

OneAccord

January/February 2024



Winter Family Weekend

Be Strong and of Good Courage

personal from the president

Lessons From Our History

On the Sabbath of Dec. 16, my wife and I were in Portland, Oregon, for a special celebration. The first congregation of the Radio Church of God was organized in Eugene, Oregon, in October of 1933. That was 90 years ago, hence the recent celebration. Since we have only a few members in the Eugene area, the decision was made to celebrate the anniversary in Portland.

While some of you may have never heard of the name Radio Church of God, I am sure that most of you are familiar with the name Herbert Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong, his wife Loma and 19 others began the Radio Church of God in Eugene 90 years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong had been attending the Church of God (Seventh Day), but they felt they could not support all of their doctrinal positions. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong became convinced in the 1920s that God's people, His true Church, should be observing the biblical festivals. At that time, the Church of God (Seventh Day) observed the Passover, but none of the other festivals.

Mr. Armstrong had other issues with the doctrinal positions of the Church of God (Seventh Day). He had begun writing a lot about prophecy, including his understanding that the United States and Great Britain were descended from Ephraim and Manasseh. He believed that the physical (birthright) promises originally given to Abraham had passed to Isaac to Jacob to Joseph to Ephraim and Manasseh and ultimately to the modern nations of Great Britain and the United States. The Church of God (Seventh Day) rejected this idea.

As well, Mr. Armstrong had begun teaching about a second resurrection, as described in Revelation 20. The Church of God (Seventh Day) accused him of teaching a "second chance" and, therefore, rejected this idea. Of course, they had no answer when asked about the billions who have lived and died without ever hearing of Jesus Christ. What will happen to them in the resurrection? Mr. Armstrong felt strongly that the answer was found in Revelation 20, but the Church of God (Seventh Day) rejected this idea.

Because of these doctrinal differences and Mr. Armstrong's firm belief that the Church should be preaching the gospel to the entire world and not just to ourselves, a new church organization began in October of 1933, originally named Church of God

in Eugene, Oregon. In January of 1934, when Mr. Armstrong began a regular program on the radio, the name was changed to Radio Church of God.


And in 1968, the name was changed to the Worldwide Church of God, a name familiar to so many.

We believe it is important to understand our heritage and where we came from. This is one of the major reasons that we added a Modern Church History class to Foundation Institute in 2021. This class is taught by Doug Johnson, our pastor in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Johnson does an excellent job of explaining the story of the Church in this modern era and the part that Herbert Armstrong played in that history. I hope you have been viewing his classes, which are posted on FI Online. If not, I would encourage you to watch them. You will learn a lot about the past and why we are committed to taking that same message, the good news of the Kingdom of God, to every nation (Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20).

As the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:16: "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!"

This past year of 2023 has been our most productive year for preaching the gospel to the world over the Internet since we began in December of 2010. This past year, we reached more people than ever before, had more booklets downloaded than ever before, increased our subscribers to Discern magazine to its highest level, and launched a new video series—Life, Hope & Truth Presents—on our YouTube channel and the Life, Hope & Truth website. We are striving to spread the gospel far and wide! We pray that this fiscal year of 2024 will be even more successful than 2023!

We appreciate your support for the work God has given us! We will do our best to keep you informed in the weeks and months ahead.



Jim Franks

President

Church of God, a Worldwide Association



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CHURCH of GOD

A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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One Accord is published bimonthly online at members.cogwa.org by the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

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Winter Family Weekend

Be Strong and of Good Courage

On Dec. 22, 2023, over 1,050 Church members from across the United States—and from as far away as Chile—settled into an exciting weekend of education, fellowship, worship and fun at the annual Winter Family Weekend, held at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.

The event opened with a Friday night Bible study, delivered by Dave Myers, titled “Be Strong!” The study introduced the WFW theme of “Be Strong and of Good Courage,” based on Joshua 1:9. Mr. Myers encouraged attendees to embrace this command from God.

Teens attended a target study, titled “Profiles in Teen Courage,” delivered by Joel Meeker. Mr. Meeker expounded on lessons in courage from four young people highlighted in the Bible.

The evening wrapped up with a hymn sing in the Grand Ballroom. Fellowship filled the hallways, as brethren reconnected with their Church family. The



ongoing fellowship, a staple of the annual event, continued through the next several days.

Sabbath morning opened with interesting seminars. Clyde Kilough presented “Eight Women, Four Stories and What They Mean for Us,” which reviewed four facets of courage and strength needed in everyday Christian life. Britton Taylor presented “Do You Have the Courage to Allow God to Seal You in the Ark?” and drew comparisons between Noah’s courage and the courage needed by Christians today.

During the general seminars, teen seminars by Dennis Fultz (“Courage to Be Different”) and Phil Sandilands (“Masculinity and Femininity”) provided teens with instructive, engaging perspectives on the strength and courage teens need. Sabbath school offered creative instruction for preteens.

The Sabbath service, which was webcast to multiple congregations, included several offerings of special music





and a sermon titled “The Unknown Soldiers,” presented by Doug Horchak. Mr. Horchak examined the courage and strength Christians will need to face the challenges of our culture and society in preparation for Christ’s return.

Saturday evening kicked off the WFW scavenger hunt and the annual family dance. Live music was provided by Stone Def Mountain, a band made up of Church members. Card games, karaoke and cornhole were available through the evening.

Beginning on Sunday and continuing through Tuesday, organized volleyball, basketball, and pickleball were offered at the nearby MidAmerica Sports Center, while FI Continuing Education seminars offered attendees spiritual edification.

Sunday also included opportunities for axe throwing and indoor go-karts; an EEI “Make It, Take It, Teach It” workshop; and a bourbon tasting experience. The annual free pizza dinner offered ample food and great fellowship.

In addition to the daily sports and seminars, on Monday attendees were able to participate in three FOI service projects. Additionally, several attendees enjoyed an afternoon of bowling and arcades. Art classes were offered for preteens. Monday evening wrapped up with the always popular Family Novelty Olympics and bunco.

The active pace continued through Tuesday with the addition of a Churchill Downs tour. The WFW closed with the always-popular Family Fun Fair and a Family Trivia night.

The 2023 WFW was a resounding success. Thanks go to Nathan and Amanda Willoughby and the many volunteers who served at WFW. Attendees headed home spiritually stronger and with boosted courage.

The 2024 WFW is scheduled for Dec. 24-28 in Louisville. We hope to see you there!

Jason Hyde





Camp Directors Plan for 2024

Ever wonder what a dozen or so men and many of the wives of those men do for 2½ days each fall? This year's Camp Directors' Conference took place Monday, Oct. 30, through noon on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023.

As we have been doing since we started COGWA Youth Camps, each camp director gave a summary report of how his camp went this year. Most gave a breakdown of the demographics, compared this year's attendance to last year's and listed new activities they introduced this year—along with an analysis of any particular difficulties or problems they experienced that needed discussion by the team. They also shared news about things that went especially well. This practice gives the whole team a chance to consider things to avoid—or possibly include—in the future.

Part of each year's meetings is also devoted to discussion about the current year's theme—how it was presented and how well it resonated as relevant to the lives of campers and staff members. Our 2023 theme, "Mapping Your Future," was described by the directors as connecting very well across the board. While Winter Camp (held in late December) could not yet report, it seems everyone this summer benefited from that theme.

Before they came to the conference, the camp directors chose a theme for next year, selecting favorites from a long list of potential themes that we maintain and then narrowing down the possibilities. The theme selected for next year fits well as a follow-up to this year's. It is "Run the Race—Obtain the Prize," which is rooted in Paul's comments in 1 Corinthians 9:24 about running our Christian race in such a way that we are rewarded by God with the prize of eternal life!

The Media department does a lot of work supporting the CYC program—everything from running articles and ads in publications and posts on social media to designing banners and creating the storyboard and

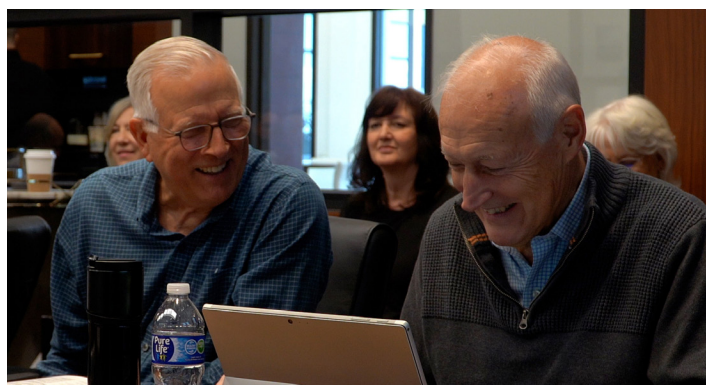
camp video each year. Therefore, we always meet with staff members from that department the afternoon of the second day, after we have finalized and discussed the theme for the following year. We deeply appreciate all their contributions to the success of our camps.

Several camps reported deteriorating conditions at the facilities they were using this summer, which led to searches for new camps. We are pleased to report that we've secured three new camps with nicer facilities for next year: Camp Long in South Carolina, Camp Harmony in Tennessee and Timber Lakes Camp in Kansas for the Midwest Preteen Camp.

We remain committed to providing a camp in the West, but due to the small number of preteens this year, we will run the preteen and teen camps at Sequoia together next summer. It will take some ingenuity to be able to make that work smoothly, but both directors are committed to making it work.

Overall, we are happy to report increased attendance this year over last year and are looking forward to our camps in 2024 with the new theme of "Run the Race—Obtain the Prize."

Ken Treybig



Feast Coordinators Meet at COGWA Headquarters

On Nov. 13 and 14, 2023, Feast coordinators met at the headquarters offices in McKinney, Texas. In addition to the 15 who were physically present at the meetings, Peter Hawkins from the U.K. and Larry Solomon from the Twin Cities, Minnesota, joined us online.

To a man, all would tell you that these face-to-face meetings are invaluable. These meetings give us all the opportunity to operate on the same page, so to speak. They give us a chance to come together and discuss

Feast this year, we were encouraged to see how things worked out effectively nonetheless. God truly does take care of the places where He has placed His name for the Feast of Tabernacles.

The importance of planning for future Feast of Tabernacles can never be overstated. Even though we are only a few months removed from the 2023 Feast of Tabernacles, we have already begun the process of preparing for the Feast in 2024. Confirmation of sites across the United States is discussed—and not just for 2024, but also for the next three years. This future planning is of vital importance, as venues tend to get booked well in advance. Therefore, in order to maximize our effectiveness, our planning must be about more than just next year's Feast. We must look well down the road.

The three-year planning process is also important as we look at and evaluate the international Feast sites. In recent years this has become more important. Since the pandemic, it seems many in the U.S. have a pent-up desire to travel overseas for the Feast. As such, we need to make sure we are doing all we can to staff all our sites adequately. By looking ahead and seeing what sites will be held internationally, we are able to leave nothing to chance in terms of planning.

These most recent meetings were special in that three new Feast coordinators got their feet wet with their first Feast coordinators meetings. These men will be taking over three sites next year and beyond. On Monday night at dinner, the two coordinators who are retiring, Mike Blackwell and Jim Haeffele, were honored with gifts for their years of dedicated service and hard work in Feast coordinating. We will miss their service to the Church in this vital area.

After completing the two days of meetings and saying our goodbyes, we get to work immediately in planning the 2024 Feast of Tabernacles. It will be here before we know it!

Jon Pinelli



much of the behind-the-scenes “nuts and bolts” of Feast planning and execution.

Much of what we cover the first day is a debriefing from each Feast coordinator. While the Feast is fresh in their minds, the coordinators share what worked well at their respective sites, what challenges they faced and what they'd like to see implemented for future Feast of Tabernacles. While many faced some challenges at the



MBOD Annual Meeting

The seven members of the Ministerial Board of Directors and several wives participated in the board's annual meeting Dec. 4-6, 2023. The most important work of the board each year is to review the administration's proposed strategic plan, operation plans and budget for the year to come.

We began our activities Sunday evening with a group meal held in our home. We enjoyed warm fellowship on our patio before moving to the table for a *raclette*, a traditional Swiss meal of melted cheese poured over potatoes, accompanied by beef salami, pickles and pickled onions. My wife Marjolaine and I have done this for several years now. We enjoy hosting this social occasion to kick off our meeting.

Monday, we had a full day of meetings centered on discussing the 2024 strategic plan, operation plans and budget. We already had these documents in hand, so this was the opportunity for the administration to highlight especially important elements.

Especially interesting parts of the presentations included plans to increase our presence on the Internet, presented by Clyde Kilough, and plans for further development of the International Leadership Program, presented by Doug Horschak, the new operation manager for areas outside the United States.

Monday evening Jim and Sharron Franks hosted a lovely dinner in their home. They invited not only members of the board, but also office staff involved in the meetings and the Dallas and Fort Worth pastors and their wives. These opportunities for fellowship among fellow servants are encouraging and enjoyable, and they enhance the unity that exists in working relationships.

Tuesday morning, we discussed the plans and the budget, and the board gave its unanimous approval to these well-prepared documents. We then had a long discussion about the possibility of building an auditorium adjacent to our headquarters office. We don't have all the figures in hand yet, so we could not make any firm decision, but the fact-gathering process is nearly finished.

At noon the board shared a barbecue lunch with this year's Foundation Institute students in the FI break room. This gave board members the opportunity to meet the students, and it gave students an opportunity to put names with faces and to get to know some board members. We had been told that this year's class is bright, polite and confident, and we found this to be true.

In the afternoon we had reports about various programs, such as Foundation Institute, FI Online, Foundation Outreach International and future church literature to be produced. We also had a report from the Church's legal counsel, Al Garrett.

Wednesday morning we finished up with some final discussion before concluding the meetings shortly before noon.

This was another successful annual meeting of the Ministerial Board of Directors. We are thankful for God's blessing on our work and on the work of the Church in general. On behalf of the board, I thank you for your prayers for God's guidance.

Joel Meeker



Youth Camp in Malawi

Nkhakar Lodge, on the shores of Lake Malawi in Nkhata Bay, was the venue for Malawi's youth camp in 2023, held from Friday, Aug. 11, to Wednesday, Aug. 16. The camp was composed of 35 campers—20 boys and 15 girls—and 13 staff members.

Youths from the southern and central parts of Malawi met at Salima, where they started with church services on the Sabbath. Then on Sunday morning we proceeded to Nkhata Bay through the capital city, Lilongwe.

Most church activities are held in the southern and central areas of the country. So the venue in the north was chosen to provide our youths a wider knowledge of their country.

The theme of the camp was "Mapping Your Future." Among other things, campers were taught the history of the Church, some Bible passages for young people and how to have God's guidance in preparing for the future.

One activity involved campers researching subjects of their choice and presenting the findings to the group, which would then assess the presentation and its authenticity. Another activity allowed campers to see the inside of the *Ilala*, a motor ferry that has traveled Lake Malawi since 1951. The last activity was a short expedition of the hills and natural forests surrounding Nkhakar Lodge and Nkhata Bay.

In addition to various activities, the campers enjoyed the palatable local dishes of food.

This year's youth camp was the best ever. It was the first to be held in the north of Malawi, the first to start with a Sabbath church service, and the first to have a longer period of six days. We are thankful to God and the home office for the assistance that enabled its success.

Tielmans Chirwa



CYC Philippines 2023



A total of 44–20 campers, 23 staff and one mini-camper—gathered at Pili Paninap Camp, July 23 to 30, for a much-anticipated reboot of CYC Philippines after a three-year hiatus due to COVID restrictions.

The camp did not disappoint, as campers and staff members enjoyed fun and challenging activities while building godly character and close bonds with those of like mind.

The campers were organized into two dorms with a counselor and assistant counselor for each. Each day began with a Christian Living class conducted alternately by the three elders present: David Baker, Beltran Sison and Andrei Siopan. The classes focused on this year's theme, "Mapping Your Future" and taught such biblical principles as how to navigate life, battle temptations, overcome trials and focus on the wonderful future God has in store for His elect.

One of the major activities this year was first aid training, conducted by Princess Ocaña, a staff member from Visayas. We also had workshops for song leading (boys only), flower arranging (girls only), article writing, public speaking, photography and baking.

Super typhoon Egay (also called Doksuri) brought heavy rains throughout the week. The boys who were

staying in tents by the creek were moved to a building on higher ground. We also had to cancel our Mount Daraitan hike, as its river access became impassable.

But we were able to climb Mount Sembrano. The nine-hour hike was very challenging, but all our fatigue left us when we reached the peak and saw the beautiful view. Campers identified the hike as their most memorable activity, and its lessons—the need to work together and press on and how great effort brings great rewards—will stay with us.

Campers were involved with Sabbath services. Emmanuel Baylon, a camper from Davao City, led songs; Gideon Agayo, an assistant counselor, gave the sermonette; Beltran Sison gave the main message; and the campers performed "Psalm 1" (from our hymnal) as special music. The girls arranged flowers the day prior.

The last night of the camp was the dance and awards night. Special awards were given to campers who excelled in various areas. Emmanuel Baylon received the camper of the year award.

We are very grateful for the support our U.S. brethren provide to us here in the Philippines. Because of it, we are able to conduct the CYC 2023.

Andrei Siopan

Houston South Says Farewell to Waddles

On the Sabbath of Sept. 9, 2023, the Houston South, Texas, congregation hosted a farewell reception for Tim and Valerie Waddle following services. The event was to thank the Waddles for their faithful service to Houston South prior to their move to Johannesburg, South Africa.

Following Mr. Waddle's encouraging sermon, titled "Keep Moving Toward the Kingdom," a video montage of Houston South activities that occurred during the Waddles' years in Houston was played. Afterward, the Waddles were given gifts from the congregation: a beautiful handmade quilt that the members signed, an original piece of Texas art containing all the names of the members of the congregation, and an album with photos of the members and Houston South events during the Waddles' time in Houston.

A reception with finger foods and cake followed the presentation of gifts. This gave everyone time to visit with the Waddles and give final hugs and words of encouragement as they head to their next assignment serving God and His people in South Africa.

Kathy Welch



Houston South Welcomes Ellis Family

The Houston South, Texas, congregation welcomed its new associate pastor, James Ellis, his wife Scarlet, and their children on the Sabbath of Sept. 23, 2023.

During the sermonette time, Mr. Ellis introduced himself to the congregation and spoke about getting to know one another through the lens of fellowship. With the Day of Atonement only two days away, the sermon by Mr. Ellis gave us much to think about in preparing for the fast with the right purpose in mind.

A seasonal fall gift basket and an arrangement of assorted plants were given to Mr. and Mrs. Ellis from the congregation at the close of services. Ice cream sundaes and cupcakes were then served in the fellowship hall. The rest of the afternoon provided a family atmosphere for all to meet the Ellises and spend time in conversation and fellowship.

Monica Koerner and Kathy Welch



North Carolina Congregations Bid the Kelleys Farewell

On Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, 2003, the North Carolina congregations of Greensboro, Hickory and Raleigh said farewell to their pastor Ron Kelley and his wife Nancy. Mr. and Mrs. Kelley have served in Hickory and Greensboro since September 2007. They also served the Asheville, North Carolina, congregation before adding Raleigh in March 2012.

These were very emotional Sabbaths. On Oct. 28 Hickory had an earlier start time so members could have more time with the Kelleys. Martha White from the Asheville congregation sang "I Will Rise" for special music. After services, the Kelleys were presented with a framed photo of the North Carolina Blue Ridge Parkway with Ephesians 4:16 inscribed at the bottom and then shared memories with brethren over a light meal.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelley then traveled to Greensboro for the afternoon. After the sermon, the Greensboro brethren gathered at the front of the hall to sing the last hymn, "God Be With You." They presented the Kelleys with an engraved crystal vase commemorating their 16 years of loving service to the Greensboro family, and then everyone enjoyed a meal of chicken and brisket with the trimmings.

The next Sabbath, Nov. 4, it was the Raleigh congregation's turn to say farewell. Here, too, the congregation sang "God Be With You" after the sermon. There were not many dry eyes! The congregation presented the Kelleys with parting gifts: a beautiful crystal plaque engraved with the words *Well done, good and faithful servant*, as well as cuff links for Mr. Kelley and an engraved pen and pencil set for Mrs. Kelley. Afterward, everyone enjoyed a lavish Thanksgiving

potluck that included the usual festive foods as well as some special native dishes from our Karen brethren.

Throughout his ministry here, Mr. Kelley repeatedly stressed the importance of becoming congregations that emulated the characteristics found in Ephesians 4. In his last sermon to all the congregations, he reiterated the need to continue to grow in unity and humility.

We wish Mr. and Mrs. Kelley every blessing in their new assignment serving the brethren in the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, and Indianapolis, Indiana, congregations.

Martha Roark, Tom Burrows and Margaret Villaescusa



Birmingham Chili and Hot Dog Fall Social



On Saturday evening, Oct. 28, 2023, brethren from the Birmingham, Alabama, congregation and brethren visiting from Georgia enjoyed our annual Chili and Hot Dog Fall Social.

Members gathered at George and Drea Allen's home in the country and enjoyed perfect weather. The wonderful aromas of chili, beef stew, hot dogs and grilled cheese sandwiches filled the cool evening breezes as a full moon rose in the sky.

After a delicious meal, some people roasted s'mores around a roaring bonfire, while others went on a hayride. Some played basketball, and others engaged in exciting games of cornhole toss. Many just enjoyed good conversation!

It was truly a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship in a casual, picturesque countryside setting.

Chuck Nichols

Harlingen and Corpus Christi View Solar Eclipse

On the Sabbath of Oct. 14, 2023, the Corpus Christi and Harlingen, Texas, congregations gathered to see one of God's natural wonders. On that date South Texas lay in the path of what has been called "the great annular eclipse of 2023" (*Sky & Telescope*, October 2023). The city of Corpus Christi lay directly in the path of the solar eclipse and was one of the best places in the world to observe this natural wonder.

Arnold Mendez—the pastor of the Harlingen congregation, a lifelong resident of Corpus Christi and a longtime amateur astronomer—hosted members at his home to watch this spectacular celestial event.

In preparation for the event, a 5-inch equatorially mounted refractor, 10x20 astronomical binoculars on a trapezoidal mount, and 7x35 binoculars all with proper solar filters were arrayed in his backyard. Members were also issued solar eclipse glasses so that they could directly and safely view the solar eclipse.

On the morning of the eclipse, clouds blanketed the region and were to last all day, but incredibly, the clouds cleared at just the right time. The visibility for the observation of the eclipse was perfect. Then, right after the eclipse was over, the cloud cover returned.

To say that the observation of the eclipse was awe-inspiring would be an understatement. As the eclipse reached its maximum, there were many shouts of exclamation and awe from the members observing it.

At Sabbath services Mr. Mendez presented a special Bible

study about eclipses. Members fellowshiped after the eclipse and enjoyed a meal together after the Bible study.

Arnold Mendez Sr.



Elena Scantlebury Graduates

On July 21, 2023, Elena Scantlebury—the daughter of Dave and Lisa Scantlebury who attend the Bridgetown, Barbados, church—graduated from Queen's College Secondary School with six Grade 1s and two Grade 2s, after completing examinations at the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) level. These exceptional grades resulted in Elena receiving a Barbados Exhibition scholarship. In addition to her academic inclinations, she also played the violin in the Barbados Youth Orchestra.

In her leisure time, Elena can be found listening to music, painting, drawing, dancing, playing the violin and going on walks. After graduation, Elena was accepted to the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, where she is pursuing a degree in international relations. Elena now attends services with the Calgary church.

The Barbados congregation wishes Elena every success as she pursues her studies in Canada.

Antoinette Olalehe



West Palm Beach Says Goodbye to Members



On Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, the West Palm Beach, Florida, congregation said goodbye to longtime members Bob and Robin Nicholls, who are moving north to Ocala, Florida.

The Nicholls' last Sabbath in West Palm was a joyful celebration of their life, service and dedication to God's Church. During announcements, local deacons Jim Cannon and Mike Moore presented "Bob and Robin's Lives Through Their Eyes," and the congregation presented them with a gift and bouquet of flowers. There wasn't a dry eye in the house! At the end of the presentation, Mike Moore read Numbers 6:24-26, and after services, everyone spent time reminiscing and enjoying a delicious cake.

Bob and Robin attended the West Palm Beach congregation for the last 33 years. They dedicated themselves to the service of God's people and His Church—whether by Bob's speaking, Robin's singing in the choir, or their giving someone a ride to and from services. Their contribution, conversation and compassion will be sorely missed.

It is always hard when people move away, even if only a couple hundred miles. Thankfully, the knowledge and faith that we share ensures we will see one another again, whether at a Feast site, at the Winter Family Weekend or perhaps when traveling.

The Nicholls will surely be missed in West Palm Beach, but we know that the next time we're together we will pick up right where we left off.

Erinn Moore

Roanoke Holds Youth Day

On Aug. 19, 2023, the Roanoke, Virginia, congregation was treated to a very special Sabbath service with the youth conducting every aspect of the service with the exception of the sermon.

Levi Spitzer got the service off to a good start by leading songs, with Olivia Arnold and Maxwell Witcher providing accompaniment on the piano and guitar. Owen Witcher opened services with prayer. After viewing *In Accord* and having another congregational hymn, Mark Arnold provided special music on his violin. Jackson Witcher gave announcements and then introduced pastor Larry Lambert for the sermon. The sermon was titled "Serving as a Youth in God's Church." Luke Tranquada gave the closing prayer.

After services Sydney Witcher coordinated a potluck meal, and all of the youth, from the youngest to the oldest, joined in setting up and serving the food.

It was so encouraging to see the eagerness to serve in our youth, our leaders of tomorrow.

Wilma Lambert



Austin Gives Well Wishes to David and Kim Gatley

Saying goodbye is never easy. But when it's to wish someone well in their new responsibilities, it's much easier! Such was the case after services in Austin, Texas, on Sept. 9, 2023. The congregation gathered to enjoy cake and snacks and to wish David and Kim Gatley well in their new roles.

After serving full-time in both the Austin and San Antonio, Texas, congregations for the last two years, the Gatleys are moving to Colorado to pastor the Grand Junction, Colorado, and Salt Lake City, Utah, churches. They will also assist Greg Sargent with the two Colorado Front Range congregations.

The Gatleys were instrumental in the development of the San Antonio congregation. When it was started by David Treybig in 2012, the Gatleys anchored it from day one. Since then, they have been serving in San Antonio, Victoria, Corpus Christi, Austin and Temple.

So it's not goodbye; it's we'll see you again at a conference or a Feast of Tabernacles!

Ardith Weiss



Roanoke Hosts Family Weekend

The Roanoke, Virginia, congregation hosted its fourth annual Roanoke Family Weekend Nov. 11 and 12, 2023. Members from Greensboro and Raleigh, North Carolina, joined members from Roanoke and Williamsburg, Virginia, for a weekend filled with fun and fellowship.

Sabbath morning started with snacks and fellowship prior to a teen and preteen Bible study. An adult Bible study was held before lunch, and Sabbath services followed after lunch.

Amy and Andrew Tranquada were presented with a special gift from their "home" congregation. They will be leaving around the first of December to begin pastoring their new congregations in South Carolina and Georgia.

Following an evening meal of chili and tacos, members enjoyed a fun show—with appearances by Sonny and Cher and June Carter and Johnny Cash—and a family dance.

On Sunday morning, the young people assisted the adults with a Hilltop project to provide care packages for foster children and children of domestic violence. A friendly game of softball was the last activity of the special weekend, with participants ranging in age from 7 to 70. As we often say, a good time was had by all!

Wilma Lambert



2024 DALLAS PROM

A
night under the
stars

IN
Mexico

SATURDAY

2

MARCH

AT 6 O'CLOCK

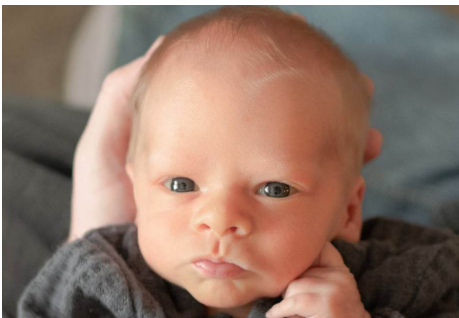
Westin Dallas Stonebriar Golf Resort & Spa
1549 Legacy Drive - Frisco

Registration and Event Detail:
www.COGWADALLASPROM.COM



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

Births



Jonah Hobbes Vaughn

Jared and Jodi Vaughn of the Dallas, Texas, congregation are happy to announce the birth of their son, Jonah Hobbes Vaughn. Jonah was born on April 27, 2023, at 2:05 p.m. He weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces and measured 19¼ inches long.

Jonah is Jared and Jodi's first child, the second grandchild of Gregory and Dara Vaughn (Dallas

congregation) and the third grandchild of David and Debbie Fritz (Los Angeles congregation).

Jonah is a very happy baby and looks just like his daddy!

Dara Vaughn



Evelyn Mae Sinon

Reggie and Danielle Sinon of the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Evelyn Mae Sinon.

Evelyn was born on June 20, 2023, about two months before her due date. She weighed 3 pounds 9 ounces and measured 17 inches long. After a monthlong stay in the NICU, Evelyn was able to come home. She has continued to grow and develop very well, in spite of her early entry into the world.

Reggie and Danielle are very appreciative of the help and messages they received during their time in the hospital. Evelyn is a tremendous blessing to her entire family!

Mike McTiernan



Rosemary June Sinon

Mitchel and Kait Sinon of the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation are

happy to share that they have been blessed with a daughter. Rosemary June Sinon was born on June 29, 2023, weighing 8 pounds 1 ounce and measuring 20 inches long. Her grandparents—Chuck and Deneen Sinon and Gary and Gale Black—and family are so delighted that she is here and look forward to watching her grow in God's family.

Rosie's namesakes, June Norris (great-great-grandmother) and Patricia June Black (great-grandmother), were members of the Worldwide Church of God congregation in Atlanta, Georgia, making Rosie a fifth-generation member of the Church of God.

Mike McTiernan

Anniversaries



Renee and Glenn Smith

On Aug. 19, 2023, the Joplin, Missouri, congregation celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Glenn and Renee Smith with a cake, light snacks and bouquets of wildflowers following services.

Glenn and Renee met in Southern California when a friend of Glenn's introduced him to Renee. While Glenn's parents and family (including his sister Bonnie, wife of retired pastor Larry Greider) had listened to Mr. Armstrong's radio program, Renee was new to the Church's teachings. Renee says that after learning about the Church from

Glenn, she “got the literature, and it made sense!”

The two were baptized in the early '70s and married on Aug. 19, 1973. After marrying, Glenn attended Ambassador College as a Spanish major and worked in the Transportation Department. Over the years, they owned several businesses, including a restaurant and an auto repair shop, and Renee was an executive with Toys R Us. The two traveled throughout the United States, living in Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Las Vegas, Nevada; Utah; and Texas.

After they retired, Glenn and Renee moved to Missouri to live on an 85-acre farm with horses, cows and dogs. The Smiths love animals and everything outdoors, and Glenn, a pilot, is known for building airplanes with car engines.

Glenn is an elder in the Church, and he and Renee are dedicated servants of the brethren in the Joplin and Springfield, Missouri, and the Harrison, Arkansas, congregations.

Lyndi Fultz

Baptisms



Jacey Samic

Jacey Samic of the Akron-Canton, Ohio, congregation was baptized on Oct. 3, 2023, during the Feast of Tabernacles in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Her mother and several friends were present to welcome her into the Body of Jesus Christ.

Chad Messerly



Kandy Searcy

The Springfield, Missouri, congregation welcomed Kandy Searcy as a new member of the Body of Christ on Sept. 24, 2023. Kandy was baptized by Mike Blackwell, pastor of the Springfield and Joplin, Missouri, and Harrison, Arkansas, congregations. He was assisted by the associate pastor, Dennis Fultz. Kandy's sister was also able to join her in this special event. Kandy is a welcome addition to the Springfield congregation.

Lyndi Fultz



Carl Demadema

Carl Demadema of the Johannesburg, South Africa, congregation was baptized on Oct. 2, 2023, at the Feast of Tabernacles in Gonubie, South Africa. Morgen Kriedemann, pastor of the Johannesburg congregation, conducted the ceremony. Carl's mother, Marjorie Demadema, was present for this very special event.

The announcement at services the following day added to the joy of all the members celebrating a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles.

Leanne Helfrich

Obituaries



Leon Sturch

Leon Sturch died Aug. 18, 2023. He was born Feb. 28, 1930, near Bradford, Arkansas. After graduating from high school, Leon joined the navy and later worked with a traveling wheat crew and ended up working on the family farm of his future wife, Caryl Jones. They were blessed with three children, Robert, Cindy and Bea; seven grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. Leon is survived by his wife Caryl.

Leon and Caryl have been faithful members of the Church of God for 47 years. Their marriage demonstrated the love and support couples should always have for each other. Dec. 20, 2023, would have been their 70th wedding anniversary. Doug Horchak and Larry Neff, former church pastors, paid tribute with the following comments.

The Sturches were pillars of strength, care and faithfulness. In the early 1990s, they were front and center as they continued to embrace their convictions during those turbulent times. Their example of kindness and support was encouraging for the brethren.

Leon had an engaging personality and a great sense of humor. The congregation looked forward to the joke he would usually tell in a sermonette. But he would also

give points of wisdom based on his wealth of experience and dedication to the truth. As a truck driver, Leon continued driving 18-wheelers into his 80s. He most often drove to Edmonton, Alberta, and considering road conditions in the Canadian winter, we were always amazed!

Due to failing health and distance to church, Leon and Caryl were unable to attend services the last four years. Leon will be missed by the Colorado Front Range members.

Greg Sargent



Alice Rae Harper

Alice "Ali" Rae Harper, of the Charleston, West Virginia, congregation, died peacefully Friday, Oct. 27, 2023, after an extended illness. Ali died one day after her 65th birthday. She was known for her many works of service and wonderful attitude.

For many years, Ali and her husband Craig hosted the ox roast at their home near Parkersburg, West Virginia. Many Church brethren looked forward to and attended this event through the years.

Ali was a retired special education teacher and was loved by her students. She put the same level of love and compassion into her work with her students as she did in serving her Church family.

Ali's funeral service was conducted by Lyle Welty on Nov. 1, and she was laid to rest in Parkersburg. She will

be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Wilma Lambert



David L. Clark

David Leslie Clark, 82, of Penacook, New Hampshire, died peacefully at home, surrounded by loving family, on Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023. David was born in Exeter, New Hampshire, on Feb. 18, 1941, the only son of Walter and Louise Clark. David shared over 50 years of beautiful marriage with his beloved wife Barbara.

David was a longtime member of the Church of God in New Hampshire. Most recently he was a member of the Leicester, Massachusetts, congregation of COGWA. His pastor, David Rand, conducted the funeral on Sept. 1.

David earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Boston University, another bachelor's degree in botany from the University of New Hampshire, and a master's degree in botany from the University of Maine.

David married Barbara Jean Amazeen in 1967, and they settled in Hampton, New Hampshire, to start their family. David worked as a mechanical engineer at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for several years before he took a position with Concord Lumber in 1972. He later left the lumber business and worked for Concord's water department for the next 20 years until retiring in 1996.

David also enjoyed teaching math and biology at Daniel Webster

College and NH Technical Institute. He earned his pilot license and enjoyed flying, practicing aerial acrobatics on his own.

David is survived by his wife Barbara; his sons Jonathan (Susan), Nathaniel (Jennifer) and Charles (Elica); his grandchildren Marcus, Brandon, Kylie, Hannah, David, Ryan and Abigail; his great-grandson Abel; his sister Joy Price; and his niece Jennifer Mehrpour. David will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

David Rand



Phyllis Sheets

Phyllis Sheets, of the Stockton, California, congregation, died peacefully at home with her family at her side on Aug. 28, 2023.

Phyllis was baptized in 1967 and was one of the founding members of the Sacramento, California, congregation.

Phyllis was 89 and was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Pearl Sheets Jr.; her parents, Hugh and Ethel Farrow; and her sister, Mona Beth Dopps-Farrow.

Phyllis is survived by her sons, Scott (Laura) Sheets and Steven (Susan) Sheets; grandchildren Wendy, Lisa, Jason, Steven Isaac and Audrey; great-grandchildren Jose, Carlos, Isabella and Gabrielle; and many wonderful nieces and nephews.

David Register

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