

# Church of God, awa-East Texas & Ruston

## Announcements • June 24, 2023

Ken Treybig, Pastor

Phone: 903-714-3684

Web sites: <http://cogwa.org>, <http://easttexas.cogwa.org> Friday Sunset: 8:31 p.m. (ET), 8:21 p.m. (R)

### **East Texas: 24345 County Rd 3107, Gladewater – 2:30 p.m.**

Song Leader – John Flynn

Pianist – Melissa Fulgham

Sermonette – James Richards

Sermon – John Trotter

### **Ruston: – Fairfield Inn & Suites, Ruston - 1 p.m.**

Song Leader – Dan Pierce

Pianist – MP3s

Sermonette – Rod Gehrke

Sermon – Ken Treybig

### **General Announcements**

#### **Mid-Week Bible Study**

Our next mid-week monthly Bible study will be Wednesday, July 5, at 11 a.m. at the East Texas Church building. Please bring snacks and finger-foods for a light lunch.

#### **Social Planning Meeting**

July 8 is the date for our social planning meeting after services. Last year's meeting resulted in some enjoyable socials for the school year—in addition to our regional events. Be thinking about options for this coming year and plan to join us in the Snack Room 30 minutes after services!

#### **Summer Camps**

Our camp season began last week with Camp Lone Star. This week Sequoia Preteen camp in CA ran with 45 campers and

staff and beautiful, cool weather. Next week is Camp Agape Preteen in South Carolina.

This year's theme is "Mapping Your Future" to encourage some thinking past the current day or week. Your continued prayers for God's blessing and protection on all our camps this year would be greatly appreciated.

#### **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 135 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 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 adviser, Tom Moffitt in East Texas and Chris Teague in Ruston, or your pastor to get a Festival Assistance Member Information form. Complete the form and return it

to your pastor or Festival adviser 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 adviser or your pastor as quickly as possible.

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

#### **Excess Festival Tithe**

Through the years, many of us have seen and experienced a variety of ways in which God has fulfilled His promises to bless those who faithfully tithe. While some members have limited income, the generosity of their spiritual brothers and sisters has enabled hundreds to share in the blessings of the Feast of Tabernacles each year. On their behalf, we wish to extend a warm thank you! to those who have shared their abundance.

We are once again approaching the time when we will need to provide financial assistance to those brethren who would be unable to attend the Feast without help. Government regulations permit charitable organizations

#### **Elders – Here to serve you**

Ken Treybig, Pastor – (903) 714-3684

Scott Hammer – (903) 738-5367

Melton McNeely – (903) 769-6849

James Ellis, Assistant Pastor – (903) 261-1928

Mike Machin – (386) 931-1879

John Trotter – (903) 636-4515

to provide a modest amount of financial aid to those in need so they can share in this kind of religious activity. Therefore, we have established policies and procedures that allow the Church to legally, fairly and equitably provide this special benefit to members who qualify.

It would be helpful if those who wish to contribute excess Festival tithe to help their brethren attend the Feast can begin to send in those funds. You may include any contributions with your regular tithes and offerings if you wish—just be sure to indicate how much you wish to designate for this special purpose.

Thank you in advance on behalf of the many who will be able to enjoy the Feast of Tabernacles this year as a result of your generosity in sharing the blessings God has given you.

### **Tithe of the Tithe**

Years ago, the Church of God established a custom of asking members to voluntarily contribute a tenth of their Festival tithe—referred to as a “tithe of the tithe”—to the Church to cover the many expenses incurred in providing so much of what we enjoy at the Feast. These expenses include hall rent, office supplies, audio and video equipment, decorations, activities, etc. Since all of us benefit from these items, it seems appropriate that we all contribute a portion of the Festival tithe we have saved to meet those expenses. If you are unable to contribute a full tenth of your Festival tithe but would still like to help, all such contributions are appreciated.

If you send a contribution to help meet these Feast expenses, please label it “tithe of the tithe,”

so we will know your intent. You may include those funds with regular tithes and offerings if you wish—just clearly indicate how much you wish to designate for this purpose.

Again, we thank you for your generosity in helping to make the Feast special for all of us.

### **FI Exploring Possible 2024 Israel Trip**

Foundation Institute is currently exploring the possibility of a travel education tour to Israel in the spring of 2024. The trip would take place from May 28 to June 4, 2024.

The trip would follow an itinerary similar to those of our past Israel trips, starting in the northern part of Israel and ending in the city of Jerusalem.

We would tour on an air-conditioned coach with a professional Israeli guide and historian. Sabbath services would be held in the city of Jerusalem. At this point, we are planning for a group of 45-50 participants, depending on interest.

The group would likely fly out of New York City on Tuesday, May 28, and return on Wednesday, June 5.

We cannot yet lock in airfares for 2024, so we can't announce an exact cost of the trip, but we expect that the double-occupancy price would be around **\$3,500** per person (to include airfare, hotels, two meals a day, site entrance fees and other costs associated with the trip). We estimate the single-occupancy price would be around **\$4,500**.

If you are seriously interested in participating, please fill out this form within the next two weeks: [2024 Israel Trip Interest Form](#). This is *not* a registration

form. It is only to help us determine the level of interest for planning purposes. Once we verify the costs and determine if there's sufficient interest to move forward, we'll provide more details and make an official registration form available.

We hope you will consider this exciting opportunity!