

# OneAccord

September/October 2022

## Continuing Education Seminars

**What About Hope?**

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**You and Your Sons and  
Your Daughters**

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**Journeys and Reflections**  
Roger and Andrea West

# personal from the president

## Foundation Institute and Education

For two weeks this past July, the office was buzzing with the approximately 70 students who were here for the Foundation Institute Continuing Education classes. We had a full house for both of the two weeks, approximately 35 students each week.

All ages were represented, although most were in the “mature” range and retired from work, so they could easily schedule a week away from home. The fact that these two classes filled up with students within minutes after the registration was posted says something about our members’ desire to learn.

In the 1940s Herbert Armstrong wrote about the need for a good biblical education for the membership. The following is taken from a coworker letter that he wrote in advance of the founding of Ambassador College in 1947:

“In other words, real conversion and salvation is EDUCATION—not the kind of purely mental, purely materialistic, and mostly faulty and erroneous education of this world—but REAL education, which is the enlightening of the mind, feeding of the mind and soul, thru that faculty of mind we call the HEART, the development of self-discipline and character in the true spiritual values.

“God intended man to become EDUCATED. We never glorify God by ignorance, nor by neglecting to train and educate the mind! What is the principle thing that elevates a man above a dumb animal? It is his MIND! That mind, then, to glorify God and fulfill His purpose, ought to be developed, used, rightly cultivated and trained.”

When we began Foundation Institute in the fall of 2012, we had two purposes in mind. One was to pass on biblical knowledge to the next generation, but the second was to emphasize the importance of building righteous character. Can Foundation Institute build character? No! But it can provide an atmosphere of godliness where one can study and interact with others who are like-minded. And from that, character can be developed—

good study habits, a good knowledge of God’s Word and interaction with people who are there to help you learn and grow.

Over the past decade, Foundation Institute has not only provided on-site biblical education for more than 100 students, but also hosted a series of continuing education classes with approximately 70 students each summer (with the exception of the two years of COVID, 2020 and 2021). And, of course, there are the online classes, which have more than 2,000 student subscribers.

In my view, every member of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, has benefited directly or indirectly from the education programs coming out of Foundation Institute. I believe it is correct to say that we are providing more biblical education than at any time in our history, and that is a good thing!

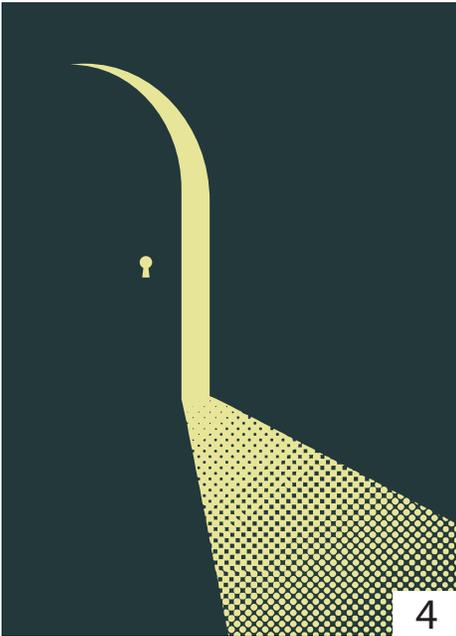
One of the most basic principles, and one of the guiding principles for Foundation Institute, is found in Psalm 111:10: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.” Combining a biblical education with obedience to God is the foundation of the Christian journey. I am very pleased with the work and progress of Foundation Institute over its decade of existence!



**Jim Franks**

President

Church of God, a Worldwide Association



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## CHURCH of GOD

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# WHAT ABOUT HOPE?

**Like people in the world, we deal with hurt and heartbreak. But we go to the Feast to celebrate God's plan of extraordinary hope. Make plans now to be at services—don't let anything steal your hope!**

**By Mark Whynaucht**

**W**e take planes, trains and automobiles to go to the Feast each year. We plan and pack and head out the door to make our way to the place where God has placed His name. We become part of that throng that is moving to and fro upon the face of the earth.

On a recent trip that I took to Alberta, I was struck by how each person we see has a story.

I encountered a man whose granddaughter was born prematurely, weighing just 2½ pounds. She and all the people who love her are fighting for her life.

The young woman sitting next to me in the waiting area was evidently unwell. She moved gingerly from the wheelchair to the seat next to me. It appeared she had just been released from the hospital. She still had hospital bracelets on; one said “Fall Risk.” I asked if there was anything she needed. As we talked, she explained that she had suffered an ectopic pregnancy and had lost her baby and very nearly her own life. She was too weak to make the 800-mile drive home with her husband, so here she was fighting her battle in this massive sea of people.

There was an elderly man at the gate who was alone and very obviously fearful and out of his element. There was an exhausted young mother trying to contain a toddler’s tantrum. There was a middle-aged woman wiping tears from her cheek.

These were just a few of the lives that crossed my path on this day in this airport. Everywhere I looked I saw weary, exhausted people who were just trying to make it to their destinations. Glancing at the faces of the people who passed by, it’s pretty easy to see that they are all carrying stories of hurt and heartbreak—and wearing them very close to the surface.

## Extraordinary hope

As we travel to the Feast, cars break down, planes are delayed, luggage is lost, yet we push forward until we make it to our temporary dwellings. We arrive exhausted with suitcases filled with the things we will need for our stay.

We also arrive with our own hurt and heartbreak. We arrive with the stories that have shaped us, with the good and bad that make us who we are. We arrive with our chronic pain and illness. We arrive with the battle scars of our daily lives. But, unlike all those faces in that sea of people I described, we also arrive with hope.

We have been blessed with the knowledge of how the story ends, and we go to the Feast to celebrate that. God has chosen to set us apart, to share with us His plan of extraordinary hope.

It reminds me of Hebrews 6:19: “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.” There could be no greater gift. Without that hope, we are just another face in a sea of humanity trying to make it to some unknown destination.

There are many reasons why we have answered God’s call to walk this way of life, but I would venture to say that for most of us, hope sits very high on that list of reasons.

## This is what hope does

At the Feast we can come to services and look out at a much smaller sea of people than we find at a busy airport, but many of the stories are the same. Each one of us carries a story of hurt and heartbreak. But, as we look out across this sea of faces at the Feast, we are not confronted with the scars. Instead, there is a hum of joyous chatter, hugs for long-lost friends and warm smiles filling the room.

This is what hope does, and this is why we come.

To be able to enjoy the physical blessings God has given us is a true joy. When brethren get together, the food and fellowship they share are a true blessing from God. The Feast provides a wonderful setting for some of the best fellowship possible.

But fellowship at the Feast is not limited to what we enjoy with our brethren. We also have a fellowship that supersedes human fellowship. Notice what is written in 1 John 1:3: “That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

While we are away from home, it is easy to forget the purpose of the Feast. We can drift into thinking we are on vacation. It is easy to let the charms of the location distract us from why we are at the Feast in the first place—and steal our hope.

## Keeping our hope by being there

We can skip services to partake in an activity that we would never get to do at home. We can skip services because we are tired and just don’t feel like getting dressed up and going out the door. We can skip services because the kids are cranky or need to do their homework. We can skip services because the gentle breezes and warm sand are calling. We can skip services and hook up online so that we can take part in our afternoon activity sooner than if we were at services.

There are as many reasons for skipping services as there are people who come to the Feast.

Our need to attend all the services should be one of our primary areas of focus for the Feast. We should never become so busy at the Feast that we miss services. It is of utmost importance that we plan to worship with our fellow brethren and realize that by doing so we are fellowshiping with our Father and His Son—our King, Jesus Christ.

As we draw closer to the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day, let’s all prepare to worship together in an atmosphere of love, respect and honor—not only toward God but toward our brethren and the communities in which we keep this year’s Feast. ©A



# YOU AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS

Deuteronomy 12:12 reminds us that the Feast of Tabernacles is an opportunity for families to rejoice together. Here are some practical suggestions for making the Feast special for everyone!

By Mike Blackwell

**T**he Feast of Tabernacles is almost here. Everyone is getting excited and ready to go to the Feast. It is really anticipated by the whole family.

The Feast is a time to get out of our regular environment—get out of our rut—and focus on God’s plan for mankind. As we prepare to keep the Feast of 2022, we need to remember that God focuses on the whole family especially at this time. It is the world’s largest family reunion.

As we go to the Feast, we need to be reminded of the importance of family at the Feast. God tells us in Deuteronomy 16 that we are to go with our family to the place where God has chosen to put His name, and we are to rejoice. Let’s look at several things we need to remember in order to more effectively do this.

## Learning the meaning

We need to remember to keep the entire family involved in the Feast. It is truly family time, so we need to plan ahead to do things that will help the entire family to rejoice and learn while at the Feast. But we also need to remember that we are there to learn and not just have fun. Sometimes we forget that we have a responsibility to explain the Feast and what it pictures to our children. We may have been keeping the Feast for such a long time that we take it for granted.

God instructed Moses about the lessons that Israel needed to learn. Deuteronomy 6:20-25 explains that families need to learn the importance of obedience to God’s commands. It says that when your children ask you about the meaning of God’s commands, you should explain in language they can understand why we do the things we do. We should

help our children to understand why we keep the festivals of God and—especially at this time—why we keep the Feast of Tabernacles. God commands it so we can understand His plan, and a time will come when everyone will follow God and obey Him by doing what we do now. That will be a far better time!

As you explain about the Feast, it would be good to explain second tithe. God tells us to save so we can have the money to rejoice and worship Him. He also commands special holy day offerings to show how much we appreciate Him and His plan.

Give your children some second tithe and help them learn how to budget and use it appropriately. You might even include enough for them to buy small gifts for others. Help them to have some money to put into the offering basket when it is passed.

Doing these things will put into their minds the importance of what we do. It will help them to identify with keeping the Feast on a personal level. It will help them to begin to see the Church as *their* church, not merely Dad and Mom’s church.

An enjoyable part of the Feast for many families is Feast gifts. Giving children a special gift or two can make the Feast more enjoyable. These gifts can be beneficial, such as quiet toys to play with during services or maybe a notebook or a new Bible.

Gifts can add to our children’s enjoyment, but we need to be careful that the Feast doesn’t become about only gifts and toys. Careful selection of what you give can be an aid in this process. Remember, you don’t want to give the idea that they

get toys at the Feast instead of at Christmas. Remember to keep the overall focus on God's Feast and His plan.

## Building friendships

The Feast is a time to meet and make new friends, as well as spend time with current friends. Given the small size of many of our congregations, there may be only a very few young people in your local congregation. Your children may see some friends only once or twice per year, but it is important that they learn they are part of God's very large family. Encourage them to spend some free time with friends, but also help them see the importance of including others in their group.

Spending time with friends is very important to all of us, but especially to teens and older preteens. At times teens may want to sit together, and this is okay as long as they are sitting with one set of parents. The presence of parents will help the teens stay focused, rather than passing notes back and forth. (As a hint, the speaker can generally see if teens are listening or if they're busy passing notes and talking.)

Another exciting and educational opportunity is to encourage your children to adopt a grandparent at the Feast. Deuteronomy reminds us to include the widow and the fatherless as part of our extended Feast family. There are always a number of widows and other elderly members at every site—many of whom have no family keeping the Feast. Having children talk with them—perhaps even bringing them a carnation or rose—can “make their Feast.”

It can help the children to make the Feast *their* Feast and not merely others' Feast. They can go up to the elderly and talk with them several times during the Feast. If appropriate, you can also include one or two of them in an afternoon activity or fellowship time. This can prove very valuable to both the elderly and your children or teens.

We have talked a lot about children, but what about your mate and you? The Feast is a nice time to have a date night, if you can arrange it. You might arrange with another couple to take turns watching the children so that each couple can have an evening for themselves. It can spark up the Feast and can be very good.

## Serving isn't just for adults

Having grown up in the Church from the age of 6, I remember learning how important it is to become involved in the Church even as a young person. It helps you to personally identify with and get involved in the Church. The best way to help your children begin to think of the Church as *their* church is to get them involved in it. One good way to do this is to help them serve at the Feast.

In Galatians 5:13 the apostle Paul tells us, “Through love serve one another.” There are lots of opportunities to get involved. My first job at the Feast was helping with the lunch line in the Redwood Building in Big Sandy, Texas. As I got older, I did other things, such as helping on the parking crew, cleaning up the Field House and other things.

Personally, I looked forward to serving at the Feast, and I believe young people today do as well. Teens can help with parking, special services and other areas. Younger kids can get involved in picking up things left after services, holding the door open for older people or even by gathering up the songbooks following services. If you look, there are plenty of opportunities to help out.

## Preparing for church services

It helps to prepare for services ahead of time. Children should be taught to pay attention during services. Small children can play quietly. As they get older, it is good to teach and encourage them to find the scriptures in their own Bible and to learn to take notes. They can begin by writing down the scriptures.

You may need to help them do this, but it will be well worth your while in the long run. I found as a teen that services passed much faster if I was involved, listening and following along—than if I was bored and distracted. If your children take notes, compliment them and praise them for doing so. You might even ask them what they got out of the sermon.

## Focusing on God

Our society today is totally consumed with our electronic devices—cell phones, notebooks, etc. God commands us to leave home and go to the place where God has chosen to place His name. He does this for a reason—He wants us to disconnect from the world and its influences and contacts so we can focus on Him, praising Him and learning about His plan.

We need to be extremely careful about using our electronic devices at the Feast. Some contact may be necessary, but we and our children need to have God and His plan as our primary focus. We need to dedicate ourselves to allowing Him to speak to us and inspire us. I would encourage parents to limit the time family members spend on electronic devices during the Feast.

The Feast is an opportunity to spend time with others of a common mind, not our worldly acquaintances. This may be difficult for some to do, but it will prove well worth the effort in the long run.

Of course, many of our children will need to do homework assignments to keep up with their classes while gone to the Feast. Encourage them to work hard and get as much of it done as possible *before* the Feast begins. That way they can enjoy the Feast more. Nothing creates more of a drag on the Feast for teens than to have to work on homework when “everyone else” is having fun.

God's Feast is just around the corner, and we are commanded to rejoice, “you and your sons and daughters,” at “the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide” (Deuteronomy 12:11-12). With some planning ahead and maintaining right priorities, we can truly rejoice as a family in God's Feast of Tabernacles. ©A

# Roger and Andrea West



Roger West first heard Herbert W. Armstrong and *The World Tomorrow* program on Radio Luxembourg while serving in the U.S. Air Force at a remote British communications site in the fall of 1960. He wrote in for *The Plain Truth* magazine and was very quickly convicted by what he was reading. In 1961 he was released from service to attend Ambassador College in Pasadena, California.

Meanwhile, Andrea Wann had been keeping the Sabbath with her mom and two aunts. Mrs. Wann first heard the broadcast in 1945 and was also convicted by what she read in *The Plain Truth* and the booklets she received from the Radio Church of God (which later became the Worldwide Church of God). Her sisters tried to “rescue” her, and soon all three of them were reading and studying and teaching their seven children (including Andrea) about God. There was no congregation near them until 1966. Andrea, however, was accepted to Ambassador College in Pasadena in the fall of 1961 and attended her first formal church service at college.

Roger and Andrea met on the bus headed to the Feast of Tabernacles in Squaw Valley, California, their freshman year. It was the first Feast for both of them and the beginning of a lifetime of building friendships.

## Ordination and service

After their graduation in May 1965 and marriage in June 1965, Mr. West was hired as a ministerial trainee to serve in the Los Angeles, California, congregation of the Radio Church of God. He remembers visiting the brethren in the Watts area after the terrible race riots that year.

In 1966 the Wests were sent to the Kansas City, Missouri, area where he served as a ministerial assistant in five congregations. Two sons (David and Jonathan) joined the family during their time there. Mr. West was ordained as a deacon in 1968 and as an elder in 1969. In

1970, due to a financial crisis in the Church, he was one of 35 men let go from employment in the ministry.

Since work was difficult to find in the Kansas City area, the Wests moved to the Wann family farm in southeastern Oklahoma. Mr. West finally found employment as an insurance auditor in the Oklahoma City area. While in this position, he was also able to serve the local congregations as an elder, first in the Oklahoma City, Ada and Lawton, Oklahoma, church circuit, and later in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, church circuit.

In 1974 the Church asked Mr. West to come back to full-time employment. The Wests realized that their hearts and their training were in the service of the Church, and Mr. West became the associate pastor for the Tulsa congregation.

Their third child, Tammy, was born in 1975, and in December of that year, they were transferred to serve in Tupelo and later Columbus, Mississippi. When their neighbor found out they were moving, she remarked to Mrs. West, “I don’t know how you can accept moving someplace where you don’t know anyone.” Mrs. West thought, “We are moving to live among friends; we just don’t know their names yet.”

One exciting event that happened during their time there was that their two small rural congregations fielded a basketball team of seven players that won the national Youth Opportunities United basketball competition and brought home a huge trophy! This was very exciting for these congregations. The Wests served there for 9½ years, until

1985 when they were transferred to serve the congregations in London, Middlesboro and Somerset, Kentucky.

The Wests recount that Mr. Armstrong was known all through the hills of Kentucky. They said, "Frequently, we would have townspeople tell us things such as, 'I have heard Mr. Armstrong since I was in the cradle.'" The family served in this area until 1993.

Mr. West then pastored the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and Paducah, Kentucky, congregations and eventually the one in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. In March 2000 the pastor of the Fort Smith, Bentonville and Mena, Arkansas, congregations suddenly died. Mr. West was asked to care for these three additional congregations. In 2000 he was transferred to the Fort Smith area to take care of just the three western Arkansas congregations. For Mrs. West, it was a return home. They lived only an hour from where she had grown up, and her mother was still attending in Fort Smith.

The Wests continued to serve in this area until Mr. West retired in August 2012.

## Recollections

Looking back, one of the greatest delights of their ministry has been working at preteen and teen summer camps. Mrs. West remembers being one of the teachers for an etiquette class at camp. As a part of the class, they had the boys escort their sister dorms to Sabbath brunch. She said they were surprised how well this practice caught on among the campers (and still continues today!).

As for their own children, the Wests spent much of their lives traveling to two congregations every Sabbath and participating in all kinds of church activities. Their children enjoyed making friends and were sad to tell them goodbye with each move. But, as they got to each new area, the children would set about making new friends. They have many happy memories and friendships that are still part of their lives. The process of adjusting to new congregations, new schools and new friends built adaptability into them.



With each transfer, Mrs. West recalls, "We came to the congregations and learned their names as we shared the truth of God, the happy times of life and the hard times of life. Each congregation taught us more about loving and taking care of each other—hopefully, we did the same for them. As we learned their names and shared our lives . . . we became friends."

Looking back, the Wests regard "the privilege of living and serving alongside the brethren in many areas of the United States as one of the greatest blessings of our lives!" ©

## On the Road Again

Following are the positions of service held by the Wests between 1965 and 2012:

- 1965-1966 Ministerial trainee, Los Angeles, California
- 1966-1970 Ministerial trainee, Kansas City and Topeka, Kansas, and Kansas City, St. Joseph and Columbia, Missouri; ordained as deacon and then as elder
- 1970-1974 Elder, Oklahoma City, Ada, Lawton and Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 1974-1975 Associate pastor, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 1975-1985 Pastor, Tupelo and Columbus, Mississippi
- 1985-1993 Pastor, London, Middlesboro and Somerset, Kentucky
- 1993-2000 Pastor, Paducah, Kentucky, and Cape Girardeau and Poplar Bluff, Missouri
- 2000-2012 Pastor, Bentonville, Fort Smith and Mena, Arkansas

# Continuing Education Seminars at Church HQ

By Ralph Levy

For the first time in three years, Foundation Institute, Center for Biblical Education, held two on-site continuing education seminars in the McKinney, Texas, office.

About 34 students from the United States, Canada and the Caribbean traveled to a very hot North Texas for each of the two weeklong seminars held July 18-22 and July 25-29. Students were mostly older than those who typically take our nine-month program, but no less enthusiastic. Some of the local brethren stayed in their homes, others stayed at the Towne Place Suites by Marriott (located just a third of a mile from the Church office), while some were accommodated in the FI apartments in Allen, and some worked out their own Airbnb-style accommodations.

The two seminars provided a full and varied menu of classes, beginning at 8:30 a.m. each day, and ending at 4:25 Monday through Thursday, earlier on Friday. Classes were taught by Church President Jim Franks, Media operation manager Clyde Kilough, treasurer Britton Taylor, and resident FI instructors David Johnson, Erik Jones and Ralph Levy.

Mr. Johnson taught a series on the Pastoral Epistles, titled “Commit These to Faithful Men.” Dr. Levy taught a series on the postexilic prophets Haggai, Zechariah and

Malachi; and Mr. Jones taught “The Identity of Joseph: Answering the Critics.”

Mr. Franks taught two classes, one on the three resurrections and one on the promises to Abraham. Mr. Kilough taught one class, titled “The Biblical Perspective on Race.” And Mr. Taylor taught one class on the holy day offerings. This made for a varied blend of subjects.

We spent enjoyable time eating and fellowshiping together. Becky Johnson (wife of FI instructor David Johnson) coordinated the lunch menu each day, and most participants enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner together Monday evening at Dimassi’s Mediterranean Buffet, located close to the office.

As we wrapped up each seminar on the Friday afternoon, certificates of completion were awarded to each student, and a rendering of “Pomp and Circumstance” poured out of the mobile phone of one of the students!

Our hope is to offer more continuing education classes in December at the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky, and again here in McKinney next summer. It’s our pleasure to bring these educational programs to the members of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, and we look forward to seeing more brethren participating in the Foundation Institute Continuing Education program. ☺☺



Seminar one



Seminar two

# CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?

## BIRMINGHAM CONGREGATION 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Feb. 24, 1962, was the first Sabbath service for the Birmingham congregation. On the Sabbath of Feb. 26, 2022, the 60th anniversary was celebrated by 82 attendees. Two of these attendees were at that first service 60 years ago: Bruce Gore (who previously pastored the Birmingham congregation) and Eddie Travis.

Also present were previous pastor Tom Kirkpatrick, Carolyn Winner (wife of previous pastor Bill Winner) and current pastor Paul Luecke. On the other end of the age spectrum, it was inspiring to see that five attendees this Sabbath were under the age of 2. With our other preteens, the future of the Birmingham congregation is looking bright.

The Birmingham congregation celebrated its milestone with gratitude and reflection. Split sermons by Tom Kirkpatrick and Bruce Gore focused on identifiers of the true Church, appreciation of our calling, and building our life on the spiritual foundation that has preceded us.

Following services, members enjoyed more fellowship while sharing a commemorative cake, a finger food potluck, and then a game night social. A “memory lane” slide show played throughout the evening, providing the opportunity to reminisce about previous milestones, members we have known along the way, and how we have grown over the decades. Much of the evening was spent conversing about where we have come from and where we hope to continue going.

Through the day, we thanked God for His precious calling, the blessings He has provided and continues to



provide, and the incredible hope we have as we move into the future. We thoroughly enjoyed our time together and look forward to our next milestone celebration!

**Karen Claunch**

## BACOLOD CITY HOLDS LADIES GET-TOGETHER

On March 18 the ladies of the Bacolod City, Philippines, congregation were able to meet again personally for an afternoon of good food and fun conversations.

It was a first since COVID-19 started and was a welcome delight for the ladies who came that afternoon: Terry Gaspar, Anita Tiu, Florlin Sison, Fe Abay, Jennifer Castillon, Mary Joy Canonero, Liezel Siopan, Teresa Julagay, Grace Siopan and Florbelle Sison.

Fellowshipping was evident in the cozy ambiance of the place. The main highlight of the afternoon was encouraging one another to keep healthy in both mind and body amid the challenges of the world today.

These ladies look forward to seeing each other regularly in the coming months.

**Jill Castillon**



## VAN BUREN HOLDS PICNIC

On May 15 the Van Buren, Arkansas, congregation launched into the late spring warm season with a picnic at the beautiful Lake Fort Smith State Park at Mountainburg, Arkansas, located at the picturesque foothills of the Ozark Mountains. The lake water was cool and refreshing, which was perfect for swimming, boating and fishing.

As one would surmise with the people of God, the highlights were the delicious hamburgers, home-cooked side dishes and especially the fellowship. The sound of silence in the peaceful setting was nowhere to be heard above the joyful shouts of children at play and the animated conversation of young and old.

**Aurora Gossett**



## PENTECOST PICNIC AT THE PAVLIKS'

After services on the Sabbath of June 4, members of the Cleveland, Ohio, congregation enjoyed the second annual Pentecost picnic at the Pavliks' place.

Since Pentecost was the next day, the evening of continued relaxation and fellowship was a nice addition to the double Sabbath weekend. The weather was perfect for grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. And, as is usual with a church potluck, there was plenty of delicious food and desserts to share. Everyone had a wonderful time!

**Erica Pavlik**

## LOUISVILLE HOSTS LADIES' TEA

On June 12 the ladies of the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation enjoyed a tea party at their local church hall. Each participant brought her choice of a sweet or savory hors d'oeuvre, creating a range of flavors from sandwiches to chocolate-covered strawberries.

Each lady also brought a box of her favorite hot or cold tea to share for taste testing, and her favorite mug or teacup for a "best of" competition. Norma Osorio won first place in the hat competition, with her lovely handmade fascinator, and Deborah Raley won first place in the teacup competition with a third-generation teacup (passed down from her grandmother, to her mother and finally to her).

There was also an optional clay painting activity, where everyone made keychains by pressing plants into air-dry clay and then painting the impressions.

The Louisville ladies look forward to another tea activity in the future!

**Carolyn Winner**



## COLUMBIA ENJOYS ANNUAL PICNIC

The Columbia, Missouri, congregation's annual church picnic, held on June 26, came with the blessing of cooler weather, as the temperature dropped from the mid-90s to a breezy 79.

Food was plentiful and provided the perfect reason to sit and talk. Conversation and good company were, as always, the highlights of the picnic.

Activities included games of catch and kayaking on the pond, and there was sidewalk chalk, bubbles and swings for the kids—or anyone else who wanted to get in on the fun.

**Shalynn Mellerup**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## Weddings



**Kate and C.B. Johnson**

What started as a desire to help a fellow Church member grew into friendship. That friendship grew into love, which resulted in marriage! Sabbath, July 16, 2022, was a beautiful day for a wedding! The Austin, Texas, congregation was privileged to joyfully witness the marriage of Kate Caruso and C.B. Johnson as they exchanged vows after church services.

Attending the bride was Lenna Slaughter, a longtime friend in the Austin congregation. Attending the groom was Chuck Stevens, a longtime friend from the Houston, Texas, congregation. Pastor David Treybig conducted the ceremony. Family members and friends joined the local congregation in celebrating the occasion.

After the wedding, all were invited to a beautifully decorated reception in the fellowship hall, where a professionally made wedding cake, delicious snacks and a refreshing punch were served.

The happy couple will reside in the Austin area and attend the Austin church.

**Ardith Weiss**

## Anniversaries



**Jack and Vicki Willoughby**

On June 23, 2022, Jack and Vicki Willoughby from the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation celebrated their golden anniversary.

Mutual friends and family introduced Jack and Vicki in 1971. Jack had just gotten out of the Navy a few years earlier, and Vicki's family had settled in Missouri after her father retired from the military.

Jack was already receiving *The Plain Truth* magazine when they were first married, and Vicki's introduction to the Church was when he gave her an issue with a recipe for whole-wheat bread.

About a year after marriage, the couple was called into the Church in Springfield, Missouri. Jack and Vicki started attending services during the spring holy days of 1973 and made their baptismal covenant with God. "It was like everything was opened up to us, one holy day at a time," Vicki recalled.

Jack was ordained a deacon in the mid-1980s, and Vicki a deaconess in the late 1990s. In 2002 Jack was ordained a local elder, and the two have diligently served the brethren ever since.

In 1977 the Willoughbys moved to northwest Arkansas and started attending the Fayetteville congregation. God has blessed the couple with four amazing kids—Elizabeth Brown, Nathan Willoughby, Zandra Haring and Janette Froedge—and 10 fantastic grandchildren, ranging in ages from 26 to 1 year.

On the evening of June 25, with most of their family in attendance, the couple had a special 50th celebration ceremony, officiated by their son, Nathan Willoughby.

**Lyndi Fultz**

## Baptisms



**Bellinda Simanjuntak**

On Sunday, June 26, 2022, Bellinda Simanjuntak was baptized by her pastor, David Baker, at Pasir Ris, Singapore.

As she mentioned in her blog post "[The Journey of My Christian Life in Indonesia](#)," Bellinda began counseling for baptism prior to the pandemic and has waited more than two years to be baptized.

It was a very joyous and long overdue occasion! In attendance were Bellinda's parents, Edward and Lilik Simanjuntak, along with Singaporean members Luke Lim and Ling Eng Chew.

**David Baker**



**Shawn Dailey**

The Trenton, Georgia, congregation is thrilled to announce that Shawn Dailey was baptized into the Body of Christ on July 2, 2022, by his pastor, Paul Luecke. Elders John Pentlin and Mike Summy assisted with the laying on of hands.

About two dozen Trenton and Birmingham, Alabama, members were present, including Shawn's mother, Betty Dailey. Afterward everyone enjoyed some celebratory snacks. We are happy to welcome Shawn into the family of God!

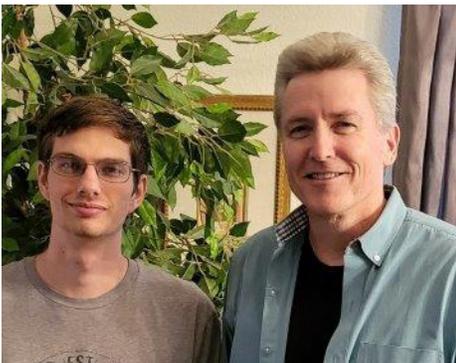
**Annette Epperson**



**Nicole Richey**

Nicole Richey was baptized into the Body of Christ on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, by Don Henson, pastor of the Columbus-Cambridge, Ohio, congregation, at the home of her parents, Rob and Amy Richey. Nicole is a fourth-generation member of God’s Church. Her grandparents and parents were in attendance, with her grandfather, Barry Richey, assisting with the laying on of hands. Her family and extended Church family are thrilled!

**Denise Hadley**



**Jordan Richey**

Jordan Richey of the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation was baptized on July 14, 2022, by Barry Richey, who is his grandfather and an elder. Tim Rickard, who was then the Fort Worth assistant pastor, led the laying on of hands ceremony, along with Barry Richey and the pastor of Fort Worth, Ken Giese.

Jordan, a fourth-generation Christian, was surrounded by his family and friends, including his parents, Rob and Amy Richey, and his sister Nicole, members of the Columbus, Ohio, congregation.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful dinner afterward at the Richeys’ home.

**Tim Rickard**



**Gwendolyn Scarborough**

Gwendolyn Scarborough, a member from the Kansas City, Kansas, congregation, was baptized Friday evening, July 22, 2022, just prior to sunset. Friends and family surrounded Gwendolyn to witness the joyous occasion.

Having grown up in the Church, Gwendolyn was excited to commit to God’s way life! This special ceremony was conducted by her pastor, Caleb Froedge. Afterward, everyone partook of light refreshments and fellowship as Gwendolyn was welcomed into the Body of Christ and God’s spiritual family.

**Katie Froedge**

## Ordinations



**Michael Watts  
and Orlando Mascorro**

On April 22, 2022, the Harlingen, Texas, congregation was blessed with a double ordination ceremony.

Orlando Mascorro was ordained as a deacon. Michael Watts, a recent participant in the Focused Mentoring Program who has capably served as a deacon, was ordained as an elder. Both men were born into the Church and have been longtime servants. They, along with their wives and children, attend and serve in the Harlingen congregation.

The ordination took place on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread and was witnessed by the combined Harlingen and Corpus Christi congregations. Arnold Mendez, pastor of the Harlingen church, was assisted in the ordination by Jack Hendren, former pastor of Harlingen who is now retired, and Steve Moody, pastor of the Corpus Christi congregation.

**Arnold Mendez**

## Obituaries



**James Estel Judy**

James Estel Judy, 79, a faithful member of the Morgantown, West Virginia, congregation, died on Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

Jim is survived by three sisters and three brothers. In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by his wife Peggy Sue and two brothers.

Jim was blind and graduated from the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Romney, West Virginia. He started his career working at a broom factory, but later operated his own business in the food service and vending field in Morgantown. He was in the workforce for 38 years.

Jim came to understand God’s truth and was baptized in 1982. From that point on, Jim’s life was centered around God and

His people. His greatest joy was learning, fellowshiping and serving brethren.

Jim listened to numerous audiobooks on many interesting topics, and he loved to share his latest findings with friends and family. Jim's example will be remembered by all those he touched with his positivity and generosity.

#### **Jeana Beilstein**



**Marcella Jo Wagerle**

Marcella Jo Wagerle, died Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022, in Wichita, Kansas, at the age of 82. She was born March 6, 1939, in Newton, Kansas, to Peter and Sadie Unruh. On Sept. 20, 1957, she married Donald Pankratz, and they had three children, Orrin (Paula) Pankratz, Leslie (Gerry) Campbell and Renee (Jesse) VanScyoc.

After listening to the radio broadcast in 1961, they ordered *The Plain Truth* magazine, and Marcella began the *Bible Correspondence Course*. Not to be outdone, Donald ordered several lessons at once so that he could catch up with her. When they requested a visit from the local minister, they were invited to attend church and were baptized in August 1963, just in time for their first Feast of Tabernacles. Donald died in 1965.

On July 1, 1967, Marcella married an elder, Charles Wagerle, who died June 24, 1995. They had two daughters, Joanna (Roger) Austin and Carlene (Robert) Tucker.

For many years, Marcella provided beautiful flower arrangements for church services and was part of the kitchen team, managing beverages, refreshments and potluck meals. In the fall of 2021 she was recognized

with a commemorative plaque celebrating her years as a faithful member of God's Church. She was a vibrant, dedicated member of the congregation, and her absence creates a void for both the brethren and her family.

She is survived by her brother Gerald (Sharon) Unruh, sisters Thelma Goerzen and Barbara Schroeder, five children, 12 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her grandson Lucas Campbell and brothers-in-law Delmar Schroeder and Willis Goerzen.

#### **Lynda Wasser**



**Melanie Lynn Quick**

Melanie was born in Denver, Colorado, on Aug. 24, 1956, to Robert and Donna Colhour. Soon after, the family settled in Loveland, Colorado, where Melanie and her brother grew up. After graduating from Loveland High School in 1974, Melanie enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

After completing her military service, Melanie dedicated her time to raising her two children and also opened her own business. Quick Clean Services provided residential and commercial window cleaning services to the northern Colorado community.

Melanie enjoyed gardening, cooking, camping and spending time in the outdoors. She was always very determined and had a strong work ethic. She was a dedicated and faithful servant, both to God and the Colorado congregations where she attended. Her tireless service and trademark hospitality will be greatly missed!

Melanie is survived by her children, Heather (Brian)

Wilhelm and Robert Quick; her grandchildren, Bradley, Caroline and Duke Wilhelm; her siblings, Mark and David Colhour; and parents, Robert and Donna Colhour.

#### **Sera Grabowski**



**John Kilough**

John Kilough, 93, began his race on Feb. 26, 1929, in Goose Creek, Texas, and finished it on July 5, 2022, in Sherman, Texas. In 1950 John married Betty McWhorter, and in April 1963 they responded to God's calling, began attending Sabbath services in Houston, Texas, and were baptized on Aug. 12, 1963.

After 31 years of marriage, Betty died from cancer in 1981. Two years later John met and married Bernice Tackett of the Jonesboro, Arkansas, congregation, and they were married 39 years.

Due to serious health problems, in 2021 John had to move to Texas to be under the care of his son and daughter-in-law, Clyde and Dee Kilough. Even though limited in physical activity, his mind remained sharp and lively until just a few days before his death. He always had some project in mind (though flying was his lifelong passion), but most of all, he was focused on the future, always engaging visitors in conversation about God's way of life and His coming Kingdom.

John is survived by his wife Bernice; son Clyde and his wife Dee; stepchildren Deana Barker, Lynn Tackett and Billy Tackett; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one sister. He was predeceased by his first wife Betty and his son Don Michael in 1955.

#### **Clyde Kilough**

WFW2022  
winter family weekend



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Dec. 23-27, 2022

Louisville, Kentucky

Plan to join us at the Galt House Hotel for the 2022 Winter Family Weekend. Enjoy fellowship and fun activities with friends and family, while you explore the keys to "Walking by Faith."

Reservation details will be coming soon.