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“...Write the vision and make it plain on the tablet so that it might be read quickly.”
Habakkuk 2:2 (LEB)

Christiansburg FCOG Focuses Ministry on Family



Building a Turkey

It is a joy to share with you regarding the happenings at the Christiansburg church! God has certainly blessed us over the years, but especially in recent months! We launched a new midweek ministry in September called “Family Matters.” It is a ministry based on Acts 2: 42-47, and is heavily influenced by *GenOn Ministries* LOGOS format. This ministry was born of a vision God gave me for the church to be a model for our community of what family is all about. It is a discipleship and evangelism ministry in which all gather for a meal to begin the night. Each table is designated a family for the evening. We spend time visiting about our day during dinner

time, with a designated server and prayer person for each table. After dinner we spend a few minutes playing a game or engaging in some activity where everyone gets to be involved, regardless of generation (the pictures are a small sample from our “Create a Turkey” activity). After our game time we move in to a time of worship, singing songs together and spending time sharing praises and prayer concerns, followed by a wonderful time of prayer. The next element of the evening is an introduction to the upcoming Sunday’s sermon. I get to share the passage God has laid upon my heart to preach from, and share a brief application point to focus on for the remainder of the night. The only time we divide up by generation is for the last segment of the evening, so everyone can process the scripture and focus point on their own level. The adults are divided into small groups for a more intimate discussion, while the

youth and children are involved in their own small groups to close out the night. It has been a tremendous blessing to the congregation and our community this fall to be involved in “Family Matters,” as we have seen several new families get involved in the life of the church. We have had about 80% of our Sunday morning attendance involved in this new ministry, and I am extremely excited to continue to minister to the town of Christiansburg as part of God’s church! To God be the glory! May God Bless Each of You,
Rev. Lance Jenkins
Senior Pastor,
Christiansburg First Church of God



Christiansburg Church serves together as family



**Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green
III Pastor, Joynes Road
CHOG Hampton**

*“Every time you open
the pages of God’s
Word, you ought to be
looking for something to
happen.”*

“Be thankful for God’s Word, the Holy Bible”

Psalm 119 is both the longest Psalm and the longest Chapter in the Bible. Almost every verse mentions God’s Word. God’s Word is true and wonderful. Stay true to God and His Word no matter how bad the world becomes. Obedience to God’s Laws is the only way to achieve real happiness. In Verses 9-12, it is recorded, “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to your Word. With my whole heart I have sought you. Oh, let me not wander from your commandments! **Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.**

Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me Your statutes.”

We are drowning in a sea of impurity. Everywhere we look, we find temptation to lead impure lives. The Psalmist asked a question that troubles us all: How do we stay **pure** in a filthy environment? We cannot do this on our own, but must have counsel and strength more dynamic than the tempting influences around us. How can we find that strength and wisdom? By reading God’s Word and doing what it says. Hiding or keeping God’s Word in our hearts is a deterrent to sin. This alone should inspire us to memorize Scripture. Your only hope of being true to God and withstanding the

deception working today is to be as the Psalmist in Psalm 119:11 when he said, “Thy Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You”. First of all, you must hide the Word of God in your heart. The Word of God will be a help and strength to you and it will give you understanding.

The Word of God will reveal to you when the enemy is working. It will set off a warning. You must get the Word of God into your heart. You must be willing to take it into your life and allow it to affect you. You need to live by it and be true to it or the enemy will come along with some deceptive idea and you will have nothing to fight him off.

Second, if you are going to keep from deception, the Word of God must mean something to you. You should respectfully fear the Word of God. You must realize that it is God speaking to you. Also, you must respect Him as God. Every time you open the pages of God’s Word, you ought to be looking for something to happen. I look for Him to touch my mind. I look for Him to raise me above all the things that are working adversity. I want Him to touch me. How is He going to do it? I am going to have to search and say, “Father, what are You going to do for me today in the reading of

Your Word?” Sometimes, people pick up the Bible and read it as they would read a newspaper and then they put it down and walk away. If they do not get the wonder back, the enemy is going to get an advantage over them. Every time the Church doors open, you ought to go to Church with wonder. Is it going to be the service that the one you have been praying for gets saved? Is that affliction going to be healed? Will that problem get worked out? If you do not go wondering what good things God will do, you will leave the same way you came.

Third, you must put the Word of God into practice. If God said it, you ought to believe it. How do you put it into practice? You must live by it. When God shows you something, when God allows you to enjoy the Truth of His Word, you need to put it in your heart. If you are going to have victory and be what God wants you to be, you must hear the Word and hide it in your heart. Remember, God’s Word, the Bible, is the only sure guide for living a pure life.

God’s Word is settled or final: Psalm 119:89 records, “Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in Heaven”. No one can change God’s Word or change His Spirit.

(Continued on page 10)

Mark Your Calendars

W.C.G. Central Regional Prayer Retreat -

Jan. 18, 2014 at 12:00 pm
Old Liberty Station,
Bedford, VA

W.C.G. Eastern Region Prayer Retreat -

Feb. 22, 2014 at 12:00 pm
Clarion Hotel Historic
Williamsburg, VA

Spring Youth Convention -

March 21 - 23 at the
Tanglewood Holiday
Inn/Roanoke, VA.
Worship Leaders
scheduled for the
weekend: "Relinquish" and
Dr. Andy Stephenson will
be speaking to our youth
and adult leaders as well.
Registration can still take
place by going to

www.vasyc.com and
downloading the forms
and sending them the
address listed on the
packet.

Spring Minister's Fellowship -

April 4-5
Hosted by the 21st CHOG
Richmond. Details will
follow soon, with hotel
information and
programming. Please take
note of the shorter time
frame which will begin on
Friday morning and wrap
up midday on Saturday.

W.C.G. Spring Convention -

April 25 - 27 at Joynes
Road CHOG, Hampton.
Programming and hotel
details will soon follow.

Middler Youth Camp

Grades 1 - 5
July 16 - 19

Senior High Youth Camp

Grades 9 - 12
July 21 - 26

Junior High Youth Camp

Grades 6 - 8
July 28 - August 2

Camp Meeting -

August 3 - 9
Opportunities for camping
and refreshing times of
worship and growth in a
family atmosphere. Rev.
Howard K. Hammond of
Springdale Community
Church, Springdale, MD is
our scheduled evangelist
with Rev. Jimmy Swogger
of Distant, PA leading us
in worship.



Churches Seeking Pastoral Leadership and Pulpit Supply Names

Current open congregations in the Church of God in Virginia include:

Water's Edge Community Church of God
4141 Holland Road,
Virginia Beach
Contact the church at
(757) 467-5864
info@watersedgevb.com

Staunton First Church of God
1850 Shutterlee Mill Road
Staunton, VA

Contact Pulpit Committee
Chair Sylvia McDorman
mcdormans@verizon.net

Dublin First Church of God
6330 Courtney Lane
Dublin, VA

Contact Pulpit Committee
Chair Mary Wright
mary@nrvgateway.com

Names submitted for Pulpit Supply include:

Bill Watson
Saltville, VA
(276) 496-9196

Mike Potter
Chilhowie, VA
(276) 685-3938

Dr. Gene Miller
Gate City, VA
276-690-2368

Gary Campbell
Chilhowie, VA
276-759-2821

Karla Campbell
Chilhowie, VA
276-759-2825

Justin Keene
Marion, VA
276-782-2747

Trevor Belcher
Bristol, VA
276-669-2319

David Rohacek
Spotsylvania, VA
540-760-3552



If you are a licensed or ordained minister in the Church of God and would like to have your name listed in COGVA News as available Pulpit Supply, please email your information to drbobneace@virginiachurchofgod.com



Free Gift from Anderson School of Theology

Your seminary in Anderson is happy to make Dr. Merle Strege's Church of God Reformation Movement lectures available to you, free of charge! Dr. Strege is the Church of God Historian, and speaks with authority on the historical and theological context of

the Church of God, the career and message of D.S. Warner, and many other topics that are relevant to all Church of God leaders today.

To accept our gift and view these lectures for free on the web, click here: [http://www.anderson](http://www.anderson.edu/sot/academics/online/macm/free)

[.edu/sot/academics/online/macm/free](http://www.anderson.edu/sot/academics/online/macm/free)

These lectures are flash movies. They will play on any desktop, laptop, PC or Mac (but not iPad). Make sure you have the latest version of <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/> installed.

Anderson School of Theology to Offer Scholarships

We have exciting news to share -- You don't have to come here to go here!

Back in 2004, we started an online degree that was actually a hybrid (80% online and 20% on campus). It has worked well, as born out by our assessment data and as testified by our online students.

But like the man said, "The times they are a-changin'," so we asked our accrediting association for permission to offer our degree 100% online (eliminating the on-campus component). And the Association of Theological Schools gave us permission to offer the online degree 100% online, beginning January 2014.

We are one of only six ATS accredited seminaries approved for a fully online professional ministry degree, and we are excited about that!

(<http://www.ats.edu/uploads/resources/publications-presentations/documents/fully-online-degree-programs.pdf>)

And we are the only Church of God institution that offers a fully online professional ministry degree that is accredited by both the Higher Learning Commission and the Association of Theological Schools!

We have made plans to admit 15 new online students for the Spring term of 2014. And the first 15 newly admitted students for January 2014 will receive scholarships at the following levels:

1. \$2,300 scholarship for those taking 9 hours (tuition is \$4,770)
2. \$1,600 scholarship for those taking 6 hours (tuition is \$3,180)
3. \$600 scholarship for those taking 3 hours (tuition is \$1,590)

And as a special blessing, we have a one-time \$5,000 scholarship for the pastor of a small church (less than 75 in worship attendance). Details of this scholarship are posted at <http://www.anderson.edu/sites/default/files/migrate/sot/admissions/ChatlosScholarshipApplication.pdf>

For full details about our online MA, check out our website: <http://www.anderson.edu/sot/academics/onlinemacm>

To apply for admission, click here: <http://www.anderson.edu/sot/admissions/onlineapp.html>

To ask questions, either email me back or call me.

Blessings,

John H. Aukerman, Ed.D.,
765-641-4530
Professor of Christian Education, Director of Distance Education

Rev. Duane Parker
Credentials Chairman
PO Box 542
Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-5342

November 29, 2013

Dr. Bob Neace, State Minister
4704 Roanoke Road,
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Dear Brother Neace,

Greetings, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I trust that all is well in the state ministry in Virginia and that you are preparing for a wonderful celebration in remembrance of our Savior's birth.

I write to you today with very mixed emotions regarding Brother Simeon Green. The first emotion is sadness. Frankly, we are sorry to see him leave Mississippi. In his short tenure here, he has raised the bar on so many fronts. His service as a member of our Board of Elders for the newly merged General Assembly has been invaluable and will be sorely missed. His voice has been one that has brought me much accountability in my role. He follows through and kindly, politely, but firmly asks the same of those with whom he works. His administrative gifts and talents have been invaluable as we sought to bring together our African-American and Anglo assemblies into a unified force for God. We will surely miss his labors among us.

The second emotion is joy, not that he is leaving, but at having had the chance to know him at all. He is visionary and a capable leader in this new paradigm of church work. It did not take him very long after arriving in Mississippi to establish a column in the state-wide newspaper that reports the news from a decidedly 'black' perspective. His comments and columns have been encouraging and yet firmly grounded in the Word of God and in our pursuit of holiness. Secondly, he led the congregation to establish a radio ministry that reached mainly the community where he served. What joy to know a man of God who is not afraid to challenge the people of God to reach the world for God.

The third and final emotion is one of expectation and anticipation. First we are glad that Brother Green is still listening to the voice of God. Our prayer for him and for the ministry to which he has been called is that God would prosper all that he puts his hand to do. We look forward to hearing about how God is leading, guiding and using our precious brother in this new work and pray that coming home will be a sweet reunion, but more than that, that he will be able to effectively lead those who have known him and not be hampered by prior perceptions.

Finally, I write to you as Paul did to the leaders in Corinth regarding Timothy's coming. "... see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord..." (1 Cor. 16:10)

In Christ,

(Received from) Duane Parker, Credentials Chairman, Elder Board Chairman

**Summary of COGVA Expenditures
YTD/2013/14
August 1, 2013 - July 31, 2014**

Categories	Budget	August	September	October	November
1000 STATE OFFICE					
1100 Business Office	\$3,800.00				
Postage		\$60.66	\$ 6.74	\$67.30	\$46.00
Telephone		\$54.53	\$76.15	\$42.46	\$42.10
Internet		\$50.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$36.00
Office Supplies					\$27.88
Web Page		\$9.94	\$9.94	\$9.94	\$9.94
Yearbook			\$70.00		\$26.00
Credit Card Finance Charge		\$22.73	\$20.89	\$25.15	\$26.90
New Computer		\$235.78			
1200 Insurance	\$13,000.00				
Property				\$2,756.25	
W/C				\$ 353.25	
Special Risk					\$82.50
Van/Camp Christi					\$123.00
1300 Office Manager	\$14,437.50	\$1,203.12	\$1,203.12	\$1,203.12	\$1,203.12
1400 Income Taxes and Social Security	\$3,800.00				
VA State		\$56.25			
Federal		\$261.39	\$293.28	\$238.11	\$293.05
SUBTOTAL	\$35,037.50	\$1,954.40	\$1,715.12	\$4,730.58	\$1,916.49
2000 STATE MINISTER					
2100 Salary Package (Salary, House, Etc.)	\$12,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
2200 Travel & Expenses	\$2,500.00	\$670.30			\$406.56
2300 Expenses for State and National Meetings	\$1,100.00	\$107.42			
SUBTOTAL	\$15,600.00	\$1,777.72	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,406.56
3000 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL/STANDING MINISTRIES					
3100 Executive Council	\$1,000.00				
3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials	\$450.00			\$117.32	
3300 Ministry of Christian Education	\$125.00				
3400 Ministry of Evangelism	\$125.00				
3600 Ministry of Program	\$125.00				
3800 Ministerial Fellowship	\$1,000.00				
3900 Church Property	\$125.00				
SUBTOTAL	\$2,950.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$117.32	\$0.00

5000 PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE**5110 Camp Bedford**

5110 Caretaker	\$5,000.00	\$416.67	\$416.67	\$416.67	\$416.67
Health Insurance	\$840.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00

5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)

Vehicle Maintenance	\$1,000.00				
	\$500.00				

5140 Utilities

	\$5,000.00				
Power		\$132.39	\$198.33	\$194.34	\$305.84
Propane		\$105.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$155.00
Telephone		\$34.34	\$35.86	\$33.32	\$33.29

SUBTOTAL

\$12,340.00	\$758.40	\$745.86	\$764.33	\$980.80
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5200 Camp Christi

5210 Caretaker	\$26,565.12	\$2,213.76	\$2,133.76	\$2,133.76	\$2,133.76
5220 Health Insurance	\$7,000.00	\$596.00	\$596.00	\$596.00	\$596.00

5250 Utilities

	\$12,500.00				
Power		\$2,045.66	\$1,020.46	\$719.18	\$671.22
Water			\$1,154.83		\$118.60
Propane					

5260 Maintenance

	\$4,000.00	\$333.33	\$333.33		
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5270 Capital Improvements

	\$1,500.00				
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5280 Vehicle Maintenance

	\$500.00				
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5300 Legal Fees

	\$500.00			\$66.50	
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5400 Ministry Expenses

	\$400.00				
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SUBTOTAL

\$52,965.12	\$5,188.75	\$5,238.38	\$3,515.44	\$3,519.58
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TOTAL

\$118,892.62	\$9,679.27	\$8,699.36	\$10,127.67	\$7,823.43
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Total Income for Each Month

\$6,218.87	\$7,254.02	\$10,279.29	\$10,475.43
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Difference between Expenses and Income

(\$3,460.40)	(\$1,445.34)	\$151.62	\$2,652.00
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Recently, we sent a notice of the financial struggles COGVA was facing since the adoption of the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget. As State Minister, I'd like to applaud those who have stepped up to help COGVA come from an income on the twentieth of this month of \$2588.87 to the number you see above as giving in the month of November. This is a considerable improvement to our financial situation. Giving credit to God who provides for each of us, I'd like to say THANK YOU!!! for allowing God to use each of you who helped by contributing to this budget. It has been said that we do better when we work together, and that is certainly true.

For those who are regular tithers to COGVA, many thanks go to you and your congregation. You make it possible for the ministries of COGVA to function. From general maintenance and utilities for our campgrounds to avenues of ministry from each of our teams as we work together, your continued support is vital.

While it is true many of our congregations see themselves as a vital part of COGVA, there are still others who feel as though they may not be part of the team. To those folks, please know that your support is needed as well, spiritually, financially, and by your participation in state ministry activity. Please, consider making efforts to recognize your place as a responsible member of the Church of God in Virginia.

Significant Changes in National Ministries.

Recently some announcements affecting the Church of God Reformation Movement have been made. Among them are the following: A new website for the national offices in Anderson. The www.chog.org website is still up and running, but is being replaced with www.jesusisthesubject.org

In addition to the website address change is the change of location for the North American Convention traditionally held in Anderson, IN. The location this year will be in Oklahoma City, OK -



“Church of God Ministries announces that Oklahoma City will be the location of the Church of God Convention and General Assembly in 2014. In accordance with a 2012 General Assembly vote, an offsite location will offer a satellite for those who cannot travel to the primary site. In 2014, Anderson, Indiana, will serve as the satellite location of the Church of God Convention.

Since 1907, the convention has been held

in Anderson, Indiana. Of the more than 11,000 eligible members of the Church of God General Assembly (composed of all credentialed ministers of the Church of God and lay delegates), less than six percent have attended the annual session in recent years. This is the time for us to engage this body of leaders in new ways. Why Oklahoma City? The climate of church and culture has evolved to warrant a necessity for a more centrally-located venue for the convocation of the General Assembly. Western states claim over a third of the church’s membership.

Though early in its planning stages, the 2014 convention is taking shape quickly. As details emerge, they will be posted on the convention website. Please visit www.chogconvention.org to follow developments and to register. The Church of God Convention 2014 has adopted a Monday evening through Thursday format, and is scheduled for June 23–26. Its theme is “Be Bold!”**

Another change worth noticing is the new logo.



“We’re experimenting with a new Church of God logo—a visual representation of the fact that we are an international movement, with a presence in 86 countries. We’re exploring the possibilities for how we can reach out to a global audience. [Jesus is the subject.](#)

What is the meaning behind the new Church of God logo? How does it connect with who we are?

Each element of the new logo is significant in the life of the Church of God. These elements combine to form the logo you’ve seen in print and on our website recently.

Please share your thoughts and comments with us at commservices@chog.org.

View the logo on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Il1Utf9hIR8>.**

Let the Church of God in Virginia rise to the occasions of change and lift up those in leadership in our prayers

**quoted announcements resourced from www.jesusisthesubject.org*



**Jim Lyon,
General Director
Church of God Ministries**

Church of God Convention 2014 FAQs:

Why Be Bold in Oklahoma City?

What is the purpose of the Church of God Convention 2014?



The Convention and General Assembly in 2014 will be a pivot point in the history of the Church of God, reframing for the future and a new generation our purpose and opportunities.

The Convention and General Assembly will challenge the church to earn the right to speak to a hurting world about the transformational power of the gospel in the same way that Jesus proved his right to speak by the way he changed the world with every step he took.

The Convention and General Assembly will celebrate where we have been and provide specific opportunities for the Church of God to move forward.

The Convention and General Assembly in 2014 will challenge the church to change the world, for Jesus' sake.

[Jesus will be the subject.](#)

Why will the Church of God Convention 2014 and General Assembly convene in June in Oklahoma City instead of Anderson?

The Convention and General Assembly have met in Anderson since the dawn of the last century. At one time, as many as 25,000 people attended, traveling from all over the United States, Canada, and, indeed, the world. Over the last twenty years—and especially in the last decade—participation in both events has been in steep decline. Last year, only 1 percent (about 2,600) of those who attend a Church of God congregation to worship each weekend in the United States and Canada (and less than two tenths of a percent of our church family worldwide) came to the convention in Anderson; 58 percent of those who did attend lived within driving distance. Just 6 percent of those eligible to vote in the General Assembly walked in the door—and only 3 percent remained after ballots were cast in the Assembly's morning session.

There are likely many reasons for the decline, of course, but one reality stands clear: unless our church family is willing to, in large numbers, camp on the Anderson University campus or stay in the University's dorms, the city of Anderson does not have the housing infrastructure necessary to sustain the Convention. Available accommodations in Oklahoma City are sufficient to house the more than 11,000 eligible voting members of the General Assembly. The Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau has identified 3,000 hotel/motel rooms proximate to the Crossings Church, alone.

Oklahoma City is a more central meeting location than Anderson for over a third of our Church of God constituents. The city is home to a Church of God facility that can meet optimum venue requirements. Crossings Community Church in Oklahoma City can accommodate up to 6,000 guests under a single roof, is fully equipped with staging, sounds, and lights, and has offered its facility to us for free. Last year's Anderson convention budget edged \$65,000 for facilities alone (it's very expensive to construct a stage, hang lights, bring in sound, rent 3,000 chairs, etc.), in particular, adapting spaces designed for athletics into an auditorium format.

The Oklahoma City venue location is proximate to another Church of God university, Mid-America Christian University (MACU), which is opening its doors for those who prefer dormitory lodging.

A fresh venue has the potential to attract new interest and attendance. All things considered, moving the event to Oklahoma City in 2014 appears to be our best chance to rekindle its fire and engage the broadest possible spectrum of the church.

Does Oklahoma City have any other advantages?

The cost of flying to and from Oklahoma City is equivalent to flying in and out of Indianapolis; the Crossings Community Church facility is, however, much closer to the airport than is Anderson University to Indianapolis. The June sun is likely to shine hot in both places—a bit warmer in Oklahoma City than Indianapolis, but with less humidity.

What is the General Assembly, anyway?

The General Assembly has historically been the forum in which the Church of God found its voice and direction, from year to year. It is comprised of every licensed and ordained minister in the Church of God in the United States and Canada, together with lay delegates from each congregation, and members of the boards of key church agencies (like our universities and colleges). Once a powerhouse, the Assembly has become a shadow of its former self; the June 2014 program configuration and site selection have been developed, in part, to revitalize this core of the church, for the purpose of breathing new wind into the whole church's sail.

Who decides when and where the Convention and General Assembly will be?

The General Assembly's charter requires that it meet in June; the Convention has traditionally been held at the same time. In 2012, the Assembly voted to expand the Convention and Assembly meetings to two sites in 2014, with primary and satellite locations. The Ministries Council (chosen by the General Assembly) is charged with facilitating the meetings, through the office of General Director of Church of God Ministries. A Convention planning committee, under this arrangement, met in April 2013 to begin thinking about the event and then met again in September 2013 to finalize the outline. Upon the planning committee's unanimous recommendation, the Ministries Council voted unanimously in October 2013 to convene the Convention and General Assembly in Oklahoma City in June 2014 with a satellite venue in Anderson (with access to Oklahoma City via a live video feed).

Will there be programming at either location for children and youth?

No. The 2014 Convention welcomes everyone, but will not be tuned as a family camp. Small numbers of children and youth have participated in the Anderson convention in the last few years, making the cost and investment prohibitive. The 2014 Convention will be focused for adult audiences, designed to challenge, inspire, and motivate the Church of God for a new day. The International Youth Convention of the Church of God will convene a few days later in Nashville, Tennessee.

I would like to experience a family camp, like the Anderson Camp Meeting used to be. What are my options?

The Church of God, from coast-to-coast, will field outstanding family camp ministries throughout the summer. Visit www.JesusIsTheSubject.org/events to find the best match for your calendar and travel budget. You will be welcome everywhere. Our new General Director, Jim Lyon, for instance, will be speaking at the Diamond Arrow Family Camp in Northern California (in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains) in July—like so many of our family camps, a terrific experience for spiritual growth and building the body of Christ.

Is everyone welcome in Oklahoma City and in Anderson in June?

Yes, all are welcome. We are hoping to increase General Assembly participation by three-fold over last year (and are working hard to engage our pastors and church leaders), but this goal in no way discourages other members of our church family and friends from being a part. More is more and more is better.

Will this be the pattern ongoing for the Convention and General Assembly in future years?

That's a call that has not yet been made. The June 2014 meetings are an experiment. The General Assembly will consider future years when it meets next summer.

Will there be elective conferences in the June Convention program, where I have to choose between this and that at any given time?

No. The June 2014 Convention will offer only plenary sessions; there will be no competing conferences.

When will the General Assembly meet? On which day or days?

The Assembly's schedule will be integrated into the whole Convention schedule, not segregated from the rest, as in years past. An afternoon General Assembly session will kick off the Convention on Monday and a morning session will precede the finale on Thursday. Morning sessions are also slated for Tuesday and Wednesday. By breaking the sessions up in this way, delegates will have time to process and consider the business of each day. All Convention-goers will be welcome to observe, as well.

Will there be a memorial service, honoring pastors who have passed away in the last year? Will new missionaries be commissioned?

Yes, we will celebrate the lives of those who have gone on before and yes, we will recognize and commission new missionaries during the event.

Why has the registration cost jumped? For what will the fees be used?

The cost of fielding the Convention and General Assembly has always been underwritten from gifts to Church of God Ministries throughout the year, sometimes designated for this purpose, but most often not. In the past, the Convention program budget was based largely on the cost of facility adaptation and production in Anderson. This year, we hope to make the event self-sustaining, freeing up resources for other effective ministry across the world all the year through. We are also investing substantially more in the program itself (as opposed to the facility), as our International Youth Convention already does routinely—and successfully. The registration cost is a big jump relative to the event's history, but still a deal within the marketplace. You will not find any meeting more worthwhile, more compelling, more action-packed, and productive than this one—at any price.

Does my pastor need to be in Oklahoma City? Really?

Yes. Help your pastor get there. Work with your church's budget to help fund the cost for your pastor (and spouse, too). This will be an investment for your local church and for the whole Movement of the Church of God. If we cannot gather our shepherds and lay leaders together it is unlikely that the Church of God will survive as a movement much longer. This meeting is critical to the health of the church.

What's up with the "surprise guests?" What's that about?

Our convention website offers enough to whet your appetite and demonstrate that this meeting is on a new and exciting footing. We still have some outstanding guests to introduce to you before we get to June—guests you will not want to miss, representing some of the most persuasive and dynamic voices in the body of Christ today. Stay tuned. And keep your eyes on www.chogconvention.org.

Resourced from www.chogconvention.org

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"Be Thankful..." (Continued)

God's Word is forever settled in Heaven, where man cannot change or alter it in any way. God's people love the truth. The Word cannot be preached too straight for them. They shout and praise God for it. Why? They have a love of the truth because they know what truth has done for them. God's eternal truth never changes; it is always the same. When you measure to the truth that God has revealed to you, He will lead you into more truth. As you walk in the light, you will become more and more Holy, right to the end. God is sifting His people and making them more like Him. No one has the authority to change God's Word.

God is shaking every

man-made organization to awaken honest hearts and bring them to truth and He is also shaking the Church. God is shaking troublemakers out of the Church so the Church can move forward. God's people are clean and Holy. We must do what God requires of us and **shun** the ungodly principles of this old world. Men have many philosophies that we must guard against. In Colossians 2:8, Paul wrote, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." There are many man-made approaches to life's problems that totally disregard God. To resist heresy (false religion),

you must use your mind, keep your eyes on Christ, and study God's Word.

Psalms 119:105 records, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path". To walk safely in the woods at night, we need a light so we don't trip over tree roots or fall into holes. In this life, we walk through a dark forest of evil. But the Bible can be our light to show us the way ahead so we won't stumble as we walk. It reveals the entangling roots of false values and philosophies. Study the Bible so you will be able to see your way clear enough to stay on the right path. **God's Word makes us wise!**

Submitted By Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green,
Pastor/Joynes Road CHOG - Hampton

Help Us Stay Informed and Connected

Please tell us what is going on in your congregation. This newsletter is an attempt to connect the churches of God in Virginia by supporting one another as we serve the Lord together. Take a moment to think what you might share with the church at large. Pictures are welcome and we ask that articles be limited to 700-800 words. Articles are asked to be submitted by the 27th of the month prior to print date to drbobneace@virginiachurchofgod.com

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