

# Together

## Grace Communion International News

July/August 2009

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

Volume 4, Number 4

### “Speaking of Life” Nears Three-Year Anniversary

On September 8, 2006, a 2-minute video was placed on the church’s website. On every Friday since then, a new *Speaking of Life* message from Joseph Tkach has been featured on our home page, with a short commentary on theological and practical subjects.

Website visitors may watch the video online, listen online, or download the program to their own computer (or handheld media player) for later use. A text version is also available.

One of the download options is an ISO file, which people can use to create a DVD, so the program can be shared with those who do not have Internet access. Some pastors play the program in church each week. One church has asked to air them on a local television station.

Each week, about 1,000 people watch, listen, read or download the most recent program. Older programs in the archives are accessed an additional 2,000 times. Each month, the programs are used 15,000 times.

Each *Speaking of Life* program is posted in 12 different formats. That’s because different users have different needs. A person with a slow internet

connection needs a small video with 10 frames per second; a person with high bandwidth will want the highest quality video. Most can play Flash video, but some need Windows Media or QuickTime. Whenever a person clicks on the “watch online” icon, a small program analyzes the connection to see what quality of video will work best for them, and then it automatically connects them to the right format.



We’ve got some great resources on our website. We hope that you find them helpful. To watch or download the programs, see our website. In our next issue, we’ll tell you about two additional video programs.

### Program Titles

The following *Speaking of Life* programs are available on [www.speakingoflife.org](http://www.speakingoflife.org):

- Ascension!
- Baby Jesus, baby Christians
- Black History Month
- Born to mirror God
- Breathing
- Called together
- Central truth
- Choosing a church
- Christ is here
- Christ, the end of the law
- Christian in the face of evil
- Christmas command
- Come visit us
- Compassionate service
- Complete in Christ
- Contagious purity

- Courageous — or coward in Christ?
- Creator of evolution?
- Elections
- Elijah
- Encountering God at camp
- Eternal life
- Extreme
- The eyes of faith
- Failure and forgiveness
- Faith: seeing the unseen
- The Father’s love
- Favorite book of the Bible
- Forgiveness
- Freedom
- Freedom from fear of the final judgment
- From God, by God and through God

continued on next page

#### In this issue...

- Upcoming Events . . . . . 3
- Recent Events . . . . . 4
- Announcements. . . . . 8

July-Aug. 2009 Vol. 4, No. 4  
 Circulation 10,500

**Together:** *Grace Communion International News* (ISSN 1937-4992) is published every other month, six times each year. Copyright © 2009 Grace Communion International. All rights reserved. Subscriptions are sent automatically to contributing members of Grace Communion International who live in the United States.

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

See [www.wcg.org/together](http://www.wcg.org/together) for a longer version of *Together*.

**Editor**

Michael Morrison

**Published by Grace  
 Communion International**

Living and Sharing the Gospel

**President**

Joseph Tkach

**Vice President**

Mike Feazell

**Superintendent of Ministers**

Dan Rogers

If you would like to support this ministry, send your tax-deductible donation to Grace Communion International, P.O. Box 5005, Glendora, CA 91740-0730. For FedEx or UPS deliveries, send to Grace Communion International, 2011 E. Financial Way, Glendora, CA 91741-4602.

To submit an article for *Together*, send it by email to [michael.morrison@wgc.org](mailto:michael.morrison@wgc.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.

Unless noted otherwise, scriptures are quoted from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright © 1973, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan.

**Speaking of Life titles,  
 continued from page 1:**

- Give your worst to the master
- God — what comes to mind?
- God is for you
- God is light
- God is love
- God meets us in our scorn and rejection
- God's love
- The good old days
- Good news is free
- The Gospel of John
- Grace with gusto
- The great transfer
- The highest love
- Hope in a baby
- How God views us
- Humanity's greatest need
- Identity in Christ
- In his name
- Independence?
- Inner emptiness filled
- Into the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Is Christmas pagan?
- Is the Christmas tree pagan?
- It's all about Jesus
- Just as you are
- The kindness of God
- The Lamb of God
- Loving us
- The meaning of Christmas
- The medium is the message
- Mercy
- Mother's Day
- The mystery
- New life
- New names
- New start
- No one dies for nothing
- No room for bias
- Our seal of security
- Overcoming inertia
- The paradox of God becoming weak
- Reconciliation: what is it?
- A reflection of God's love
- A reminder of God's love
- Rest in grace
- Salvation
- Salvation of the whole world
- Satan
- Significance of the resurrection
- Six-day creation?
- The sole true gospel
- Spiritual warfare
- The stuff inside
- Suffering meets its match in Jesus
- Superheroes
- Taken up
- Thanks for the indescribable gift
- Thanksgiving
- Time
- The time for love
- A transformational epistle
- The Trinity: more than a doctrine
- The true gospel
- True grip on reality
- True point of the Bible
- Trust
- Unconditional love
- Understanding our heavenly reward
- Universalism
- Water into wine
- What is the gospel?
- What is worship?
- What's in a name?
- What's theology?
- When were you saved?
- Where is God in disaster?
- Where your treasure is
- Which Bible?
- Who is Jesus?
- Who is the Good Samaritan?
- Why church?
- Without a doubt
- The Word became flesh
- The word grace
- You're his
- You're included





# Upcoming events

## “From Exclusion to Inclusion” – Wisconsin Dells, Sept. 17-20

Everyone is invited to the annual Dells Celebration at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI, from September 17-20, 2009.

Our theme this year is “From Exclusion to Inclusion.” Join us on this four-day journey as we examine four major areas of life where people are commonly unjustly excluded, and as we learn practical ways to include everyone. It’s as easy as 1-2-3- to be included!

**Step 1:** Reserve your room at the Kalahari by Monday, August 16. The Kalahari is the premier family resort in the Dells. Phone 1-877-525-2427 for reservations.

- Hut— \$109.00 per night plus tax, 1-4 people only
- Lodge suite— \$129 per night plus tax, 1-4 people only
- Combination suite (lodge and hut) —\$238 per night plus tax— sleeps up to 8 people
- Village (lodge and two adjoining huts)—\$347 per night plus tax— sleeps up to 12 people

You must call the Kalahari Resort no later than August 16 to reserve your room. After August 16, the low prices we’ve negotiated will no longer be available! Let the reservation personnel know you are with the Worldwide Church of God/Grace Communion International.

You may also book a room online:

- First, go to: <https://res.kalahari-resort.com/V1Web/GroupComments.aspx>.
- Then enter: Group ID 10646 and password 244. Leave Contact Password blank.
- Click on “Make Reservation” and follow the prompts.

**Step 2:** Register online. Go to the

Grace Communion International website [www.wcg.org/go/wisconsin](http://www.wcg.org/go/wisconsin) and follow the prompts. Pay with your credit card.

**Or** you may download a registration form, fill it out and mail your registration with a check to:

Grace Communion International  
PO Box 5005  
Glendora CA 91740-5005

If you do not have internet access, contact Dells Coordinator Doug Johannsen by phone (612-850-6018) or by mail: 14210 Uranium St. NW, Ramsey, MN 55303, and he will mail the forms to you.

**Step 3:** Come celebrate Jesus with your family and friends. Enjoy good food and many other activities! (The Kalahari is a very family activity oriented facility—it has the world’s largest indoor water park and a new theme park!)

## Fall Conference – Myrtle Beach, SC, Oct. 8-11

The Harvest Church is again sponsoring a conference in Myrtle Beach. Speakers include Paul David Kurts, Charles Young, Dan Rogers, Howard Blakeney, and Curtis May. There will be an anti-gang youth rally, seminars on finances and stewardship, racial reconciliation, and marriage. Conference registration is only \$35 per person or \$80 per family. For further information see [www.wcg.org/events](http://www.wcg.org/events) or phone (843) 669-0043.

## Women’s retreat in Alabama – Oct. 16-18

Last year’s retreat was so much fun that we’re having another one! Grace Covenant Fellowship is hosting a fall women’s retreat at the St. Bernard Abbey Retreat & Conference Center in Cullman, AL, about one hour north of Birmingham.

We are very happy to announce three wonderful guest speakers:

Tammy Tkach, Ginny Rice, and Barbara Dahlgren will be with us to share their journeys, inspire and encourage us. Ann Hartmann will be our guest singer again this year! You can go to Ann’s website ([annhartmann.com](http://annhartmann.com)) to learn more about Ann’s music. We also plan to have some additional singers, so you will have lots of wonderful music to enjoy.

Our theme for the weekend will be “Sharing the Journey.” Each of us is on a spiritual journey, and God has given us the wonderful gift of friendship to help us along the way.

You can check out the facility at [www.stbernardabbey.com](http://www.stbernardabbey.com). This retreat center is a wonderful place to relax and enjoy some time as “girl-friends!” There is a beautiful conference room for our general sessions, and the bedrooms are adjacent to the meeting area. The bedrooms accommodate two people (twin beds) and each has a private bathroom. The dining area is a short walk across the campus, and anyone needing to drive over can do so.

The dates are Friday evening, October 16 through Sunday, October 18. Registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Friday. That evening will be free for relaxing, fellowship and fun. Snacks will be available, but you will need to eat dinner before you arrive, or you can go out to eat at a restaurant in the area.

The retreat will conclude with lunch on Sunday. That will allow those who want to spend extra time visiting to do so, but those who need to get on the road can leave by 1:00 p.m. Lunch is served at 12:15.

We hope that you will help spread the word to others who might enjoy the weekend. For more information, contact Ruth Miller at (205) 979-7321 or email [ruth.miller@wgc.org](mailto:ruth.miller@wgc.org).



## Connecticut member honored by bar association

At the 2008 annual meeting and dinner of the New Haven County Bar Association in Hamden, Connecticut, Amina Connelly (member in Stratford, CT) was a recipient of the Yale Sappern Civility Award. The award “recognizes a New Haven area lawyer, judge or court staff person who strives for excellence; is courteous to clients, colleagues, Court and staff; and helps others by listening and providing guidance.”

Amina grew up in New Haven, graduated summa cum laude from the University of New Haven in 1993 and earned a Juris Doctor degree from Columbia Law School in 1996. She has been a member of the Connecticut bar since 1997, and in 1999 was appointed caseload coordinator of the civil division of the New Haven Superior Court Clerk’s office. She chairs the advisory council of the Stratford church.

*Larry Wooldridge*

## Air Force veteran speaks in local school

Bill Hicks, member and deacon of the Pittsburgh, PA, church, spoke at a local high school about his experiences as an African-American serviceman during World War II. Bill is 88 years young, and has been a member for 49 years. He owned a television and radio repair business for many years, and is a sound engineer for the Pittsburgh church.

*Tom Smith*

## Atlanta church launches new outreach

On Saturday, April 4, Living Hope Christian Fellowship (the Grace Communion International congregation in College Park, GA) launched a new community service called the

College Park Job Seekers (CPJS). The goal of this faith-based ministry is “to assist area job seekers with practical, emotional, and spiritual support during this difficult economic downturn.” CPJS serves the unemployed, the under-employed, the “working worried,” military spouses, or those considering a career move. The ministry is open to people of all faiths, male and female, and meets the first Saturday every month from 9:00-11:30 a.m.

In our first meeting, we were pleased to welcome a diverse group of 15 guests, representing two states and three counties. Visitors were greeted with an array of refreshments including fresh-baked carrot-cake squares, warm quiche, hot coffee and Russian tea, all compliments of our pastor’s wife, Deborah Young. The meeting opened with a moving testimony by Suzanne Smith-Wigfall, who shared her testimony of being downsized via a public television announcement a few years ago.

Terry White, a manager with The Home Depot in Atlanta, presented a piece entitled “Trust God” during the meeting’s segment called “The Spiritual Tool Box.” Terry’s own story spoke to the plight of a lot of men: After a 13-month job search (in 2001-2002), he found a job at The Home Depot and moved from Iowa to Atlanta. Terry, a strong Catholic, now proudly shares that, “My job loss and subsequent job search were God’s tools for leading me into a relationship with him.”

The last speaker was Linda Wells, former Fayette County Commissioner and President of MoneyConcepts. She gave a very informative

and funny presentation during our “Job Search Strategies” portion of the meeting. Her presentation was entitled “If it’s true, it ain’t bragging” — the do’s and don’t of resume writing. Job seekers learned new resume techniques applicable for today’s job market. The meeting concluded to allow job seekers time to network, share cards and place their resume and contact information into an official data management bank.

It is clear from the compliments to the chef, appreciative comments from people in attendance and inquiries posted on electronic chat boards, that Living Hope Christian Fellowship is centrally located and well positioned to offer this type of community service. Facilitator Norma Manuel told several attendees that “we are a small church attempting to do big things” in his service.

*Norma Manuel*



## Journey With the Master retreat

The mountains of western North Carolina were a beautiful backdrop for the second retreat (intensive) of Journey with the Master with the young adults who volunteer as leaders and workers in Mountaintop and Higher Ground, Generations Ministries (GenMin) camps. Eighteen young people participated in the

event at the Outdoor Mission Camp in Maggie Valley, NC, on February 13-15.

Journey with the Master is a three-part GenMin training event designed for young emerging leaders. GenMin leaders Greg Williams and Anthony Mullins led the group in assessments and teaching designed to help attendees better understand their unique “divine design” as it relates to ministry, relationships, and educational and career choices.

The weekend began with taking a fresh look at the Parable of the Lost Son followed by a discussion about the stunning truth of God’s unconditional love for all. From there, participants were assessed and then discussed leadership styles, relational styles and life development goals. The fun continued on Saturday evening as many participated in night skiing and snowboarding at the Cataloochee Ski Resort.

The retreat concluded by inviting hosts, Ruffin & Jamie Shackelford, to share the inspiration behind the Outdoor Mission Camp which they started together. It was truly inspirational to hear a story of the Spirit’s guidance and their desire to follow and answer the call in their lives.

*Anthony Mullins*

### **National Pastors Conference in Mexico**

On April 10-12, our Mexican national conference of pastors and leaders was held in Guadalajara, Mexico. This year’s conference focused on church renewal and

church planting. More than 40 pastors and leaders from Tijuana to Veracruz attended the training. Hector Barrero, mission developer for Latin America and pastor of our Bogota church in Colombia, led the conference along with Alfredo Mercado, Mexican national leader and pastor of the Guadalajara congregation.

One conference goal was to share in the vision and resources provided by Church Administration & Development and Church Multiplication Ministries (CMM). The instructors participating in the training along with Hector Barrero were Lorenzo Arroyo, regional pastoral leader and CMM team member, and Tony Almanza, district pastoral leader and pastor of our Denver Hispanic congregation. The training keyed on topics and concepts such as forming multiplication leadership, growing a church through cell groups, ministry boundaries in a Trinitarian theological framework, reaching the next generation through culturally relevant worship, and much more.

The conference was the fulfillment of a long-awaited plan. Many of the pastors and leaders expressed gratitude for the teaching and materials. For most of the pastors, it was their first introduction to church renewal and church multiplication. Dan Rogers, superintendent of pastors in the

USA, and Randy Bloom, director of CMM, were acknowledged for their roles in reaching outside the USA to provide vision, instructors and resources of ministry principles that are contextually applicable almost anywhere.

Among the highlights at the conference was the



Alfredo Mercado, national pastoral team leader and pastor of the Guadalajara congregation; Lorenzo Arroyo, regional pastoral leader in the western U.S.; Hector Barrero, Mission Director for Latin America; and Tony Almanza, district pastoral leader and pastor in Denver, CO.

admission to our Mexican conference of a new congregation in Tlaxcala planted by five-time church planter Jose Luis Seba. The church in Tlaxcala, near Mexico City, was launched in August and sponsored by Tony Almanza and the Denver Hispanic church. Pastor Jose Luis moved back to Mexico a couple of years ago after attending the Denver Hispanic church. He planted four other churches before joining the Denver congregation.

Pastor Nicolas, who leads an independent church, accompanied Pastor Jose Luis to the conference as a guest. Toward the end of the conference, Pastor Nicolas also addressed the pastors and conveyed his interest to join, but he first needs to consult with his congregation in Hidalgo.

We had the privilege of meeting the Mexican national pastoral team, which is comprised of three pastors: Alfredo Mercado, Ruben Ramirez and newly appointed Vicente Dimakis. One of Hector’s key objectives for the conference was to begin to create a closer bond between the Hispanic pastors in the USA and our Mexican denominational leaders and pastors. This conference served as a pivotal starting point in making that bond a reality. Thanks were given to Joseph Tkach and the Los Angeles area Hispanic pastors for helping to fund and sponsor this effort.

*Lorenzo Arroyo*





### Surprise party for pastor's 80th birthday

On April 12, we had a surprise 80th birthday party and Pastor Appreciation Day for Zita Mickens, Senior Pastor at Grace of God Fellowship, Tucson, AZ. For once, we actually managed to surprise her! Special guests Curtis and Janice May made the festivities more special. Our kitchen crew decorated and served dishes contributed by members from our congregation. Many brought cameras to capture the event, and a video was made by Lucy Gardner.

There was a huge cake, a bouquet for Zita's birthday and a huge arrangement for pastor appreciation. There was background music playing a CD by Cece Wynans, one of Zita's favorites. Many people added their thoughts of appreciation for Zita. Curtis May, Ted Millhuff and Jim Mullady prayed over Zita at the conclusion of the event. This was a true tribute for one of our own who has served God with her whole heart by serving his people. Sadly, Zita has needed to resign her responsibility as senior pastor due to ill health. Everyone shared the sentiment: "God bless Zita as she continues her life's journey in another capacity."

*Lila Millhuff*

### National conference for new churches

April 20-23, fifteen representatives of Grace Communion International attended the Exponential Conference in Orlando, FL. Exponential is an annual conference for ministry leaders who start new churches and the people who train and support them.

The truth of Jesus' words "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it (Matthew 16:18)" became evident in the seminars presented during this three-day event.

The theme of the conference was Acts 17:27-28: "God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'" It was inspiring to realize that this theme, and the content of many of the plenary and workshop sessions, coincided with our Trinitarian theology.

I highly recommend that any district pastoral leader, senior pastor and ministry leader attend next year's conference. It will provide insights, encouragement, ideas and resources for starting new churches. Attending Exponential has enhanced my vision for church multiplication in GCI. The sense of hope and expectation provided by Exponential will help bring into reality our dream to start a church multiplication movement within GCI.

Greg Williams, a GenMin camp ministry and event leader, said: "The conference was an explosion of ideas. A big concept for me was the global movement of the church—it has many faces, spices and flavors. I believe the time is ripe for GCI. With an inclusive, Christ-centered theology, the next logical step is church

planting and replanting. I anticipate refreshing times for the newly named GCI. The perfect storm is gathering. I'm committed to helping GenMin camps plant churches where the Spirit gathers the right people."

As one speaker stated, we are not alone in the process of starting new churches. God is faithful. His directional and relational nature is always moving. Our part is to courageously surrender to what he wants to do.

Next year CMM hopes to encourage another group to attend the Exponential Conference. The dates are April 20-22, 2010. This conference is open to anyone, so please consider sponsoring your pastor or district pastoral leader to attend. To learn about this conference go to [www.exponentialconference.org](http://www.exponentialconference.org). For information about starting a new church, contact Randy Bloom at [randy.bloom@wgcg.org](mailto:randy.bloom@wgcg.org))

*Larry Hinkle*

### Senior pastor ordained in northeastern Ohio

On Sunday, June 7, David Botha was ordained an elder in Grace Communion International and installed as senior pastor of GCI's Cleveland and Akron/Canton, OH congregations. The twin ceremonies were held in the Cleveland church worship service where members from both congregations were present.

David began employment with GCI and tenure serving these two congregations about six months ago. This ceremony confirmed through ordination his calling as an elder, and through appointment his ministry as a senior pastor in this setting.



In the ordination ceremony, which was conducted by Ted Johnston (GCI ministry developer and David's mentor) and John Dobritch (GCI district pastoral leader and David's supervisor), David was joined by his wife Lynne and daughters Margaret and Madeline. In the installation ceremony, ministry leaders from both congregations joined Ted and John in praying for David in his continuing service as senior pastor.

*Ted Johnston*

### Teens help raise funds for famine relief

On April 25-26, nine teens led the way by participating in the World Vision 30 Hour Famine fundraising project by going without food for 30 hours. The teens made signs and marched in downtown Bellevue, WA, bringing awareness that 26,000 children under the age of five die every day due to starvation and disease caused by malnutrition.

The youth ministry and many of the members of the Seattle/Bellevue and Everett churches all supported the youth by participating in the fast and by donating \$2400 to the cause. The teens made cookies and helped serve 130 people to dinner provided by the church at the Seattle Homeless Shelter. They began eating again at a potluck meal provided by the Everett members after services on Sunday. Food never tasted so good!

*Bill Miller*



### High School Graduates

Cassandra Alaniz, Covina High School, Covina, CA  
 Sam Ancona, Valley Village, CA  
 Whitney Patrice Anders, Ridgeway High School, Memphis, TN\*  
 Tim Burkhart, East Ridge High School, East Ridge, TN  
 Carl Joseph Childers, Cary High School, Cary, NC\*  
 Stajah Curry, Normandy High, St. Louis, MO  
 Deni Curtis, Cordova High School, Rancho Cordova, CA  
 Michelle Davey, Middleburg High School, Jacksonville, FL  
 Catherine Denning, Enloe High School, Raleigh, NC  
 Kelsay Leah Anna Foust, Valley Center High School, KS  
 Jennifer Lafern Green, Amanda Elzy H.S., Greenwood, MS  
 Jonelle Hamrick, Summerville High School, Summerville, SC\*  
 Ashley Hart, East Ridge High School, East Ridge, TN  
 Laken Ashley Hottle, Roane County H.S., Spencer, WV\*  
 Katie Killibrew, Maranatha High School, Pasadena, CA  
 Krysta Rae McKee, Wichita Northeast Magnet, Wichita, KS  
 William C. R. Miller, School of Creative and Performing Arts, Cincinnati, OH  
 Jessica Morgan, Glendora High School, Glendora, CA  
 Gloria Liliana Olsen, Marysville High School, Everett, WA  
 Brittany Perez, Excellence in Education Academy, Monrovia, CA  
 Corey Powell, Leon High School, Jacksonville, FL  
 Rachel L. N. Scott, Scarlet Oaks Career Development Campus, Cincinnati, OH  
 Josie Rochelle Smith, Point Pleasant High School, Point Pleasant, WV  
 Natalie Renee Spellman, Springville High School, AL\*  
 Bryan Thomas, Appling County High School, Baxley, GA  
 MacKenna VanScyoc, Wichita Northeast Magnet, Wichita, KS

Miranda Lyn Vearil, Fayetteville High School, Fayetteville, OH  
 Angel R. O. Vicars, Live Oaks Vocational School, Milford, OH  
 Zach Wardenburg, Williamsburg High School, Williamsburg, IA  
 Daniel White, Ridgeview High School, Jacksonville, FL  
 Talia Wiley, Parkway North High School, St. Louis, MO

### College Graduates

Edit Ancona, Valley Village, CA, masters degree in special education  
 Cara Justine Armstrong, University of Colorado in Boulder, BA in International Spanish for the Professions with a minor in Business  
 Nilo Belarmino, Phoenix University in Los Angeles, Master of Education, Secondary Teacher Education (Math)  
 Ben Dizon, University of California at Los Angeles, B.S. in Psychology  
 Christi Michelle Bland, Mississippi College, Clinton, MS, Bachelor of Science in Chemistry  
 Brittany Perez, Rio Hondo Community College, Whittier, CA, Associate of Arts\*  
 Stephanie Perez, California State University at Los Angeles, Bachelors in Social Work  
 Tiffany Perez, California State University at Los Angeles, Bachelors in Social Work  
 April Robinson, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, Doctorate in Medicine  
 Jonathan Shipley, St. Charles Community College, Cottleville, MO, Associate of Arts in Education\*  
 Eileen Schnelle, Maryville University, St. Louis, MO, B.A. in Organizational Leadership  
 Angela Vereen, Miller Motte College, Massage and Therapeutic Bodywork

\*With honors

We'll list more graduates in our next issue. See website for photos and more information.



## Announcements

### Ordinations

**David Botha**, Cleveland and Akron/  
Canton, OH\*

**Rosauro De Guia**, Digos City,  
Philippines

**Jerome Ellard**, Big Sandy, TX

**Bonnie Fairchild**, Washington  
(West), DC

**Paulino Garcia, Sr.**, Tagum,  
Philippines

**Javier Ordaz**, NewLife Fellowship,  
Pasadena, CA

**Rick Peterson**, Big Sandy, TX

**Romeo Velasco**, Quezon City,  
Philippines

### Obituaries

**Aurora (Bishop) Brown**, 89, of Garland, TX, passed away on April 9. She was born Jan. 4, 1920. Aurora is survived by her children, Charles L.D. Brown, Jean Heflin and husband John Burroughs, Lamar Brown and wife Beverly, and numerous grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son, James Larry Brown. Elder Ted Dusek gave the message at Williams Funeral Home in Garland. Interment was at

Garland Memorial Park.

Aurora lost her hearing early in life, but was able to talk. She communicated with a Magna-Doodle board. Notes were taken by hand for her in church until a laptop computer allowed her to read the sermon from the computer screen as someone typed it. She was always friendly and had a great sense of humor.\*

**Martin, Junior Harcourt (Harkie)**, 76, of Louisville, KY, entered into rest on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009, at his home with his family by his side. He was a retired self-employed painting contractor, a Christian by faith, a member of WCG, and a U.S. Air Force veteran.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 48 years, the former Edith L. Raiser; a son, Mickey Harcourt (Terri); three daughters, Terri Blain (Ray), Brenda Martin and Peggy Head (Terry); grandchildren, Wendy Blain, Amber Martin, Jacob Head, Isaiah and Isaac Malone and Jeremy

Alexander (Cheryl); great-grandchildren, Keenan and Piper Blain, Tara and Zane Alexander; sisters-in-law, Bessie P. Wallace and Thelma Martin; and several nieces and nephews.

**Alice Rekemeyer**, 80, died on March 1 in Dewitt, Iowa. She was born Oct. 31, 1928 in Clarence, IA. She was a member of Living Faith Church in Bettendorf.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother; she is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, George, two sons, Ralph and his wife Anita, and Russell; one grandchild, Alison Rekemeyer, all of Dewitt, a sister, Donna Harrell, of Rossville, GA, and two nieces.\*

**Rebecca Jean Vincent**, 44, of Athens, GA, died Feb. 10. She was an encourager to the Athens congregation in the way she handled her illness. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Susan Krasae. Survivors include her daughter, Jessica Vincent, of Athens; two brothers and four sisters.

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