

OneAccord

May/June 2021



Long-Awaited Picnic in Johannesburg

Sharpening Iron
Flying Blind

personal from the president

Pentecost

The celebration of the anniversary of the founding of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit will take place this year on May 16. We refer to it as the Day of Pentecost. This will be 50 days from the wave-sheaf offering, which always took place on the Sunday during Unleavened Bread. It is important as we approach this festival that we consider the example of the “Church of Pentecost” and what it means for our day.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought out different views about a lot of things, including churches. Around the world, most church congregations closed their doors to in-person services in March of 2020 and were forced to hold “virtual” services online. This has deeply affected church attendance.

Barna Group president David Kinnaman predicted that as many as 20 percent of churches would close their doors for good within the next 18 months because of a lack of interest. He also noted that one out of three people attending a church service prior to the pandemic had stopped attending altogether, and that included both online and in-person services.

Toward the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ announced to His disciples that He would build His Church (Matthew 16:18) and that the gates of the grave would never prevail against it. Matthew 16:18 is the first place in the English Bible that the word *church* appears. It comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*, which refers to “an assembly of Christians gathered for worship . . . in the religious meeting” (*Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*).

The Church is, by definition, a group of people with a common faith and mission, led by the Spirit of God. It is not a building or an organization, even though it meets in buildings and it is organized. Based on this description and promise, it is obvious that Christ meant for the Church to play an important role in the life of a Christian, whether in the first century or in the 21st century.

If you exclude the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the most significant event described in the New Testament is arguably the founding of the Church.

As with so many things in history, if we want to understand what the Church was like, we need to understand how it began. And to understand the

origins of the Church, we look to the writings of Luke. Luke wrote two of the longer books in the New Testament, the Gospel according to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.

In the book of Acts, the Church is defined as a group of people who formed a body of believers with a common faith, a common goal and a common mission.

Notice how Luke describes the Church that was founded on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:

- They had a common belief (verse 42).
- They worshipped and fellowshiped together (verse 42).
- They shared physical possessions (verse 45).
- They ate together with gladness and simplicity of heart (verse 46).
- They praised God together (verses 46- 47).

The Church was founded on the Day of Pentecost, shortly after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul describes it as the “body of Christ” in 1 Corinthians 12:27. James refers to the members as “a kind of firstfruits” (James 1:18), and John further describes them as those who “are called, chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:14).

The Day of Pentecost is more than a celebration of the founding of the Church. It is the sealing of the firstfruits in preparation for the return of Jesus Christ. We are almost 2,000 years removed from that original group, but that Church is still here.



Jim Franks

President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association



CHURCH of GOD

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4 | **Sharpening Iron**
Flying Blind

6 | **Church Potluck**
Cecil Maranville's Retirement

10 | **Announcements**
22 Baptisms



SHARPENING IRON

FLYING BLIND

If one thing is very clear, it's the fact that we can't see clearly which direction to go in virtually every area of life!

By Clyde Kilough

In early November of 2008, Jim O'Neil suddenly found himself in a real bind—a life-and-death situation. While flying a small airplane from Scotland to England, he suddenly couldn't see! A later examination revealed he had suffered a stroke from a blood clot, but the only physical effect was an abrupt loss of vision.

Picture yourself flying solo at 5,500 feet, desperately calling on your radio that you need to land but you can't see how! Even a veteran pilot like O'Neil, who had flown for nearly two decades, was not prepared for a situation like that!

Amazingly, Paul Gerrard, a Royal Air Force wing commander who was flying nearby, came to try to help the incapacitated pilot. After locating O'Neil's plane, Gerrard pulled alongside and began transmitting instructions via radio, such as “a gentle right-hand turn, please.”

Even under the best conditions, at some point one needs visual contact to land a plane. But incredibly, though, Gerrard verbally guided O'Neil into position, and after three big bounces on the landing strip, the blind pilot held the plane on the ground and brought it to a safe stop.

A world flying blind

This story made headlines around the world at the time. How unnerved and panicky would you be if you found yourself in that life-and-death predicament?

Actually, we *are* in such a situation—it's called living in this world!

We look around and marvel at how society is flying blind when it comes to determining its morality, and it is scary to consider where the ever-changing ethical standards are

taking us. It's unnerving to witness how world leaders are piloting our governments.

If one thing *is* very clear, it's the fact that we can't see clearly which direction to go in virtually every area of life! That is putting the world around us in an extremely serious predicament, one which Jesus prophesied will eventually lead to a life-and-death state of affairs.

A few months ago, in a Feast sermon, I read from an incisive commentary by an author writing about the state of the nation.

“We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes,” he stated. “We stumble at noonday as at twilight.” In other words, we're flying blind, he was saying.

He gave examples through descriptive metaphors of a number of modern societal problems, violence being one of them. Our nation's “hands are defiled with blood” and our “feet run to evil,” is how he described it.

“The way of peace they have not known,” he says. Again, we're flying blind—we can't see how to land on the paths to peace! Other powerful quotes are: “Justice is far from us.”

“Step back and observe the past year's strife and debate over pandemic issues, the roiling tumult over political issues, and the unending progression of social and moral sicknesses. Is it not clear that humanity is flying blind?”

“We look for light, but there is darkness.” “He who departs from evil makes himself a prey.” “We all growl like bears, and moan sadly like doves,” etc.

In summary, he wrote, “Truth is fallen in the streets.”

You can read for yourself the entirety of his analysis in, as you probably have recognized by now, your Bible! This social commentator was Isaiah, writing over 2,500 years ago. But don’t let the age of his book fool you—the warnings directed to ancient Israel exactly fit our society today. Just reread Isaiah 59 in light of today’s world that is careening from one crisis to another.

The country he loved was flying blind, heading for a crash. Israel was keeping the plane aloft for a while, but Isaiah was telling them that if they didn’t find their way back to God, a crash was inevitable. Likewise, any society that does whatever is right in its own sight is, in truth, flying blind!

What’s going to happen to such a world? Jesus made it clear: “If the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.” He was calling out the Pharisees (Matthew 15:14; 23:16, 17, 19, 24, 26), but blindness is not a condition limited only to them. As Paul wrote about the gospel, “It is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel

of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them” (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

We, too, were blind, but somewhere in time God pulled alongside—if I may draw the analogy to the RAF pilot intervening with Mr. O’Neil—to guide us and miraculously give us spiritual sight!

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness,” Paul continued, “who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (verse 6).

Don’t get on that plane!

As Isaiah told Israel, “the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear,” but today the world is telling God, “No thanks—we’ll find our own way!”

Step back and observe the past year’s strife and debate over pandemic issues, the roiling tumult over political issues, and the unending progression of social and moral sicknesses. Is it not clear that humanity is flying blind?

As I write, I’m booked for airline travel in a couple of days. If I discovered the pilot and copilot on that flight were blind, would you advise me to get on that plane anyway? Of course not! When talking about the blind leading the blind, Jesus warned, “Let them alone.” Don’t get on that plane!

What does that mean for us today? Are we to be cold, calloused and uncaring about the ills of this world? Not at all—Jesus wasn’t! He wept over Jerusalem and expressed deep compassion for it. He promised He’ll intervene before we crash to save us and heal that blindness.

But meanwhile, He tells us to avoid getting caught up in human efforts to “fly the plane” apart from God. As Paul wrote, “No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life” (2 Timothy 2:4).

As Christians, we are living right in the middle of “the affairs of this life,” and they cry out for attention and solutions. Sometimes it’s easy to get entangled, though, to jump on the world’s plane to try to fly it. But before we get caught up in the politics, strife, debate, confusion and chaos, it’s worth discerning, “Is what I see borne out of godliness or out of the affairs of this life? Are these human efforts addressing the spiritual root of the problem? Do these human conflicts hold any real hope for solutions?”

Christ has already told us where to put our focus. “I am the light of the world,” He said in John 8:12. He is the only One who has the vision and ability to land the plane. “He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

We need 100 percent focus on following Him, learning how to have the light of life, so we can be ready when He returns to help humanity come out of its blindness! ©



CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?

AUCKLAND SABBATH SCHOOL

In December 2020 the Auckland, New Zealand, congregation held its first Sabbath school classes. Sabbath school is a wonderful opportunity for children in the congregation to learn about God and His way of life.

We have a number of teachers willing to serve. They use lessons from a variety of sources, including material from the Encourage, Equip & Inspire section of the Life, Hope & Truth website.

The lessons are also provided to the parents to assist them in instructing their children about God and His way at home. To date, we have delved into topics such as God's Word and how it tells us to live, honoring God through serving, and the days of creation.

Nikita Make





ST. PETE ENJOYS WINTER PICNIC

On the last day of February, members of the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation held their second annual winter beach picnic at beautiful Fort De Soto Park, located on Florida's Gulf Coast.

All those in attendance were blessed with a picture-perfect day with full sunshine, fluffy clouds, refreshing Gulf breezes and temperatures topping out at 81 degrees.

Members enjoyed a wonderful cookout, featuring hamburgers, hot dogs and grilled chicken, along with many side dishes and a dessert table.

Everyone had fun and enjoyed bird watching, good food and warm fellowship.

**Charles Haughee with
Mike McTiernan**



LUSAKA ENJOYS MEMORABLE EVENING

The coronavirus has changed the way we gather to worship our God. However, we were privileged to keep the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread together in person in our three church areas in Zambia.

For the Lusaka congregation, the Night to Be Much Observed was one we will remember for many years. It was exciting to have personal contact instead of the now “normal” virtual church service using the Zoom app.

To celebrate the occasion, members organized a buffet-style dinner with our youth dressed up in restaurant-style regalia for the night. Meeting together, socializing over dinner, as well as the setting for the meal all combined

to produce an unmistakable excitement in adults and especially the children.

During fellowship, youths asked questions about the meaning of the Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread and the Night to Be Much Observed, which we were observing. Adults took turns answering the questions. All members attended except one who kept the feast at home due to underlying health issues.

Nearly everyone remarked that the festivals gave them an incredible spiritual boost. We’ll soon be talking about Pentecost.

Silvestor Njovu



FORT WORTH DISCUSSES SOCIAL MEDIA

The young adults of the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation gathered on the evening of April 10 for an interactive discussion on the topic of social media and its effects on their lives.

The group of 21 attendees included elders and wives, singles, young parents, newly married couples and college-age young adults. Fellowship and refreshments were enjoyed with a beautiful country sunset as a backdrop, followed by a two-hour discussion around a large fire ring.

The diverse group allowed for many differing perspectives to be shared and heard. Presentations specific to the topics of wasting time, surveillance capitalism, polarization, relationships and self-worth provided much food for thought and encouraged all those in attendance to evaluate social media usage more closely.

The evening concluded with an online, real-time survey, allowing the group to vote on topics for future presentations.

Angela Weinbrenner



RETIREMENT OF CECIL MARANVILLE

Cecil Maranville, a longtime minister serving in the Church of God for almost 50 years, retired from full-time employment with the Church on Jan. 8, 2021.

At a luncheon at the Maranvilles' home on March 22, the administration team—Jim Franks, Doug Horchak, Clyde Kilough and Britton Taylor—presented an engraved vase to the Maranvilles in honor of their service over the years.

Mr. Maranville pastored congregations in Canada and the United States for the first 20 years of his employment, but for the past 25 years, he oversaw the Personal Correspondence Department. Anyone who wrote to the Church by letter or email generally heard from Mr. Maranville, either directly or indirectly. He personally answered hundreds, if not thousands, of letters.

Commenting on Mr. Maranville's retirement, Mr. Kilough stressed, "I actually cannot find a way to adequately acknowledge his contribution to the PCD program, not only in COGWA, but going all the way back into WCG and through UCG days. His store of knowledge, catalog of thousands of answers, training of so many men through the years, and level of professionalism and care have been a tremendous resource for the Church today."

In addition to coordinating the Personal Correspondence Department for COGWA for the past 10 years, Mr. Maranville also served as the managing editor of the *Ministerial Journal*, the Church's educational resource for the ministry.

That publication could not have happened without Mr. Maranville's organization and work. He was responsible for seeing all of the various steps in the process through to completion, working with writers, coordinating the review and ensuring that the final product was as helpful as possible for the ministry.

Mr. Horchak said, "We thank Mr. Maranville for his wonderful work—for his dedication to detail and thoroughness in the thousands of pieces of correspondence that he oversaw, as well as for his managing touch to every edition of the *Ministerial Journal* these past many years."

Jim Franks



JOHANNESBURG ENJOYS LONG-AWAITED PICNIC

On March 14, 2021, the Johannesburg, South Africa, congregation enjoyed a long-awaited, special and memorable picnic.

The pandemic had rendered in-person gatherings impossible, but after one year, the congregation was finally able to plan an outing. Excellent food and games contributed to this quality, fun-filled fellowship event, which took place on the Homestead Dam in Benoni.

Activities were organized for everyone and included bocce, canoeing, cricket, croquet, sack racing, Frisbee, volleyball and badminton.

Of course, none of it would have been possible without the brethren and the children's brotherly love and dedication. Homemade hamburgers and all the fixings—with French fries, special sauces and dessert—were prepared and served with love and joy by Johann and Elna Swanepoel.

Andreas and Josie Brück were the organizers. Their two daughters, Hanna and Jessica, directed the games and assisted with planning, setting up, and packing away. David Farquharson was the *braai* (barbecue) master.

A grateful congregation is looking forward to another picnic in the near future.

Hervé Irion



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

Births



Ella June Reed

Ella June Reed was born on Dec. 17, 2020, to Hunter and Kelsey Reed. Kelsey attends the Sherman, Texas, congregation with her children.

Big brothers Colton and Kellen and big sister Evelyn are excited for the newest addition to their family, as are grandparents Charlie and Julie Rowland and great-grandmother Rachel Fultz.

Kelsey Reed

Baptisms



Penelope Kay Everman

David and Emily Everman of the Dallas, Texas, congregation are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Penelope Kay Everman.

Penelope was born on Dec. 14, 2020, at 10:23 a.m. She measured in at 20.5 inches long and weighed an even 8 pounds.

Both mom and baby are doing great. We look forward to bonding as a new family, and we look forward to introducing Penelope to everyone—6 feet apart, of course.

David Everman



Peter Elisha Lallier

Jeremy and Mary Lallier of the Sherman, Texas, congregation are overjoyed to announce the birth of their son, Peter Elisha Lallier.

Weighing just 4 pounds 13 ounces when he was born on Jan. 28, 2021, Peter is healthy, happy, and growing.

Few people are more excited about Peter than his big sister Primrose, who kisses and cuddles “baby bruhver” at every opportunity.

Jeremy Lallier



Tori Hudson

Victoria “Tori” Hudson, a member of the Dallas, Texas, congregation, was baptized into the family of God on Friday, May 29, 2020, at the home of her parents, John and Rochelle Hudson.

The baptism was conducted by COGWA’s Ministerial Services operation manager, Doug Horchak. He was assisted by Andy Burnett, pastor of the Dallas and Sherman, Texas, congregations.

Tori is a third-generation Christian and is a current 2021 student at Foundation Institute.

Rochelle Hudson



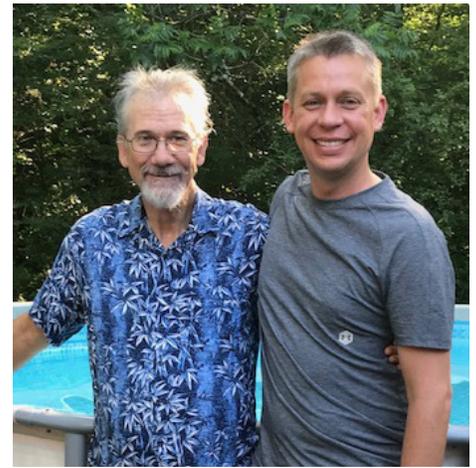
Joshua Cox

There were tears of joy, endless smiles and plenty of hugs shared between family and friends on June 7, 2020, when Joshua David Cox was baptized into the family of God!

Josh surprised his parents, Joel and Jodi Cox, and sister Jayde by inviting them to brunch—only telling them right before eating that they were also there to witness his baptism. It was truly a happy surprise for his family!

The baptism was held at the home of friends Steve and Tammie Eldridge, and the ceremony was performed by Josh’s pastor, Nathan Willoughby. Josh attends the Nashville, Tennessee, congregation and is the third generation of his family to be baptized.

Amanda Willoughby



Jack Stafford

Saturday evening, June 20, 2020, was a momentous day for Jack Stafford as he became a baptized member of God’s family!

The baptism was held at the home of Jack and Suzi Stafford, with many family members and several friends in attendance. The baptism was conducted by his pastor, Nathan Willoughby.

Jack’s family and friends are happy to welcome him to our spiritual family.

Amanda Willoughby



Chaisson Family

Three members of the same family were baptized in the space of one year. All of Judy Chaisson’s family are now members of God’s Church!

Members of the Chaisson family (pictured from left to right) are Cary (baptized March 6, 2020), Judy, Kayla (baptized Jan. 16, 2021), and Shane (baptized June 27, 2020). They all attend the New Orleans, Louisiana, congregation.

While the country was struggling with the coronavirus, this family was growing together in the truth of God.

It has truly been a remarkable year for this family—and one very proud pastor!

Phil Sandilands



Joshua Degagne

It is with much joy that we announce that Joshua Daniel Degagne was baptized into the family of God on March 21, 2021.

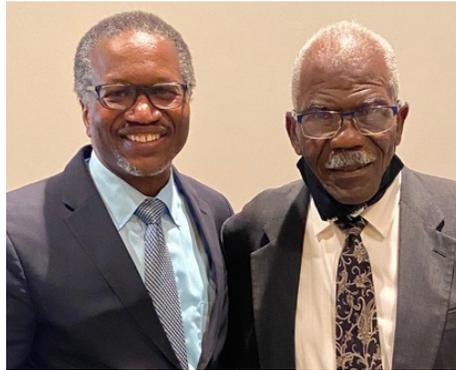
He was surrounded by several members of his biological family and also many members of his Church family.

He was baptized in the community pool of his minister, Wes Cohron, in sunny, but chilly, Freeport, Florida.

Lora Degagne

Austin University, and she is now a sixth-generation baptized member of the Church of God.

Rashele Hoyer



Kenneth Stranchan

A very enjoyable baptismal ceremony for Kenneth Stranchan, a member of the West Palm Beach, Florida, congregation, took place on Sunday, March 14, 2021.

The baptism was officiated by pastor David Jackson and witnessed by his wife and several members of the congregation. After the ceremony, Mr. Stranchan, who admitted he does not smile much, had a huge smile that uplifted the already joyful occasion.

David Jackson

congregation and is a full-time college student, studying education at Frostburg State University.

Scott Lord



Von Ware

Von Ware, of the Nashville, Tennessee, congregation, was baptized on March 7, 2021, at the home of close friends. The baptism and laying on of hands was performed by his pastor, Nathan Willoughby, with his immediate family and dear friends looking on.

It was truly a special day, and we are pleased to welcome Von into the family of God!

Amanda Willoughby



Raegan Alexandra Hoyer

On Feb. 27, 2021, Raegan Alexandra Hoyer was baptized into the Church of God.

Paul Carter, who has known Rae since her preteen camper days, performed the baptism, and Raegan's grandfather, Randal Rapp, assisted with the laying on of hands.

Raegan is the daughter of Craig and Rashele Hoyer of the San Antonio, Texas, congregation. Raegan is currently a student at Stephen F.



Brittany Ebersole

There was great rejoicing in the little village of Salemville, Pennsylvania, on Feb. 28, 2021. With multiple generations of family and friends watching, Brittany Ebersole was baptized into the Body of Jesus Christ. Her father and brothers assisted.

Brittany, the daughter of Brent and Sonja Ebersole, is a fourth-generation member of the Church of God. She attends the Bedford, Pennsylvania,



Brandon Pollock

On Sunday, March 14, 2021, with his wife and friends present for the ceremony, Brandon Pollock of the Miami, Florida, congregation was baptized into the Body of Jesus Christ by pastor David Jackson.

Afterward, a wonderful meal, hosted by Mike and Sam Moore (a deacon and deaconess in the West Palm Beach, Florida, congregation), was enjoyed at a nearby restaurant in celebration of the happy occasion.

David Jackson



Yvonne Hinds

The Orlando, Florida, congregation welcomed a new member of the family on Feb. 22, 2021.

Yvonne Jean Hinds was baptized by Orlando pastor, Gary McConnaughey.
Gary McConnaughey



Lindsey Windsor

Members of the Atlanta, Georgia, congregation would like to share their excitement at the addition of Lindsey Windsor to God's family.

Lindsey was baptized on March 14, 2020, by Mark Winner, pastor, with the assistance of retired pastor Bruce Gore. Welcome to the family, Lindsey!
Chant'a Collier



Joel Segall

Joel Segall was baptized Thursday, March 18, 2021, and kept his first Passover a little over a week later!

Joel and his wife, Caroline, and their daughter Georgia live in McKinney, Texas, and attend the Dallas congregation.

Andy Burnett



Samuel Agreda

Due to COVID travel restrictions in Central America and a need for an English-speaking pastor to conduct baptismal counseling, Leon Walker, the regional director for Latin America and international liaison for COGWA, requested the services of David Jackson, pastor of the Miami and West Palm Beach congregations.

After several months of baptismal counseling over Zoom, on March 16, 2021, David Jackson flew to Belize and traveled to the city of Belmopan to baptize Samuel Agreda. The Agredas have been longtime members of God's Church.

In a beautiful tropical setting, with his parents, Noé and Silvia, and his brother Noé in attendance, Samuel was baptized into the Body of Jesus Christ with plenty of hugs and smiles of joy.

David Jackson



Amanda Richards

It is a great pleasure to announce that on March 20, 2021, Amanda Marie Richards was baptized into the Body of Jesus Christ. The baptism and the laying on of hands were performed by Al Garrett, an elder in the Dallas, Texas, congregation.

Amanda's mother, brother, sister-in-law, two beautiful nieces and three friends observed the ceremony. A small celebration followed, where her family and friends welcomed their new sister in Christ.

Amanda has attended the Church of God with her family since childhood. She lives in the North Texas area and attends the Dallas congregation. Professionally, Amanda teaches Latin in the Carrollton school district.

Al Garrett



Linnea Kroeger

Spring's abundant sunshine was evident in the warmth of the day when Linnea Elizabeth Kroeger was baptized March 21, 2021. The baptism was jointly performed by Camp Heritage mentor and Buffalo, New York, pastor Chad Messerly and by Meadville, Pennsylvania, pastor Doug Johnson.

A small representation of Linnea's family and friends beamed with smiles as both ministers laid hands on her head, asking for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Linnea looked forward to her first Passover as she began her journey in conversion.

The Meadville, Pennsylvania, congregation warmly welcomes Linnea into the Body of Christ.

Janel Johnson



Mike Mawby

On the beautiful, sunny afternoon of March 21, 2021, the angels were rejoicing. Mike Mawby of Bentonville, Arkansas, was baptized by his pastor Thomas Clark. Mr. Clark was assisted with the laying on of hands by elders Dennis Fultz and Jack Willoughby.

The Bentonville congregation is pleased to welcome our new family member to the Body of Christ.

Vicki Willoughby



Ron and Teri Stoner

On March 22, 2020, two new members were added to the Body of Christ! Ron and Teri Stoner were baptized at their home by Lyle Welty, pastor of the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation.

Ron and Teri (pictured above with their niece, Penelope Foster) were formerly of the Cincinnati-Dayton congregation, but have recently relocated to Florida.

Ron grew up in the Church of God, but left as a young adult. When he began attending services again, almost 25 years later, it was with his wife, Teri, who had not formerly been associated with the Church.

Upon making the decision to be baptized, they did not realize that they would take their first Passover at home with only each other due to a pandemic, or that their first year after

being baptized would be full of tests and trials.

At the completion of one year, Ron and Teri are focused on the bright future promised by God's plan.

Jennifer Foster



Karen Jones

Karen Renee Jones of the Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation was baptized on Sunday, March 22.

She recently moved to North Carolina from New Jersey.

The ceremony was conducted by pastor Ron Kelley, who was assisted by elders Tom Burrow and Arnold Burns.

Ron Kelley

Andrew Tranquada, Luke, Amy, Naomi, Isaac, Joseph and Abigail.

Everyone in our local congregations offers congratulations to Andrew. We are all overjoyed in welcoming Andrew and his wife, Amy, into the further service of God and His people.

Robert Worsham



Charles and Jean Crabtree



Karie and Dan Wohlgemuth

Ordinations



Andrew and Amy Tranquada

On April 3, 2021—the last day of Unleavened Bread—the Roanoke, Virginia, congregation proudly saw one of our local deacons ordained as an elder.

Andrew Tranquada was ordained as a new elder by our pastor, Larry Lambert, who was assisted by another of our elders, Van Hanson.

Members of the Tranquada family (pictured above) include elder

On the last day of Unleavened Bread, April 3, 2021, the Williamsburg, Virginia, congregation was encouraged by the ordination of two men. Charles Crabtree and Dan Wohlgemuth were ordained as deacons.

Charles and his wife, Jean, are longtime members of God's Church and just celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary.

Dan and his wife, Karie, pictured above with their daughters Makayla and Briley, were happy that both of his parents and both of her parents were able to witness this joyous event. In fact, Dan's father, Craig Wohlgemuth, an elder from Washington state, and Karie's father, Larry Greider, a retired pastor in God's Church, were able to assist in the ceremony.

Larry Lambert, pastor of the Williamsburg congregation, performed the ordination and was assisted by elders, Dempsey Bruton, Larry Greider and Craig Wohlgemuth.

Larry Lambert

Obituaries



Roger L. Robbins

Roger L. Robbins, 87, of Milton, Wisconsin, died at his home on Feb. 17, 2021, after a long period of declining health. He is survived by three daughters and three sons and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Roger was preceded in death by his wife, Josephine, and his son James.

Roger was a longtime member of the Beloit, Wisconsin, congregation, having been baptized into God's Church in 1974.

He was a veteran of the Korean War, and although he never saw live action, he was involved in the atomic bomb testing at Camp Desert Rock, Nevada, in 1955. He worked many jobs, including working 30 years for General Motors in Janesville, Wisconsin.

Roger loved traveling, gardening and music and was involved in the church choir for many years. He also enjoyed playing the organ and entertaining those who came to visit him with his favorite show tune selections.

Roger will be greatly missed by his Church family.

Michael Hanisko



Janice Wenberg

On Dec. 7, 2020, Jan Wenberg, a longtime member, died after suffering an acute stroke, and the St. Cloud, Minnesota, congregation lost a loving and kind member.

Jan was born on Jan. 30, 1938, in Lansford, North Dakota. She graduated from Tolley High School in Tolley, North Dakota. On April 28, 1957, she married Will Wenberg, and they had four children. Over the years, she and her husband lived in a number of places, where she would work as a certified nursing assistant in a hospital or nursing home. She also worked as a childcare provider.

Some of her hobbies included roller skating, drawing and taking pictures. But the hobby that made her loved by so many in the Church was her love of talking on the phone and writing cards and letters. Every year brethren in the Minnesota congregations would receive handmade cards during the different holy day seasons.

She also loved playing card games and especially loved playing games with her grandchildren.

Jan was a loving wife, mother and friend, and she will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her husband, Will; her children, Michelle and Matthew; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Jan was preceded in death by her parents, her in-laws, a sister and two sons.

Mary Peyton



MaryLee Johnston

MaryLee Johnston was a 91-year old member of the Orlando, Florida, congregation who lived more than 60 years in her home in Mount Dora, Florida.

MaryLee was making plans to sell her home and relocate to New Port Richey, Florida, when she contracted COVID-19 and was hospitalized on Nov. 28, 2020. Complications due to the virus claimed her life in the early morning hours of Dec. 22. She was preceded in death by her son, Dale.

MaryLee was a shining example of holding on to God's truth and

having complete faith in God's will, not only in her life but in the lives of her loved ones.

MaryLee will be lovingly remembered for her adventurous and indomitable spirit, but most of all for her No.1 goal in life—to be in God's Kingdom. She was thankful for the peace that God's plan brings.

**Charles Haughee with
Deneen Sinon**



Jerry Martin

Jerry Martin, a longtime member of the Augusta, Georgia, congregation, entered into rest on Jan. 12, 2021, due to complications of COVID-19 and an extended period of declining health.

Jerry was born in Augusta to Marvin and Ruby Martin on March 31, 1947. He began listening to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast at an early age and was baptized in 1983.

Jerry was a brick mason by trade and always liked to stay busy. He enjoyed competing in drag racing in the 1960s and was inducted into the Augusta International Raceway Hall of Fame at a ceremony in 2018.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Kathy, with whom he celebrated 53 years of marriage. In addition to his wife, he is survived by daughters, Ginger Martin and April Martin; grandsons, Austan Sullivan and Sebastian Martin; brother, Jimmy Martin; and sister, Dolores James; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Jerry had an infectious laugh and maintained his sense of humor even while battling many health issues.

Kathy said that if she had to use only one word to describe him, that word would be *responsible*. He was strong in his faith and devoted to his family. He will be sorely missed.

Ann Hewston

Graduating High School Seniors

WE NEED YOUR BIOS

Attention class of 2021! 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 (no more than 200 words), 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 contact you if need be. Please give your bio and photo (conforming to biblical standards of dress and hair length) to your congregation's reporter or pastor by June 1. Please keep all bios within a 200-word limit.

College graduates:

Please provide a bio—200-word maximum—plus a quality, high-resolution photo by June 1.

Thank you!