



# Minnesota Messenger

CHURCHES OF GOD

## Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the individuals who worked so diligently to make Fall Conference a success. The classes and sermons by Pastor JJ Fletcher and the song services on Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday morning were a blessing to all in attendance. We especially applaud the unsung heroes preparing and serving the meals, and cleaning up in the kitchen, dining hall, and dormitories. You are appreciated!

## Junior Bible Camp 2022 Recap

This summer's Minnesota Junior Bible Camp at Long Lake was another success with 28 campers and



17 staff! Our theme was "Saving Grace" and our daily lessons focused on examples of Jesus showing grace during his time on earth, and Old Testament examples of God's grace. We had daily scripture verses our campers memorized and recited before supper each evening, a camp tradition we love to keep going! One verse was

Ephesians 2:8 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

Morning and evening chap-

el is everyone's favorite time as we worship with each other. We focus on God and learning His word and teach the kids about how much God loves them. It is always a fantastic week being outside enjoying our beautiful campground and disconnecting from the world. We hear from many campers this is the highlight of their summer and they cannot wait for it every year!

We had staff from Minnesota, Nebraska, Rhode Island and Washington.

After junior campers left the campground at the end of the week, our Senior Camp for older teens and young adults finished out the weekend led by Russ Rankin. They focused on prophecy, especially on God working in our time, scripture based on Acts 2 and 3. This time of fellowship is unforgettable!

Join us next summer for Junior Camp June 18-23, 2023, and Senior Camp June 23-25, 2023.

Bethany Becker



## Senior Camp

After Junior Camp, the Senior Campers enjoyed a weekend of comradery, relaxation, and Bible study out on the Island. After check-in camp began with outdoor activities, including setting up hammocks in the trees by the volleyball court. Evening began with dinner in St. Cloud at our favorite restaurant, chosen by the campers. The weekend schedule remained flexible with late rise and breakfast – late bedtime. Thanks to the campers help with all the meals. Bible study began after breakfast, then one later in the day.

This year the theme was God's Plan. We focused on making a chart of the Ages – before Creation to the Kingdom of God – Paradise. We included on the chart a line that described the Promises to Abraham which has its fulfillment in the Kingdom of God - Abraham and all the righteous inherit of the earth. Verses were added on the chart as well. We completed this chart in a 1 by 4 ½ foot layout so it can be taken with the campers to share their faith with others.

Because of the hot weather, most of the activities were in and on the water. Thanks to all who arranged for the jet ski to pull the tube. Swimming of course cooled the campers. Camp concluded with four baptisms from the Hutchinson church on Sunday evening.

Russ Rankin

### Interested in Youth Work?

Are you interested in working with the youth in our MN Church of God Conference? Do you have ideas for youth activities? President Gaye Rollins and the MN State Conference board would love to hear from you. If you do have an interest, contact President Gaye Rollins at [wood.gaye@yahoo.com](mailto:wood.gaye@yahoo.com)

## Welcome to The Well

We are so excited to see how God is blessing this new church in Mankato. Having started on August 14 we now have a steady group of people attending with a range in attendance of 7 to 16. We average 12 each Sunday. Our Sunday morning time is an interactive Bible study and it's great to see that everyone is an active participant in reading scriptures, responding to questions, and interacting with each other. Our current study is "Let's Share the Gospel". As Pastor Darrell said, "It takes 20 times for something to be come a habit". We are reviewing the questions and verses every week so we know how to share about Christ, Man, God and the Kingdom, with our family and friends. Our new church family is coming together and reaching out to one another with support and encouragement.

We'd like to thank those that have donated monetarily along with the many prayers as we continue to minister to the people here in Mankato. We are truly blessed.

Praise God with us,

Pastor Darrell & Laura Cardwell  
Samuel Moore

### House Light Ministries, October 2022

Greetings Fellow Believers in the one God and His Messiah, Jesus, In August, Jeff & Terri Moore made a driving trip through northern Minnesota and western North Dakota. They enjoyed the beauty of the Peace Garden in North Dakota and being the only campers in the tent-site area of a ND state park.

Lisa & Darrell Hoemberg, Jeff & Terri Moore, and Ed Moore attended the Sunday session of Fall Conference for Pastor JJ Fletcher's conclusion to a study of the beatitudes. They enjoyed connecting with folks from around

the state and the Moores stayed until late afternoon visiting with Samuel Moore and Madison Tubbs in the lovely campground setting.

In September, Terri Moore went to Oregon, Illinois, to visit Virginia Moore and then travelled to Michigan with Eileen Moore for the Michigan Women's Conference at North Kent Bible Church of God. There she met up with a couple MN ladies for the ride back home. The Conference, themed "Vision," was informative and uplifting (thanks to Alane Rozelle and the ladies of Rockford Church!) with sessions on God's vision for His creation and mankind, forgiveness, post-modernism, and resilience. Terri also had an opportunity to visit the Grand Haven Lighthouse with Eileen and Eileen's aunt.

Victoria (Moore) and David Rennie celebrated their first wedding anniversary on October 16th. The weather this year would not have been as favorable as they had for their beautiful outdoor wedding in 2021 at Matt and Kayla Moore's home near Fargo.

Jeff & Terri Moore hosted a Fellowship weekend at their home on October 21-22. Fourteen people took part in various farm activities, mostly outside since the weather was pleasant and warm. Activities ranged from 4-wheeler and tractor rides, hikes, visiting the cattle, gathering eggs, making apple juice and caramel corn to discussions on issues of faithful biblical living. Legos and a jigsaw puzzle were available for indoor time. The Fellowship weekend is held about once a quarter.

Samuel Moore visited his parents and friends in the Verndale area for a long weekend and early hunting in October. He had deer sightings and helped a friend track a deer, but no success himself, and then unfortunately experienced car trouble on

the trip back to his home in Mankato.

Jared Hoemberg and Jeff Moore both coach varsity football teams. Jared is head coach for the Bertha-Hewitt Bears; Jeff is assistant coach for the Verndale Pirates. Their teams met in regular season and are again scheduled to play each other in a post-season thriller the last week of October. Jeff enjoys weekly meetings with his players at his home for "Film and Fries" - they study football film and make and eat French fries.

Terri Moore

### **Hutchinson Church of God**

Our church family rejoiced again as Avery Schiller was immersed in the waters of baptism on Saturday, September 17th. She was baptized by her aunt, Mica-yla Moore at Long Lake Camp-ground. May she continue to grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus!

Our Berean youth group have been studying the end times on Wednesday nights. That seems to be a topic everyone is interested in studying.

Linda Sandifer, Reporter

### **Eden Valley Church**

Eden Valley Church of God has been busy recently renewing our children's programs as attendance by children has increased. The children in our congregation are very important, as they are the ones who will continue passing the Word to the newer generations. What a boost to our hope when the children listen and follow the light!

Avery Dockendorf was bap-tised August 28th at the church campground. What a wonderful decision made by one of our children! Praise the Lord!

We have hosted a number of fellowship gatherings including a

Garbage Can Feed & Hay Ride on September 25th hosted by Don & Lynn Piram at their farm. This included corn, onions, sausage, potatoes and more all cooked over an open flame in a garbage can. Yes, it was a clean can. Thank you Don & Lynn!

We also had a Corn Harvest Feed led by Marv Nordman on August 14th in our prayer garden. The corn was donated by Barry & Aaron Albright. Thank you so much Barry and Aaron for your delicious contribution!

The Fall Conference and Spring Conference were held at the church campground. A number of our children attended Junior and Senior Bible Camps which were held after the Spring Conference. Pastor Ann Fischhaber attended the General Conference in GA. All were great learning experiences and wonderful fellowship opportunities.

We mourned the deaths of Kurt Swanson, Jeff Swanson, Sheree Twedt-Coulter, Kirk Warmolts, Rose Mary Linnell and Jake Peterson.

We have started a building fund for the Parsonage, since many repairs are needed.

Very recently we started the process of renewing our monthly fund-raising activities. These may include things like bake sales, children's art sales and a free garage sale that charges nothing, but requests donations.

The Lord is good all the time. Let's continue in the hope that only the Lord can bring!

Tina Johnson, reporter

### **Pine Grove Bible Church**

Several Pine Grove members attended the Church of God General Conference in early August at McDonough, GA. Pastor JJ serves on the Board of Directors, Makena Landry served as church delegate and Carolyn Smead served as delegate for the MN State Conference.

Our church body rejoiced with Kyle Shull in his decision to be baptized! The baptism took place on Sunday, Aug. 14th at Long Lake Bible Camp with Pastor JJ Fletcher leading the service in song and message, and Vivian E. Kirkpatrick, Kyle's grandpa, performing the baptism and presenting the communion thoughts.

Elijah Bertil Johnson was welcomed into the world on Aug. 27th by his parents, Bradley and Sarah Johnson, and his loving church family. An open house baby shower honored Eli on Sept. 25th.

On Aug. 28th a "Books and Bums" baby shower was held in honor of Ames Nelson after the worship service. To finish up August, a "back-to-school" pizza party was enjoyed by many on Aug. 31st.

A regularly scheduled blood drive was held at our church on Sept. 6th. Pastor JJ served as the guest speaker for MN Fall Conference with a theme of "Kingdom Manifesto—Looking at the Beatitudes." The Pine Grove men served up a tasty made-to-order breakfast Saturday morning during the conference. On Sept 18th our church family enjoyed a time of food and fellowship at the church picnic held at Andrews Park in Champlin.

Jeremy Kirkpatrick and Vivian P Kirkpatrick were confirmed as elders on Oct 9th in a congregational meeting following the worship service. Later that day, a bowling and pizza party was enjoyed by many congregation members. Makena Landry is heading up a constitution revision committee. Their initial meeting took place Oct. 18th.

Also in October, our church teachers were recognized by Christian Education Director Amy Blanchard during a morning worship service, and each received a gift of appreciation. On the 30th, Pastor JJ was presented a card and gift from the congregation for Pastor Appreciation Month.

The "Boundaries" Bible Study curriculum by Dr Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend was the topic of study on Wednesday nights this fall. It concluded Nov. 2nd. The same night monthly soup suppers started up again for mid-week attendees.

Our youth enjoyed an evening bonfire on Sept. 17th at the home of Nathaniel and Abby Johnson. On Oct. 30th, they participated in a service project, writing letters to soldiers in Fairbanks, Alaska, and sending candy bars with the letters. This project was coordinated through Operation Empowering Hope. Following this activity, they had fun wandering through a local corn maze.

Paula Kirkpatrick, reporter

## MN Missionary Society Minutes

MN Missionary Society meeting was held at the campground during Fall Conference on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022.

In attendance: Carolyn & Daniel Smead, Nathaniel Johnson, Amanda Forcier, Paula Kirkpatrick, Vivian P. Kirkpatrick, JJ Fletcher, Beth Becker, Darrell & Laura Cardwell, Amy Blanchard, and Dan & Rachel Karl.

Vice President Nathaniel Johnson opened the meeting with prayer in place of President Sarah who gave birth two weeks ago to a baby boy named Elijah.

Secretary's report: Motion was made to accept the secretary's report by Carolyn S. and 2nd by JJ Fletcher

Treasurer's report: JJ Fletcher moved to accept the treasurer's report and Paula K. 2nd the motion.

Reports were accepted by the group.

Notes from Sarah suggested that people and churches send donation to Lord's Harvest International (LHI) by the Church of God General Conference web site COGGC.org by hitting the "give"

icon (and selecting the LHI match button). LHI is in the process of setting up a fundraiser that involves fund matching- more to come about this.

Uganda was sent money to help renovate the one of the churches. There is a new request from Pastor Emmanuel requesting funds for help sending the 13 children under his care to school. Cost is \$900/term. This will be discussed with new business.

Kenya needs prayer during the election period because there tend to be riots.

Russia- A new believer was baptized. Please keep this ministry in prayer.

Mexico- LHI sent funds to cover Sister Lupe's funeral expenses. With Lupe's death, there is no one to carry on the mission of the church. Contacts are trying to be made to revitalize the mission in the area.

Pakistan- prayer requested for flooding that is taking place, as reported by Sue Lapp

Old business: The group revisited the funding of latrines in Uganda. Because we do not know if the funds have been raised, there was no action taken. The issue will be revisited at the next meeting.

On June 29, 2022, there was an email request to raise funds for our Kiminini, Kenya church to purchase the land their church was occupying. Anne Fischhaber made a motion for the MN Missionary Society to match funds up to \$1500 for this purpose. Tina Johnson 2nd this motion and it was approved by the group. Carolyn reported that \$2,300 was sent to LHI for the purpose of purchasing the land.

On Aug. 5, 2022, there was another email request for funds to send textbooks to Africa for Lynda's daughter, Takonda, who is attending Atlanta Bible College online from Malawai. \$450 dollars were donated from churches in the state. Carolyn made a motion that \$350 taken from the general mission fund be sent to cover the rest of these

costs. Darrell C. 2nd the motion. There was some discussion and the group voted to approve the motion.

New business: Discussion took place about sending money to Pastor Emmanuel in Uganda. The money would be to help with education costs for 13 children (his and his brother's, which are in his care). The cost is \$900 per term. It was decided that the individuals present should report this need to their churches and the issue would be revisited at the next meeting.

There was some discussion about how to use the different funds of the Kim Johnson Funds- Scholarship and Endowment. The Endowment funds will be managed by the MN Missionary Society but selected overseers- Larry Johnson, Todd Blanchard, and possibly others along with Carolyn Smead will work on changing how the funds are withdrawn and maintained. This will be revisited during the next meeting to see the changes are progressing.

Paula K. moved to adjourn the meeting. Jon L. 2nd the motion and Nathaniel concluded the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Forcier, Secretary

MN Missionary Society meeting was held at the Hutchinson Church of God on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022.

In attendance: Carolyn Smead, Amanda Forcier, Sarah Johnson (by phone), Gaye Woods-Rollins, Vivian P. Kirkpatrick, Monte & Linda Sandifer, Susan Johnson, Dana Varner, JJ Fletcher, Beth Becker, and Paula Kirkpatrick.

President Sarah Johnson joined the meeting by phone.

Secretary's report: Motion was made to accept the secretary's report as read by Paula K. and 2nd by Carolyn S.

Treasurer's report: Linda S. moved to accept the treasurer's report as given and Gaye R. 2nd the motion.

Reports were accepted by the group.

Sarah provided the following information about specific mission fields:

LHI fundraising raised over \$20,000. Praise God!

The Africa trip arranged by Joe & Rebecca Martin has not moved forward at this point. But there has been interest from individuals at the Pine Grove Bible Church. Other interested people should contact Sarah Johnson.

LHI has received some interest in our churches from the Unitarian Christian Alliance Conference.

Seth Ross would like to broaden the contacts in all the countries where we have churches.

Malawi churches have been active with women's gatherings.

Haiti- continue pray for Pastor Leslie. He has not been able to pick up money sent from LHI.

Pakistan- LHI has been in contact with a Pastor that leads 10 others that have the same beliefs as our conference.

Russia- prayers requested for a specific situation.

President Sarah expressed her concern about pursuing localized missions, because of the inability to travel to other countries.

**Old Business:**

Carolyn reported that \$2,800 was actually sent to the Kimini, Keyna church for the purpose of purchasing the land.

Uganda has received sufficient funds for latrines.

Concerning the request for funding to educate the children under Pastor Emmanuel's care in Uganda, this will be an ongoing cost over the years and support can be sent to Lord's Harvest International (LHI). Meeting attendees will communicate this to their churches and ask for prayer to cover the needs.

The college student in Malawi received funds for books but has had difficulty with internet connection in order to attend online classes.

The Kim Johnson Endowment Fund overseers was discussed. Larry Johnson, Todd Blanchard, and Carolyn Smead will be part of the group, but they are requesting someone with accounting background be a part of the group. Meeting attendees were asked to share this information with their churches. The question was asked if the person needed to be a member of one of the conference churches. Carolyn would look into the guidelines of the Fund. This will be revisited during the next meeting to see how things are progressing.

In New Business, March 19th at 2 pm the annual mission meeting will be held at the Pine Grove Bible Church.

JJ Fletcher moved to adjourn the meeting. Amanda 2nd the motion and dismissed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Forcier, Secretary

## **Minnesota State Conference Board Meeting**

September 10, 2022

Meeting was called to order and opened in prayer by President Gaye Rollins.

Secretary's report read by Dana Varner. Motion to accept made by Nathaniel Johnson, and seconded by Jon Lapp.

Treasurer's report was given and approved. Motion to accept made by Darrell Cardwell, and seconded by Amy Blanchard.

### **Departmental Reports**

Camp Trustee Jon Lapp gave report. There are just a few things to be finished in the girl's dorm. The well was tested and did not pass. Will need to add chemicals to treat and retest in the spring. The dishwasher was inspected and passed. It was also noted that fire suppression equipment may need to be changed

to what we currently have. Jon to check to see if what we have is sufficient. Bids for siding for the dining hall and rec hall will be coming in sometime this winter.

Newsletter update given by Paula Kirkpatrick, and thanks were again given to her.

Report on Youth Camps were given by Beth Becker. It is reported that they went very well with 4 baptisms taking place, 2 more since then, and 1 more scheduled.

Praise given to God. They also reported that they will be resigning as camp directors as of next summer.

### **Old Business**

In regards to the Kim Johnson endowment fund that was turned over to the Missions Board at last meeting, the board approved that Carolyn Smead, treasurer of the Mission board, and Larry Johnson, committee member, be authorized to oversee.

### **New Business**

There was discussion on the idea of lowering the rates for rental of the campground for church members. It was determined that the current rate is very reasonable, and will be kept at current rate for now.

A letter was received and read from Pastor Darrell Cardwell that his new church, The WELL be accepted into the MN State Conference. Motion made by JJ Fletcher to accept, and seconded by Jason.

General conference report was given by Carolyn Smead, our conference delegate.

Motion to adjourn made by JJ Fletcher, who also closed the meeting in prayer.

Next meeting to be held in November.

Dana Varner, Secretary

## **Support the MN Conference**

Support the MN Conference  
Remember to check out the MN

Church of God Conference website. There is so much available there, including the online Systematic Bible Study course. <https://mncogconference.org/> Scroll to the bottom of the homepage and like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter. We are also on LinkedIn and YouTube.

If you would like to support the MN Conference, you can give your offering online here. <https://mncogconference.org/online-giving> Also, donations can be sent to the treasurer, Dan Karl. Mail checks to:

Dan Karl  
19199 651st Avenue  
Buffalo Lake, MN 55314



**40th Annual Tri-State Minister/Spouse Meeting held at Newton , IA Oct. 10-11**