

Enjoys Guest on Armor of God

I enjoyed listening to Mr. Bronson James interviewing Mr. C. Wayne Cole on your telecast which aired this morning on Vision [Television Network]! I have fond memories of Mr. Cole's leadership in the Canadian division of the Worldwide Church of God quite a few years ago! It was a blessing to hear from him again. Also, thank you for the efforts of the Church of God International to promote greater unity and cooperation between the fragmented portions of this spiritual organism- the Church of God!-D.D., **Calgary, AB, Canada.**

Just watched your program on Vision TV here in Winnipeg with C. Wayne Cole as your guest. I believe the last time I saw him was at a Feast of Tabernacles service in Squaw Valley, California, some 30-plus years ago. Was a treat to hear him again-I.H., **Winnipeg, MB, Canada.**

Please send me the brochure True Discipleship and the audiocassette "Strength and Humility" by C.

[Chicagoland Draws 66 to Public Meeting](#)

On May 20, 2000, we held a "public invited" service to which people from 100-mile radius were invited to listen to Mr. C. Wayne Cole.

[Armor of God Surpasses 100 Episodes](#)

TYLER, Texas - In January of 1998, we took our first timid steps in television production. Charles Groce, Bronson James, Vance Stinson, and Bill Watson were all drafted into service. Now, two and a half years later, though still rookies, we've improved our skills quite a bit.

[Profiles of the Ministry-Duane Nicol](#)

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Illinois - On November 20, 1999, at the Armor of God/CGI Outreach Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky, Duane Nicol was ordained into the ministry of the Church of God International.

[CGI Canada Appoints New President](#)

KITCHENER, Ontario, Canada - Jim French has been appointed president of the Church of God International Canadian Office. The organizational titles used in the church are actually deacon positions of service.

[Filipinos Celebrate 'Smooth Sailing'](#)

METRO MANILA, Philippines-While most of our fellow Filipinos were at the beach or contemplating the death of Christ, the members of the Church of God International of Manila gathered at the Lubang Function Room of EDSA Shangri-la Hotel in Pasig City, Metro Manila, on that "Maundy" Thursday, April 20, to celebrate the first of the Days of Unleavened Bread. Attendance was 64 adults, not including children.

[What's Been Happening in Atlanta?](#)

ATLANTA, Georgia-A lot has been happening here in Atlanta! We have had a wedding, a baptism, and a baby shower. We have also had the pleasure of hosting three ministers from different parts of the country that came and shared Sabbath services and/or holy day observances with us. It has definitely been an eventful spring, and now that things have eased up a little, we'll try to bring everyone up to date.

[Yard Sale Benefits, Baptisms, Fiftieth Anniversary and Celebrations](#)

[CGI Elder Says "Things Are Good"](#)

MOREHEAD, Kentucky-Things are good! That was the theme of the

Wayne Cole. It was really good to see Evangelist Cole as I have wondered what became of him!! Thank you-J.H.,
Humboldt, SK, Canada.

"Totally Educated" by Online Article

I have just read your [online] article "Must I Use Only the King James Bible?" and was totally educated. I thank you for this, as I have bumped into many of the "KJV Only" believers, one of which has cut our friendship off since we are not "equally yoked" as I do not believe that the other versions are "of Satan." Thank you for confirming my gut feelings. Not only is this belief ridiculous, but to me it puts dangerous limits on God Himself. Like He is only capable of reaching those who stick to one version. If you ask me He can reach us through the comics if He so chooses. I will forge ahead with my studies and not let the "guilt" creep in that I am indeed not even studying "God's" Word. I'm just thankful for people like you who care enough to put in the time it must take to develop such a nice Web site for people like myself with questions-J.M., via e-mail.

Thanks for Prayer

Just a few lines to thank the ministers who come together on Thursdays to pray for the sick. We

Morehead, Kentucky, spring festival set by Mr. Charles Groce in his sermon.

[A Change of Face](#)

At the beginning of 1999, the weather here in this part of Kentucky was snowy and icy, so we had to cancel Sabbath services two weeks in a row.

[Leadership Training Class to Make "Fishers of Men"](#)

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two of His future disciples and said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). So in keeping with the example Jesus set, the CGI's fourth region has issued an invitation to the men of God's church to come and be fishers of men.

[The Trip](#)

Traveling through
Florida and Georgia
April 16, 2000

[Tyler Church Enjoys Traditions](#)

TYLER, Texas-The onlooking patrons of the cafeteria-style restaurant were undoubtedly curious to see 44 matzo-munching religious folk invading the establishment.

[In Loving Memory](#)

How very blessed I have been to receive your free [newspaper], tapes, and lessons! Mine is a story too long to tell, but I do want to say I am so very grateful for the teachings when I couldn't really afford to pay. Now I [am] sending a check and it feels good-someone like me can be encouraged and lifted up. I'll always remember what you've done to help me and I'll try to help others-C.M.G., Rochester Hills, Michigan.

Home Bible Study Course

Just finished lesson 3. I enjoy the Bible studies very much. I get so much out of them. I copy the Bible verses down. It helps me to remember what is in them. It really helps on the test. I missed one question this time. I get so much out of them. They help me in [my] daily walk with God. I enjoy studying the Bible. Your Bible studies make a big difference and it helps me to understand God's words better. Can't wait for lesson 4. God bless you-L.L., Sumner, Illinois.

Attending Services

We have been watching the Armor of God [program] on television since its inception....We are deeply impressed with your ministry and teaching, and have begun to attend services...in Courtenay, BC, every Sabbath. We still have very much to learn about the church....Again, thank you for your service and will be looking forward to receiving any information you have available-

thank them and they are in our prayers continually. We pray that God will continue to inspire them from His work to bring forth the truth to the peoples of this nation and the world-W.T., Huber Heights, Ohio.

P.&D.B., Bowser, BC, Canada.

Rooted in the Word

I just wanted to take the time, before starting my Bible studies for today, to write this note of thanks for the books you send that help me to grow in Christ. It's even more important for me to get rooted in the Word than for most. I need a healthy heart and mind. The Word can take care of both. Then I can come out of prison a productive instead of destructive person. Thank you for being there for me and others in prison-L.T.K., Gatesville, Texas.

First Time Keeping Holy Days

We had such a jubilant and sacred time in God's Word and holy days. This was my first holy day season and participation. Coming to realize God's plan of salvation depicted in His holy days has brought a meaning to my life. I cannot have the right words to express. Thank you for being there-C.A., Alliance, Ohio.

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We are constantly developing this web site and would appreciate any [comments](#) you might have.

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Leadership Training Class to Make "Fishers of Men"

MOREHEAD, Kentucky-As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two of His future

disciples and said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). So in keeping with the example Jesus set, the CGI's fourth region has issued an invitation to the men of God's church to come and be fishers of men.

Classes began in March, and are scheduled for six months. The Leadership Training Class (LTC) will be held on the first Sunday of each month in Richfield, Ohio, and on the third Sunday of each month in Morehead, Kentucky. The purpose of the program is to mold the men into pillars and leaders in the local churches for the support of the brethren. The emphasis is not on imparting knowledge but rather learning how to wisely use it and to act with righteous character in its application.

Regional director Bob Tackett and assistant director Wayne Hendrix are the primary instructors. All of the ministers in the region are also attending to lend their experience as well as honing, refreshing, and fine-tuning their ministerial skills.

The first session addressed sermonettes (kinds of, purposes, how to organize, length of, delivery) and how to be a more effective leader. Also included was a difficult-scripture drill, sermonette assignments, and lectures on the urgency of the times, keeping life simple, organizing time, seeking God first, and going to Him in time of need.

At the end of each session, an essay-type test (to be completed before the next class) is distributed. The structure of the classes allow for a relaxed give-and-take between teachers and students.

Before the first classes in Morehead, there were four baptisms. On Saturday evening, Jeff May and Sandra Corum (Morehead) were baptized by Bob Swimm; on Sunday, Anthony and Mary Morrison (Louisville) were baptized by Richard Williams. All attending ministers participated in the laying-on-of-hands. Congratulations to everyone!

Participating in the leadership training program in Richfield are: Lloyd Cary, Brian Cary, Howard Shelly, Bob Thomas, Richard Majewski, Larry Hedrick, Matt Geisler, Israel Evans (Toledo); Bill Watson, Dave Rusinko Sr., Dave Rusinko Jr., Rick Shephard, Vern McKenzie, Fred Holley, Dave Davis, Dan Stanton, Dave Whitacre (Bath); Jim Melzer (Pittsburgh); Bob Baker (Altoona); Tony Buchert, Eugene Lucka, Wynn Davis, Kevin Shields, Pat Kirk, Mark Sciba (Columbus); Mark Schwartzkopf (Indianapolis).

Those attending at Morehead are: Bob Swimm, Dwight Henn (Fort Thomas); Frank Denman, Jack Stevenson, Bobby Whitt (Indianapolis); Orville Bumgardner, Wendell Hensley, Wayne Graves, John Brown (Knoxville); Richard Williams, Ferrell Vincent, Anthony Morrison (Louisville); Tom Kauffung, Frank Baker, Paul Teeters, Willard Trautman (Middletown); James Pollitte, Lowell Shoemaker, Basil Hronchak, Ellsworth Werline, Jeff May (Morehead).

The final class in August will include all students and wives at a centralized site. Diplomas will be distributed, followed by a fine sit-down dinner and joyous fellowship-Bob Swimm.

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Profiles of the Ministry-Duane Nicol

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Illinois - On November 20, 1999, at the Armor of God/CGI Outreach Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky, Duane Nicol was ordained into the ministry of the Church of God International.

"Never been a deacon," he said, but "I've been with the CGI since it started. I was at the first feast in Ô78 with CGI in Jeckyll Island."

For many years Mr. Nicol has faithfully served the church, and he was working diligently in ministerial capacities long before his ordination. During some of this time, in the back of his mind, he struggled with the idea of serving the church ministerially without official recognition and credentials from the church. Since then, however, he has reformed his thinking.

"When I spoke at the feast many years ago," said Mr. Nicol, "there were people who asked me if I was a minister-and this was ten years before I was. There's been times when I thought that maybe it was unfair, but [now] I'm a strong advocate that the waiting and maturing process has to take time. Only time can take care of that. I have seen that the waiting has prepared me to better do the job that I'm now doing."

Maturity and tough lessons are no strangers to Mr. Nicol. Even within the past ten years of his life, he has faced layoffs and unemployment-sure stress-builders at age 63.

"Matthew 6 becomes significant when you're laid off," Mr. Nicol confided. He prayed and trusted that God would take care of him since He even takes care of the animals.

Still, getting fired or laid off "really takes the wind out of your sails. When it happens to you it's very personal and very real. I feel that the training and severe Ôbeating' has helped me become the person that I am today, and I hope I'm better for it. I have more trust in God than I've had my entire life simply because of what's happened to me."

His attitude during these times is reflected in his very first article published in the November, 1990, issue of The International News entitled "Testing":

"No one wants to suffer, be hurt, or rejected. God allows it, so He will know whether or not

we will obey Him. God wants all of us in His Kingdom. He wants us to be happy, and He knows how to bring about that happiness. We, too, would like to have our Ôcup' removed. We would like to be freed from our pain. God, however, has to make judgment calls on our behalf. He alone decides what we can take and how much we can take and how much we can bear....

"God loves us; He will help us; Jesus Christ is interceding on our behalf; and we have the help and support of our brethren in Jesus Christ. How can we possibly fail our test with so much support?"

Looking back, it is obvious that Duane Nicol has been blessed as well as tested. He has worked for more than 30 years in the die cast industry. He has held responsible positions with the HPM Corporation, his own Nick's Die Cast Services, HBA Cast Products, Kennedy Die Casting Company, Holden Plastics, Impact Industries, Doehler-Jarvis, Dynacast, and Dupage Die Casting.

In 1963 Mr. Nicol was his class's distinguished graduate of officer candidate school, and was awarded the Erickson Trophy. He owns a silver engraved replica of the original trophy. The original is retained in Washington, DC, where his name, and the names of other recipients, is permanently recorded on parchment. Mr. Nicol was a member of the Ohio National Guard.

He also graduated from Norwich University of Brattleboro, Vermont, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996, and he has ten credits toward his Master of Arts.

"All my life I've been on a continuing education track," said Mr. Nicol. "I gotta find out what I want to be when I grow up."

Right now he is doing just fine with his own new consulting business. Nick's Consulting sells computer software for Novacast, a flow simulation software package that depicts the flow of molten metal in a die cast mold. "I sell the software package and do simulations on a contract basis," explained Mr. Nicol. "Also sell two other software programs that are a companion to the industry: one is to repair STL files called Magics RP, and the other is Ironclad, a CAD software program."

Owning your own business requires a lot of time and attention. "I don't know that it's for everybody. You have to discipline yourself and be motivated."

This kind of discipline and motivation is essential for a minister in the Church of God International. He currently ministers to the Rockford and Lincolnwood, Illinois, congregations.

So how did Duane Nicol get interested in the church at first?

"Basically I wasn't interested at first," he answered.

However, an enthusiastic engineer at work was telling him about the Plain Truth magazine and the World Tomorrow radio broadcast. "I was evading him. He was persistent. But I finally sent away for the Plain Truth and I got the Good News magazine also."

Things began to make sense to him, so he finally asked for a visit from the church, where over the years he has learned many of life's vital lessons. One lesson in particular stood out to Mr. Nicol: "I never will forget, ÔYou have to quit sinning.""

The man who led Duane Nicol to the church never followed up with him after that. "This guy fell away from it," Mr. Nicol said. "To me, God used this particular man to get me to write in for the Plain Truth and the Good News magazine."

No one else in his family is involved in the Church of God. Mr. Nicol was the oldest of six children, having two sisters and three brothers. They were raised Lutheran, and his 89-year-old father still attends the same church.

Mr. Nicol was baptized in late 1969 or early 1970 with the Worldwide Church of God in Columbus, Ohio, where he attended two years of Spokesman's Club and participated in a leadership training class for one and a half years led by Mr. Bob Dick. Mr. Nicol was the Spokesman's Club president one year.

He parted ways with the Worldwide Church of God due to perceived hypocrisy on the part of the leadership and membership alike. This was also during the confusing time when the Church of God International was formed in 1978.

Mr. Nicol didn't always have a local congregation to attend in the CGI, but in the mid- to late '80s he met with a congregation in Ohio led by Bill Watson.

He must have found grace in the eyes of the Lord, for he was later blessed with a lovely wife, Mrs. Marcia Kay Nicol. "We met each other in a bakery in Delaware, Ohio," he recalled.

Marcia noticed that Duane went to the feast every year, so she went one year. "I never coerced her," Mr. Nicol insisted. "It was really curiosity." Her curiosity was satisfied and she became interested herself.

They married on December 24, 1991, and Marcia was baptized in 1992 at the Feast of Tabernacles in England. He must have been well pleased to see her go under the waters of baptism.

She must have been equally pleased this past November 20 in Louisville to see Duane's ordination. They are starting out on a new life of ministry and service to the people of God.

Pray that God will bless their efforts, and that, as good Christian examples, these two Nicols will shine-Darren M. Cary.

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Tyler Church Enjoys Traditions

TYLER, Texas-The onlooking patrons of the cafeteria-style restaurant were undoubtedly curious to see 44 matzo-munching religious folk invading the establishment.

Nevertheless, in keeping with the church's long-held tradition, the Tyler congregation celebrated the Night to Be Much Observed. This year the occasion fell on April 19, beginning at 7 p.m., and was held at Tyler's newest restaurant, Traditions.

The church reserved a cozy section of the restaurant so the brethren could eat together. The local church also picked up the tab. "We thought we would make it a special night," said Mrs. Angie Geddes, "giving back to the brethren some of what they have been giving." Mrs. Geddes is the wife of Roy Geddes, the treasurer of the local congregation.

To boost the local account for such an occasion, the church participated in a fund raiser sponsored by Brookshire's grocery stores. Brookshire's agreed to donate one penny for each dollar spent at their stores. To collect, any Tyler-area nonprofit organization could bring in its receipts. Many churches in the area participated.

"We got almost \$140 off of that, and a lot of little donations," Mrs. Geddes said. After the deliciously filling, unleavened meal, Mr. Charles Groce livened up the night as he took on the role of emcee.

"We are here this evening to celebrate our relationship with God through Jesus Christ," he reminded the group. He read the account of the first Passover from Exodus 12, and applied the spiritual principles to the Christian experience. "We have been delivered because of the sacrifice of the Savior, and we're free from sin."

Afterward an award was given to the Sabbath school student who memorized the most scriptures during the past year. During the introduction of the award, 11-year-old Aaron Salter had no idea he would be the recipient.

The redness in his face indicated his surprise and bashfulness as Mr. Groce called him up to receive his framed certificate of achievement and his gift, which was a set of flash cards with Bible questions.

Mr. Groce warmed up his audience with surveys and questions. It was discovered that Jackie Carnes had been baptized the longest of anyone in the room. She was baptized in March of 1955.

Carrie Green was the group's most recently baptized member, who was baptized on March 17, 2000. According to Ms. Green, when she told her husband that she wanted to be baptized, he told her, "That's wonderful! I could use me a good ol' Christian woman."

The Sabbath school students delighted the well-fed assembly as they recited John 3:16 in unison and sang "Kum Ba Ya," complete with synchronized hand gestures. Myra James and Christine

Hedrick directed the children's singing.

The children were: Destin and Myra James, Maddie and Rita Mansfield, Aaron Salter, and Amanda and Isaiah White. Each of the students received a gift bag which included a Bible story book, crayons, and a Disney character figurine.

Mr. Groce continued involving the audience, even having them give short impromptu speeches. Carrie Green, Andretta White, Velma Cook, Dwight Cavin, and Anita Philips were asked to speak to everyone about themselves and how they "came into the truth."

Mr. Groce announced that the church will soon welcome a new addition to the family, "and Carla is the carrier!" Clifford and Carla Fowler are expecting a baby this August.

Visitors from the Houston area-the Cavins and the Fullbrights-were also recognized and welcomed.

The children finished the meeting by singing "Jesus Loves Me" and an encore performance of "Kum Ba Ya."

"It was memorable for the kids in that they did something that was actively participatory, and they got little gifts and things," said Mrs. Myra James.

Overall, Mrs. James said, "it was a fun evening and it was complete with all the joy that the Israelites must have felt starting on a new road to a new life"-Darren M. Cary.

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