

## **Announcements July 4, 2020**

### **THE MASK ISSUE**

As most of you know, the State of North Carolina has issued a mandate regarding the use of facemasks in public places. The Governor stated: *"People must wear face coverings when in public places, indoors or outdoors, where physical distancing of 6 feet from other people who aren't in the same household or residence isn't possible."*

Therefore, in light of this published mandate and the expectation of many church members that we will honor this guideline, we are asking that you please abide by the guideline and use a facemask while fellowshiping before and after services and during the singing of the hymns. If desired, the mask may be removed or lowered while quietly seated. If there is a private medical condition that prohibits you from wearing a mask, that is fine; no problem.

Please be respectful of your brothers and sisters who are attending alongside you.

### **UPDATE ON QUESTION REGARDING MONTHLY WEBCAST**

As many of you know, Ministerial Services implemented a program of all the Pastors in the US meeting with their Regional Pastor every Thursday morning starting this past week. It will be ongoing for now. In our first meeting, the Pastors were asked to report the feelings from our congregation about the mask issue as well as how you felt about staying home one Sabbath a month and having an International Church Service from HQ like we did in the spring. I received answers from approximately 30 of you and I appreciate your input. The issue most were interested in was about the monthly webcast. In listening to the Pastors of the Southeast Region speak about this Thursday morning, I heard all of them say that they and their congregation mostly favored continuing our regular Sabbath Services each week now that they have resumed. I know from talking to my son-in-law, that this was the same result in the North Region. I received a written answer from Mr. Jim Haeffele informing me of the result of the meeting that all the Regional Pastors had with Mr. Horchak Thursday afternoon. He wrote: *"In our teleconference yesterday afternoon the opinions from most all pastors across the U.S. was to not have a monthly webcast apart from an actual service. Almost everyone was of the opinion to have a recorded sermon to be played later in our services would be fine, but not to cancel services to stay home and watch a webcast. They will go ahead and do a once a month webcast for Latin America. They requested it because they cannot return to regular services at this time."* Again I would like to thank all of you for your comments on this and other issues. It's very helpful for me as your Pastor to know what you are thinking and for me to be able to answer any questions you have. This is why it remains important for us to visit together as often as possible. If you have not yet arranged for a visit from me this summer, please send an email requesting the visit so we can go ahead and get our visit planned. Thank you!

### **FESTIVAL ASSISTANCE**

Each year many faithful brethren donate extra funds from their Festival tithe so that other needy members can receive the financial assistance they need to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. Last year these generous contributions enabled nearly 200 people to attend the Feast who would have been unable to attend otherwise. The Church recognizes its responsibility to see that those contributions are distributed fairly and equitably.

If you have no tithable income or if you have faithfully saved your Festival tithe and will still not have sufficient funds to attend the Feast this year, we will be happy to help where we can. If you

think you will need additional funds to be able to attend the Feast this fall, please contact our local Festival advisor, \_\_\_\_\_, or your pastor to get a *Festival Assistance Member Information* form. Complete the form and return it to your pastor or festival advisor as soon as possible. (All information on the form will be treated as confidential.)

Ministerial Services has asked us to have all assistance applications turned in by July 10, so please pick up the form and return it to your congregation's Festival advisor or your pastor as quickly as possible.

Again, Festival financial assistance is available for those who do not have a tithable income and for those who do not have adequate funds to attend the Feast even though they have faithfully saved their Festival tithes.

### **Virtual Preteen Camp Announcement**

Anchors away! COGWA's Virtual Preteen Camp is about to set sail! In place of our in-person preteen camps this summer, we are ready to launch our VPC—Virtual Preteen Camp. Interesting Christian Living classes; fun, do-at-home activities; video connections with friends; songs; dances; art; cooking and more will all be a part of this exciting camp program. On this voyage, which will officially begin on July 10, you will learn what it means to be firmly anchored to God and His way of life.

On three Fridays in July—July 10, 17 and 24—a Christian Living class and accompanying teaching tool will be released. You will be able to download these to use for a Sabbath activity. Then, each Sunday during this time five new activities will be unlocked for our preteens to participate in and enjoy at their convenience. Preteens will be able to post videos of themselves doing the activity or reporting to their friends about what they have accomplished! Full instructions will be emailed on July 6 to each family that registers.

VPC is specifically designed for our families who have preteens aged 6 to 12 in their household. There is no tuition fee, but you must register to participate! Registration opened June 21. Just click on the registration link below. Once registered, you will immediately receive a confirmation email. Be sure to check your spam folder if you don't see the confirmation. Then on Monday, July 6, you will receive the instructional email, which will include the list of supplies you'll want to have on hand as you sail into the camp program.

We look forward to seeing you on board!

Register here: Cogwa Member's website – Youth Camp Tab

### **Virtual Teen Camp (VTC) Announcement – NEW ANNOUNCEMENT**

All aboard the S.S. Virtual Teen Camp Program! We are pleased to announce that we will start taking applications at 9 a.m. Central time on Sunday, July 5. The link to applications will be available from the top of the camp website home page: [camps.cogwa.org/](http://camps.cogwa.org/). We welcome applications from any teenager who is interested in embarking on a weeklong virtual expedition (beginning on Sunday, July 26) to learn what it means to be firmly anchored in God's Word.

Please note: Since we will be collecting personal contact information for minors, we must also have the contact information for a parent or guardian to obtain a release for that information.

There will be four regions to select from during the application process: West, Central, Southeast and Northeast. Each camper should apply for a first and a second option since we are limited in the size for each group. The program will feature daily Compass Checks, Christian Living classes, a Bible Q&A, online activities and, of course, opportunities for fellowship.

Since we know some of our teens have summer jobs, a link to the Compass Checks will be sent each day over social media along with a daily Bible verse and a reminder of what's coming that evening. Christian Living classes, the Bible Q&A and fellowship opportunities via Zoom breakout rooms will be available each evening at times that are convenient based on each group's time zone. To cap off the week, we will be webcasting an "end of camp" Sabbath service on the Sabbath of Aug. 1, starting at 12 noon Eastern (9 a.m. Pacific).

### **"Deck hands" needed**

Just as we would if we were hosting an in-person camp, we are asking for "all hands on deck!" We are particularly in need of experienced young adult camp staff members. If you are interested in assisting with the day-to-day operations of the virtual program—working with technology, acting as a breakout room moderator, assisting with social media postings, etc., we encourage you to submit a staff application and mark your area(s) of preference. We acknowledge the contributions camp personnel have made in the experiences of our campers, and we appreciate in advance your willingness to serve.

We look forward to "sail-ebrating" good times with all of you!

### **FEAST MEETINGS COMING UP NEXT WEEK**

I have become aware that we are coming up on the time when decisions are going to have to be made concerning how we are going to meet together at the Feast. I know the Festival Team has been meeting frequently and brainstorming ideas about how to best meet our needs in the even the Covid Pandemic continues as it has been. There are various options that are being considered and perhaps the end result will be a combination of various ideas. I do know that decisions are going to have to be made very soon and Headquarters is requesting your prayers for wisdom and guidance as these decisions are made.

### **NICK BOLINGER PAROLE HEARING**

Our inmate member, Nick Bolinger, comes up for a Parole Hearing on October 10. He is again asking for your prayers on his behalf that he would be approved for parole. For those of you who would like to send a card of encouragement to Mr. Bolinger, his address is:

Nick Bolinger  
0036631  
Green Correctional Institute  
P O Box 39  
Maury, NC 28554

I know he would enjoy hearing from you.

In addition, it's once again time to ask you if you might like to donate a small amount of money that will be used to purchase snack food items for Mr. Bolinger. We need about \$100.00 every 3 months to cover the cost of providing this service to him. We've been able to do this for a couple of years now because of your generous support of this service. Nick always asks me to be sure to say thank you for these donations that allow him to receive these snacks and coffee.

If you would like to participate, please send small cash donations directly to Mr. Lee Dolby. His address is 1200 Birch Hill Dr. Kernersville, NC 27284.  
Thank you!

### **RALEIGH PHONE HOOKUP:**

**Raleigh Phone Hookup** – If you ever have to miss Sabbath services you can call in to a central number and connect to the live phone hookup via FreeConferencing.com. At 1:30 pm you need to dial the conference number and then enter the participant access code, and that should connect you.

The dial-in number is: **(712) 770-5363**. The participant access code is: **539955#**.

If you have any questions please contact Julius AungMin.