

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES
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MEDIA UPDATE

From Clyde Kilough: As of this writing, I'm on my way to Ghana for the first African ministerial conference. One of the areas of discussion will be, of course, how Media can assist them with preaching the gospel in their areas of the world.

Visitors to developing nations are almost always impressed by how people there are generally much more open and receptive to religion than we are in the Western world. Some have speculated that because the conditions—wars, famines, disease, etc.—in so many of the poorer regions of the world are so desperate, people have a sense that only God can solve their problems.

Our challenge is how to deliver the truth of God to them. It is a sad observation that those in the wealthier societies who have the easiest access to the truth of God have less interest, while those in the poorer societies who have greater interest in God have less access to His truth! So, in those areas that do not have easy access to the Internet or printed material, we have to search out other methods of delivering the gospel. One of the immediate tools we will be introducing to the pastors there will be the trifold brochures that were shown at the ministerial conference in June. We will also discuss their ideas of ways we can help.

Articles continue to be added to LifeHopeandTruth.com, and more are on the way. Thank you again for your continuing work in this area.

One thing you might mention in your congregations is the need for members to show the website to their children. Two weeks ago at Camp Carter I asked in the Friday night Bible study how many of the campers had seen the LHT website and was surprised that only a small number had. Our children also need to have the gospel preached to them! Parents have an excellent tool in LHT for helping their children learn about God and His way of life, and it would be good to encourage them to introduce their children to it. (And actually, LHT is becoming an excellent resource for member study as well, not just for trying to reach the world.)

One final note, we're excited to share with you some great news about reaching a milestone! This week we landed on page 1, number 2 with Bing for the term "Does God Hide?" This was the first time we had any LHT content hit page 1. We don't want to make a huge deal over this, because it is only one phrase and it may be short-lived. But getting content on page 1 for the first time was a milestone event. The fact that we made a page 1 hit without links and campaigning for it is significant—it means the content was quality and optimized, which deemed it worthy without the social or linking components. So kudos all around for the work that went into breaking to the first page on a search engine—it's a small taste of what can be done and what is to come!

2012 WINTER FAMILY WEEKEND THEME: PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS

From Mark Winner: Matthew 6:33 is an often-quoted scripture. The Church has appropriately emphasized the need to "seek first the kingdom of God," but we must not forget the rest of the verse. While it is critical to focus on and pursue the Kingdom of God, our success in that endeavor is tied directly to our pursuit of His righteousness. What are we doing or not doing in our lives that will reflect righteousness?

Make plans to join many of your spiritual family members for a rejuvenating and fun-filled Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky, beginning on Friday evening, Dec. 21, and running through Tuesday night, Dec. 25. Educational opportunities and a nearly endless list of fun activities are being planned for this year's event.

Throughout the years, the Winter Family Weekend has served the Church as a wonderful escape from what the world offers during December. If you want to learn, if you want to have fun, if you love fellowship, this event is for you and your family. Housing reservations and registration will begin following the Feast in October. Stay tuned for further details

in future announcements.

WALKERS VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

The following comments are excerpted from a brief, personal update from André Van Belkum while visiting South Africa this past week:

Leon Walker, newly appointed liaison for the international leadership team, and his wife, Reba, are in South Africa to visit the ministry and brethren and attend the COGWA South African board meetings.

All the South African ministers and their wives arrived for Sabbath services on July 21 in Johannesburg, as well as the board meeting on Sunday, July 22. Morgen and Joleen Kriedemann arranged various social get-togethers for the visiting ministry at their home, with a positive and uplifting atmosphere. So much fun and laughter, along with serious discussions and talk.

Mr. Walker gave the sermon at Sabbath services, with 80 in attendance. The ladies provided a fine meal before services, and it was good to see so many familiar faces and have the opportunity to spend quality time with the brethren. The next day the COGWA South African board met, with the atmosphere that was upbeat and quite different from some National Council meetings in years past. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Kriedemann, with Mr. Walker present to give direction regarding his role as liaison, give input from headquarters' perspective and explain how he would serve the international areas. It proved to me the value and wisdom of the decision to appoint him to this position.

Mr. Kriedemann, supported by his wife, Joleen, very ably serves as senior pastor. The outlying ministers and wives appear confident and supportive of his leadership. He is handicapped by the weakness in his back and has to take painkillers on a regular basis in order to cope with the pain. But he is a tough soldier!