

# Church of the Open Bible



(Church of God General Conference, McDonough GA)

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## ***Baptism Today! Baptism Explained***

Faith is based on a relationship with Jesus Christ, which reconnects us with God. Yet Jesus also taught two specific acts, or rituals, for believers to use to celebrate what God has done for us... baptism & communion.

After you make a commitment to trust Jesus, you enter into a life-long relationship with God as a Christian. A Christian, or literally 'Christ's one', then attempts to learn more about God and about what Jesus taught concerning our lives & God's future plan for mankind.

### **Why should I be baptized?**

1. To follow the example set by Christ. *"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river."* Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ commanded it.

*"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" Matt. 28:19-20*

3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer.

*"... many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized"*  
Acts 18:8 *"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands."* 1 John 2:3

### **What is the meaning of baptism?**

1. It illustrates Jesus' burial and resurrection.

*"Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... and He rose again."*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 *"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ."*  
Colossians 2:12

2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian

*"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead ... so also we may live a new life." Romans 6:4*

Baptism doesn't make you a believer; it demonstrates that you already believe. It's important to understand that baptism does not "save" you. You are "saved" only by your faith in Jesus. Yet it is part of salvation.

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith ... it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9*

Baptism is like a wedding ring -- it's the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

### **Why be baptized by immersion?**

1. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

*"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Mathew. 3:16*

2. Every baptism in the bible was by immersion.

*(Example) "... then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38-39*

3. The word 'baptize' actually means, 'to dip under water.'

4. Immersion best symbolized a burial & resurrection!

*"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17*

### **Who should be baptized?**

Answer: Every person who has believed in Christ.

*"Those who believe and accepted His message were baptized..." Acts 2:41 "Simon himself believed and was baptized..." Acts 8:13 "But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News ... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12*



Belief always comes **BEFORE** baptism. You believe first, baptized second. It's no use baptizing someone who doesn't believe. But on the other hand, belief isn't really believing if you refuse to get baptized.

### **When should I be baptized?**

Answer: As soon as you have believed

*"Those who believe ... were baptized ... that day!" Acts 2:41 "Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man*

*answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38*

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect" you'll never be ready.

- Pastor Seth Ross

**JUSTIN KOSTYO** will be baptized today following the service. Justin



is a typical 16-year old who attends high school (sophomore this fall) at Twinsburg high school where he plays soccer and plays in the percussion section of the band. He's also in Boy Scouts and working toward being an Eagle Scout. We rejoice with the angels that he has given his life to his Lord, Jesus. So few young people today are thinking about eternal matters – we're so grateful that Justin is an exception. May God richly bless his life and may each of our church members make it a point to counsel and guide him in God's path at every opportunity.

### *In Memory Of Doris Whaley*

(6-24-1929 to 6-9-2005 / 76)

Donna (Whaley) Doublin's family brought a plant to church last Sunday in memory of Doris who died four years ago June 9<sup>th</sup>. It was also good to see Donna, Mark (her husband) and Michael.

**THE JONES** are gone today to attend a military reunion in WI.

### *In Memory of Ruby Korode*

(12-22-1914 to 6-13-2008 / 93)

The flowers today provided by Frank Roper are in memory of his mother.

**SABINA JOLIE** was born to Josh & Julie Onderdonk June 4<sup>th</sup> weighing 7 lb 4 oz / 20". All are doing well. Congratulations!

**ANNABELLE MAY, LILY HAGERTY & JACOB CAIN** will be leaving for our Ohio State Youth Camp next Sunday!

**GLORIA FAEHRICH** has a broken hip & under hospice care. Remember Gene & Gloria in your prayers.

**VOLLEYBALL OUTING AND FELLOWSHIP TODAY!  
Meet At The Bedford Reservation – about 1 ½ miles**

## KEEP THEM IN PRAYER

Joe & Rebekah Martin's African Mission

### Itinerary for This Week in Africa / Traveling May 28<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>

#### They have asked us to pray for:

- God's guidance in every aspect of ministry
- Security and safety on their trip
- God's spirit to guide them
- Their health and physical needs
- Good communication/understanding of cultures between us and the Africans
- Wisdom in the ministry
- Clean water and food

#### June 14-21

- 14 Teach Neva's area in a.m.! travel to Malawi p.m.
- 15 OFF/ Meet w/Malawi board
- 16 Teach Moyo's area
- 17 Teach in a.m. Moyo's area travel to lake in p.m.
- 18 OFF/ spend time @ lake
- 19 OFF/ game preserve
- 20 Teach Frazer's area
- 21 Teach Frazer's area



## ARE YOU LISTENING TO OUR CHURCH OF GOD RADIO - COGCAST.ORG?

**PRAY FOR:** Gene & Gloria Faehrich, Rick Phillis (cataracts), Quick INS inspection approval of ABC campuses, W.C. Blankenship (heart), Susan May, Jacob Hinton, Kris Fiocca (by SBurnham), Lucinda (by ASzekely), Jean Szantes (cancer, by Arlene), Josh Eberly (by SMay), David Krogh, Pastors Earl Poland, Ed Goit, Alva Huffer, Don Ward & Leon Driskill; Ken Cramer, Tammy (Koston) Lisiecki, Leslie & Stanley Hervert (by Grace), Ruth Schuld, Susan (Stine) Bradley, Edith Speer, Jack Hearp, Kathy Reed+3 children, Craig Blankenship, **College students:** Laura Schuld, Andrew Weaver, **Shut-ins:** Carol Reed, Evelyn Pennington, Amy Dunbar Puehler **Military:** Rodger Schuld, **Missionaries in other countries:** Gaston Ucanay-Peru, Mauro Apolos Gonzalez-Uruguay, Lupe Badillo-Mexico, Tracy Zhykhovich-Russia, Pastors in Malawi & Mozambique, Lesly Bertrand and the Pastors in Haiti. / **Churches:** Knightstown Family Fellowship IN, Korean Extension Steve & Sam An, RRCC, ABC, Golden Rule, Grace Brethren and for the peace of Jerusalem, Ps. 122:6; Isa. 62:6, 7

## **JUNE 2009**

14 **Baptism of Justin Kostyo**

14 Volleyball Outing, Pizza lunch / Bedford Reservation

21-25 /SUMMIT / Ohio State Camp / St Paris, OH

## **JULY 2009**

8-10 General Conference in Oregon IL

19-24 National Youth Camp Manchester College in Indiana

## **SEPT. 13, 2009 / 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45A.M.**  
**WORSHIP 10:45A.M.**

Musician: Frank Roper & Sharon Cain

Welcome / Announcements / Prayer

Worship Hymns: Mark Cain

261 Cleanse Me

287 Near The Cross

Prayer / Offering

Message: "Working On The Walk"

Key Verses: Jer 8:12; Matt 3:6; 3:13, 16; Mk 16:16; Lk 7:29,30;

Jnn 3:23; Acts 2:38; 2:41; Rom 6:1-14

Baptism of Justin Kostyo

(Various hymns during baptism / Mark & Sharon lead)

Extend the "Right Hand of Fellowship" to Justin after service

