

# OneAccord

November 2018

# Feast of Tabernacles **2018**



# personal from the president

## History of the Feast

This issue of *One Accord* is devoted to the recently completed Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast of Tabernacles is such an important part of our lives that we all know it as “the Feast.” When someone asks you, “Where are you going for the Feast?” you don’t think of the Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Trumpets or Atonement. You know that you are being asked where you are going for the Feast of Tabernacles.

In Deuteronomy we are told that there were three pilgrimage festivals that required the Israelites to travel from their homes to a predetermined location—which later became Jerusalem. This was also true during the time of Jesus Christ when the temple was still standing. The command in Deuteronomy 14:22-26 was being obeyed. The Israelites packed up their produce or turned it into money and journeyed to the Feast.

Fast-forward to the 20th century, when Herbert Armstrong and his wife Loma were convinced of the need to keep all seven of the festivals. They observed the festivals alone from 1927 to 1933. During the Feast of Tabernacles in 1933, a new Church of God group was organized. Mr. Armstrong, his wife and 19 others from the Church of God (Seventh Day) formed the original congregation of the Radio Church of God. This small group of 21 observed the Feast of Tabernacles in their small church building on the west end of Eugene, Oregon. No one needed to adjust his work schedule except for the two holy days (the first day of the Feast and the eighth day, or Last Great Day). On the other (non-Sabbath) days, people gathered at the church hall in the evening.

This continued until 1945 when, after further study, Mr. Armstrong announced that the appropriate way to keep the Feast, and in keeping with its meaning, was to leave their homes and go to a predetermined location for the full eight days. He announced that the Feast that year would be kept in Belknap Springs, Oregon.

The first year of this change the Festival attendance dropped from 60 to 40 people. But after seven years, Belknap Springs was outgrown, and in 1952, the Festival location was moved to Seigler Springs, California. And in 1953, the Festival location was moved again, this time to a recently donated tract of land in East Texas.

Since many of us have kept the Feast of Tabernacles for most of our lives, we can easily take for granted that this is simply what we do. I think it is important for us to keep in mind some of the history of the Church that brought us to this point. There is no longer one central location for the Feast. Each year we travel to one of several locations and spend eight days in a temporary dwelling. We believe that this act of packing and traveling to a location away from our homes is a major part of understanding the meaning of the Feast. To picture the millennial reign of Jesus Christ on this earth, we believe it is appropriate to leave our homes and dwell in booths, or temporary dwellings, as commanded in Leviticus 23.

This year the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, conducted the Feast in more than 40 sites in many different countries and on six out of the seven continents. (We did not have a Feast site in Antarctica!) Our attendance was around 11,000, which is our largest gathering since we began in 2011. This issue of *One Accord* is dedicated to reminding us of what we just did. It is an extension of our history and commanded in Scripture. It is good for us to pause and reflect on why we do what we do and to understand our own history as the Church of God. While there is historical precedent for what we are doing, our major focus is on the Scriptures and following the directions they provide. I hope you will enjoy reading the reports from around the world that follow.



**Jim Franks**

President

Church of God, a Worldwide Association

# OneAccord | November 2018

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This year's Feast of Tabernacles was a tremendous success in every way.

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Victoria, British Columbia

## Sierra de la Ventana, **ARGENTINA**

This year 153 members from Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Peru and Argentina celebrated the Feast at a new site in Argentina: the beautiful, quiet city of Sierra de la Ventana.

Most of the brethren stayed in the same building where we had services, and the rest were in comfortable summer houses located around the meeting hall.

There were plenty of opportunities for fellowship. Most members had breakfast, lunch and dinner together every day. As well, a variety of activities were organized: a ladies' breakfast, a children's party, a family dance, a talent show, a seniors' breakfast, a teen dance and a special Spokesman Club meeting.

The highlight of the Feast was the baptism of Rafael Valerio from Uruguay. It was a wonderful Feast!

**Alfredo Arboleas**

**T**his year's Feast of Tabernacles was a tremendous success in every way. The reports we have received from those who traveled to the far corners of the U.S. and the world are that it was truly a spiritually focused Feast. Our brethren meet in some unique settings. But all of God's people, no matter where they were, greatly appreciated the rejoicing, fellowship and the deep meaning the Feast has for their future and that of all mankind. From the 16 brethren on the shores of Kochi in India, to the 175 in the remote village of Mapoko in Zambia, to the almost 800 near the white sands of Orange Beach, Alabama—God's people all worshipped the great God and enjoyed the abundance God provided in both food and the Word.

As in previous years, God's inspiration and involvement in His Feast is clearly visible in so many ways. As we read through these reports from around the world, let's thank God for His calling and the inspiring vision of the future His holy days bring to us all!

**Doug Horchak**

## Mooloolaba, Queensland, **AUSTRALIA**

Two dozen of God's people came together to celebrate the Feast in the town of Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast of Australia. Brethren enjoyed whale watching and many other activities within walking distance of the hotels. One of the highlights of the Feast was the group trip to the Australia Zoo; some were able to hold koalas and pet kangaroos.

The small group allowed for much fellowship and the ability to get to know one another well. The messages were inspiring, particularly those on the Last Great Day, which reminded us of God's purpose for all mankind

and of the future we will all have together as God's family. It truly felt like a millennial setting, as we were surrounded by God's beautiful creation and His people.

**Brianna Wine**

## Christ Church, **BARBADOS**

This year's Feast in Barbados was held at Accra Beach Hotel on the south coast of the island. Our high attendance was 163.

A tropical storm impacted the second half of the Feast, closing the beaches and the main swimming pool of the hotel. As well, the storm

blew a transformer in the area causing the hotel to have to go on a backup generator. Unfortunately, that did not guarantee consistent electricity; the generator failed on the Sabbath, forcing us to find another venue for services.

Despite the inconveniences, the attitude of our brethren was sterling, and we enjoyed a wonderful Feast with outstanding messages.

**Arnold Hampton**

## Santa Cruz, **BOLIVIA**

The Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day celebrated in

# Feast of Tabernacles **2018**





Mooloolaba, Queensland, Australia



Lican Ray, Chile



Christ Church, Barbados

Bolivia were wonderful, with brethren coming from Chile, Brazil, Mexico and, of course, Bolivia. The 100 attending rejoiced, sharing the daily bread, anecdotes, laughs, games and Christian experiences. There were activities for children, teenagers and adults. We also rejoiced tremendously with the baptism of Glenda Endara. All of this went perfectly with the messages God gave us through His servants.

We were blessed with the harmony of Christian fellowship at the talent show and family dance. And we enjoyed being surrounded by the natural jungle reservation and

rejoiced in God's creation.

The Feast in Bolivia had a spirit of harmony, love, simplicity, enthusiasm, service and dedication. We all felt like true brothers and sisters with God's Spirit.

**Jorge Ivan Garduño**

## Victoria, British Columbia, CANADA

Inspiring, peaceful, beautiful and encouraging. These are all words that describe this year's Feast in Victoria. A total of 256 members were inspired every day with a wonderful and encouraging diet of spiritual food. That

and the fantastic special music gave members much to talk about as they fellowshipped with family and friends.

Scheduled activities included a family game night, an exhilarating hike for young adults and an afternoon of ice skating for teens.

The weather was unseasonably warm and dry, and members enjoyed having tea at the historic Empress Hotel, strolling through beautiful Butchart Gardens, viewing birds of prey at the raptor center, going on whale-watching tours and more.

We look forward to returning to this beautiful area for a future Feast!

**Jon Pinelli**

## Lican Ray, **CHILE**

There's a sense of peace and harmony that goes with God's Feast. This was the case at Lican Ray, where 334 celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles. Brethren arriving enjoyed the warm greetings of friends and spectacular scenery that included a snow-capped volcano, forests, mountains and Lake Calafquen.

After services each day members enjoyed eating lunch together and then watching the children play and build friendships. In the evenings, families and friends enjoyed delicious

dinners with meaningful conversations.

On the seventh day, after the children's choir sang, there was snow—an answer to some of the children's prayers. The day was also a highlight because of six baptisms.

Every year turns out to be our best Feast ever because God keeps working with each of us, allowing us to truly rejoice.

**Daniel Martinez Arias**

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## El Rodadero, Santa Marta, COLOMBIA

Eighty-nine people from many different nations—Peru, Guatemala, El Salvador, Chile, Mexico, Ecuador and Colombia—gathered again in El Rodadero with a common purpose: to obey God and learn to fear Him.

This year's Feast had an atmosphere of joy, rejoicing, peace and tranquility. God took charge of providing us with what we needed, and we returned to our homes happy, renewed and eager to continue advancing toward our goal of the Kingdom of God.

It was a peaceful Feast, and we are grateful to God for giving us this

opportunity in the dangerous, evil world we live in. We look forward to the fulfillment of what these days picture.

**Eduardo Hernandez**

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## Kinshasa, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

A total of 102 people celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles 2018 in Kinshasa. The members appreciated the presence of Lee and Robyn Page from the United States. Mr. Page gave many of the sermons and held classes on song leading, sermonette preparation and collaborative leadership.

Services were usually held in the afternoon, after the heat of the day. Attendance was lower during the week, since some members were afraid to leave their homes because they would likely be burglarized. Meals were prepared under the supervision of the ladies, and everyone found it a great joy to eat until full.

**Lee Page and Joel Meeker**



La Mé, Côte d'Ivoire

of palm plantations have been created.

**Paul Tia**

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## La Mé, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Twelve people celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles 2018 in La Mé, Côte d'Ivoire. The prerecorded video sermons and sermonettes were much appreciated.

We deeply appreciated the abundance of food provided through assistance from the United States. Among other meals, we enjoyed *chebu* (a Senegalese rice meal), goat soup with *attiéké* (fermented cassava), beef feet and head with mashed banana and oil palm nut sauce, braised carp with fried potatoes, and chicken *kedjenou*.

We had an outing to see La Mé's mother palm, more than 100 years old, from which thousands

The village of Bably, in the region of Man, Côte d'Ivoire, hosted 57 people for the Feast of Tabernacles 2018. Sermons and sermonettes were prerecorded in French and provided by the French Department. Members gathered from surrounding villages for services and to share meals.

Heavy rains made the dirt roads of the region difficult to navigate and kept some people from being able to attend all the services. But the Feast was joyful, and several new people attended the Feast for the first time.

**Séussié Bleu**



Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo



Pacific Harbour, Fiji



Man, Côte d'Ivoire

## Winchester, ENGLAND

Winchester's inspiring messages were appreciated by 88 members plus seven who were hooked up for services each day for a total of 95. Services were held in the King Charles Hall in the Guildhall, a stone's throw from the 1,000-year-old Norman cathedral. A spirit of service was evident throughout the Feast as everyone pitched in to assist.

During the Feast, coach tours whisked visitors through several thousand years of history—traveling to Stonehenge, Windsor Castle, Nelson's flagship HMS Victory in Portsmouth, and the female novelist Jane Austen's home. Everyone was amazed at the unseasonably warm and sunny weather!



Winchester, England

Our Greek members were unable attend due to sickness and travel problems, but they were able to follow services live on YouTube.

**Peter Hawkins**

## Pacific Harbour, FIJI

Thirty-four brethren enjoyed a very uplifting Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day at the Pearl Resort in Pacific Harbour. The 24 local brethren were blessed to learn from and share the joy of the Feast with three members from America and seven from New Zealand.

Because of our small numbers, members were able to get to know each other well. The three

main activities were chosen because they were family-oriented in nature: a team-building activity, a tour of Kula Wild Adventure Park, and a swimming, pizza and movie afternoon for the children and the "children at heart."

However, the purpose of the Feast was not diminished by the beautiful surroundings or the wonderful experiences we shared. The messages were inspiring and contributed to the enjoyment of yet another "best Feast ever."

**Emori Toloi**

## Normandy, FRANCE

A total of 119 people rejoiced at the Feast in Forges-les-Eaux in Normandy. The site was blessed with unseasonably dry and warm weather throughout. Attendees especially appreciated that everyone lodged on-site and shared all their meals together.

We were saddened by the death of Swiss member Jean-Pierre Vernaud of cancer on the second day, but family members bore up well and were able to



Normandy, France

concentrate on the hope offered by the Feast.

Family Day included outdoor games and delicacies from the French Caribbean island of Martinique. Excursion destinations included the picturesque port of Honfleur, the Impressionist painter Monet's house and gardens at Giverny, the chateau of Chantilly and the ancient city of Rouen. We're already looking forward to next year!

**Joel Meeker**

## Mfensi, GHANA

Peak attendance in Ghana this year was 619 people! That included six Americans who transferred over. It is not often that we have transfers to Ghana, and the brethren greatly appreciated all they added.

Due to the gift of some U.S. members, we were able to purchase two cows. A couple of members were experienced at butchering an animal that large, so the two cows were butchered at the Feast site. Even the owner and manager of the property were fascinated



Mfensi, Ghana



St. George's, Grenada



Migori, Kenya



Kochi, India



Cortona, Italy

by the process. Beef is not readily available and is very expensive, so to have fresh beef at the Feast was a real treat and something that the members will remember for a long time!

**Tom Clark**

## St. George's, GRENADA

The Feast of Tabernacles was held in Grenada at the picturesque Coyaba Beach Resort, just a few steps away from Grenada's renowned Grand Anse Beach with its powder soft sand and calm waters. The landscaped gardens with the ocean behind provided a millennial setting and reminded us of our Heavenly Father's plan.

The local sermons were delivered by Festival coordinator Osmonde Douglas, and services were also streamed from Orange Beach.

The island tour took brethren through scenic forested hills to Concord Waterfall, to the Diamond Chocolate Factory for delicious dark chocolate and to Grand Etang Lake (a crater lake in an extinct volcano).

We look forward to the fulfilment of God's plan pictured by the Feast.

**Marsha Basant**

## Antigua, GUATEMALA

The Feast in Guatemala was a blessing. Even before the Feast began,

we enjoyed having many visitors at Sabbath services in Guatemala City. The hall was at maximum capacity, and all were full of joy, greeting one another, hugging each other and demonstrating a sense of family. Because that is what we are—one big family.

We saw God's care, protection and love for all of us in Antigua this year. His words were abounding, and throughout the Feast our ministers reminded us of its spiritual meaning.

Around 500 people attended—from Guatemala, Mexico, Colombia, the United States, Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Chile.

But actually we were 500 people united by God, and there was no border, race, language or prejudice that separated us.

**Alberto Mazariegos**

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## Kochi, INDIA

Celebrating the Feast and Last Great Day with 16 brethren in Kochi, India, was uplifting and inspiring! Members from north and east India, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Germany and the U.S. attended.

The Cherai Beach Resort, set between the ocean and backwaters, provided comfortable accommodations. The resort was almost empty, giving us a quiet, relaxed environment. Members

enjoyed all of their meals—a nice variety of Indian dishes—together.

Brethren took a tour of nearby Fort Kochi, which contains historic sites dating back to the 1500s (including a Jewish section and synagogue). We also rode in a boat driven with reed poles, had a karaoke evening and other activities together. It was, without a doubt, a family Feast!

**David Evans**

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Cortona,  
**ITALY**

Over 300 brethren from various countries enjoyed the Feast together in Cortona, Italy. This small town was a perfect setting to contemplate the Millennium.

Cortona was founded hundreds of years before Jesus Christ, and some of the early stone masonry can still be seen today. We were well-connected with the past, while looking forward to a magnificent future.

Brethren enjoyed delicious Tuscan cuisine perfectly paired with local wines. And the views from our hilltop town were stunning.

Special music was enhanced by the 19th-century theater, complete with three levels of box seats.

One of the more enjoyable aspects of the Feast in Cortona was that so many brethren could be seen in the streets, the town piazzas and the small local shops and restaurants. Fellowship extended well beyond services.

**Gary Black**

Runaway Bay,

**JAMAICA**

This Feast of Tabernacles proved to be the “family affair” predicted by the opening sermon, when 173 brethren assembled to keep the Feast. We were reminded that we are chosen to be a part of God’s divine plan, and so we strive to love, worship and fear Him—in short, to walk in His ways. As the days unfolded, so did our view of the Kingdom of God.

There were instruction classes for the young ones and Bible studies for teens and adults. The Festival choir and children’s choir ministered in song. On a lighter note were the visits to the Dunn’s River Falls and the Green Grotto Caves and the

sports day, when “Israel” and “Judah” joined in friendly rivalry.

The family affair was the best Feast ever.

**Madge Thompson**

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Migori,  
**KENYA**

A total of 108 brethren kept the Feast together in Migori, Kenya. We were in a secluded compound and saw only a few other people during the Feast, which made for a quiet setting that was ideal for lots of fellowship.

We enjoyed singing hymns and teaching each other varying melodies for some of the classics, playing football (soccer) and volleyball, playing cards, and just spending time talking with each other.



Runaway Bay, Jamaica



Antigua, Guatemala



Salima, Malawi

There was also time for a youth dance. Everyone was invited, but only the children wanted to dance. The limbo and musical chairs were some of the biggest hits.

**Bobbi Kitts**

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Salima,  
**MALAWI**

Palm Lodge Hall, located about 20 kilometers from the beach of Lake Malawi, was where 157 people—including attendees from South Africa, Canada and the U.S.—observed the 2018 Feast in Malawi.

Sabbath afternoon Jeff Caudle, our visiting minister from the U.S., conducted a Q&A. Saturday night brethren displayed their talents while dining together. And Sunday we had services on the beach followed

by a delicious meal, swimming, fellowshipping and appreciating God's creation.

A highlight of this Feast was the addition of two people to God's family, when Bright Mikundi and Edward Makokola were baptized.

Brethren enjoyed eight wonderful days together. Our thanks to headquarters for the contributions that made the Feast in Malawi possible.

**Elifazi Salawila**

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Flic-en-Flac,  
**MAURITIUS**

This year the three Mauritius residents were joined by Mandy Heathcote from New Zealand and David and Lisa Jackson from the U.S. in celebrating the Feast in Flic-en-Flac.

From the first to the last,



Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius

the sun shone brightly. We had our lunches and dinners in the bungalow we rented for services, as well as in local restaurants. The food was delicious, and the fellowship was wonderful. We felt like family, and the joy and love felt between us were palpable. The Last Great Day sermon was full of hope, and we left determined to keep moving forward, whether in sickness or tribulation, and stay close to Jesus Christ.

**Jocelyn Prodigue**

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San Miguel de Allende,  
**MEXICO**

San Miguel de Allende hosted 287 of God's people who arrived from Chile, Peru, El Salvador, Guatemala, the United States and Mexico. We enjoyed inspiring messages that helped us focus on the

wonderful world to come when Jesus Christ returns.

Highlights included three baptisms, which were conducted near the end of the Feast, and a variety of activities with opportunities for fellowship and fun. There was a welcome activity for those from other countries, a family dance, a luncheon for the elderly, a children's activity, a family day and a talent show—to name just a few.

The weather was wonderful and cool; and the fellowship, warm and delightful. Those who attended were uplifted by God's blessings on our activities and services.

**Lauro Roybal**

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Lake Taupo,  
**NEW ZEALAND**

The international flavor of the Feast at



Giti, Rwanda



Lake Taupo, New Zealand

Lake Taupo added to the overall spirit of rejoicing and togetherness. Among the 99 present were members from the U.S., Chile, Australia, Zambia, New Zealand, Philippines, Fiji, Tonga and South Africa. Sermons focused on the dramatic positive changes that will take place once Christ sets up His Kingdom on earth.

Brethren from the various countries combined under the direction of Dave Pennington from Louisville, Kentucky, to produce inspiring special music.

The scenic beauty and various places of interest around Lake Taupo provided Feastgoers with the opportunity to unwind and relax. A visit to the Hobbiton movie set was a special attraction, and the more daring enjoyed a ride on the skyline and luge in nearby Rotorua.

Many of the attendees mentioned the delightful atmosphere of brotherly affection and warmth that prevailed throughout the Feast.

**André van Belkum**

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Benin City,  
**NIGERIA**

We had 38 happy Feastgoers in Benin City, Nigeria. We all stayed at the Randekhi Hotel. Staying together also meant we had all our meals together, as well as services and activities right there in the hotel. They are a warm and wonderful group!

In spite of the small size of our group, I was thrilled to discover on the first holy day that we had five people who have been keeping the Feast of Tabernacles for 50 years or more! They are James

and Bridget Aghimien, Esther Igdalah, Beatrice Iyamu and Mary Clark.

**Tom Clark**

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Huanchaco,  
**PERU**

What a beautiful Feast God treated us to in Peru! A total of 221 people attended, coming from nine different countries, including France, Germany and the United States. Our Peruvian hosts welcomed the visitors with Christian love.

In addition to Jim Franks' sermon, we had messages from the Peru pastor, Carlos Saavedra, and FI instructor Ralph Levy.

Activities included two dances, an activity for singles, a ladies' night, an afternoon for young people, a children's party, a talent night and a beach

party. And there was great joy over the baptism of Isabel Granados Minaya.

The Feast in Peru was an occasion of great joy. We're grateful to God for the success of the Feast and to the Peruvian brethren for all their labor of love.

**Carlos Saavedra and Ralph Levy**

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Giti,  
**RWANDA**

Sixty-eight people observed the 2018 Feast of Tabernacles in the rural village of Giti. The Feast was joyful, peaceful and constructive. The sermons were adapted into Kinyarwanda from sermons recorded in French. We enjoyed good weather and good meals prepared under the supervision of the ladies. We enjoyed resting in the



Huanchaco, Peru



Benin City, Nigeria



Ceres, South Africa



Uvongo, South Africa



Kpalimé, Togo

shade after eating.

We had two helpful congregational discussions on the causes and solutions to family problems. There were games for the children. We also enjoyed watching videos of the Young Ambassadors.

We are thankful to God for all His blessings and give Him glory.

**Jean-Marie Mundeli**

Ceres,

## SOUTH AFRICA

A small group of 27, made up of the Cape Town congregation and scattered members, met for the Feast in the town of Ceres. Most enjoyed the self-catering accommodations of Rhodene Farm Cottages, situated at the foot of the majestic Skurweberg Mountains. After services, which were held in the refurbished farmhouse, members enjoyed tea, biscuits and fellowship.

Although many activities were available, most preferred to stay at

home and fellowship. However, a few brave souls experienced an adrenaline-filled adventure of zip-lining in the mountains.

We were privileged to have Leon and Reba Walker and Morgen and Joleen Kriedemann with us for the first three days of the Feast. Needless to say, we all enjoyed a wonderfully inspiring Feast of Tabernacles.

**Tony Levy**

Uvongo,

## SOUTH AFRICA

An enjoyable and inspiring Feast of Tabernacles was held once again on the east coast of South Africa with an average attendance of 102 and a maximum of 109.

We were blessed this year with mild weather and a number of international visitors from the U.S., Chile and Zambia, which added to the enjoyable atmosphere.

Activities included a buffet lunch for the seniors, a family afternoon of fun and fellowship, a family barn dance and a games afternoon for the youth on the Uvongo Beach.

We also enjoyed a variety of uplifting special music each day of the Feast.

As usual, the eight days seemed to pass very quickly, but we all left on a spiritual high after eight days of inspiring and motivating sermons, sermonettes and fellowship.

**Neville Smith**

## Kpalimé, TOGO

Sixteen people celebrated the Feast in a peaceful hotel in Kpalimé, Togo. Prerecorded sermons and sermonettes were viewed in French for the much-appreciated edification of the members. Meals were taken together as a group.

Other activities included Bible studies about leaders in the world tomorrow, classes in etiquette, Bible games, outdoor games, a talent evening and a mountain hike to see the Kpimé waterfall.

During the Feast we often thought of Psalm 133:1: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Now we return to the arena of the world, striving to be faithful to our Lord.

**Guy Ahialeghbedzi**

## Branson, Missouri **UNITED STATES**

Branson was once again blessed with God's people, who numbered 566 in attendance. The manager of the new theater where we met passed on their in-house diner's comments about our brethren being "so polite and patient"—unusual qualities in today's world.

Activities for our teens and a dance at the beginning of the Feast helped many get acquainted and make new friendships that could solidify in the ensuing days.

A statement from one of our eldest members



Branson, Missouri

attending says it all: "The daily spiritual feast was as bountiful as the physical. Every sermonette and sermon supplied our need for growth in righteousness. We have only to digest it and produce the fruit."

God speed His Kingdom!  
**Greg Sargent**

## Catskills, New York **UNITED STATES**

Over 400 attendees kept the Feast at the Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon, New York. We were edified by the sermons, special music, fellowship, restaurants, activities and surroundings.

The West Point Military Academy trip reminded us of America's incredible history, protection and blessings. Stories of George Washington and many other notable figures and landmarks were covered.

We had over 100 participants for the senior luncheon. Seniors enjoyed a buffet meal, live entertainment and a few encouraging words from



Catskills, New York



Fort Myers, Florida



Orange Beach, Alabama



New Braunfels, Texas

Paul Suckling, who shared fond memories of Mr. Armstrong.

Finally, on the Last Great Day about 250 Feastgoers enjoyed lunch together in the elegant main dining hall. A spirit of unity and fellowship was felt at this event and throughout the Feast.

**Kevin Epps**

attending were from the six central and south Florida congregations.

Activities this year included a family night reception, dance and karaoke. Family Day was held at the zoo in Naples, Florida. It featured many shows with the animals throughout the day. The seniors enjoyed a wonderful Sabbath brunch in the Holiday Inn's ballroom.

It was a very wonderful and peaceful Feast this year.

**Jim Haeffele**

## Fort Myers, Florida **UNITED STATES**

This year close to 150 brethren met for the third year at the Holiday Inn south of Fort Myers, Florida. Since this is a satellite site, six out of the 10 services came from Orange Beach, and the majority of the brethren

Hill Country were treated to spiritual feasting, engaging fellowship, beautiful sunsets, the peacefulness of local rivers and a bright and welcoming convention center.

Attendance averaged close to 360 with a high of 404 on the Last Great Day. Complimentary coffee and snacks before services each day made it easy to meet new friends and catch up with old ones.

Family Day was different, being held in the adjacent ballroom with light entertainment and lots of fellowshipping. Several commented that this year's fun show was the "best ever," with acts that ranged from humor to instrumentals and vocal groups.

It was a Feast filled with harmony and peace, and a godly, cooperative spirit permeated all aspects.

**Ken Treybig**

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## Orange Beach, Alabama **UNITED STATES**

Orange Beach welcomed just under 900 people honoring God at His annual Feast of Tabernacles. The excitement that started with the opening service continued throughout the Feast as we witnessed God's hand in several of our activities that were threatened with bad weather.

Family Day is always a highlight here. This year we added new carnival games for the children and sports

## New Braunfels, Texas **UNITED STATES**

Feastgoers at New Braunfels in the Texas



Pigeon Forge, Tennessee



San Diego, California

activities for the adults. Two new sand volleyball courts were added by the city, just in time for our use.

We again sponsored a food drive for the local community. For several years in a row we have been their largest single contributor. This outreach brings us yearly acclaim from city officials and a good name for the Church of God.

**Phil Sandilands**

## Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

### UNITED STATES

The high attendance in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, this year was 742 (40 higher than registration). The sermons pointed everyone to the future, when this

world will be taught the truth of God. That also served as a complete contrast to the news of the day blaring from the Internet and television.

Although Family Day in the park was canceled due to the weather, all other activities were well attended, including the family dance, karaoke night, two musical shows, the senior picnic and the teen bowling and pizza afternoon. Many shared with one another that it truly was the best Feast ever.

**Mark Winner**

## Rapid City, South Dakota

### UNITED STATES

In Rapid City 701 brethren gathered

together to observe God's Feast of Tabernacles and enjoy the diverse region. The messages were inspiring, and the fellowship was top-notch, as brethren made new friends and reconnected with old.

Many ventured out to take in the natural beauty of the Badlands National Park, explored fascinating Devils Tower National Monument, caught a glimpse of the wildlife in Custer State Park and drove the scenic byways of the Black Hills. Nearly half of those attending the Feast in Rapid City also took part in a group scenic train ride.

Rapid City proved to be a fantastic location for God's Feast.

**David Hicks**

## San Diego, California

### UNITED STATES

At the highest point during the Feast, 257 members gathered in beautiful San Diego for the Feast of Tabernacles. Messages tied together very well, and a family environment permeated the meeting place every day. Members came to services early and stayed after to fellowship and enjoy one another's company.

Nearly one third of those in San Diego went on the dinner cruise again, enjoying a wonderful meal and taking in the San Diego skyline at night. Families also enjoyed a wonderful opportunity to dance and fellowship at the Family Day activity.



Rapid City, South Dakota



Woodbury, Minnesota

The Feast was truly a joyous delight, and many new friendships were made.

**Paul Carter**

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## Woodbury, Minnesota UNITED STATES

Around 20 brethren enjoyed the Feast together in the Minneapolis suburb of Woodbury, Minnesota. Woodbury was a satellite

Feast site that listened in to the webcast of services from Orange Beach, Alabama.

Among other activities, brethren enjoyed a visit to a local apple orchard and an evening of entertainment attending a live play at a local theater. Best of all, since most stayed at the hotel where services were held, there was plenty of time for fellowship.

**Gary Black**

## Gweru, ZIMBABWE

This year the Feast was held at the Baptist Conference Centre, set in a beautiful, grassy savanna forest outside the town of Gweru. The center has a common kitchen and dining hall where meals were served three times a day.

Members traveled to the Feast site in hired buses

on Sunday morning. The high attendance was 201 on the first day of the Feast. Messages were given by visiting minister Jeff Caudle, elders Harris Hlazo and Stephen Tshabalala as well as the local deacons.

Activities included a dinner and dance, a youth day dance and a family sports day barbecue. The Feast concluded with the Blessing of Little Children and a teary farewell song.

**Stephen Tshabalala**



Gweru, Zimbabwe

# 2018 FEAST OF TABERNACLES ATTENDANCE

Along with the reports from our Feast sites around the world, we also receive their high attendance figures, which we've listed below. As well, we list the number of connections to daily webcasts via the Internet and the number of shut-ins who received DVDs of prerecorded messages. Consistent with our past reporting practices and member feedback, for attendance purposes we count an average of two viewers per DVD or webcast/Roku connection. Included in the statistics are the scattered members who kept the Feast off-site without an Internet connection or prerecorded sermons.

ARGENTINA	153	MALAWI	157	ZAMBIA	176
AUSTRALIA	26	MAURITIUS	6	ZIMBABWE	201
BARBADOS	163	MEXICO	287	ENGLAND/EUROPE/AFRICA/	
BOLIVIA	100	NEW ZEALAND	99	LATIN AMERICA SCATTERED	100
BURUNDI	500	NIGERIA	38		
CAMEROON	25	PERU	221	<b>ON-SITE TOTAL</b>	<b>9,830</b>
CANADA		PHILIPPINES	299		
ORFORD	36	RWANDA	68	U.S. SHUT-INS (DVD)	256
VICTORIA	256	SOUTH AFRICA		INTL. SHUT-INS (DVD)	125
CHILE	334	CERES	27	U.S. & INTL. WEBCASTS	460
COLOMBIA	89	UVONGO	109		
CONGO	102	ST. KITTS	11	<b>AT-HOME TOTAL</b>	<b>841</b>
CÔTE D'IVOIRE		TOGO	16		
LA MÉ	12			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,671</b>
MAN	57	UNITED STATES			
ENGLAND	95	BELoit	15		
FIJI	34	BIG SANDY	10		
FRANCE	119	BRANSON	566		
GHANA	619	CATSKILLS	414	To hear messages from the	
GRENADA	17	FORT MYERS	147	2018 Feast of Tabernacles,	
GUATEMALA	499	NEW BRAUNFELS	404	go to	
GUYANA	17	ORANGE BEACH	878		
INDIA	16	PIGEON FORGE	742		
ITALY	308	RAPID CITY	701		
JAMAICA	173	SAN DIEGO	257		
KENYA	108	WOODBURY	23		

To hear messages from the  
2018 Feast of Tabernacles,  
go to  
**feast.cogwa.org**

## KNOXVILLE BRETHREN ENJOY NORRIS LAKE

Aug. 19 was the annual boating day on Norris Lake for almost 30 Knoxville brethren!

The pontoon was filled with giggly little ones and happy older ones, who all enjoyed a day of sunshine, burgers and hot dogs prepared to everyone's liking.

The double-decker pontoon featured a waterslide and an upper deck. Young adults enjoyed jumping off the upper deck into the water and trying different stunts on the slide. A speed boat was also used for those who wanted to water-ski or tube behind the boat, and a third boat was used for those who wanted to enjoy some fishing.

When the boats stopped to let the fearless do their thing, some (including pastor Eric Evans) climbed the cliffs and jumped into the lake below.

Everyone had a wonderful time fellowshipping, swimming, skiing, tubing, fishing—or just enjoying the scenery and watching everyone else have fun!

Norris Lake was chosen because it is hailed as one of the cleanest lakes in Tennessee.

**Judy Swanson**



## AUTHOR'S MOTHER READS BOOK TO CHILDREN

Shalynn Mellerup's first published book, *A Jar of Yellow Pencils*, got a special reading at the Feast in Rapid City, South Dakota, this year. A group of children noticed the colorful book and asked to have it read to them. Carrie Mellerup, the proud mother of the author, was happy to oblige the children by reading it aloud.

Shalynn Mellerup, an avid writer, attends the Columbia, Missouri, congregation with her parents, Delvin and Carrie, and her sister Skyla.

**Penny Harris**



## KRISTEN BRUNNER GRADUATES

Kristen Brunner graduated from Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida, on Friday, Aug. 10, 2018, with an associate of science degree in diagnostic medical sonography.

With specialties in abdomen and OB/GYN, Kristen is registered with the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers. She is also a registered vascular technologist. Kristen has accepted a position as a sonographer at Citrus Memorial, an HCA hospital in Inverness, Florida.

Kristen attends the Ocala, Florida, congregation along with her parents, Ben and Susan Brunner.

**Susan Brunner**



## FAREWELL, FELLOW FAMILY MEMBERS

In July 2018 the Louisville and Henderson, Kentucky, and Nashville, Tennessee, congregations said farewell to Mark and Colleen Winner. As pastor and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Winner had served the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation for almost 25 years. They had served Henderson for many years and Nashville since the COGWA congregation was formed in 2011.

In their role, the Winners had garnered the respect, love and affection of each congregation. In addition to the spiritual edification and instruction, the Winners shared ample times of laughter, joy and jubilation. For years they worked tirelessly to serve their Church family—being present in times of happiness and walking through valleys of trial arm in arm with so many. Their example of faithful service to God leaves a legacy of love and devotion in their wake.

Each congregation organized going-away celebrations for the Winners. Gifts, laughter, food and fellowship were shared by each congregation as they wished a fond farewell to two of their closest, most dear fellow family members.

Mark and Colleen Winner relocated to serve the Atlanta, Jefferson and Macon, Georgia, congregations. The Louisville, Henderson and Nashville congregations look forward to bonding with their new pastor and wife, Nathan and Amanda Willoughby, and their family in the years to come.

**Jason Hyde**



## COLUMBIA HONORS 90-YEAR-OLD

On Aug. 11, the Columbia, Missouri, congregation had a surprise luncheon, complete with family recipes, to honor Dale Mellerup on his 90th birthday. The luncheon decorations had a musical theme because Dale has always enjoyed music—playing it on the radio as a youth and playing it for fun now.

A current photo of him and his family was on the luncheon table along with a photo of him in his 20s, when he was serving in the army.

Dale began listening to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast on the radio before he was drafted into the army to serve in the Korean War. He continued his Bible studies throughout the war and began attending church when he returned home. Dale has been a member of the Columbia congregation for more than 50 years.

**Shalynn Mellerup**



## RUSTON HONORS COUPLE WITH TEA

Following Sabbath services on May 15, 2018, the Ruston, Louisiana, congregation of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, hosted a tea for John Ivey and Christina Terry in honor of their engagement. The couple wed on June 30 and currently reside in Bossier City, Louisiana.

**Johna Barnette**

## Winter Camp

Winter Camp in Wisconsin will run from

**Wednesday, Dec. 26,**

to

**Tuesday, Jan. 1.**

Camper applications are currently being accepted, with a deadline of

**Thursday, Nov. 15.**

For more information, please visit the COGWA Youth Camps website—[camps.cogwa.org](http://camps.cogwa.org).



COGWA YOUTH CAMPS



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.

## Anniversaries



### Oliver and Gwendolyn Metzner

On July 28, 2018, the Morgantown, West Virginia, congregation hosted a 70th anniversary celebration for Oliver and Gwendolyn Metzner. Both have served the Church in several ways over the years. Oliver was ordained a deacon in 1991. He has given sermonettes and led songs. Gwendolyn has accompanied hymns and played special music.

They learned about the Sabbath while visiting family in Pennsylvania. They began attending in 1964 and were both baptized on March 9, 1966. Oliver and Gwendolyn had five children, Rebecca, Melanie, Carl, Naomi and Scott. In 1993 their daughter Rebecca lost her battle with

lymphoma. They both have an incredible sense of humor and love for God's people. Their dedication and loyalty to God's truth is much appreciated.

**Bill Jahns**



**Marie and Harold Manus**

On the Sabbath of Aug. 11, Harold and Marie Manus were honored by the Sedgwick, Arkansas, congregation, along with family and friends, on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary.

Harold and Marie had known each other since they were in grade school. On Aug. 10, 1948, while they were waiting to board the school bus, they instead decided to get married. And they did! There was no planning, and they didn't tell anyone until after they were married. They were both seniors in high school, and they never did finish their schooling.

Marie and her family had been listening to Herbert Armstrong and reading *The Plain Truth* since 1942. Harold and Marie began attending the Worldwide Church of God when a congregation was first started in the area in the early 1960s. Marie was baptized in 1964, and Harold was baptized in 1967. They have been faithful and steadfast members since then.

Harold retired as a meat inspector for the USDA in 1991, and Marie retired from the local cotton gin a year later. Though they could no longer attend on a regular basis due to health conditions, the anniversary celebration showed "Aunt Marie and Uncle Harold" remained a beloved part of the local church.

Note: Marie died Sept. 28 at her home in Sedgwick, Arkansas. An obituary will follow in a future issue of *One Accord*.

**Justin Adkins**

## Baptisms



**Andrew Gwin**

The Williamsburg, Virginia, congregation gathered on the banks of the James River on the Sabbath of Sept. 1 for the joyous occasion of a baptism. Andrew Gwin was baptized by his pastor, Larry Lambert. Afterward everyone gathered at a restaurant to celebrate with Andy. Pictured left to right are Larry Lambert, Andy Gwin and Jim Jordan, a deacon in Williamsburg.

**Larry Lambert**



**Zachary Beilstein**

On Sept. 15, 2018, a new member was added to the Church of God. Zachary Beilstein was baptized by Bill Jahns in Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania. Blaney Sproul also participated in the baptism.

Zach has been active in the Church's summer camps and helps with the sound system in the Morgantown, West Virginia, congregation.

**Bill Jahns**

## Births



### **Lucy Juliette Adkins**

Lucy Juliette Adkins was born on May 29, 2018, to Ethan and Amanda Adkins of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, congregation.

Lucy arrived five weeks early, weighing 5 pounds exactly and measuring 18.5 inches long. After spending 11 days in the newborn intensive care unit, with the many prayers of friends and family members, Lucy was finally able to come home from the hospital and continues to thrive and grow.

Her parents and grandparents are awestruck at the precious blessing from God that Lucy truly is.

**Lynda Wasser**



### **Primrose Ada Lallier**

Jeremy and Mary Lallier of the Sherman, Texas, congregation are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Primrose Ada Lallier. Their little bundle of joy was born

Wednesday, Aug. 22, weighing only 5.8 pounds and measuring 19.5 inches. (She has since diligently packed on the pounds, nearly doubling her birth weight in two months.)

After burning through an extraordinary quantity of disposable diapers, often in the wee hours of the morning, Jeremy and Mary have developed a new appreciation for Paul's reminder that "we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:51).

Primrose is the 17th grandchild on Mary's side of the family and the very first on Jeremy's. Both Mama and Daddy are loving this new chapter in their lives (even though it comes with a little less sleep than they're used to) and are very much looking forward to introducing little Prim to her many cousins this Thanksgiving.

**Jeremy Lallier**

## Ordinations

The 2018 Feast of Trumpets was a special and unique day for the brethren in Malawi—three ordinations were conducted on the holy day.



### **Tielmans Chirwa**

Tielmans Chirwa was ordained as an elder in Malawi, assisting Elifazi Salawila. Tielmans was born in 1952 and was baptized in 1985. He was ordained as a deacon in 1995 and has served as a Feast coordinator for many years. He has been a very active member.



### **Steve and Sylvia Young**

Steve Young and Sylvia Robertson were united in marriage on April 21, 2018, after Sabbath services in Greensboro, North Carolina. The ceremony was conducted by their pastor, Ron Kelley.

The groom's best man was Ellis Lail, a longtime friend, and the matron of honor was the bride's granddaughter, Ashley Cochran.

The happy husband and wife live in Catawba, North Carolina.

**Ron Kelley**



### **James Luwanja**

James Luwanja, based in Lilongwe, was ordained as a deacon. He was

born in 1978 and was baptized in 2003. He has been an active and dedicated member in the work of God and at times gives sermonettes and sermons.



**Bilton Salawila**

The last to be ordained, also as a deacon, was Bilton Salawila, based in Blantyre. He was born in 1972. His parents came into the Church in 1977, so he learned the truth when he was young and experienced YES lessons, Spokesman Club and SEP. At times he, too, gives sermonettes and sermons.

All three ordinations were performed by Morgen Kriedemann and Elifazi Salawila and witnessed by all of the members in Malawi.

**Elifazi Salawila**



**Stan and Sera Grabowski**

The brethren from the Berthoud and Castle Rock congregations rejoiced on the Feast of Trumpets when a new deacon was ordained. Stan Grabowski has been fulfilling the job for quite some time. He manages the audiovisual system at services and serves in a number of ways. His wife, Sera, is an integral part of his service and puts together our church bulletin. Interestingly, Stan's father, Steve, is the other deacon in the Berthoud church.

Stan works remotely as a graphic designer and web artist for New Boston Creative Group of Kansas. He studied at the University of Wyoming. Another area of his service is to put together the Feast brochure for the Rocky Mountain site. We welcome Stan and Sera to a greater opportunity to serve!

**Larry Neff**



**Angie Prefontaine**

Angie Prefontaine, 92, of Sanford, Maine, died Oct. 5, 2018, after a long illness. Angie suffered a debilitating stroke 10 years ago, leaving her paralyzed on one side. But her optimism, determination and persistence drove her to live the rest of her years to the fullest, overcoming her circumstances.

Angie was employed years ago with Piccadilly Shoe Outlet and then worked for several years as a clerk in a hospital emergency room. She enjoyed reading (especially the Bible), working on puzzles, sewing and crocheting.

Angie was born in Quebec, Canada, on June 17, 1926, the daughter of Arthur and Sophie (Veilleux) Carrier and came to the U.S. as a young child.

She was predeceased by her husband, Horace Prefontaine; a son, Michael Fanjoy; and a daughter, Shirley Gauthier. Survivors include her son John Fanjoy; four grandchildren, Jamie Brown, Nichole Raftopoulos, Michael Fanjoy, Jeffrey Gauthier; and several great-grandchildren.

The graveside service was held on Friday, Oct. 12, 2018, at the St. Ignatius Cemetery in Sanford, Maine. Her interment was conducted by her pastor, Paul Suckling, and the family expressed thanks to the Church for the concern shown for Angie.

She was an inspiration to her family, friends and the staff at Greenwood Center, where she had been a resident these past 10 years. She had an indomitable spirit and will be dearly missed by all.

**Lorraine Daudelin**

## Obituaries



**Thelma Gibson**

Thelma Gibson, 88, died May 8 at her home in Crossville, Alabama. She had been a faithful member of the Church of God since the mid-1960s. Thelma was a gentle, loving and dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

Thelma was preceded in death by her husband, Dwight. She is survived by her daughters, Jenny Edde, Brenda Fraioli and Carla Hammonds; her son, Bobby; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Thelma was a member of the Trenton, Georgia, congregation. Funeral services were conducted by Tom Kirkpatrick on May 11.

**Annette Epperson**

# DECEMBER 21-25, 2018

## LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY



= 2018 =

## WINTER FAMILY WEEKEND

# YALW

Young Adult Leadership Weekend

GROUNDED AND STEADFAST

Wouldn't it be great if our families could get together over the winter break this year? Well, you can! Come join nearly 1,000 of your fellow family members at the 2018 Winter Family Weekend.

There will be seminars, sports, dances, the ever popular family fun fair with inflatables and carnival games, and more!

The excitement begins Friday evening, Dec. 21, and ends Tuesday evening, Dec. 25. There will be plenty of fun, fellowship and opportunities for spiritual growth for those of all ages.

### New for 2018—YALW comes to WFW!

This year we are adding the elements of our Young Adult Leadership Weekend. Young adults—both single and married couples—will enjoy a special opening night Bible study, Sabbath morning seminars, a Sunday morning reception with buffet brunch, and a final seminar by President Jim Franks. There is no additional fee; just check the "Young adults' seminars and reception" box when registering.

For more details and how to register, go to

**MEMBERS.COGLWA.ORG/WFW**