Glasgow on the morning of Sept. 10, 2016. She came into the world weighing 7 pounds 3 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches. Willa is a sweet little girl and loves to smile and babble to whomever she meets. Willa is the first grandchild for Rich and Teeka Glasgow of the Dallas, Texas, congregation and the first granddaughter for Jim and RoseAnn Cannon of the West Palm Beach, Florida, congregation. Her parents are totally in love with her.



Micah Benjamin Onstott

Joshua and Laura Onstott of the Henderson, Kentucky, congregation are excited to announce the birth of their third child, Micah Benjamin Onstott. Micah was born on Oct. 20, 2016, at 7:12 a.m., weighing 7 pounds

10 ounces and measuring 21 inches long. He joins big brother Jude and big sister Molly. Jude and Molly love their new little brother and are a big help. Proud grandparents are Terry and Teresa Onstott, also of the Henderson congregation.

couples a crystal vase to commemorate this special occasion.

Donna Quintana

ANNIVERSARIES



Shirley and Jerry England

More than 50 years have passed since a young Jerry England was introduced to Miss Shirley Whited at Sabbath services in Forest Park, Georgia. The year was 1963, and three years later they were married by Kenneth Swisher in the basement of his home. This was the beginning of many happy years to follow. The Englands started out their life together in Carl, Georgia, and now live in Buford, Georgia. They became happy parents of two children, their son, Tracy, and daughter, Tabitha. They also have three grandchildren. Many brethren have shared in their 50 years together and love them dearly.

The Jefferson, Georgia, congregation celebrated the Englands' anniversary on the Sabbath of Sept. 24, 2016. It was a double celebration, as the Englands shared their 50th anniversary with Jefferson pastor Bruce Gore and his wife, Phyllis. Both couples were married on Sept. 25, 1966. The congregation served cake and refreshments and gave both



Denise and Paul Hadley

The families of Denise Rambsel and Paul Hadley are thrilled to announce their marriage, on Sept. 25, 2016, performed by Lyle Welty, the pastor of the Columbus/Cambridge, Ohio, congregation. Having technically known each other since childhood and grown in friendship through the years, as well as having worked for the same company the last five years, it became very obvious that God's hand was involved in bringing them together. The ladies of their congregation put together the beautiful decorations and food for the reception, which included friends and family from far and near.

ORDINATIONS



Eric Evans, Rufus Wooten and Bill Swanson

Nov. 5, 2016, was a very special Sabbath for the family of Rufus Wooten. His grandchild Aaron Barker was blessed, and afterwards Mr. Wooten was again called up to the front of

the hall to have hands laid on him to be ordained as deacon in God's Church.

Rufus Wooten and Glenna Griffith were married on May 29, 1976, the weekend after her college graduation in her hometown. They have been spent 40 wonderful years together!

Glenna and her family attended the Worldwide Church of God in London, Kentucky, and Rufus learned about the Church through her. After attending a church picnic with Glenna and her family one Sunday in 1979, he started going to Church with her and has attended ever since!

Glenna and Rufus were baptized in October of 1980 by Warren Heaton III (pastor of the Hazard, Kentucky, congregation) and have attended 36 Feasts. They were blessed with three wonderful children, Michelle, Monica and Michael. Their daughters blessed them with six grandchildren (two granddaughters and four grandsons) and one great-granddaughter.

Rufus' faith has been tested several times throughout the years, including losing two jobs and battling rheumatoid

arthritis, but through it all he has been an example of faithfulness.

Judy Swanson

OBITUARIES



Spencer Oliver Swanson

Spencer Oliver Swanson, 93, formerly of Battle Creek, Michigan, died peacefully on Wednesday morning, Oct. 26, 2016. He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Mary Jeanne Franklin Swanson; his daughters-in-law, Bethaney Swanson and Cynthia Swanson; his brother Oliver (Nancy) Swanson; and his sister-in-law, Ida Bell Swanson. He is survived by his children, John (Deb)

Swanson, James (Ione) Swanson, Jeremy Swanson, Jeffrey (Janice) Swanson and Joel Swanson; his 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; his brother, Perry Brooks Swanson; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Spencer honorably served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II. He retired from the federal government, where he worked for over 40 years. He served in the U.S. embassy in Rome, where he met and married his wife, Mary Jeanne, and later retired from the CIA. He was a loving and dedicated husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and a friend to all who knew him. He loved the Lord, his Church and his family above all things.

Both Spencer and his wife were members of the Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, Michigan, congregations. Spencer was our oldest senior and a voracious reader. He would always share books he thought were worth reading. He was a wealth of information on Italian history, especially its religious history. His mind was sharp until the end. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

Gary McConaughy

TRIBUTES



Don Eugene Waterhouse

Don Waterhouse was born to Ted and Ruth Waterhouse on Oct. 11, 1941, in the West Texas town of San Angelo.

Don's first exposure to God's truth was hearing Herbert Armstrong on *The World Tomorrow* broadcast in the late '40s and early '50s. Don's brother, Gerald Waterhouse, was instrumental in Don's calling by encouraging him to attend Imperial Schools in Pasadena, California.

After Don graduated from Imperial Schools, he attended Ambassador College in Pasadena from 1960 to 1962. He transferred to the Bricket Wood, England, campus for his junior and senior years. While in England in 1963, he had the opportunity to accompany ministers on baptizing tours and travel over much of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

After graduating in 1964, he was assigned to be a ministerial trainee in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Akron, Ohio; and Youngstown, Ohio. Over the years, he faithfully served in Chicago and Rockford, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Geneva, Alabama; Fort Walton Beach, Florida; Fort Worth, Texas; Tampa, New Port Richey and Ocala, Florida; Columbia and Florence, South Carolina; and Augusta, Georgia.

During his 52 years of fellowship-ping and countless in-home Bible studies, sermons, picnics, baptisms and marriages, he made many lifelong friends. Don loved to play baseball, fish and hunt.

Don enjoyed travel throughout his life and was able to attend his last Feast in the Philippines in 2015. He was having heart difficulty at that time but still wanted to go and do his job. He always had an incredibly strong work ethic.

On Tuesday, May 10, 2016, while on vacation in Washington, D.C., Don died peacefully at the age of 74. A graveside service was officiated by Jim Franks, on May 23, 2016, at Mount Olive Cemetery in Scurry, Texas.

Don is survived by his wife of 28 years, Donna; four children, Joel (Patricia) Waterhouse, Roy (Michelle) Waterhouse, Lora (Ron) DeGagne and Lorrie (Stephen) Cannon; and 10 grandchildren.

Don was a true and faithful servant to God's brethren, a faithful husband and a kind and loving father. Even though our family is experiencing a great loss, our lives had an equally incredible blessing to have the memories, the laughter, the sermons and the faithful example to encourage and comfort us. We think of 1 Thessalonians 4:16: "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first" (New International Version).

God speed that day when all God's faithful servants who have died in the faith will be together again!

Donna Waterhouse

FEB. 11, 2017

GRAPEVINE, TEXAS

Boot Scoot & BBQ

You're invited to join the Dallas and Fort Worth congregations on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. for the 11th Annual Boot Scoot, benefiting the COGWA Youth Camp Activity and Scholarship Fund!

The evening is full of a variety of activities, starting with a beef rib dinner and bake sale, followed by a silent auction, raffle and dancing to live music from the Union House Branch Band. The event will be held at the Grapevine Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas.

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



REGISTER OR MAKE A DONATION ONLINE BY JAN. 20 AT:

BOOTSCOOT.ORG
