

SPECIAL EDITION

GOD BLESSES THE WORK ... SPECIAL EDITION OF THE NEWS OF THE WORK ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS

BRAND NEW AUDIO-VIDEO BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM BEGINS

If you were ever in the Worldwide Church of God, you are well familiar with the Ambassador Bible Correspondence Course. That tool was the single most effective instrument the church ever had to convey Biblical Truths. Over the decades since that course was functioning, tens of thousands came to the understanding of God's truth and His plan of Salvation for all mankind.

It was designed in such a way that the unconverted mind could follow the step by step format. Each person was instructed to look up each and every scripture, write them down and "prove for them selves" what the Bible says. The words "trust no man and prove for your self," still ring in my ears. That Bible Study Course anchored the potential believer in a way

Cont. p. 11



Church Acquires New Building

For complete story See Page 8

The Church of God, Ministries International Annual Conference

By Anna Samons "privileged" because that is exactly how we felt by the time the conference came to an end. Because we live so far away from Tennessee, we decided to travel up there a few days early so that we could

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The Middle East—Cease Fire Israel and Hezbollah both claim victory

By Tom Kerry

It appears for the first time in modern history Israel did not come away with a clear and decisive victory. Syria, Lebanon, and millions of Muslims taunted victory as the cease fire approached. Both sides spent days in an all out aggressive assault to assure themselves of a victory in the eyes of the world. What does this all mean? Will this breathe new life into the war on Terrorism? Is God gradually bring-

ing down His hedges? Will this begin to set the stage for armies surrounding Jerusalem?

Because of the time allotted to update everyone on the news of the work in this special edition, we will be bringing you more on the Middle East and current events in the next issue. Be watching, this is an important story. Prophecy is being established every day.

Associated Press Aug 15, 2006

TEHRAN, Iran - The leaders of Iran and Syria said Tuesday that Hezbollah defeated Israel, with the Iranian president telling a cheering crowd that "God's promises have come true" and the Syrian chief saying U.S. plans for reshaping the Middle East have been ruined.



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Greetings Brethren,

The Church of God, Ministries Int'l BEGINS INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

For the first time in our brief history God blesses our efforts to Stretch our work beyond our shores. The Work expands to Canada, Kenya , and Trinidad-Tobago

This is coming to you to express the sentiments of our ministry and the leadership of this church. Over the years I've been blessed with the opportunity to participate in many leadership and ministerial conferences. This was different. No, different doesn't describe the powerful atmosphere, the spirit of hope, and the desire to focus on the purpose for which we were called. The spirit of unity prevailed. The power of the mindset being united as one.

Reflecting on the leadership conference, I considered how Gideon's three hundred men must have felt staring out over the vast army that God had sent them to conquer. Considering their plight, my mind went to the daunting task that God has given our few. There is no doubt that the church has gone through a sifting. Even our own church that began in 2004 has already experienced the separation that has plagued the church for decades now. But as you will see in this newsletter, things have changed. With God's help, that is all in the past.

For months I've wanted to shout about all the wonderful things that God is accomplishing for us. But we wanted to keep things low keyed until we were certain that our work and this organization was safe from the persecution that continues to be brought upon us. Thankfully, while we waited for a legal separation, God gave us the wisdom of moving on, of stepping out on faith, and to trust God to restore us. Since that decision was made, many incredible things have happened.

There is so much to report that we decided to devote most of this issue to talk about the work that God has given us. In the next Quarterly, we'll get back to the much needed news that must be reported about events that will soon usher in the Kingdom of God. We were approved for our 501 (3) C status in just under three months; two months later we

were granted our bulk rate permit under the special pricing for churches. In the future this will save the church thousands of dollars. For example, the DVD's and the newsletter quarterly, that used to cost eighty-nine cents to mail, will now cost just twenty three cents. The thirty nine cent stamp will now cost only eighteen cents.

Big news! We have been able to acquire a brand new full color digital printer to print our own materials. It is capable of folding, stapling, and making booklets. As finances become available we'll be getting our own folders and letter stuffers. The goal is to be self sufficient.

The ministry approved the purchase of new equipment to begin printing directly on the DVD's. This will eliminate the need to place the paper labels on the DVD's, which will also reduce the number of failures for machines to read the DVD's. I know all of you have put in a sermon to watch only to have it freeze up or not work at all. This will help in reducing those problems.

The work that I am most excited about is our new Audio-Video Sermon Bible Study Programs. I believe that we've been given a new door to begin what has the potential to revolutionize the way we promote the Gospel. This undertaking is a brand new way of getting God's word out. Granted, we are just getting started and there are many more challenges to overcome, many ways to improve and build on, but it is a start. After all, if we expected God to help us get the word out, we needed something to offer.

Finally, after two years God has given us the tools, the means, the manpower, the technology, and the equipment. The story inside of this study goes into detail of this exciting new program. We will continue to improve and change, these studies will be a work in progress, improving year by year .

To launch this new program, we were able to offer a workshop at the conference on how to develop a bible study with your own local congregation. Several congregations have already shown interest. With the work of the local churches teaming up with the home office, we should be able to create new studies on a continuing basis. To our understanding this has never been done before. I'm sure as we continue there will be many bugs to work out, but the exciting thing is, we've started.!

Now for the clincher! WHY? Why has God allow all of this to take place? I can't speak for certain, or say I know exactly, but I would like to forward this possibility and you make up your own minds.

God's people have been dispersed all over the world. Daniel tells us that it is God who says, "When I have accomplished the scattering of the power of the Holy people..." God tells us that He will do the scattering. God's Word also tells us He would never forsake us. This means that even in the scattering there would be a work going on. Jesus tells us His church will never fail, and in Revelation we are told that just before the end comes, the seventh trump is held back, and then we are told to "GO AGAIN" and warn the world. Finally we know the Bible tells us there is coming a famine of the word. Consequently, the methods, the means and size of the church, as was recognized in the past, will be different.

The many scattered groups have members who have held fast to the truth. They haven't gone back into the world, others simply are sitting back to see what is going on. Still, others have lost trust in organizations that seem to want to control and dominate. They have witnessed the double standards and hypocrisy in leadership. Still others have joined forces with other splinter groups

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Coming to the Web Site

Flash Files Video Graphics



If you have ever been on the internet, then you have all seen them; if you have ever done any surfing, or browsing on the internet then you have been exposed to them. They are known

in the advertising field as Flash Files and are the newest wave of advertising on the internet. They take up very little memory and can be tailored to fit almost any situation. They are the flashing, movements in some type of promotion on the various internet pages. You have to admit, they do catch the eye.

Some time in the very near future we will be using this to promote new Programs, Sermons, Bible Studies, and "Prophetic News-As it Happens." When we use this on our own web site and in our news email alerts, it doesn't cost the church a single penny. This will be an innovation that the church has never had available. The files are normally 15 or 30 seconds in length. If you have a cap-

able audience they can even run as long as 60 seconds. This format tells a story in video graphics, pictures and words, that appear in various styles and ways. They have continual movement which have an eye catching appeal. Some even allow sound to actually tell a story of what it is you are presenting. With God's help we are planning to begin using some of these formats sometime after the Feast of Tabernacles. We believe by that time we will have the finances available to begin our outreach to the world again by advertising on BibleStudy.Org. That site is hosted by Alan Ruth who has been instrumental in helping us in the past. We look forward to working with him again in the near future. Please put this new concept in your prayers for God to bless the efforts. Our outreach was powerful in the past and with God's direction we believe it will be again.



NEW WEB SITE DOMAIN www.thecogmi.com

Cont. from page 2

only to see the in house squabbles and find themselves involved in another split. It is disheartening and discouraging.

While answering the question "why," I ask you to consider this. Our primary goal is to fulfill the gospel. We've all heard repeatedly the two part commission, but we almost never hear that one of the commissions before the return of Jesus Christ is "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." To accomplish this the church must have the focus on the need of the individual greater than the need of the organization. The primacy of the individual must always be first and foremost in the decisions of the church. The Pharisees could not comprehend that basic truth, though Jesus taught it every where He went. It boils down to the basic principle of love.

When we do that, God will take care of all our needs. Slowly but steadily God has been quietly strengthening our base. Just this past month we added nine brand new first time donors. Granted, nine donors may not sound like allot, but when you consider we are not yet out there actively promoting the work, to have nine new donors is astounding. And when you consider the timing, when expenses increased because of the

conference, the Feast, and the International outreach, the income rose to handle the additional cost. Coincidence? Hardly, this is another example of God providing the means when He opens the doors.

Finally, the International outreach for the church. The original proposed name of the church was The Church of God, Ministries. But at the last minute in a phone conference of the ministry, the name International was added at the end of the name. We had hopes and desires of expanding internationally, but honestly at that time they were only hopes. It was unanimously agreed by the ministry to add International to the name, thus we became; The Church of God, Ministries International.

It appears now looking back, that the meeting was inspired. Since that time, God has led us to several new groups and contacts who have shown interest in working together. Just the other day I received a call from the Kenya Consulates office in Washington asking if there was anything they could do to help us while establishing the Kenya Congregation with their government. Imagine my surprise and joy. Additionally, there are other groups who have contacted us; they are already established and have been through many of the same

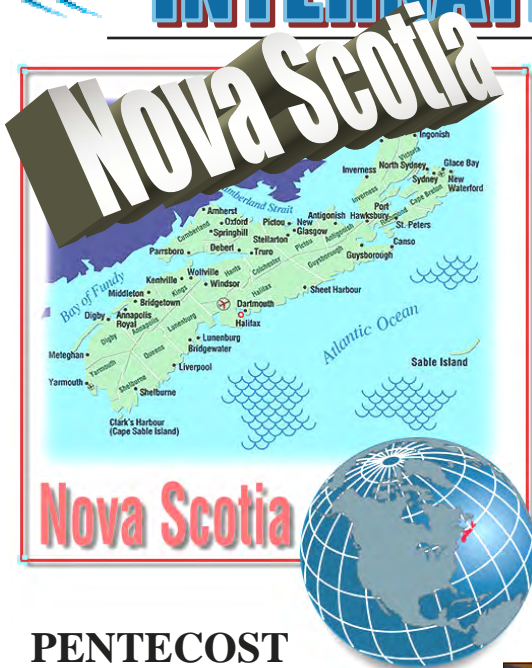
problems we have been through.

I believe God has given us the foundation and the ways and means to service these groups and individuals. In some cases, like the Canadian group, they already have an established church with an ongoing work. They have video and audio duplicating capabilities, and a way of printing and mailing. We don't need to reinvent the wheel in Canada, they already have a work. What they need we can offer. We simply support what they lack, and vice versa. Some groups are just getting started and need more support. The point is, we are not threatened that God is working with others. On the contrary, we are excited to be able to help, and they are excited we have something to offer.

The future looks bright. Doors are opening ,and with God's, help we will go through them. Please continue to pray for God to protect us and do the work we have been called to do. Our focus will always be on Him for our guidance; pray that He blesses this work. It is small, but it is of God, and you can't get any bigger than that. Praise God for His Greatness.

Your Brother in Christ,
Tom Kerry





TEAMING UP WITH CANADA

The COGMI and the COG Halifax Team up To promote the Gospel in Canada

Pentecost 2006 will go down as one of my most memorable ever. The Spirit of unity and the open hand of friendship from the Canadian brethren made my brother Jeff and myself feel right at home. From the start, it was busy. In just a few short days we were able to perform a wedding, drive across country and perform two baptisms, have back to back Holy Days, pot lucks and fellowship. Then spent a day and evening touring Nova Scotia with our Host Alex Nicholson and Al Deslaurier, who is a cab driver and professional tour guide.



The trip getting there was probably the most eventful I can recall. It literally took two days. Even getting into Canada proved to be quite a feat.

Waited to debark the plane; it suddenly dawned on me, that over the months of many emails, lining up the schedules, and making all the plans, Alex and I had never even seen one another, nor had we spoken to one another personally or by phone. And yet, somehow, I felt we knew each other. That is how the Spirit of God works. When we met, it was as if we have known each other for years.

Al and Alex picked us up at the airport and brought us into town—straight to Radio Shack. Jeff's luggage and most of his equipment didn't make it to the airport. The luggage would show up two days later. From there we went to the room to change for the wedding that was suppose to take place that morning. We were due in Nova Scotia the evening before, but due to delays, we didn't make it till the next afternoon. *Cont. on page 7*

PENTECOST IN NOVA SCOTIA

By Alex Nicholson

On Pentecost weekend the Church of God Halifax in Nova Scotia, Canada, was privileged to have Tom and Jeff Kerry visit us from New Orleans. On Friday, June 2, Tom Kerry performed a wedding ceremony for a young couple. Later that same day, two people were baptized in Kentville, Nova Scotia. On the Sabbath of June 3, Tom Kerry delivered the sermon, while his brother Jeff recorded the sermon on camera. After the service, two of our members were ordained as deacons in the Church.

On Pentecost, June 4, Tom Kerry delivered two sermons that day, and once again, the messages were recorded on camera. We had an enjoyable meal between services which helped make it a special day for us.

The physical food and the spiritual food was very good. We all enjoyed the fellowship; and the predominant factor for the entire Pentecost weekend, was the spirit of cooperation, love and unity among all the brethren in God's Church. We hope to be able to sponsor another visit by Tom Kerry sometime, we hope to find ways to more closely cooperate with each other in the future.

Alex Nicholson, Halifax, Nova Scotia





Kenya, Africa



The brethren meet weekly in Migori, Kenya for Sabbath Services. High attendance recently was 45 at Pentecost

BEGINNING A WORK OVER SEAS

The Bible tells us that one man plants, one waters, and God brings forth the increase. Truer words were never spoken than those that apply here as we begin a work overseas.

Before the WCG's implosion, it planted seeds all over this world. Those seeds that were sown are still growing today. By a surprising email via the church's web site, God has blessed us to be able to begin the watering for one of those seeds. Several months ago we were blessed by an email from Nicholas Ochenig of Kenya searching for information and asking questions. After several correspondences we found that we basically came from the same church, and are still believing and preaching the message. We believe that in time, God will, as the Bible tells, us "Bring forth increase" to this wonderful congregation. On Pentecost, they met with 45 brethren. Great!

The COGMI has been able to help them obtain a DVD player, and an adaptor for the sermons. The hall they meet in does not have electricity. When they play our sermons, they run the power off of an automobile battery through the converter to the TV. Mr. Ochenig will from time to time help translate for some who are not as prolific with English.

Right now, we are beginning the process of registering with their government to become an official church in their country. As our funds continue to improve, we have high hopes that we will be able to focus some of our attention to help them begin an outreach to their country.

In the meantime, please keep them in your prayers. They are going through a lot. Recently the country has had a malaria outbreak, several members got infected and they lost one of their children. Please pray for them and our work in Kenya.

SURPRISED PHONE CALL Kenya Consulate's office in touch with The Church of God, Ministries Int'l

When God decides to open doors, you never know what will happen next. On July 27, 2006 the COGMI was surprised and delighted to receive a call from the Consulate's office in Washington, DC. They were calling to see what they could do to help us with the registration process for the brethren in Kenya. After months of review of our articles and by-laws the brethren chose to become a congregation of the COGMI.

The process of registration is very similar to that of the registration in the U.S. with the state Government agencies, and the IRS.

By the time you read this newsletter the process will be well under way. Mr. Nicholas Ochenig has already met with their Advocates office. Please be praying for them and the church that the registration process will go smoothly. We are told it could take as much as four to six months. We are very excited for this opportunity to be able to begin a work with the brethren of Kenya. Please pray that our paperwork will go smoothly. They are concerned with an election on the horizon and new people that may come into power that there could be problems for them.. Please continue to pray for their safety and success as we join forces to expand the work.



We'll have better pictures in the future as the Kenya congregation are able to send them to us.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH



Trinidad-Tobago

Welcome To all of our brothers and sisters in Trinidad-Tobago



You never know when or where God will open a door. Imagine my surprise when I opened the email on June 12, to find the email (Lower left) in my mail box.

That email has begun what we believe will be a long working relationship of our church and theirs pulling together to accomplish the work God has given us. The amazing story behind all of this is that we all come from the same background. The roots go back to WCG.

The Trinidad group have been meeting for about a year now. The average attendance is between 15-20 people on a weekly basis. They are very encouraged that God will grant them a very fruitful and promising future for their church as they strike out to do the work.

The Church of God, Ministries Int'l are looking forward to helping them in any way we can to promote the work God is giving us to do. With God's help and this new joint effort we are hopeful to get the word out that would not have been possible alone.



Email: June 12, 2006 Newton James; Trinidad—Tobago
Hello Mr. Kerry,

Greetings from Trinidad and Tobago! I have been asked by the members of our small congregation to make contact with you and the Church of God Ministries (International) in order to get to know you and the church better.

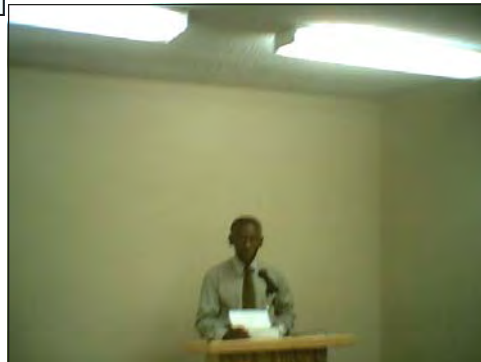
I hope that it does not startle you since you may have never heard of brethren of the Church of God in Trinidad. We are a small congregation in Trinidad. We are a splinter group from the Worldwide. At the moment we are independent of any group.

We play some of your sermons at our Sabbath services almost every Sabbath, which I download from your web site. As a matter of fact, I accidentally stumbled upon the web site earlier this year. The brethren are very impressed with your sermons especially the series which you did on the Passover and Pentecost some time ago which we used this year leading up to these feasts.

Given the use which we make of your materials we think it is right that we introduce ourselves to you so we can get to know you and the church better and see how things develop thereafter. I, therefore, look forward to hearing from you. Keep up the good work and be safe from the storms this year.

My best regards to you, your family and the churches in New Orleans and the rest of the USA.

In Christian love,
Newton



Newton James giving a sermonette, at the podium in the picture at left.

Below: The congregation of the Trinidad church. For some reason the children were absent this day.



The Millennium

The Millennium

By Nicholas Ochieng
Odero Kenya

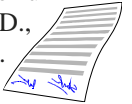
If people really believed the Bible, they would have no difficulty understanding what the Millennium is and what it is all about. The majority of professing Christians suppose that the theologians who tell them the saved will go to heaven and the unsaved to hell really do not know what they are talking about. These people simply refuse to believe what the Bible says. They do not realize that Jesus did not go about preaching about His person. Rather, Jesus preached about the coming Kingdom of God. He was concerned with world government. He spoke of this future world government, but it is not to be a government of men.

He spoke of the time when He would return to rule the world. He said He is returning with all the power of God to enforce peace on this earth (Rev. 19-15). He decidedly did not preach that the righteous would go to heaven, or that the unsaved would be tormented endlessly in some subterranean beneath the surface of the earth. Informed Bible students know that the saved will be in the Kingdom of God right here on the earth!

After Christ's return profound and unbelievable changes will take place. Satan will be removed from his present position as the god of this world. "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:1-2). As has been his practice (Rev. 12:9), he will deceive



the nations no more. The truth of God will pervade the entire earth. "They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Is. 11:9). (Is 35:1-2) (Micah 4:1-



Comment: This is the first article sent to us from the brethren in Kenya. The Church of God, Ministries, Int'l plan to update you with information of news, events and stories from their part of the world. Please pray that God will continue to bless the efforts and protect those in Kenya.

TEAMING UP WITH CANADA — Continued from page 4

The Canadian brethren made quick work of changing schedules for the weekend. The bride and groom, Yanick and Cosandra Sigouin and all the family and friends were very gracious and understanding.

The baptisms took place a little over an hour away from the wedding. Following a quick bite at the reception that followed the wedding we were off. We found ourselves traveling across some of the most beautiful landscapes and waterways of Nova Scotia to the home of Doug and Lavinia Barkhouse; the newly ordained Deacon and Deaconess. They have a beautiful home and an actual working farm. I was amazed to find the antique tractors all restored and in working order. I later found out that he is somewhat a collector of these tractors.

Doug has designed a portable baptism tank that we used for the baptisms. Excitedly, we teamed up and in no time, there were two new members added to God's family, Mr. Harold Crowe and Lowell Perry. This is also where most of their outreach is performed for doing God's work. Up stairs they have a room devoted specifically for the church. They are able to duplicate DVD's, CD's, and tapes. They are able to make copies and

mail to anyone in Canada. They are already registered with the Government as The Church of God Halifax. Most do not realize it, but they are the group that was primarily responsible for having Mr. Armstrong on television in Nova Scotia and most of Canada.

Services were very special for all of us. I had never met any of the brethren before. Some members, like Aubrey and Sheila Dauphney came as far away as Cape Breton, N.S. about a ten hour drive. The meeting room is primarily theirs to use and is decorated by posters designed by Margo Gale a local member. The services, as always, were the highlight. It is easy to deliver sermons to such an attentive audience. Following services we were treated to food and a pot luck on Pentecost.

Before we had to leave this beautiful country we were given a special tour by Al Deslaurier. He has his own taxi and does professional tours. "He knows his stuff." Al is quite the story teller and his humor is wonderful. The hours went by quickly. We spent most of the day with our host Alex and toured downtown Halifax. There is so much to see and do that it would literally take days to see and do everything. On Tuesday morn-

ing, we were up by five; Al picked us up and we were on our way to the airport to return home.

Something very interesting happened before we left. The Canadian Government arrested between fifteen to twenty terrorist who were plotting to blow up many government buildings. Security was heightened. In fact, on our tour of the bay, the military mirrored our boat the entire time to make sure we didn't come near their military installation in that bay.

We made it back Tuesday afternoon. Unfortunately our bags didn't. They showed up two days later. The final surprise came when Jeff opened his luggage and found all of his belongings had been checked and were a complete mess. We realized that with all of his equipment, and all of the wires, we were sure following the x-rays for luggage that the government must have gone through his luggage to see what all of this was and to be sure there wasn't anything dangerous.

It was a wonderful and powerful trip. The hospitality of the brethren is incredible. If you ever go to Canada, be sure to look up the brethren, they will make your stay delightful. We are looking forward to returning in the future.



The Annual Church Conference Held in the

The words of Revelation rang loud and clear when I relate to the incredible story of how the Church of God, Ministries came to acquire our new building, located less than one hour outside of Chattanooga. In Rev. 3:8, God says "I know your works, behold I have set an open door, and no man can shut it; for you have a little strength, and have kept my word, and not denied my name."

I received a call from Rachael Conner, member and trustee of the building about a month before the Feast to ask if we would be interested in purchasing their church building. I felt honored to be asked, but recommended that they give the first option to be given to those who had been paying the monthly note before the break up. If they didn't want it, then it would fall into the hands of the four trustees who put up the money to buy it, and they had the right to do what they deemed fit. That was the last I heard about the building.

Unknowing to Rachael, she had called at a time when it seemed the bleakest for the work. About two weeks before that call the ministry had met via phone to discuss the Feast. We had to contemplate whether we could even afford to keep the FL site. The income had nearly dried up, we were facing nearly \$20,000.00 in debt, and the expenses of the Feast were staring us in the eye. At that meeting the ministry unanimously agreed to have the Faith to go forward, trusting God, that He would provide what we needed if we held true to His Word.



View of the building from the road approaching the church

We believed the members who had been so faithful through all of the conflicts and the problems of that year, deserved better than what they had to face. They had the right to have a quality Feast, to restore the love and the unity that comes from brethren worshipping and spending time together. The Feast of Tabernacles, truly was the turning point for the church.

About a month after the Feast, Rachael Conner called again. With an excited voice, she blares out, "guess what, no one wants the church you can have it!" What she didn't know was, we had just finished tabulating the income from the Holy Days and the Feast. We had just paid off all our debt and had about \$1,000.00 left over. Don't get me wrong, to me that was a miracle. Just the month before, I was staring at \$20,000.00 of debt, with no way to pay it; and the feast was at our door, we would need an additional \$5,000.00. To pay off all of that debt, and have a thousand dollars left, to me was a miracle. But surely we couldn't afford to buy a new building. As I explained that story, I told her we couldn't even afford the down payment.

She again came back with her excited voice, and said, "No you don't understand, we want to GIVE you the building, just take over the notes and its yours," she stated. Well, I was speechless. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. The generosity and love that these members were sharing was beyond words. I told her I would take it up with the ministry and get back to her.

Let me take a moment to put things in perspective on what just took place. The work was faced with two glaring problems; to step out on faith or modify our plans and draw back. The only choice we could make was to go forward. The only choice we

Continued on p. 10



Part of the inside of the building. The building has a full kitchen, two baths, meeting hall and two smaller rooms that can be used as an office, counseling, Sabbath School classes, or other needs. In the picture are trustees and members of the congregation, Jeremy Conner, Mr. and Mrs. Patton, and Lonnie and Sue Hurst with Tom Kerry discussing the building and the leadership conference. Rachael Conner is taking the picture. This picture was taken during the Dec. 2005 meeting to lay the foundation for the church building and plans for the future.

MICHIGAN CONGREGATIONS ON THE MOVE Sixty Three in Attendance for the Weekend Camp Out

Busy! If you look for words to describe the news and activities from Michigan, it can be summed up in just one word, BUSY!

The season was ushered in by the extended weekend in Sandusky, OH for Pentecost. The Michigan churches, and some of the surrounding areas were able to come together to create a Feast-like atmosphere to keep the Feast of Pentecost.

Following the Pentecost weekend and “Three Baptisms,” there came two weddings, with a third wedding due to take place on Sept 30th, just before the Feast of Tabernacles.

Then came the leadership conference in Chattanooga, TN. In Mid July. Mr. Bruce Chapman delivered the topic of the responsibility of the leadership to uphold the Integrity of the Ministry.” It was a powerful session and one that will help the leadership as the church grows.

Finally, came the Michigan annual

campout. If you have ever attended any thing like this then you know how much work and preparation goes into this event.

It has become a favorite outing for the northern churches. The fun starts on Fri-




day. All day long people begin to show up with tents, travel trailers, etc. If you don’t have a tent, don’t worry, they put up tents for you. When we arrived, they had already set up three tents that were just waiting for occupants. Before the week end was over all three tents were occupied.

On Sabbath morning every one was

awakened to the smell of bacon (beef of course) and eggs cooking outside the tents and campers. There is always plenty for everyone.

Then comes prep for the Sabbath services. We were delighted to have 63 in attendance this year. This was a great turn out, especially considering how far many have to travel. Following services there is a huge pot luck. Anything left over is always eaten the next day, never any waste.

That evening comes fellowship at the lake watching the sunset. A surprise this year was a fireworks show down by the beach.

Following the fire works it was back to the campsite where everyone would sit around the camp fire, (That’s right camp fires in August. They are so far north I thought I saw Eskimos) swapping stories and sharing humor. And least I forget, more food. Roasting hot dogs, marshmallows, and hobo sandwiches. Don’t know what a hobo sandwich is? 



*Above: Baptism at Pentecost
Left: Ed Arzadon and some of the children at pot luck
Right: Special music at Pentecost*



*Lower left: Setting up camp
Lower center: Mr. C and Jessica hot Roding down the highway
Lower Right: Part of the membership gathered for services on the Sabbath.*



The Church of God, Ministries Int'l begins Printing on it's own Equipment



The newsletter you have in your hand has been printed on the new Minolta Bizhub C350. This machine will handle nearly everything we need to print quality copy and color when appropriate. It will also dramatically reduce the cost of printing. The wonderful news here is everything will be at our disposal. No longer will we be dependant upon others.

Because we are yet small and finances tight, our ability to offer material was limited. We simply could not afford to offer a superior product to the public. This machine changes all of that. These doors open up tremendous opportunities.

No longer will we be forced into printing more than we need to get price breaks; no longer will we have unwanted inventory. We will control what we need, when we need it.

We will also be able to offer, from time to time, color copy. In the past this was completely prohibited. The cost of color was simply out of the question. The freedom and flexibility, combined with the software with which we are now familiar with, will allow us to begin a new phase of the work. You will see over the months and the years ahead, many new changes and opportunities for us to get the work out.

The most important news of all, it didn't cost the COGMI a single penny.

Through an amazing turn of events following Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans congregation was able to do most of their own repairs which allowed them to purchase the machine for the work.

The COGMI in-turn purchased a monthly service contract for under \$30.00 for maintenance, which also covers all ink and toners. With that we will be able to print, B&W up to 2,000 copies a month, thereafter it will cost 1.4 cents each. And color copies will cost ten cents each. But, this also pays for all the toners, etc. This is a fantastic opportunity for the church.

Finally, before the break up in April of 2005. I reported at the leadership conference in Sevierville that this was the direction we were going. But this machine a year ago with booklet maker and three hole punch was almost \$15, 000.00.

Following that break up I thought this was all but lost. Even so I never lost hope. Through the disaster and the changes, we were now able to buy that same machine for just \$6,500.00.

Not one penny of tithe money had to be used. Praise God for His Mercy on us, and for giving us this open door. This truly is a Work of Faith.



The BizHubC350 is able to make booklets and punch holes for the three ring binders.



The Church's Newly Acquired Building cont.

Continued from p 8.

could make was to go forward. There is one more very important part of the puzzle I need to bring to your attention here. At the Feast, it was decided to simply move on with the work. At the ministerial meetings and in leadership luncheons, everyone agreed to move on; choose another name, pick up the work and move on. We believed God would bless our efforts as He had done before if we move forward and trust Him. Looking back over the past year we can track the changes and when they began to occur. It was at the Feast.

On the next ministerial phone conference we were able to discuss the building. We unanimously agreed to take over the notes, team up with the local congregation and put this building to work. The Leadership Conference was the first of

what we hope will be many meetings there. Who knows; is there a Feast site in the works? We'll just have to see.

Before I close, let me say one last thing about the love and generosity of this small congregation. They have been through a lot with the breakups and all that is entailed when those things happen. They could have taken their toys and gone home, but they didn't. The building will hold about 80 members comfortably. It has a kitchen, two bath rooms, an office and a classroom. It sits on about an acre of ground. They have put many renovations to it since they purchased it. Before the improvements, the building and land appraised for over \$65,000.00 over five years ago. The balance on the building is only about \$32,000.00. They could have sold it and kept the equity to

do what ever they wanted. It would have been easy to say "I've had enough." But they didn't.

They said they bought that building to do a Work for God and have a home for its members; that's the way they wanted it to stay. By us taking over the notes and agreeing to the lease purchase, they have, in turn given the church over \$35,000.00 in equity to the work. Please understand, they are not a large and wealthy congregation. They have given out of what little they have. They are a fine example of members who truly want to see the Work of God grow. May God bless them for their faith, their love of God and the brethren, that trust in the Church of God, Ministries International, to team up and fulfill the commission God has given to us.



BIBLE STUDY

LEARNING THE BIBLE WITH AUDIO AND VIDEO SUPPORT

SERMON SERIES

The foundation of all Truth and Knowledge

Continued from p. 11

sell it because it was already out dated.

We live in a world of cable, satellite, and the internet. The attention span of the potential reader, listener is far less than it was 20, 30 or 40 years ago. Even television uses an 8-10 minute time span to keep the audiences attention. Scenes are normally changed for the viewer every 15 to 30 seconds. The Bible Studies of the past will not hold nor will it attract most people today. That is why we've changed.

We must remember that we are to go to the world, preach the gospel, *"and make converts."* That is what this new Bible Study Sermon Program is designed to do, but in a newly designed way.

This new Bible Study program encompasses the technology that this age has become accustomed to. It will have a video DVD, a Bible lesson plan, and a work sheet. It will use the successful methods of the past to have the viewer go to the scriptures and prove the Bible for themselves.

Flexibility for the Future

Each lesson will be four pages long and will come with a work sheet. The studies will be brief but concise. They will explain the significant points of the sermon, yet be small enough not to overwhelm the potential convert. I foresee in the future doing 30 minute messages, designed specifically for study use. Thirty minutes will sound a lot more attractive to the potential viewer than the traditional 50-60 minutes most sermons are today. In fact, most churches that people come out of today are geared to a 20 -30 minute message with the rest of the service filled with entertaining them.

The nice thing about this course is the person can study along, with their family, or with their church. It doesn't need to be completed in one session. They can work the study side of the course while viewing the sermon, pausing from time to time as needed to answer the ques-

ing up where they left off. Unfortunately, many people live at such great distances that they are not able to meet with other brethren every week. These sermon studies will fill that Sabbath void. They are perfect to study at home with the family. They will also work well for those Sabbaths when one is home alone.

tions and prove out the scriptures. Group studies often create more questions and interaction that promotes more research and a deeper understanding. We are hopeful that those groups that do not have a minister, or a person who is able to deliver Bible Studies, will now have a means to have group studies that are defined and complete. The Studies can also be stopped at almost any

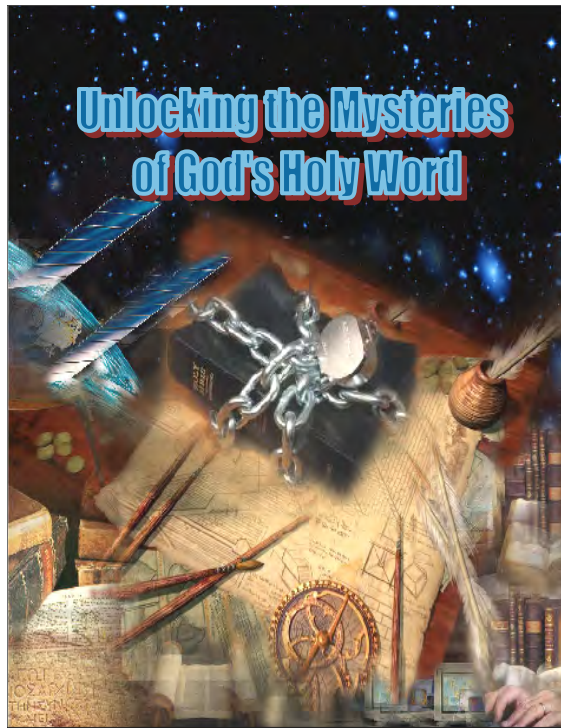
Overcoming the Challenges Facing the Work

The Bible Studies of the past were expensive and time consuming to produce. This new method will greatly reduce our cost and bring us into the 21st. Century. This also reduces our cost for producing the materials, and allows us to expand the studies to cover many more subjects that were just too expensive to develop in the past.

They also open the doors for more congregations to become involved if they would like to be a part. (Note: see accompanied article "Local Churches Pool Their Resources to Create Bible Studies.") By teaming up our resources, and the mountains of talent God has given us in this work we now have the opportunity to grow the work and bring glory to our Father and Elder Brother Jesus Christ.

We believe that this is only the beginning of many new channels and doors that God is opening for us. Please pray that God will bless this new effort and keep that door open to be effective in bringing many new potential converts into the church to be a part of the "KINGDOM OF GOD," and the "FIRST RESURRECTION." Pray

also that God will bring many new laborers into the work. This is an opportunity never available before, in a method that is new, exciting, and innovative. If you haven't received your lesson yet; return the enclosed card today. It's **Absolutely Free**, there is never any charge for anything we offer.



We are now able to create our own designs, pictures, and layouts, etc for nearly every area of the work. The addition of the printer will allow us to expand our outreach and begin plans for ways of producing quality materials. The quality material will be put into the local congregations hands and can be shared with friends, families, and the public. The coming year should be exciting.

point of the study, and picked up again the next time they meet. Most members are only together for a few hours at a time on the Sabbath. By being able to stop and pick up again at a later time, groups won't feel compelled to try to complete the study in one sitting.

This also creates opportunity for members to contact one another during the week while working on their preparation for the next Sabbath lesson pick-



News from the Orange Park, FL COGMI

By Manis and Anna Samons

The Church of God, Ministries, Intl conference that was held in Chattanooga, TN July 14th – 16th has become the highlight of the summer for the COGMI congregation in Orange Park, FL. Not everyone in our congregation was able to attend the conference, so when we resumed Sabbath services on July 22nd, the congregation was anxious to hear all about the conference and especially about the progress of the work.

One of the things that was decided at the conference was that the COGMI congregations could participate in writing bible studies that would be used by the church, and would also be offered to the public in general.

We were truly surprised at the reaction of this little congregation in Orange Park when we told them this news. They all applauded and a cheer of “yes!” echoed throughout the meeting room.

Being a small group, and living so far away from one another, it is hard to make and carry out plans that would be of service to the COGMI and the public as well. We all have longed to be more

than just a congregation that meets together each Sabbath and Holy Days; we have always had hopes of being able, in some



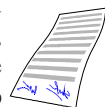
way to become more involved in helping do God’s Work.

After the excitement of being told about the bible studies had settled, we all agreed that this was a wonderful challenge for us and something that we wanted to do. We had a wonderful discussion on what subject we wanted to use for our study. We scheduled times in which we could meet so that we all could have an input; we made decisions on what should be introduced first in the study as an introduction to our chosen subject. When it was time for our Sabbath services to begin, we had made all our plans and were ready to start researching and writing.

During our discussion, we all agreed that this plan to have the congregations

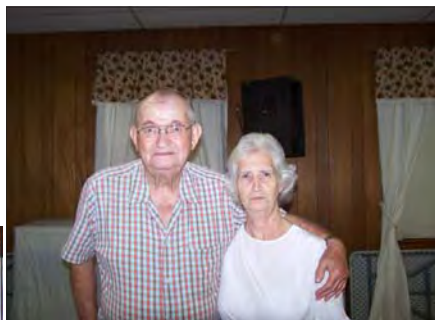
of the Church of God, Ministries International share in the writing of the bible studies, was truly an inspiration from God. It gives each one of us a chance to be personally involved with the work. In writing the studies, it will be a great help to the ministry by sharing the load of some of the writing that they have to do; it will help us learn to work together as a team, thereby bringing us closer together as brothers and sisters. It will also help us to refresh and reacquaint ourselves with some of the scriptures that we may not have used or thought about in awhile. By being willing to serve in this way, we are sure that it will be pleasing to our Heavenly Father and Christ our Lord, and give us so much satisfaction in serving.

When we come together on the Sabbath, sometimes we fellowship for over an hour before services. We share our troubles and trials with one another, we cry together, we pray together. And, we have learned to really love each other. The knowledge of knowing that we all are of one mind, one accord, is such a treasured blessing to each one of us. We have truly become a family with our Heavenly Father and Christ our Lord as our guides. If you are ever in Orange Park, Florida on a Sabbath, be sure to come and worship



CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE CONGREGATION

Special thanks goes out to all of those in the Chattanooga Congregation for their love and support for this work. Our appreciation cannot be put into words for their decision to donate this building to the church. It was a unanimous decision by the



Above: Alvin and Jessie Patton;
Left: Jeremy Conner with members;
Right: Fellowship by the kitchen

trustees, Mr. And Mrs. Gary Hobbs, Alvin and Jessie Patton, and our host/contacts Rachael and Jeremy Conner.

They have owned the building for sev-

eral years. Their goal when they first purchased it was to have a home for its members, and to provide a place for the work. God has truly blessed their efforts, and now those blessing have been bestowed upon this work.



ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Continued from page 1

be all rested from our travel before the conference began. As we drove into the little green valley that was surrounded by beautiful huge mountains, we knew that we had been blessed. God had arranged for us to stay and hold our conference in a



beautiful and peaceful place; far from our troubles and trials.

On Wednesday evening others began arriving for the conference. They came from far and near; by Friday evening, we had a house full. Friday evening's get-together was a great success. We have never seen a more happy and joyful group of people as those that gathered there.

Each day that we were there, we came together for breakfast and dinner. There was much happiness and joy in being together. To me, it was a wonderful sight to be able to look around at all the tables that were filled with God's people, talking and laughing; enjoying the company of one another. It made me realize, without a doubt, that we are a family...chosen by God, our Father, and Christ our Lord. I felt so blessed and

humbled to be a part of all of it. Saturday morning the conference began in earnest. The agenda was full. The Introduction was given by our minister from Texas, Ian Hufton. Next came what we all had been waiting for...an Update on the Work, given by Tom Kerry. The things he had to report to us were so wonderful...we had not known that the COGMI had been so blessed this past year and a half. A lot of us had been 'down in the mouth' because of all the problems that we had been facing, not realizing just how much God was blessing us until Mr. Kerry reminded us and told us of even more blessings God

had given. At first, when he began to speak, to tell us all that God has done for us, there was stunned silence, then the applause, cheers and tears. But above all else, there was much thanksgiving.

Everyone was more than willing to help with anything that would make the conference a success. Our hosts, Rachael and Jeremy Connors, Mr. and Mrs. James Patton, and all the folks who are a part of that congregation, were so kind and generous to us. They worked very hard making sure that everyone enjoyed themselves; providing enough food for an army, and I think we devoured it all! We thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

My husband and I have been part of the church for 36 years and have attended that

many Feasts, but we can truthfully say that there was a special warmth and fellowship in this conference that we have never experienced at any of the feasts.

God has blessed us, brethren, and we all should be so very, very grateful, thankful, and humbled by it all. This church has learned that heavy trials and tests can,



at times, make us shout with joy, because God does not leave us by ourselves in such times...He does, in His own way, and when we need it the most, show us that He is listening and watching and blessing. We must always stand side by side and be committed to God and to doing His work.

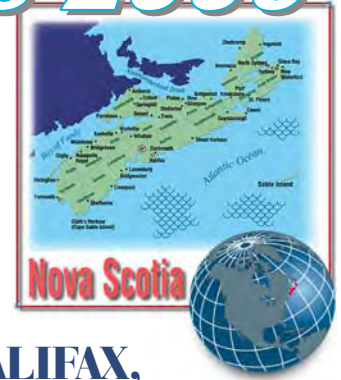
When the conference was over and we all said our goodbyes, it was evident to all who took the time to look, that there was more smiles on our faces, much joy in our voices, a



Feast of Tabernacles 2006

Two NEW Feast Sites

Initially the Feast sites may be smaller in number, but this will allow more of the members to attend. Because of the price of travel, it is becoming increasingly difficult for many to go long distances. This year we stepped out on Faith and added a new site in OH, and teamed up with Canada to offer two new sites. The amazing news is, the sites will cost considerably less than last year with more locations. We're looking forward to seeing all of you there, rejoicing before God at the Feast of tabernacles.



SLEEP INN SANDUSKY, OH.

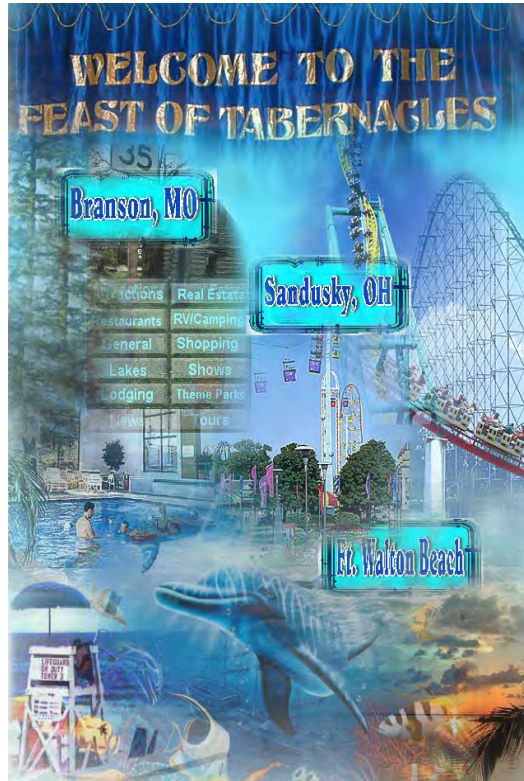
6509 Milan Rd.
Sandusky, OH 44870
888-927-5337

This is a new site for the Church this year. *All rooms come with a Deluxe Continental Breakfast.* Cost: \$55.00 & Tax per double

If the Church can book 15 rooms they are offering the conference facility to us absolutely FREE.

Special Comment: The Sandusky Inn is a member of the Choice Hotels International chain. If you are going to be staying at the hotel where the site is located, you should sign up for the free membership on their frequent stay program. It adds points which can be redeemed for free nights, etc. the number is 1-800-521-2121

For more information contact:
Bruce Chapman: 616-363-9209



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Going to Canada this year? Then you will want to get in touch with the brethren in Halifax.

Tom and Jeff Kerry were blessed to visit with the brethren during the Pentecost week end. They are a very warm and friendly group. Their feast site this year will be in the same location as it was last year.

For more information contact;
Alex Nicholson
902-860-228

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For more information contact:
Ian Hufton: 903-769-2314 or
Manis Samons: 352-472-2730

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The Feast of Trumpets

FALL HOLY DAY SERIES

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Brand New Three Part Audio / Video Series on Joshua and the Promised Land

Were you aware that the God reveals "Prophetic Revelation" through the understanding of duality in the historical account of Joshua and the Promised Land? Were you aware of the numerous Types / Anti-Types? The Church of God, Ministries International would like to offer you this never before series that takes an in-depth look at Joshua and the

Promised Land. It will cover the events leading up to the change of leadership from Moses to Joshua. The study will give you a deeper insight into the city of Jericho. And finally, the series covers the spiritual significance in the meanings left for us today, and how the events will play a vital role in fulfilling the prophecy just before the return of Jesus Christ. We are living in that time today. Send for your lesson today. We'll get it out to you in time to be able to study with your church or family for the Feast of Trumpets.

Be sure to send for your lesson, it's ABSOLUTELY FREE
There is Never any Charge for Anything We offer



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