

OneAccord

May/June 2020



25 Years of Presidents' Day Family Weekend

Sharpening Iron
The Measure of Our Days

personal from the president

Coronavirus and Change

As I write this column, I am very sad. While stuck at home, I have been watching the stories of those who have died from the coronavirus. When this all began back in January, I never imagined that it would have such a profound impact on the world. In less than two months the coronavirus (COVID-19) brought the world to its knees. Many lives have been lost. It is no longer an abstract concept or something that could happen. It did happen! It is real.

This specific strain of the coronavirus was first discovered in December 2019, hence the name COVID-19. How many lives will it take before it runs its course? That is anyone's guess. How many lives will be changed as a result of the virus? Impossible to calculate! As I write this column, more than 100,000 people have died. That is a lot! Even though it isn't the worst pandemic when it comes to total loss of life, it has been one of the fastest spreading and most deadly the world has ever seen.

The effect of this virus doesn't stop with those who have died. The loss of a loved one forever changes the dynamics of a family. In addition, almost 20 million Americans have lost their jobs as a direct result of the virus. The loss of a job affects the family and extended family. Worldwide, the people whose lives have been changed by this virus number into the billions. Nothing like this has ever happened before in history.

The economic fallout from the virus will possibly bring whole nations down. Food shortages and possibly even famine are on the horizon for many of the struggling nations of the world. The world as we knew it on Jan. 1 is gone and in some areas will be gone for good. Life will never be the same.

As I prepared for the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread earlier this year, I was focused on the need for change, but I did not consider how the world would change during this holy day season. We partook of the symbols of the body and blood of Christ on the Passover. Then we removed leavening as a type of sin from our homes, and for seven days we ate unleavened bread as a type of righteousness. These were symbolic of the changes we should be making in our lives. And each year at the conclusion of the festival, we realize that

overcoming sin and changing the way we live our lives aren't limited to the Days of Unleavened Bread, but are year-round challenges.

The rapid spread of the coronavirus should be a wake-up call for Christians. Sin is similar to a virus that can wreak havoc in our lives. It can spread so rapidly that you become helpless in its path. It seems to come from nowhere, and it spreads from person to person. Sin affects everyone it comes in contact with, whether the person knows it or not.

The coronavirus will wane in the weeks and months ahead, and for most of us, life will return to normal—or some semblance of normal. Sadly, for many people, life will never be normal again. Loved ones have been lost, jobs and careers have been destroyed, and economic chaos will last for months, if not years, into the future. All of this from an enemy that cannot be seen. In a similar manner, sin invades our lives and causes its own form of destruction.

It is difficult to know where we are in the fulfillment of prophecy, but the lesson that Christ gave us on the Mount of Olives was, "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matthew 24:44). To be ready for Christ's return requires the removal of sin that has gotten into our lives—like leavening or like a virus.

As we move toward Pentecost, let's remember that the need to change doesn't end with the Days of Unleavened Bread. It is a lifelong struggle because, like a virus, it will keep coming back.



Jim Franks

President

Church of God, a Worldwide Association



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CHURCH of GOD

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25 YEARS of Presidents' Day Family Weekend



A milestone was reached with this year's Presidents' Day Family Weekend in Branson, Missouri. We celebrated 25 consecutive years of meeting together for the extended weekend. It represents the largest church activity between the Winter Family Weekend and the spring holy days.

This special activity began in 1995 in Springfield, Missouri, when things were far from calm in the Church. At that time the Church was in turmoil. Members were





scattered and hurting. The weekend activity created an opportunity for members to fellowship and rejoice with like-minded brethren over the long Presidents' Day weekend in February. The original intention for the weekend was to provide a venue for as many as possible to gather for fellowship, rejoicing, seeing old friends, making new friends and healing.

Even though 25 years have passed, we still have the same goals—to provide the opportunity to fellowship, to rejoice with those of like mind and to learn from God's Word. All planned activities revolve around the family, and everyone is encouraged to fully participate in as many activities as possible. Many view the weekend as an extended family reunion.

This year we had the largest gathering we've had in Branson. There were more than 450 brethren, from over 20 states, in attendance for Sabbath services.

Many of the members in attendance have been on the journey to the Kingdom of God for many years. So it was appropriate that the theme for the weekend was "Be Found So Doing ... Staying the Course for the Long Haul." All the seminars and the Sabbath sermon revolved around the theme.

The weekend kicked off Friday night, Feb. 14, with a reception on the ninth floor of the Grand Plaza



Hotel. Finger foods were served by local brethren, and there was a general meet and greet. As you can imagine, there was a lot of renewing of friendships and meeting many new friends as well. Everyone began to eagerly map out the seminars and activities they wanted to attend for the entire weekend.

Every morning the hotel served a large buffet-style breakfast for everyone. On both Saturday and Sunday, there were four different seminars presented during the 10 o'clock hour, and five seminars during the 11 o'clock hour. Over the course of two days, everyone had the opportunity to hear four of the nine seminars. Many couples split up so they could cover most of the seminars.

Sabbath services were held in the White House Theatre. This building was constructed to look like the

White House, hence the name. We met in a large conference room on the side of the White House, aptly named the West Wing. Jim Franks, the president of COGWA, gave the sermon on the Sabbath. We were able to visit with the president in the West Wing of the White House! How many people can say that?

During Sabbath services, Mr. Franks gave a sermon related to the theme of staying the course. He discussed the need for faith in the end times in order to be "that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing" (Matthew 24:46).

After the Sabbath, everyone enjoyed fellowship during a catered meal of barbecued brisket and turkey, along with all the fixings. During dinner, the youngsters in the group could hardly wait for the kids' carnival that followed the

end of the Sabbath. More than 20 carnival games excited and thrilled all the kids. You could hear squeals, laughter and lots of talking as the children tried their skill at the games. Each child got prizes to take home as a memory of the event. The evening was topped off with a family dance—with music designed to please almost everyone. Many who didn't dance enjoyed more time to visit and fellowship.

Sunday started off with another delicious breakfast. Following breakfast, most were eager to again participate in the nine seminars, while some parents took their kids to the indoor pool. Sunday afternoon Mr. Franks presented a seminar covering Church history from the 1800s to the present. The premise is that it's hard to properly understand your future if you fail to study your past.

Many of the families participated in two special attractions in the afternoon. Fritz's Adventure offered adventurous activities like rock wall climbing, zip lines, tunnels, rappelling and other exciting adventures. Branson's Wild World gave participants the opportunity to see sharks, feed rays, watch wolves and enjoy many other forms of wildlife. And, finally, for the approximately 130 people who stayed over Sunday night, there was a pizza party, fellowship and board games at the hotel.

Several who attended called the weekend a “wonderful midwinter pick-me-up” between the Feast of Tabernacles and the Days of Unleavened Bread. Everyone went home tired, but having had a wonderful weekend of learning, fellowship and worshipping our great God.

The best way to describe the energy and enthusiasm in Branson during the Presidents' Day Family Weekend is to experience it for yourself. We look forward to seeing you next year! 🍷🍷

Mike Blackwell





Photos: Ivor Mitchell, David Scarborough



SHARPENING IRON

THE MEASURE OF OUR DAYS

By Joel Meeker

A few years ago in Switzerland, I officiated at the funeral of an old friend. Mrs. Mireille Giauque died of cancer. I can still clearly remember how she and her husband, Jean-Samuel, first welcomed me and other college students into their stone farmhouse nearly 40 years ago, when we were trying to improve our rudimentary French. My wife and family, and countless others, have been guests in their home many times since. Mireille set a beautiful example of kindness, gentleness, generosity (she loved to gift Swiss chocolate), and most of all devotion to God. She is sorely missed. Mr. Giauque faced this ordeal with great courage and faith.

God is merciful. The forecast for the day of the funeral was snow and freezing rain. But instead there was a bright blue sky. As we said a final prayer in the snowy cemetery, sunshine lit the backdrop of pristine, white mountains where she had enjoyed walking. There was peace and reassurance in the pain of loss. Mireille faithfully ran her course and now sleeps, awaiting the resurrection of the saints.

Times of reflection

Such times of loss should also be times of reflection. The Bible encourages us to meditate on our mortality and the brevity of life as ways of attaining wisdom about how we should live. In Psalm 90 Moses reflected on the difference between the eternal God and mortal humans. He asked God: “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (verse 12). It is indeed wise to remember that we have a limited time in our sojourn. We are truly just passing through.

King David asked God something similar in Psalm 39:4-5: “LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my age is as nothing before You; certainly every man at



We should enjoy the good things God gives us in this life, and there are many. But we should also remember our days are numbered, and we don't know what the number is.

his best state is but vapor.” David’s conclusion: “And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You” (verse 7).

It is easy to be carried along by the currents of life, with its joys, trials and various distractions, and forget that we live this life for particular reasons, to accomplish precise goals. Most important of all is the development of our relationship with our Creator, with a view to the future He is preparing for us. These should never be far from our minds.

Distractions and time wasters

Wise Solomon recorded in Ecclesiastes his conclusions on the nature of life. He found that many people waste their lives in what amounts to a “vanity of vanities.” Today we have more distractions (often time wasters) available to us than ever in history—computers, smartphones, tablets,



ubiquitous Internet, social media, hyperrealistic games, movies and music on demand—and more is available every day. What would Solomon say if he could see how people spent so much time today? He'd probably insert a few more "vanities."

What is truly worthwhile, Solomon found in the end, is this: "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Jesus instructed His disciples to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" and said that if we do so, the other issues of life will sort themselves out (Matthew 6:33-34). It is good for us to pause and reflect on what is truly important and to confirm that we are, in fact, concentrating on such things before all others. A time check is helpful. On an average day, how many minutes do we spend on the things of God and how many on entertainment?

It is sobering to reflect on the measure of our days, but also encouraging because of God's promises for the future. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

We should enjoy the good things God gives us in this life, and there are many. But we should also remember our days are numbered, and we don't know what the number is. We have important things to accomplish and should concentrate on those important tasks first, using to the full every day God grants us. ©



Johnsons Visit Montreal

Canada senior pastor Doug Johnson and his wife, Janel, traveled from their home in Cleveland, Ohio, to visit Montreal, Québec. The trip, from Feb. 27 to March 2, was the first of their 2020 visits to Canadian congregations.

According to Montreal pastor Daniel Harper, Feb. 29 was the first time services had ever been conducted mostly in English. Welcoming remarks by the song leader, the sermonette and announcements were, as usual, delivered in French, but Mr. Harper provided simultaneous French translation of Mr. Johnson’s sermon and Bible study, which were given in English. Mrs. Johnson enjoyed fellowshiping with the brethren in French, but her husband needed translation help!

Most were able to enjoy a meal together at a local restaurant to continue the fellowshiping into the early evening.

Montreal, with its French-speaking congregation, comes under the auspices of French regional director Joel Meeker, and Mr. Harper is a vital component of the work being done by the French

department. But Mr. Meeker and Mr. Johnson had been discussing for some time the advantage for both to visit the area periodically, since a pastor on-site anywhere in Canada (the Harpers relocated to Montreal in July 2019) is also directly connected in a pastoral way with the Canadian administration of the Church.

The Harpers and Johnsons spent many hours together over the course of the visit, discussing many pastoral aspects of being a “shepherd” in Canada. The Harpers’ zeal and willingness to be far from home while caring for God’s people are appreciated by the group there, who clearly have adopted the entire family!

À la prochaine (“see you next time”)!
.....

Doug Johnson

Updates for Ghana and Nigeria

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted West Africa, as it has the rest of the world. In an effort to forestall the spread of the novel coronavirus, both Ghana and Nigeria have closed their borders to travelers—especially those coming from Europe, Asia

and the United States.

As of April 13 (the latest statistics can be found at africanarguments.org/2020/04/13/coronavirus-in-africa-tracker-how-many-cases-and-where-latest/), Ghana currently has 566 people who have tested positive for the virus, and Nigeria has 343 cases. The nations have a combined population of about 219 million people.

In Ghana the government has banned gatherings of more than 20 and has asked all churches to suspend regular worship services. Our four pastors in Ghana have been able to organize the members into small groups to meet in homes, and they use an app on mobile phones to transmit services to the various groups.

In Nigeria there is no nationwide ban on meetings. Rather, it is left

up to the governments of the individual states. Currently, the Edo state (where our main congregation in Benin City is located) does not have such a ban. They have asked that there be no groups of larger than 15, and that people maintain social distancing. Not all the members can travel to services, since a few live outside of the Edo state, but the rest have been meeting on Sabbath and holy days.

The travel ban caused us to cancel plans for Cody Kitts to travel to Nigeria for Passover and the first part of Unleavened Bread. At this point, it is unclear when these nations will allow foreign visitors back into the country. But we know all the brethren are presently safe and healthy—and holding firm in the faith!

Tom Clark

One Accord Publishing Schedule

The last issue of *One Accord* followed our usual practice of having a bimonthly issue close to the first festivals of the year. You may notice this edition of *One Accord* is also a bimonthly issue.

Going forward, we will be moving to six issues of *One Accord* annually instead of 10, but each issue will increase to 24 pages, when content permits, instead of our typical 16 pages. Since our weekly *In Accord* video can be much more timely for communicating up-to-date Church news, we believe the bimonthly printed *One Accord* can cover the same material it always has, but with a substantial monetary savings. Plus, this will free up much-needed time for our editorial team to devote to other pressing media projects.

CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?

Buffalo Wraps Up a Winter of Events

The Buffalo congregation completed a winter full of congregational events and fun for the season. Each month marked a different event that was put in the calendar for fun, enjoyment and fellowship. Some were traditional events that have been held for years, while others were new.

November was the white elephant auction, coordinated by member Anne Koenig, in which the local congregation auctioned off affordable items members had purchased at the Feast to benefit the social fund. The auction was very successful, and the funds will go a long way in supporting coming activities.

December was the annual coin-rolling social, held at its traditional time along with a movie and game night. Coordinated by Melanie and Graham Henderson, the coin-rolling social was successful at raising funds for future activities. Members brought great food (including ice cream that was served during the movie) and their favorite games to share and enjoy with each other. Several visitors from other congregations came to enjoy the fun.

During February, members Kristina Archer and Sydney Dominguez coordinated the chili and pie cook-off, which has been a favorite of the local church for many years. The chili and pies were judged by a select panel of members, and this year the ladies did not have an exclusive on the winning dishes. Dave Manning took away one of the prizes.

Also held this month was a first-ever women's wine-tasting social, coordinated by Sydney Dominguez. The social took place at a member's house in the wine region of northwest Pennsylvania on Feb. 9. The event allowed women to sample some of the area's most flavorful and interesting wines and beverages. More such events are being planned for the future.

February was also the month for the congregation's first sledding party, coordinated by Joe Zirilli and held at Como Lake Park in Lancaster, New York. At one point it was doubtful that the activity would be a snow party at all, due to the warmer than usual winter, but God provided enough snow to keep the activity on the calendar. Those who didn't spend time in the outdoors had a chance to stay warm with fellowship and games in the main venue. Brenda Florio provided the food and drink for this fun day. This activity will be planned again for 2021.

We hope that these events, all designed to unite the brethren with fun and fellowship, are just the beginning of another great year for the Buffalo congregation.

Stephan M. Koenig



Hilltop Funds Project for Foster Care

The Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation completed a Hilltop-funded project for Warm Welcomes Foster Care Outreach. After the Feast, we provided foster children with over 100 hats and scarves made by our knit/crochet group, which has several members from other congregations joining in this effort.

The Cincinnati-Dayton congregation also collected personal items to place in backpacks that Warm Welcomes provides to social services to give to children as they transition from their home to foster care. Our knit/crochet/sew group also donated unique, handmade cuddle creatures to place into each backpack.

Enough items were collected to fill 40 backpacks, and we also completed 40 no-sew fleece blankets for the backpacks at our H.O.P. potluck and social. Using the theme of “musical chairs,” we partnered up and tied the blankets to music, switching partners when the music stopped so all could have a great time fellowshiping around the table.

Our teens then had the opportunity to take the items collected to Warm Welcomes’ local office and stay to help fill backpacks with donated items to be taken to the social services office for use when needed.

We greatly appreciate the monies Hilltop provides, allowing us to serve our community in this way.

Anna Zimmerman



Phoenix Hosts Senior Appreciation Dinner

After the Sabbath on the evening of Feb. 22, the Phoenix, Arizona, congregation hosted its first-ever senior appreciation dinner. The teens and young adults of the congregation served the seniors a three-course meal with an Italian theme.

The 26 seniors in attendance were served by 10 teens and young adults (plus kitchen and support staff). The teens and young adults arrived early to church to set up for the evening and stayed late to clean up as well.

Three of the teens and young adults read some encouraging scriptures, quotes and a poem about age and getting older, and the master of ceremonies for the evening told some jokes as well. James Capo, the pastor, also gave a short message to the seniors on how we all appreciate them.

The evening was filled with great conversation, food and service. Everyone had a great time, and the Phoenix congregation looks forward to planning this event again in the future!

Jayde Cox



Nashville Italian Potluck and Game Night

On Feb. 29 the Nashville, Tennessee, congregation enjoyed an Italian-themed potluck with a game night to follow.

The game portion of the evening began with some whole-group “get to know you” questions that got the congregation up and moving. All were able to join in answering the quizzes that were on display, and many shared in laughs at some of the responses. Games included spoons, card games and even phone-as-controller games (played by the tech-savvy in the congregation). The crowd even entered into a bubblegum-blowing competition as the evening went on. The members had a wonderful time fellowshiping together!

Members of the Nashville congregation really treasure their time together, and they’re looking forward to similar events in the future where members can simply talk and laugh together.

Amy Duncan



Florida Pastors Get Together

On March 11, a few days before the coronavirus changed our lives, Florida pastors, wives and retirees gathered for lunch at Abuelo’s Mexican Restaurant in Kissimmee, Florida. Seventeen of us spent several hours sharing experiences, encouraging each other and getting to know each other better.

We were also joined by Leon and Reba Walker (international liaison), Arnold and Ann Hampton (Caribbean) and Lee and Robyn Page (French Africa), who all live in Florida. Judy Rand, who was recently widowed, was also able to join us. It was a really special event, something we hope to repeat in the not too distant future.

Robyn Page



Fort Worth Women Enjoy Brunch and Seminar

On the Sabbath of Feb. 22, Dee Kilough shared her 2019 Winter Family Weekend seminar, “Maintaining Unity When Life Changes,” with the ladies of our Fort Worth congregation and this year’s Foundation Institute class. The 50 attendees enjoyed a lovely potluck brunch followed by her presentation and a discussion.

Mrs. Kilough spoke of the many “change challenges” we face and reminded us that life transitions can provide wonderful growth opportunities. She encouraged us, as women, to fulfill the role of “unifier” during times of change, described important qualities of an effective unifier and provided examples of biblical women who personified those attributes.

Kathy Giese



Cleveland Enjoys an Icy Thrill

On Sunday, Feb. 23, a group of members (including all the children tall enough to meet the minimum height requirements!) from the Cleveland congregation met at the Cleveland Metroparks Toboggan facility to experience the icy thrill of plunging down the twin 700-foot refrigerated toboggan chutes.

It was a sunny, nearly 50-degree day—unusual for February in northeast Ohio, but perfect for both riders and spectators. There was even a challenge to see which team could race to the bottom first!

After several hours of fun and fresh air, the group adjourned to Buffalo Wild Wings to refuel and enjoy some more time together.

Janet Pachinger



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



Jim and Kay Cribbs

Jim Cribbs and Kay Cline grew up as neighbors in Manchester, Tennessee. Their families were friends. Kay's brother, Jim and his brother often played ball together, but wouldn't let Kay play because she was "just a girl."

However, things changed dramatically during their senior year when they started dating seriously. He was the star quarterback of their school's undefeated football team that year, and Kay was a majorette in the band. They married after graduation, and Jim began a career in the Navy

while Kay was the homemaker. On July 4, 2019, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

They lived in many locations during Jim's 20 years in the Navy. There were many separations when Jim deployed. Kay and the children—daughter Susan and son Jamey—followed Jim from one assignment to another.

After Jim and Kay married, Kay's mother relocated to Florida and became a member of the Lakeland congregation of the Worldwide Church of God. Kay became interested in the Church when she and the kids visited her and attended Sabbath services with her. When Jim was transferred to Maryland, Kay began attending the Washington, D.C., congregation. She was baptized in May 1968.

After Jim retired from the Navy in 1979, the family moved to Winter Haven, Florida. While Jim earned an accounting degree from the University of South Florida, Kay worked as an assistant coach at Snively Elementary

School in Winter Haven. Jim retired about 10 years ago.

After a lengthy stay in North Redington Beach, they now live in New Port Richey. They attend the St. Petersburg congregation pastored by Jim Haeffele.

Charlie Haughee

Births



Felix Tyler Adkins

On Aug. 27, 2019, Felix Tyler Adkins was born to parents Ethan and Amanda Adkins of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Big sister Lucy is overjoyed to have her baby brother to play with and poke in the eyes. Grandparents Justin and Deba Adkins and Hal and Linda Henderson are happy to add another grandchild to their ever-growing lists of grandbabies!

Amanda Adkins



Collin James Bruske

Patrick and Breanna Bruske of the Columbus-Cambridge, Ohio, congregation are thrilled to announce the arrival of the newest member of their family, Collin James Bruske. Collin was born at 3:26 a.m. on Feb. 26, 2020, after a quick and intense two-hour labor. He weighed in

at 7 pounds 14 ounces and measured 20¼ inches long.

Both mom and baby experienced complications due to the quick delivery. Thanks to God's healing, protection and guidance provided to the medical staff at OSU, both Breanna and Collin are now home, healing and doing well.

Collin's siblings are smitten and overjoyed that all their prayers for a baby brother were answered! Dad is very happy to have another son! The Bruske family looks forward to introducing Collin to friends and family in the weeks to come.

Denise Hadley

Baptisms



Jayde Cox

On July 26, 2019, a new sister was welcomed into the family of God. Jayde Cox was baptized in the indoor pool at Camp Sequoia and invited the whole camp to witness it. It was a very special and emotional occasion for everyone present.

The baptism was performed by Paul Carter and Jon Pinelli, who have known Jayde since she was young. Her pastor, James Capo; uncle, Steve Anderson; and the pastor of the Utah congregations, Mark Whynaucht, all participated in the laying on of hands.

Jayde's mother and brother were also present for the baptism. Jayde attends the Phoenix, Arizona, congregation and is the third generation of her family to be baptized into the family of God.

James Capo



Jason Easterling

The Mobile, Alabama, congregation is excited to announce the baptism of a new brother in Christ! Jason Nicholas Easterling was baptized on March 21, 2020, by Phil Sandilands.

Jason is a third-generation Christian. His parents, Nick and Carla Easterling, are second-generation Christians. Jason's sisters, Charlotte and Sheila, were both present.

Welcome to the family, Jason.

Debbie Daugherty



Kayla and Trenton Maynard

On Dec. 24, 2019, the Twin Cities, Minnesota, congregation welcomed Kayla and Trenton Haangana Maynard as newly baptized members. Kayla was introduced to the Church through her grandparents when she was 7 years old and began attending services in southern Minnesota. Trenton has attended the Minneapolis congregation all his life.

Kayla was filled with pure excitement about being baptized and was so happy that she and Trenton could be baptized together! Trenton looks forward to becoming closer

to God. They both look forward to serving God's Church.

Kayla was baptized by Larry Solomon, and Trenton was baptized by Gary Black.

Mary Peyton



Steven Fracheur

On Sunday, April 5, 2020, Steven Fracheur of the Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation was baptized near his home with several family members present.

The baptism took place in a unique location: the bucket of a front loader used on his property.

The baptism was conducted by pastor Ron Kelley, with the assistance of Tom Burrow, who is an elder in the congregation and brother-in-law of Steven.

Ron Kelley



Amber Lynn Taylor

Amber Lynn Taylor, 18, was baptized on Sept. 21, 2019, by Kevin Epps. She attends the Central Jersey congregation along with her parents, Joel and Melanie Taylor.

With great joy we welcome Amber into the family.

Melanie Taylor

Obituaries



Marie Huggins

Marie Huggins, 86, of the Mobile, Alabama, congregation finished her race Jan. 13, 2020, after a lengthy illness.

She was a faithful servant to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and awaits His return. Baptized June 23, 1967, Marie was a loving, generous and faithful servant to all who loved and knew her. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Marie was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Willard C. Huggins; daughter Carolyn Coward; five brothers and seven sisters. She is survived by her sister Clara Richardson; two children, Evelyn (Don) Orban and Willard C. Huggins Jr.; grandchildren Donnie, Jennifer, Kevin and Lindsey; and great-grandchildren Ethan, Layla, Hannah and Nathan, all of Mobile.

The Mobile congregation deeply loved and respected Marie. She will be greatly missed.

Debbie Daugherty



Wade Leonard Malwitz

The Twin Cities, Minnesota, congregation lost a beloved member on Dec. 13, 2019. Wade was born on Oct. 23, 1956, to Leonard and Carol Malwitz in Blue Earth, Minnesota. He graduated

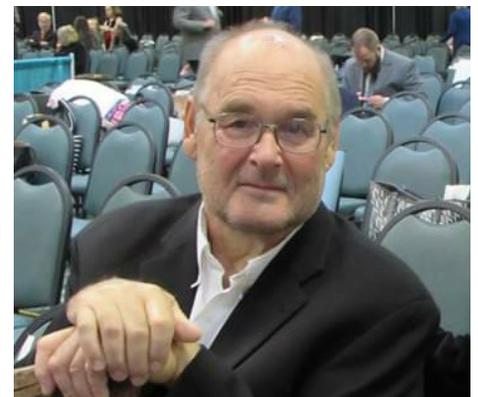
from Mankato State University with a degree in accounting. It was during this time that he was called into the Church, and he was baptized on July 21, 1979.

Wade loved music and played the viola until he was no longer able due to multiple sclerosis. His children remembered many times when he would make up songs to make them happy! He also enjoyed activities he was able to do with the MS Society.

It was important to Wade to not get depressed about the disease he had. This was difficult, as he was in pain most of the time. Because of his wonderful attitude, his nurses made sure that he was able to attend Sabbath services and the Feast. Every Sabbath, Wade came to church ready to fellowship, and he was always more concerned about the person he was talking with than he was about himself.

He is survived by his three children, Stacie Zachman, Seth Malwitz and Ashley Arnold; two sons-in-law, four siblings and four grandchildren.

Mary Peyton



Harold Pennington

Harold Pennington was born in Columbus, Ohio, on Feb. 15, 1956. He passed away in Marysville, Ohio, on Jan. 24, 2020, after losing his battle with metastatic colon cancer. A memorial service was conducted by pastor Lyle Welty on Feb. 9 in Plain City, Ohio.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Louise; daughter Ann Power and her husband, Dustin; daughter Jennifer Disman and her husband, Micah; daughter Rachel Yeboah and her husband, Ernest; and two

grandchildren, Ryan and Sarah Power.

He and his wife started attending church in 1977. He and his wife were baptized at the same time in February 1982.

Harold enjoyed sharing stories and making others laugh. He enjoyed all things outdoors and creating with his hands.

He will be greatly missed by his family and brethren. May God speed the return of His Kingdom!

Jennifer Disman



Fredrick Dorman

On Dec. 27, 2019, the Indianapolis, Indiana, congregation lost a dear brother to death. Fredrick “Fred” Dorman died a short time after suffering a stroke. It was very sudden and has left an empty space in our church family.

Fred was born May 10, 1943, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He was a member of the Church of God for over 45 years.

Fred was a friendly and giving person. Not only was he concerned about the young people in the congregation, he was very interested in encouraging the kids in his own neighborhood.

Fred was an avid outdoorsman, hunting deer and turkey. Every year he loved to discuss his plans for deer season and turkey season. He was also famous for hunting and finding morel mushrooms and knew the best places for locating them.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Wanda, who resides in Bloomington, Indiana.

We so look forward to the time when we will be able to be together with him again in the Kingdom.

Jada A. Howell



Francis Eugene Maxwell

Gene Maxwell, a member of the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation, died on Dec. 4, 2019, after a long struggle following a stroke. He had been married for over 60 years to his wife, Linda, who is also a Church member and who lovingly cared for Gene throughout his illness.

Gene was born on Jan. 29, 1941, in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. He is survived by his wife, siblings, four sons, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Gene was a U.S. Army National Guard Vietnam War-era veteran. He had numerous occupations over the course of his life. He served as a teacher in the National Guard, operated a window cleaning business, drove a semi for over 25 years and taught truck-driving courses.

Gene began attending Church of God services in the spring of 1970 in Peoria, Illinois. Over the course of his decades of service to the Church, he worked with church youth groups and participated in Spokesman Club and a leadership club. He gave sermonettes and split sermons. At the Feast, he served on parking crews and helped the handicapped. He enjoyed basketball and served as a referee both at schools and at church youth activities.

Shortly before his death, the hope to attend the Feast of Tabernacles was in the forefront of Gene’s mind. Although he was not physically able to make the trip, his desire to attend was an example of his strong commitment to God and God’s way of life. To the end, he was faithful to his calling. He will be missed until the time we see him again at Christ’s return.

Lyle Welty



Althea Miller

Althea Miller of the Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation died unexpectedly on March 18, 2020, at her home in Ringgold, Virginia. She was 61 years old.

Althea was a beloved member of the congregation. She enjoyed singing in the choir. She was known for her “snacks”—preparing enough for everyone to have a full meal every Sabbath. Most popular among the members was her barbecued beef ribs! Then she would have potato salad and banana pudding. Other favorites included two large roast turkeys with mashed potatoes, gravy and stuffing! Another was baked spaghetti, and finally fried chicken.

She was a wonderful lady and will be greatly missed.

She is survived by a daughter, Skylar Womack, age 15, as well as many extended family members and her beloved church family.

A graveside service was conducted by Greensboro pastor, Ron Kelley, on March 23.

Ron Kelley

Graduating High School Seniors

WE NEED YOUR BIOS

Attention class of 2020! We would like to feature all of our high school graduates in the July/August *One Accord*. Please provide the following information for your bio plus a quality, high-resolution photo by **June 1**.

1. Graduate's name.
2. Parents' or guardians' names.
3. Congregation and pastor's name.
4. High school accomplishments.
5. Church activities/hobbies/interests.
6. Plans after graduation.

Also include a phone number and email address we may use to confirm spellings, etc. Please give your bio and photo (conforming to biblical standards of dress and hair length) to your congregation's reporter or pastor. We do reserve the right to edit for clarity and a 200-word maximum length.

Thank you!