

# One Accord

November/December 2022



## 2022 Feast of Tabernacles

2021 Annual Audit  
God's Favor Even in a Pandemic

Cover Photo:  
Branson, Missouri

# personal from the president

## Keep the Feast Alive

The Feast of Tabernacles 2022 is now history! And by all reports, it was an incredible Feast, much needed by all of us. This was the first year since 2019 that our in-person attendance was back to normal. Over 5,000 members from the U.S. attended this year's Feast, with more than 500 attending outside the United States. After tabulating all the numbers, we've calculated our worldwide attendance to be around 12,000 at more than 40 sites.

This was the first year since 2010 that my wife and I spent the entire Feast at one site. Normally, we travel to two sites, and some years we have gone to three sites. This year our plans were to spend the first half in Fort Myers, Florida, and the second half in Barbados. Of course, you all know that we were forced to cancel Fort Myers just before the Feast because of the damage done by Hurricane Ian. With only two weeks to go until the Feast, the 150 people registered for Fort Myers had to make other arrangements. After discussing it with my wife, we decided to simply go to Barbados for the entire Feast. That seemed like it would be the easiest thing to do, but in actual fact, it wasn't easy at all!

We quickly discovered that flights leaving Miami for Barbados were, for the most part, full. Finally, we were able, at a much higher price, to purchase tickets on the Sunday afternoon flight—the last of the day before the opening night. That is when our trouble began. After two hours of weather delays and four hours of mechanical delays, our “afternoon” flight was finally canceled around midnight and rescheduled for Monday afternoon. We finally arrived in Barbados after services on the first holy day. In the more than 60 years I've attended the Feast this was the first time I've missed the opening night and the first holy day services.

We determined not to allow this experience to ruin our Feast. And it did not! Once we arrived, we truly enjoyed the remainder of the Feast with 122 happy brethren and a large group of our family. It was our first real family Feast in more than a decade. Arnold Hampton, the regional director for the Caribbean, was the Feast coordinator. From the wonderful fellowship and the inspiring messages to the beauty of the island, our Feast 2022 was one of our best.

I am sure all of you have your own stories to tell, and I encourage you to tell them and write them! I

have enjoyed looking at your pictures on Facebook for the past two weeks. I would encourage us to keep the Feast alive as long as we can, because before you know it, we will be planning for the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread and beginning the cycle all over again.

For the Israelites in the Old Testament, the Feast of Tabernacles was an opportunity to look back on the time they wandered in the wilderness. There were specific lessons God wanted them to learn from this wilderness experience:

“And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not” (Deuteronomy 8:2).

The same lessons God wanted Israel to learn are also appropriate for us today. Through the Feast of Tabernacles, God wants to know what is in our heart and if we will obey all His commandments.

The spiritual lessons of the Feast are not complicated. We have just experienced a most wonderful Feast of Tabernacles, giving us a foretaste of the coming millennial reign of Jesus Christ. But as we get back to our normal lives, back in the world, let's not forget why we kept the Feast and what it means. I hope each one of us has returned from the Feast humbled before God, giving Him the thanks for everything and committing ourselves to being better Christians than we were before the Feast. That will keep this Feast alive for some time to come and will make it one of our best ever!



**Jim Franks**

President

Church of God, a Worldwide Association



## CHURCH of GOD

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- 4 | **Feast of Tabernacles 2022**  
Feast site reports from around the world
- 12 | **2022 Feast Attendance**
- 13 | **2021 Annual Audit**  
God's Favor Even in a Pandemic
- 15 | **Church Potluck**
- 20 | **Announcements**

# Feast of Tabernacles 2022

**F**or God's people around the world, the 2022 Feast of Tabernacles proved to be the well-timed breath of fresh air and encouragement that it was intended to be!

Just days before the Feast, southern Florida experienced the full force of a Category 4 hurricane when Ian slammed into the coast near Fort Myers on Sept. 28. While the devastation was heavy, God protected His people. But the storm did result in our having to cancel the Fort Myers satellite Feast site. Thankfully, our brethren were able to attend other sites in the region.

This year, for the first time in over three years, we were able to host some new Feast sites in the U.S. (Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Greenville, South Carolina) even as a number of brethren transferred to Feast sites outside the U.S.—the largest number of transfers since 2019.

Reports from sites in the U.S. and around the globe expressed the great appreciation God's people had for such a positive, inspirational experience during this Feast.

While we had a greater number of brethren able to attend in-person services in 2022 compared to last year, we still had a percentage of brethren that attended virtually at some of our sites.

Our European Feast sites in the U.K. and France were well-attended, with a good number of brethren from overseas able to join local brethren in meeting and worshipping God for the Feast.

With the total numbers of those attending the Feast (either in person or virtually) approaching 12,000, we believe God was pleased as His people praised Him for the wonderful knowledge and hope for the future that His fall holy days bring. As we face an ever-darkening world, it has become ever more apparent just how valuable the knowledge of God's incredible plan is for His people.

Whether attending one of our sites with dozens of brethren or convening with hundreds of God's people, our spiritual family members were able to participate in this commanded assembly to refocus on the hope-filled vision of the future when God's way will be understood and taught. The Feast is what brings that wonderful vision of the world tomorrow to God's elect every year.

**Doug Horchak**

## AFRICA

### BURUNDI

Over 700 people celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles in Mugina, Burundi. Sermons were given by local pastor Nathan Mukeshimana. The most enjoyable activity outside of services was eating well every day, thanks to support from the headquarters office.

Other activities included games for the children, and football matches for the adults. There were also Bible studies and games. This is certainly the high point of the year for our brethren in Burundi.

**Joel Meeker**

### CAMEROON

This year was difficult for our members celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles in Douala, Cameroon. Just before the Feast, a now former member of the Church stole the Festival subsidy sent by the headquarters office.

Members quickly reacted and borrowed the home of the relative of a member and pooled their meager resources so that they were able to be together and observe the Feast as God commands. This shows that it is always possible to keep the Feast even with few resources.

Members sang hymns and watched video sermons each day of the Feast. There were no extra activities this year.

**Joel Meeker**

### CÔTE D'IVOIRE

In spite of power outages on the first and last days, our members in La Mé celebrated the whole Feast with joy.

We listened to sermonettes and sermons that were very helpful and appreciated. We savored dishes such as braised chicken and carp, as well as roasted goat. We send thanks to those who helped us financially, allowing us to celebrate this wonderful Feast that turns our eyes to the Kingdom of God.

**Paul Tia**

### GHANA

The 2022 Feast in Ghana was held in the coastal town of Elmina, where over 500 brethren gathered from around the country. Due to a number of things—including COVID restrictions that scrambled schedules—we were unable to secure one of the locations we've usually used for the Feast.

So, the national football (soccer) stadium in town was reserved, with housing for most of the brethren within walking distance. Large canopies were erected on the field with chairs set up under them. This kept the sun off and allowed the breeze to keep us relatively cool.

Due to the generous donations from brethren in the U.S., three cows were purchased. They were butchered, and the meat was cooked and passed around. Everyone had the opportunity to have some fresh beef—a rare thing for most and a wonderful Feast treat! The brethren in Ghana look forward to meeting all their brethren very soon in the Kingdom of God!

**Tom Clark**

### NIGERIA

Once again, this year the Feast was held at the

Randekhi Hotel in Benin City, Nigeria. Most of the 40 brethren stayed in the hotel, where we had group meals as well as services on-site.

The focus of the world tomorrow is especially important for the brethren here, since safety and security are becoming more and more of a problem. As instability in the country grows, the need for the peace and harmony of God's Kingdom is ever more clear!

The generosity of some brethren in the U.S. allowed us to take almost everyone to the Benin City Zoo—something few of the brethren had ever been able to do—and purchase a goat. The goat was prepared, and everyone enjoyed some goat pepper soup—a real treat for all!

The Feast ended with everyone inspired by the vision of the Kingdom and praying fervently that God will send His Son back very soon!

**Tom Clark**

## SOUTH AFRICA

Kenton-on-Sea is a small coastal town on the Sunshine Coast of South Africa, with unspoiled beaches and caves, rock pools and sheltered bays created by unusual rock formations.

The congregation was honored and encouraged by its visitors, especially by two special guests, Mark and Colleen Winner. The messages were uplifting and encouraging. Similarly, the fellowship was much needed and appreciated, as brethren are scattered and not often able to gather together on the Sabbath day.

Members enjoyed activities such as horseback riding along the beach, safaris, whale watching, and hiking through a coastal forest, sand dunes and along the beach. As well, there was an exceptional seniors' lunch.

We are all thankful to our great God that all went very well and that we were able to have a very safe and memorable Feast.

**Hervé Irion**

## TOGO

The Feast of Tabernacles in Togo was celebrated by 18 people in the town of Kpalimé. The ambiance was one of serenity and conviviality.

Apart from church services, activities included Bible studies, a talent show and an excursion to the Kpimé dam.

We came back spiritually encouraged and confident in the goodness of our Heavenly Father for the teaching He granted us. Our thanks also to the headquarters office for its financial support that allowed us to celebrate the Feast in excellent circumstances.

**Guy Ahialebedzi**

## ASIA/PACIFIC

### FIJI

*Bula vinaka!* A total of 26 brethren shared the joy

of the Feast at the Pearl Resort in Pacific Harbour, Fiji. The tropical weather was beautiful as usual, and our small numbers enabled us to get to know and appreciate each other.

We were greatly blessed with the services of our guest speaker, Tim Waddle, and his wife, Valerie, who shared the first half of the Feast with us.

The messages, as well as the singing during services, were positive and uplifting.

A special *lovo* night was organized by the men for our three overseas brethren to experience. It was rated "very delicious" by everyone, and the evening was capped off by uplifting discussions regarding the wonderful time the Feast of Tabernacles pictures and the privileged role and responsibilities members have been blessed with.

The Feast has been such a great blessing and a timely reminder for all of us to rededicate our lives to faithfully serving our loving Father and our elder Brother Jesus Christ.

**Emori Toloi**

## INDIA

The Feast of Tabernacles in Kolkata, India, presented a unique challenge. Bengali is the official language in Kolkata, and of the 20 brethren at the Feast, only five could understand the

English language. Tarun Ghosh, the leader of the congregation in Kolkata and translator, informed me that the members were all very new to the faith.

Two minutes into the opening night message, it became apparent that the sermons and Bible studies prepared in advance would be ineffective due to the language barrier and the members' level of biblical knowledge. After much prayer, Internet research on translation tools, and learning that the members had a lot of basic questions regarding the fundamental teachings of Scripture, we determined to use a Bible study format for each service.

We had a classroom setting with tables and chairs, projection of the scriptures in both English and Bengali and a dry-erase board for diagramming concepts, and implemented an open Q&A throughout. The format worked wonderfully. Every day we had a morning services presentation, an after-lunch Bible study/Q&A and occasionally an evening Q&A session.

Your prayers are very much appreciated for all those being called by God in India, along with the local leaders, Tarun Ghosh and Eugene Kumar.

**David Jackson**



**Talisay City, Philippines**

## NEW ZEALAND

This year the Feast was once again observed at the picturesque and colorful setting of Lake Taupo. The attendance was over 70, and we were graced by brethren visiting from the United States and Australia.

Larry Lambert, with his wife, Wilma, was our guest speaker. There was an additional blessing when Tim and Valerie Waddle arrived for the second half of the Feast, after spending the first portion with the brethren in Fiji. With so much chaos and confusion on the world scene, it was inspiring and uplifting to hear sermons and sermonettes focus on conditions that will prevail in the Millennium—the solutions to problems that boggle mankind.

Activities included the Feast dinner, seniors' luncheon, ladies' high tea, youth outings and outdoor activities such as gondola and luge rides.

One aspect that I am always grateful for is the fine spirit of cooperation and togetherness displayed by the brethren. There were so many willing to give their support in order to make the Feast a success. One blessing was that there were very few cases of illness.

We thank our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ for their blessings poured on us during the Feast of 2022.

**André van Belkum**

## PHILIPPINES

The Feast this year, held in Talisay City, was really wonderful and a huge success, with around 240 brethren enjoying pleasant and sunny weather,

delicious food and good accommodations. We all stayed at one hotel, so fellowshiping and bonding were just awesome—especially as most brethren came from different islands of the country and hadn't seen each other for almost three years because of the pandemic.

Activities included a Family Day with fun and games among different age groups, a family entertainment event that showcased the different talents of young and old alike, and a very enjoyable and intimate coffee social for our seniors.

There were Bible studies for young adults and teens as well as an instruction class for the little children. Messages were wonderful, inspiring and encouraging refreshers about the soon-coming Kingdom of God. The brethren also greatly appreciated the special music pieces. We were also blessed with one ordination of a deacon and two baptisms.

It was truly a delightful, memorable Feast—both physically and spiritually.

**Beltran Sison**

## SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka, the island nation off the southern coast of India, has been in the news of late due to corruption and economic collapse. However, that reality only added to the anticipation of the Kingdom of God being established on earth.

Under the local leadership of Rodney Van Heer, the congregation of 20 members enjoyed a wonderful Feast in Negombo, a city on the west coast of Sri Lanka.

Most of those at the Feast are new to the truth of God and had many questions. They desired to understand more perfectly the fundamental teachings of the Church.

A Bible study format was used for each service, with a PowerPoint presentation displaying the scriptures. Although everyone spoke some English, not everyone could read English, as Sinhala is the primary language. In addition to daily services, there were group Q&A sessions, individual counseling and Bible study.

We enjoyed special music each day, a talent show one evening, and an afternoon baptism. Being at the all-inclusive hotel, the members could enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner together. The food was excellent, and the fellowship was outstanding. Do keep the members in your prayers, as life is challenging for many of them.

**David Jackson**

## CARIBBEAN BARBADOS

The 2022 Feast in Barbados was indeed a much-needed break from the world. It was a time to get into the "zone" so that we could focus on what is really important—seeking first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33).

From the opening night with the beautiful moon shining over the Atlantic Ocean to the Last Great Day when everyone was saying their good-byes, we experienced a wonderful family atmosphere. In fact, several large families—including Jim and Sharron Franks and

their family—attended this year, making this Feast a real family affair.

The venue was the Crane Resort. Its old-world charm and incredible natural beauty provided a millennial atmosphere and a beautiful view of the Atlantic Ocean. In addition to the local Barbadian members, brethren attended from Trinidad, El Salvador, Canada and the United States. Our high attendance was 122.

Activities during the Feast included an island tour, Family Day at one of the famed beaches on the island and a catamaran boat cruise.

**Arnold Hampton**

## GRENADA

We again were able to meet and observe the Feast at a property close to the airport on the island of Grenada in the West Indies. This was after some three years when the coronavirus was prevalent. Two elderly brethren braved their ill conditions and were present throughout the Feast.

We had an attendance of five at the site. There were also two others (shut-ins) who were visited during the course of the Feast. They were brought up to date on the messages of the Feast.

The messages vividly pictured conditions in the Millennium and our role as kings and priests. There was also the focus on what it will take for us to be an integral part of the ruling family of God.

The brethren appreciated the Eternal's blessings of the messages, food and fellowship. A spirit of rejoicing was evident throughout the Feast.

**Osmonde Douglas**

## EUROPE

### FRANCE

A total of 86 people celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles in Montagnac, France, located a few miles from the Mediterranean coast. All attendees stayed in the VVF vacation center on an inexpensive full-board basis. Church services, meals and various activities were all on-site. Services were held alternately in French and English with simultaneous translation offered through headsets.

Group excursion destinations included Aigues-Mortes, a walled city on the coast that was the launching point for the Seventh Crusade in 1248 and the Eighth Crusade in 1270. Other destinations included Collioure, a picturesque fishing village on the Spanish border, and Carcassonne, the most complete medieval town in Europe.

We plan to use this site once again next year.

**Joel Meeker**

### UNITED KINGDOM

The East Sussex seaside town of Eastbourne, promoted locally as the “sunniest place in England,” was the site for the Feast of Tabernacles in England this year. A total of 110 brethren from the U.K., U.S. and Europe enjoyed a joyful, friendly and spiritually uplifting Feast. An average of 130 additional daily webcast connections were also active, with 100 more views after services had completed.

The weather was unseasonably warm and sunny, and those staying

at the Cavendish Hotel were treated to gorgeous sunrises and sunsets. We slept with the sound of the gently lapping waves in the background, as the beach was just over the road from the hotel where services were held.

Brethren from other Church of God fellowships joined us for services, tours and two catered group meals. Doug and Janel Johnson and other elders and their families from the U.S. contributed with messages and music. Joel and Marjolaine Meeker joined us from France, and Mr. Meeker spoke during the last three days.

Feast activities included visits to the 1,000-year-old Lewes Castle and the cobblestoned Cinque Port of Rye and a teen event near the pier. We were also able to witness a reenactment of the seminal battle of Hastings (1066) on the actual battleground at Senlac Hill. At the end of the event, which took place on the day before we celebrated the Last Great Day, the announcer surprised us all by calling for a miracle to “let the dead rise up and live again,” whereupon the actors who had been “killed” stood on their feet to the crowd’s applause.

**Peter Hawkins**

## LATIN AMERICA

### ARGENTINA

In the beautiful and quiet region of Sierra de la Ventana, the 2022 Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day were held, with an attendance of 112 brethren.

For meals, the proposal was that the brethren



**Kpalimé, Togo**

invite each other for three occasions, creating wonderful opportunities to share. We all stayed in small houses that were furnished and equipped with all the necessary comforts and located close to each other. This allowed us a lot of fellowship.

A distinctive note of this Feast was the use of a tent as a meeting hall. It was wonderfully decorated inside with hanging tulle. In addition, all the chairs had white chair covers, which gave it a very elegant tone. All the services and all the planned activities were carried out in this tent.

Throughout the Feast, we had 10 services and two Bible studies. Some services were live, and others were received from Chile, with a perfect Internet connection. The sermons by Mr. Franks and Mr. Horchak were very encouraging for all.

We had a beautiful ending to the Feast with five baptisms in a river. The new members are César Ramírez, Vanesa Huenchullanca, Meira Alvarado, Daniel Allende and Matías Romero. We welcome these new brethren to the Body of Christ.

The Feast of Tabernacles

and the Last Great Day were a wonderful gift from God, both physically and spiritually.

**Alfredo Arboles**

### BOLIVIA

This year in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 28 brethren attended the Feast of Tabernacles. Although it was a small group, we had children, youth, adults and members in their golden years.

The Feast site is very beautiful. Hotel Los Cedros is surrounded by abundant wildlife and wild vegetation in many shades of green. This place was the camp of the Eternal in the days of the festival. The Holy Spirit inspired what we saw, heard and did.

All attendees had a great time. The planned activities were carried out with enthusiasm and joy. We ate excellent and rich churrascos and wonderful local empanadas. In general, we enjoyed the flavors of the area. It was beautiful to see the children and the elderly laughing, playing and dancing together, as the Bible prophesies about the Millennium.

Church services were filled with powerful

spiritual nourishment that gave us the impetus to renew and restore ourselves for another year. We all left the Feast very much inspired.

On the Last Great Day, we thanked God for the blessing of being in that wonderful place, but above all, for having His inspiration and protection. Everything helped us to anticipate being eternally together in harmony, when the Kingdom of God is established.

**Alvaro Matamala**

## CHILE

This year God gave us a new site to keep His Feast. We had 570 brethren gather to worship God by the Pacific Ocean in the beautiful resort of Riu-Tai, 110 kilometers west of Santiago.

It was wonderful to be together for services. Last year, because of the pandemic, we had to divide into two groups and meet on alternate days.

Even though we did not announce the change of the Feast site, news got around, and we were joined by several brethren from other countries. Because of that, we decided to translate services into

English, and everything went very well.

The brethren showed their love, service and camaraderie not only to the other attendees but also to the employees of the resort. After the Feast, my wife had an interview with the owner. He told her, "I want to express my evaluation of your event. I will give my employees and myself a grade, but I also want to give a grade to your group. My employees and I have a 4.8. Your group deserves an 8.0. Please come back next year!" The scale for grading in Chile is from 1.0 to 7.0.

The Feast was crowned with the baptisms of 10 people: Bastián Zamora, Cindy Santander, Dayana Torres, Esperanza Villar, Francisco Lagos, Franco Zamora, Jennifer Carvajal, Jonathan Zamora, José Torres and Susana Yavar. Welcome to the Body of Christ!

What a wonderful Feast God gave us this year!

**Saúl Langarica**

## COLOMBIA

If there is one word we can use to sum up this Feast, it is joy. It has been a long time since we experienced such a feeling of joy. This year God had

mercy with this small part of His people and made Himself present among us, helping us to enjoy all the moments of this Feast. The daily services, sermons, different activities planned for young and old alike—all of these were wonderful opportunities to share, serve, help, learn and renew our commitment to God.

There were three baptisms: Abigail Pozo, from the Quito, Ecuador, congregation; Luis Cornejo Jr., from the Cuenca, Ecuador, congregation; and Juan Esteban Rodríguez from the Bogotá, Colombia, congregation. For a minister, there are few occasions comparable to that of baptizing someone God has been calling and working with!

We had the great blessing of having several people from other countries, including Mexico, Chile and Peru, celebrate the Feast with us. They were a valuable element of this Feast.

The truth of God is an incomparable treasure and privilege. We hope the meaning and messages of this final festival season of 2022 will help us persevere to the end, when

the millennial Kingdom will be a reality for the whole world!

**Eduardo Hernandez**

## EL SALVADOR

For the second consecutive year, the central American nation of El Salvador held a Feast of Tabernacles celebration at the Hotel Tesoro Beach, outside of San Salvador on the Pacific coast.

A heavy storm on the Sunday of the opening night didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the 52 Feastgoers from six different nations. In addition to our Salvadoran hosts, there were brethren from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States.

Brethren enjoyed the Spanish-language video message given by COGWA President Jim Franks, as well as sermons from Central American ministers Luis Mundo, Eleodoro Avila, and Gamaliel Galdamez. Ralph Levy, visiting El Salvador from the Church's headquarters office in Texas, also gave messages.

Activities included a family dance, games on the beach, meals enjoyed



**Montagnac, France**

together as a group and an afternoon Bible study about the laws of God during the Millennium. Many brethren took the opportunity for swimming in the pools and walks along the beautiful beach in this lovely Pacific Ocean resort.

**Ralph Levy**

## GUATEMALA

After two years of being unable to be together to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day, this year we were thankful to be able to attend in person in Antigua, Guatemala.

We had more than 520 attendees. This number included those from the different regions of Guatemala, as well as 29 brethren who visited us from other countries. We met alternately in two groups of approximately 250 people. Visiting members were able to attend all services.

Being with our brethren at the Feast again was a delight. We were filled with great joy, and it was easy to obey the command to be truly joyful.

The sermons, sermonettes and Bible studies were powerful and uplifting. The activities were also a great opportunity for the fellowship of the spiritual family.

We do not how time passed so quickly. Before we realized it, it was the Last Great Day. All of us finished the Feast very excited and grateful to our God for such a beautiful gift of being able to come back and meet together. We were all very encouraged, and none of us wanted to leave. But we trust that we will see each

other again for the Feast of Tabernacles in 2023.

**Dilson Reyes**

## MEXICO

During the Feast of Tabernacles in San Miguel de Allende, brethren from many parts of the world got together to worship God. North Americans, Dominicans, Guatemalans, Chileans, Argentineans and Canadians gathered with members from various regions of Mexico to be truly joyful and focused on maintaining the vision of the Kingdom. Our high attendance was 308 with 17 Internet connections.

In his message on the first holy day, the pastor in Mexico, Larry Roybal, reminded us of the temporality of material things in this present world, of our call to be kings and priests for God, and of how we must prepare to reign with Christ in the Millennium and beyond.

The Feast took place in the midst of harmony, Christian fellowship and enthusiasm that never faltered.

The spiritual food received at this festival, as well as the other activities, provided the attendees with new energy and strength to advance toward the proposed goal to which we have been called by Jesus Christ, our older Brother.

In short, this year again, the brethren of the Church of God enjoyed a Feast full of joy and peace, from beginning to end. We said farewell with feelings of nostalgia and deep gratitude to God for the blessings received.

**Jorge Ivan Garduño**

## PERU

This year we were blessed again with a beautiful Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day. During the eight days, we lived in a climate of great unity and fed abundantly from the Word of God. It was impossible to hide the joy that came from representing the glorious future millennial Kingdom. The nearly 160 who attended in Huanchaco, Peru, shared this joy.

From the time the Feast began, everything was inspired by God. We had a lively opening service, where our pastor in Peru, Carlos Saavedra, directed us all to live together in harmony throughout the whole Feast. On the second day we had Jim Franks' video sermon.

On each day of the Feast we had plenty of spiritual nourishment and social activities for all ages.

The Eighth Day was very solemn. We received two inspiring messages about the wonderful meaning of the Last Great Day. This will be a time of opportunity for salvation for all mankind.

We thank our God and also our minister, his wife and everyone who collaborated to make this a very memorable Feast. As one attendee wrote, "This was an extraordinary feast of God. In fact, it was the best of our lives."

**Manuel Sanchez**

## UNITED STATES AND CANADA

### Branson, MISSOURI

About 700 members rejoiced in the beauty of the autumn colors in Branson in the Ozark

Mountains. Many commented that the messages were among the best in a long time. The warm fellowship was wonderful to witness.

Everyone appreciated being able to have live music again. The children's choir was a big hit. The stage was covered with stuffed animals for their performance, and after the performance each child picked out an animal to take home as a Feast memory. The choir, small groups and soloists all inspired the audience and glorified God.

The teens enjoyed a cookout, activities and making new friends at Table Rock State Park. As well, 135 senior citizens enjoyed a buffet of barbecue and an afternoon of interesting activities planned by the staff.

A highlight was a Sabbath afternoon potluck and hymn sing. About 230 people turned out to spend the afternoon fellowshiping with old and new friends.

The Feast in Branson was truly an outstanding success.

**Mike Blackwell**

### Coeur d'Alene, IDAHO

Lake Coeur d'Alene served as a beautiful, picturesque backdrop for this year's Feast of Tabernacles in the Northwest. Under glorious, sunny skies, 410 brethren enjoyed the wonderful time picturing Jesus Christ's millennial reign on earth.

Our spiritual diet of messages was varied and spot-on. All spoke to the importance of seeing that future Kingdom of God and also making ourselves

ready to rule. It was truly a spiritually inspiring Feast.

Activity highlights featured a 90-minute Lake Coeur d'Alene cruise that almost half of the Feast attendees embarked on. Teens were treated to an afternoon of fun at a local indoor/outdoor amusement facility. All had a wonderful time meeting new friends and playing miniature golf, laser tag and other interactive games.

Wednesday night was our karaoke and game night. New country music and rock stars were born! And for the less adventuresome, there were cards, dominoes and cornhole games to enjoy.

All left with a renewed excitement for God's coming Kingdom and the desire to come back to experience the Feast in Coeur d'Alene!

**Jon Pinelli**

## Greenville, SOUTH CAROLINA

Around 750 brethren enjoyed the Feast in Greenville, South Carolina, this year! The leaves were changing to beautiful fall colors that could be seen on the many different hikes in the area. Adding to the scenery were several waterfall hikes, including a trail that led to the waterfall right in the middle of downtown Greenville!

Everyone in Greenville was able to feast on a variety of physical food, as well as spiritual food pointing us to the Kingdom and the importance of focusing on the Kingdom in our daily lives.

Some highlights during the week included a

golf tournament and an afternoon where we perfected our golf skills at Topgolf.

Young and old alike enjoyed Family Day activities of cornhole, bingo, a bounce house and slides. There was even a professional face painter and balloon artist! Many danced the night away during the Family Dance that same evening.

Our teens spent an afternoon together bowling, while our seniors enjoyed fellowshiping and eating lunch together at the hotel.

Children and families donated approximately 175 toys for foster children in the area, and the entire Feast site donated an estimated 700 pounds of food to a local nonprofit through our FOI program.

We are looking forward to the Feast in Greenville once again next year!

**Jessica Schultz**

## Kohala Coast, HAWAII

This year over 200 attended the Feast in Hawaii at the Fairmont Orchid Resort Hotel on the Kohala Coast of the Big Island.

In addition to services each day in the hotel ballroom, attendees enjoyed a welcome sunset beach banquet, holy day luncheons on Turtle Bay point, a young adult voyager canoe excursion, teen beach party, golf tournament, chartered boat trip with snorkeling, and Family Day on the beach.

Next year we will be coming back to the Kohala Coast for the Feast. However, we plan to meet at the Hilton Waikoloa Village, a resort just a few miles south of the current site.

**David Register**

## Lancaster, PENNSYLVANIA

Around 300 Feastgoers gathered at the award-winning Eden Resort in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Festival registration (close to capacity) and attendance were the highest since 2019. Both adults and children shared positive feedback regarding messages and the Feast.

Over 175 attendees watched a premier presentation of *David* at the Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre. Also, many signed up for our second annual outing at the 25-acre Cherry Crest Adventure Farm, where a variety of animals were hand-fed. Family-friendly activities and food were also enjoyed there on a sunny day with comfortable temperatures.

The seniors' luncheon and Last Great Day luncheon were well-attended.

The second half of the Feast was impacted by the common cold and COVID-19 cases. However, no one was hospitalized. We also had a great rapport with the resort staff, which was very accommodating. Overall, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

**Kevin Epps**

## Mont-Tremblant, QUÉBEC

A little flock of God's people observed the Feast at Mont-Tremblant this year. We had 60 Feastgoers gather daily for services in a spacious new hall with large windows affording views of the surrounding hills and changing leaves.

Eight days of messages exhorted us to find joy, to look forward to a new era, to serve, to live in a spiritual reality revealed by God, to be sincere in our offerings, to imagine a new home for mankind and to see the ever-higher fulfillment of God's awesome plan.

Group activities allowed special fellowship and fun. We took a gondola ride to the summit of Mont-Tremblant, visited a wildlife park and took a lake cruise to view fall foliage. We participated in an FOI project organized by young adults, and we enjoyed a game night, chess instruction and a special family-oriented variety show.

Mont-Tremblant was a beautiful setting for the Feast. We look forward to returning there next year.

**Daniel Harper**

## New Braunfels, TEXAS

This year in New Braunfels we returned to a familiar meeting hall—the New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center. This facility offers us generous meeting space, plentiful breakout rooms and the opportunity to bring in our own food and drink.

Since we were last here (four years ago in 2018), the center has added two large screens and a very nice projector—items that we made great use of. We also took advantage of the opportunity to provide complimentary coffee and tea each day prior to services.

We had beautiful, sunny weather throughout the Feast except for the Last

Great Day, when a cool front lowered the high temperature for the day into the low 70s.

Our high attendance was 293, and many enjoyed the tours of Natural Bridge Caverns on Family Day. Of course, what was most appreciated was the focus on the millennial reign of Christ on earth, which was provided in all of the messages.

**David Treybig**

## Orange Beach, ALABAMA

I am happy to say that this year, the weather was perfect! With over 1,000 people in attendance, this was the largest number since our first year in Orange Beach. We filled the Event Center with people, fellowship, singing and an atmosphere that reflected God's blessing on His people.

We hosted teen and young adult drop-ins the evening after the first holy day.

The day before our golf scramble, the weather forecast showed an 80 percent chance of rain, but

that dissipated and we had superior weather.

Our senior luncheon was held at the Event Center with 130 seniors enjoying a fine meal and fellowship. Family Day had the highest attendance ever, with over 400 people enjoying the activities on a delightful day.

Add to that the excellent messages and amazing special music, and this Feast was one of the finest I have ever experienced!

**Phil Sandilands**

## Park City, UTAH

The fall colors were at their peak at the Feast in Park City, Utah. A total of 232 brethren rejoiced in the millennial fall setting.

Temperatures were in the low 70s with clear blue skies and golden aspens. For Family Day, there was a kids' carnival with games and prizes, as well as activities for all ages.

The seniors enjoyed a luncheon at the Prospector with entertainment provided by Tristan Solomon.

The FOI project collected over \$3,400 in cash and

donations for Peace House, which benefits victims of domestic violence.

The messages were inspiring and kept us focused on the millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

**Mark Whynaucht**

## Tucson, ARIZONA

We had over 290 brethren gather in Tucson, Arizona, for the Feast of Tabernacles 2022. This year we enjoyed meeting at the beautiful Hilton El Conquistador on the north end of Tucson. The weather was beautiful, the fellowship was warm, and the messages were inspiring and uplifting, pointing us to the future millennial reign of Christ.

The resort was well-situated near restaurants and entertainment, but many also enjoyed just staying on-site—relaxing in the beautiful atmosphere and watching the brilliant sunsets each evening. We did have a few quick rain showers, but nothing seemed to dampen the spirits of those who were there to rejoice.

Many commented that one

of the best parts of the Feast this year was the fellowship and getting to meet so many other members.

The Feast in Tucson was a great success, and our thanks go to God who invited us to be there and share in His Feast.

**Paul Carter**

## Woodbury, MINNESOTA

A family-oriented Feast of Tabernacles took place in Woodbury. Despite a few glitches with the sound equipment, we were able to stream the inspiring messages from Branson. The highest attendance was 43, but when fellowshiping, we sounded like many more!

The first activity was an outing to Stillwater, Minnesota, to take a trolley tour of the old logging town and learn its history. A few people attended Cheers Pablo to either paint or make a ceramic piece. Many enjoyed a visit to the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minnesota. A few toured the Red Wing pottery and shoe museums. And many enjoyed an afternoon wine-and-cheese party hosted by one family.

Eating most of the meals together is the best aspect of Woodbury. At each meal, we'd sit with a different person so we could get to know everyone. Eating meals together bonds people. In Woodbury, the overall feeling is that we are family. We're very thankful to God for blessing us with His Church family.

**Mary Peyton**



**Santiago, Chile**

# 2022 FEAST OF TABERNACLES ATTENDANCE

This year we return to providing the high attendance figures for our Feast sites around the world. Of course, there were also a large number of webcast connections. So, as we have done in the past, we are providing these numbers as well (determined by using our usual formula of two viewers per connection).

The number of webcast viewers can be found in the final section, along with the number of shut-ins who received DVDs of prerecorded messages. The overall total includes the high in-person attendance, estimated webcast attendance and scattered members who kept the Feast off-site without an Internet connection or prerecorded sermons. We feel these numbers closely reflect the attendance worldwide.

We admit that some of these numbers are simply best guesses, but if anything, they are probably low guesses. Based on these numbers, the total worldwide attendance was 12,001, which was slightly higher than last year.

<b>AFRICA</b>		BARBADOS	122	QUEBEC, CANADA	60
BURUNDI	700	GRENADA	5	TUCSON	293
CAMEROON	20	GUYANA	7	WOODBURY	43
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	81	JAMAICA	184	<b>ON-SITE TOTAL</b>	<b>9,663</b>
D.R.CONGO	202	ST. KITTS	12	U.S. SHUT-INS (DVD)	150
GHANA	519	ST. LUCIA	3	INTL. SHUT-INS (DVD)	376
KENYA	195	<b>EUROPE</b>		U.S. WEBCASTS	1,080
MALAWI	128	FRANCE	86	INTL. WEBCASTS	620
MAURITIUS	2	UNITED KINGDOM	110	SCATTERED INTERNATIONAL	112
NIGERIA	32	<b>LATIN AMERICA</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,001</b>
RWANDA	80	ARGENTINA	112		
SOUTH AFRICA	135	BOLIVIA	28		
TOGO	18	CHILE	570		
ZAMBIA	139	COLOMBIA	90		
ZIMBABWE	254	EL SALVADOR	52		
<b>ASIA/PACIFIC</b>		GUATEMALA	527		
AUSTRALIA	6	MEXICO	308		
FIJI	26	PERU	158		
INDIA	20	<b>UNITED STATES AND CANADA</b>			
INDONESIA	3	ALBERTA, CANADA	14		
KUWAIT/U.A.E.	4	BRANSON	699		
MALAYSIA	3	COEUR D'ALENE	410		
MYANMAR	10	GREENVILLE	765		
NEW ZEALAND	75	KOHALA COAST	210		
PHILIPPINES	238	LANCASTER	298		
SINGAPORE	4	NEW BRAUNFELS	293		
SRI LANKA	20	ORANGE BEACH	1,055		
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>		PARK CITY	232		
BAHAMAS	3				

TO HEAR MESSAGES FROM THE  
2022 FEAST OF TABERNACLES,  
GO TO

**FEAST.COGWA.ORG**

# 2021 Annual Audit

## God's Favor Even in a Pandemic

Despite the continuation of the pandemic into 2021, the Church of God experienced many financial blessings. As usual, we would like to share our annual independent audit with its positive review of the Church's stable financial position.

By Britton Taylor

Our 2021 independent audit was completed in October, and we are happy to share the results with our Church members and donors who generously support the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

We are very thankful to report that income received for 2021 was over \$16.7 million—the highest in our 11-year history. This represents a 21.7 percent increase over 2020, which was also a strong year, with income just over \$13.7 million. Total expenses for 2021 and 2020 were about \$12.6 million and \$11.6 million respectively.

In both years our income exceeded expenses, putting the Church in a positive and stable financial position and allowing the Church to add to cash reserves for future expenses. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions that extended into 2021, our expenses continued to be lower in 2021. This added to our positive cash flow and bank reserves, which made it possible for us to do something that would have been inconceivable even a year ago—paying off the mortgage on our headquarters building, which was finished in 2019. The retirement of this debt will save us approximately \$240,000 per year in mortgage payments.

We recognize that God the Father and Jesus Christ are the source of these blessings. In the troubled times in which we live, we gratefully acknowledge God's grace, mercy and blessing that has made our healthy financial state possible.

We give our sincere thanks and appreciation to the generous and faithful members and donors who have given tithes and offerings to support the Church. We appreciate your ongoing prayers for us to have wisdom and discretion as we follow Christ's lead in our stewardship of the resources He provides.

This year's audited financial statement is for the

<b>CHURCH OF GOD, A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.</b>			
<b>STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021</b>			
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>			
Tithes and offerings, individuals	\$ 11,660,943	\$ -	\$ 11,660,943
Local congregation contributions	46,125	-	46,125
Holy Day/Festival Fund offerings	3,157,722	-	3,157,722
In-kind contributions	1,035,000	-	1,035,000
Contributions	-	751,915	751,915
Interest and investment loss	(1,612)	-	(1,612)
Other income	130,107	-	130,107
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	751,915	(751,915)	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	<u>16,780,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,780,200</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program services:			
Public proclamation	1,567,002	-	1,567,002
Congregational care	5,238,860	-	5,238,860
Education	351,829	-	351,829
Festivals	610,394	-	610,394
International	1,765,709	-	1,765,709
Total program services	<u>9,533,794</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,533,794</u>
General and administrative:			
Headquarters office, management and administrative	1,129,516	-	1,129,516
Board of directors	1,429	-	1,429
Insurance and related	1,966,113	-	1,966,113
Total general and administrative	<u>3,097,058</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,097,058</u>
Total expenses	<u>12,630,852</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,630,852</u>
Change in net assets	4,149,348	-	4,149,348
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>8,074,016</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,074,016</u>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 12,223,364</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 12,223,364</u>



years ending Dec. 31, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2020. In a confirmation letter dated Oct. 15, our independent auditing firm, Henry & Peters, P.C., of Tyler, Texas, gave us a favorable, “unqualified” opinion that the financial statements accurately present the Church’s financial position and results of operations for 2021 and, by comparison, for 2020.

The unqualified opinion reflects our independent auditor’s judgment that, without any identified exceptions, our financial records and statements are fairly and appropriately presented and are in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

These results not only positively reflect the performance of the financial operations of the Church of God, a

Worldwide Association, Inc., but the entire organization’s approach to its fiscal responsibilities. The Ministerial Board of Directors and administration are committed to continuously improving the Church’s operations and being the best stewards we can be of the financial resources God provides us to do His work. An unqualified opinion is just one indication of that commitment.

Here we have provided two financial statements that relate to the Church’s operations for the year ending Dec. 31, 2021.

You can view the audited financial statements and related unqualified opinion online at [members.cogwa.org/uploads/Church\\_of\\_God\\_a\\_Worldwide\\_Association\\_2021\\_Audit.pdf](https://members.cogwa.org/uploads/Church_of_God_a_Worldwide_Association_2021_Audit.pdf).

**CHURCH OF GOD, A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

	Program Services					General and Administrative			Total
	Public Proclamation	Congregational Care	Education	Festivals	International	Headquarters Office, Management and Administrative	Board of Directors	Insurance and Related	
<b>EXPENSES</b>									
Bank services and fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 111,567	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 111,567
Building and equipment lease/rental	-	9,006	63,324	136,057	-	-	-	-	208,387
Contracted services and fees	202,357	-	-	-	-	94,376	-	-	296,733
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	161,388	-	-	161,388
Domestic support:									
Discretionary assistance	-	167,133	-	118,134	99,083	-	-	74,650	459,000
Discretionary retirement pay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	762,773	762,773
Insurance and health care	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,128,690	1,128,690
Interest	-	921	-	-	-	35,725	-	-	36,646
Internet and related	229,611	-	-	-	-	8,032	-	-	237,643
Local congregation subsidies	-	1,356,046	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,356,046
Other	1,377	25,964	8,634	4,930	188	70,320	-	-	111,413
Postage and shipping	85,105	3,748	-	1,978	30,060	8,987	-	-	129,878
Printing	79,719	3,609	-	-	-	792	-	-	84,120
Salaries and related expenses	906,664	3,079,347	121,770	337,513	559,501	545,642	-	-	5,550,437
Supplies	59,699	3,089	5,453	(15,113)	1,385	7,693	-	-	62,206
Telephone and utilities	500	22,635	-	-	1,823	41,850	-	-	66,808
Travel, mileage, meals and lodging	1,709	565,917	40,468	24,562	21,998	13,669	1,429	-	669,752
Youth camp and activities	-	-	112,180	2,333	9,000	-	-	-	123,513
Equipment and facilities	261	1,445	-	-	-	29,475	-	-	31,181
Grants and charitable support:									
International subsidies	-	-	-	-	1,042,671	-	-	-	1,042,671
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>\$ 1,567,002</u>	<u>\$ 5,238,860</u>	<u>\$ 351,829</u>	<u>\$ 610,394</u>	<u>\$ 1,765,709</u>	<u>\$ 1,129,516</u>	<u>\$ 1,429</u>	<u>\$ 1,966,113</u>	<u>\$ 12,630,852</u>

## DALLAS SPONSORS TEEN ADVENTURE IN COLORADO

From June 26 to July 2, the Dallas COGWA Teen Program sponsored its fourth all-inclusive trip to one of the premier camping, hiking, backpacking, fishing and whitewater rafting areas in the Rocky Mountain West. A total of 24 parents and teens from Dallas, Houston and East Texas participated on the eight-day camping trip and adventure.

Each day the campers rose early to the soothing sounds of the river and the cool mountain air. After breakfast each day a “Spiritual Compass Check” was given, purposefully related to the activity we were about to participate in.

On Monday, June 27, the group arrived at the Mountain Park Group Campground (elevation 6,500 feet) on the Cache la Poudre River in the mountains 35 miles west of Fort Collins, Colorado. After setting up the camp and going over rules and expectations, everyone relaxed after the long journey.

Tuesday the campers and adults hiked to the 8,005-foot summit of Mount McConnel, with an elevation gain of about 1,405 feet.

On Wednesday our group took the A1 Wildwater bus up the Poudre Canyon and hit the class 2, 3 and 4 whitewater rapids! There were thrills and a few spills as we bobbed, floated and cascaded down the river.

Thursday was more of a rest day as the entire camp family descended on Chambers Lake for an all-day trout fishing trip. The day started out with light rain and ended with sunny skies and a bull moose sighting. We caught—and lost—some rainbow trout, and the beer-battered fish fry that night was delightful.

On Friday a group of 14 hit the trail toward North Diamond Peak (elevation 11,863 feet) with an elevation



gain of about 2,000 feet over 7.5 miles. Ten hikers touched the summit, two touched the rock shelter sub-peak (11,600 feet), and two reached Montgomery Pass (11,000 feet). All tasted success and returned to camp with stories to tell.

We had an enjoyable Sabbath in the campsite lodge with songs, a sermonette and a sermon by Dallas pastor Andy Burnett.

It was a wonderful trip of activities, fellowship and godly behavior that will be remembered for a lifetime.

**Greg Peoples and Greg Vaughn**

## FEAST BOXES FOR HOUSTON NORTH SHUT-INS

Before services on the Sabbath of Oct. 1, Houston teens sorted small gifts into decorative boxes for the congregation's shut-ins. Items included snacks, treats, candles, games and other miscellaneous fun favors!

Special thanks to Pete and Erinn Webber for coordinating and supplying the beautiful gift boxes. This was a creative project to cheer up the day of those unable to attend the Feast this year.

**Tyanne Hewitt**



## PASTOR VISIT TO FIJI

After many months of being unable to meet face-to-face due to COVID-19 restrictions, COGWA members in Fiji have cause for celebration after the group successfully met with their pastor, André van Belkum, on Sunday, Sept. 11, at the Yanuca Bay Resort in Sigatoka, Fiji.

The group met early in the afternoon and took time to catch up with each other while awaiting the arrival of elder Emori Toloi and Mr. van Belkum from the airport.

Mr. van Belkum's arrival was met with excitement and elation. The brethren appreciate the importance of a minister's visit—as well as the great responsibilities a minister carries and the risks involved as he travels to serve those under his care.

The brethren began the meeting with a traditional gift presentation to Mr. van Belkum, followed by tea, informal discussions and some individual counseling sessions that carried on into the evening. A special dinner was hosted to top the day off and conclude the evening.

The Fijian brethren greatly appreciated this occasion to personally meet and counsel with their pastor. As brethren, we give thanks in everything we do and pray continually in all circumstances, especially for activities of the Church that are done in the best interests of the members.

**Gabriel Penjueli**



## FORT WORTH SENIORS ENJOY TASTE OF AMERICAN ART

Ten of the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation's Silver Ambassadors gathered Thursday afternoon, July 14, for burgers and fries at Rodeo Goat in the Fort Worth Arts District and then toured the nearby Amon Carter Museum of American Art.

In addition to the museum's own revolving collection of masterpieces by noted American artists, sculptors and photographers, the seniors were able to view two special exhibitions: "Sargent, Whistler and Venetian Glass," an exhibit pairing the works of renowned American artists with exquisitely crafted, hand-blown glass items from Murano, Italy; and "Black Every Day," a photographic collection celebrating the fullness and richness of black culture as depicted in families and communities across America.

One member remarked, "I was expecting American artists to paint only American subjects, but this exhibition showed me that they were strongly influenced by art and artists from other places in the world during their travels. The Americans' paintings of Venetian people, architecture and landscapes were beautiful!"

The seniors enjoyed the meal, the art and the opportunity to visit with each other midweek.

**John Payne**

## CLEVELAND ENJOYS SABBATH PICNIC

The Cleveland, Ohio, congregation enjoyed a lovely picnic after services on the Sabbath of Sept. 3.

Doug and Janel Johnson, pastor and wife, hosted everyone for a dinner of fried chicken, delicious sides and desserts. We were pleased to have a few friends from neighboring congregations join as well.

The kiddie corner—complete with a sandbox, play kitchen, building blocks and books—was perfect entertainment for the children.

We know that it is such a blessing to be able to fellowship with each other outside of Sabbath services. The beautiful setting of the Johnsons' backyard, overlooking a lake, made for a wonderful evening!

**Erica Pavlik**



## TRENTON CONGREGATION ENJOYS SABBATH AT PARK

On the Sabbath of June 25, the Trenton, Georgia, congregation assembled under a pavilion in the scenic Cloudland Canyon State Park to enjoy a Bible study and potluck meal together. A rain shower just prior to the beginning of the service brought pleasant temperatures and a breeze.

Mini studies of Bible characters were presented by three speakers. Tim Dickey gave a study of Rahab; Bill Palmer gave a study of Baruch, Jeremiah's scribe; and our pastor, Paul Luecke, gave a study about John Mark.

Afterward, a veritable feast was spread on the picnic tables and enjoyed by the 33 attendees. The Trenton brethren were once again happy to have several of their Birmingham, Alabama, brethren join them for this special and inspiring Sabbath.

**Annette Epperson**



## BUFFALO HOLDS FIRST BIBLE BOWL

On Sept. 17, 2022, the Buffalo, New York, congregation held its first-ever Bible bowl, hosted by Anne and Jordan Khenig. The bowl was a way for the congregation to enjoy learning from their Bibles in a quiz styled after the *Jeopardy* game show.

Topics were selected in the same way from a points board, and answers had to be given in the form of a question. Topics included "How did I die?" and "Women of the Bible."

Included in the Bible bowl activity were several hands-on activities to see who was the best at building an ark that floats or who could construct the tallest Jenga tower. Small prizes were awarded to all who participated. Plans are to make this an annual activity for this congregation.

**Stephan M. Koenig**



## YOUNGSTOWN ENJOYS SUMMER FISH FRY

On Friday evening, July 29, 56 brethren from the Youngstown, Ohio, congregation (with a few guests!) gathered for the much-loved annual fish fry, hosted by Dennis and Beth Kuhns at their home in Salem, Ohio.

This Youngstown tradition started in 1998 after several members went on such a successful fishing trip together that they had to figure out what to do with the results! The tradition has continued every year since (except 2020, due to COVID-19).

This year marked the first fish fry since the Youngstown congregation and the Meadville, Pennsylvania, congregation merged in 2021, and the event clearly remains a bit hit!

The meal consisted of freshly fried beer-battered fish, as well as many delicious potluck sides, desserts and refreshing drinks provided by the congregation. The weather was perfect, with low humidity and temperatures in the 70s as the sun set.



Everyone enjoyed the extra time to fellowship and catch up with friends in the outdoor setting, so different from weekly services. The evening was filled with conversation and laughter, and the young children in attendance had a blast playing with various toys and games together on the lawn. We are already looking forward to next year's gathering!

**Jennifer Martin**  
Photo by Tina Rupp



## HOUSTON NORTH SEND-OFF FOR THE SALYERS

On July 2 the Houston North, Texas, congregation celebrated the seven years they were able to share with Randy and Stephanie Salyer and their family.

Their final service as Houston North members began with Randy giving an inspired and thought-provoking message on lessons from Laodicea. After services, the congregation enjoyed a meal of appetizers and cake, together with mingling, reminiscing and discussing the day's messages. The Salyer family was presented with several cards and notes to remember the congregation and a great deal of smiles and hugs.

Randy, Stephanie and Samantha will be starting a new adventure with a lifelong dream of having their own property in the mixed hardwood forest of eastern Texas and Oklahoma. Our loss will be the Van Buren, Arkansas, congregation's gain. There were many well wishes and several promises to visit.

**Greg Mann**

## DALLAS AND SHERMAN YA BOATING ACTIVITY

Young adults from the Dallas and Sherman, Texas, congregations spent a gorgeous day at the lake on Sunday, Sept. 18. They chartered a double-decker party boat, anchored in the middle of Lake Lewisville, grilled out for lunch and then enjoyed an afternoon of swimming, jumping off a 10-foot platform, going down a waterslide and battling to achieve "king of the mountain" status on a floating "lily pad."

All appreciated the change of pace the day offered. There's nothing quite like spending an afternoon in a beautiful setting with fine food and drink and simply relaxing with God's people.

**Andy Burnett**



## JOHANNESBURG HOLDS FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND

After more than two years of various stages of lockdown and restrictions due to COVID-19, the Johannesburg, South Africa, congregation hosted a fellowship weekend over the first weekend of July. Shortly before the weekend, South Africa lifted the requirement for masks to be worn, which was much appreciated by all.

Although it is the middle of winter in South Africa, we were blessed with two beautiful days.

The Sabbath program included three separate Bible studies—for adults, for young adults and teens, and for preteens—after which we enjoyed a delicious lunch of bobotie (a traditional South African dish), rice and salad. A Sabbath service was held in the afternoon, followed by tea and cake, and in the early evening we enjoyed hot soup and rolls.



On Sunday members returned for board games, indoor group games, tea and scones, and a lunch of burgers made on the *braai* (barbecue).

Due to the coronavirus, it had been a long time since we had been able to get together in this manner, and the fun and fellowship were greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all ages.

**Leanne Helfrich**

## MEMBERSHIP GROWTH IN AUSTIN

In the past few months the central Texas congregation in Austin has experienced some encouraging growth in membership. Eight people were baptized on the Sabbath prior to Passover (see p. 13 of the May/June issue of *One Accord*), and four more were baptized after Sabbath services on Aug. 13 (see p. 21). Seven of these 12 who were recently baptized had no Church of God background. These new brethren are finding our congregation by doing Internet searches for “Sabbath-keeping churches in Austin, Texas.”

Although our congregation does not immediately show up in these searches, there are a couple of online directories of Sabbath-keeping organizations in which we do appear. It is clear that these people were really searching—or perhaps we should say that God was surely leading them to continue their searches.

Additionally, two more new people attended for the first time on the Sabbath that we had our most recent baptisms. These visitors, too, had found us after doing an Internet search for “Sabbath-keeping churches in Austin, Texas.” They told us they are currently visiting various Sabbath-keeping congregations before deciding which one they will attend. We invited them to stay after church to watch the baptisms, which they did.

The growth in our congregation has been exciting for our longtime members, our young adults (some of whom are also getting baptized) and for those new to our congregation. On more than one occasion I’ve enjoyed hearing a newly baptized person meet new people and tell them how pleased he or she is that they found us.

Of course, we know that God is the One who calls people. We are simply thankful to be here to help. Now we are trying to be a good home, where those God is calling can grow spiritually.

**David Treybig**





## Weddings



**Bryan and Raegan Diaz**

On May 29, 2022, a fun group of 125 family members and friends gathered in San Antonio, Texas, to witness and celebrate the joyous occasion of Bryan Diaz and Raegan Hoyer uniting their lives in marriage.

Paul Carter, pastor of the Los Angeles, California, congregation and Bryan's former pastor, officiated the ceremony. Mr. Carter is also the camp director of Camp Sequoia, the jumping-off point for Bryan and Raegan's relationship.

Randal Rapp, the bride's grandfather, emceed the reception and provided great entertainment. Gerald Hoyer, the bride's other grandfather, gave the blessing for the meal.

The newlyweds currently attend the East Texas congregation and live in Nacogdoches, Texas, where Raegan continues working on her degree in speech-language pathology at Stephen F. Austin University. Bryan works as a videographer for Eagle Eye Productions.

The Diaz and Hoyer families feel very blessed!

**Rashele Hoyer**

## Births



**Grayson Gary Dullum**

David and Amy Dullum, along with Grandma Faith Dullum of the Dallas, Texas, congregation, are happy to announce the birth of their son/grandson, Grayson Gary Dullum.

Grayson was born on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, at 9:25 in the morning. He weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and measured 22 inches long.

**David Dullum**

Dan proposed to Jan at a casino while on the senior trip to Squaw Valley. He says, "I took a gamble. I asked to see a ring she had on her left hand and then exchanged the engagement ring when I put it back on her finger. She was surprised and said yes—thankfully, because I had the band announce the engagement and play a special song for us to dance to!"

The couple were married in Jackson, Mississippi.

Over the years they have served the Church in many ways, including working for Mr. Armstrong. The greatest joys of their marriage are their four children, Chad, Courtney, Cheyenne and Brandy.

**Mary Peyton**



**Pam and Bob Ward**

In May of this year, the Twin Cities, Minnesota, congregation held a brunch in recognition of Bob and Pam Ward's 50th anniversary.

The couple met at a Fargo, North Dakota, social and got to know each other better when Pam moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota, to further her education. Bob was there also, working on his master's degree. There wasn't a fancy engagement, as they both realized that they were a good complement to each other and mutually agreed to get married.

On May 28, 1972, they married in Fargo. Over the years they have lived in North Dakota, Texas and Minnesota (where they have been for the last 27 years).

The Wards enjoy stimulating conversations and making Friday night a special date night. They both have served the Church in many ways throughout the years, helping with sound systems and special music.

**Mary Peyton**

## Anniversaries



**Dan and Jan Creed**

Dan and Jan Creed celebrated 50 years together in a fun and typical Creed way by inviting their friends and family to their home and hosting a buffet-style meal. There was music, dancing, laughter and lots of good memories.

Dan and Jan both grew up in the Church and met at Ambassador College. Friends told them they were meant for each other, and it would seem they were right!

# Baptisms



**Victoria Iacobucci**

On Monday, Aug. 8, 2022, Victoria Iacobucci, 20, was baptized in the lake at Camp Heritage. It was a beautiful sunny day, with a slight breeze, and the water was relatively warm.

Kevin Epps performed the baptism. Victoria's father, Bob Iacobucci, a deacon, assisted her. Then, Chad Messerly joined Mr. Epps for the laying on of hands.

Also, in attendance were Belinda Epps, Gail Iacobucci, Jennifer Messerly, Scott and Monica Lord, Dennis and Beth Kuhns, Christine Martinez, Gerard Martell and Heather Martin.

Victoria is currently in the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation, pastored by Ron Kelley.

**Kevin Epps**



**Jared Ellis**

On May 31, 2022, Jared Ellis from the Akron-Canton, Ohio, congregation was baptized into the Body of Christ by pastor Don Henson, who was assisted Jared's father, Roger Ellis.

It was a beautiful day, filled with sunshine and joy. Jared was baptized in a pond at the McMillen Hilltop Farm, where he had worked for five years. He was surrounded by a small group of family and friends to share in the momentous occasion. Afterward, they ate a wonderful meal together to celebrate welcoming Jared into God's spiritual family.

Jared has since moved to South

Carolina to plan his wedding to his fiancée, Lizzie Onisick, and pursue his education in the health-care field.

**Gabriel Ellis**



**Lillian Bowman**

On Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022, Lillian Bowman, from the Toronto, Canada, congregation, was baptized in Lake Courage on the property of Camp Heritage during the week of camp.

We welcomed Lillian into the family at around 1 p.m. in the picturesque setting under a beautiful blue sky with warm sunshine.

A small group of friends, as well as a few of her family, were able to attend, making the event even more special.

**Chad Messerly**



**Franchesca Irby, Brittany and Jordan Word, and Ely Stroud**

After services on Sabbath, Aug. 13, 2022, the Austin, Texas, congregation witnessed the addition of four more members to the Body of Christ!

Those baptized were Franchesca Irby, Brittany and Jordan Word, and Ely Stroud. All four live in the Austin area. Pastor David Treybig conducted the baptisms, and elders Jack Hendren and Clay Mills assisted in the laying on of hands.

After the baptisms, the congregation enjoyed a beautiful chocolate cake and snacks to celebrate the special occasion. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and welcoming our new members to the family!

**Ardith Weiss**



**Anna Coponen**

We are happy to welcome a new member of the Asheville, North Carolina, Church of God.

Anna Coponen was baptized on Aug. 20, 2022, by her pastor, Eric Evans. After a hike up the hill from the stream, the laying on of hands took place at Jeff and Nancy Baker's home. Two other ministers (Mr. Baker and Steve Ferenchiak), along with Mr. Evans, completed the ceremony.

There were lots of hugs and congratulations to make Anna feel welcomed to the family of God.

**Judy Ferenchiak**



**Hugh Barlow**

Hugh Barlow of the Harlingen, Texas, congregation was baptized on Sept. 9, 2022, as the Sabbath was beginning.

Hugh was baptized by Michael Watts, an elder in the Harlingen congregation, who was assisted by the pastor, Arnold Mendez. Mr. Watts then led the laying on of hands ceremony, assisted by Mr. Mendez.

Hugh has attended the Harlingen congregation for many years. Other members and children witnessed the joyous occasion, and then everyone had a wonderful group dinner afterward.

**Arnold Mendez**



**Camellia Teague**

It is with fullness of heart that the Ruston, Louisiana, congregation shares the news that Camellia Teague was baptized into God's spiritual family on the Sabbath of March 26, 2022, by Ken Treybig.

Camellia is the granddaughter of Chris and LaDonna Teague, both longtime members of God's Church. Chris and LaDonna were able to witness this special event along with family members Don and Camille Ballo from the Fort Myers, Florida, congregation. Several other Church members from the Ruston and East Texas congregations were also in attendance.

We welcome Camellia as our spiritual sister into the Body of Jesus Christ.

**Johna Barnette**



**Christen and Rylee Lewis**

On Feb. 26, 2022, Rylee and Christen Lewis were baptized into the Body of Christ after Sabbath services in Sedgwick, Arkansas. Many in the local congregation, as well as family and friends, gathered to witness the joyous occasion.

The double baptism was performed by Justin Adkins, pastor of the Sedgwick and Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, congregations.

**Justin Adkins**



**Janie Garcia**

Janie Garcia of the Harlingen, Texas, congregation was baptized on Sept. 9, 2022, as the Sabbath was beginning.

Janie was baptized by Arnold Mendez, the pastor of the Harlingen congregation, who was assisted by elder Michael Watts. Mr. Mendez then delivered the prayer for the laying on of hands ceremony and was assisted by Mr. Watts.

Janie was a former prospective member of the Worldwide Church of God and attended for many years. She began attending the COGWA congregation in Harlingen and has now been added to the Body of Christ. Members and children of the congregation were present, and all enjoyed the happy occasion. Afterward all enjoyed a group dinner together.

**Arnold Mendez**



**Angela Smith**

Angela Smith, of the Houston North, Texas, congregation, was baptized on a beautiful Sabbath morning, Sept. 10, 2022, surrounded by friends and family.

The ceremony was performed by her pastor, Gary Black, at her parents'

home and announced at services later that day to a delighted congregation.

Parents Charles and Tammie Smith, along with grandparents OD and Sylvia Jones, are very happy and proud of her calling.

**Charles Smith**

## Ordinations



**Elana Blouin**

Elana Blouin of Riverside, Rhode Island, a member of COGWA's New England congregation and the daughter of Amelia and the late Raymond Blouin, was ordained as a deaconess on June 5, 2022, during the morning services on Pentecost.

Miss Blouin was baptized on March 30, 1996, along with Ben Richmond, the husband of another of the congregation's deaconesses, Mary Lou Richmond. Elana was brought up in God's Church and was 5 years old when her parents started attending. She's been a member of God's Church ever since.

Speaking of the example that she followed, Elana said, "Growing up, I observed my dad serve, locally and at the Feast, with dedication and with my mom alongside. They inspired me to do the same. An important part of being a family is serving one another, and I'm committed to doing that."

Between services, most of the congregation joined Miss Blouin for a lakeside picnic lunch, allowing all to share in the joy of the event.

**Jay Fidanza**

# Obituaries



**Gladys Harkins**

It is with great sadness that the Ruston, Louisiana, congregation announces the death of Gladys Harkins.

Born Oct. 31, 1926, Gladys died at the age of 95 on Feb. 5, 2022. She was a longtime member of God's Church and began attending services in 1960. She loved God's truth and had no hesitation about telling anyone her beliefs. Her favorite Feast sites were Big Sandy, Texas, and Branson, Missouri.

Her favorite foods were greens and hot water cornbread, and she ate tomatoes and garlic with onions almost every day because she said it was the key to a healthy life. She had the memory of an elephant and was known for her work as a local historian for Union Parish, where she lived.

She is survived by her two sons and their families. She was faithful to attend services until right before her death, and the Ruston congregation will cherish fond memories of her for many years.

**Johna Barnette**



**Vinka Sarin**

Vinka Sarin, 74, a longtime member of the Houston North, Texas, congregation, died on June 1, 2022, after a lengthy and courageous battle with breast cancer. She is survived by her daughter, Sandy Sarin Lawler, and her husband, Paul; son, Klaudio Sarin;

grandson, Liam Sarin; daughter-in-law, Christi Turner; brothers, Vilmo Vidov and Eugen Vidov; and many nieces and nephews.

Vinka was born in Zadar, Croatia, in 1948 and immigrated to the United States with her husband in 1970. Eventually settling in Texas, Vinka and Tony began attending the Houston North congregation and were baptized in the early '80s.

Vinka loved cooking and entertaining, always creating delicious meals for her family and friends. She also loved to travel and toured around the world, including spending her summers in Croatia.

Vinka was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, who dedicated her life to her family. She was a loyal friend and was always ready with a listening ear.

We will miss her and look forward to seeing her again.

**Sandy Lawler**



**James Owen Earls**

James Owen Earls of the Phoenix, Arizona, congregation died of melanoma cancer at the age of 66 on July 14, 2022.

James was born in Noblesville, Indiana, to Leland and Juanita Earls and was 8 years old when his family started attending the Radio Church of God. James took part in a church-sponsored boys' club in the 1960s and was later baptized while attending the Worldwide Church of God.

James loved traveling, cooking and reading. He also enjoyed music—writing lyrics, singing and playing guitar. Attending church services and going to the Feast also brought James great joy.

He was known to have a good sense of humor and would often have a "joke of the day" ready to bring humor to others.

James is survived by sisters Cathy and Cindy and by brothers Eugene,

John, Paul and Leon. He will be missed by many friends and family. We look forward to seeing him in the Kingdom of God.

**Kathy Earls**



**Maurine Harrison**

Ellen Maurine Harrison, a longtime member of the Houston, Texas, congregation, passed away in the early morning hours of Sept. 27, 2022, at the age of 84 due to complications from heart disease.

She was born in Runnelstown, Mississippi, on June 25, 1938, to parents Ester Lillian and John Timothy Purvis.

She is survived by her five children, Dale, Doug (and his wife Connie), Darrell, Derlyn (and his wife Ginger), and Tanya Deneen (and her husband Paul). Maurine is also survived by her sister Joyce Thornton and numerous nieces and nephews, 15 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Maurine married her husband Floyd in June of 1957 in Houston, Texas, and remained with him until his untimely death in 1990.

In addition to her dedication in raising five children, Maurine had a passion for games, especially card games, which she loved playing with family and friends, and computer games. She was also a talented musician, mastering many instruments during her lifetime—from the clarinet and harmonica to the mandolin and hammered dulcimer. She was also a talented painter who enjoyed painting colorful and serene portraits.

Her last many years of life were spent among family, living with her daughter Tanya and her large extended family. Her presence will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

**Greg Mann**

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