



First Annual Meeting of the Society

The first annual meeting of the Church of God Historical Society will convene from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, June 17, 2000, on the campus of Anderson University. This is during the International Convention of the Church of God which begins on Friday, June 16. The agenda of this first annual meeting will include a formal business session in which a Constitution and Bylaws for the Society will be adopted and the Executive Committee elected in accord with these Bylaws. The Bylaws call for the President of the Society to be the Historian of the Church of God who is appointed by the General Assembly. Dr. Merle Strege, current Historian, will deliver the presidential address at this inaugural meeting. His presentation title is "Quilting A Church: The Church of God in 1900."

Developing Status of the Society with Church of God Ministries, Inc.

On February 12, 2000, the Ministries Council of Church of God Ministries, Inc., adopted the following resolution at the request of the Church of God Historical Society:

- ♦ Whereas, Church of God Ministries, Inc., through its Ministries Council, has been informed officially in February, 2000, of the formation of the new “Church of God Historical Society” and of the desire of this Society to cooperate closely in its work with Church of God Ministries, Inc.; and
- ♦ Whereas, the “Constitution and Bylaws” of this Society have been received and reviewed by the Ministries Council, including the fact that the President of the Society will always be the Historian of the Church of God who is appointed by the General Assembly of the Church of God; and
- ♦ Whereas, the Ministries Council judges the nature and purposes of this Society to be significant and appropriate for the current life of the Church of God movement (Anderson); and
- ♦ Whereas, the Society has requested that the Ministries Council act to recognize the Society by a resolution such as this and, at the earliest possible time, act further to officially designate the Society as

an “Affiliated Agency” of Church of God Ministries; therefore, be it

- ♦ Resolved that the Ministries Council hereby acknowledges the existence of the new Church of God Historical Society; and be it further
- ♦ Resolved that the Ministries Council affirms the appropriateness and significance of the nature and purposes of the Society and will, at its earliest convenience, act in relation to the expressed desire of the Society to be recognized officially as an “Affiliated Agency” of Church of God Ministries, Inc.

In light of this evolving relationship of the Society with the organized work of the Church of God in North America, the Committee on Bylaws and Organization of the General Assembly of the Church of God intends to propose to the 2000 Assembly that the Assembly’s standing Committee on Church History and Archives be disbanded since its stated purpose and role are nearly identical to those of the new Historical Society.

Barry L. Callen
Chair, General Assembly Committee
on Organization and Bylaws

Periodicals in Digital Format

*I*t all began with an idea flitting about in the mind of Patricia ("Trish") Janutolo, Periodicals Librarian at Anderson University's Nicholson Library. She was concerned that early Church of God periodicals, the Gospel Trumpet in particular, were deteriorating so rapidly that they could no longer be made available for public use in Nicholson Library. I informed Trish that the same problem exists in the church's Archives housed on the University's campus. The issues of the Gospel Trumpet and other early Church of God periodical literature, some of it well over a hundred years old, have become too fragile for use. Page edges flake off in confetti size pieces and pages tear, as well as come loose from the binding, no matter how carefully they are handled. It had become obvious to both of us that, if major action is not taken—and soon—this part of Church of God heritage will be lost to us.

Trish had heard that Anderson University School of Theology had some grant money from the Lilly Foundation that could be used for preservation of these materials. She wrote a project proposal which we then processed in the School of Theology committee responsible for the management of these funds. The School of Theology graciously earmarked \$51,000 of its funds for the preservation project.

GOSPEL

We have now secured the services of Graphic Sciences of Royal Oak, Michigan, to scan this material and store it in digital (computer) format, reproducing it as high-quality microfilm, CD ROM, and computer hard drive data. This means that the Gospel Trumpet/Vital Christianity, Evangeliums Posaune, Church of God Missions, The Shining Light, Shining Light (published by the National Association of the Church of God), and other periodicals will be "permanently" preserved for future generations of Church of God people.

In addition to professional handling and scanning, Graphic Sciences will help provide a large workstation to be located in Periodicals, consisting of a powerful computer, a professional scanner, all the necessary software, maintenance, and training to enable us to scan and digitally store periodical literature on an ongoing basis. Trish and student assistants employed by Periodicals and the Archives will be responsible for this ongoing technical work.

Of special interest to Church of God users of this historical material is the fact that, with the proper software in place, we will be able to index and search Church of God periodical literature by subject, title, and author. To be sure, it may be a couple of years before we fully arrive at this "online" point, since the work involved in all of this is very time



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consuming. But it will happen. We in the Church of God

Historical Society are excited about this development, for it means much better research in much less time by many more people. But more importantly, vital links with our past are being preserved in a highly usable format. Here in the Church of God Archives we now are breathing much easier. A major part of the materials from which Church of God history is constructed will be here for many generations to come. We are most grateful to Anderson University and particularly to the School of Theology for making this possible.

Already we are underway. In December, 1999, we "pooled" our collections of early issues of the Gospel Trumpet for comparison and selection of the best pages for scanning. Joining us from Ohio were two enthusiastic Trumpet literature collectors, Dale Rude and Michael Hufford, who were able to fill in many of the gaps we had in our collections. With their help and support we are not just underway, but well underway. However, it will be a long road yet—and I think I'll change my name to Caleb. I thought retiring to the Archives was a good part-time way of taking it a bit easier in old age. Surprise! But what a vital place this mountain is!

Douglas E. Welch
Director, Church of God Archives

Historical Materials Being Sought

The Archives of the Church of God, housed by Anderson University, is always seeking to acquire for future generations appropriate materials related to the history of the Church of God movement. Here are the kinds of materials generally considered appropriate for archiving:

1. Official Minutes, special reports (not included in the Annual Reports to the General Assembly), and financial records, such as budgets and budget reports.
2. Personal papers produced by directors and employees of agencies, boards, or committees in the discharge of the responsibilities mandated by the General Assembly.
3. Copies of all published materials, such as newsletters, form letters, pamphlets, tracts, booklets, brochures, posters, and books by or about Church of God persons.
4. Personal papers, including correspondence, diaries, reminiscences, certificates, or scrapbooks having to do with the official work of the director or employee of an agency of the Church of God or concerning any leader of the movement.
5. Photographs (correctly identified and dated).
6. Video and/or audio tapes, films, or slides of programs, historic occasions, or prominent persons in the Church of God movement.

Douglas E. Welch,
Archivist

Purposes of the Society

- ♦ To Encourage interest in the heritage of the Church of God (Anderson) and its potential contributions to the life of the church today.
- ♦ To Inform people inside and outside this heritage about Church of God historical resources already available and yet being sought, about the work of the Society, and how they might become involved.
- ♦ To Support the acquisition and preservation of significant historical materials related to the Church of God (Anderson)—in cooperation with Church of God Ministries, Inc., the Archives of the Church of God maintained by Anderson University, the Historian of the Church of God named by the General Assembly, and other relevant bodies and individuals.
- ♦ To Publish (a) select materials from or about the history of the Church of God and (b) a newsletter to inform Society members and others about the ongoing work of the Society.

Founding Steering Committee of the Society

Kathleen D. Buehler

Barry L. Callen

Wilfred Jordan

Robert H. Reardon

Merle D. Strege

Douglas E. Welch

For Further Information. . . Need to know more? Want to be a member? Have historical materials to preserve for the future? Contact:

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