

Together

Worldwide Church of God News

March/April 2008

www.wcg.org/together/

Volume 3, Number 2

WCG Centenarians

Three Centuries of Experience

By Paul Hailey

“They shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be fresh and flourishing.”
(Psalm 92:14).

Our denomination is fortunate to have three remarkable ladies who have passed the century mark and continue to bear fruits of righteousness. They have keen memories of the days of horse and buggy, wood stoves, and one-room schoolhouses. Life was simpler then, before computers, television, and even before automobiles were common.

These ladies connect us with the past with many stories to tell, but more importantly, as great, great-grandmothers with numerous descendants, they are well-qualified to give advice to younger people. They may be out-of-date with modern technology, but not out-of-date with what is important in life.

Margaret (Meg) Glasgow lives in Mays Landing, New Jersey, with her son Roy, who put on a gala celebration on March 4, 2007 for her 100th birthday. Meg was radiant as many loving friends and relatives

surrounded her with hugs and praise. Someone remarked, “She made an impression wherever she went,” mentioning her love, hospitality, humor, and generosity. She continues to make an impression by entertaining neighbors in her home, preparing elaborate meals and her very popular cookies, and hosting card parties. She knits caps for neighbors and newborn babies, and crochets mats for pots. She also reads, and feeds squirrels in her yard.

Meg was born in Connecticut, and remembers starting kindergarten in 1911, living on a farm and finishing her education in a one-room schoolhouse. She married in 1929 and began raising four children. She has worked as a cook and caterer. Meg has seen much of the world, traveling to numerous countries and all 50 states of the United States.

Meg became a Christian at 14, when she was baptized in a river. She joined our denomination in 1976, and continued to attend services in Portland, Oregon, until moving to New Jersey in 2000. Distance now keeps her from services, but she remains in touch and writes many letters. She says her faith has increased over the years, and she continues to read



the Bible. Meg’s earliest memories include her baby brother dying of pneumonia, her first automobile ride, the one-room schoolhouse, and at age 4, her black and white cat that she taught to do tricks.

Remembering both World Wars, she comments, “They were both to end all wars. Did they?”

Concerning society today, Meg says, “I try hard not to think very much about it. It sure isn’t like it was when I was a young girl.”

Her advice for young people: “Be sure to get a good education. Start by paying attention in elementary, also high school, as that is where your adult education starts. Read and understand what you read.”

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Jan./Feb. 2008 Vol. 3, No. 2

Circulation 14,000

Together: *Worldwide Church of God News* (ISSN 1937-4992) is published every other month, six times each year. Copyright © 2008 Worldwide Church of God. All rights reserved. Subscriptions are sent automatically to contributing members of the Worldwide Church of God who live in the United States.

For changes of address, phone 1-800-924-4644.

See www.wcg.org/together for a longer version of *Together*.

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To submit an article for *Together*, send it by email to michael.morrison@wcg.org, or by U.S. mail to P.O. Box 5005, Glendora, CA 91740. If you want an article or photo returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Mary Koehler turned 100 on February 13, 2007. She remains active in the Beaumont, CA, church, and recently gave special music, singing "How Great Thou Art."

Her life began in Antwerp, Belgium. She was playing outside with her two brothers the day World War I broke out in Belgium. Suddenly planes were flying overhead and she could hear the sound of shells bursting nearby. She didn't understand what was happening, but remembers her mother calling for the children to come inside.

The family walked to reach a place where they could be smuggled into Holland with other refugees. They used a large wooden table turned upside down and covered in oil cloth, making a small boat, to cross the river to Holland. A very tense moment occurred when Mary's mother slipped as she stepped ashore. German soldiers were nearby, but the family was undetected. They were later able to board a ship to England.

After the war, the family returned to Belgium briefly, but moved to Detroit and then to Canada to work in tobacco fields. At age 14 Mary enjoyed driving the horse-drawn tobacco planter. They moved back to Detroit, then to California in 1927, where she married Rahwald Groskopt. They had two children. Mary enjoys telling that her daughter Jeanette did not have much hair as an infant. Mary clipped some of her own hair and sewed it onto the edge of Jeanette's baby bonnet. People then commented on Jeanette's pretty hair!

She was baptized in 1965, attending the San Diego congregation, where she sang in the choir. Rahwald died in 1966. In 1967 she married Victor Berghofer,



but became a widow again when he died in 1974. In 1987 Mary and Will Koehler met at church and married later that year, living in Carlsbad, California. Will passed away in 2000.

Mary has traveled to many places, including Hawaii, British Columbia, Israel, Jordan, several Mediterranean islands, and to Germany in 2003.

Mary commented that her early life was very hard because of the war, being displaced, learning English, little schooling, and working at age 14. About living a long life, Mary says she "did nothing but work; I worked all the time." About being 100, she responded with a smile, "Well, I can't do anything about it! It is wonderful and I am very thankful to be alive and to keep learning."

Her advice to young people is, "Learn to behave and do not get into any trouble. Stay in school. Listen to your parents. Always pray and always go to church." To live a long and productive Christian life, she advises, "I would encourage



Left: Mary as an infant. Above: Alex, Elizabeth, and Dorothy Belford with Mary on her 100th birthday celebration at church.

people to be involved in their local church even if it means traveling a distance to be with friends.”

Mary says her faith has increased over the years, and she continues to learn more each week. Pastor Tom Ecker and wife Alberta conduct a bi-weekly Bible study at Mary’s residence in an assisted care complex. Tom says this about Mary, “She is a very loyal and faithful church member. She is called the ‘Candy Lady’ at church because she gives candy to everyone. She sits on the Advisory Council and contributes ideas. She brings humor and lots of life to any occasion.”



Dorothy Wolfe lives in Aldergrove, British Columbia, with her son Don. She was born July 1, 1906, in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. At 101 she is “sharp as a pin,” and



regularly attends the Abbotsford, BC, church.

In her early life they didn’t have electricity, washing machine, drier, fridge, vacuum, TV or microwave. Also, no running water, flush toilets, showers or bathtubs. They bathed using a basin, and washed clothes with a scrub-board. They heated the house with a wood stove. If the fire went out at night, drinking water and milk sometimes froze.

Dorothy usually walked 3½ miles to a one-room schoolhouse, but stayed home when the winter temperatures dropped to 40 or 50 degrees below zero. But when she was 9 or 10, she would harness her horse and hitch it to a sled to go to school. She would heat a rock in the oven, put it under her feet in the sled and cover up with a blanket to avoid freezing.

Dorothy’s chores included lighting the fire, milking a cow, rounding up some cattle, and doing much of the housework. Asked about toys, she remembers a doll, a skipping rope, a spinning top, and some wooden blocks shared with her brother.

Her parents had a black Ford when she was about 14. The roads were dirt, with cars going about 30 miles per hour. Her mother would tell her dad that he was going too fast and would hold onto the handle all the way.

Dorothy’s greatest

adventure was at age 92 when she flew to England to meet her half-brother for the first time and about 60 other relatives. At age 99 she had surgery for cancer, but later broke her hip. She now gets around with a walker. Her hobbies have included gardening, crocheting, sewing and various crafts. She enjoys going to church. She comments, “My hearing is poor, but I love the fellowship.”

Her advice for teenagers is, “Don’t do things that would get you into trouble. Be honest. Don’t take up drinking and smoking, as they are not good for you.” She attributes her long life to hard work, living a good Christian life, eating home-grown food, and a positive attitude.

Eva and Tia Martens and Zach Frasier of the Portland, OR, congregation asked some questions of Meg Glasgow. Mary Koehler was interviewed by Alex Bedford, 14, of the Beaumont church. Dorothy Wolfe was interviewed by five children of the Pennington family, Alex, Keeley, Braden, Meagan, and Caleb.

Chicago-land to Hold a “Join the Journey” Weekend

Sister congregations Heartland Christian Fellowship and Heartland Community Church are pleased to host a “Join the Journey, Servants Passage” weekend on March 29-30. The Saturday and Sunday event will feature U.S. Generations Ministry Director, Ted Johnston. Ted has been conducting these team ministry intensives for over two years, and the participating congregations have been experiencing great results in developing and growing their congregational leaders and ministry teams.

To register for the two-day event, contact Pastor James Newby (james.newby@wgc.org, or (815) 744 6430). The weekend Journey will take place at Jack London Middle School in Wheeling, IL, and will include a worship service on Sunday.

The \$35 registration fee covers participant guidebooks, two light lunches and snacks, and facility and instructor costs. Wheeling is conveniently located in the northwestern suburbs of Chicago with access to reasonably priced hotels and motels. For additional information on Generations Ministry, Servants Passage and Join the Journey, visit the WCG website.

James Newby



Christmas Party for Veterans

Some of the women in the Kalamazoo, MI, church, along with women from other denominations, got together to put on a second Christmas party for the veterans at the VA Medical Center. This year we had a small band that two women in our church played in. We again gave the veterans gifts, served them cookies, ice cream and punch.

Most of the veterans were in World War II. One of them was at Pearl Harbor when it was bombed, and he talked at length to one of our members about the experience. Many of the veterans had tears in their eyes when we told them why we were there. Our great God blessed the event.

Rosetta Andrews

Baxter Kruger

Visits Nashville, TN

Good News Fellowship, the WCG congregation in Nashville, TN, was host to theologian and author Baxter Kruger for the weekend of Nov. 17-18.

The weekend seminar was the follow-up to over a year of learning and discussion about the gospel that has been taking place at Good News Fellowship and neighboring churches in the mid-south.

Over 70 members and ministry leaders from the mid-South gathered to hear Kruger talk about the gospel and how we understand Jesus' connection to humanity. Kruger walked the audience step by step through the gospel of our adoption into the life of the Father, Son, and Spirit and explained that humanity is included in the Son's relationship with the Father.

Tim Brassell, WCG Pastor in Portsmouth, VA, said, "As Baxter is getting to know our people and understand our WCG culture better,

he is speaking to it more clearly, accurately and encouragingly from within its own frame of reference."

An all-day seminar on Saturday was followed by a worship service on Sunday. The effectiveness of the weekend was enhanced by the fact that almost all the attendees had read at least two of Kruger's books: *The Great Dance* and *Jesus and the Undoing of Adam*.

"Every time I hear this good news I get excited all over again," said Jan Taylor. "The message from our Father that says, 'I love you. You are mine and I will never let you go' came through over and over. The format was relaxed, informative and so encouraging."

Rita Poyner agreed, "I believe we left the conference with a deeper understanding of who Jesus is, his great love for us coming to us in our darkness, and how we can have that unearthly assurance in him. The fellowship and supportive atmosphere

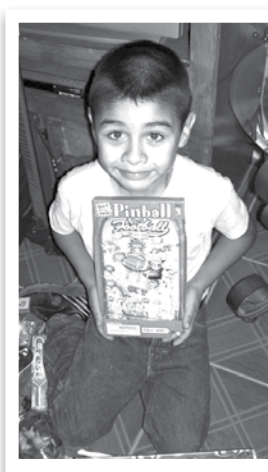


Left: Baxter Kruger in a discussion after lunch, with Vanessa Kersting, John Cartwright, William Douglas, Tim Brassell, and standing in the back, James Ferrell. Right: Baxter, Vanessa, Tim, and Nashville pastor, Jonathan Stepp.

made it a truly joyous occasion!"

Tim Brassell also commented on Sunday's worship service, "I was especially encouraged to participate in the most fun, laughter-filled and 'joyfully rowdy' WCG weekly communion service in my over 30-year experience as a member in this denomination!"

Jonathan Stepp



Crossing Borders With Shoeboxes of Love

On Dec. 1, nine members of two WCG congregations distributed 150 shoeboxes full of love to children in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, as part of our Crossing Borders camp ministry program.

Each summer WCG Generations Ministry sponsors "Crossing Borders"—a mission outreach camp into Mexico. During our time of missionary work, we are able to visit and assist at several children's homes (as well as food banks, building projects, Bible colleges, church services, etc.). We work with a variety of churches and other ministries as we "cross borders" in service to the people. To help maintain the wonderful relationships we establish during the summer camp, we return to Mexico during the winter to visit our Mexican friends.

Members of the Austin, San Antonio and Waco, Texas, WCG congregations contributed items to fill about 100 shoeboxes for the children and staff in Mexico. In addition,

2008 regional conferences

- April 4-6 — Portland, Oregon
- April 25-27 — Chicago, Illinois
- May 16-18 — Union, New Jersey
- May 30-June 1 — Denver, Colorado
- June 27-29 — Lexington, Kentucky
- July 25-27 — Dallas, Texas
- Sept. 12-14 — Kansas City, Missouri
- Nov. 14-16 — Orlando, Florida



Far left, a boy in Mexico shows off a gift. Center, Lee Berger wonders whether it will all fit in the van. Above, Consuelo Orduño and Lucero Villarreal lead in a Bible lesson.

Living Hope Christian Fellowship (Washington, DC, area WCG congregation) prepared and shipped 50 shoeboxes for us to deliver (thanks to the efforts of Crossing Borders alumnus Barbara Miller). The shoeboxes contain toothbrushes, combs, washcloths, simple toys, stuffed animals, coloring books and craft supplies. For the orphans and displaced children we serve in Mexico, receiving these simple items is a valuable and happy treat for them—and they reward us with lots of smiles and hugs.

Consuelo and Pedro Orduño (from Summit Life Church in San Antonio) have taken on this Mexico shoebox project as their personal ministry. They coordinated the scheduling, the shoebox collection and the transportation. Missionaries who went to Mexico were: from San Antonio—Pedro and Consuelo Orduño, Emily Guevarra, Lucero Villarreal, and Paul Kangas; from Austin—Pastor Lee Berger, Roland and Milly Stoller. Ken Williams, Regional Pastoral Leader over the Western U.S., also participated.

Along with distributing shoeboxes full of good things to the children, we were able to lead the children in a Nativity Bible lesson—to share the good news of Jesus with them. After seeing the shining eyes and smiling faces of the children and staff as they received their shoeboxes, we're looking forward to our next opportunity to visit these dear children of God.

Crossing Borders mission camp will be held again on June 23-29, 2008.

Lee Berger

GenMin Offers Programs That Develop WCG Church Leaders and Workers of All Ages

Generations Ministries (GenMin) offers congregations, district networks and camp staffs two programs for equipping leaders and workers for discipling ministry. These programs are Servants Passage, which is designed for older adults, and Journey with the Master, designed for older teens and young adults.

Servants Passage has about 500 WCG members participating in a two-year-long program of ministry exploration and learning that equips pastors, ministry leaders and ministry workers for discipling ministries of all types within their congregations. For more information about Servants Passage, see



Ministry means supporting one another!

the brochure posted at http://fly2.ws/_271m6Z.

Journey with the Master is a newly launched GenMin program designed to equip young emerging leaders (age 15-25). Participants typically serve in a GenMin camp and are interested in growing in leadership in both a camp and their congregation. Journey with the Master begins with a weekend intensive named *The Master's Touch*. The first of these intensives was held in December 2007 in Jacksonville, FL. SEP Florida (directed by Marty Davey) hosted the event, which was attended by 16 camp counselors and counselors-in-training. Generations Camp Ministries leader Greg Wil-



Ministry is a team sport.

liams led interactive discussions that examined ministry callings, relationship styles, and methods for personal evangelism and team-building. The young participants will work with sponsors within their congregations and camps to continue learning back home and then participate in two more intensives: *The Master's Wisdom* and *The Master's Calling*. For information about scheduling Journey with the Master in your area, contact Greg.Williams@wcg.org.



Participants at *The Master's Touch* in Jacksonville, FL.

Church Multiplication Workshop—Spreading the WCG Next Discipling Vision

Church Multiplication Ministries (CMM) director, Randy Bloom, conducted a workshop for Living Faith Christian Church (WCG) in Lake St. Louis, MO. The workshop, which followed the worship service, explained the processes CMM has developed to help start new churches and how small churches can leave a legacy for the future by supporting the WCG Next vision to reach new people through new churches. Randy's sermon expounded the WCG missional purpose and vision for starting new churches. Gary Dry,

pastor, shared the following impressions of the experience:

“The congregation found the sessions to be informative and helpful. They were encouraged that our denomination is a) sober, deliberate and systematic in our approach to establishing new churches and b) that we were committed to making disciples (and churches) who would in turn make other disciples (and churches). More than anything else, the session reinforced the need for all of us to be forward thinking in our approach to the gospel message.

“The workshop was inspiring and showed that Jesus is at work in our denomination...that as a denomination we are serious about changing the status quo for churches and that CMM is seeing positive results. It even spurred discussion in a group our size about how we could partner with others in sponsoring a church. It was enjoyable to understand the success CMM has had, and encouraging to realize that our little group could make a big difference in others’ lives by helping support this ministry.

“The session reinforced the fact that being a Christian is not a license to be finished. Being a Christian means being blessed with the knowledge of Jesus as our Savior and then becoming a blessing to others by sharing that blessing and knowledge. We are blessed that we may become a blessing to others. It is our duty and our responsibility individually and collectively. CMM is proof that our denomination takes our duty to be a blessing to others very seriously. We have a long way to go, but



Church choir at the celebration of a new church building in Mesquite, Texas.

we are on the right path, and with God’s guidance and blessing, we will succeed. May our worries be on how to keep up with the growth God will bring through these efforts.”

Randy Bloom

Congregation Celebrates New Building, New Name

The former Grace Family Church held a dedication day on Dec. 9, officially opening its new church building in Mesquite, TX, complete with the new church name, Pathway of Grace. The worship team led by Debbie Hard sang the opening number “Pathway of Grace,” the church’s new theme song, composed by Mark Schnee.

It had taken many hours of labor by members and \$16,000 in expenditures to prepare the hall. But they feel the time spent cleaning, painting, plastering and doing electrical work was well worth it to provide a facility the members can use 24 hours a day, seven days a week. New, comfortable chairs were in place the week after the dedication.

Struggling with laryngitis, Pastor Bob Persky proclaimed a day of celebration and dedication. “We’re dedicating this facility to Jesus Christ for his use,” the pastor said. The first portion of the service alternated between worship songs and scripture readings and prayers by the following ministry leaders: Pastor Bob, associate pastor Gabriel Ojih, Erin and Mark Schnee, Bruce Hard, Mike Read, Nancy Newkirk, Dick Rutter, Jack Smith and Ted Dusek.

A choir directed by visiting choir director Ella Marie Schatz, Erin Schnee’s mother, sang “Gloria” by Michael W. Smith and “Peace, Peace” by Rick and Sylvia Powell, with the congregation joining in to sing “Silent Night” during the latter portion of the second song. Mrs. Schatz also participated in the worship team.

Pastor Bob gave a sermon on being dedicated to God’s purpose. “We are the real house, not this building,” he said. “You are like living stones being built into a spiritual house. All the things, which are happening today, are by miracle.” One such miracle was another church donating a 100-year-old grand piano to Pathway of Grace. Sound equipment had been donated as well.

The pastor encouraged the members to use their gifts for the good and enjoyment of all. Following the service, everyone enjoyed a meal, including a cake made by Debbie Hard and decorated with the Pathway of Grace logo.

Frank Lewandowski

Pastoral Retreat in Oregon

The Christian Renewal Center at Silver Falls, OR saw 31 leaders from across the Pacific Northwest District gathered for our annual pastors/elders prayer retreat Jan. 18-20. We began on Friday evening and concluded at noon on Sunday. Most of the focus was on spontaneous prayer and worship, as well as seeking the Lord’s face. Fellowship and food were enjoyed by all. On Saturday afternoon, District Pasto-



Newly designed website for a congregation with a new name.

ral Leader, Glen Weber, presented material from the training sessions the DPLs have attended, specifically about the importance of “working with teams” in our congregations and also “understanding boundaries



in our ministry.”

A highlight of the time was the ordination of our first female elder in the district, Anne Marie Gillam—pastoral leader of our small group in Klamath Falls, OR (shown above). After her ordination, Anne led the group in a very moving communion service. We were blessed to also be joined by two other men who are in the process of being trained and approved for ordination: Wilderness Welch, recently arrived intern for the Vancouver, WA congregation; and Brian Shepherd, beginning intern for the Olympia, WA congregation.

Sunday morning was spent interceding for the WCG and our individual congregations and personal needs.

Glen Weber

Bonding With Other Denominations

In addition to performing before their own congregation on Dec. 16, the WCG church of Tampa/Lakeland, FL, took the cast of “A King is Born” on the road to Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Trilby,

FL, on December 30. The two congregations have shared a camaraderie over the past few years, visiting each other’s churches to share music, worship, fellowship and food.

Written and directed by assistant pastor Ellie Kurzawa, the production consisted of soliloquies, vocal solos, and vocal ensembles performed by Herman Brijlall, Willa Chlon, Mendel Claxton, Selma Claxton, George Gramlich, Ellie Kurzawa, Trevor Martin, Leslie Mozon, Flora Mozon,

Leslie Ann Mozon, John Quade, Laura Quade, Hannah Quade, Emma Quade and Lynn Rowe.



Above left, ordination of Anne Gillam. Above, cast of “The King is Born.” Below, children in “The Birth of Jesus.” Right, children who have a parent serving in Iraq.



Some were dressed as angels, while others wore costumes that the characters they were depicting would have worn. These included

Joseph, Mary, Zachariah, Elizabeth, Simeon, Herod, The Innkeeper, a Wise Man and a shepherd girl named Jasmine. Each told a story from their own perspective about the birth of Christ.

The members of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church enjoyed the performance, which was followed by a lunch shared by the members of both churches.

The Tampa/Lakeland congregation is pastored by Pete and Eileen Kendall.

Laura Zager Quade

Children’s Church Christmas Event

The congregation of New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, Ocala, FL, was delighted and deeply moved by a presentation of the

Children’s Church on Dec. 9. The program centered around the second chapter of Luke, “The Birth of Jesus,” read by Jessie Orlando, as the children, dressed in the traditional style of clothing of that time, proceeded up the aisle and onto the stage depicting the familiar nativity scene.

Sylvia Oakley, a teacher for the Children’s Church, directed the program. Costumes were made by Sylvia, Rosetta Orlando and Mary Nell Flournoy. Afterward, “One Small Child” was performed by the church choir. Pete Kendall, pastor, gave the sermon titled “Christmas All Year Long.” His scripture was Luke 1:26-38.

Sylvia Oakley



Christmas Outreach

Abundant Grace Fellowship (the Vancouver, WA, WCG congregation) hosted a Christmas dinner on December 22 for families who have spouses deployed to Iraq from Clark County. Nine families with a total of over 30 family members attended—two families were headed by fathers who have wives deployed. Services were cancelled on Dec. 22 so we could “have church outside the walls” by hosting these families.

Local military officials bent over backwards to provide the kitchen/auditorium for no cost, and the Christmas tree and decorations. We served over 70 people with the military families and our members. Each family was sent home with a live plant (the centerpieces on the tables), a frozen turkey and all the supplies needed to have a complete turkey dinner on Christmas. The military said they had provided similar activities for the families, but this was “by far the best.” The deployment is scheduled to end in April, so we are looking at ways we might be able to support them again.

Glen Weber



Births

Scott Anthony Blanchard, May 15, second child for Philippe and Michelle (Dick) Blanchard, of Hollywood, FL.

Rayden Rain Holmes, Dec. 6, first son of Ryan and Franchesca Holmes, of Boswell, OK.

Luke David Goddard, June 28, first son of Daretta (Roller) and Mark David Goddard, of Rancho Santa Margarita, CA.

Kristina Joy Stearns, July 28, first child for Janet (Schabow) and Bradley Stearns, of Delavan, WI.

Graduations

Amy Anderson Wendland graduated on Dec. 15 from St. Edward's University at Austin, TX, with a Masters in Business Administration with a concentration in Business Management. Amy, a deacon, serves as worship coordinator in the Austin congregation.

Cathlena Beth Conrad will graduate with honors in May 2008 from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Her major is in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Elementary School Teaching. She is a member of the San Antonio congregation.

Wedding

Clayton Joseph Conrad and Lindsay Scheibe Towles were married on Dec. 28 in San Antonio, TX. Clayton recently returned from duty in Iraq and is now stationed in Hawaii. He is the son of San Antonio members Rocky and Donna Conrad.

Elder ordinations

Lorna Laister and Gill Khoury, both of Redhill, South Africa.

Brian Spurgeon, NewLife Fellowship, Pasadena, CA.

Retirement

Larry VanLanduyt retired on Dec. 7. He began full-time work as an Imperial Schools teacher in 1963. He was in the Personal Correspondence Dept. 1984-1996, when he began pastoring the Chico and Redding, CA, churches. He will continue to serve as bivocational pastor in Chico.

Anniversary

Frank and Margie Roberts of Garland, TX, both celebrated 80th birthdays and their 61st wedding anniversary in October.

Obituaries

Lucille Vera Beam, 92, formerly of Wabash, IN, Jan. 31. She was born July 3, 1915 in Wabash County to Minnie and Earl

Pressler. She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Mark (Liz) Cross of Marysville; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren; a daughter-in-law, Janet Tyner of Wabash; and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bruce and Anne Chwalek of Fairborn, OH. She was preceded in death by a son, Harold "Pete" Tyner; a daughter, Carol Morrison; and five siblings.

Dennis F. Castro, 77, of Kansas City, KS, Sept. 11. He was a member since 1969 and served as a deacon in the Kansas City North congregation for many years. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; four children, Mike Castro, Steve (Dayna) Castro, Phil (Judy) Castro, and Pete (Toni) Castro; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Victor Freeman, 98, of Kansas City, MO, Jan. 3. He was a long-time member of the Kansas City congregation. His wife Velma preceded him in death in 1998. He is survived by a son, Ronnie Freeman.

Donald L. Gent, Sr., 71, of Youngstown, OH, Nov. 16. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Patricia, four children: Terry (Richard) Lyons, Tammi Bartolone, Patty (Guy) Di Pillo, and Donald Jr. (Michelle) Gent, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was baptized in 1983 and attended Word of God Fellowship in Canfield, OH.

Martha Estell Massey, 90, of Big Sandy, TX, Dec. 29. Survivors include daughters,

Birth Announcement

We'd like to let people know about your baby as soon as we can. Just fill out this coupon and send it to the address below. Please submit your announcements within six months. We do not print baby photos in *Together*, but we will put them on our website. See www.wcg.org/together for events, announcements, obituaries, etc.

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Last name		Father's first name	
Mother's first name		Mother's maiden name	
City and state		Baby's sex	
Baby's first and middle names		Date of birth month day	
Number of children you now have. Boys:		Girls:	

Lynn Rodgers of Willis, and Sally Atkinson of Lufkin, TX; sons Thomas Edward Massey of Star City, AR, Joe Aaron Massey of White Sulphur Springs, WV, and Lyndel G. Massey of Chandler, TX; 19 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren.

Naomi Robinson, 95, of Pageland, SC, Sept. 24. She was a long-time member of the Charlotte, NC, congregation. She had four children, 32 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by five sisters and five brothers.