

A photograph of two men shaking hands. The man on the left is older, with white hair, wearing a grey suit and a red striped tie. The man on the right is younger, with a beard and blonde hair, wearing a dark blue suit, a patterned tie, and a white boutonniere. They are both smiling. The background is a brick wall on the left and a plain white wall on the right.

OneAccord

June 2018

FOUNDATION INSTITUTE 2018 GRADUATION

Foundation Outreach International
Magnify Your Giving With Corporate Matching

Writer's Block
The Cancer Ward

personal from the president

Importance of Leadership Development

So far, 2018 has been a very productive year for the Church, but it has also been a very challenging year. Our income has set new records for the first five months, with double-digit increases each month. That has put us in a very strong financial position for preaching the gospel, completing the building and caring for the brethren. But there have also been challenges.

When my family began attending services in January of 1962, the average member had been in the Church only a few years—certainly less than 10 years. You were considered an old-timer if you could count attendance at seven or more Feast of Tabernacles. In looking over the attendance numbers from the early years of the Feast, it wasn't until the 1960s that we had multiple Festival sites with a few thousand in attendance. In fact, in 1960 the total worldwide attendance at the Feast was less than 8,000.

The demographics of the Church membership have changed since the 1960s. Today you are not considered an old-timer unless you have more than 30 years in the Church. While we still have a large and growing group of young people under the age of 30, we also have a growing group of older members, aged 60 and beyond. Generally, we would look for leadership among those in-between—mature enough to have the necessary wisdom and discernment, but young enough to have the energy and enthusiasm needed for serving.

In the wake of the deaths of three pastors in the past year and of others planning for retirement, one of our biggest challenges is the development and training of their replacements. This is the focus of the new International Leadership Program. The apostle Paul instructed Timothy and Titus to always be teaching and training individuals for the future. This is an ongoing responsibility of the Church (2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 1:5).

For many years, the average minister and Church member were actively engaged in leadership training in the local congregation, but nothing beyond. Ambassador College took care of that. Each year we had hundreds of young men and women graduating from college. We also had Spokesman Clubs, graduate clubs, women's clubs, teen clubs, along with other local programs to develop leadership. But these were all in the background, while Ambassador College was the premier leadership development program in the Church.

I enjoyed my four years at Ambassador College, and I learned a lot. But I also realized that there is more to developing leaders than attending four years of college. Now that we have been 20-plus years without a four-year college, what have we learned about leadership development? I believe we have learned a lot.

One thing we have learned is that leadership without conversion is of little value. Over the years we have seen many examples of outstanding leaders and great speakers who were lacking in this most basic principle of Christianity. Our current programs for leadership development focus on this core principle. While Ambassador College had as its motto the recapturing of true values and laid claim to being a character-building institution, it could only do so much.

One of the greatest challenges of our day is the development of leaders—or, better put, *servants* (Matthew 20:25-28)—who are deeply converted and committed to pleasing God and caring for those whom He has called.

This will continue to be the focus of the International Leadership Program. We are off to a good start with this new program, having conducted three weekend conferences throughout Latin America, with plans for seven more over the next year in different regions around the world.

Scripture shows that we have a bright future in the Church, but there will always be challenges, trials and difficulties. With God's help, we can face the challenges, overcome the trials and cope with the difficulties. The tragic deaths of three pastors in the past year reinforced the idea that developing new leaders must always be one of our top priorities.



Jim Franks

President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association



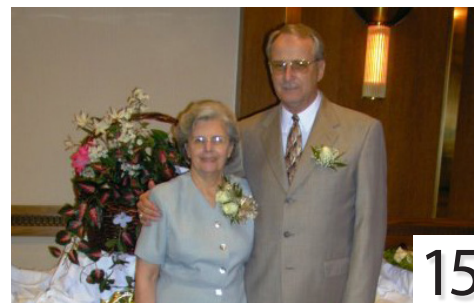
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CHURCH of GOD

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FOUNDATION INSTITUTE

Graduates the Class of 2018

As Foundation Institute 2018 came to a close, the graduating students reflected upon the lessons they learned and the lasting friendships they made, while celebrating their achievements with family and friends alike.

By Natasha Allwine



Left to right: Ralph Levy, Christie Burnett, Joel Meeker, Courtney Houghton, Erik Jones, Marley Anderson, Charlie Wright, Rhianna Cartwright, David Everman, Ginger Hicks, David Windsor, Dora Jennings, Timothy Rickard, Brianna Wine, Jonathan Wine, Breana Walton, Corbin Jackson, Ciara Steele, Wyatt Johnson, Judy Troyer, David Johnson, Natasha Allwine, Emerald Noggle, Doug Horchak, Vivienne Villaescusa, Ken Giese, Jim Franks

“The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.”

Thursday morning, May 10, 2018, the sixth year of Foundation Institute came to a close with those words from Paul in 2 Timothy 4:22. It was an emotional end to an amazing year.

The next day students began packing and welcomed their friends and families who arrived for the weekend’s celebrations. That evening many students and their guests gathered together at the FI lunchroom to enjoy an ice cream social and fellowship, hosted by Erik Jones and the Iturra family.

The Sabbath that followed was an exciting day for the graduating class. The sermonette was given by one of the graduating students, Corbin Jackson, who used *The Lion King* to explain how we are to always remember that God is with us. There was also special music performed by four other graduating students: Natasha Allwine, Christie Burnett,

Rhianna Cartwright and Vivienne Villaescusa. The sermon was given by Jim Franks, president of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, who talked about how there will be twists and turns in our lives, but no matter what happens, we must stay on the path that God has laid out before us.

After services, the entire Dallas, Texas, congregation enjoyed snacks and cake in honor of the graduates. That evening the faculty, students and their families all gathered for a graduation party at the home of Dora Jennings (another graduating student) and her husband, Matthew.

Sunday, May 13, was graduation day. The ceremony began at 10 a.m. with David Johnson as the master of ceremonies. David Everman, a graduating student, gave the invocation, and Doug Horchak followed with the commencement address.

After the address, the 20 FI students walked and received their certificates—including the 100th student to graduate



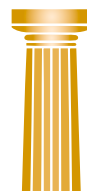
since FI began in 2012, Emerald Noggle. It was a very exciting achievement for the program to graduate its 100th student. This year's graduating students were Natasha Allwine, Marley Anderson, Christie Burnett, Rhianna Cartwright, David Everman, Ginger Hicks, Courtney Houghton, Corbin Jackson, Dora Jennings, Wyatt Johnson, Emerald Noggle, Timothy Rickard, Ciara Steele, Judy Troyer, Vivienne Villaescusa, Breana Walton, David Windsor, Brianna Wine, Jonathan Wine and Charlie Wright.

Ciara Steele represented the class in presenting thank-you cards to the FI instructors. Everyone then watched a slide show of the many great activities and memories from the year. The ceremony concluded with a prayer given by graduating student Jonathan Wine.

After the ceremony, students, faculty and guests enjoyed a catered lunch, and then the students signed each other's

annuals, took pictures, had tearful good-byes and expressed hopes of seeing each other again soon.

The last nine months for these students was an amazing opportunity and journey of an intense, in-depth study of God's Word that gave them a stronger foundation for their lives. They gained new friends, knowledge, skills and tools that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives as they continue to grow and live God's way of life. ☺☺



FOUNDATION
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CENTER FOR BIBLICAL EDUCATION

Foundation Outreach International

Magnify Your Giving With Corporate Matching

If you want to support FOI, check to see if your employer offers corporate gift matching. You may find a program to double your contribution!

By Cliff Demarest



We always enjoy sharing the amazing stories and pictures from our FOI volunteers' many adventures around the world. One of my favorites was from a trip to Ghana last summer when my son Derek and I had the opportunity to serve at summer camp. We learned one of the campers' favorite activities was soccer. The whole camp turned out for the big, final soccer game exhibition.

The sun was hot; the field was just dirt; and not everyone had shoes. But the cheering and excitement was contagious. So much so, that right in the middle of the game, this cute, young girl tugged on my shorts and asked when she would get to play with the teenagers too. We let her kick the ball, and now we have a new best friend in Ghana.

Doing a world of good

FOI volunteer projects span the globe. We have summer youth camps and English skills camps across Africa, along with yearlong service projects at schools in Jordan. Our Hilltop service projects and Embark mentoring programs engage participants across the U.S. And we sponsor a number of educational scholarships for deserving students around the developing world.

We appreciate our amazing volunteers, but we also appreciate the generous support of our donors. We need your support to continue doing "a world of good." Donations from individual gifts and fund-raising efforts are a major source of funding for our projects. And many of you may have the opportunity to magnify your giving with corporate matching.



What is corporate matching?

Many large employers often have company programs that match the personal gifts of their employees. When their employees give money or time to a charitable cause, the employer matches their gifts with a donation from the corporation.

General Electric, for example, has a program that matches contributions, dollar for dollar, to approved charitable causes—up to \$25,000! Bank of America, where I used to work, matches employee gifting up to \$5,000 annually.

How does it work?

First, check to see if your company has a matching program, and if so, learn its individual details and requirements.

Next, you have to give a gift of funds or your time to FOI.

Then, you usually register your personal gifting with your company on its website by describing your charity and how much you donated.

The employer usually sends FOI an online form to confirm your gift, check our purpose and mission, and verify that we are a legal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in good standing. We are always happy to get right back with them.

Typically, FOI receives your approved matching funds within several weeks. We always provide you a receipt for your personal gift at year-end too.

Corporate matching is a great way to magnify your personal giving! If you want to see if your employer offers corporate matching, you can check your company's internal website or do a Google search for listings of companies with matching programs.

We appreciate our many volunteers and donors. You help accomplish FOI's mission of doing "a world of good"! Thanks for your support! @A



Ghana Youth Camp and FOI Project volunteers

Left to right: Daniel Clark, Gabriella Kroska, Alyssa Degagne, Derek Demarest, Cliff Demarest (an FOI board member)

THE CANCER WARD

A cancer ward is one of the many places you can see sadness and futility on the faces of humankind. It's a reminder of how much this world needs the only real and lasting solution—the return of Jesus Christ.

By Bruce Gore

Three months ago, my wife began chemo treatments for lymphoma.

As we waited for blood work in the waiting room, another patient was called to go in for his weekly blood work. He was a few years older than me. I watched as he struggled to get out of his chair. He rocked back and forth a few times, finally succeeding in standing, and slowly, very slowly, made his way over to the door.

A while later, my wife and I were notified we could go on into the room where the chemo is administered. This room is fairly large, divided into four sections with a total of 25 to 30 large padded chairs. Once you check in, they take your name and order your chemo from the lab to be brought up from the pharmacy.

The powerful and expensive chemo drug is administered by drip method for the next several hours through a port or a needle in one's arm.

Stories of suffering

As I sat with my wife, others came and went.

Another older man sitting toward the front apparently had been there so often he was well-known by the nurses, who called him by name. I overheard them discussing how he must leave there shortly to rush somewhere else for a blood transfusion. Others, from young adults to the elderly, occupied chairs across the room, silently waiting for their dosage to be finished.

Last month during my wife's treatment, a young girl, perhaps in her late 20s, sat across from her talking on her cell phone. She was discussing the question of who was going to take her children—three small ones—for she had only a few weeks to live. As she chatted, she spoke of her relief that her eviction from her home had been postponed.

The cancer center is a sad place, and it is only one of thousands of such treatment centers across our land trying to help untold hundreds of thousands with just this one horrible plague. Cancer is the second-leading cause of death in the United States. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2018 over 1,700,000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the U.S.

How much we need the Kingdom of God

I share this simply to point out how much this world needs God's Kingdom. That is the only thing that is going to bring a solution to such suffering. For it seems that even when the medical profession is able to provide some relief from one horrible disease, another rises to take its place—whether it's the black death, scarlet or yellow fever, polio, heart disease, cancer, HIV or one of the new superbugs.

Humanity, for the most part, has rejected God, the Creator, and in doing so has removed itself from the protection and perfect health that existed in the Garden of Eden. But His written Word, the Bible, states that He is going to return to this earth to teach man to live in such a way that will eradicate most of the disease and suffering we have today.

Jesus Christ's return will bring a time of justice and peace: "He will judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor

with justice. The mountains will bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness" (Psalm 72:2-3).

Together, Jesus Christ's first and second comings make possible the release of this world from its captivity to sin and Satan.

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14-15).

When God created this beautiful earth and the first two human beings, He more than once stated, "It was good" (Genesis 1:10, 12, 21, 25, 31). But this corrupted world is no longer good! Humanity, because of bad choices, has brought upon itself war, disease and toxic relationships, resulting in terrible pain and suffering.

Such experiences will bring us to a willingness to listen to a better option. It is found in God's instruction book, the Bible. "Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy" (Psalm 126:5).

"I will bring it health and healing"

When Christ returns, He will set up His righteous government in Jerusalem. From there, His kindness and healing will ultimately reach out to all humanity. "Behold, I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth" (Jeremiah 33:6).

Consider these beautiful glimpses of the future God has planned:

- "Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; and therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him. For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you" (Isaiah 30:18-19).
- "Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young" (Isaiah 40:10-11).
- "In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace, until the moon is no more" (Psalm 72:7).

Then, after all this, comes a new heaven and a new earth:

"And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away'" (Revelation 21:3-4).

Are you praying fervently for God's Kingdom? Look around; there are a lot of good reasons to seek it daily!

To learn more about the Kingdom, read ["What Is the Kingdom of God?"](#) ©A

Q

In 1976 I got put in jail and lost everything. A fellow seeing me crying read to me out of his Bible. That night I asked Jesus into my life. I felt the anointing of the Holy Spirit start at my head and flow all the way through me to my toes because my sin was deep. Then I heard God say to get up and take a shower. I stood in that shower for a long time, crying and trying to wash the filth of my life off the outside of my body. I was [also] washed in the blood of Christ. This was day one for me and my walk with the Lord. Are you trying to tell me that because I didn't have a minister lay his hands on me then, that [it] wasn't the baptism of the Holy Spirit I felt? Because if you are, I will need to disagree. Waiting to hear back from you.

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 certainly aren't intent on disparaging your or anyone else's experience that leads to a genuine spiritual transformation. But we would be doing a disservice to you, to our other readers and—more important—to God if we failed to present His Word faithfully.

Can truth be determined by personal anecdotes? That way would result in unending debates and disagreements. Isn't the Bible the only unassailable source for truth? I am confident that you are convinced of this. That conviction underpins all the material on our website. We ask that our readers thoroughly investigate God's instruction found in the Scriptures. And then, we urge them to believe Him.

The only pathway to receiving the Holy Spirit that is consistent with Scripture, as well as with God's overall plan and purpose, is the one we present in *Change Your Life*. Have you had the opportunity to read this downloadable booklet? As you might have noticed from reading our material, some doctrines that even lifelong Christians assume to be true are contradicted by the Bible. Consequently, these people do not have all of the spiritual help that God would like to give them. We want them to have the full benefit, impact and power of the Holy Spirit.

The scriptures cited in the booklet

PERSONAL CONTACT

with CECIL MARANVILLE



explain that the words *salvation* and *conversion* embody the entire spiritual transformation God desires. The process begins with a person realizing and admitting his sins. God brings people to this beginning in many ways. I emphasize the fact that it is a *beginning*. To be valid, it must include a commitment to turn one's life around, away from sin and toward obeying God.

That leads to asking for and receiving God's forgiveness. He promises forgiveness (being "washed in the blood of Christ"), as well as the gift of His Holy Spirit, the transforming power that enables people to live as God expects them to live. Spiritual transformation continues throughout a lifetime of faithfulness to the pathway to salvation. It isn't completed until the full transformation from physical to spirit takes place at Christ's return.

The booklet shows why we believe that the way to receiving God's Spirit is baptism (by immersion), concurrent with the laying on of hands with prayer by one of God's ministers. If, after you read the scriptures referenced, you choose not to believe this is true, we will indeed agree to disagree with you. I hope that it will not come to that.

Please let me know what you think after you have the opportunity to read and consider the Bible's teaching. ©A

CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?

AKRON/CANTON HOSTS '50S SOCK HOP

On Feb. 17, 2018, members of the Akron/Canton, Ohio, congregation pulled out their poodle skirts and leather jackets for a 1950s potluck and sock hop.

The night was packed full of fun for all ages, with good food, dancing, a silly sock contest, delicious ice cream floats created by our very own soda jerks, and photo opportunities inside a cardboard replica of a 1957 Chevy!

Many who attended dressed the part, and a handful of others reminisced about what the 1950s were really like. It was a great opportunity for fun and fellowship for all who participated.

Zach Smith



RALEIGH HONORS MOTHERS

In recognition of mothers, and all those who fill that significant role, the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation honored Barbara Holladay—with her husband, Harry, by her side—as the matriarch of the congregation during its Mother's Day reception after services on May 12. Mrs. Holladay is 92 years young.

Ron Kelley



RALEIGH ENJOYS KID-FRIENDLY SNACKS

The Sabbath of April 14 was "Kids' Snack Table Day" for the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation. The idea was for everyone to bring snacks that the younger generation would especially enjoy.

It was very successful! Everyone pitched in to bring delicious snacks, including organic crackers, fruits cut into car shapes and flowers, strawberry cupcakes and cookies, brownie cupcakes, crispy rice, popcorn and much more.

We also made our children feel special by treating them to small gifts and decorating the snack table area with colorful balloons. They were thrilled! And it was a lot of fun for the adults too!

Noveline Min



LOUISVILLE LADIES TAKE TEA

A group of ladies from the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation honored Colleen Winner, wife of pastor Mark Winner, with a special outing April 25. Since the Winners are transferring to Atlanta, Georgia, this summer, we planned a special afternoon of fun and fellowship.

First, we took a tour of the West Baden Springs Resort, known as “the eighth wonder of the world.” It’s a beautiful old hotel, fashioned after the grand spas of Europe. The hotel, built in 1902, is a circular building with an enormous 200-foot diameter atrium and a fireplace that burns 14-foot logs.

The dome covering the atrium was the world’s largest until the big sports arenas were built in recent years. After touring the hotel, with its intricate tile work, huge verandas and beautifully landscaped grounds, we enjoyed afternoon tea with the requisite finger sandwiches, scones and delicious little desserts. It was a memorable day of conversation, laughter and treasured friendship.

Carolyn Winner



AKRON/CANTON ENJOYS PENNY ROLL AND BUNCO

On Saturday, Jan. 20, members of the Akron/Canton congregation gathered together again for an evening of wonderful food and fellowship. Pizzas were ordered in from Akron’s Pizza Bogo and included Tuscany, Chicago, Mediterranean and other styles.

After we enjoyed our delicious variety of gourmet pizzas and the sun went down in the west, everyone gathered their pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to be counted. Tables were set up, and all available hands counted out the grand total. Many thanks were given for donations that rivaled last year’s.

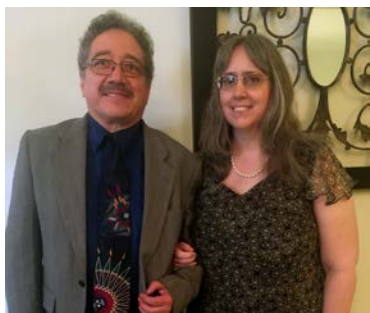
The evening then moved into a much-awaited auction. The auction consisted of beautiful handmade items, a broad selection of premium CYC printed clothing and, once again, a hot ticket item of a handcrafted wood chest made by Tom Pabin.

After the auction, we reset the room for an exciting game of bunco, accented with white elephant gifts as we progressed through the rounds. In the end, it was another record-setting year for defraying our tier-two expenses while enjoying our family evening.

Brian Hawk



Anniversaries



Carlos and Laurie Hernandez

Carlos and Laurie Hernandez celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary March 27. After services on the Sabbath of March 24, the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation joined in the celebration with a cake and ice cream reception in their honor.

Carolyn Winner

Baptisms



Imelda Cota Ramírez, Margarita Cota Ramírez and Flor Sarahi Valenzuela Cota

On Wednesday, March 28, Imelda Cota Ramírez, Margarita Cota Ramírez and Flor Sarahi Valenzuela

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.

Cota (Margarita's daughter) were baptized. They live in Etchojoa, Sonora, in Mexico and have attended the congregation in Navojoa, Sonora, for several years. They were baptized by their minister, Alberto González.

On behalf of all their brethren in the faith, we welcome them to the family of the Church of God!

Jorge Iván Garduño



Greta Movsisyan

The Atlanta, Georgia, congregation welcomes Greta Movsisyan into the family of God. Greta (pictured with her pastor, Bruce Gore, and grandmother, Asya Agadzhanova) was baptized on March 11, 2018, by Daniel Harper, associate pastor of the Atlanta, Jefferson and Macon congregations.

Greta serves the brethren by helping with the refreshment table and providing flower arrangements for Sabbath services.

Chant'a Collier



Daniel Elizondo Martínez

The Church of God, a Worldwide Association, would like to announce the baptism of Daniel Elizondo Martínez,

a young man from the congregation of León, Guanajuato, in Mexico, who on Sunday, March 18, was added to the Body of Christ after an emotional ceremony performed by his pastor, Adán Langarica, who traveled from San Luis Potosí to this beautiful city for such a special event.

His parents, members of the Church of God for several decades, did not hesitate to express their joy for such a transcendental step in Daniel's Christian life. Likewise, we, his family and friends in the faith, congratulate him for the decision that he has made for his life.

Jorge Iván Garduño



Jake White

Wednesday, April 18, a new son of God was welcomed into the Church of God in Knoxville, Tennessee. Jake White, son of Brian and Diana White, grew up in the Church in Indiana and moved to Tennessee with his parents in 2015. He was baptized by Eric Evans, pastor of the congregations in Knoxville, Tennessee; Asheville, North Carolina; and London, Kentucky.

In 2014 Jake graduated from Foundation Institute, and in December 2017 he graduated from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a bachelor's degree in communications and a minor in psychology.

He is an intern with WTCI, Chattanooga's PBS station, and also works for JCPenney.

Judy Swanson



Jeana Beilstein

The Morgantown, West Virginia, congregation has a newly baptized member! Jeana Beilstein was baptized on March 24, 2018, by Don Henson. Bill Jahns and Blaney Sproul also participated in the baptism ceremony. Friends and family enjoyed a meal at the Sprouls' home after the baptism.

Jeana has been active in the Church's youth programs for many years.

Bill Jahns

Obituaries



Sandra Spieker Dreaden

Sandra Spieker Dreaden, 62, died Feb. 27, in Crestview, Florida, after being diagnosed with incurable cancer last July.

She was born Nov. 3, 1955, and grew up in Willow Lake, South Dakota, the oldest of six children born to Harlan and Janice Spieker. Her father came into the Church in the early 1960s, when the nearest congregations were all about 300 miles away!

Sandra attended Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas, where she met her future husband, Art Dreaden, whom she married in May 1977. They moved to Pasadena for a short time and

then to Arizona for Art's work.

In January 1985 they moved to Crestview. Sandra taught GED classes part-time, from 1989 to 2001, then worked full-time at the Crestview Public Library, where she remained until August 2017, when her diagnosis prompted her retirement.

Sandra set a sterling example of warmth, friendliness and faith. She was well-known in the community. A local television station aired a story on her death: "[Crestview Community Mourns Death of Beloved Librarian.](#)"

She was preceded in death by her parents (Janice in 2010 and Harlan in 2014) and her brother Mark in 1991.

She is survived by her husband Art; four sons, Zachary (Kimberly Tran), Tyler (Jenny), Jesse (Shea), and Cody (Kimberly); one granddaughter, Abigail; four siblings, John (Marlene) Spieker, Ann (Doug) Murphy, Dave (Dawn) Spieker, and Sue Spieker; and numerous other relatives.

Sandra was a member of the DeFuniak Springs, Florida, congregation. Funeral services were conducted by Harold Rhodes on March 6.

Harold Rhodes



Marilyn Geiser

Marilyn Ann (Shank) Geiser, age 80, passed away at her home in North Canton, Ohio, on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017, from congestive heart failure. She was born in Canton on Oct. 29, 1936, to Roy and Mabel (Hilty) Shank and was the eldest of six children.

A loving, dedicated wife, mother and grandmother, Marilyn was a lifelong resident of Ohio. She graduated from Louisville High School and later from Cleveland Technical School as a trained medical technician. She married Gilbert Geiser on Sept. 13, 1958, in Kidron.

Marilyn was baptized in Akron in 1960 and was active in the Church for 57 years.

She enjoyed music, participating in choir at church, as well as the annual Choir Music Conference (CMC). An advocate for education, she was always reading and learning to teach others domestic skills, gardening, community service, history, genealogy, medicine, and current events. With her family, she traveled widely throughout the U.S. and internationally into Canada, Bahamas, England and Europe.

She is survived by her husband, Gilbert Geiser; six children, Kevin Geiser of North Canton, Lorin Geiser of North Canton, Greg (Tawnya) Geiser of Spokane, Washington, Karen Geiser of West Hollywood, California, Diane (Eric) Frantz of Jefferson, and Mark (Shawn) Geiser of Hickory, North Carolina; 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

One of her favorite scriptures was Romans 8:38-39.

Brian Hawk



Gatha L. Williams

Gatha L. Williams of the Twin Cities, Minnesota, congregation passed away on Feb. 12, 2018, at the age of 96. Gatha is survived by two sons, five daughters, three stepsons, two stepdaughters, 17 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Gatha was preceded in death by husband Herold Shriver; husband Ralph Williams; son Robert Shriver; grandsons S. Michael Graham, Mark H. Graham, Michael Shriver, Kevin Shriver; stepson Ralph Williams; one sister and three brothers.

Gatha and her husband lived in West Virginia when they started listening to Herbert Armstrong on the radio in the 1950s. They were baptized in 1963 by Les McCullough and Bill

McDowell. There were no churches in West Virginia, so every other week they traveled 190 miles each way to Greensboro, North Carolina. They were thrilled when a church began in Charleston, West Virginia, only 90 miles away!

Gatha had the heavy responsibility of raising her family after the death of her first husband. However, she could sleep at night because she knew God was with her.

Three months ago, Gatha moved to a care facility. With her quick smile and kind words, she was a favorite among the staff and residents.

Gatha was able to attend services most weeks with her daughters, Mary Burke and Teresa Luginbill, and had a smile and positive comment for everyone. She often said, "God has been so good to me!"

An appropriate scripture was on her funeral program: "Godliness with contentment is great gain." Hers was a life well-lived!

Barbara Lee



Mary Ellen Sorg

Mary Ellen Sorg, the matriarch member of COGWA's Jefferson, Georgia, congregation, died at home on March 18, 2018, at the age of 93. She actively served until the last few years and attended church regularly until August of 2017.

Mary had many gifts, and hospitality was surely one of them. She loved serving others and was loved and called "Mom" by many more than just her family. She and her husband Fred (who died in 2013) also served in their community, running food banks for many years.

Many will remember the poetry Mary wrote for individuals and special occasions like the Night to Be Much Observed and the Feast of Tabernacles. Many will also remember her gift of flower arranging and the beautiful arrangements she provided for services.

She was a champion bowler in her younger days, when she and Fred owned a bowling alley. She and Fred were also competitive card players and enjoyed playing with brethren.

Mary is survived by her children, Carl Albert Sorg, Ellen (Cliff) McCulley, and Mike (Ginger) Sorg; and beloved grandchildren, Amy, Tyler, Josie, Jenna, Weston and Ansley. She and Fred also had numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Mary was honored with a celebration of life service on March 23, 2018. Bruce Gore officiated and spoke of the good life Mary had enjoyed and the resurrection she looked forward to. She is missed by her family and friends.

Donna Quintana

Tribute



Margie and John Richard Seiver

John Richard Seiver, 87, of League City, Texas, died on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. He was born in Wadsworth, Ohio, on Nov. 2, 1930, to Marvin and Marian Seiver. He was married to his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Margie Nell Eaves, for 54 years—from June 1951 until her death in September 2005.

Richard had a long, distinguished career as an electrical engineer. His career began in May 1951 at Humble (later Exxon) Oil and ended with his retirement from the Bechtel Corporation in 2013.

Richard was ordained as an elder April 13, 1968, and served in the Houston area for 50 years. He and Margie were a major influence in the local congregations for decades. When he turned 85, Richard was honored and thanked for his years of dedicated service to God's Church and people by the local congregation.

Richard was an example of a man who faithfully adhered to God's way and firmly stood against any compromise with the truth. He was a caring, generous and compassionate shepherd who helped countless members over many decades. Through the years, Richard never wavered in his love of God's truth and adherence to high standards.

Houston South pastor Larry Salyer recalls that even in the early 1970s, local pastors could rely on Richard to handle whatever came up in their absence, which in those days could mean being out of contact for long periods.

As Houston North pastor Jim Servidio says, "It will be hard to imagine the Houston area without him."

Larry Salyer

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