

## **Announcements February 1, 2020**

### **MEN'S CLUB**

The date for the next Men's Club has been set for Feb. 29<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh and March 7<sup>th</sup> in Hickory and Greensboro. The topic of the meeting will be pride vs. humility. Please contact your local club President for any questions about assignments.

### **MEETING WITH SERMONETTE SPEAKERS**

I would like to have a 30 minute meeting with all sermonette speakers after services in Raleigh on February 15, and in Hickory and Greensboro on February 22. This includes those who have already been notified they are giving their first sermonette soon.

### **HICKORY FOOD DRIVE IS BACK**

Although we haven't mentioned it for a while, we are re-establishing our local Food Drive in Hickory. Our next food drive in Hickory will be Feb.22. This will continue to occur on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sabbath of the month.

Please bring non-perishable food items and display them on table provided. All members are welcome to take any item(s) they may need. All remaining items will be given to a local charitable group.

### **UPDATE ON CAMP DICKENSON**

There has been less than half the number of people needed to express interest in Camp Dickenson for this year, so we are going to go ahead and cancel Camp Dickenson again for this year.

### **FI TO SPONSOR SPANISH AND ENGLISH EDUCATIONAL TOUR OF ISRAEL IN 2021 (OK to summarize this)**

Foundation Institute is currently planning our next travel education tour to Israel, tentatively scheduled from June 1-8, 2021. We are excited to announce that, for the first time in our history, we are offering a bilingual tour of Israel in both Spanish and English.

Our plan is to have one 48-passenger coach for Spanish-speaking brethren (which will be led by a Spanish-speaking Israeli guide and include Spanish-speaking ministers) and a second 48-passenger coach operating in English. Both coaches will visit the same sites. We will all stay in the same hotels; we will share meals together; and we will hold Sabbath services together in Spanish with English translation for those who need it. As one young man put it, we will have one English-language coach and one fiesta coach.

All are welcome to apply, but because of the unique nature of this bilingual tour, we must give priority to certain applicants. First priority will be given to those from Latin America who speak only Spanish. If we have additional room on that coach, we will next give priority to those from other areas who speak both Spanish and English. Finally, we will fill out the English-language coach with those who speak only English. In all cases we will give priority to those who are participating for the first time.

We will offer multiple travel options for our brethren traveling from Latin America. We are too far out from the travel date to announce a firm cost, but we estimate that we will be able to offer prices similar to our past Israel trips (see estimated pricing in the attached fact sheet).

The trip will follow an itinerary similar to our past education tours, starting in the northern part of Israel and ending in the city of Jerusalem. The trip will include visits to:

- Caesarea, Megiddo and Mount Carmel.
- The Sea of Galilee and northern Israel—Mount of the Beatitudes, Nazareth and Tel Dan.
- The Jordan Valley—Beth Shean, Qumran, Masada.
- Jerusalem—Temple Mount, City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel, Western Wall, Golgotha and the Garden Tomb, Yad Vashem, etc.

We will tour on air-conditioned coaches with professionally trained Israeli guides. There will also be on-site lectures from FI instructors and ministers, as well as Sabbath services in Jerusalem. For those interested in this trip, please consider that by early June, it becomes very hot and dry in Israel, and there is a great deal of walking over uneven ground in these trips. If the heat or walking would be a problem for you, this trip would probably be too physically demanding.

Please refer to the attached fact sheet for more information and instructions on how to register for this trip.

We hope you will consider this exciting opportunity!

David Johnson

[A copy of the fact sheet is available on the information table.](#)

## FEAST IN GREECE AND JORDAN INFORMATION

### Verbal Announcement—to be read in all congregations Sabbath, Feb. 1:

The Church of God, a Worldwide Association, is very happy to announce that, in addition to the international sites we normally host in France, the Caribbean, the U.K., South Africa and elsewhere, the U.S. will be hosting **two specialty sites** in 2020—one near Corinth, Greece, and one in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Feast site in Greece will be at a resort in Loutraki on the beautiful coast of the Gulf of Corinth. All members will stay at the Ramada/Wyndham Poseidon Resort, which will include two meals daily with other hotel amenities. Tours of biblical and historical sites will be available two afternoons during the Feast. Attendance will be limited to 350.

The Feast in Jordan will be hosted at two locations during the eight days of the Feast—at Le Royal Hotel in the capital city of Amman and at the Intercontinental Hotel in the beautiful coastal city of Aqaba on the Red Sea. During the Feast in Jordan, afternoon tours of biblical and other historical sites will augment the daily Church services and messages that will be given throughout the Feast. Those considering attending the Jordan site should be mindful that a great deal of walking and on-off bus touring will be involved. Attendance will be limited to 125.

Details, accommodation costs and site descriptions for both Greece and Jordan will be **available this weekend** on the COGWA Feast of Tabernacles page: [feast.cogwa.org/](http://feast.cogwa.org/). These two specialty sites will have an EARLY REGISTRATION DATE of **Sunday, Feb. 23**. Information and instructions for REGISTRATION will be sent to all pastors to share with the members on the Sabbath of Feb. 15.

Because we expect Greece (and possibly Jordan) to reach capacity quickly, we will be doing a two-step registration process this year. This will also make it equally quick for anyone to register, whether a single person or a family of six. The initial **pre**-registration will be accessible from the Portal as usual, but it will prefill in a few fields and have you complete a few additional fields, after which you will click the **Submit** button. All registrants will receive notification within two weeks as to whether they were accepted (pending receiving the second and more thorough registration) or whether they are on the waiting list. Again, the complete details of this early specialty site registration process will be sent to pastors to share with members on the Sabbath of Feb. 15.

★ We do ask that if there have been any changes in your immediate household since you last registered through the portal, such as a new baby or other family member now living with you, please update all the members in the portal account **BEFORE** registering. The accuracy of the information in your portal can make a difference in whether or not you are able to be accepted to attend in Greece or Jordan.

## **SUPER SOCIAL!**

We are down to the last week before our Super Social. All of you should have received an email with complete information providing you with everything you need to know about the Weekend. If you did not receive it, please contact Mr. Kelley. There will be a copy on the information table. (Also available on [the church webpage](#).)

Remember there will be no local services in either Hickory or Raleigh.

The Sabbath morning seminar begins at 10:30am.

Sabbath Services begin at 2:30pm

Sunday morning seminar begins at 10:30am

If you have changed your mind and would now like to come to Super Social and participate in the meals after all, it's not too late. The absolute final date to register is this Tuesday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. After that date no meal reservations can be made. To reserve a meal, please contact Mr. Kelley at this point.