

Together

Worldwide Church of God News

September/October 2008

www.wcg.org/together/

Volume 3, Number 5

Update on the Philippines, Northeast Asia, and the Middle East

By Eugene Guzon, Mission Developer and National Director of the WCG in the Philippines

The Philippines and Northeast Asia have been prominent in the news recently, particularly due to the political, environmental, and economic ramifications of the Beijing Olympics, the earthquake that hit China, typhoons that caused flooding in Myanmar and the Philippines, and the struggle against rising prices of basic commodities.

Against this backdrop, we find that the Lord is moving people into knowing him in a deeper way, elevating their level of spiritual maturity, and preparing them for greater participation in building his kingdom.

“Building on Our Strong Foundation” is the theme of the region this year and the next three to four years. “Go 4 8!” is the rallying call. The number 4 represents the goals:

- communities rejoice through strengthened relationships,
- churches are cared for by trained leaders,
- members are grounded in God’s word, and
- nations are reached.

The number 8 refers to eight strategies for pursuing the four goals.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. Witness the Lord’s work in the Philippines, Northeast Asia and the United Arab Emirates.

Philippines

The church received 124 newly baptized members the first half of this year. It also reached out to 6,982 new contacts in the community through outreach projects such as a daily vacation Bible school, medical missions with partner organizations, values formation classes in several schools and other similar projects.

Five summer camps had a total of 332 campers and concluded with 59 baptisms. While the direct beneficiaries of the youth camps are the campers, another solid benefit is the training of more youth leaders. This year, more than 100 staff who served in various campsites underwent training in counseling, leading a dorm, developing teaching and other youth ministry skills.

Churches in Kalibo, Iloilo and



Rex Dela Peña preparing to baptize camper at an SEP camp.

Mindoro received relief, comfort and love from members here and abroad after the area was hit by typhoon Frank. Thanksgiving praise went up to the Lord for sparing the lives of those who were badly affected by the calamity, and for moving many people to send help in the form of relief goods, financial assistance, and prayers. The overwhelming response here and the significant contribution of members abroad, especially through the WCG Disaster Fund, made the relief efforts a success.

During the Men’s Conference in June, 120 men from all over the country heard inspiring messages about having more of Jesus Christ in their lives. Philippines Chief Justice Reynato Puno (a lay preacher in

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The WCG Philippines church leaders with guests Dan and Barbara Rogers, Chief Justice Reynato Puno and Attorney Aldwin Salumbides.

another denomination) and Superintendent of U.S. Ministers Dan Rogers met with the men for leadership development toward a Christ-centered manhood. Dr. Rogers clarified our understanding of who Jesus is and who we are in him. (For more on this conference, see the Philippine update at <http://www.wcg.org/PH/wcgphupd080628.htm>.)

Another 90 leaders from the central and southern part of the nation watched the video of the message by Dr. Rogers and met with Charles Fleming, WCG Missions Developer for the Caribbean, at another leadership conference in August 2008. The theme of the conference was Christ-Centered Leadership.

Also in August, 12 young people and Michael and Janet Morrison visited the country for a short-term mission trip. This team represented four WCG churches in the United States: NewLife Fellowship in Pasadena, CA, New Hope Christian Fellowship in Eagle Rock, CA, Christ Fellowship Church in Cincinnati, OH, and the WCG congregation in Nipomo, CA.

The team conducted a Vacation Bible School for about 400 children in Albay and Bulacan provinces. In cooperation with the WCG in the Philippines and the Jon Whitney Foundation, the group also hosted a teen camp for about 70 high school students. Most of the students accepted Christ during the closing session of the camp. The group was also able to help build restrooms for a school in Albay and help with some facilities and

equipment for the church outreach in Bulacan. On August 17, Dr. Morrison spoke at a combined service in Metro Manila attended by about 700 members.

These are just some of the highlights during the last six months, but the local churches continue to do their share in living and sharing the gospel in many ways. About 70 pastoral teams continue to lead about 80 local churches and about 40 outreach areas, as they continue to build on our strong foundation, Jesus Christ. Their zeal and love for God defy economic difficulties and natural calamities as they live out their faith, build relationships and reach out to their communities. Starting this year, there has also been more emphasis for developing community life through small groups.

China

We have several tentmaking missionaries in China (i.e., missionaries who support themselves with a secular job). After five years of ministry, one of them needed to transfer to another area in the mainland. In preparation for this move, the house church developed by this missionary transitioned to team leadership. After additional leadership training for three days last May, three were commissioned as the new pastoral leadership team for this church in China. They focused on spiritual formation, Christ-centered leadership, small group ministry, and conflict resolution.

New opportunities for missions work in China are being explored through several ministry contacts. Continuing

collaboration with an international missions agency may facilitate the sending of missionaries to China and Japan. Another possible entry point to China that is being explored is for native English speakers to teach English in the universities. This will hopefully fulfill the goal of sending teams instead of individual missionaries to China. One of our ministry team partners in the capital city has started planting a church with about 20 native professionals.

This coming Christmas season, a team from the Philippines is set to go



Above: Rey Taniajura addresses a values education class at Bicol University. Right: Elmer Melendres of Iloilo church preparing to distribute relief goods for victims of typhoon Frank.

to China for an educational short-term trip to promote a Christmas concert. This was done last year by the tentmakers. The plan this year is to do it in a more extensive way.

Thailand

Although Thailand belongs to another mission development area headed by Rod Matthews, there has been increasing missions partnership between the two regions. The Filipino mission team to Thailand is growing. We now have about 14 Filipino members who are based in several provinces and cities in Thailand. The potential to expand the missionary base in the country is also very promising. An international faculty

of the Haggai Leadership Institute is keen on partnering with the church in opening up the country for more missionary-tentmakers. The same is true for a retired Christian military officer who is actively involved in reaching out to the military in the country.

Dubai and the Middle East

The church in Dubai continues to increase due to the overseas Filipino workers going to the area. From January to March, the members received additional discipleship and

have a special celebration in October this year.

The pastoral team in Dubai has become more active in the Filipino ministerial movement. In a visit last May, I met with about 15 pastors of different Filipino churches to discuss combined activities that will promote unity, networking, cooperation and training among Filipino leaders there.

Other areas

The Philippines sends tentmakers to some other countries in Northeast and Southeast Asia. Although some of these nations do not allow missionary work, we have missionaries in some of these countries serving as teachers in day-care centers, youth camps and schools, and one is involved in translation work and community development.

The terrain and the situations are often not easy, but their faith remains strong, and their hearts remain cheerful regardless of those challenges.



The work of the Lord is growing in this area, but the workers remain few in comparison. We pray, and covet your prayers, for more people, more teams, more boldness for us to be able to reach those who need to hear and experience the good news. We pray for God's protection, especially for those who are in difficult circumstances.

We pray for provision so that they can keep harvesting.

leadership training through a senior pastor from the Philippines. A new pastoral team was commissioned last May.

Perhaps some of you are God's answer to our prayers. Some readers may be moved to answer the call, and to experience the adventure of learning another culture, have the thrill of sharing their lives and seeing lives being changed. The need for volunteers, teachers, community organizers, remains great. The field is full of opportunities and the world is waiting.

Additional Bible study groups are being started in other areas, such as Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, and Fujairah, by one of our church planters. The opportunity to reach out to more Filipinos is increasing as more overseas Filipinos go to the area every year.

The church in Dubai is planning to

so that they can keep harvesting.

Perhaps some of you are God's answer to our prayers. Some readers may be moved to answer the call, and to experience the adventure of learning another culture, have the thrill of sharing their lives and seeing lives being changed. The need for volunteers, teachers, community organizers, remains great. The field is full of opportunities and the world is waiting.



Texas Pastors Gather

On March 29-30, pastors from the south half of Texas came together for their second annual "Gathering." Although these pastors have several telephone conferences during the year, this Gathering is their main opportunity for face-to-face time together.

The 12 in attendance got to know each other better on a personal level, shared challenges and successes, and got advice from each other. At this spring's Gathering spouses were included for the first time, and it was wonderful for pastoral couples to be able to share this special time.

The group met in the Executive Suite of a Comfort Inn south of San Antonio, Texas. Meeting in an executive suite worked well because two attendees could sleep in the suite bedrooms, a full kitchen was available in which to prepare meals, and there was a large living room area in which all could meet. It had an informal, "homey" feeling that seems to aid in open, frank discussions. Other attendees reserved their own rooms in the hotel, so everyone was housed close together.

The retreat began at 3 p.m. on Saturday and went till 3 p.m. on

Sunday. Since several of the pastors work full-time non-pastoral jobs, this gave them time on the weekend to make the long drive to and from the Gathering. Because Texas is a big area, several had to drive (or fly) over 300 miles one-way. The group had easy-to-prepare foods, and everyone pitched in at mealtimes to help prepare and serve—which added to the time of fellowship. (Some of the best conversations occurred during cooking, eating and washing the dishes.)

There were times of worship music, group prayer, short devotionals and open discussions about a wide variety of topics. Lee Berger, the district pastoral leader, covered two or three "business" subjects, the group talked some about coaching/mentoring principles, and had a lot of fun taking and discussing the results of a personality profile that the participants filled out. But the vast majority of the time was spent in talking about whatever subjects were on the heart of those in attendance. Each person shared some "icebreaker" information about themselves. This was a great way to open the door for some deep, helpful discussions.

The group shared a lot about themselves over their 24 hours together, so they ended the Gather-

ing in an extended time of heartfelt, personal and tear-filled prayer for one another—for personal needs and for ministry work.

Lee Berger

Crossing Borders With God's Love

For the third summer, Crossing Borders mission camp brought a variety of people (ages 13 to 68 this time) together to share God's love with people in another nation and of another culture. Twenty-five missionaries-in-training came to the Texas/Mexico border June 23-29 from six U.S. states to participate in a week of reaching into Mexico with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Proving to be a truly "family camp," we not only had spouses and siblings attend, but we had three generations of the same family sharing missionary work together.

Crossing Borders is a "sampler camp" of hands-on missionary work, with attendees immersed in a wide variety of endeavors. This year we

- performed songs, dramas and puppet skits in churches and public parks,
- helped distribute bulk food to 40 pastors to take back to their needy churches,
- visited two children's homes, where we played, sang, taught Bible lessons and gave each child much-needed personal attention,



Crossing Borders missionaries teach a Bible lesson to children in a city park. Photos by Pedro Orduno and Lee Berger



Matthew (Mateo) Rakestraw meets a resident of a "pallet city."

- shared in a meal, musical worship and testimonials with 50 pastors, wives and ministry leaders,
 - painted a room for an "adopt-a-family" who lives in poverty;
 - heard amazing stories of sacrifice from two families who serve as full-time missionaries deep in Mexico,
 - helped install electrical wiring in a church building so members can have services at night (using a portable generator in a neighborhood with no electricity),
 - distributed over 1,000 gospel tracts in parks and along streets, often being asked questions about Jesus—who is not well-known in that culture,
 - visited a Bible college where new pastors are trained, helping to install new sewer lines, and
 - had times of worship, teaching and personal testimony at our base camp.
- Each day was long, hot, dirty, and



Agua de Vida: Jason Kleese and Michael Linton give away a cool bottle of water and the gospel.

transformational.

Crossing Borders' slogan is "Crossing national, cultural and personal borders with the Good News of Jesus Christ."

It is shocking to see the dramatic difference in economic levels. Differences between U.S. and Hispanic cultures are also enlightening. But being hit with spiritual heart-change as personal borders are crossed may be the most lasting effect of the camp experience.

While it is our goal to give of ourselves wholeheartedly and to bring about a positive change in the lives of those we come to serve, each year finds our camp attendees receiving more than we give—in a fresh understanding of the love of God for all his children.

If you're looking for new challenges to stimulate growth in your Christian walk, if you're ready to reach outside yourself and invest in the lives of others, if you can accept the challenge of operating in a different culture, and if you want to share your heart and testimony with others who need to know Jesus, this camp may be right for you.

For information or to apply, go to www.cbmission.org, send an e-mail to info@cbmission.org, or write to: Crossing Borders, P.O. Box 554, Round Rock, Texas 78680. Tentative dates for 2009 are June 22-28.

Lee Berger



Atlanta church hosts Babbie Mason and Youth for Christ

On June 16, Living Hope Christian Fellowship of Atlanta, GA, hosted an event for Youth for Christ. The special guest that evening was international star gospel singer Babbie Mason. The event was billed as an "Evening of Celebration and Connection."

Living Hope partnered with Youth for Christ to provide an evening of food and fellowship for a group of teenage mothers. The purpose of the event was to connect these young ladies to a caring church family. After the evening meal and icebreaker games, three members of



Bible on a chip: a rechargeable, solar-powered machine with the New Testament in Spanish on a digital chip. Up to 300 people at a time can listen to the Bible read aloud in their own language. We were able to give six of these units and 20 MP3 Bibles (donated by "Faith Comes by Hearing" ministry) to Mexican church pastors.

Living Hope (Hadiya Allen, Helen Garrett and Brianna Garrett) shared their testimonies to encourage the teens. The event concluded with a mini-concert by Ms. Mason. She performed songs from her new CD as well as crowd favorites, “Stop by the Church” and “God Has Another Plan.” Greg Williams of Youth for Christ said, “Last night the church was being the church—this will make more young folks willing to stop by!”

Charles Young



Reaching children through Mission CUMO

For the past several years, members of Christ Community Church—a WCG congregation in Cincinnati, OH pastored by George Hart—has partnered with Cincinnati Urban Ministry Outreach (CUMO) for an annual mission to children in an inner-city community in the Cincinnati area. This year the mission occurred over a four-day period.



Each day 150 to 200 children experienced God’s love through fun, worship and food provided by dozens of mission volunteers.

The mission reaches out to children through games, activities, worship and meals—all at no cost to the kids. Worship includes drama, puppetry, an object lesson, and praise music—all designed for children ages 5-12.

Worship is always centered on a biblical theme. This year the theme was based on 1 Timothy 4:12: “Don’t

let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.” Each day’s object lesson focused on an aspect of this theme—encouraging the children to be an example of God’s love to others.

An important aspect of the mission is to connect children to ongoing

Christian community. The primary means for this is to point them to the local CUMO congregation. This year the mission registered more than 120 kids and provided them with information about contacting CUMO pastor Pat Pugh, who will provide follow-up.

The mission team experienced deep unity and cooperation. The entire team worked closely together to provide a great time of fun for kids in the community. Each evening the mission team shared a time of devotions—opening their hearts together to the Lord and to one another in close Christian community.

*Ron Hickman,
youth pastor,
Christ Community
Church*

Irish Autumn Harvest Festival: Sept. 27–Oct. 5

The Irish Autumn Harvest Festival will be held in Kenmare, County Kerry, Republic of Ireland. In addition to worship services, the range of activities includes fishing, golf, sightseeing, dining at restaurants and seeing other venues in this beautiful area of Ireland. Kenmare is called the Jewel in the Crown of the Kingdom of Kerry. If you have not visited here before, your visit will be very worthwhile, and if you have been here before, you know the return visit will be most worthwhile!

Self-catering accommodation in Kenmare for the festival/retreat is inexpensive, and more so for anyone willing to share accommodations! There is a large range of hotels and guest houses in the Kenmare area. If you’d like information on any alternative accommodation, please ask, and we will try to advise you.

The rate quoted for the self-catering holiday homes is per house, based on occupancy of up to five or six persons, for up to eight nights. When booking, it is your responsibility to arrange to share the cost with others who may be willing to share with you. West Coast Holiday takes booking for the charge of only €339 (approximately \$US 505) per week.

Below are the postal address, telephone and fax numbers, email and website address for further information about the self-catering houses and how to book accommodations:

West Coast Holidays
16a Whitethorns
Castletroy, Limerick
Republic of Ireland
Tel: 353 61 335 799
Fax: 353 61 335 919

Email: info@westcoastholidays.ie
Website: www.westcoastholidays.ie

When booking, state the reference “Worldwide Church of God” to ensure you obtain the best deal. Should you desire clarification in any area, let us know, and we will help you. For any further details, contact Vic Scott at vicscott@indigo.ie

High School Graduates

Brenda Acosta, Batesville, AR
Damaris Belvin, Fort Worth, TX*
Ethan Biri, Bridge City, TX
Joya Marie Bland, Southaven, MS*
Marie Boone, West Milton, OH
Edward Joseph Brown, Tallahassee, FL
Annamarie Elizabeth Brown, Chesapeake, VA
Raeyssa Ann Brown, Cincinnati, OH
Elizabeth Budro, Lumberton, TX
Jonathan William Butler, Pueblo, CO
Mavicar Chan, Lakewood, CA
Cameo Colleen Coleman, Parlin, NJ
Michael Crouner, Cicero, IL
Elizabeth Adelle Davin, Middletown, OH
Lori Day, Rosamond, CA
Christie Dodd, Oak Mountain, AL
Cory J. Dorvil, Somerset, NJ
Steven Di Trapani, Independence, KY
Stan Duhon, Baton Rouge, LA
Robert Everette, Plantation, FL
Phil Frye, Independence, KY
Shaqueta Fox, Des Moines, IA
Demetrius Gauden, Pembroke Pines, FL
Ted Gonder, La Crescenta, CA
Jordon Gonzalez, Bridge City, TX
Ashley Goodfriend, Crawford, NY
Emily Hale, Los Angeles, CA
David Grant Hickman, Batavia, OH
Cloeteal Horne, San Diego, CA
Jared Frank Irusta, Greensboro, NC
Joaquin Johnson, Cherryville, NC
Lacey Johnson, Helena, MT
Melissa Renee' Jones, Summerville, SC
Sterling Jones, Plantation, FL
Kiki Kalendar, Sun Valley, CA
Jerrod Kaufman, Kahoka, MO
Kyle Korte, Grimes, IA
Joshua David Lantz, Jonesboro, AR
Shannah Leal, Cedar Park, TX*
David Leon, Pasadena, CA
Roinell Lewis, East Point, GA
Sean Kohl, Pikeville, KY
Montana Laurent, Warren, TX
Shake Magistrado, Lancaster, CA
Alyssa Mahan, Kennesaw, GA
Devon Martinez, Lilburn, GA
Shawn Martinez, Lilburn, GA
Blake McCrannie, Maurice, LA
Damiano J. Medina, Medford, OR
Jonathan Millwood, General Equivalency Diploma, Georgia
Jimmy Moore, Lick Creek, KY
Melinda Morrison, Arcadia, CA
Josh Nelson, Hiram, GA
Jonathan Ojeda, Cicero, IL
Alyssa Panarelli, Worcester, MA

Daniel Pinette, Nipomo, CA
Patrick Quinn, Kenmore, WA
Nicole Riley, Marion, OH
Kady Rogers, Ripley, WV*
Steven Rogers, Gorham Learning Center, Redlands, CA
Nina Rumbaugh, Duncannon, PA
Nijel Charles Salmon, Newark, NJ
Melissa Schmidt, Anchorage, AK
James Sidars, Ripley, WV*
Jessica Sigurdson, Moorhead, MN
Oliver Spellman, Springville, AL
Ashley Morgan Swinson, Mayo, FL*
Pamela Teslik, Tokyo, Japan
Alakan Thomas, McDonough, GA
Victoria Dawn Thompson, Newark, NJ
Amber Lauren Todd, Germantown, TN
Celina Trujillo, Torrance, CA
Anthony Walton, Pasadena, CA
Oscar Sonny Warren, Philadelphia, PA
Elizabeth Lynn Weaver, Antelope, CA*
Danscella White, Orange Park, FL
Justin Wirth, Concord, NC
Cindy Wu, San Francisco, CA
Kenny Worrix, Lick Creek, KY
Jessica Young, Mobile, AL
Jing Zhang, San Francisco, CA
Jesse Zenon, Abbyville, LA
Laiah Zuniga, Cicero, IL

*With honors. For names of schools and other details, see www.wcg.org/together/08/july/grads.htm.

College Graduates

Baiyina Atkinson, College of William & Mary
Alicia Remona Bynoe, Kean College
Daniel Andrew Carnegie, Howard University College of Medicine. M.D.
Eva Dailey, Pasadena City College
Amanda Davey, U. of North Florida
Nicole Davis, North Park University
Beth Fairchild, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Elizabeth D. Fezell, Azusa Pacific University. M.A.
Emily Friedrich, Keene State College
Lora Fyles, Calif. State U., Bakersfield
Charles Edwards Giles II, Alabama State University
Delores Ann Giles, Spring Arbor U.
Krystal Janay Giles, Jackson State U.
Mary Ann Graham, Moorpark College
Stephanie Guice, California State Exam in Court Reporting
Karen Haar, U. of North Carolina
Jonathan B. Harris, Pikeville College

Sharran Liesel Holm, San Jose State University. M.S.
Franklin K. Howard II, Lincoln Technical Institute
Chelsea Renee Hunt, University of Central Oklahoma
Joel Irusta, Carolina Evangelical Divinity School. M.A.
Eric "Chip" Josephs, Liberty University
William Aaron Kessler II, University of Southern California. M.B.T.
Daneen LaCombe, Lamar University
Josh Langley, Lawson State Community College
Al Liburd, U. of Phoenix, San Diego, CA
Bradley Curtis May, Long Beach State University
Rosana M. Medina, University of Reno
Amy Miller, Cal State U. at L.A. M.S.
Betty Picinic Norheim, Thomas Jefferson University. M.D.
Meghan R. O'Connor, North Park U.
Addy Ortiz, Cal State Los Angeles
Ryan Payne, Bluefield College
Mary Pope, Agnes Scott College
Pamela Pritchard, Western Piedmont Community College
Duby Remo, New Jersey
Ashley Robinson, U. of South Carolina
Dan Rogers, Union Institute and U. of Cincinnati. PhD.
Tiffany Rene Scherich, Oklahoma Baptist University
Carrie E. Smith, Carlow University. M.S.
Ashley Akers Soto, Cal State L.A.
Joseph Tkach III, Digipen Institute of Technology
Cody Urban, Cal State Northridge
Heather Urban, Antelope Valley College
Tim Urista, Occidental College
Rebecca Valekis, Trinity College and Theological Seminary
Candace Vinson, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Matthew Waltz, Cal State Northridge
Amanda Elizabeth Winfield, Dillard University
Danny Zachariah, Briarcrest Biblical Seminary. M.A.
Benjamin Zacharias, Bethesda North College

*For cities, degrees, photos and other details, see www.wcg.org/together/08/july/grads.htm.



Birth

Noble Jeremiah Martinez, July 15, first child of Jon and Susie (Day) Martinez of Antelope Valley, CA.

Anniversaries

John and Vermell Fitchett, of Fredericksburg, VA, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on July 29. They have two children: Veretta Fitchett and John Fitchett Jr., and two grandchildren: Charity and Javon Fitchett. The couple attend Living Hope Christian Fellowship in Vienna, VA.*

Hubert and Lou Ellen Hall, of Pikeville, KY, celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 6. They have two children and three grandchildren.*

Duane and Sharon Skrove, of Princeton, MN, celebrated their 50th anniversary on Father's Day, June 7. They were married on Father's Day, June 7, 1958. They are long-time members of Living Hope Christian Fellowship (Minneapolis North) in Champlin, MN. They have three sons: Jeff, Glen and Wayne, and seven grandchildren.*

Raul and Paula Sifuentes celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 3 and renewed their vows on June 29. Southway Community Church (Houston, TX) Pastor Mark Mounts officiated. They were accompanied by their daughters Diana, Nancy and Susana.*

Obituaries

Iris E. Ashcraft, 71, of Natchez, MS, died on May 28 after a long battle with cancer. She was a homemaker, and had been a member of WCG since 1974. She is survived by one son: Billy Morgan, and his wife Angie, of McComb, MS. She was preceded in death by her husband Orville Ashcraft. She was a faithful servant and church member until the end. She will be missed.

Helen Maxine (Taylor) Auernheimer, 86, died on July 13 in Newton, KS. She was born Nov. 12, 1921, in Augusta to Thomas William and Una May (Patterson) Taylor. On June 8, 1941, she married Edgar Willis Auernheimer in Augusta. She is survived by her husband and by a sister, Ella Bell Miller.

She also is survived by five children: Lynn Auernheimer (and Maxine O'Neill) of Canton, Cheryl Hoffman of Carlsbad, CA, Carol Gibbens of Halstead, Joan Jacobsen of Newton and Anthony (and Audrey) Auernheimer of Salina; six grandchildren, four stepgrandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and three step-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, five sisters and two brothers.*

James W. Evans, 81, of Summersville, WV, died April 10. He was born on June 11, 1926 in Anchorage, AK to Charles and Myrtle Evans. He was preceded in death by a sister, Dorothy, and a brother, Charles.

He is survived by his wife, Tete E. Evans; children Gail Shuster of San Francisco, CA, and James C. Evans, of Mt. Pleasant, SC; grandchildren Daniel, David and Tyler; and a sister, Jeanette De Reise, of Castro Valley, CA.

He was a member of the WCG since 1962 and served as a deacon in the Summersville congregation for many years.

Ronald Edward Prather, 81, died on May 20, in Bangor, ME. He was born Oct. 5, 1926, in St. Cloud, FL, the son of Gripp and Annie (Vincent) Prather. Ron served in the Korean War and worked for about 25 years as an assistant coroner for the city of Cleveland. Ron was a deeply compassionate, caring and loving person, who intimately touched the lives of all those who knew him. He is survived by his only daughter, Elanore Vaughan, of Middleburg, FL, and her children, George, Yvonne, Rick and Timothy; two brothers, Ralph and Frank Prather; and close friends John Steffes of Caribou, ME, and Nathan Kidd of Cleveland, OH. He was predeceased by an infant daughter, Marta Elizabeth; and five siblings, Chester, Maxine, Lois, Carl and Lorene.*

Tom Ramsey, 93, of Waco, TX, died June 28 from complications of pulmonary fibrosis and congestive heart failure. Tom joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1939 and served

throughout World War II. He was commander of the 554th Squadron of the 386th Bomber Group and led 70 missions over Europe, including four on D-Day.

Tom married Helen Newton in 1945 and had two daughters, Cynthia and Carol, who attended his funeral. In 1975, Tom married Nelda Boone. Nelda was his loving caretaker, and Tom died at home after a long, productive life. He had been a member of WCG since 1956 in Houston and Waco.*

Howard Leroy Reed, 84, of Orland, CA, died April 13 after an extended period of failing health and a short battle with pancreatic cancer. A member of the Chico WCG since the early 1990s, he is survived by his wife of seven years, Jane (Ruby) Reed, and three sons by his first wife June, who preceded him in death of the same malady.*

Omar P. Whitesell, 89, of Prairie Village, KS, died April 8. He was a member in Kansas City for 36 years. Omar was a World War II veteran and earned the Bronze Star for bravery under fire as a forward artillery observer. Omar was a quiet, friendly man and a good husband and father. He faithfully served in the church and was a helper of those less fortunate. He is survived by a daughter, Marjean Lindquist, and a son, Larry Whitesell. He was loved by his church family and will be greatly missed.

Correction

The previous issue of *Together* reported the ordination of Cody Lindberg, of Jenners, PA. The correct name is **Cody Pfister**.

* See www.wcg.org/together/08/sept/announce.htm for more information and photos.



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