There are three festival “seasons” during the course of a year. These are not to be confused with the four seasons that divide a year—spring, summer, fall and winter. In ancient Israel the religious festivals revolved around the two harvest seasons and celebrated some aspect of agriculture or a historical event. But at least two holy days—Trumpets and Atonement—seem to have nothing to do with agriculture or any historical event. And the Eighth Day, or Last Great Day, is an enigma to the Jews as to its purpose.

The three festival seasons, or “times” (Deuteronomy 16:16), are in reference to three pilgrimage periods and are related to travel. These were the three times in the course of a year when the Israelites were commanded to travel to Jerusalem and bring their offerings with them. This doesn’t identify the number of festivals or the number of holy days in a given year. From Leviticus 23, we know that number to be seven. The third of the pilgrimage festivals was the period surrounding the Feast of Tabernacles, which we observe today by leaving our homes and moving into a temporary dwelling.

My earliest memories of the Feast of Tabernacles are from the 1960s and are of the metal tabernacle in Big Sandy, Texas. In those years we referred to it as going to Gladewater, Texas, for the Feast. Big Sandy was considered too small to use as a location! Of course, Gladewater wasn’t much bigger. It wasn’t until around 1964, when Ambassador College opened in East Texas, that I first heard the area referred to as Big Sandy.

My family camped for the Feast back then. We brought our own food, along with our tent, our cots and our U-Haul trailer, where we hung our clothes in an attempt to keep them dry. Even as a teenager, I was expected to wear a suit, or at least a shirt and tie, to every service. That was a challenge, since I only owned one suit, and we normally had two services each day!

During most Feasts in the 1960s, we never left the Church property. Then I remember one year when a sermonette was given that advocated doing something special during the Feast. “Go out to a restaurant at least once,” we were told. From then on, we had one special meal at a local restaurant. Generally, that restaurant was Johnny Cace’s Steak House in Longview, Texas.

In those years I was expected to take notes, and today, some 55 years later, I still review those notes each year prior to the Feast. While doing so a few years back, I realized that in addition to my notes there were many names of friends written on the pages. In fact, it made me realize that a major part of my Feast experience was about people!

My notebooks are filled with names—like “Kent, Leila, Judy, Richard, Doug, Bill, Rod” and so on—and addresses. While I was attentive to the messages and took good notes, I realized how important my friends were and how I looked forward to seeing them each year. The attendance at the Feast these days is considerably smaller than it was in the 1960s, but it is still just as important, if not more so, for us to develop relationships with the brethren, whether young or old. The fact is, as society spirals downward, and as the Church has become smaller, we need each other more than ever!

I hope you will find the messages during the Feast this year to be inspiring and encouraging. I also hope you will meet new friends who may become friends for life. The Feast is a unique time for fellowship. There is nothing else like it! God wants us all together for these special days for a reason, and it isn’t all about the sermons! Relationships established or renewed during the Feast are a major part of the Feast experience!

Jim Franks
President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association
Contents

4 Traveling Abroad for the Feast
6 Don’t Let Attitude Sneak Up on You
8 Journeys and Reflections
Harold and Loree Rhodes
10 Church Potluck
12 Announcements
So you are traveling outside your country for the Feast of Tabernacles! What a wonderful opportunity and experience! God has chosen to place His name on many different international Feast sites this year, and your journey is about to begin.

What should you know before traveling to a foreign country?

**Money**

Journeying to a foreign country will definitely limit what you are able to bring. The Bible’s advice about turning your tithe into money and binding it in your hand (Deuteronomy 14:22-25) has many implications for today’s Feastgoers.

The following is a list of things to keep in mind as you prepare financially for an international Feast:

- Research the currency conversion rate for the country you will be visiting. This can vary from week to week, so don’t just check when you first do your budget. (If you are traveling to multiple countries, you may need to do this for multiple currencies.) Experienced travelers recommend using a bank in the country you are visiting. Airport exchange booths usually have poor exchange rates and high fees.
- Using a credit card can be advantageous. If you can, use a card that doesn’t charge a foreign transaction fee. Make sure that you notify your credit card company where you are traveling. Some cards will decline purchases if they are not informed and see charges coming from Italy when you live in Dallas, Texas!
- Try to carry local currency in the city you are attending. Incidental expenses may cost more if you use credit. In some cases it is simply easier to use. But don’t keep all of your cash in your wallet. Stash extra cash in a secure place, in case your wallet is lost or stolen.
- Many countries charge fees ranging from $25 to $200 to enter or exit the country. Some include these fees in the cost of your airline ticket, but some will need to be paid with cash. Be sure to plan for any additional fees you’ll need to pay.

**Health and security**

- Check with your doctor or online at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to make sure you have the necessary vaccinations for your destination. You will also need to make sure you have adequate
activate global capabilities on your phone for the time of your travel. This may prove to be much more affordable than roaming charges.

Packing your luggage

- Ask your insurance provider if an emergency would be covered, and if your policy applies to overseas travel. You might consider travel insurance.
- Make two copies of your passport. Leave one with someone you trust in your home country, and take one with you. Having that information could come in handy if you lose your passport. Making an electronic copy can also be very helpful.
- Consider registering with your embassy to make it easier for the government to contact you should you need to leave a country. U.S. citizens can do so online at the State Department website.
- Look for information to direct you where to go and where to avoid. You can search online or read travel guide books.

Electronics

- We live in a digital age. Be sure to prepare for your needs abroad. Bring a charger and/or adapter. Countries vary in the voltage and type of plugs used. Purchase the adapters you will need and make sure the voltage is compatible with your devices.
- If you plan to use your cell phone overseas, you can activate global capabilities on your phone for the time of your travel. This may prove to be much more affordable than roaming charges.

And more!

- There’s lots more preparation you can do. You might try to learn a few foreign words to be able to communicate at least somewhat. Write down the address of your hotel, so you will remember how to get back after exploring!
- And take lots of photos! Traveling abroad is a great way to capture memories of you and your loved ones in a place you may only get to once. Periodically back up your photos, in case your camera or phone is lost, damaged or stolen.
- Wherever you may be traveling abroad for the Feast, plan ahead and be prepared! Have the adventure of a lifetime! ☀️

---

Holy Day Offerings

The Church of God, a Worldwide Association, believes Scripture designates that our longtime practice of collecting an offering on each of the seven annual holy days is correct.

Malachi 3:8-10 shows us that failing to tithe equals robbery of God. Notice that these verses also mention offerings. When we couple this with Deuteronomy 16:16, it is clear that a primary time to give these offerings is on the annual holy days: “They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed.”

Three seasons are named—Unleavened Bread, Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), and the Feast of Tabernacles. The teaching of the Church is to give an offering on each of the seven holy days. And Scripture strongly indicates this.

Ideally, it is helpful to prepare in advance for the offering collection. These are freewill offerings (verse 10), and the amount is up to each individual. Verse 17 reminds us that “every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.”

Most important is the attitude with which each offering is given. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 we read, “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

—Larry Neff
Don’t Let

Attitude

Sneak Up on You

By Mark Winner
"You really have to work at it to have a bad Feast!"
That's something I've shared with many people over the years. And I trust that it's something most of us would agree with most of the time.

For close to 60 years I have been attending the Feast of Tabernacles each fall. True, I don't remember the first few—I was too young. But I have wonderful memories of attending the Feast—from a very young age—in both exotic and not-so-exotic locations in the United States and around the world. What all these sites had in common for me was the enjoyment of time spent with others of like mind and away from the regular routine of school or work.

Sadly, however, it seemed there were always some in attendance who, for whatever reason, just didn't seem to appreciate the opportunity God gives us in the Feast of Tabernacles. Their focus was elsewhere. Maybe it was petty inconveniences or perhaps something more serious like a family health issue. It may have been the stresses of job or life that seemingly took away their joy.

In short, they allowed something to affect their overall outlook or attitude, and they didn’t “live in the moment” and “capture the vision” that we hear about when we listen to the Festival messages of hope and encouragement.

My “bad attitude” Feast

Many years ago I had a Feast in which my attitude wasn't where it should have been. I didn't have a lot of money, and I was attending a site that wasn't as exciting a destination as others had been. I was newly married, and although my wife and I were still in the honeymoon phase, I was also in the process of building my business. There were the everyday stresses that came with that.

We were staying in a hotel that was comfortable if not nice. But somehow all I could focus on was what was wrong with my room—like the carpet, which had a stain that looked like someone had changed his car oil on it.

It seemed as though everywhere we went the air-conditioning wasn't working. The weather was unseasonably hot, and that magnified the perceived problem. It's the only time I can remember ever getting up during a movie to ask the theater to turn down the air. We went to a restaurant to eat and ended up leaving shortly after we got there because it was simply too hot to eat.

At services there was reserved seating for seniors and families with small children. There was reserved seating for the choir and the ministry. There was reserved seating for hard of hearing and visually impaired members. It seemed there was reserved seating for everyone except my wife and me.

That wouldn't have been a problem most years. However, at the time I was nursing a bad knee and back from a sports injury. Sitting in tight quarters in the middle of a row of small chairs with no leg room, I couldn't find a comfortable position. So I would go to the back of the meeting hall and stand while listening to the sermon.

You get the idea—my attitude, my outlook, wasn't in a good place at all. Several days into the Feast, my wife mentioned to me that I might want to consider where my mind was compared to where it should be. And she was absolutely right!

After the fact, I realized I was guilty of doing exactly what I've stated one would have to do to have a bad Feast. I had worked at it. I had allowed a bad attitude to take root and negatively impact what should have been the highlight of the year.

God looks at our attitude

Proverbs 16:2 states, “All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits.” The Hebrew word ruah (or ruach), translated here as “spirits,” is interesting because it can be used so many ways. Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary gives nine different definitions. The sixth is the obvious meaning intended for this verse. Vine's says, “Ruah is often used as a man's mindset, disposition, or ‘temper’.”

“Spirits” here refers to one's inner disposition. I think the New International Version translates Proverbs 16:2 well: “All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives [attitudes that drive him] are weighed by the Lord” (1978 edition).

When Samuel was meeting Jesse’s sons, God told him that He “looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). And as He does, He assesses or determines what a person is thinking and exactly what it is that motivates him.

God perceives the attitude behind the thoughts, words and deeds of every human being. And He makes it very clear in His Word that He does not always agree with man on such matters.

In short, it is possible for a man to be certain in his own mind that he is solely interested in obeying God, when God recognizes he is not.

Our focus at the Feast

Luke 14 shares an important thought for us to take with us as we go to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Frankly, it is a thought that should be in our minds throughout the year. “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate [that is, love less by comparison] his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple” (verses 26-27).

It is crystal clear that God wants us to be “plugged-in” while keeping the Feast. He wants our mind and our attitude to be focused on His Word and His plan. And He doesn't want us to be distracted in any way. Rather than thinking, “Well, I can't help it. I've got a lot going on in my life, and it is terribly stressful,” try thinking about the words of Jesus Christ here in Luke. Are we choosing to do what God asks of us?

The truth is, God has blessed us to understand what these holy days mean—for us now as well as into the future. It would be a shame for us to attend the Feast and not participate fully, not gain the most possible—simply because we chose to forget the importance of our attitude.
The story of Harold and Loree Rhodes is a love story—a love for God, a love for each other and a love for God’s people.

When Harold Rhodes was young, his dad would listen to Herbert W. Armstrong—a practice he had started in the 1930s. That broadcast was his first introduction to the Church. “My interest in studying the Bible dates back to my early teen years,” Mr. Rhodes recalled. “I can remember reading all of the Church of God literature to my dad (at his request), for hours at a time. When I was about 14 years old, my dad required that I take the Bible Correspondence Course offered by the Church at that time. I well remember having to write out longhand every scripture in that course.” From those beginnings, a love for God began to grow.

The second love story was set on course when a 9-year-old Loree Kyzer met a 12-year-old Harold at church. Harold was going to a Seventh-day Adventist Church with his mother when Loree and her family began to attend. Their friendship developed, and nine years later, on July 8, 1961, in Columbia, South Carolina, they became husband and wife.

As their life together began, they moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where Mr. Rhodes worked for Associated Grocers in their advertising department.

Two years later, the Rhodes attended the first Bible study held in Atlanta by the then Radio Church of God. That Bible study quickly became a congregation, and Harold and Loree
Transitions and growth

While there are many positives about being in the ministry, a favorite of his involves transitions and growth:

“Being able to be used to pass God’s blessings on to a newborn child during the ‘Blessing of Little Children’—watching that child grow into adulthood in the Church, baptizing them, performing their wedding and administering God’s blessing on their children is indeed very inspiring.”

He added, “It’s very rewarding when brethren come to you many years later and let you know what an impact you’ve had in their lives. They will sometimes mention a sermon (that I had long since forgotten) that resulted in a turning point in their lives.”

Mr. Rhodes retired from the full-time ministry in November 2018. But, even now, after 50 years of pastoring and 57 years of marriage, the love story continues.

On the Road Again

The following are the areas served by Harold and Loree Rhodes from 1970 to the present:

- 1970-1971: Associate pastor of Springfield and Joplin, Missouri
- 1971-1972: Pastor of Lake Charles and Alexandria, Louisiana
- 1973-1975: Pastor of Houston (North), Texas
- 1975-1976: Coordinated Feast of Tabernacles in Big Sandy, Texas
- 1976-1983: Pastor of Austin and Waco, Texas
- 1979: Coordinated Feast in Savannah, Georgia
- 1983-1993: Pastor of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Murphy, North Carolina
- 1986-1992: Coordinated Feast in Chattanooga, Tennessee
- 1993-1994: Coordinated Feast in Pensacola, Florida
- 2000-2010: Coordinated Feast in Panama City Beach, Florida
- 1996-2003: Served as regional pastor Southeastern Region
- Nov. 17, 2018: Retired from full-time ministry

Rhodes were baptized in September 1963. On Pentecost in 1969, Mr. Rhodes was ordained as an elder. That fall, they—with their two children, Angela and David—moved to Pasadena, California, to attend Ambassador College as married students. The seeds of love for serving God’s people had been sown.

Since that adventure began 50 years ago, Harold and Loree Rhodes have worked together attending to the care and needs of congregations in Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina, Alabama and Florida. The brethren were warm and welcoming wherever they went. That acceptance really meant a lot to them—especially when they eventually had to leave part of their family behind as they moved.

Joys of pastoring

What have they enjoyed most about pastoring and serving God’s people?

“Getting to know the brethren and gaining their trust,” Mr. Rhodes said. “They felt comfortable talking to me about anything. Also, within the past couple of decades, the opportunity to stay in one area long enough to get to know their children as adults, as well as their grandchildren.”

While the Rhodes have appreciated the opportunity to serve in several capacities during his ministry, Mr. Rhodes said they really enjoyed the times they were involved with the Feast of Tabernacles. (A list of dates and locations where Mr. Rhodes served as Festival coordinator is included in the timeline below.)

“Getting to know many of the local vendors as well as several government officials gave us the chance to represent the Church in a positive light,” he recalled. “We still communicate with some of these people to this day.”
FATHER'S DAY PICNIC

After services on the Sabbath of June 15, the Roanoke, Virginia, congregation enjoyed our annual picnic in honor of all our fathers. The picnic was held under a pavilion within our local town park, and our loving Father could not have provided us with a more perfect day. There were blue skies; the temperature hovered in the upper 70s to low 80s; and there was a cool breeze blowing for almost the entire day.

A few of our chefs grilled the hamburgers and hot dogs to perfection, and we had every topping you might want for either available. Hamburgers and hot dogs were accompanied by fresh veggies, fruit, chips, coleslaw, potato salad and a broccoli casserole—along with several irresistible desserts.

Our fathers are the backbone of our individual families and our congregation, and we truly appreciate the work that they do and the godly example that they set for all of us.

Robert Worsham

BRETHREN ENJOY SECOND JAMBOREE

On July 7 brethren from the Birmingham, Alabama, and Trenton, Georgia, congregations gathered to enjoy the Second Annual June Bug Jamboree. That morning, as brethren enjoyed fellowshipping, the June Bug Band entertained everyone with music, and the children played in the swimming pool.

Around noon the aroma of hamburgers and hot dogs began to fill the air. After lunch, the annual cornhole toss got underway. The children rode horses and participated in sack races, and some of the adults played basketball.

The annual pie-eating contests were held in the late afternoon. Billy Hicks retained his title from last year in the adults' contest, and Sarah Davidson won the children's contest. To top off a wonderful, fun-filled day, everyone was entertained by karaoke singers.

Once again, the June Bug Jamboree was a fun-filled event, and all who attended made memories to last a lifetime.

Chuck Nichols
MINNESOTA GIVES WARM WELCOME

On Sabbath, July 6, the combined Twin Cities and St. Cloud, Minnesota, congregations welcomed our new pastor and his wife, Larry and Shirlene Solomon, to the area. The Solomons just arrived from Texas and are looking forward to getting to know the brethren and congregations in the area. In addition to the Twin Cities and St. Cloud, they are also responsible for the Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and Fargo, North Dakota, congregations.

Mr. Solomon's sermon reminded us that our primary goal and focus in this physical life is God's Kingdom. He ended with several scriptures that encouraged us with a preview of what God has in store for us!

We welcomed the Solomons with a potluck and a special cake after services. We are glad they moved here in July, and hope they are settled in prior to their first Minnesota winter!

Barbara Lee

M A Y I S S A Y S F A R E W E E L T O H AE F F E L E S

On July 13 the Miami, Florida, congregation said good-bye to our pastor and wife, Jim and Lois Haeffele, after 12 years of service. A special video was shown that highlighted those years.

The Haeffeles were presented with a special gift of appreciation. The framed artwork—painted expressly for them by member Patty Garland—included a plaque.

After the video and presentation, we all enjoyed a buffet lunch and cake.

Dennis and Diane Garland

N I N E T Y Y E A R S Y O U N G!

The Columbus-Cambridge, Ohio, congregation honored longtime Church member Elverda Rambsel, whose 90th birthday was April 3, with a cake, handmade card, balloons and pictures of her younger years.

Born in 1929 during the Great Depression, Elverda grew up in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and married David Rambsel in 1949.

Mr. and Mrs. Rambsel were called into God's Church in 1962, first attending in Akron, Ohio, and then Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, until the Wheeling, West Virginia, congregation started in 1965. She was ordained a deaconess in 1968.

The family moved to southeastern Ohio in 1972 and attended the Parkersburg, West Virginia, church until a congregation was started in Athens, Ohio. Widowed in 2012, she now attends with the Columbus-Cambridge congregation.

Mrs. Rambsel has been a church and choir pianist since 1962 and continues to play hymns for services each Sabbath. It’s her favorite way of serving.

Denise Hadley
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**

Both are baptized members of God’s Church and were baptized in 1979 and 1975. Farnum was ordained a deacon in 1998 by Ozzie Engelbart and currently serves in the Bentonville congregation.

Their daughter says, “Through the highs and lows, my parents have always been a good example of love and devotion. Their faithfulness over these 50 years has been a huge blessing and benefit to my life, and to the lives of those looking in.”

**Vicki Willoughby**

Ray and Amelia Blouin, longtime members of the Leicester, Massachusetts, congregation, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 7, 2019. They have lived in Warren, Rhode Island, since their marriage.

Amelia emigrated from Portugal to the United States in March 1967 and became a U.S. citizen in May 1998. Ray stated, “Our dating period was interesting due to Amelia not knowing much English, and me knowing very little Portuguese—but love found a way!”

Ray and Amelia came into contact with the Church of God in September 1970, when they responded to a *Reader’s Digest* ad offering a free subscription to *The Plain Truth*. They began attending in September 1975.

They both enjoy traveling, gardening, fellowship with friends and family, and serving their congregation. They have two daughters: Lorine Blouin, born June 6, 1970, and Elana Blouin, born on July 29, 1973.

On the Sabbath of July 8, 2019, the combined New England congregation presented the Blouins with a beautifully decorated cake and gifts to celebrate the occasion.

**Lorraine Daudelin**

On the Sabbath of Feb. 23 the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation honored Farnum and Joan Taylor in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were presented with a dozen red roses and a lovely cake.

The Taylors first met at the John Deere Company in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1967 when his then secretary decided to play matchmaker.

On Feb. 7, 1969, the two lovebirds said, “I do” and blended their families into one! They have been blessed with 11 children (six his, four hers, one theirs), 28 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Their youngest daughter Amanda is married to Nathan Willoughby, who serves as the pastor of the COGWA congregations in Nashville, Tennessee, and Louisville and Henderson, Kentucky.

Farnum and Joan began their journey as husband and wife in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, later moving to Omaha, Nebraska; Van Buren, Arkansas; and finally to their current home in Bella Vista, Arkansas.

**Charles and Anna Ricks**

On the Sabbath of Feb. 23 the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation joyously assisted Charles and Anna Ricks in celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary.

They first met in 1990. At that time Charles lived in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he ran five automotive parts stores; Anna was attending Austin Peay University, studying art, nursing and physiology. Their paths crossed at a Worldwide Church of God dance in Birmingham, Alabama. As Anna was going into her home after the dance, her phone rang. It was Charles. He never missed calling her for 332 days.

Anna says it was the beginning of a plan God set in motion. She moved to Conway, Arkansas, in the summer of 1992, and they married on June 4, 1994.

**Justin Adkins**

On the Sabbath of July 8, 2019, the combined New England congregation presented the Blouins with a beautifully decorated cake and gifts to celebrate the occasion.

**Lorraine Daudelin**

On the Sabbath of Feb. 23 the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation honored Farnum and Joan Taylor in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were presented with a dozen red roses and a lovely cake.

The Taylors first met at the John Deere Company in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1967 when his then secretary decided to play matchmaker.

On Feb. 7, 1969, the two lovebirds said, “I do” and blended their families into one! They have been blessed with 11 children (six his, four hers, one theirs), 28 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Their youngest daughter Amanda is married to Nathan Willoughby, who serves as the pastor of the COGWA congregations in Nashville, Tennessee, and Louisville and Henderson, Kentucky.

Farnum and Joan began their journey as husband and wife in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, later moving to Omaha, Nebraska; Van Buren, Arkansas; and finally to their current home in Bella Vista, Arkansas.

**Charles and Anna Ricks**

On the Sabbath of Feb. 23 the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation joyously assisted Charles and Anna Ricks in celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary.

They first met in 1990. At that time Charles lived in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he ran five automotive parts stores; Anna was attending Austin Peay University, studying art, nursing and physiology. Their paths crossed at a Worldwide Church of God dance in Birmingham, Alabama. As Anna was going into her home after the dance, her phone rang. It was Charles. He never missed calling her for 332 days.

Anna says it was the beginning of a plan God set in motion. She moved to Conway, Arkansas, in the summer of 1992, and they married on June 4, 1994.

**Justin Adkins**
Clayton and Inez Burrow
On Sabbath of June 29 the Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation honored Clayton and Inez Burrow for their beautiful example of 60 years of marriage. They received a framed plaque and a beautiful homemade cake.

The Burrows have served as deacon and deaconess for many years, and have many family members in the Church.

Bev McKnight

Pat and Betty Lynch
On June 9, Pentecost, the combined Castle Rock and Berthoud, Colorado, congregations were encouraged and uplifted by the ordinations of Pat and Betty Lynch as deacon and deaconess. Both have served in many ways and have set a wonderful example of steadfastness and support of their home congregation of Castle Rock.

Both Pat and Betty were baptized in March 1971 in Atlanta, Georgia, and attended services in Atlanta and Jefferson until 2008. They then moved to Houston, Texas, where they attended both Houston North and South until March 2013.

After relocating to Colorado, they began attending the Castle Rock Church in April 2013. While attending in different church areas, they served in various church activities, such as Spokesman and Graduate Clubs, Sabbath school programs, and local church and Festival choirs.

The Lynches have two children: a son, Patrick Jr., and a daughter, Sherry Fuessel.

Mark Whynaught

Don and Iris Logozar
On June 9, the Day of Pentecost, the combined Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta, congregations—along with online guests—observed the ordinations of Don and Iris Logozar to deacon and deaconess in Red Deer, Alberta. The ordination ceremony was performed by Mark Whynaught, who was assisted by elder Garry Poffenroth.

Don and Iris came into God’s Church on the Feast of Trumpets in 1969 and were baptized in July 1970. They were married in May 1970.

Don is semiretired, but works part-time as a residential real estate appraiser. Iris is a retired school secretary, but still subs when needed. They have three children and 11 grandchildren. They enjoy camping and traveling throughout Canada and the United States.

Don and Iris are a great support for the Calgary brethren. We look forward to working with Don and Iris in their new responsibilities in the years to come.

Mark Whynaught

Baptisms

Maska Augustine
On the Sabbath of Feb. 9 Maska Augustine was baptized in Bentonville, Arkansas, by his pastor, Thomas Clark. Dennis Fultz and Jack Willoughby assisted Mr. Clark with the laying on of hands. The Bentonville brethren welcomed the new family member.

Vicki Willoughby
On Sabbath morning, June 8, the St. Petersburg, Florida, area was drenched with seasonably heavy thunderstorms. However, in the afternoon the skies cleared as William (Bill) and Melissa Hudson were baptized into the family of God.

Bill and Melissa are both third-generation Christians. They have been married for 14 years and are the parents of two young daughters, Isabella and Harper. Bill is employed by his father-in-law in construction, and Melissa works as a dental hygienist in Wesley Chapel, Florida.

The baptism was a family affair, as both Bill’s and Melissa’s parents—Jim and Debbie Hudson from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Mike and Nancy Fike from Zephyrhills, Florida—were in attendance. In the photograph, St. Petersburg pastor Larry Greider addresses the happy couple as he prepares to conduct the baptism and laying on of hands. Following the ceremony, family members and friends enjoyed light snacks and lively fellowship.

Members of the Memphis, Tennessee, congregation welcomed Sherrie Jahn as a new sister in the Body of Christ on March 26, 2019. Sherrie was baptized in her home by Justin Adkins, pastor of the Sedgwick and Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis congregations.

Ronald Peter Grebur Sr., 69, died in Pembroke Springs, Florida, on Jan. 27, 2018. He was born on Aug. 10, 1948, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ron was baptized in April 1997 and was a faithful member of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, attending the Pittsburgh congregation with his wife, Brenda, also a COGWA member.

Ron was a machinist by trade and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He couldn’t sit still after retiring, so he continued to work part-time. He was known in his family, community and the congregation as one who was ready to help and serve anyone in need. For many years he served teens in the Church, coaching their sports teams and driving them to locations throughout the region. He was a skilled handyman, and those who needed advice or help knew they could count on Ron to lend a helping hand. He was also known in the congregation for his excellent and heartfelt sermonettes and was considered a friend to all.

He and Brenda were married for 49 years. He is also survived by his son, Ron Jr.; daughter, Melissa Piontka; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Brenda’s four younger brothers loved Ron like a second father, as he and Brenda supported and guided them through the years.

The Church has suffered a serious and painful loss, but we’re thankful for his loving and faithful example over the years.

Gary N. Harrison died on March 28, 2019, from lung complications. Gary was born in Riverdale, Maryland, July 19, 1954. His family moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, shortly after he was born.

Gary worked for many years as a transportation specialist for Summit County. He is survived by his father, Ervin Nelson Harrison, 91; his wife of 36 years, Connie Harrison; his sons, Jeremy and Cory Harrison; as well as three grandsons, Andon, Nicholas and Emmett Harrison. He is also survived by his sister, Gail Owen, and his brother, Jim Harrison.

Gary was a very congenial man, and everyone enjoyed engaging him in conversation. Due to his condition, he was not able to attend church for a number of months prior to his death, but still remained an integral part of the Castle Rock, Colorado, congregation.

Harvey and Sandra Bearse of the Leicester, Massachusetts, congregation would like to thank those who knew of the severe health trial of their son, John Bearse. He died on Thursday, June 13, 2019, after a long battle with cancer.

He was 56 years old and is survived by...
Sheila Burnett

Sheila Ione Burnett, a member of the Bridgetown, Barbados, congregation, died on June 17, 2019, at the age of 82.

Mrs. Burnett was an outstanding example of humility and love. These shone through the congregation. She was generous and quick to share with the brethren and contributed substantially to God's work.

Mrs. Burnett had a zeal for God’s work. She was eager in her desire to witness God’s plan come to fruition. Her example of hope, loyalty, endurance and vision strengthened all who knew her.

Throughout her health battles, her focus remained fixed on Jesus’ return and the establishment of His reign and a better world. She knew she was in the Eternal’s care and confronted her difficult trial with courage and integrity.

Many inside and outside the Church described Mrs. Burnett as a woman of strong character. She loved what COGWA stood for—its sincerity, truth and unity. She treasured conversations with the brethren about matters of God.

Along with her encouragement, Mrs. Burnett’s greatest work and service came in her dedication, faithfulness to and love for the Eternal God, His Son Jesus Christ, the truth, God’s way of life and her godly family members worldwide.

The funeral service was held at Coral Ridge Memorial Gardens’ chapel on June 25, 2019. It was followed by the interment at St. James’ Cemetery, Barbados. The regional director for the Caribbean, Arnold Hampton, officiated.

Lorraine Daudelin

Sheila Burnett

Nancy Pedersen

Nancy Pedersen died on June 18, 2019. She was baptized in 1974 and attended church in the Twin Cities, Minnesota, congregation for 45 years.

Nancy Pearl Hendrickson was born on Jan. 17, 1950, in Montevideo, Minnesota. She briefly went to Saint Cloud State University with the goal of being a teacher. She changed course and moved to Minneapolis to work in the Physics Department at the University of Minnesota.

In the summer of 1974 she met Gary Pedersen, and they married on Oct. 25, 1975. Their first child, Erika, was born in 1980, and Nancy left the U of M to stay home. Three years later, Gary and Nancy welcomed Benjamin. Gary worked for 40 years just a mile and a half from home, and Nancy later joined him there as a billing clerk. She retired in 2015.

She and Gary enjoyed traveling to such places as Italy, Guatemala and Thailand. But she also relished being home. She was devoted to her family and loved serving God and His people. She enjoyed knitting—especially stockings for her husband, who loved to wear them. She also enjoyed sewing projects, crafts and anything creative. She found happiness in the simple things in life and took great joy in her family and friends.

A favorite Bible chapter that Nancy strove to live by was Psalm 15. Nancy left a legacy of humility and service to the Twin Cities church and will be greatly missed by her friends and family.

Barbara Lee

Jean Noggle

Jean May Noggle, 84, died on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, in Searcy, Arkansas, following a stroke two days earlier.

She was born Dec. 14, 1934, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She was married to Wendell Noggle for more than 60 years, and together they raised 10 kids. She was a homemaker throughout her life.

Jean was a longtime Church of God member in the Little Rock, Arkansas, area, although in recent years she had become a shut-in due to her health. She was part of a network of shut-ins who kept up with each other through phone calls, text messages, letters and cards.

She was well-known for ending her conversations with “I love you more.”

Jean was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Wendell; one son, Donald Noggle; and one daughter, Jackie Hughes.

She is survived by four daughters, Wendy James, Jenny Moore, Mary Noggle and Julie Holland; four sons, David Noggle, Joe Noggle, Jimmy Noggle and Jeff Noggle; along with many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and many others in her extended family.

A memorial service was held on Friday, June 21, in Searcy, with Justin Adkins, pastor of the Memphis, Tennessee, and Little Rock and Sedgwick, Arkansas, churches officiating.

Jean longed for the return of Jesus Christ, and she lived her life with complete faith in the future Kingdom of God, which she now patiently awaits.

Justin Adkins
Introducing the DISCERN Podcast

Listen on Spotify
Listen on Google Play
Listen on Apple Podcasts

Featuring articles from DISCERN magazine, all in one location on your favorite podcast app!

LifeHopeandTruth.com/Discern