

# OneAccord

March-April 2012



## The Good Life

Is Israel Going  
to Bomb  
Iran Within  
Months?

2012 Feast of  
Tabernacles  
Sites List  
Announced

*Portraits  
of Faith:*  
It Takes a  
Congregation

# from the president

## lessons from the symbols

As I write this message for *One Accord*, the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread are close at hand. Like many of you, I have great memories of celebrating these festivals over the past 50 years. I still remember a time when the Radio Church of God gathered each spring in Big Sandy, Texas, to observe these two festivals. It was like a spring Feast of Tabernacles!

A lot of time has passed since those days, but I hope we still appreciate the deep meaning behind the practice of removing leavening and eating unleavened bread. It is important that we don't simply do things out of habit without understanding what it means. I recall back in 1995 when removing leavening from our homes was ridiculed by some as being a practice of the "Old Covenant." Ironically, if we lose sight of what leavening and unleavened bread picture, we miss two of the most important elements of the New Covenant.

Christ instituted new symbols during His final Passover and connected them directly to the New Covenant: "Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.' Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant'" (Matthew 26:26-28).

Christ tells us that the unleavened bread used at the Passover pictures His body and the wine pictures His blood. Less than 24 hours after we observe the Passover, we begin the Days of Unleavened Bread with all leavening removed from our homes. From Scripture, we see that Passover and



Unleavened Bread are separate festivals (Leviticus 23:5-6), with one observed on the 14th and the other beginning on the 15th.

We observe the Days of Unleavened Bread by removing leavening from our homes, which pictures the removal and avoidance of sin in our lives. We also eat unleavened bread for seven days, picturing obedience to God and replacing sin with righteousness. Paul instructs us to keep the Feast "with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:8).

Passover and Unleavened Bread, as two separate festivals, have their own unique symbols. Eating unleavened bread during the seven-day festival is not the same as symbolically "eating" of the body of Christ on Passover night. The unleavened bread and the wine used on Passover night commemorate Christ's death "till He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26). Unleavened bread during the feast has a different lesson to teach.

In a few days, as the world focuses on Easter, we will be observing the Passover (picturing Christ's death) followed by the Days of Unleavened Bread (removal of leavening as a type of sin and eating unleavened bread as a type of righteousness). How refreshing it is to be called by God and have the understanding of these important symbols! It is my hope that this year's Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread will be deeply meaningful for everyone!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Franks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Adam Clark, second from left, with his little brother, Daniel; father, Tom Clark; and brethren from Ghana, page 8

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CHURCH of GOD  
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# Feast Fever

As we prepare for Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread, it's also time to start planning for the Feast of Tabernacles 2012. The following is a listing of the U.S. and international Feast sites.

For complete Feast information, including housing, activity schedules and contact information, visit <http://feast.cogwa.org>

## Blue Harbor

Watch the sun rise above Lake Michigan's horizon and explore the beautiful fall colors along the lakeshore at **Blue Harbor Resort**. Located in historic **Sheboygan, Wisconsin**, Blue Harbor is one of the few resorts built on the shoreline of Lake Michigan and is just one hour north of Milwaukee, one hour south of Green Bay and one hour from scenic Door County, the "thumb" of Wisconsin.

On-site housing includes two- and four-bedroom villas with complete kitchen facilities as well as resort rooms with microwave and mini-refrigerator. Church services are conveniently located either down the hall or across the parking lot. Learn more about Blue Harbor Resort at [www.blueharborresort.com](http://www.blueharborresort.com) and about Sheboygan, Wisconsin, at [www.visitsheboygan.com](http://www.visitsheboygan.com).

Mike Hanisko

## Branson

Situated in the beautiful Ozarks, **Branson, Missouri**, provides an ideal site for the Feast of Tabernacles. This year we will be meeting again at the beautiful **White House Theatre**.

Branson has something for everyone. Nature lovers will want to check out the many hiking trails in the area, as well as three nearby lakes for fishing and boating. Showgoers will find plenty of music shows and attractions.

Feastgoers can choose from an abundance of housing for all needs, from affordable motels to first-class hotels. A variety of condominiums and cabins are also available at reasonable rates.

Mike Blackwell

## Kerrville

**Kerrville** offers a wonderful taste of the Texas Hill Country. The accommodations are first-rate, and the people are friendly. The Festival site is located in the Texas Hill Country, where sparkling spring-fed creeks meander through the rugged terrain and rolling hills of the Guadalupe River Valley.

We have reserved the **Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference Center** ([www.innofthehills.com](http://www.innofthehills.com)) located in the heart of the Hill Country. Having exclusive use of the conference center and resort will give us unlimited opportunities for fellowship and activities. Most of the additional housing is available within three miles of the Festival site.

Jack Hendren

## Lake Harmony

**Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania**, combines the feel of the mountains, autumn colors, a peaceful setting,

excellent facilities and a wide variety of activities for all ages.

**Split Rock's Galleria** offers one- and two-bedroom suites with kitchenettes. Additionally, Feastgoers can choose from the larger, modern Willowbrook suites (complete with kitchen) or standard, cabin-like hotel rooms. Go to [www.splitrockresort.com](http://www.splitrockresort.com) to learn more about the resort.

Paul Luecke

## Park City

With an elevation of 6,900 feet, **Park City, Utah**, is lower than many Rocky Mountain ski resorts, but the area boasts "the greatest snow on earth." The site of the bobsled, luge and ski jumping events of the 2002 Winter Olympics, Utah Olympic Park in Park City provides a feel of those games of a decade ago.

With 137 restaurants in Park City, there are purportedly more chefs per capita in Park City than in Paris! Numerous tourist shops are clustered along Main Street, interspersed with many of the restaurants. Other types of shopping are scattered around the area, and a full-service supermarket is next door to the host hotel, **The Yarrow** (AAA three-diamond rated).

Larry Neff

## Pigeon Forge

Nestled in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, **Pigeon Forge, Tennessee**, is known as one of the top family vacation destinations in the country. This year the Feast of Tabernacles takes place during the time fall colors are at their prime, and so the natural beauty will bring out the outdoorsman in everyone. If you enjoy quality family time, good family entertainment, a wide selection



Kerrville, Texas

of restaurants and plenty of shopping, you will love Pigeon Forge.

Housing consists of a variety of motel rooms, with many offering a full breakfast that's included in the rate, and also beautiful one- to four-bedroom condos. This is also an area with several campgrounds for those who might enjoy camping during the Feast.

**Mark Winner**

## Santa Rosa

Regarded as "The Place of Plenty," **Santa Rosa, California**, is located just 55 miles north of San Francisco in the midst of wine and farm country, redwood forests and river valleys. With the Napa and Sonoma Valleys within 30 minutes of Santa Rosa, Feastgoers will have access to some of the most renowned vineyards in the world.

Our host, the Tuscan-styled **Hyatt Vineyard Creek**, is located across from Santa Rosa's historic Railroad Square. The hotel includes the award-winning Brasserie Restaurant and overlooks lush gardens, bordered by a

stream and a walking trail that leads to a variety of excellent shopping venues and additional restaurants.

**Ken Giese**

## St. Augustine

Founded 42 years before the English colony at Jamestown, Virginia, and 55 years before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts, **St. Augustine, Florida**, is the oldest permanent European settlement on the North American continent.

A full complement of activities and spiritual nourishment are sure to make this one of the best Feasts yet. Our meeting facilities will be at the world-famous **Renaissance Resort at World Village**. We are expecting around 1,500 attendees, and Feastgoers will have a choice of condos, motels and beach houses.

Come to Florida to worship God in spirit and truth and capture the vision of the Kingdom of God!

**Larry Greider**

# International Feast Sites

### Africa

- Rusiba, Burundi
- Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- Man, Côte d'Ivoire
- Kumasi, Ghana
- Senga Bay, Lake Malawi, Malawi
- Flic en Flac, Mauritius
- Muhazi, Rwanda
- Uvongo, South Africa
- Hermanus, South Africa
- Kpalimé, Togo
- Tuli Camp, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

### Asia

- Hyderabad, India
- Iloilo, Philippines
- Negombo, Sri Lanka

### Australasia

- Coffs Harbour, Australia
- Taupo, New Zealand

### Caribbean

- Ocho Rios, Jamaica
- St. Kitts

### Europe and United Kingdom

- Orbey, France
- Shorefield Country Park, near Bournemouth, England

### Latin America

- Mendoza, Argentina
- Cochabamba, Bolivia
- Maloca de Moscou, Brazil
- Lican Ray, Chile
- El Rodadero, Santa Marta, Colombia
- Antigua, Guatemala
- San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
- Huanchaco, Peru

### Middle East

- Amman, Jordan

Visit <http://feast.cogwa.org> for detailed information about all international Feast sites.

# Nothing Short of a Miracle

The faith of a far-flung congregation shows the miracle of God's calling.

by Stephen Tshabalala

In 2006 I visited Gokwe, Zimbabwe, for the first time. I had traveled for more than 120 miles (200 kilometers) on a dusty, potholed and unmaintained road. It was a slow, bumpy and difficult journey that started in the early morning and continued until after sunset. The sun was setting, and I had to continually remind the bus driver to show me my destination, as I could not see where we were in the darkness.

It was nothing short of a miracle when this old 75-seater bus finally arrived. Because of poor telecommunications and road network, this place has very little contact with the outside world.

Eventually the bus driver called out the name of a village that sounded familiar. "That is the place," I said to myself as I got ready to leave the bus. It was dark when I was dropped off, and I did not know where to go. The bus drove off into the darkness, and the other passengers who had also been dropped off took their parcels and disappeared into the surrounding darkness.

As I stood there all alone, a voice called out my name. It was Fanuel Gorondo, the only deacon in Zimbabwe. I was relieved to realize that my letters had actually reached him! I had only read about Gokwe in the newspapers, and people of this province were right to believe their political leaders had forgotten them. The state of the roads and bridges made communication very difficult.

People here work very hard; and once they have harvested their crops, they cannot transport their produce to the markets in the cities to sell. What then happens is that some crooks who call themselves traders from the city take advantage of the desperate villagers and buy their crops at very low prices.

I have witnessed villagers repairing damaged roads and bridges, and it is indeed a miracle that a fatal accident has not happened. It is hard to imagine that the buses and cars that travel to this area have actually had to drive over these bridges. They teeter on the state of collapse and are repaired

by the villagers, using their bare hands and big logs. God has indeed protected His people.

There are two main roads that can be used when going to Gokwe. The safest one is the one that goes to Victoria Falls. The other road passes through the densely populated areas, and this is the road that most people use. It is very profitable for the bus companies, though the bus service to these villagers does not operate on Saturday, as the majority of the peasant farmers keep the Sabbath. After sunset, the buses resume their journeys.

People in the rural areas such as Gokwe believe in witchcraft. Malaria is prevalent in this area, and a lot of people frequently fall ill.

## GIVING AS YOU ARE ABLE

Since the last rainy season was another disaster, brethren in the United States and South Africa have assisted by donating money to purchase food. For that they are very grateful.

Whenever a person has a health problem, he consults a so-called "prophet." These "prophets" are also consulted when the



Matilda Moyo Gorondo, wife of the local deacon, sits among dry goods purchased by donations



Deacon of COGWA congregation in Gokwe, Fanuel Gorondo, feeds the cattle



#### ANSWERED PRAYER

“Because of the kindness and generosity of the brethren around the world, we were able to purchase four oxen, two ox-drawn plows, medication for the cattle, a cart and spares for the plows. Heifers have also been purchased; and as I write, we have 16 head of cattle.”

Despite all of this, in this place God has called poor but faithful people who fear God and want to worship Him.

#### “Not many mighty, not many noble, are called”

We have 11 prospective members in Gokwe. There are 16 baptized members, and the maximum attendance is 68. There is no radio, television or Internet to advertise God’s Word; but we teach our members to live what is preached, to do what God commands us to do and to live lives that are pleasing to Him.

#### “Let your light shine before men”

Although we live in a relatively poor country, what struck me the first time that I came to Gokwe was the poverty. The young people came to Sabbath services without shoes, and the old men and women were wearing torn shoes with holes in their soles.

These people have had many problems. They had no oxen, no ox-drawn plow, no cart that could be used as an ambulance when someone became sick. They had nowhere to get clean water. When it was time to plow, our members first helped

villagers have social, family or any other problems. Many churches here are led by these “prophets,” and even some churches that call themselves Churches of God have these “prophets.”

To add to this, murder and rape is often committed here and is common in many remote and poor communities.

their neighbors and relatives till their ground. But when it was time to plow their own fields, it was already near the end of the rainy season and so they were always the losers.

Because of the kindness and generosity of the brethren around the world, members now have four oxen, several heifers, two ox-drawn plows, medication for the cattle, a cart and spares for the plows.

They also now have a well (borehole), a vegetable garden and soon will be able to supply our members with milk.

These blessings all came from God’s people who saw their brothers and sisters suffering and gave willingly from their hearts.

Church members in the United States and South Africa have assisted by donating money to purchase food, as the last rainy season was another disaster. Thankfully, those funds were sufficient to see the brethren through, and for that they are very grateful.

#### How can we continue to help our brothers and sisters in Gokwe?

Our brethren have since had very good rain in the area, which has helped them provide for themselves; however, many still face health-care and spiritual challenges and request our continued prayers. Please join us in praying that these members will be protected from diseases and from spiritual and physical harm.

Here in Zimbabwe, we teach our brothers and sisters to obey God’s commandments, especially to tithe faithfully, to prove God exists and to have faith in Him because this is our training ground. If we will endure to the end, we shall rule all the nations with our Lord the Savior, Jesus Christ. ©<sup>®</sup>

*Stephen Tshabalala is an elder in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.*



# It Takes a Congregation

Congregations in Kansas come together to celebrate the baptism of one of their own sons.

by Lynda Wasser

One of the most rewarding duties ministers perform is baptizing a new member into the spiritual family of faith. Even more rewarding is sharing the privilege of baptizing a literal family member. Shortly after Sabbath services on Jan. 28, 2012, Tom Clark, a pastor serving congregations in Minnesota, North Dakota and Ghana, shared the honor of baptizing his own son, Adam, with fellow pastor Greg Sargent. Adam's sister Rachel and brother-in-law Albert, as well as friends from the Salina, Kansas, and Bartlesville, Oklahoma, congregations were also present to witness his baptism.

The old African proverb "It takes a village to raise a child" is quite fitting to mark this occasion. The Kansas City, Wichita and Salina congregations first saw Adam as a shy, skinny little boy with glasses who was about six years old. His earliest recollection of the Wichita congregation was getting in trouble with Mr. Maskrid, a local deacon.

In May of 2006, Mr. Clark added congregations in Ghana to his list of pastoral assignments (in addition to his Kansas congregations). That Feast of Tabernacles, he took his wife, Mary, as well as his sons Adam and Daniel, to Ghana with him where they connected with the brethren there. Because Adam shared the same name as our biblical ancestor, one of the Ghanaians gave him the nickname "Grandpa Adam."

It was not easy for him growing up as "the preacher's kid." There was a lot of pressure. Like many other teens, he chose to rebel for a while. He wanted to break out of his "goody-two-shoes" image, living in the shadow of a "perfect family." As a result of his desire for independence, Adam stayed in Kansas when his parents and younger brother Daniel transferred to the Twin Cities in Minnesota.

There was no single moment when he realized he needed to change, but rather he experienced a slow process of coming to recognize he was not where he needed to be. He needed to come home to the faith in which he had grown up and full repentance was not going to be easy either.

"It's hard to admit you're wrong and you messed up," he said, "but that's how I learned."

When Adam began counseling for baptism with Mr. Sargent, he found that the whole experience not only led him to repentance and conversion, but also to a stronger bond with

his own father. Seldom at a loss for words, Mr. Clark said that there are no words to describe baptizing his son. "What else can I say? It's incredible!"

His wife, Mary, agreed, "How can you put that into words?" Speaking of baptism, she explained, "It's always wonderful when it's for other people; but when it's your own child, of course it's what you hope for. As a parent, it's what you've been waiting for forever!"

When Mr. Sargent originally asked Adam if he felt ready for baptism, Adam's first thought was, "No." However, after more thought, he decided very quickly that he was only procrastinating, and a date was set. Mr. Sargent offered to provide a halfway point in Missouri for the happy

occasion, to save the Clarks a lot of driving. But they would have none of it. The baptism would take place in Wichita for the whole congregation to celebrate together, spiritual and physical family alike.

The event left an inspiring reminder of God's words in the book of Luke, "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10). ☺☺

*Lynda Wasser is a member of the Wichita, Kansas, congregation, where she serves as a One Accord reporter.*



Adam Clark



**Question:** I've heard that there has been some dispute about whether those with alcohol addiction problems should take the Passover with nonalcoholic wine. From what I've heard, [some] say that such persons may take the Passover using nonalcoholic wine. ... At what alcohol level does wine become not wine? Isn't nonalcoholic wine just wine that has had the alcohol removed? If those who take the Passover with nonalcoholic wine are risking their salvation, what percent alcohol must the Passover wine we use contain in order to ensure our salvation?

by Cecil Maranville, manager of the Personal Correspondence Department

**Answer:** Answering your technical question first, wine is legally considered nonalcoholic if it has less than 0.5 percent alcohol by volume. "The legal definition of an alcohol-free drink is that it must contain less than one-half of 1 percent of alcohol. While it is physically impossible to remove all of the alcohol in nonalcoholic wines, these drinks meet the alcohol-free legal standard" ([www.tree.com/food-dining/non-alcoholic-wines.aspx](http://www.tree.com/food-dining/non-alcoholic-wines.aspx)).

Regarding whether de-alcoholized wine is "just wine with alcohol removed," producers of the nonalcoholic wines claim this is true. But note the following view from wine tasters who aren't selling the product: "First, the de-alcoholizing process is intrusive and seems to damage the wine, even though the makers claim otherwise. Second, alcohol is a key component of the customary flavor (and texture) profile of wine, and wines without it seem to be missing something; they seem lightweight and thin. Finally, to be blunt, these are inexpensive wines made from marginal grapes" ([www.wineloverspage.com/questionary2/nonalcoholic\\_wines.php](http://www.wineloverspage.com/questionary2/nonalcoholic_wines.php)).

However, our Church doesn't regard this question about the Passover as a dispute or something to be resolved by debate. The guide for believers is the Bible and, on this matter in particular, Christ's example. We believe that Jesus Christ used fermented or naturally alcoholized wine for the New Testament Passover. That is what was historically used at the time by the Jews for their Passover service, according

to tradition. There is no reason to believe that Jesus avoided wine or substituted grape juice. He used fermented wine in His parables, and He created wine as His first public miracle. Therefore, we use alcoholized wine today.

As the Church of God has done in the past, we are respectful and sensitive toward any members who have alcohol addiction problems. Pastors deal with individuals and their private concerns on a personal basis. Certainly, we do not push someone beyond what he can conscientiously handle.

The following clearly explains our teaching and practice:

"A red wine with an alcohol content of between 10 and 13 percent should be purchased and prepared in advance of the service. If someone has a conscience issue with wine, then a very small

amount—touching the tip of one's finger to the wine and putting it to his or her tongue or taking a small amount into one's mouth—is acceptable during the service. If there are any additional issues or concerns, please check with someone on the Leadership Team. It is our practice, policy and biblical direction that we use only wine for the service" (*Weekly Update*, April 8, 2011).

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify this matter. ©A

*The Personal Correspondence Department responds to questions from people who contact the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, about the Bible and Christian living issues, as well as general inquiries about COGWA.*



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# The Good Life

## What is our perspective on the Days of Unleavened Bread?

by Larry Salyer, editor of *One Accord*

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How often do we think of “Feast fever” as we approach the holy day season? But I am not referring to the Feast of Tabernacles; I’m talking about the Days of Unleavened Bread. Do we get excited as we anticipate seven full days of concentrating our efforts on putting sin out of our lives and drawing closer to God? Do we see this as a wonderful, positive experience? Does this week of self-discipline in the matter of abstaining from leaven feel like bondage, or do we recognize it as the good life?

I remember my friend and colleague, the late Colin Adair, telling a story about visiting an elderly prospective member in Northern Ireland. When told about unleavened bread, the old gentleman asked forlornly, “But how does one hold up his marmalade?” He could envision these days being a strain on his routines.

Admittedly, there can be challenges during these days. Children may face ridicule at school if they are eating matzo or unleavened flat-bread for lunch. Most of us have experienced a memory lapse and eaten leavening in one form or another, suffering the usual embarrassment. Do we let such experiences keep us from rejoicing in this Feast as we should? After all, these are not supposed to be sad days but cheerful ones.

Experienced Christians have come to see that the Days of Unleavened Bread are not a burden. The removal of leavening and the eating of unleavened bread carry wonderful visions of spiritual things to come. If we think such thoughts are reserved for the Feast of Tabernacles, we should reconsider. By analogy with physical Israel, we are coming out of spiritual Egypt. We are starting an annual journey that culminates in the fall holy days, picturing our entry into the promised land—the Kingdom of God.

In eating unleavened bread day by day we symbolize the righteousness of Christ added to us as we submit to Him. We separate ourselves from a world that is ignorant of sin and

its penalty. We express our desire to become like Christ and to live with Him in that Kingdom. This personal effort is a profound act of worship!

The joy of the Spring Feast is heightened when we have diligently examined ourselves before the Passover. When we understand that we, like the ancient Israelites, have been spared the penalty of death, we can rejoice in serving a merciful God who wants us to have everlasting life. Our willingness to put out leaven and eat unleavened bread expresses our commitment to spiritual growth.

We are daily reminded to put away the spiritual leaven of “malice and wickedness” and to feed on the “unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (1 Corinthians 5:8). These

days are filled with hope and anticipation of good things to come—not only for us personally, but as we look forward to the conversion of mankind later in God’s marvelous plan of salvation.

When Israel was delivered out of Egypt, they “went out with boldness” (Exodus 14:8). Jesus Christ, the Rock, went with them and provided everything they needed for a successful escape (1 Corinthians 10:4). We, too, have come out with boldness and a high hand. And Jesus walks with us today! He is our compassionate High Priest who sits at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us. He is the head of the Church and is the unwavering captain of our salvation (Hebrews 2:9-10).

He provides everything we need and rejoices in our ongoing repentance and victory over sin, which comes through His sacrifice and the Holy Spirit. The saints’ battle with Satan the devil is summarized in these few words: “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony” (Revelation 12:11).

We should diligently guard against physical leaven during these days. But let’s not be overcome with discour-

**When we understand that we, like the ancient Israelites, have been spared the penalty of death, we can rejoice in serving a merciful God who wants us to have everlasting life.**

agement if we slip or miss some leavening. Often, these incidents drive home the lesson of how prevalent sin is in our world.

Maybe we should think of it this way. Keeping the days of unleavened bread is living the good life. It represents the righteousness of God and the way of life man was intended to enjoy from the beginning. We are fulfilling Jesus' command to "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

I recall an example from many decades ago. A young minister friend with a busy schedule was rushing to a weekly college class in a nearby city—a drive of two hours. He had the routine down to habit. He would always take the same exit, stop and eat a hamburger and get back on the road as quickly as possible. When the class fell during the Days of Unleavened Bread, he went through his efficient routine as usual, his mind on many things, until about halfway

through the hamburger the awful truth hit him. He was eating leavened bread!

It took this young man a while to confess this action to his friends. He had been mortified by his failure and let it get the best of him for a time. He finally came to see the value of knowing that he could not be righteous on his own. He learned that "if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8), but that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (verse 9).

Let's keep this feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, and let's rejoice in the salvation to which we have been called. Our Father in heaven wants us to grow in grace and knowledge, and He wants to bring us into His family. We have been given the good life of learning submission to Him through these days. He will not give up on us. "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever" (Psalm 136:1). ©Ⓜ

**Southeast Regional**  
*Prom*  
**May 5, 2012**  
**Dinner + Dance Admission**  
**\$30 Per Person**

The Crowne Plaza Perimeter Galleria  
6345 Powers Ferry Road NW  
Atlanta, GA 30339

The Crowne Plaza has offered our members the discounted price of \$61 on their beautiful guest rooms for the weekend. Phone 770-955-1700 and mention that you are with the COGWA Church prom.

**Reserve before April 6.**

Please send your check by April 30 to:  
Church of God, Jefferson  
P.O. Box 958  
Jefferson, GA 30549

Hosted by the Atlanta and Jefferson, Georgia, congregations  
**Questions?** Call Bruce Gore at 678-376-0543.

It is our pleasure to invite you to  
*An Evening in Paris*  
Pittsburgh Prom  
April 21, 2012

DoubleTree Hotel  
Pittsburgh Airport  
8402 University Boulevard  
Coraopolis, PA 15108

\$32 per person, which includes dinner, dancing and the after-prom activity

DoubleTree Hotel  
412-329-1400

**Limited rooms at a special rate (\$75+ taxes) through March 31. (Mention Church of God, a Worldwide Association.)**

For more details, please go to the prom's website:  
**[www.pipaprom.com](http://www.pipaprom.com)**





# Is Israel Going to Bomb Iran Within Months?

As Iran rapidly approaches the “zone of immunity” when its nuclear program would become unstoppable, will Israel attack? Where would this lead?

by Cecil Maranville

Posted on the “News and Prophecy Blog”  
Feb. 12, 2012

**I**S ISRAEL GOING TO WAR AGAINST IRAN? ISRAEL has decried recent attacks against some of its diplomats and families as terrorist acts of Iran. But that’s not what might drive Israel to bomb Iran.

In early February, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said that his biggest worry was the possibility that Israel would attack Iran within months. That’s a startlingly frank statement from a top government official. A tip-off of something unusual coming was Israel’s withdrawal from a planned joint military exercise with the U.S. late this spring.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak was apologetic, saying that Israel “couldn’t devote the resources” to the exercise. His words ignited speculation that the Israelis are planning a preemptive attack on Iran to stop its nuclear weapons program.

## With or without American approval?

David Ignatius of the *Washington Post* wrote that Israel would go to war with or without American approval. Ignatius’ colleague, Dr. Charles Krauthammer, agreed: “I think it’s fairly certain the Israelis are going to attack or you would not have had this leak, deliberately coming this week from [the] secretary of Defense. . . . He said three months, April, May or June. And you don’t say that unless there [are] obviously indications from the Israelis that they are going to do this even if they get and they are getting a signal from the United States not to do it.”

Krauthammer went on to explain that the issue isn’t Iran having reached the capability of producing or of delivering a nuclear weapon. Rather, Israel sees the need to stop Iran from entering what he called the *zone of immunity* at which it would have enough enriched uranium in virtually un-

touchable storage deep within its mountains.

He made these comments on the weekend of Feb. 4-5. Several days later on the Fox News Channel, Krauthammer repeated and amplified his views: “I think the Israelis are serious unless [something] happens between now and midyear or even November that will threaten the regime, because it won’t change the policy. I think Israel will strike, because it cannot live under the threat of annihilation from Iran.”

## A disturbing wild card

Western news has often conveyed the torrent of anti-Semitism from the president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Yet within Iranian politics, the real authority rests with the chief cleric, the Ayatollah Khamenei.

In late January, the Ayatollah Khamenei himself publicly warned, “In light of the realization of the divine promise by almighty God, the Zionists and the Great Satan (America) will soon be defeated.” He claimed that the world is on the verge of a great event; that the world will soon realize “the power of Allah.” Khamenei didn’t say how.

## Was this just more rhetoric?

WND.com quotes sources within the Iranian Revolutionary Guards saying the ayatollah recently gave the Guards two orders: Give the West hope by saying that Iran is willing to reopen negotiations about its nuclear program (which has since been done). Secondly, the Guards were ordered to complete with all possible speed a nuclear weapons program, including bombs and the missiles to deliver them. If this is true, it is shocking.

Shiite doctrine includes the belief that the mysterious “12th Imam” will lead the present world into one ruled by Islam. This imam, also called the Mahdi (“hidden one”), supposed-

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ly disappeared long ago at the age of 5 but will supernaturally reappear at the end time. Shiite belief includes the conviction that plunging the world into a nuclear war will only speed the desired end. Khamenei believes that the Mahdi is already present on earth.

This cannot be ignored as just religious sermonizing, when it comes from a nation rapidly becoming a nuclear power. All of this adds up to a very real possibility that Israel will attack Iran within months. The consequences would be catastrophic from a number of perspectives.

- An Israeli attack would bring the ire of much of the world upon Israel after so much international effort has been put into a peaceful attempt to deter Iran's nuclear ambitions.
- Israeli-U.S. relations could also be set back decades, reminiscent of when President Eisenhower stopped the Israelis and Europeans from attacking the Suez Canal in 1956.

- Iran would undoubtedly violently retaliate through its proxy, Hezbollah, showering Israel with its huge stockpile of weapons. Israel could expect hundreds of casualties.
- Some have speculated that Israel may launch a rocket to detonate over Iran to create an electromagnetic pulse. This could throw Iran back into the 18th century. It might stop nuclear development, but it would also wreak great hardship upon the population.
- The West fears that Iran will try to close the Strait of Hormuz, through which much of the world's oil is transported. This could have devastating effects on the world's economy.

### **A step toward the rise of the king of the South?**

Then, there are inevitably the unintended consequences. What might they be? Islam is not a united faith, by any means. But could an Israeli attack on Iran so anger the world's Muslims that they would unite behind a charismatic leader?

Bible prophecy tells of such a figure who will rise "at the time of the end," called "the king of the South" (Daniel 11:40). Scripture doesn't say that the king of the South is an Islamic leader, but if now is the time of the fulfillment of these words, Islam fits the puzzle perfectly.

This would trigger a chain of unstoppable events that would bring about "Armageddon." ©<sup>®</sup>

*Cecil Maranville is a minister of the Church of God, a World-wide Association. He coordinates the responses to questions sent in to the Personal Correspondence Department. This article reached the top 10 search results on Google for the keyword phrase "is israel going to bomb iran."*



<http://camps.cogwa.org>

Join us in the mountains over the Fourth of July holiday for 10 days in the wilderness. We'll spend one day gaining wilderness training and two days rock climbing while camping in a campground by the Poudre River.

From there, we'll move west to spend the next several days in the spectacular mountains spanning the Continental Divide. Our days will be spent in the backcountry of the Arapaho National Forest backpacking, orienteering, team-building, camping and trout fishing. We'll spend the Sabbath in the beauty of the Rocky Mountain high country.

The Challenger Program is open to young adults, from high school graduates through "30-something," married or single, baptized or unbaptized. Applicants must meet health and fitness requirements for the program, be committed to thorough preparation in advance and have ministerial recommendations. The cost for this program is \$300 per person.



## New Zealand Picnic Full of Sun, Surf and Fellowship

Sunny blue skies made for ideal conditions for the beach picnic at Bethells Beach



The Auckland, New Zealand, congregation took advantage of a public holiday Monday, Jan. 26, by organizing a picnic at Bethells Beach, a well-known area located on Auckland's west coast. It turned out to be a sunny and warm day, ideal for spending time fellowshiping and enjoying the beach atmosphere.

The first activity was a 30-minute walk to Lake Wainamu, a freshwater lake that can only be accessed by foot. The hiking path followed the bed of a stream leading to an imposing sand dune, which continued to the water's edge. The lake is surrounded by native forest, home to various

bird species. Judging from the joking and laughter, the hiking (called tramping in New Zealand) group enjoyed the challenge and recognized the bonding such an activity can create among people.

After the hike, the main events took place on the beach. Two tarpaulins were erected to provide shelter from the heat. A barbecue was provided for those who decided to cook meat. The aroma was not only stimulating our appetites, but those of others on the beach in close proximity!

Those brave of heart ventured into the heavy surf where the waves challenged even the best of swimmers. Others took one look at the imposing waves rushing to shore and decided that caution was the better part of valor.

This was a day of fellowship and fun, enjoying the company of people of like mind and purpose. This type of activity brings people closer to each other and provides an ideal opportunity to get to know others in a different atmosphere and situation than at Sabbath services.

**André van Belkum**

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## GKGW Reinforces Good Parenting in South Africa



"This course was an eye-opener," wrote Victor and Alice Malgas. "Growing Kids God's Way taught us to teach our children the 'why' of our instructions and the moral principle of obedience" (photo by Richard Moore)

A small group of parents in South Africa completed the Growing Kids God's Way program in 2011.

"The Growing Kids God's Way program is a must for every family in today's society," said Dave and Kerry Farquaharson, "as schools, TV and parents in general don't teach children what is needed to succeed—God's way."

Johannes and Lydia Masilo agreed. "This course was much needed and appreciated. Even though our children are teenagers, many of the instructions were most applicable."

**Tony Levy**

cogwa.org



## Jamaicans End Year With Dance and Dominoes Social



Several young adults play a heated game of dominoes

The last social event in 2011 for the congregation in Jamaica was a Fun Evening and Potluck held on Dec. 25, hosted at the home of Fitzroy and Sheila Ferguson.

For entertainment, the brethren watched a movie of the 2011 Feast of Tabernacles Fun Day and a montage of still pictures produced by Sheila

foot dominoes and regular dominoes. Of course, there was music and a bit of dancing to lots of Jamaica's world-famous reggae, as well as calypso and some Indian music.

All in all, it was a wonderful evening full of great fun!

**Article and photo by Sandra Fisher**

## Buffalo Welcomes New Member to Church Family



Scott Lord baptizes Joseph Zirilli

Joseph Zirilli of Lancaster, New York, was baptized into God's Church on Sept. 24, 2011. Mr. Zirilli had been attending the Buffalo, New York, congregation for over a year prior to the event. The baptism took place at a member's residence and was performed by Scott Lord, pastor of the Buffalo and Central New York congregations.

**Article and photo by Stephan M. Koenig**

## East Texas Congregation Finally Settles Into New Location

After a full year of wandering in the wilderness of rented halls (eight different ones at last count), the East Texas congregation finally settled into a more permanent meeting hall in late December of 2011.

The new location is called The Broadway, located in the center of downtown Tyler, Texas. While it adds an extra driving distance to the many members clustered around the Big Sandy area (as well as for others living still farther off), it was still voted the most suitable by the majority of the members after three final hall selections were tested out in November.

The building is plain in appearance on the outside, but very high quality inside. The former brokerage house has a beautifully appointed main hall on the third floor, with hardwood floors and recessed lighting, an elevator, marble lobby and stairs, and a large kitchen and many extra rooms on the second floor that can be used for Sabbath school, mothers' room, etc. The main hall can seat 300, so there is plenty of room for growth.

Looking back at the past year as we rotated from one loca-

tion to another, it seems like the most recurring trait were smiles and patience—despite the many inconveniences and surprises we encountered! We were truly brethren “dwelling together in unity”!

**Article and photo by Nancy Diraison**



A look inside The Broadway, the new meeting place for the East Texas congregation

## Cape Town Delighted for New Elder



Stan and Kathy James

On Dec. 17 members of the Cape Town, South Africa, congregation were delighted to witness the ordaining of a new elder, Stanley James, supported by his wife, Kathy.

Since the sad death of local Cape Town minister Stan Botha shortly after the Feast in 2010, elders from Durban, Johannes-

burg and East London have traveled to Cape Town every second or third Sabbath to ensure that a minister was present to serve the congregation. This was appreciated and worked very well, but the presence of a minister in the area was missed, so the ordination of Stan and Kathy was met with great joy.

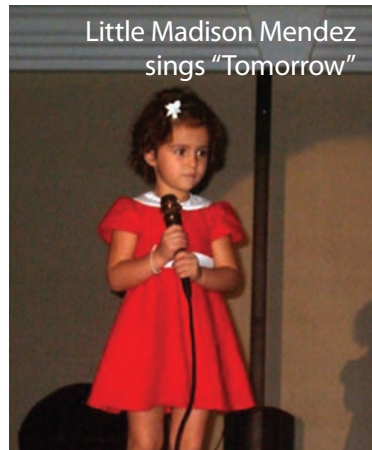
A week prior to the ordination, the couple celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. Stanley James and Katherine De Kock first met when they were put into the same class at school. After they were married, God called them through LM Radio in the 1960s, and they were later baptized together on April 5, 1970. They have five children, seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Article and photo by Claire Gordon

## Houston North Annual Family Fun Show



Fun show participants take a final bow as the audience applauds



Little Madison Mendez sings "Tomorrow"

The Houston North, Texas, congregation held its annual Family Fun Show after the Sabbath on Jan. 21, 2012.

After Sabbath services, a majority of the 300-plus attendees remained for the pizza, salad, tea, lemonade and a variety of desserts served by our generous volunteer kitchen crew.

Later in the evening, after the Sabbath, the audience was treated to an exciting show with a variety of entertainment, including live bands, piano solos, singing, skits and hilarious emceeing! Special thanks go out to coordinators De Lynn Buchanan, David Buchanan and Angela Soto.

Article and photos by Peter Gabriel

## Columbia Annual Fun Show Makes for Entertaining Evening



The Scarborough family performs "The Duel" by Eugene Fields (photos by Linda Morgan)

Marlene Dallas gives a rendition of the poem "The Cremation of Sam McGee" by Robert Service



Music, skits, good food and fellowship made for a great time at the Columbia, Missouri, Annual Fun Show.

The emcee for the evening was Matt Caple, who kept us entertained between acts with jokes and little-known facts.

A total of 18 acts included four skits, four piano solos, two piano with violin duets, four vocal numbers, two poems, one story and one game. A potluck meal preceded the show, and attendees enjoyed desserts during intermission.

Pat Freeman

cogwa.org



# Houston South Thanks Servidios and Welcomes Back Newly Arriving Pastor



Houston South presented Jim and Judy Servidio with a handmade card and matching serving pieces



Larry and Judy Salyer previously served in Houston South on two separate occasions (photos by George Foshee)

On the Sabbath of Jan. 14, 70 members of the Houston South congregation stayed after services to show their appreciation for Jim and Judy Servidio's service during our past year of transition.

The Servidios, who have been pastoring the Houston North church for some time, added the South church to their circuit last December. They helped provide a warm arm of love and cohesiveness to bind us together during a difficult time.

The members of the South congregation have appreciated having the opportunity to get to know them on a more personal level during our months together.

Mr. Servidio mentioned how we had developed a closer friendship and how they did not feel worthy of receiving gifts. "We are not going off anywhere and will be back before too long."

Mrs. Servidio felt blessed to be here for the year and thanked the congregation for making them feel appreciated. She mentioned that they never felt taken for granted and appreciated the sense of community and family.

On Jan. 21 the Houston South congregation welcomed Larry and Judy Salyer back to Houston for their third tour. They had previously served in the area for six months in 1967 and again from 1971 to 1974.

## Sacramento Honors College Graduate

The Sacramento, California, congregation held a reception following services on Dec. 24, 2011, to honor Jennifer Martin. Jennifer recently graduated from Los Rios Community College with an associate degree in business management and a customer service certificate.

Jennifer has been working two jobs, coordinating our local social calendar and has been very involved in her children's education, yet she still managed to graduate with honors! She plans to open her own business in the near future and ultimately would like to become the proprietor of a West Coast bed-and-breakfast inn.

Article and photo by Judy Finch



Ken Giese, pastor of the Sacramento, California, congregation, presents a cake to recent graduate Jennifer Martin

Mr. Salyer said his family was glad to be here, and the congregation was equally appreciative for having the Salyer family here. He mentioned that they were glad to have moved from Storagetown to Boxville. They are in the process of unpacking their belongings into their 35th home, which is in Katy.

In addition to being the full-time pastor of the Houston South church, Mr. Salyer is a member of the Ministerial Board of Directors and the Ministerial Services Team, is on the Compensation Task Force and is editor of *One Accord*.

Sixty-four hungry members converged upon the fellowship hall after services for a delicious Mexican food potluck, which provided us an opportunity to get to know the Salyers better. A wonderful Sabbath was enjoyed by all.

Susan Scott Smith  
and Ella Mae Tyrkalo



## Announcements

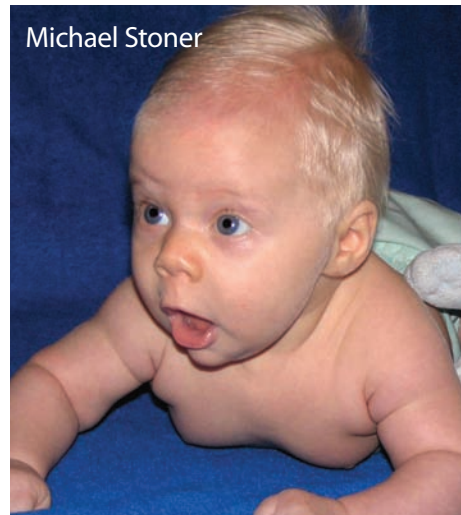


Adam Kurzreiter

Rob and Joyce Kurzreiter of the Orlando, Florida, congregation are very happy to announce the birth of their son, Adam Charles Kurzreiter. He was born on Jan. 4, 2012, weighing in at 6 pounds 12 ounces and measured 20.5 inches long. He came into the world bright-eyed and “bushy-headed”! Grandparents Ayleen and Charles Gray of Sequim, Washington, are also overjoyed with this wonderful new addition to their family!

## Births

Jonathan and Kamie Stoner of the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation are happy to announce the birth of their third child. Michael Lawrence Stoner was born peacefully at home on Nov. 21, 2011, at 7:50 a.m., weighing 7 pounds 2 ounces and measuring 19.75 inches long. His older siblings, Jonathan and Kayla, were really hoping for a little sister but are now very excited about their little brother.



Michael Stoner



Jael Panton with her parents, Trudy-Lee and Shane Panton

Shortly after the inception of COGWA, the congregation in Jamaica welcomed the first addition to its Church family. Jael Zahara Panton was born on Jan. 31, 2011, to members Shane and Trudy-Lee Panton. Trudy-Lee is the daughter of elder Leeford Burke and his wife, Carol. Jael is the Burkes’ first grandchild, and they can hardly contain their happiness.



Elián Arriagada Matus

Sergio and Cristina Arriagada of the Osorno, Chile, congregation, are pleased to announce the birth of their second child. Elián Arriagada Matus was born on Jan. 11, 2012, at 8:30 p.m., weighing 9 pounds 6 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches in length. Big brother Nathaniel (almost 2 years old) is very happy and loves his new little brother. The Arriagada family is thrilled to welcome Elián into their family.



Callie Naylor

Donald and Rhonda Naylor of the Orlando, Florida, congregation are very happy to announce the birth of Callie Ann Naylor. She was born on Sept. 25, 2011, weighing 5 pounds 8 ounces. She measured 19 inches long. She arrived just a little bit early so that she could make it to her first Feast! First-time grandparents Ron and Carolyn Ketcham and Clyde and Lou Ann Naylor, who are also from Orlando, are thrilled with the addition of Callie to the family!

# Weddings & Engagements



Daniel Pickett  
and Andrea  
Leverett

Reba Leverett Jones and Larry Jones of Atlanta, Georgia, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Andrea Leverett, to Daniel Pickett, the son of Star and Juanita Pickett of Vineland, New Jersey. A September wedding will be held in Atlanta.

**Reba Jones**

Tom and Sarah Kirkpatrick of Trussville, Alabama, are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter Bonnie Elizabeth to Brandon Lee Smith, son of Bob and Linda Smith of Ashland, Alabama.

The wedding took place on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011, at Cafe Dupont in Birmingham, Alabama. The ceremony was performed by Tom Kirkpatrick, the pastor of the Birmingham congregation and the bride's father.

The bride's ladies of honor were her friend Bobbi Kitts of Cincinnati, Ohio, and her sisters, Tarah Kirkpatrick of Columbia, South Carolina, and Carolina Luecke of Atlanta, Georgia. The groom's best man was Ryan Looney of Birmingham, Alabama; and his groomsmen were his brother, Nathan Smith of Ashland, Alabama, and his friend George Allen III of Springville, Alabama.

Bonnie graduated in December 2010 with a bachelor of arts in foreign languages and literatures (French) from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and is currently employed by The Retirement Center as an administrative and client services



Bonnie and  
Brandon  
Smith

specialist. Brandon currently uses his Mississippi State biomedical engineering degree as a research assistant at UAB's Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital.

The couple resides in Birmingham and attends the Birmingham congregation.

**Sarah Kirkpatrick**



Andrew and  
Naydene Bryan

Last year the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, in Jamaica welcomed an engaged couple, Andrew Bryan and Naydene Ellis, who were married shortly thereafter on Oct. 6, 2011. Both are mechanical engineers and are graduates of the University of Technology. More importantly though, they are excited about God's way of life.

organize a surprise wedding reception for the Bryans.

The event was set for the evening of Jan. 22 at the home of Fitzroy and Sheila Ferguson. As Andrew and Naydene entered the premises, the guests stood and cheered them.

The master of ceremonies was Herchial

Since the couple did not have a wedding reception but only a very quiet ceremony with one witness, members of the congregation decided to

Fisher. Several of the brethren prepared the sumptuous meal of baked chicken, curried goat, escoveitched fish, rice and peas, sweet potato salad and raw vegetables. The cake was baked and decorated by Madge Thompson, who also handmade each piece of decoration. Shane and Trudy-Lee Panton sang a duet, titled "We're the Faith Family." There were no toasts; however, four topics vital to a good marriage were presented. Herchial Fisher spoke about money. Leeford Burke spoke about respect. Jacqueline Hepburn spoke about sensitivity, and Carol Burke spoke about sex.

The couple expressed their surprise and gratitude to everyone for their outpouring of love. It was a wonderful evening of love and joy.

**Sandra Fisher**



# Anniversaries

John and Pat Adams celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 26, 2011, with family and friends at a reception hosted by their children. Cake and punch were served while everyone enjoyed a slide presentation of their lives together.

John and Pat were united in marriage June 22, 1961, in Inola, Oklahoma. Pat started attending the Church of God in 1990 and was baptized in 1992. John began attending in 1999 and was baptized in 2000. After years of living in Phoenix, Arizona, John retired, and they found their way back to Oklahoma to be near their three daughters and their families.

John keeps busy with woodworking projects and driving a delivery truck for the postal service in Tulsa. Pat is busy with four grandchildren and a brand-new great-grandchild! Among many other things, she is an accomplished quilter, and family members have reaped the benefits. John and Pat



Pat and John Adams

also enjoy tending their flowers and vegetable garden.

John and Pat are faithful, graciously serving members in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, congregation and are loved by all who know them.

**Lynne Simms**



Marion and Les McCullough

On the Sabbath of Feb. 25, 2012, the East Texas congregation honored Les and Marion McCullough for their 60 years of marriage. Since they were married on Feb. 29, a leap day, there was humorous conjecture as to whether this anniversary was actually their *15th or 60th!*

The McCulloughs began their courtship in Oregon in 1950 after a remarkably successful blind date! They dated for a year and a half before marrying.

In 1957 Les was accepted to Ambassador College. He was baptized in Big Sandy's Lake Loma. He was ordained an elder in 1962 and served as deputy chancellor of the Big Sandy campus from 1965 to 1973.

After 1973, Les' many assignments included overseeing the foreign work and being regional director of Canada. He also pastored the Cincinnati, Ohio, East congregation before returning to Big Sandy as deputy chancellor in 1982.

More assignments took the couple to South Africa for four years and to England for five more years.

From 1998 to 2002, Les served as president for the United Church of God.

The McCulloughs have two daughters, Kimberly (husband, Ron Mabry) and Lynn (husband, Matthew Gus), and one son, Michael.

What makes a marriage work for 60 years? Among other things, Les feels it was very important that they agreed before marrying not to argue and that one of them would leave the room before an argument started!

Marion offers the following advice: "Respect your mate, and try never to say something you will regret because you can never take it back." And, she adds, "Give each other space."

We thank the McCulloughs for their loyalty and for the wonderful example they have set.

**Nancy Diraison**

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