March 28, 2020

Speakers

Webcast from Headquarters – 12:00

Upcoming Events

April 7th – Passover observance – evening
April 8th – Night To Be Much Observed
April 9th – First Day Unleavened Bread
April 15th – Last Day Unleavened Bread

Sunset time is for Alma, Arkansas
Sunset tonight 7:35 pm
Sunset next Friday 7:40 pm

Announcements

Sabbath services: Even though this COVID-19 outbreak has disrupted life on every level, and circumstances are changing daily from country to country, in God’s Church we know we have the stabilizing factor of His presence with us. And even though convening for services in our local congregations is canceled for the next couple of months, one of the most stabilizing factors is that every seven days we will still able to come together as one body, through remote services, to worship God on His Sabbath.

The Church’s administrative team has established a plan for conducting services remotely for the next eight weeks, which includes Sabbaths, the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. For your planning, here is the schedule for the next few weeks:

- Sabbath services will be provided via webcast from the Church’s headquarters office in McKinney, Texas, on March 28, at 12 noon Central Daylight Time.

- Beginning, April 4 local congregations will be prepared to provide their own remote Sabbath services via webcast and phone hookup. Your pastor will provide information beforehand on how to connect.

Passover

- The Passover should be observed shortly after sunset on Tuesday evening, April 7. It now appears highly unlikely that in the U.S. we will be able to hold the Passover service with all the brethren in physical attendance, but each pastor will arrange to conduct the service via webcast or phone hookup. Members can arrange to get together and tune in to a Passover webcast conducted by their local pastor. Each pastor will provide you with instructions for connecting and the time that services will commence. (If you are unable to tune in to the webcast of the Passover services, we have DVDs of a full service that you can play. We also have written instructions on how to take the Passover at home if you were to have difficulty with the DVD. Your pastor can provide you
with the DVD and the written instructions, and he will be able to send someone to help you if there is a need.)

Days of Unleavened Bread

- Holy day services on Thursday, April 9, and Wednesday, April 15, will be webcast from the Church’s headquarters office. There will be one service each day at 12 noon Central Daylight Time.

- Instructions regarding the holy day offering will be coming.

Connecting to the Sabbath webcast

You can access the webcast from headquarters simply by going to COGWA.TV. No password is necessary. It will also be available on your ROKU channel. We will also be providing simultaneous Spanish translation, which can be accessed at http://iddam.org/webcast/.

FI Summer Continuing Education Registration: We announced over the last two weeks that the registration for this summer’s Foundation Institute Continuing Education classes would take place last Sunday.

With the rapidly changing situation today, we will delay that sign-up until a later date. We will announce a new sign-up date in the future, as conditions permit.

Thank you for your understanding.

COGWA Youth Camps (reminder): With the current COVID-19 restrictions, many have asked about our plans for our CYC summer camps. Our COGWA camp directors in the United States have been in contact with the facilities that we rent to check on our booking reservations. Our first camp is now 11 weeks away.

It is our hope and prayer that by the time our camp dates arrive, all activities will be able to go forward, and “social distancing” will be a thing of the past. At this point in time, we are planning for all of our camps to go forward as scheduled. Of course, if federal, state or local restrictions continue into late spring or summer, we will have to reevaluate at that time.

In the meantime, we strongly encourage campers and staff to apply for U.S. camps now, as normal. If an unforeseen situation arises where a camp has to be canceled, we can easily refund your tuition. But, due to the current uncertainty, we suggest that you not purchase airline tickets at this time.

Camp Application System Opens: For the past several months, we have been working toward a new application system for COGWA Youth Camps that will integrate with our database system. We are now happy to announce that the system will open at 10 a.m. Central Daylight Time on Sunday, March 15, at which time you can start applying for our 2020 camps.

You will start at the same place you’ve always gone—the COGWA Portal. When you log into the account, you will see the CYC application notice at the bottom left of your screen. To this point, everything will look the same. However, when you click on the “Apply” button, you will notice things starting to change.

The instructions in the blue box above your list of household members will be much larger with a lot more detailed instructions. We encourage you to read everything in that blue box very carefully! You will note several important points, including the following highlights:
There are new forms spread across several pages and very little will be “pre-populated” (automatically filled in), so you will have to enter a lot of information for each household member this year.

However, once you have entered that information for an applicant, applying for a second camp will be very quick. Whatever you entered will pre-populate any subsequent 2020 camp application—for that applicant.

Please note, this will apply for each household member individually.

This system will require you to upload a photo with each application, so you will need to have handy a recent full-face digital photo (taken within the last three months) to upload with each application.

We understand this will take a little more time this year, but it will allow us to pull that data into our new system to be able to pre-populate additional applications. The system is new, and though we have tested it extensively, it is quite possible that we may need to make a minor tweak here or there. Once we have this year’s data and are comfortable with how the system is working, we will be able to address how much we can pre-populate forms for everyone next year.

We appreciate your patience in working with this new system. If you have any trouble or questions, you can contact us at registration@cogwa.org, and we’ll be happy to assist you.