

OneAccord



November/December 2025

2025 Feast of Tabernacles

Cover Photo:
Christ Church, Barbados

personal from the president

Learning Center Underway

On Thursday, Sept. 25, the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, held a groundbreaking ceremony for our new building—a combined education center and auditorium. Reaching this milestone has been a true test of patience, but we are finally ready to begin!

It has been more than three years since we began this process. In the spring of 2022, we engaged Alliance Architects to design our second building. Alliance also designed our current office building in 2017, so our partnership with them now spans more than eight years. We broke ground for the office on Jan. 16, 2018, and moved in just over a year later, in March 2019—more than six years ago.

At our recent groundbreaking, I shared a few thoughts that I'd like to pass along to you as well.

Our organization officially began on Dec. 23, 2010. At that time, we had no employees and no property. Because we were so new, we lacked the references needed to lease office space, so during our first year everyone worked from home. That changed in March 2012, when we moved into a small suite of offices in Allen, Texas.

In 2017, after purchasing 7.4 acres of land in McKinney, Texas, we contracted with Highland Builders to construct our first office building, which became our home in March 2019. For this second phase—our education center—we again partnered with Alliance Architects for its design. However, after interviewing five construction firms (including Highland), we selected Michael Walker Construction Company to bring this new project to life.

When we built the office, our immediate need was for office space, a home for Foundation Institute, a media production studio and a base from which to preach the gospel—all of which our first building provided. But one essential piece was still missing: a dedicated space for education.

From the very beginning, our mission has been twofold: to preach the gospel to a world in distress and to care for those whom God would call. The second part of that mission requires us to educate our ministry, our members and the public.

As our media efforts expanded, they quickly began to crowd out our other work. But over the years, our education programs also grew. We developed programs for ministers, members, young adults and youth—but we needed a single,

purpose-built facility that could host educational events of all sizes, from a dozen people to as many as 500.

We also envisioned a central meeting place for Sabbath and holy day services in the Dallas area—one that could accommodate up to 500 attendees. These needs shaped the design of our new building: a unique structure that will bring together our educational programs, serve as a central worship space and free up office space for an expanding Media department and for much-needed storage.

This new facility will allow us to host:

- Sabbath and holy day services.
- Special combined services.
- Youth education programs.
- Young adult education programs.
- Adult education programs.
- Ministerial training programs.
- Foundation Institute classes and social events.

When completed, this building will expand our capacity to preach the gospel and “feed the flock,” caring for those whom God has called.

When it comes to building, we plan to seek God's guidance and blessing each step of the way, as we are reminded in Psalm 127:1: “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

The new facility is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2026, and we are already planning a special dedication ceremony. The new facility will be dedicated to worshipping God and educating those who will be shepherds, along with those who compose the Body of Christ, the Church of God. I deeply appreciate your prayers and support as we continue to advance our mission—to proclaim the gospel and to care for those whom God has called and will call in the future.



Jim Franks
President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association



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CHURCH of GOD

A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Feast of Tabernacles 2025

Reports of the 2025 Feast of Tabernacles, which was held in over 40 locations around the world, are now in. Members of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, celebrated this foretaste of the world tomorrow with joy and thanksgiving at sites located in North America, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, the South Pacific and Africa. The Church truly comprises a worldwide work with God calling and converting children of all races and backgrounds!

During the Feast we all reviewed the truth of God's great plan for saving humanity. We were reminded that the heartache and deception of this world will come to an end once Christ rescues the earth from destruction. The vibrant picture looking ahead to the return of Jesus Christ, when He will set up His Kingdom over the earth, burns brightly in our hearts and minds. This refreshed and rejuvenated us all. Picturing and meditating on how the world will change once Christ's government guides the nations is one of the focuses of the Feast. Messages emphasized the vision of what we can confidently expect to come in the not-too-distant future.

One of the highlights for us was meeting, visiting with and getting to know the brethren that God has called. Hearing the stories and life experiences of God's people is truly humbling and inspiring. The love and devotion shown for each other expresses what harmony and family togetherness is possible when God's Spirit is the dominant influence. In this issue you'll enjoy reports from all over the world where God's people met to worship Him and enjoy this foretaste of the coming Kingdom.

Dave Myers

AFRICA

Kumasi GHANA

In Ghana, 579 members gathered at the Kwame Nkrumah University for the Feast this year. Messages were in the native Twi language and translated into English for the few who needed it.

Each day there were a number of special music pieces. On the Sabbath, those from the Elmina area dressed in the kingly apparel of their region of Ghana. Their apparel fit the song they sang about the soon-coming leadership that will be established on this earth.

There were a large number of children who provided special music and presentations that were not only enjoyable, but amazing to watch. Very young children talked about various events in the Bible, and one young boy memorized and repeated the 20 fundamental beliefs of the Church.

It was a memorable and enjoyable Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day!

Paul Carter

Migori KENYA

A total of 225 gathered and celebrated the Feast in Migori, located in the southwestern part of the Kenya, a few kilometers north of its border with Tanzania. The members from the four Kenyan

congregations (Ochuna, Migori, Got Kachola and Sotik) assembled and shared the bond of love as brothers and sisters. Messages—delivered by Tim Waddle (senior pastor for Eastern Africa), the local church leadership and headquarters videos—were inspiring and spiritually uplifting.

We were extremely happy to have Mr. Waddle and his wife Valerie with us. We enjoyed the delicious local dishes served by the hosting property.

The Feast was filled with activities such as song-leading sessions, a karaoke dance and Family Day. We also had the blessing of little children. All of these heightened the joy of the brethren. We were full—physically and spiritually.

As we got to the Last Great Day, it was hard to say goodbye. We look forward to when we will all meet again.

David Paul

Salima MALAWI

This year, the Feast of Tabernacles in Malawi was again held at Salima, with 126 in attendance.

Messages were presented by Elifazi Salawila and Tielmans Chirwa and focused on the world of peace, the soon-coming Kingdom of God and our involvement as the firstfruits.

Everything went very well throughout the Feast. The brethren enjoyed having meals together

during the Feast. This offered great opportunities for fellowship. There were lots of smiles and laughter.

The senior citizens had their event. On Youth Day children enjoyed pizza and ice-cream, made possible by brethren from the U.S. For some, it was their first time to taste pizza! Other activities included swimming and soccer.

On Oct. 13 we were blessed to have six baptisms! This is the highest number of brethren to be baptized at one time in Malawi.

We thank headquarters for the funds that enabled us to have an enjoyable and inspiring Feast.

Elifazi Salawila

Kwara NIGERIA

The Feast in Nigeria was celebrated by 91 members in the city of Kwara. The excitement of having a large number of brethren at the Feast was apparent.

On Family Day the entire group went to the Ilorin Zoo and enjoyed lunch, fellowship and a canopy walkway—suspended bridge. A number braved

the high ropes and enjoyed the view from above.

The group all stayed in one location and enjoyed all of their meals together. Dining together—and sharing the precious time given to us at the Feast—was a blessing.

The messages were all geared toward the soon-coming Kingdom of God and the various aspects of that Kingdom: from our responsibilities to the physical changes that will take place, to the economy and daily life during the Millennium.

Paul Carter

Gonubie SOUTH AFRICA

About 80 of God's people gathered together for the Feast of Tabernacles in the little seaside town of Gonubie, in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

We were blessed with beautiful weather every day and even more beautiful fellowship. Members enjoyed a breathtaking hike up the cliffs of Morgan's Bay overlooking the Indian Ocean.

The highlight of the Feast, as always, was

the Family Day braai, with its delicious grilled meat, good food, good conversation and games for the younger ones. Another enjoyable evening at the hall was filled with singing, dancing and laughter.

We were spiritually filled with messages reminding us of the coming peace and rest in the Millennium, as well as the work we will have to do.

We were blessed to enjoy the sermons and company of the visiting minister and his wife, Dave and Pam Myers. They were able to join us for the entire eight days.

Many have agreed that this was one of the best Feasts ever.

Hannah Brück

Kpalimé TOGO

God blessed us with an excellent Feast of Tabernacles in Kpalimé, Togo. The weather was moderately rainy and the climate mild. We had members from both Togo and Côte d'Ivoire participating in the celebration.

Our site had a serene, warm, joyful and fraternal

atmosphere. The quality of the physical meals rivaled the five-star spiritual menu served through sermons and sermonettes. A Bible study program helped participants strengthen their understanding of certain fundamental beliefs and better deal with the challenges to our faith in Africa.

An excursion to the Kpimé Dam allowed participants to contemplate the wonders of God's creation.

As we left the site, we were radiant, invigorated, joyful and grateful for the great blessings that our Father has poured out upon us.

Guy Ahialeghbedzi

Kitgum UGANDA

The Ugandan brethren were able to celebrate the Feast in a very beautiful facility not far from where the congregation is located. Over 50 members were able to come together and observe the Feast and Last Great Day.

The meals were very nice and much appreciated. Even more appreciated were the inspiring and spiritually



Kwara, Nigeria



Kpalimé, Togo

uplifting sermons, Bible studies and Feast video “Embracing the Vision.”

A very special blessing to the congregation was the ordination of a deacon, John Okumu, by our pastor Timothy Waddle. There was also the blessing of a little girl, Racheal Mic.

Members left very thankful to COGWA for making this possible. We are renewed in spirit and strength and look forward to the fulfillment of these days.

John Okumu

Ntungamo UGANDA

The Feast of Tabernacles for brethren in Rwanda was held in Uganda because of laws forbidding us from observing the Feast in Rwanda. Sixteen members from Rwanda traveled to the town of Ntungamo in southern Uganda, where hotel accommodations and a meeting room had been reserved. My wife Marjolaine and I traveled to Ntungamo to observe the first half of the Feast with the members.

The Feast began well with an opening night service and a hearty meal, and the

first day was observed with great joy. It was the first time these members had been able to sing praises to God together and publicly in nearly two years.

The sermons were recorded from the previous year at the Feast in France, but with subtitles in Kinyarwanda, added by our headquarters media team. The Rwandan members were thrilled by this step forward for them.

The second day of the Feast began well, with a filling breakfast and an encouraging service. However, as the service ended, six “intelligence agents” were waiting outside to interrogate me. They stated that everyone had entered the country legally, but they needed to investigate why the group had come and what they were doing. I answered all their questions freely and gave them access so they could see all materials presented in services. It became clear there had been no violation of any law or procedure; this was simply extortion for a bribe.

The members and I were allowed to have lunch, and then we were arrested,

taken into custody (without charge) and transported to the police station. (My wife had stayed at their hotel after lunch and was not troubled by the corrupt policemen.) The members were jailed in a cell, and I was held in an interrogation room. I was interrogated by several police officers and required to answer the same questions multiple times.

The chief of police informed me that the “investigation” could take days. After several hours, a lawyer tasked to help our members by the lawyer representing the Church approached me to say that the police chief was requiring a bribe to release everyone—otherwise all could be held indefinitely.

I paid the extortion money, through the lawyer, to the police chief, and everyone was immediately released and spent the night in Ntungamo.

On the third day of the Feast, everyone returned to Rwanda safely. All of the Rwandan brethren were able to get to their homes the same night, and my wife and I flew to France that evening to be with the

brethren there for the last half of the Feast.

Joel Meeker

Mapoko ZAMBIA

We observed the Feast in tents at our Church-owned site in Mapoko. The unusually cool weather was a great blessing; mornings were even chilly! A pleasant and fresh evening breeze encouraged fellowship under the star-studded African sky. High attendance was about 120.

The sermons were informative, encouraging and uplifting. They focused on life in the Kingdom of God and how to prepare for it. We especially appreciated the video from headquarters and the Last Great Day sermon on the book of life, delivered by our guest speaker James Capo. We also rejoiced to witness the baptism of Grace Kapaso.

Our communal kitchen did an excellent job. Brethren were served feast-size portions of beef, chicken and fish. This abundance was possible because of our generous U.S. brethren. Thank you!

Silvestor Njovu



Ntungamo, Uganda



Gokwe, Zimbabwe

Gokwe ZIMBABWE

The Feast of Tabernacles in Gokwe was wonderful. It was very hot—often around 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit). But in spite of that, God’s people were always happy and rejoicing! Our high attendance was over 120.

We purchased oxen, goats and chickens, so the members enjoyed roasted beef, chicken and goat meat.

We had Family Day where everybody participated. The highlight of the Feast was the baptism of four men.

Accommodations were tight. Some members slept in the open, and some ladies slept inside the church building. We have only two houses on the church property—one accommodates three families, and the other accommodates two families. Some families used tents, but the tents are now old. We hope to build more houses and a dining room to take care of our needs at the Feast. Members will provide labor.

Members will not forget this Feast, as it was the best Feast ever!

Stephen Tshabalala

Gweru ZIMBABWE

Brethren enjoyed good weather as they gathered for the Feast in Gweru, Zimbabwe. We were blessed to have James Capo visit with us for the first half of the Feast.

The meals were great, thanks to Patricia Hlazo’s menus. We were also grateful to have received a gift of a special meal—which we thoroughly enjoyed—from the Homer, Alaska, congregation.

The messages given by Mr. Capo, the local deacons and the headquarters videos were inspiring and uplifting throughout the eight days.

The brethren enjoyed three different dinner dances—for the children, the singles and young marrieds, and the adults. Family Day was filled with snacks and different entertaining games. We appreciated the Church’s assistance, which made all this possible.



Kolkata, India

We had six baptisms on the seventh day and welcomed these new members into the Body of Christ. Harris Hlazo conducted the blessing of little children on the last day, wrapping up the activities for this year.

Tawanda Chiswa

ASIA/PACIFIC

Pacific Harbour FIJI

Forty-four members from four different countries gathered in Pacific Harbour, Fiji, for the Feast of Tabernacles this year. Members met in the Pearl Resort ballroom for daily services.

The resort also hosted two group dinners for us. Following one of those dinners was a performance of native Fijian dances that young and old joined in to learn. Our group also enjoyed a traditional *lovo* (Fijian pit cooking) meal.

There were two particularly inspiring and memorable moments this Feast in Fiji. On the first day of the Feast, we had a baptism. The congregation was able to welcome a

new Fijian into the Body of Christ. A few days later, we were all witness to the blessing of a two-month-old baby. These two events made the Feast that much more special.

After the final amen, the local members sang the traditional Fijian farewell song to all. Everyone headed home, but basking in the glow of a truly memorable Feast in the South Pacific.

Jon Pinelli

Kolkata INDIA

Sixteen members gathered in the West Bengal city of Kolkata (Calcutta), known as the “City of Joy,” to observe the Feast of Tabernacles this year. Services were held at the YWCA Galloway House, where our members lodged and shared all their meals together.

Brethren enjoyed wonderful fellowship, as this is the only time during the year that they are able to be together. The messages focused on the millennial reign of Jesus Christ and the roles we will fulfill in assisting Christ during this glorious time.



Taupo, New Zealand



Negombo, Sri Lanka

Services were interpreted into the Bengali language throughout the Feast.

Members enjoyed an afternoon excursion to the Marble Palace, capped off with a visit to Flurys for ice cream. They also visited the Indian Museum, located in the Esplanade area of Kolkata.

After the Feast, members departed Kolkata for their homes. Members from the Sundarbans traveled by bus back to their homes, a trip that took at least five hours, and members from Moradabad had to travel for over 24 hours—nearly 1,000 miles. They all look forward to coming together for the Feast of Tabernacles in 2026.

David Baker

Millennium and our role in that coming time. Inspiring special music was a highlight of the Feast.

Breathtaking scenery was taken in by all as they traveled to nearby Rotorua for the traditional gondola and luge activity. For thrill seekers, there was a special jet boat ride to Huka Falls, allowing the participants to see the falls up close. Several special group meals allowed members to fellowship for hours on end.

Whether it was mini golf, a variety show highlighting traditional Filipino and Tongan dance or just taking in the beautiful sight of Lake Taupo and the surrounding area, there was something for everyone.

Jon Pinelli

abroad, and most stayed at the main hotel, making fellowship especially rich.

The activities were both fun and meaningful. We had an Acquaintance Night, filled with laughter and karaoke, and a Family Day with games for all ages and two roasted cows enjoyed by everyone. A family entertainment program, showcasing the talents of young and old alike, was followed by a lively family dance. The seniors' social was uplifting for our older brethren.

Spiritually, the Feast was deeply enriching with messages that inspired us with a vision of God's Kingdom. Young adults and teens attended Bible studies; children had instruction classes; special music added beauty to the services, and we were blessed to witness two baptisms.

It was a delightful and memorable Feast—both physically and spiritually!

Beltran Sison

(just north of Colombo, the capital city) on the shore of the Indian Ocean.

Here everyone lodged, met for services and enjoyed dining together for all meals. A large beach with beautiful sunsets added to the pleasure of this location.

Family Day was filled with lots of laughter and energy as brethren of all ages played musical chairs and novelty Olympic-type games and enjoyed music and karaoke.

A sing-along filled one evening, and a talent show featuring vocal and instrumental performances filled another. The members are already talking about the Feast of Tabernacles 2026!

Paul Luecke

Taupo NEW ZEALAND

Ninety-six members converged on the town of Taupo for this year's Feast of Tabernacles in New Zealand. Kiwi brethren were joined by members from the United States, Australia and the Philippines.

Members gathered at the Huka Falls Conference Centre and heard daily messages about the

Talisay City PHILIPPINES

Almost 300 brethren enjoyed sunny weather (with a little rain in the afternoons and evenings), delicious food and comfortable accommodations, making the 2025 Feast in Talisay City a great success. Members came from many different islands and even

Negombo SRI LANKA

On the island nation of Sri Lanka, two dozen brethren gathered at the Goldi Sands resort in Negombo

CARIBBEAN

Christ Church BARBADOS

The peaceful and beautiful environment at the Divi Southwinds Hotel on the southern coast of Barbados provided the setting for a harmonious assembly of brethren who enjoyed a nutritious, balanced diet of spiritual and physical food

for the full seven days of the Feast and for the very hopeful Last Great Day.

We focused on the wonderful vision of the coming Kingdom of God that was presented in the sermons and sermonettes inspired by God and reinforced by each speaker. What a great time of change to righteousness, health and prosperity.

The luncheon in honor of the seniors was one of the highlights of the Feast. The seniors appreciated this benefit of aging. The Family Day at the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary was relaxing and informative. The interactions with the birds, snakes and other wildlife painted an idyllic picture of the coming Kingdom.

Clyde Skeete

Lethem GUYANA

Fifteen members celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles in breezy and sunny Lethem in the interior of Guyana.

Each day we joined the webcast from Orange Beach, Alabama. We were blessed with good Internet connection except for one

message which we listened to “audio only.”

All the messages were greatly appreciated, and the thread that was woven through each was clearly indicative of God’s intervention. We all felt connected to the brethren live and thoroughly enjoyed all the special music even though two presentations were not webcast because of copyright restrictions. (We knew they were sounding great!) The children on stage are always a sight to behold, and their singing was entertaining.

All in all, we feasted well. Fellowship was warm and great. We had good weather, and we all look forward to that awesome time in the future when we shall all feast together in God’s soon-coming Kingdom.

Gary Atkinson

Runaway Bay JAMAICA

Over 120 Feastgoers—both locals and visitors from across North America and as far south as Trinidad and Tobago—were in attendance at the beautiful Bahia

Principe Resort in Runaway Bay, St. Ann, Jamaica.

The resort grounds, with their lush gardens and large pool area alongside the glistening azure Caribbean Sea, offered a peaceful and idyllic backdrop for our site.

The opening night began with lively singing and a sermon by Herchial Fisher, who urged us to rejoice while considering why we were there.

The activities maintained our excitement and included a Family Fun Day with athletics and games for all ages, an evening talent show and excursions to the Green Grotto Caves, the Seville Great House (a National Heritage site) and Konoko Falls.

The messages consistently emphasized themes of endurance, peace, faith and courage. They also highlighted the importance of being vigilant, rejoicing and focusing on the Kingdom of God.

Sharon Lewis

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

The Feast of Tabernacles 2025 proved to be deeply

inspiring for seven members in attendance and one shut-in here in St. Kitts and Nevis.

The impactful messages that were webcast from Orange Beach, Alabama, offered a renewed vision of God’s plan of salvation for mankind, which includes the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of God’s Kingdom on earth.

Though our number was small, the spirit of the Feast was immense. Beyond the services, a true highlight was the daily fellowship—sharing meals together and enjoying continuous, meaningful time with one another.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who worked diligently, enabling us to share in these inspiring services and join as a family in Christ during the Feast.

Glen Bart

Vieux Fort ST. LUCIA

This was the first time COGWA has held a Feast on this lovely Caribbean island. The all-inclusive Coconut Bay Beach Resort and Spa was the venue, set against the stunning



St. Kitts and Nevis



Runaway Bay, Jamaica



Salima, Malawi



Gonubie, South Africa



Kitgum, Uganda



Mapoko, Zambia



Pacific Harbour, Fiji



Talisay City, Philippines



Vieux Fort, St. Lucia



Montagnac, France



Ashbourne, Ireland



Pehuen-Có, Argentina



San Miguel de Allende, México



Santa Cruz, Bolivia



Orange Beach, Alabama



Lancaster, Pennsylvania



Myrtle Beach, South Carolina



Park City, Utah



Scarborough, Tobago



Cortona, Italy

backdrop of St. Lucia's southern coast.

The Feast brought together brethren from the United Kingdom, Canada, United States and Barbados to rejoice before God in an atmosphere of warmth and unity. High attendance was 114. The messages deepened our understanding of God's plan and reminded us of the coming Kingdom of God. We were uplifted by the very inspiring special music.

Afternoons were filled with opportunities for relaxation and fun. Families enjoyed the resort's beautiful pools and activities. Some took time to explore the island's natural beauty touring the Sulphur Springs or taking a catamaran cruise. One of the highlights was an Amazing Race activity with young and old working together as teams.

As the Feast came to a close, many reflected with gratitude on the peace and spiritual renewal they had experienced. Several remarked that this was one of the best Feasts they observed.

To God be the glory!

Arnold Hampton

Scarborough TOBAGO

This year's Feast of Tabernacles was a truly joyful and memorable celebration, held in the beautiful island setting of Scarborough, Tobago. A small but enthusiastic group of eight members gathered to keep the Feast in accordance with God's command to rejoice during this special time (Leviticus 23:40).

Each service was filled with uplifting messages and spiritual learning, helping us draw closer to God and His plan for all mankind.

Other highlights included a breathtaking boat tour to the Nylon Pool and No Man's Land, along with a scenic bus tour exploring the island's natural beauty and culture.

Beyond the scheduled activities, the Feast was rich with heartfelt fellowship, laughter and unity among the brethren. The peaceful atmosphere and shared meals added to the warmth of the experience.

Elijah Basant

EUROPE

Montagnac FRANCE

The Feast of Tabernacles 2025 in France was celebrated in the southern French village of Montagnac, very near the Mediterranean coast. The 80 members gathered at this site enjoyed shirtsleeve temperatures under sunny autumn skies.

The sermons and sermonettes were much appreciated, and the Festival video was a high point.

A new excursion this year went to Avignon, the seat of the papacy of the Roman Catholic Church for 40 years in the late 12th and early 13th centuries, during a divisive period known as the "great schism."

Please consider joining us in France for the Feast of Tabernacles 2026!

Joel Meeker

Cortona ITALY

This year, over 300 brethren kept the Feast in the Tuscan hillside town of Cortona, Italy. The beautiful setting inspired

us to consider the beauty and joy of the Millennium.

Services were once again held in the town's charming 19th-century theater. Everyone enjoyed the Tuscan cuisine in small cozy restaurants. The weather was especially nice this year, so the two main piazzas were often full of brethren fellowshiping after dinner and into the evening.

Our special excursions this year included a visit to Siena, along with castle and winery tours offering breathtaking views of the Tuscan countryside. The Buccelletti family winery honored us with an exclusive invitation to celebrate their 400th anniversary. They set a long table for over 200 guests in the midst of the vines, and there was a grape stomp competition after the meal.

God blessed us with a beautiful setting, spiritual food and wonderful fellowship.

Gary Black

Ashbourne IRELAND

Upwards of 300 brethren met for the Feast at the Pillo Hotel in Ashbourne,

Ireland. The stormy weather of the previous week had cleared before the Feast, and members enjoyed cool fall temperatures in the 50s Fahrenheit with partly sunny days. An additional nine watched the webcast online from the satellite site of Tunbridge Wells, England.

Since most stayed at the Pillo Hotel, brethren had the opportunity to fellowship each day at breakfast, a wonderful buffet provided by the Pillo.

Activities included several group tours, including the Jameson Distillery, Guinness Storehouse, Trim Castle, Hill of Tara and a day in Dublin. A highlight was an evening with an Irish dinner, a traditional Irish band and Irish dancers. The children especially enjoyed the dancing and joined in to learn the steps along with a number of adults. Family Day was spent at the Leisuredome, an arcade with bowling, laser tag and a variety of games.

The Festival spirit was clearly evident throughout the Feast with inspiring messages, outstanding

special music and wonderful fellowship.

Michael Hanisko

LATIN AMERICA

Pehuen-Có ARGENTINA

This year 152 brethren kept the Feast in Pehuen-Có, a beautiful tourist town 81 kilometers from Bahía Blanca. Attendees were mostly from Argentina, but also Chile, Uruguay and Brazil.

The hall for services was located in the Cumelcán Hotel, a welcoming colonial building. Many brethren stayed in fully equipped cabins around the hotel.

Most of our messages were live. Only three were video, including the official Feast video and Leon Walker's video sermon about the Last Great Day.

In the second part of the Feast, our pastor, Saúl Langerica, and his wife Carmen arrived and joined in the activities from the moment they arrived.

Our activities included a family get-together, a family dance, a children's party, a ladies' breakfast, a beach

day, a teen dinner and dance, and a talent show.

We ended with the baptisms of Benjamín Cerda and Susana Aguilera from Chile and the blessing of Belén Pinilla's daughter.

This was a wonderful Feast, both physically and spiritually. May God guide us and bring us back next year.

Alfredo Arboleas

Santa Cruz BOLIVIA

This year 34 people gathered to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles at the beautiful Los Cedros site, a few kilometers from Santa Cruz. Surrounded by nature, the site was ideal for worship, reflection and fellowship.

The congregations of La Paz and Santa Cruz were joined by Fermín Naín, an elder from Chile, and his wife Priscila, who traveled to share this holy time with their Bolivian brethren.

Throughout the Feast, various activities took place to strengthen the fellowship and spirit of service among attendees: family gatherings, youth activities, a talent show, children's evening, ladies' tea, seniors' tea and a family movie.

The Feast was one of peace, camaraderie and brotherhood. Being a small group, everyone was able to actively participate in the activities and share moments of true joy.

We thank God for the opportunity to meet once

again in the place He chose and for strengthening our faith as His people.

Jaime Zagal

Riu Tai CHILE

For the third year in a row, we celebrated the Feast at the Riu Tai complex, on the coast, 110 kilometers from Santiago. The 400 brethren present had a wonderful Feast, with pleasant spring weather.

We had activities for all ages, and all of them had a good attendance.

This Feast site offers the blessing of allowing everyone to stay at the same hotel and eat together in the hotel restaurant. Nearly everyone ate together at the beginning of the three holy days. At the start of this year's Feast, the owner of the hotel showed us a new hall under construction. He expects it to be ready for us to use next year.

The spiritual food was inspiring. It was encouraging to see the Feast video from headquarters and a video sermon by Leon Walker, our regional director.

A few days before the Feast we were able to baptize a lady, Anita Da Silva. Seven more new brethren were baptized during the Feast: Alicia Díaz, Cristóbal Quintana, Julián Martínez, Michelle Campusano, Pamela Rojas, Richard Castro y Sebastián Carvajal.

Saúl Langerica.



Riu Tai, Chile

Santa Marta COLOMBIA

This year 140 people from seven countries gathered in Rodadero, Santa Marta, Colombia, to fulfill God's annual invitation to celebrate His Feast. This was the 50th Feast observed in Colombia since we began observing God's holy days in Colombia in 1975.

After a particularly difficult year, full of trials of all kinds, we were eager to feel God's joy and presence.

From the very beginning, there was great rejoicing. We had a record attendance of brothers and sisters from other countries, which was a source of great happiness and gave the activities and fellowship a renewed sense of joy and purpose. There were activities for all ages—young people and adults, seniors and children. Everyone had the opportunity to rejoice.

Our spiritual food included sermons by Eduardo Hernández (coordinator of the Feast site) and Ralph Levy (who was with us for the last part of the Feast), as well

as several video sermons from headquarters.

We are very grateful that God allowed us to celebrate this festival.

Eduardo Hernández

Costa del Sol EL SALVADOR

In El Salvador, Central America, we had a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles, and we thank God for that great blessing.

Attendees were from 10 countries: England, France, the United States, Mexico, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama.

We were all together at the Tesoro Beach hotel, on the Costa del Sol, and enjoyed a very pleasant time of peace, harmony and Christian fellowship.

Parents with their children, young people and adults all enjoyed the Feast as a big family. In fact, that was the message of the first day of the Feast.

In seven days, plus the Eighth Day, we experienced the beautiful vision of the Kingdom of God, and we were truly

joyful. God definitely inspired every message.

We look forward to celebrating the Feast in the same place next year, God willing. Meanwhile, we continue to wait for the Kingdom of God to come to earth.

Eleodoro Ávila

Ciudad Vieja GUATEMALA

Nearly 500 members gathered for the Feast in Ciudad Vieja. About 43 kilometers from Guatemala City and near three beautiful volcanoes, this was a wonderful location for God's Feast.

Once again, all were truly joyful. We all came together with a common purpose: to celebrate the Feast to the Eternal. A feeling of camaraderie was evident as children, youth, adults and the elderly were praising, serving, supporting, studying and learning.

There were activities for everyone: a senior citizens' breakfast, a ladies' afternoon, a youth Bible study, a married couples' activity, a Spokesman Club ladies' night, a Family Day, children's recreation and

a talent show. Everyone participated in the activities as one.

Shortly before the Feast, there were several baptisms. We were happy to welcome Nora García de Ralda, Heidy Elizabeth Lemus de López, Lucas Véliz Díaz and Halmar Rocael Morataya.

We all returned home filled with knowledge and bursting with joy for the wonderful world that awaits us.

Milovan Chicas

San Miguel de Allende MÉXICO

Once again, the Feast was celebrated with great joy in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. This beautiful touristic place, with its cobbled streets and charming main square, was the perfect place for a celebration dedicated to the Almighty God.

Although there were rainy days and a little cold, it did not prevent 289 brethren from attending the services and scheduled activities with joy. Members participated enthusiastically, reflecting the love and unity that characterize the people of God.



Costa del Sol, El Salvador



Ciudad Vieja, Guatemala



Huanchaco, Peru



Oxnard, California

The church services were truly inspired by God. The Feast messages helped us contemplate our wonderful future in the Kingdom of God and the hope of eternal life.

One of the most touching moments was the baptisms of Azucena López (from Ciudad Acuña) and Pedro Quirino (from Guadalajara).

We thank God for allowing us to celebrate such a blessed Feast, full of His presence, His love and His eternal purpose.

Alberto González

Huanchaco PERU

Huanchaco, a traditional artisanal fishing port located 574 kilometers north of Lima, was once again the setting for the Feast of Tabernacles. Members from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, the Netherlands and Peru attended, totaling 188 people, and were welcomed with great affection and Christian love.

We enjoyed the messages sent from the headquarters, as well as the Feast video,

which summarized the International Ministerial Conference.

Activities such as family dances, a ladies' evening, a couples' activity, a "golden age" evening, a children's party, a youth evening and a talent night were sources of joy and happiness.

The joy increased during the Feast of Tabernacles with the baptism of young Gabriel Páucar and Eduardo Portilla. They were congratulated by everyone for making such an important decision.

We give thanks to God for giving us such a wonderful Feast.

Carlos Saavedra

UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Orange Beach ALABAMA

Once again, Orange Beach, Alabama, hosted a group of around 800 attendees for the Feast of Tabernacles.

What has become one of COGWA's longest tenured and popular sites did not disappoint. The beaches and weather were beautiful. The fellowship

was plenteous. The food was excellent, and the spiritual diet was filling.

All activities were well-attended (Family Day, family dance, seniors' luncheon, teen activity, Festival Youth Instruction). The Orange Beach Event Center welcomed us with open arms and provided an excellent venue for services and other activities.

Many are already looking forward to keeping the Feast in Orange Beach again next year.

Mark Winner

Oxnard CALIFORNIA

Oxnard provided a beautiful oceanside location for this year's Feast of Tabernacles. The weather was perfect the entire Feast, with temperatures in the mid-70s most of the time.

With many venues available, our brethren were treated to a wide variety of fun activities—from watching seals on the beach to visiting the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. We had a wonderful turnout for Family Day at the Oxnard Beach Park.

But the main event was under the roof of the ballroom at the Staybridge Suites, where 174 people gathered for fellowship, messages, catered meals and a dinner, dance and karaoke night. A patio attached to the hall also provided a location for young adults and teens to hang out and for Spanish-speaking members to have a cookout.

As always, the Feast went by way too fast, but we left looking forward to the ultimate fulfillment of this special event when Jesus Christ returns!

Phil Sandilands

Fort Myers FLORIDA

From sun-washed mornings to ocean sunsets, our Feast of Tabernacles in Fort Myers, Florida, was filled with warmth, worship and unity. Eighty-three brethren gathered to rejoice before God, celebrating His coming Kingdom with thankful hearts and joyful praise.

Daily messages focused on the hope of restoration—the time when troubles will cease and the whole world will share in God's

peace. Inspiring music, fellowship by the Gulf, and opportunities for service reminded us that the Feast is more than a location, it pictures a way of life soon to fill the earth.

Amid the palm trees and sea breezes, we gave thanks for the blessings of God's calling and looked forward to the day when all nations will gather at one glorious Feast.

Chuck Sinon

Kohala Coast HAWAII

Around 160 brethren celebrated the Feast at the Hilton Waikoloa Village Resort on the Big Island of Hawaii.

The messages throughout the Feast were uplifting and inspiring, making it a spiritually rewarding and rejuvenating experience.

In addition to daily services, we enjoyed a welcome dinner on opening night and catered buffet luncheons on both holy days. Several organized activities added to the fellowship, including morning hospitality hours for teens and young adults, a teen "swim with the dolphins" experience,

a young adult nighttime manta ray boat trip, a golf tournament, a family sail and snorkel charter, a seniors' breakfast and Family Day at the beach.

Many attendees also ventured to the other side of the island to visit Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, waterfalls, coffee plantations, orchid farms and the Mauna Kea visitor center for breathtaking night views of the Milky Way.

We will be skipping Hawaii in 2026, but plan to return to the Big Island for the Feast in 2027.

David Register

Woodbury MINNESOTA

Woodbury was once again a satellite site for the Feast of Tabernacles. Forty members—from Wisconsin, South Dakota, Kansas, Colorado, Florida and Minnesota—attended, watching webcasted services from Orange Beach, Alabama.

After the opening night service, members enjoyed a wine-and-cheese reception.

Other activities included a trip just over the border

to Hudson, Wisconsin, for a tour of the historic Octagon House Museum. The group also went on a trolley tour of the historic town of Stillwater, Minnesota. They enjoyed a group dinner at a local Mexican restaurant and several catered meals at the hotel.

Members also enjoyed much fellowship and discussion about the inspiring messages they heard.

Larry Solomon

Branson MISSOURI

Over 700 brethren gathered in the beautiful Ozark Mountains to celebrate a joy-filled Feast of Tabernacles! Yakov's Theatre provided a beautiful, spacious setting for daily services and fellowship.

Branson again proved to be a family-focused Feast site. Activities included Family Day, a family dance, seniors' dinner, golf scramble, teen and preteen skating, Festival Youth Instruction and hospitality drop-ins for teens and young adults. New this year was a math tutoring session—an appreciated

addition for students wanting to stay sharp while away from school.

A cherished Branson tradition continued as children received stuffed animals after Youth Day services. And Feast-goers were treated to an unexpected delight when Yakov Smirnoff, the theater's owner and world-renowned comedian and actor, made a surprise appearance following services, sharing a few moments of laughter with the brethren.

From the opening service to the final hymn, God's people rejoiced together in peace, laughter and gratitude—making this Feast in Branson truly one to remember.

Dennis Fultz

Seaside OREGON

In Seaside, 160 members of God's family met for the Feast of Tabernacles in 2025. This was our first year for the Feast in Seaside, and we met at the Best Western Plus Ocean View Resort. The staff was accommodating and helpful. The meeting hall was comfortable



Branson, Missouri



Seaside, Oregon



Mont-Tremblant, Québec

with plenty of space and conveniently located.

Feastgoers enjoyed beautiful fall weather and outstanding spiritual food. Activity highlights included a dinner train ride (with a spectacular sunset) along the beautiful Tillamook Coast, a teen activity at Funland Recreation Center and a golf scramble. Family Day included a delicious meal, games and karaoke.

Teens and young adults enjoyed hospitality events before services. Our seniors feasted on a hot meal and then participated in games of Bible trivia and "Name That Tune." Special music, including the children's choir, was excellent.

Members left the Feast on a spiritual high. Many commented that it was one of the best Feasts ever!

Larry Lambert

Lancaster PENNSYLVANIA

Over 240 Feastgoers gathered at the Eden Resort in Lancaster. God's blessings on the church services and fellowship were the highlights of the Feast. There were fewer

absences due to illness, and consequently, the daily attendance was consistently over 200.

A variety of activities were enjoyed. More than 70 members partook of the seniors' luncheon in the resort's beautiful courtyard. About 20 teens participated in the teen game night and ate plenty of pizza and ice cream. And members of all ages enthusiastically danced the night away at our family dance.

Over 125 group tickets were purchased for the *Noah* show at the Sight & Sound Theatre. This show featured a spectacular display of animals and flying doves, providing an excellent reminder of how God will change the nature of animals during the Millennium.

At our Last Great Day buffet, over 120 Feastgoers ate whatever their hearts desired and fellowshiped together one last time before the final church service.

Kevin Epps

Mont-Tremblant QUÉBEC

Clear blue skies and bright fall foliage of orange and red greeted 116 Feastgoers

in Mont-Tremblant, Québec. Those who stayed on-site at the AX Hotel enjoyed walking to services and to local restaurants and shops. Others chose their temporary dwellings from among the area's wide variety of rental homes.

Daily messages kept our focus on the value of our calling as we pray for God's Kingdom come and prepare to be rulers under Jesus Christ. On the Eighth Day, we looked forward to the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan for all mankind.

Foundation Outreach International funded a service project in which Feastgoers assembled activity bags for patients of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. Twenty-three of our seniors enjoyed a luncheon at the on-site café. Park Omega offered a millennial foretaste as children fed carrots to deer and majestic elk.

Once again, many hands came together to make this Feast extra special!

Daniel Harper

Myrtle Beach SOUTH CAROLINA

Around 760 brethren enjoyed the Feast in Myrtle

Beach this year! One of the highlights of the Feast was watching the full moon rise over the Atlantic Ocean on opening night. It rained a couple of days, but we didn't have to cancel any of our activities.

Members were able to feast not only on the physical food available at the many fine dining establishments, but also on the spiritual food. Messages pointed us to the importance of God's Kingdom and staying committed to His way of life.

Fellowship was wonderful, with good crowds for most of our activities. We had over 260 in attendance for our family dance on Saturday evening.

The brethren also let their lights shine by donating a very large number of food and other items to the local food bank.

Overall, the atmosphere was festive, the messages inspiring, and the fellowship uplifting! We are looking forward to the Feast in Myrtle Beach again next year!

Tom Schultz



New Braunfels, Texas

New Braunfels TEXAS

Over 300 brethren celebrated the Feast in the spacious New Braunfels Civic and Convention Center. The hall not only provided ample room for services, it became the hub of fellowship for the entire site. With exclusive use of the building, families came early and lingered after services over complimentary coffee and tea. Wide hallways, side rooms for parents, a banquet room and even a professional kitchen anchored shared activities.

Sunny weather made it easy to explore the walkable downtown, visit the zoo, paddle down the river, play golf or sit outside at one of the

farm-to-table restaurants. Midway through the week, Family Day captured the flavor of New Braunfels' German heritage with a shared meal of all-beef sausages, sauerkraut, rye bread and extras—with plenty of time to visit and laugh together.

Meaningful messages kept the week centered on the Feast's true purpose. Attendees left New Braunfels spiritually recharged and ready to face the year ahead with renewed clarity and joy.

Nick Slaughter

Park City UTAH

Park City was a wonderful Feast Site this year! With a high attendance of 242, we surpassed our expected numbers. God

certainly blessed us with a wonderful spirit of fellowship.

We also had amazing weather. It even snowed a little in the higher elevations where many people were staying, giving the kids a chance to play in snow.

From the opening service to the Last Great Day, all enjoyed an uplifting conclusion to the fall holy days.

David Gatley

Triadelphia WEST VIRGINIA

The satellite site of Triadelphia, West Virginia, has been meeting in the lovely Highlands Event Center for three years. This year 71 members met under clear blue skies on most days, followed by spectacular sunsets and cool, crisp evenings!

We watched the webcast from Orange Beach on three days. We were blessed to have two retired pastors—Mike Blackwell and Lyle Welty—attend with us. Their combined years of experience and history in God's Church led to

many heartwarming and encouraging conversations. Tom and Julie Burrows joined us for the last half of the Feast, boosting our joy and fellowship even more. All of the messages were uplifting and inspiring.

Activities included our traditional "Toast to the Kingdom" after the opening night service—a lovely event with hors d'oeuvres and beverages where all were invited to look forward to the fulfillment of what the Feast pictures. The senior luncheon was well attended, with delicious food and fall decorations. We also had a bingo night that was filled with laughter and useful prizes.

The local soup kitchen was very pleased as we donated to their cause with warm blankets, mittens, hats and canned food for the upcoming winter. (The local area has been rebuilding after two devastating floods in June 2025.)

Members left the site joyful and rejuvenated, and many were heard planning for next year!

Blaney Sproul

TO HEAR MESSAGES FROM THE 2025 FEAST OF TABERNACLES,
GO TO
FEAST.COGWA.ORG

2025 FEAST OF TABERNACLES ATTENDANCE

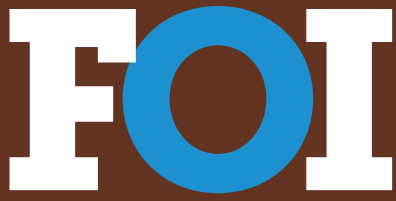
Once again we are providing the high attendance figures for our Feast sites around the world. Of course, there were also a large number of webcast connections. So, as we have done in the past, we are providing these numbers as well (determined by using our usual formula of two viewers per connection).

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

We admit that some of these numbers are simply best guesses, but if anything, they are probably low guesses. Based on these numbers, the total worldwide attendance was 12,393.

AFRICA		SRI LANKA	24	UNITED STATES AND CANADA		
BURUNDI	650	THAILAND*	8	ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA	774	
D.R.CONGO	200	CARIBBEAN		OXNARD, CALIFORNIA	174	
GHANA	579		31	FORT MYERS, FLORIDA	83	
KENYA	225		5	KOHALA COAST, HAWAII	160	
MALAWI	126		15	WOODBURY, MINNESOTA	40	
MAURITIUS/REUNION*	2		125	BRANSON, MISSOURI	727	
NIGERIA	91		8	SEASIDE, OREGON	160	
RWANDA*	60	ST. KITTS	125	LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA	247	
SOUTH AFRICA	74	ST. LUCIA	8	MONT-TREMBLANT, QUEBEC	116	
TOGO	70	TOBAGO		MYRTLE BEACH, S. CAROLINA	759	
UGANDA		EUROPE		NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS	324	
KITGUM	51		80	PARK CITY, UTAH	242	
NTUNGAMO	18		300	TRIADELPHIA, WEST VIRGINIA	71	
ZAMBIA	121		310	BELOIT, WISCONSIN*	12	
ZIMBABWE			9			
GOKWE	125	LATIN AMERICA		ON-SITE TOTAL 9,743		
GWERU	123		152	U.S. SHUT-INS (VIDEOS)	254	
ASIA/PACIFIC			34	U.S. WEBCASTS	1,376	
	FIJI		44	400	INTL. SHUT-INS (VIDEOS)	324
	INDIA			140	INTL. WEBCASTS	492
	KOLKATA	16	2	SCATTERED (U.S./INTL.)	204	
	WEST BENGAL*	10	107	AT-HOME TOTAL 2,650		
MALAYSIA*	2	EL SALVADOR	499	TOTAL 12,393		
MYANMAR*	10	GUATEMALA	289			
NEW ZEALAND	96	MEXICO	188			
PHILIPPINES	296	PERU	3			
		URUGUAY*				

*Home or small group



A Summer of Service

Foundation Outreach International (FOI) had a busy summer!

We began with a new twist on our Teaching English projects in southern Africa. For over a decade, volunteers from the United States, Africa and the Philippines have taught English-language skills to our brethren in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and (more recently) Rwanda.

Now several local members are proficient enough that they themselves can teach English. As well, for several years FOI has seen the need to provide further opportunities for brethren to learn and practice their developing English skills. Therefore, one of our projects this summer focused on training new teachers who will be able to serve locally in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

Zach Smith and Jessica Schultz led three days of intense (and fun!) classes focusing on developing lessons, teaching and overcoming challenges. There were a lot of engaging and beneficial discussions, ideas and breakout

groups to plan for the future. The purpose of the English classes is not only to strengthen the brethren's English skills, but also to give them access to the plethora of Church resources available in English, which are an important part of the Teaching English curriculum.

Our next two projects were held in August in the countries of Rwanda and Kenya. Rwanda once again held two simultaneous projects—a Teaching English project and a dental project. The dental project is led by Greg Swartz, an elder in the Church who is a dentist by profession. He was assisted by Sharon Mundo, a dentist from Guatemala, and together they provided much-needed dental care to more than 50 members, as well as some individuals from the community. Dr. Swartz has been serving the brethren's dental needs in Rwanda for 20 years, and quality and consistent dental care has greatly increased the health of the brethren.

Each day during the project, several Rwandan brethren would head to the dentists while FOI volunteers Jordan





Iacobucci and Jessica Schultz, assisted by local member and teacher Placide Munyaneza Iradukunda, provided English classes for the rest of the 30 or so brethren. Each day consisted of learning Bible-focused vocabulary, singing hymns, playing games to use new vocabulary and practicing English in small groups.

This year the English class also took a field trip to the Kigali Genocide Memorial. Most had never been to the museum and appreciated the opportunity. Several brethren lived through this violent time that continues to have an impact on Rwandans.

The Rwandan projects allowed our brethren to meet together for the first time in a year. A goat roast was organized for one evening, and approximately 80 brethren enjoyed delicious food, lively fellowship and a little singing and dancing to end the evening!

While these projects were taking place in Rwanda, another group of volunteers and teenagers gathered for a successful camp in Kenya! Nathan Willoughby led volunteers from the United States and Zimbabwe—Bobbi

Kitts, Dustin and Liz Boyle, Kaleigh Miller and Themban James—in serving 80 campers and 45 staff.

The camp kicked off with three full days of activities, including volleyball, gaga ball, dance class, arts and crafts, computer classes, challenge games, field games, ultimate Frisbee, and football (aka soccer)! Camp concluded with Sabbath services, followed by an end-of-camp dance and video after sundown.

During the summer projects, a few of our FOI scholarship recipients were interviewed. The students discussed the deep, positive impact the scholarships have had on themselves and their ability to receive an education—and their entire families. Many commented that it has inspired them to help others, and many are serving in their local congregations.

FOI is excited to continue to provide opportunities for brethren to serve locally and around the world. If you are interested in learning more about what FOI does and how you can help, please contact us at info@foundationoutreachintl.org. We look forward to serving with you! ☺☺



Six Weeks In

By Paul Hamilton, FI student

Wheh, where has the time gone? It feels like just last week that we came together for the first time at orientation and then our first day of class—but that was over six weeks ago! In those weeks, we’ve gained a vast amount of knowledge during 150+ hours of classroom time, formed new friendships with classmates, met brethren in the local congregations and enjoyed a jam-packed social calendar.

In class we’ve already read through Acts, Judges, Psalms and Joshua. We’re halfway through Genesis and the Gospels, and we’ve had numerous Principles of Christianity classes and Service in the Church classes.

The hospitality of the local brethren has been nothing short of amazing. They’ve welcomed us with open arms in both Dallas and Sherman. Not only have they welcomed us at services, but several have also opened their homes to us. We deeply appreciate the hospitality—and the homecooked meals!

And when I say *meals*, I mean it. We’ve enjoyed everything from a Friday evening dinner and Bible study with hamburgers and hot dogs grilled by Daniel Elliott, to a hot dog social at the Dallas congregation, to a game night at the Hogbergs’ home with hors d’oeuvres and plenty of laughter.

We had a class dinner at the Myers’ home with enchilada casserole and a fantastic tres leches cake;

dinner at the Jennings’ home with possibly the best chicken and steak tacos I’ve ever eaten; and a group dinner at Fogo de Chão Brazilian steakhouse where everyone left with the “meat sweats.” Most recently, David and Becky Johnson treated us to Dimassi’s Mediterranean Buffet, where the food was delicious and easy to select as it was all clean!

Beyond meals, we’ve had plenty of activities together—pickleball with Ralph Levy, pool gatherings and a Texas Rangers baseball game with the local brethren (and, I must say, indoor stadiums are great).

As many of you saw on the *In Accord* just before the Feast, the groundbreaking ceremony for the new COGWA education center building took place Sept. 25, and our class was fortunate to attend. It was exciting to witness the expansion of the grounds and a little surreal to realize that future FI classes will have a new home.

As I write this, one of our classmates has already begun Feast travels, and the rest of us will be heading out in the next few days. We’re all excited to reach our Feast sites, see family and friends, and immerse ourselves in the Feast of Tabernacles. Still, it feels strange to think we won’t see many of our classmates for the next two and a half weeks. At least the memories will linger a little longer when we return and share our travels and Feast experiences with each other. ☺☺



Birmingham Enjoys Another Junebug Jamboree

On May 18, brethren from the Birmingham, Alabama, and Trenton, Georgia, congregations met at the home of Tim and Lisa Dickey to enjoy a day of fun and fellowship at our annual Junebug Jamboree social. (Even though we have it in May to beat some of the summer heat, we still call it a "Junebug Jamboree.")

The day began with blue skies above and spots of sunshine intermixed with softly shaded ground below. The grass, trees and shrubs glistened from an early morning rain. It was a perfect start for our Junebug Jamboree.

Brethren arrived in the late morning, and most relaxed around the backyard pool, talking and listening to the music of our church band, "The Adventures." Children played happily in the pool under the watchful eyes of parents. Morning activities included our ever-popular games of cornhole followed later by pickleball.

Around noon, everyone enjoyed beef brisket, smoked chicken, over-sized hot dogs and a variety of sides and desserts. After lunch, a sudden downpour of rain occurred, but it failed to dampen anyone's spirit; we continued our activities and had our cakewalk in the rain! However, no one left a cake out in it! Many brethren persevered the rain and were rewarded with a beautiful, sunny afternoon of swimming, karaoke, music and fellowship. A wonderful day was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Chuck Nichols and Valerie Davidson



Joplin Holds Fish Fry



On May 18 the Joplin, Missouri, congregation gathered for a cheerful crappie fish fry with all the fixings. Members were joined by brethren from neighboring congregations in Springfield, Missouri, and Bentonville, Arkansas.

The fish fry was held at the beautiful home of Matt and Katie Jackson, whose family has cherished the land for many generations. Surrounded by God's creation, families enjoyed a walk to the creek that runs across the property to explore and splash in the water.

Brittni Dozier

Fort Worth Preteens Present *Jonah*

The Fort Worth, Texas, congregation was able to witness Jonah get swallowed by the great fish on Sabbath, May 31. The preteens presented *Jonah* live onstage, complete with costumes, sets and music.

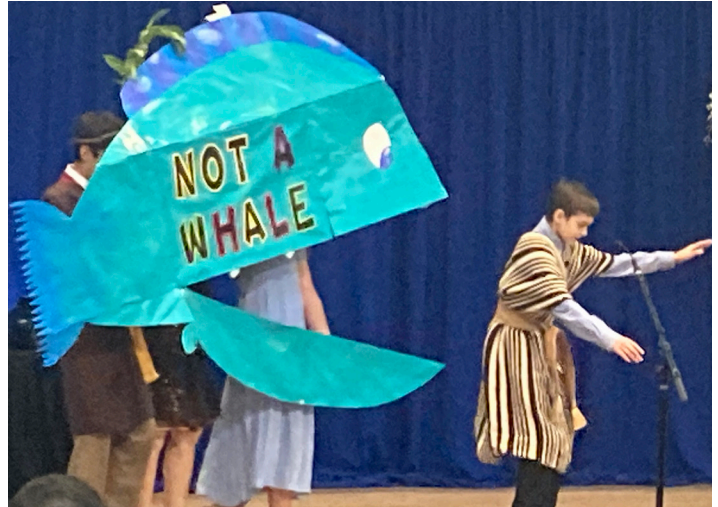
The highlight of the presentation may well have been when the “NOT A WHALE” (see photo) suddenly appeared on stage, swallowed Jonah whole and then spit him back out. The children clearly portrayed the message of the story of Jonah: God is sovereign; His mercy and grace surpass all of our sins; He can use us to spread His truth in spite of our hesitation; and He loves His creation and is willing to extend His mercy to all who will accept it.

Following the presentation, awards were given out to the children who completed this year’s Sabbath school program. Daniel Reyes, father of several of the children in the play, introduced the awards ceremony and shared information about the school year just completed.

Laura Hendee, overall coordinator of the preteen Sabbath school program, thanked the teachers and other helpers and complimented the parents who, judging by the knowledge displayed by the kiddos themselves, had obviously been working with their children at home.

Level 1 and Level 2 teachers Krystal Reyes and Kristine Taylor awarded the certificates and gift bags to the recipients. Russell Hendee, a deacon who assisted in the awards ceremony, told the children, “I was involved in these types of activities when I was your age, and I remember them to this day. When you’re older, you’ll remember them too and look back on them fondly.”

John Payne



Columbia Says Farewell to Penny and Ray Harris



After over 25 years in the Columbia, Missouri, congregation, Ray and Penny Harris have left the rolling hills of Missouri to join our Wichita neighbors in the Kansas flatlands.

To our great sorrow—especially as we think of the many ways they’ve served over the years—we bid them goodbye on the Sabbath of May 24 with a potluck and cake (to remind them that the food is wonderful here and they should come back often!) and a few gifts (just so they remember how much they like us!).

The words of their farewell may be forgotten, but the laughter and warmth that they contributed to our Church family will not. We wish them the best. Wichita brethren, take good care of them for us!

Shalynn Mellerup

Wheeling and Pittsburgh Assist Flood Victims

On the evening of June 14, the small towns of Triadelphia and Valley Grove, West Virginia, experienced major devastation from flash flooding. Nine people were killed, including a friend of a local member. As well, nearly 200 homes were either completely destroyed or suffered extensive damage, and more than 70 vehicles were a complete loss.

The Wheeling, West Virginia, congregation (which is only a short distance from Triadelphia and Valley Grove) and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, congregation came together to provide assistance for the flood victims in three different ways.

First, on June 29, a crew of brethren helped at the flood relief center, unloading donations and helping flood victims “shop” for supplies and load their vehicles. Also, the brethren generously donated about three trunk loads of supplies.

Second, thanks to funding from an FOI Hilltop Outreach grant, the brethren worked together to put together 60 backpacks for children who were impacted by the flood—many of whom lost everything. The backpacks included some personal care items, as well



as some snacks, toys and comfort items. The goal was to bring the children some joy and comfort, and the backpacks were given out at an event that was organized for the impacted families.

Third, the combined efforts of the congregations provided generous monetary donations for some flood victims to help them rebuild.

It was a blessing to be able to serve in this way and be a light to others during this difficult time.

Christa Miller

DFW Seniors See David in Branson



In early June, 17 seniors from the Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, congregations carpooled to Branson, Missouri, to take in Sight & Sound Theatre’s production of *David*.

After checking in at the motel, the travelers enjoyed dinner at various restaurants, visiting with each other, and a good night’s sleep.

On the day of the performance, everyone gathered for a delicious Italian meal at a popular eatery, and then attended the show. The production portrayed through music and dialogue the Bible story of King David.

The story of David is inspiring, and the show’s music, lighting, sound, costumes and sets were superb.

John Payne

Joplin and Springfield Ladies See Anne Frank Exhibit



On Tuesday, June 24, a group of women from the Joplin and Springfield, Missouri, congregations took a short road trip to Fort Scott, Kansas, to visit the powerful international traveling exhibit “Anne Frank: A History for Today,” presented by the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes. The exhibit was organized in partnership with the Anne Frank Center, the official U.S. and Canadian partner of the Anne Frank House in the Netherlands.

The women immersed themselves in historical photos, stories and visuals of the actual Anne Frank House. After the tour, they spent the rest of the day together, enjoying lively conversation over lunch.

Lyndi Fultz

Austin Barbecue Potluck



After church on the Sabbath of June 14, the Austin congregation enjoyed a Texas-style barbecue potluck! The event was organized by Antoine and Sophia Smiley and Kevin and Jennifer Carter. Tables were decorated with Texas items ranging from hats to horses. Beef brisket was contributed by Jordan Word and Chef Judd Servidio. David and Teddi Treybig provided smoked chicken. Members brought their favorite side dishes, desserts, and drinks. It was a fun and relaxing afternoon where everyone could eat well and visit with friends old and new.

Ardith Weiss

Springfield Gathers for Annual Picnic



On Sunday, June 27, the Springfield, Missouri, congregation gathered for a church picnic at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park at the Springfield Botanical Gardens. The weather was warm, and the serene beauty of the gardens added to the ambiance.

Brethren gathered under the shaded pavilion for grilled burgers and hot dogs, and then many joined in group activities. The best part of the day was the opportunity to be together and enjoy each other's company.

Lyndi Fultz

Bedford Holds Annual Campout

June 19-22, Church of God members from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia gathered for the annual Bedford, Pennsylvania, church campout at the beautiful Shawnee State Park. It was a refreshing weekend filled with family fun, uplifting fellowship and appreciation for God's creation.

Campers began arriving Thursday evening. Friday brought a variety of outdoor activities. Some campers explored the nearby Coral Caverns, renowned for its fossilized coral reef. Others enjoyed kayaking, fishing, biking, volleyball and lakeside fellowship at Shawnee Lake. That evening, everyone gathered for a relaxing dinner at the local favorite, Stooges.

On the Sabbath, members came together for Sabbath services, followed by a bountiful potluck meal shared by all. In the afternoon, several attendees walked around Lake Shawnee. The day concluded with a stunning sunset and peaceful evening fellowship around a campfire—always a highlight of the weekend.

Sunday morning was filled with more fellowship, relaxation and shared activities around the campground. Before departure, the group enjoyed a delicious burger and hotdog lunch. A few hardy



campers remained into the afternoon to cap off the weekend with a few spirited volleyball games, even in the sweltering 90-degree heat.

The entire weekend was a wonderful blessing—full of fun, fellowship, outdoor adventure, delicious food and, of course, plenty of ice cream to keep everyone cool! We thank God for the safety, joy and unity shared during this special time, and we look forward to gathering again next year!

Brittany and Brent Ebersole

Fort Worth Celebrates 30 Years at Local Venue

When the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation first met for its weekly Sabbath service at the Fort Worth Orchestra Hall on May 20, 1995, the members had no idea that it would be the beginning of a long-term relationship with the venue. For 30 years now, members of the Fort Worth congregation have enjoyed meeting at the home of the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra (FWYO) for weekly Sabbath services and for innumerable other activities and events.

During services on May 17, 2025, Ken Giese, current pastor of the Fort Worth and the Tulsa, Oklahoma, congregations, delivered a history of the congregation's relationship with the hall, emphasizing the advantages inherent in leasing a functional and versatile meeting venue. COGWA treasurer Britton Taylor, who was pastor of the Fort Worth congregation when it first began meeting there in 1995, then shared personal reminiscences of the early years at the hall.

After services, members enjoyed a potluck dinner featuring a cake inscribed with "Celebrating 30 Years of Making Memories" and a slide show with over 500 photos taken of activities at the hall over the years. Six members of the Orchestra Hall management team attended the potluck as special guests. Mr. Giese thanked them for their responsive accommodation and cooperation, and local deacon Russell Hendee, liaison between the congregation and the hall management,



presented them with a check for \$1,000 to go toward scholarship funding for deserving and talented young musicians participating in the FWYO programs.

The executive director expressed thanks and appreciation for the gift, the Church's long-term tenancy at the hall and the positive relationship between the two entities. He commented specifically about how engaged the children were as they watched the slides. For the adults as well, the slide presentation was a highlight of the evening, reminding them of many fun and significant events over the past 30 years.

The celebration was a thoroughly enjoyable mix of good food, fellowship and wonderful memories.

John Payne

Texas Teens Enjoy Overnight Waterpark Trip



On June 29 and 30, the Houston teen program hosted a special two-day water park activity for 20 teens from congregations all over Texas. Day one kicked off with water

park fun at Splashway, located halfway between Houston and San Antonio. Teens enjoyed all the typical water slide attractions and ended the day in dorm-style, bunkhouse accommodations at the Splashway campground.

The campground offered a variety of "dry land" activities, including pickleball, basketball and football, and the evening concluding with a lively "spoons" tournament. All participants enjoyed a taco feast and ice cream sundae evening, followed by a big pancake breakfast the next morning.

Day two brought another six hours of water park thrills, ensuring everyone got their fill of aquatic adventures.

This trip wasn't just about the slides and games; it was about building community, making memories and strengthening bonds within our church family.

A big thank you to Pete and Erinn Webber for planning this awesome activity and to the four other adult chaperones who took time out of their busy schedules to help make this trip memorable.

Tyanne Hewitt

Houston South Bonds at Ball Game



On Sunday, June 22, 24 members of the Houston South, Texas, congregation spent the evening cheering on the Space Cowboys, the Houston Astros' Triple-A affiliated team, at Constellation Field in Sugar Land, Texas.

Before the game started, families had the opportunity to play catch on the team's outfield, which was especially fun for the younger ones. We watched the Space Cowboys go on to victory against the Las Vegas Aviators, and just a few days after this game, we learned that one of the Space Cowboys players we had seen was called up to the Astros.

Our group had a wide age range, from 6 years old up to 70 years plus. All had a terrific time watching the game, visiting with each other, and enjoying various ballpark fare. Church of God - Houston South was recognized on the big scoreboard at one point and was actually listed twice. We all agreed this was an outing we would like to repeat next season!

Monica Koerner and Kathy Welch

Sherman Honors Elder for 50 Years of Service

On the Sabbath of June 21, the Sherman, Texas, congregation honored Cecil Maranville for his 50 years of service as an elder in God's Church. David Myers and Jim Franks presented him with a crystal plaque with Ephesians 4:11-12 inscribed on it and gave his wife, Gale Maranville, a set of pearls as "thank you" for her years of service alongside him.

Mr. Franks concluded by quoting Hebrews 6:10: "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

After services, the congregation continued in fellowship with cake and lots of conversation. We are thankful for Mr. Maranville's many years of preaching the gospel and shepherding the flock.



Elena Salyer



We encourage members to send announcements to be featured in **One Accord**. We feature events in members' lives, including births, weddings, significant anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.), baptisms, ordinations and obituaries. Entries should run between 50-100 words with obituaries being 100-250 words. Please submit a high-resolution color photo along with the written copy to your congregation's reporter.

Births

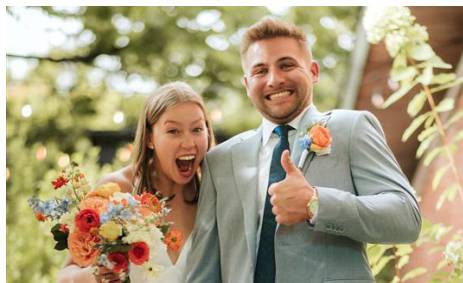


Juniper Ruth McNeely

We are happy to announce the birth of Juniper Ruth McNeely, born to Stefanie and Stephen McNeely. She arrived at 2:19 p.m. on March 27, 2025, weighing in at 7 pounds 6 ounces. Everyone is healthy and her two big brothers are thrilled to have a little sister.

Judy McNeely

Weddings



Hailey and Justin Brock

Surrounded by close friends and family, Justin Brock and Hailey Willoughby were united as one on Sept. 7, 2025. The ceremony took place in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and was officiated by Dennis Fultz.

There was much joy and celebration for the happy couple, and we wish them all the best in their new life together.

Justin and Hailey attend the Sherman, Texas, congregation.

Elena Salyer

Anniversaries



Andy and Tricia Luck

The Sherman, Texas, congregation honored Andy and Tricia Luck on their 50th anniversary on July 19, 2025. There was cake and a photo album containing snippets of their life for everyone to look through.

Andy and Tricia met when they were students at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. They were married in North Carolina on July 19, 1975.

They have two daughters, Hannah Bynum and Caroline Segall, and are blessed with four

wonderful grandchildren: Gavin and Meredith Bynum and Georgia and Connelly Segall.

The Lucks have set a wonderful example of service, love and commitment to all who have the pleasure of knowing them.

Hannah Bynum

Baptisms



Hannah Brück

On the chilly Sabbath afternoon of Sept. 27, 2025, Hannah Brück was baptized into the Body of Christ. Hannah was born in the Church and attends the Johannesburg, South Africa, congregation. Her pastor, Timothy Waddle, performed the baptism.

Hannah's family and some friends enjoyed witnessing her commitment and welcomed her into the Church family.

Jessica Brück



Sara Degagne

On the serene spring morning of March 30, 2025, Sara Marie Degagne of the DeFuniak Springs, Florida, congregation was baptized in a small spring-fed lake in the Falling Waters State Park in Chipley, Florida.

Sara's pastor, Wes Cohron, conducted the service, and her uncle,

Joel Waterhouse, an elder in the congregation, assisted with the laying on of hands. The peaceful ceremony was attended by many brethren and family members who took great joy in welcoming Sara into the Body of Christ.

Lora Degagne



Josh LaVergne

Surrounded by his family, Josh LaVergne was baptized into the Body of Christ on the morning of Aug. 31, 2025. The baptism ceremony was performed by James Ellis, pastor of the Houston South and Victoria, Texas, congregations. Frank Pierce, an elder in Houston South, assisted with the laying on of hands.

James Ellis



Megan Kyle

On Saturday, May 17, 2025, Megan Kyle, along with her family and a few close friends, celebrated her baptism at the home of Zach and Emily Smith.

The baptism was performed by Zach Smith, pastor of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Wheeling, West Virginia, congregations.

The Pittsburgh congregation is very happy to welcome Megan into the family of God.

Judy Henry



Dan and Melaine Sedej

Dan and Melaine Sedej of the Houston South, Texas, congregation were welcomed into the Body of Christ on June 24, 2025. They both were baptized by James Ellis, pastor of the Houston South and Victoria, Texas, congregations. Mr. Ellis was assisted by Frank Pierce.

James Ellis



Busani Linda

Busani Linda of the Durban, South Africa, congregation was baptized on the Sabbath afternoon of Aug. 16, 2025. The baptism was performed by Neville Smith, pastor of the Durban congregation, and witnessed by Busani's parents and sisters.

Busani has attended services and the COGWA Youth Camps held in South Africa from childhood and is always eager to serve in the congregation.

Neville Smith



Chris and Jillian Stemple

We are happy to announce the baptism of Chris Stemple and his

wife Jillian of the Indianapolis, Indiana, congregation. The baptism took place after services on Sabbath, Aug. 30, 2025, with all the members able to witness the joyous occasion.

The baptism was conducted by Indianapolis pastor Ron Kelley, with the assistance of regional pastor Kevin Epps, who was visiting. Also present were the Stemples' young children, Leonidas and Aria.

Ron Kelley

Photo by Gregg Pennington



Jim Morgan

We are happy to announce the baptism of Jimmy R. Morgan of the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation. The baptism took place on Sunday, July 27, 2025, with several family members present.

Ron Kelley, pastor, conducted the baptism ceremony, which was followed by a reception with a specially made celebration cake and ice cream.

Ron Kelley



Kristalynn Cothran

Kristalynn Cothran, of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, congregation was baptized on July 20, 2025, by Kenneth

Giese, pastor of the Fort Worth, Texas, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, congregations at the home of Corey Maker.

Plans had been made to baptize Kristalynn in a local lake that day, after our church picnic. However, when we arrived at the lake, we discovered that flooding had forced the closure of the lake. Corey offered to fill his round stock tank for the baptism, and the Cothrans, the Makers and the Gieses headed for Corey's home. It was a private and personal ceremony with Kristalynn's family present.

Ken Giese

Ordinations



Justin Groves

On Sept. 6, 2025, Justin Groves was ordained a deacon in the Knoxville, Tennessee, congregation. Mark Winner, the Southeast regional pastor, was visiting and was able to participate in this joyful ordination, along with pastor Eric Evans and Peter Holmes, an elder in the congregation.

Dr. Groves and his wife Amberly have been serving the congregation for some time. Dr. Groves serves, leads songs and speaks regularly in Knoxville, and he sometimes helps out in London, Kentucky. Amberly plays hymns and is involved with helping her husband serve the members.

The Knoxville congregation was buzzing with excitement for this special time.

Jeannie Evans

Obituaries



William Thomas Raines

William Thomas Raines, 77, beloved husband, father and grandfather, died due to complications of pneumonia and bronchiectasis on Aug. 28, 2025, surrounded by family.

William is survived by his wife of 55 years, Carolyn (Metz) Raines, and his three sons and their families: Brian (Jen), Eric (Misty) and Justin (Kerrie). He is also survived by seven grandchildren: Jeremy, Jayna, Isabelle, Paisley, Samuel, Cora and William, as well as in-laws Bruce Metz (Sharon), Patty McIntyre (Stenton) and Susie Fair (Marty). Additionally, his family extends to many cousins, nieces and nephews, including the Ebersole (Metz) and McIntyre families.

Known as Buzz or Bill to many, he was baptized 55 years ago in February 1970 by Ronald McNeil from the Uniontown, Pennsylvania, Worldwide Church of God. Besides Uniontown, the Raines family attended in Cumberland and Hagerstown, Maryland, and Bedford, Pennsylvania. Buzz and Carolyn served as faithful members under the following Church of God, a Worldwide Association, ministers: David Johnson, Britton Taylor, Arnold Hampton, Tim Waddle, David Jackson and (current pastor) Scott Lord.

Buzz worked 42 years at the paper mill in Luke, Maryland. For years, he faithfully traded shifts weekly in order to observe the Sabbath and annual holy days.

A memorial was held for Church family members and relatives after services on Saturday, Sept. 13, followed by a graveside service on Sept. 14.

Buzz now awaits the resurrection, but he will be deeply missed by his Church family and relatives.

Brent Ebersole



Arthur Smith

Arthur Ruff Smith, 64, of the Cleveland, Ohio, congregation, took his last breath on May 28, 2025, after battling chronic health issues.

Art was born Feb. 11, 1961, to Verlan and Dora Smith, the sixth of seven children. He was a graduate of Admiral King High School and an avid fisherman. He was a committed member of the Church of God for over five decades and had a knack for striking up a conversation with just about anyone. Whether he knew you for minutes or decades, he was always ready with a lighthearted joke or story.

Art was a diligent and hard worker and an entrepreneur at heart. From window washing to sales, auto mechanics to bus driving, he always found a way to make ends meet. He prided himself on being self-sufficient while always giving credit to His Creator and Provider.

In his younger years he loved to play basketball, passing on a love of the game to his sons and grandsons. The true love of his life, though, was his wife of 45 years, Ilene (Fechko). Together they raised four children (Shawna, Chris, AJ and Zach), and he often spoke of their accomplishments to others with a light in his eyes. His daughters-in-law (Autumn, Danielle and Emily) were each his favorite, and his son-in-law (Kevin) had no match. Ten grandchildren added another layer of joy to Art's life.

Art knew his last breath physically would be a temporary rest until

the resurrection at Christ's return. He joyfully anticipated the coming Kingdom of God and fashioned his life around the gracious promises of a loving God.

Zach Smith



Dale Carter

Dale Everett Carter, a member of the West Palm Beach, Florida, congregation, died at the age of 78 on June 26, 2025, with his wife Dianne by his side.

Dale was born on Aug. 16, 1946, in Providence, Rhode Island, to Lee and Mary Carter. Before he turned 1, the family moved to Fort, Lauderdale, Florida.

Dale graduated from Fort Lauderdale High School in 1965 and shortly afterward joined the U.S. Navy. When he returned from the Navy, he found out his parents had joined a little-known church. He did his research, God called him, and he accepted God's call! God and His Church played a very big part in his life.

He also began working for BellSouth and AT&T, and upon retirement, he started his own business, Affordable Land Services, in Fellsmere, Florida. He built house pads and configured ponds and roads for clients. In Fellsmere, he was twice elected to the city council and did many beneficial things for the city.

Dale is survived by his wife, Diane; his son, Brian; three stepsons, Matt, John and Mark Delashaw; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Dale is sorely missed by all who know him.

Kathy Cochrane

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