



Minnesota Messenger CHURCHES OF GOD

A Note From The President

Greetings to all,
Exciting things are happening and some difficult things are happening. The death of Pastor Tom Fischhaber (Eden Valley's Pastor) was a real blow to us all. But I know God will give us strength to carry on.

We have some really good things planned, as you will read. Starting with camp work-days, to camp improvements, to Spring Conference and Youth Camp!

We are so blessed that we have a wonderful campground that we can all come together and fellowship with one another. Praise the Lord!!!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our 2 camp work-days, set for April 25th and May 16th and then in June at the Annual Spring Get Together! (Conference). It promises to be a time that you can come and meet with the Lord and like-minded believers.

We also have a new web-site, we can update you on coming events and information for the camp and churches. We have a link to each church in MN as well, on this web-site. Please let us know if you want anything listed or put on for information about your church and we will add it. For the churches that have their own web-site – that is also linked to us.

MN Conference

Webpage: <http://www.mncogconference.org/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mnconference

Google+: +MncogconferenceOrgMNCOGConference

Twitter: [@MN_Churches_God](https://twitter.com/MN_Churches_God)

**Faithfully,
Gaye Wood**

**Spring Conference 2015
June 12, 13, 14
Guest Speaker – Scott Ross**



Scott Ross has been a minister in the Church of God for 37 years, serving churches in Ohio and Nebraska. Currently he serves as Pastor's Pastor to the ministers of the Church of God.

Scott grew up in the Litchfield Church of God, attending camps and conferences with his parents, Stan and Peg Ross, who were active in the Minnesota Conference. During the 35 years he served as Pastor of the Omaha Church of God, the church there began a long relationship with the Churches of Minnesota with their kids attending the camps, a relationship that continues to this day.

Scott and his wife Gayle have three children and seven grandchildren. His daughter Christy currently serves as one of the Pastors of the Omaha Church and leads the Junior Camp in Minnesota.

Scott's messages and classes will be about some of the fascinating men and women of the Bible. They were ordinary people, yet our God did some extraordinary things through them. And he still wants to do extraordinary things through each of us.

Property Development

Spring 2015

Work on the kitchen dishwashing area has already begun. The Quarry tile to finish the floor in the dishwashing area has been purchased. The tables and sinks have been removed and the grid for the tile has been marked on the floor with magic marker. As soon as it warms up, the floor will be cut to replace the plastic floor drain and then the tile work can begin. The two tables for each side of the dishwasher have been picked up from the fabricator and they are on site. Strategic has also delivered the merchandiser and the dishwasher. There will be a few electrical parts needed in order to hook up the dishwasher, dishwasher hood and blower motor. Also the roof curb needs to be set in place and the epoxy shelves will need some assembly. The FRP board was purchased when the wall opposite the dishwasher was installed so will only have to buy thin-set for the tile, grout for the tile and some glue for the FRP.

Over the winter, the wall panels for the workshop were assembled and the walls and trusses are now in place. The steel for the roof and walls have been ordered and should be here ready to be installed by the weekend of the 10th thru 12th of April.

This spring will be busy but the improvements will make a big difference for the operation of the camp.

Bobby is back from Phoenix, so we will be making the changes to the lighting that we talked about at the last meeting and will rough in the electrical for the dishwasher and dishwasher hood.

This last phase should complete the kitchen remodel we have been working on for the last 6 years.

Projects for the April and May workdays include cutting and splitting wood for the summer campers, removing three dead trees by the screened gazebo, cleaning out the

flower gardens, removing the chimney and the furnace in the dining hall, removing the old kitchen tables and the old merchandizer, installing window wells for the girls dorm, hanging the exhaust hood and repairing the fold down tables.

Things will be busy at the campground right up until conference but the improvements will make things go so much easier. Thank you for your support as the kitchen remodel will become a reality. Consider coming to the workdays on April 25th and May 16th as we work together here at camp.

We are looking forward to the camps this summer and the impact we can have to win lives for Christ and his coming kingdom.

Jon Lapp

Minnesota State Youth Camp

Senior Camp: We are looking forward to an exciting two weeks of **Minnesota State Youth Camp**. Junior camp dates: June 14-19, Director Christy Wibel, work 402-571-2537. Senior camp dates: June 21-26, Director Jeff Moore, cell 218-639-1649. Theme: "Faith" (based on Hebrews 11) Camp tuition:

\$165 for first child in a family

\$155 for second child in same family

\$145 each for third and additional children in same family.

Local churches are responsible for covering any necessary scholarships to send campers to Youth Camp. We are struggling to find Minnesota staff for Senior Camp. **There is a need for at least two women and two men as full-time staff (stay overnight), but daytime staff (any number of days during the week) would be helpful.** Youth Camp will also need a lifeguard for 1-1/2 hours each afternoon. **Other issues of concern:** How to convince our church kids to be at camp? How to reach out-of-state campers? Should we return to one week of camp? Having the opportunity for our older youth to help as junior counselors at Junior Camp has been so good. House Light Ministries has one good boat to be used at camp. We could use help selling two boats that have been used for the camp

in the past. They have been listed on Craig's List. Larsen Boat 16' 100 hp. 1980 \$3000. House Light Ministries owns this one. Glastron 17' 100 hp. 1972 \$1200. Camp owns. We would like to use the money from the Glastron toward the boat HLM just bought this year.

Although money is tight and everyone is busy, Youth Camp is an important opportunity for our youth to worship, study and fellowship with like-minded believers.

If you have questions or need information about Senior Youth Camp, please contact Pastor Jeff Moore at houslite@wcta.net or 218-639-1649. Questions about Junior Youth Camp can be directed to Christy Wibel, cjwibel@aol.com.

Jeff Moore

Junior Camp: The dates for Junior Camp are June 23-28. Junior Camp is for kids going into 4th grade through kids entering the 9th grade. Kids entering 9th grade may choose to go to Senior Camp instead. Anyone interested in being a counselor should contact Christy at: cjwibel@aol.com, by April 26th. This includes Junior Counselors. Also, please say that we very much appreciate the support of each local church in providing scholarships to their campers who need financial assistance. Also, we desire & appreciate your prayers for both the planning of camp, and the actual week of camp -- prayers for both staff & kids! Thanks. Christy Ross

Eden Valley Church of God

Praise God for His risen Son!

We celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus with an early morning service followed by a breakfast and our regular service on Easter Sunday morning. We also had a special service on Good Friday evening.

As most of you have heard, our Pastor Tom Fischhaber was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. He has been receiving chemotherapy and has been through a myriad of tests. Our congregation along with several Pastors and members of sister Churches held an anointing service with Pastor Tom. We are praying for a miracle and asking God to completely heal him. Pastor Tom and his wife Anne are very appreciative of your

prayers and support for them at this time. (Just before the newsletter was printed: – Pastor Tom passed away on April 6th and services for him and his family was held Sunday, April 12th at the Eden Valley Church of God).

Some of our members have had health problems during the winter. Dinah Button fell and broke her arm. She is recuperating at the nursing home in Cold Spring. Alice Wadsworth spent a few days in the hospital with heart issues. Liz Reddy was injured in a fall and recuperated with family.

Our young people held a spaghetti supper to raise money for Bible camp. They are looking forward to summer and seeing old friends and making new ones.

We are continuing with regular services during Pastor Tom's illness under the leadership of our Elders Marv Nordmann, Don Piram and Teresa Kirkpatrick.

Margaret Swanson, Reporter

Hutchinson Church of God

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ! Spring is here! As summer draws closer our youth are already getting excited about the upcoming Summer Youth Camps. Several were able to attend Winter Camp held at the campground between Christmas and New Years. We heard it was a great time.

We continue with many of our annual projects: Souper Bowl of Caring, our 4th Annual Soup Dinner, Mn. Food Share, College care packages, Diaper collection & distribution through our community Common Cup Ministry and 30 Pieces of Silver. The 2014 photo contest theme was "God is in the Small Stuff." Some of these pictures are used as background for our song slides.

On Palm Sunday an eggs-citing outreach opportunity was presented as plastic Easter eggs were handed out filled with an invitation to attend our Easter morning celebration. We were asked to place an egg on someone's desk, or on the windshield of their car or simply hand them out to a perfect stranger. Let's see what God will do!

Several of our number, were able to get away from the cold this winter to much warmer temperatures. Lee & Melody Moore took a vacation in March to beautiful Hawaii. This was an early trip to celebrate their upcoming 50th wedding anniversary, which is May 15th. Congratulations! Lee & Melody's granddaughter, Mindy Forcier, was the Female Triple A award winner for Eden-Valley Watkins High School. (Arts, Athletics, Academics) Congratulations Mindy, we are so proud of you! We are excited about an upcoming "Creation Seminar" that Greg Landry, from the Pine Grove Church, will be presenting for our church and

community on Sunday afternoon, May 17th at 1:30 p.m. We plan to have a church dinner preceding the seminar. Everyone welcome! We see weekly registrations for the online Bible Study Course from all over the world available at our updated website www.hutchinsoncog.org
See you at Spring Conference!

Linda Sandifer, reporter

Litchfield Church of God

Spring has come early this year and we are very thankful for that. We didn't really have too terrible of a winter. A lot has transpired in and around our church will the last newsletter came out.

We host the Minnesota State Conference Board and Mission meeting on the third Sunday in November and held our Annual Hymn Sing later that same day. We had a nice turn out in attendance at the hymn sing and enjoyed an afternoon of singing followed by a community supper of Sloppy Joes and homemade ice cream. The hymn sing is a great community event that many of the local residence love to attend. We had some new people attend this year as a result of some one-on-one contacts. Some of our visitors are a direct result of the Voice of Tomorrow Radio program.

In November of 2014, Pastor Dale entered St. Cloud Hospital where he underwent open-heart surgery to replace his aortic valve. It was an unexpected surgery and time of recovery, but God was there and He heard and answered a multitude of prayers. About the same time last fall, Mark Wood had a couple stints put in his heart in October, and then Joyce Housman had a stint replaced in her heart right after Thanksgiving. All three Litchfield heart patients went through cardiac rehab right around the same time and are all doing well.

In December Pastor Dale conducted a funeral for Sr. Louise Lapp. After being a living example of the Jesus Christ for 105 years, Louise is now resting from her labors and awaiting the sound of the trumpet call of God. Jon and Sue took Louise back to Ohio where she was laid to rest following another service of remembrance by nephew Pastor Greg Demmitt.

On February 21, 2015, Dessirae Housman was married in a double ring ceremony to Dakota Holt. Pastor Dale conducted the ceremony at the newly renovated Litchfield Opera House. Dessi and Dakota have made their home in Waite Park.

Larry and Kathy Johnson decided to winter in Arizona this year, but a staph infection in Larry's right ankle changed their plans for a fun winter get-away.

Larry doctored the infection in Mesa, Arizona, but had a wonderful support group there from the Lakeshore Bible Church in Tempe as well as friends from Minnesota who were also wintering down there.

Frank and Babe Johnson celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary in March and Mark and Lynn Wood celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in April. Everett and Katherine Hantge went to Branson, Missouri for a week in October and are returning for another week in the middle of April.

A number of our members had a chance to travel and get away from our Minnesota weather the last several months. Kathy Johnson spent a week in Florida. Upon her return she and Larry both left for Arizona for several weeks. After coming back for one week, they left again and this time went on a two week cruise through the Panama Canal and the Caribbean. They arrived in Florida and then travel back to Minnesota by way of Branson, Missouri where they spent another week. When they finally got back home we welcomed these two "guests" to our service and encouraged them to come back to worship again. Kathryn and Everett Hantge spent a week in Branson, but had to return early because of the death of a family member. Please keep Everett and Kathryn in your prayers. Gaye Wood spent a week in Florida in January.

After pastoring the Litchfield Church for almost 16 years, Pastor Dale and Cheryl felt God calling them to the Countryside Bible Church in Peculiar, Missouri. The decision to leave Minnesota was made after listening to the call of God and trying to discern His will with months of prayer, meditation and personal thought and contemplation. We ask that all you reading this newsletter will keep the Litchfield Church in your prayers during this time of transition. Please pray for God to guide and direct the right person to come to Litchfield and take over the helm of the Church behind the captain, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Loving Service,
Pastor Dale H. Swartz

KINGDOM MINISTRIES INC.

Kingdom Ministries Inc. began another year of broadcasting "The Voice of Tomorrow" Program on KLFD Radio this spring. It is exciting to talk to people in community about the Lord and they, in turn, tell me how much they enjoy the program. People from our community continue to stop me on the street on a regular basis to talk about the program and how much they enjoy it. Often our on the street chats have led to more in-depth discussions and positive clarifications of Biblical passages they have heard or questioned. Their

comments continue to be very favorable toward the program. Through the Voice of Tomorrow, I continue to faithfully preach the Church's true hope of the resurrection, Jesus' second coming and the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God. The Litchfield community has received our program openly and often raise Biblical questions because they hear a message that is simple and yet different from what they've been taught. God continues to open witnessing doors and bless me with opportunities to share Biblical truth.

I continue to emphasize our doctrines, what the Abrahamic faith means and importance of living daily Christian lives as well as our responsibility to abiding in Christ every single day. Through letters and face to face conversations I have learned that people are not only concerned about prophecy, but also concerned about their salvation. As a result I have been able to share their need to trust in God and remain in Christ daily no matter what the future may hold. Ministry opportunities have continued to arise as a result of the radio program and the messages that people are hearing on the Voice of Tomorrow.

Kingdom Ministries is a non-profit corporation that is dedicated to teaching and preaching the message of God's coming Kingdom in a simple, clear and positive way.

Through Kingdom Ministries, "The Voice of Tomorrow" radio program continues to be aired on KLFD AM 1410 two times each Sunday. The program can be heard locally at 7:15 am and again at 9:00 pm. The Voice of Tomorrow can also be heard on COGCAST by going on the World Wide Web and type in: www.cogcast.org. As I plan my transition to the State of Missouri I am looking into the possibility of continuing the Voice of Tomorrow in Litchfield from my new location. Please pray about this opportunity. On behalf of Kingdom Ministries Inc., I want to thank you for your continued support both prayerfully and financially. Tax deductible donations can be sent to: Kingdom Ministries Inc. P.O. Box 3 Litchfield, MN. 55355.

In Service to King Jesus,
Pastor Dale H. Swartz

MISSIONS –

Update on Russian Brothers and Sisters – Pastor Maksim

I met **Brother Andre** when I was in the hospital. Brother Andre was in the last stage

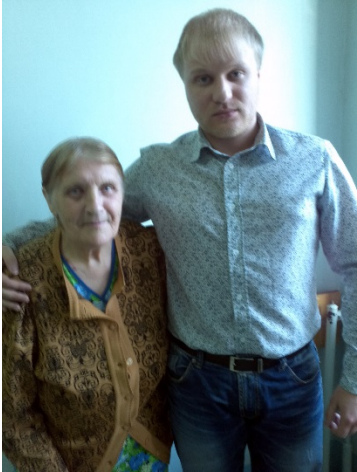
of cancer. He was strengthened and with great interest studies the Bible. He was about 50 years old. His mother was Jewish and he was proud of those roots. I totally see the hand of God at work in saving the Jewish people. Brother Andre dies in July of 2013 and with joy I wait to see him again in the kingdom of God on the earth. Brother Andre also asked for me to do his funeral so his family could hear the good news.

I met **Sister Irina** through her nephew whom I gave the book, "Who Is Jesus?" when I was in the hospital. Sister Irina is from the Omsk Region, but was living in the city of Omsk with a relative. She called me on the phone from the number I had left in the book. We met periodically to study the Bible. Soon she went to visit a relative and while there had a stroke and was paralyzed. We continued to communicate and she asked me to come baptize her. She is about 65 years old. She is now living with her relative in Novosibirsk and is very sick. I ask you to please pray for her and her health. She is a wonderful sister and I am proud of her that she holds firm to the faith even in her hard situation and she keeps a close relationship with our Heavenly Father.



I met **Brother Uli** while I was serving in the hospital. He lives in the North Omsk Region, Ust-Ishimskom. Uli is 53 years old. I visited and baptized Brother Uli last year. I ask that you would please pray for him to be strong in his battle with bad habits (alcohol and smoking) and also for his wife Tamara and

daughter Lena so that they would take interest in Bible truths. Brother Uli also has Jewish roots.



I met **Sister Vera** while I was serving in the hospital. Sister Vera spent more than 20 years of her life deceived by the Evangelical Baptist Church. More than three years ago she was searching for true Christianity. (She had been disappointed in the baptism coming from untrue doctrines and sins which were accepted in the church community she was in.) She is 78 years old and lives in Kazakstan, an old Soviet Republic. I try to meet with her at least once a month in the southern region of Omsk. Her elderly cousin Tatyana lives there and she studies with interest with us. Please pray for Sister Vera's health and that the Baptist minister would leave her alone. Also pray that her cousin would have even more interest in the Bible.

I met **Sister Elona** while serving in a children's home. Her nephew lived in the children's home and saw me reading Anthony's book about the Trinity. He told me that his aunt liked to read religious books so I gave it to him and told him to pass it on to her. Soon after we met and I gave her a Bible and another book on the kingdom. We began speaking on the phone so I could answer her questions that she had about the Bible. Sister Elona is 55 years old and lives in Uzbekistan (a former Soviet Republic) in Tashkent Region. Please pray for Sister Elona's protection and that of her husband too. Uzbekistan is a

Muslim country and is lead by a dictator and it is very hard for Russian's to live there. In 2000 her son was killed and she is still distraught. Please pray that YHVH would give her inner peace.



I met **Sister Tatyana** while serving in the hospital. She is 54 years old and lives in Kirgizee (a former Soviet Republic). She has asked us to pray for her relatives and friends and that they would desire to know the truth.

The web site is up and running and I am getting hits from Germany and the Ukraine and many other places in Russia. I am communicating with a Russian lady living in Germany and going over Bible truths with her. I hope to go visit Brother Uli in a week or two. Please pray for my travels and that all would go well and that I could be an encouragement to him.

A big thank you to my brothers and sisters in America who are praying for me and my ministry and for all of our brothers and sisters in Russia.

God bless,
Pastor Maksim Ryzhik