

# OneAccord

December 2019



# Feast of Tabernacles 2019



# personal from the president

## Lessons From the Feast

I hope all of you had a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles! This was my 57th Feast to attend, and it was very special. I brought home some memories that will stick with me for the rest of my life.

Over the years in the ministry I have enjoyed telling stories from the early years of the Church, so this year I prepared a sermon that I titled “Pioneers of the Kingdom.” The idea came to me after reading a book by David McCullough: *The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West*.

During my sermon, I told some stories about what it was like for my family camping for the first time in the piney woods of East Texas. I also read from Leroy Neff’s autobiography. Mr. Neff died in 2014, and he left behind his unfinished autobiography for his family. They were kind enough to share it with me. He and his wife, Maxine, began attending services in Portland, Oregon, in 1951. In 1953 they made the long journey—about 2,500 miles—to the first Feast the Radio Church of God kept in East Texas.

Mr. Neff described his experience: “Services were long. In fact, everything was long, sermonettes, announcements and the sermons. We had all-day services, morning, afternoon and night. It was difficult with the children, but the spiritual far outweighed the physical discomfort. And as we were sadly leaving the Feast after the eighth day, we were already planning for the next year. Each year we felt it was our best time ever. It was unbelievable.”

This year, during the Feast in San Diego, Earl Rands a longtime member from Washington state, died of a heart attack. We met Mr. Rands and his wife, Gail, on the Wednesday that we departed San Diego for Hawaii, where we kept the second half of the Feast. Mr. Rands was very emotional when he came up to speak to me after my sermon. He was one of the pioneers that made the sacrifices in the early years of the Church. My sermon brought back so many memories for him and his wife. His untimely death during the Feast was sobering for all of us, and the few minutes that we spoke after my sermon will stay with me for the rest of my life.

I left the Feast this year inspired and sobered by the reality of life and the world we live in. I thought about the Feast and asked myself, What did I learn this year? I sat down and wrote out three lessons that stood out for me. I want to share my three lessons.

**1.** This life is temporary. We live in temporary dwellings during the Feast, and we are reminded that everything about us and our lives is temporary. In life you really don’t know when you will do something for the “last time.”

**2.** Rejoice. This is one of the commands for the Feast, but it should be our daily approach to life. We should rejoice and thank God for all He does for each of us every day.

**3.** The Feast teaches us about the millennial reign of Jesus Christ on this earth, and the Last Great Day tells the story of the final step in God’s plan to save mankind. The world will be a very different place during the Millennium, when everyone has access to God’s Spirit.

I truly hope you had a memorable Feast of Tabernacles! In Hebrews 11:13 we are told about the “strangers and pilgrims on the earth” who went before us. I believe that we, as the firstfruits of the Kingdom, are also strangers and pilgrims, and as such, I believe we are the pioneers of the Kingdom!



**Jim Franks**

President  
Church of God, a Worldwide Association



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## CHURCH of GOD

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From all reports, the 2019 Feast of Tabernacles was very well-received.

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Pondicherry, India

# Feast of Tabernacles 2019

**T**he 2019 Feast of Tabernacles was well-received, from all reports. Ministers and Feast coordinators in the U.S. and around the world shared their observations of the positive, inspirational impact of the Feast for God’s people.

All of God’s people, no matter where they were, greatly appreciated the rejoicing, fellowship and the wonderful vision of the future that the Feast prefigures for all mankind. Whether they were meeting with 17 brethren in Guyana, with 200 brethren in Gweru, Zimbabwe, or with almost 1,100 brethren in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina—the brethren in the Church all worshipped the great God and enjoyed His rich blessings during these eight days.

Reading through these various reports from Feast sites around the world, I believe we all appreciate the calling that God has given to us and the inspiring vision of the future that God’s plan gives to all of His people.

**Doug Horchak**



Spokane, Washington

## Sierra de la Ventana, **ARGENTINA**

This year 170 attended the Feast in Argentina, held once again in Sierra de la Ventana. This quiet, laid-back little town is filled with quaint shops and cafés that have a European feel (only logical since 61 percent of Argentinians are of Italian descent).

The sermons, sermonettes and Bible studies were educational and motivating. Saul Langarica and his wife, Carmen, joined us for the second half of the Feast after spending the first half in Lican Ray, Chile.



Activities included a family dance, youth activities, children's party, talent night, ladies' breakfast and Spokesman Club. As well, we had a "Married Couples Night" that included a banquet, lessons from longtime married couples, and a seminar by Mr. Langarica on how to improve our marriages.

At the end of the Feast we had three baptisms: Cicero Lemus and his wife, Renata, and Martina Yapurá.

**Mark and Amalia  
Monsivais**

## Mooloolaba, Queensland, **AUSTRALIA**

The 2019 Feast of Tabernacles in Mooloolaba was filled with many smiling faces, much laughter and a hearty diet of meat in due season. Excellent, helpful messages were given each day.

Our group of 37 greatly enjoyed the opportunity to fellowship before and after services. We took advantage of the ability to gather in small groups, as well as join together in larger group activities. The welcome dinner after the

first holy day was followed later in the week by an outing to the Eumundi Market, a picnic near the beach and a barbecue in the beautiful Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve.

We were happy to share the Feast with several overseas visitors this year. Some traveled great distances, while others came just a short hop across the pond. We tremendously appreciated all those who generously served our small group throughout the Feast.

**Tracy Archer**

## Needham's Point, **BARBADOS**

The Feast in Barbados was held at the Hilton Barbados Resort on the south coast of the island. The average attendance was 90, and the highest was 96. We had two dozen visitors from the United States, along with one from Canada and four from the neighboring islands of St. Kitts and St. Lucia.

Due to a prior contract, we were unable to have an opening night service. The two services on the first day were enhanced by a lunch enjoyed by nearly all

attending. Other activities included an island tour, catamaran cruise and dinner dance.

We were blessed to have Mike and Becky Bennett of headquarters spend the entire Feast with us. And because we were short on speakers, the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation provided us with several video sermonettes, which added immensely to services.

We all enjoyed a truly inspiring Feast as we focused on the Kingdom.

**Arnold Hampton**

## Santa Cruz, **BOLIVIA**

For the fifth time we celebrated the Feast at the Hotel Los Cedros in Santa Cruz. The resort is surrounded by lush vegetation and Amazonian fauna, giving us a taste of the wonders of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

We had 58 people, coming from different cities in Bolivia and three other countries: Chile, Argentina and New Zealand.

God gave us amazing weather, which allowed

us to have all activities as planned. These included a children's party, youth activities, a family dance, an activity for the elderly and a talent show.

A highlight this year was the peace and protection God gave His people—especially considering the social unrest in Bolivia and neighboring countries.

We had varied and abundant physical food, and the spiritual food God provided was just as abundant and encouraging. At the end of the Feast we rejoiced at the baptism of Mauricio Tayarapo, from Santa Cruz.

**Gustavo Mellado**

## Mugina, **BURUNDI**

About 550 people gathered at the church hall in northern Burundi to celebrate this year's Feast of Tabernacles. Members stayed in the hall and at a nearby school and enjoyed hearty meals prepared by hired ladies.

Few members speak French, so services were conducted in Kirundi, the national language. When visiting elder Lee Page spoke in French, his



Mooloolaba, Queensland, Australia



messages were translated into Kirundi. Several training sessions were held to help local leaders better serve their congregations.

Rainy weather often kept us indoors, but the special music choirs happily entertained us with their talents. On one of the few sunny days, we held a sports afternoon. Children and adults enjoyed human wheelbarrow races, three-legged races and the limbo.

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world, and many of our members are new to the truth. The Feast's message of hope resonated with them, and they eagerly look forward to Christ's return.

**Robyn Page**

## Douala, CAMEROON

This year over 20 of the people of God in Cameroon gathered in the church hall in Douala to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles 2019. Members not from Douala lodged in a nearby hotel. We were edified by video sermons recorded for our use. Meals were provided by a local caterer.



Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

A highlight of the Feast was our games evening in which all members, young and old, played an animated game of musical chairs. There were also educational videos shown to the children. It was a very full Feast, and all were sad when the time came to leave.

Our thanks to headquarters for providing the support we needed to be able to celebrate a physical as well as a spiritual Feast.

**Dieudonné Mang**

## Mont-Sainte-Anne, Québec CANADA

The fall weather was crisp and cool, while the fellowship was warm, as almost 60 Feastgoers

rejoiced before the Lord by the slopes of Mont-Sainte-Anne. The fall foliage, the broad Saint Lawrence River and historic Old Québec provided a mix of natural beauty and rich culture for all to enjoy.

Church services were held alternately in French and English with simultaneous translation. Three group luncheons served on-site provided opportunities for all ages to fellowship.

Other activities included excursions to La Citadelle and Vieux Québec, two must-see locations in Québec City. During game night, a Montréal member offered a chess lesson, while others played board games, cards and dominoes. The talent-filled variety show was a highlight

of the Feast, featuring singers, instrumentalists, songwriters, comedians and even a pirate!

Mont-Sainte-Anne was a picturesque setting for focusing on God's awesome plan and imagining the peace and tranquility of the Millennium.

**Daniel Harper**

## Lican Ray, CHILE

For the 16th time, Lican Ray, on the shores of Calafquén Lake in the south of Chile, was a perfect setting for 405 brethren to celebrate God's Feast and remember the amazing plan of God.

The first day we had a windstorm that knocked down huge trees and caused some power outages. But thanks to God's protection, the brethren stayed safe. The following days, the weather was very nice, and we were able to enjoy the beautiful landscape.

All of the activities were carried out as planned. The traditional welcome night for visitors, children's party, family dance and talent show all added to the joy of this Feast. But



San Diego, California



Ejura, Ghana



most memorable of all was the fellowship and shared meals.

As the Feast ended, we rejoiced at the baptisms of Vladimir Méndez, Sebastián Gómez, Roberto Hernández Jr. and his wife, Esmeralda.

**José Carmen Martínez**

## El Rodadero, Santa Marta, COLOMBIA

A total of 100 people met in El Rodadero to celebrate God's Feast. We had members from Guatemala, Peru, Chile and Ecuador. In addition, Ralph Levy was with us for the first half of the Feast.

This year our brethren in Ecuador faced a very difficult situation. At one point travel seemed impossible for them. But our merciful Father intervened, and they all arrived by Wednesday.

What a relief it was to have the "whole family" there!

During the Feast, civil unrest also began in Chile and Bolivia—more signs of the dangerous times we are living in and our need to be close to God.

This Feast was special. The sermons provided the

spiritual food necessary, and the activities allowed all attendees to enjoy unforgettable moments. As a final blessing, we rejoiced at the baptism of Carlos Rodríguez, who attends in Bogotá.

**Eduardo Hernandez**

## Kinshasa, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

We had over 130 people keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Services were held in French and in the local language of Lingala. Sermons were mostly prerecorded sermons provided by the French Department at headquarters.

Members in Kinshasa struggle to cover basic needs, so good meals, provided through a subsidy from the headquarters office, were a high point of the Feast.

Other activities included a fun show, an outing to a children's park and Bible games. Six other church



Montagnac, France

groups in the war-torn interior of the Congo also kept the Feast this year with some help and guidance from the congregation in Kinshasa. These groups of people, who numbered about 300 total, are hoping to become part of COGWA.

**Justin Tshikuma-Manenga and Joel Meeker**

## Torquay, ENGLAND

The lovely waterside Imperial Hotel in Torquay, England, was host to the Feast of Tabernacles celebration for 86 rejoicing Feastgoers.

The Torbay Suite, overlooking the bay, provided a wonderful setting for services and

fellowship. Sermons were inspiring and helpful, with a variety of local and U.S. speakers. As well, Jim Franks' sermon and the special Feast film were both well-received.

God granted ideal weather for the tours, including a visit to the legendary castle ruins of Tintagel, where King Arthur may have ruled in the 500s. We also enjoyed a couple of group meals in the oldest pub in Torquay, The Hole in the Wall, which has been serving meals and drinks to smugglers and businessmen since around 1540. A journey on a river boat followed by a steam train was another highlight.

We are investigating the possible use of the same venue for 2020.

**Peter Hawkins**



Lancaster, Pennsylvania



Lican Ray, Chile



## Pacific Harbour, FIJI

Pacific Harbour, Fiji, was the 2019 Feast site, and for the first time since 2012, it was an all-Fijian celebration with 23 attendees.

It was special because a couple of the men were given the opportunity to lead songs and give sermonettes. The men also enjoyed two encouraging sessions of leadership training in the areas of serving and giving sermonettes.

The ladies were always supportive from behind the scenes, evidenced by the well-prepared and yummy meals enjoyed by all. Their harmonious contribution in various other ways—especially in singing and praising God during services—was always uplifting and a delight to listen to.

The Feast messages—the highlights of the Feast—were all very informative and encouraging. They helped renew our resolve to become better servants now, in preparation for serving the rest of mankind under Jesus Christ in God's Kingdom.

**Emori Toloi**

## Montagnac, FRANCE

The Mediterranean coast was the site for the Feast of Tabernacles 2019, as 94 people gathered in Montagnac, France.

Weather was clement, and fellowship was warm. As usual, services were held alternatively in French and English, and this year we welcomed brethren from Latin America who had arranged their own translation into Spanish.

As is true each year, this site was all-inclusive, one low price per person paid for room and full board, including wine with lunch and dinner. All meals were enjoyed together. Coach excursions visited local villages, vestiges of a first-century Roman farm villa, the 1,000-year-old city of Montpellier, and the city of Aigues Morts, which was built in the 1200s by Louis IX as the launching point of the seventh crusade.

The staff was impressed by the kindness and orderliness of the Festival attendees, and the manager offered the group an aperitif on the Last Great Day to show their appreciation.

**Joel Meeker**

## Ejura, GHANA

The Feast was held at the Women's Baptist Convention Center in Ejura, a remote village north of Kumasi. Our high attendance was 640.

Thanks to the generosity of U.S. brethren, three cows were purchased. This was a real treat because beef is not readily available and is very expensive.

Unfortunately, there were many power outages and a lack of water. Water had to be trucked in one day arriving just before services began.

Besides regular services each day, we also had a general Bible study, a young adult study and a seminar for married couples. During the afternoon the women and men enjoyed playing soccer, as well as cards, something that looked like checkers, and other board games.

The most important part of the Feast—the spiritual food—focused on the Kingdom of God, with messages about God's Spirit, family, rejoicing and praying fervently for God's Kingdom. Sermons were given by visiting minister Mark Whynaucht and four Ghanaian pastors.

**Mark Whynaucht**

## St. George's, GRENADA

What better place to picture the millennial reign of Jesus Christ than on the tropical "Spice Island" of Grenada?

That's exactly what 13 brethren, representing four countries, came together to do!

This small but beautiful island in the Caribbean is known for its abundant sources of cloves, nutmeg, ginger, cinnamon and cocoa. Turquoise waters and clean, white beaches only add to the island's appeal.

What made this Feast truly memorable, however, was the camaraderie and fellowship that our small group shared. Though vastly different in both age and cultural backgrounds, we were bonded by common purpose and hope for Christ's return. We came away with an assortment of messages that reminded us of God's holiness and the need to have a clear vision of God's Kingdom.

Feast activities included an island tour, a family picnic on Grand Anse Beach, spontaneous get-togethers and an



Kerrville, Texas



informal karaoke night.  
It was truly memorable!  
**Osmonde Douglas**

We pray we will all be  
able to attend the Feast of  
Tabernacles in 2020!  
**Luis Mundo**

kindness in making this  
another enjoyable Feast—and  
we look forward to 2020.  
**Gary Atkinson**

explored the city with its  
many historical buildings,  
handicraft centers and  
shops. It was a wonderful  
family Feast!  
**David Baker**

## Antigua, **GUATEMALA**

A total of 550 brothers  
and sisters from the  
United States, Mexico,  
El Salvador, Nicaragua,  
Costa Rica, Panama, Chile  
and Guatemala enjoyed  
the Feast in Antigua,  
Guatemala. The messages  
were encouraging and  
helped us to truly enjoy a  
glimpse of the millennial  
Kingdom.

It was a great blessing  
that while it rained hard  
before we arrived, it was  
sunny during the Feast.

We made unforgettable  
memories at the Sabbath  
reception, where we  
enjoyed a meal members  
of the congregation  
prepared in their  
temporary dwellings. We  
also enjoyed a dessert  
provided by our visitors.

In one sermon the  
inspiring question was  
asked: “How long will  
the spirit of this Feast  
affect us when we return  
home—one day, one week,  
one month, six months?”  
Hopefully, until the Feast  
of 2020!

## Lethem, **GUYANA**

We began services on  
a bright sunny morning  
in the conference room of  
the Kanuku Lodge Hotel,  
giving praise to the Eternal  
for assembling us and  
pointing us toward His  
Kingdom.

The days that followed  
were spent in fellowship  
and unity. The weather was  
very hot, but there was, as  
usual, one huge downpour  
that cooled down the  
temperatures.

Attendance remained a  
constant 17—with 10 adults  
and seven children present  
every day. The messages  
were well-received,  
enjoyed and discussed.  
The headquarters video  
was an instant hit and was  
replayed a few times after.  
New hymns were learned,  
practiced and sung during  
services. There was also a  
“Feast Quiz” so we could  
review what we learned.

All in all, members had  
a wonderful time together.  
We give praise and thanks  
to God for His mercy and

## Pondicherry, **INDIA**

This year the Feast of  
Tabernacles was observed  
by 19 brethren in the  
French colonial city of  
Pondicherry. Members  
from various parts of  
India, as well as the U.S.,  
truly rejoiced for the  
entire Feast.

We were able to enjoy  
all of our meals together,  
which allowed for many  
hours of fellowship,  
helping us to build  
friendships that will last  
for an eternity.

Two individuals from  
India were attending the  
Feast for the first time. It  
is always inspiring to  
witness God’s Spirit  
uniting people from  
divergent cultures and  
languages. The messages  
were inspiring and helped  
us focus on the soon-  
coming millennial reign of  
Jesus Christ.

Pondicherry is located  
along the Bay of Bengal,  
and many members  
enjoyed walking along the  
promenade. In addition, we

## Cortona, **ITALY**

This year over 270  
brethren enjoyed the  
Feast in the small walled  
community of Cortona.  
Cortona seemed almost  
millennial and was a  
wonderful place to share  
the Feast with brethren  
from around the world.

As we walked along  
the streets and piazzas  
and frequented the local  
shops and restaurants,  
we often found ourselves  
among other brethren. So  
fellowship extended well  
beyond the 19th-century  
theater where services  
were held.

Brethren enjoyed  
delicious Tuscan cuisine  
perfectly paired with  
local wines.

Cortona was founded  
hundreds of years before  
Jesus Christ, and some of  
the early stone masonry  
can still be seen today.  
Views from the various  
overlooks were stunning.

**Gary Black**







Giti, Rwanda



Negombo, Sri Lanka



Fort Myers, Florida



Cortona, Italy



San Diego, California



Myrtle Beach, South Carolina



Mapoko, Zambia



Mugina, Burundi





Sierra de la Ventana, Argentina



Mont-Sainte-Anne, Québec



Baguio City, Philippines



Kpalimé, Togo



Santa Cruz, Bolivia



Park City, Utah



Huanchaco, Peru



Branson, Missouri





Benin City, Nigeria



Orange Beach, Alabama

## Runaway Bay, JAMAICA

Sounds of excited greetings gave way to a sudden hushed air of expectancy as 194 brethren gathered at the Jewel Runaway Bay resort in Jamaica and responded to the opening welcome. In the ensuing days the congregation was stimulated by the variety of uplifting sermons, as well as good food, fun and perfect weather.

There were Bible studies for all ages and an instruction class for the little children. Planned activities included a visit to the Dunn's River Falls and the Green Grotto Caves, family sports and a family talent show. Thus, another Feast of Tabernacles completed the cycle of God's salvation plan.

**Madge Thompson**

## Salima, MALAWI

The best-ever Feast was held at Half London Lodge in Salima. A total of 128 attendees rejoiced before the Lord with encouraging sermons about the world tomorrow. Halfway through the Feast, we were blessed to have visiting

minister Ken Giese with his cheerful wife, Kathy.

Most of the afternoons were spent at the lake, where we had delicious buffet meals and various activities, including swimming, a tug-of-peace in the water between women and children, and a sack race.

For the first time, the church in Malawi had a senior citizens' treat. The 14 seniors enjoyed a tasty dinner of "chambo" (tilapia), spiced with digestive wines.

We closed the Feast with a barbecue and talent show. The youths displayed their wonderful talents, music, drama, etc.

As usual, the Feast had blackout challenges. However, the Feast spirit overwhelmed the negatives. Hence, it was endorsed as the best-ever Feast!

**Tielmans Chirwa**

## San Miguel de Allende, MEXICO

This year the Feast of Tabernacles was celebrated once again in San Miguel de Allende. Our highest attendance was 255, with members attending from Mexico, the U.S., Chile and Guatemala. We thank God for the great unity, joy

and happiness we enjoyed this year.

We had a variety of inspiring messages about our exciting future in the Kingdom of God. Sermons were about learning to be like God, anticipating a better world to come, God's promises for His people, and God's plan of salvation.

Other highlights were a welcome activity for the international brethren, a family dance, a children's day that included piñatas and sweets, a luncheon for the elderly, and Family Day held at a very nice park. We were blessed with wonderful weather.

We are anticipating again holding the Feast in San Miguel de Allende next year.

**Lauro Roybal**

## Lake Taupo, NEW ZEALAND

Lake Taupo hosted over 50 brethren, including 15 from the U.S. and three from Australia. We were inspired by the Feast message from Jim Franks and the video about the growth and development of the work of the Church. Our guest speaker and his wife, Eric and Jeannie Evans, joined us midway through the Feast. Many of the

sermonettes and sermons focused on the important part the firstfruits will have in assisting Christ in reeducating all nations to God's way of happiness, peace and prosperity.

Activities included a family evening of fun and games after the first holy day and a visit to the nearby town of Rotorua, where members participated in luge and gondola rides. The Feast dinner and the luncheon for those over 50 again proved popular and enjoyable. The youth enjoyed an afternoon of sports events—football (soccer) and basketball—followed by an evening dinner.

We are already preparing for Feast 2020!

**André van Belkum**

## Benin City, NIGERIA

Around 40 brethren kept the Feast in Benin City, Nigeria. All of the brethren stayed together at the Randekhi Royal Hotel and enjoyed meals and fellowship together. Most of the meals consisted of rice, chicken, yams, fufu (made from cassava) and croaker (a fish named for its croaking sound). Thanks to donations from brethren in the United States, one





Runaway Bay, Jamaica

evening everyone enjoyed a special buffet meal and a drink of his or her choice.

On Monday we had a movie night for the children. On Tuesday evening most of the brethren participated in a variety show. This was extremely entertaining and consisted of dancing and singing.

Wednesday we had services very early so visiting minister Mark Whynaucht and his wife, Cheryl, could catch their plane to Accra, Ghana. During the service we had the blessing of little children.

We really appreciated how welcome the brethren made us feel.

**Mark Whynaucht**

## Huanchaco, PERU

Huanchaco, a beautiful seaside resort 415 miles north of Lima, was once again the site of the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day for almost 190 people. We had visitors from Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico—and our visiting minister, Ralph Levy, from the U.S.

The Feast overflowed with joy as we saw old friends once again and met others for the first time. Activities began with a welcome dance after the first holy

day and included events for the elderly, singles, ladies, teens and children. There were even seminars to help husbands and wives improve their marriages.

We enjoyed a children's party with games and gifts, a talent show, more dancing and fun, and beach games that provided opportunities for fellowship.

Special mention should be made regarding the baptisms of three members: María Chacaltana, Xiomara Saavedra and Alfonso Herrera. God richly blessed His people.

**Carlos Saavedra**

## Baguio City, PHILIPPINES

The Feast of Tabernacles in Baguio City started with great weather—cool and comfortable for most Feastgoers. And the fine weather stayed with us even to the end of the Feast, in contrast to previous Feasts that had rain and humidity.

There were 276 attendees, of which almost all were Filipinos. Our special speaker, Leon Walker, and his wife, Reba, were very warm and all smiles. It is always encouraging to have guests from headquarters.

The sermon from

Jim Franks and all the video messages from headquarters were very inspiring to all of us.

The Feast is indeed a great time for all of us from the many different islands in the country to keep the Feast in one location. Most of us see each other only on this occasion. We thank God for His wonderful Feast!

**Eriz Dizon**

## Giti, RWANDA

A total of 78 members celebrated the Feast in northeastern Rwanda in 2019. Weather was warm for the season and pleasant. Members profited from meaty spiritual food supplied by recorded video sermons. A highlight was the opening night sermon recorded by Joel Meeker: *Ad Astra Per Aspera*, about heading for the stars through the trials of life. We enjoyed warm fellowship and a spirit of service toward each other.

The members in Rwanda wish to express their thanks for the financial assistance provided by headquarters, which allowed us to be well-supplied and to eat well during the Feast.

**Jean-Marie Mundeli**

## Uvongo, SOUTH AFRICA

Once again, the Feast was held in Uvongo on the east coast of South Africa. We were blessed with beautiful weather each day and low humidity for this time of the year.

We had an average attendance of 84, with a high of 91 on the morning of the Eighth Day.

This year we were blessed to have Clyde and Dee Kilough share the Feast with us. Inspiring sermonettes and sermons added to a spirit of peace and harmony as we rejoiced before our great God.

Activities included a family dance, a buffet lunch for the seniors, games on the Uvongo Beach for the young and young at heart, and a family lunch and afternoon of games and fellowship.

As usual, the eight days seemed to pass very quickly, but it was a wonderful Feast, and we all left for our homes on a spiritual high.

**Neville Smith**

## Negombo, SRI LANKA

The Feast of Tabernacles in Negombo, Sri Lanka, was



observed by 36 brethren, who enjoyed warm tropical breezes on the shores of the Indian Ocean at the beautiful Goldi Sands Resort. Members from seven countries (Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand and the U.S.) shared meals together and rejoiced in fellowship. Messages focused on preparing to serve with Christ in the wonderful world tomorrow.

The Goldi Sands Resort provided a delightful selection of international cuisine choices, which added to our Feast joy.

We had the opportunity to tour the market areas of Negombo and visit an elephant orphanage. Other activities included a karaoke night, Family Day and a talent show. The Feast in Negombo was truly a wonderful reminder of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

**Mike Hanisko**

## Kpalimé, TOGO

Unity, serenity, edification and restoration characterized the Feast of Tabernacles 2019 in Togo. Fifteen people attended the site. The inaugural night video sermon, the sermon by Jim Franks and the Feast video set the positive tone for the spiritual side of the Feast. The physical food was delectable as well. We truly “tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come” (Hebrews 6:5).

We also enjoyed our talent show one evening and an outing to the Pic d’Agou, the highest mountain in Togo, where we enjoyed a welcome, refreshing rain.

After the Feast, we returned to our homes in Lomé, reassured and reinvigorated in the faith and confident in the love and faithfulness of our God and Father.

**Guy Ahialebedzi**

## Branson, Missouri UNITED STATES

Branson hosted the Feast for the 24th year, with around 700 members rejoicing before our God. We had members from over two dozen states and five foreign countries, including Chile and New Zealand.

There were lots of opportunities for fellowship, and activities offered something for everyone. Highlights included our Sabbath afternoon fellowship and hymn sing-along and the family dance. One of the more inspiring events was the children’s choir. On the day the children sing we decorate the stage with stuffed animals, and after services each child can choose one to take home.

Weather was cool and sometimes cloudy, but that didn’t dampen our enthusiasm. One new wrinkle this year was the “Acrobats on Ice” show at the theater we used. The ice on the stage was covered with a tarp and carpet each day, but we still had some of our speakers get “cold feet”!

**Mike Blackwell**

## Fort Myers, Florida UNITED STATES

This year just under 100 brethren met at the

Holiday Inn Gulf Coast Town Center in Fort Myers. The majority were from six of Florida’s eight churches, with others coming from around the country to keep the Feast with friends and family. The weather was beautiful.

The messages were very encouraging. Mr. Franks’ recorded sermon, “Liberty for All,” was well-received, and we were given an excellent menu of

## Kerrville, Texas UNITED STATES

After a five-year break, the Texas Feast site returned to Kerrville—a small town in the middle of the Texas hill country. The Inn of the Hills ballroom served as the location for services and provided housing for most attendees. We had a high attendance of 246 on the first holy day.



Kohala Coast, Hawaii

sermons and sermonettes throughout the Feast.

Feast activities began with a social that included karaoke and dancing the evening after the first holy day. Our seniors were honored on the weekly Sabbath with a delicious brunch. Members also enjoyed such activities as the Edison and Ford Winter Estates, the Shell Factory Fun Park, the Naples Caribbean Zoo, and an afternoon river cruise in Naples.

It was truly a wonderful Feast, both physically and spiritually.

**Jim Haeffele**

Activities included arcade games for teens, a Family Day featuring table games, a senior luncheon and a fun show. Brethren also walked the paths along the scenic Guadalupe River, explored nearby state parks and visited sites in Fredericksburg and San Antonio.

Reflecting the area’s many hunting ranches, wild game, including venison, quail, antelope and bison, could be found on the menus of several Kerrville restaurants.

More than the beautiful, peaceful surroundings,



members appreciated the many fine messages that focused on the Millennium and what we should do now to prepare for it.

**David Treybig**

## Kohala Coast, Hawaii **UNITED STATES**

This year, close to 400 gathered on the Big Island of Hawaii to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. We had inspiring messages each day with several organized activities throughout the Feast. The weather was consistently good each day, as it normally is in Hawaii!

Once again, we met and had most activities on the grounds of the four-star Fairmont Orchid Hotel, about 35 miles north of Kailua-Kona.

We had activities and hospitality for teens, young adults and seniors. Several also enjoyed a golf tournament on one of the championship courses surrounding the hotel.

Family Day on the beach is always a highlight and was well attended this year. We also chartered a large catamaran for a snorkel trip to Captain Cook's cove, which has one of the most vibrant reefs in the islands. It was a special excursion that all enjoyed.

We plan to return to the Big Island of Hawaii in 2021.

**David Register**

## Lancaster, Pennsylvania **UNITED STATES**

Over 400 attendees kept the Feast at the Eden Resort and Suites in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which provided an elegant setting for church services,

housing and meals. The sermons, special music and fellowship were edifying.

Attendees participated in numerous activities, such as visiting the Shady Maple Smorgasbord, the Green Dragon Farmers Market, Turkey Hill Experience, a reproduction of the biblical tabernacle and more.

Our dinner cruise of the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland, included a fabulous buffet meal, lively dance and opportunities for memorable pictures in a cool, nighttime atmosphere.

Over 120 seniors enjoyed a buffet meal and live entertainment in the millennial setting of the resort's courtyard, followed by a lesson of appreciation for senior citizens by Kevin Epps.

And, finally, on the Last Great Day over 200 Feastgoers came together in a spirit of unity and fellowship, while enjoying lunch in the resort's courtyard.

**Kevin Epps**

## Myrtle Beach, South Carolina **UNITED STATES**

We were "snug as a bug in a rug" with a completely packed house in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. However, that didn't keep anyone from having a tremendous Feast.

The spirit of unity was evident throughout the eight days. Almost 1,100 attendees enjoyed an excellent spiritual diet throughout the week. Many days of sunshine, coupled with a variety of activities, also kept smiles on the faces of old and young alike.

It was indeed another hugely successful Feast of Tabernacles.

**Mark Winner**

## Orange Beach, Alabama **UNITED STATES**

The twin cities of Orange Beach and Gulf Shores again welcomed just over 800 members and families to the Feast

with over a fourth of our members attending.

**Phil Sandilands**

## Park City, Utah **UNITED STATES**

Park City attracted a large group of brethren this year. The high attendance was 471, requiring the use of two overflow rooms. The sound



Lancaster, Pennsylvania

of Tabernacles. Many local businesses have told us how thrilled they are to have us return each year, including the local food bank, which will be writing an article for the area newspaper on the Church of God's involvement with this project each year.

The weather was always in our prayers, as we had the threat of heavy rains the entire Feast. But God answered those prayers, and we were able to hold all three of our outdoor activities without a drop of rain. Family Day was a tremendous success

crew did a wonderful job of providing transmission to those rooms.

The messages were inspiring and well-received, and the brethren were very attentive and responsive. Fellowship, as well, was excellent and high-spirited.

The most popular activity was the train ride on Family Day. Around 280 participated, well over half the brethren at the site.

Many of the transfers were from Texas, and Texans always hope for snow when they come to a Rocky Mountain site. On the weekly Sabbath this wish was fulfilled. Large



flakes began falling shortly after services. Some of the young people enjoyed standing in the heavy flurry, catching snowflakes on their tongues.

We look forward to coming back to Park City in 2020!

**Larry Neff**

## San Diego, California **UNITED STATES**

Warm, sunny days and cool nights were enjoyed by 231 brethren in San Diego this year.

The excitement began with the pre-Feast Sabbath services for those arriving before the weekend and those who were traveling through on their way to other locations.

Almost 50 percent stayed on-site and enjoyed walking to services each day. Many came early and stayed after services to fellowship and enjoy a very close family environment.

For the fifth year, one of our most popular activities

was the Hornblower dinner cruise. This year 103—nearly half of the attendees—enjoyed the cruise, dinner, dance and fellowship as we viewed the San Diego skyline.

The comment from many was “this was one of our favorite Feasts.” God’s people around the world are family, and that was evident as we shared this special time together in San Diego.

**Paul Carter**

## Spokane, Washington **UNITED STATES**

Small in numbers, but mighty in spirit. That could well be the motto for the 129 who spent the 2019 Feast in Spokane.

We were privileged to have three guest speakers at the Feast this year, Don Henson, Dave Johnson and Doug Horchak. Their messages, coupled with fantastic special music, gave everyone much to talk about in fellowship.

Scheduled activities this year included a family day of games, capped off with a delicious barbecue dinner. Many also enjoyed an evening dinner cruise on nearby Lake Coeur d’Alene.

The weather in Spokane was sunny most days, but cooled off to the 20s and 30s at night. The Texans and Californians among us thoroughly enjoyed the cooler temperatures.

With memories to last for a good long time, we said our good-byes, looking forward to seeing friends, old and new, again at Feasts to come.

**Jon Pinelli**

## Woodbury, Minnesota **UNITED STATES**

The Residence Inn in Woodbury, Minnesota, was the perfect venue for our sixth year as a satellite Feast site in the North Central region of the U.S.

We had 26 Feastgoers who watched a livestream

service from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. All transmissions came through well. We had much warm fellowship, with many catered or restaurant group meals.

Several new people attended throughout the Feast. It was truly an inspiring Feast with great peace and happiness.

**Linda Torgeson**

## Mapoko, **ZAMBIA**

The Feast was held at our church property in Mapoko, about 200 kilometers west of Lusaka. We had a high attendance of 173.

Our guest speaker, Clyde Kilough, gave inspiring sermons on the meaning of the Feast in relation to God’s plan, the attitudes required to enter the Kingdom of God, and how God uses miracles to advance His plan.

Delicious food was served in abundance.



Giti, Rwanda



Sunday afternoon was Family Day, and we enjoyed a variety of activities and games, closing with a tug-of-peace. A highlight of the Feast was the third day, when three people were added to the family of God through baptism.

The Feast ended on a very somber note when it was announced at the end of the afternoon service that Rangana Banda, the 19-year-old son of our minister, died Sunday evening at beginning of the Last Great Day.

**Sylvester Njobvu**

## Gweru, **ZIMBABWE**

A total of 201 members celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles at the Baptist Conference Centre in Gweru, Zimbabwe. The majority of the members came by hired buses.

Visiting minister Ken Giese and his wife, Kathy, spent four days at the Feast in Zimbabwe and participated in every activity, including the dinner dance, sports and Family Day. Members

greatly appreciated the Gieses' love and outgoing concern.

We enjoyed the special music performed by members of the Gokwe and Harare congregations. Ten people were baptized, most of them husbands and wives, and 13 children were blessed.

Funds were donated to purchase an ox, and having meat at meals was a real blessing. We did face a few challenges, such as a lack of water or power at times, but this did not quench the love that we all experienced.

Our thanks to the Church leaders who made this a joyous Feast of Tabernacles.

**Stephen Tshabalala**



Mapoko, Zambia



San Diego, California



Spokane, Washington



# 2019 FEAST OF TABERNACLES ATTENDANCE

Along with the reports from our Feast sites around the world, we also receive their high attendance figures, which we've listed below. As well, we list the number of phone hookups and connections to daily webcasts via the Internet and the number of shut-ins who received DVDs of prerecorded messages. Consistent with our past reporting practices and member feedback, for attendance purposes we count an average of two viewers per DVD or webcast/Roku connection. Included in the statistics are the scattered members who kept the Feast off-site without an Internet connection or prerecorded sermons.

ARGENTINA	170	MAURITIUS	6	SAN DIEGO	231
AUSTRALIA	37	MEXICO	255	SPOKANE	129
BARBADOS	96	NEW ZEALAND	57	WOODBURY	26
BOLIVIA	58	NIGERIA	39	ZAMBIA	173
BURUNDI	554	PERU	187	ZIMBABWE	201
CAMEROON	23	PHILIPPINES	276		
CANADA	59	RWANDA	78	<b>ON-SITE TOTAL</b>	<b>9,886</b>
CHILE	405	SOUTH AFRICA			
COLOMBIA	100	CAPE TOWN	18	ENGLAND/EUROPE/AFRICA/ LATIN AMERICA SCATTERED	150
CONGO	132	JOHANNESBURG	18	U.S. SHUT-INS (DVD)	260
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	69	UVONGO	91	INTL. SHUT-INS (DVD)	132
ENGLAND	86	SRI LANKA	36	U.S. & INTL. WEBCASTS & PHONE HOOKUPS	554
FIJI	23	TOGO	15		
FRANCE	94	UNITED STATES			
GHANA	640	BELOIT	10	<b>AT-HOME TOTAL</b>	<b>1,096</b>
GRENADA	13	BRANSON	699		
GUATEMALA	550	FORT MYERS	96	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,982</b>
GUYANA	17	KERRVILLE	246		
INDIA	19	KOHALA COAST	385		
ITALY	273	LANCASTER	416		
JAMAICA	194	MYRTLE BEACH	1,088		
KENYA	93	ORANGE BEACH	806		
MALAWI	128	PARK CITY	471		

To hear messages from the  
2019 Feast of Tabernacles,  
go to

**FEAST.COGWA.ORG**



# CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?

## CHILE HOLDS WINTER YOUTH CAMP

The winter youth camp was held on July 12-14. For the fifth consecutive year, it took place on a plot of land owned by the Hernández Yavar family, in the town of Melipilla, 60 miles from Santiago, Chile. All was made possible thanks to God's help and the great effort and love of the Hernández family.

This year, we had 78 campers from all over Chile plus two visitors from abroad: one from Mexico and one from Colombia. Saul and Carmen Langarica and the youth coordinators, along with their wives, also worked hard to make this camp a success.

The theme of this camp was "Learning to Discern." The sermonette, sermon, Bible studies and mini-conferences centered on this important topic.

This year we had a wonderful surprise: a beautiful dining room for 120 people. The facility also included a large kitchen and two bathrooms with showers. All the men in the Hernandez family worked hard for more than a month to build this room and have it ready for camp.

Activities began with an exquisite dinner on Friday, with a total of 120 people present. Sabbath services were held the next morning and were followed by a Bible study and mini-conferences and then a dance that evening.

On Sunday we had a Bible study in the morning followed by more mini-conferences in the afternoon and then closing words from the youth coordinator, Daniel Sepulveda. At 6 p.m. good-byes were said, and everyone headed home with renewed enthusiasm for the work that God is doing with the young people in His Church.

**Pablo Carvajal**



## HOUSTON SOUTH LADIES' TEA

On Aug. 10 about a dozen ladies from our congregation gathered prior to services to enjoy a delightful tea. Not only did we enjoy some teas we were familiar with, we also tried some new flavors. Delicious breakfast pastries, muffins, sandwiches and a veggie tray rounded out the event.

All of us enjoyed the extra time to fellowship and become more familiar with those who chose to serve us. We thank all who gave of their time and effort to make our Sabbath morning so special.

**Susan Scott Smith**





## FAREWELL BUT NOT GOOD-BYE

On the Sabbath of July 20 Jim Servidio gave his final sermon as pastor of the Houston North and Huntsville, Texas, congregations. After services, a reception was held in the fellowship hall, and over 200 participants enjoyed a delicious potluck meal.

After the meal, everyone returned to the main hall for more festivities. In honor of Mr. Servidio's trademark Sabbath joke, members of all ages participated in a round of joke telling. As most of the stand-up comedians were children and teens, it was evident that Mr. Servidio had left a positive imprint on the coming generation.

This was followed by a special presentation of gifts—for both Mr. and Mrs. Servidio—that included personal gifts, Texas memorabilia and a congregational photo album with personal messages from the members in gratitude for the Servidios' 13½ years of dedicated service in Houston.

The Sabbath and evening were enjoyed by all. There was an abundance of food, laughter, tears and great fellowship. We are happy that although the Servidios have retired from pastoring, they will be remaining in the Houston area.

**Sharon and Beth Rule**



## SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CAMPOUT

On the weekend of Aug. 24 and 25, Chris and Angela Moen hosted a campout for the Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, Michigan, brethren. After services members enjoyed a taco bar in the Moens' home, followed by a bonfire with hot dogs and s'mores later on in the evening.

The children got in some swimming after sunset, retiring to their tents with their respective families to rest up for Sunday's early morning canoeing and kayaking activity on the nearby Thornapple River. Afterward, the kids were able to get back to their swimming in the pool, and a brisket dinner with all the fixings was later savored before breaking down camp and heading home.

What a fantastic weekend!

**Rebekah Leyden**

## MORGANTOWN ENJOYS PICNIC

The Morgantown, West Virginia, congregation had its annual church picnic on Sunday, Aug. 25. It was held at Dorsey's Knob Park in Morgantown. God provided a picturesque day for all to enjoy. Many members took the challenge to hike to the top of Dorsey Knob, called Sky Rock.

Throughout the day many different games were played. Cornhole was a favorite, and Oliver and Gwen Metzner, 94 and 92 years young, showed off their skills. Later in the afternoon members of all ages played bingo.

We always have a great time when we're with our spiritual family. Everyone went home with a smile and great memories.

**Sherry Beilstein**





## ORLANDO CONGREGATION CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

On Aug. 24 the Orlando, Florida, congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary. The congregation met for the first time on the Sabbath of Aug. 9, 1969. In 1969 Orlando was a charming Southern beauty reveling in peaceful slumber. Publicity for “The City Beautiful” boasted of fragrant orange groves and tranquil lakes. Mickey Mouse lived in California.

A man walked on the moon in July of that steamy summer. But for the Lakeland congregation of the Worldwide Church of God, another thrilling event was about to occur. On Aug. 9, an Orlando congregation would begin.

About 80 people attended that first Sabbath service at Orlando Junior College (now Lake Highland Preparatory School). For many, a two-hour drive became a leisurely one-hour drive. For others, one-hour drives became 10-minute sprints.

This was an answer to prayer for many who had to travel so far to attend in Lakeland. The hall there was not properly air-conditioned and was filled to capacity. Ironically, at the first Orlando service, a soft drink was spilled on the thermostat, causing it to freeze on its lowest setting. Children’s blankets, men’s suit jackets and ladies’ sweaters were eagerly shared as the brethren listened to pastor James Kunz deliver the inaugural sermon.

Mr. Kunz made an unusual request at that first service: begin praying for a new hall. The landlord was having second thoughts about his new tenant, but agreed to let the church stay for one month. On Sept. 6, 1969, the congregation met for the first time at the Orlando Garden Club, where they remained for the next 25 years.

During the 1970s and ’80s, the congregation grew steadily and began to spawn other congregations, including Melbourne, Port Orange and Gainesville. By the



early ’80s, the Orlando congregation had reached capacity, with over 400 attending, and the congregation was divided into a.m. and p.m. services. In 1991 nearly 600 were attending the two congregations in Orlando. It was soon after this that the Port Orange congregation began and Orlando was able to return to being one large congregation of nearly 400.

Shortly after the 25th anniversary celebration in 1994, the United Church of God was formed in response to actions taken by the leadership in Pasadena. In 2011 the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, was formed and has since met for the past eight years here in their hall.

The 50th anniversary sermon was given by Ted Japhet, a deacon in the Church and one of the two original members who were in attendance that day. Jimmy Dickenson, also a deacon, was the other original member. Mr. Japhet spent some time regaling us with some stories about the old days in the Church and then spoke about the many aspects of “The Family.” Gifts were presented to the original members, and they honored us by cutting the first ceremonial pieces of the anniversary cake. This was followed by a pictorial journey of the congregation’s 50 years. The entire service was inspiring and nostalgic and was enjoyed by the whole congregation.

**Roy Demarest**

## KNOXVILLE HOLDS BACKYARD PICNIC

How could a backyard picnic bring so much fun, hugs, positive energy and craziness?

It started with around 40 brethren from Knoxville, Tennessee, and elsewhere gathering for a picnic in the backyard of Kim and Randy Schultz. After feasting on grilled hot dogs, hamburgers and all kinds of sides and desserts, everyone either went to the river to kayak, tube or wade; played cornhole; jumped on the trampoline; or just plain sat in lawn chairs listening to the gurgle of the river over the rocks.

And craziness? Well, if you know anything about Kim Schultz, you know you are in for crazy yard games! And with those games came loads of hugs and squeals of laughter. We can truthfully say that none of us have ever had so many hugs in one day!

Randy and Kim Schultz—thank you for sharing your home and backyard with us! We look forward to our next annual picnic with more fun and hugs!

**Judy Swanson**







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.

## Births



**Kaylee Kountz**

Andy and Courtney Kountz are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Kaylee Kountz. Kaylee was born on June 7, 2019. She weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and was 22 inches long.

The family is extremely blessed to have this little one, and Mom and Dad are over the moon! This is the first grandchild on both sides of the family. The entire family is overjoyed!

**Courtney Kountz**

## Anniversaries



**Phyllis and Dave Haynes**

David (Dave) and Phyllis Haynes recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. The lovely couple married on Aug. 31, 1968, in Moundsville, West Virginia.

Over the Haynes' 50 years together, they have added five children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild to their family.

Dave and Phyllis have been beloved members of the Church for a long time. Phyllis was baptized on Aug. 19, 1973, and Dave was baptized on Nov. 24, 2009.

The two of them add a lot of joy and laughter to the Wheeling, West Virginia, congregation. Their anniversary was recognized by the congregation with a cake and some special snacks.

**Christa Miller**



**Virgil and Billie Walter**

On Sept. 10, 2019, Billie and Virgil Walter observed their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married in Akron, Ohio, and have three children—two sons, Jerry and Richard, and a daughter, Terry, deceased—two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Billie started attending services in

1962 in Akron and was baptized in 1966 by Bill McDowell. Virgil was a lifelong machinist, and Billie worked as a professional secretary.

After retiring from work in 1995, they moved to Ocala, Florida. In 2019 they moved to St. Petersburg, where they attend services with their sons, Jerry and Richard.

**Charles Haughee**

## Baptisms



**Patrick Haase**

On Monday, July 1, 2019, in the afternoon, Patrick Haase Froboese was baptized in a private swimming pool in the district of San Borja in Lima, Peru. The ceremony and laying on of hands were performed by Carlos Saavedra, pastor of the congregations in Peru.

Patrick's mother and some friends were present. The ceremony was very special for Patrick, who saw his desire to be part of the Church—the spiritual Body of Jesus Christ—fulfilled.

**Carlos Saavedra**



**Leanne Zais**

After Sabbath services on June 29, 2019, Gary Black baptized Leanne Zais in the Chippewa River. Mr. Black was



assisted by elder John Quast in the laying on of hands.

Leanne and her husband, Martin, and daughter Angel attend in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Leanne serves the congregation by assisting with Sabbath school lessons, and she always greets the brethren with a warm smile and hug. She was very happy to counsel with Mr. Black and be baptized before his transfer to Texas.

Leanne is glad to be part of God's family, and the Eau Claire members are very excited for her.

**Liz Boyle**



**Ankur Gogia**



The Williamsburg Virginia, congregation gathered on the banks of the James River on the Sabbath of Sept. 21, 2019, for the joyous occasion of the baptism of Ankur Gogia.

Ankur's pastor, Larry Lambert, performed the baptism, and Dempsey Bruton, a local elder in Williamsburg, assisted Mr. Lambert in the laying-on-of-hands ceremony.

Afterward, everyone joined together at nice restaurant to celebrate with Ankur and his family. Pictured left to right are Larry Lambert, Ankur Gogia and Dempsey Bruton. Also included is a photo of all the brethren who were able to attend this joyous event.

**Larry Lambert**

## Obituaries



**Fred Patton**

Frederick Carl Patton died peacefully at home on Sept. 7, 2019. He was born March 9, 1938, in Huntington Beach, California, the second of seven children.

After high school, he joined the Navy and worked as a jet aircraft mechanic. Upon discharge, he married Linda Bailey of Tehachapi, California, in 1960 and worked as a rocket mechanic for Aerojet General. He became a barber in 1965, after a workplace injury left him with a fused back. During this time the Pattons had their children: Cindy, Kathy and Mark.

Fred and Linda were called into the Church in 1970, and in 1971 Fred was hired as a barber for Ambassador College in Pasadena. He was ordained a deacon in 1984. In 1990 the Pattons relocated to Big Sandy, Texas, where Fred continued working for the Church until retirement in 1995. Over the years he gave haircuts to thousands of students and faculty and their families.

The Pattons also hosted hundreds of students in their home. Fred enjoyed serving the widows and others in need. He was zealous for God's way of life and knew his Bible well. He was a good leader and will be greatly missed by many.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Minnie, and brother Kenneth. He is survived by his wife, Linda; his children, Cindy Mesa, Kathy (Alfred) Lopez and Mark (Larissa) Patton; Walter (Crystal) Perez (to whom Fred was a father); his siblings, Nancy (Craig), Bill (Joan), Carla (Lalo), Susan (Paul) and John; and by nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

**Mark Patton**



**Nohemí Mejía**

Remembering every detail in the life of Church members is almost impossible, but there are some details that stand out and can motivate us in our Christian lives.

In El Salvador two well-respected women died in 2018. One of them was Nohemí Mejía (pictured). She was 80 years old and died in November. The other was Francisca Polio.

After the death of her husband, Francisco, and her son David, Mrs. Mejía became ill with Parkinson's disease and eventually died of a stroke. God decided that it was better for her to sleep, and now she is simply waiting for the resurrection to eternal life when Jesus Christ returns.

Mr. and Mrs. Mejía were very generous and serving. Church members were welcome in their home, and despite their limitations, there was never a lack of food for visitors.

One of those who visited Mrs. Mejía almost every day was Mrs. Polio, who also died a little while ago. The two elderly women consoled each other in their illness.

Mrs. Mejía and her husband worked very hard to provide education and food for their seven children. They sincerely put into practice the principle that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." In this sense, Mrs. Mejía selflessly served all people, especially those of the Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Mejía were pioneers of the Church of God in El Salvador, together with other elderly members who are still alive and continue to be faithful members of God's Church.

**Eleodoro Avila**



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