

# OneAccord

June 2019

## “Unless the LORD Builds the House” International Ministerial Conference

**Journeys and Reflections**  
Jack and Mary Hendren

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**Eight Couples Hosted in Dallas  
for FMP Weekend**

# personal from the president

## Office Building Dedication

On Sunday, May 19, we held a formal ceremony to dedicate the new office. From a biblical perspective, *dedication* is another word for setting apart for a specific purpose—it can be a building, or a person, or a group.

Before building the office, we had to ask ourselves questions: Will this building work for us? Will it be an effective tool for us to preach the gospel to the world? And will it be a tool to assist us in caring for the brethren? Had the answers been *no*, we would have been satisfied with leasing space and not pursued the arduous task of building. But after much thought and prayer, we all agreed that building was the best course of action. When we made the decision to begin this project, we took a deep breath and jumped in!

During the history of Israel, Scripture records the construction of three places of worship: the tabernacle in the wilderness (although technically not a building) and the two temples at Jerusalem. In each case it was God's presence that transformed a tent and, later, two buildings into houses of worship. Solomon's temple was considered one of the grandest buildings ever built—much different from the tabernacle and even the temple that followed. The second temple was considerably different when compared to Solomon's temple. The gold and silver that were so dominant in the first temple were not so dominant in the second temple.

From Haggai, we see clearly that it wasn't about gold or silver, but a matter of where God would dwell. There can be no greater glory for a structure than to have the presence of God associated with it. The Messiah entered the second temple, bringing it more glory than even Solomon's temple (Haggai 2:9).

In preparation for this year's International Ministerial Conference, we selected Psalm 127:1 as the theme. This fit well with the building dedication. The Church is also referred to as "God's building" by the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 3:9).

In the old blue hymnal from the Worldwide Church of God there was a hymn based on Psalm 127, but rather than using an actual quote of the

verse, the hymn used a paraphrase: "Unless the Lord shall build the house, the weary builders toil in vain." The phrase *weary builders* is not in the scripture, but it fits in the hymn.

I can assure you that at times we were all weary of the building process! There were so many details and so many meetings with architects and builders. We met every Thursday for several months, and then it was every other Thursday for several more months. The city of McKinney made some unusual requests of us—a bike path being but one of them. With the process now complete, I can identify with the term *weary builders*, but I don't believe our work was in vain!

It is odd to describe a building by telling you what it is not, but I believe it is appropriate in this case. This building is not a temple or a place of worship. And it is not an extravagant building filled with gold and silver. It is a tool for doing the work we have been called to do—to preach the gospel to the world and to care for God's people wherever they are located. It is the headquarters building of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association.

The new building provides us with the tools we need: a new and expanded studio, an expanded classroom for FI, a much larger conference room for meetings, and a number of empty offices that we can use for expansion. We have our finest work environment since we began in December of 2010. We have a purpose, and we have a plan. We believe this building will provide us with the ability to do our job and do it better. It was all worth it!



**Jim Franks**

President  
Church of God, a Worldwide Association



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## CHURCH of GOD

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**President:** Jim Franks; **Media operation manager:** Clyde Kilough; **Managing editor:** David Hicks; **Copy editor:** Becky Bennett

**Doctrinal reviewers:** Neil Hart, Jack Hendren, Steve Moody, Frank Pierce

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# “Unless the LORD Builds the House” International Ministerial Conference

By Mike Bennett

“The 2019 Ministerial Conference was one of the best I have ever attended over the past 50 years,” said André van Belkum, pastor in New Zealand.

“The valuable and useful material so effectively provided by the presenters will certainly enhance our ability to better serve God and the brethren,” he said. “Much emphasis was placed on the need to focus on leadership development, especially in the international regions where there is a serious lack of ministers.”

## Dedication of the new office

Sunday afternoon, May 19, 454 people attended the dedication ceremony of the new headquarters building of the Church. A chorale of ministers and wives performed “Hymn of Dedication,” followed by opening comments by Chairman Joel Meeker and an address by President Jim Franks. Leon Walker, international liaison, gave the dedication prayer.

After this, the attendees toured the building and enjoyed refreshments and warm fellowship.



## Keynote address

The conference began Monday, May 20, with the keynote address by Mr. Franks. He explained that the office building is just a tool for doing God’s work, but really the conference is about building a house that can’t be destroyed—the Church. It’s about people and their stories.

He showed that stories make up about half of the Bible. The conference would also be about stories that would help with the goals of inspiring and encouraging attendees about the work of preaching the gospel and building the Church, as well as providing opportunities for ministers and wives to be with their fellow workers, sharing stories and making new stories.

## “The Soft Things Are the Hard Things”

In his presentation, Media operation manager Clyde Kilough explained it is easier to measure the reach of our media efforts with hard statistics, but harder to quantify the impact on people’s lives.





He focused on inspiring stories of individuals from widely varied backgrounds who are responding in places like New Zealand, Eritrea, Kenya, Australia, Britain and Burkina Faso.

### “Fifty Framed Together”

Ministerial Services operation manager Doug Horchak’s presentation included announcing new and credentialed elders, as well as those who had died in the past two years.

Other presentations on Monday were “A Firm Financial Foundation,” by Treasurer Britton Taylor; “The Watchmen Stand Guard,” by Mr. Meeker; and a special presentation for ministers who began serving between 1967 and 1969.

### 50 years of service presentations

“It was a great pleasure for Jane and me to be there with so many ministers and experience the atmosphere, the camaraderie and the overall warmth of the ministry amongst each other,” said Paul Suckling, one of the eight men honored for 50 years of

service in the ministry. The recognition for that milestone was “something I never ever thought we would actually reach. It is deeply appreciated by us both,” Mr. Suckling said.

The others recognized for reaching 50 years of service are:

- Larry and Judy Salyer.
- Lyle and Margie Welty.
- Dick Thompson.
- Harold and Loree Rhodes.
- Roger and Andrea West.
- Bob and Ruby Peoples.
- Richard and Judy Rand.

### Tuesday’s presentations

On May 21 attendees heard inspiring reports and stories of members in international areas by Mr. Walker, Dave Baker, Arnold Hampton, Mr. Meeker and, by video, two elders who were not able to attend: Emori Tolo in Fiji and Elifazi Salawila in Malawi.





There were also presentations about Foundation Outreach International by Rhonda Waddle and Foundation Institute by Ralph Levy, as well as instructions for the 2019 Ministerial Board of Directors election.

### New ministers' perspectives

Three recently hired ministers were also asked to share their stories. Nathan Willoughby, Zach Smith and Daniel Harper rose to the challenge and inspired the attendees with their passion for serving God and His people.

Mr. Smith, 32, was highlighted as the first ministerial hire born after the death of Herbert Armstrong in 1986.

Reflecting on his first conference, he wrote, "I was encouraged by the incredible faith and humility of those who have gone before us, serving long and hard in the ministry for decades. ...

"There is an incredible weight of responsibility that is shifting to the laborers of the next generation, but if we share

the same humble approach, giving God the credit along the way and relying on Him to do the spiritual work of changing lives that only He can do, we will labor not in vain. The Builder will continue to accomplish His work so long as the laborers recognize it is truly His."

### International meetings

Wednesday, May 22, the ministers serving in areas outside the United States continued with additional meetings geared to the needs in those areas. The Doctrine Committee also met Wednesday and a half day Thursday.

Saul Langarica, pastor in Chile and surrounding areas, summed up the entire conference this way: "What a great conference we had! I do not think we are mistaken or repetitive to say that this was the best conference we have had up to now. When I say 'best,' I do not only mean the content. I also refer to the wonderful spirit of brotherhood." @👍



## Ministerial Conference Statistics

Overall attendance:	327
International attendees:	52
Webcast connections:	24
Countries represented:	20

# Eight Couples Hosted in Dallas for FMP Weekend

By Doug Horchak

Couples from eight different church areas around the U.S. traveled to the new church office in McKinney, Texas, for two days of training with the Focused Mentoring Program on March 23-24.

The following couples participated (from left in the accompanying picture):

- DJ and Kathy Haney, Akron-Canton, Ohio.
- David and Kim Gatley, San Antonio, Texas.
- Nick and Sarah Slaughter, Austin, Texas.
- Royden and Julie Morgan, Houston South, Texas.
- Cody and Bobbi Kitts, Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio.
- Tom and Victoria Provine, Redding, California.
- Chad and Laetitia Demarest, Orlando, Florida.
- Rod and Loretta Williams, Clarksville, Maryland.

Local church pastors selected couples based on their history and record of service in their local congregations. All of the couples chosen for the Focused Mentoring Program understand that the goal is for them to gain knowledge that will benefit them in their service to the Church as well as help them become more familiar with the pastoral side of the ministry.

During this training weekend, couples had various classes, such as “The Heart of a Servant,” “The Importance of Character and Integrity” and “The Duty to Preach the Gospel and Care for God’s People.”

In addition to the interaction and classes held over this special weekend, Ministerial Services conducts live webinars for the FMP couples once a month on Sunday mornings.

The Church believes strongly that this 12-month experience in the Focused Mentoring Program will be greatly beneficial for all of the couples as they continue to assist and serve God’s people. In addition, we believe and hope that it will be from these couples that God will call men who can serve as future pastors in the Church of God, a Worldwide Association. @👍



# Jack and Mary Hendren



**I**n reflecting on his years in the ministry, retired elder Jack Hendren said that as a young man, he hadn't intended to be a pastor. His boyhood heroes were generals, admirals and

pilots, so he planned for a military career. He completed the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps program concurrent with getting a degree in math and physics from Hanover College in Indiana.

After he and his wife, Mary, graduated from Hanover in 1964, Mr. Hendren went into the Navy and spent most of the next three years in Vietnam.

His career plans began to change in 1969. The Hendrens listened to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast, produced by the Worldwide Church of God, and heard Garner Ted Armstrong talk about Bible prophecy.

"I started listening to *The World Tomorrow* program at 10 o'clock at night from San Francisco. The topic was prophecy and the coming together of a European power and ultimately war. I was in the military and we were at war at the time, so that caught my attention."

The Hendrens sent for literature and the Church's *Correspondence Course*. When Mr. Hendren left for another tour in Vietnam, he took the *Correspondence Course* with him. "I came to the lessons on the 10 Commandments," he said, "and realized I was in the wrong business."

In 1971 Mr. Hendren resigned from the Navy as a conscientious objector, was baptized and began attending the Washington, D.C., congregation of the Worldwide Church of God. For the next 25 years, Mr. Hendren worked in computer sales, marketing and management. He was ordained a local church elder in 1986 in San Jose, California.

## Into the ministry

In 1996 Carl McNair asked Jack Hendren to become a full-time minister and take the New England and Atlantic Canada pastorate. Mr. Hendren said it was daunting to leave his family and regular work in California, and go into the ministry.

"I had no idea how to manage a circuit of nine churches that went from Hartford, Connecticut, to St. John's, Newfoundland."

Some of the difficulties he faced were scheduling time to be in all nine churches, getting to know the scattered members and preparing sermons.

"The only training I had in speaking was Spokesman Club and working in computer sales. Once I was hired as a full-time pastor, I had to get more reference books and practice my sermons."

He remembers the difficulty of counseling as an inexperienced minister, having to rely on God for inspiration.

Mr. Hendren said that even though he was new at the job and speaking was hard, the members were grateful. "The brethren in New England and Atlantic Canada were friendly and appreciative."

Six years later, the Hendrens left New England for an eight-month assignment in Pennsylvania, serving the brethren in Bethlehem, Harrisburg and Lewistown. "When we left those congregations, we had good memories of those early years."

Then it was on to the next stop—Texas.

## Memories

Mr. Hendren has favorite memories about baptisms, weddings and the blessing of little children. He recalls a baptism in Corpus Christi Bay when the waves were so high that he, the associate pastor, the young woman being baptized and her mother all got drenched, and had to hold on to one another to stay upright. At another baptism in the

bay at Rockport, the husband of the woman being baptized waded out some distance beyond to check for alligators. As a longtime resident of the area, he knew gators frequented the spot, “but,” Mr. Hendren said, “he didn’t tell me what he was doing until the baptism was over.”

Mr. Hendren recollects the joy of sharing with three separate couples the progression from baptism to marriage to the blessing of children. “I think it’s absolutely amazing to counsel people for baptism, then to perform their weddings, then bless their children.”

“We have great memories of the last churches we served in Corpus Christi, Harlingen and Victoria. There was such warm fellowship, being drawn into families, sharing fun meals together. We lived in Corpus Christi long enough to have a family feeling for the brethren in those three churches. The serving attitude of everyone made the Sabbath happy. When I couldn’t be there because of being in another congregation, the members looked after one another.”

### Hard times, big lessons

Although most of his memories are good ones, Mr. Hendren said that the biggest lesson he learned as a minister came during the hard times. That lesson was “coming to appreciate that I represent God and am



accountable to Him. It was especially difficult going through church splits; for us it was five different churches of God. The problem,” Mr. Hendren continued, “was understanding what was really going on so that I could guide the congregations in how to obey God. Those were difficult times because sometimes the issues were doctrinal and sometimes involved commandment-breaking. I got counsel from experienced ministers, and we tried to do what was right with what we knew. But it was a trial of faith for us and the brethren as we worked through it.”

### Retired

Now that Mr. Hendren has retired, the Hendrens attend church in Austin, Texas. Mr. Hendren helps with speaking in Austin and occasionally in San Antonio and Victoria. He reviews articles for the Church’s publications and sermons that are posted on the website.

“We’ve always wanted to get involved in the local community, and now we have the time to do so. We volunteer at the library and help out with the Gilbert and Sullivan Society. During the three months of tax season, I prepare tax returns as part of the United Way Income Tax Assistance Program. We are grateful to be retired in Texas with all our family in the same state.” ©A



## On the Road Again

The following are the positions of service held by Jack Hendren from 1994 to the present:

1994-1996 Assistant pastor, San Jose, California  
 1996-1999 Pastor, Fredericton and Sussex, New Brunswick; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Grand Falls and St. John’s, Newfoundland; Providence, Rhode Island; Boston, Massachusetts; Hartford, Connecticut; Bangor, Maine  
 1999-2001 Pastor, Hartford, Connecticut; Bangor, Maine; Boston, Massachusetts; Wadsworth, Ohio

2001-2002 Pastor, Bethlehem, Lewistown and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
 2002-2015 Pastor, Corpus Christi, Harlingen and Victoria, Texas

Mr. Hendren also served as Festival coordinator for Prince Edward Island, Canada (1998); Cape Cod, Massachusetts (1999 and 2000); Kerrville, Texas (2007 and 2012); and New Braunfels, Texas (2015).

# CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?

## ATLANTA-JEFFERSON VARIETY SHOW

On the evening of Feb. 23, 2019, brethren from the Atlanta and Jefferson, Georgia, congregations gathered to enjoy an evening of local entertainment and fun, and they were not disappointed. Master of ceremonies for the evening was Andrew Jenkins, and he introduced 24 acts. Talented brethren performed vocal solos and duets, hilarious skits, poem readings and more.

A highlight of the evening was the debut of the band Stone Deaf Mountain. This new local church band—consisting of Kevin and John Bennett, Bill Lundy, Tim Groves, Daniel Harper and pastor Mark Winner—really livened the evening up. The Atlanta and Jefferson congregations are looking forward to more of their music in the future.

**Donna Quintana**



## BIRMINGHAM RAISES FUNDS AND LAUGHTER

On Feb. 23 the Birmingham, Alabama, congregation had a potluck followed by games and a silent auction. The potluck was delicious as always, and the children enjoyed the organized games provided for them.

The “Not-So-Newlywed Game” was a rousing success that provided a lot of fun and laughter. Mike and Rachael Summy proved just how compatible they are by winning the game and, as an added bonus, received a “ball and chain” trophy.

The brethren donated many things for the auction, including some wonderful homemade items. The auction raised almost \$800 for our activity fund.

We are thankful to all who worked so many hours to make this evening a success and for those who donated to the auction.

**Jerry Johnsey**

## ATLANTA HOLDS FIRST BARBECUE COOK-OFF

On the Sabbath of March 30, the Atlanta, Georgia, congregation had its first Southern barbecue-themed potluck with a best barbecue cook-off.

The variations of chicken, briskets and ribs held up the food line because we had a hard time deciding among the choices. There was also a large selection of baked beans, salads, other sides, drinks and desserts.

The brethren enjoyed good food and a chance to fellowship. Rodney Collier won the title as our first Atlanta barbecue champion.

**Chant'a Collier**





## TWIN AUCTIONS A FABULOUS SUCCESS

The congregations of Morgantown, West Virginia, and Athens, Ohio – Parkersburg, West Virginia, enjoyed two highly successful auctions this winter.

The Morgantown congregation hosted its annual auction on Feb. 23, raising over \$1,700 through donations, eager bids and more than a couple of good-natured bidding wars.

A week later, on March 2, the Athens-Parkersburg congregation enjoyed its successful auction, raising over \$1,400 as the members bid on each other's various "valuables," ranging from an office chair to jewelry.

The most important aspect of these two evenings—which certainly achieved their purpose of raising money for local congregational needs and to support needy members in Africa—was the warm fellowship and the abundance of laughter enjoyed and shared by God's people.

**Joshua Travers**

## H.O.P. PROJECT BENEFITS FOSTER CHILDREN

The Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation worked together to complete a Hilltop Outreach Program project for Warm Welcomes Foster Care Outreach. Backpacks for 40 children were collected, and each was filled with personal care items, craft supplies, and a blanket and cuddly creature. The bags were delivered to Warm Welcomes to be given to children entering the foster care system.

Over the course of several months, blankets and cuddly creatures were knit, crocheted and sewn in a joint effort by Cincinnati-Dayton crafters and talented ladies in the congregations of several surrounding states. The other bag items were donated by local congregation members.

On Feb. 16, after a potluck with the theme "Family Favorites," Cincinnati-Dayton members worked together to fill the backpacks and make 10 "no-sew" fleece blankets to complete the total of 40 blankets needed. The children of the congregation ensured the cuddly creatures received some advance cuddling, and several men assisted with the cutting of encouraging tags that featured a link to the Life, Hope & Truth website.

**Jennifer Foster**



## HOUSTON SOUTH HONORS SENIORS

Before Sabbath services on Feb. 23, the senior members of the Houston South, Texas, congregation enjoyed a delicious luncheon. Heather Monico, along with several other members, decorated the fellowship hall and prepared a very enjoyable and relaxing lunch of macaroni salad, chicken salad croissants, turkey wraps, fruit, veggies, cheese, fruit punch and desserts.

The Sabbath school children prepared greeting cards for each attendee and helped by carrying their plates to their seats and getting drinks, dessert and anything else they needed. All who were there appreciated the children's efforts and are enjoying watching these young boys and girls grow into fine youngsters.

**Susan Scott Smith**





## AKRON-CANTON GIVES SMITHS SEND-OFF

On the Sabbath of April 27, the Akron-Canton, Ohio, congregation said farewell to associate pastor and wife, Zach and Emily Smith. Though Mr. Smith had served in this capacity for only about seven months, he and his wife had lived in the area since childhood. Many friends and family from other areas attended this special Sabbath service, and the “house was packed,” as we say!

After services, there was a special presentation for the Smiths. Their three daughters, Sophia, Eliza and Hannah, were given handmade crocheted cowgirl boots and purses. Several lovely mementos were presented to the Smiths to remind them of their family and friends in Ohio. Many members wrote down special memories of the Smiths, which were compiled into a scrapbook for them. The choir sang “Irish Blessing,” and a special poem written by one of our retired schoolteachers was read.

The Smiths left us with not only memories, but with a challenge! They presented the congregation with a beautiful serving tray. They challenged the congregation to host each other in their homes. The family that has the tray signs the back of it and is to pass it on to a family they host. This is to continue until the tray has been signed by every family in the congregation.

We will miss the Smiths, but we are also excited for this new chapter in their life serving another part of our family in Texas. God be with you till we meet again!

**Brian Hawk**

## HOUSTON SOUTH ANTICIPATES NEW CHAPTER

Our first potluck of the year was scheduled for March 9, but more was in store for the Houston South church. We received a video sermon from Mr. Franks titled “The Greatness of God,” but the event marking our new chapter was the first visit to our church by Zach and Emily Smith along with their daughter, Hanna. We were thrilled to meet our new minister and family.

After services, the Mexican potluck gave us the perfect opportunity to get acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Though we are very sad to see the Salyers go—they have spent two stints in our area during their years of ministerial service—we enjoyed being introduced to the Smiths and look forward to their move to our area soon. They were in town not only to visit our congregation but to finalize plans for a home in our area.

Surrounded by festive decorations, we enjoyed all the traditional Mexican dishes along with the extra time to visit with friends. The Sabbath is a very special day to begin with, but this one was a triple treat!

**Susan Scott Smith**





We encourage members to send announcements to be featured in *One Accord*. We feature events in members' lives, including baptisms, births, engagements, weddings, significant anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.), and obituaries. Typically they run between 50 and 100 words; however, we ask that all submissions stay under 250 words. Please submit a high-resolution color photo along with the written copy to your congregation's reporter.

## Baptisms



**Emma Lea Bradford**

March 2 was a very memorable day for the Bradford family and the Knoxville, Tennessee, congregation. Emma Lea Bradford, daughter of Rick and Mary Beth Bradford, became a member of God's family! Emma, who is one of our helpful and service-oriented young ladies, was baptized by the pastor of the Knoxville church, Eric Evans. Steve Ferenchiak assisted with the laying on of hands.

Emma is the daughter of Rick and Mary Beth Bradford of Niota, Tennessee, and is a freshman at Cleveland State Community College. She is a former model technician at S&H Dental Laboratory, where her father is an employee. Emma's hobbies include music, art, history and martial arts. She was born in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and grew up in Flintstone, Georgia. Congratulations Emma!

**Judy Swanson**



**Pamela Adames**

Pamela Adames, 27, of the Central New Jersey congregation, was baptized on Saturday, April 7. The ceremony was conducted by Kevin Epps.

Several members also joined Pamela for this occasion at the home of King and Virginia Finlay in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. The water was warm, and the weather was great (partly cloudy, 60-plus degrees).

**Kevin Epps**



**Cynthia Waithe**

Cynthia Waithe was baptized during the Days of Unleavened Bread, on Wednesday, April 24, in Hope Valley, Rhode Island. The ceremony was performed by her pastor, Paul Suckling. Several close friends attended the baptism, which was held on Wayne and Maryse Richmond's back porch. Afterward there was excitement as well as

hugs all around to congratulate her.

In the picture (from left) are Maryse and Wayne Richmond, Mary Lou and Ben Richmond, Cynthia Waithe, Lora and Rene Lallier, and Jane and Paul Suckling.

Cynthia attends in Leicester, Massachusetts, and occasionally in Queens, New York.

**Lorraine Daudelin**



**Dee Leschke**

Dee Leschke was baptized on April 13 by pastor David Jackson at the Jackson home. A deacon, Rod Williams, assisted with the baptism.

Dee is shown in the picture with Mr. Jackson. Dee's husband, George, and their three children, Matthew, Alli and Tyler, along with family friends, were in attendance to celebrate the joyous occasion.

The York, Pennsylvania, congregation is thrilled to welcome another member to the family.

**Rosie Seltzer**



**Sydney Dominguez**

The Buffalo, New York, congregation is pleased to have another baptized member. Sydney Dominguez was baptized April 13.

The baptism was performed at the church hall using an inflatable pool, which allowed the whole congregation to witness this significant event in Sydney's life.

Sydney grew up in God's Church and came to Buffalo for college several years ago. The congregation soon adopted her

as a daughter. She has been a regular contributor to special music and helps coordinate the young Christians club.

Sydney graduated from Jamestown University in 2018 with a degree in nursing and works as a nurse in Fredonia, New York. She is working on furthering her education in her field and also hopes to attend Foundation Institute in the future.

**Stephan M. Koenig**

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## Births



**Marley Eliana Foster**

Marley Eliana joined the Foster family on June 28, 2018. Big sister Isabella loves having a girl on the team!

Parents are Eddie and Shannon Foster of the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation.

**Shannon Foster**

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## Anniversaries



**Sari and Art Verschoor**

Art and Sari Verschoor celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on March 11.

They both grew up in the village of Vlaardingen, Netherlands, and met in their teens. In February 1959 they received

word that their application was approved to immigrate to New Zealand. They celebrated two weddings, the first wedding took place at the Vlaardingen Town Hall before the registrar on March 6, 1959, and the second wedding took place on March 11, 1959, in the Reformed Church. Their parents and grandparents were quick to point out to them that the signing ceremony at the town hall was a mere formality and that the church wedding was to be their "real" wedding.

On March 18, 1959, they boarded a ship at Rotterdam destined for New Zealand. Ahead for them was the unknown but exciting prospect of a new future.

Art's neighbor gave him *The Plain Truth* in the 1970s, and he was baptized in 1972 and ordained an elder on July 3, 2006.

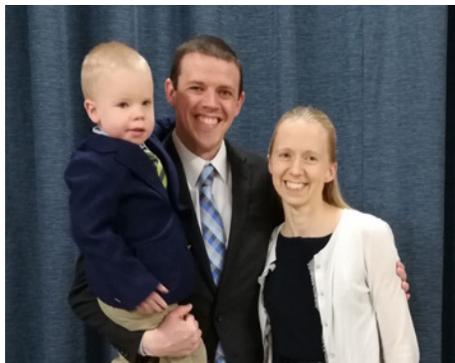
They will celebrate their anniversary in Mudgee, Australia, with their daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Mark Smeed, who are members of COGWA in Australia. Their son and daughter-in-law, Alistair and Irene, who reside in New Zealand, are also planning to be present as well. They are blessed with three grandchildren and five great-grandsons.

Presently Mr. Verschoor serves as an elder in New Zealand and the Pacific region. He and Sari live in Napier, New Zealand.

**Karen Smeed**

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## Ordinations



**Taylor Tootle**

Taylor Tootle of the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation was ordained as a deacon by pastor Lyle Welty during services on April 20, the first day of Unleavened Bread.

Since the formation of the congregation, Taylor and his wife, Erin, have shown a tireless desire to serve the members with a cheerful attitude.

Their son Daniel follows their example by also serving enthusiastically at every opportunity.

Taylor serves in many roles, including setup and takedown, ushering, song leading, and giving sermonettes and sermons.

**Jennifer Foster**



**David Rand**

On the last day of Unleavened Bread, Friday, April 26, David Rand was ordained as an elder to serve in the New England area. His wife, Debbie, and his family were present, along with the members of the Leicester and Lowell, Massachusetts, congregations.

David's father, Richard Rand, participated in the ceremony. He is currently retired and has served in the ministry for 50 years.

The ordination was performed by our pastor, Paul Suckling, who gave the prayer. Also present were elders Martin Cole, Mark Hampton and Brit Railston, who was visiting. In the picture, the Rands are flanked by Mr. Suckling (left) and Dr. Hampton (right).

**Lorraine Daudelin**

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## Obituaries



**Annlee Russell**

Annlee Russell, of Rochester, Pennsylvania, died on Thursday, April 11, just two days short of her 88th birthday.

Mrs. Russell was a beloved member of the Youngstown, Ohio, congregation and had a variety of interests. During her employment years, she worked in the account collections department of the *Beaver County Times* newspaper.

Among her most notable and enjoyable accomplishments: she was a private airplane pilot, a member of the Civil Air Patrol, and an accomplished artist in the medium of oil painting. Mrs. Russell loved to remember people by sending them personalized, handcrafted greeting cards.

She was a member of the Church of God for the past four decades. She will be remembered for her love of God, her love of God's Word and her love of the brethren.

**Dave Myers**



**Arthur E. Ewing Jr.**

After a four-year battle with lung cancer, Arthur E. Ewing Jr. died on Monday, Feb. 18. He was born in Cardington, Ohio, on Dec. 1, 1946. As a young adult, Art moved to Barberton, Ohio, where he met his wife-to-be, Kathy Manis. They were married on Nov. 22, 1969.

They began attending church in the late '70s, and Art was baptized by John Foster on Feb. 2, 1981.

From Ohio they moved to Virginia and finally to Texas for the last 20 years. During those years Art worked in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, owned Ewing Mobile Auto Repair and Service, and was a truck driver.

Family was very important to Art. His focus was firmly fixed on the promise of the coming Kingdom of God, and he relied on the resurrection for strength to face death with grace and confidence.

His memorial was held after church services on March 23. The Houston South church misses his infectious smile and positive outlook.

**Susan Scott Smith**

## Tribute



**Leslie Leroy McCullough**

Leslie Leroy McCullough died on Monday, March 11, in Gladewater, Texas. He was 89 years old.

Les was born in Geneva, Nebraska, on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, 1929, to Arthur and Maude (Bascombe) McCullough. The youngest of six children, he and his family moved in 1935 to Hillsboro, Oregon, where he grew up.

Les married Marion Rothery in Portland, Oregon, on Feb. 29, 1952, and attended the Portland Radio Church of God. Les began a career in retail, working at Kress in its management program.

Les made a drastic career change when he was accepted to Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, in 1957. Les and Marion, along with their daughter Kimberly, moved to Pasadena to attend Ambassador College, where he received his bachelor of arts degree and later a master's degree. Two more children, Lynn and Michael, were born during this time.

Les was ordained as an elder in 1962. He was an instructor in speech at Ambassador College while also working as administrative assistant to the executive committee. During those years he was also the pastor of the Santa Barbara and El Monte, California, congregations.

In early 1965 Les and his family moved to Big Sandy, Texas, where he assumed the position of deputy chancellor at the new Ambassador College campus, a position he held until 1973. At that time Les and Marion were transferred back to Pasadena, where he served as the

international director for the Church, visiting brethren and church offices around the world.

In 1978 Les and Marion relocated to Canada where he took on the duties of regional director for Canada. In 1980 the McCulloughs were transferred to Ohio, where Les pastored the Cincinnati church until 1982, when he returned to his beloved Texas to again serve as deputy chancellor of Ambassador College, Big Sandy.

The winds of change ever blowing, and in 1986 the McCulloughs were transferred to Cape Town, South Africa, where he served as regional director of southern Africa. Les and Marion very much enjoyed their time spent traveling throughout the region and getting to know the brethren in Africa.

From South Africa, they moved to England in 1990, where Les served as regional director for the United Kingdom. Once again, their love of the people and the country made their five years there a pleasure.

In 1995, during the time when Worldwide Church of God was experiencing great upheaval, Les retired, and he and Marion returned to Texas.

Les was appointed as president of United Church of God in 1998, and he and Marion once again moved to Ohio to work at the home office in Cincinnati. They lived there until they returned once again to Big Sandy upon his retirement in 2002.

The McCulloughs attended with the East Texas congregation of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association.

Known to many as "Mr. Mac," Les was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, cars and country music. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Maude McCullough, and siblings Hubert, Herbert, Ida, Vivian and Doyle.

Les is survived by his wife, Marion; two daughters and their spouses, Kimberly and Ron Mabry of Gladewater, Texas, and Lynn and Matthew Gus of Plano, Texas; one son, Michael McCullough of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and his beloved dog, Willie.

**Kimberly Mabry**

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