

CHURCHES OF GOD,
GENERAL CONFERENCE

Historical Society

CGGC
ARCHIVES MUSEUM
NEWS MAGAZINE



Volume 35

Summer/Fall 2025

Number 2

CGGC BIBLE QUIZZING

Edited by Dave Green and Jacob Clagg

One of the most important methods of discipleship that the Churches of God, General Conference has embraced is Bible Quizzing. Nearly 50 years of teams from around the Conferences/Regions have studied various portions of the Bible to prepare for contests, matching their expertise with that of other churches. Quizzers have been young people of various ages, but as you will see in the following testimonials, quizzing has made a lasting impact on those who have been involved. Many leaders who serve God through the CGGC have emerged from Bible Quizzing, a “program” which involves serious Bible Study, memorization, competition, and discipline; where self-confidence, leadership and courage are learned; and where lasting relationships with many new friends are formed. While many of the articles in this edition of Historical Society relate to the quizzing history at College First Church of God in Findlay, OH,

several CGGC churches have a strong Bible quizzing history.

Dave Williams shares this list of former CGGC Quiz Directors: Steve Dunn, Lilly Reed, Fred Adams, Dave Williams, Lory Nordon, Ryan Hyndman, Ryan Ward and currently Rachel Neely. Approximately 70 CGGC churches, several with multiple teams, have participated in quizzing.

DAVE WILLIAMS

I was introduced to Bible quizzing at the 1975 Summer Seminar. I watched my cousins who were members of the College First team go up against the Germantown MD/VA (now ERC) team. I was hooked. That fall I convinced Donna Sturr, my pastor’s wife, to help start a quiz team at Harmony

Bethel (ERC). In 1976, three teams competed for the national championships.

As friends talked to camping friends, more and more teams sprung up across East Penn. I quizzed for five years until I aged out. Following that year's championship (1981), Steve Dunn, the Gen. Conference Youth Director and CGGC staff member, asked me to become the director of Bible Quizzing for the denomination. That fall I began attending Findlay College.

In the Spring of 1982, Pastor Ken Heffner, coach of the College First team, arranged to have the first ever Camp Sunrise Warmup.

It was the first time quiz teams from Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania quizzed at a time, other than nationals during Impact.

During the mid-1980's to late 1990's, quizzing grew until there were enough teams to separate Jr. High (7-9th grades) from Sr. High (7-12th grades). Only three Jr. High teams participated that year. Eventually there were as many as fifty different teams participating at nationals. During this time, West Penn church's (Allegheny Region) also joined in the quizzing fun. There was even a team from Tsailie, AZ with Pam Phelps as coach.

In the early days, quizzing during Impact week on the Findlay College Campus was held in the newly renovated Ritz Hall. As quizzing grew, other rooms on the second floor of Old Main were also used. Teams would bring box fans to set on the stage since the room was not air conditioned. When the Brewer Science Hall was expanded, quizzing moved to these air-conditioned rooms. As quizzing grew in the mid 80's, it was decided

to allow quizzing to begin Sunday evening before Impact began on Monday at noon. Teams would arrive early Sunday afternoon, quiz Sunday evening and again Monday morning and early afternoon. The final round would conclude Tuesday afternoon, permitting the teens to fully participate in the rest of Impact. Throughout the 1990's, about one third of all Impact youth participants were Bible Quizzers. The year that Impact moved to Columbus, OH, Bare Memorial, alone, brought 27 quizzers.

During the 1980's, the Eastern Region began having regular quizzes throughout the year. Pastors Phil Sturr and Jim Moss Sr. were the initial quiz masters. As Deb Bender became the director, quizzing flourished and quizzes were held at multiple sites on Sunday afternoons and twice a year there were tournaments when all the teams gathered in one place.

The consistent factors of Bible quizzing has been its missional focus of raising up leaders for Kingdom work. The competition is the hook to get teens to read the Bible and to hang out with adult leaders who open the Word to them, challenge them to pray and most importantly invest time in them. This ministry has been a constant form of discipleship for the teens of the General Conference. During my time as the Director of Church Health for the Eastern Region, I continually met up with former quizzers and coaches across the region. It was thrilling to see how many pastors, council leaders, and teachers there are today because of Bible Quizzing. I am still involved in quizzing as a quiz master and now I get to rule on the answers of current quizzers whose parents were "my quizzers" and those who competed against "my quizzers". The Word of God continues to be poured into the hearts and minds of our youth so future leaders

within God's Kingdom will be prepared to give an answer based upon God's Word, not man's thinking.

RACHEL NEELY-PLETCHER

When was the last time you saw teenagers competing for the privilege to pray in public, quoting the Word of God, explaining the Trinity, and cheering each other on? For me, it was at our CGGC Bible Quizzing Finals. It was an amazing Holy Spirit driven event that was the culmination of a year's worth of teens and coaches studying the book of Acts together. Teams came from Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania to compete, worship, pray, play, spur one another on, and laugh together at Camp Sunrise Mountain, at the end of July. It was crazy hot with no air conditioning and worth every minute.

In the Churches of God, we say, "the Bible is our only rule of faith and practice." To make that meaningful, we must know God's Word deep in our

hearts as we live as disciples of Christ. CGGC Bible Quizzing, from its humble beginnings 48 years ago (1976), has continued to prove itself effective at just that. According to the rulebook, "Bible quizzing exists to aid youth in securing the scriptures in their hearts and minds for quick and ready reference in times of decision and need." Beyond that, as if that weren't enough, it also helps youth gain experience in listening for God and following his lead, leadership skills, impulse control, public speaking skills, good sportsmanship, study skills, lifelong friendships, and so much more. Many of our quizzers have gone on to be pastors, missionaries, regional leaders, seminary presidents, worship leaders, and community leaders.

In recent years, we've had less churches participating. However, more than 70 CGGC churches have participated in quizzing over the years. From Eastern Pennsylvania to Tsale, Arizona, youth have enjoyed this ministry. Bible Quizzing is an excellent, workable youth ministry for churches with 2 youth or 200 youth. As more former quizzers become parents, quizzing is experiencing a revival in many of our churches.

CGGC Bible Quizzing invites teens from 6th grade up through age 19 to dive into God's Word (and some of our regions have little league divisions for even younger students.) We rotate through an 8-year cycle of the gospels, Paul's letters, Acts, James, Hebrews and 1 & 2 Peter.

From the Garden of Eden itself, getting caught up in false teaching has been an issue. Today's world is no better. Now, teaching of all sorts is available at the click of a button. Recently, there has been a lot of talk and fear over new AI's, ChatGPT, and other groups being accused of secret agendas to



Rachel Neely-Pletcher, Center, judging at 2024 Bible Quizzing Finals

indoctrinate our children. There has always been, and always will be, a fight over our children's minds. Bible Quizzing isn't fancy or complicated, but it hinges on what is most important: hiding the Living and Active Word of God deep in our hearts. Bible Quizzing over every word in these books, challenges our youth to not only learn the Word, but to wrestle with the difficult passages, see how each book is connected to the greater story, and have the resources to develop and own their faith.

Is it possible to accomplish all that on your own without Bible Quizzing? Of course! But you don't have to! Bible Quizzing makes it fun, adds some accountability, and accomplishes so much more along the way! Thank you to all of you who have participated at any point along the way!

LORY ZIMMERMAN NORDEN

The year was 1984. Two sisters sat in the congregation on a Sunday morning at First Church of God, in Columbia City, Indiana, as a Bible Quiz team from another state did a demo Bible quiz. Those two sisters, seeing a Bible Quiz for the first time, got excited and wanted to start a team, but there was no one willing to coach. They, and their parents, searched for coaches and begged various adults, until Karl Reitz and Randy Samuels agreed to coach. And so, First Church of God's Bible Quiz team, the first in Indiana, was born. For the first couple of years, it was only three teenagers. When Karl and Randy were no longer able to coach, Stan and Cindy Owen stepped up to the plate (with lots of encouragement.)

As one of those first two sisters, my life was radically changed through Bible Quizzing. Many hard

moments in my life have been met with Scripture racing through my mind at just the right moment, Scripture that I learned through quizzing. I developed a love for scripture and the complexities of deeply studying it. I learned confidence and came out of that shy shell. I developed leadership as I learned to pray out loud and was surrounded by the example of great Christian Leaders (I'm looking at you Dave and Donna, Stan and Cindy, BJ, and so many great coaches from around the country.) When I graduated, I went into Christian Ministry as a youth pastor and attribute that decision/calling, and now decades on pastoral staff, to my days in Bible Quizzing.

It wasn't just me that was impacted by the sacrifice of those original coaches. Due to the passion for God's word (and enjoying a whole lot of fun), the beginning of quizzing in that single church made an impact on lives and was then directly responsible for teams starting in at least 5 other churches! And, Columbia City has now been quizzing strong for four decades! When you look at the kingdom impact of a pair of coaches, willing to spend time with 3 middle school girls (we hooked a friend), the impact is immeasurable. I'm not sure how many individuals have branched from the roots of that first team, but when I estimated it, it shows just over a combined 900 years of study, adding those 6 churches all together! That's IMPACT!

Bible Quizzing has also been responsible for life-time friendships developing, often from other states. At least three marriages, birthed through God's providence, by means of Bible Quizzing, have occurred in Indiana alone, with two of the spouses coming from Pennsylvania! If you want your kids to find a Godly spouse, get them in Bible Quizzing. Two Bible Quizzers make great future

(5)

little Bible Quizzers! This fall, Indiana will have what I believe is Indiana's first third generation Bible Quizzer!

Speaking of kids, two studies, Barna Group and US Today "found that nearly 75 percent of Christian young people fall away from the faith and leave the church after high school." But that doesn't hold true for our Bible Quizzers! According to Assemblies of God, only 1 out of 10 teens that participated in Bible Quizzing at least 2 years left church during their 20's! And, not only that, but Bible Quizzers also go on to become church leaders and pastors. They are engaged long after they stop competing for trophies.

As a high school quizzer, instead of counting down to graduation, I began counting the number of years I could still compete in quizzing. I began mourning the loss of quizzing years before my senior year. As I sat on that quiz pad my senior year, waiting for my last quiz to begin, I couldn't help but sniffle a little (OK, maybe a lot), along with another fellow quizzer, Alisha. Dave Williams, the current quiz director, was gracious enough to approach us and tell us he has selected us to direct the Jr. High Quizzing the following year, under his mentorship. What was a moment of grief, quickly turned into pure joy, knowing I was going to be able to stay involved in quizzing.

As a quizzer, I'll never forget that first place trophy we won while competing at nationals. It was SO MUCH FUN! And it's supposed to be! The year would have been 1986. About 30 years later I was in First Church of God's attic, borrowing their bell choir bells for another church, when I ran into something very surprising. There was that magnificent trophy. It brought back a flood of memories.

I wasn't upset to see it stuffed in a corner of the attic. Instead, I was reminded that trophies rust (or at least eventually hit the junk pile), and only what is eternal lasts. I was struck by what a great illustration it was. About 6 months later I went looking for that trophy again, the perfect illustration for a sermon I was going to give the following week. Only, to my surprise, it wasn't there anymore. They had cleaned house, and it truly had hit the landfill! My powerful illustration now had no visual. Instead, it could only be imagined. What I know is that the trophies don't last. The competition is amazingly fun, and so are the trophies! But, the friendships, the life growth, the Christian maturity, the passion for God's word, the leadership skills, the marriages, and the kids that come through those Godly marriages, those last forever. So, go ahead. Grab a friend and beg an adult to coach you. You never know where quizzing will take you. But I guarantee it will be good.

Associate Pastor, Former Bible Quizzer, & Current Coach (Sugar Grove Church of God, IN)

NANCY BAUBLITZ, COACH

Quizzing for the College First Church of God Team was an exciting & joyful time, although it was a time of hard work as well. Every time that the quizzers studied books in the Bible, the coaches had to study twice as hard to make sure we knew the scriptures even better! Joan (Malick) and I were the coaches for the team 1987-88. The team members were dedicated and hard working; studying their Bibles regularly. We were so proud of them because we knew they had other demands on them. Some had jobs as well as their school studies.

We had practice every week & occasionally went to other churches to practice with their teams. That was always a Fun Time- “Iron sharpening Iron”. It was so satisfying to know that not only were they reading & studying the Bible for the Quiz Off, but they were actually learning to apply the scriptures to their lives. That was so rewarding!!

It was an honor to be trusted to share the scriptures & learn with the team and to represent College First Church Findlay Ohio. The quizzers made many friends from other churches and learned to be like Barnabas and encourage other teams. Dave & Donna Williams were Great Quiz Masters, showing no partiality, but always encouraging all of the quizzers. *Our team consisted of Joel Baublitz, Jeff Richardson, Evan Shelton, Jason Malick and Lila Yost.*

TIM BISTLINE

I was invited to be part of the Bible Quiz team at College First COG in 1978. Pastor Ken Heffner was the adult in charge of the team and he encouraged me to participate in learning about the Bible in a friendly competitive way. We studied 1 Corinthians. I am forever grateful to him and the other adults who took the time to teach me the Bible; people who loved teenagers and saw the value in instructing us to study and memorize God’s Word.

In 1979, we moved from Findlay, Ohio to Landisville, Pa. It was a culture shift and shock for an 8th grader to give up his way of life and all his friends and move 500 miles away to a new school and a small town, but that was becoming my reality.

(6)

Starting a Bible Quiz team in my new home was instrumental for my survival; it was something I could reclaim from “home” while building relationships with my new friends. I am thankful to Beulah Dougherty, Donna Crosby and Judy McFarland for helping me start a Bible Quiz team shortly after arriving at Landisville. We have some amazing memories of those days, traveling around the East Penn Conference quizzing other churches, making new friends and hiding God’s Word in our hearts through study, Bible memorization and friendly competition.

I was privileged along with my new quiz team friends to win the COG national quiz competition in Findlay, Ohio during the summer workshop sessions of 1984. We met in the upstairs auditorium of the Old Main building on the campus of Findlay College and competed and sweated to victory. I hope we made some friends along the way.

The Lord has blessed me beyond words for “hiding His word in my heart” (Psalm 119:11) all these years and learning from adults who cared enough to spend lots of time with me, helping me study God’s Word. Many, many years ago, the Lord called me to be a youth pastor to invest in the lives of teenagers and help them study the Bible. I am now a pastor and continue to faithfully preach the Word of God, believing that the Holy Spirit will make God’s Word come alive in the hearts of people so they can apply it to their lives, not only for instruction and guidance, but also that they might find abundant life through Jesus Christ and the power of the gospel story. Bible Quizzing has made a powerful impact on my life as a husband, father, grandfather and pastor.

JOEL BAUBLITZ



Bible quizzing was my first exposure to Bible study. I had never spent a year studying a single book of the Bible before. Over 35 years later and I can still quote 1 Corinthians 13 word for word because in quizzing it had to be perfect. The friendships forged during those years of studying and practicing have been some of the best of my life. We spent hours upstairs in the youth house learning and singing songs in the car traveling to quiz meets, all to compete at Summer Workshop against the other churches. Dave Williams will always be the “quiz master” to me because of the time and effort he put into leading the program during my high school years.

Joel was a member of the College First 1987 team with Coaches Nancy Baublitz and Joan Malick and Evan Shelton, Joel Baublitz, Jason Malick, Janel Richardson, Karen Fenimore and Lila Yost composing the team.

DEB PRICHARD ELDERBROCK

Bible Quizzing in Junior and Senior High School remains one of the most cherished chapters of my life. It was more than just competition; it was a

transformative experience that shaped my personal and spiritual journey. The camaraderie among my peers, the guidance of our leader, Ken Heffner, and the numerous trips to various places filled those years with unforgettable memories.

Our teams spent countless hours practicing, competing, and bonding in the fellowship hall at College First Church of God. It was there that a group of young kids quickly transitioned from teammates to the closest of friends. Our friendships extended beyond the quizzing sessions and we supported each other through the ups and downs of adolescence.

Ken Heffner, our Bible Quiz leader, had a tremendous impact on my personal and spiritual life. His dedication, wisdom, and passion for the Scriptures inspired us to delve deeper into our faith. Ken’s mentorship went beyond the quizzing material; he taught us valuable life lessons and made sure we carved out time for spiritual reflection and personal growth. Quiz practices, more than the competitions, provided me with a deeper understanding of Scripture and Ken made sure that our practices focused on Bible study, not just memorization and speed of getting up off the chair. Ken’s influence remains a guiding force in my life to this day.

The numerous trips we embarked upon were among the highlights of my Bible Quizzing experience. We traveled to churches throughout Ohio, as well as traveling for competitions at Camp Sunrise Mountain in Pennsylvania. Each competition provided us with opportunities to hone our skills, learn from other quizzers, celebrate our victories, learn from our defeats, and grow stronger as a team and support system. The pinnacle of our Bible Quizzing journey was competing at Summer Workshop on



**First Church, Columbia City,
Bible Quizzers**

the campus of Findlay College (yes, I'm dating myself). The competitions were intense as the teams from each church were well prepared and ready to engage in friendly competition. We were fortunate to have some strong team members in Tony Phillip, Scott Zimmer, and Carolyn Kern, but those teams from Pennsylvania always came ready to battle.

Reflecting on my memories of Bible Quizzing during Junior and Senior High School, I am filled with gratitude for the experiences, friendships, and spiritual growth that the journey provided. The guidance of Ken Heffner, and the friendships that were formed through quizzing have helped shape me into the person I am today. Bible Quizzing was

truly the best of times, and its impact will remain with me forever.

TONY PHILIPP

My journey with the Bible quiz team began in the 1978-1979 season when I was in 7th grade. I remember Tim Bistline and Scott Zimmer being on the team with me that first year. Our coach, Ken Heffner, was a vibrant and enthusiastic leader. His three children were also involved, though I can't recall if they were official team members or just helped out coaching.

Our first year, we focused on the book of John. This was my first deep dive into the Bible, and it taught me how to study scripture in great detail. We concentrated on one chapter per week, and Ken's animated excitement made the experience unforgettable. He helped us understand the verses and their context within the broader Bible. We used the NIV version but also learned about different translations. I personally used a study Bible that displayed four translations side by side.

Apart from studying, we also had to master the quizzing equipment. Each person sat on a leg pad connected to a box with a light. We had to apply just enough weight to keep the light off until we were ready to answer. Warmup sessions were fun with Ken throwing us off with similar-sounding words to make us jump incorrectly.

Our team didn't win any contests that first year, but I enjoyed it enough to continue throughout my school years. The following years saw more team members joining and we even took a trip to Eastern Pennsylvania to compete. Driving past Three-Mile Island, just a year or two after the nuclear accident

was a memorable part of that trip. I bought a t-shirt that said, “I visited Three-Mile Island – Kiss Me – First I radiate then I melt down.”

Although our team that traveled to Pennsylvania was better than my first-year team, we still weren’t on par with the more experienced teams. However, in my third year, we achieved our greatest success, winning first place in the National contest during the General Conference workshop. In later years, we had enough members to form multiple teams. Some of the other people I recall being part of the team at various times include Carolyn Kern, Deb Pritchard, Jeff Richardson, and Amy Dosh.

Some of my fondest memories are of practices on Ken’s porch in the summer and a trip to camp Otyokwah, where we had the whole camp to ourselves for a weekend. Ken Heffner’s enthusiasm and encouragement were the highlights of my time on the team. He was a spiritual leader who laid a foundation of faith in us that continues to grow.

AMY DOSH BENSON

I don’t have many distinct memories of Bible quiz, and in thinking about it I realized maybe that is because it was 40 years ago...holy cow! The one memory that surfaces is actually of Carolyn Kern. When I first joined the group, it was because of encouragement from my friends, particularly Carolyn, Debbie Prichard, Scott Zimmer, Tony Phillip and others. I remember my first quiz I studied so hard and wanted to be an asset to the team. Although I knew most of the answers, I wasn’t fast enough to respond. I simply couldn’t get up off the sensor quickly to have an opportunity to answer. (Those older boys were quick!) I remember being so frustrated and deflated. I walked outside College

Church to fume in silence and it was Carolyn who recognized my response and followed me out the door. I don’t even remember the conversation, but she listened, encouraged and supported me. Ultimately, that was the entire takeaway for me.

The youth that participated bonded together and were fiercely loyal to one another. We truly carried each other through those gawky, awkward teen years. Because of that camaraderie, I didn’t experience long bouts of extreme self-doubt, isolation and depression that seems to plague many youth today. I had my team, a constant in my life, who lifted me up and offered dedicated companionship and acceptance. Win or lose, it truly didn’t matter.

EVAN SHELTON

For those of us involved in Bible Quizzing, there was a huge time-commitment when we were all involved in activities at school, part-time jobs, etc. But, I think that if you ask anyone who was involved in Bible Quizzing, especially those of us who were a part of it in the 80s and early 90s, the memories have to revolve around Workshop. That week in August, when youth from all across the denomination descended on Findlay’s campus, was the high point for many of us. Before the internet and cellphones, this was THE chance to see friends from other conferences. There was “Quizzing,” there were classes, there was “Prayer Thing,” a huge pizza delivery (back when you could get a \$5 pizza!) and there was usually a concert. And, of course, “Afterglow” - a truly amazing worship experience where we shared in both Communion and the Washing of Feet.

Being part of a quiz team meant you arrived a day before everyone else. We would find our rooms in

the dorms on Sunday and start the quizzing competition on Monday morning while everyone else was arriving. And this was, of course, back before most of the campus had A/C, so the auditorium in Old Main was a sweat box! But we loved it. The creaky wooden floors, the door to the fire escape always open for a breeze and the old seats that were loud and uncomfortable. It was all great (nostalgia is a gift of old age).

There are, of course, the coaches and teammates I spent time with. There are memories of practices in the basement of College First and even an ill-fated trip to West Penn for a weekend of Bible Quizzing at their church camp and the disastrous effects one teammate experienced after too much dessert and riding in the back of a station wagon. What I remember most is making lots of friends over the years. And each year, in Findlay, we would renew those friendships. And I think that is what the kids today will remember the most, the relationships with their teammates, coaches, and opponents. At least that is my hope.

LILA YOST

I am naturally competitive, so it was the perfect fit for someone who was involved in youth group at church and wasn't playing any sports at the time. It certainly wasn't easy. Memorization was difficult for me, but I did ok enough to be able to answer questions now and then. It probably helped me later in life when I had to study to memorize and learn procedures and facts for college and certification exams.

Mostly, I enjoyed being part of a team. We had a pretty tight group. We weren't that good, but we always had fun. I remember traveling to a western PA



**Trier Ridge Community Church,
Bible Quizzers**

competition with Evan, Jason, another gal (maybe Karen Fenimore), my Aunt Joan (Malick) and the other coach (Nancy Baublitz.) I don't remember anything about the quiz but I know we had a blast on the drive to and from. Also, at Workshop one year, I did well enough to make it to the "all-star" round on the big stage. That was nerve wracking, being in front of everyone, especially sitting next to the cute boy from PA.

CAROLYN SCHLICHER

I heard the Moderator say, "Finish this verse and give the reference," and my right thigh stiffened on the foam pad between my leg and the seat of the chair. If I were able to release the pressure from my leg a split second before the other 8 Bible quizzers in the row beside me, my light would go on, and I could walk to the microphone and try to recite the verse, word-for-word. If I succeeded, I would finally get my first competition question correct after 4 months of trying.

The moderator continued, “They replied... .” My leg jerked, and my number was called. I had won the jump and went to the microphone.

It was early 1981, and the previous Fall I had been asked to join the College First Church of God Bible Quiz team in Findlay, Ohio. They could not have a Quiz team without three people and, since I had a crush on the boy who asked me, I agreed.



CGGC Bible Quizzing Logo

I had no idea what I was doing and I certainly did not understand the blue and yellow workbooks I was handed, covering the Book of Acts. I laughed when I first saw the padded lights on the chairs, thinking it was a joke that this was how it was done. However, my teammates were all business and, when we sat down at the table in the Fellowship Hall, Coach Ken Heffner began to talk about the history of the Acts of the Apostles and how it related to Jesus. Mr. Heffner told us the summary of the book of Acts was chapter 1, verse 8: ...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. He asked us to memorize it and quote it at practice throughout the Quizzing year.

At church camp the previous year, I had accepted

Jesus as who He said He is after feeling a strange tug in my chest and stomach after a teaching about what it meant when Jesus hung on the cross. This event happened amid a strained home life full of arguments, bickering siblings, my father moving out, and being told my parents were divorcing. I was desperately trying to make sense of life with even more chaotic things spiraling around me.

Through Acts, I learned about what had happened after Jesus rose from the dead. I learned about men and women who had been in a relationship with Jesus when He was in His earthly body and then about other men and women who listened to these disciples and believed they could follow Jesus, too. I learned that Jesus did not leave these people alone when He went back to Heaven but sent a Helper from the Father to teach and remind them of His words. I heard about the humanness of Jesus' followers and how they argued passionately, and I learned how they solved their differences. I learned about a man being stoned to death for telling others about Jesus, proclaiming the reality of Heaven until his last moment, and I learned about a man who preached to a welcoming Ethiopian who was baptized immediately. I learned about a very religious, serial murderer being miraculously saved, who then walked all over his world for the rest of his life, preaching and writing with different partners to tell others about this wonderful Jesus. And the miracles! So many unexplainable, fantastic things happening in real life instead of just pretended in a myth or by a magician.

This book I was studying was not an ancient manuscript that was a good idea to read, it was alive and showed me that my messes and misdeeds were just like the messes and misdeeds in the Book of Acts. I was reading the whole Bible differently now, not out of obligation but because I knew I would learn



Bible Quizzers celebrate at Quiz Finals 2024

something new about Jesus. The Helper whom Jesus sent to the disciples back then (and had been the One tugging that July evening) provided the same help to me now. My devotions and prayers went from obligatory because I had been told I should, to sitting, reading, and talking with a parental friend who knew me better than I knew myself.

I did not realize the year I spent in the book of Acts would lay a foundation for me in my relationship with Jesus that I would cling to during darker years ahead, take me to underdeveloped nations to serve churches, or I would access with my children to show them how the Bible would help them in their messes and misdeeds and help my grandchildren in the same way. That year introduced me to a very real God who loved me very much and wanted to calm the swirling storms I had right then and in my future.

As I walked to the competition microphone, I thought about Paul and Silas. They had been bloodied and beaten and thrown in jail and stocks as revenge for delivering a girl from evil but, even at

midnight, they still sang hymns of praise to God. Then an earthquake came, and the jailer was desperately trying to make sense of life with the destruction and chaos around him. He asked Paul and Silas what he had to do to be saved.

“They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.’” Acts 16:31 The moderator looked at me and said the word that was true on so many more levels than just this competition moment: “Correct.”

Carolyn continued on the Quiz team for an additional 2 years, and the College First Bible Quiz team won the Churches of God Youth Advance (CGYA) National Championship in 1982. She and her husband, Darryl, live in Elizabethtown, PA, and enjoy their brood totaling 9 children/spouses and 5 grandchildren. Mrs. Schlicher wishes to posthumously honor the Reverend Kenneth W. Heffner for his years of devoted service, prayer, time, and efforts for Bible Quizzing.

DR. ANDREW DRAPER, ALUMNI AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WINEBRENNER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Bible quizzing prepared me to know what is in the scriptures. You have the opportunity to jump up and show what you learned. I was always amazed at the number of youth who had memorized large chunks of scripture. To be able to say we know what the Bible says is super helpful for our life, ministry, vocation, and ministry in the faith.

KATIE CRABTREE, CURRENT CGGC MISSIONARY TO THAILAND

Joining the Bible Quizzing program has really made a great impact in my life. It was through this program that I really studied the Bible and started to ask hard questions that led me to a deep, grounded faith. My Bible Quizzing coach was a positive Christian role model in my life and is still a mentor and friend. The friendships I made with other Bible Quizzers have been long-lasting but, most of all, my relationship with God has continued to grow as a result of my time as a Bible Quizzer. Building on this foundation, my family and I are now missionaries in Thailand, sharing the gospel among the unreached.

CARTER FINLEY, CURRENT QUIZZER

My dad would always take me to Bible quizzing finals when I was younger to watch teenagers quiz over the Word. I found it amazing how much they knew about the Bible and loved the fun environment that was created in every quiz match. It was something I wanted to be a part of someday. So, once I reached the 5th grade, I joined the Bible quizzing team at College First. In my first year of quizzing, we studied the Book of John and explored the account of Jesus's life thoroughly. Every week we would read a chapter, discuss it, and then practice quizzing over it with candy as a reward, of course. As the year progressed, I had a great time going on exciting trips and attending quiz meets across the denomination. But, most importantly, it gave me a chance to dig into the gospel in a fun, competitive environment while having fellowship

with many other youth also striving for Christ. Now almost seven years later, after dozens of quiz meets, retreats, and outings, I found myself in a firm relationship with Christ because of my experiences through quizzing. I continue to quiz because it allows me to study the Bible all the way down to the individual verse to try and understand how I can apply the teachings to my own life. Plus, I love getting to know and interact with kids from other quiz teams as we progress in our faith walks. I would recommend quizzing to all middle and high school aged kids who want to grow in their relationship with the Lord in a loving environment where they can ask questions and have fun!

GRACE JUNG ALUMNI, STUDENT CURRENTLY STUDYING IN SOUTH KOREA

The Bible Quizzing Team is easily one of my favorite memories in middle and high school. Through practices and competitions, quizzing deepened my understanding of the Bible and strengthened my relationships with my teammates and other churches. Bible Quizzing not only helped me memorize and study books in the Bible but showed me how relevant they are to my walk of faith. Beyond weekly practices and fun visits to the water park, the team became a place I could be vulnerable, share my spiritual struggles, and make lasting inside jokes.

NANCY HISER HEAD BIBLE QUIZZING COACH AT COLLEGE FIRST CHURCH OF GOD FINDLAY OHIO

Bible Quizzing is an amazing opportunity for



L to R: Daniel Jung, Grace Jung, Carter Finley

students to engage with the Word of God in an extended and systematic way. Each year, students in middle school and high school study a book or a collection of books from the New Testament. They meet weekly for team practice and also review at home on their own. This keeps their focus on a specific scripture long enough to explore its meaning and the implications it has for their life. Students spend over 1,000 hours in the Word, (during their quizzing experience), even if they do not work on it independently.

It is surprising the number of Christians who claim to base their lives on the Bible and, yet have never made a concentrated effort to read and understand it. Bible Quizzing supports constructing a foundation of a Biblically based faith where students can practice their faith and gain in their understanding of it. Young people have more options of how to spend their time than ever before. Parents are making decisions on the best way to prepare them for

the future. There is not a better way to invest 1,000 hours of the formational chapters of your life than by spending them hearing from the God who made you and learning about His love and His plan and purpose for you.

Quizzers and coaches receive the blessing of gathering with their teams on a weekly basis. This type of long-term fellowship builds lifelong connections between young Christian leaders. It also enables Pastors and other ministry leaders to walk with young people on a consistent basis and disciple them. Being able to love and equip someone from age 10 to 18 has a transformational effect on their life. Our team culture is built around three guiding principles. Every student should have teaching and experiences that reinforce to them that in the Kingdom of God, they are accepted, secure, and significant. These truths are central to the way we train our leadership team and our quizzers.

Our team loves to tell stories of past victories or funny things that have happened. These tribal stories help bind us together even if quizzers were not on the team at the same time. They all make contributions to the team story, learning how to treat people and who to invest in, which becomes part of their legacy. No one ever really exits for good. The table is big and once they get up and leave, the chair they occupied stays open. The conversation goes on and we tell inside-jokes about them even if they aren't there to defend themselves. They pop in from time to time to renew their bonds with us and then need to go again as they are scattered across the nation and globe serving in various contexts. They know that the chair is open when they are able to return to it.

Beyond the individual church team, Bible Quizzing facilitates regular meetings between tweens and teens from across the General Conference. Teams gather for fun and healthy competition on a monthly basis from January through July when



Nancy Hiser Current Head Bible Quizzing Coach at College First (second from left) and the College First Quiz Team

the season culminates in the National tournament over 4 days at Camp Sunrise Mountain in western Pennsylvania. The season also includes a weekend at Camp Otyokwah in April. These consistent and extended gatherings foster deep and long-standing relationships between our young people who would otherwise never meet or only see each other once a year at church camp.

The quizzing season also offers students an opportunity to grow and serve in many different ways. They are asked to pray before quizzes, giving them practice at leading public prayer. Our team requires our senior high students to share a testimony and try their hand at teaching younger kids before they graduate. At quizzing nationals, the worship and campfire songs are student led. This type of ministry training and practice has served our Denomination and the Kingdom of God well over the years. Although quiz teams are typically small, they have produced many of our key leaders. The team that I quizzed on as a youth also included Sarah Schmitz (Global Partners Missionary to Nicaragua), Dr. Andrew Draper (Senior Pastor/Church Planter, Ur-

ban Light Community Church; Executive Director, Winebrenner Theological Seminary), and Brandon Kelly (former Lead Pastor of College First) and current Mobilizing Coordinator of the CGGC). I have also coached students who went on to work at church camps, help plant churches, lead missions' teams, and Katie Crabtree (CGCC missionary to Thailand).

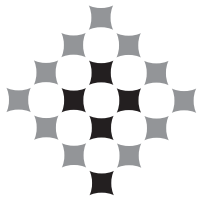
I have been involved in a lot of different student ministry programming over the past 27 years. Bible quizzing has given the best framework I have seen for building a ministry that serves student needs and prepares them to work as Kingdom builders. It gives them the Biblical foundation needed to weather storms, invites them into an intimate relationship with their Creator and Savior, introduces them into a family of believers who can encourage them, and gives them practical skills and experience to launch into a lifetime of ministry.

BIBLE QUIZZING FINALS SOON!

The 2025 Final Bible Quizzing Tournament will be held at Camp Sunrise Mountain in Markleysburg, PA (ARC), on July 23-26. Last year as many as 75 teams competed in 16 different teams. Jr. High and Sr. High teams will test their Bible knowledge and memory metal to see who comes out on top. For some high school seniors, it will be the last major event of their schooling career, and win or lose, it will be a bittersweet event.

To get started, reach out to the Bible Quizzing Head Honcho, Rachel Neely-Pletcher at: neelychic@gmail.com or (814) 931-2487.

Or visit www.CGGC.org/resources/bible-quizzing where you can find videos, registration forms, quick start guides, and more!



CHURCHES OF GOD, GENERAL CONFERENCE

Historical Society

CGGC ARCHIVES MUSEUM

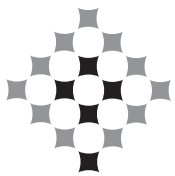
Churches of God, General Conference
700 E. Melrose Avenue, P.O. Box 926
Findlay, Ohio 45839

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
FINDLAY, OH 45839
PERMIT #501

**Join us today
and help preserve
our legacy!**

If the listed person is no longer living at this address, or you prefer to not receive our News Magazine, please contact us at archives-museum@cggc.org so that we can update our records!



CHURCHES OF GOD, GENERAL CONFERENCE

Historical Society

CGGC ARCHIVES MUSEUM

Visit our Website at cogmuseum.org

2022-2025 CGGC Archives Museum Committee

- CGGC Executive Director
Pastor J. Lance Finley
- Curator / Photographer
Jim Marckel
- News Magazine Editor
Jim Marckel / Committee
- Graphic Design Editor
Tregg Binkley
- General Review Editing
Committee - Staff
- Web Tech Assistant
Jacob Clagg

Chairman: **Barbara Eakin Meyers**

Vice-Chairman: **Sally Green**

Committee Members

Member: **K'Etta Curry**

Member: **Mary Lehman**

Member: **Bonnie Wofford Armentrout**

Member Emeritus: **Dr. Rob Guy, Jr.**

