

# OneAccord

January 2020

## Camp Directors Plan for 2020

### **Journeys and Reflections**

Larry and Bonnie Greider

### **Sharpening Iron**

Finding the Sharp Edge of Success

### **News of the Work**

Ministerial Transfers

### **Tribute**

Richard Pinelli

# personal from the president

## Eight Years and Counting

It is hard to believe, but this issue of *One Accord* begins our ninth year! It was in January 2012 that we launched this member newsletter.

So much has happened since that date in our short history, much of it taking place in the past year alone. 2019 was an outstanding year for the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, in so many areas. We completed our own office building, moving in on March 1 of this past year. We conducted our largest ever international ministerial conference this past May. We completed the first phase of our most ambitious Church project to date—the International Leadership Program (ILP). And we ended the year financially with a solid surplus (income over expenses). How is that for one year?

But this is only one of eight! Thanks to all of you for your support and prayers, and thanks to God for His abundant blessings. We begin year nine of *One Accord* with a lot of enthusiasm and excitement, along with some ambitious plans.

As we advance into a new year, let me take you back to that first issue and review why we even began this publication. Here is what I wrote in this column for January 2012:

I was very excited to hear about the beginning of our Church newsletter *One Accord*. And I am delighted to be writing a letter for the very first issue. Everything we have done this past year has been the first of something. We are still in that start-up phase where everything we do is fresh and new.

The name we have chosen for this publication comes from the book of Acts. When it comes to the subject of Church history, most of us think of the book of Acts as the one book in the Bible that is devoted to the topic. This book documents the beginning of the New Testament Church and the events that took place during its first 35 years or so. The stories are told through two primary apostles—Peter and Paul.

The New Testament Church began on the Day of Pentecost with those present being of “one accord” (Acts 2:1). These are our roots. Today our desire is to tell the stories of God’s people in this newsletter. It is always

difficult coming up with the right name, but in the case of a Church paper it seemed most appropriate to call it *One Accord*. I am sure you will enjoy reading the stories, or the “acts,” of God’s people. We plan to make them interesting and informative, but we need your help in gathering the material. With your participation we can make this a true Church newspaper, written by and for Church members!

That was eight years ago. I hope you have enjoyed reading *One Accord* and that you have learned a lot about the brethren from around the world.

Beginning with this issue, we are bringing back a column, titled “Sharpening Iron,” that appeared that first year. This column consisted of a series of articles written by members of the Ministerial Board of Directors to provide spiritual food for all of us. In this issue, we are reprinting an article that ran in this column in 2013. It was written by a dear friend who died earlier this year, Richard Pinelli.

We have asked each member of the Ministerial Board of Directors and the administrators of the Church, all longtime ministers, to contribute an article over the next several months, and they have all agreed.

So, be on the lookout for new articles, along with the news and pictures you have seen for the past eight years. We hope you will enjoy our church newsletter as we begin year number nine!



**Jim Franks**

President

Church of God, a Worldwide Association





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## CHURCH of GOD

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**One Accord** is published monthly, except April and October, online at [members.cogwa.org](http://members.cogwa.org) by the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

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# Larry and Bonnie Greider



**L**arry and Bonnie Greider have served across the borders of five decades, in two countries and all around the United States. During their years of service, many have benefited from their dedication to youth programs. Members have enjoyed Mr. Greider's ability to serve at the helm of his congregations with a steady hand and a heart that loves God's people. Here is a little of their story.

Larry first heard *The World Tomorrow* broadcast while working with his father and attending the Ohio State University. After three years, he decided to apply to Ambassador College and was accepted to the Big Sandy, Texas, campus in 1969.

About the same time that Larry first heard the broadcast, Bonnie's dad also started listening. After ministers from the First Christian Church told her dad that he was correct about the Sabbath and holy days, but that they could not teach it without losing members, Bonnie's family quit attending. They kept the Sabbath at home for several months before finding out they were very close to the campus and congregation in Pasadena, California. She was accepted to Ambassador College in Pasadena in 1970.

In 1971 Bonnie transferred to Big Sandy, where Larry saw "a very lovely girl that caught my eye." They met, fell in love and were married June 12, 1973.

## Family events and service

Their honeymoon was literally the trip to their first assignment in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Two years later, the Greiders again combined a big family event with service to the Church when their first child was born the same day

they moved to their first pastorate, serving Barrie, Orillia and Bracebridge, Ontario. Here Mr. Greider served as the Festival coordinator for sites in Niagara Falls and Ottawa.

In 1979 they were transferred to Vancouver, British Columbia, where Mr. Greider pastored the congregation and coordinated the Canadian Y.O.U. and Y.E.S. programs (the teen and preteen programs of the Worldwide Church of God).

The Greiders came back to the United States in 1980. Between then and 2019, they served congregations in Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, California and Florida. He also served as regional pastor for two areas, was a camp director for two camps and served as the national camp director. When COGWA formed, the family moved to Florida, where they served until retiring in 2019.

## Favorite memories

What did Mr. Greider enjoy most about being in the ministry?

"I enjoyed preaching and teaching. My goal always was to help people become the best they could be, both spiritually, physically and emotionally. I love helping people grow." One of Mr. Greider's favorite stories speaks to the dedication of a man in northern Ontario.

"As a newly ordained minister, I received a first-time visit request to see a man way up north in Ontario. ... As we sat and talked, I realized that he had sent his visit request before I was even called. This man had to wait until I was





called, baptized, attended Ambassador College and was trained in the ministry before he could have his first visit. That was humbling.”

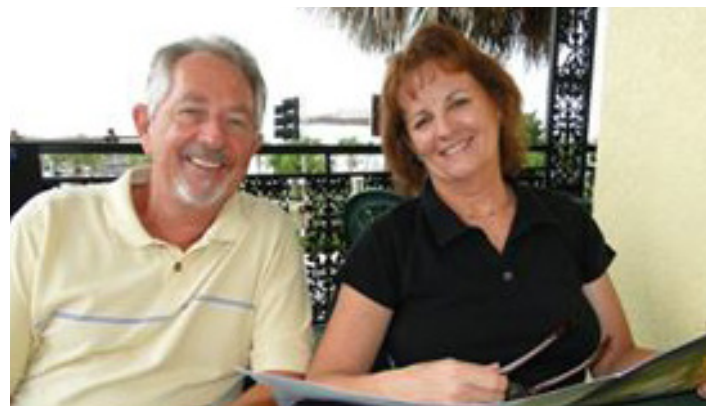
Another favorite memory: “I vividly remember being in a hospital in North Carolina where a baby was very ill with spinal meningitis. Although it was not allowed, I walked into the room and anointed her. ... As I anointed her, God healed her immediately. The doctor stated that he didn’t know what I did, but I was welcome to come back and do it again any time.”

### Passing on a legacy of service

The Greiders have four children—(pictured above, from left) Aaron, Sharon Koester, Michael, and Karie Wohlgemuth—and 10 grandchildren. Their kids’ experience being children of a pastor was positive.

“Our children were young at a time when there was a lot of activity for young people, and they still remain friends with some from long ago. I think the biggest impact on their lives has been the opportunity to attend and serve at many of our camps. They have also been given opportunities to travel to many places and meet people of different cultures and backgrounds. They all grew up believing it was their responsibility to serve, and are all a part of serving God’s people in their church areas and with their families.”

With their retirement, the Greiders leave behind a legacy of service and dedication to God’s people. ☺☺



## On the Road Again

The following are the areas Larry and Bonnie Greider served from 1973 to 2019 (in chronological order):

Toronto West, Ontario  
 Barrie, Ontario  
 Orillia, Ontario  
 Bracebridge, Ontario  
 Vancouver, British Columbia  
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
 Fayetteville, North Carolina  
 Florence, South Carolina  
 Belleville, Illinois  
 Alton, Illinois  
 Mount Vernon, Illinois  
 Kansas City, Kansas  
 Fairview Heights, Illinois  
 Salem, Illinois  
 Los Angeles, California  
 Bakersfield, California  
 Fresno, California  
 Jacksonville, Florida  
 Tallahassee, Florida  
 Lakeland, Florida  
 St. Petersburg, Florida

**Additional duties:** Over the years, Mr. Greider also served as a Festival coordinator (for Niagara Falls, New York, and Ottawa, Ontario), the Canadian Y.O.U. and Y.E.S. coordinator, regional pastor (Central and Southwest regions), camp director (Orchard Crest and Pinecrest) and the national camp director.



# SHARPENING IRON

**W**ith this issue we begin the ninth year of *One Accord*, the monthly newsmagazine for the Church of God, a Worldwide Association. Eighty issues later—dating from January 2012—you may not remember that for the first two years we ran a regular column written by members of the Ministerial Board of Directors (MBOD). “Sharpening Iron,” we called it, and for reasons I cannot now recall, that feature stopped at the end of 2013.

In some recent editorial planning discussions, the suggestion came up that even though *One Accord* aims primarily to keep members informed of newsy events, it could benefit from more spiritual content. From that came the idea to resurrect “Sharpening Iron,” and during the

MBOD’s December meeting the board members and operation managers agreed to once again author this column.

The title, of course, comes from Proverbs 27:17, “As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” Each article will seek to sharpen us spiritually, focusing on relevant topics of Christian living, spiritual growth, lessons learned, meat in due season, etc. I know you will benefit from them!

A familiar figure was missing from this board meeting—Richard Pinelli, who died July 13, 2019. You will see a tribute to Mr. Pinelli elsewhere in this issue. As a further tribute, however, for the first piece in this revived column we thought it appropriate to reprint a “Sharpening Iron” column he wrote that appeared in the July 2013 issue.

**Clyde Kilough**

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## FINDING THE SHARP EDGE OF SUCCESS

Making steady, consistent improvements can be the key ingredient to becoming a profitable servant.

**By Richard Pinelli**

**I**f I were asked which principle was one of the most helpful in the journey to the Kingdom of God, what would I say?

In Luke 17:10 we are told, “When you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’” On the surface this scripture seems rather harsh, yet it offers a vital lesson in overcoming human flaws and building godly character.

Luke 16:10 reveals an overriding principle to show how we become profitable servants: “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much.”

The principle is simple: You get better by doing small things well. Life is really made up of a lot of small things.

Practicing little things—the basics—gives one an edge in life toward success.

I love to cook, especially Italian food like tomato bruschetta and Italian sausage (without the *oink*). I try to make the recipe better by revving up the uniqueness of flavors through the use of special spices.

In the same way, getting better is based on the principle of continuous improvement, learning and changing and increasing your capabilities and being a constant learner. The sharp edge of success is found in a simple principle—the principle of the slight edge—becoming better little by little.

Victory can depend on the smallest of improvements. In almost every game ever devised, the victory goes



to the one who scores merely one point more than the opposition. In a horse race, the difference between winning and second place may be a scant inch, but that can be all it takes to win.

In the July 2009 *Good Housekeeping* magazine, there is an article on good health titled “Small Changes to Get Healthier,” where Richard Laliberte gives 10 principles on how to “tithe” your way to better health.

He said, “To be successful at any big undertaking ... you may be better off giving only 10 percent and not worrying too much about the other proverbial 100. ‘You’re more likely to succeed by making small changes,’ says Catherine Champagne, Ph.D., professor of research at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Louisiana State University System.”

Laliberte confirms, “Micro-improvements do more than chip away at a larger objective—they accomplish plenty on their own.”

Stephen M.R. Covey in his book *The Speed of Trust* writes, “Get Better is ... based on the principles of continuous improvement, learning, and change. ... The opposite of Get Better is entropy, deterioration, resting on your laurels. ... If you aren’t making a conscious effort to Get Better, you’re not just standing still; you’re getting farther and farther behind.”

## Two biblical principles

In Deuteronomy 7:21-24 we’re told the children of Israel would put out their enemies “little by little.” In life each victory in overcoming our enemy is done little by little, by the principle of the slight edge for success.

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Learn the principle of gaining the slight edge, and you will find major successes in becoming a truly profitable servant. ©A



## New Member of Ministerial Board of Directors

After the death of Richard Pinelli, ministers of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, selected Lyle Welty to take his position on the Ministerial Board of Directors. Board members now include David Baker, Arnold Hampton, Joel

Meeker (chairman), Larry Salyer, Richard Thompson, Leon Walker and Lyle Welty.

## Changes to Doctrine Committee

At the latest Ministerial Board of Directors (MBOD) meeting, the board appointed Doug Johnson to replace David Johnson. The Doctrine Committee is now made up of the following: John Foster, Bruce Gore, Don Henson (chairman), Doug Johnson and Larry Neff.

## Changes to MEAC

The MBOD also appointed Steve Moody to serve on the Moral and Ethics Assessment Committee (MEAC), replacing Les McCullough, who died in March of 2019. MEAC members now include Mike Blackwell, Ken Giese, Mike Hanisko, Steve Moody and Paul Suckling (chairman).

## Ministerial Transfers

Field Minister	Previous Assignment	New Assignment
Tom Kirkpatrick	Birmingham, Alabama, and Trenton, Georgia	Retirement
Paul Luecke	Wichita and Salina, Kansas, and Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	Birmingham, Alabama, and Trenton, Georgia
Greg Sargent	Kansas City, Kansas, and Columbia, Missouri	Also pastoring Wichita and Salina, Kansas
Ken Giese	Fort Worth, Texas	Also pastoring Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



# Camp Directors Plan for 2020

By Ken Treybig

The 2019 Camp Directors' Conference took place Nov. 11-13 at headquarters in McKinney, Texas. The camp directors and their wives were the first team (outside the office employees) to use the conference room in the new building and were grateful for the extra space, since there were 27 in the group this time.

The directors were happy to have most of the wives attend, since they are deeply involved in the administrative work and bring another needed perspective to the discussions.

Additionally, Jason Ranew was able to attend shortly before resigning and stepping into his new position in a local Florida law firm. His expertise—and reminders about the importance of following all the safety procedures the team

has established—has been a great help to the CYC program over the past nine years.

As each director briefly reviewed highlights of this year's camp, it became clear that the Christian Living theme of "Discernment: Training Your Heart" connected very well with campers in both the preteen and teen camps. It was interesting to hear the way different camps implemented the theme and covered it in Compass Checks, classes and Bible studies.

The team always enjoys meeting, fellowshiping and discussing trends, issues, needs and safety concerns for our camps and youth of the Church. In their discussions they settled on a theme for 2020—"Firmly Anchored: Holding Fast What Is Good"—and are looking forward to another exciting and productive year of camps across the nation. ©A







# 2019 Malawi Youth Camp

By Tielmans Chirwa

**S**enga Bay in the Salima district, along the shores of Lake Malawi, was the venue for this year's youth camp in Malawi. We were 42 in total—18 boys, 12 girls, eight camp staff and four kitchen staff. The camp lasted four days, Aug. 11 to 14, 2019, and during this period the youths absorbed a lot of knowledge and enjoyed a number of physical activities.

Activities included Bible education, questions and answers, morning physical fitness, water games, swimming and video.

The theme of the camp was obedience to God and parents. Various scriptures on the topic of obedience were read and explained. Youths were also encouraged to work harder and strive for higher education in order to make a better living and be able to assist the needy.

The most thrilling activity was the questions and answers, which showed that the youths were listening and eager to know more truth. Modern technology and social media have exposed our young people to fake news and deception, but our youths exhibit a hunger for the truth.

Spicing up the whole activity were the delicious meals—breakfast, lunch and dinner. The campers expressed their gratitude for the tasty meals.

The camp was one of the best we have ever had in terms of brainstorming content. We are very grateful for the assistance the Church renders to COGWA's international youths, enabling them to have an education that is based on God's Word. ©A





## SPOKESMAN CLUB MEMBERS ENJOY ACTIVITY

On the weekend of June 29, 2019, Spokesman Club members from Guatemala and El Salvador got together for an activity in Monterrico, Guatemala. Staring out at the sea and observing the roaring waves, many were struck by the great power of God.

It was a wonderful time of Christian fellowship and brotherhood. The Sabbath was received with gratitude, and a Bible study was presented by the local minister, Gamaliel Galdámez. The members were reminded that they are ambassadors of Christ and have individual responsibilities to fulfill.

Services were held Sabbath morning, with inspiring messages presented by Luis Mundo, Guatemala pastor, and Isai Morales, president of the Spokesman Club in Guatemala. Both motivated those present to be better Christians.

In the afternoon there was an interactive Bible study. Then, after sunset, the long-awaited Spokesman Club session was held. We heard from four speakers: one from El Petén, one from El Salvador, one from Quetzaltenango and one from Guatemala City.

It was a very profitable evening. Dr. Mundo evaluated the speakers, thanking them for their effort and participation, and the attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner that they all worked together to prepare.

It was very pleasant to enjoy the surrounding environment and the sincere affection of each and every one of the brethren.

**Eleodoro Avila**



## BENTONVILLE SENDS CARE PACKAGES

In November the ladies of the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation joined together and prepared care packages for the 2020 class of Foundation Institute.

Upon delivery of the care packages, lunch was provided for staff and students.

**Vicki Willoughby**





## LUNCH WITH A SHUT-IN

Twenty-five members of the Hickory, North Carolina, congregation gathered together at the home of local shut-in Cindy McCauley and her mother, Barbara Sprouse, on Aug. 24, 2019, for an afternoon of lively fellowship and snacks. Cindy was thrilled to have so many members visit with her.

**Leanna Mangels**



## ASHEBORO ZOO OUTING

On Sept. 15, 2019, 35 members from the Hickory, Greensboro and Raleigh, North Carolina, congregations walked the Asheboro Zoo for a fun-filled day. It is the world's largest natural habitat zoo with 2,600 wooded acres.

We enjoyed the opportunity to feed the giraffes and walk among dozens of butterfly species in a beautiful garden of tropical plants and colorful flowers.

**Leanna Mangels**



## NORTH CAROLINA MEMBERS ENJOY LABOR DAY PICNIC

On Sept. 1, 2019, 40 Church members from the Greensboro, Hickory and Raleigh, North Carolina, congregations got together at the home of Greg and Jan Swartz for a wonderful afternoon of fun, food and fellowship.

Many gathered in a grassy, shaded area for rousing conversation in camp chairs, while others participated in field croquet, horseshoes, ladder ball, football, a lively water balloon toss and fishing.

**Leanna Mangels**







## BUFFALO ENJOYS TRUMPETS LUNCH

The Buffalo, New York, congregation enjoyed a break from its past tradition of meeting in a different hall for holy days, and had services for the 2019 Feast of Trumpets in the hall where it regularly meets.

Members from four different congregations attended, and a special fall-themed meal was shared between services. To get members ready for the fall holy days, the young adults decorated the hall with various types of displays depicting the fall harvest of the area.

Plans are to do something similar for the upcoming spring holy days as well. The Buffalo congregation has been meeting at the Heritage Discovery Center in Buffalo for almost seven years.

**Stephan Koenig**

## HOUSTON WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

On the Sabbath of Aug. 3, 2019, the Houston North congregation had the privilege of being introduced to and hosting its new pastor and wife, Gary and Gale Black. It was a very special Sabbath day indeed, as Mr. Black gave his inaugural sermon. During his remarks, he described portions of his journey to pastoring here in Houston.

Most recently, the Blacks had pastored in the Minnesota and Wisconsin regions. Mr. Black is replacing retiring pastor Jim Servidio, who had also pastored in those same regions just before the Blacks, and he joked about possibly following the Servidios once more!

His sermon was followed by a reception after services in the church fellowship hall, meeting and greeting a large majority of the congregation. A potluck-style luncheon was served, and a welcome cake was presented to the Blacks. It was a very exciting occasion for all those in attendance!

**Peter Gabriel**



## JEFFERSON ENJOYS INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

On Saturday evening, Nov. 16, 2019, the Jefferson, Georgia, congregation held an international night with food tasting and a potluck. The potluck table contained various dishes that represented different countries and ethnic groups. There were also booths that represented Canada, Italy, Australia, Japan, Poland, England, Mexico and, yes, even Texas (since Texans love to claim their independence).

Prizes were awarded for the best displays—first place to England (Jadea and Don Blencowe), followed by Texas (Jacob and Kelley Kennebeck). Jeff Yost received a prize for the person who has traveled to the most countries (over 40).

It was an enjoyable evening filled with great food, fun and fellowship.

**Chant'a Collier**



## LADIES ENJOY HIGH TEA

Ladies of all ages, primarily attendees of the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation, gathered together for a grand high tea on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019. They assembled at the Sparkman House Luxury Bed and Breakfast, a 1905 Queen Anne-style house boasting 12-foot ceilings and a wraparound porch, located in the Historic District of Plant City.

Attendees thoroughly enjoyed delicious tea sandwiches, scones and Devonshire cream with a spot of hot tea. The entire event was savored and sprinkled with delightful conversations.

**Charles Haughee and Deneen Sinon**



## WHITE ELEPHANT FUN

The Salt Lake City, Utah; Grand Junction, Colorado; and Calgary/Edmonton, Alberta, congregations—all pastored by Mark Whynaucht—each enjoyed a Sabbath during November with a potluck and Feast-themed white elephant game following. Members brought to the table a wrapped item obtained at the Feast site they attended (some silly and some beautiful), and the games ensued!

As you can see from all the smiling faces, everybody had a wonderful time enjoying their evening together!

**Brigitte Werts**





## LONDON, KENTUCKY, LADIES ENJOY SEMINAR

On Dec. 7, 2019, after services and a delicious “pot-blessing” meal had fed both spiritual and physical appetites, Jeannie Evans treated the women of the London, Kentucky, congregation to a seminar titled “A Bucket List Makes a Better Woman!” Counting Mrs. Evans, there were 11 women in attendance.

Aware of the God-given talents and gifts of her audience, Mrs. Evans lit the spark within the ladies to set goals for themselves. She related inspiring examples of women who did not allow obstacles to stop them. They achieved things that would have been thought impossible until they proved otherwise.

Mrs. Evans encouraged her listeners to ask themselves both what they wanted to achieve and what would glorify God. She reminded them that goals are what keep one moving forward. In order to spur ideas, she gave examples of possible goals they might set to improve themselves and further serve the Church, their families and the greater community.

Mrs. Evans’ message and warm positivity was a spur to the ladies to pursue challenge and to grow in and improve their own and others’ lives—in short, to embrace the meaning and fullness of life. Eric Evans, pastor of the London congregation, closed with a few comments to reinforce the encouragement given.

**Jennifer Cox**



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

## Weddings



**Tabitha and Alex Lord**

Brian and Suzanne Morgan, together with Scott and Monica Lord, are pleased to announce the marriage of their children, Tabitha CarolAnn Morgan and Alexander Cummings Lord.

The two were married in a lovely ceremony performed by the groom’s father, Scott Lord, on Sept. 14, 2019, surrounded by loving and supportive friends and family.



Tabitha and Alex both grew up in God's Church and have many scattered friends and family who were unable to attend the ceremony. They want all of those friends and family to know they were thought of and missed, and are loved so much.

**Suzanne Morgan**

## Births



**Isaac Raphael AungMin**

Julius and Isabella AungMin of the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation welcomed their first child, a little boy born Nov. 13, 2019.

The baby's name is Isaac Raphael AungMin. Grandparents are Tha and Mu mu Sein and Jack and Elizabeth AungMin, all of whom attend the Raleigh congregation.

**Ron Kelley**



**Eliana Arabella Poe**

Hsar Eh Poe and Magnolia Ko from the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation are happy to announce

the birth of their second child, Eliana Arabella Poe. She was born on Nov. 14, 2019, at 3:42 p.m., weighing 6 pounds 15.8 ounces and measuring 19 inches.

Eliana is the second grandchild of Esther Ko and the late Thomas Ko. She has been welcomed with lots of love and kisses, especially from big brother Ephraim.

**Ron Kelley**

## Anniversaries



**Flavius and Evelyn Adkins**



**Bob and Jane Barbeau**

September of 2019 was a very momentous month in the St. Louis, Missouri, congregation. Two couples celebrated milestone anniversaries.

Flavius and Evelyn Adkins celebrated their 60th anniversary, while Bob and Jane Barbeau celebrated their 40th.

Both couples enjoyed sharing the occasion with friends and family. They are prime examples of healthy, happy marriages.

**Tammy Holman**



**Claude and Sylvia Meadows**

After services on the Sabbath of Oct. 5, 2019, the Roanoke, Virginia, congregation honored longtime members Claude and Sylvia Meadows with a surprise celebration for their 50th wedding anniversary. Claude and Sylvia shared with the congregation a lovely cake that was specially prepared for them, fruit punch and other refreshments—as well as some fond memories from the past 50 years of their lives together.

**Robert Worsham**



**Ardith and Ed Weiss**

The Austin, Texas, congregation celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Ed and Ardith (Enos) Weiss with a reception after services on the Sabbath of June 8, 2019. It was a festive occasion shared with extended family members and the entire congregation.

The week before, on June 1, the East Texas congregation invited Ed and Ardith to celebrate their 50 years together with them. Prior to moving to the Austin area in 2017, Ed and Ardith had lived in East Texas for the majority of their married life.

Ed and Ardith met at Ambassador College and were married two days

after graduation on June 8, 1969. Ed worked for the landscaping department and managed the golf course until 1994. Ardith began her career at Ambassador as the secretary to the dean of students. Later, after obtaining her master's degree in counseling and speech, she became the director of Career Services and a speech instructor.

After Ambassador College closed, Ed and Ardith went on to pursue other careers in the East Texas area. Ed was the manager of Carl Pool Products, and Ardith was an administrator and instructor at three area colleges.

In 2017 Ed and Ardith retired to Round Rock, Texas, and look forward to many more years together. They have two children, Mark (Amanda) Weiss and Kristie (Thomas) Rocheleau, and five grandchildren.

**Kristie Rocheleau**



**Monica and Lee Hart**

On Aug. 31, 2019, the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, congregation, celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Lee and Monica Hart.

The couple were presented with flowers and a gift card from the church. Cake was served after the presentation.

Lee and Monica first met at a Worldwide Church of God service in Pittsburgh in the spring of 1968, but because the congregations were so large then—with AM and PM services—they did not meet again until later that year at the Feast in Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania. They then began spending time together.

They were married by James

Friddle after one counseling session that started out to be about the death of a family member and ended with Mr. Friddle suggesting they were ready for marriage. They were married a month later!

Lee Hart was ordained a deacon in September 2014. Both Lee and Monica have been steadfast and reliable members of the Pittsburgh congregation through the years. They have always shown a zeal and love for God's ways and God's people.

Lee and Monica have one daughter, Georgina (Mark) Machen, and two granddaughters.

**Judy Henry**



**Rachel and Robert Dillard**

On Nov. 1, 2019, Robert "Bobby" and Rachel Dillard celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The Hickory, North Carolina, congregation surprised the Dillards with an anniversary celebration after services on Sabbath, Nov. 2. This gave everyone the chance to share in their joy with cake, punch and special treats.

Bobby and Rachel met in Germany in 1967 while Rachel's father and Bobby, both in the military, were stationed there at the same time. When they returned to the States, they married in Alamogordo, New Mexico, in 1969.

They've lived in several states, including Georgia, Tennessee and now North Carolina. They have two children—a son and a daughter. Bobby says, "It's been a long and winding road, but God has seen us through 50 years together."

**Leanna Mangels**

## Baptisms



**From left, Kambani Banda (pastor), Edrick Kapaso, Sylvia Hamuchindu, Shirley Banda and Joe Mukanta**

One of the highlights of the 2019 Feast of Tabernacles in Mapoko, Zambia, took place on Tuesday, Oct. 15, as all 174 of the brethren there gathered to witness the baptisms of Joe Mukanta, Sylvia Hamuchindu and Edrick Kapaso.

As some of the young men worked hard pumping water from the well to fill the baptism tank, Clyde Kilough and Kambani Banda, the pastor in Zambia, completed the final counseling for Joe, Sylvia and Edrick. Then we all gathered for the occasion, everyone sang a hymn a capella, and we proceeded with this wonderful ceremony. Immediately after the laying on of hands, everyone gathered around to offer them joyous congratulations.

**Clyde Kilough**



**Briere Delaney**

The Buffalo, New York, congregation is pleased to announce that Briere Delaney, formerly Kester, was baptized by Scott Lord at the Feast of Tabernacles in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Briere grew up in the Buffalo congregation as the youngest child of Wayne and Penny Kester.



“Baptism is something I always wanted, but was willing to wait for the right time,” she said. Briere hopes this new chapter in her life will lead to more understanding and fulfillment of God’s way in her life. When she is not raising and homeschooling her three boys, she works part-time as a shopper for Instacart.

**Stephan Koenig**



**Chase Holland**

The Atlanta, Georgia, congregation welcomes Chase Holland to the family of God. Chase was baptized by Mark Winner, pastor of the Atlanta, Jefferson and Macon, Georgia, congregations, on the evening of Sept. 26, 2019.

Chase has served the congregation in meaningful ways—always with a smile on his face—since he began attending in October of 2017.

**Chant’a Collier**



**Kate Manning**

The Buffalo, New York, congregation is pleased to welcome its newest member. Kate Manning was baptized into the faith after many weeks of counseling. As a special occasion, the baptism took place at the 2019 Feast of Tabernacles.

Kate attends the Buffalo congregation with her parents, Dave and Patricia, as well as her brother Ben.

Kate has served in the choir and participated in the congregation’s Young Christians Club. She looks forward to serving her congregation in new ways in the future.

**Stephan Koenig**



**Rosa Yanira Melara de Ramos and José David Ramos Zaldaña**

On Saturday, June 8, 2019, shortly before Pentecost in San Salvador, El Salvador, José David Ramos Zaldaña and his wife, Rosa Yanira Melara de Ramos, decided to make a covenant of obedience with God.

They live in El Volcán, Santa Tecla, El Salvador. The family has already attended three Feasts of Tabernacles in Antigua, Guatemala. They came into the Church in an interesting way: Their son Ariel began attending when he was 7 years old, coming with an uncle, who eventually left the Church. The boy learned to serve diligently, setting up chairs and managing sound equipment. He continued to attend with his grandmother, Matilde Zaldaña, and his aunt, Felicita Zaldaña, always setting an example of good behavior. His father and mother liked this behavior, and this sparked their interest in attending.

Ariel continues to attend and serve in the Church. He is now 15. His parents appreciate him very much. Because of their son’s example, they came to find the truth. They are excited to be baptized after more than a year of counseling.

**Eleodoro Avila**

## Ordinations



**Claire and Gareth Gordon**

Gareth and Claire Gordon were ordained deacon and deaconess during the morning service of the Feast of Trumpets, Sept. 30, 2019. Assisting Peter Hawkins (pastor for the British Isles) with the ordination were elders Eddie Johnson and Will McLoughlin. Gareth and Claire serve in the London, England, congregation.

**Peter Hawkins**



**Sherry and Dave Beilstein**

On Sept. 21, 2019, the church in Morgantown, West Virginia, was encouraged and uplifted by the ordination of Dave Beilstein as deacon and his wife, Sherry, as deaconess. Bill Jahns, pastor of the Morgantown congregation, performed the ceremony and was assisted by elder Blaney Sproul.

Dave was born into the Church and was baptized on Dec. 9, 1981. Sherry began attending with her family at the age of 6; she was baptized on April 3, 1982. Dave and Sherry were married June 28, 1987. They have three adult

children, Timothy, Zachary and Jeana.

Dave and Sherry have served in many ways over many years and have set a wonderful example of support, love and care of the brethren in our area.

**Linda Sproul**

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## Obituaries



**Jacqueline Sue McNeely**

Jacqueline Sue McNeely died Sept. 22, 2019, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Behind her faith in God and Christ, family was everything to Jacque: her husband of over 62 years, Melton; children Steve (and Mary), Debbie (and Mike) Machin, and Pam Penn; grandchildren Danielle McNeely, Kristine (McNeely) Taylor, Stephen McNeely, Michael Machin, Meredith Machin, Marissa Machin, Billy Penn, and Dillon Penn and their spouses; 11 great-grandchildren; sister Sandra (and Sol) Becker; and many nieces and nephews.

Jacque was born on April 11, 1938, in Abilene, Texas, to Robert Lee (RL) and Johnye (Eason) Welch. She grew up with her siblings Bill (deceased) and Sandra in Abilene, where she met her future husband. Melton and Jacque first lived in Farmington, New Mexico, where Stephen and Deborah were born.

In 1960 Melton and Jacque were baptized, and in 1962 the family moved to Pasadena, California, so Melton could attend Ambassador College. Pamela was born shortly thereafter, and Jacque cared for their children while Melton worked in

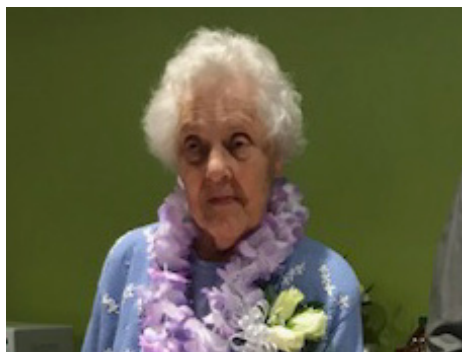
finance for the Church and college. After all the kids were in school, Jacque worked as a clerk in the Church's accounting department, where her sense of humor and Southern accent endeared her to all.

In 1978 the family relocated to Dallas, Texas, where Melton started a CPA firm. Melton was later recruited to become the director of Financial Affairs at the Big Sandy campus, and they moved to East Texas in 1981.

Jacque was a loving wife, mom, granny, and great-granny. She was a tireless worker, fastidious homemaker, kindhearted friend and gracious hostess. Sadly, Jacque's activities were curtailed when she developed Alzheimer's in her early 70s, but her love for family never dimmed.

Jacque is missed now more than ever. Yet Jacque is at rest, awaiting the resurrection at Christ's return.

**Steve McNeely**



**Barbara Holladay**

Barbara Holladay, of the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation, died peacefully on Pentecost, June 9, 2019, at the age of 93 after a brief illness.

She is survived by her loving husband, Harry Holladay, also a longtime member of the Raleigh congregation. Mrs. Holladay was deeply loved by the brethren and will be greatly missed. She served for many years as our pianist.

A memorial service was held in Raleigh on June 20 with elder Steve Villaescusa and pastor Ron Kelley officiating.

**Ron Kelley**



**Myrna Miller**

Myrna (Stemplewski) Miller, a member of God's Church for more than 49 years in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, died at the age of 77 on Oct. 25, 2019.

Mrs. Miller was born Sept. 14, 1942, the daughter of Stephon and Mary (DeSalle) Stemplewski. She and her husband, Bill, were married for 47 years. Mr. Miller described his wife as "the modern-day fulfillment of the Proverbs 31 woman." They attended the Ambassador Bible Center together in 2000, which they found to be a way to confirm their beliefs and faith.

Mrs. Miller made friends easily and stayed in touch with those to whom she became close. She loved the brethren, serving them mostly quietly behind the scenes. The couple loved to travel, both domestically and internationally, especially for the Feast of Tabernacles.

Her commitment to God's calling and her strong faith were among her outstanding characteristics. She now awaits her gift of salvation in the resurrection.

**Don Henson**



**Nathan Fultz**

Nathan Fultz, of the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation, died unexpectedly on Nov. 9, 2019. Nathan



was born July 7, 1969, to the late Carson Fultz and Rachel Fultz in San Jose, California. He was raised in the Church of God with his four older brothers and sisters: Julie, Shelly, Dennis and Kenneth. Nathan was baptized May 23, 1993.

In 1996 Nathan moved with family to Arkansas, where he began a career in technology and later sales. In 2000 he met his wife, Alicia, on a Church-sponsored archaeological dig in Israel. They became engaged at the Feast and married March 18, 2001.

They welcomed their first child, Jocelyn, in 2009. Jessica followed in 2011, then Jayne in 2014, and Carson in 2017. Nathan and Alicia and all the extended family taught their children to toast "To the Kingdom!"

Nathan was very active in the Church and an ordained deacon. He coordinated sound, updated the congregational website, and was an early supporter of webcasting when COGWA formed. He was also a frequent speaker and song leader. Nathan served on the staff at preteen

Camp Cherokee, and many campers have shared how much they will miss his joking.

Nathan was a friendly, outgoing man with an unforgettable, infectious laugh and a gift for generosity. He had a way of setting others at ease, and you could be guaranteed that wherever Nathan was, there would be laughter and friendship. He was a servant to his entire family (and many others) and a larger-than-life presence to his wife and children.

**Fultz Family**

# Tribute



**Richard Robert Pinelli**

Richard Robert Pinelli died on July 13, 2019, in Vancouver, Washington. He was 81 years old.

Richard was born in Chicago, Illinois, on July 25, 1938, to Joseph (Pat) and Evelyn Pinelli. He was the older of two children.

His mother began listening to Herbert Armstrong on the radio in 1954. He, his mother and sister began attending the Radio Church of God at that time. His path took him to Ambassador College, where he began his five-year stay as a student. It was there that he met Mary Porter. They were married Sept. 25, 1960.

After graduating from Ambassador College in 1961, Richard was hired by the Church.

He was sent to Vancouver, British Columbia, to work in the Canadian office in the personal correspondence department. During their time in Vancouver, Richard and Mary had their first child, Jonathan.

In 1964 Richard was ordained to the ministry. His first pastoral duties were in the brand-new congregation of Edmonton, Alberta, and he served there for the next nine years. While in Edmonton, Richard and Mary welcomed their second child, Adrienne. Eventually, he also served congregations in Calgary, Alberta, and a Bible study group in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. He also trained a number of ministerial trainees sent from Pasadena, California. In addition to his pastoral duties, he served as district superintendent over congregations in Alberta and north-central British Columbia.

In the summer of 1973 Richard and his family moved to Pasadena for a nine-month sabbatical. Afterward, they moved back to British Columbia, where Richard served as head of Ministerial Services for Canada. Following this, he pastored congregations in Vancouver, Surrey and Abbotsford, British Columbia, and served as a district superintendent over congregations in British Columbia.

In 1978 the family was once again on the move. This time they headed to eastern Canada, where Richard

pastored the Toronto (East and West), Ontario, congregations. This was his final move in Canada and capped a time of service from 1961 to 1985.

In the summer of 1985 Richard was transferred back to the United States and assumed pastoral responsibilities for the Kansas City (East), Missouri, congregation. In 1989 he was transferred to Indiana, where he pastored Indianapolis and Terre Haute, and served as a regional pastor.

After the Church upheaval of the early 1990s, Richard assumed the position of operation manager of Ministerial Services. He continued in that capacity for 10 years before finally taking the position of coordinator of ministerial development programs. Helping to find, train and ordain men for the pastoral ministry was a passion that Richard loved. Having trained over 30 men through the years, it was something deeply ingrained in him.

In 2011 Richard took on his final assignment, pastoring congregations in St. Louis and Rolla, Missouri. He retired from the full-time ministry in 2014.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph (Pat) and Evelyn, and his grandson Justin. He is survived by his wife, Mary, his sister Eileen, son Jonathan, daughter Adrienne, daughter-in-law Debbie, grandson Kegan and granddaughter Emaerie.

**Jon Pinelli**



*Teens are cordially invited to the Southeast Regional*

# **ROARING 2020s**

## **PROM**

### **MARCH 14, 2020**

*Families with teens are invited to join the Nashville congregation for a weekend of fun and fellowship. Plans include a Friday night welcome reception, Sabbath services, teen prom (including dinner and seniors' tribute), a Sunday morning service activity and lunch. Save the dates now—registration will open in January.*

*Questions? [sharontb@gmail.com](mailto:sharontb@gmail.com)*

