

# HEART *to Heart*

2013

SUMMER

Issue #3

## Work Week Pics



## Work Week!

We want to shout out a great big THANK YOU to the Men and Women of Action from across the United States and our people here in California/Nevada who came together to do some much needed repair on our Fresno Campus. Two buildings

were re-roofed and re-stuccoed and several others were repainted, the grounds were manicured and flowers were planted.

A special thanks to Frank Palumbo and Rich Tonti for organizing this event!!

Be sure to note our CA/NV website:

[canvcog.com](http://canvcog.com)



Charles E. Fischer  
Administrative Bishop

# From My Heart

## Leaning

“What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms...” The words of this song, and many others from my days growing up in the Church of God are indelibly etched in my memory. Unfortunately, I have caught myself singing this and many other songs down through the years, without properly appreciating the meaning of the lyrics.

A few days ago, during my devotional time with the Lord, the Holy Spirit confronted me with this pointed question, “What are you really leaning on?” Now I know how any of us should and I am sure would answer that question. However, saying “I’m leaning on The Lord” and actually doing it may be entirely different.

As ministers of the gospel, we are confronted with many challenging situations and difficult questions, as we try to love and lead people. I learned a long time ago to never say “I’ve seen it all.” Because as soon as you say it, the Lord will bring a fresh challenge into your life that bears little resemblance to anything in your memory bank.

We have many resources to draw on when trying to address the increasingly complex

issues of ministry. Past experience can certainly be helpful. Education is a well we draw from that provides insight. The books, DVDs, and CDs on our shelves get pulled out as we look for answers. The internet gets searched and colleagues get called and texted for information and support. Now we all know, the Lord uses all these things to help us in ministry. But we also know, that many times it is just not enough.

The problem is that the older and more experienced we become, the easier it is to yield to the subtle temptation to lean on all these resources that we have accumulated in our lives and forget that we are ultimately dependent on the Lord. When we give into this temptation, we can quickly run out of gas, and in the words of Wayne Cordeiro, we find ourselves “leading on empty.” I don’t know about you, but I know what it is to “drive on fumes.” When this starts happening, fellowship with our Father suffers and the divine joy He offers is replaced with our own fleshly striving.

Proverbs 3:5-6 offers the prescription we need. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and **lean** not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” It just might be time to dig out the old red-backed **Church Hymnal** and turn to page 359 and learn how to lean again.



**Pastors Dick and Carla Bernal**, Founders and Senior Pastors of Jubilee Christian Center in San Jose, CA will be our special guest speakers for our **180 Encounter** 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, Friday, December 6, 2013, at the Fresno Ministry Center.

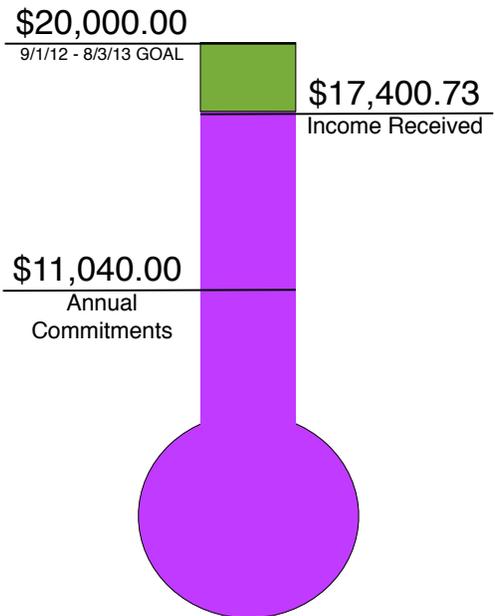
The Christmas Banquet will be at 6:00 PM.

# ANTIOCH CONNECTION



Through July 15, 2013, we have dispensed \$1,725.00 in emergency assistance to ministers and \$11,502.47 in helping strengthen four different churches. In addition, we have committed \$3,300.00 towards roofing a small church parsonage this fall. In the coming fiscal year we hope to have funds to continue these kinds of assistance and also be able to invest in some church planting projects and underwrite some of our Ministerial Development efforts. Our goal for the next fiscal year is \$40,000.00.

## Antioch Connection Report



## California/Nevada World Missions

Project # 102-9281

### Nepal: Scaling The Heights Together



This report reflects totals through July 15, 2013. Remember, we are building a Bible school, orphanage and commercial farm with the funds. We need all our ministers and

Applications for the Spring, 2014 mission trip to Nepal will be sent to all churches by August 31, 2013. The approximate cost will be \$3,000.00 per

# What's Happening in California/Nevada!

## A TESTIMONY TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



Pastor Richard Olague

I would like to share my story. On October 12, 1995 I walked into Destiny Community church formerly Canaan Fellowship. I was homeless living in the streets of L. A. When they sent me to a men's home in Whittier, I came to know The Lord and God started moving in my life. In 1997 I married my wife Evelyn and we continued in church. Our new marriage was struggling for character reasons on my part. My wife filed for divorce due to physical abuse but God moved to restore us. During this time we were on welfare and housing but God provided us both with good jobs. God opened the door for us to become homeowners and to this day my wife and 2 daughters and I give God all Glory for what he has done. God can and will do anything in Jesus name.

## HESPERIA SENDS PASTOR TO INDIA

Pastor Gary Barnhart along with two members of the Hesperia Church of God were privileged to travel to Southern India to minister at a three day pastor's conference. The Hesperia church was able to provide food and transportation for 200 pastors to attend the conference as well as provide necessities and toys for a local orphanage run by Pastor Abraham Samuel, who also hosted the conference. The church plans to further bless the orphanage at Christmas with gifts and clothing.

Pastor Barnhart says that it was great to experience their hunger for God in spite of the primitive conditions in which they lived. The missions team left there with a changed outlook on life and a greater heart for the people of India.

## INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PASSES COST OF LIVING INCREASE

The following measure was passed in the April session of the International Executive Council:

A cost-of-living increase of 1.5% is announced for 2013-2014. It is at the discretion of the individual entities as to whether or not an increase can be sustained. No cost-of-living increase was approved for International Offices personnel for 2013-2014.

In the event that excess state/regional/local funds are available, and the state/regional council/local church and pastor's council (or its ecclesiastical equivalent) deems it appropriate to do so, a merit increase or a modified cost-of-living increase may be given. The administrative bishop's compensation and benefits schedule and pastor's minimum compensation scale will remain unchanged for the 2013-2014 period.

## CHURCH OF GOD BENEFITS BOARD TO OFFER HEALTH INSURANCE

Today we are pleased to announce that the Church of God Benefits Board, through a collaborative agreement with GuideStone Financial Resources, is now able to offer health insurance to ministers and church-related employees of the Church of God across the United States.

Because this coverage is offered as a Personal Plan and not part of a denomination-wide group plan it is possible that some who apply will not be accepted. Further, the rates will vary, depending primarily upon the age of the applicant and the region of the country where he or she lives.

For more information about the available options, please visit [www.benefitsboard.com/healthcare](http://www.benefitsboard.com/healthcare) or call GuideStone directly toll free at 888-984-8433. If you have any other questions please feel free to contact the Church of God Benefits Board toll free at 877-478-7190.

**Condolences**  
Our prayers are with the family of  
**Ruth Pak, May 12, 2013**

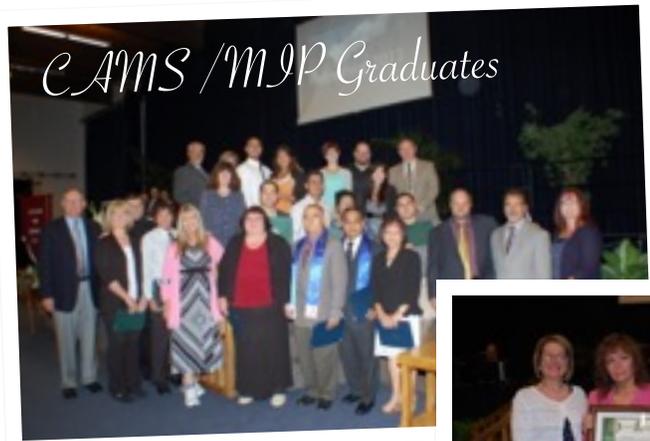


# *Refreshing 2013!*

We laughed, we cried, we worshiped, we listened, we responded, we fellowshiped and we came away **REFRESHED!**

"Great meeting! I will always remember how the Lord moved in each service."  
 "...we were extremely blessed at the "Refreshing 2013" Camp Meeting! God moved in a mighty way!"  
 "We've had such a wonderful time together in our Campmeeting & it has been glorious!"

Thank you for your encouraging comments!!





Alice Fischer  
California/Nevada  
Women's Discipleship Director

# GOD is GOOD!

2013 Women's Conference, Ventura, CA



213 Women from all over California/Nevada gathered in Ventura, CA for our 2013 Women's Conference. Friday night was powerful as we worshipped in singing with Fountain Valley and in the Word with Ginger Robinson. Women responded with prayer in the altar and we all went away saying GOD IS GOOD!



Women were blessed in the Saturday morning workshops with Yvette Santana, Joann Patterson, Nancy McDaniel and Lauryn Montgomery.

A luncheon banquet followed and the conference came to an end as we tasted several elements that represented God's goodness closing with communion.

## The Survey Says...

Out of 144 people that completed the Conference Questionnaire 95%

preferred to keep the hotel venue and 72% preferred a two night conference. Everyone

enjoyed the speakers and the worship!

Thanks so much for your comments! We are listening!!

## Baskets of Blessings

This year there were 31 baskets donated to raise \$1,886.67 for three areas of ministry. **Rejuvenate** is women's discipleship home missions. This money is used across our region to help women who are in need. **Women With A Mission** is our world missions emphasis. This year we are raising money to help rescue servant children in Haiti. California/Nevada has covenanted with several other states and regions to form a team of support. The women's groups of our team are our **Covenant Sisters**. We support each other, especially the missions states with prayers and funds.

Thank you so much for your generous giving!! Added to our offering, you gave \$3,226.57 for these ministries!

## Start planning now for our Women's Conference 2014!!

It will be held in the Bay Area and details will be available the first of September!

*Thanks so much to everyone for your gift at Refreshing!! I am so appreciative and thankful to be a part of the ministry here in California/Nevada!!*

# Ministerial Development

## Fall Class Begins

**New CAMS/MIP classes** will begin on **September 21, 2013**. We have information packets available now to send to you. The **deadline** for fall class registration is **July 31, 2013**.

Don't wait! Call us now and let's get started planning together



## 2013 CAMS/MIP Graduates

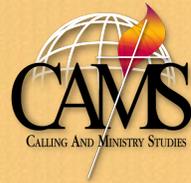
### CAMS

Karen Theresa Boatright  
 Angela Marie A. Cano  
 Joselito A. Dondiego  
 Jacob Gonzales  
 Julie Marie Gonzales  
 Randy Ortiz Lazo  
 Tatiana S. Ortiz  
 Joshua Alexander Mejia  
 Jose Pureco  
 Natalie Pureco  
 Alfredo A. Romero  
 Debra M. Romero  
 Richard G. Stout

### Susan Stout

### MIP

Alecsandru Orbai  
 Ilonka Orbai  
 (Supervising Pastor - Dean Steenburgh)  
 Marcelo Teo-Anen  
 Raquel Teo-Anen  
 (Supervising Pastor - Pete Querin)



“Not sure about what God is calling you to? No Problem! Our (CAMS) Calling And Ministry Studies program is just right for you! Say Yes! and get connected with others of like passion.”

Phil Patterson  
 Director of Ministerial Development



Alfredo A. Romero

## New Credentials Issued And Advancements

### Exhorter

Karen Boatright  
 Robin Bybee  
 John Coronado  
 Jacob Gonzales  
 Julie Gonzales  
 Randy Ortiz Lazo  
 Vanessa Lyeve  
 Rebecca Flores Olivera  
 Joshua Robinson

Richard G. Stout

### Ordained Minister

Steven M. Bybee  
 Teresa Sawtelle

### Ordained Bishop

LaWayne Swartzel

### Upcoming Events

#### July

25-27 Forward Conference West Coast, Irvine-Free Chapel Orange Co.  
 26-29 CA/NV Teen Camp (Ages 13-18), Camp Arroyo Grande  
 29-8/4 International Teen Talent - Lee University, Cleveland, TN

#### August

8-10 enCourage Women In Ministry Conference, Cleveland, TN  
 21-23 The Praying Church Conference, Cartersville, GA

#### September

3 All Ministerial Credentialing paperwork due  
 20 CA/NV Ministerial Testing, Fresno Ministry Center, 9:00 AM  
 20-21 CAMS/MIP Fellowship & Orientation/Session 1, Fresno Ministry Center  
 27-29 CA/NV COG Centennial Celebration locations  
 27 Irvine, Free Chapel 7:00 PM  
 28 Fresno, Life Cathedral 6:00 PM  
 29 Oakland, Christian Cathedral 6:00 PM

#### October

5 CA/NV Southern Ministerial Testing, 9:00 AM, Fountain Valley, Living Waters  
 CA/NV Northern Ministerial Testing 9:00 AM, Woodland, Family Worship Center

#### November

3-10 My Hope With Billy Graham (for more information go to myhopewithbillygraham.com)  
 8-9 CAMS/MIP, Fellowship & Session 2, Fresno Ministry Center

#### December

6 “180 Degrees” & State Christmas Banquet, Fresno, CA

#### January

24-25 Northern Cal. Prayer Conference, Woodland

#### February

1 CAMS/MIP Session III, Fresno Ministry Center  
 4-6 Las Vegas Area Prayer Conference  
 9-11 Southern Cal. Prayer Conference, Whittier, Destiny Comm.  
 23-25 Valley Prayer Conference, Bakersfield, SWCC

#### March

Nepal : Scaling The Heights Missions Trip applications & date will be sent out by August 31, 2013.  
 29 MIP Session IV, Fresno Ministry Center

# YOUTH HAPPENINGS



Jeff Flaherty  
Youth & Discipleship Director

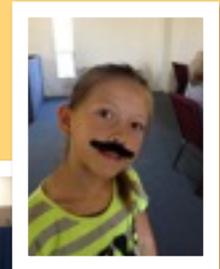
## Destiny 2013 Teen Camp

July 26-29, 2013  
Camp Arroyo Grande  
\$199 per Teen

Nestled in the hills above Pismo Beach is Camp Arroyo Grande. The camp is a traditional, rustic cabin setup that everyone loves, but it is also only 3 miles from Pismo Beach, surfing, sand, and shops. It is ironic to have to wear a sweatshirt in the middle of July at camp where it only gets to a balmy 75 degrees, when the Valley is 105 – 110 degrees. There will be beach bonfires, breakout sessions, services, smores, anointed worship and new great friends made. Every teen who went last year voted to come back this year.



CA/NV Kids Camp 2013



Treasure Island  
Kids Camp!

CONFERENCE FOR  
*Women in Ministry*  
**enCOURAGE 2013**  
**August 8-10**  
 North Cleveland Church of God  
 Dixon Chapel

*"Encouraged Through the Word"*  
*"Courage Through Prayer & Fellowship"*  
*"Courage Through Pentecostal Power"*  
*"Encouraged for Future Ministry"*

**Keynote Speakers:**  
 Deven Wallace  
 Sandra Kay Williams  
 Ana Ruth Diaz  
 Joycelyn Barnett

PLUS...  
 12 Elective Workshops

**\$49 Registration / Register online with PayPal at [www.usamissions.com](http://www.usamissions.com)**  
 Sponsored by Church of God USA MISSIONS/Division of World Evangelization

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**THE PRAYING CHURCH  
 CONFERENCE 2013**  
 The Church at Liberty Square, Cartersville, GA  
*A conference for prayer leaders, prayer teams and pastors  
 who desire to instill prayer at the heart of all they do.*

**August 21-23, 2013**  
 The Church at Liberty Square  
 Cartersville, GA

**Dr. Mark Williams,** Church of God, General Overseer

**Dr. Daniel Henderson,** National Chairman, The 6:4 Fellowship

**Pastor Jim Cymbala,** Brooklyn Tabernacle

**P. Douglas Small,** Church of God, Prayer Ministry Coordinator

*6:4 Fellowship REdiscover and more than 20 Workshops*  
**[www.praycog.org/2013-Prayer-Conference](http://www.praycog.org/2013-Prayer-Conference)**

# Notification Deadline

## 2014 General Council Agenda Items

To: All Ministers

In anticipation of the 2014 International General Assembly, this notification serves to communicate the process for the submission of items for consideration and possible placement on the International General Council Agenda.

Potential agenda items are to be sent to the International Executive Council in order to be considered for the International General Council Agenda. The International Executive Council is charged by the Bylaws of the Church of God with the responsibility of setting the agenda for the International General Council.

The notifications below are made in light of the requirements of the Bylaws of the Church of God as well as the International General Assembly Minutes:

- Submission of agenda items relating to the Bylaws of the Church of God need to be sent to the International Executive Council by **January 3, 2014**. This will allow the International Executive Council time to consider these items by its January 2014 meeting. There is a 90-day notification deadline to the International General Council required by the Bylaws of the Church of God concerning amendment of the Bylaws (*2010 International General Assembly Minutes, pp. 64-65*)

- Submission of regular potential agenda items for the International General Council need to be sent to the International Executive Council by **March 28, 2014**. This will allow the International Executive Council time to consider these items by its April 2014 meeting. There is a 30-day notification deadline to the International General Council required by the Bylaws of the Church of God concerning regular International General Council items (*2010 International General Assembly Minutes, pp. 67-68*)

- Submission of agenda items regarding doctrine as prescribed by the Declaration of Faith are to be submitted to the International Executive Council 12 months prior to the meeting of the International General Council (*2010 International General Assembly Minutes, pp. 69-70*). The deadline for submission of these items for the 2016 International General Assembly is **April 1, 2015**.

- Submissions should be sent to:  
Church of God International Offices  
International Executive Council  
P. O. Box 2430  
Cleveland, TN 37320-2430

We look forward to seeing you in Orlando, Florida for the 2014 International General Assembly scheduled for July 29-August 1, 2014.