

# Advocating Christ The Savior

Mar/Apr 2026



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**Since the Church of God, (Seventh Day) is in a state of constant growth and we all have different backgrounds, it is possible that your views may differ somewhat from those of the authors. We pray these articles may be used as a point of entry for your own study.  
“Test all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).**

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“Advocating Christ the Savior”

## *Ministerial Council Letter* *March 2026*

We are starting on a new year again and wondering what it will bring to us. As Christians, we know that our future has been promised to us if we acknowledge our Lord, follow His commandments, and trust in Him completely. And yet, we spend so much time worrying about things that we think will upset our future; such as finances, sickness, death, taxes and all the other various issues that we might face.

When the disciples gave up their livelihood—left their homes and families, and followed after Christ—they no longer worried about these things and spent their time listening to His words and following His instructions.

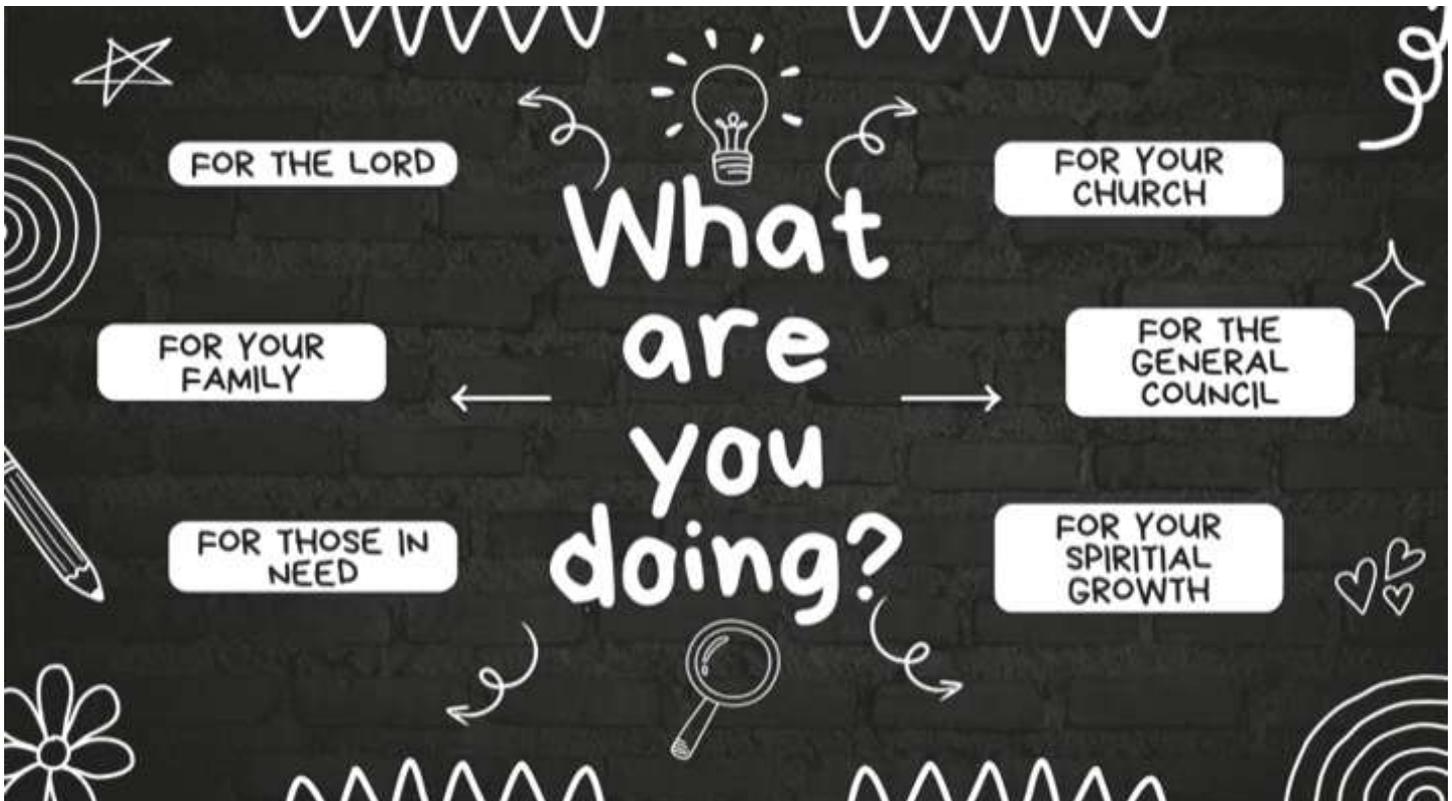
Why can't we be like them and give up the cares of the world? Is it because we are obligated to our families, our livelihood, our jobs, our finances, or the other issues? These are all legitimate reasons, but they shouldn't become excuses for us.

The real question should be: What are our priorities and where does doing the Lord's work fit in that list? If it is anything other than first, we do in fact have something to worry about for the future.

Is the Lord the first thing that we think about when we wake up? Do we continually communicate with Him during the day? Do we involve Him in all the decisions that we make concerning our finances,

our jobs, our home, etc.? If not, let us all make this a new year's resolution to put God first in all things and turn those things we constantly worry about over to Him. He should be our future, and I know from scripture that He keeps His promises and is always there when needed. May God bless each of you this year.

Thomas Kendrick,  
Ministerial Council President  
General Council Churches of God,  
(Seventh Day), Inc.



# Our Daily Bread

## How God's Word Sustains Our Everyday Life

Samuel Marques  
Serving as Pastor in the  
Church of God (Seventh Day), Brazil

What if your daily Bible reading were more than a spiritual habit – what if it became the place where you learn how God works? When Jesus taught us to pray, “*Give us this day our daily bread*” (Matthew 6:11 KJV), He wasn’t only speaking about food. He was inviting us to discover a deeper nourishment – the Word of God.

### The Bread That Truly Sustains

Hunger reminds us every day that we depend on God. But in the wilderness, when Jesus faced temptation, He pointed to an even greater need: “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*” (Matthew 4:4 KJV). He showed us that Scripture is not optional seasoning for life; it is our true sustenance.

How, then, do we “eat” this spiritual bread? Jesus Himself models it. The Gospels show a Savior whose mind and heart were full of Scripture. He didn’t read the Bible for information; He absorbed it. Scripture guided His identity, shaped His mission, and empowered His ministry. His daily intake of God’s Word became the fuel for His obedience and the foundation for His miracles.

When we approach Scripture the same way – not as a duty but as nourishment – the life-giving voice of God shapes our minds, choices, and faith. Let’s look at how Jesus lived this out and how His example can guide us today.

### The Table Is Set: Jesus and the Nourishment of the Word

From the start of His ministry, Jesus relied completely on Scripture. In the wilderness, exhausted and hungry, He resisted temptation with three simple words: “It is written.” His defense wasn’t clever argumentation – it was Scripture flowing naturally from a heart that knew the Father’s voice.

Later, in the synagogue of Nazareth, Jesus read from Isaiah about the One anointed to heal the broken, free the captive, and bring light to the blind (Isaiah 61). Then He said, “*This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears*” (Luke 4:21 KJV). For Jesus, Scripture wasn’t distant history. It was His mission statement. The promises of God became the map of His daily steps.

Jesus explained His way of living with a simple principle: “*The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do*” (John 5:19). And how did He “see” the Father? Through the Scriptures – the stories, the patterns, the prophecies, and the heart of God revealed in them.

So, for Jesus, Scripture was not passive reading. It was relationship – listening, learning, and aligning Himself with His Father’s will. The quiet moments with the Word were where the table was set. His ministry became the feast.

*We need to approach  
Scripture not as a duty but as  
a nourishment—the life  
giving voice of God.*

### The Kingdom’s Kitchen: Miracles as God’s Old Recipes Renewed

If Jesus’s devotional life was His time in the kitchen, His miracles were the banquet served to the world. And those miracles didn’t appear out of nowhere. They echoed the Old Testament stories Jesus grew up reading.

When Jesus raised the widow’s son in Nain, the crowd cried, “*That a great prophet is risen up among us*” (Luke 7:16 KJV), recalling Elijah and Elisha, who raised children from the dead. But Jesus wasn’t simply repeating what the prophets did – He surpassed them. Elijah prayed for life to return. Jesus commanded it: “Young man, I say unto thee, Arise” (Luke 5:24).

When a man with leprosy approached Him, Jesus didn’t send him to wash in a river as Naaman did in Elisha’s day – He touched him and made him clean

instantly. The law could diagnose leprosy, but Jesus could cure it.

When Elisha made an iron axe head float, it showed God cared about small struggles. When Jesus walked on the water, He showed He ruled over creation itself. He didn't manipulate matter – He commanded it.

And where Moses turned water into blood as a sign of judgment, Jesus turned water into wine as a sign of grace. The same power, but now overflowing with joy.

Each miracle whispered the same message: “The God you read about is the same – and He is doing it again.” Only now, in Jesus, the fullness of God's heart was on display.

### From Christ's Paradigm to Our Practice

If Jesus lived this way – reading Scripture, seeing God's patterns, and acting in step with His Father – what does that mean for us?

Micah once prayed, “According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things” (Micah 7:15 KJV). That prayer rests on a simple truth: God does not change (Malachi 3:6). The God who parted seas, fed Israel, healed the sick, and raised the dead is still the God we pray to today.

Jesus was the ultimate answer to Micah's hope. And then He said something stunning: “He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do” (John 14:12 KJV).

These “greater works” are not about outshining Jesus. They are about His ministry continuing through His people, empowered by His Spirit. The pattern remains the same: the Father's heart → revealed in Scripture → embraced by faith → lived out in obedience.

And this is why our daily reading – the “daily bread” of the Word – is essential.

1. Scripture trains us to recognize God's patterns. We begin to see how God restores, heals, provides,

calms storms, and rescues His people. These stories become familiar signposts of His character.

2. Scripture fuels holy expectation. Instead of vague hope, we develop faith rooted in God's proven ways. We begin to see our struggles through the lens of His faithfulness.

3. Scripture gives us courage to pray boldly. Knowing who God is, we bring our needs before Him with confidence: “Lord, act today as You have acted throughout history. Do again what Your Word shows You love to do.”

Daily reading moves us from spectators of God's story to participants in it.

### From Bread to Life

All this brings us back to the simple request: “Give us this day our daily bread.” This prayer is more than a request for food – it is an invitation to be nourished by the living Word of God.

Every time we open Scripture with a willing heart, God shapes us. He forms the mind of Christ in us. He teaches us to see our world; not through fear or confusion, but through His promises.

Billy Graham used to say, “The Bible is more up-to-date than tomorrow's newspaper.” And he was right. Scripture not only explains the world; it reveals the God who holds the world.

So, let's approach the Bible with a new question each day: “What does this passage reveal about how God works – and how can I bring this truth into today's challenges?”

When we pray for “daily bread,” we are really praying: “Lord, feed my heart today. Shape my thoughts. Strengthen my faith. Show me how You work and help me walk in step with You.”

Let's pull up a chair at God's table and receive the portion He has prepared for today. His Word will nourish us, sustain us, and lead us to live as Jesus lived – guided by Scripture, filled with faith, and ready to serve a world hungry for hope.

**So, for Jesus, Scripture was not passive reading.**

**It was relationship – listening, learning, and aligning Himself with His Father's will.**



## Proposed By-law Change and Board Term Adjustments for DOK

As part of the proposal, there will be adjustments to board terms to ensure consistency and continuity in leadership. Starting in 2026, the President and Vice-President would be elected for 3-year terms. The remaining three committee members would be elected for staggered 1-year or 2-year terms.

Below you'll find the original wording and the proposed By-law change. Please review it ahead of Campmeeting, and come ready to share your insights, thoughts, or questions during the meeting. We look forward to a meaningful discussion and vote during Campmeeting.

### Current By-law

The Daughters of the King shall be recognized as a permanent part of the Council, to be directed by officers consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and two Committeewomen, whose terms of office shall run concurrently with that of the President of the Council. The members of the Daughters of the King shall consist of all Sisters of the Church of God sixteen and older. The officers shall be elected by the active members of the Daughters of the King at their annual meeting to be held in conjunction with the Council meeting. The officers shall be voting members throughout the year.

This organization shall have and exercise such powers and duties as may hereafter be provided by the Council or the Board of Directors, together with such other powers and duties as may properly be assumed in the process of their meetings when not conflicting with the articles of by-laws of the Council.

### Proposed By-law

The Daughters of the King shall be recognized as a permanent part of the Council, to be directed by officers consisting of a President, Vice President, and three Committeewomen. The President and Vice President shall be elected concurrent with that of the President of the Council. The remaining 3 Committeewomen will be elected for 3-year terms in the years following the election of the President and Vice President. The duties of Secretary and Treasurer may be fulfilled by one person. These duties may be fulfilled by one of the committeewomen or a non-Board member appointed by the DOK board who should be available during DOK meetings. The members of the Daughters of the King shall consist of all Sisters of the Church of God sixteen and older. The officers shall be elected by the active members of the Daughters of the King at their annual meeting to be held in conjunction with the Council meeting. The officers shall be voting members throughout the year.

This organization shall have and exercise such powers and duties as may hereafter be provided by the Council or the Board of Directors, together with such other powers and duties as may properly be assumed in the process of their meetings when not conflicting with the articles of by-laws of the Council.



### In Loving Memory of Marjorie Irene Boone



Marjorie Irene Boone, known earlier in life as Marjorie McKinney and born Marjorie Ellis, passed away peacefully at her home in Marceline, Missouri, on November 17, 2025. She was born on April 8, 1932, in Laguna, California, the daughter of Claude Valentine Ellis and Velma Irene (Rogers) Ellis.

Marjorie lived a long life defined by service, a devotion to her family and her faith in God. Her vast skill set afforded her many titles over the years, some through professional employment and others self-appointed. Some of these titles include Barbie Doll Dressmaker for Sears Roebuck; Pilot Car Driver; Repo Agent; LPN at the Boise, Idaho VA Hospital; Reserve Deputy sheriff; Seamstress; Hobby Farmer; Porcelain Dollmaker; Hobby Clockmaker;

and Cake Maker. At the age of 86, she married Roger Boone on October 21, 2018, in Marceline, Missouri, and the two shared a loving partnership built on faith and mutual care.

Marjorie was gifted with many talents and loved expressing them through a wide range of hobbies. She enjoyed music, quilting, crocheting, woodworking, cooking, quilling, and photography. She often said that one of her callings in life was to celebrate friends and family through handmade note cards and to honor their lives with memorial bookmarks. Her printer was endlessly busy.

Her hands were rarely still, and she did everything with an attitude of unselfishness and love. She was also famous for her fudge and peanut brittle which she made each year for the Daughters of the King booth at the annual Campmeeting in Idaho. She contributed many of the pictures of Campmeeting for the ACTS magazine. Marjorie was often seen playing the flute, and occasionally the Omnichord, at the Church of God (Seventh Day) in both Meridian, Idaho and Marceline, Missouri. She remained devoted to her faith throughout her life.

# Daughters of the King

Greetings with love and prayers of peace for each lady and her family.

A note of Daughters of the King (DOK) business. This year at the Annual General Council Campmeeting during the annual business meeting, we will present a proposed by-law change concerning when new officers are elected to the DOK board. For more details see the proposed and current by-laws on page 6. Regardless of the outcome of that proposal, at our DOK business meeting, we will be electing new officers. I ask you to please pray for God's guidance and IF God has led any of you to run for one of the DOK officer positions, please let me or one of the other board members know.

Thank you and God Bless,  
Linda Palmer,  
President DOK



**Brian Romero**  **Post on Facebook**

December 28, 2025 at 4:30 PM · 

When Jesus tells the story of the lost sheep, He is not painting a soft, sentimental picture. He is revealing a love that is costly, uncomfortable, and breathtakingly personal. Sheep are not clean animals. They wander. They fall. They get stuck in mud, thorns, and their own waste. A lost sheep is not just scared. It is filthy. Exhausted. Covered in grime. And unable to rescue itself.

The dirtiest part of a sheep is its hindquarters. That is where the waste clings. That is where the smell is strongest. That is where the mess is undeniable.

And when the shepherd finds the sheep, he does not drag it. He does not clean it first. He does not make it walk back to prove it has learned a lesson.

He lifts it.

He places the sheep on his shoulders.

Which means the dirtiest part of the sheep is pressed against the shepherd's neck, his face, his clothes. The smell. The filth. The weight. All of it rests on him.

Jesus chose that detail on purpose.

This is not accidental imagery. This is the gospel.

Jesus is showing us exactly what He would do on the cross.

He did not save us from a distance.

He did not wait for us to get clean.

He did not rescue the polished version of us.

He took the mess onto Himself.

Scripture tells us that Jesus became sin for us. Not near sin. Not aware of sin. He became it. All the shame.

All the guilt. All the filth we try to hide. All of it was placed on Him.

The cross is the Shepherd carrying the sheep.

The weight you could not carry was placed on His shoulders.

The stain you could not remove was pressed against His holiness.



The smell of death you could not escape was absorbed by His life.

And He did not recoil.

He rejoiced.

Jesus says the shepherd carries the sheep back rejoicing. Not frustrated. Not embarrassed. Rejoicing.

That is the heart of the Father.

God is not disgusted by your mess. He already carried it.

God is not shocked by your weakness. He already bore it.

God is not waiting for you to clean yourself up. He already paid the price.

Religion tells you to hide your dirt.

Jesus carries it.

Religion tells you to scrub harder.

Jesus says it is finished.

When the shepherd arrives home, he does not isolate the sheep. He throws a celebration. He invites others to rejoice. Heaven celebrates not when a sheep becomes clean, but when it is found.

This is the finished work.

You are not loved because you improved.

You are not accepted because you behaved.

You are not held because you stayed clean.

You are loved because He carried you.

You are accepted because He finished the work.

You are held because He chose you.

If this does not make you fall in love with God, nothing will.

A God who puts your dirtiest parts on His shoulders.

A Savior who absorbs your shame instead of avoiding it.

A Father who rejoices over you while you are still messy.

This is not fragile love.

This is not conditional love.

This is love that smells like sacrifice and looks like a cross.

Rest here.

You are not a burden to God.

You were a joy set before Him.

And He would carry you again without hesitation.

# Children's Corner!

## God's Chosen Vessels

by Julie Moen

### “Hannah and Samuel”

Can a young child really love and follow the Lord? We're going to take a look at the life of Samuel and try to discover the answer to that question. (NKJV was used for the questions in this story.)

Samuel was the son of Hannah and Elkannah. He was Hannah's first child, but this was not the only reason he was special to her. Before Samuel was born Hannah thought that she would not be able to have any children. But she wanted a little boy so much. One day she went to the Temple and asked God for one. We find her prayer in 1 Samuel 1:11. Read this verse and fill in the blanks below, telling what she promised God she would do with her baby boy if God gave her one.

“I will \_\_\_\_\_ him to the LORD  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

God answered Hannah's prayer by allowing her to have a son – Samuel.

Hannah did not forget the promise she had made to the Lord. When Samuel was still very young, Hannah took him with her to the Temple. Instead of taking him back home with her, she left him there. In verses 27 and 28 of 1 Samuel, chapter 1, Samuel's mother explained why she left him at the Temple. Read these verses, then check the reason that she gave.

- I changed my mind; I don't want a boy anymore.

- Samuel has been bad. Maybe living here will teach him to be good.
- God answered my prayer by giving me Samuel, now I am going to give him back to God.
- We do not have enough food to feed Samuel at home, so I'll leave him at the Temple.

Read verse 11 of chapter 2. What was the name of the priest Samuel lived with in the Temple?

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The priest's sons also lived there. 1 Samuel 2:12 tells us what they were like. Read this verse. It says they were corrupt or evil. Other words in this verse tell us why they were evil. What are those words? “They did \_\_\_\_\_.”

It would have been very easy for Samuel to follow the example of Eli's sons. He also had the choice of following Eli's example and serving the Lord. Read 1 Samuel 3:1. Which way did Samuel choose? Put an x by his choice.

- He chose to follow the example of Eli's sons.
- He chose to follow Eli's example and serve the Lord.

You also have a choice to make. You can choose to go God's way by asking the Lord Jesus to come into your life and forgive your sins. This means you are willing to let Him be the Controller in your life. Or you can go Satan's way by not asking Jesus to come into your life. Jesus told of

**Lesson Questions:**

1. What great gift did God give to the World? Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9; John 3:16.
2. What is the greatest commandment? Matthew 22:37-38; Deuteronomy 6:5.
3. How can we show our love toward God? John 14:15, 23; 1 John 5:1-3; 2 John 1:6.
4. In what ways could giving effect us? Proverbs 11:24-25; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.
5. What command did the Lord give us? Exodus 22:29; Proverbs 3:9-10.
6. How may those who have abundance here lay hold on eternal life? 1 Timothy 6:17-19. What are some different ways we can give to the Lord's work?
7. What system of giving for the ministry is set forth in the Old Testament? Numbers 18:21. How is this similarly spoken of in the New Testament? 1 Corinthians 9:12-14.
8. How did Jesus speak of giving? Acts 20:35.

**The Love of Jesus**

**Scripture Reading:** John 15:1-17

**Memory Verse:** "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." John 15:9

**The Love of Jesus**

The love of Jesus surrounds me  
like the air & sky above.

The love of Jesus gives me

light to brighten all my dark times.

The love of Jesus makes me laugh.

The love of Jesus helps me, keeps me,

comforts me, saves me from death.

The love of Jesus...the love of Jesus.\*

**Introduction:**

Love has many different meanings to many different people. To some people love is the emotional togetherness between a woman and a man. Love can also be a deep feeling toward a certain person, place, or thing. What is God's love toward Jesus and man? What is Jesus' love toward the Father and man? No matter what came up, Jesus thought first of the best way to help others. Jesus was completely devoted to God the Father and His Will. Now if we can only direct that kind of love toward God. And if we have His love, we will love one another in the way God intended us to. We will put the other person first and seek to love even those who have made themselves unlovable.

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\*The poem above was very precious to Mike Ahlbom, who originally wrote this study, because it was written by his son, Steven, when he was seven years old. He edited it for this booklet since it so aptly exemplifies the thought of today's lesson.

**Lesson Questions:**

1. How is the Father's love of Jesus described? Matthew 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:17.
2. How great a love did Jesus have for man? Ephesians 5:2; 1 John 3:16.
3. What was Jesus' crucial test that proved His love for us? Luke 23:23-24; Romans 5:8.
4. Did Jesus want deliverance from the final test? Luke 22:41-44; Matthew 26:39.  
Life is a precious thing. Even Jesus showed us He didn't want to die. But through His love for us, He gave up His life for our every sin.
5. How does His example show us how great a love we should have for one another? John 15:12-13; John 13:34.
6. What are some ways we can lay down our lives for others? Matthew 25:35-36; Hebrews 13:3; James 1:27
7. What are some of the proofs that show we love Jesus? John 3:21; 14:15; 1 John 5:3; Galatians 5:22-23.

Keeping the commandments, believing and obeying God, and following Jesus can prove we love them. To believe means we are doers of His word. An example of this is: when we get into our car, we believe it will take us to our destination. But before it can be done, we must do our part. Inserting the keys and starting the engine is just the beginning. The same applies with Jesus. If we say we believe in Him, we must be doers of His words and then continue onward until our full redemption.

As Jesus loved us, let us also love one another!

The Complete Study Guide can be found on the [www.ACTSforGod.org](http://www.ACTSforGod.org) website by clicking on the Digital Studies tab

**Supporting God's Ministry**

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 9:1-14

**Memory Verse:** *"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD."* Leviticus 27:30

**Introduction:**

God's instruction on money, if obeyed, could forever banish all financial limitations on the work of the church and the propagation of the gospel. Malachi 3:10 is very clear when it says, *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, 'if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.'"*

If we first realize we are only stewards of His money, we can begin employing that money to His use. Our first responsibility is to tithe, for the Lord has said that the first tenth of our increase belongs to Him directly. Secondly, we invest God's money by giving, *"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you"* (Luke 6:38). As stewards, we need to make wise investments. Whatever money God gives us through our job or other means benefits only us, until we give (invest) it to bring good to others.

When Jesus was watching the offering box in Matthew 12:41-44, there were many rich givers that gave large amounts. But there was one poor woman who put in 2 mites. Jesus declared that her offering greatly surpassed that of the rich persons because hers was a sacrificial offering. She gave all that she had. She gave in faith; she gave in trust; she gave in love. Are we giving this way to God?

**Lesson Questions:**

1. What does Jesus call those who are not active in the Kingdom? Revelation 3:15.
2. What does God think about this condition? Revelation 3:16; 2 Peter 2:20-22.
3. Can we sometimes deceive ourselves in thinking we are on fire for the Lord? Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75; Acts 9:1. (Note: Saul thought he was doing God's will. In Acts 9:3-6, he realized he was not.)
4. Why did the Lord say the Laodiceans were lukewarm? Revelation 3:17. Share some thoughts on these other warnings from the Bible: Deuteronomy 8:11-14; Matthew 7:21; 2 Timothy 3:5; James 4:4.
5. What are some steps we should take to keep us on fire for God? Deuteronomy 4:9; Colossians 3:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-23; Philippians 4:5-9.

Question to consider: Am I on fire for God? Check these areas...daily prayer, Bible study, keeping the commandments, love of my fellow man, expounding God's Word (witnessing), worship, giving to support the Gospel work?

**Concealment Always Leads to Exposure**

**Scripture Reading:** Genesis 3:1-13

**Memory Verse:** *"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."*  
Proverbs 28:13

**Introduction:**

Have you ever sinned or done something you were ashamed of and quickly wanted to sweep it under the rug? Too often we are led to believe that we can hide these things from others, sometimes even from God. Galatians 6:7 says, *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."* God is all knowing and nothing can be hidden from His eyes.

What are we therefore to do? Ask God to give us strength and depend on Him to help us out. 1 John 1:9 gives assurance that we can confidently confess our faults and failures and be forgiven: *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

In this lesson, we will discover that it is truly impossible to hide our sins. All the people herein discussed believed that their faults, failures, and sins could be hidden from God and others. Knowing that we can't hide our sins we should always own up to all our wrongs and make amends.

Jesus taught His disciples in Luke 12:2-3: *"For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops."* One day all unrepentant sins and all idle words will be openly revealed. Oh, how Jesus wants to cleanse us now!

1. What may happen when we try to hide a sin? Proverbs 20:17; Isaiah 30:1.
2. Share some thoughts on the exposure of sin in these verses:  
1 Chronicles 28:9; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Luke 12:1-3;  
1 Corinthians 4:5.
3. Share some thoughts on the motivations and results of the following persons who attempted to hide their sins. How/when was their sin revealed?  
The sin of Cain (Genesis 4:8-15)  
The sin of Joseph's Brothers (Genesis 37:23-33, 42:1-6)  
The sin of Achan (Joshua 7:1-25)  
The sin of David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1-12:14)  
The sin of Jezebel (1 Kings 21)  
The sin of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)
4. What happened to David when he tried to hide his sins from God? Psalm 32:3-4.
5. What steps did David take to remedy this sinful problem? Psalm 32:5.
6. What attitude is promised to those who confess and forsake their sin? Psalm 32:1-2.
7. Share some examples of your own experiences in the past. What were the results of covering those sins?
8. What are some of your own experiences where you confessed your sin or faults?
9. Share some thoughts on these promises about confessing your sin? 1 John 1:9; James 5:16; 2 Peter 3:9.

## Hot or Cold

**Scripture Reading:** Revelation 3:14-22

**Memory Verse:** “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”  
Revelation 3:16

### Introduction:

Hot or cold. Which are we? This is a question we should all honestly ask ourselves. Perhaps you make excuses for your lukewarmness. Maybe you declare how weary you are of well-doing. Have you ever considered that God is also weary—He is weary of seeing how little progress we have made toward becoming “Christ-like.”

What God asks of us is our “reasonable service.” He desires that we be faithful servants and stewards. When we find ourselves falling into lukewarmness it is important to consider what the outcome will be. If we do nothing about our condition, the consequences can be grave and can even jeopardize our salvation. We can balance on the fence between total commitment to God and compromise with the world. We can fool each other in this state and we can fool ourselves, but we can never fool God.

The following anecdote, although humorous, helps us see how we often are fooled into thinking we are doing so much for God, and yet we are not on fire for Him at all. God wants us to be HOT.

“There is a church which sends in its annual statistical statement, year after year, as follows:

Number of members added by baptism.....	0
Number of members added by letter.....	0
Number of members dismissed by letter.....	5
Number of members who have died.....	3
Amount raised/or home missions.....	0
Amount raised for foreign missions.....	0

Pray for us, brethren, that we continue faithful to the end.”

—Current Anecdotes

these two ways in Matthew 7:13-14. Read these verses. What did Jesus call these two ways? “\_\_\_\_\_ is the way” and “\_\_\_\_\_ is the way.”

Which gate leads to destruction, or being separated from God forever? \_\_\_\_\_

Which gate leads to life, or living with God forever? \_\_\_\_\_

Which way is easier to follow, the narrow path or the wide path? \_\_\_\_\_

Samuel chose to go God’s way because he loved God. But he did not always find it easy. One time, especially, God asked him to do something that was very difficult.

One night, while Samuel was in bed, God called “Samuel.” Samuel thought it was Eli calling him, so he ran to Eli’s bed and asked what he wanted. Eli said, “I didn’t call you; go lie down again.” Read 1 Samuel 3:3-8 and write on this line how many times Samuel heard the voice and went to Eli \_\_\_\_\_ times.

Finally, Eli understood what was happening. he realized that God was calling Samuel.

Read verse nine, what did Eli tell Samuel to do?

Now read verse 10. Did Samuel do what Eli said?  Yes  No

God had a message that he wanted Samuel to give to Eli. It was about Eli’s sons. God said that because Eli had not punished his sons properly throughout their lives and had allowed them to go their own sinful ways, they were going to die. Eli’s sons would not become priests after him. Their lives were far too sinful. God was going to choose someone else. Do you suppose that Samuel wanted to give Eli this message? Read verse 15 and find out. Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had told him.

When Samuel did not offer to tell Eli what God had said, Eli finally had to ask Samuel himself. Read verse 17. What did Eli say?

Now read verse 18. Did Samuel keep anything back from Eli?  Yes  No

Because Samuel obeyed God this time, it was easier for him to keep on obeying God. We know this because of what verse 19 says. Fill in the blanks below from this verse.

“So Samuel \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ him and \_\_\_\_\_.”

The last part of that verse means that whenever God told Samuel that something was going to happen, and Samuel told the people, God made sure that it did happen. You can be sure that the people noticed this? In fact, verse 20 tells us that everyone “\_\_\_\_\_ that Samuel \_\_\_\_\_ LORD.”

Samuel grew up to be a great prophet for the Lord because when he was a child he chose to follow the Lord and obey Him. This made it easier for Samuel to obey the Lord as he grew older.

Have you chosen God’s way by asking Jesus to come into your life and forgive your sins? If you have, can other people tell this is so by the way you act? Proverbs 20:11 says “*Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right.*” Study this verse and memorize it. See if you can write it from memory on the lines below.

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reprinted from Young Pilot

# Jamaica

Notice the height of the storm surge behind Sister Neva Edward and Pastor Denis. You can see the debris that the water wrapped around the rod iron as though it was tying it off.



Packed ever so snugly, we were able to deliver two drills, a circular saw, two tape measures, three hammers, chargers and 7 batteries. There wasn't power in most of the western part of the island, so these battery powered tools were greatly appreciated.

Our first day was spent touring "ground zero" in Black River. This is Pastor Denis walking up the drive of one of his parishioners. Above is what's left of the little shop where she sold meals. We were able to give her a little business and enjoyed a meal on the road back to Kinston.



Getting anything transported to the area had been a major hurdle. All of the building supplies were transported using this combi (mini-van)!



Most of the work we did on the second day was done in an area known as Treasure Beach. The team worked on two homes, mainly on replacing the roofs. These pictures are of the home of Sister Dawn, who we met the day before while she was cleaning the church. We found out that her sister had died earlier in December. In August she lost her newborn granddaughter shortly after birth; in September, her son died in a fishing accident; in October she lost almost all of her possession and most of her roof to Hurricane Melissa. These are just two of the many stories we heard.



# Hurricane Relief

December 2025



Sealy Montique and Bishop Salmon with Patrick and Sophia Fleming at the Treasure Beach



Patrick and Sophia Fleming with the Jamaica Council Hurricane Relief workers.



Friday evening, we attended the opening night of the Youth Conference, with worship beginning at 7:00 p.m. and concluding 5 hours later, around midnight. Sabbath services were also led by the Youth.



## Headquarters Happenings Mar-Apr 2026

*By Sophia Fleming*

G.C. Administrator/General Manager

Greetings, in the name of our Lord and Savior,

Today I realized that this issue of the ACTS magazine marks a decade of Headquarter Happenings newsletters! Over the last ten years I've had the privilege to have a front row seat and to participate in the work the Lord has done and is doing. From updating the website and webstore, to mission trips to Africa, to Quarterly Forums presented by the Ministerial Council, and much more - what a blessing it is to join the Lord in His work.

He's not done though; there is still much work to be done and new relationships to make and old relationships to rekindle. In December, my husband and I had the opportunity to do both when we journeyed to Jamaica.

As many of you know, the General Council has been raising funds to help the Jamaica Council Church

of God, Seventh Day with their relief efforts after the devastation left behind by Hurricane Melissa. The Jamaica Council traces its roots to Meridian and for decades they have been using our quarterlies, but over the years communication between our two groups has declined, however, just like with us, they have continued to grow. While we were in Jamaica we had the opportunity to meet with General Overseer Bishop Salmon as well as members of their executive board. It was exciting to learn about how their work has been growing over the years; for example, they have a two-year Biblical studies program that is about to celebrate its third set of graduates. It was also a joy to share what we had been doing with our ACTSforGod.org website and Maranatha College. It will be exciting to explore how the two biblical studies programs could complement each other!

While we were there, my husband and I also saw firsthand the devastation left behind by the hurricane. As you can see from the pictures, what we saw was heartbreaking and nearly overwhelming. We were

*(Continued on page 12)*

thankful for the hands-on work that we were able to do while visiting the community of Treasure Beach.

We ended our time there by enjoying their Youth Conference, hosted by the Kingston Church; this is also the location of the Jamaica Council's headquarters. I wish I could put into words the energy and depth of their five-hour long Friday night worship service, but alas, you will have to imagine the joyous sound of so many young people praising their heavenly Father and His Son, our Savior. The Sabbath service was also Youth led and full of Spirit and Truth.

Over the last several months my husband Patrick and I have launched a new ministry called *His 2nd Wave Outreach* (H2O). H2O's primary purpose is to come along side a local church who's community was affected by a natural disaster to help them assess the needs of their neighbors so they can deliver customized care packages and do follow-up visits. These visits enable the local church to minister to their neighbors long term and establish long-term relationships. I have been so blessed to be able to assist in the coordinating of a partnership between H2O, the General Council and the Jamaica Council to assist their local church in Kentucky, Westmoreland to bless their local community. H2O was able to help secure a donation from the Sawyer Foundation of 100 Sawyer PointOne water filters for the community; in addition your donations were used to purchase much needed essentials and help pay for the transport of barrels that were delivered to Kingston from the Beulah Church of God 7th Day of Brooklyn, NY. Linda Palmer, joined Patrick and myself as we journeyed back to Jamaica in February 2026. While there we trained the leadership

Cash Flow Analysis		Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
Designated Funds		Nov 30 <sup>th</sup>	Jan 31st
Building Fund		0.00	0.00
Campmeeting Fund		2,833.07	2,833.07
Memorial Fund		450.00	450.00
Missions		19,573.51	15,915.32
Park Fund		3,960.00	3,960.00
Funds for Operating Expenses			
General Fund		-5,009.93	685.85
Repairs Fund (10% of Rent)		1,098.91	2,209.80
Average Monthly General Operating Expenses for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 = \$10,433.22			

and volunteers from the Kentucky church as well as a couple of other local churches. Our training centered around relational evangelism and mission mapping. We were able to do a filter distribution and follow-ups for 28 families. The local congregation, with support from the Jamaica Council and H2O will continue the work that we were able to start while there. We are so very thankful for the hospitality of the Jamaica Council and the members who helped us while there.

Although much has been done in Jamaica, there is still much more work that needs to be done. We are praying that you will join us in the continuing hurricane recovery efforts.

This spring, join us as we pray for new growth, not only in our gardens, but also in our hearts!

*Blessings, sf*

**General Council  
Churches of God  
(Seventh Day)**



**Jamaica Council  
Church of God  
Seventh Day**



A huge thank you to the Jamaica Team!  
 From Kentucky: Evangelist & Pastor Young; Missionaries D. Stone & M. Silent  
 From Grange Hill: Missionaries S. Beckford & T. Thompson  
 From Manchester: Missionary S. Rattray-Dickenson,  
 From Kingston: Missionaries Bro. & Sis. Ross & N. Edwards



A lot of work was done behind the scenes. From the training to the purchasing of needed supplies to the sorting of barrels to the bucket and filter assembly.

The day of the filter distribution, Evangelist Young opened the event and shared the Gospel message; we then trained the community on how to use the filters and then did an assessment of each household to find out what their needs were. Each recipient tasted the clean water and showed how they were trained to clean the filter. We had a few more than anticipated at the distribution including the principal of a nearby primary school. We were excited to give her a filter for the school; they plan to fill water bottles for the students each day. The days following the distribution were filled with care package prep and then follow-up visits. Care packages were delivered to many households. These packages ranged from hygiene items like shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and brushes; others included food items like rice, beans, flour, sugar; canned veggies, and meats. During these visits, the teams prayed with the members of the household and shared the Gospel when appropriate. In addition a member of the household was asked to show their knowledge of how to use and clean the filter. The Kentucky team will do a minimum of two more follow-up visits with each household allowing the local church to continue to minister to these families.



This cooperative effort between these organizations blessed many and will continue to bless others in this community. Contact the General Council to learn more and see how you can join this effort.



# Proposed L&C Article XII Changes

## The proposed by-law change will be voted on at the General Business Meeting on July, 2026.

Added content is in *italic*. Deleted content is with ~~strikethrough~~.

~~Anyone desiring to affiliate with the Council, with headquarters at Meridian, Idaho, as a licensed minister, may request an application form. Any man may apply for one of two types of ministerial licenses: (1) pastoral minister, namely, the candidate is actively serving in a pastoral role in a congregation; and (2) lay-minister, namely, the candidate is serving in a layperson capacity, for example: prison ministry, itinerant teacher/preacher, evangelism/outreach, etc. While the general requirements, adherence to the Code of Conduct, and duties of a minister apply to both types of licenses, an individual serving in a pastoral role is deemed to have a wider scope of duties, carry more responsibility and thus have a higher expectation of knowledge, maturity and accountability.~~

Copies of the completed application shall be sent by the Chairman of the L&C Committee to each of the members of the committee for review. Eligibility for licensing will be based on the following: (1) the responses in the application; (2) recommendation by

a minister currently licensed or credentialed by the Council, who is able to vouch for the character and ministry qualifications of the applicant; and (3) Any additional information received during due diligence.

Applications will be considered as they are received. The L&C Committee shall post a list of eligible applicants in two consecutive issues of the ACTS magazine, allowing ample opportunity for any individual to voice their recommendation or disapproval of any applicant under consideration. The L&C Committee will consider any recommendations or disapprovals so voiced as part of the final assessment of applicants. All applicants approved by the L&C Committee shall be recommended to the Board of Directors for final approval. Each applicant must receive a majority vote of the Council Board for approval.

Licenses issued by the Council shall be honored for a maximum of five years and may be revoked by the General Council Board at any time for just cause. The L&C Committee shall review all licenses and credentials every five years for renewal at the annual camp meeting starting in 2026.

A licensed minister is an associate member of the Ministerial Council and not a voting member. Licensed ministers may participate in all discussions and debates, serve on committees, present reports to the Ministerial Body, and act in an advisory capacity.

A licensed minister is eligible to become a credentialed minister after being licensed for five years. Only credentialed ministers are eligible for leadership positions and have voting privileges in the Ministerial Council.

In the event a local congregation or an isolated small group submits for consideration the name of a person not normally considered qualified for full recommendation as a licensed minister, but who is the recognized leader of their group, a “provisional license” may be granted which shall be valid only when working with the group designated on the license. Provisional licenses shall be issued for two years, renewable upon recommendation of the L&C Committee and approval by the Council Board. *Provisional licensees will not be considered members of the Ministerial Council and would not be eligible to become a credentialed licensed minister.*

**NORTHWEST YOUTH CAMP**  
**VINE AND BRANCHES**

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learning how we are the  
branches of Christ!

**June 24th -28th**

Camp Warm Lake  
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For more information visit  
[www.actsforgod.org/events-2/](http://www.actsforgod.org/events-2/)

# Summary of Our Statement of Belief

## **THE BIBLE**

God has revealed Himself through the Bible. Divine guidance of the writing, preservation, and translation of the Bible makes it the most accurate, complete, reliable, and divinely inspired revelation of God.

## **GOD**

God, called I Am (YHWH) in the Old Testament and called Heavenly Father by Jesus in the New Testament, has always and will always exist. God created earth with all of nature and controls it for His purposes. God created people with free choice to live on earth in relationship with Him and gave people capabilities designed for living according to His purpose.

## **JESUS**

Jesus is the divinely born Son of God, and is the Son of Man, who is the divinely anointed Messiah. He was sent to fully reveal the Heavenly Father to mankind and to die an atoning sacrifice. He created the path to reconcile individuals into God's family. Today Jesus is the head of God's Kingdom on earth and the intercessor to God for each of God's children.

## **HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is the power of God recorded working at creation and throughout the Old Testament. God worked by His Spirit through God's chosen leaders, His children, and governments on the earth to accomplish His plan and purposes. In the New Testament God's Spirit worked the divine birth of Jesus and empowered Jesus for ministry. God's Spirit guided the development of the early church and the spreading of the Gospel to known lands. Today the work of God's Spirit includes convincing people of sin, righteousness, judgement, and enabling people to accomplish God's will beyond human limitations.

## **CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus prophesied that He would be buried in the grave for three days and three nights to provide a sign that He is the begotten Son of God. From prophecy and the many timing references about activities around Jesus, we believe that He was buried on Wednesday evening and resurrected Saturday evening.

## **STATE OF THE DEAD**

Death of this mortal life is a condition of "unconscious" waiting until the return of Jesus Christ at His second coming. During the end time, mortal bodies will be resurrected. Members of God's family will become immortal and those who have rejected God will be destroyed at their appointed time.

## **MAN'S CONDITION**

Since creation people have naturally chosen rejection of God's sovereignty and pursue self-interest as their guide for living in God's creation. This has resulted in death for all. The result is that earth is a place of difficult labor and lives of hardship for the duration of separation from God. People cannot on their own reverse this separation.

## **MAN'S SALVATION**

God shows his extreme love for people, His creation, and His design for life on earth by His provision to reconcile people into His family. God sent Jesus, who in love, became the reconciling sacrifice for everyone who believes in the reality of God and accepts inclusion to live in God's family. God's family will live eternally.

## **A HOLY LIFE AND SANCTIFICATION**

God created people to live as members of His family, which includes pursuing His design for living on earth. God is holy and desires His family to live lives differentiated from those who pursue serving self and natural earthly desires. Focus on Godly living becomes the primary purpose of life. This purpose not only leads to pursuing the reality of God but also His desire that people love each other more than desire for self. The ability to achieve this purpose starts with reconciliation into a relationship with God when the Spirit of God becomes part of the inner person. Experiencing the reality of God's continual presence and activity enhances one's day to day living.

## **THE CHURCH**

God designed creation for people to live in connected communities. This increases people sharing their love for God

and experiencing Him. It also increases their love for other people. The church is the primary community designed by God outside of family units. The name "The Church of God" is commonly used in the Bible to identify communities of Jesus's followers. The church is not only the local believer communities but also a collective community of all individuals that follow Jesus. The Spirit of God enables the church to accomplish God's work. Individual church communities are human organizations that need Godly leaders. God's Spirit directs the local group and enables it to do God's work. Such local churches are each responsible for their own teachings and activities. Degrees of fellowship, unity, and pursuit of common objectives establishes connection between individual churches.

## **ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH**

Jesus initiated practices of the church to strengthen the relationship of individuals to God:

Baptism by immersion is a declaration by a child of God expressing their acceptance of God's reconciliation into His family. This celebration by believers receives them into the church community.

The Lord's Supper/Christian Passover commemorates the sacrifice of Jesus to bring reconciliation to the children of God. Jesus instructed His followers to eat unleavened bread and to drink the fruit of the vine to remember His body and blood that was sacrificed. And to do this as they had commemorated the Jewish Passover.

The washing of feet ceremony at the Lord's Supper/Christian Passover is for the church, as a community, and for individuals to recognize and remember Jesus's instruction to serve each other.

## **THE TEN COMMANDMENT LAW AND THE SABBATH DAY**

The Ten Commandments, given by God, are to teach righteous words and actions to all mankind. This standard of acceptable behavior reflects the necessary personal inward experience that leads people to know God and accept reconciliation into his family.

God established the sunset to sunset Seventh Day Sabbath as a gift to mankind to break from work, responsibilities, and burdens for one day a week. This gift not only rejuvenates but calls for remembrance of God who set it apart and of His love for creation.

When God established Israel as His personal people, Moses handed down civil laws to govern the lives of Israelites. When the resurrection of Jesus the Messiah instituted the New Covenant, God's nation became internalized by all believers located in all nations.

## **PRAYER AND DIVINE HEALING**

Prayer is the opportunity to connect to God in spiritual communication, to worship and praise Him for His love and work on earth. It is the way to approach Him with needs and to express concerns for the needs of others. Prayer is to God, recognizing Jesus as mediator, and seeking to know and accept God's will in life. We believe in the "laying on of hands" of the elders and the prayer of faith for divine healing.

## **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

We believe that Jesus the Messiah will return to earth to set up the physical Kingdom of God, to rule in place of earthly nations that withstand God and His righteousness. His return will initiate the resurrection of the dead, the reward of the righteous, the earth made new and become the eternal home of the children of God. Afterwards the earth will be free from sin and the curse of death.

## **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

We believe that Bible prophecy has indicated the seasons of events that will occur near the return of Jesus. Those times will include increasing rejection of God and increasing calamities facing mankind. The current challenges that nations are facing are likely the work of God moving towards the soon return of Jesus. As such, more diligence is required to reach out to those around and to stand on the truth of God's existence and His offer of reconciliation to all.

GENERAL COUNCIL CHURCHES OF GOD,  
(SEVENTH DAY), INC.  
1827 W 3RD STREET  
MERIDIAN ID 83646-1653

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Meridian, Idaho

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## 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Campmeeting

June 29—July 4, 2026

# Ripple Effect

*"... giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."  
2 Peter 1:5-7*

Come and join us for a week of fellowship and learning for all ages!

Register Today!



Please pray for the planning of this event. If you are feeling led to volunteer or teach, please contact our office!  
Mark your calendars! We hope to see you here.



## Become a Nominating Committee Member

The Board of Directors cordially invites you to prayerfully consider serving as a member of our newly formed Nominating Committee.

Committee members will be responsible for gathering and submitting names for the upcoming Board of Directors and Licensing and Credentials elections, which will take place during the Annual Business Meeting held at Camp Meeting.

If you are interested, please contact Earl Rice or Sophia Fleming through the Headquarters Office.