

First Century Church of God

NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2024

VOL 1

MEET THE TEAM

Our campaign team is led by Elder Mark Rusinko, who initiated this newsletter, following the below referenced Plenary Session. He facilitates a talented and hardworking team, whose work support the laborers:

Felicia Eaton - Crafts

Monica Stevens-Canty
Website and social media

Merika Ramocan -
Distribution print media

Beverlie Ramocan-
Woodland - Administration



Welcome to the Post-Pentecost Newsletter

We were all uplifted by a message on Pentecost from Elder Reis, pastor for the CGI congregation in Gaithersburg, MD and by the face-to-face fellowship that was enjoyed at the YMCA Hall. It was a culmination of 50 days [feast of weeks] of study into the seven attributes of the divine nature of God and inculcating them into our lives. With that activity as a background leading up to the celebration of Pentecost and using the personal journals that were issued by Sister Felecia Eaton, we enjoyed a very meaningful Feast day.

In this issue we have posted two articles; One by Pastor George Ramacon on reflections of the Feast Day and an interview by Sister Bonita Ramacon by the staff of WhatsApp.





Embracing the Spirit of Pentecost: A Call to Evangelism

Having culminated the Feast of Weeks on Pentecost, I trust you feel enriched and renewed in your commitment to outreach and evangelism! Pentecost ties our identity with Christ, The First Fruits. The Festival, marking the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, is a vivid reminder that we too are empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel with boldness and conviction.

Our transformation mirrors the first-century disciples who became a dynamic force for the Gospel. Evidence of this transformation is seen in the dedication of FCCOG leadership, our congregational activities, social media outreach, and personal reflection journals.



Let us embrace this call with these keys for self-reflection:

- ****Remain Spirit-Led****: Rely on the Holy Spirit through prayer and discernment.
- ****Cultivate Boldness****: Acts 4:31b (NIV) says, "... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."
- ****Embrace Unity****: Support and encourage each other, demonstrating the love of Christ.
- ****Demonstrate Love and Compassion****: Let our actions reflect Christ's love, drawing people to Him.

Continue to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in our evangelistic efforts in face of obstacles. May we all be filled with the passion, boldness, and unity of the early Church, making a lasting impact for the Kingdom of God!

USING TECH FOR EVANGELISM



An interview with Sister Bonita Ramacon by the staff of WhatsApp

Interviewer: Good morning, Sister Bonita. Thank you for your willingness to share your innovative approach to personal evangelism using WhatsApp groups. Can you start by explaining the basic idea behind this method?

Bonita Ramocan: Good morning! Thank you for having me. The basic idea is to leverage WhatsApp groups as a platform for personal evangelism. WhatsApp is widely used and allows for real-time communication, which makes it an excellent tool for sharing and discussing key issues related to faith, such as the concept of True Worship

Interviewer: That sounds fascinating. How do you go about setting up a WhatsApp group for this purpose?

Bonita Ramocan: The first step is to identify a target group of people who might be interested in the topic. This could be friends, family, colleagues, or even members of your church who are looking to deepen their understanding of certain aspects of faith. Once you have your list, you can create a WhatsApp group and invite them to join. It's important to clearly communicate the purpose of the group and the topics that will be discussed.

Interviewer: How do you ensure that the discussions remain focused and productive?

Bonita Ramocan: Great question. Firstly, the group is designated a name, which signals the purpose of the group, and further the select persons in my contact list are known by me to want to associate with the group name: for example, "Truth Seekers". I select persons I actually know and have a relationship with. After setting up the group on the platform, it's crucial to set some ground rules for the group. These can include guidelines on respect, staying on topic, and encouraging open, non-judgmental discussions. As the facilitator, you should also prepare a schedule or a plan for the topics to be discussed each week. For example, if the topic is "True Worship," you might start with an introduction to what different religions believe and then move into a discussion about the core tenets of True Worship.

Interviewer: Can you walk us through a typical session in your WhatsApp evangelism group?

Bonita Ramocan: Sure! Let's say the focus is "True Worship." At the beginning of the week, I would post an introductory message explaining the theme and what we aim to explore. I might share a short article, a Bible verse, or a video to kickstart the discussion. Throughout the week, I encourage members to share their thoughts, questions, and experiences related to the topic. Also, as relevant, I utilize links from the FCCOG website, FCCOG facebook page and links to doctrinal resources such as e-booklets from the Church of God movement (former Worldwide Church of God splinters etc.)

Interviewer: How do you handle the diversity of opinions and beliefs that might arise in these discussions?

Interviewer: How do you measure the effectiveness of this evangelism method?

Bonita Ramocan: It's important to foster an environment of respect and understanding. I remind the group that everyone's perspective is valuable and that we are here to learn from each other. If a disagreement arises, I try to guide the conversation back to the topic and encourage members to support their points with scripture or personal testimony. The goal is not to argue, but to explore and understand different views.

Interviewer: How do you measure the effectiveness of this evangelism method?

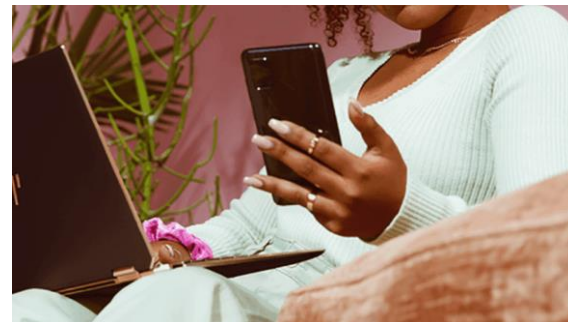
Bonita Ramocan: Effectiveness can be measured in several ways. One key indicator is engagement—how actively are members participating in the discussions? Are they asking questions, sharing insights, and inviting others to join? Another measure is feedback from the group. I regularly ask for their thoughts on the sessions and how we can improve. Finally, I look for signs of spiritual growth, such as members expressing a deeper understanding of their faith or a renewed commitment to their spiritual journey.

Interviewer: What advice would you give to someone who wants to start their own WhatsApp evangelism group?

Bonita Ramocan: My advice would be to start with a clear purpose and a well-defined plan. Know your audience and tailor your discussions to their interests and needs. Be patient and open-minded, and always rely on prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Remember, the goal is to plant seeds of faith and let God do the work of nurturing and growing them.

Interviewer: Thank you so much, Sister Bonita, for sharing your insights with us. It's inspiring to see how technology can be used to spread the gospel in such an effective and personal way.

Bonita Ramocan: Thank you for having me. It's been a pleasure to share this approach, and I hope it encourages others to find new and creative ways to evangelize.



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Passcode: 439455

Phone: 301-715-8592 or 646- 931-3860

ID: 89444711467 - Passcode:
439455#

PRAY FOR THE BRETHREN

Let us continue to pray for the brethren and encourage each other in the Lord. Here are a few things we'd like to lift up to God.



FIRST CENTURY C.O.G FRIDAY NIGHT PRAYER LIST

- 1 Spiritual strength for the body of Christ; that they will be steadfast in their commitment to the calling of God; that they will strengthen their personal prayer life; that fasting, the study of God's word and meditation, will be key to their lifestyle, so God's holy spirit can keep them from falling to the deception of Satan.
- 2 Total health recovery for our shut-ins: Deacon Thyon woodland, Sister Sharon woodland, Mr. Costley, Elder Mark Rusinko, for brethren who are sick in body and for sisters Bonita and Sharon who are waiting to do surgery.
- 3 For all pastors, elders, deacons, and deaconesses in different groups all over the world, on the frontline doing the work of the lord; that God will keep them from all harm and danger; that he will grant them wisdom to function in the role he has placed them, and that the will and favor of God be done for them and their families.
- 4 For God's mercy on our family members that God has predestined for His kingdom; that they will answer the call of God and cease resisting.
- 5 For the elderly and children of all the groups around the world; God will keep them from the evil one; and to meet their needs by His will for their lives.
- 6 For our brethren and their families, all over the world, that are in the path of tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, terrorism, wars, and other disasters, God will protect them from all harm and danger.
- 7 For the peace of Jerusalem, the government of the United States of America, and the government of all nations, that they will make the right decision with regards to nuclear threats and that God will grant unto His people, divine favor to carry out His will without any significant interference to outreach efforts.
- 8 For God's guidance and wisdom to us here at FCCOG as we strategize the mission for the outreach ministry.
- 9 That we, as a group here at FCCOG, will stay yielded to the leadership and guidance of God, as we seek to do His will to the honor and glory of His name.