

Welcome to Our New Publication!

Based on member suggestions, the staff and Board of Directors decided to offer new methods of communication to our membership. The *Progress Journal On-Line* is a new format that will provide frequent news electronically. Our plan is to publish at least one issue/month and email the document file to churches and individuals for whom we have an email address. YOU MAY HAVE YOUR NAME REMOVED FROM THE LIST ANY TIME BY REQUEST. You may forward it to others that might be interested. This new publication will gladly include articles, news, and prayer requests from throughout the Conference.

Please share any items that you or your church would like to announce to the conference membership. The *PJ Online* will not replace the printed Restitution Herald and Progress Journal that you currently receive. ☩

Prayer List

Thanks for improvement in the health of Mauro Gonzalez of Montevideo, Uruguay (heart problems)
 Praise for the sale of Bob and Nola Jones' home in Illinois
 Dr. Alva Huffer for recovery from surgery
 ABC student Gloria Sylvester who was in an automobile accident.
 Speedy INS inspection & approval of the new ABC South campus in McDonough

GC Development Office: Building a Culture of Philanthropy

Greetings from the Development Office! As many of you know, I work primarily from an office in my home in Kokomo, Indiana. I spend my time on the road visiting churches, pastors, ministry leaders and individual members across the country. Of course I do get to Atlanta from time to time to coordinate and meet with the leadership and support staff. It's an exciting challenge to



Dale Bliss
Director of Development

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Notes from the Board of Directors

Rob Helenburg, Chair

As promised in the last edition of the *Progress Journal*, here is a brief summary of some of the major items discussed by the Board at the February meeting. Significant time was spent discussing how to improve communications so more of you are informed in a timely manner. We will continue to use printed materials such as the RH-PJ since there are those who are not plugged into the internet. I personally know at least two households that don't even own a computer. That said, we know there are many that are very much plugged in and we are seeking ways to link information to other sites that COG congregants frequent. If you have a website or know of one that might link to the COG website, let us know.

The Board, like everyone else is impacted and cognizant of the effects of our nation's and the world economy. The Board invited a local (McDonough) banker that works with other local not-for-profit organizations to discuss investment principles. The discussions confirmed that during uncertain times like these our priority should be capital preservation. As this has been the policy we've followed, I like to think that God has guided us into the right way.

You may have heard we are still holding classes in Morrow. With rule changes enacted by the Federal Government at the end of 2008, it was a better course of action to keep our classes at a previously approved location. Student visas are one area being monitored more carefully. The South campus should be inspected within the next few months, to be followed by the North campus when completed.

Contributions for the coming year are not currently expected to drop significantly. Much of our income is from student tuition and the remainder is from your giving. Historically those that give during good times tend to continue when things get rough. The faithful donors of the Church of God are no exceptions to this. While we have discussed areas for

cutbacks, if needed, we anticipate the Church of God will at function nearly the same level of activity in the next fiscal year. Expensive items such as travel will be monitored very carefully.

The Board Governance package discussed in my last message was approved and much progress was made on developing strategic plans to meet our Mission and Vision. By the time the new Board takes over, the plans should be in place, ready for implementation.

It was a lot of effort and long sessions, but a lot of good work was done that will benefit us all. ☩

Southwestern Christian University Holds First Class at South Campus

Under a working agreement with ABC, Southwestern Christian University (SWCU) conducted its first distance learning class at our new south campus on March 2-5, 2009. Dr. Garnet Pike, Dean of the Graduate School of SWCU, and ABC Academic Dean Dr. Joe Martin were the key professors. President Tim Jones presented one half day session. The class was LEAD 5552, Organizational Leadership Principles. SWCU is located in Oklahoma and is a university accredited by the North Central Association. They offer distance learning classes in the Atlanta area at locations of schools with which they partner. The Atlanta classes are at the graduate level. There are currently no ABC graduates or Church of God students actively enrolled in the program. However, several ABC graduates have expressed interest in enrolling as early as

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How to Contact Us:

Church of God General Conference

ATTN: Ashley Myers
 2020 Avalon Parkway Suite 400
 McDonough, GA 30253
 e-MAIL: info@abc-coggc.org
 Phone: (404) 362-0052

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DEVELOPMENT

work so closely with the team in Atlanta, but not be a part of the daily buzz. Al-

“Philanthropy is giving in such a way that we impact more than just one person or need. We give so that a culture of change, improvement, or blessing grows.”

though the internet and mobile phone help keep me in touch, I must say that it’s my passion to see ABC and the churches of the General Conference succeed that keeps me going. The functions of the Development Office are to plan, execute and follow up on key initiatives to bless people with the opportunity to give. Unlike paying taxes, buying groceries, or filling the gas tank, giving to the ministry of Jesus Christ has a supernatural power to improve the life of the giver and improve the life of the receiver. That’s right—the giver is blessed even before the receiver! Consider Jesus’ words from Act 20:35, “It is better to give than to receive.” Jesus knew this first hand. He was the world’s best giver...even giving his very life, dying on the cross. Jesus was transformed and blessed because he gave long before we benefit from his love and sacrifice.

Jesus did not give to receive, but out of obedience to the Father and love for the lost. That does not change the supernatural desire of God to bless the giver first. That’s God’s way of doing things. I think He does it that way because He likes it that way. Who are we to say that the giver should not be incredibly blessed? I agree with Jesus. Life is better

when I give than when I receive. You hear a lot about philanthropy these days. Jesus was the ultimate philanthropist! This is very different and much more powerful than charitable giving. The word “philanthropy” comes from two words: *phil* – meaning love and *anthropo* – meaning human. Philanthropy is the love for humanity and the desire to help improve the human condition. Philanthropy is giving in such a way that we impact more than just one person or need. We give so that a culture of change, improvement, or blessing grows. In a philanthropic culture, the receiver becomes the next giver.

You begin to see that nearly every opportunity to give in our Conference is philanthropic. For example, when someone joins the Church Builder’s League, they are not just helping one church improve their facility. They are empowering a ministry to thrive and change lives in their community. This will lead to more servants, leading to more leaders, leading to more pastors, who may one day lead another church through the same exciting process of growth and outreach. Likewise when you give to the ABC Booster Campaign, you are giving more than a charitable gift. You are a philanthropist who is investing in a culture of training, discipleship and recruitment that will prepare Christian servants to serve around the world. This is a demonstration of your genuine *love for humanity*, both the saved and the lost. I’m

glad that we share in a ministry network that provides plenty of opportunity for givers to be blessed. May you embrace the philanthropic culture and give with the confidence that you are not just meeting a need but empowering an everlasting mission in Christ.

Dale Bliss ☩

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SWCU CLASS

the upcoming fall semester. Board Chair Rob Helenburg said, “This cooperative program with SWCU is a mutually beneficial arrangement. ABC graduates have access to an accredited Masters Degree Program and SWCU has access to classroom facilities in the Atlanta area for their program. It is a win-win situation.”

“The Graduate School of Southwestern Christian University is a professional school offering a Master of Ministry degree in various majors in practical professional ministry. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, a Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Graduate School is designed to serve pastors and church leaders who are presently serving in ministry.”

SWCU Web site

SWCU is obviously from a different denominational background and there are distinct theological differences. David Krogh and Joe Martin have reviewed with Dr. Pike our biblical understanding. Dr. Pike has assured us that doctrinal statements are not required and doctrine is not the focus of the Master’s of Ministry degree. Joe Martin says that this degree focuses on the practical aspects of professional ministry. ABC is particularly pleased that Joe has the necessary credentials to teach at the graduate level and has taught portions of all the SWCU classes held to date at our facilities.

We believe this is a good opportunity that allows Atlanta Bible College graduates to pursue a fully accredited master’s degree in ministry. This partnership offers one of several options for our pastors to further their ministry education. ☩

More information about the ABC-SWCU partnership is available on the ABC Web site, or contact Dr. Joe by calling our offices at (404) 362-0052.

Upcoming Events

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| April 12 | Resurrection Sunday |
| April 18-19 | Missouri State Conference , Morse Mill, MO |
| April 26-29 | Theological Conference , Norcross, GA |
| June 1-5 | Christian Workers Seminar , Black Mountain, NC |
| June 12-14 | Minnesota Spring Conf. , Long Lake Bible Camp, Eden Valley, MN |
| June 14-19 | Minn. State Youth Camp , Long Lake Camp, Eden Valley, MN |
| June 21-26 | Midwest Family Camp , Camp Mack, Milford, IN |
| June 21-26 | Carolina Conference Youth Camp , Blowing Rock, NC |
| June 26-28 | Reunion at Camp Mack , Camp Mack, Milford, IN |
| July 8-10 | General Conference , Oregon, IL |
| July 19-24 | FUEL , Manchester College, Manchester, IN |
| Sept 13 | Church of the Open Bible 50th Anniversary , Bedford, OH |
| Sept 25-27 | Annual Meeting of the Virginia State Conference |

