



ANNOUNCEMENTS

for May 29, 2020

Parkersburg & Morgantown, WV and Athens, OH

Greetings everyone,

This week about 30% of the COGWA congregations are planning to start meeting together again. In our area, we plan to meet next week (June 6th) at 10:30 AM. Morgantown is scheduled to meet at the Brookhaven Hall and Athens-Parkersburg is scheduled to meet at the Holiday Inn in Athens. If you have any questions please give me a call. I have sent out the guidelines for starting to have services. See the attached file for those guidelines.

As you probably already know, things will be different for a while. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sunday, is the Day of Pentecost. See below for instructions for giving the Holy Day Offerings.

This week we will webcast as usual. The Travers family will be joining us for this service.

Of course Sunday, May 31st is Pentecost. No local services will be held. See below for the connection at 1:00 PM from McKinney.

Thanks for your support during this time.

Bill Jahns

Pastor Morgantown & Athens-Parkersburg!

<http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/Athens-Parkesburg--Morgantown Speaking Schedule--May 2020 Final.pdf>

<http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/Announcements and Updates from MN2020-05-29.pdf>

<http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/Member Guidelines--Returning to Services - Copy.pdf>

LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS 05/29/2020 Sunset: Parkersburg: 8:45 PM

CHURCH INFORMATION – Church of God, a Worldwide Association has a website where you can get the latest information.

Donations can be sent to: Church of God a Worldwide Association, P.O. Box 731480, Dallas, TX 75373-1480

Local donations can be sent to: Church of God, Parkersburg, P.O. Box 181, Davisville, WV 26142

WEB SITE – Parkersburg, Athens and Morgantown have their own website which can be accessed for the schedule, announcements and other information. The URL is: <http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/>

PRAYER REQUESTS – See the information table for the latest prayer requests.

LOCAL SABBATH WEBCAST FROM COGWA & PHONE HOOKUP INFORMATION

Time: 10:30 AM May 30, 2020

WEBCAST INSTRUCTIONS

Online meeting ID: jahnsy1

Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/jahnsy1>

Telephone: 725 735-9529 No code needed

SABBATH SERVICES

Time: 1:00 PM, May 30, 2020

From McKinney

Dial-in Number: 605-472-5473, and the participant code is 130095

You can access the webcast from headquarters simply by going to COGWA.TV.

No password is necessary. It will also be available on your ROKU channel

Note: Pentecost 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 31st.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Weekly Update – May 28, 2020

Weekly Update schedule

This is the last week we are planning to publish this update, which was begun in the absence of congregations being able to meet together. Should circumstances change, we can always easily resume it. We hope it has been of service to you during this time of unusual conditions.

Webcasting schedule

This Sabbath, May 30, will mark 12 consecutive weeks that we have had webcast services from the McKinney office. We are prepared to continue these webcasts if necessary, but with local webcasts available and with local congregations beginning in-person services, we don't anticipate an ongoing need. Therefore, at this time we are scheduling only two more webcasts from the headquarters office. These will be held on:

- **Sabbath, May 30, at 12 noon Central Daylight Time.**
- **Feast of Pentecost, May 31, at 12 noon Central Daylight Time.**

The headquarters webcast can be accessed by going to cogwa.tv (no password necessary) or your [Roku](#) channel. Simultaneous translations in [Spanish](#) and in [French](#) are also provided on cogwa.tv and [Roku](#). Congregations hosting webcasts have their information posted in alphabetical order on cogwa.tv. If your church area is not listed, contact your pastor to receive information about your local webcast.

Plans for resuming Sabbath services

May 30 is the earliest date U.S. congregations will resume meeting for weekly services. Pastors have guidelines for deciding when and how to start meeting together again and will convey those to the members in their congregations. Circumstances vary from place to place and country to country, of course, so the opportunities to begin meeting together will likewise vary widely.

Holy day offering on the Feast of Pentecost

The [holy day offering](#) will be collected in the same manner as during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Reports from international areas

New Zealand (Andre van Belkum)

This is a “good day” as the NZ government has announced that churches may now congregate with up to 100 people. So it is just in time for this coming weekend with the Sabbath and Pentecost on Sunday.

There have been no new cases announced for about one week. Members have done exceptionally well under the circumstances. As stated before, no members have lost their jobs, despite other workers being laid off at their places of employment. Two brothers who work for the same company were told their positions are secure despite a 25 percent reduction in staff. I believe this demonstrates a good and reliable work ethic. As far as I am aware, all members have returned to their places of employment. What is especially pleasing is that members have retained a positive and upbeat attitude.

So, some good news after a rather dismal few weeks!

Malawi (Elifazi Salawila)

First, here is an update of COVID-19 in Malawi:

Total people infected: 101
Total deaths: 4
Total people recovered: 37
Total people on quarantine: 60

However, although the situation here is better off compared with some of the other surrounding countries, the cost of living is becoming hard. All borders are closed. Business in the whole country is going down. Most of the brethren depend on business. That means most brethren are facing hard life. What we are hoping is that probably things are going to change. When this pandemic will pass away, life probably will go back to normal.

Mexico (Larry Roybal)

Luis Alomía, the general director of epidemiology for Mexico, said Tuesday that Mexico is now the number one country in Latin America with lethally infected people with the virus.

Mexico	10.7%
Ecuador	8.5%
Brazil	6.2%
Columbia	3.4%
Peru	2.9%
Chile	1.0%

According to the World Health Organization, Mexico is now considered an epicenter to the pandemic. As of yesterday 71,633 infected people were officially registered, and this number is climbing. I am receiving firsthand data from one doctor, several nurses and others in the Church who work directly in the public health sector. They are telling me that things are only getting worse. The national news center reported yesterday that there are approximately 100 persons per day being admitted to hospitals in Mexico City. Many of the hospitals do not have the sufficient equipment or protection in order to administer adequate treatment and care.

Mexico is still in stage-three lockdown mode in this pandemic and is probably in the most critical part because of the danger of infection. We are hearing that we may not be able to assemble until late September or maybe even early October, which worries us because of the Feast of Tabernacles. Things will get more complicated come winter time when the influenza will hit the most vulnerable also.

The economy is also beginning to suffer very much also. As a whole, Mexico's imports and exports have plummeted almost 40 percent, and many thousands of people have lost their jobs. Unfortunately, because of this, crime is also on the rise.

Members, however, in spite of all this turmoil, are in high spirits. We (the ministry) have made good efforts to keep them well fed spiritually with daily short encouraging messages and Bible studies via the Internet. Good things have been produced during this bad situation. Members are calling to encourage each other as never before, and a lot of prayers are being elevated for one another. Many lessons have been learned, and we in the ministry have become more creative and resourceful in attending to the brethren's needs.

Please keep us in your prayers—for which we are very grateful as well—as we continue to pray for all the brethren around the world.

South Africa (Morgen Kriedemann)

Last night the president of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, made a sudden and surprising announcement that church gatherings of up to 50 will be allowed “in places of worship.” Our challenge is that we in Johannesburg used to meet in the hall of a retirement village and in a schoolroom in Durban. Neither of these are likely to welcome us back due to their own COVID concerns. I am looking for alternative meeting places.

Chile (Saul Langarica)

(May 13) As you know, the weather in this part of the world is becoming cooler. Because of that, the coronavirus problem is growing. The number of infected people is growing very much, as well as the deaths. The government is hardening the rules, and so about the whole city of Santiago is under total *cuarentena* indefinitely. However, we are already organized to transmit services from the houses of the men participating directly in services.

(May 27) Prayers are requested for 10 members of the Santiago, Chile, congregation, who have come down with COVID-19. Thankfully, their condition is not serious, and they are quarantined at home, under treatment by local doctors. Since winter is just beginning in Chile and therefore the risk of contracting the virus is increasing, prayers are requested for God’s intervention and protection.

French Africa (Joel Meeker)

At the end of March we sent \$1200 in emergency food assistance to the Kinshasa, Congo, congregation. We sent \$100 in assistance for training seminars and \$700 for improved corn seed and cassava plantings for the farmers that support 73 people in Church families in the center-west of the country. This should enable them to increase their harvest by about 60 percent from now on, making them less dependent on outside assistance. We just today sent \$1000 to assist four church families in Cameroon. This amount should provide them food for two months.

Rights to privacy

The Church’s long-standing policy is that pastors should not share prayer requests about any member’s health situation unless the member who is ill gives specific permission and makes such a request. Federal law (HIPAA) also prohibits this for a number of people in various professions. We urge all members to be mindful of that guideline as well. Even though we are well-meaning, we should respect people’s right to privacy and their right to be the first to disclose their personal health information at the time and in the manner of their choosing. This is especially applicable during this time of uncertainty with COVID-19. If there is a situation where some confusion or uncertainty exists on the part of the member and/or pastor, the pastor is encouraged to contact Ministerial Services for advice.

HOLY DAY OFFERING INSTRUCTIONS

From Britton Taylor, treasurer:

Because we will need to hold online services for Pentecost, we will not be able to take up congregational offerings as we normally do. To help us accurately tabulate and provide receipts, we ask that you give your holy day offerings using one of the two options listed below:

- **Donate by check (bill pay or personal check).** Please note on the “memo” line the holy day, your congregation, and how many individuals are represented in your offering. (Example: For Pentecost, a husband, wife and child who attend in Dallas would put down *Pentecost, Dallas, 3 people.*)

We realize that some people (especially children) give their holy day offering in cash. While we do not encourage sending cash in the mail, if this is necessary or desirable, we simply ask that you include a note giving the name of who should receive the receipt, if you would like a receipt.

Please mail to:

COGWA
P.O. Box 731480
Dallas, TX 75373-1480

- **Donate online via credit card or eCheck.** Please choose the holy day in the drop-down menu (“Pentecost Offer”). Then note in the “memo” section your congregation and how many individuals are represented in your offering. (Example: A husband, wife and child who attend in Dallas would put down *Dallas, 3 people.*)

Below is the link to donate online:

<https://members.cogwa.org/donate/>

We appreciate your help in these unusual times. If you have any questions, please email us at donation.help@cogwa.org.

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Feast of Pentecost

We will be webcasting one service from headquarters on the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday, May 31, at 12 p.m. Central Daylight Time. While the service is timed for U.S. congregations, brethren anywhere else in the world are welcome to join us, of course. The [holy day offering](#) will be collected in the same manner as during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Sabbath services in May

On May 23 and 30 we will be webcasting a full Sabbath service from headquarters at 12 p.m. Central Daylight Time. The headquarters webcast can be accessed by going to [cogwa.tv](#) (no password necessary) or your [Roku](#) channel. Simultaneous translations in [Spanish](#) and in [French](#) are also provided on [cogwa.tv](#) and [Roku](#). Congregations hosting webcasts have their information posted in alphabetical order on [cogwa.tv](#). If your church area is not listed, contact your pastor to receive information about your local webcast.

Feast of Tabernacles in Greece

Based on several factors and the information currently available to us, we believe it is prudent to postpone having a Feast site in Greece until 2021. The government of Greece required all hoteliers to give tourists a voucher extending to 18 months the time in which they may use their deposit. Vouchers have been sent to the members registered for Greece who had made their hotel reservations. If the voucher is not used within 18 months, the deposit will be refunded.

Important Festival registration update

If you have not yet registered, we ask that all COGWA households, whether attending in the U.S. or internationally, complete the online Festival registration. Three U.S. Feast sites—Park City, Tucson and Orange Beach—are now closed due to having reached capacity.

If adult members in one household are attending different sites, you will need to register individually. We also ask that those not attending please register as well by selecting NOT ATTENDING as their site choice. This gives us more accurate figures for planning.

You can register by clicking on the “Registration” button at [feast.cogwa.org](#). (Or you can go directly to [portal.cogwa.org/acct](#) if you already know where you want to attend.) The email address of the registrant will be used to identify that person’s or family’s registration account.

COGWA Youth Camps update

Our camp directors recommended that all five of our June U.S. preteen camps be canceled due to the uncertainties caused by the pandemic. As we mentioned last month, our camp team is developing some online classes and activities for our preteens that will be available for parents to access in early July.

While we are currently still planning to operate all of our teen camps, which run from late July through mid-August, and our preteen Camp Arrowhead in Ohio, which is scheduled for August, we hope to have further clarity by early June.

Foundation Institute currently accepting applications

We are still planning to begin our next year of classes at Foundation Institute as scheduled, on Aug. 23. If you have been considering attending Foundation Institute next year, we encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible.

You can download and mail your application, or you can complete and submit it online. Start the process either way by going to the Foundation Institute website (foundationinstitute.org) and clicking on the “Apply Now” link at the top of the page. Further details about the program and its costs are also available on the Foundation Institute website. It is important that your application be submitted by May 31, and sooner if possible.

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