**WHO WAS GORDON FAUTH**

For most of his life, Gordon Fauth served as an Elder and Pastor of the Church of God Seventh day .Born and raised in the United States, he spent most of his mature years promoting the work of the almighty from Jerusalem, Israel. On July 4, 1954, soon after being converted to the faith, Gordon married Naomi Dugger, daughter of Andrew and Effie Dugger. In 1956, he, his wife and their infant child moved to Jerusalem to join Elder Dugger in carrying on the work of the Mount Zion Reporter. They returned to the United States in 1960, and then moved to Israel permanently in 1972.

Following the passing of Elder Andrew Dugger in 1975, Gordon Fauth became General Overseer of the Church of God (7th Day) and Managing Editor of the Mount Zion Reporter. He also assumed pastorship of the "House of Prayer for All People," in Abu Tor, Jerusalem. Following the passing of Effie Dugger in 1979, he became Editor of the Mount Zion Reporter.

Gordon passed away on November 25, 2006 and was laid to rest on Tuesday November 28, 2006 at German colony cemetery (in Jerusalem), service was held at the Jerusalem Church which is located on the Abu Tor Hill near Mount Zion on the northern side, with a narrow steep valley between.

Elder Fauth is survived by his wife, Naomi Fauth, and their ten children, Gordon Jr., Jonathan, Naphtali, Priscilla Hawkins, Sarah Midgette, Ezra, Phillip, RifcaPatras, Reuben and Michael; brothers Elmer, Vern, Harry and Leslie; and sister AldinaCarrol. He was predeceased by his parents; his brothers Benjamin and Elroy; and by his sisters NoreneKnopp and Irene Grant.

**GORDON FAUTH AND THE CHURCH IN KENYA**

Gordon has not travelled to Kenya and in actual sense he did not take time to travel around the world as did his predecessor A.N Dugger and his co-associates, Andy Shoemaker and Wiliam Heuer. Kenyans have travelled to Israel and met Gordon Fauth and through that he has in a great way influenced in shaping the History of the Kenyan Church.

In 1977, Harun Muigai Nganga, accompanied by Hezekiah Kuria Karanja went to the holy land and met Gordon Fauth at the Abu Tor Church. In his booklet about the Church History, Elder Muigai Ng’ang’a affirms that they were not ordained in Israel but he says that Fauth would constantly look at him in a manner to suggest that the Holy Spirit was speaking to him and directing him to the man who should be the Overseer in Kenya.

Their visit brought about a new upsurge of the appetite to visit Jerusalem and experience the holiness of the Holy land. While there they observed the feast of Purim and thereby adopted the practice of all annual feasts in the Jewish calendar as opposed to three feasts practiced and taught by the Church in Kenya. They brought this teaching back to Kenya and immediately embarked on convincing others to join them. They were very successful in Kalenjin land where the other group led by Edward Macharia had been expanding rapidly.

The understanding of Gordon Fauth was that the young Church in Kenya was blossoming and indeed the Almighty’s work was at its highest gear. He also knew that Elder Shoemaker had been in Kenya and had performed all the necessary. When later asked to come to Kenya and assist to solve the puzzle of who was right between William Heuer and Andy Shoemaker, Gordon responded that indeed, he recognized the work done in Kenya was proper and was complete and all believers should seek righteousness and work towards attaining eternal life. It seems that Gordon Fauth opted to practice a non-partisan approach to issues a trait that had been passed down to him From A.N Dugger who in his last years of services championed harmonious fellowship of all believers despite doctrinal differences which he termed “non-essential”

Back In Kenya, there had appeared dissenting individuals who had started contacting William Heuer in a bid to have him come to Kenya. Muigai Ng’ang’a and Hezekiah Kuria later supported this call and together with the others were successful in sending money for air ticket and William Huer came and re-ordained three pastors and set up the board of seven.

William Heuer’s teaching of non-observant of feasts caused a dent in the relations of the Muigai led group and the other two pastors re-ordained with him. This would quickly cause fertile grounds for divisions whereby Petero Kimani and Joel Taalam adopted the non-feast doctrine while Muigai Ng’ang’a and Hezekiah Kuria continued with the push for the eight feasts doctrine.

In the Meantime, Edward Macharia who had refused re-ordination continued to teach the keeping of three feasts. It was also time for them to send a representative to Jerusalem and perhaps having known the protocols and practice of the Jeusalem church prepared a letter to be taken to Israel requesting that if possible the bearer of the letter be ordained as a pastor in Israel. This letter was duly signed and sealed by Church officials. So in 1982 Francis Mbuthia went to Israel and was ordained a pastor by Gordon Fauth. This ordination did not go down well with all and there were attempts to discredit the man.

The situation continued until an opportunity presented itself in the early nineties when the Holy name gospel engulfed Kenya. Francis Mbuthia was an upbeat teacher and when he accepted the holy name doctrine partly influenced by the likes of Peter Kihara, there emerged a major difference of opinion resulting to a division of the group into two one lead by Stephen Mbatia who rejected the use of holy name and the other by Edward Macharia Supported by Francis Mbuthia who accepted the use of the holy name in regular worship.

In 1988, Peter Kihara also visited the holy land and met Gordon Fauth, by then he was an elder of the church back in Kenya affiliated to Mt Zion Seventh Day led by Petero Kimani. During his visit he met new friends from USA who taught him the use of the holy name. His attempts to teach the use of Holy name back in Kenya was met with opposition a situation that led to his excommunication and thereafter formed an independent ministry- The messianic Assemblies of Yahweh, in the early nineties. The church in Kenya was at dilemma again with some rejecting the use of holy name and others accepting it. The situation affected all across all groups with others terming it a strange doctrine from America as opposed to the pure doctrine from Israel. Gordon Fauth remained non-partisan in all those issues.

In the late nineties, Stephen Mabatia visited the holy land and also met Gordon Fauth. Edward Macharia visited in 2003 and did meet Gordon Fauth who was ailing and confined in a wheel chair. Gatitu Macharia visited in 2005 and is reportedly been ordained as the overseer in Kenya and Africa representative of the Church of God 7th Day a newly registered outfit in Kenya having come out from Muigai Ng’ang’a led group.

Other Kenyans have visited Israel and met Gordon Fauth on their individual capacities and on private tours; some frequent the holy land while others had a onetime holiday opportunity. Their stories and their experiences narrated to the church in Kenya have immensely helped to make or break the bond and ties of the entire church in Kenya. They Include Peter Maina, Stephen Ng’ang’a, Francis Thuku, Joseph Ngatia, Kibe Njenga, Harriet Wairimu, Mureithi Munene among many others.

A delegation of twelve elders from one group in Kenya travelled to Israel in 2012 for a whole week. While there they tried to organize and revive the Jerusalem work through Gordon’s son Philip, an effort that resulted in printing of some of the lesson quarterlies published by Dugger, the Bible calendar and Judah magazine through a website.

In early 2002, while on a missionary trip to Kenya, Don Esposito of the Congregation of Yahweh, learned about Naomi and Gordon Fauth, who were still living in Jerusalem. When he returned to Jerusalem in 2003, he met with Naomi (Gordon was ill and confined to a chair). He allegedly claimed that Naomi asked him to become the Overseer of the congregation after she was inspired to reopen Dugger’s work. These claims were later strongly refuted by Naomi and her sons Phillip and Napthtali.

Many other claims have been made about the Jerusalem work. Recently efforts to reorganize the Jerusalem work by brethrens from all over the world have been witnessed. These efforts are not without challenges and the biggest challenge is the grassroots support. This could be because of the diverse opinions and divisions among the churches

**EXCERPT FROM “LIFE IN ISRAEL” BY NAOMI FAUTH**

Shalom from Jerusalem.

Gordon passed away November 25, 2006, on the Sabbath. Jewish friends reminded us that passing on the Sabbath Day is a sign of Special Blessings— an indication of Heavens Favor. As Gordon grew weaker physically in the last few months, he seemed to grow stronger in spiritual awareness— showing concern for the Church, the Publishing Work and friends and family. That morning, Gordon awoke from sleep, and with help, moved to his chair. Our son Naphtali asked him how he was feeling and he answered, "Good." He had breakfast, and after a while went to sleep. He slept for some time and then passed quietly in his sleep. Naphtali's words were, "He was a peaceful man and God took him peacefully." We had been married over 52 years— and were close together day and night and always prayed together. We wanted to bury Gordon at the cemetery in German colony (in Jerusalem). When we first inquired about a resting place at this cemetery, we were told that the remaining plots are all reserved. So we began looking elsewhere. A young Jewish friend that does part-time volunteer work in the cemetery encouraged us not to give up. Then the minister in charge called and invited us to come to his home, where he explained that the remaining plots are being saved for old time ministers of the Gospel living in Israel. He said he felt sure that the board members (here and in America) would vote in our favor and he helped us obtain a plot. This was good and we are thankful. It is the same cemetery where my mother and father and other close relatives and friends are buried. Also, it is only a short walking distance from our home. On that Tuesday morning, November 28, a few friends (Christian, Moslem and Jewish) gathered for prayer at the Abu Tor Church. We then continued on to the cemetery for the main service where many were already gathered and waiting. Sister Ruth Moore played her guitar and led in the singing of uplifting and comforting hymns. It was a blessing to have Brother Harley and Sister Vida Henson with us from America. Elder Henson officiated

both at the Church and at the cemetery. Having a remembrance service for Gordon in the beloved Abu Tor Church that morning has been for me an ongoing comfort— a lingering blessing. It is there through the years that we have shared wonderful times together with family and friends on the Sabbath Day and on other special occasions— reaching many Spiritual Milestones. Our home and the Jerusalem Church are located on the Abu Tor Hill. Mount Zion is very near on the northern side, with a narrow steep valley between. The Mount of Olives is also near— eastward from Mount Zion. All are within view and walking distance from our home. Gordon has always loved to be out doors. He loved to just sit and look across the valley to the Mount of Olives. Often, toward the ending of the day, we would watch the shadow rise from the valley below and slowly move up the mountain until only the top of the Mount of Olives is aglow— and soon the sunshine disappears. In closing, there is a beautiful story I would like to share. Sometimes, through the years, I would give my Bible to Gordon and ask if he would open it for me at random.

The verses were always so fitting and just what was needed. In the last few years we did this quite often together. Not long ago, I felt an unusually strong wonderful feeling as we looked out across the valley together toward the Mount of Olives. I said to Gordon something like this, "That is where He went up to heaven and that is where He is coming back— we may not have long now to wait. The end-time prophecies may be fulfilled quickly." A day or so later when we were outdoors together as usual, I placed my Bible in Gordon's lap, for him to open at random, with very slow hard effort he pushed his thumb between the pages. I asked, "Here?" and he answered, "Yes." The Bible opened to the beginning of Zechariah 14, Verse 4, "His feet shall stand in that day on the Mount of Olives." There is much yet to be done. We ask that you continue to remember us in prayer— to pray with us as we reach out for new beginnings in the end time work. We need to embrace those Greater Things in the reaping of souls— John 14:12. Thank you for standing steadfastly with us through the years. We share a beautiful and wonderful heritage.

**IS IT A DYING CHURCH?**

Until 1977, the church in Kenya benefited greatly and enjoyed years of progress. This was in part due to A. N. Dugger?s writing of over 150 different tracts and books such as Israel Correspondent Bible School lessons, the very popular Mt. Zion Reporter (also known to some as the Judah Magazine), Sabbath Lesson quarterlies, the Jerusalem Messenger, Jewish calendars and the Chart of the Daniel image and Beasts of Revelation. The Mt. Zion Reporter was such an intricate part of these churches that an article was read from this magazine every Sabbath morning during service. The three most famous books are Bible Home Instructor, History of the True Religion, and Daniel and Revelation.

Leadership of the Jerusalem organization was assumed by Gordon M. Fauth. A young peoples' singing group, the Jerusalem Sonbeams, traveled around Israel helping evangelize. The Group continued to publish The Mt. Zion Reporter but it appeared that its scope of operations was somewhat reduced from former years. Perhaps as the older generation died out, men who knew Dugger, support from the United States waned.

By the late eighties, the group ceased to print the Bible Home Instructor and other Dugger books and tracts. There were no more printed materials or communication from Jerusalem. No more organizational structure with leadership in place to assist local churches. This created a big gap and many churches in need of support, printed materials (quarterlies, tracts, and magazines) and other assistance to help strengthen their local churches could not get any. What you will find today is that some of the churches that came out of the Jerusalem movement have shifted focus, and have become affiliated with independent groups or with sacred name movement.

**Ezra 4:24**

24 *Thus the work on the house of God in Jerusalem came to a standstill until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.*

An interesting article in a Bible Advocate sometime in the early 1920's entitled "A Dying Church." Written by O.R. Osman, then Secretary of the General Missionary Department, states: "A Church that is doing nothing for the public is on its way to the cemetery. All its members who are doing nothing are acting as pall bearers. All who are so busy with their own affairs that they've no time to devote to the Almighty’s cause are making the mourning wreath. The brother who says noting at all is driving the hearse. The ones who are constantly drawing back when moves are to be made are throwing the flowers on the grave . . . . Brother, which of these acts are you performing?"

Leadership can often offset serious problems, when A.C. Long, Jacob Brinkerhoff, A.F. Dugger and others died, they had no dedicated replacements. A.F. Dugger's son, Andrew N. Dugger, was a horse of a different color. When A.N Dugger died a befitting replacement lacked and has continued to lack. Religious hypocrisy in the top leadership certainly led to the downfall and splintering of the church; Individual hypocrisy had not been absent from the church either. Many continue to believe some doctrines yet continue to be a part of a church which publishes articles against these beliefs. It is ironic that some have admitted that such and such a doctrine is true, but do not live by it.

**WHERE ARE WE**?

Where are the evangelists, the religious writers, the hard working dedicated people who care enough about the Truth of Almighty they know to share it with others? Are we watching television or engaging in other frivolous pursuits, while continuing to show up for Sabbath services and annual religious meetings?

As a student of history, the more I learn, the more questions I have. I am sure that the almighty will answer them someday. When will we learn the lessons of history? There ought to be a better way, a way of love and compassion among the brethren, of respect and support for true ministers of the Almighty who will spread the true gospel to the world with power, and without splits, schisms, internal problems in the church. There is so much work for us to do. Is this a pipe dream or can it happen?

And yet, if each one of us is truly honest with ourselves, we will all have to admit that each one of us is part of the problem. As the Pogo comic character stated: "We have met the enemy, and he is us!" We cannot look at the record of mankind in the Bible, and history of the New Testament Church from its foundation on 31 A.D. and say we are much better than they were. Paul's epistles are full of internal church problems that boggle the mind. We are no better than they. This history of recent day Sabbath-keeping Churches further confirms the fact that history does repeat itself.

Granted, the church would be a little flock, Luke 12:32, and not a large political institution. Yet all of these splits, schisms, bad feelings and finger pointing are depressing! Does it have to be like this? Isn't there a better way?

The record of the entire Bible is that we must learn to be submissive to Almighty’s authority. Obey Almighty, and you will be blessed. Disobey Almighty, and you will be cursed. The Bible is the historical record showing that NOTHING comes out right when you disobey Almighty, and the ONLY way to blessings is to obey Almighty, through the Messiah our Master.

**Revelation 3:2, 16-19**

*Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found your works perfect before God . . . . I know your works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will [am about to] spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: . . . As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

**RAYS OF HOPE**

The late 1990s and the early 2000s were generally not happy years for the church in Kenya many slipped into a spiritual doctrinal abyss by abandoning or watering down their former beliefs. The Church’s appeal to the public, and youth in particular, was not strong.

The one bright spot appeared to be the springing up of social media and digitalization which led to the extensive cooperation among Sabbath-keeping groups. In the second decade of the 2000s, they youth started forming social groups and befriending other like minded messianic. The effect of this shared information was to expose Sabbath-keepers to others of like beliefs. Doctrinal liberalization appeared to be a common problem faced by all groups. Increased networking via face to face meetings and the computer Internet broke down many barriers between Sabbath-keepers.

By concentrating on the scattered pockets of sanity in a crazy world, Messianic can maintain their focus on Yahshua Messiah , who is, really the same yesterday, today, and forever. AMEIN

**Additional Notes**

**MEMORIES ON ELDER GORDON FAUTH**

Gordon Fauth was an Elder of the Church of God (7th day) in Jerusalem. He was succeeded Elder A.N Dugger both as an Elder of the Church and as the editor, of Mt. Zion Reporter Magazine. Following the passing of Dugger in 1975.

He was born on August 28, 1920's at Medina, North Dakota, USA to Mr. Emmanuel and mrs. Emmelia Fauth.

He was married Naomi Fauth, Daughter to A.N Dugger and Effie in 1954. They were blessed with ten children and they lived at Abu Tor in Jerusalem Israel.

He died peacefully on the Sabbath of November 25th 2006 having faithfully and dedicatedly served the Church on this last day.

Following the passing of Elder Gordon Fauth America Jerusalem associated started producing the lessons under Elder William Baker (2012). Later he was suceeded by elder Aron William Crudup.

The work is now run by Elder Joel Aaron Crudup under from CA Beaumont, USA.