

outreach

Reports from CGOM- associated Festival sites

*The Newsletter
of the Churches
of God, UK*

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providing
leadership
information and
Biblical teaching
Matthew 28:19-20

representing



Brethren who associate with the Churches of God Outreach Ministries again attended a number of Festival of Tabernacle sites, There follow reports submitted. I hope they will give our readers some insight regarding the observance of these days

Lake Texoma, Oklahoma

“Our God Shall Judge!” was the theme of the *Feast of Tabernacles* this year at Lake Texoma, Oklahoma from October 18 to October 25, 2005. Outstanding sermons and people filled with God’s Spirit made this year’s Feast our best one ever.

We had two cookouts by the lake; a paddle boat dinner cruise; cobbler and ice cream after one of the Bible Studies; and were entertained by a Sweet Adeline group “*Red River Valley Chorus*” and a quartet named “*Tonacious*” from Sherman, Texas.

Our numbers were up this year. Some day, we hope to meet YOU at our Feast of Tabernacles site.

— Steven and Suzanne Kieler

Western Hills Guest Ranch, Wagoner, Oklahoma

The 2005 *Feast of Tabernacles* at Western Hills was yet another in a fine succession of successful and rewarding festivals at this ideal location! There were in excess of 250 registered attendees with others attending part of the Feast.

We had a very busy time with two services the first day and on the Sabbath, and then a morning service on all the other days. All of the sermons were of high quality as well as our having a couple of well-attended Bible studies. A wide variety of activities were enjoyed. These included two hymn-alongs, a youth picnic, teen pizza party, pontoon boat ride on the lake, hay ride, hot dog cookout, teen bowling party, potluck picnic, family dance, an activities day consisting of a variety of tournaments followed by a hamburger cookout, family fun show, youth day - when the young adults lead the song service,

Derbyshire, England

Beautiful Chatsworth House - home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire - was the site attended by my wife, son and myself. The two thousand acre Estate is among the most beautiful landscapes in the United Kingdom. (The gardens were designed by the famed Capability Brown)

This site was hosted by the *Global Church of God*. Numbers were small but the fellowship, Bible teaching and activities were superb. Visiting elder was Rene Messier - accompanied by his wife, Delia - from Canada.

Though not 'members' of the *Global Church* we could not have been more welcome.

James McBride

Wagoner, Oklahoma... *cont'd*

gave the sermonette, special music, *etc.* with a baptism service following later that Monday afternoon. One or two of the various church groups represented had church picnics at the camp grounds as well.

Two young adults were baptized, *Mary Johnson* who turned 20 years old on this same day that she was baptized! And *David Csercsics* (pronounced Churchcheck), a 24 year old blind young man from Canada. This was his first feast of tabernacles but he has been studying with another blind gentleman, Gene Collins, via internet, e-mail, *etc.* for some time now and made his decision at the feast to make his commitment to Christ! Gene Collins had very graciously sponsored David's flight and hotel accommodations so that David could attend this his first feast of tabernacles!

It's usually the custom at the feast at Western Hills to use their swimming pool for the baptisms, and as the pool is NOT a heated pool it is generally a real challenge of their resolve (both the ministers and those being baptized) to enter the pool and go under that frigid water to rise a new creature in Christ! But this year Mr. Lee Critser of the Tulsa Church of God very graciously offered his service to travel back to Tulsa and bring the baptismal tank that they use for their baptisms. It was then filled with bath tub warm water and this year the participants were able to enjoy a warm dunk into the watery grave and the ministers performing the baptism were also able to remain warm and relatively dry. Needless to say it was very much appreciated by all of the participants!

The weather started out the first two days to be warm for Oklahoma at this time of year, but then a cool front moved in and the weather was wonderful the remainder of the feast with a crispness in the air and the trees beginning to change colors. It went from warm short sleeve weather to jacket weather overnight! All-in-all, we were very truly blessed at the feast in Wagoner this year.

Weather, fellowship, spiritual and physical food, all of it came together for another Feast of Tabernacles of worship and fellowship that couldn't be beat!

Richard Gawith

NEXT YEAR...

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Collingwood, Ontario.

The *Canadian Church of God*, of Toronto, Canada observed a very rewarding Festival this year at Georgian Peaks Ski Club.

Visiting pastors John Shavers, New Mexico and Tom Williams, Alabama were the guest speakers. There were four sermons by John Shavers, five by Tom Williams and two via video from Bill Rollins, Iowa.

Sermonettes were given by Harold Wright, John Barbaro, Joel Maldonado and Donald Dow. Eleven services and two evening Bibles studies were held as well as Pizza Night, Pot Luck Supper and a Fun Night.

Special music by Ann Lee, Robert Hussey, Irene Shavers, Sheila Merchant and Joel Maldonado.

A truly uplifting Feast inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Donald Dow

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God's Holy Days
Tabernacles: mankind in the flesh

Angel Fire, New Mexico

We just returned from observing the Feast in the beautiful Angel Fire ski resort in northern New Mexico. It was sponsored by the Big Sandy Church of God, but was attended by about 100 people from many scattered congregations.

Host Bernie Monsalvo from Big Sandy and others from other local congregations gave positive and uplifting, humorous and entertaining sermons. We saw many old friends from Feasts past, and met many new friends. And with a small group, how easy it is for brethren to dwell in peace. All meetings and activities were held in the Angel Fire Community Center. Family night created fun for both young and old.

With our four daughters attending, it was also a great family reunion for the Lamb family.

Gene & Eunice Lamb

visit our website: www.cgom.org

Lake of the Ozarks

Over 90 brothers and sisters in Christ from various Sabbath-keeping churches rejoiced at the Lake of the Ozarks for eight days of Feast of Tabernacles celebration. Attendance varied, with a peak of 75 on the weekly Sabbath, and was remarkably steady every day.

In hosting this, the sixth consecutive Feast at the Baymont Inn, the Mid-Missouri Church of God and others interspersed a wide variety of activities alongside the wonderful daily sermon messages.

New this year were an "Ezekiel Temple" Seminar, children's choir, children's Bible classes, a kickball game, kite flying, and horseback riding. Included again this year were the variety show, table games/pie and ice cream social, family picnic, fellowship luncheon, senior breakfast, youth day, and the second annual Ladies' Luncheon.

Several children received God's blessing at the traditional "Blessing of Little Children." Many prayer requests and blessings received were announced daily during services.

This year God provided several anointings and healings (James 5:14,15) at the Feast site, something that had not happened in previous years. These were especially inspiring to all the brethren, and caused even greater rejoicing to the glory of our Father God and His wonderful Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We also had much more special music this year than in past years, and much of it was notably by families, couples, and children.

These comments since the Feast tell the story of how God's Spirit moved at this Feast of the Lord:

"I plan on being at the Ozarks for the Feast next year. I love the people. Everyone is so genuine and family-oriented. The Midwest part of the country seems to have a love for home, family, and country like no other." --*M.K.*

"We had a wonderful Feast. I think (name) and (name) were very touched by the out-pouring of God's Spirit on the Last day. They said they felt very blessed to have been there at services that day." --*D.W.*

"It was a great Feast for me. Lots of good sermons, fellowship, and connectedness. I like that." --*M.S.*

"All the messages were solid and helpful. Everyone participated selflessly and wholeheartedly. The musical high point for me was when four-year-old (name) sang her solo." --*W.S.*

Duke Schneider
Mid-Missouri COG

Penobsquis, New Brunswick, Canada

Our Feast this year was small but enjoyable. It was a pleasure because my wife, Anne, and I were able to combine the time with a visit from our Son and his wife from Alberta, and our Daughter from Nova Scotia.

The Feast was held in Sussex which is about 8 miles from Penobsquis. It is beautiful country with soft rolling hillside and plenty of sheep and cattle to grace the landscape.

With only older people at the Feast we concentrated on some very deep and interesting Bible studies. Some of the time was in discussing our free publication "*The Light*" and arranging for wider distribution.

We are now busy in presenting the gospel to different church groups, and seniors groups. We have already been able to present to SDA, Baptist and several seniors groups. Some SDA have shown interest in the Holy Days and it comes as a surprise to Baptist and others that we serve Christ and meet on Sabbath.

It is our hope that God blesses us with many more years to serve.

Harry Herbert
Church of God Sabbath Day
12059 Route 114
Penobsquis,
N.B.

Florida

Our group (seven of us) enjoyed the Feast and Last Great Day as follows. One in Daytona, Florida.

Two visited with Miami COG In St Pete Beach . One went to Illinois, due to death in the family.

Three met in holy convocation at my home where we enjoyed Bible Discussion, music, sermons and good food.

Nothing elaborate but all done in faith.
Frank J. Antoniello

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Elks Lodge, San Antonio, Texas

Families and individuals - 185 in all - from four States observed the Festival, hosted by the Church of God, San Antonio.

The Festival began with a welcome from Pastor Julian Cruz, and continued daily with messages from Julian, Jeff Henderson, Dan Johnson (both from California), Chris Patton (Minnesota), Wayne Heinz and Terry McAdams (Texas). Children took part in the services through Scripture readings, a youth choir and prayers.

A baptismal service for Pam Hendrickson was conducted at the hotel's swimming pool. Several brothers and sisters witnessed and welcomed Pam into the Body of Christ after her baptism.

Sabbath eve the brethren gathered for a 'hymn along' and fellowship. Everyone assembled again for a special "blessing of the children" ceremony where every single child and teen or adult child received a special blessing and prayer by Pastors Julian Cruz, Jeff Henderson, or their very own fathers and mothers.

Activities at the Festival included traditional live mariachi music by *Campanas De America*, a twelve member ensemble known as "the best mariachi band in San Antonio". They complemented the Mexican-themed feast as the CGSA shared some of the cultural experiences and foods that make Texas, and San Antonio in particular, so special. There was, too, a line dancing class, BBQ and a country and western concert.

St. Petersburg Beach, Florida

What a great Feast of Tabernacles, 2005 we had at sunny St. Pete Beach, Florida.

To highlight the Feast powerful sermons were delivered by Tony Fontao, Dwight Harrison, Larry Sharp and Ben Faulkner. A sermonette was given by Mike Roy.

Beautiful special music was performed by Miriam Moreno.

We were blessed throughout the Feast with sunny warm days. Services were held every morning at 11:00 AM at the Dolphin Beach Resort. We had the *blessing of the little children* during the Sabbath Service. Besides daily worship services, there was also a Bible Study. All services were conducted in English with simultaneous Spanish translation.

Activities included miniature golf, bowling, a family

A Family and Children fun afternoon included a 'burger fest' and magic show, balloon sculpting and swimming. Teens enjoyed an outdoor pizza party.

Sunday was declared *Focus On Your Family Day*, a special day set aside for families to spend together making memories that will last a lifetime. Pastor Julian encouraged families to take the opportunity to have a "peace conference" during this day, if needed. Some families spent the day making memories at *Fiesta Texas or Sea World* attractions, while others chose to spend time together at the Witte Museum, the San Antonio Botanical Garden, or downtown San Antonio enjoying the Alamo and the River Walk. Other destinations included day trips to Corpus Christi, some local Texas caves, or restaurants.

Youth Day is a highlight, one of the most important days of the Feast, because the youth are VIPs at the Feast in San Antonio. After a second performance of special music by the Youth Choir, Wayne Heinz gave a sermon filled with wisdom and proverbs for everyone, but especially aimed at the youth.

One of the highlights of the final day was a Slide Show of the Feast prepared and presented by John and Ann Van Westen. The show helped everyone recollect the wonderful memories created at this feast site.

The Feast of Tabernacles 2005 concluded with the traditional, sentimental singing of "*God Be with You 'Till We Meet Again*," and finally with the Feast's theme song, "*Here I Am, Lord*".

BBQ, a dinner/dance which was enjoyed by everyone, with good food and great music and games.

We would like to THANK each and everyone who attended the Feast at St. Petersburg. You are the ones who made this Feast a great one. We look forward to sharing the Feast of Tabernacles with you next year.

Church of God in Miami info@godschurch.org

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