



Truth and Life

Newsletter of the Church of God Sanctified, Inc.

From the Overseer's Pen

Holy greetings in the name of our Lord! In spite of the economic, spiritual and moral challenges facing our nation and the world, our God yet reigns! The release of this edition of our national publication finds us at the culmination of our first Unity Weekend Service. This initiative was implemented as a means of further utilizing our headquarters facility. As we approach the dawn of 2010, we have a number of opportunities and challenges. How we pursue and address them will determine the degree of progress that can be achieved at year's-end. You will begin hearing and receiving communications beginning in January, 2010 regarding all of the programs, projects initiatives that lie ahead for the COGS. Again, I want to emphasize that we have both opportunities and challenges ahead. I'm counting on those who're truly committed to and concerned about the COGS to be prepared to take an active role in this upcoming process. I will be calling on you to assist me in achieving the following goals and objectives so BE READY AND PREPARED. I need your help!

Some of the goals are as follows:

1. Continuing our focus of training and development programs to equip and empower our ministerial staff and laity to serve.
2. Equipping our local assemblies with capable leadership in all levels of ministry while beginning the initial steps toward expanding our base toward new venues.
3. Strengthening the overall fiscal condition of our organization by liquidating existing long-term indebtedness; thereby creating more effective and proactive posture for support to our local entities and growth within our organization.
4. Significantly enhance our efforts and emphasis in the arena of evangelism and missions, through training and networking with other outreach programs. We've not been very effective in this area and it's time

that a serious, concerted effort be initiated to address this critical area in the overall ministry of the church. Reaching and winning lost souls remains our highest priority.

5. Complete pending national directives and projects that are currently in the developmental stages.

The Church of God Sanctified remains 'a work in progress. I continue to remain hopefully optimistic about what lies ahead; because of the God that we serve. In spite of the challenges, I'm certain beyond a shadow of doubt that we're moving in the right direction. And with God's help the Church of God Sanctified is going to achieve and exceed.

Please keep us lifted up in prayer?
May His Peace Be With You.

*Bishop Andrew J. Valentine
Church of God Sanctified, Inc.*

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John 6:33-35

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."



Minister's Training Class: Study and show thyself approved

The 2009 Fall Session of the COGS Ministerial retreat convened October 9-10, 2009; in Cincinnati, Ohio. The retreat is a continuation of the national ministerial program under the auspices of the Department of Christian Education & Training Development.

Elder Timothy Keene, Chairman of the COGS Ministerial Council serves as facilitator for the retreat. Deacon Darrin Woods is the Director of the Department of Christian Education & Training Development. Members of the clergy of the COGS are required to attend these sessions quarterly as part of the national requirements for credentials, ordination, pastoral assignments etc. The program is currently in its fourth year of operation and continues to elevate its quality and standards to new levels of excellence. This includes the recent implementation of on-line training courses and other interactive state-of-the-art technical innovations designed to make the overall training experience both interesting and challenging for members of the clergy.

This year's session included workshops and courses on the following:

Christian Leadership and Administration/Senior Saints Ministries/Information Technology-On line Moodle Curriculum/Missions/Sociology/Community Development/Research Practices/Apologetics/Evangelism/Ceremonial Ministries/Pastoral Ministries

"The COGS is very fortunate and wonderfully blessed to have a group of committed, motivated and talented people in our T & E Department. Dec. Woods and his staff are to be commended for their efforts. The ultimate objective is to establish a fully accredited training and development (seminary) program in the COGS. We have the talent, we just need the resources", said Bishop Valentine.



What's Happening At Your Church?

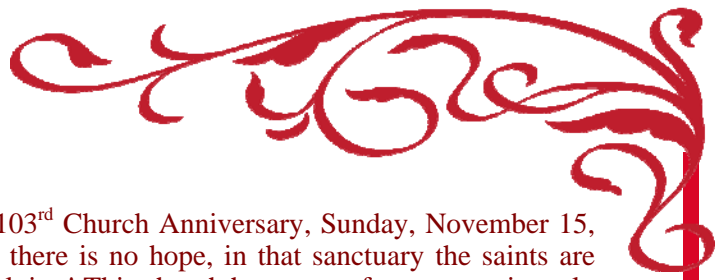
Liggett Street Church of God, Lewisburg, TN is in its second year of community tutoring. We will have a Christmas play featuring our tutoring students "The Warriors for Christ" from the Lewisburg Housing Authority on Saturday, Dec. 12th at 6 p.m.

The Southeastern District Churches of God in East TN began an impressive Missionary endeavor under the leadership of Sis. Barbara Stevens, District President, to make pillowcase dresses for little girls of Africa in Malawi. To date more than 300 dresses have been made from pillowcases by churches in their district. The Churches of God at Boyd's Creek and Cherry Street held sewing classes, and Maryville and Madisonville churches donated money and resources.

Sister Barbara's missionary spirit even spread to the surrounding community with other churches and individuals donating pillowcases for the dresses. The dresses will be shipped to the Christian-based organization, Little Dresses for Africa, which was started after a small group of ladies returned from a mission trip in Malawi teaching Bible Camp.

Submit your church happenings and photos to Karen Olayinka at kolay1629@aol.com

“I Made It”



Centerville Church of God Sanctified, Inc. celebrated their 103rd Church Anniversary, Sunday, November 15, 2009. In a time when the world would lead people to believe there is no hope, in that sanctuary the saints are shouting, singing and praising Jesus name. They are also multiplying! This church has grown from approximately eight supportive members to more than 30 energetic, hardworking and Gospel singing young men, women, children and babes in arms. The saying is “If there is not a baby crying, your church is dying.”

As you approach this church you are welcomed to a dining room full of homemade turkey and dressing with certain church women bringing special dishes to their visiting relatives such as, Cousin Mildred Jones from Bethel, out of love. They won't let you leave until you are full.

Under the leadership of Pastor Joseph Myles and strong lay leaders such as Bro. David Dansby, this quaint little town of Centerville with a population of approximately 3,977 people is on top of a hill singing so beautifully that the residents sit on their porches to listen. This church shows honest, genuine love that used to be given when we once ate dinner on the grounds and sat around pot belly stoves. Elder Myles was the guest speaker at Bethel Church of God and he brought his church members and his choir, but he also brought pork shoulders and barbeque and macaroni and cheese. That is the type of brotherly love that is from a time gone by.

Sunday, Elder Larry Pinkerton from Franklin Church of God spoke about those of us who have sold out to Jesus must remember to tell our story to lead others to Christ. He said we must not be arrogant and say “I have it made but we must say, in spite of my sick old self, I Made It, by the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. Elder Pinkerton believes in getting off the pulpit and bringing the word of God to the pews. You could literally feel the Holy Spirit take over his sermon and lead him to the place that all of us remember...the day we gave our lives to Jesus.

This church is about unadulterated, pure praise. First Lady Edwintre Myles and church members are not afraid to get UGLY for Jesus and sing until they have no voice because Centerville Church of God Sanctified knows that without **HIM** they are nothing.

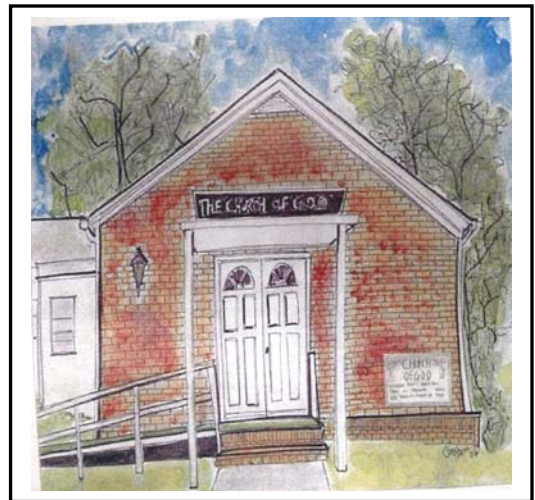


Minister's Wives Retreat Update

"Exercise Your Faith," was the theme of this year's Ministers' Wives Retreat, which took place at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport Hotel in Florence, Kentucky. They were welcomed by our National President, Sister Dolores Hardiman. Approximately 30 ministers' wives were in attendance for this annual event.

The retreat consisted of panel presentations and Sis. Louella Harrison was the keynote speaker for the weekend. Her message was truly anointed, uplifting and encouraging as she expounded upon the word and encouraged us to put our faith in **ACTION!**

The weekend ended with a prayer vigil.



Artist rendering of Centerville Church of God by
Clay

The Truth and Life, newsletter of the Church of God Sanctified, Inc., is published by Karen Olayinka, owner of Greater Image Graphics. Please send your articles featuring your church events, personal interest stories and auxiliary updates to Karen at kolay169@aol.com. Greater Image Graphics is available for your church's desktop publishing projects requiring the personal, professional touch. Sister Olayinka is a life long member of the Church of God attending Liggett St. Church of God, Lewisburg, TN, Pastor, Elder Eddie Shirley.

Verse of the Month

So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.
~ Nehemiah 4:6

STAY ON THE WALL AND BUILD THE CHURCH OF GOD!

On The Horizon: Upcoming Events for the Church of God

Church of God Convention 2010

The Church of God Sanctified Inc. will host its 2010 Summer Convention in Columbus Ohio.

The Convention will be held at the Doubletree Hotel July 20th -25th, 2010. The guest room rate for the convention hotel will be \$79.00 plus any applicable taxes.

More information is forthcoming from the International Headquarters.

Church of God CD Project

Plans necessary for production of the National Music Department CD are well under way. We are providing specific details now in place to acquire the revenue for production of our first professional CD.

The specific details are as follows:

1. Each pastor should select a choir member (also to be called Coordinator) (preferably the

choir president) to maintain the names of each person who purchase a CD prior to the actual recording.

2. The pastor is asked to inform Sister Julia Christmon (National Minister of Music) the name of the Coordinator for their church no later than November 11.

3. Monthly beginning in December 09 each Coordinator will turn in monies collected from their church and community to Sister Christmon, or International Headquarters.

4. Members are encouraged to submit **original poems, poetry, and new songs** to the International Headquarters no later than November 30, 2009.

5. Additional information will be provided as needed.



Church of God Sanctified, Inc.:
Church-615-255-5579
Fax: 615-255-9995
Churchofgodh@aol.com

Mailing Address:
1230 W. Trinity Lane
Nashville, TN