

The Faith Forum

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AUGUST 2014

Church of God by Faith, Inc.



Atlanta Gala—Sold Out!

Special Points Of Interest

- *Free Gala Ticket Recipients*
- *Awards Nominations Deadline Extended*
- *Frequently Asked Questions*
- *Gala Tickets Mail Out*
- *We Need Your Help!*
- *“Save The Temple”*
- *December Convention Ad Deadline*

The bar was set high and you accepted the challenge. We are proud to say that the Grand Gala is a complete sellout. Thanks you for your avid participation. We are delighted at your response.

The *Marriott-Marquis Hotel*, in downtown Atlanta will host the Grand Gala on Friday, December 19. The hotel and ballroom will provide a welcomed change to our attendees and hopefully create an exciting and festive atmosphere for the 100th year celebration.

Good News For COGBF Centenarians

Members of Church of God by Faith who are 100 years or older will be honored at the Grand Gala and provided with a one-night complimentary stay at the Hyatt in addition to one (1) complimentary ticket to the Grand Gala event; all compliments of the Gala Committee. Recipients must be physically able to travel. Please note, travel expenses, personal care and security are not included in this offer.

Seniors Selected for Free Ticket Give Away

We announced in December that Pastor

Jonathan McKnight was giving 15 deserving seniors tickets to the Grand Gala event. Well, all the selections have been made and listed below are the recipients.

Lillie Mae Mincey—FEC District
Mildred Williams—FEC District
Mary Frances Smith—FEC District
Mary Dean—FEC District
Christine Boone—FEC District
Zola Johnson—Gainesville District
Ervin Gilyard—Jacksonville District
Doris Bowman—Jacksonville District
Leila Jones—Jacksonville District
Maggie Wingard—Jacksonville District
Gerald Hawkins—S. Fla District
Gladys Hawkins—S. Fla District
Mary Ann Rollins—S. Fla District
Altermese Lewis—NW NY District
Jessie Davis—Palatka District

Hallelujah!

The Inaugural Gala was a complete sell out. Deacon Thomas, the National Gala Chairman, wants to extend a big thank you to Pastor Andre McBride, the South Carolina Inaugural Gala Chairman and everyone on his team for the excellent work they did on behalf of the Centennial Celebration. Everyone enjoyed the evening.

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Gala Tickets

Refunds and Transfers

The Gala Committee was very clear in stating early on that ticket refunds would only be given in cases involving an extreme emergency.

Due to the sellout of the Centennial Gala, the committee is re-searching viable avenues for a possible ticket exchange. This exchange would allow those who have purchased tickets and are unable to attend, to sell them to interested parties. Please stay

tuned as this “exchange” is just a consideration at this time.

Gala Ticket Mail Out

Tickets and invitations will be mailed approximately 2 months prior to December 19. The committee will send tickets to the mailing address provided at the time of purchase. If a group table is purchased (seating for ten), all tickets will be sent to the table captain (the person who made the initial purchase). It then becomes the table captain’s responsibility to track the names of the persons to be seated

at his/or her table. However, for tracking purposes, captains are asked to send a list of names to the Gala Committee. This method will help hospitality properly and quickly seat your guest at the Gala. Send request/notifications to:

100GALA2014@GMAIL.COM

Award Nominations

Deadline Extension

In The Faith Forum March issue we gave you an outline of awards categories that will be recognized during the awards ceremony at the Grand Gala. Persons will be acknowledged for *Pioneers*, *Living Legends*, and *Trail Blazers Awards*.

The Gala Committee has extended the deadline to **September 15**. For detailed information on each award category and the nomination form, visit the web. Click on the “Events” tab then click “National Events”.

Centennial Souvenir Booklet

The souvenir booklet for December 2014 will be something you will want to hold onto for many, many years to come. We’re making every possible effort to ensure that you will be proud to own a copy of this keepsake booklet. One way to be assured that you will get a copy is to register.

Ads for the book are **\$150.00** for all personal and church ads. No half or quarter page ads will be accepted.

Your ad must be sent to the administrative office electronically. Ads submitted on paper

will be returned. We are also not staffed to design ads but can make referrals if you contact us in a timely fashion. The following formats are acceptable: **JPEG, PDF, PNG, MS Word (version 7 and up) and MS Publisher**.

E-mail your ads to info@cogbf.org and copy slundy@cogbf.org.

Please include contact information in the event we encounter a problem with your email.

The cut-off date is **absolutely October 31**.

For complete details on the Centennial Celebration, visit us on the web: www.cogbf.org

Hotel Reservation Cut-off

Rooms are available at the convention rate of \$79.00 (all room types) at Hyatt until **November 26, 2014**. Please be aware that the convention room rate is not guaranteed after that date unless there is availability.

Frequently Asked Questions

Friday Evening Worship

A full meaningful worship service has been outlined for persons not attending the Grand Gala. The goal is to provide a rewarding centennial celebration experience to all convention attendees.

Child Care Services

Sister Martha Johnson, Children's Church Coordinator, is directing an effort to provide child care services (ages 2-12) for parents who will attend the Grand Gala. Children must be potty trained.

She is also looking for volunteers to assist on Friday morning AND evening.

Experienced child care workers are preferred but not required. Sister Martha is also looking for experienced music ministry help for the day on Saturday. If you can serve in any of these positions, please contact Martha Johnson by **October 31** at:

marthamariej@att.net
or call 904-514-2995

Convention Registration (Eventbrite Email)

Many of you received an Eventbrite email inviting you to register online for the National December Convention. This is a historical year for COGBF,

Inc. Everyone is encouraged to pre-register so that you can be counted. Once you register, you can navigate the site and pay One Stop, register your little ones for the children's ministry, sign up for gala childcare services, and register your teens for youth council activities. It's all right there in one location!

Pre-registration will give you access to the "By Faith Museum" and guarantee that you receive a registration packet, including the commemorate Centennial Lapel Pin. Early Bird Registration for adults is \$25.00 and will be available until Friday, **October 31**.

Help "Save The Temple"

The overall goal of the Grand Gala is to provide opportunities for the members of COGBF to reflect on the great history and contributions of our forefathers. We hope it also challenges us to look introspectively at the history that their contributions will demand from those who are now the beneficiaries of this rich heritage and to make haste in paving new paths for the future generation of "By Faith" babies.

The Temple in Ocala, Florida is the last major monument that still stands as a legacy and testimony to our spiritual forefathers. We have an obligation to "SAVE THE TEMPLE". This historic building is in great need of repair and upgrades and we must pool our collective resources to bring this building back to its former glory. Our prayer is that all "By Faith" members and well wishers will join us in this noble cause.

A great way to contribute to this cause is by taking part in the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction is a very important part of the Grand Gala Celebration.

The auction will serve as a major fund raising effort. You can help to make this project a great success! All Church of God by Faith districts, local churches, corporate sponsors and businesses are asked to assist us by donating significant items for the Silent Auction bidding. Some desirable items would be iPods, laptop computers, vacations, golf clubs, watches and jewelry, electronic games, luggage, cameras and other items of general interest to the public at large. Just a reminder, do not remove items you donate from their original packaging.

Remember all proceeds from the auction will be designated to the Ocala Temple Renovation Project.



Contact Deacon James Thomas if you have any questions.

100gala2014@gmail.com

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A Great Heritage—A Great Future

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

COGBF.ORG

COGBF Museum of History

In March, we shared with you our plans to have a room completely dedicated to the history of Church of God By Faith at the December Convention. We have secured the space for the museum.

Each district is asked to develop an extensive composite history of every local church and create a video or pictorial presentation of the information that chronicles the development of that local church on the district.

These historical accounts could include pictures of the first church building (if available) and pictures of the founders and other important pillars of that congregation. You can include any upgrades or renovations to the original church and the current church as it stands today with the current leadership's name and picture, etc.

Please bring this information to Atlanta to be part of the exhibit in our By Faith History Museum for the four day convention. A limited amount of security will be provided but each district is asked to assign monitors to safe guard any values you may have on display.

Contact Harrison Pickney at cogbf100@gmail.com for more information.

We Need Your Help!

Volunteers Are Needed

Lots of friendly, hospitable volunteers are needed to serve through out the four day convention.

The Gala Committee is looking for ushers, silent auction assistants, and greeters.

The Convention Committee is looking for another group of those friendly people to assist with registration and museum exhibits.

Volunteers are needed overall to assist with the movement of our guest and members during this grand celebration. If you're

interested in serving, in any capacity, please contact one of these centennial team leaders to sign up.

Hospitality - Sister Audrey Jones
jones31@cfl.rr.com

Logistics - Minister Joe Potillo
potillo3gen@gmail.com

Children Services - Sister Martha Johnson
marthamaricj@att.net

Usher Board - Deacon R. Allen
E.maeallen@verizon.net

Awards Chairperson - Sis. Lesley Thomas
100gala@gmail.com

Corporate Sponsorships Are Needed

Business owners can partner with us by purchasing a page in the Centennial Souvenir Book for **\$250.00.**

We urge members to solicit support from neighborhood businesses and members on the district or in their local church that are proprietors. Everyone can help in this effort.

The deadline to submit all print copy for the book is **October 31.**