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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)*

## The Honduran Adventure of Water's Edge



**Before**



**After**

El Ocote is a small community and is located southwest of Lake Yojoa in the Department (State) of Santa Barbara, Honduras. 18 families live or work outside of town on the far side of the river. When at normal levels, this small river presents no problem for these families. However, when it rises, it becomes completely unfordable and they do not own transportation.

The four families that lived on the far side of the river needed to be able to cross the river in order to access the road, stores, and basic supplies. The fourteen agricultural families needed to be able to cross in order to work their crops and earn an income. Both groups of families are all very average families for the area, earning between \$200-\$400/month. Due to the consistent rainfall of the region, river passage presented a real problem for these families during much of the year.

Last year, the Waters Edge Church, of Virginia Beach had adopted the church in El Ocote as their "Sister Church" and supports them financially and in other ways. Bibles in Spanish were sent to the church in November because most of the

people in the church do not have one. This past July, a team from the Water's Edge traveled to Honduras. In corporation with the Heart to Honduras' Community Development department, the local Honduran church, the community of El Ocote, and the municipality of Zacapa a bridge over the river was completed. The path to the bridge was also cleared to provide easier access.

"These things never seem to be as easy as you think they should be," said Phil Dove, the leader of the group. "When the government did not come through with the promised 50 bags of cement, we just purchased them on our own because we did not want anything to prevent the completion of the bridge." (Continued on page 8)

## I've Been Thinkin...



**Brother Bob Neace**

Merry Christmas! We will hear that phrase and repeat it innumerable times in the next several weeks. With the same phrase being repeated often, we have a tendency to let the words become stale and rote. We spend time lamenting the commercialization of Christmas, and rightly so, but a danger we tend to forget is the danger of familiarity.

Familiarity can be described as being so accustomed to something that it loses meaning or emphasis. This happens in a variety of settings. When we first meet our spouse, much anticipation comes at the building up the courage to say that first "I love you". Through the course of time when wedding vows are exchanged, those same words are emphasized. But as time goes on, many married couples continue to say those three little words, and if we are not careful, they become less of an affirmation of love and

more of an abbreviated way to end our phone conversations with a quick – "luv ya".... In marriage counselling sessions, it would be an interesting statistic to know how often the statement is made that one partner so desires to hear those words with meaning and emphasis.

This Christmas season, as we greet one another, and as we greet those who we see in the course of the day, let's not let the phrase "Merry Christmas" become stale and rote, but rather, let us find creative ways to say the same thing, or ways to remind people that indeed, the greatest gift of all was given to us on that first Christmas night so many years ago. It is through this miraculous birth that we are granted opportunity to have relationship with Holy God. Think about it, Holy God loved you and me enough to form a plan of salvation for each of us, that when Adam, and consequently each of us, had fallen from

grace, a supreme sacrifice would be given in the form of the Child born of a virgin. This ultimate gift born that Christmas night, heralded by angels, visited by shepherds, and eventually by wise men for afar, makes it possible for us to announce, not only Merry Christmas, but Salvation is come to each of us who call on His name. As with the angels on that night, let us continue to say, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"

Christ is born, Salvation has been brought to man! May we never lose sight of what has been done for us through the babe in a manger, and let us never forget our responsibility to share this good news with others as often as we can.

God bless each of you this Christmas Season. May it be a blessed and wonderful time as we worship, celebrate and share this wonderful gift of Jesus

## Don't Forget To Say "Thank You".

It is Thanksgiving time again, the season of the year that our nation has set aside for expressing gratitude and appreciation for God's bountiful goodness shown toward us. We have been blessed beyond measure with multitudes of material benefits.

The greatest blessing and privilege we have is being free to worship God without fear of being punished or arrested. God is so very good to us and we must never forget His blessings so bountifully bestowed upon us or fail to give Him thanks. In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 8 verses 10-11, we find these words, "When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which He hath given thee. Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God."

Have you ever stopped to consider how truly you are blessed? Acts 17:28 tells us, "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being." It is because of

our loving and merciful Heavenly Father that we are alive and able to breathe fresh air every day. He gives us the strength to rise from our beds each morning and go about our duties. He provides food for us to partake of that brings nourishment to our bodies. We have eyes to see the beautiful creation He has placed here for us to enjoy and ears to hear the delightful sounds of nature. All these physical blessings come from the bountiful hand of God.

Forgetting to thank and honor God who has so generously bestowed His blessings upon us can become very dangerous. We can so easily become as the nine lepers who received help (Luke 17:15-16), and then neglected or simply refused to give praise, honor, and thanksgiving to the Lord. When people conduct themselves in this manner, it grieves the heart of Almighty God.

In a world steeped in materialism and

humanism, many have the idea that they don't need God. Satan deceitfully convinces men and women that they are capable of caring for themselves. However; without God's tender hand being extended, we weak mortals are unable to do anything. Jesus, speaking in Luke 12:48 said, "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required."

God expects us to be thankful for His spiritual blessings and He instructs us to verbally express our gratefulness before others. Another good way to show our thankfulness is to be obedient to His Word. Jesus tells us in John 14:15, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." We honor Him by walking in the light and by keeping His Word.

Our Heavenly Father is still the Ruler of this universe and He still controls all things. In spite of the times and conditions in which we are living, we are yet a most blessed people and we need to be thankful



Dr. Simeon R. Green III

## Dr. Green a Contributor to Pathways To God Devotional

Pathways To God, publication printed by Warner Press, provides inspiring daily devotionals written by a broad spectrum of people across the Church of God

Movement. Among them is our own Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green Pastor of Joynes Road CHOG. His devotions are found on dates Feb 27-and 28 of the Dec – January (2014-

2015) issue. Pathways To God is a daily devotional printed by Warner Press and is available through [www.warnerpress.org](http://www.warnerpress.org) or by calling (800) 741-7721

## Letter from C.W.C/W.C.G. Racheal Baez



Racheal & David Baez

If you were ever to ask anyone in my family if there is a family song, they would be quick to say "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." My in-laws learned early in their lives and all through their marriage that God was faithful and provided for their every need. We would often hear my father-in-law, in his deep singing voice, sing loud and clear, "All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!" I trust this is your testimony!

What an exciting week we had at Camp Christi this past summer! There was so much excitement in the air and in the cottage as we celebrated "Joy to the World." There was a wonderful turn out for each conference where we learned about joy in serving Jesus, counting it all joy, the joy of the Lord being our strength, J.O.Y. ~ Jesus, Others and You. The cottage was open each night for a time of refreshments and fellowship. We enjoyed an evening of fun as we gathered for "COGVA's Got Talent." Many have expressed to me how much they enjoyed the camp meeting this year and especially the fellowship in the cottage.

So many of our ladies have stepped up and pitched in to make the week a success. I want to say a great BIG THANK YOU to everyone who had a part in the planning or helped in any way during the week.

The Autumn business and planning meeting was held on October 4 at Greenview Church of God. There was a good turnout, and we were able to plan many events as well as our Foreign Mission and Domestic projects for the coming year.

Earlier this year a poll was sent out to each of the local units asking their opinions on raising the cost of the convention fees and suggested time for the annual business meeting. After receiving the polls back and after much discussion at the Fall meeting, it was agreed to raise the registration fee to \$10.00. It was also decided that for the time being, the business meeting will remain on Friday at 3:00 pm, prior to the start of the convention. The Friday night service will begin at 7:30 PM instead of at 7:00 PM. This will give the ladies enough time to get back to the hotel and have supper before the service.

Our foreign missions

project (September 2014 - April 2015) will be the KIST Clinic in Kenya, Africa. The funds raised will help to provide medical needs to the students of the school. Our goal is \$3000 to help meet this need. More information on this project is enclosed.

The Domestic Mission Project (April 2015 - August 2015) will go to one organization in each region of Virginia. The three organizations are as follows:

- "The Natasha House" - eastern region.
- "New River Valley Initiative" - central region
- Abuse Alternatives, Inc. - western region

Descriptions for each of these organizations are enclosed.

Plans for the Spring Convention are well underway. It will be held at Blacksburg First Church of God on April 17-19, 2015. Once again, it has been requested that we extend the convention to two nights. There will be a Saturday evening service and fellowship time for all who are able and wish to stay after the banquet. For those who do stay for the second night, we will join (Continued on page 7)

## COGVA Budget

August 1, 2013 – November 30, 2014

| Categories   | Budget             | 8/1/2014    | 9/1/2014   | 10/1/2014   | 11/1/2014  |
|--|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>1000 STATE OFFICE</b>                             |                    |             |            |             |            |
| <b>1100 Business Office</b>                          | <b>\$3,800.00</b>  |             |            |             |            |
| Postage  |                    | \$ 49.00    |            | \$ 49.00    | \$ 98.00   |
| Telephone  |                    | \$ 46.68    | \$ 41.96   | \$ 40.65    | \$ 39.89   |
| Internet   |                    | \$ 36.00    | \$ 36.00   | \$ 36.00    | \$ 36.00   |
| Office Supplies                                      |                    | \$ 216.48   | \$ 16.98   |             | \$ 175.53  |
| Office (Word)  |                    | \$ 9.99     | \$ 9.99    | \$ 9.99     | \$ 9.99    |
| Web Page   |                    | \$ 9.94     | \$ 9.94    | \$ 9.94     | \$ 9.94    |
| Accounting (taxes)                                   |                    |             |            | \$110.00    |            |
| Yearbook   |                    |             |            |             |            |
| Computer AntiVirus                                   |                    |             |            |             |            |
| Safe Deposit Box Fee                                 |                    |             |            |             |            |
| Credit Card Finance Charge                           |                    | \$30.73     | \$16.77    | \$25.54     |            |
| New Computer/applications                            |                    |             |            |             |            |
| <b>1200 Insurance</b>                                | <b>\$14,300.00</b> |             |            |             |            |
| Property   |                    |             |            | \$ 2,951.75 |            |
| W/C  |                    |             |            | \$ 348.25   |            |
| Special Risk   |                    |             |            |             | \$ 24.00   |
| Van/Camp Christi                                     |                    |             |            |             | \$ 123.00  |
| <b>1300 Office Manager</b>                           | <b>\$14,437.50</b> | \$ 1,203.12 | \$1,203.12 | \$ 1,203.12 | \$1,203.12 |
| <b>1400 Income Taxes and Social Security</b>         | <b>\$3,320.00</b>  |             |            |             |            |
| VA State   |                    |             |            |             |            |
| Federal  |                    | \$ 243.26   | \$ 293.28  | \$ 298.29   | \$ 298.27  |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                                      | <b>\$35,857.50</b> |             |            |             |            |
| <b>2000 STATE MINISTER</b>                           |                    |             |            |             |            |
| <b>2100 Salary Package (Salary, House, Etc.)</b>     | <b>\$9,000.00</b>  | \$ 750.00   | \$ 750.00  | \$ 750.00   | \$ 750.00  |
| <b>2200 Travel &amp; Expenses</b>                    | <b>\$4,000.00</b>  |             |            |             |            |
| <b>2300 Expenses for State and National Meetings</b> | <b>\$2,600.00</b>  |             |            |             | \$185.00   |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                                      | <b>\$15,600.00</b> |             |            |             |            |
| <b>3000 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL/STANDING MINISTRIES</b>    |                    |             |            |             |            |
| <b>3100 Executive Board</b>                          | <b>\$1,000.00</b>  |             |            |             | \$197.94   |
| <b>3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials</b>   | <b>\$300.00</b>    |             |            |             |            |
| <b>3300 Ministry of Christian Education</b>          | <b>\$75.00</b>     |             |            | \$ 28.91    |            |
| <b>3400 Ministry of Evangelism</b>                   | <b>\$75.00</b>     |             |            |             |            |
| <b>3600 Ministry of Program</b>                      | <b>\$75.00</b>     |             |            |             |            |
| <b>3800 Ministerial Fellowship</b>                   | <b>\$800.00</b>    |             |            |             |            |
| <b>3900 Church Property Team</b>                     | <b>\$75.00</b>     |             |            |             |            |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                                      | <b>\$2,400.00</b>  |             |            |             |            |

**5000 PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE**

**5110 Camp Bedford**

|                  |                   |           |           |           |           |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 5110 Caretaker   | <b>\$5,000.00</b> | \$ 416.67 | \$ 416.67 | \$ 416.67 | \$ 416.67 |
| Health Insurance | <b>\$840.00</b>   | \$ 70.00  | \$ 70.00  | \$ 70.00  | \$ 70.00  |

**5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)**

|                              |                 |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
| Vehicle Maintenance          | <b>\$300.00</b> |  |  |  |  |
| Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising | <b>\$500.00</b> |  |  |  |  |

**5140 Utilities**

|           |  |           |           |           |           |
|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Power     |  | \$ 214.19 | \$ 177.88 | \$ 177.96 | \$ 274.78 |
| Propane   |  | \$ 55.00  |           |           | \$ 55.00  |
| Telephone |  | \$ 28.23  | \$ 29.19  | \$ 27.62  | \$ 27.55  |

**SUBTOTAL \$12,640.00**

**5200 Camp Christi**

|                       |                    |             |             |             |             |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>5210 Caretaker</b> | <b>\$26,565.12</b> | \$ 2,213.76 | \$ 2,213.76 | \$ 2,213.76 | \$ 2,213.76 |
| 5220 Health Insurance | <b>\$7,000.00</b>  | \$ 596.00   | \$ 596.00   | \$ 596.00   | \$ 596.00   |

**5250 Utilities**

|         |  |             |             |           |           |
|---------|--|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Power   |  | \$ 1,998.80 | \$ 1,040.22 | \$ 759.16 | \$ 797.29 |
| Water   |  | \$ 320.24   | \$ 422.32   | \$ 200.00 | \$ 120.42 |
| Propane |  |             | \$ 256.84   |           |           |

**5260 Maintenance \$4,000.00 \$ - \$ - \$ 333.33**

**Camp Christi Mkt/Advertising \$500.00**

**5270 Capital Improvements \$1,500.00**

**5280 Vehicle Maintenance \$500.00**

**5300 Legal Fees \$400.00 \$12.00 \$ 23.50 \$ 25.00**

**5400 Ministry Expenses \$300.00**

**SUBTOTAL \$53,265.12**

**TOTAL \$119,762.62**

|   |  |                     |                  |                   |                   |
|---|--|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Total Expenses to Date</b>                 |  | \$8,520.09          | \$7,624.42       | \$10,680.94       | \$7,722.15        |
| <b>Total Income for Each Month</b>            |  | \$6,242.21          | \$8,034.27       | \$15,529.35       | \$7,526.15        |
| <b>Difference between Expenses and Income</b> |  | <b>\$(2,277.88)</b> | <b>\$ 409.85</b> | <b>\$4,848.41</b> | <b>\$(196.00)</b> |

## Letter (Continued from page 4)

Blacksburg First Church of God for their Sunday morning service. More details will come at a later date.

Some of the women expressed an interest of getting together with our sister churches. It has been suggested that we keep a calendar of events for the local units. If you have an event scheduled for 2015; and you would like to include or invite women from the sister churches, please send in your events with the dates to Janet Walker at mamab4me@gmail.com

or to me at beltbaez@gmail.com. We will send it to Dr. Bob Neace for the COGVA news. You may also send it to Dr. Bob if you wish. We ask that you send your schedule to us by the beginning of January if at all possible.

The New Horizon's Directory is in the process of being updated. When this is complete, a new copy will be mailed out. To help with this process, if there are any changes to your unit's contact person, address, phone number, etc., please contact me

immediately so I can make the necessary changes before I print the directories.

Let us not grow weary in well doing, but continue to work as one body, spreading the wonderful love of Jesus not only in our local church but across Virginia and throughout the world. I look forward, with anticipation, to what God will do in us and through us in 2015.

Blessings,  
Racheal

## Mark Your Calendars

**M.L.K. Holiday Concert** January 19, 5:00 pm Joynes Road CHOG Hampton

**State Youth Convention** March 20-21/ Holiday Inn University @ Charlottesville. If you've not received information yet, contact Rev. Jeremy Bontrager at 574-524-0235

**Spring Minister's Gathering** March 13-14, Rev. Mikki Merritt, Presiding Elder N.A.C.O.G – Resource Leader Granby Ave CHOG – Host Congregation

**C.W.C/W.C.G. Spring Convention** April 17-19 Host Congregation – Blacksburg FCOG Cathy Collins, Resource Leader. More information to follow

**Pastor's Boot Camp Camp Christi** April 27-May 1 Dr. Gordon Penfold and Dr. Gary McIntosh – Resource Leaders \$475.00

**Indoor Camp Meeting** May 17-22 Chilhowie FCOG Host congregation Rev. Garry Bates Evangelist

**North American Convention** June 22-25, Crossings Community Church in Oklahoma City. [www.jesusisthesubject.org/faq/](http://www.jesusisthesubject.org/faq/)

**Middler Camp** July 8 - 11th Camp Christi

**Junior/Senior High Camp** July 20 - 25th Camp/Camp Christi

**Camp Meeting/Camp Christi** August 2 – 8,

**Annual COGVA Business Meeting** August 7 1:00 pm

## Church of God in Virginia

4704 Roanoke Road  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

PHONE:  
(540) 268-2040

FAX:  
(540) 268-2040

E-MAIL:  
[drbobneace@virginiachurchofgod.com](mailto:drbobneace@virginiachurchofgod.com)  
[cogvaoffice@virginiachurchofgod.com](mailto:cogvaoffice@virginiachurchofgod.com)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.virginiachurchofgod.com](http://www.virginiachurchofgod.com)

## Honduran Adventure (Continued from page 1)

The El Ocote Church wanted Water's Edge Church to give the new bridge a name. Later, Pastor Steve Roby announced the name of the bridge to be "The Fellowship Bridge" ("Puente La Amistad" in Spanish) because it represented the connection between the

two congregations and the connection of the community. During their next trip to Honduras, Water's Edge plans on putting a plaque on the bridge so all who cross it can know its name.

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to

one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:8-10 (ESV)

For more information, please contact Larry Ebinger – [LarryEbinger@gmail.com](mailto:LarryEbinger@gmail.com)

## COGVA News Looking for Your Participation

COGVA News would like to add a feature in the next year. If you've read a book that speaks to you in a special way, would you consider writing a review of that book to be included in future issues of COGVA News. This would serve to encourage others to read the

same book, and help us to be accountable to one another for our continued educational pursuits. Additionally, would you consider letting us know what your youth are doing to work towards raising awareness of the presence of God's love in your communities? These

make great stories for encouragement of the saints throughout COGVA

The deadline for inclusion in January 2015 COGVA issue will be Dec. 30, 2014.

Please keep all articles between 500-700 words and let's keep one another well informed.

### ***About the Church of God in Virginia...***

*The Church of God in Virginia consists of 50 churches across the Commonwealth and according to current accounting serves over 2,500 constituents each*

*Sunday Morning. Our current State Leadership consists of Chair – Rev. Gertrude Goode, Vice-Chair – Rev. Steve Hency, Secretary – Rev. Sylvia McDorman, and State*

*Minister – Dr. Bob Neace.*

## CHURCH OF GOD IN VIRGINIA

4704 Roanoke Road  
Christiansburg, VA 24073