

OneAccord

December 2017



2017 Camp Conference

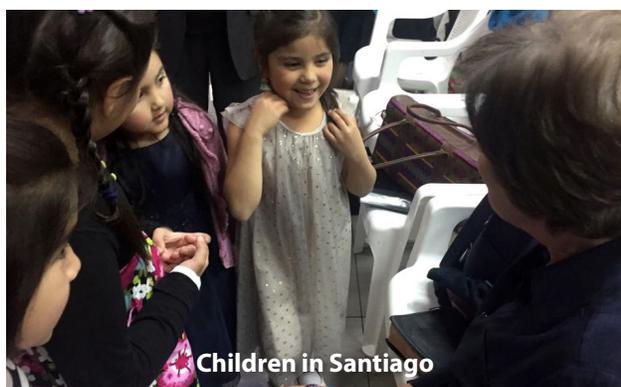
Portrait of Faith
Margaret Forehand

Journeys and Reflections
John and Nancy Bald

personal from the president

Encouragement From South America

I am writing this month's personal after a very successful trip to South America. Sharron and I began this trip from Dallas on Wednesday, Nov. 1, and returned to the U.S. on Sunday, Nov. 19. We traveled with Leon and Reba Walker and Saul and Carmen Langarica. Mr. Walker is the international liaison for the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, and the regional director for Latin America. Mr. Langarica is the pastor of our congregations in Chile as well as those in Uruguay, Bolivia and Argentina. It was both enjoyable and encouraging to travel with the Walkers and Langaricas. Their history in Latin America goes back 30-plus years for the Langaricas and almost 40 years for the Walkers. Mr. Walker was appointed the regional director for Latin America by Herbert Armstrong in 1979.



Visiting four countries

While on this trip, I learned a lot about the brethren and ministry in South America. We visited four very different countries—Chile, Uruguay, Argentina and Peru. After this trip I can say that I have visited all South American countries where there are COGWA members except for Brazil, Venezuela (only one member) and Guyana. I spoke five times to a total audience of more than 600 members, and my messages were webcast to an additional 200. We missed several outlying congregations in Argentina, Chile and Peru. The overall attendance in Latin America is close to 2,000, which makes it our largest region outside the U.S. The members I met were excited about the work of the Church and very happy with the peace and unity they see in the Church today.

One of the most interesting events of our trip had nothing to do with the Church. We just happened to be in Lima, Peru, the night their national soccer team clinched a spot in the World Cup by defeating New Zealand. It seems that all 10 million inhabitants of Lima were in the streets celebrating, and it continued through most of the night! We could hear the fireworks and the celebration from our hotel. It was very exciting! One of the members purchased a special cake to celebrate the victory. It will be the first time Peru has been in the World Cup since 1982.

It was heartwarming to speak to so many brethren and hear their stories. Some have been members of the Church for almost 50 years—since the late 1960s and early 1970s. Their expressions of appreciation for the ministry and the work being done from headquarters was humbling, but most encouraging. We also met several new members, some from other groups and some who were brand-new to the truth.



Peace and unity

I returned from this trip knowing that the congregations in South America are thriving. Many have seen excellent growth over the past three years, and all expressed appreciation for the peace and unity that they are experiencing.

The apostle Paul admonishes us, "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3). He makes the point that unity and peace don't just happen within a congregation. Hard work and cooperation are required from all of us.

Due to political unrest in so many countries in this region over the past 30 years, I believe the brethren here truly know what division does to a group of people, whether a nation or a congregation. There isn't much they can do about their countries, but they assured me they will never take for granted the unity and peace that currently exists in their congregations.

If you ever have the opportunity to visit South America, either on a vacation or for the Feast, you won't be disappointed. You will find many happy brethren, who are among the most hospitable I have ever met! Even if you don't speak Spanish, you will be treated very well, and you definitely won't go hungry! Fellowship, good food and encouragement characterize the congregations in South America!



Jim Franks
President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association
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OneAccord | Contents

December 2017

CHURCH of GOD

A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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- 4 | **2017 Camp Conference**
- 6 | **Personal Contact**
How can I make sure you're not a cult?
- 7 | **Portraits of Faith**
Margaret Forehand
- 9 | **Journeys and Reflections:**
John and Nancy Bald
- 11 | **Church Potluck**
- 14 | **Announcements**



2017 Camp Conference

By Ken Treybig

Why would an already successful program need its directors to meet each year? After all, why change a winning game? The answer is the same as it is in any area of life—growth!

This year the directors for COGWA Youth Camps met at the office in Allen Nov. 6-8 for 2½ days of meetings. While everyone seems to enjoy the opportunity to visit, the sharing of ideas and discussions about how to improve an already successful program are the most valuable part of this annual meeting.

After some introductory comments, each director is given 10 minutes to give a recap about how his camp went this year. Directors share information on new venues added, ways their staff integrated the year's theme into the whole camp experience, and any problems they encountered. They also share plans they have for next year's camp and any trends in topics of interest to campers during dorm meetings, Christian Living classes, question-and-answer Bible studies or other activities.

While we are one program and have the same focus and goals of helping campers build a relationship with God, peers, staff and ministers, every camp facility we use is unique, which gives some variation in the camps. Directors are always on the lookout for new ideas or activities that could give a little variety from year to year.

Since our custom application system is fairly new, we

always discuss how things worked this year, possible steps to streamline various procedures, and ideas for making the process more user-friendly. We discuss common issues directors face, such as the need for applicants to update their photos in the COGWA portal so we have a current one in case of emergency.

We also discuss various policies, procedures and guidelines—including the proper vetting of all staff applicants—to make sure we are following the camping industry's current best practices for safety.

In addition, it is a great time for us to interact with others in the office to ensure a smooth flow of information, photos and video footage for use on social media, in Church publications and on our camp website. Each year directors also spend time in the studio to update the short promotional video on each camp's web page.

Common recruiting needs are often discussed as well. How to encourage more teen and young adult male applicants is often a topic, as is how to encourage young people to seek various certifications (such as lifeguard, rock climbing, archery or riflery) to make them more valuable at camp.

While the program is running smoothly, the team never wants to take that for granted and is always looking for ways to improve. Our annual meetings are an important part of that process and the ongoing pursuit of growth. ©



COGWA camp directors Ken Treybig, Paul Carter, Andy Burnett, Gary Black, Tom Clark and Scott Lord enjoy a moment during a briefing by COGWA treasurer Britton Taylor.



Andy Burnett, Camp Carter director, and Gary Black, Winter Camp director, tune in to one of the many sessions during the 2017 camp conference.



Emily Everman, COGWA proofreader and Festival project manager, chats with Karissa Dohrmann (daughter of camp director Paul Carter) during a break in the action.



Ken Treybig, CYC overall coordinator, chairs the 2017 camp conference in Allen, Texas.



Many wives of camp directors attend the conference, lending support, insight and advice.



Attendees of the conference take time to review notes and fellowship during a break between sessions.

Q

I am being very thorough in checking your answers for two reasons. First, I have just dramatically escaped from a cult after 16 years, and I am now seeking the real truth. Second, I witnessed to a close friend about the Bible and the lies I was taught. She is also now seeking the truth from you, but from scratch, without any previous corruption. Because my friend is so trusting, I fear that she is following you blindly, putting all her eggs in one basket, as I did in the cult for so many years. We are both looking to you for the real truth, but we have different levels of knowledge about the Bible. So, please be truthful and accurate.

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

We were very sorry to learn of your harrowing experience with a cult, and we are glad that you escaped it. Also, we welcome the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

As you have seen in the articles you have read, we take the Bible literally. God's Word is the basis for our faith. Cults might make the same claim, but, in fact, they typically twist Scripture in order to suit private doctrines. Some groups even publish a unique translation of the Bible. While we recommend and use the New King James Version as our standard, we use a variety of translations in our material—whatever makes the meaning clear. We encourage our readers to focus upon the Bible itself, rather than on a forced interpretation.

(As a noteworthy aside, even many churches within mainstream Christianity misrepresent Scripture and promote unbiblical doctrines. Life, Hope & Truth calls attention to these discrepancies, urging our readers to compare them with the faith Jesus taught.)

Cults also commonly promote a sense of mystery about their beliefs and practices. There is nothing secretive about our teachings. Our website's search engine enables the public to search every document in

PERSONAL CONTACT

with CECIL MARANVILLE



our library. We also interlace our publications with links to supplemental publications, so that readers can readily dig as deeply as they wish into what we have to say about any topic.

Those who want to know more about the church that sponsors Life, Hope & Truth are welcome to explore it fully via our corporate website, cogwa.org. Any member of the public can there access a list of our congregations, read a booklet about our practices and programs, even peruse our church's constitution and bylaws, if desired.

Finally, cults seek to control the lives (and often the possessions) of their followers. That is not our way. We want people to prove, believe and then choose to act upon God's words (not ours). Whether one does is a personal decision. No one can be argued into comprehending spiritual truths. As Jesus taught, the Father has to draw or open a person's mind to understanding (John 6:44).

No one who downloads material from our websites or subscribes to our newsletter or magazine is under any obligation to us. We don't send our publications to anyone unsolicited. And we never ask for donations from our readers. Our objective is to make God's truth available, to "sow the seed" and to serve those in whom God causes the planted seed to take root. ©A

PORTRAIT OF FAITH

Margaret Forehand

Stepping Out in Faith and Enduring

By Judy Swanson



Margaret Nell Strider Forehand, the fifth child of Lovick and Alice Strider, made her debut into the world on March 12, 1938. But she wasn't expected until June and was three months premature, weighing only 3 pounds 3 ounces! Needless to say, in those days babies born three months premature had very little chance of surviving. But Margaret survived and has been very blessed with a long and happy life!

Margaret came to realize how special the parents God gave her were! And since her mother had two sisters who were nurses, she came to find out what a great help they were to her parents during her early years. Her first three years of life were touch and go. There was the fear that even if she did survive she might never be able to walk. But during her third year of life God intervened, and she learned to walk!

Gordon Forehand and Margaret met through friends while they were in high school, and on March 7, 1958, after dating for four years, they were married. In 1959 they welcomed the birth of their first child.

Gordon's father told them about *The World Tomorrow* program which he had discovered on the radio, and both Margaret and Gordon were very interested in learning what Mr. Armstrong had to say. Every morning before leaving for work Gordon would tune in and listen to Mr. Armstrong.

After ordering and reading the booklets, it didn't take them long to realize that this was the teaching they had been looking for!

They wanted their three small children to be taught all about God. They taught their children everything they learned about God's way of life through the Bible, the Bible Story books and the literature they received from headquarters.

In 1969 a cousin of Gordon's parents came to visit them, and she gave them information about Mr. Armstrong and the Church. They also believed that another cousin was attending the Church. She informed them of a Church of God in their area, explaining how they could contact the minister. He visited them on and off for about a year, and then the visits stopped. Evidently he had determined that they were not quite ready to be invited to attend services.

Gordon was a mail carrier at the post office, and the job involved working on the Sabbath. Their sixth child was born in 1969. How could they survive if Gordon lost his job?

Stepping out in faith

In 1974, with God's help, Gordon finally stepped out in faith and was able to work out a way to have Saturday off so he could attend services. In 1974 they received a letter from headquarters letting them know that an evangelist was going to be in Raleigh, North Carolina.

They were thankful that they went to hear him speak, as they were also able to see and talk with the minister who had visited them in the past. The minister invited Gordon to his office a day or two later, and as Gordon was leaving his office the minister said that he would see him in church on the Sabbath!

In June of that year, 1974, Gordon and Margaret were baptized, and in July Gordon's parents were also baptized.

Their faith was tested

The Forehands faced a new challenge in 1980. Post office employees complained about Gordon having every Saturday off, and Gordon was fired. With two children



in college, things looked pretty grim. But they prayed for help and kept their faith, and God worked everything out.

Gordon was not only reinstated at the post office, but he was able to work on Sundays from then on, and his pay was greatly increased because Sunday work was considered overtime!

For several years other postal employees complained, but God always looked after him! After 32 years with the post office, Gordon finally retired in 1992.

Years of service to God's people

Through the years Margaret and Gordon Forehand served God's Church in whatever way they could. Gordon was the piano player for church services for 35 years and also played special music. One year he even had the honor of playing the pipe organ for holy day services when the Church met at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina. Margaret said, "I think everyone enjoyed it."

In 1983 they were asked to attend a newly established church in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, where Gordon played the piano and looked after the sound system. Margaret taught youth Bible lessons and looked after the socials.

They opened their home to the brethren for monthly Bible studies from 1979 to 1994—until they sold their home and moved to Tennessee in 1995.

Another trial of faith and endurance

In Margaret's own words, "We were shocked when we attended services in Knoxville. There was a different message being given there that we had not heard in North Carolina. Always before when we went to a different congregation, they were giving the same type of messages we heard in our home church.

"We attended in Knoxville until the spring of 1996. Meanwhile, we were busy studying what was being taught and what we should do. We definitely did not approve of going back to the Protestant way of life, as we had already

proved that God's way of life was the way to go."

During the spring holy days they learned that services where they could hear God's truth were being held in Cleveland, Tennessee. The Last Day of Unleavened Bread would be held in Sweetwater, Tennessee, which was just 10 miles from where they lived. In the past church services were always an hour away! They attended services there from 1996 until 2011.

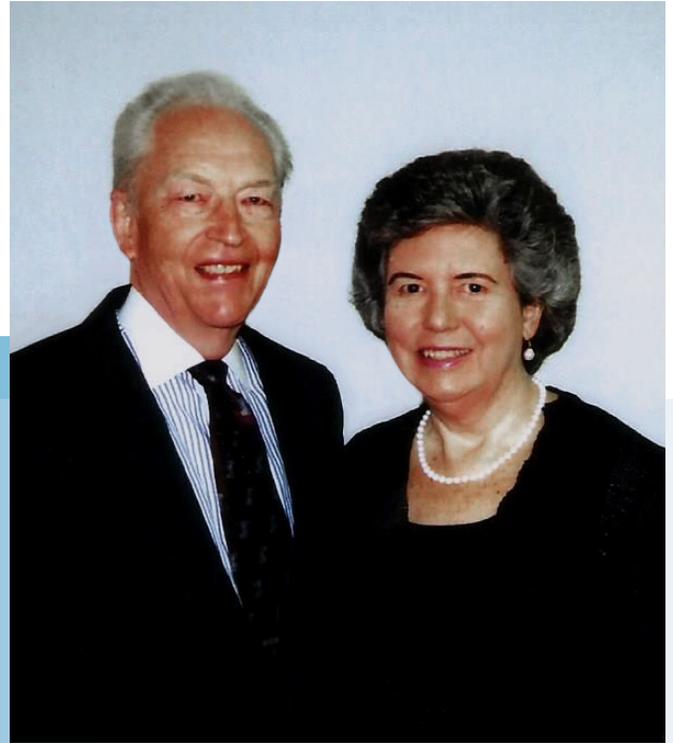
Faith tested once again!

Their faith was tested once again when in late 2010 a split happened in the church they were attending. They made the decision to attend with the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, and have been very happy and satisfied ever since.

God blessed Margaret and Gordon with a long life together. Their marriage lasted 58 wonderful years until Gordon died of cancer in July 2016.

Margaret attends the Knoxville, Tennessee, congregation along with her daughters Susan Forehand and Nancy Moreau, and her granddaughter Rachel Blackston, who plays the piano for church services. ©A





John and Nancy Bald

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said that the purpose of life is “to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” The following is the story of one couple’s well-lived life.

John Bald’s first contact with the Church was in 1942. At the age of 7, he went with his mother to a series of evangelistic meetings at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, California. These meetings were held by Herbert W. Armstrong from Eugene, Oregon. John and his parents lived in Long Beach, California, at the time. At about that same time, John’s future bride, Nancy Sanders, and her family started listening to Mr. Armstrong on the radio in south Texas.

In 1950, when John was 15, he went with his parents to visit Ambassador College in Pasadena, California. His father was baptized by Mr. Armstrong, and his mother’s previous baptism was accepted. They attended Passover that very night and began attending church in Pasadena. Coincidentally, that same year, Nancy’s family began keeping the Sabbath in their home, and they, too, kept the Passover, using instructions that Mr. Armstrong had sent them.

John began attending Ambassador College in Pasadena in 1953. He majored in Spanish, and Nancy

said he “developed a deep love for the Hispanic cultures.” Nancy began attending in 1956 at age 18.

After graduation in 1958 John asked Nancy to marry him. That fall, he was sent to Chicago as a ministerial trainee, and she remained at college to complete her third year. When John returned in June 1959, they were married on campus and spent one year in Pasadena.

In 1960 the newlyweds were asked to return to Chicago to serve again. They served seven church areas for the next three years. It was here that John was ordained, and their son, Jim, was born. John’s first pastorate was in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Bloomington, Illinois.

Including Indianapolis, he pastored a total of 20 churches and worked in 14 others over 45 years. They lived in 11 cities in 11 states and in 23 homes.

During a financial setback in the work in 1998, John graciously accepted half salary from the Church and supplemented his income by becoming a licensed security officer. He continued to pastor two congregations until his retirement in 2002.

Joy of pastoring

John and Nancy had a great love of working with God’s people in many areas of the United States and also felt privileged to be sent around the world for the Feast of

Tabernacles. Nancy recounted, “John was interested in the history and geography of many cultures and was happy to be sent and serve anywhere. We visited and John spoke at 24 international sites around the world. We also visited seven more sites while in route to the Feast for a total of 31 different sites around the world.”

She recalled that one of the most inspiring experiences was when they were sent to Colombia, South America, for the Feast, and John was able to preach in Spanish.

John was also able to speak, baptize and help in Mexico when they were living in San Antonio from 1974 to 1980. While living in Corpus Christi, Texas, he was able to help Larry Roybal in Monterrey, Mexico, during the time of turmoil in the Church in 1995.

When asked about how their being in the ministry affected their son, Nancy spoke of the positive impact of members on their son. When he was in high school in San Antonio, he was able to gain experience working for several members of the Church, learning a wide range of skills in construction, landscaping and waterproofing.

Lessons learned

According to Nancy, “One of the biggest lessons we learned early on was that if you treat everyone you meet with the utmost respect and dignity that God intended, then no matter the circumstances, people tend to respond in kind. No matter who they are, people want to feel and know that they are cared for.”

Another lesson learned, and one that John tried to teach, was that God’s laws and commandments are not restrictive. If kept, they are the path to real liberty and freedom to dwell happily in God’s love.



John and Nancy Bald with their son Jim.

John finished his race in August of 2008. God gave the Balds 49 beautiful years of marriage. During all of those years, they enjoyed serving in the ministry in God’s Church and were an inspiration to those around them. ☺

On the Road Again

The following are the 34 congregations the Balds served between 1957 and 2002 (in chronological order):

Longmont, Colorado
 Big Sandy, Texas
 Chicago, Illinois
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 El Paso, Illinois
 Pasadena, California
 Chicago, La Grange, Bloomington, El Paso
 and Chicago South, Illinois
 South Bend, Indiana
 Minneapolis, Minnesota
 St. Louis, Missouri*
 Bloomington, Illinois*
 Indianapolis, Indiana*
 Bloomington and Danville, Illinois*
 Fort Wayne, Indiana*

Omaha, Nebraska*
 Des Moines, Iowa*
 Sioux Falls, South Dakota*
 Columbus, Ohio (AM and PM)*
 San Antonio, Texas (AM and PM)*
 Uvalde, Texas*
 Monterrey, Mexico*
 La Crosse, Wisconsin*
 Rochester, Minnesota*
 Mason City, Iowa*
 Corpus Christi and Harlingen, Texas*
 Monterrey, Mexico

*Pastor

CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?



CONGREGATIONS BID FAREWELL TO MOENS

The Sabbaths of Aug. 12, 19 and 26 brought fond farewells to Chris and Angela Moen as they take a new assignment with the Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, Michigan, church areas. Mr. Moen was the associate pastor of the Cincinnati and Columbus/Cambridge, Ohio, and Indianapolis, Indiana, congregations.

The Indianapolis congregation delivered the first farewell on Aug. 12, with cake and punch after services. Aug. 19, the next Sabbath, the Cincinnati congregation presented the Moens with beautiful gifts of a laser-cut wall sign and flowers. Finally, Aug. 26 brought the third Sabbath of good-byes, with the Columbus/Cambridge congregation also honoring them with cake and punch after services.

While our congregations will greatly miss the Moens on a weekly basis, we look forward to occasionally seeing them as guests!

Denise Hadley



FEAST REPORTS AND EPIC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

On the beautiful fall Sabbath of Oct. 21 members of the Houston South, Texas, congregation celebrated three wonderful events. Our post-Feast potluck was the perfect opportunity to not only share Feast experiences but also celebrate two recent anniversaries of epic proportions—60 and 70 years of marriage.

Frank and Nelda Pierce's 60th anniversary on Aug. 11 and Melvin and Shirley Scott's 70th anniversary on Sept. 17 were celebrated by our congregation on this date because of circumstances beyond our control.

After Feast reports (from Branson, Kenya and New Zealand) and a sermon on faithfulness, we joined both couples in the fellowship hall for some fabulous fellowship and food. Everyone was excited to share their Feast experiences and congratulate the celebrating couples. Cards signed by the brethren, with gift cards included, along with colorful floral arrangements were presented to the couples. Delicious cakes topped off the smorgasbord of food.

Susan Scott Smith



POST-FEAST SOCIAL CREATES BUZZ

The familiar buzz of the Sabbath after the Feast was in the air before and after services. After Sabbath services on Oct. 21, the Twin Cities and St. Cloud, Minnesota, congregations held their annual post-Feast social. Members of our congregations attended six U.S. Feast sites and four sites outside the U.S.

The evening began with a potluck that everyone contributed to. During dinner, the pictures that many brought were projected on a large screen as a slide show. Once the meal was complete, our master of ceremonies for the evening, Dan Creed, began the program. After he introduced the purpose of the evening—to talk about our physical and spiritual Feast highlights—we began passing the microphone around to those who had experiences to share.

We heard about a hurricane, encounters with bears, delicious food, and learning about and appreciating other cultures. Members served by participating in music, organizing a food drive and getting involved in many other areas. We already miss the many friends and family members that we were able to spend time with!

All agreed that it was a memorable Feast, and several are already talking about their plans for the Feast of 2018!

Barbara Lee



OUTDOOR SABBATH SERVICE PROVIDES RELAXING ATMOSPHERE

It was a beautiful Sabbath at Cloudland Canyon State Park in Georgia on July 8, 2017. Pleasant breezes kept the temperature moderate for an outdoor Sabbath service for the Trenton, Georgia, congregation. Our pastor Tom Kirkpatrick presented a Bible study on the subject of valleys. He discussed various valleys mentioned in the Bible, such as the Kidron Valley, the Valley of Jehoshaphat and the valley of dry bones. He also discussed spiritual valleys in which we may find ourselves and explained that we don't need to fear, as God will always be with us.

Afterward, gifts of Bibles were presented to the two high school graduates in the congregation. The graduates are Emma Bradford and Kylie Hendershot. The Bibles were inscribed with a personal message from the congregation.

A potluck lunch was enjoyed by all in attendance, which included some guests from our sister congregation in Birmingham, Alabama. The fellowship and group walks to the nearby scenic overlook capped off a relaxing and restful Sabbath.

Annette Epperson

FEAST OF TRUMPETS HELD IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

For the first time in many years, the Feast of Trumpets was held in Springfield, Illinois, with a live speaker. Although there has been a small group using webcasts for services, there are now plans for having live speakers more often. The group pictured includes those who will attend this congregation, along with their newly assigned minister John Foster and his wife, Susan.

Mary Kerr



BELOIT HONORS COUPLE AND GIVES SEND-OFF

On Sept. 16, 2017, the Beloit, Wisconsin, congregation congratulated Greg and Bonnie Strass on 30 years of marriage. Greg and Bonnie's 30th anniversary was on Sept. 20.

The congregation also had a special send-off for Marisa Fraund. It was Marisa's last Sabbath before moving to the Dallas, Texas, area.

The brethren enjoyed fellowship with a fun Texas-themed snack table and delicious anniversary cake!

Kristen Mazza



CLEVELAND SABBATH PICNIC

On Aug. 5, 2017, the Cleveland, Ohio, congregation enjoyed a lovely Sabbath picnic following services at the home of our pastor and wife, Doug and Janel Johnson. They hosted the picnic in their backyard, a relaxing setting overlooking a small lake.

The afternoon included a barbecue of hot dogs and hamburgers that Mr. Johnson (wearing his special barbecue apron) grilled for us, while everyone else contributed side dishes, salads and desserts. This made for a most delicious meal!

Mrs. Johnson put the children to work building birds' nests from scratch, using only the natural bits and pieces that birds use. It turns out it's much harder than expected! The girls' team won, but the lesson was learned by all—look at the birds of the air and how their Heavenly Father cares for them.

The adults didn't miss out on the opportunity to have a bit of fun as well. We had a Bible quiz that challenged even the most well-versed among us. No doubt everyone learned something in the process!

The evening ended with an unexpected rain shower, rushing everyone and the leftover food inside, but this certainly didn't take away from the wonderful time we all had enjoying the food, fun and company of the brethren!

Erica Pavlik



Ordinations



John and Lynn Fox

John and Lynn Fox were ordained as deacon and deaconess Sept. 30, 2017, on the Day of Atonement in Salt Lake City, Utah. The ordination ceremony was conducted by Mark Whynaucht and Neil Hart.

John was baptized in September 1977 and works for a business process outsource provider as a customer care team coach. He is responsible for a group of direct reports, providing soft skill training and assisting the entire project of the company. Lynn was baptized in June 1968 and is a certified optician with LensCrafters. She has been with the company since 1993. During that time, she was a Gift of Sight captain and was part of an outreach mission to Bolivia. After 20 years, she retired and now works part-time, assisting the in-house optometrist and dealing with patients in an optician capacity.

John and Lynn are a great support for the Salt Lake City brethren. We look forward to working with John and Lynn in their new responsibilities in the many years to come.

Mark Whynaucht

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.

Weddings



Jennifer and Nathaniel Martin

Ben and Susan Brunner of the Ocala, Florida, congregation are delighted to announce the marriage of their daughter Jennifer Lauren to Nathaniel Edward Martin, son of Don and Heather Martin of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, congregation. The ceremony took place on June 11, 2017, at Chinsegut Hill Retreat in Brooksville, Florida. After the ceremony, a reception was held at the Brooksville Country Club. The ceremony was performed by Don Henson, pastor of the Wheeling, West Virginia, and Pittsburgh congregations. After a honeymoon in Iceland, Nathaniel and Jennifer have settled in the Pittsburgh area.

Susan Brunner

Robert and Kristen Mazza from the Beloit, Wisconsin, congregation are happy to announce the birth of Brayden Charles Lee. Brayden was born on Sept. 15, 2017, at 9:11 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. Brayden is their first child, Gary and Gale Black's first grandchild, and Robert and Trisha Mazza's seventh grandchild. Robert and Kristen are loving every moment with him!

Kristen Mazza

Obituaries



Teresa Bailey

Teresa Bailey, 62 died peacefully in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 26, 2017, after a courageous and lengthy battle with various health issues. She was born Nov. 16, 1954, in Augusta, Georgia, where she resided until just prior to her death.

Teresa was baptized in 1976 and was one of the first members of the Augusta congregation. Teresa served as a Sabbath school teacher and pianist. She also played the guitar and wrote songs for children. She had a beautiful voice and performed special music at the Feast on several occasions.

Spending time with her family was very special to her. She always had a picture handy to show off the "new baby." Teresa's love for people extended beyond her church and

Births



Brayden Charles Lee Mazza

family, as she volunteered as a sign language interpreter for a deaf child while he attended school.

After her children were grown, Teresa entered the work force, holding an IT position at Graniteville Textile Mill and also working for the city of Augusta.

Teresa was preceded in death by her mother, Rachel Polk. She is survived by her four children, Jennifer Ardis, Daniel Keith Bailey, Rebecca Bailey and Eric Bailey; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

A memorial service was held Aug. 19, 2017, at the church hall.

Teresa sleeps, awaiting the fulfillment of God's promise. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Ann Hewston



Christiaan Snyman

Christiaan Johannes Jacobus Snyman, aged 78, died on Aug. 2, 2017, in Cape Town, South Africa. Known to all as Lionel, he was born on Sept. 2, 1939. He and Marlene married young and had four children: Deon, Melledy, Brendan and Wesley. Lionel worked hard to help support Marlene's four brothers and her father, who ended up staying with the newlyweds when their mother died.

He worked on the South African Railways as a stoker on the steam trains that were still in use then. He rose to be a train driver and later a crane operator in the harbor in Cape Town. All of these jobs were highly skilled and required extensive training.

When he left the railways, he had numerous jobs. The last post he had was as a greenskeeper at a local golf course.

A memorial service was held in his honor in the old age home

where they were staying at the time. Lionel's long struggle with cancer was finally over. Marlene's brother, Morgen Kriedemann (senior pastor for Southern Africa) conducted the service, which was attended by 73 people. Some residents of the old age home expressed a desire to hear more of God's Word about the hope of the resurrection, as this was news to them.

Lionel leaves his wife of 57 years, Marlene, as well as four children and three grandchildren.

Rob Scott



Wanda Newby

Wanda Newby, 89, of the Van Buren, Arkansas, congregation died on Aug. 30, 2017. She was born on Feb. 6, 1928, in Le Flore, Oklahoma. She was preceded in death by her husband, Carl; her parents, Jason and Bertie Holderfield; two brothers and four sisters. She is survived by two sons, Randy (Cissy) of Fanshawe, Oklahoma, and Tommy (Mari) of Van Buren; one daughter, Carla Hudson of Fort Smith, Arkansas; nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Wanda was one of three sisters who were called by God in the 1940s. Her sister Marie began listening to the broadcast and wanted to share her newfound knowledge with her sisters. Wanda and Mable thought Marie was losing her mind and set out to rescue her. But they, too, became convicted of God's truth.

Until the Fort Smith congregation began in 1966, the three sisters and their children would meet on the Sabbath at one of their homes. The three sisters attended their first Feast in the fall of 1962 in Big Sandy,

Texas. It is said that the sisters were openly joyous and almost "giddy" as they kept God's Feast year after year.

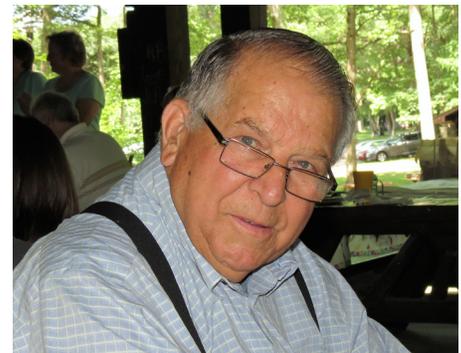


Wanda (right) and sisters in Big Sandy, Texas

Wanda's hobbies were gardening and fishing, but the most important thing in her life was her faith and God's truth, which she lived without wavering for nearly 60 years. She dearly loved her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and always looked forward to spending time with them.

A graveside service was held on Sept. 5, 2017, at the National Cemetery in Fort Smith, officiated by Tom Clark, pastor of the Van Buren congregation.

Aurora Gossett



Ralph Murray

On July 18, 2017, Ralph Murray of the Rochester, New York, area, died of complications from an infection. He was a member of COGWA's Central New York congregation. "Doc" Murray worked as an optometrist and was always noted for his generosity to his family and brethren in the Church. At one point he loaned his truck to a member who needed transportation to get around for a time. Dr. Murray was 79.

Stephan Koenig

Join the Dallas and Fort Worth congregations on Saturday evening, Feb. 10, 2018, for the 12th 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, games 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, 2018, at
bootscoot.org

