

Table of Contents

I've Been Thinkin...	2
Southeastern Association of the Church of God	3
Insights for the New Year by Matt Holman	3
Dr. Simeon R. Green Continues Educational Pursuit	4
COGVA Budget	5
Mark Your Calendar	6
What is the Children of Promise Ministry?	7

"...Write the vision and make it plain on the tablet so that it might be read quickly."

Habakkuk 2:2 (LEB)

Pastor Scott Stedman To Use Gaming Talent To Raise Money University of VA Children's Hospital

January 13th & 14th, Staunton First Church of God will be participating in a 24 hour gaming marathon to raise money for the University of Virginia Children's Hospital. We will be playing a variety of games from board games, sports, to video games to help sick children in our community. This is a great opportunity to fellowship with one another while playing games for a cause.

Extra Life, is a non-profit organization that benefits the Children Miracle Hospitals around the world. Since it's existences it has raised millions of dollars to help children who have cancer, birth defects, and other terminal illnesses. In 2016, it has raise close to \$9 million to help children around the world.

Here are ways you can help.



Pastor Scott, Laura, and Peter Stedman

1). Come and play games with us. The whole purpose of this event is to have fun, play your favorite game(s), or find a new game to love, all while helping the children at UVA children's hospital. You do not have to stay awake for 24 hours, but any time you can come in and play will be worth it. We ask that you give a donation to help the children

2). Donate. You can donate to help reach our goal by going to our extra-life.org page. You can also write a check to the

church that will be sent to the children's hospital.

Join us as we continue to Grow, Engage, and Transform or community, state and World for the Kingdom by helping children

Scott Stedman

Lead Pastor

Staunton First Church of God

540-886-5432

<http://www.stauntonfirstchurchofgod.org>

I've Been Thinkin...



**Dr. Bob Neace COGVA
State Minister**

Abingdon FCOG has a tradition that spans for years prior to my arrival as their pastor twenty years ago. On the Sunday evening prior to Christmas, there is no formal service. In the month prior, the church has been decorated for Christmas, Christmas messages have been preached and carols honoring the birth of Christ have been sung. Christmas programs and pageants have been presented. And so, there is no formal service for that night.

This night is set aside as a time for solitude and self-examination. The elements of Communion are available in the front of the church, soft worship music is rendered in the background, and people are invited to come and take part in individual/family communion, leaving at their pleasure. This is usually a well attended event, and spans an hour and a half to two hour window of opportunity. As the Pastor, I am available for prayer and counsel, but most people come and spend time in family groups at the altar prior to taking the communion elements.

This year, with Christmas actually falling on Sunday,

we afforded this opportunity of worship on Christmas Eve. Once the time had come to a close, and my family and I worshipped together in prayer and communion, I decided to stay in the sanctuary alone. But I was not alone.

In the quiet of that span of time, I sensed the presence of His Holy Spirit. I sensed the Lord speaking softly and quietly to my heart.

He seemed the remind me of the text to "Be still, and know, that I am God..."

That passage is the tenth verse of eleven found in Psalm 46. As I read the entirety of that particular Psalm, I am taken with the fear and angst of the author. I can identify with him. I, along with most people, can relate to a feeling of helplessness, dread, and even woe about life's uncertainties. We live in an uncertain world, and without the peace of knowing Christ, we can be filled with fear and anxiety. This was true for the Psalmist, and it is true for me. But as this Psalmist reminds

each of us, as the Holy Spirit reminded me on this past Christmas Eve, I have no reason for fear for my future, but rather I have confidence in knowing that God is able to handle all that my future entails. The busy-ness of this time of year can cloud our hearing from the Lord, and in quiet conversation, the Lord spoke to me that night. I sensed Him telling me I needed to hear Him, and not the clanging of all that goes on around me. I sensed Him tell me to be calm in all that happens in the New Year, and that no matter what happens, I should continue to rely on Him to bring me through.

With Christmas 2016 behind us, and the potentials of a New Year, I am resolved to spend more quiet time with the Lord in the sanctuary of my local congregation, I will look forward to the words of comfort and peace He will provide, both through His word and through His presence. Please pray with me and for me that I never get so busy I cannot hear Him as He speaks to me.

something **BIG** is coming
08.04.2017

Southeastern Association of the Church of God Continues as Oldest Camp Meeting the Church of God

The Southeastern Association of the Church of God celebrated its 123rd anniversary this past December 26 – 30 at Forrest Street Church of God in Augusta, GA. In addition to Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, The Church of God in Virginia was well represented. Rev. Silas Oliver delivered a message on Wednesday Morning, and Dr. Bob Neace gave a presentation of his perceptions of the

CHOG Round Tables in Vancouver, Anderson, and Philadelphia.

Plans are in progress for the 125th anniversary of the S.E.A. to be held the week between Christmas 2018 and the New Year of 2019.

Dr. Simeon R. Green III was re-elected Chair of the body, as Dr. Velma Green will continue another term as the Financial Secretary of S.E.A. They and their leadership, team would

certainly benefit from the prayers of the saints as they serve in this capacity and move forward with what the Lord has in store for the future of the Southeastern Association of the Church of God.

As an additional note, the Joynes Road Church of God has launched its website. You can check them out by going to www.joynesroadchurchofgod.org.



Rev Silas and Vernetta Oliver, Dr. Simeon R. Green III, and Dr. Bob Neace

Insights on the New Year, by Matt Holman

An old year fades out, and a new one is poised to begin. This can be such an exciting time. Or, depending on your perspective, an equally miserable one.

But why?

In a time of transition, why would misery replace the excitement of a clean slate? The truth, for myself, and I'm willing to bet a few others as well, is this- we hold on to too much of what has already been. Don't we? I don't mean just the good things, those are things that motivate and encourage us. But what about the things that limit you? Our fears? Self-doubts?

Perhaps sometimes, during the approach of the New Year, the thought that the next year will be harder than the last, that we won't have achieved everything we set out to achieve, that we won't find happiness, or peace or joy this year either... those thoughts can consume us.

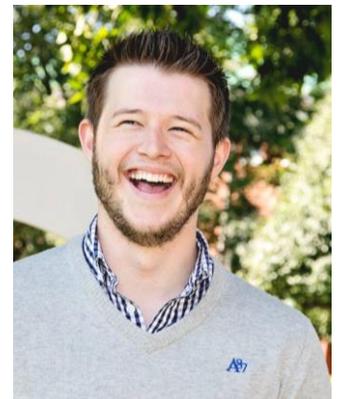
We read articles and see pop ups and news reports all the time about how to lose holiday weight, or how to avoid the holiday slumps, but how might we avoid the spiritual "slump" that we can find ourselves in?

- Don't live in "rear-view":

If you stare into the rear view mirror of your car,

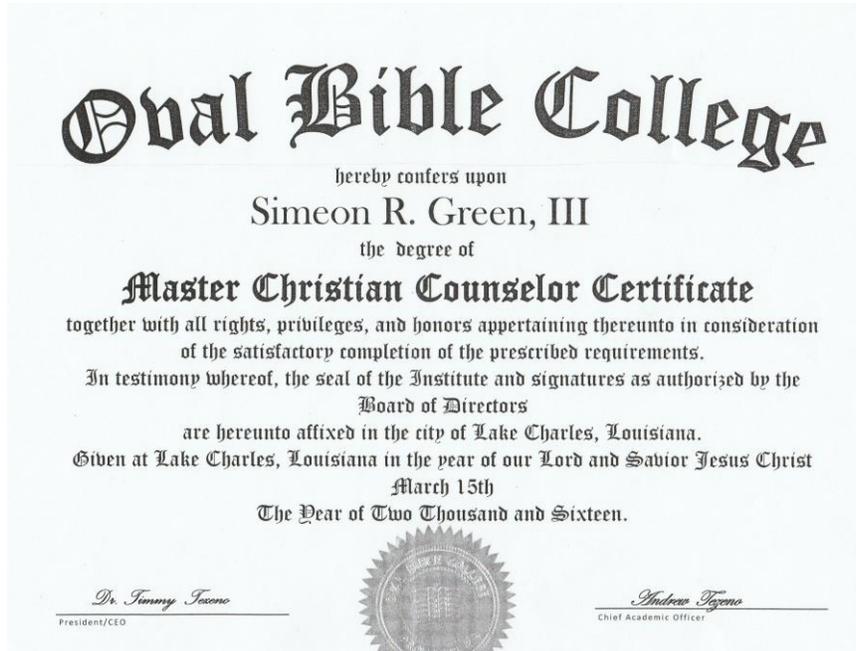
instead of taking brief glances to check your surroundings, what will happen? You'll deviate off course, swerve, you might even wreck. In any case, it isn't safe to do. Your past isn't for your focus, your past is for your reference. Don't live there.

Paul writes, in the book of Ephesians chapter 4, verses 22 & 23, "that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind," (Continued on page 8)



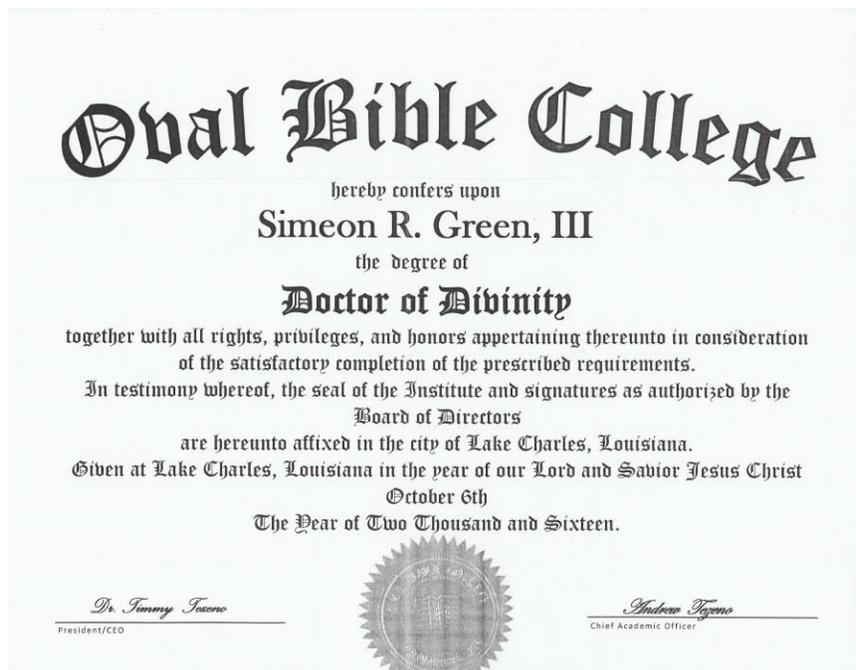
Matt Holman

Dr. Simeon R. Green Continues Educational Pursuit



Dr. Simeon R. Green III continues to further his education. In addition to his previous Doctorate Degree from Oval Bible College, he has since completed studies resulting in a Certificate of Master Christian Counselor and a Doctor of Divinity Degree.

Congratulations, Dr. Green!



COGVA Budget			
August 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016			
Categories	Budget	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr
		Expenses	Expenses
1000 State Office			
1100 Business Office	\$3,500.00	\$905.49	\$ 424.37
1200 Insurance	\$14,800.00	\$3,491.00	\$110.50
1300 Office Manager	\$14,437.50	\$3,609.36	\$2,406.24
1400 Income Taxes	\$3,320.00	\$879.82	\$586.54
Subtotal	\$36,057.50	\$8,885.67	\$3,527.65
1500 Chair	\$800.00	\$	\$
Subtotal	\$800.00	\$	\$
2000 State Minister			
Reimbursement Fund	\$16,050.00	\$1,423.05	\$1,466.56
Subtotal	\$16,050.00	\$1,423.05	\$1,466.56
3000 Executive Council/Standing Ministries			
3100 Executive Board	\$800.00	\$	\$
3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials	\$300.00	\$38.20	\$57.85
3300 Ministry of Christian Education	\$75.00	\$	\$
3400 Ministry of Evangelism	\$50.00	\$	\$
3600 Ministry of Program	\$2,000.00	\$24.32	\$765.64
3800 Ministerial Fellowship	\$100.00	\$	\$
3900 Church Property Team	\$75.00	\$	\$
Subtotal	\$3,400.00	\$62.52	\$823.49
5000 Property and Maintenance			
5110 Camp Bedford			
5110 Caretaker	\$5,000.00	\$1,250.01	\$833.34
Health Insurance	\$840.00	\$210.00	\$140.00
5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)	\$1,000.00	\$	\$
Capital Improvements	\$750.00	\$	\$
Vehicle Maintenance	\$300.00	\$	\$

Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising	\$500.00	\$	\$
5140 Utilities	\$6,000.00	\$968.59	\$726.10
Subtotal	\$14,390.00	\$2,428.60	\$1,699.44
5200 Camp Christi			
5210 Caretaker	\$26,565.12	\$6,641.28	\$4,427.52
5220 Health Insurance	\$7,000.00	\$1,788.00	\$1,192.00
5250 Utilities	\$14,000.00	\$4,739.58	\$1,406.46
5260 Maintenance	\$4,000.00	\$	\$350.00
Camp Christi Mkt/Advertising	\$500.00	\$	\$
5270 Capital Improvements	\$750.00	\$	\$
5280 Vehicle Maintenance	\$500.00	\$	\$
5300 Legal Fees	\$500.00	\$48.50	\$45.20
5400 Ministry Expenses	\$300.00	\$	\$
Christmas Bonus	\$1,300.00	\$	\$1,300.00
Subtotal	\$55,415.12	\$13,217.36	\$8,721.18
Total Expenses	\$126,112.62	\$26,017.20	\$16,238.32
Total Income		\$23,974.31	\$16,067.63
Difference		\$(2,042.89)	\$170.69

Mark Your Calendar

January

16th Martin LutherKing Day

28th Men's Ministry Training, Roanke FCOG, 10:00 am, COGVA Chair Rev. Dick Gilbert/Speaker

February

18th 8, 2017 - 12:00-2:00 PM - COGVA CWC Eastern Region Luncheon. Theme: "Moments of Peace" - Speaker: Minister Lori Egan, Riverside Church of God

March

16th -17th COGVA Ministers Fellowship, Information forthcoming

31st - April 2nd COGVA State Youth Convention

April

28th -29th C.W.C./W.C.G. Convention Riverside CHOG/Fredericksburg

May

21-26 Indoor Camp Meeting/Mounatin Empire District hosted at Chilhowie FCOG

June

28th – July 1st Middler Camp grades 1-5

July

10th – 15th Junior and Senior High Camp

30th – August 5th COGVA State Camp Meeting, Rev. Mitchell Birch, Preaching Evangelist, Rev. Jimmy Crumley, Worship Evangelist

What is the Children of Promise Ministry?

Children of Promise, Inc., was established to provide financial assistance for programs to aid needy children in ministries of the Church of God* outside the United States. The ministry desires to have a program in every developing country where the Church of God has functioning congregations.

At present, Children of Promise's purpose is unique within the Church of God Movement. Children are the future leaders of the Church and the communities of the world. Many of them are being denied a promising future because of poverty, lack of education, and disease. Children of Promise is committed to providing assistance in these areas, to introducing each child to Christ, and to providing spiritual nurture. The organization is committed to helping build young lives all over the world that will be physically and spiritually healthy, as well as productive in the Church and community. Your sponsorship and donations work hard to help Children of Promise fulfill its purpose.

It is gratifying to see that children who have been sponsored for a number of years are now entering professional studies, trade

schools, Bible training schools, and seminaries. The Children of Promise sponsorship program has given them the health care, nutrition, education, spiritual nurture, and encouragement needed to become servant leaders and participants in their local congregations and communities. This is a goal for each participant of Children of Promise.

Thank you to the thousands of sponsors and churches who have and are supporting the effort to rescue, restore, and release children bound by poverty and despair. HOPE is being delivered to each child – and that is because of the wonderful sponsors and friends who faithfully support their children and the ministry of Children of Promise. God bless you.

*Children of Promise, Inc., is affiliated with the Church of God, headquartered in Anderson, Indiana. Children of Promise was started jointly in 1992 by the Women of the Church of God and the former Missionary Board of the Church of God (now Global Strategy). In 2002, Children of Promise was granted official non-profit status. As an independent non-profit organization, its ties to the Church of God

are fundamental. Children of Promise collaborates with Global Strategy and other divisions of Church of God Ministries, Inc., as it carries out its ministry to children around the world.

For more information about Children of Promise, go to <http://www.echildrenofpromise.org/>



Church of God in Virginia

4704 Roanoke Road
Christiansburg, VA 24073

PHONE:
(540) 268-2040
FAX:
(540) 268-2040

E-MAIL:
brobob4691@gmail.com

cogvaoffice@gmail.com

something
BIG
08.04.2017

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.cogva.com

Insights for the New Year (continued)

Make the effort to shift your thinking away from the "rear-view," and renew your spirit and mind.

- Remember that God does things for you:

I firmly believe God doesn't do things to us, He does things for us. For our growth. For our benefit. For our character inside His kingdom. So the storms you face, the doubts you have, the fears you harbor in your heart? Those are all things to be transparent about and unashamed of.

If God has brought you to a situation, it'll benefit you in the end, even if it's outside the plan YOU see for yourself. Romans 8:18 says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

Whatever God is bringing you through? It'll all be worth what God is bringing you to.

- You're not abandoned: We've just finished celebrating Christmas, where we are reminded in

Matthew 1:23 of "Immanuel," God with us.

What this means for us is that regardless of what has happened or what may happen, we won't go through it alone. Whatever you feel you're enduring, the fact that God came to us once means He sees your struggle and doubt. Your worry. Your fear. Your sin. And He'll be there.

May His love and peace find you in this new year!

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 serve over 2,500 constituents each

Sunday Morning. Our current State Leadership consists of Chair - Rev. Dick Gilbert, Vice-Chair – Rev. Henry Haskins, Secretary – Sister Cathy

Atkins, and State Minister – Dr. Bob Neace.

CHURCH OF GOD IN VIRGINIA

4704 Roanoke Road
Christiansburg, VA 24973