

# One Accord

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a purple hoodie and blue jeans, is crouching and hugging a young child with blonde hair, wearing a grey hoodie. They are both smiling warmly at the camera. The background is a large, ornate hall with high ceilings, arched windows, and a patterned carpet. Other people are visible in the background, some standing and some walking. The overall atmosphere is bright and social.

January 2018

## 2017 Winter Family Weekend

**U.S. Feast Coordinators  
Discuss Long-Term Plans**

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**Journeys and Reflections**  
Leslie and Marion McCullough

# personal from the president

## The Nature of Trials

In my December member letter I wrote about serious trials that many are experiencing. I received several responses from members who related to my discussion of James 1:2-3: “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” There was full agreement that this is one of the most difficult texts in the Bible. It isn’t because of a translation issue or a lack of comprehension. It is the reality of this admonition from James that makes it so difficult. How do you “count it all joy” when you are suffering a serious trial?

This verse is even more emphatic when you study it in the Greek. The phrase *all joy* means “whole joy” or “all gladness,” as in Philippians 2:29 (*Robertson’s Word Pictures of the New Testament*). It’s not just *some* joy along with *much* grief, but *total* joy.

From reading Scripture, we know that trials, sickness and death are not new to the Church. All the apostles, with the possible exception of John, died as martyrs. Peter was crucified; James was killed by the sword; Thomas was thrust through with a spear; Paul was beheaded; and so on it went. God was more than capable of sparing their lives, but He did not.

There are two other scriptures found in Romans 8 that we should consider in this context. In Romans 8:18 we read, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Then in verse 28 we read, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

By putting these three scriptures (James 1:2-3; Romans 8:18, 28) together, we can learn a lot. It doesn’t make a trial any easier, but it does identify the importance of how we handle the trials that come our way. The perspective we must have as Christians must be that whatever we experience in this life has no comparison to the glory we will have in the next life. This human experience is just that—human—and therefore destined to come to an end. It is eternal life in the Kingdom of God that is real life.

Every trial that happens to us in this life has value in preparing us for the Kingdom of God. While it isn’t always obvious, there is a purpose

for the things we endure in this life. And if we endure them patiently, we have a reward—which is eternal life, real life! It is hard to wrap our mind around the fact that everything is temporary on this earth, including us. But in the Kingdom it will be permanent, and there will be no more sorrow or suffering (Revelation 21:4).

As Christians, we are to learn through the trials we experience during this life. When a loved one dies, there is a hole left in our hearts, but that, too, is temporary. We may feel that loss for the remainder of our physical lives. But one day we will have that hole healed, and we will see our loved ones in the world tomorrow according to God’s plan.

James 1:2-3 is a difficult section of Scripture, but it provides us with an admonition of how to look at trials. One commentary refers to this “all joy” as a “quiet calm.” James isn’t telling us that we have to be giddy with laughter whenever something hurts so badly. But there is a quiet calm and a joy that comes over us because we know the future, and we appreciate that we have a sure promise of eternal life. It doesn’t make the death of a loved one easier, but it provides a context that others outside of God’s Church don’t have.



**Jim Franks**

President

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## CHURCH of GOD

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# WFW 2017: By This Shall All Men Know

By Jason Hyde

Jesus observed, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). That love was evident with almost 1,000 attendees at the annual Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky. This year’s theme, “By This Shall All Men Know,” was displayed in the smiles, helping hands and shared laughter of several days of activities, biblical education and ample fellowship.

The weekend commenced with a Friday evening Bible study presented by Ralph Levy. Challenging everyone to combine service with vision and reinvigorate an idealism about the work of the Church, Dr. Levy motivated attendees to learn and grow.

Sabbath morning seminars provided a well-rounded spiritual diet as presenters explored various aspects of Jesus’ admonition in John 13:35. While parents went to seminars, Sabbath school classes kept the next generation busy. In the afternoon Jim Franks delivered a sermon exhorting attendees to actively apply the principles embedded in Jesus’ call to love one another.

On Saturday night, teens and adults displayed wardrobe creativity during themed dances. Adults transported themselves back to the high fashion of the 1980s, while teens dressed as famous (or infamous!) historical characters. Preteens shared two movies during the evening. In addition,

parents and grandparents selected gently worn clothing from the children’s clothing boutique.

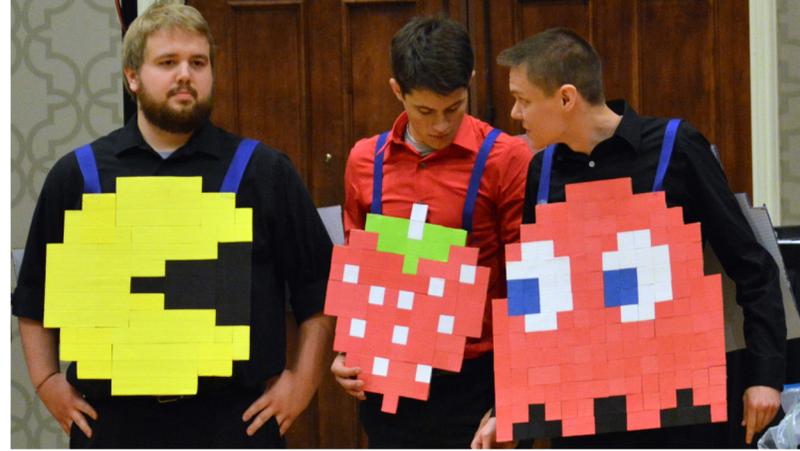
Beginning on Sunday, athletes and weekend warriors alike participated in basketball, volleyball and speedway. Organized games and art classes kept preteens occupied each day. On Monday families squeezed in a bowling/arcade outing.

In keeping with the overall theme, continuing education seminars were conducted Sunday through Tuesday. The lecture hall was packed by disciples eager to learn more about God’s Word.

Laughter and fellowship continued well into each evening. WFW staples, including free pizza, novelty Olympics, karaoke, cornhole and the Family Fun Fair, were met with delight by young and old alike. The EEI Make It, Take It session returned for a second year. A competitive euchre tournament was a new addition to the schedule.

The WFW drew to a close with a family dance. Attendees left on a physical and spiritual high—having developed a deeper commitment to love one another as true disciples. We thank WFW coordinator Mark Winner and the many, many volunteers who staffed the various activities.

We encourage you to mark your calendars for the 2018 WFW, which will begin Friday evening, Dec. 21, and continue through Tuesday, Dec. 25. ©A





# Northwest WFW Builds Camaraderie and Memories

By Jon Pinelli

COGWA members from Oregon, Washington, California, Texas and Canada gathered in Portland, Oregon, for another successful Northwest Winter Family Weekend. Everyone enjoyed four days of fellowship, fun and food!

The weekend of activities was originally scheduled to include a snowshoeing day on Friday at Mount Hood. However, the weather forced plans to change. Rather than a day in the snow, a few enjoyed a trip out to historic Astoria, located on the Columbia River. Filled with history, it proved to be an enjoyable alternate activity. That evening everyone enjoyed a pizza dinner followed by a Bible study by our special guest speaker, Clyde Kilough.

Sabbath morning came early, bringing with it a busy day of educational opportunities and evening activities. Two morning seminars, by Paul Carter and Jon Pinelli, were followed by Sabbath services Saturday afternoon. That evening all enjoyed the annual men's chili cook-off and getting to taste all the different varieties of chili

entered in the contest. To round out the evening, young and old enjoyed karaoke.

Sunday morning all were up bright and early for a morning bowling outing. Prizes were awarded for the best score, best three game series and best "not so best" score! That afternoon several joined up for a few hours of ice-skating fun at a local ice arena.

Weather late Sunday caused a delay of activities for Monday. However, after a reshuffling of activities and a late start, we enjoyed the second annual Pacific NW WFW Car Rally. The roads proved to be a little icy from the night before, due to snow and freezing rain. But all were safe and enjoyed a challenging rally. Following the rally, everyone enjoyed an afternoon of bingo, fellowship and food.

While smaller in numbers than our WFW cousin in Louisville, the impact of fellowship and camaraderie of the brethren was no less significant. Everyone left Monday with a positive impression and wonderful memories of the weekend. 🍷🍷





# U.S. Feast Coordinators Discuss Long-Term Plans

By Doug Horchak

On Nov. 29 and 30, 2017, the Church office hosted all of our U.S. Feast coordinators for our annual meetings. This event proves to be more needed and beneficial with each passing year!

While we thoroughly discuss every aspect of Festival planning at each year's meetings, this year we chose to focus a bit more on site planning throughout the United States for the next five years. As many in the Church understand, securing a convention site for hundreds of people over eight or nine days at a venue or location that is suitable for our members to observe the Feast is not always a simple task! And while the Festival planning team has been involved in such site searches in the different regions of the U.S. over the years, looking to the future, we plan to have our U.S. Feast site coordinators more involved in this process as we make long-term plans for site development over the next five years.

As we look to the future, Ministerial Services is also striving to coordinate such planning efforts in both the U.S. and select international areas in an effort to improve both the locations we host for the Feast and the quality of experience our members will enjoy while there. With all of that said, we never want to lose sight of the fact that our primary purpose in attending the Feast is to worship God in the place that He "chooses to put His name."

*Site selection is first and foremost based on God's will*

*and the members' needs.* Important considerations, which are used in selecting locations that fit within our goals and capabilities, include:

1. Where are congregations and members located?
2. What locations would be central enough to best serve the brethren?
3. What ministerial manpower do we have available to provide the spiritual food for the eight-day festival?
4. What financial considerations need to be made to balance the budget, the member attendance and the manpower?

Then we consider the following questions to better select appropriate sites:

1. Does it appear that God has opened the door to place His name at this site location?
2. Is there a meeting facility that fits our needs and is both available and affordable?
3. Is there sufficient housing (in a variety of affordable price ranges) available for members?
4. Is this an attractive setting that would appeal to members and their families?

We strive to have the best venues and locations that we can afford. But as you can see, there is much for us to consider in analyzing how we can best serve the needs of our brethren in worshipping God during His holy days at this special time of year. ©©

# Q

Please help me. I am a 14-year-old girl, and this is my second time trying to change and follow God. . . . My first time I got lazy after a week and got mad at God because we really needed money at the time and suddenly I lost my phone at the worst time yet. . . . I've been [studying] lots of information on God (by the way, I'm Catholic). . . . I read that in order to change you need to be baptized and to be sure that you fully devote your life to changing, and I do, I promise. . . . I was baptized when I was a baby, do I need to get baptized again?

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



## PERSONAL CONTACT

with CECIL MARANVILLE

Your determination to follow God's way of life is a superb model for other teens! We would be happy to help you follow through on your commitment.

Yes, you will eventually need to be baptized again, although you need to be a little older. But you can begin the process of changing and of conversion now. God *will* enable you to make changes. He *will* open your mind to understand His truths more deeply. He *will* bless you for obeying Him.

Take care that you do not link whether you will follow God with whether you feel He is giving you what you need or want at the moment. Certainly, it isn't wrong to ask God to provide your needs or to expect Him to bless you. But being genuinely committed to godliness means *doing what is right, because it is right, regardless of the benefits you receive*.

God gave us human families so that we could understand Him more fully. The commitment that a daughter has to her mother and her father should *not* be based just on what her parents give her. Otherwise theirs would be a cold relationship; and their homes, unhappy.

Parents give to their children from birth through to when they launch into life as adults. Sometimes those gifts are in response to what their children ask for. At times gifts might be rewards for good behavior. More often, parents' gifts are tied to a loving commitment to provide for

their children's needs. God gives gifts to His children in similar ways.

He desires your loving commitment to His "household rules," which are summarized by the 10 Commandments and amplified by the rest of the Bible. I commend you for zeroing in on the need for *information* about God. One's faith has to be based upon information.

It is impossible to have a true relationship with anyone without spending time together. You need to regularly spend time talking with God (through prayer) and listening to Him (through Bible study). As you learn more about Him, you will realize that He was fully committed to being your Father long before you ever thought of committing to being His daughter.

In a human family, no teen is always on the mark in her attitude, words and actions toward her parents. You probably have had to apologize at times. So, too, our intentions to live as children of God will fall short. We need to renew our commitment, apologize for mistakes and return to the way we know we should live (that is "repentance"). Our Heavenly Father has infinite patience; He is kind and merciful. ©A

**Author's note:** We concluded with several suggestions for study. The young lady has already written back to tell us she is doing daily Bible study. She asked if she can start the *Journeys* on Life, Hope & Truth now or if she needs to be baptized first. She's on the way!

## Leslie and Marion McCullough



Les McCullough was ordained an elder in 1962. Since then, he and his wife have served the Church of God in many capacities around the world.

Certain words surface when one interviews Les and Marion McCullough about their years of service: *joy, challenge, friends, family* and *positive*. Their recollections touch on meeting challenges, making lifelong friends and staying positive.

### Challenges

When asked about things he enjoyed during his ministry, Mr. McCullough began with the satisfaction of finding Feast sites for the Church of God. “In 1961 after I graduated from college I was sent out to find a new Feast site.” At that time Big Sandy was the only Feast site.

Since Mr. McCullough was living in California, he started by checking out the Olympic stadium in Squaw Valley. It was a stunning location, but it had some challenges. One part of the stadium opened out toward the ski slopes, so the building was cold. And it had only one road into the property. But Mr. Armstrong approved Squaw Valley for the Feast of Tabernacles that year. Families brought blankets and sleeping bags to keep warm during services. In spite of difficulties, “everyone just kept on going.”

In 1963 Mr. McCullough located an additional Feast

site on Jekyll Island, Georgia. It, too, was a beautiful spot, but it didn’t have a hall big enough for 4,000-plus people. What to do? The Church erected a huge tent and set up thousands of chairs. An overflow of folks sat on blankets around the tent perimeter.

Another concern for Jekyll that year was a hurricane that threatened the East Coast—Hurricane Flora. (It later proved to be one of the deadliest Atlantic hurricanes.) But it veered away toward Cuba and Haiti, so the brethren in Jekyll kept the Feast in safety.

The McCulloughs remember the 1964 Feast in Jekyll as challenging. Right before the Feast, Hurricane Dora hovered off the Atlantic coast, sending Jekyll torrential rain. Les arrived at the site early and found water everywhere. Motel roofs were leaking, and campsites were wet. There were no options for moving the Feast to another area, as people were already on their way to Jekyll. Members ended up staying in damp housing. Men with parking duty carried on, sometimes soaked to the skin. Families pulled together and made the best of the situation.

Mr. McCullough went around to the motels checking on how people were doing. “Even with flooding rain,” he said, “the people responded well.” Hurricane Dora moved north of Jekyll before making landfall. “We all felt God had again



Herbert W. Armstrong meeting with Les McCullough.

saved us from a hurricane,” Marion said. Though it was a wet Feast, “everyone had a good story to tell.”

### Family

In 1965 Les became deputy chancellor for the Ambassador College campus in Big Sandy. He and Marion loved their years there—the students worked hard, the Church was growing, and it was a close-knit group. The environment was a “great place to raise children,” with a “lot of energy, ... great students and faculty.”

When the McCulloughs left Big Sandy in 1973, Les became vice president of the Church’s international work. “We traveled all over the world to visit the other offices and many of the churches. We met members who are still some of our best friends.” Working internationally gave them and their children, Kimberly, Lynn and Michael, experiences that would have been impossible otherwise.

When they were sent to South Africa in 1986, the brethren welcomed them warmly. “It was hard to leave our children and parents,” Marion said, “but we had all three children fly down to South Africa to visit.” Les and Marion say that their children “loved South Africa as much as we did.”

After four years in South Africa, the McCulloughs were sent to England—an assignment that gave them an opportunity to reconnect with family. Mr. McCullough’s grandfather emigrated from England to the United States in 1860. Les and Marion located the farm where he had lived, with its stone house and waterwheel still intact. Marion made contact with some of her father’s relatives and visited them. “We both felt at home there and loved seeing the country where both our families had come from.”

### Joy in looking back

In summarizing their years in the Church, Mr. McCullough said, “Being part of God’s Church has been a wonderful opportunity for us, and I have few regrets. All of our moves have been a joy, and I would

not change a one of them. I have always looked at every move as a challenge, and I have done my best to do the work God has given me to do.”

### Retirement

The McCulloughs have lived in Big Sandy since Les retired in 2002. “Being in the ministry has brought lifelong friends,” Marion stated. They have many friends in the COGWA congregation in Gladewater. Les and Marion kept the Feast this year via telecast with other members in the Gladewater area who aren’t able to travel. ©A

## On the Road Again

The following are the positions of service held by the McCulloughs between 1961 and 2002:

1961	located Feast site in Squaw Valley
1962	ordained preaching elder
1963	located Feast site in Jekyll Island
1965-1973	deputy chancellor, Big Sandy
1973-1978	vice president of international work
1978-1980	regional director, Canada
1980-1982	pastor, Cincinnati (East), Ohio
1982-1986	deputy chancellor, Big Sandy
1986-1990	regional director, South Africa
1990-1995	regional director, U.K.
1995-1998	retirement in Big Sandy
1998-2002	UCG president and Council of Elders member



Les McCullough in Israel.

# CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?



## PAUL AND JANE SUCKLING CELEBRATE 50TH

On Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017, Paul and Jane Suckling, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. After Sabbath services on Nov. 11, 2017, they were surprised by their congregation in Leicester, Massachusetts, with gifts, a beautiful cake made by Christine Cardillo and refreshments to celebrate the occasion.

**Lorraine Daudelin**



## AUSTIN SAVORS INTERNATIONAL POST-FEAST POTLUCK

On Oct. 28, 2017, the Austin, Texas, congregation gathered for a post-Feast potluck with an international theme. Congregants brought a sampling of cuisine from all the various foreign countries they had visited for the Feast of Tabernacles, only two weeks earlier.

For many, this was the first chance to chat, catch up with brethren and hear about their Feast experiences. The meal consisted of fare from as far away as France and New Zealand, and as close as New Braunfels.

In addition to the meal, members submitted photographs taken at their varied Feast sites for a slide show that played throughout the event, giving everyone a chance to check out the places where the food they were tasting came from.

**Madeline Curry**

## COLUMBIA ENJOYS HOT DOG ROAST

The Columbia, Missouri, congregation's 2017 annual hot dog roast was held Saturday night, Nov. 4. It was beautiful weather for this time of year—cool enough that you could enjoy the fire but warm enough that you could make a trip to the snack table without the weather snowing on your parade.

Food was plentiful and delicious, from the top-grade, farm-raised beef hot dogs to the chili to the cobblers. And, thanks to a large number of kids and a generous selection of glow sticks, we even had a light show to go along with dinner.

We had our largest turnout ever this year, and fellowship was excellent, as usual. It was a wonderful evening with good food and good friends.

**Shalynn Mellerup**



## RON AND VIVIENNE FORBES CELEBRATE THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Ron and Vivienne Forbes celebrated their 40th anniversary on Sept. 11, 2017. They both came from the Caribbean and found love in the United States!

On Sept. 28, 1974, Vivienne Spencer went with her friend Norris Hobbins to the West Indian Day Parade in Brooklyn. (She grew up with Norris in Jamaica before her family moved to London. At 19, she moved to New York and learned Norris had moved there too.) At the parade they ran into Ron Forbes, who Norris knew from the Worldwide Church of God. Vivienne was familiar with the Church from her years in London, tuning in to Radio Luxembourg, which broadcasted *The World Tomorrow*.

Ron had grown up in Trinidad. At 13, he began reading *The Plain Truth*, but his parents forbade any contact with the Church. When he was 18, however, Ron immigrated to New York to study art and found the local WCG congregation. By 19, he was baptized.

In the spring of 1975, Vivienne came to Sabbath services with Norris, and he reintroduced her to Ron. Vivienne was baptized, and it didn't take long before Ron became interested. They married on Sept. 11, 1977. Six years later, they had a son, Christian Spencer, and in 1988, a daughter, Jihan.

Congratulations to Ron and Vivienne!

**R. Norrod**



## HICKORY SHARES STORIES AND GIFTS AT POST- FEAST SOCIAL

On the Sabbath of Nov. 11, 2017, the Hickory, North Carolina, congregation enjoyed afternoon services and a potluck dinner and gift exchange as part of a post-Feast social.

Photos were collected and placed into a slide show, courtesy of Sharon Swanson. It was a wonderful opportunity to share stories and see many new and familiar faces! While enjoying the potluck, members selected a question about their Feast experience and got to share their answer with their table.

For the gift exchange, all of the attendees purchased and wrapped small gifts from their respective Feast sites. All were placed on a table, and everyone had the opportunity to select a mystery gift. The Hickory post-Feast social was a great success.

**Gabriella Kroska**

## VICKIE AND DAN DERKS CELEBRATE 45TH

Dan and Vickie Derks of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on Dec. 1, 2017. Coming into God's Church together in 1988 has been the best event in their lives. They have two grown sons and enjoy three grandkids.

After 40 years of dairy farming, they sold their milk cows, but still love life on the farm. When first introduced to God's Church, they thought it would be impossible to keep the Sabbath and have a farm. Within a few years though, they learned that God would bless their faithfulness. Dan is a deacon, and Vickie helps with Sabbath school.

**Gary Black**



## WORK PARTY HELPS PREPARE MEMBER'S HOUSE FOR SALE

Some members of the Young Men's Leadership, Fellowship, Education and Service Club of the Birmingham, Alabama, and Trenton, Georgia, congregations, along with some wives and other members of the congregations participated in a work party on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, at the home of Meta Hendershot. Mrs. Hendershot needed help in preparing for the sale of her home.

The men performed yard work and rebuilt a deck, while the ladies cleaned the house and sorted and packed household items for storage, trash and a yard sale. Next, the men loaded up any items for storage and took them to a nearby storage unit. The ladies organized items to be sold in a future yard sale.

A lunch of sandwiches, drinks and fruit was provided during the middle of the daylong project. Much was accomplished by the 17 people who donated their time, and Mrs. Hendershot was very appreciative to everyone who helped.

**Annette Epperson**



## CHILI COOKS HAVE FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

On Nov. 12, 2017, the annual chili cook-off was held in the Parkersburg, West Virginia, area. Brethren from the Athens, Ohio, and Parkersburg and Morgantown, West Virginia, congregations participated. There was good fellowship and laughter during the cook-off.

There is a plaque showing the winners of the cook-off over the last few years. The winners this year were Sam Smith (first place), Shirley Mitter (second place) and Skip Grable (third place). All the winners were from the Morgantown area.

**Bill Jahns**



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

## Births

## Ordinations



**Michael McTiernan**

On the Sabbath of Dec. 2, 2017, Michael McTiernan was ordained as a deacon serving in the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation. Church pastor Larry Greider performed the ordination, accompanied by elders Chuck Sinon, Charles Haughee and Jim McTiernan, Mike's father.

Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1974, Mike began attending Sabbath services in Mount Pocono with his family when he was 3 years old. Kevin Epps baptized Mike on Jan. 8, 2000.

After high school, Mike received an associate degree from Pennsylvania State University then transferred to Wilkes University, where he was awarded the bachelor of science degree in business management/finance in 1998.

Mike began working for the government in 2002 and transferred to Florida in 2004. He is currently employed as a budget analyst with the U.S. Attorney's office for the Middle District of Florida in Tampa.

He enjoys serving in the local congregations and attending services with his parents, Jim and Rose, and his son, Reese.

**Charles Haughee**



**Hannah Springer Smith**

Tyler and Beth-Erin Smith of Loveland, Ohio, are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Hannah Springer Smith, born on April 6, 2017. Grandparents Mark and Marti Springer and Auntie Kerianne Springer are excited to be close by in Ohio to share the joy as a family. Her paternal grandparents are Julie Smith of Seabeck, Washington, and Don Smith of Spokane, Washington.

**Marti Springer**



**Lachlan Thomas Hyde**

Jason and Emily Hyde are pleased to announce the birth of their son Lachlan Thomas. He arrived Oct. 23, 2017, weighing in at 8 pounds 10 ounces and was 20 inches long. He has been spoiled with extra love, attention and affection by his big sister, Ava, and big brother, Finley. The Hydies are doing well and enjoying the baby phase again!

**Emily Hyde**

## Weddings



**Juana Inés Sartoris Da Silva**

It is with much love that we wish to thank God for the arrival of our daughter, Juana Inés Sartoris Da Silva, on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017, at 8 p.m. She was born weighing 6.5 pounds and measuring 19 inches. God hears all of our prayers, which is a show of tremendous faith. We cannot say that we have not been blessed. We are at home, fascinated with her. Each child brings a new air to every home. Thank God for calling us to this way of life.

**The Sartoris Da Silva family**



**Heather and Hunter Potts**

Hunter Wilson Potts and Heather Kay Degagne were united in marriage before God, family and many friends on July 9, 2017. It was a festive celebration with lots of laughter and joy. The setting was along the banks of the peaceful Chipola River in a picturesque pine forest. Harold Rhodes, Heather's minister her whole life and the one who baptized both Heather and Hunter, performed the ceremony.

The Potts will reside in Marianna, Florida, and they both are members of the DeFuniak Springs congregation. They look forward to starting their new lives together with much joy and anticipation.

**Lora Degagne**

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## Baptisms



**Dianna Pinsonnault**

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017, Dianna Pinsonnault was baptized at the Split Rock Resort in Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania, while at the Feast of Tabernacles. The ceremony and laying on of hands was performed by our local elder, Martin Cole, from the Leicester, Massachusetts, congregation. Also in attendance were Raymond and Lorraine Daudelin and John Bowles. The baptism was very special for Dianna, as she was celebrating her very first Feast this year.

**Lorraine Daudelin**

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## Obituaries



**Wesley Seymour Brathwaite**

Wesley Seymour Brathwaite died on July 19, 2017. Osmonde Douglas officiated at the funeral service, which was held at Coral Ridge Memorial Gardens in Barbados on July 27, 2017.

He was baptized into the Church of

God in the 1970s. Wesley performed many tasks in the Church. He was always punctual. He was the head usher and at one time a chorale member.

He is remembered for his great sense of humor, in addition to his willingness to serve in any capacity. He is also most fondly remembered for his love and devotion to God's Word.

Wesley's trademark was encouraging the brethren. He will be fondly remembered and missed for his uplifting smile, warmth and positive attitude.

He was an extraordinary example to us through many difficult challenges and trials, which he bore patiently. He held fast to the Eternal through them. He would remark, "God knows best. I have come too far to let go of God." Such marked even the final years and days of his trials.

Wesley confidently looked forward to the resurrection. He fought a gallant, godly battle! He now awaits the resurrection!

He is survived by his brothers, Jeffrey and Evans; his sister, Junie Mayers; and his sister-in-law, Neva.

**Osmonde Douglas**



**Charlotte Bickford**

Charlotte Bickford was born on July 7, 1942, and died on Nov. 8, 2017, at the age of 75, after a period of declining health. She was married in 1985 to Frank Bickford, who died in 2008 and was the love of her life. She leaves six children, three girls and three boys.

Charlotte was baptized into the Church of God on June 19, 1987, and has been a faithful member of the Leicester, Massachusetts, congregation.

Her daughter Lessie Desjardins wrote: "Mom was everything anyone could have hoped for in a mother: our friend, counselor, disciplinarian, educator, a grounding force, healer and our conscience. All of her attributes kept us on the right path."

Her family and friends will remember her love, smile, sense of humor, service and dedication to God and His Church. Her race is over.

**Lorraine Daudelin**



**Eugene Lamb**

Eugene "Gene" David Lamb passed away Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017, at his home in Strasburg, Colorado.

Gene was born Jan. 16, 1926, on the family farm in Sharon Springs, Kansas. He attended a country school through eighth grade and graduated from high school in 1941 at the age of 16. Five years later, on April 10, 1947, Gene married Eunice Hanavan in Goodland, Kansas.

In 1958 Gene and Eunice bought a small farm just north of Strasburg, Colorado. Gene farmed, hauled propane, and worked at various service stations in the area. In 1973 Gene opened Gene's Repair Shop in Strasburg and also became a shareholder in a large gas and propane business, Tri-Valley Gas Company. Gene was also involved with the Strasburg Volunteer Fire Department from 1975-1985 as a firefighter or ambulance attendant, making 225 emergency runs during this time.

Gene is survived by Eunice, his loving wife of over 70 years; daughters Monica Koerner of Katy, Texas, Marilyn Chamberlain of Glendale, Arizona, Malea Lamb of Chandler, Arizona, and Melanie (John) Towne of Shelbyville, Illinois; grandchildren Ryan (Melanie) Koerner, Dustin Chamberlain, Danielle (Jon) Roberts, Kelly Towne and Madison Towne; and great-grandchildren Jonathan Roberts and Luke Roberts.

Gene was a longtime member of the Church of God and was baptized in 1958 in Lyons, Colorado. Gene, along with his wife, Eunice, attended church with the Castle Rock, Colorado, congregation.

**Malea Lamb**

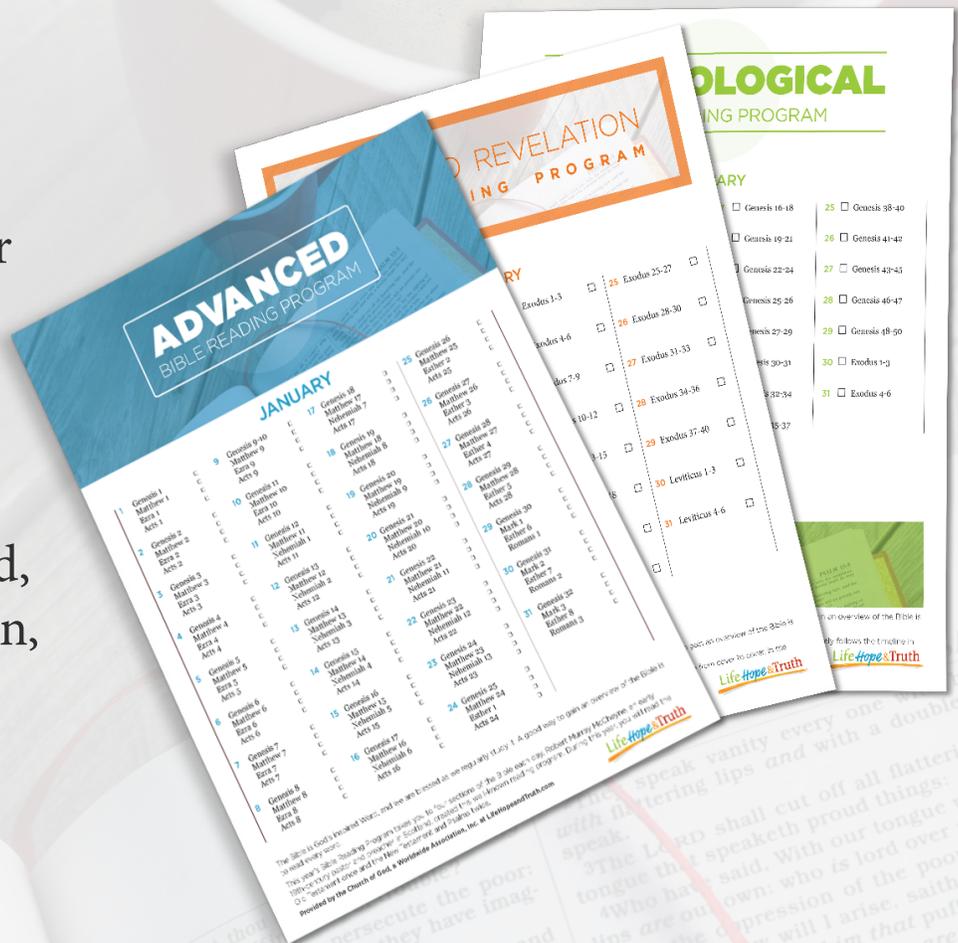
# 2018

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