

# Together

## Worldwide Church of God News

March/April 2009

[www.wcg.org/together/](http://www.wcg.org/together/)

Volume 4, Number 2

## Europe: Challenges and Opportunities

By James Henderson and Santiago Lange, Mission Developers

**M**odern Europe is changing. Alongside stereotypical national images is emerging a new world order with staggering potential. The sad thing is that this brave new world is often godless. God is not on the agenda. Europe has been called neo-pagan, post-Christian.

Of course, communities of Christians do survive and at times thrive, and in some places an archaic form of Christianity remains amidst the debris of failed state religion, adhered to nominally for the most part. Faith in Christ, however, is in short supply whereas secularism, humanism and faith as multiculturalism seem the order of the day. To be a Christian is regarded as possibly fanatical, a social indiscretion or an embarrassing inconvenience.

Europe is stony ground indeed for the gospel. But the work of faith must go on. Christians tell their stories of courageous faith amidst an increasingly disinterested and sometimes hostile society.

What can the Worldwide Church of God do in the spiritual wilderness that is Europe? We think that God can

perform a miracle. Just as he transformed the five loaves and two fishes and fed thousands, so Christ can take what little we offer and through his miracle feed spiritually tens of thousands. Scattered throughout Europe we have grace-filled congregations and contacts who seek to be used by God in his mighty work. We need to hold their hands in faith. Below is an introduction to their stories. Please pray with us that God will use us to proclaim the good news of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

• **Bulgaria:** A number of years ago the WCG launched a media ministry that has now expanded to include a magazine in the Russian language. The Bulgarian *Sviata Istina* has a bimonthly circulation of 4,000, while the bimonthly Russian edition, *Sviataja Istina*, has a circulation of 1,000. Our readers include Christians from many denominations, who have come to appreciate our literature as excellent discipleship tools. The magazines also reach many people who live far from existing churches. In eastern Bulgaria there is a group of about 30 Christians associated with the WCG that has been meeting regularly for worship services three times a week. We hope to increase our media operations as additional resources become available. The WCG regularly supports three orphanages in the towns of Jambol, Elhovo and Kermen. Eastern Europe is open to the gospel, and we hope that



our work there will bring many more good fruits in the future.

• **Estonia:** The church has had members in Estonia since 1988. In 1989 one member of the WCG together with seven other Estonians started an organisation that could help fellow Estonians. This project is now one of the largest Estonian organisations helping released criminals find work and housing, helping street children, a boy's home for the homeless and other projects. The WCG has 15 members living in Tartu, Estonia, which is the second-largest city in the country. The pastor of WCG Scandinavia visits Estonia four times a year serving the members, holding public lectures, where the public requests the topics. And for the last three years the WCG in Europe has, with qualified staff members, held a summer school for the Estonian youth of the town of Kalaste. The local school requested the subjects: Basic and advanced English, Computer, Art, Principles of living and American football (especially requested by the local school)!

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• **France:** L'Eglise Universelle de Dieu / Le Monde à Venir is a Christian community of 700 members spread over 10 churches in metropolitan France and three churches in the Caribbean. In France, churches are in Bordeaux, Laval, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Metz, Narbonne, Selestat-Mulhouse, Paris and Orléans. House churches are also being developed. The church's work in France began 40 years ago, in 1967, with the publication of a magazine. Our magazine *La Vie Chrétienne* reflects our new understanding and doctrinal orientations. The WCG France teaches salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The church teaches the values of the New Testament and that salvation is offered to all humanity. Members are encouraged to live their daily lives according to these principles.

The National Ecclesiastical Council, composed of three pastors and a spokesperson, works hand in hand with the church board to offer pastoral care and handle administrative matters. We encourage members to get involved in church activities as well as in their local communities. Outreach ministries for the elders, youth and little ones are encouraged and developed. A prayer ministry binds the local churches with our scattered members and those who are in difficult situations. The annual "Celebration of the Kingdom" is a strong moment in the life of our Christian community. Information can be obtained on our website: [www.lemondeavenir.com](http://www.lemondeavenir.com).

• **Germany and Austria:** There are about 130 members attending or affiliated with our five congregations or small groups in Germany and Austria. The WCG in Germany sponsors a magazine entitled *Nachfolge*. There are about 4,600 subscribers, mainly in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, with about 700 subscribers in other nations. Germany, known as the land of Martin Luther and the Reformation, has become hard soil for the gospel. The WCG in Germany has been sponsoring the building of a medical center in Togo, Africa, and supports Eastern European missions. Our congregation in Bonn is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and the ACK (the working group of Christian churches). In Austria, representatives of our fellowship have

been instrumental in the organization of a yearly celebration involving several evangelical churches.

• **Great Britain and Ireland:** There are 1,414 members in the British Isles, meeting in 46 congregations. However, without God, we are nothing. Our fellowship has come to realize clearly that we cannot do his work on our own strength. The Worldwide Church of God in the UK and Ireland has rededicated itself to the work of God. It is our prayer that he will use us for the furtherance of his gospel. Our congregations participate in living and sharing the gospel nationally and locally where they live. To find out more, check out our website at [www.wcg.org.uk](http://www.wcg.org.uk).

• **Italy:** In 1982, there were only a few Italian members. They had come into contact with the WCG in other parts of the world. The first elder was ordained in 1985, and congregations were formed in Rome, Milan and Catania. New contacts mainly came through heavily subsidized media: a nationwide television program, an Italian version of our magazine, which at one point had a circulation of 100,000, and through various booklets on aspects of Christian living and doctrine.

Today the church in Italy is growing again, mainly through personal evangelism, and there are about 120 people meeting in small groups or churches in Turin, Milan, Genoa, Trento, Vicenza, Ancona, Rome, Bari, Catania and Lercara Friddi (Sicily) and Sassari (Sardinia). There are also members in Alessandria, Naples and the Calabria region. The church publishes a free quarterly magazine titled *Seguimi* and organizes a nationwide festival during the last week of each August.

• **The Netherlands:** The Dutch WCG has 79 members, attending in four congregations. The age range of those in attendance is between 2 and 91 years. A widely distributed Christian magazine in the Dutch language titled *Lifeline* reaches 1,600 subscribers in the Netherlands, Belgium, Surinam and Indonesia.

The Houten congregation is part of an association of ten Christian churches that is involved, along with the government, in supporting the elderly, the needy and youth. The ecumenical work among these

churches has proven to be constructive in spite of theological differences. The goal is to bring the message and the person of Christ nearer to the Houten community. Unfortunately, many people do not think of the word of God being relevant in their lives today.

The Tilburg congregation is also an active member of an ecumenical association and it supports an orphanage in India. The congregation in Antwerp is associated with the Evangelical Alliance. After many difficult years, the WCG's work in Flanders (Dutch-speaking Belgium) is now being positively recognized.

The Dutch WCG national church is active in a number of mission projects, particularly in Bulgaria. In 2007, the congregations sponsored a youth group that is building hospitals and schools in Malawi. Other activities involve street evangelism and the support of WCG activities in Estonia. Most members in the Netherlands are fluent in English. The WCG Netherlands continues to remain in contact with two members in Surinam, South America, who are supported spiritually as well as financially.

• **Portugal:** The Portuguese church is small in numbers but big in heart. Our members are geographically distant from one another, some living in the north, south and central part of the country. There are also members in the Madeira and Azores islands. Portugal has a long coastline facing the Atlantic Ocean and in the age of discovery established colonies in diverse parts of the world. They share language and cultural links with these countries. Meetings are held in the Lisbon area, so if you are ever in Portugal you are welcome to fellowship with us. Our website [www.idm.pt](http://www.idm.pt) contains our contact information as well as many articles in the Portuguese language.

• **Scandinavia:** The WCG has had members in Scandinavia since the mid 1950s. The members have always been scattered in this region because they came in contact with the church through mass media.

There are 65 members in the three Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The church has regular meetings in Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm and in other areas on a less regular basis. The church produces five booklets a year in Norwegian, Swedish and Danish with a readership of just over 1,000. The church has a homepage in all three languages: [www.gvks.org](http://www.gvks.org). The WCG in Scandinavia has Estonia as an outreach project and serves the members there. In recent years the WCG has held a summer school for Estonian youth of the town of Kallaste. The regional pastor for Scandinavia is Carl Fredrik Aas.

• **Spain** has a population of over 45 million. About 1.5 million people have an evangelical background. Most of these Christians migrated during the last ten years to Spain from South America, Africa and Eastern Europe.

The WCG in Spain held its first worship service in 1988. There are about 20 members regularly attending the Madrid congregation, although there are an estimated 100 Christians, mostly of Brazilian background, who occasionally also come to our fellowship.

We have been blessed with a second and very vibrant congregation of about 15 members in Vilafranca de Bonany, Majorca. Most of those in attendance are "second generation" Christians whose parents had been attending the WCG.

About 35 additional members are scattered throughout Spain. Most of them came in contact through the old denominational magazine, *La Pura Verdad*. Some are also visiting other Christian congregations even though they want to remain members of the WCG. The church produces two magazines, *Juntos* and *Verdad Y Vida*. *Juntos* provides the Spanish members with strong spiritual nourishment. The second magazine, *Verdad Y Vida*, has 500 subscribers. The gospel faces great challenges in Spain and we would greatly appreciate prayers of support.

## Funding

The mission of the Worldwide Church of God outside the United States is funded in three ways. The first is through the donations of members in the various countries in which we work. The majority of mission work being done is being funded through this means. The second category is the money that comes out of the denominational apportionment of the contributions received in U.S. local churches, and the third source is from individual or congregational donations that are in addition to the funds made available from the denominational apportionment. Our Mission Developers and other mission expenses incurred at the denominational offices are funded from this denominational apportionment.

• **Switzerland:** There are currently 68 members attending our three multi-cultural congregations in Basel, Zürich and Geneva. The church in Switzerland subsidizes the printing of a Christian magazine in the Italian language entitled *Seguimi*. Among the projects supported by the WCG Switzerland is a youth camp in Kallaste, Estonia, as well as a humanitarian program supporting street children and released prisoners.

As you can probably appreciate, our Mission Developers take seriously the unique characteristics of the cultural and historical context in which they have to minister within the realities of their regions. We hope that this information has broadened your overview of the gospel work being done in Europe by the WCG churches. There is still so much to do. We appreciate your regular and fervent prayers that God will inspire and uplift our MDs as they respond to the Holy Spirit, that God will bless and protect the many fellow laborers scattered throughout the world, and send even more laborers into his harvest.

## 2009 Generations Ministries Camps, Mission Trips and Events

Camp/Mission/Event	Location	Ages of Campers	2009 Dates
Crossing Borders www.cbmission.org	Laredo, Texas/Mexico	15-adult	June 22-28
CrossWalk www.crosswalkcamp.com	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	8-25	May 22-25, Nov 13-15
Gateway to God www.gatewaytogod.org	Wartburg, Illinois (south of St. Louis)	12-18	July 8-12
Heartland SEP www.heartlandcamp.org	Washburn, Illinois (near Peoria)	10-19	July 26-Aug 1
Higher Ground www.carolinacamp.com	Asheville, North Carolina	8-18	July 19-25
New Heights www.newheightscamp.com	Plymouth, Connecticut	8-18	Aug 16-22
Northern Light northernlight.wcgweb.org	Eagle Bluff, Minnesota	10-19	July 19-25
Pathways www.pathwayscamp.com	Southern Ohio	8-17	July 19-24
SEP Florida www.sepflorida.com	Keystone Heights, Florida (southwest of Jacksonville)	6-19	June 5-9
SEP Rockies www.seprockies.org	Colorado	11-18	July 26-Aug 1
SEP So Cal www.southerncaliforniacamp.org	Big Bear Lake, California	8-18	July 5-11
SEP Washington www.sepWASHINGTON.com	Camp Cushman, Washington	8-15	July 20-23
Souled Out FJMoore@bellsouth.net	Western Tennessee	8-18	To be determined
The Mountaintop www.mountaintopcamp.org	Temple, Georgia	8-19	May 23-25
Word in the Street (urban mission) creag12@yahoo.com	Cincinnati, Ohio	teens and adults	June 22-24
YES Camp Anthony.Rice@wgc.org	Louisiana	7-18	July 2-9

## Camps in Canada

Silver Meadows www.silvermeadowscamp.ca	Edmonton, Alberta	12-20	July 5-12
Camp Connections www.camp-connections.org	Lanark, Ontario	12-18	July 18-24 and July 25-31



## Harvest Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC

“Gathering in the Harvest for Jesus” conference, Myrtle Beach, SC, October 9-12, was a great success. The music was inspirational, the sermons were uplifting, and the fellowship was heavenly!

Although members faced difficult economic times, we had people who traveled from Vermont, Tennessee, Canada, Minnesota, Ohio, Washington DC, Maryland, New Jersey, Texas, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina. Our attendance on opening night was 130; Saturday morning we had 240, and we concluded on Sunday morning with 225.

We again provided a short worship service and a meal for Street Missions (a homeless shelter); there were 100 in attendance. Ten people accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. During the Sunday service, six others accepted Jesus and four rededicated their lives to Jesus Christ.

*Howard Blakeney*

## Ministry at Senior Citizens' Facility

Each week New Hope Christian Fellowship (Eagle Rock, CA) provides a church service for more than 20 residents of The Fair Oaks by Regency Park Independent and Assisted Living Center in Pasa-

### Church-Next Training in August

As Church Administration & Development (USA) continues to partner with pastors and congregations to start new churches, it is pleased to announce that Church Multiplication Ministries will be conducting its fourth Church-Next Training, August 24-28, 2009.

This training focuses on the principles and practices for planting new, Christ-centered churches. This training also benefits our established congregations and is ideal training for new and emerging ministry leaders.

Pinecrest Christian Conference Center  
1140 Pine Crest Rd.  
Twin Peaks, CA 92391  
800.427.1858 or 909.338.5605  
[www.pinecrest-ccc.com](http://www.pinecrest-ccc.com)

Training includes:

- Christ-centered principles for church planting
- Strategic planning for church planting
- Developing culturally relevant ministries
- Developing church planting teams
- Starting new worship services
- Gathering people for a new church ... AND MORE!

Only \$250.00 per person includes four nights, 11 meals, and a workbook. For more information, please contact Randy Bloom, Church Multiplication Ministries director at [Randy.Bloom@wgc.org](mailto:Randy.Bloom@wgc.org).

dena. Ron Kelly and Pastor Glen Weber organize numerous elders as worship leaders/speakers. On special occasions our music groups provide a music program for the residents.

During December our choirs provided two weeks of Christmas music. One Sunday the New Hope Children's Choir (left) sang numerous Christmas carols with readings, and a week later the New Hope Praise

Choir performed a two-person narration with appropriate songs during the narration.

This is a lively group of senior residents who are very appreciative of the services we provide to them.

*Glen A. Weber*

## Love Packets in Illinois

A big “high five” and a thank-you goes to the Colorado Springs congregation. We read their article in the July-August *Together* about the “Love Packets” they made to



give to children in their community. We are also a small congregation and have been wondering and praying how could we start a community service mission with so few to help. The “Love Packet Ministry” was ideal for us and so, was unanimously agreed upon.

We call our ministry, “Small Blessings.” We fill our baskets with a coloring and reading book, *Christian Odyssey* magazine, crayons, a stuffed animal, toothbrush and toothpaste, a love message from the Bible, and a business card from our pastor. We have chosen the women’s and children’s abuse center in our area, and also the emergency room at a hospital in Alton. So far we have delivered 26 baskets to the abuse center and 21 to the hospital.

The director from the women’s abuse center told us they are very grateful in receiving these baskets. The children usually come to the center with only the clothes on their backs, having to leave their favorite toys behind, and this gives them something of their very own to have. The director said that although we are a small church, she “sees a big heart” in our fellowship and thanks us for our thoughtfulness.

*Ozella Hare*

### **Sack Lunches for Homeless Shelter**

The Seattle/Bellevue and Everett, WA, church teens, called “DJs” (Disciples of Jesus), made 250 sack lunches and 150 extra sandwiches to take to a homeless shelter in Seattle. This shelter does not receive consistent funding from large organizations, so any volunteer services and food are much appreciated.

The food was eagerly received, especially because we just had

our first snow-storm and some other volunteer groups had not shown up. We had enough to serve not only the people inside the building and people lined up outside, but we were also able to leave lunches behind for others coming to the shelter throughout the day. Our pre-teens also put together around 150 toiletry bags, which we were able to deliver to the shelter with the lunches on Dec. 14.

People helping make the lunches: Dylan Hatch, Dulci Hatch, Albina Gorodilova, Nikita Gorodilova, Austin Dean, Chyla Helean, Sean Quinn, Pastor Bill Miller, Tori Emerson, Paul Ramirez.

*Bill Miller*

### **Children’s Skit in Tyler, TX**

On Dec. 21, the children of the Tyler congregation performed the Christmas skit “Christmas Time Is Coming.” The skit told the story of Mary and Joseph finding a place to stay before Jesus is born. The skit was followed by the congregation singing “Away in a Manger.” After the skit two teenagers from the congregation performed on the trumpet and clarinet two Christmas songs. The service was followed with a luncheon and fellowship with the members.

*Janalee Swisher*

### **Christmas Service Brings Capacity Crowd**

A capacity crowd of 158 people, including more than 30 guests,



Disciples of Jesus in Seattle/Bellevue, WA, assembling sack lunches.

attended Pathway of Grace’s Dec. 21 service celebrating the birth of Christ. Members were asked to cook their best recipes and bring them for a potluck after the service. Debbie Hard baked a cake inscribed with: “Happy Birthday, Jesus.” A gingerbread house echoed that message. Pastor Bob Persky and his wife, Kay, took turns reading scriptures and announcing proclamations about Jesus and his relationship with us.

Traditional carols were sung by the Children’s Choir, the worship band, and various adults. As the members and visitors heard the songs of joy and Christmas carols, many joined in.

*Frank Lewandowski*

### **“Crossing Borders” Ministry Trip**

For the third year in a row, the WCG (through Generations Ministry) sponsored a cross-border winter ministry trip into Mexico. This year is was Dec. 19-21. The December program originated as a follow-up to our weeklong summer missionary hands-on training camp. In the summer program we share in outreach with native ministries in Mexico, and the winter

trip helps us reconnect with fresh support for some of those ministries.

For our winter trip we collect shoeboxes packed with gifts for children and we deliver them to children in Mexico. In 2007 we had 10 people go on the weekend trip to deliver 150 shoeboxes, and



Part of the Crossing Borders mission group with 350 shoeboxes of love.

in 2008 we grew to 28 missionaries sharing 350 shoeboxes full of gifts. Shoeboxes came to us from 12 congregations and school groups (some from other states), and attendees came from as far away as Maryland. We are excited about the growth God is giving this ministry opportunity.

Eight of the missionaries on this trip were alumni of our summer camp program, and they provided the backbone for the trip. But 20 of the attendees of this “micro mission” trip were new to the cross-cultural missionary experience. Ages ranged from pre-teens to septuagenarians, and it was especially exciting to see multiple generations of some families sharing in ministry together.

There is an axiom that says there are three critical keys for ministry work (especially in international missions). Those keys are flexibility, flexibility and flexibility. For instance, we expected it would take no more than an

hour to cross the Mexican border (based on our past experience). But we were stuck in a five-hour traffic jam. Everyone on the road seemed to take this situation in stride, with lots of folks visiting back and forth between vehicles, some people peddling ice cream and soft drinks to the stranded motorists, and a general tone of a giant “tailgate party” while we inched our way toward the border.

We had to radically rearrange our plans for the day. At our first stop, a local church had planned to have a crowd gathered for us to share various activities and give shoeboxes to the children. But by the time we got to their location, the crowd was gone and dusk was approaching. We broke into three groups and went door-to-door to the neighborhood (an extremely poverty-stricken pallet village) inviting families to come to the local church to receive shoebox gifts. Within a half hour we had a happy, expectant crowd assembled, and we gave away shoebox gifts in the name of Jesus to 300 grateful, smiling children. What a blessing it was to our group to see the love of Jesus flowing out to these families.

Our second stop was at a children’s foster home with which we’ve worked for several years. We were very late, but they greeted us with joy. We brought food for their lunch, but now it was for supper instead. We built a campfire in the courtyard and had a praise and worship sing-along.

We had a relaxing evening of talking and playing with the kids, and we were inspired by the testimony of the director of the foster

home—of the miraculous calling and change of heart God accomplished in her life as he brought her from a non-Christian dissolute life in New York, to caring for 25 foster children in a border town in Mexico. We gave shoebox gifts to the children in the foster home, and we were able to leave extra shoeboxes of gifts for them to take on an evangelism trip into interior Mexico.

This trip did not go as we had planned, but God gave us ample opportunity to share his love with hundreds of children and their families in another country and culture. We were reminded that our plans are not always God’s plans, but if we surrender ourselves to share his good news, he will accomplish his purposes through our efforts (Isaiah 55).

Maybe you’d like to test the



Mexican girls smiling with shoeboxes of gifts.

waters to see if God has given you a heart for cross-border missionary work. If so, there might be a missions group in your area you could participate with. Or you might want to come to our summer camp on the Mexican border June 22-28, 2009, or next winter’s shoebox trip. For more info, go to [www.cbmission.org](http://www.cbmission.org) or call 903-653-0992.

*Lee Berger*



## Births

**Ryne Allen Bush**, Nov. 4, first child of Curtis and Amy (Honse) Bush of Auburn, CA. Grandparents are Steve and Carolyn Honse of Clinton, IA, and Allen and Kay Bush of Liberty, SC.

**Nicolas James Kaminski**, born on March 25, 2008, adoption finalized on Dec. 11 to James and Mechelle (Powell) Kaminski of the Clarksville, TN, congregation.\*

## Graduation

**Alisa L. Lane** received a Masters in Business Administration from Strayer University, in Richmond, VA. She is part of Richmond Grace Fellowship.

## Ordinations

Antonio Castillo, Denver (Spanish), CO  
Marco Mendoza, Denver (Spanish), CO  
Larry Oglesby, Columbus, GA  
Paul Tellez, Glendora, CA

## Anniversary

**Ted and Lila Millhuff** celebrated their 50th anniversary three times. On December 7, they had an early celebration at Grace of God Fellowship (Tucson, AZ), because their children and grandchildren were in town.

The second celebration was the actual anniversary, Dec. 19, on board the *Amsterdam* traveling to Antarctica. The third celebration was a renewal of vows that took place near the Falkland Islands while traveling up the coast of Argentina.\*

## Obituaries

**Dorothy Ruth Hosea Easters**, 85, died at her home in Texas on Dec. 14 after a period of declining health. Dorothy was baptized in 1963 and always had a smile and a kind word for everyone, and came to be a much-respected senior member of the congregation. Dorothy leaves behind two daughters, Dana Ripley and Luanne Ellis, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.\*

**Betty (Bates) Michel**, 82, died in her sleep on Jan. 28 at her home in Castaic, CA. She was born May 19, 1926, graduated from high school in Tulsa, OK, attended Ambassador College when it opened in 1947, and became its first graduate in 1951. She married Gene Michel in August 1952, and worked at the college switchboard and in the business office until 1958. She is survived by Gene, her husband of 56 years; one sister, Peggy Hope, who lives in Oklahoma; and one daughter, Elizabeth Michel.

**James Francis (Frank) Pearce**, 97, died Sept. 13 in Colorado. He was born Feb. 17, 1911 in Sea Cliff, NY, and moved to Colorado Springs at the age of 6, where he lived for 91 years. Frank became part of the WCG in 1971. He was buried with military honors at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver.\*

**Ruth Beal Smith**, 91, died Dec. 20 in Inglewood, CA. She was born on Feb. 13, 1917. She and her husband, Hoyt, were members of WCG in Georgia since the 1970s. She moved to California to be with her daughter, Gloria Beal. She is survived by one son, James Beal, and two daughters, Gloria Beal and Willa Onayo, eight grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. Her oldest daughter, Ruth Swain, preceded her in death two years ago.

**Garland Wendell Snuffer**, 76, of rural Bonaparte, IA, died on Dec. 15 in the hospital in Keosauqua. He was born in Tams Mountain, WV, on Dec. 4, 1932 to Garland Ray and Ruby Jewell (Huffman) Snuffer.

He married Beverly Irene Weatherill in 1957 and became a church member in 1959. He began working for the WCG in the radio production department, and eventually became the department manager. After he retired in 1994, he moved to Iowa to be near his family.

Surviving are his wife; two sons, Garland Mark Snuffer in California and Eric Alan Snuffer (and his wife Edith) of Tyler, TX; one daughter, Linda Rex of Farmington, IA; three grandchildren; two brothers, Dallis Snuffer in Nevada and Luther Boop; and one sister, Norma Jean Sauers both of Mifflinburg, PA. Cards may be sent to his wife, Beverly, at PO

Box 26, Bonaparte, IA 52620.\*

**Virginia Mae (Wheeler) Sass**, 60, died on Dec. 21 at home in Robbinsdale, MN. She was born on Jan. 20, 1948 in Superior, WI, and was a member of the Duluth, MN, congregation from 1971 to 1995. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dorothea and Frank Wheeler. She is survived by her husband of 34 years, Edward James Sass, her daughters Lisa Seltzer and Sarah Sass, six brothers, four sisters, and four grandchildren.

**Elva B. Williams**, 90, of Tacoma, WA, died on Dec. 27. She had been a member of the WCG since 1983, and attended services for many years in Pasadena, CA. For the last several years she attended services in Tacoma. She was born May 10, 1918, in Seattle. She was preceded in death by her husband, Howard, who died in 2001, and a daughter, Judith L. Williams, who died in 2000. She is survived by two daughters, Janet Sanders, of Colorado Springs, CO, and Jeanne Fernandez, of Kailua, HI; three sons, John D. Williams, Thomas H. Williams and Raymond E. Williams, all of Tacoma. She had eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.\*

**Ruby Whiteside McAllister**, 92, died Jan. 25 in Baton Rouge, LA. She was born Nov. 3, 1916, was a member of the WCG since 1951, and was ordained a deaconess in 1972. Over the years, she attended services in Mobile, AL, Jackson, Hattiesburg and Laurel, MS; and Baton Rouge. Ruby is survived by a sister, Zula King; a brother, Marion Whiteside; daughters Virginia Rice and Margaret Mitchell; grandsons Phillip, Anthony and Michael Rice, Nathan and Steven Mitchell; and 10 great-grandchildren.\*

\* See [www.wcg.org/together/09/mar/announce.htm](http://www.wcg.org/together/09/mar/announce.htm) for photos and more information.



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