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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)

Noted Local Author Releases Her First Book



Nicole Quarles-Martinez singing books at Lucy Addison Middle School

Announcing the latest highly anticipated book of poetry from Roanoke, VA author Nicole Yvette Quarles-Martinez. Outskirts Press, Inc. has published **As the Heart Blooms** by talented local Author, Nicole Yvette Quarles-Martinez. The authors most recent book to date is a 6x9 hardback edition with jacket in the poetry category and is available worldwide on book retailer websites such as Barnes & Noble, Books A Million, BookAdda.com, Ingraham Books, Abebooks, Mightyape.com, Bokkilden, Inmondadori.com,

Bokus.com, Cdon.com, Adlibris, Half.com, Ebay, Lehman Book Store, Waterstone, Saxo.com, Tanum Books, Super Book Shop, Exclusive Books, etc. Martiniez's **As the Heart Blooms** is also being sold at international stores in India, Germany, Spain, France, Asia, Australia, Europe, Greece, England, Brazil, China, Denmark, etc.

Author Martinez's new release, **As the Heart Blooms** is a sparkling compilation of insightful, breathtaking, thought-provoking, sensational and inspiring poetry that adopts psychological mechanisms of healing through creative expression and spoken word. Nicole Martinez chooses to penetrate issues relating to love, relationships, faith, betrayal, self-esteem, infidelity, humor, hope, denial, loss, adventure, addiction, passion, success, illness, family, salvation, entertainment, birth, culture, depression, eliminating ineffective behaviors from one's daily diet, and commitment. Martinez illuminates a delicious charm with the experience of life, love,

acceptance, and the pursuit of happiness. **As the Heart Blooms** is a rich and intimate portrait of love that takes a telescopic snapshot of the heart's core and where it chooses to survive. It provokes self-examination, laughter, joy and tears as the Author examines the miracles, reality, and obstacles of everyday situations, as well as the pleasures of life when it is infused with love.

The Author's writing is stylish, graceful, intelligent, and comical. She characterizes her poetry as an elegant bouquet of beauty and wonder, a garden of delightful expressions that promotes strength, growth, and an awakening of the spirit, and readily tells her readers – Get ready to fall in love all over again, (or for the very first time) as your heart blooms.

About the Author: Nicole Yvette Quarles-Martinez has been writing poetry since the early age of eleven. Martinez is a graduate of Hollin's University, where she received her Bachelor's Master's degree in the (Cont. on page 10)

Spring Minister's Gathering
 Twenty-First Street Church of God, 1601 N. 21st, Richmond, VA,
 Rev. Silas Oliver – Host Pastor April 4-5, 2013



Session I 10:30 am Friday, April 4, 2013

- Introduction to crisis & crisis intervention
- Crisis reactions
- Crisis intervention
- PCI* vs pastoral counseling

Session II 10:15am Saturday April 5, 2013

- Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)
- SAFER-R-PCI model
- Common problems
- Common mistakes
- Self-care issues

*PCI-Pastoral Crisis Intervention

Trevor Belcher, Ph.D. serves as an Assistant Professor teaching undergraduate psychology and graduate counseling courses. Trevor is an ordained minister with the Church of God and preaches regularly in various settings.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH:

- 10:00 AM Registration and greetings at 21 ST. Church of God
- 10:30 AM Worship & Teaching Session With Dr. Belcher
- 12-1:30 PM Lunch on Your Own (Various Ministry Teams Should Try To Meet Together Over Lunch)
- 2:00 PM Executive Board Meeting
- 2:00 PM Alternative Session for Laity and Spouses With Minister Lola Dixon, Pastor of Shell Road Church of God in Hampton, VA. Her Topic is "I Had To Go Through It."
- 3:30 PM Free Time or Overflow Time of Meetings/Sessions
- 5-6:30 PM Dinner at Twenty First Street Church of God
- 7:00 PM Worship Service With Dr. Trevor Belcher



Minister Lola Dixon

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH

- 9-10 AM Devotions and Communion Service (Rev. Silas Oliver)
- 10:15-11:45 Session II – Closing Session with Dr. Belcher

For hotel information and availability, click this link: <http://hotelguides.com/virginia/richmond-va-airport-hotels.html>

I was Just Thinkin... Rev. Dr. Bob Neace, COGVA State



**Dr. Bob Neace COGVA
State Minister**

I hope you are making plans to attend the Spring Minister's gathering to be hosted by the Twenty-First Street Church of God in Richmond, VA Friday and Saturday April 4-5. Please see the flier in this issue of COGVA News for more information.

As I sit here writing this editorial, one cannot help but be overwhelmed with the gravity of items in the national news. From the scare of terror in the skies, policies designed to rip at the moral fabric of our country, to even local issues of a religious extremist losing his life in the name of religious freedom by handling snakes (yes, you read right and NO, NOT ONE OF OUR GUYS!!!), there is enough to keep any Christ-follower awake at night. That being said, I'd like to remind each of us the thing that brings comfort to my soul in trying times. It is this – God is still in control, and even in all things, He has promised he'd never leave us, nor forsake us. It is comforting to know that as long as we are His, He will take care of His church, provide for His church, protect His church, and eventually call His church home to be with Him forever. I thank God He has allowed me to be part of His church.

Finally, you may notice there is no budget in this issue of COGVA News. Next month we will be rolling out a new format for the last half of this fiscal year that will enable us to print the budget without using excessive multiple pages. Each quarter will be consolidated for its specific information, and only the months in the current quarter will be listed. This will enable the budget to be printed with a font size legible to most reading the budget. I ask for your patience in this as we endeavor to serve better. Should you find the need for this month's current income and budget expenditures prior to the April issue, please feel free to let me know, and I'll forward it to you in its current format.

May the Lord continue to bless the Church of God in Virginia, and its members individually.

Brother Bob

COGVA Blessed With Budding Authors



It is interesting that the lead article for this month's COGVA News features Nicole Yvette Quarles-Martinez and the release of her first book. When the article was submitted last month, it was not realized until now that there are budding authors on several fronts in COGVA.

Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green III has been asked to write two devotions for

"Pathways" periodical and are scheduled to be printed in the December – February issue this year.

Rachael Baez (W.C.G. President), has been asked for a devotion to be published in this year's Christ's Birthday Offering/Devotional for the Christian Women Connection.

Additionally, Abigail Neace has a poem

entitled "Teapot" that has been published and can be seen in the April, 2014 issue of Highlights magazine.

Members of COGVA should be proud of our budding authors, as our history is that the message of the Church of God has been spread far and wide through singing and written media.

W.C.G. Happenings



.The was much excitement as seventy women from the eastern region of Virginia gathered in Williamsburg for their annual prayer banquet, We were blessed to have Tammy Clark from Lynchburg as our guest speaker. It was evident from the moment she started her talk that God was in our midst and speaking to our hearts. Sister Tammy

passionately reminded us that we are rare and priceless diamonds, and we belong God. God desires to care for us and use us. God not only knows about His diamonds but He loves His diamonds. The afternoon ended with the ladies gathered in a circle lifting up the needs that were brought to our attention.

The annual spring convention will be held April 25-27 at Joynes Road Church of God. The women are encouraged to come out and experience what God is doing in the WCG.

Spiritual Growth – “Guard Your Heart”



Proverbs 4:23-26 instructs believers to “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways.”

When Solomon refers to guarding the heart, he really means the inner core of a person, the thoughts, feelings, desires, will, and choices that make up the whole being of that person. The Bible tells us that our thoughts often dictate who we become (Proverbs 23:7, 27:19). The mind of a man reflects who he really is not simply his actions or words. Just as there are many diseases and disorders that can affect the physical heart, there are many ailments of the spiritual heart that can impair growth and development as a believer. Atherosclerosis is a hardening of the arteries due to accumulated

cholesterol plaques and scarring in the artery walls. Hardening of the spiritual heart can also occur. Hardening of the heart occurs when we are presented with God’s truth and we refuse to acknowledge or accept it.

Although Egypt was stricken with one calamity after another when the Pharaoh refused to release the Israelites from their bondage, he hardened his heart against the truth that God Almighty intended to deliver His people from Egypt. In Psalm 95:7-8, King David pleaded with his people not to harden their hearts in rebellion against God as they did in the wilderness. There are many things that can harden the heart and lead a person to deny God and just like cholesterol blocks blood flow, they keep a believer from having a free flow of God’s peace and blessings derived from obedience. Guarding against a rebellious spirit and cultivating a spirit of submissive obedience to God’s Word, therefore, is the first step in guarding the heart.

Heart murmurs are abnormal flow patterns due to faulty heart valves. Heart valves act as doors to prevent backward flow of blood into the heart. Spiritual heart murmurs occur when believers

engage in complaining, gossip, disputes and contention. Believers are instructed many times to avoid grumbling, murmuring and complaining (Exodus 16:3; John 6:43; Philippians 2:14). By engaging in these activities, believers shift their focus away from the plans, purposes, and past blessings of God to the things of the world. God sees this as a lack of faith and without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Instead, Christians are instructed to strive for contentment in all things, trusting in God to provide what is needed in His good time (Hebrews 13:5). Guarding against a complaining spirit and cultivating a spirit of gratitude and trust is the second step toward guarding the heart.

Congestive heart failure is an inability of the heart to successfully pump blood through the body due to weakness within its walls. Congestive heart failure can result from hypertension (high blood pressure), heart attacks, and abnormal enlargement of the heart. The spiritual equivalents are anger, giving in to temptation and pride. Of all of the deadly sins, anger can be the hardest one to avoid. Anger acts like a poison on the body, both physically and spiritually and makes a believer more vulnerable to the temptation to hurt others with actions

and words.

Ephesians 4:31-32 instructs, “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you.” Proverbs 16:18 tells us that pride leads to destruction. Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden by appealing to her ego. He said, “For God knows that when you eat from the forbidden tree your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Eve desired to be as wise as God, so she yielded to Satan’s advice to eat of the fruit of the tree. Pride was, therefore, the downfall of man.

Avoiding anger, pride and temptation are also critical elements of guarding the heart. The Apostle Paul instructs us, “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praise worthy – think about such things” (Philippians 4:8). Dwelling on these things will help to build a guard fence around the heart.

Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green, III

Warner Press Officially CHOG Publishing Co. (again)

“From the movement’s birth, the publishing house of the Church of God has been a core component of ministry”

At the beginning of January, the publishing work of Church of God Ministries in Anderson, Indiana, was reintegrated into its subsidiary, Warner Press, Inc. This ends a fifteen-year period in which curriculum, books for the Church of God, and hymnals have been produced by Church of God Ministries and distributed under the Warner Press brand.

“Warner Press was established in 1880 as the publishing house of the Church of God,” says Warner president Eric King. “With this step, Warner Press again truly becomes the official publishing house of the church. All of the duties, responsibilities and decisions pertaining to this area are again consolidated within the Warner Press organization.” Warner

Press continues to have a significant role in the Christian retail market as a producer of church supplies, children’s books, and ministry resources.

King also announced that Warner Press has repaid all long-term debt incurred in a major restructuring of the company in 1999. He called this a “genuine success story” for the church.

Editorial staff who worked at Church of God Ministries have now joined the Warner Press team. Joe Allison, who served for the past nine years as coordinator of publishing at the national offices of the Church of God, is now editorial director of curriculum and discipleship resources for Warner Press.

“From the movement’s birth, the publishing house of the Church of God has

been a core component of ministry,” explains Jim Lyon, general director of Church of God Ministries. “Church of God Ministries is committed to working as a team with Warner Press, developing content and product lines that advance the kingdom on every front where the Church of God stands—and for the larger body of Christ, as well. To this end, we are excited about not just a partnership, but the merging of our creative publishing team into the ministry at Warner Press. At every level, we are working to enhance, strengthen, and maximize our resources to empower the church.”

Visit the website of the Church of God publishing house, Warner Press, at www.warnerpress.org.

(Article sourced from <http://chognews.org/2014/03/05>)

Deadline for Early Registration for North American Convention Rapidly Approaching

The dates for North American Convention are June 23 – 26 in Crossings Church of God in Oklahoma City, OK. The deadline for early registration is March 15, 2014. The cost for registration, which does not include hotel accommodations, is \$95.00 by March 15, \$125.00 prior to June 23, and \$150.00 if you wait to register at the door. There is a special registration rate for

families with children and those with multiple people form their household attending. In order to get that rate, contact Sue Baird at 800-848-2464 ext. 2130

For those wishing to attend via internet feed at Madison Park CHOG in Anderson, there is a \$40.00 registration fee. Participation in North American Convention through this option allows registrants to participate in the General Assembly

which will take place June 25 (1:00-4:30 Central Time) and June 26 (8:00 – 10:00 Central Time).

This is an important time in the life of the Church of God, and participation from those on the field is very important. Would you please consider the feasibility of making it possible for your pastor to attend one of these venues for the North American Convention of the Church of God?

“In order to get the family rate, call Sue Baird at 800-264-2130, ext. 2130.”

Questions Concerning Church of God Logo

There has been much discussion over the new logo for Church of God Ministries. The following is an excerpt from a letter from Jim Lyon, General Director of Church of God Ministries: “

Soon after I arrived on the job, Church of God Ministries began to review its logo. Introduced for the first time in 1980 (one hundred years after the Movement’s beginning), the familiar-to-some-but-not-to-others flame art posed a few challenges. Panned when it arrived on the scene as “sectarian,” bearing too much likeness to denominational imprints already then in play (e.g. the United Methodist Church), today it is even more similar to other, newer faith brands (see for instance the Metropolitan Community Church logo—a group with some emphases quite different from our own). The flame logo has never been embraced by the whole church (nor was it necessarily intended to be) and is unknown in many (if not most) of our congregations across the country.

Furthermore, the flame does not communicate abroad what many of us take for granted in the United States and Canada. In western Christian culture historically, fire has been seen as an emblem of the

Holy Spirit – And with good reason, found in the Bible (e.g., the Holy Spirit descended on Pentecost in the form of visible tongues of fire, famously). In the Orient, though, this symbolism for the Holy Spirit has little traction. Fire can suggest many other themes (in Hindu India, e.g., fire often burns before the idol, inspiring worship) and rarely would lead an unbeliever to think about Jesus. Even in the Occident, traditional Christian emblematic representations are falling out of the common cultural core and do not speak as they once did.

There is one symbol, however, which is recognized universally, in every place Jesus has been preached, as the mark of the Gospel and that is the Cross. If Jesus is the subject—and I believe He is—the beginning and the end, the Word become flesh, the Way, the Truth, and the Life—then the Cross is His signature.

I listened to the graphic designer engaged in the development of the new logo present a very careful and reasoned case for the how and why of the new look, developed by his hand (after elaborate research and exploration of core ideas and themes, listening to Church of God people) and understood it. But, my assessment of the

look was much simpler and straightforward: (a) the logo places the Cross at the center—in the middle of everything; it makes Jesus the subject (the appearance of the Cross in the logo was strengthened, after initial response and review contended it was too faint), (b) whatever the pieces of my world might be, whatever the challenges, the relationships, the shapes and sizes of life, they all come together at the Cross—Jesus makes everything whole, (c) the circular form of the logo spoke to me clearly of wholeness, unity, holiness: something shattered and disparate coming together, again, drawn together by the Cross. It’s all about Jesus.

Of course, it’s a subjective exercise, discerning messages from art, ink stamps, logos, and the rest. And, like the flame introduced on letterhead in 1980, no church or agency or pastor or school is required to employ the brand. But, in a world of global exposure—when thousands can access our website from every continent every day—when correspondence I send reaches not just to Kokomo but Kolkata, the Cross-in-the-middle, pulling all things together in unity, is an imprint I believe will serve Church



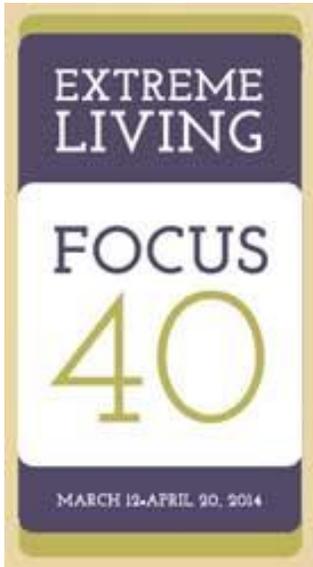
of God Ministries well.

Some today have panned the Cross-in-the-middle logo as others did the three-colored flame in an earlier age. Some have readily grabbed it, praised it, and already employed it in their ministry publications and online presence. Whatever imprint our state and local ministries use, let’s focus our message on Jesus. Making Him the subject is our best hope for coming together and changing the world.”

I trust this excerpt helps to explain the new logo for CHOG Ministries. For those wishing to employ the new logo, you can go to: <http://chog.org/search/node/logo> for easy download. For the time being, the COGVA News masthead will carry both logos.



Focus Forty Begins March 12, 2014



This is your resource location for the prayer and fasting emphasis of the Church of God leading up to Easter 2014. The dates for this year's emphasis are March 12–April 20, 2014. This year's theme is "Extreme Living." Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10 NIV, emphasis added).

We believe that God wants to use his people to take back what the Enemy, Satan, has stolen. On one occasion, when faced with this type of enemy opposition, Jesus' disciples were feeling frustrated and defeated.

They asked Jesus, "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?" (Matt 17:19 NLT). Jesus responded to them by saying it was "because of the littleness of your faith" (v 20 NASB). He goes on just a bit later to say that "this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting" (v 21 NASB).

The truth is, the power to take back the life that has been stolen rests in our connectivity to Jesus Christ. He himself told us that we connect to him through prayer and fasting.

These forty days have been set aside in the life of the Church of God to do just that. Stories of

miracles and deliverance, provision and guidance, salvation and freedom have all been told as a part of recent years Focus 40 emphasis. We expect God to show up in mighty ways this season as well and want you to be part of that.

In preparation for this Focus 40 "Extreme Living" emphasis, we have assembled a variety of resources to help you promote, plan, and, enhance your forty-day spiritual emphasis. Once you have registered online for free, you will receive access to this wide variety of resources designed for both individual and local congregation use. For resources to promote and participate in this years Focus 40 event, go to:

<http://chog.org/Focus40>

Mark Your Calendars

Spring Ministers

Fellowship – April 4-5
hosted by Richmond 21st
CHOG. Please see full
schedule on page 2

W.C.G. Spring

Convention April 25 – 27
Hosted by Joynes Road
CHOG, Hampton, VA.
For more details, go to
www.virginiachurchofgod.com,
or contact Racheal
Baez at 540-907-2670

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.

Installation of Rev. Dr.

Simeon R. Green III as
Pastor of Joynes Road
CHOG Sunday March 30,
4:00 pm, Rev. Dennis G.
Kidd, Pastor of Front St.
CHOG in Hamilton, OH
Guest Speaker.

Leadership Workshop

June 7, 9:00 – 3:00
Hosted by Joynes Road
CHOG. Theme: “Christ
Compels Us”. Workshop
to be led by Dr. Steve
McMurray and Dr. Bob
Neace and will deal with
reigniting a passion for the
unity Christ compels us to.
Details will follow soon

Southwest Virginia Indoor Camp Meeting

May 18 – 23, Alan
Hutchinson Preaching
Evangelist, Brock
Barnhouse to lead in
worship

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.

Please feel free to
forward calendar
announcements to
drbobneace@virginiachurchofgod.com

Churches With Open Pulpits and Pulpit Supply

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

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

Contact Pulpit Committee
Chair Sylvia McDorman
mcdormans@verizon.net

Atkins First Church of God
6118 Lee Highway Atkins,
VA Church Contact:
Harold Henderlite
hhenderlite@gmail.com
276-591-8996

Congratulations to the
Dublin Church as they
welcome Rev. Christ
McMurray and his family

to serve as their new
pastor, and the
Martinsville Congregation
as they have called Rev.
Todd Conn as their new
pastor. Please keep
these families and
churches in your prayers
as the Lord begins new
works of ministry in each
one

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

Ben Stultz
Reedville, VA
804-453-6647

“If you are a licensed or
ordained minister in the
Church of God and
would like your contact
information published in
COGVA News, please
forward your information
to
drbobneace@virginiachurchofgod.com

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.virginiachurchofgod.com

Back Page Story Headline

There certainly is much to celebrate in the Church of God in Virginia. We are hearing stories of unity service in local areas that are resulting in healed feelings and people being saved, coming baptisms, events in local churches that are designed to encourage and lift COGVA as we serve

Christ together. If you have news of things going on in your local congregation and area that would be an encouragement to your sister churches, please forward those stories to drbobneace@virginiachurchofgod.com for printing in forthcoming COGVA News issues. One of the

mandates found in scripture is that we would "provoke one another unto good works." Let's use COGVA News as a vehicle to encourage and bring about a sense of unity and cohesion across this huge geographic area. Please help us to help others with your encouraging COGVA News.

Noted Local Author Releases Her First Book (Continued)

Field of Clinical Psychology. Her educational background has given her a broad base from which to approach many topics that she includes in her book. Martinez is currently a Clinical Therapist. She is also a model, accomplished classical pianist, guitarist, lyricist, and a Certified Personal Fitness Trainer. She is the recipient of

numerous awards and recognitions for her outstanding accomplishments. Martinez has received the Key to the City (Roanoke, VA) and Proclamation for her successful achievements in pageants, as well as her success in modelling throughout the years. The week of July 25 – 31 has been proclaimed "Nicole

Yvette Quarles" week in honor of her gifts, talents, and abilities. Martinez is a native of Roanoke, VA and the daughter of the proud parents of Rev. Dr. Rawleigh and Barbara Quarles, Pastoral family of Staunton Avenue First Church of God in Roanoke, VA.

Article taken from Roanoke Tribune, Thursday, 23 May 2013

CHURCH OF GOD IN VIRGINIA

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Christiansburg, VA 24073