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The Case for Camp Meeting



Rev. Silas Oliver
COGVA Chair

Almost since its inception, the Church of God, Anderson, IN, has hosted camp meeting wherever one could find a cluster of congregations. The camp meetings were designed to introduce the saints to their Brothers and Sisters who were separated in distance but not in theology. Back in the days, one would hear of a meeting in a "brush arbor", which was comprised of a meeting place under the trees and each attendee was expected to have two essentials, a Bible, and a Hymnbook. Music was not always available, but the harmonic ability of the saints could be heard through the area. Our hymns have lasted through out the ages. While we have introduced choruses and Gospel music, hymns remain the favorites, especially of the "older saints". Some of us wonder if we are losing our heritage because of the introduction of more modern music. The hymns were meaningful because they often reflected

what we believed as well as practiced. Hymns such as "O' Church of God", "The Reformation Glory," "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah", and "Be an Overcomer" are

just a few of the songs which identify us as a reformation. However, the meetings were an opportunity to hear anointed teaching and preaching from the Word of God which would challenge and solidify our faith. Most states hosted an annual camp meeting with a guest preacher from another area. The music was always a great prelude to a dynamic message. Camp meetings have and are experiencing change. Some states prefer having their "meetings" in a hotel as opposed to a campground because of the cost involved in maintaining such grounds for limited use. Regardless of the place, the intent remains the same in that there is an on-going need for the saints to gather in a camp meeting type forum. We are usually assured of interacting with the saints at least once a **(Continued on page 4)**

Neace's Pieces



Dr. Bob Neace COGCA
State Minister

I recently shared with my local congregation a sermon from Acts 9: 10-18. Saul of Tarsus has survived the encounter with Christ after the Damascus Road

experience. I say survived, because Saul could have just as easily have been taken out on the Damascus Road as he was saved that day. Saul had been a persecutor of the church, as shown by the reading of text prior to his conversion, and by his own testimony in two of his letters – 1 Corinthians 15: 9 and Galatians 1: 3. He carried among the people scripture refers to as “those who were of the Way...” a tremendous reputation, well deserved, of someone of who would strike fear in the hearts of those who heard his name. Ananias was just such a man.

Once Jesus has dealt with Saul, Ananias, while dwelling in the city of Damascus, (minding his own business, I might add) would hear the call to obedience from the voice of the same One who had called Saul of Tarsus to repentance and new life. By all indications, and even through the word, we understand he is a devout man, reputable among the Jews, and a disciple of Jesus.

So, you can imagine the fear in the heart of Ananias when he is called to seek this Saul of Tarsus to pray for him.

For good measure, the Lord says to Ananias that He had told Saul that Ananias was coming. Think of it, God had enough confidence in Ananias' obedience to Him that He went ahead and gave Ananias' name to Saul, to be expecting him. I can only hope the God sees me in such light.

As most of us might, Ananias hesitates momentarily. Perhaps it is because he wants to make certain his hearing has not failed him. Remember, Saul of Tarsus carries a wicked reputation, and Ananias is familiar with it. In his desire for clarity of his call and instruction, he is informed that Saul would be a “...chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.” Acts 9: 15b ESV

As Ananias gets to the address listed, and the home named, he finds Saul of Tarsus blind from his experience, and probably weak from his three days of fasting. The first thing we have recorded of their encounter is the welcome into the family of God. Ananias refers to him as “Brother Saul.” He goes from a season of fear for him to welcoming him into the family!!!

This sermon was likely meant to be preached to this preacher by this preacher under the direction of the Ultimate preacher – the Holy Spirit. The message brought was in response to a call to which I am struggling. Most of my colleagues know I preach to a small church in Pakistan each Friday morning. Through the generosity of a great many people, some of whom will read this article, we have been able to purchase internet and video equipment that allows for the gospel to be presented to

(Continued on page 4)

Faith Walk

*For we walk by faith, not
by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*
CWC Annual Convention
By Racheal Baez

Faith Walk was the theme for the annual Virginia CWC convention. After two years of canceled conventions due to the COVID pandemic, there was excitement in the air as more than forty women and a few men met at the Holiday Inn – Tanglewood in Roanoke VA for the CWC convention. Despite some technical difficulties and even though our guest speaker's flight was canceled at the last minute and could not get another flight until the next day, it was a powerful weekend. We did not allow these interruptions get us discouraged.

The convention kicked off on Friday with a concert from the Roanoke Voices. We were blessed as the choir ministered to us through their music and led us into worship. On Saturday morning, the CWC held their annual business meeting. During this meeting, the new



candidates were introduced and voted on. Congratulations to Racheal Baez, Recording Secretary, Alice Noblin – Courtesy Chair, and Naomi Kohen – Mission's Resource Director. These three women have served the state in previous years and continue to do so with the same fervor and enthusiasm.



Angie Rigdon, the National CWC President was the guest speaker for the weekend. As stated earlier, her flight was canceled

early in the morning on the day she was to fly to Virginia. Due to the timing of her arrival, the morning session started later than anticipated. This did not stop the ladies from receiving what God had for them. Ms. Rigdon gave us some extremely helpful tips that will help us as we walk the faith life.

- We must always protect our relationship with God.
- Never allow anything to come between or injure our relationship with God.
- Take time getting to know the Savior – Be intentional.
- Be present when spending time with the Savior (not letting your mind wander).
- Personal relationships with God – maintain a childlike relationship with the Father.

(Continued on page 5)

(The Case for Camp Meeting Continued) year. Camp meeting is a time to renew old acquaintances. It is a “saints” for inspiration, information, and dialogue as we exchange what is or is not happening in our local congregations.

The question for our consideration is, does camp meeting meet a continuing need in the life of the saints?

My answer is yes, indeed!

Let me share with you my motivation for continuing camp meeting even in some altered form:

1. There is no other time that we can gather in our regions or our states to actually hear from others with whom we have developed such strong ties.
2. Camp meeting provides an opportunity to gather and ask questions regarding the direction that we as a group are taking.
3. It is an opportunity to receive reports on the financial status of our organization.
4. Camp meeting is an opportunity to voice our opinion on the operation of our joint ministry in the state.
5. Camp meeting provides an opportunity to be involved in the ordination of those who have passed rigorous requirements for their approval as ordained members of the Church of God.
6. Finally, it is an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and then develop new ones.

Blessings upon all of you as we anticipate a great camp meeting for 2022.

Rev. Silas Oliver, Jr COGVA State Chair

(Neace's Pieces Continued) outlying villages. Prior to Covid, the ministerial team on the ground had asked me to come to spend some time with the church with which we had partnered. In recent months, the team there has stepped up their presence in outlying communities and other churches have been established. Now that Covid does not seem to be the hinderance it once was to travel, the team has asked, (pleaded) that I come and minister for a season to the “home” church, and the outlying communities. I am not ashamed to tell you, this comes with a measure of trepidation on my part. A cursory Google search will reveal that Pakistan is listed among the top ten nations where Christianity is a justification for the most severe of persecutions.

Shortly after the publication of this issue of COGVA News, my counterpart in Pakistan will officially invite me to come there. The invitation is necessary for my participation in this event. There must be a series of permissions granted by the Pakistani and United States Embassies to answer this invitation. Once those permissions and VISAs are secured, we will continue the progress of planning for a series of meetings in these fields of ministry. I am not overly concerned with the permissions, or even the financial aspects, for I believe the God will provide. He has a reputation for equipping those He calls. I am specifically asking you, as you read this, to place me on your prayer list, your church's prayer list, and anywhere else someone might lift my name to the Lord. In your prayer, as for wisdom, guidance, direction, safety, and especially peace for myself and for Kathy and Abby, for a call such as this impacts them as well.

(Faith Walk... Continued)

On Saturday evening, we gathered for our annual banquet. During the banquet, some of the ladies participated in a fashion show called "Shopping on a Dime." They shopped at thrift stores or borrowed clothes from someone's closet.



There were outfits from casual to elegant. The fashion show ended with an ensemble of wedding clothing. As the "bride" model was ushered in, she stood before the minister. Brother Silas Oliver graciously agreed to help us with this. There was much laughter until it hurt as he endeavored to hold a wedding ceremony without a groom. And then,

Justice and Equity Task Force Information

The following is a summary of a conversation between Dr. Bob Neace, COGVA State Minister, Rev. Donn Sunshine, Credentials Chair, and Rev. Handel Smith, Executive Director for U.S., and Canada Strategy:

Greetings in the Strong Name of Jesus,

The Justice and Equity Task Force was formed as a result of a resolution

without skipping a beat, he turned that moment into a lesson the ladies will never forget. As the "bride" model stood before him, Brother Oliver encouraged her to allow Jesus to be her groom. Jesus will always be there for her, will always provide for her and will never fail her. Let it be known that Virginia is the first state to hold a wedding at a CWC convention!!

The convention ended on Sunday morning with a devotional from Tamara Wilson and Holy Communion. We felt the absence of the dear sisters that went to be with the Lord over the past two years and are thankful for the new sisters that joined us this year. We are thankful for Dr. Bob Neace and the men that were in attendance and for the support they give to the CWC. The Lord truly blessed the weekend with His presence. We look forward to what God has for us in 2022.

passed last year by the General Assembly of the Church of God in Denver. Since then, there has been some talk and some mystery around this. Dr. Bob Neace, as our State Minister has since that time been trying to find the resolution and information about it. (The resolution itself was secured from participation online at the General Assembly. An issue is that it cannot be found in a public forum, or easily accessed online without asking for it. Please see it at the close of this missive.) Last week I, as Credentials Chair was able to join him on a zoom call with **(Continued on page 6)**

(Justice... Continued) Handell Smith. As a result, we want to share with you some of what we were told. We have asked for documentation of these things and are waiting on that.

We talked about how the Church of God has a relational structure and how important accurate, timely information is to building trusting relationships. With the hope of this improving, we moved on to what has transpired since the resolution was passed. The first issue was how this task force would be funded since the resolution was passed without funding. The good news is that this was solved by available monies from Church of God Ministries. Additionally, we learned that they now have almost fully funded retirement for our missionaries which was passed by the General Assembly years ago without funding and there is now a rainy-day fund. We were told Church of God Ministries is in a much better place financially. Additionally, we were told there is a resolution coming to the BRLC (Committee that approves motions before going to the G.A. floor) so that future resolutions will include the appropriate funding measures. Next the people for the task force were selected and confirmed. That task force is filled out with the following names and contact information as it appears in the newly rolled out CHOG ATLAS:

1. Carron Odokara (Chair) – Inkster, MI No Email Address listed on ATLAS/CHOG Yearbook
2. Dan Turner (Vice Chair)– Not Registered on ATLAS/CHOG Yearbook

3. Olivia Dixon (Secretary) – Lexington, KY
oliviadixon@gmail.com
4. Gary Agee – Gratis, OH
gbagee@anderson.edu
5. Efrain Cirilo (General Assembly Vice Chair) Conroe, TX
efraincirilo@gmail.com
6. Cheryl Sanders – Washington, D.C. pastor@thirdstreet.org
7. Brandon Sapp Not Registered on ATLAS/CHOG Yearbook

When we asked about not being able to find a copy of the resolution, we were told it was not posted on the website because it was intended for the constituents of the Church of God and not for public consumption, as there are some who may not have our best interest in mind. We were told each person registered for the GA should have gotten a copy. We were also told that when Atlas, the new Church of God platform goes live April 25th everyone with an account will be able to see all documentation. (As of this writing, understanding that the CHOG ATLAS rollout took place this week and is very early in its implementation, this resolution, and other such documents are not to be found) Included in that documentation we were told is the scope and timeline of the task forces work which is limited to gathering/analyzing information and making recommendations to the 2023 General assembly for any further action. Upon further questioning we were told that any recommendations would be biblical and as an example they are only considering two genders, male and female. **(Continued on page 7)**

(Justice... Continued) Lastly, we requested printed or digital information about the budget both for the task force and Church of God Ministries as well as the timeline, scope, composition etc. of the task force. Because we are relationally structured, and information helps build trusting relationships we are passing along what we were told instead of waiting on the documentation we have requested. We will be glad to pass along any additional questions you may have, or you are certainly welcome to pose those to Church of God Ministries yourself. We have been provided a financial report/budget from our national offices and will share it with those who ask.

God Bless you all, Donn Sunshine

Motion One

2021 General Assembly of the Church of God in the United States and Canada

“Be it moved and seconded that the General Assembly establish a Justice and Equity Task Force, to discover the composition, beliefs, and practice of Church of God agencies and congregations with regard to racial justice and the equality of men and women across the Movement in the United States and Canada and to ascertain the impact of such composition, beliefs, and practice on the global mission of the Church of God.

“The Task Force will consist of five to seven persons appointed by the Ministries Council, representing the diversity of the Church of God. The

Ministries Council will consider appointing persons to the Task Force who possesses expertise in survey and analysis (or consulting with those who do). The Task Force will report biannually to the Ministries Council, regarding its process, progress, and necessary funding, beginning in September 2021. The Task Force will make recommendations to the Ministries Council within two years (on or before 30 September 2023) for improving the understanding and practice of racial justice and the equality of men and women across the Church of God.

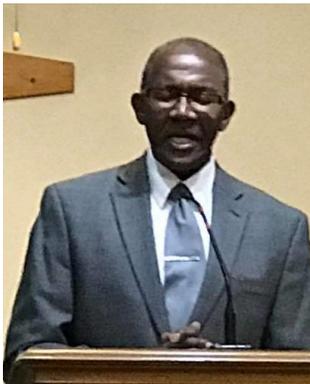
“Furthermore, we move that the General Assembly direct the Committee on Credentials to consider additional measures to ensure that candidates for ordination have rigorously explored the topic of ethnic diversity, racial justice and the equality of men and women. The Committee on Credentials, in consultation with the Justice and Equity Task Force, shall specifically address these issues in the Credentials Manual of the Church of God and within the curriculum of Leadership Focus.”

This motion was submitted by Cheryl Sanders (Washington DC) and Dan Turner (Takoma Park MD); this motion has been reviewed by the Business, Leadership, and Resource Committee, and forwarded to the floor of the General Assembly, 17 JUN 2021

COGVA LEADERSHIP COLLEGE

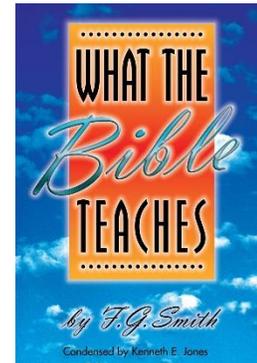
Will meet via ZOOM until further notice each Second Saturday monthly at 9:00 am. The link or call-in opportunities can be found highlighted at the end of this flyer

The books being studied for the Fall Semester are:



What the Bible Teaches
By F. G. Smith

Taught by
Rev. Calvin Peterson

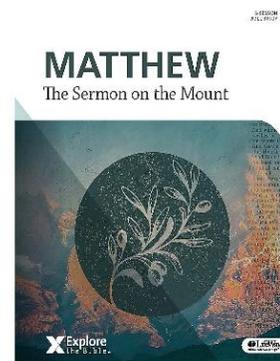


Matthew:
The Sermon on the Mount

Taught by
Rev. Silas Oliver

Each student is responsible for
purchasing their own books and
here is an added blessing:

There will be no tuition for this school year.



Regular dates for COGVA Leadership School are every month on the Second Saturday of each month

Topic: Leadership College

Time: May 14, 2022, 9:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Sat,

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86369201873?pwd=OXI2c1loQTZDM0w4RUYxR2I2UzBpQT>

Dial by local number:

1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 863 6920 1873

Passcode: 933218



Dr. Simeon R. Green III
**COGVA Christian Men's
 Fellowship President**



May 7, 2022, 10:00 am

Rev. William Wagner
Guest Speaker

Each man in the Church of God in Virginia is encouraged to take part in the activities of the COGVA Men's Fellowship.

Time: May 7, 2022, 10:00 AM Eastern Time

Join us on ZOOM:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81724827237>

Join us by phone: +13017158592, Meeting ID: 81724827237



Dr. Perry Blankenship
**COGVA Christian Men's
 Fellowship Vice-President**



SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION
of the Church of God

ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY



"HOLINESS HAS NO END"

Hebrews 12:14

VA

NC

SC

GA

FL



Chair:
Pastor Reginald Alford



Vice Chair:
Pastor Jamica Dobbins



Guest Speaker
State Minister (VA)
Pastor Dr. Bob Neace

May 21, 2022
10:00 am to 1:00 pm



Meeting ID #881 3439 5644

Call In # 1 646 876 9923 US



1607 Forest Street, Augusta, Ga. 30901

follow us on 



CHURCH OF GOD VIRGINIA PRESENTS

CAMP MEETING 2022

Holiness unto the Lord
HEBREWS 12:14



Chris
MCMURRAY

Kelly
MCMURRAY

Amanda
SHEPHEARD

Dr James Lewis
EVANGELIST

**JULY 27
THRU 29**
7PM NIGHTLY

FEATURING LIVE WORSHIP WITH TRIO AND

FREEDOMBAND

CAMP CHRISTI CAMPGROUNDS

4704 ROANOKE STREET CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA

Salvatio
Unity
Holiness



Mountain Empire Church of
God



INDOOR CAMP MEETING

MAY 15 - 20
7:00PM
CHILHOWIE FCOG



REV. DR. NATHAN
LEASURE
GREENEVILLE, TN



REV. BEN LISTON
STANTON, KY

Spring Retreat



COGVA Student and Leaders

We invite you to come for a Spirit-filled weekend at Camp Christi for our Spring Retreat. It will be a time of worship and service as we continue to build our faith in Jesus to overcome the challenges we face.

When: May 13-14, 2022

Where: 4704 Roanoke Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Cost: \$15/person

Only a few weeks left before we have our exciting Spring Retreat! If you are planning on attending, please make sure to register online at

www.cogva.com/events/cogva-youth-spring-retreat

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out

COGVA Budget

August 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022

Categories	Budget	Aug-Oct 1st Qtr. Expenses	Nov-Jan 2nd Qtr. Expenses	Feb-April 3rd Qtr. Expenses
1000 State Office				
1100 Business Office	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 859.55	\$ 1,014.34	\$ 920.19
1200 Insurance	\$ 14,300.00	\$ 3,496.75	\$ 3,718.75	\$ 3,496.75
1300 Office Manager	\$ 14,437.50	\$ 3,609.36	\$ 3,609.36	\$ 3,609.36
1400 Income Taxes	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 884.58	\$ 884.57	\$ 874.59
Subtotal	\$ 35,837.50	\$ 8,850.24	\$ 9,227.02	\$ 8,900.89
1500 Chair	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2000 State Minister				
Salary	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Reimbursement Fund	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 763.05	\$ 882.04	\$ 979.31
Subtotal	\$ 14,900.00	\$ 3,763.05	\$ 3,882.04	\$ 3,979.31
3000 Executive Board/Standing Ministries				
3100 Executive Board	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials	\$ 800.00	\$ 84.64	\$ 13.36	\$ 36.62
3300 Ministry of Christian Education	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3600 Ministry of Program	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3800 Ministerial Fellowship	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3900 Church Property Team	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 84.64	\$ 13.36	\$ 36.62
5000 Property and Maintenance				
5110 Camp Bedford				
5110 Caretaker	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 1,312.50	\$ 1,312.50	\$ 1,312.50
5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Improvements	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5140 Utilities	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 620.55	\$ 1,026.37	\$ 1,524.88
Subtotal	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 1,933.05	\$ 2,338.87	\$ 2,837.38
5200 Camp Christi				
5210 Caretaker	\$ 26,565.12	\$ 6,641.28	\$ 6,641.28	\$ 6,641.28
5220 Health Insurance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,250.01	\$ 1,250.01	\$ 1,250.01
5250 Utilities	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 4,519.88	\$ 3,602.17	\$ 1,920.41
5260 Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 875.00



News

April/May 2022
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5270 Capital Improvements	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5280 Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5300 Legal Fees	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 55.75	\$ 190.00
5400 Ministry Expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Christmas Bonus	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 49,515.12	\$ 12,411.17	\$ 13,049.21	\$ 10,876.70
Total Expenses	\$ 111,802.62	\$ 27,042.15	\$ 28,510.50	\$ 26,630.90
Total Income		\$ 17,994.59	\$ 21,860.95	\$ 18,473.37
Kingdom B. Transfer for State Minister Salary		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Investment Fund				\$ 11,400.00
Difference		\$ (6,047.56)	\$ (3,649.55)	\$ 6,242.47

COGVA Giving

Church	Budget	Other	Kitchen Fund	KB	Total
					Giving
Abingdon	\$2,830.68			\$526.13	\$3,356.81
Atkins					\$0.00
Big Stone Gap					\$0.00
Birdsnest					\$0.00
Blacksburg First	\$1,800.00				\$1,800.00
Blacksburg Slussers	\$749.97				\$749.97
Bluefield					\$0.00
Boones Mill	\$22.00				\$22.00
Boykins	\$500.00				\$500.00
Bristol	\$25.00				\$25.00
Chesapeake	\$22.00				\$22.00
Chilhowie	\$2,933.83				\$2,933.83
Christiansburg	\$7,287.94				\$7,287.94
Cloverdale	\$22.00				\$22.00
Dublin		\$2,876.56			\$2,876.56
Emporia	\$25.00				\$25.00
Fredericksburg	\$3,000.00				\$3,000.00
Glade Spring	\$25.00				\$25.00
Goodview	\$22.00				\$22.00

Hampton Joynes Rd	\$900.00				\$900.00
Lynchburg Greenview	\$1,375.77				\$1,375.77
Lynchburg Mnt. View	\$630.00				\$630.00
Marion	\$875.00				\$875.00
Martinsville					\$0.00
Newport News Cmnty					\$0.00
Newport News First					\$0.00
Norfolk Bellamy Ave	\$1,808.00				\$1,808.00
North Tazewell					\$0.00
Norton	\$2,862.31				\$2,862.31
Reedville	\$3,549.40				\$3,549.40
Rich Creek (Pearisburg)		\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00
Richmond First	\$3,997.87				\$3,997.87
Richmond 21st	\$2,200.00				\$2,200.00
Roanoke First	\$2,349.22			\$783.07	\$3,132.29
Roanoke Staunton Ave	\$22.00				\$22.00
Rural Retreat	\$1,621.89				\$1,621.89
Salem	\$25.00				\$25.00
Saltville Allison Gap	\$1,403.91				\$1,403.91
Saltville Broadford	\$450.00	\$500.00			\$950.00
Saltville Chatham Hill	\$225.00				\$225.00
Saltville MtnView	\$25.00				\$25.00
Spotsylvania	\$2,000.00				\$2,000.00
Staunton	\$2,791.27	\$375.00			\$3,166.27
Suffolk					\$0.00
VA Beach	\$1,600.00				\$1,600.00
Wise	\$6,560.00				\$6,560.00
Wytheville	\$1,710.00				\$1,710.00
Investment Fund	\$11,400.00	\$ -			\$11,400.00
Ukraine Donations		\$ 825.00			\$825.00
Brotherhood Mutual Refund	\$290.00				\$290.00
Credit Card Cashback	\$137.50				\$137.50
Total	\$70,074.56	\$5,576.56	\$0.00	\$1,309.20	\$76,960.32



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