

# OneAccord

January/February 2023

## Camp Conference Detailed Examination

**Feast Coordinators' Planning Meeting**

**Ministerial Board of Directors Annual Meeting**

# personal from the president

## Four Pillars of Ministerial Leadership

Having recently returned from the Philippines and another very successful International Leadership Program, Phase 3 (ILP3) conference, I've had much of my focus on the development of leadership. Of course, in the U.S. we have the Focused Mentoring Program (FMP), which we have been using successfully for the past 10 years. But I'm especially concerned about the development of ministerial leadership for congregations *outside* the United States.

I have given the statistics about our congregations several times over the past few years, but each time I review them, I'm reminded how much work we have ahead of us. This year at the Feast of Tabernacles, our attendance surpassed 12,000 for the first time. And that number can be divided almost equally into two parts—6,000 in the U.S. and 6,000 outside the U.S. Yet 75 percent of all elders live and serve in the U.S., and 25 percent of all elders live and serve outside the U.S.

So, 75 percent of our elders serve 50 percent of the membership, and 25 percent serve the other 50 percent. In a number of countries outside the U.S. where we have congregations, we have *no* elders. In these cases, the congregation's pastor travels from another country and can only visit a few times each year.

In 2017 and early 2018—a period of less than 12 months—we lost three pastors suddenly to death, leaving big holes to be filled. Two of these were from outside the U.S., which added to the difficulty of finding a replacement. In November of 2017 we developed the International Leadership Program to address these urgent needs. Shortly after we began, the world was thrown into lockdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We

restarted the program this year, and so far, we have conducted four ILP3 weekends—in Chile for South America, in Barbados for the Caribbean, in San Luis Potosí for Mexico and in Manila for Asia.



Eugene Kumar



Tarun Ghosh

### Recent ordinations

In our most recent ILP3 in the Philippines, we saw good growth. During the conference, we ordained four men—three deacons and one elder. For the first time in a number of years, we will now have two deacons serving in India—Eugene Kumar and Tarun Ghosh—and one deacon in Indonesia—Edward Simanjuntak. The new Filipino elder is Bernardo Castillon. Mr. Castillon is from

the Bacolod area and is the son of a longtime pastor from the Worldwide Church of God days. Mr. Castillon senior is now deceased, but I know that if he were alive, he would be pleased to see his son also serve as an elder in the Philippines.

At the beginning of each conference, I speak about the four pillars of Church leadership that we want to focus on. All our presentations are based on one or more of these areas. I believe these are important for all of us as we grow in our Christian lives. The four pillars I refer to are:

- 1. Doctrine or knowledge.** We must be familiar with the doctrines.
- 2. Communication.** We must be able to effectively communicate God's truth through the spoken and written word.
- 3. Personal example.** Our personal example must be above reproach.
- 4. Personal development.** We must always be working on improving ourselves.

The ILP3 conferences are going extremely well. We are following the advice of the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 2:2: "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

We have two more conferences scheduled for early 2023: Auckland, New Zealand, in January and Johannesburg, South Africa, in February. After these two conferences, we will schedule two or three more during the remainder of 2023. It is our goal to complete all of the regional conferences by the end of 2023.

Thank you for your prayers and your support. They are making a difference!



Edward Simanjuntak



Bernardo Castillon



**Jim Franks**

President  
Church of God, a Worldwide Association



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## CHURCH of GOD

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# SHARPENING IRON

## The Duty of Salt and Light

None of us likes false advertising.  
Neither does God.

By Doug Horchak

There are few things more frustrating than buying a product and then finding out that it's nothing like it was advertised! Whether it involves purchasing a home, buying a pair of shoes, getting a hotel room or eating out at a restaurant, if something isn't as advertised, we cry, "Foul! False advertising."

God's feelings about false advertising are no different. He believes in telling the truth, and anything that He promotes or describes will be just as He said it would be! That brings the topic back to all of us—the members of His Church. As Christians, are you and I "as advertised"? Do we fit the description that Christ said we would when He instructed His disciples in Matthew chapter 5?

### The salt

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus first pronounced blessings on those who represent the character of God through their attitudes. Then He followed by immediately addressing the duty of His disciples to reflect the values and standards of God in their everyday lives—to actually be representatives of Him in the world.

In Matthew 5:13 He said to His disciples, "You are the salt of the earth"! In so stating, Christ showed His disciples that they are the only people on earth that give meaning and "flavor" to those they live among. That is, it is through God's elect, His Church, that He offers humanity the opportunity to fulfill its destiny.

He continued, "But if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men" (Matthew 5:13). Salt that has no taste is worthless! It is no

different than if I were to purchase online a pair of shoes advertised as size 10D and made of quality leather only to find out upon delivery that they were size 7 and made of cardboard. If I have a size 10D foot, they are good for nothing! And thus it is for all of us. We need to "stay seasoned" by continuing to love God and model His way of life!

In using this illustration, God is showing that His job for us—once we are converted—is to reflect God's values in our personal example. And we are to do this all while living in a world that is going the wrong direction. It is a duty that we as Christians should not take lightly!

### The light

Christ continued the thought in Matthew 5:14-15, where He instructed His followers, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house."

Our presence, our actions, our very lives should be an example that others can see! He instructs Christians to "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). It is our good works (not a poor example) that others should recognize. And even though the apostle Peter acknowledges that some in this world may not give us the credit of representing the true God until the very end of the age (1 Peter 2:12), we must never lose sight of the importance of our example and the legacy we leave behind.

But why is our example so very important? Why is modeling godliness in the way we live our lives so valuable in the eyes of God?

It is because such a gleaming and Christlike example is the very best advertisement for God and what He represents. It shows the results that can be achieved when a person, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, lives according to God's instruction! It goes beyond preaching the gospel, to living the gospel.

### Our duty as Christians

There is no better testimony or proof of God and the value of His way of life than the living example of a changed human being—a person who now has the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:3-5).

It has been said that Christ's parables and illustrations were simple in telling but profound in spiritual meaning. The analogies of comparing God's people to salt and light are just that. Simple, but profound.

Let us recognize our duty to reflect God's values in our everyday life. Let us be as advertised—the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world." ©A



# Camp Conference

## Detailed Examination

By Ken Treybig

Once in each of his letters to the church in Corinth, the apostle Paul advised the members to examine themselves. Each year the COGWA Youth Camps directors meet to do just that.

We ask a number of questions: How did we do at our camps this year? What went very well? What challenges—if any—did we face? How did we handle those challenges (whether they were with health concerns, the facilities we rent or other factors)? Is there anything we would, or should, do differently if faced with a similar situation in the future? How did our Christian Living theme work? Was it easily understood? Was it easy to clearly integrate into Compass Checks, Christian Living classes and even into activities?

From a higher-level perspective, how well is our detailed Camp Director's Manual meeting our needs? Whenever someone takes temporary responsibility for the minor child of someone else, it is a big responsibility. We're called on to take a host of actions to make sure we do our best to care for that minor. That is precisely the reason we developed our manual.

It's been our standard practice to have a few chapters reviewed by Human Resources and by our legal counsel every three years. But anything in life that is not reviewed periodically can eventually begin to fade from

memory. In part, that is why God has us go through His annual feast cycle each year—to keep His plan of salvation for humanity clearly in mind.

It had been several years since the team had spent time reviewing the entire manual. Additionally, we have a new legal counsel for the organization, so this year seemed to be an ideal time to do this once again, not only to remind all our directors of all the specifics, but to also get input from the fresh perspective of our new legal counsel.

It may seem somewhat mundane to review an operation manual, but the camp team recognizes it as important to do occasionally.

The team still reviewed this year's camps, discussed the future, finalized a Christian Living theme—"Mapping Your Future"—for next year, while interspersing reviews and discussions about each of the 11 sections of our manual.

The directors deeply appreciated the opportunity to meet again in person, build stronger personal bonds and work together to help ensure that this program will continue to provide a wonderful opportunity for the Church's youth (from preteen to young adults) to strengthen their relationship with God, as well as with peers and adults, in a godly environment. ©A



# Feast Coordinators Meet at Headquarters

By Jon Pinelli

**T**welve Feast coordinators gathered at the headquarters office for face-to-face meetings on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 28-29, 2022. Joining us online were Daniel Harper, who coordinates the Mont-Tremblant, Québec, site in Canada, and Peter Hawkins from the U.K., who coordinates our Feast site in England.

These two days of meetings have proved to be invaluable. Day 1 provides an interactive session. Each coordinator is able to give a brief report on his Feast site, sharing with everyone the successes of the recently completed Feast. We are also able to hear about some of the challenges some sites faced. This year several sites experienced difficulties. But, as we relived the stories, it was encouraging and inspiring to see how in each case God worked things out for His people to have a successful Feast.

While we always spend some time debriefing over the past Feast, the majority of our time is spent refining our planning in multiple areas. We address questions like, How can we better serve our seniors at the Feast? Which works better during the Feast, a Friday evening Bible study or a Sabbath morning Bible study? Is a hotel ballroom a better choice for meetings than a stand-alone facility like a convention center?

By seeking input and analyzing what is working well in various areas around the country, the coordinators are able to refine what they each do at their site.

Finally, a lot of time is spent on planning for Feast sites in the years ahead. Even as we focus on the short term, we must also plan for the long term, often looking at where we may want to have a site in five years. This is very necessary. As the convention and meeting business becomes busier year after year, we need to be able to lock in the sites and facilities that we may want to use. This includes not only our U.S. sites, but also specialty sites that are coordinated out of the headquarters office.

Discussions range from how many specialty sites we should have in a given year to how we can balance those sites with our current needs in the U.S. This can be critically important, since we must be able to staff all of the sites we plan.

As the coordinators headed home after the meetings, they were all reminded that planning must begin now. We leave nothing to chance or last-minute planning. Time waits for no one. The Feast of Tabernacles 2023 will be upon us before we know it! ©A





# MBOD Holds Its Annual Meeting

By Joel Meeker

The Ministerial Board of Directors met for its annual in-person meeting from Monday, Dec. 5, through Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022. The meetings began Monday morning with a state-of-the-church report by President Jim Franks. Mr. Franks recounted the history of the Church in the era of COVID-19.

At the start of the outbreak, no one knew the impact the epidemic might have on the income and operations of the Church. The administration planned for a possible downturn in donations with corresponding budget decreases. But, by God’s grace, Church income actually increased through the pandemic. Combined with a decrease in expenses brought about by the inability to travel, this has put us in our best financial situation ever.

The meetings continued with presentations about the strategic plan and the operation plans, broken down along department lines. Mr. Franks gave an overview of the three primary strategic issues facing the Church: 1) leadership development and training, 2) preaching the gospel to the world and 3) infrastructure upgrades, both for congregations around the world and for the headquarters office.

Media operation manager Clyde Kilough presented the proposed operation plan for his department. The plan proposed development of various programs for 2023. New social media advertising campaigns will increase the reach of our Life, Hope & Truth website. A new LHT video program is under development, which will primarily be marketed on YouTube. A Bible verse podcast called “Verse by Verse” is under development. Two new hires are planned to allow the Church to increase its media production.

Ministerial Services operation manager Doug Horchak then presented the proposed plan for Ministerial Services in 2023. Core goals remain the same: 1) to seek, find and develop couples to serve in the pastoral ministry around the world; 2) to provide biblical educational opportunities for our lay membership; and 3) to engage and develop the younger generation in the work of the Church, particularly in service to their congregations.

Leon Walker, our international liaison, explained plans for the work outside the United States. Particular emphasis rests with the International Leadership Program, which is now in its third phase. Plans are in

the works for conferences in New Zealand, South Africa, Kenya and Guatemala. All four administrators will attend each conference to allow them to personally know potential leaders around the world.

Treasurer Britt Taylor explained the proposed budget, our most aggressive and optimistic budget to date. A 14.1 percent increase in income—an increase of \$2,000,000 over the previous year—is projected for 2023. The Media department in particular will receive a notable increase in its budget to strengthen our world outreach.

Dinner Monday evening was hosted by the Franks in their home. Board members and wives, along with the administration and other office staff, were invited to a delightful dinner and warm fellowship.

After discussion on Tuesday morning, the plans and the budget were unanimously approved by the board.

Mr. Franks then gave a report on manpower needs around the world. This is a key issue for the Church to be able to operate successfully wherever God draws people to His work. The remainder of the day was devoted to updates on various programs of the Church, including the Doctrine Committee, Foundation Institute, FI Online and the FOI nonprofit. The Church’s new legal counsel, Al Garrett, also made an introductory presentation.

Wednesday morning was devoted to final discussion items, which centered on additional manpower development in the coming years.

As has been the case since our inception, these meetings were encouraging for the spirit of brotherhood and teamwork that pervaded the meeting. God has blessed us in the past year, both spiritually and materially, for which the board and the administration are most thankful. ©





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# CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?

## HOUSTON NORTH TEENS GATHER FOR SOCIAL

On Saturday evening, Sept. 3, 2022, Houston, Texas, teens and their families gathered at the home of Bryan and Rhonda Waddle for the traditional "Welcome to the Teen Program" annual social. The group of 21 teens, ranging in age from 12 to 18, dined on burgers and enjoyed hours of fun, socializing and playing games.

After dinner concluded, the group played several Sabbath-friendly games, including Name That Hymn, Books of the Bible Sort, Bible Trivia and Bible Pictionary. After the sun went down, the game night livened up quite a bit with Minute to Win It games. Four teams formed for a friendly competition, and a winning team was declared at the end of the evening.

Even after the games concluded, the party continued late into the evening. Although swimming had been on the agenda, the weather did not cooperate. However,

that didn't stop the teens from having a good time. They weren't in any hurry to quit!

All adults in attendance would agree that this year's group of young people brings an energy and enthusiasm to the teen program and to the Houston North congregation.

**Tyenne Hewitt**



## HOUSTON SOUTH PARTICIPATES IN OUTREACH

The Houston South, Texas, congregation participated in a couple of Hilltop Outreach projects in 2022.

In April the ladies put together 72 gift bags for children who are cancer patients at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital. The gift bags included a variety of coloring activities and toy items that the children could enjoy.

In August the congregation served a taco bar lunch to residents at The Ballard House of Katy, Texas. The Ballard House provides free housing for patients (and their families) who are being treated for serious health issues in the greater Houston area. There was a large variety of delicious taco toppings, and fun decorations were set up throughout the room!

The congregation really enjoyed the opportunity to get together and serve. We look forward to doing more projects in the future!

**Kristen Mazza**



## COLUMBUS-CAMBRIDGE HOLDS CHILI AND DESSERT COMPETITION

On Nov. 19, 2022, the Columbus-Cambridge, Ohio, congregation enjoyed a chili and dessert night, organized by Patrick and Breanna Bruske. There was a contest for the best overall chili cooked by the men and the best dessert made by the ladies.

The competition for the best chili was hot, with 15 entries. Patrick Bruske squeaked into first place (the secret ingredient was filet mignon), with a close second-place win by Levi Ramsey (with a secret ingredient of venison) and a third-place win by Sam Wilson.

The dessert competition was quite a sweet treat, with 19 entries. Tiffany Shirk came in first place with a caramel apple pie. Hannah Sillin placed second with a s'mores pie, and Amy Ramsey placed third with a coconut cream pie.

After the contest and meal, members enjoyed gym activities and board games along with much fellowshiping. The congregation is looking forward to this becoming an annual event!

**Denise Hadley**



## HOUSTON NORTH ASTROS OUTING

The Houston North and South, Texas, congregations had a walk in the park—and several home runs as well—on their outing to see the Houston Astros take on the Los Angeles Angels at Minute Maid Park on Sept. 11, 2022. This long-awaited return to the stadium was rewarded with the Astros' 12-4 win over the Angels, their 90th win of the season. It also included a grand slam by Astros third baseman Alex Bregman.

We had a record 104 signed up to attend—practically filling the whole section and allowing young and old to mix and visit as they watched the game. The event organizer, Jeanine Burt, missed a foul ball hit into our section as well, but we won't hold that against her . . . much.

**Greg Mann**

## HAVEN SWANSON GRADUATES MAGNA CUM LAUDE

On Dec. 9, 2022, Haven Swanson received a bachelor of arts degree in English and graduated magna cum laude from the University of North Carolina Asheville. She is traveling abroad for a couple months as a post-graduation celebration and then plans to attend Foundation Institute next year.

The Asheville, North Carolina, congregation, which was Haven's home while attending UNC, sent her away with congratulations and a celebratory cake.

**Will Swanson**



## COLUMBIA HOSTS FALL COOKOUT

The Columbia, Missouri, congregation's annual fall cookout was on the evening of Nov. 5, 2022. Fellowship centered around the warmth of the fire (where many a marshmallow went up in flames) and the drink table (where coffee, tea and hot buttered rum could be found). The rain that forecasts had called for at the beginning of the week never appeared, leaving us with a beautiful night to enjoy together.

**Shalynn Mellerup**  
**Photo by Amanda Porter**



## LEICESTER THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

Historians have long considered that the first Thanksgiving took place in November 1621 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

On the Sabbath of Nov. 5, 2022, the Leicester, Massachusetts, congregation had a pre-Thanksgiving Day potluck! Before the evening's food and fun, Gerard Martel and David Rand (pastor) gave uplifting and reassuring messages.

Everyone in the congregation contributed to the meal, which included turkey, potato and squash dishes, green bean salad, warm bread, cranberry sauce, cranberry relish, and other items. Included in the many desserts were homemade pumpkin pie and rhubarb pie!

The congregation reflected on giving thanks. Isaiah 12:4-5 states, "And on that day you will say, 'Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make them remember that His name is exalted.' Praise the LORD in song, for He has done glorious things; let this be known throughout the earth" (New American Standard Bible).

**Jay Fidanza**



# BIRMINGHAM ENJOYS CHILI, HAYRIDES AND BONFIRE AT FALL SOCIAL

On Saturday evening, Nov. 5, 2022, brethren from the Birmingham, Alabama, and Trenton, Georgia, congregations attended a bonfire and chili supper social at the home of George and Drea Allen.

Following a beautiful sunset, members of all ages enjoyed hayrides over hills and through woods, a roaring bonfire and, of course, wonderful food! Rain had been forecast, but God answered prayers and allowed us to enjoy the time outdoors. There was only a slight drizzle for a brief period.

It was an evening where about 67 brethren enjoyed several hours of conversation, food and laughter.

**Karen Claunch**



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

## Anniversaries



**Bill and Gladys Beauchamp and Pat and Bob Freeman**

On Sept. 17, 2022, the Columbia, Missouri, church celebrated not one, but two anniversaries. We

were pleased to congratulate Bill and Gladys Beauchamp on their 40 years of marriage and Bob and Pat Freeman on their 60 years.

Following their words of thanks and the stories they told, we enjoyed a potluck and two homemade, beautifully decorated cakes, which they were kind enough to share.

**Shalynn Mellerup**



**Nelda and Frank Pierce**

On Aug. 13, 2022, the Houston South, Texas, congregation gathered to celebrate and honor Frank and Nelda Pierce for their 65th wedding anniversary. The congregation enjoyed food, shared memories and gave toasts in their honor. There was lovely décor with photos from the years to look at.

Frank and Nelda met in October 1953 when Nelda was a junior in high school, and Frank was a senior. Frank graduated in 1954 and went to college at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Nelda graduated in 1955, and they became engaged at her graduation. Nelda completed business college and worked as a senior clerk at Southern Bell Telephone Co. until they were married in August of 1957.

Frank and Nelda are a beautiful example of love and service to each other, to others and to God. Frank serves as an elder in the congregation, and they both show a wonderful commitment to serving God's people. Their love for God and His way of life is evident, and they

are an inspiration and blessing to all who know them!

**Kristen Mazza**

## Births



**Wesley David Duncan**

Steven and Danielle Duncan of the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation are thrilled to announce the birth of their firstborn. Wesley David Duncan arrived Sept. 7, 2022, weighing 8 pounds 13 ounces and measuring 22 inches long.

The entire family—and especially grandparents John and Angie Duncan of Nashville, Tennessee, and Jerry and Tami Rehor of Louisville—is rejoicing in this wonderful little blessing.

**Carolyn Winner**

## Baptisms



**Sabrina Slaughter**

After church on the Sabbath of Dec. 17, 2022, the Austin congregation gathered to witness the baptism of Sabrina Slaughter. David Gatley, assistant pastor of the Austin and San Antonio congregations, performed the baptism.

Afterward, Mr. Gatley was assisted by elders Clay Mills and Jack Hendren, both of the Austin congregation, in the laying on of hands. Mr. Hendren, who is also Sabrina's grandfather, offered up the prayer on her behalf. What a special occasion for both of them! And for the Austin congregation!

Afterward, the congregation enjoyed snacks and fellowship.

**Ardith Weiss**



**Brad Phariss**

Brad Phariss, son of longtime members Bill and Lavanda Phariss, was baptized on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022, during the Feast of Tabernacles in Branson, Missouri. Congratulations, Brad.

**Mike Blackwell**



**Emmanuel Tremblay**

The Montreal, Quebec, congregation is happy to welcome a new family member! Emmanuel Tremblay was baptized during the Feast on the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 15, at the heated outdoor pool of the Axe Hotel Mont-Tremblant.

Montreal pastor Daniel Harper conducted the baptism in French. Emmanuel's wife, Eve, and extended family were present to witness and share in the joyous occasion.

**Cindy Harper**



**Vanessa and Maria Rangel**

Maria Rangel and her daughter Vanessa Rangel were baptized July 16, 2022, in Stockton, California, by their pastor David Register. Mike Rangel, Maria's husband and Vanessa's father, was baptized several years ago. The Rangels attend with the Stockton, California, congregation.

**David Register**



**Chris Thomas and Matthew Jackson**

The 2022 Feast of Trumpets in Springfield, Missouri, had a special blessing. There were two ordinations on that day.

Matthew Jackson, of the Joplin, Missouri, congregation, was ordained as a deacon. Following that ordination, Chris Thomas, of the Springfield congregation, was ordained as an elder. Glenn Smith, an elder in the Joplin congregation, participated in the ordinations. (Pictured in photo, left to right, are Mike Blackwell, Chris Thomas, Matthew Jackson and Glenn Smith.)

Congratulations to these men on their ordinations to greater service in the Church of God.

**Mike Blackwell**



**Christian Leyden**

On Sept. 10, 2022, the western Michigan congregation was delighted to watch the ordination of Christian Leyden to the office of deacon. Chris and his wife, Rebekah, have long made serving the Church an important part of their lives, and the brethren will truly be blessed with their continued service. The ordination was conducted by pastor Michael Hanisko and associate pastor Christopher Moen.

**Chris Moen**

## Ordinations



**Corey Maker**

On Nov. 19, 2022, the Tulsa, Oklahoma, congregation was excited to witness the ordination of Corey Maker as a deacon. Corey was ordained by his pastor, Ken Giese, who was assisted by elders Jim Hudson and Tom May.

The Tulsa congregation was happy to congratulate Corey, along with his wife, Ashley, and daughters, Carol and Jane (pictured above). The brethren in Tulsa appreciate Corey's continued dedication to serving the congregation.

**Monica May**



**Peter Holmes**

Peter Holmes was ordained as an elder at services in Knoxville, Tennessee, on the Sabbath of Sept. 24, 2022—just a couple days before the Feast of Trumpets.

Peter resides in Knoxville, Tennessee, and is a safety director for Fraley and Schilling Trucking. He has served God's people for over 30 years and currently helps Eric Evans care for the Knoxville and the London, Kentucky, congregations.

Elders Jeff Baker and Steve Ferenchiak joined in for this joyous occasion. (Pictured in photo, left to right, are Jeff Baker, Eric Evans, Peter Holmes and Steve Ferenchiak.)

**Jeannie Evans**

## Obituaries



**Dianne McClelland**

Dianne Wilson McClelland, 72, a deaconess in the Jefferson, Georgia, congregation, died peacefully in her home on Jan. 29, 2022, after a short illness.

Dianne was the second of five children of Raford and Agnes Towe Wilson, who were original members of the Athens, Georgia, congregation. Dianne's younger days were spent on her family's farm in Georgia, which provided adventure, work and fun for Dianne and her sisters.

After graduating from high school, Dianne continued her education in Atlanta. It was there that she met her husband of 47 years, Bob

McClelland, while he was stationed at Fort McPherson. They married shortly before his deployment to Vietnam. After he returned, they lived in Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Wisconsin. They were baptized in the early '70s, while living in Alabama with their two small children.

Dianne worked for 30 years at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. After retirement, she and Bob moved back to Georgia. Bob preceded her in death in 2015.

Dianne was a quiet, gentle woman of faith and cherished her family. She felt blessed to have 14 family members who attended with her in Jefferson.

She is survived by her children, Jennifer (Eric) Schindeldecker of Thorp, Wisconsin; and Rion (Hannah) McClelland and their three sons Rowan, Liam and Rory (members in Jefferson). She is also survived by her sisters—Donna (Pat) Quintana and Darla O'Neill (also members in Jefferson); Debbie (Jerry) Garrison; and Deanna (John) Stephenson—and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Her memorial, held Feb. 13, 2022, was conducted by her pastor Mark Winner.

**Donna Quintana**



**John Lee Maskrid**

John Lee Maskrid, 79, passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on Oct. 26, 2022. He was born July 26, 1943, in Hoisington, Kansas, to Lloyd and Delma Maskrid.

John began attending the Church of God in 1973 in Wichita, Kansas, and was baptized in June of 1974. He was ordained a deacon on March 3, 1980.

John loved and served the brethren for nearly 50 years. He and his wife Nita were married on May 6, 1972,

and just recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

John is survived by his wife, Nita Maskrid; his four children, Jim Allen, Ron Allen, Kathy Allen and Cindy (Troy) Harris; his six grandchildren, Matthew (Mandy), Rebecca, Ryan (Brittney), Tyler, Cody and Ella; as well as his eight great-grandchildren, Jaden, Hunter, Kason, Kynlee, Lena, Sophie, Jax and Kane.

A celebration of life service was held for John in Wichita on Sunday, Nov. 13.

John will be truly missed by all who knew him.

**Cindy Harris**



**Lucille Henry**

Lucille Henry, a longtime member of the Bedford, Pennsylvania, congregation ended her race to the Kingdom of God on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022. She was 95.

Lucille was prepared for death. She made all her final arrangements and even wrote her own very detailed obituary.

Lucille was called into God's Church when one of her coworkers at the Fairfoot Shoe Factory in Bedford gave her a copy of *The Plain Truth*. She began attending the Uniontown, Pennsylvania, congregation. It was common, back in the 1960s, for members to share rides, and Lucille often had to switch to three different cars to get to services.

After Lucille's first husband, Alfred Turner, died in November of 1973, she began a pen pal correspondence with Robert McDonald, a member from California. Over the course of time, they fell in love and married, and Lucille moved to California. After several years out West, Robert grew ill and eventually died. Lucille returned to Bedford.

In 1998 Lucille married John Henry. They enjoyed 12 years together before his death in 2010. Lucille returned to Bedford in 2012 and remained there till her death.

Lucille touched the lives of many people. Always honest and forthright, she had a great memory, was an engaging storyteller and had an easy smile. While not tall physically—she stood less than 5 feet tall—she was a giant among her family, friends and God's people. She will be missed very much.

**Scott Lord**



**Frank Bly**

Frank Bly, a member in the York, Pennsylvania, congregation, died on Dec. 7, 2022, at the age of 88. His beloved wife Linda died a year and a half earlier. On Monday, Dec. 12, he was laid to rest next to her in northern Virginia.

Frank served aboard the submarine tender USS *Bushnell*, which he enjoyed very much. As a torpedoman's mate, Frank sailed the globe. He used to joke that he saw the world, which is three-quarters water.

Frank was called into God's Church while serving in the Navy and was baptized in 1962. He went to manufacturing engineering school on the GI Bill and graduated while raising five children on his own.

In 1974 Frank married Linda Sneddon, which was, as he put it, the best thing he did in his life. They were married 46 years.

Frank loved history (especially Civil War history), his friends, his family and most of all his God. While not a perfect man, he was a faithful servant of Jesus Christ and now awaits the resurrection and being reunited with those that he loved.

**Scott Lord**



# *Life Hope & Truth* Bible Study Course

## LESSON 1

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