



# C H U R C H   O F   G O D F E L L O W S H I P

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### God's Festivals For 2009

- Passover - April 8  
The Passover service to be held just after sunset Tuesday April 7th.
- Days of Unleavened Bread - April 9-15
- Pentecost - May 31
- Feast of Trumpets - September 19
- Day of Atonement - September 28
- Feast of Tabernacles - October 3-9
- Last Great Day - Oct. 10

### GREETINGS BRETHREN

As we are all no doubt aware, the unfolding events in the world are continuing to accelerate toward fulfilling the conditions that God prophesied would appear at the end of the age. A one world currency is being openly discussed; this is preparatory to the introduction of the mark of the Beast. Due to fear, the citizens of the democratic governments of the world are surrendering more and more of their freedoms, thinking that by so doing, those governments will guarantee them protection from the increasing threat of terrorism. Such actions are setting the stage for the rise of a dictator who will promise even greater benefits to those who surrender totally to him; total surrender is exactly what will be expected of those who will be required to worship the Antichrist.

In addition to events in the world, Satan continues his subtle tactics of disrupting the focus of God's people. The devil is lurking, looking for any and every avenue to get to us and take our focus off of the spiritual direction which God's chosen must travel. We must be alert to the devices of the evil one and not allow ourselves to fall prey to him. He is doing his best to create emotional upset; when people become emotional, they cease to think logically and can be more easily swayed and side-tracked by him. Remember: Jesus warned us that many would be offended, betray one another and hate one another. Let's not find ourselves included as a statistic in any of those categories.

As we approach the spring festivals this year—the Passover that commemorates the death of our Savior and the days of Unleavened Bread that remind us of the state of grace God has extended to us—let's redouble our efforts to resist the devil and to draw closer to God. I hope we can all be rejuvenated spiritually during these festivals in preparation for greater challenges that we will be required to encounter as this age continues to quickly draw to a conclusion.

Your brother in Christ,

*Harold Smith*

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**ELDERS' CONFERENCE SUMMARY**

The elders of CGF met in Spokane, WA on March 1-2 to cover the agenda items that they submitted for discussion. The three main areas were: (1) The Primary Focus of CGF, (2) The Operational Procedures of CGF and (3) Ministerial Unity.

(1) All agreed that the primary focus of CGF should continue to be helping the Bride of Christ prepare herself for the marriage to Jesus Christ. To do so, the elders have the core responsibility to preach the Word! As long as they preach the Word, the true sheep of Christ will be drawn to the spiritual truths they teach; the fact is, the only way the true sheep of Christ can be reached is on a spiritual level because that is the only place where Christ's voice can be heard. All were reminded that the primary duties of shepherds are to provide pasture that will supply the nutrition needed by the flock for sustaining good spiritual health and to protect the flock from those who desire to lead members of the flock astray; the secondary role is to assist the sheep who are weaker or sickly to get spiritually stronger and healthy.

(2) The group went over Harold Smith's paper on the proper form of governance within the Church which was sent to them prior to the conference. All were favorable to the presentation. They were asked to submit any input they would like to give on the topic so that it could be considered prior to Mr. Smith presenting the topic to the members of CGF. More doctrinal material from Mr. Smith was promised to the Council of Elders for its evaluation and input.

The policy regarding attending with other Church groups or their Feast sites was reiterated: since each individual is required by God to work out his own salvation with fear and trembling, CGF does not stigmatize or punish anyone who chooses to attend with other groups where members of the body of Christ are present; they are only asked to honestly assess whether those groups will supply them the spiritual diet necessary to stay spiritually alert and healthy. The operation of affiliate congregations of CGF was discussed and the official guidelines for affiliate hosts were reviewed.

(3) The key to upholding unity and preventing misunderstandings among any group is communication. All consented to do their part in communicating with each other to prevent distortions of facts or events from occurring.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SYNOPSIS**

The Church of God Fellowship held its Board of Directors meeting in Spokane, WA on March 3. In the Chairman's report, Harold Smith gave a brief overview of the Elders' Conference and then went over projects currently in progress. Editing is underway on the next book in our Exploring the Bible series: the book of John. The same is being done on the transcripts of many of the Q&A sessions. The development and redesign of our website was discussed, including increasing the number of sermon summaries available for those who wish to have more written material. The final topic in the report was the location of future sites for keeping the Feast of Tabernacles.

**FESTIVAL ASSISTANCE**

**For those who will need assistance in order to attend the Church of God Fellowship Feast site in Tucson, AZ, please request an Assistance application as soon as possible.**

**Send your request to:**

**Church of God Fellowship Festival Assistance**

**P O Box 1279**

**Richland, WA 99352**

**Or**

**fothelp@cgfnw.org**

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SYNOPSIS (cont.)**

Next on the agenda was the Treasurer's report, which involved reviewing expenses and income. The report indicates that CGF is still in excellent financial shape with adequate income to cover expenses and enough reserves to cover any unforeseen events in the immediate future. The Operations report focused primarily on the Feast of Tabernacles. The 2009 Feast is scheduled at the Sheraton in Tucson, AZ and the 2010 Feast at the Convention Center in Seaside, OR. We have excellent working relationships with both facilities. Both areas have committed to excellent lodging rates. There was also discussion of the possible need for more satellite sites as the economy continues to deteriorate.

The report from Media Services showed that an increasing number of people are choosing to download sermons from the website rather than receive tapes or CDs by mail. The costs of tapes and postage have increased over the past year.

## Feast of Tabernacles 2009

### Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites

You are free to make your reservations starting **Wednesday April 8, 2009**. When making your reservations, please note that our locked-in room rate (**\$89.00 per night for a standard room, \$99.00 per night for a two room suite and \$125.00 per night for a specialty suite [The specialty suite is slightly larger with a larger bathroom]**) is for two (2) adults per room (an adult is anyone eighteen (18) years of age or older) and unlimited children. Each additional adult will be \$15.00 per night extra.

**Please read this entire section carefully before making your reservations.**

You may contact the hotel to make reservations by dialing 1-520-784-7507.  
(Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm PST).

In order to help us with planning, please send in your completed Registration form as soon as possible after making your reservation.

**Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the Church of God Fellowship.**

**Notice:**

The negotiated room rates are ONLY in effect for three (3) days before (depending on availability), during and three (3) days after (depending on availability) the Feast (October 3rd-10th). Any days that do not fall into this period will be charged at the normal room rate and are subject to availability.



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**Feast of Tabernacles 2009 (cont.)**

Room reservations will be held at our negotiated prices until September 2, 2009. After this date, our negotiated room rates will no longer be in effect and will revert back to the standard rate of \$309.00/suite per night and \$289.00/standard room per night. Therefore, we ask that you please make your reservations as soon as possible.

The room rate includes a full breakfast (no meat products will be served) no matter how many children you have. When you deduct the price of eating out for breakfast from the room rate, this is a considerable savings to you. We strongly encourage everyone attending the Feast with Church of God Fellowship in Tucson, Arizona to stay at the Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites. We have not negotiated a price with any other establishment in Tucson.

**Note:**

Internet access is available in the rooms for free as part of the contract that the Church of God Fellowship negotiated with the Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites. This Internet charge may initially appear on your bill, but will be deducted at check-out time.

If you have any problems, please contact Dale Sanford at:

601-722-9992

or

[dalesanford@cgfnw.org](mailto:dalesanford@cgfnw.org)

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**PHONE-IN SERVICES**  
**INFORMATION**

To access services, call 1-503-767-1200.

Then enter 9174 plus the # sign.

For Church service times, call 1-509-627-0770  
for a recorded message.

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**CHURCH OF GOD**  
**FELLOWSHIP**

P. O. BOX 1279

RICHLAND, WA 99352

Email: [hsmith@cgfnw.org](mailto:hsmith@cgfnw.org)

# Registration Form Festival 2009

YOU MAY MAKE YOUR HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS IN TUCSON, AZ BEGINNING ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 8th.

Please mail or e-mail this completed form by April 24th to:

Church of God Fellowship P.O. Box 1279, Richland, WA 99352

Lodging Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Street/Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Number Attending

Under 6: \_\_\_\_\_ 6-12: \_\_\_\_\_ 13-17: \_\_\_\_\_ 18 & Above: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am Experienced At:**  Sermonettes  Sermons  Split-Sermon  
 Song Leading

**Special Needs:**  Wheelchair  Hard of Hearing

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would like to serve at the Feast this year, please check the appropriate box(es)**

If more than one family member would like to serve, please list additional names and the area in which you would like to help on the bottom of this form

- First Aid Certified (EMT, RN, LPN)
- Information Table
- Choral (Experienced Director)
- Choral (Alto / Soprano / Tenor / Bass)
- Special Music (Singing / Instrumental)
- Piano accompaniment for hymns
- Ushering
- Children's Choir (Names & Ages below) \_\_\_\_\_

## Activities you plan to attend:

Opening Night Reception: # Attending \_\_\_\_\_  
Dinner Dance: # Attending \_\_\_\_\_  
LGD Luncheon: # Attending \_\_\_\_\_