OneAccord

November 2026



2026 Feast of Tabernacles

Cover Photo:
Branson, Missouri

personal from the president

Camp and Feast Planning Meetings: Looking to Improve

By now, most of us have returned from the Feast and settled back into our normal routines of work or school. I hope we all returned from this year's Feast with fond memories of good times, renewed friendships and, most importantly, spiritual rejuvenation. Most of us probably won't give much thought to next year's Feast until the spring of 2027, when we begin deciding where we will attend.

But that isn't true for those involved in planning at the headquarters office. We have two important planning meetings—one at the end of October and another in early November.

In October, our camp directors met to discuss plans for the 2027 camp season. Our camp program is one of our most ambitious undertakings, involving more than 1,000 campers and staff at nine different camps, including teen and preteen camps and the Challenger program for young adults. Needless to say, a program of this size requires considerable preparation and planning.

In early November, our Feast coordinators and headquarters staff will meet to begin planning for the 2027 Feast of Tabernacles. Our goal each year is to improve upon the previous year. If we aren't careful, it could be easy to fall into a routine of simply repeating the same things year after year. While much of the work involved in planning the Feast follows a familiar pattern, we also want to look carefully at what can be improved.

Each year we review our Feast sites to make sure they continue to serve the needs of the brethren. We also look for locations that are interesting and educational and that offer natural beauty. After all, we want our sites, as much as possible, to provide a millennial setting—a reminder of the wonderful world the Feast of Tabernacles pictures, even while we live in today's troubled world.

We also strive to locate Feast sites within a reasonable driving distance of the members assigned to them. This isn't always easy. In some areas, particularly the western United States, our members are spread over great distances. We do our best to provide sites in the major regions of the country—the Northwest, Southwest, Central, South, Northeast and Southeast.

In addition, we try to provide sites in other parts of the world that may be of interest to U.S. members who are able and desire to travel internationally. These include sites in the South Pacific, the Caribbean and Europe.

Coordinating all of this requires considerable work. Speakers must be assigned, facilities and activities coordinated, and many other details brought together. Our Festival team works with Ministerial Services, under Dave Myers, in planning the sites. Doug Horchak, our operation manager for the International Work, serves our international ministry and congregations outside the United States. Once plans for each site are completed, they are submitted to the president for approval.

Planning international sites presents some unique challenges. In many countries our choices are limited, in part because of the economic circumstances of our members. The Church heavily subsidizes many international Feast sites because local funds are simply not sufficient to cover all the expenses. We want our brethren around the world to have the opportunity to observe the Feast in an appropriate and uplifting setting.

So, even though the 2026 Feast of Tabernacles and youth camps are now behind us (with the exception of Winter Camp at the end of December), planning for 2027 is already underway.

In order to improve each year, I encourage you to send us your input. If you have a recommendation for a potential Feast site or a new camp location, please send it to us here at the office. We won't be able to use every suggestion, of course, but every recommendation will be considered.

Above all, I encourage each of us to pray for God's guidance and intervention as we make these plans for 2027. There are many decisions to make and many details to coordinate, but our goal is simple: to serve the brethren and provide the best possible camp and Feast experiences for God's people.

Consider what Solomon wrote in Proverbs 16:9: "A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps." It is critical that we have direction from God in all our planning—both for camps and for the Feast.

Jim Franks



Jim Franks
President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association

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CHURCH of GOD
A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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One Accord is published monthly, except April and October, online at members.cogwa.org by the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

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Feast of Tabernacles 2026

Reports of the 2026 Feast of Tabernacles, observed in 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 in North America, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, the South Pacific and Africa. The Church is truly a worldwide work!

During the Feast we all reviewed the truth of God's great plan for working with humanity. We were refreshed and rejuvenated as we celebrated the final two steps in God's great plan that is outlined by His holy days. We were reminded that the heartache and deception of this world will come to an end once Christ rescues the earth from deception and destruction.

As a family, we lived the vibrant picture that looks ahead to the return of Jesus Christ when He will set up His Kingdom over the earth. This certain hope burned brightly in our hearts and minds as we pictured and meditated on how the world will change once Christ's government guides the nations of the earth. Messages emphasized the vision of what we can confidently expect to come in the not-to-distant future.

One of the highlights for us was meeting, visiting with and getting to know the brethren 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 reading 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

Migori
KENYA

The Feast in Kenya this year was held at Maranatha Faith Assemblies in Migori, located in southwestern Kenya, 380 kilometers west of Nairobi. The Feast was a blessing for the members, who were grateful for the location and the support of the Church.

We had five young adults from the U.S. attend, and they were a tremendous help in coordinating activities and providing fun and encouragement for everyone.

All 200 brethren truly rejoiced throughout the Feast, gaining a clearer vision of God's Kingdom through the messages and activities. They left encouraged and strengthened to continue their spiritual walk!

Nathan Willoughby

Gonubie
SOUTH AFRICA

Over 90 brethren from the U.S., Indonesia, U.K., Zimbabwe and South Africa celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles on the coast in Gonubie, Eastern Cape. Highlights of the Feast included sermons that gave all a vision of the Kingdom of God and our part in serving people in the Millennium, as well as a music night, seeing humpback whales (the youth activity) and the annual Family Day *braai*.

Services and most activities were held at the hall, and fellowship abounded! We were grateful for the opportunity to spend time with guest speaker Britton Taylor and his wife, Donna.

Tim Waddle

Mapoko
ZAMBIA

Almost 120 brethren observed the Feast camping at our Church-owned site in Mapoko. We had a hot and humid start, and a downpour on the fourth day ravaged our site. But on the plus side, the temperature dropped significantly the next day, and after cleaning up, our joy was back!

Messages painted a vivid picture of the soon-coming Kingdom of God and how we can inherit it. We enjoyed having guest speaker Pat Sinon and his wife, Kerrie.

Our kitchen staff delivered delicious and plentiful food. Yogurt donated by the Sinons was a great treat. We appreciate our brethren overseas making the abundance possible.

Kambani Banda

ASIA/PACIFIC

Pacific Harbour
FIJI

Over 40 members from four countries gathered to keep the Feast at The Pearl Resort and Spa in Pacific Harbour, Fiji. Brethren

enjoyed a beautiful tropical setting and rejoiced daily in the messages and activities.

A highlight for all was a traditional Fijian *lovo* dinner. After dinner, the group sang and laughed for hours. The group was also able to have a very special dinner at The Pearl. Following the dinner, the group enjoyed traditional island entertainment, including a Fijian fire dance. All expressed their deep appreciation for this Feast and look forward to next year's.

Jon Pinelli

Kolkata
INDIA

The Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day in Kolkata, India, were enjoyable in spite of India's social and political challenges. All 13 brethren at the Feast were in good health and spirits. Members lodged in the YWCA Gallway Guest House in the heart of Kolkata.

Weather was good throughout the Feast. Participants enjoyed fellowship and meaningful video messages in Bengali and Hindi. Brethren enjoyed the meals and activities, including visits to the Mother's Wax Museum and Eco Park and biblical movies other evenings.

Participants were blessed abundantly, physically and spiritually, and look forward to next year's Feast.

Tarun Ghosh

Tauranga
NEW ZEALAND

Over 80 members gathered for the Feast this year in Tauranga, New Zealand. This was a new location for the New Zealand site. It proved to be most popular.

Members enjoyed ample time for fellowship before and after services. Activities included a young adults' afternoon excursion and dinner, Family Day gondola and luge rides, as well as a ladies' high tea. We were also privileged to have a baptism at the Feast this year.

Messages focused on the wonderful time to come when all things will be restored. We look forward to the Feast in 2027!

Jon Pinelli

Davao City
PHILIPPINES

This was the first time COGWA has observed the Feast in Davao, and about 240 attended. The occasion invited us to reflect on the many years members have observed the Feast as part of the Church of God.

We were also touched to fellowship with those keeping the Feast for the first time, such as the family from northern Mindanao who traveled over six hours by tuk-tuk on poor roads. They were already observing the Sabbath, but also wanted to keep the annual feasts. Their experience was a reminder of the joy of God's calling.

Elbert Gargar

Negombo
SRI LANKA

Brethren on the beautiful island nation of Sri Lanka gathered once again at the Goldi Sands Resort in Negombo. With its tropical setting, sandy beaches and spectacular sunsets, the location provided a wonderful setting for observing the Feast of Tabernacles.

This Feast was especially memorable for the daily fellowship over meals and at services. The eight days were filled with genuine warmth. Though we came from different parts of the world, our shared faith quickly made us feel like family. We arrived hoping to encourage and serve our brethren, but left feeling we received far more than we gave.

Chuck Sinon

Mae Sot
THAILAND

Over 20 members observed God's Feast in the border city of Mae Sot, Thailand. Services were held at the Monte Hotel, where brethren lodged and shared many meals.

Our five members from Myanmar (Burma) were able to meet with other



Migori, Kenya



Tauranga, New Zealand

brethren for the first time! It was a joyous opportunity for them to share their lives and hope for the future.

Group meals, a game day and an evening talent show added to this special opportunity for God's people from Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore and the U.S. to fellowship while hearing daily sermons focused on Christ's millennial rule!

Doug Horchak

CARIBBEAN

St. Philip
BARBADOS

The 2026 Feast was held at Wyndham Sam Lord's Castle in St. Philip, Barbados. The all-inclusive resort offered a setting for brethren to rejoice before God and enjoy warm fellowship and unity. Inspiring messages highlighted God's plan and strengthened hope in His coming Kingdom.

Afternoons and evenings brought opportunities for fellowship and island exploration. Activities included karaoke and games, a catamaran cruise along the coast, an island heritage tour and a family dinner and dance. Some enjoyed the resort's amenities, while others explored independently.

Brethren departed with cherished memories, stronger relationships and renewed appreciation for shared blessings.

Aja Hampton

Lethem
GUYANA

Despite temperatures near 100 degrees, eight adults and three children gathered in Lethem, Guyana, for the Feast. Services ended before the heat intensified. The webcast, messages, singing and special music were enjoyed.

One newcomer, a young man, was grateful to attend services for the first time. Others were encouraged by messages of hope.

The heat and a broken bridge limited activities to fellowship after meals and services. Brethren found their time inspiring and look forward to a new site in 2027, when attendance is expected to grow. They thank God for the Feast and anticipate His Kingdom.

Gary Atkinson

Ocho Rios
JAMAICA

The Church celebrated the 2026 Feast of Tabernacles at the Riu Ocho Rios, welcoming brethren from Jamaica, the United States and Canada. Uplifting messages focused on Jerusalem, living waters and our purpose. The Festival choir, soloists, duets and small groups enriched services with beautiful music. Live web transmission connected people unable to attend.

Indoor and beachside family activities encouraged fellowship and friendly competition. Attendance peaked at 90 on the Eighth Day. Brethren were grateful for generous support with event passes and transportation, which made fellowship and travel easier. They departed encouraged and look forward to the coming Kingdom.

Sharon Lewis

Scarborough
TOBAGO

Brethren from Barbados, Grenada, the U.S. and Trinidad gathered in Scarborough, Tobago, to celebrate God's Feast with joy and fellowship.

Activities included a Bible study, quiz and boat excursion to the Nylon Pool, where brethren enjoyed swimming in the Caribbean Sea. They also visited a hummingbird sanctuary and saw hundreds of these tiny birds—including some that drank from handheld feeders.

Warm fellowship, laughter and sound biblical teaching strengthened bonds of unity. Brethren departed with cherished memories, renewed spiritual encouragement and a deeper appreciation for their unity and hope in God's coming Kingdom.

Osmonde Douglas and Steve Basant



St. Philip, Barbados



Loutraki, Greece



El Quisco, Chile



Costa del Sol, El Salvador

EUROPE

Les Tuquets
FRANCE

There were around 60 of us this year in southwest France. Being together in the same location, we enjoyed all our meals together along with the extra fellowship that it provided.

We had the privilege of having Dave and Pam Myers with us and hearing his inspiring sermons. Canadian pastor Daniel Harper and his family were a great help, and we had wonderful special music.

God blessed us with sunny weather, which allowed a number of pleasurable excursions, and with some welcome rain after our historic drought. The fun show was well-attended and much appreciated. It was a great Feast.

James Muir

Loutraki
GREECE

Approximately 260 attended God's Feast in Loutraki, Greece. Most all stayed at a resort, which was also the location of services, overlooking the Gulf of Corinth. Temperatures were cooler than expected, but the fellowship and buzz throughout the Feast was nice and warm.

The color of the water, the sky and the surroundings blended together to create a gorgeous picture throughout. Most everyone took in day trips to Athens and ancient Corinth, which led to interesting discussions about the apostle Paul as well as the world of Greek mythology—quite the contrast.

Mark Winner

Bournemouth
UNITED KINGDOM

Nearly 200 members enjoyed the beachside city of Bournemouth for the Feast this year. The Kings Hall, inside the Royal Bath Hotel, was a beautiful venue that served well.

Each day we enjoyed a variety of special music. Members arrived early for services and filled the room with joyous conversation.

A number of activities added to the enjoyment, including a teen beach party, golf scramble, two tours (Stonehenge and the famous Jurassic Coast), a well-attended senior banquet and Family Day at the nearby Oceanarium just steps away.

The messages and fellowship made this a special Feast to remember.

Paul Carter

LATIN AMERICA

Sierra de la Ventana
ARGENTINA

Over 100 attended the Feast in Argentina's beautiful region of Sierra de la Ventana. We all stayed in well-furnished cabins, and brethren invited each other for shared meals and fellowship. We spent a lot of time together in small groups.

A highlight of this Feast was the use of a new meeting hall for services and most activities, including an activity for seniors and a barbecue dinner for everyone. At the beginning of the Last Great Day, we had a happy event: the baptism of Cintia Lucena.

This Feast was a wonderful blessing, both physically and spiritually.

Alfredo Arboleas

Santa Cruz
BOLIVIA

Once again, we celebrated the Feast at the Hotel Los Cedros, surrounded by gardens, wildlife, flora and the warm climate of eastern Bolivia.

We were delighted to welcome visitors from Chile, reminding us that, although we live far apart, we are family. We shared activities and long conversations. We enjoyed group meals with stories, laughter and gratitude.

Services were another highlight, with inspiring and encouraging messages centered on the Kingdom of God and the work we must do to prepare for it. We returned home with a renewed desire to live with our eyes on the coming Kingdom.

Jaime Zagal



Gonubie, South Africa



Pacific Harbour, Fiji



Scarborough, Tobago



Kolkata, India



Davao City, Philippines



Negombo, Sri Lanka



Mae Sot, Thailand



Les Tuquets, France



Bournemouth, United Kingdom



Sierra de la Ventana, Argentina



Santa Cruz, Bolivia



Santa Marta, Colombia



Ciudad Vieja, Guatemala



Huanchaco, Peru



Orange Beach, Alabama



Seaside, Oregon

El Quisco
CHILE

For the fifth year, we held the Feast at the Riu Tai Resort in El Quisco, Chile. We had over 560 attending, including 52 from the U.S. Thankfully, we were also able to inaugurate a new meeting hall, making it possible for us to fit!

Attendees listened to alternating translations throughout services. Many said it was inspiring to hear five U.S. ministers and three local ministers, all with different backgrounds, but speaking the same truths.

Activities were lively and well-attended. A highlight was the baptisms of Gustavo Flores, María José Díaz, Patricia Díaz, Belém Pérez, Vicente Carvajal, Daniel Díaz and Sebastián Huerta.

Saúl Langarica

Santa Marta
COLOMBIA

Over 100—from Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, Chile, Argentina and the U.S.—met in El Rodadero, Santa Marta, to celebrate God's Feast.

This year many experienced trials, including the August earthquake that struck Colombia. Then, on Sept. 24, we received news of an armed strike in Santa Marta. We feared the Feast would be disrupted, but God intervened. Things returned to normal the next day, just in time.

We enjoyed a beautiful celebration. Contributing to our joy were the Sandilands, who joined us at the end of the Feast, and the baptism of Lina Marcela de los Ríos from Bogotá.

Eduardo Hernández

Costa del Sol
EL SALVADOR

We enjoyed the Feast of Tabernacles for eight days at the Tesoro Beach Hotel on the Costa del Sol beach in El Salvador.

We had physical and spiritual food in abundance. God filled our hearts with joy and hope. Christian fellowship was a special blessing.

The Feast's activities all took place under one roof. We shared together like one big family, and there were many expressions of affection.

We talked, laughed and enjoyed our daily meals together as a family. We lived Psalm 133—dwelling together in unity. We give God thanks!

Eleodoro Ávila

Ciudad Vieja
GUATEMALA

We celebrated the Feast once again in Ciudad Vieja, surrounded by three imposing volcanoes. Before the Feast, our country experienced road blockades, so God's protection was evident.

We had beautiful weather and enjoyable activities, including a lunch for young people, an activity for married couples, an inspiring Bible study, a ladies' night for the speech and graduate clubs, a senior citizens' breakfast (put on by the young people), a ladies' get-together and a talent show for everyone.

Messages encouraged us to focus on the Kingdom. It was an inspiring Feast, and we look forward to next year's.

Isaí Morales

San Miguel de Allende
MÉXICO

The 2026 Feast of Tabernacles in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, was an inspiring and memorable celebration filled with God's blessings. Beautiful weather, uplifting messages and enjoyable activities brought the brethren together in fellowship.

Highlights included children's and youth activities, cultural performances, family gatherings and five baptisms.

The spiritual messages, including a special sermon delivered in Spanish by Jim Franks, encouraged everyone to renew their focus on God's Kingdom and the righteous government Jesus Christ will soon establish over the earth. We are deeply



San Miguel de Allende, México



Estes Park, Colorado



Tucson, Arizona



Fort Myers, Florida

grateful to God for such a joyful, encouraging, and unifying Feast.

Lauro Roybal

Huanchaco
PERU

This year, over 180 people gathered to celebrate the Feast in Huanchaco, a beach resort in the north of Peru.

We had activities for the whole family, including a ladies' afternoon for the Spokesman Club, young adult party, senior citizens' lunch, afternoon for young people, children's party, family beach party, marriage activity, talent night and welcome and farewell dances.

Daily services were the highlight. On the Last Great Day, visiting minister Ralph Levy preached in the morning, and Carlos Saavedra gave the closing sermon in the afternoon. Thus concluded a wonderful celebration filled with spiritual instruction, unity and harmony.

Carlos Saavedra

UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Orange Beach
ALABAMA

We had a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles in beautiful Orange Beach, Alabama! We were blessed to gather with around 850 people for a week filled with inspiring messages, beautiful weather and meaningful fellowship.

Our teen activity, Family Day and family dance all had great participation, bringing families together and creating lasting memories.

From breathtaking sunrises to stunning sunsets, Orange Beach provided a beautiful setting to celebrate the meaning and blessings of the Feast. We are grateful for our time together and the memories made as we look toward the future fulfillment of this day!

Wes Cohron

Tucson
ARIZONA

It was wonderful to watch the full moon clear the mountains surrounding Tucson on the opening night. Over 260 brethren were present for the first holy day.

The weather was seasonably mild—perfect for our Family Day barbecue and novelty Olympics at the park. Other activities included a family dinner and dance, a visit to the top of Mount Lemmon (with breathtaking views from many vistas along the 27-mile drive), golf and fine dining.

The highlight, though, centered on the daily fellowship and church service—reviewing God's instructions and singing and hearing music focused on God's plan for humanity.

Andy Burnett

Estes Park
COLORADO

Estes Park, Colorado, was the millennial setting for the Feast of Tabernacles in the Rocky Mountain area this year. Mostly sunny days and pleasantly cooler temperatures were the norm as we celebrated together in this beautiful mountain town.

We enjoyed inspiring messages, incredible special music and strong attendance for all of our activities. We were truly blessed with a wonderful group of members, and positive attitudes were on display each day in the fellowship of this spiritual family.

We are thankful for the blessings of our eternal Father in providing this wonderful Feast of Tabernacles.

David Gatley

Fort Myers
FLORIDA

The Feast of Tabernacles in Fort Myers, Florida, was a joyful and spiritually uplifting experience for the over 240 in attendance. Inspiring messages kept our focus on God's coming Kingdom, while warm fellowship strengthened the bonds of our spiritual family.

Among the highlights was a wonderful senior

luncheon, where our seniors enjoyed a delicious meal and meaningful fellowship. Family Day at SunSplash Waterpark provided an exciting day of fun, laughter and togetherness for all ages.

As the Feast concluded, we departed with grateful hearts, renewed spiritual strength and wonderful memories of another blessed Feast together.

Mark Whynaucht

Woodbury MINNESOTA

This year, about 40 members met at a new location (LaQuinta Inn) for the Feast in Woodbury, Minnesota. Each day they webcasted from the Orange Beach site.

Members enjoyed great fellowship and many wonderful meals together. They had two outings—to the Warden's House Museum and the Sibley Historic Site. They also enjoyed getting together as a group to play games, and on Friday evening, as the Last Great Day began, they got together for a wine, cheese and chocolate tasting.

Many commented on the inspiring messages and how much they enjoyed keeping the Feast together.

Larry Solomon

Branson MISSOURI

Over 700 brethren gathered in the beautiful Ozark Mountains of Branson, Missouri, for a joyful Feast of Tabernacles. The Yakov Theatre once again provided a welcoming setting for inspiring messages, uplifting music and meaningful fellowship.

Activities—including Family Day, family dance, senior dinner, golf scramble, teen and preteen events, young adult activities and Festival Youth Instruction—brought us together. Children delighted in the tradition of receiving stuffed animals after Youth Day services.

Brethren also connected through the site's Facebook group, sharing photos and memories. From opening service to final hymn, the Feast was filled with joy, unity and gratitude.

Dennis Fultz

Seaside OREGON

More than 200 members assembled in beautiful Seaside, Oregon, for this year's Feast. Once again, God blessed us with beautiful weather, and we enjoyed activities on the beach and the amenities of a resort town.

In addition to Family Day on the beach, we enjoyed an Oregon coastal train ride, an entertaining senior luncheon, a golf scramble on the oldest golf course west of the Mississippi and a teen event at a local indoor fun park.

Attendance was good throughout the Feast, and several commented that they hope to return to Seaside for a future Feast.

Larry Lambert

Gettysburg PENNSYLVANIA

Observing the Feast in historic and well-manicured Gettysburg set the stage for a study in contrasts as we visited museums and cemeteries that recalled the carnage of a devastating war that pitted brother against brother. Yet the 300-plus attendees were able to experience the joy of a shared vision, as well as special relationships, activities and service opportunities.

The messages reinforced God's unfailing love and plan for mankind and encouraged us to pursue righteousness. We said our goodbyes, feeling incredibly blessed to be part of the largest, most meaningful and successful reunion and restoration project ever undertaken.

Ken Giese

Mont-Tremblant QUÉBEC

About 125 of your brethren celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles in Mont-Tremblant. A pageant of red, orange and yellow leaves covered the Laurentian Mountains



Woodbury, Minnesota



Gettysburg, Pennsylvania



Mont-Tremblant, Québec



Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

in this ski-resort area. Services alternated between French and English, with simultaneous translations provided through headsets. We were especially thankful to have more than 20 children at the site, adding energy and enthusiasm.

The daily special music was deeply inspiring. Outings included a gondola ride to the peak of Mont Tremblant and a visit to Parc Omega, where we could see wild animals and hand feed deer. *Vivement la fête 2027!*

Joel Meeker

Myrtle Beach
SOUTH CAROLINA

The Feast in Myrtle Beach went very well. We had rain right before the Feast, but the skies cleared, making the full moon visible on the opening night.

The messages were encouraging and filled with hope, and the fellowship was warm and welcoming. The special music was inspiring, especially the children's choir.

Many commented that this was one of the best Feasts ever. We had two individuals baptized in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, which made the Feast extra special. While sad to leave, we all left with a renewed zeal for God and His Kingdom!

Tom Schultz

New Braunfels
TEXAS

Morning socials brought brethren together over coffee, tea and pastries. Living plants filled our stage with subtle color and movement.

Activities included a Texas barbecue for seniors, served by teens, and a Topgolf outing for teens the next day. Members also enjoyed exploring the downtown boutiques and bakeries.

Rain did not deter our dedicated grill masters—the outdoor Family Day became an indoor picnic with games and Kona Ice.

The interactive Bible study featured a towering Daniel 2 statue that crashed down to illustrate the destruction of human governments. Messages focused on God's children teaching and reigning with Christ in His Kingdom.

Nick Slaughter



New Braunfels, Texas

TO HEAR MESSAGES FROM THE 2026 FEAST OF TABERNACLES, GO TO **FEAST.COGWA.ORG**

2026 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 12,238.

AFRICA	
BURUNDI	850
CÔTE D'IVORE*	25
D.R.CONGO	
KASUMBALESA*	9
KINSHASA	205
GHANA	560
KENYA	200
MALAWI	137
MAURITIUS/REUNION*	8
NIGERIA	92
RWANDA*	80
SOUTH AFRICA	92
TOGO	14
UGANDA	52
ZAMBIA	119
ZIMBABWE	
CHEMBA GOKWE	141
GWERU	123
ASIA/PACIFIC	
FIJI	42
INDIA	13
MALAYSIA*	1
MIDDLE EAST*	1
MYANMAR*	3
NEW ZEALAND	84
PHILIPPINES	236
SRI LANKA	13
THAILAND	24
CARIBBEAN	
BAHAMAS*	5
BARBADOS	104
GUYANA	11
JAMAICA	90
ST. KITTS*	8
ST. LUCIA*	4
TOBAGO	13
EUROPE	
FRANCE	65
GREECE	260
UNITED KINGDOM	190
LATIN AMERICA	
ARGENTINA	114
BOLIVIA	36
CHILE	565
COLOMBIA	103
EL SALVADOR	136
GUATEMALA	533
MEXICO	366
PERU	186
UNITED STATES AND CANADA	
ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA	850
TUCSON, ARIZONA	266
ESTES PARK, COLORADO	538
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA	241
WOODBURY, MINNESOTA	40
BRANSON, MISSOURI	741
OHIO*	70
SEASIDE, OREGON	211
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA	315
MONT-TREMBLANT, QUEBEC	127
MYRTLE BEACH, S. CAROLINA	380
NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS	310
WISCONSIN*	9
ON-SITE TOTAL	**10,011**
U.S. SHUT-INS (VIDEOS)	400
U.S. WEBCASTS	793
INTL. SHUT-INS (VIDEOS)	350
INTL. WEBCASTS	484
SCATTERED (U.S./INTL.)	200
AT-HOME TOTAL	**2,227**
TOTAL	**12,238**

*Home or small group



David and Dorrie Baker

An Unexpected Life of Service

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

David and Dorrie Baker have been serving in God's work since their days at Ambassador College in the 1980s. Dave's early experience in the Church and while at Ambassador and his and Dorrie's early years as a married couple tell the unique story of what became their life of serving God's people outside the U.S. over the past three decades.

The Bakers have two children, Hannah and Jonathan, and two grandchildren. Mr. Baker has been serving the brethren throughout the Middle East and Asia since 2002 and is currently the regional director for the Middle East and Asia.

Early years

Mr. Baker was raised in West Jefferson, North Carolina, along with his two brothers. His parents were both baptized in the early 1960s before there was a congregation close enough to attend. However, in the summer of 1963, when the Greensboro, North Carolina, church began, the Baker family was there for the very first Sabbath service. In those years, their Sabbath-day journey was long—over three hours each way—but it was also exciting for the entire family. There were opportunities to make friends and meet new people each week.

As the Church added new Feast sites during the late 1960s and 1970s, the Baker family was able to attend several different sites. As he experienced new areas of the country, Mr. Baker quickly realized he had a love for travel, but as a



young man from the mountains of North Carolina, he never imagined how extensive his travel would ultimately become!

In the fall of 1975, Mr. Baker enrolled in the School of Engineering at NC State University. After his freshman year of college, he was accepted into a special school-sponsored internship, where he alternated between study and work—being in class for a semester and then working a semester for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. This was a year-round program, and he graduated NC State University in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and two years of work experience with the NC Department of Transportation. He was ready to start his career as a civil servant!

AC and international projects

However, having been raised in God's Church, he also had desire to attend Ambassador College and knew it was his best chance to have a good foundation for his life prior to beginning his future career in engineering. So, during his senior year at NC State, Mr. Baker applied to and was accepted to attend the Pasadena campus of Ambassador College in the fall of 1980.

At the end of his freshman year at Ambassador College, Mr. Baker learned of an opportunity called ACEPT (Ambassador College Educational Project in Thailand) that was being organized for college students to spend an academic year in Thailand teaching basic English at two refugee camps: one in Chiang Kong and the other in Chiang Kham. These camps were located along the border of Thailand and Laos and were being administered by the Thai Ministry of Interior and the UN Refugee Agency. A request had been made to the Church by a group of Buddhist monks asking for help in working with these refugees. Mr. Baker applied and was accepted to work at ACEPT for the 1981-1982 academic year.

To say the least, Mr. Baker's experience in working with the Laotian refugees over the next year was eye-opening and sobering. Ultimately, it turned out to be life-changing! These refugees had fled persecution from the Viet Cong because of the assistance they provided to the American military during the Vietnam War. During those days, some of the male refugee students would disappear for a few days and return wearing a Viet Cong cap, indicating they had gone to hunt Viet Cong. And the Ambassador volunteers would sometimes see personnel from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the camp interviewing refugees and gathering intelligence. The volunteers often needed to provide comfort to their refugee students as some of them learned family members had been executed back in Laos. A prayer for God's Kingdom to come was always in the minds of Mr. Baker and the other AC volunteers.

The days on the project were long and hot and humid. They had neither air conditioning nor many other comforts of Western life. However, this experience brought about new perspective and a chance to see life for what it really is for millions of others in a different part of the world. Mr. Baker didn't realize it then, but God was leading him down a much different road. Rather than having a career in civil engineering, he would be working with God's people in a unique part of the world!

Mr. Baker's journey through Ambassador College was one academic year on campus for classes and one year serving on a foreign project. After returning from Thailand, Mr. Baker completed his second year of Ambassador College, and then spent the following academic year (1983-1984) working on the Ambassador Foundation project in Jordan, serving with four other volunteers at the Bunayat Centre, a special education school for the handicapped.

After his time in Jordan, Mr. Baker had the opportunity to spend the summer of 1984 as part of an archaeological project, referred to as the Jerusalem Dig. It was while he was on the Dig that he met his future wife, Dorrie Drown.





Dorrie's family started attending church in 1970 while living in the North Kenai area of Alaska. She was accepted to Ambassador College, Big Sandy in the fall of 1981. After spending two years in Big Sandy, she transferred to the Pasadena campus and participated in the Jerusalem Dig during the summer of 1984.

After that summer in Jerusalem, David Baker and Dorrie Drown returned to Pasadena to complete their senior year at Ambassador College.

Sri Lanka and pastoral experience

Upon graduation in 1985, Mr. Baker was hired by the Ambassador Foundation and moved to Sri Lanka to begin an English language vocational school for approximately 100 students. Mr. Baker was asked to serve as the director. A few months later, on Dec. 22, 1985, David and Dorrie were married, and she joined him at the vocational school where they remained until they returned to the U.S. in the spring of 1990.

During that time, Mr. and Mrs. Baker were not only helping to develop this unique vocational school for the youth of Sri Lanka, but also became very involved in serving the brethren in that country. Mr. Baker was ordained into the ministry of Jesus Christ in 1988. Shortly after, in 1989, he was appointed the pastor for Sri Lanka.

After five years in Sri Lanka, the Bakers were transferred back to the U.S. in 1990. The Bakers' next chapter in serving in God's Church included opportunities to serve in the field ministry. The Bakers cared for congregations in Albany and Salem, Oregon, and Big Sandy, Texas, then pastored congregations in Elmira, Syracuse and Buffalo, New York, and Harrisburg and Lewistown, Pennsylvania.

From 2001 to 2003, while pastoring the congregations in upstate New York, Mr. Baker was asked to visit and care for a group of brethren in the East African countries of Kenya and Tanzania.

Then in 2002, Mr. Baker was asked to be senior pastor for the Philippines and Asia—while still continuing to pastor his congregations in New York and Pennsylvania! But ultimately, beginning in 2006, Mr. Baker began to work full-time as the senior pastor for the Philippines and Asia.

Leadership in the Church

During his years of service, Mr. Baker also served on the governing boards of the Church—UCG's Council of Elders and currently (since 2011) COGWA's Ministerial Board of Directors.

In the early years of COGWA, Mr. Baker was also asked to oversee and care for the brethren in Australia—which he did for 12 years.

Since the beginning of COGWA, Mr. Baker has served as a regional director for the Middle East, Asia and the Philippines. This includes pastoring individual members and groups of God's people in Dubai, Kuwait, India, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia, as well as working with our three pastors and over 230 brethren throughout the nation of Philippines.

On a personal note, I've had the great opportunity of accompanying Mr. Baker on a number of his trips to Asia over the past 20 years. And all I can say is, it has been an education! His passion for serving God's people while gaining a deep understanding of the varied and distinctive histories of the people in these unique countries is amazing. Asia is a huge area of the world—and the various languages, food, culture and background of the indigenous populations are so very different from the history of much of the Western world. Yet having grown up in the United States, Dave (and Dorrie) Baker have become seasoned veterans as they have navigated the path God has led them on to serve His people in Asia.

Little did a country boy from the hills of North Carolina and a young lady from Alaska realize that one day they would have the privilege of serving God's people in a very unique and special part of the world.



FOUNDATION INSTITUTE perspectives

Dear Brethren Around the World,

We are pleased to report a strong start for the 2026-2027 FI school year. All of us students are adjusting well to our new dwellings and new daily routines. We certainly appreciate everyone's prayers, which helped make that happen!

We have just returned from the Feast of Tabernacles. Our group was spread out—attending sites as far west as Seaside, Oregon, and as far east as Greece. That's quite a spread! As we hope was the case for you, each of us had a wonderful time at the Feast with family and friends. We returned with joyful stories, in addition to valuable lessons we learned from services we attended.



Upon getting back, we've returned to our FI studies. We've transitioned from learning the rich history of our early predecessors in Early Church History to exploring the valuable lessons within the Epistles of Paul. Instructor David Johnson is taking the time to carefully walk us through these verse by verse.

Meanwhile, Ralph Levy is continuing to take us through the books of Genesis and Isaiah, helping us gain extensive insights into the meaning of each verse. In his Writings 1 class, Dr. Levy has us consider various valuable lessons found in the Bible's more poetic books, such as Psalms and Proverbs.

Throughout the week, we enjoy breaks from the typical lessons to explore special topics in Principles of Christianity, such as the "Creation, Darwinism and Intelligent Design" class, which was taught by Doug Horchak.

This year, Sarah Sanders continues the FI tradition of recording memorable quotes from our various instructors and from students. Each quote recorded marks a joyous moment accompanied by shared laughter and sometimes . . . pure astonishment.

These joyous moments persist outside the classroom as well. We enjoy each other's company every Friday evening. The students in each of the three apartments take turns hosting. Our first Friday night dinner was hosted by Jake, Franklin and Isaac at their apartment. We had a great night of amazing food and fellowship. Our Friday night dinners continue to be a success.

In addition to our Friday night dinners, we also enjoy spontaneous get-togethers throughout the week, such as movie nights, random grocery runs and going to the gym. Some of us are beginning to find part-time work as well, which makes our weeks quite busy!

And this makes us all look forward to God's Sabbath rest. On Sabbath, we enjoy spending time with our brethren in the Dallas and/or Sherman congregations. Both congregations have been very welcoming and quite generous with their leftover snacks.

FI has certainly exceeded our expectations, and we're grateful for that. We are thankful for many things: for our instructors who are teaching us valuable information, for the brethren in the local congregations being so welcoming, and for everyone who, through prayers or direct support, have helped get us to this point. But most importantly, we're grateful for God's bringing us here to grow in His light. May you be blessed with the same opportunity wherever you walk.

Love,
Your 2026-2027 FI brethren



NEWS OF THE WORK

Education Center Building Update



The interior of our new building is beginning to take shape. In the photo above you can see what will be the audio booth (half-wall and open window behind it) on the left and the area for the stage on the right.

Some design issues and weather-related delays have pushed back the expected completion date. We now expect the building to be completed by Feb. 5, 2027.

Jim Franks

Stats & Facts

The LHT Weekly Newsletter highlights new and featured material on Life, Hope & Truth. The weekly email also includes the World Watch Weekly, a roundup of news items of prophetic interest.

The newsletter regularly reminds people to come back to the LHT website. It was designed especially for those who are not well-acquainted with the Church—but it is valuable for Church members as well, keeping them informed of new articles and blogs. Many members are also appreciative of the World Watch Weekly section, found at the end of the newsletter. The headlines and snippets of news items that it provides are useful for members who want to stay aware of what's happening relevant to Bible prophecy. (If you haven't already, you can subscribe at lifehopeandtruth.com/newsletter/.)

In September there were 31,853 subscribers to the newsletter. Over the past 12 months (48 newsletters), subscribers clicked on 26,202 links, the vast majority of them to LHT articles and booklets. (A few were clicks to outside news sources.)

Ministerial Transfer

In the spring of 2027 Tom Clark and his wife, Mary, will be transferring to McKinney, Texas, to serve as an instructor at Foundation Institute. Mr. Clark will replace David Johnson, who will retire at the end of the 2026-2027 academic year. Mr. Johnson and his wife, Becky, have served at Foundation Institute since the program began in 2012.

Randy Salyer and his wife, Stephanie, are currently assisting the Clarks in their Arkansas congregations. Mr. Salyer will complete his pastoral training in the next few months and will become pastor of the Van Buren, Bentonville and Mena, Arkansas, congregations when the Clarks make their move to Texas.

2026 Camp Director Meetings



The directors (and most of their wives) for COGWA Youth Camps met in person in McKinney for 2½ days (Oct. 19-21) to review this year's camps, camp policies and safety, the camp theme and plans for next year.

We welcomed five new directors: James and Scarlet Ellis, Jason and Emily Hyde, Marty and Ashley Miller, Nick and Sarah Slaughter, and Daniel and Cindy Harper.

We also honored the directors who passed the baton after many years of service—Gary and Gale Black, Andy and Lisa Burnett, Tom and Daphne Schultz, and Eric and Jeannie Evans—as well as Ken Treybig and his wife, Kathy, who served as national camp coordinator for 18 years.

Gary Black

CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?

Houston South Enjoys Ballpark Tradition

On Sunday, May 31, close to 30 members of the Houston South, Texas, congregation spent the afternoon cheering on the Sugar Land Space Cowboys. The Houston Astros' Triple-A affiliate squared off against the Oklahoma City Comets at Constellation Field.

Those attending saw a couple Astros players in action, coming back from rehab. Several more Space Cowboys players were called up to the Major League team in the weeks that followed.

The ballpark has become a summer tradition for the Houston South congregation. We enjoyed watching the game, visiting and enjoying various ballpark fare.

Monica Koerner and Kathy Welch



A Texas-Sized Welcome!



On July 11 and 18, the Dallas and Sherman, Texas, congregations rolled out the welcome wagon and gave a big Texas *howdy!* to new pastor Dennis Fultz and his wife, Lyndi. We are delighted to welcome them to North Texas and look forward to getting to know them.

Between mastering the art of merging onto North Texas highways, learning that "a quick drive" can mean 45 minutes, surviving summer heat that feels like a hair dryer, and deciding which barbecue joint deserves the top spot, they're in for quite an adventure!

We're thrilled to have them. Welcome, Mr. and Mrs. Fultz!

Stacey Howell

DeFuniak Springs Hosts Senior Luncheon

On July 25, the DeFuniak Springs, Florida, congregation hosted its biennial senior luncheon, welcoming seniors from the Mobile, Alabama; Tallahassee, Florida; and DeFuniak Springs congregations for a special "Under the Tuscan Sun" themed gathering.

Guests enjoyed a delicious Italian meal prepared by talented local cooks and served by volunteers, including many young members. The afternoon featured uplifting performances from the youth choir and a heartfelt guitar solo, inspiring everyone to sing along.

The event was a beautiful celebration, honoring our brethren for their years of faithfulness and devotion to God's way of life.

Ann Bailey



Akron-Canton and Columbus-Cambridge Enjoy Campout

Over the weekend of Aug. 28-30, the Akron-Canton and Columbus-Cambridge, Ohio, congregations gathered at Doughty Park for their annual campout. Everyone arrived to beautiful weather and enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship, including a fun "Guess That Hymn" activity as they welcomed the Sabbath.

On Saturday, approximately 113 people gathered for outdoor services, followed by a delicious grilled dinner. The weekend was filled with laughter, meaningful fellowship, fun activities and time spent enjoying one another's company. It was a wonderful opportunity for both congregations to come together, strengthen friendships and create lasting memories.

Mark Purdy





London Members Have Afternoon Tea

The London, England, congregation, which meets in Caterham, had a delightful afternoon tea after Sabbath services on Aug. 15. It was a traditional *afternoon tea,* served between 3 and 5 p.m. with three-tiered stands loaded with finger sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, delicate pastries and, of course, pots of hot tea and cream.

There were several things that were being celebrated, but the congregation enjoys any occasion like this to fellowship and enjoy food and tea together. This was definitely something we will host again in the near future.

Paul Carter

Van Buren Ladies Hold Farmers Market Swap

The ladies of the Van Buren, Arkansas, congregation enjoyed delicious food, fellowship and fun at their Ladies Farmers Market Swap on Sunday, Aug. 23. The event was spearheaded by Stephanie Salyer, with the assistance of Judy Justus-Nelson and Frances DeHart.

Items displayed and shared at the swap included starter plants, seeds, cookies, scented sachets and garden produce. Books about wild edible herbs and plants were provided by Waaneaa Parker, a granddaughter of Comanche Chief Quanah Parker.

The gathering left the ladies with a desire for more opportunities to get better acquainted.

Aurora Gossett



Los Angeles Brethren Visit Museum



Members of the Los Angeles, California, congregation gathered at the Getty Villa Museum on Aug. 16 to see a special exhibit featuring the Egyptian *Book of the Dead*. The Getty Villa is dedicated to the study and appreciation of the art and culture of ancient Greece, Rome and Etruria.

This exhibit offered a glimpse into ancient Egyptian history and mythology, featuring rare papyrus scrolls, linen mummy wrappings, fragments of *The Book of the Dead* and various ancient tools and artifacts.

It was a memorable day of fellowship, history and appreciation for treasures of the ancient world.

Debbie Fritz

Wheeling and Pittsburgh Wind Down Summer

Food, friends and fun made for a great time not once, but twice for the Wheeling, West Virginia, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, congregations, along with some Morgantown, West Virginia, friends! The congregations wound down the summer with two exciting social events. First, on Aug. 18, they came together to watch a local minor league baseball game—enjoying a fun, laid-back time to socialize.

Then, just days later, members joined together for their annual church picnic. There were games, swimming and friendly competition on the pickleball courts. And everyone appreciated the good conversation and laughter.

Christa Miller





Houston South and Victoria Serve Through Hilltop Project

On Sunday, Aug. 23, over 20 members of the Houston South and Victoria, Texas, congregations served a taco dinner with individual tres leches cakes for dessert to 47 residents of the Ballard House. The Ballard House is a nonprofit facility that provides free housing for patients and family members being treated at the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

Colorful tablecloths and decorations with a fiesta flair helped set the mood. Volunteers were able to dine and visit with the residents, who appreciated having a hot meal after treatments and appointments.

Monica Koerner and Kathy Welch



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.

Wedding



Victor and Rachael Obazee

On Aug. 26, 2026, Rachael Aghimien and Victor Obazee were united in marriage in a beautiful ceremony held at the church hall in Benin City, Nigeria. The wedding was a joyful occasion, with 60 family members and friends sharing the couple's special day. The ceremony was officiated by Paul Carter, Rachael's pastor in the United Kingdom, who also serves as the pastor of the Nigerian congregation.

Rachael lived in the U.K. and Victor in Australia, so they navigated the challenges of a long-distance relationship. They now look forward to establishing their home together in Queensland, Australia.

Rachael Obazee

Anniversaries



Daniel and Delia Diaz

Daniel and Delia Diaz celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 18, 2026. The San Antonio, Texas, congregation presented them with a gift on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread to recognize and honor them in reaching this milestone. We thank the Diazes for the loving example they set with each other and their outgoing love toward their church family.

Rashele Hoyer



Les and Maggie Schlosser

Les and Maggie Schlosser celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 14, 2026. The Schlossers were honored at a beautiful reception hosted by their children and attended by many family members and church members. The Schlossers attend the Portland, Oregon, congregation and have been attending God's Church for 56 years. They have always been a wonderful example of dedication, kindness and love, both for each other and the Church.

Ron and Judy McNeill



Paul and Roxanne Farrier

Paul and Roxanne Farrier celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 3, 2026, with many of their family and friends present. The event was held at the Farriers' favorite Chinese restaurant near their home.

Paul is a member of the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation. His health has prevented him from attending church in recent months.

Ron Kelley



Bill and Leah Sheppard

On Sabbath, Aug. 22, 2026, the Akron-Canton, Ohio, congregation celebrated the 40th wedding anniversary of Bill and Leah Sheppard of Copley, Ohio.

Bill and Leah met at the Feast in Niagara Falls in 1984 and were married on Aug. 30, 1986.

Bill and Leah are the proud parents of three children, Daniel, Jacob and Rebekah, and are the grandparents of three grandchildren.

Their 40 years of marriage are a wonderful testament to love, commitment and family. The congregation was pleased to celebrate this special milestone with them and honor the life they have built together.

Mark Purdy



Linda and Peter Huizar

On the Sabbath of Aug. 22, 2026, the San Antonio congregation celebrated the 60th anniversary of Peter and Linda Huizar. A special gift was presented to them by our pastor Steve Moody. Everyone enjoyed a meal, special desserts and pictures of the Huizars from when they met in college through the last 60 years. The brethren appreciate their loyal example to each other in their marriage and the spiritual example they set for all.

Rashele Hoyer



Wilma and Larry Lambert

Larry and Wilma Lambert celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 27, 2026. Larry and Wilma met in high school and were high school sweethearts. The Portland, Oregon, congregation honored the Lamberts on the Sabbath of Aug. 29 with a reception that included a potluck and cake.

The Lamberts' love for one another and God's people is very evident, and they set a wonderful example. Mr. Lambert pastors the Portland and Eugene, Oregon, and Seattle and Spokane, Washington, congregations.

Ron and Judy McNeill



Joyce and Ralph Mayer

On June 5, 2026, Ralph and Joyce Mayer celebrated their 61st anniversary. Their daughters' families hosted an event on June 28 with music, food and comments thanking them for the loving example they set.

The Mayers were called in 1969 and were baptized together in February of 1970. Ralph was ordained a deacon in October of 1996.

They have three daughters, Julie (Jorge), Melanie (Bob), and Angie (Rob), and six grandchildren.

The Mayers are so full of love for each other that those they come in contact with want to be just like them.

Mary Peyton

Baptisms



Jonathan Stoner

We are happy to announce the baptism of Jonathan Stoner of the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation on Aug. 1, 2026. The baptism was conducted by pastor Ron Kelley, with assistance by retired pastor John Foster.

God miraculously cleared the skies of thunderstorms for the 30 minutes needed for the ceremony. As we concluded, storms moved right back into the area.

Ron Kelley



Tracy Gurley

On Aug. 19, 2026, a small but joyous group gathered in the Hill Country west of Austin, Texas, for the baptism of Tracy Gurley.

Tracy was baptized in the Colorado River by Nick Slaughter, pastor of the Austin and Temple, Texas,

congregations. Elders Jack Hendren and Clay Mills assisted in the laying on of hands.

The Austin congregation is delighted to welcome a new sister in Christ!

Renee Mills



James Miller and Katie Fuhrman

James Miller and Katie Fuhrman were baptized into the Body of Christ after services on Sabbath, Aug. 8, 2026. They were surrounded by both of their families and the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation.

Pastor Tom Schultz performed the baptism and was joined by local elders Bob Iacobucci and Steve Villaescusa for the laying on of hands. Following James' and Katie's baptisms, family and members congratulated them, and then, we all enjoyed a bountiful meal together. There was extra good cheer since we had the pleasure of witnessing two people make this commitment to God.

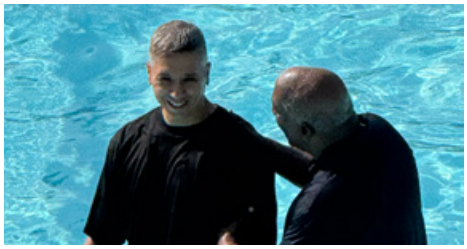
Tom Schultz



Elizabeth Hollingsworth

On the afternoon of July 10, 2026, Elizabeth Hollingsworth was baptized into the Body of Christ. The baptism ceremony was performed by James Ellis, pastor of the Houston South and Victoria, Texas, congregations. Gary Black, Ivor Mitchell and Bill Welch were also present to participate in the laying on of hands. We are pleased to welcome Elizabeth to the family.

James Ellis



Stavros Leodis

Stavros Leodis, of the Queens, New York, congregation, was baptized after Sabbath services, on July 24, 2026, in the Astoria Park Pool. Several members had a bird's-eye view from a platform, just outside the pool. The laying on of hands took place in a private, grassy area, tucked behind a large bush.

Stavros, 42, had not attended a Sabbath-keeping church until about two years ago. Since then, he's diligently studied the Bible, and he regularly serves during Sabbath services. Congratulations, Stavros!

Kevin Epps



Jennifer Sagun

On Sept. 7, 2026, a group of cheerful spiritual family members rejoiced poolside as they witnessed the baptism of Jennifer Sagun, a member of the Houston South, Texas, congregation. James Ellis conducted the ceremony and was assisted by Frank Pierce and Bill Welch. Everyone was pleased to witness this very special occasion and to welcome Jennifer into the Body of Christ.

James Ellis



Julianne Cooke

On Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026, Julianne Cooke of the Marshalltown, Iowa, congregation was baptized. Her pastor, Larry Solomon, performed the baptism, and local elder Matt Smith assisted with the laying on of hands. The baptism took place at her parents' home, and many family members and friends were there to witness the joyous occasion.

Larry Solomon



Thomas E. Rocheleau

It was a beautiful day on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026, as family and friends gathered to celebrate the baptism of Thomas E. Rocheleau.

Thomas spent several years living in Columbia, Missouri, and was counseled for baptism by Mark Whynaucht, the pastor there. Although Thomas later moved back to Round Rock, Texas, Mr. Whynaucht continued counseling him, and when the time came for Thomas to be baptized, Mr. Whynaucht flew to Austin to perform the ceremony.

Mr. Whynaucht and Nick Slaughter, pastor of the Austin

congregation, performed the laying on of hands together.

Nick Slaughter



Louise Temoananui

During the Feast of Tabernacles on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026, the New Zealand brethren welcomed a new member into the Body of Christ. Louise Temoananui was baptized by Jon Pinelli, senior pastor of the South Pacific. He was assisted by New Zealand elders Biju Joseph and Isaac Khalil. Louise is a welcome addition to the Auckland, New Zealand, congregation.

Jon Pinelli

Ordinations



Brann and Brooke Mauldin

Brann and Brooke Mauldin of the Temple, Texas, congregation were ordained deacon and deaconess on the Sabbath of Sept. 19, 2026. Brann and Brooke have been serving the Temple congregation since its establishment in 2022.

Ardith Weiss



Samson Oguntayo
Oladimeji Hakeem Yakub

At the end of August and first part of September, Paul Carter and Doug Horchak traveled to Elmina, Ghana; Benin City, Nigeria; and Lagos, Nigeria, to hold classes for those participating in the International Leadership Program (ILP).

One of the highlights of the trip was the ordination of two deacons in Lagos during services on the Sabbath, Sept. 5, 2026: Oladimeji Hakeem Yakub and Samson Oguntayo. They have both been a part of the Church for years and are dedicated to serving the members in Nigeria.

Paul Carter



Mark Baker

The Hickory, North Carolina, congregation was delighted to witness the ordination of Mark Baker as a deacon on June 6, 2026. The ordination was conducted by local pastor Tom Schultz, with elders Jeff Baker and David Baker assisting.

Mark Baker was born and raised in God's Church and has faithfully served in several congregations and speaks regularly in church services. He and his wife, Stephanie, have raised three children. Their children and extended families attend the Hickory, North Carolina, and Columbia, South Carolina, congregations.

Tom Schultz

Obituaries



Charlie Burger

Charlie R. Burger III, 83, a longtime member of the Leicester, Massachusetts, congregation died on April 7, 2026. He was born Dec. 15, 1942, and served in the Navy on submarines for 14 years.

After he got out of the Navy, Charlie worked in building printing presses and later computer-aided drafting, while serving his community in numerous organizations, including the Boy Scouts and the local Grange.

Charlie began attending the Worldwide Church of God in 1976, and he was known to the brethren for his unique style of humor and love of puzzles.

Charlie was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Gail, as well as a son and daughter. After the passing of his wife Betty, he later remarried. He was also preceded in death by his second wife Dina. Charlie is survived by three daughters, one son, 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Gerard Martell



Timothy Miles

Timothy Miles lost his battle with liver disease Nov. 30, 2025, from liver transplant complications. Tim was born Nov. 30, 1954, to Fonnie Miles and Mary Miles in Savannah, Georgia.

After graduating from Effingham High School in 1972, Tim worked in the water supply industry. Tim was working with his water customers up to two weeks prior to his death. He supported numerous water supply systems across the Southeast (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina).

Tim married his beloved wife Connie in January 1981. They were married for 44 years. Tim and Connie started attending services with the Worldwide Church of God in Savannah, Georgia, in 1984. Tim was baptized Oct. 10, 1984.

Tim participated in his congregation's speaking clubs from 1984 to 2024. He graduated from Spokesman Club in 1986. Tim also completed the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course.

Tim was ordained as a deacon Oct. 4, 2005, by Don Waterhouse. He served as treasurer for the three congregations (Augusta, Georgia, and Columbia and Florence, South Carolina) from 2005 to 2025.

Tim loved being part of God's Church and loved the brethren. Tim is missed by many people. God speed the day when the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of God and all people will be living the truth of God's Word.

Connie Miles

TRIBUTE



Fermín Naín

Sadly, Fermín Naín, a minister of the Church of God in Chile, died on Thursday, July 16, 2026, after suffering from skin cancer for several months.

Mr. Naín came to the Worldwide Church of God through the magazine *La Pura Verdad* (*The Plain Truth*) in 1976. He was baptized in 1979 and immediately began to show his desire to serve others within the congregation in Santiago, Chile. He married his wife, Priscila, also a member, in 1987. They had two children, Yazna and Franco, who are both, along with their families, members of the Church. He was a man whose character would profoundly impact many members of the Church in the years to come.

Mr. Naín was ordained a deacon in 1993. During the following years, the crisis in the Church demonstrated that Mr. Naín was one of the most steadfast defenders of true doctrine, and he also demonstrated his loyalty to the government that God had established in the new phase of the Church in 1995. Mr. Naín's service to the brethren in the Church was evident to all. He was ordained to the ministry of Jesus Christ in 1996. In the following years, Mr. Naín served as full-time minister.

When we arrived in Chile, he was no longer employed by the Church, but his service to God's people remained faithful, evident and constant. Truly, there wasn't a service he would refuse to perform—including riding his bicycle several hours to anoint a sick member! That was the way he was. He sacrificed himself for the service of brethren.

When he retired, Mr. Naín wanted to live in a quiet place where he could continue serving God's people. He chose to live out his final years in Temuco, where he could voluntarily serve the congregations in southern Chile. During the months he was seriously ill, his greatest regret was no longer being able to serve his brothers and sisters in the Church.

I spoke at length with Mr. Naín three weeks before he died. He was very cheerful, and we were able to make plans for the Feast of Tabernacles. Since he could no longer travel, and there were other brethren who were physically unable to attend the Feast in El Quisco, we decided the Naíns' house would be the official meeting place for the satellite site. Mr. Naín was happy about this, but unfortunately, the plan could not be carried out, since he died before the Feast.

We will miss a very special man—mature, sensitive, patient, loyal and very humble. We have indeed temporarily lost a true minister of God. Until the first resurrection, brother and friend!

Saúl Langarica

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