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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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ACTS is the official magazine of the General Council Churches of God, (Seventh Day), Inc. and is published to advance the Gospel Message around the world, and to promote the general welfare of the Churches of God, (Seventh Day), as a whole.
"Advocating Christ the Savior"

President's Letter May 2026

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Board of Directors has been hard at work supporting the many directives of our organization. We have been assisting with hurricane recovery in Jamaica, working on foreign missions, and helping support the staff at the Headquarters in Meridian, ID. Maranatha College is also making headway in its course offerings. We currently offer *Systematic Theology* and will shortly be adding a new course.

You probably saw the ad below in the last *ACTS* magazine that asks: "What are you doing?" What are you doing for the Lord, for your family, for those in need, for your church, for the General Council, and for your own spiritual growth?

Too often in life we become so busy with work, responsibilities, or even hobbies that everything else gets pushed aside. I know personally that I can become so focused on work that I lose sight of other important things. Over time, you grow weary and begin to wonder why you no longer feel led by the Spirit. You find yourself simply going through the motions—the proverbial bump on a log. You attend church, but you do not truly hear the message because your mind is still on the work waiting to be done. You may even begin to wonder why the church seems to be getting smaller or complain that certain things are not happening.

But perhaps the better question is not, "What can the church do for me?" but rather, "What can I do for

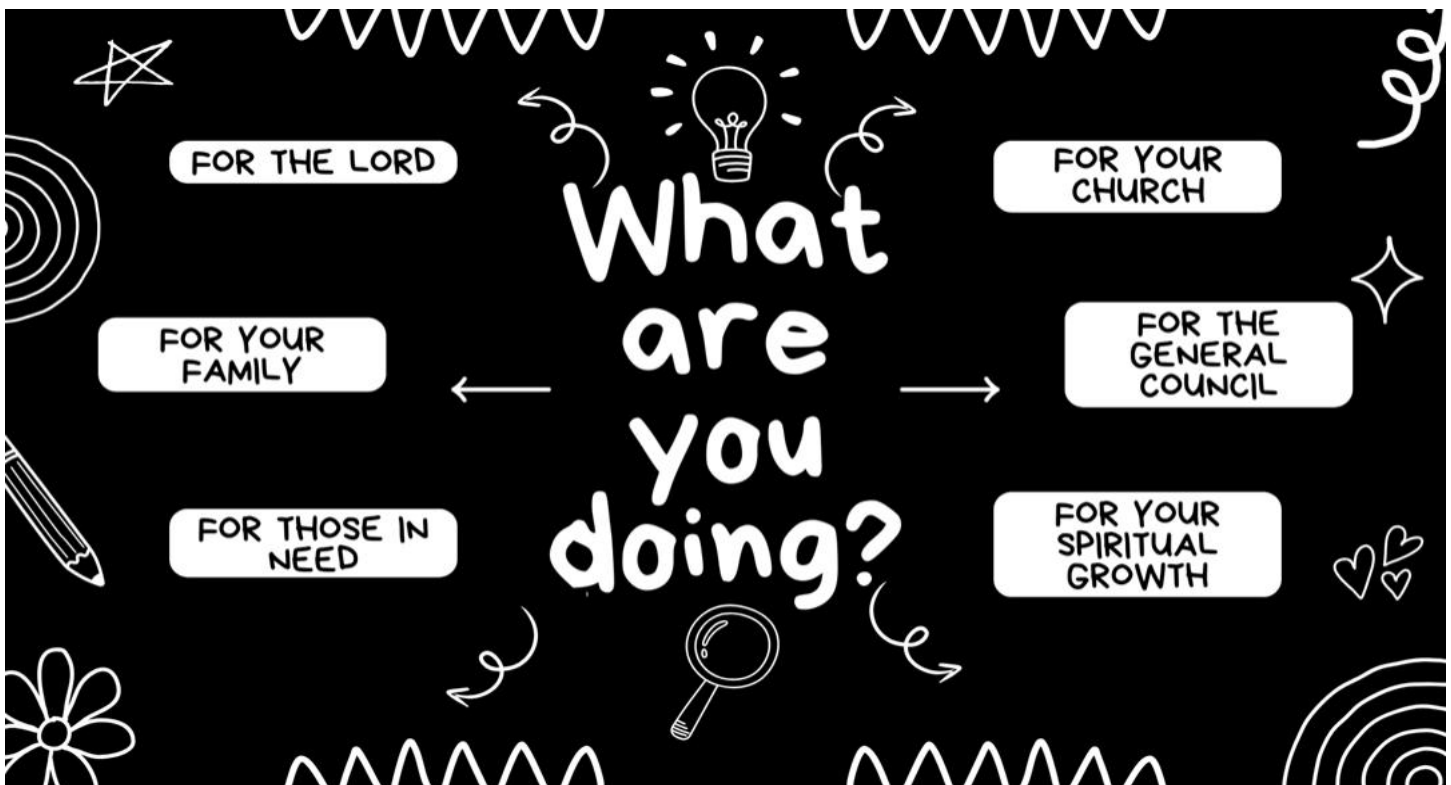
the church?" The church is like a family, and everyone has a part to play. We must first look within ourselves and discover what God is calling us to do. We must feed ourselves by studying the Word of God so that we are open and receptive to the Word being spoken in church. If we want to see change in the church, we must be willing to take the first step. Sitting back and waiting for someone else to act rarely brings about the change we hope to see.

Our families are important as well. We must work with one another and forgive one another. I know that this is often easier said than done. However, Luke 6:37 reminds us: "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." If God can forgive us for all the wrong we have done, then surely we must strive to forgive one another.

The General Council needs your help. We need help with whatever assistance you are able to provide—through articles, volunteering during campmeeting, financial support, or helping with the *ACTS* magazine. As we continue to support those who are licensed or affiliated with the General Council, we ask for your partnership.

Help is not a one-way road. If you need assistance, please let us know how we can help you. We also welcome your thoughts on how we can better serve you.

Earl Rice, President
General Council Churches of God, (Seventh Day)



“Who Do Men Say That I, the Son of Man, Am?”

Steve Boone

That is the question Jesus asked his disciples in Mathew 16:13. In their answers, they gave the names of John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. Those weren't just random answers. They were based upon the rumors or discussions going around Judea about Jesus.

Herod Antipas was condemned by John the Baptist for marrying Herodias. His fear, described in Matthew 14:2 was that Jesus was John the Baptist come back to life. Herod was rightly feeling guilty about the death of John the Baptist.

That Jesus was Elijah was another rumor going around Judea. Elijah was prophesied to return by the prophet Malachi (Malachi 4:5-6).

Peter answers rightly who Jesus was by saying that he was the Messiah. He states plainly, *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matthew 16:16). Jesus compliments Simon and says that this was revealed to him, not by flesh and blood, but by the Father who is in heaven. In response, Jesus gives Simon the new name of Peter (Matthew 16:17-18).

Who is this Jesus that was the *“Son of the living God”*? Jesus says that He and His father are one in John 10:30. And the Jews picked up stones to stone him. In response, in verse 34, Jesus gives an answer by quoting Psalm 82:6,

“Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, “You are gods”’? If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?” (John :10:34-35)

In making this comparison, Jesus is defending His statement that He is the *“Son of God.”* The reference to *“you are gods”* in Psalm 82:6 refers to the judges or prophets of Israel to whom the word of God came. Jesus goes on to challenge them to believe that the Father is in Him and that He is in the Father, because of the works Jesus is doing.

In John 17:2 in Jesus' prayer to the Heavenly Father, Jesus says: *“As You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.”* The Heavenly Father has given authority over all flesh. Why? To give eternal life to those given Him by the Father.

In Matthew 28:18, Jesus repeats this in the Great Commission and says, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”* Jesus was granted authority over all flesh. Jesus has been given authority to *“glorify the Father.”*

Who is this Jesus and what is His authority?

Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!”

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee. (Mark 1:21-28)

We see His authority by His power over Satan and all his demons. This was a new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him (Mark 1:27).

We see the authority of Jesus by his control over all nature in Luke 8:22-25. Jesus and His disciples were in a boat and He was sleeping. A windstorm came up and was filling the boat with water. His disciples came and woke Jesus up and said, *“Master, Master, we are perishing!”* (Luke 8:24). Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves and they ceased, and there was a calm. The disciples marveled and said to one another, *“Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey him!”* (Luke 8:25). Do the winds and the waves still obey the Son today? The Son who is at the Father's side?

In Revelations 17:14, Jesus is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, and those with Him are called the chosen and faithful. In that scripture, the Great Prostitute and the Beast will make war on the Lamb and the Lamb will conquer them, for He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. In Daniel 2 and 4, we see that no king has power except that God puts him there (Daniel 2:21, 4:17, 35). Every decision made by a ruler, whether it is Hitler, President Trump, Putin, or whatever world ruler you can name; if it is made against the plans of God and the granted authority of Jesus, it will in time come to nothing. God through Jesus is ruling over the affairs of history.

Jesus receives this authority from the Father. John 3:35, *“The Father loves the Son, and has given all*

things into His hand.” When we see in the Bible that the Heavenly Father has the right to do something, we know that Jesus has the right to do it.

Back to John 17:2, *As You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.*” Jesus has been given ALL Authority and especially over the sinful acts of men to grant to men eternal life. For the statement of Jesus: “Son, your sins are forgiven you,” Jesus was accused of blasphemy by the Jewish Scribes in Matthew 9:1-8 (see also Mark 2:1-12 and Luke 5:17-26).

Jesus, by His sacrifice on the cross, provided a covering for sins of all those who will accept Him. Jesus finished the work on earth that God gave Him to do. All the Roman and Jewish world conspired against the son of God to put Him to death. This is stated very well in Acts 4 when Peter and John were released from the High Priest and Jewish Council and the believers were gathered together praising God. Listen to what they said about the situation:

And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said, “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ho by the mouth of Your servant David have said, ‘Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the LORD, and against His Christ. ‘For truly against Your Holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.” (Acts 4:23-28)

Sinful men intended the death of Christ for evil: Herod, Pilate, the Roman soldiers, the people of

Israel all conspired to put to death the Lord’s anointed. It is all in God’s plan.

That was to God’s glory and to the glory of His son, Jesus Christ. That is what Jesus was praying about in John 17. It came to pass, just as God planned. All authority has been given to the Son, to overcome sin. By the atoning sacrifice of the perfect lamb of God, our sins are covered. Not by our might or power or by our wealth or intellect, but only by the authority God gave to His son.

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Galatians 1:3-5)

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FINDING STRENGTH IN STRUGGLE

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
James 1:2-4 ESV

STRENGTH IN STRUGGLE

MIDWEST FAMILY CAMP DATES: Sunday July 26 - August 2, 2026
SERVICES START MONDAY, JULY 27

Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

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Daughters of the King

St. Vincent and the Grenadines DOK

Joyce Boone

Blessings to all my sisters in the Lord! Already it is nearly two months since Steve and I, with Sister Terri Parry, traveled to St. Vincent and the Grenadines to attend the Richland Park “Light of Truth” Church of God Seventh Day church. It was an adventure; our first time leaving the United States!

We stayed at Pastor Calvin Ledger’s home and were made so welcome by Brother Calvin and Sister Theresa. A highlight was fellowshiping with the brothers and sisters of the church. Their heart to do God’s will was clear. When we left, we wished we did not live so far away from them. It is a privilege to have met the church family there and we would like to see them again!

I am grateful to have met the sisters in St. Vincent. We share the same desire for contact with others of like faith. They, like me (and you I am sure) want fellowship; they want to work for the Lord but feel alone. We see ourselves as Daughters of the King, but scattered, few in number and feeling too far away from other sisters.

Talking in St. Vincent with sisters Theresa, Daphline, Helen, Kayon, Shevorn, and Nikki (hopefully I have not overlooked anyone) one thing stood out. We need to have connections to others, to be encouraged by them, to learn from each other. We want to know that we have sisters in Christ near and far who care for us and will pray with us.

With that in mind, we shared our phone numbers, and when I returned home we began a conversation on WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free app that is very easy to download and use on a phone. It is also used by ministers of the Church of God Seventh Day to maintain connection.

You are invited to join us in the Daughters of the King on WhatsApp. You can do that by simply texting me at 660-591-2126 or emailing me at momjobo1959@gmail.com. I will send you the link to join. If you are already in the Daughters of the King WhatsApp chat, you can invite others to join also. The instructions are in the app. Please consider joining in the conversation and do invite others; you will be blessed!

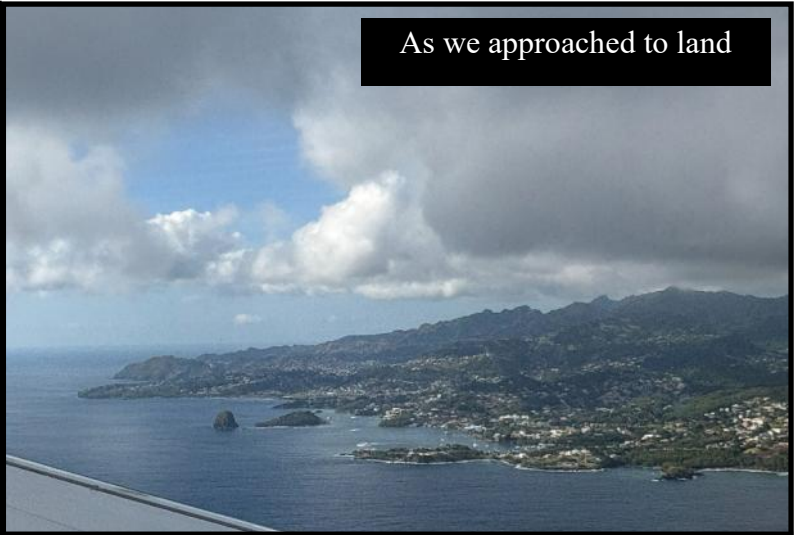
ALSO, visit the ACTSforGod.org online to view the ministerial quarterly training videos, soon to include the sessions from St. Vincent. May God bless our unity in the faith.



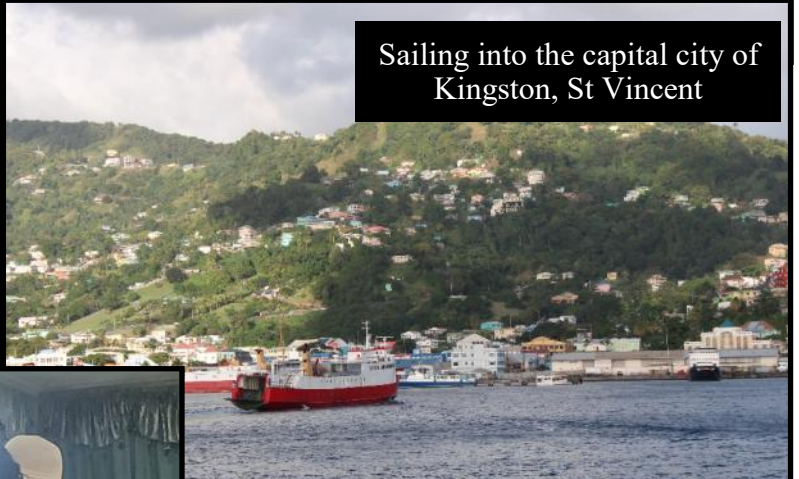
The Ledger family and some of the church members



The beauty of the island—the mountains



As we approached to land



Sailing into the capital city of Kingston, St Vincent



Talking with the sisters in St Vincent



Pastor Calvin and Sister Theresa Ledger



Daughters of the King cont.

Greetings Sisters,

Thinking of all of you and praying God's grace as you labor on in your home church or local area.

I have been very busy with family issues and also with a trip to Jamacia to serve the folks there trying to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Melissa. What a blessing! I met so many lovely people and made some very beautiful new friends.

Once again, our annual camp meeting is rapidly approaching. This year the Daughters of the King will be electing new officers. I would love to extend an invitation to any lady who is interested in considering becoming part of our work. Please contact the General Council Headquarters or me, Linda Palmer, directly for more information.

During Campmeeting, we auction donated handmade items and baskets to support our projects. Anyone, member or not, is welcome to donate items. From the proceeds of the auction, we support projects that support and promote growth for our local and national youth. We support missions that have specific needs in other countries and are willing to look at others God brings to us. We also support the growth and improvements of our facilities here in Meridian, Idaho, especially our commercial kitchen that we use during Campmeeting and use to support our community when we have an opportunity.

During our annual DOK meeting, we have social time and conduct DOK business. This meeting is also available on Zoom so that other ladies not able to attend can participate. This year we want to remember and celebrate those who have encouraged, taught or mentored us in our walk with God.

As my mother passed away early in my marriage and was not a member of the church, I was blessed with a beautiful "mother in love", Elvina, who taught me so many of the skills I use today. Many sisters in Christ adopted me and showed me how to grow into the woman I am today. Aunt Edna Palmer patiently helped me learn to teach the children. Ruth Estep and Jennie Sienknecht and others mentored me in cooking for large groups and to be a cook during our camp meeting and many other camps.

These are just a few of the beautiful people who poured their love and knowledge into my growth as a Christian Woman. I would love to hear your story and so would the other ladies who read this ACTS. Please write them up and send them in and we can publish them on our DOK page.

God Bless each and every one of you ladies as you labor on and hold fast until the Lord returns.

Linda Palmer,

President of the DOK

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.

LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What value is there of being reminded of truths we know and practice? 2 Peter 1:12.
2. How long did Peter feel responsible to remind and encourage his brethren? 2 Peter 1:13. What does it take to “stir you up” regarding God’s world?
3. How was Peter handling the fact that his martyrdom was near? 2 Peter 1:14; John 13:36; 21:18-19.
4. What provision was Peter making as his death drew near? 2 Peter 1:15. Do we make the most of every opportunity?
5. Why was Peter so certain that his teachings were based upon the authority of God? 2 Peter 1:16; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 5:15.
6. What supernatural event was Peter using as an example of this authority? 2 Peter 1:17-18; Mark 9:2-8. Do you think this experience was helpful to Peter in facing death?
7. What authority are we to depend upon? 2 Peter 1:19; Psalm 119:105. Do you think these men were grounded in the Old Testament scriptures?
8. To what great event was Peter feeling very close? Titus 2:13; Revelation 22:16.
9. Where does our authority NOT come from, and how should we react to the human viewpoint? 2 Peter 1:20; 1 Corinthians 2:13.
10. What is the authority of the scriptures based upon? 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Samuel 23:2. What should be the final authority for managing the Christian walk? 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

EXTRA-MILE QUESTION: Describe the basis for interpreting difficult passages of scripture. Use scriptures or examples not given in this lesson.

HOLINESS LEAVES ITS MARK— A PECULIAR PEOPLE

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2:1-10.

Memory Verse: “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light....”

(1 Peter 2:9)

INTRODUCTION:

Our study begins with a transition paragraph (1 Peter 2:1-3) starting with the word “wherefore.” We should consider this as a connector from what has been said previously to what he is about to present. This should be helpful in our discussion.

After covering salvation, Peter now presents to us some views on Christian growth. A quick look in the mirror will reveal that this can be a bit overwhelming; for instance, his description of the Christian brotherhood. This exalted conception is given by one who was a strict Jew, practiced circumcision, and believed in the Mosaic institutions. These descriptive titles placed upon all Christians become very significant

In our study all of them will be addressed, but let’s look at one that can be misused. Often we hear that we should be able to pick out a Christian from within a group of people. This suggests a certain appearance would be necessary. In our modern usage, “peculiar” has come to mean “odd.” However, the original thought in scripture means to be “purchased.” Brethren, being God’s own possession doesn’t lessen this impact.

In conclusion, this lesson covers thoughts that are far too glorious for the minds of men to totally comprehend.

1. When one desires to conduct himself properly, what are some hindrances to personal growth? 1 Peter 2:1; Romans 6:6. Do these ever occur in the church setting? James 4:11.
2. How can we plant seed for personal growth? 1 Peter 2:2. Can mature Christians also be affected? 1 Corinthians 3:1-3.
3. Why are there results from planting seed for spiritual growth? 1 Peter 2:3; Psalm 19:7-11.
4. What changes take place as a result of personal growth? 1 Peter 2:4.
5. Who are these “lively stones?” 1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:20-22. What is the desire and character of these stones? Hebrews 13:15-16. Define the term “to communicate.”
6. How does being part of this spiritual house affect us? 1 Peter 2:6. What is meant by the word “confounded?” Romans 9:33; 1:16.
7. Why is there a negative aspect revealed? 1 Peter 2:7-8.
8. We have in 1 Peter 2:9a a detailed description of a Christian. Let’s discuss each one.
Chosen generation - 1 Peter 2:4 may help.
Royal priesthood - 2 Corinthians 5:19-20.
Holy nation - literal and/or spiritual?
Peculiar people - see introduction.
9. How should we show our gratitude for such a transformation? 1 Peter 2:9b-10; Psalm 15-17.

EXTRA-MILE QUESTION: Compare this lesson with these additional scriptures and apply them to your own personal situation: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 12:1-2.

THE AUTHORITY FOR MANAGING A CHRISTIAN WALK

Scripture Reading: 2 Peter 1:12-21.

Memory Verse: “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” (2 Peter 1:21)

INTRODUCTION:

The key to any religion is what its beliefs are based upon. Peter bares his heart that all may see Jesus. This revelation was based upon his actual experience and the responsibility he felt toward God’s people.

His open discussion about his soon coming death should not be taken lightly. His life was changed because of the time he spent with Jesus, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the testimony of the prophets. These experiences gave him great strength as the time of his death drew near. God inspired him to share this compelling faith so that it might help others.

No other religion is based upon a supernatural authority that was eye witnessed by thousands. Even historians pen the mighty counts of this era. Other religions survive by intellectual assent. A Christian bases his authority upon a known and proven power, one that has been seen, experienced, and recorded from a divine viewpoint.

Anew we pledge ourselves to thee,

To follow where thy truth shall lead;

Afloat upon its boundless sea,

Who sails with God is safe indeed.

-Author Unknown

1. In the epistle introduction, how is the foundation of our precious faith described? 2 Peter 1:1-2.
2. How do we acquire the things that pertain unto life and godliness? 2 Peter 1:3. Discuss the concept of true knowledge being bestowed as a gift of God through His power. James 1:17.
3. What is meant by being partakers of the divine nature? 2 Peter 1:4; John 1:12; 1 John 3:1-2. List some benefits of escaping the corruption of this world.

The next three questions come from 2 Peter 1:5-7. Discuss these fruits as they relate to Christian growth and stability.

4. Faith—Romans 10:17.
Virtue—Courage or fortitude.
Knowledge—True wisdom from God.
5. Temperance—Proper use through restraint.
Patience—Bearing all trials and difficulties. James 1:3.
Godliness—Reflecting the attributes of God.
6. Brotherly Kindness—Hebrews 13:1-2. Charity—The grease that makes it all work. 1 Corinthians 13:13.
7. What is the result of adding the above fruits to our lives? 2 Peter 1:8.
8. What is the result of NOT adding these fruits to our lives? 2 Peter 1:9; Titus 2:14. How would this hinder growth and stability?
9. When we practice God's ways in our lives, what can we be sure of? 2 Peter 1:10; 1 John 2:10.
10. Discuss the witness a stable Christian represents to others. 2 Peter 1:11.

EXTRA-MILE QUESTION: Discuss the phrase in 2 Peter 1:10, “Make your calling and election sure.” Is this done on our part or on God's part? Check other translations including Phillips’.

SUFFERING—A PART OF THE EARTHLY PILGRIMAGE

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-4:11.

Memory Verse: “But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled....” (1 Peter 3:14)

INTRODUCTION:

A study on the suffering of a Christian should never be easy. Peter presents to us the position of a Christian suffering both as a citizen and a saint.

This lesson deals more with our attitude towards suffering. Many of those that Peter is directing this letter to will be persecuted and even die for their personal commitment to Jesus Christ. When all is said and done it's this individual commitment that really matters. As we read earlier, Peter also faced a martyr's death.

The passage of scripture that has always been most difficult to interpret we will save for the extra-mile question. The language is not consistent enough to imply a doctrine of a second chance. We should also consider that Noah and his family were saved in spite of the flood, not because of the flood. It's also interesting to note that Noah was considered a preacher of righteousness.

There is even in normal times a period of physical suffering, mental suffering and heartbreak. Often the providence of God takes us through difficult personal times. In many cases God is allowing us a time to apply spiritual principles and preparing us to be a more effective servant.

1. Why is it unnatural to suffer for doing good? 1 Peter 3:13. How should we react if it happens to us? 1 Peter 3:14; Matthew 5:10-12.
2. Why will others notice that we have a special hope? 1 Peter 3:15. What opportunity might present itself? Colossians 4:6.
3. Should we feel guilty if we suffer because of our good Christian behavior? 1 Peter 3:16-17. What kind of assurance can we have during these difficult times?
4. What was the character and consequences of Christ's suffering? 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:26-28; Romans 8:11.
5. In what way does suffering for Christ affect our attitudes and conduct? 1 Peter 4:1-2; Titus 2:12.
6. How does the world view it when we leave our past life of sin to serve the Lord? 1 Peter 4:3-4; Ephesians 4:17-19. Witnessing to old friends and relatives is often difficult; how can we do it?
7. What must those who mock and make fun of Christians also face? 1 Peter 4:5. Is 1 Peter 4:6 talking about the Gospel being taught previous to or after physical death? 1 Peter 4:6.
8. Is this verse talking about the second coming of Jesus or their own personal death by persecution? 1 Peter 4:7; Genesis 6:13; Romans 13:11.
9. Why is it essential for our love to be literally "stretched out"? 1 Peter 4:8-9.
10. As we near the second coming of Christ, we'll very likely need this intense love to survive.
11. How does the Holy Spirit use us for the glory of God? 1 Peter 4:10-11; Romans 12:6-8.

EXTRA-MILE QUESTION: Read 1 Peter 3:19-22.

Part 1 - Did Christ preach between His death and resurrection?

Part 2 - Did Christ offer them a second chance?

Part 3 - Does water baptism save us?

STABILITY THROUGH GROWTH

Scripture Reading: 2 Peter 1:1-11.

Memory Verse: For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:8)

INTRODUCTION:

Peter was greatly concerned that all would learn to know and accept the counsel of God. He was convinced this would provide a church with stable Christians.

It was his desire that they should be able to detect error and meet the dangers of their particular time period. Christians today also face the same struggles with only the mode or method changing.

The main thrust is knowing the truth of God's Word and applying it to our everyday life. Peter presents to us several qualities that can and will help us toward spiritual maturity.

The spiritual progression grants to us the power to "be diligent." The end result is the ability to proceed in the Christian walk without falling or stumbling.

"The insuring of one's election is spoken of, not in respect of God, for there is no uncertainty on His part, but on our part. Real joy comes from being sure we're saved. That does not come by sitting down and waiting for religious feelings. Active pursuit of spiritual things and the service of Christ is the quickest way to find inner assurance that the Holy Spirit is indwelling" (1 & 2 Peter; A Self-Study Guide; Moody Press; Irving L. Jensen. The Epistles of Peter; Moody Press; Edgar C. James).

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 ~~striketrough~~.

~~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.*

All currently licensed ministers are up for renewal in July 2026.

The Licensing & Credentials Committee invites your input regarding the following licensed Ministers. All feedback should be directed to the General Council office and must be received no later than June 30, 2026.

Currently Licensed Ministers

Brazil

- Samuel Marques

Canada

- Nathan Byfield
- Leslie DeSouza
- Ian Edwards
- Denrick Rose

Kenya

- Josko Kibet
- Raymon Soi

Nigeria

- Apkan Basse
- Ambrose Okoro

Rwanda

- Ndayizeys Leonidas
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines*
- Calvin Ledger
- Ezra Ledger
- Nathan Ledger

United States of America

- Randall Avery
- Richard Barrett

- Rodney Boone
- Jonathan Carson
- Dexta Clarke
- Headley Deason
- Andy Fauth
- Donald Gibson, Jr.
- Delroy Gouldbourne
- Wesley Higgins
- Dwight Jack
- Tom Kendrick
- Sidney Marshall
- Shawn McCool

• David Moore

- Ralph Orton
- Layton Palmer
- Keth Rattray
- Basil Straker
- Clinton Wiggins

Newly Licensed Ministers

India

- Kusuma Prakash Nanda
- Canada*
- Delvin Williams

From the West Meadow

By Pastor Wes Higgins

Where is your foundation and how solid is it? If the foundation of a house crumbles, the whole house begins to lean and shift. If it goes on long enough without repair, the house becomes weak and collapses in on itself. The same goes for a roadbed or a bridge. If you drive by a working railroad on a regular basis, you will often see workers out there with heavy equipment fixing or tamping the gravel bed. We live in a world that's hard on foundations. Life struggles and societal pressures work to decay and destroy human foundations as well; and not just houses, bridges, or roads.

As Christians, our foundation must also be solid, and that takes work on our part. The Apostle Paul tells us the foundation which we build our lives on must be Jesus Christ. *"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ"* (1 Corinthians 3:11), the Rock. How we build on that foundation – the material we use will become clear over time, see 1 Corinthians 10:1-4. It is on that Rock – Jesus Christ – that we must build and maintain our foundation. But where do we get the good, solid material to build and repair on that Rock foundation? Notice: the idea that Christ has done everything for us and we don't have to do anything doesn't work. We must participate in the building as well. Paul continues: *"Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear"* (1 Corinthians 3:12-13). We, as *"members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone"* (Ephesians 2:19-20). That foundation is the Bible, the Word of God, inspired by God and written by *"holy men of God...moved by the Holy Spirit"* (2 Peter 1:21).

Jesus Christ is that Word. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:1,14). Jesus is shown teaching the disciples the importance of understanding the written word, that which is *"written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."* And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (Luke 24:44-45). The term *"It is written"* (or its equivalent) is used over 300 times throughout the Bible. *"All Scripture [both Old Testament and New Testament] is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Christ, whose *"name is called The Word of God"* (Revelation 19:13) – He is our foundation and cornerstone, and His word (the Bible) is the written foundation we must, as Christians, build our lives on.

"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'." (Mathew 4:4; see also Deuteronomy 8:3)

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst'." (John 6:35)

2026 Business Meeting Elections:

Wednesday, July 1

General Council Board: (3-Year Term)

Name: _____ Year Term Expires:
Earl Rice (President) _____ **2026**
Tom Kendrick (Vice-President) _____ **2026**
Roger Boone _____ **2026**
David Moore _____ 2027
David DeVous _____ 2027
Craig Moore _____ 2028
Les DeSouza _____ 2028

License and Credentialing: (2-Year Term)

Name: _____ Year Term Expires:
Jonathan Carson (Chairman) _____ **2026**
Denrick Rose _____ **2026**
Steve Boone _____ 2027
Les DeSouza _____ 2027
Wes Higgins _____ 2027

2026 Ministerial Council Elections:

Friday, July 3

Ministerial Council Board: (3-Year Term)

Name: _____ Year Term Expires:
Tom Kendrick (President) _____ 2027
Steve Boone (Vice-President) _____ **2026**
Ezra Ledger (Secretary) _____ 2028
Wes Higgins _____ 2028
Les DeSouza _____ 2028

2026 Daughters of the King Board:

Wednesday, July 1

Linda Palmer (President) _____ **2026**
Melanie Moore (Vice-President) _____ **2026**
Marilyn Sheldahl (Secretary/Treasurer) _____ **2026**
Kim Boyd _____ **2026**
Alice Day _____ **2026**

Headquarters Happenings

Mar-Apr 2026

By Sophia Fleming

G.C. Administrator/General Manager

Greetings to you and yours!

We pray this magazine finds you encouraged and excited about what the Lord is doing around you—whether through the beauty of spring or through the fruit of His Kingdom work in which you have had the opportunity to participate.

We are looking forward to this year's Campmeeting and ask for your continued prayers as we finalize the details and events. Please pray for traveling mercies, for hearts prepared to receive the Word, and for rich fellowship throughout the week. We also ask for prayer for our Annual Meeting. This year, two amendment changes that were introduced last year are scheduled for a vote; you can find the proposed changes on pages 7 and 8. In addition, we will be voting on officer positions and are currently seeking candidates for those offices as well as volunteers for the nominating committee. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact our office.

The Board of Education continues to work on a new course for the Maranatha College website, which they hope to release in the coming months. In the meantime, we encourage you to take advantage of the Systematic Theology course currently available. Alongside curriculum development, the Board has also been refining its vision and goals for Maranatha College.

The Publications Committee has approved a new tract written by Samuel Marques titled *Have You Ever Thought About Keeping the Sabbath?* It is now available as a free download on our web store. We welcome your feedback on this tract as well as the others available online. If you would like printed copies, please contact our office to place an order. The Committee is also continuing its work of reviewing and updating quarterlies; please keep them in prayer as they labor on these important study resources.

This is the renewal year for our licensed ministers. This year, a survey was emailed to them to complete in addition to the required renewal forms. We know the L&C Committee is eager to hear how the Lord has been working through these faithful men. A list of our licensed ministers can be found on page 9. We welcome any feedback you may have and will pass it along to the L&C Committee as they prayerfully review each minister for renewal.

| Cash Flow Analysis as of Mar—2026 | | Beginning Balance | Ending Balance |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Designated Funds | | Jan 31 st | Mar 31 st |
| | Building Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Campmeeting Fund | 2,833.07 | 2,833.07 |
| | Memorial Fund | 450.00 | 450.00 |
| | Missions | 15,915.32 | 14,173.37 |
| | Park Fund | 3,960.00 | 3,960.00 |
| Funds for Operating Expenses | | | |
| | General Fund | 685.85 | -1,784.96 |
| | Repairs Fund (10% of Rent) | 2,209.80 | 3,462.8 |
| Average Monthly General Operating Expenses for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 = \$10,433.22 | | | |

The General Council has reached a point in its growth where adding staff is necessary in order to better serve our existing ministries and support future expansion. Over the last ten years, we have seen growth in several areas, including expanding our quarterlies selection, updating our website, exploring the possibility of an international missions fellowship, reopening Maranatha College as an online school, adding Ministerial Council Forums, adding or updating several tracts, centralizing giving for missions work, beginning the digitization of our Campmeeting archives, and upgrading our facilities for both our own use and the use of others.

We have determined that, with the help of staff who are willing to work remotely, we can add the additional personnel needed—both volunteers and potentially part-time paid workers. We ask that you prayerfully consider helping in any of these areas, or in other areas such as children's and youth curriculum. Please contact our office if you have any questions.

We praise God for every ray of joy, and we thank Him for the hope we have in Him in those times of trial.

Blessings, sf

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

- Romans 12:4-5

Daughter's of the King Youth Camp Scholarships Available!

The Daughters of the King are offering a minimum of five scholarships, each valued up to \$150, to support youth and young adults in attending any Christian Youth Camp. **Applications will be accepted until June 10, 2026.** These scholarships may be used to help cover registration fees or travel expenses related to the camp.

For more information or to fill-out the application go to:
<https://www.actsforgod.org/dok-youth-camp-scholarship-application/>



MIDWEST YOUTH CAMP INVITES YOU
TO JOIN US

*Are you a
Teamplayer?*

PHILIPPIANS 3:14-16

"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of one mind."

MAY 26TH-31ST

White Oak Christian Camp
Moberly, MO



Contact Us
(720)810-9779
mycboard@gmail.com



NORTHWEST YOUTH CAMP VINE AND BRANCHES

Join us for fun, games, and
learning how we are the
branches of Christ!

June 24th -28th

Camp Warm Lake
2736 Warm Lake Rd, Cascade, ID 83611
For more information visit
www.actsforgod.org/events-2/

Have you registered for Campmeeting yet?

Registration to
attend Campmeeting
isn't required—but is
very helpful!



Help our cooks plan
meals & give our
teachers an idea of how
many to expect.

You can register by going to
www.actsforgod.org/events/campmeeting-2026/
Or use this QR code!

Children's Corner!

Strength From God

“Oh, Grandma, Grandma!” called Sherry excitedly as she came running into the kitchen. “There’s a little boy out there without any legs, and he’s running with those other kids!”

“Now Sherry, what are you saying? The little boy can’t run if he doesn’t have legs.”

“Well, Grandma, he doesn’t have legs sticking out of his pants.”

Mrs. Hoke went to the door with Sherry and, sure enough in the neighbor’s yard was a little boy without legs. Yet he was playing with the other children. He walked on his hands, swinging his body. Mrs. Hoke and Sherry watched for a few minutes, then closed the door.

“I remember now, Mrs. Hulett told me about little Don. He is her grandson. When he was only two, he was very ill and the veins in his legs

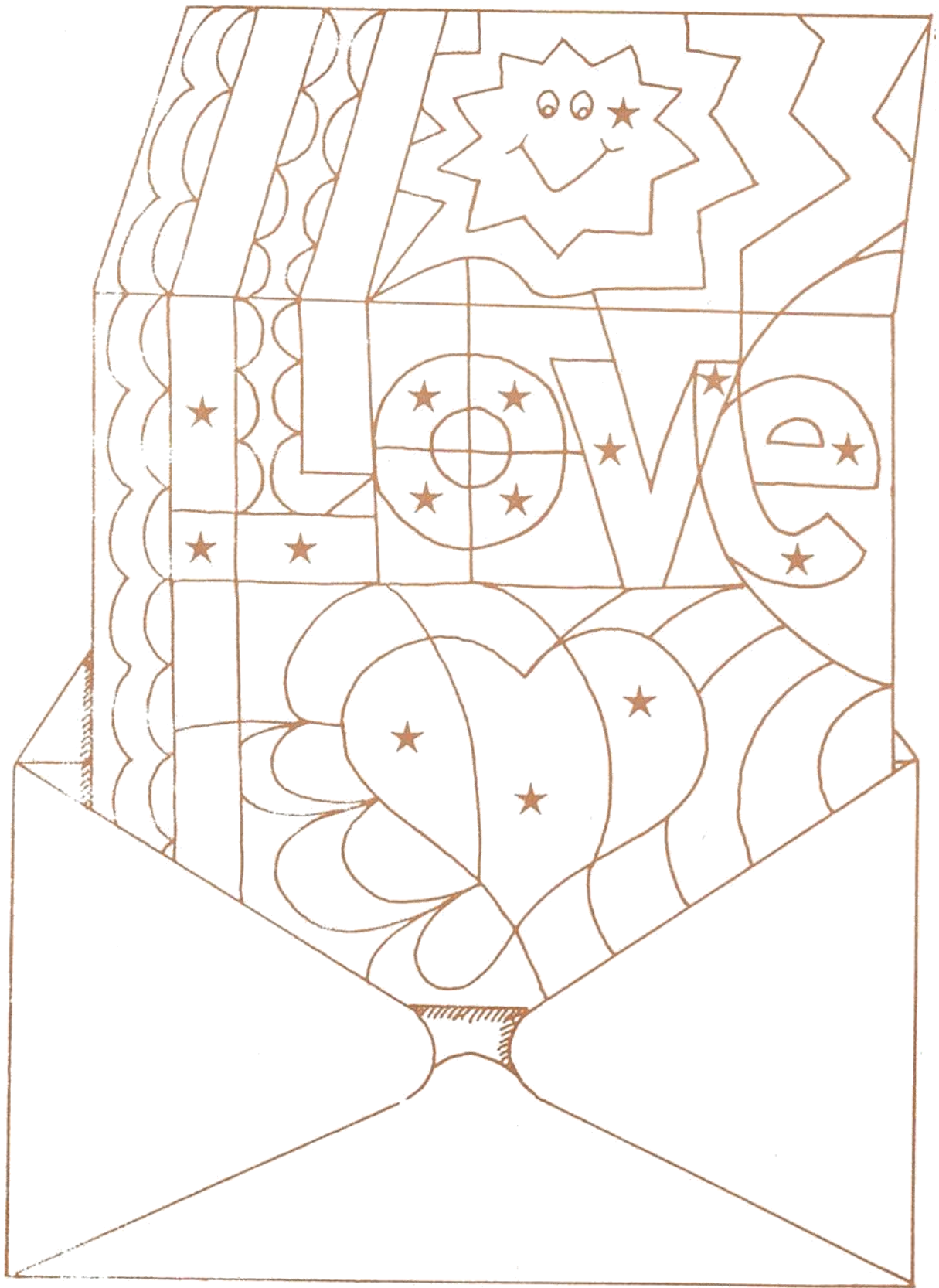
closed so the blood couldn’t go through. In order to save his life, the doctors had to remove his legs. His grandma and grandpa and his parents prayed for him, and God let him live.”

“But how can he carry his body on his arms. He is so little. Where does he get enough strength?” asked Sherry. “He is past four years old now, and he wouldn’t look so little if he had legs,” said Mrs. Hoke. “Often when we are weak in one part of our bodies, God gives us extra strength somewhere else. You know God has all the strength we need, if we only ask Him for it. In the Psalms it says, *‘The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him and I am helped’* (Psalm 28:7). Don’s parents taught him to love the Lord, and his grandma says he enjoys life.”

(A True Story)

Fit the word into the correct spaces to make a crossword puzzle.

- WORSHIP**
- SERVE**
- PRAY**
- KINDNESS**
- GIVE**
- HELP**
- THANK**
- PRAISE**



Color the spaces that have a ★.
Find God's message.

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

Non-Profit Organization
PAID
Permit Number 25
Meridian, Idaho

Contact us: by Mail

Phone: (208) 888-3380
Website: www.ACTSforGod.org

E-mail: Office@ACTSforGod.org



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.

76th 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!



General Council Churches of God, (Seventh Day)

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www.ACTSforGod.org

208-888-3380

For more information, go to:

<https://www.actsforgod.org/events/campmeeting-2026/>