

# OneAccord

June 2026



## **Sharpening Iron**

5 Things Our Father Does That Parents Should Do

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## **Serving the Global Family**

Arnold and Ann Hampton:  
A Journey to Remember

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## **Foundation Institute Perspectives**

The Final Push

# personal from the president

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## Summer Camps

School is out and summer has begun! Here in Texas the temperature is slowly rising, and the prediction is for another hot summer. For many young people in the Church, summer means the beginning of camp season. Once again, we have a full schedule of regional camps for both teens and preteens. One exciting thing about this summer is that we have 56 *new* campers already registered for camp this summer! By “new” we mean those who did not attend one of our camps in 2025. We always have a few new campers each year, but to have 56 in one year is a new high for us.

The downside to having so many new campers this year over last year is that we are running out of room in at least two of our teen camps. We are in the process of working out these situations, since we want every young person who attends with the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, to have a spot at one of our camps if he or she so desires and meets the criteria.

In today’s world, young people face tremendous pressures. Social media, entertainment, peer influence and the constant pull of worldly values can make it difficult for teens and preteens to stay grounded spiritually. Summer camp offers a unique environment, where young people can step away from those distractions and focus on positive influences. Surrounded by peers who share similar beliefs and guided by dedicated staff and counselors, campers learn that living God’s way is not only possible, but rewarding and joyful.

One of the greatest values of camp is the opportunity to build lasting friendships. Many young people in the Church attend small congregations where there are few young people. They are not able to regularly interact with others their age who share their faith. Camp helps bridge that gap. Through shared activities, teamwork, Sabbath services and casual conversations, friendships are formed that often last for years. These relationships provide encouragement and support long after camp ends, helping young people remain connected to the Church and to one another.

Camp also teaches important life skills. Sports activities, talent nights and individual and team competitions encourage cooperation, communication and leadership. Young people learn

responsibility, respect and perseverance. They gain confidence by trying new activities and overcoming challenges. These lessons are valuable not only spiritually, but also socially and emotionally as they prepare for adulthood.

Most importantly, Church camp helps young people deepen their relationship with God. Daily Compass Checks, Christian Living classes and Sabbath services allow campers to better understand biblical principles and how to apply them in real life. They see examples of older teens, counselors and ministers striving to live according to God’s Word. The environment helps reinforce the truth that God’s way leads to happiness, peace and purpose.

The Bible emphasizes the importance of training and guiding young people. Proverbs 22:6 says, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (NKJV). While the primary responsibility for teaching our children lies with the parents, summer camps provide a valuable environment where that training can occur in practical and memorable ways. Young people are encouraged to develop character, make wise decisions and build a foundation for future spiritual growth.

The Church views summer camps as an investment in the future. They help young people grow spiritually, develop character, form lasting friendships and see firsthand the joy of living God’s way. In a challenging world, these camps provide encouragement, stability and hope. COGWA’s commitment to regional camps reflects a dedication to nurturing and supporting young people as they prepare to become the future. Please join me in praying for another successful and safe summer at camp. And if you have the opportunity, please consider serving at one of our camps. You will never regret it!



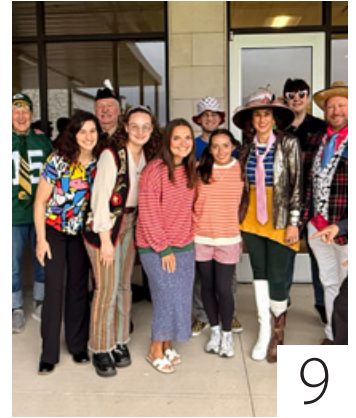
**Jim Franks**  
President  
Church of God, a Worldwide Association



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## CHURCH of GOD

A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION

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# Things Our Father Does That Parents Should Do

God is the ultimate parent. We are to use His example as a blueprint for how to parent our children. Striving to be like God can help us be the best parents possible.

**By John Columbo**



**B**eing a parent is a demanding job. Children have a constant need for attention, and parents are responsible to discern what needs to be addressed and how to work with them. How we address different situations shapes our children for the future.

Thankfully, parents have a great example to follow in how to fulfill their responsibilities—God the Father! Let's explore five important things our Father does for us that we should be doing for our children.

## **1. Be the mediator and the judge**

As much as my sons love each other, I've had to intervene and break up fights over the years. As they got older, I encouraged them to work out their differences without telling their mother or me. But when the name calling got hurtful and they got physical, I would have to step in and remind them that they love each other and that they need to stop.

Likewise, God reminds us that we should work out our differences by showing love and mercy to one another, always being mindful of Him. Jesus Christ reminds us to “be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful” (Luke 6:36).

## 2. Discipline with mercy

Parents are often advised, “Don’t discipline your children in anger.” Unfortunately, anger happens more often than we would like. (See “[Overcoming Dangerous Emotions: Anger](#)” and “[What Does the Bible Say About Anger?](#)” for help with this.)

An important thing to remember is to encourage, teach and be merciful. Encouragement is a priceless tool. When we are disciplining our children, we should always remind them that we love them and want what is best for them.

In Hosea 11 God expresses His love for His child, Israel. In verses 8-9 God asks, “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? . . . My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred. I will not execute the fierceness of My anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim. For I am God, and not man, the Holy One in your midst; and I will not come with terror.”

While raising my kids, I’ve found my frustration can sometimes overwhelm my ability to be encouraging. It is at times like this when mercy is so important. Instead of a hastily devised harsh punishment, a good, old-fashioned time-out can come in handy. When they were younger, I found that some quiet time could take three rambunctious boys and make them very aware of their surroundings.

When Miriam rebelled against Moses in Numbers 12, she was punished with leprosy. Moses cried out to God to heal her. God responded in verse 14, “If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received again.” Her punishment wasn’t to be leprous the rest of her life, but was similar to a very serious *time-out*.

## 3. Spend time with your children

When I was a child, my father spent a lot of time on the road. My friends would talk about going camping, going to ball games and sharing their accomplishments with their dads. Those weren’t experiences I had with my dad. He wasn’t a bad dad; it was just how he provided for the family. Unfortunately, his absence put a lot of strain on the family. That experience helped me realize that I needed to be present as often as I could to lead and encourage my family.

God encourages us that He’ll be with us in hard times: “The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit” (Psalm 34:18).

Likewise, Jesus Christ promises in Matthew 28:20, “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

God’s presence in our lives is what gives us the encouragement to keep going, even in difficult times. If God is with us, who can be against us?

## 4. Establish and enforce rules

It seems that today’s kids often have their parents “tied around their finger.” It is important while they are young to establish boundaries within and outside the home. Boundaries help children learn to be functional adults by accepting responsibility, knowing limitations and handling disappointment.

Likewise, God has established 10 Commandments for us to live by. They are 10 basic instructions for loving God and loving other people. They are designed to keep us safe and help us to live happy lives (Proverbs 29:18)! Although life is full of ups and downs, keeping God’s commandments is the first step to having a relationship with the God who gives us hope.

Exodus 20:12 tells us to honor our parents. Establishing this rule inside and outside the home can help our children trust us as parents and grow in confidence. Teaching our children to obey this commandment also offers them a potential blessing. The commandment promises, “That your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”

## 5. Keep your promises

Anyone who has ever experienced the heartbreak of a broken promise knows how difficult it is to regain trust.

One of my sons had some strong desires about his bedtime routine when he was young. If I had to work late and could not be home to do our routine, he would say to me, “Make sure you come and kiss me when you get home.” I always obliged. If he was unsure whether I would, he would ask me to wake him up. I would often agree to the request no matter what the hour, so he would know that I was home.

If I said I would do this but didn’t follow through, I showed him our relationship was not important and couldn’t always be trusted.

Our God *promises* to return and take away pain, suffering and confusion and give us a glorious new life. Part of this includes the promise to wake us up from sleep—to resurrect His children from the dead.

We are told in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 that “the dead in Christ will rise first . . . And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

Keeping the commitments we make to our children—even simple things, like taking them to a ball game or watching a movie—is another way we can be like God.

We can be thankful that our Father in heaven does all of these things—and will keep *all* of His promises to His children. ☺☺



# Arnold and Ann Hampton

## A Journey to Remember

We continue our series of articles featuring COGWA's four regional directors. These men and their wives have served for decades in the Church's international work, caring for members and congregations in numerous countries. In these articles, you'll read the history of their dedication and service to our worldwide Church family.

**By Doug Horchak**

**O**ne of the more unique and diverse regions in the Church of God consists of the 13 countries that make up the Caribbean. Over 7,000 islands, islets and keys comprise this vast area southeast of the United States. As such, the history of God's work in that part of the world has been an ongoing and inspiring story since the 1960s.

While four other men served as regional directors in that area of

the world (Dibar Apartian, Stan Bass, Charles Fleming and Kingsley Mather), Arnold Hampton's path to serving as regional director for the Caribbean reflects decades of experience in both the United States and the Caribbean. He and Ann, his wife of 53 years, have given many years of faithful commitment and shared service.

### Their beginning

Both Arnold's and Ann's families had a very interesting, early exposure (and calling) into God's Church beginning in the mid-1950s.

Arnold's father and other extended family members began listening to *The World Tomorrow* radio broadcast in the Indianapolis, Indiana, area in the early 1950s. This resulted in six members of his family being baptized into what was then the Radio Church of God in the late 1950s. This took place at a time

when Arnold's parents were separated, and Arnold was living with his mother in Florida.

At this same time, when Ann was just a little girl, her mother and aunt were attending a local Protestant church in Indianapolis where Arnold's aunts were also members! At the very time Arnold's father and his extended family were being called, Ann's aunt was called by God and began attending with them!

In time, Ann's mother also began reading the Church's literature, which led to her attending Sabbath services and being baptized in 1967.

Meanwhile, in the early 1960s, Arnold's parents reestablished communication and reunited—bringing together not only a family, but a shared spiritual journey that had been unfolding for years.

It was not long after, in June of 1967, that Arnold and Ann first

met. Shortly after he graduated from high school in Orlando, Florida, Arnold and his mother made the nearly 1,000-mile journey to Indianapolis to reunite with family. On his first day there, he met the girl who was to be his lifetime mate!

Later that year, Arnold attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., and then transferred the following year to Purdue University in Indiana. During that time, his relationship with Ann began to grow, and in 1970, both were accepted to Ambassador College. Arnold and Ann attended along with eight other single black students and graduated in 1973.

In 1972, as an upperclassman at Ambassador College, Arnold was asked to gain experience by serving as a ministerial trainee in the Southern California area.

Arnold and Ann were married on July 29, 1973, beginning what would become a lifetime of working together as a committed husband-wife team in the Church.

## U.S. and Caribbean assignments

Following graduation, Mr. Hampton was assigned to serve in Baltimore, Maryland, where he worked with congregations from



1973 to 1978. He was ordained as a minister of Jesus Christ on Dec. 9, 1974.

From 1978 to 1982, Mr. Hampton served as pastor of two congregations on the Delmarva Peninsula, including the entire state of Delaware and the eastern portions of Maryland and Virginia. Serving across this geographically and culturally diverse region gave the Hamptons experience that would help prepare them to care for the brethren and congregations spread across island nations in the Caribbean.

In February 1982, the Hamptons were given their first assignment in the Caribbean and, along with their young children, relocated to shepherd God's people in Barbados. This move marked the beginning of their direct and lasting involvement in the Caribbean region. From 1982 to June 1985, Mr. Hampton pastored congregations in Barbados, St. Vincent and St. Lucia. Serving across multiple islands brought unique opportunities and challenges and helped establish strong and enduring relationships with brethren throughout the region.

The initial years in Barbados were especially demanding. At the time, about 300 brethren attended services and were supported by one local elder and two deacons. In addition to weekly Sabbath services, Mr. Hampton oversaw a weekly Bible study, two Spokesman Clubs, a graduate club, two women's clubs, a young adults' club, Y.O.U. and Y.E.S. His responsibilities also included managing an office, organizing the Feast of Tabernacles and conducting baptismal counseling, which led to more than 60 baptisms in just over a year.

In 1985, Mr. Hampton and his family were asked to relocate



to Chicago, Illinois, where he pastored the Chicago South Side congregation for eight years—from 1985 to 1993. These years provided valuable experience serving a large metropolitan congregation and further broadened his pastoral perspective.

In 1993, Mr. Hampton and his family returned to the Baltimore, Maryland, area, where he served as pastor of the Baltimore congregations and as the regional pastor for the mid-Atlantic area. By 1995, his responsibilities had expanded to include congregations across Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and Pennsylvania, as well as oversight of several Caribbean areas, including Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada.

## Developing leaders

In 1999, Mr. Hampton and the late Kingsley Mather, then Caribbean regional director, met in Florida to discuss one of the higher priorities for the region—that of developing



future leadership. From that meeting emerged the vision for the first formal leadership training in that region—the Caribbean Leadership Training (CLT), with the first session held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in August 2000. Eleven individuals from around the region came to Fort Lauderdale, and we were blessed to have Richard Pinelli attend. He shared material with the attendees focusing on Church policies, Church governance, fundamental beliefs and notes from many ABC classes at the time.

That was the first of seven weekend sessions. Over 50 participants were involved during that time from Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the United States. The seventh session was in 2009 in Barbados and was attended by Clyde Kilough.

After COGWA started in December 2010, Mr. Hampton started sermonette classes for men throughout the Caribbean in 2013.

The next project Mr. Hampton initiated was based on recent educational material provided by the Church: the Christian Leadership Training Program (CLTP) in 2017-2018. Shortly after that, COGWA began the International Leadership Program (ILP) around the world. The first ILP meeting in the Caribbean was in August of 2019, with 33 attendees from around the region.

### Special memories

One of Mr. Hampton's more adventurous assignments over the years has been serving brethren in the South American country of Guyana. Beginning in 2000, Mr. Hampton and Mr. Mather, began traveling to Guyana, focusing on visits to Amerindian communities in the country's interior.

These trips presented significant challenges. One year involved sleeping outdoors in a hammock under mosquito netting; the next, in a barn shared with rats. On yet another occasion, baptisms were conducted in a lake known to contain piranhas!

Travel conditions were often arduous, including overnight journeys across the savanna in Guyana to cross the border into Brazil in order visit an Amerindian group in the remote village of Moscou. One particularly memorable visit included what can be called nothing other than a "mass blessing" of children! More than a dozen children—ranging from infants to teenagers—had hands laid on them.

In 2008, the Hamptons moved to Florida to pastor the West Palm Beach congregation while taking on expanded responsibilities in the Caribbean. Following Mr. Mather's death four years later, Mr. Hampton assumed responsibility as regional director for the entire Caribbean.

One of the more recent historical highlights was in 2018, when the COGWA Barbados congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary. Herbert W. Armstrong had personally started the church in Barbados on the Sabbath of Feb. 3, 1968, with 111 in attendance, including Dibar Apartian, who was the regional director at the time, and Stan Bass, who was pastor from 1968 to 1972.

The golden anniversary of the founding of the Church of God in Barbados included a special church service followed by a formal dinner and dance. There were 74 in attendance, including both Jim Franks and Arnold Hampton.

Together, Arnold and Ann Hampton have exemplified a wonderful example of service in the Church and work of God in both the United States and the Caribbean. They are blessed with three children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, who remain an important and cherished part of their lives.

These decades of pastoral experience—serving congregations across the United States and throughout the Caribbean—contributed greatly in preparing Arnold for his role as regional director for the Caribbean over the past several years.

On a personal note, I began attending Ambassador College the same year as Arnold and Ann, and we became close friends. As we crossed paths with the Hamptons over the years, my wife and I have always marveled at their steadfast faithfulness, their commitment and their love for God's people in the different countries in which they have served.

We have deeply appreciated our friendship and are blessed to have them in the ministry of Jesus Christ! ©A

## The Final Push

By Sarah Tannert, FI student

With less than two months left in the Foundation Institute school year, the class took its two-week break for the spring holy days. Most students returned home for the holy days and spent time with friends and family. Several students even had the chance to spend some time relaxing on the beach. The break served as a chance to rest and reinvigorate us for the final push toward graduation as well as focus on our annual reminder of the sacrifice of our Savior. It was a very meaningful spring holy day season.

We returned to class on Monday, April 13, and hit the ground running. With just five weeks left before graduation, there was a lot to do. The media projects we all had been working on, which included the student *In Accord*, the student annual and a social media project, were finished during several class periods that were dedicated labs. These projects gave us all hands-on experience in several aspects of the work the Church is doing. They also provided a lot of opportunities for creativity, cooperation, laughter and fun.

In the final two weeks leading up to graduation, Doug and Janel Johnson returned to the classroom for Mr. Johnson's class on the history of the Church in our modern day. It has been a very valuable class for us, especially given that most of the class was born after Mr. Armstrong's death. Going through the events of the last 40 years with people who lived through them has been very helpful to explain how we got to where we are. This

class has driven home the importance of doctrinal stability and the need to build on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Johnson's first class of this second semester recapped the culture and events of the 1960s. That afternoon the entire class headed over to Dave and Becky Johnson's home for a delicious lunch and the annual showing of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. It is a movie that certainly encapsulates the 1960s and was a very entertaining way to spend the afternoon. The fellowship we have had with the faculty—both in class and outside of class—has been one of the highlights of our FI experience.

In the second-to-last week, we participated in Foundation Institute's version of "spirit week." Monday kicked off the week with Dress Like a Biblical Character Day, Tuesday was Sports Day, but I think Wacky Wednesday will be the most memorable. Several members of the office staff participated, and many photos were taken. It was a wonderful way to spend our last full week of class.

As classes began to wrap up and this year drew to a close, there was a bittersweet feeling. Finishing up our final reflection papers (not tests!) on the books of Deuteronomy and Ezekiel provided us time to look back

on the things we have learned in the last nine months. I think I can speak for the entire class when I say that the things we have learned and the foundation we have built during this program will stay with us for our entire lives. ☺☺



# NEWS OF THE WORK

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## Education Center Building Update



Since last issue, our building's shape can be clearly seen now that a layer of steel for the roof has been added. Construction is on target to be completed in October.

**Jim Franks**

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## Stats & Facts

In 2017 the Church began offering a special series of Bible studies called [Journeys](#). We started with what we called the Journey Starter Pack, four seven-day courses titled "Knowing God," "The Problem of Evil," "The Plan of God" and "The People of God."

Since then, we've added three topical Journeys: "The Fruit of the Spirit," "The Armor of God" and "The Seven Churches of Revelation."

In 2025, thanks to a Facebook ad for Journeys, we had over 42,000 people sign up to take one or more of these courses.

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## Retirements

**David Treybig** retired from the full-time ministry on April 18. He and his wife, Teddi, had been serving the Austin and Temple, Texas, congregations.

**Peter Hawkins** will retire from the full-time ministry on June 13. He and his wife, Sonja, have served members in the United Kingdom and English-speaking Europe.

## International Work



### Holy Days in the Dominican Republic

We broke the record! With 10 for the Passover, 19 for the Night to Be Much Observed, and 18 for the first holy day, this beautiful Caribbean island had a record number this year.

All our meetings were held in the lovely home of Orlando Gabriel and Zoraya Diaz de Gabriel in Santo Domingo. We also enjoyed a visit from the Mazariegos family—Alberto, Alejandra and Andres—from Guatemala. Alberto is a talented guitar player, and they provided music for the offertory on the holy day, April 2, and all the members sang for the special music.

I again traveled to the Dominican Republic for Pentecost, when we had 16 in attendance.

I have been serving this group for over 20 years now, and it is beginning to grow. They love to receive visitors, so brush off your Spanish and go visit them if you have the chance.

**Ralph Levy**

# 2025 Annual Audit

## Faithful Stewardship Continues

By Britton M. Taylor

Every year an independent accounting firm conducts an audit of our finances. The most recent audit, for 2025, again gives a positive review of the Church's financial position. We are pleased to share the results of our annual audit, completed in April 2026, with our Church members and donors who generously support the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

The income received for 2025 was just over \$17.4 million, up almost \$385,000 (2.3 percent) compared to 2024. Income exceeded expenses by over \$743,000.

These figures are very good—especially considering that 2024 was itself an outstanding year. The Church continues to be in a very good financial position as construction progresses on the new education center.

We give thanks to God the Father and Jesus Christ for our continued financial blessings. And we give thanks to you, our faithful members and donors, for your generous and steadfast support of the Church through your tithes,

offerings and ongoing prayers for the Church as we endeavor to faithfully use the resources God provides to do His work.

This year's audited financial statement is for the years ending Dec. 31, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2024. In a confirmation letter dated April 28, 2026, our

**CHURCH OF GOD, A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>REVENUES AND SUPPORT</b>			
Tithes and offerings, individuals	\$ 11,753,216	\$ -	\$ 11,753,216
Local congregation contributions	34,135	-	34,135
Holy Day/Festival Fund offerings	3,806,820	-	3,806,820
Noncash stock donations	609,253	-	609,253
Restricted contributions	-	894,621	894,621
Interest and investment gain	155,122	-	155,122
Other income	186,984	-	186,984
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Satisfaction of donor restrictions	894,621	(894,621)	-
Total revenues and support	<u>17,440,151</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,440,151</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program services:			
Public proclamation	2,506,900	-	2,506,900
Congregational care	6,975,408	-	6,975,408
Education	489,117	-	489,117
Festivals	746,208	-	746,208
International	2,677,869	-	2,677,869
Total program services	<u>13,395,502</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,395,502</u>
General and administrative:			
Headquarters office, management and administrative	1,256,402	-	1,256,402
Board of directors	27,853	-	27,853
Insurance and related services	2,017,206	-	2,017,206
Total general and administrative	<u>3,301,461</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,301,461</u>
Total expenses	<u>16,696,963</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,696,963</u>
Change in net assets	743,188	-	743,188
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>15,934,586</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,934,586</u>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 16,677,774</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 16,677,774</u>

**CHURCH OF GOD, A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

	Program Services					General and Administrative			Total
	Public Proclamation	Congregational Care	Education	Festival	International	Headquarters Office, Management and Administrativ	Board of Directors	Insurance and Related services	
<b>EXPENSES</b>									
Bank services and fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 89,405	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 89,405
Building and equipment fees	128	17,649	124,506	200,915	-	19,763	-	-	362,961
Contracted services and fees	487,088	50,654	-	-	-	230,392	-	-	768,134
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	196,612	-	-	196,612
Domestic support:									
Advertising	180,787	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180,787
Discretionary assistance	-	200,437	-	140,029	19,118	-	-	20,040	379,624
Discretionary retirement pay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	844,425	844,425
Insurance and health care	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,152,741	1,152,741
Internet and related services	97,653	-	-	-	-	11,500	-	-	109,153
Other	21,230	10,210	32,998	496	27,554	82,114	-	-	174,602
Postage and shipping	125,729	2,026	-	-	6,761	7,633	-	-	142,149
Printing	113,382	8,938	-	-	-	7,435	-	-	129,755
Salaries and related expenses	1,229,748	4,125,587	156,292	335,521	898,386	460,514	-	-	7,206,048
Supplies	225,801	19,002	5,536	34,458	1,221	11,801	-	-	297,819
Telephone and utilities	-	28,613	-	-	786	50,665	-	-	80,064
Travel, mileage, meals and lodging	10,953	2,511,532	36,885	32,311	459,698	40,781	27,853	-	3,120,013
Youth camp and activities	-	-	132,900	2,478	15,700	-	-	-	151,078
Equipment and facilities	14,401	760	-	-	-	47,787	-	-	62,948
International subsidies	-	-	-	-	1,248,645	-	-	-	1,248,645
Total expenses	\$ 2,506,900	\$ 6,975,408	\$ 489,117	\$ 746,208	\$ 2,677,869	\$ 1,256,402	\$ 27,853	\$ 2,017,206	\$ 16,696,963

independent auditing firm, Henry & Peters, P.C., of Tyler, Texas, gave us a favorable unqualified opinion that the financial statements accurately present the Church’s financial position and results of operations for 2025 and, by comparison, for 2024.

The unqualified opinion reflects our independent auditor’s judgment that, without any identified exceptions, our financial records and statements are fairly and appropriately presented and are in accordance

with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The results of this annual audit are an indication of our ongoing efforts to responsibly manage our God-given financial resources.

We have provided two of the financial statements that relate to the Church’s operations for the year ending Dec. 31, 2025. You can view the full audit online at [members.cogwa.org/uploads/Church\\_of\\_God\\_a\\_Worldwide\\_Association\\_2025\\_Audit.pdf](https://members.cogwa.org/uploads/Church_of_God_a_Worldwide_Association_2025_Audit.pdf). ©



## Montreal Holds Bread-Making Workshop



Shortly after sunset on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025, members of the Montreal, Quebec, congregation participated in a workshop on how to make a French baguette from scratch.

While we waited for the yeast to work and the bread to rise, we shared Bible verses and discussed the physical and spiritual meanings of bread.

Once the baguettes went into the oven, a teen member shared a recipe for herbs and olive oil. We discussed the health benefits of olive oil and the qualities of salt until the bread came out and we tasted the fruit of our labor!

**Cindy and Charity Harper**

## Akron-Canton Puts on Variety Show



On the evening of Saturday, Feb. 14, the Akron-Canton, Ohio, congregation gathered for a lively and entertaining talent show that showcased the creativity and humor of its members. The evening was hosted by Kevin Troyer and Amber Taylor, whose comedic sketches and playful banter kept the audience laughing and groaning as they introduced each act.

The program featured an impressive range of talents. Members enjoyed everything from bagpipes and Scottish dancing to a science project demonstration and poetry. Each performance added its own unique flair, making the event both entertaining and memorable.

**Kami Purdy**

## Cincinnati-Dayton Holds Secret Pal Event

What's more fun than having a secret pal? In early February the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation got to enjoy a secret pal program. Preteens were matched with older members of the congregation, and both young and older exchanged notes (through the organizers) on the Sabbaths of Feb. 7 and 14.

Then on the Sabbath of Feb. 21 the secret pals were revealed! The pals—no longer secret—were able to enjoy a soup dinner together while discussing their secret notes and favorite stories.

**Anna Zimmerman**



## Bentonville Hosts Annual Bunco Night



Following the Sabbath of March 7, the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation hosted its annual bunco evening. Before the games began, everyone enjoyed a soup and salad potluck.

This was a smaller group than usual, but the lively activity of the group made up for it, with all the enthusiastic rounds that were enjoyed by all. There were a few visitors from other congregations who added to the evening's fun.

Prizes were awarded for the most buncos, most wipeouts and most losses. Everyone had a wonderful evening!

**Vicki Willoughby**

## East Texas Enjoys Variety Show



On Feb. 21, the East Texas congregation had a delicious potluck meal and our annual variety/fun show.

The theme for the variety show was “Sing for Joy!” Many talents were presented by those who performed—from little children to older adults. After the show everyone joined the cast in singing “God Bless America.”

Thanks go to John Flynn and his daughter Aubrey Jenison for coordinating the show.

**Judy McNeely**

## Toronto Goes to Medieval Times

Saturday evening, Feb. 14, members from the Toronto, Ontario, congregation enjoyed a two-hour dinner and show event at the only Medieval Times venue in Canada. The performance included jousting, sword fighting and spear throwing along with more peaceful activities, such as equestrian tricks and a falconry demonstration.

The audience was seated by color of the different knights’ standards and was encouraged to cheer on their knight. A few members even came in medieval dress. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and left with new insights on life, chivalry and honor in the Middle Ages.

**Charity Harper**



## SWMO Ladies’ Art Day Event

On Monday, March 9, a group of ladies from the southwest Missouri congregations in Springfield and Joplin met for a day of art-making, laughter, snacks and fellowship. Codi Lyn Phariss and Lavanda Phariss opened up their home and invited all the ladies to an array of art immersions, including jewelry making, macrame, painting, sketching, crocheting and beading.

Almost everyone lives hours apart from each other, so the caravan road trip was also a big part of the fun! We were all thankful for the hospitality of the Phariss ladies.

**Lyndi Fultz**



## Southwest Florida Holds Annual Picnic

On March 1 the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation hosted its sixth annual Southwest Florida picnic at the Fort De Soto State Park on the emerald waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Overcast skies and cool breezes in the morning hours quickly turned into full sunshine and temperatures in the low 80s.

Brethren enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs with many sides and desserts. It was a wonderful day, full of fellowship, walks on the beach, cornhole and assorted table games.

**Mike McTiernan**



## Houston Celebrates 70th Anniversary

The Houston, Texas, congregations gathered on the Sabbath of March 7 to celebrate Houston's 70th anniversary with a combined service, special music, a sermon by Jim Franks and a presentation by past pastors. Members enjoyed looking at pictures and fellowshiping over a relaxing catered meal.

The day was a wonderful opportunity to remember all who served faithfully and laid the solid foundation for future growth in the Church of God. As we celebrated our years together, it was a wonderful day of sharing memories from the past and making memories for the future.

**John Perry**



## South Carolina Members Help Neglected Children

On March 7, the Columbia, South Carolina, congregation participated in a Hilltop Outreach service project. Following a potluck, members of the congregation filled 67 backpacks with school supplies for Midlands Orphan Relief, a local nonprofit organization that provides goods and services to children who have been abused or neglected. In addition to the backpacks, Church members donated additional school supplies and money.

We truly appreciate Foundation Outreach International for the opportunity to serve the community and help local youth whose lives are in turmoil.

**Dareth Kovaleski**



## Gainesville and Atlanta Hold Variety Show

On Saturday evening, Feb. 21, the Gainesville and Atlanta, Georgia, congregations combined for a wonderful variety show filled with fellowship, laughter and creativity. Young and older participants shared a wide variety of talents. The show was expertly emceed by our own pastor, Mark Winner, who kept the evening lively and engaging. With 30 acts and a show lasting more than two hours, attendees enjoyed an evening full of memorable performances.

During intermission, guests enjoyed popcorn and treats and a display of members' artwork. It was a joyful night with fun memories made and bonds strengthened.

**Ava Sanders**





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 100-200 words. Please submit a high-resolution color photo along with the written copy to your congregation's reporter.

## Birth



**Jace Perry Worthen**

Wynn and Crystal Worthen of the East Texas congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their third son, Jace Perry Worthen. He was born May 2, 2026, weighing 7 pounds 14 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

He is healthy, and everyone is doing well.

**Judy McNeely**

wedding anniversary on March 6, 2026. They were married on March 6, 1971.

Their many years of marriage reflect a lifetime of commitment, faith and shared experiences. Doug and Sandy have a daughter, Mandi Daugherty, and a son, Shaun Harr, as well as three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The brethren gathered for a potluck following Sabbath services on March 7 and honored the HARRS for reaching this significant milestone. Doug Harr also serves as a deacon in the Bedford congregation.

**Brent Dale Ebersole**

was followed by a brunch attended by many family members and close friends.

The ceremony was especially joyful as four elders assisted in laying hands on Jacob. Two of those elders were his father, Steve Anderson, and his grandfather, Dan Anderson! Dan Anderson commented afterward that Jacob is now both his grandson and his brother in Christ!

**Phil Sandilands**



**Olivia Brown**

## Anniversary



**Doug and Sandy Harr**

Doug and Sandy Harr of the Bedford, Pennsylvania, congregation celebrated their 55th



**Jacob Anderson**

Jacob Anderson was baptized March 28, 2026, just a few days before Passover. The ceremony took place at his parents' home in Chandler, Arizona. The baptism

The Columbus-Cambridge, Ohio, congregation welcomed a new sister into the Body of Christ on April 5, 2026, at the home of Adam and Keri Sanders. Olivia Brown was baptized by Chad Messerly. Don Henson and Gary McConaughy assisted with the laying on of hands. Many friends and family witnessed this joyous occasion, including Olivia's siblings, mother and grandmother. She is part of the fourth generation in this family that has been shown God's grace and faithfulness. Following the

baptism, everyone enjoyed a toast and snacks.

**Chad Messerly**



**David Graham and Hazel Houck**

On March 15, 2026, David Graham and Hazel Houck, members of the Redding, California, congregation, were baptized into the Body of Christ. Mark Whynaucht, pastor of the Columbia, Rolla and St. Louis, Missouri, congregations, conducted the baptism and the laying on of hands. After the baptism we enjoyed a nice meal to celebrate the occasion.

**Mark Whynaucht**



**Mark Rigby**

On the Sabbath of March 21, 2026, in Salt Lake City, Utah, Mark Rigby, son of longtime members Jerry (deceased) and Sharon Rigby, was baptized and welcomed into the Body of Christ! It was definitely an uplifting moment for the entire congregation.

A small group of family and friends shared in the occasion as the ceremony was performed by the Salt Lake City pastor, David Gatley, who was assisted by Neil Hart, an elder in the congregation.

**David Gatley**



**Jamison Bazell**

Jamison Bazell was baptized into the Body of Christ on March 29, 2026. Marty Miller, associate pastor of the Columbus-Cambridge and Akron-Canton, Ohio, congregations, performed the baptism with Don Henson (pastor) and Chad Messerly (associate pastor) assisting with the laying on of hands.

Jamison began attending church as an adult, but the influence of his maternal grandparents and aunt and uncle (all Church members) provided an example to him throughout his life. The Columbus-Cambridge congregation is thrilled to have Jamison as part of the family of God!

**Denise Hadley**



**Elbert Magdoboy**

On March 29, 2026, the Mindanao congregation warmly welcomed a new member into God's family. With great joy, Elbert Magdoboy was baptized into the Body of Christ by pastor Elbert Gargar. The baptism was held at Mergrande Ocean Resort (the venue for the 2026 Feast of Tabernacles) in Davao City.

Raised Catholic, Mr. Magdoboy came upon a Facebook post from the Life, Hope & Truth website, which sparked his curiosity. Inspired by the content he found online, he enrolled

in and completed the LHT Bible Study Course. He then continued studying, which ultimately led him to seek baptism.

**Mercedes Decin**



**Abby Griswold**

On Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, as the Sabbath approached, Abby Griswold of the Indianapolis, Indiana, congregation was baptized into the Body of Christ. Mark Whynaucht, pastor of the Columbia, Rolla and St. Louis, Missouri, congregations, conducted the baptism and the laying on of hands.

Abby was surrounded by family and friends, and afterward they toasted to Abby becoming part of the family of God.

**Mark Whynaucht**



**Sonia Lasseigne**

On the morning of Nov. 25, 2025, Sonia Lasseigne of the Columbia, Missouri, congregation was baptized into the Body of Christ. Surrounded by her family and many friends, pastor Mark Whynaucht conducted the baptism and the laying on of hands. After the baptism, everyone enjoyed a light lunch to celebrate the occasion.

**Mark Whynaucht**



**Aaron LaMagna**

The Orlando, Florida, congregation is delighted to welcome Aaron LaMagna into the Body of Christ. Aaron was baptized on Feb. 8, 2026, by his pastor Tim Rickard, with retired pastor Roy Demarest assisting.

The happy event, which was witnessed by many family members and friends, took place at the home of members Dan and Jennifer Demarest. After the ceremony everyone enjoyed refreshments.

**Tim Rickard**



**Kyle Stores**

On Sunday March 29, 2026, Kyle Stores of the Portland, Oregon, congregation was baptized. He was baptized by his pastor, Larry Lambert. Ron McNeill, one of the Portland congregation's local elders, assisted in the laying on of hands ceremony.

After the baptism, we all met at a local restaurant for good food and fellowship to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Pictured (left to right) are Larry Lambert, Karen Stores, Kyle Stores, Abe Stores and Ron McNeill.

**Larry Lambert**



**Mark and Denise Michael**

We are happy to announce the baptism of Mark and Denise Michael of the Indianapolis, Indiana, congregation.

The baptism took place after services on March 7, 2026, and was conducted by the pastor, Ron Kelley. The members of the congregation were able to watch the ceremony, and then we enjoyed special snacks to celebrate the occasion.

**Ron Kelley**

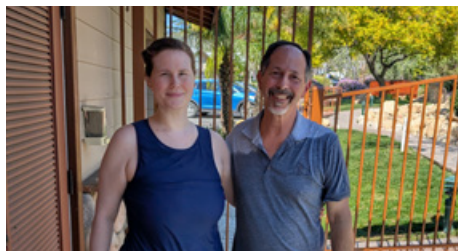


**Kathy Sebree**

Kathy Sebree was baptized March 29, 2026, by Ken Giese, pastor of the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation. Family and friends were present for the joyous occasion!

Welcome to the Body of Christ, Kathy!

**Rebekah Stolley**



**Jennifer Sabo**

On March 1, 2026, Jennifer Sabo was baptized in a small ceremony performed by James Capó, pastor

of the Los Angeles, California, and Homer, Alaska, congregations. Her extended family was present to witness her commitment, and we joyfully welcome her into our church family as our newest sister in Christ.

**Debbie Fritz**



**Gilbert Reyes**

Gilbert Reyes was baptized on March 25, 2026—a week before Passover—by his pastor Andy Burnett. It was a beautiful sunny spring afternoon. This joyful occasion was shared with his wife, Jessica, and their three boys, along with a few other family members.

**Hailey Brock**



**Eric and Amanda Witt**

On Sunday, March 22, 2026, Eric and Amanda Witt of the Portland, Oregon, congregation were baptized. They were baptized by their pastor, Larry Lambert. He was assisted in the laying on of hands ceremony by Ron McNeill, an elder in the Portland congregation.

After the baptism, we all met at a local restaurant for good food and fellowship to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Pictured above (from left to right) are Larry Lambert, Eric Witt, Amanda Witt and Ron McNeill.

**Larry Lambert**

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## Ordination



**Mike Ciampaglia**

The Ocala and Orlando, Florida, congregations were blessed to have Mike Ciampaglia ordained to the office of elder on Jan. 3, 2026.

Mike speaks regularly in both of the central Florida congregations. He and his wife Barbara enthusiastically coordinate church socials during the year, organizing and setting up picnics, movie socials and trips to nature venues for members to enjoy.

The ordination was conducted by local pastor Tim Rickard, with local elders Bill Kubon and JF Koontz participating.

**Tim Rickard**

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## Obituaries



**Lori Ann Ellis**

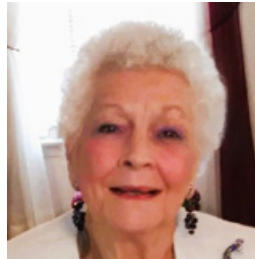
Lori Ann Ellis died suddenly on Oct. 29, 2025. She was born May 26, 1958, in Merced, California. Lori grew up in Humansville and Dunnegan, Missouri.

She loved spending time with friends and family and especially loved her Church family. She was a 35-year member of God's family

and attended the Tucson, Arizona, congregation.

Lori is survived by her children, Lloyd Bowen, Cynthia Goselin and Roberts Burns. She is also survived by five siblings, four grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

**Sherrill Tannert**



**Helen Sexton Hebert**

Helen Sexton Hebert, a member of the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation died peacefully at her daughter Sharon's home on July 3, 2025, at age 94.

Helen was born on Jan. 21, 1931, in Irving, Texas, to Arthur and Bertie Farine. Growing up, she picked vegetables on the family's truck farm, which was part of a tract of land homesteaded by Helen's great-grandfather, who emigrated from France in 1855.

Life was hard during the Great Depression. Their home did not have electricity or plumbing, and Helen had few toys or possessions. After graduation, she went to business school and worked as a secretary.

Helen married Sterling Wesley Sexton on Jan. 22, 1950, and they were blessed with three children, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Wesley died in 1989 at age 58.

Helen was fascinated by nature and wildlife from an early age. She wrote a newspaper column titled, "Birds in Your Backyard" in the 1960s and wrote hundreds of poems.

On Jan. 25, 2009, Helen married Joseph Hebert, a Frenchman from Limerick, Maine. They enjoyed eight happy years together until his death in 2017.

Helen's loyalty to Texas was surpassed only by her zeal for God's Word. She began attending the Church of God in 1965. Helen was loved by her congregation and will be deeply missed.

**Rebekah Stolley**



**Norma Childs**

Norma Childs, a longtime member of the Church of God, died peacefully in her home at the age of 89 on Nov. 16, 2025. Norma attended the Springfield, Missouri, congregation and remained steadfast in her faith throughout her life. Her legacy is one of quiet, constant love expressed through kindness, generosity and genuine care for everyone she met.

Norma was born in Juliaetta, Idaho, on March 2, 1936, and earned her master's degree in education at Oregon State University. In 1957, she married the love of her life, Carl Childs, and together they shared nearly 67 years of beautiful, devoted marriage.

Norma spent more than three decades as a beloved teacher, but teaching was only one reflection of her lifelong devotion to others. Her compassion reached far beyond the classroom—she created a chosen family wherever she went. If someone needed a friend, a roof over his or her head, or a motherly presence, she was there without hesitation.

To know Norma was to love Norma. All who knew her deeply feel the loss of this beloved pillar and friend.

**Lyndi Fultz**



## MADE TO BELONG

This world wants you to get caught up in finding yourself, being yourself, losing yourself or trying to understand yourself.

We are made to belong. So why are we here, and what does that mean for our lives right now?

- We belong to God.
- We belong in His body and His plan.
- We belong within roles and responsibilities, jobs and families.
- And we belong together.

Don't miss the 2026 Young Adult Leadership Weekend!

