



**BIBLE QUIZZING** IN THE WESTERN GREAT  
LAKES DISTRICT OF THE C&MA

1991-2021



# CONTENTS

Congratulations

Quotes

Bible Quizzing

The Quiz Meet

The Origins of Bible Quizzing

Map

NCD Invitational

The Pandemic

International Teams

Close Up

FAQ



To the entire quizzing family of the Western Great Lakes District of the C&MA –

Thank you for your service to Jesus, the Alliance family, and the hundreds of quizzers that have been challenged to dig into God's life changing Word for 30 years. As you celebrate and remember the individuals you encountered over the years, please know the impact of your investment goes beyond the names you remember. The power of God's Word in their lives will continue to ripple through families, communities and churches for years to come. I pray God's blessing for you and the current Western Great Lakes quiz family and leadership.

Same team,

**Scott Wakeley**

Director, Alliance Youth  
Colorado Springs, Colorado



CONGRAT  
ULATIONS

FROM THE C&MA NATIONAL OFFICE

With happy hearts, we extend our congratulations to the Western Great Lakes District and celebrate with them their 30 years of Bible Quizzing. Over those three decades, WGLD has touched countless lives both directly and indirectly, spreading the Gospel and advancing the Kingdom. May God continue to richly bless the quizzers, coaches, and district leaders of WGLD as they disciple the next generation of healthy Christians. On behalf of the quizzers and other members of Pacific Northwest Bible Quizzing,

**J. Gryphon Shafer, Pacific Northwest Quizzing Coordinator**

Congratulations WGL district for celebrating 30 years of memorizing God's Word. Bible Quizzing is not about how many international Final 9's you have made or trophies you have earned but rather the life change that God brings to all who seek Him. May God bless your celebration of this 30 year milestone.

**Carl Seneker, Ohio Valley District Quizzing Coordinator**

Rejoicing with our brothers and sisters in Western Great Lakes over 30 years of Bible Quizzing! As a former Director of Bible Quizzing in the North Central District and several years as Coordinator of the NCD Tournament at Crown College, I am thankful for the fellowship we have shared around the Word of God. Indeed, "God's Word changes lives!" Blessings!

**David Svenson, North Central District Quizzing Coordinator**

On behalf of the current North Central District Bible Quizzing Leadership Team we celebrate with you in this your 30th year! We have so enjoyed the fun, fellowship and competition with you – both at the annual NCD Invitational Bible Quiz Tournament and Internationals. We thank God for His faithfulness and for your commitment to and love for His Word and Bible Quizzing. We know from Isaiah 55:11 His Word "will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." To God's glory!

**David Nelson, North Central District Quizzing Coordinator**

The Northeastern District has always enjoyed quizzing against the WGL District. Your enthusiasm and joyful spirit is very memorable. Every person we have met associated with your district has been just so loving, kind and shines with the light of Christ. Keep up the good work for 30 more years!

**Claudine Campbell – Northeastern District Quizzing Coordinator**

Warm greetings to the entire quizzing family in the Western Great Lakes District. The Quizzing Community in Central Canada joins you in praising our faithful God and celebrates with you the power His Word has in the lives of young people.

**Paula VanBrenk, Central Canadian District Quizzing Coordinator**

What a wonderful opportunity to look back over 30 years of building friendships, biblical literacy and closeness to God. We know that all the effort put in over these decades is well worth it as God's word does not return void. On behalf of the Western Canadian District I want to congratulate you for this milestone and look forward to many more years of keen competition while honoring God through the quoting of His word.

**Glenn Brooks, Western Canada District Quizzing Coordinator**



CONGRAT  
ULATIONS

FROM OTHER DISTRICTS



# QUOTES

## FROM THE QUIZZING FAMILY

Thank God that I had a great team encouraging me to improve and study and wonderful leaders to push me to not only memorize, but to personally apply the Scriptures to my life! Decades later, I'm still recalling so many of the verses. (Kelly)

Quizzing helped to form my Christian worldview, which would help to guide me down the right path at a young and vulnerable age. (Brian)

[Quizzing] began a lifelong habit of memorization. To this day I benefit from all the rich scripture that saturates my mind and heart. (Linnea)

[The quizzing family] left an indelible mark on my life. Those were great times! (Eric)

Twenty-five years later, many of those verses are still with me, and will be for the rest of my life. (Nate)

My memories from quizzing are some of my most cherished from my teenage years. (Tiffani)

I love when quizzers give a devotion and can clearly explain what the passage means because they've studied it and taken it to heart. (Jaci)

I remember coming home one night after a [quiz] meet and thinking, "I want to be like those guys. I want what they have." That was the night I became a Christian and accepted Jesus. (Elijah)

Quizzing is like a big family and everyone makes everyone else feel at home and comfortable. (Anika)

I've learned intensely throughout quizzing to look and listen and reside in Jesus. (William)

I will never forget how, as a coach, I saw kids grow from awkward and uncertain to poised, confident, and assured in their faith. (Todd)

# BIBLE QUIZZING

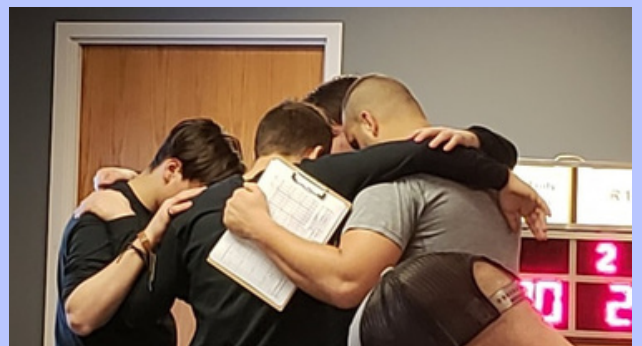
What is it?

Simply stated, Bible Quizzing is a tool that motivates young people to learn God's word, work together, and expand their horizons. Teams compete on a regular basis at a local church or school, as students enjoy fellowship, fun, and Christ-centered competition.

As questions are read, teams jump up from quiz seats which electronically determine the quizzier who is up first. The winner of the jump can score points by correctly answering the question from that day's material. Teamwork, knowledge, strategy, and physical skill are all attributes of a good quiz team. Quiz meets or seasons often culminate in a playoff bracket and championship quiz.

Bible quizzing is a great way to encourage young people to study the Scriptures. Through quizzing they experience a deep fellowship commitment with their own team, their competitors, and, most importantly, with Jesus Christ.

The above text is taken from: <https://www.wbqa.org/what-is-quizzing>





# THE QUIZ MEET

## WHAT HAPPENS HERE?



Over the years, quiz meets have changed but the central idea has been the same: to bring youth together around God's Word and good relationships. Quiz meets usually happen monthly during the school year on Saturdays. Teams from across the district come together at one of the district churches for the event.

Participants put on name tags. Those who have not been to a quiz meet before get to meet lots of new people, and, since everyone is wearing a name tag, it makes it a little easier to start new friendships.

Teams and spectators then gather together to review the mission and motto and welcome new people to the quizzing family. They continue with singing, a Bible message and a time of prayer.

After the large group, each team heads off to their own quizzes. Each team has 3 quizzes at a meet. When a team has a break, some of them spend their time studying to do better at the next quiz. Some visit with friends, and some cheer on other teams. After each quiz meet, scores are added up and quizzers can check their team and individual ranking.

The great thing about Bible quizzing competitions is that everyone wins—not necessarily according to the scoreboard, but because of the time participants have spent with God, memorizing His Word and putting it into practice. And teams try hard to encourage others in this process by cheering for anyone who does well or who tries hard, no matter which team they're on.

Whether you want to support a friend in quizzing or you're simply curious, feel free to stop by. Spectators are always welcome at quiz meets. Quizzers love it when people come to say hello and cheer!

(Text adapted from:  
<http://www.ncdquiz.org/about.html>)



# ORIGINS

## HOW DID BIBLE QUIZZING BECOME A THING?

### The story of Youth for Christ and Jack Hamilton

Bible Quizzing began in Youth for Christ in the late 1940's. Jack Hamilton was a successful businessman in Kansas City in the early post-World War II days. God began working in his mind and life and led Jack to begin high school Bible clubs.

Beginning first in Kansas City and later in other metropolitan areas across the country, Jack pioneered and developed the concept of the "Youth for Christ Bible Club." The YFC club was a rallying point for individual Christians on a high school campus. It provided them with a means of carrying the gospel to their unsaved friends. (1)

Shortly thereafter Bible Quizzing was born. Jack felt that there was a need for an activity that would involve Christian teenagers in a serious study of the Word of God. A competitive framework that involved questions and answers, the Word of God, and teenagers seemed to meet this need. Starting in Kansas City, Bible Quizzing spread in several years to Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and other parts of the nation. (1)



Jack Hamilton





LIFE '67 witnessed several firsts. In the first AYF Bible Quizzing championship twenty-one teams (one from each district) competed in an exciting four-day tournament. In the final quiz, held during the last public service, the Western Canadian, Eastern and Canadian Midwest teams squared off for the title. The Western Canadian team, led by Suzanne Schulz (who took the individual trophy), became the first quiz champions.

That competition, in turn, was based in part on popular television quiz shows from the 1950s and 1960s. The game format is similar to the program, G.E. College Bowl, which ran for many years on CBS and NBC television networks with Allen Ludden (later of Password fame) and Robert Earle as the quizmasters. That show spawned dozens of local television quiz programs for high schools, some of which continue to this day. (3)

So Jack Hamilton and Al Metsker in Kansas City began "Bible quizzing" in all of their clubs. Within two years they had taken almost every club member through the New Testament in a series of quizzes. At Winona '49 they sold quizzing to the nation, and by 1950 national quiz and talent contests were held at the Winona Convention. Listen to the quiz finals from 1959 here: [long](#) and [short](#) version (7). Many students memorized up to seven or eight books of the New Testament. Before long 20,000 teens a year were involved in quizzing. (2)

One of the unusual features of early Youth for Christ Bible quizzing was the challenge to participants to jump to their feet from a sitting position to win the right to answer

each question. At first, judges would determine the first to jump by viewing above index cards to see whose head first "broke the plane." But, as time passed, local Youth for Christ rallies built or purchased special seat cushions with electrical relay switches that lit signal lights on consoles after the quizzers jumped up from the seat. In this way, the right to answer went to the first to leave his/her seat rather than the first to appear to have jumped, thus removing any advantage for taller participants. This was one of the earliest mixed gender competitions for teens which partially depended on some athletic ability. (5)

As the format of Youth for Christ activities changed in the late 1960s, Bible quiz teams began to represent individual churches, and groups of churches from the same denomination began to hold competitions limited to those denominations apart from the Youth for Christ supervision. (5)

Since then, a large number of denominations and organizations have developed their own programs. The C&MA started

quizzing in the 1960's. A 1966 article in Alliance Life Magazine mentions "the first international AYF Bible Quizzing Championship finals" would be held at LIFE '67. Two to three thousand CMA teens and young people saw Bible quizzing in action at Camp of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado that year. (6)

Text copied from:

- (1) <https://www.wbqa.org/what-is-quizzing>
- (2) YFC History. Celebrating 70 years of Youth For Christ by Dr. Art Deyo, page 8.
- (3) "A history of Bible Quiz in the Assemblies of God" Robert Carter and Ruthie Edgerly Oberg, March 2018.
- (4) Religion: Quizzing for Christ. Time magazine, Monday, July 27, 1959. <http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,864771,00.html>
- (5) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible\\_quiz#History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible_quiz#History).
- (6) Alliance Life Magazine, September 13, 1967 issue, Page 17
- (7) <https://www2.wheaton.edu/bgc/archives/guides/048.htm#602>



# ORIGINS

## THE START OF QUIZZING IN THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES DISTRICT

### The story of Ron and Helen Julian

One Sunday morning about thirty years ago, a pastor was standing before his congregation. He and his wife had been active as Bible Quizzing coaches in the C&MA since its beginnings in the late '60s at his previous church. Since coming to a new church in Wisconsin, however, he had not been involved for many years. It happened that during his sermon, he noticed that scattered around the room were at least five teens sitting with their families. He realized at that moment that a future quiz team was sitting right in front of him. He went home and talked with his wife, and they decided to pursue the possibility of starting a quiz team at the church.

Ron and Helen Julian, who had recently arrived in Oconomowoc from Dayton, Ohio, invited those five teens to their home for quiz practice and dinner every Wednesday night of the school year. Week by week, they enjoyed a meal together and studied the book of Acts.

The year was 1991, and a rather uninteresting administrative change was afoot in the Christian and Missionary Alliance that would open a unique door for these five. The state of Wisconsin had been part of the Midwest district of the C&MA for many years, but starting in 1991, Wisconsin churches would be part of a new district called the Western Great Lakes (WGL) District.

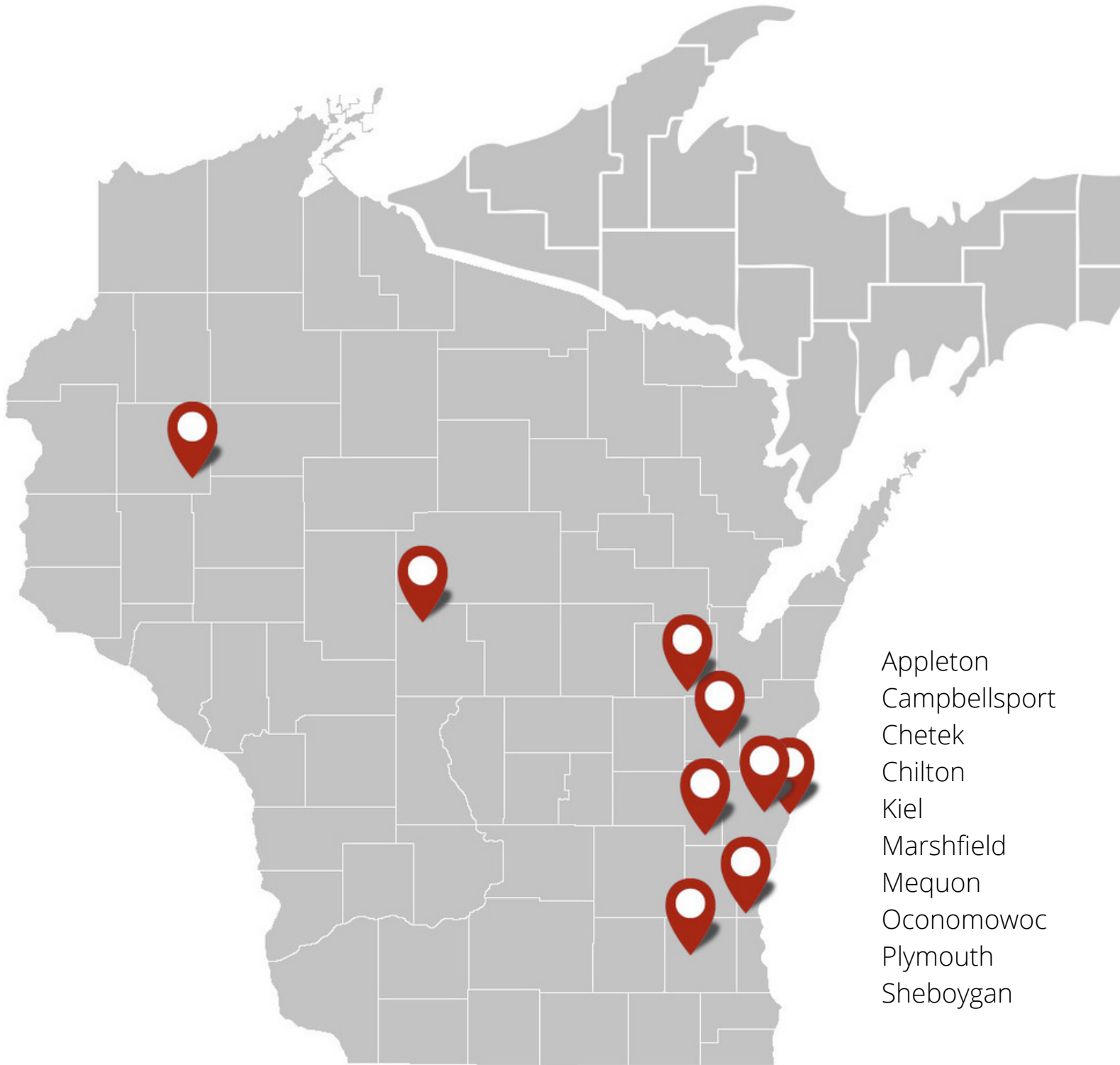
As the year went on, these five teens were powerfully impacted not just by the book of Acts but through the spiritual input of this pastor and his wife. One Wednesday evening, the group of five were told that a new district had been formed, and that the district leaders would allow them to represent the new district at the International Bible Quizzing competition.

These five youth traveled with Ron and Helen in a borrowed van to Georgia as the Western Great Lakes District's first quiz team. They placed a respectable 15th out of 24 teams at Toccoa Falls Bible College. An article about International Quizzing in the Alliance Life magazine that year mentioned the team--in the September 25, 1991 issue on pages 20-22. You can read the article [here](#).

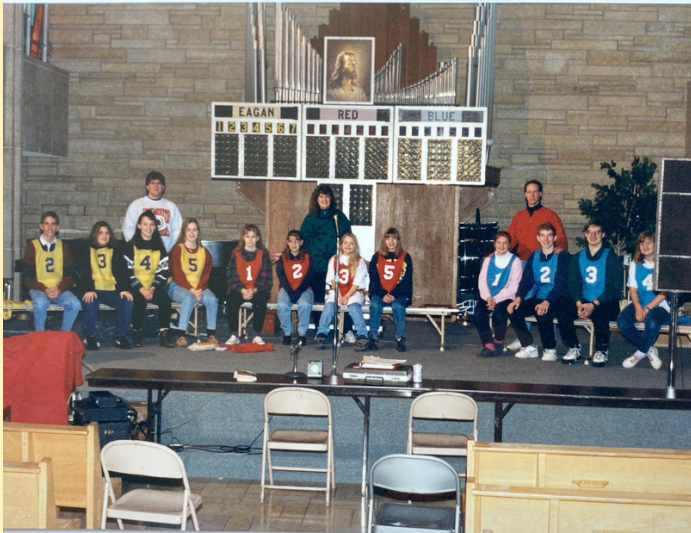
For those five youth, their families, and the church they belonged to, it started a pattern of youth discipleship that went on for about two decades and involved over one hundred youth. More importantly, quizzing expanded to other churches in the district and impacted hundreds more in the 30 years that followed.



# CHURCHES INVOLVED IN THE PAST 30 YEARS



# NCD INVITATIONAL



Every January the North Central District hosts an invitational quiz meet at Crown College. The event has drawn teams from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan for the past 38 years. The Western Great Lakes District has sent teams to participate for almost three decades.

Clockwise from top left: Chetek team 1997, Crown College chapel, Appleton B team 2014, and the Plymouth and Chetek teams 1994,





Clockwise from top left: Drivers often faced difficult winter conditions on the way to Minnesota, Appleton team 2020, 1st place Appleton B team 2020, Appleton team 2018, Western Great Lakes quizzers celebrate on the final night of NCD invitational quizzing in 1996, and the Petro gas station in Portage, Wisconsin was the favorite rest stop for these quizzers on their way to Minnesota.



# PANDEMIC

## QUIZZERS QUIZ ON DESPITE COVID

by Jaci Strasburg

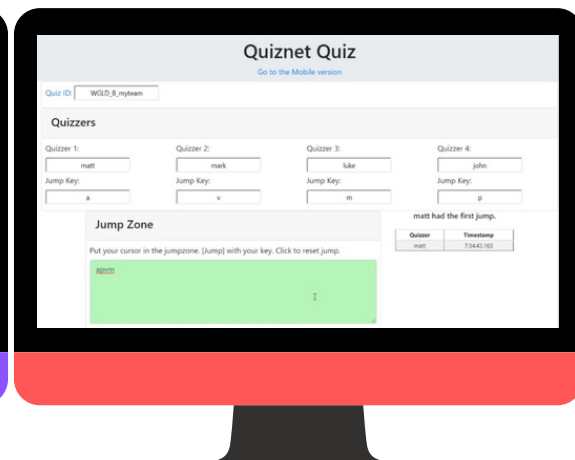


In January 2021 many quizzers participated in the North Central District (NCD) invitational quiz meet held at Crown College. Our district has been attending this invitational for many years and it is always a highlight for our students. But this year, in light of COVID-19, things looked different. There was no 5-hour drive to Minnesota, no overnight at the hosting church, and no ability to reach out and high-five a competitor who did a great job. However, there was still amazing fellowship, there was the Word of God, and there was the great competition called Bible Quizzing.

This 2020-2021 quizzing season looked a bit different than in years past. Since COVID-19 put a halt on in person quizzing last March, one of our technologically inclined parents, Ted Tower, developed an online platform for quizzers to "jump" with. This online platform, called Quiznet, combined with Zoom teleconferencing, provided the opportunity to hold meets and practices when in-person gatherings were not possible. It has afforded quizzers the opportunity to have a regular season despite the unpredictable circumstances of the pandemic. With the online quizzing option our district was able to maintain continuity as well as flexibility with the location of our meets, whether in-person or online.

Throughout the pandemic, those in the quizzing family held different views on how to best handle it. The goal of quizzing leaders was to remain as one in the district while ministering to the unique needs of as many quizzers as possible. Therefore, Appleton hosted a split practice each week: quizzers who preferred no restrictions practice in one home while quizzers who preferred caution practiced online. Midway through practice, however, all Appleton quizzers connected via Zoom for a devotional time together. Meanwhile, the Marshfield quizzers practiced at East Gate Alliance Church and followed church protocol.

Some quizzers felt best participating in the online NCD Invitational from home, while others wanted to join together in person. Those who joined from home were still able to fellowship because they played games over Zoom after quizzing finished, some until midnight! Others from Appleton made a "trip" of the weekend, staying at and quizzing from a local hotel. Following the conclusion of the Invitational that Saturday night, the group of twelve quizzers plus two quizzing graduates jumped into the hotel pool for an epic game of "keep-away". It all happened spontaneously out of the incredible fellowship that is had by those who study, celebrate, and live God's Word - together.







# INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

OF THE WESTERN  
GREAT LAKES  
DISTRICT  
1991-2021







1999

2003

2000

2004

2001

2005

2002

2006

We are missing several years!

Help us complete our collection  
by sending a picture to

[wglquizzingalumni@gmail.com](mailto:wglquizzingalumni@gmail.com)

2007

2010

2008

2011

2009

2012

2013

We are missing several years!  
Help us complete our collection  
by sending a picture to  
[wglquizzingalumni@gmail.com](mailto:wglquizzingalumni@gmail.com)

2014

2018



2015



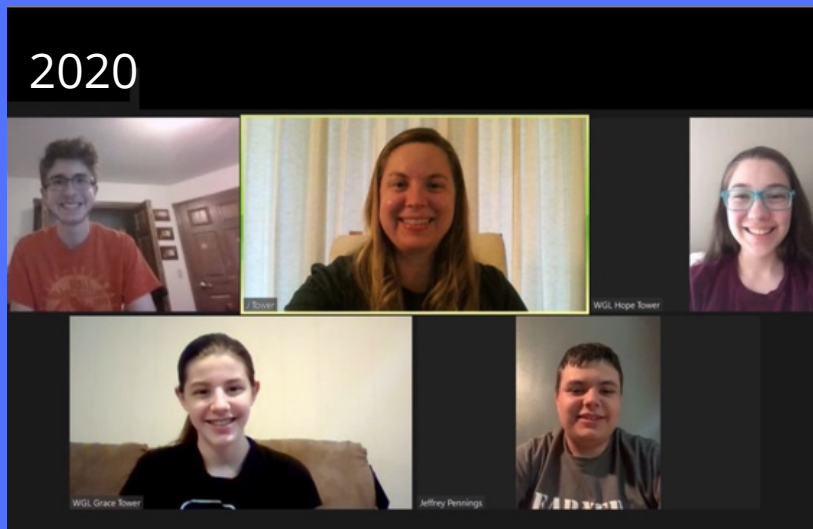
2019



2016



2020



2017



2021







---

# CLOSE UP

CURRENT AND  
FORMER QUIZZERS  
SHARE AN UPDATE

Name: Ron & Helen Julian  
Living in: Dayton, Ohio  
Quiz team: Oconomowoc 1988-1991  
Role(s): Coaches, pastor

What I'm doing now: I pastored C&MA churches in Williamsport, Pennsylvania and in Dayton, Ohio. In both these churches we built our youth group around Bible Quizzing. Our children were all involved in quizzing, and each one benefited from a different aspect of quizzing: memorization, relationship building, and discipleship. I was always into sports and competition, while my wife was good with all the details. Together our gifts were well used by the Lord as coaches.

A thought to share: A happy memory that has stayed with me all these years happened right after we moved from Dayton to Oconomowoc to pastor the church there. While preaching one Sunday I looked out and realized that there were five teens scattered around the room who could be a quiz team. I went home and told my wife, "We have a Bible Quiz team sitting right here in our church." We contacted the families to invite the teens to our home each Wednesday to study the book of Acts and practice quizzing. My wife and I both had a lot of fun quizzing every Wednesday. After that year, this group of five was the first to represent the Western Great Lakes district at the international competition. What was quizzing like then? See for yourself in [this video](#) from Internationals in 1991.

My wife Helen (who passed away in 2019) and I both had a love for quizzing as we served through the local church over the years. Please pass along to all our quizzers: "Helen and I both felt a love for all you kids, and we have followed your lives and the things you've done over the years. I am still praying for you as the Lord brings you to mind."





Name: Mike M  
Living in: Southeast Asia  
Quiz team: Oconomowoc 1989-1994  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: In college I enjoyed volunteering once per month as the quizmaster for the Midwest district, and was a leader in a local church's college ministry. Now for the past 15 years I am serving among an unreached people group in Southeast Asia.

A thought to share: I am still humbled that my pastor and his wife were led by God to ask me and four others to be on a quizzing team. Quizzing opened my mind and heart to understand how the meaning of Scripture fits together. I saw for the first time how verses connect into paragraphs, and paragraphs into chapters, and chapters into the book. Quizzing gave me great friendships with incredible people. Quizzing gave me motivation to meditate upon and memorize God's Word. I only saw years later how the discipline of constantly thinking about Scripture while riding the bus, walking down the halls of a public school, and sitting at my homework desk was transforming my thoughts, desires, and worldview. As a teen, God's Word produced in me something new and better to live for. Studying God's Word also gave me boldness to speak out for Christ in my high school.

Favorite memory: For my first four years of quizzing there were no other churches in the district involved. During my senior year of high school, however, three other churches joined quizzing: Plymouth, Sheboygan, and Chetek. I was so happy to see quizzing expand to other churches in the district. I can still remember walking into the room for the first district quiz meet and seeing about 20 other youth in the room. I felt so happy to meet these new quizzers, and to watch them dive into scripture and meet together every few months. Not only that, it was inspiring to see them become better quizzers than I ever was, and to take our district to the 3rd place nationally in 1998. Every time I come back to visit Wisconsin, I see a new generation of quizzers and coaches discovering the wonders of God's word and being transformed by it. My first coach told me that Bible Quizzing combines two things that will last forever: God's Word and God's people.



Name: Kelly Dorner (Shackleton)  
Living in: Delafield, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Oconomowoc 1991-1994  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: Over the years, I have been involved in worship team, choir, drama, youth group leading, and missions trips. I have also been in, and lead, a number of Bible Studies. Hospitality is definitely one of my gifts, so I host when I can as well.

A thought to share: Being involved with quizzing as it was just starting was very exciting. As a tween-at-the-time, the challenge and competition of quizzing really grabbed my interest. The concept of digging in and, very nearly, memorizing entire books of the Bible was something that had never been done by anyone I knew. Thank God that I had a great team encouraging me to improve and study and wonderful leaders to push me to not only memorize, but to personally apply the Scriptures to my life! Decades later, I'm still recalling so many of the verses.

On a side-note, I have never since had such powerful quad muscles as I did through quizzing! All those wall squats! Ugh!!! 😞

Name: Brian White  
Living in: Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Oconomowoc 1991-1994  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: I serve in our church's kids ministry during the services as well as by making videos that are viewed on Facebook. I also serve in the men's ministry by helping plan events and by serving the widows/single mothers.

A thought to share: Quizzing certainly helped to bring me closer to God through his word. It also allowed me to develop friendships with the Bible as the center of those friendships. Quizzing helped to form my Christian worldview, which would help to guide me down the right path at a young and vulnerable age.



Name: Linnea (Spransy) Neuss  
Living in: Pasadena, CA  
Quiz team: Oconomowoc 1991  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: I attend an Anglican Church in LA. I was and still am astonished by how much scripture I could absorb. It began a lifelong habit of memorization. To this day I benefit from all the rich scripture that saturates my mind and heart.

A thought to share:



Name: Nicki C (H)  
Living in: West Africa  
Quiz team: Plymouth 1993-1996, 1998  
Role(s): quizzier, coach

What I'm doing now: I am a missionary in West Africa, a worship leader and ESL teacher (building relationships to lead students to Christ).

A thought to share: I'll never forget when our Suburban broke down in Nebraska on the 4th of July on the way to Internationals in Colorado. We were not sure if there would be any mechanics working that day. But we prayed, and God provided one!

I learned so much in Bible Quizzing. Although sometimes I was competitive and just took it as a way to "achieve" something for myself, God still used it in my life, and His Word never comes back void. Some of the things I learned just from the examples of my coaches and their love for God. I remember my coach [...] going through a struggle to have a child and facing miscarriage after miscarriage (even on our quiz trips). Her faith in the Lord and her grace under stress and pressure was an example to me.

I also always looked forward to the Crown College Quizzing Invitational every winter. That is the reason I chose Crown College as the school where I would get my teaching degree! It is at Crown that God called me into missions and that I met my MK husband! Now we are working overseas as missionaries! God works in mysterious ways!



Name: JJ McCleary  
Living in: Carmel, Indiana  
Quiz team: Chetek 1993-1996  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: This year will be my 20th year serving on full-time staff in missions with Campus Crusade for Christ

A thought to share:

1 Peter 5:7 - "Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." is one of those verses that has never left me. And I need to remember it often! I can absolutely say that learning keywords, verse quotes, and finish-the-verse questions has cemented a lot of scripture in my mind, even from almost 30 years ago!"





Name: Jeff Bourn  
Living in: Waukesha, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Oconomowoc 1991  
Role(s): Quizzer

A thought to share: The depth of the well of the lovingkindness of the God who saves can never be plumbed; but we see it and are struck with wonder at each new view. Our Lord actually delights in His lovingkindness towards us sinners. (Micah 7:18). When I took part in Bible quizzing I was an enemy of God, happily dead in my sins. But by His merciful hand, His word was still brought into my life and my mind. Years later the lovingkindness of God visited me again, firmly and fully: He opened my eyes to my sin and to the majesty and saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ! Once I was saved, the scripture I had learned in my youth was now also in my heart, delighting me with every new truth I learned about the sovereign, nail-scarred hands of our Lord and savior. Praise God for His word, praise God for his lovingkindness, and praise God for Bible quizzing!

Name: Eric Foust  
Living in: Redding, California  
Quiz team: Chetek 1993-2005  
Role(s): Parent, coach, district leader

What I'm doing now: I've been on the pastoral staff at the Stirring Church (C&MA) since 2017. Currently the Executive Pastor.

A thought to share: My favorite memories of quizzing revolve around the district teams I had the privilege of coaching at the Alliance Quizzing Finals. But more than coaching, it was time spent with those individuals, friendships developed and deepened, and hopefully impacting them with the reality of Christ through my life. Road trips, plane flights, and mini golf! Mike M, Lindsay Mitchell, Nicki Heuver, Nate and Tiffani Birr, Erica Lounsberry, Libby, Jean, and Jon Smith, JJ and Annie McCleary, and so many more. You all left an indelible mark on my life. Those were great times!



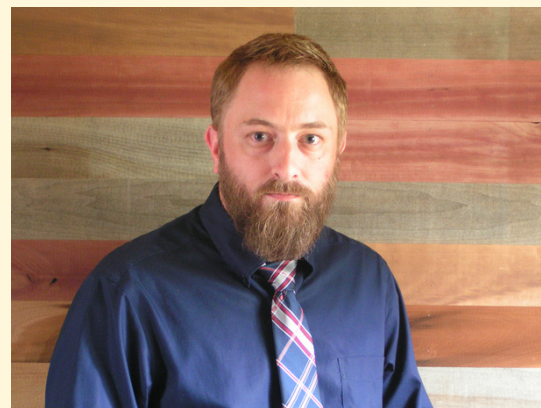
Name: Doug Birr  
Living in: Campbellsport, WI  
Quiz team: Parent, coach, district leader, quiz master, Internationals coach, pastor  
Role(s): 1994-2013

A thought to share: I particularly enjoyed coaching the District team. Great memories from the [training] camps, trips, relationships that were formed, losing passports, driving a 15 passenger van in New York City and much more (and the actual quizzing). As a parent, I went to several Internationals. The one in Utah I saw my son Nate get question 20 to enable the team to go to the championship finals. He wound up being the Quizzer of the Year. Also thrilled that I got to coach my daughter Tiffani on the District team for 3 years. More parent stuff -- watching my kids mature and the Scripture they learned become a part of their lives.

Name: Nate Birr  
Living in: Sheboygan, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Campbellsport 1994-2004  
Role(s): Quizzer, coach

What I'm doing now: I have been an elder at Plymouth Alliance Church for the last 4.5 years, as well as trying to incorporate a Christian witness into the novels I write.

A thought to share: Quizzing played three huge roles in my life. First, I developed great friendships throughout my teen years and even afterward as an assistant district coach. Second, I got to travel to some fantastic places--Florida, Canada, California, Arizona, New York, (St. Bonifacius!)--and have all sorts of fun experiences. I was left behind at a Canadian Football League stadium (thanks, Ian), played Powerball (American Gladiators style) in a Crown College classroom, and had my head shaved by a stranger at two in the morning. Not to mention, I was introduced to Switchfoot (okay, four huge roles) by my sister and her friends while coaching their International team. Third, and most importantly, I committed tons of Bible verses to memory. God blessed me with the ability to memorize easily and recall over time. Twenty-five years later, many of those verses are still with me, and will be for the rest of my life.



Name: Tiffani Robinson (Birr)  
Living in: Fond du Lac, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Campbellsport 1997-2003, 2005  
Role(s): Quizzer, coach

What I'm doing now: I'm a pastor's wife (my husband is pastor of student ministry and Biblical counseling at our church) and I serve on staff with him as his assistant. We are striving to raise up the next generation to know Christ as we teach our five children, and I get to spend my days homeschooling our kids.

A thought to share: Bible Quizzing provided me with solid friendships, with both my fellow quizzers and my coaches. I have countless fond memories from my quizzing years...Times of side-splitting laughter on road trips, fun weekends at the Crown Invationals, and amazing experiences traveling to places like New York and California for Internationals. Because of quizzing, I was able to memorize large portions of God's Word that I wouldn't have been motivated to otherwise. My memories from quizzing are some of my most cherished from my teenage years.





Name: Gary & JoAnn Mitchell  
Living in: Delafield, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Oconomowoc 1995-2000  
Role(s): Parent, coach

What I'm doing now: We have led a Life Group in our home for about 40 years now, and over those years have had various leadership roles in our church, including Missions, Board Leadership, and elder.

A thought to share: We have many favorite memories, particularly the joy of seeing a life changed because God's Word was in their heart. We've lost track of many of the quizzers now but we know that one is in full time mission work and others went on to get Bible degrees.  
One thing that always stood out to us was the friendships that developed between quizzers from different churches. Despite the competition between churches, the bond of friendship was always stronger.



Name: Lindsay McPherson (Mitchell)  
Living in: Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
Quiz team: Oconomowoc 1995-2000  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: I have taught bible classes and kids Sunday school classes, hosted and led a house church, as well as homeschooling my own 4 kids.

A thought to share: Quizzing was incredible preparation for me going on to Bible school and a masters degree in Biblical studies. It's 100% easier to translate from the Greek if you have already memorized the whole book!



Name: Dan Curtin  
Living in: Mayville, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Oconomowoc 2002-2011  
Role(s): Parent, coach

What I'm doing now: I am still active in Bible Study Fellowship. One of my favorite memories and people was Lindy Hauber, Grandma Lindy. She was our volunteer extraordinaire! She was great encouragement for all the quizzers and coaches! She made practice fun and friendly!

A thought to share:



Name: Todd Hanson  
Living in: Black Creek, WI  
Quiz team: Appleton 2008-2020  
Role(s): Coach, mentor

A thought to share: My advice to parents and students. Join BQ, stay in it, and get your friends to join. It is such a wholesome, scripture-centered, character-building, team oriented activity you will never forget. The experiences, life lessons, and relationships built are numerous and rich. I will never forget how, as a coach, I saw kids grow from awkward and uncertain to poised, confident, and assured in their faith. Godspeed to all the coaches and parents that make BQ hum today and in the future! Your work is precious in the eyes of our Lord.





Name: Jaci Strasburg  
Living in: Appleton, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Appleton 2014-2021  
Role(s): Parent, coach, district leader, Coach 2014 - present; District Coordinator 2018 - present

What I'm doing now: I desire to follow the Lord's leading in my life and that's turned me into a wife and homemaking, homeschooling mom of 12 children! I've been part of Appleton Alliance Church for 17 years. I coach quizzing and sometimes help in the nursery on Sunday mornings and enjoy meeting future quizzers!

A thought to share: A great memory is the 2014 Crown Invitational - our B team of first year quizzers: Olivia, Jackson, Jeffrey, Logan, and William was ranked first after the preliminaries but took 5 quizzes in the tournament round to make it to the finals! A favorite thing I have about quizzing is seeing the light bulb go off as students memorize God's Word and get those first few jumps, and then continue to study more and mature in their faith. Another favorite thing is the encouragement quizzers have for one another - quizzers cheer each other on whether the answer is correct or not and the competition is intense but super friendly. I love when quizzers give a devotion and can clearly explain what the passage means because they've studied it and taken it to heart. I love watching experienced quizzers shepherd newer quizzers. Another great memory is watching God uphold and keep quizzing going during COVID through the creativity, ingenuity, and zealously of His people. I got to see relationships grow deeper during this time and almost every quizzer was still able to participate. I have so many great memories of all the teams I've watched and coached over the years and all the adults I've worked alongside of. I look forward to the future and I praise God for our quizzing ministry!



Name: William Strasburg  
Living in: Grand Chute, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Appleton 2014-2021  
Role(s): Quizzer, coach, official

A thought to share: God created so many special moments throughout my time in quizzing it's very difficult to pick and choose memories. There was a moment, however, when God pierced my heart. Like, it actually felt like a spear went right through it and God basically told me: "Hey, what are you doing? What do you truly value and what is worth the time and resources I've given you?" I've learned intensely throughout quizzing to look and listen and reside in Jesus.

Name: Jeffrey Pennings  
Living in: Appleton, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Appleton 2014-2021  
Role(s): Quizzer, coach, official

What I'm doing now: In the past few years I have been involved in the church through quizzing, both as a quizzer and non-quizzer. I have also been on a few mission trips.

A thought to share: One of my favorite quizzing memories is when the 2018 WGL internationals team started dancing in the car on the way back from Canada.



Name: Hope T  
Living in: Appleton, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Appleton 2015-2021  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: I served in my church as a worship leader and class shepherd for kids in kindergarten through second grade. I have also been a game leader for Awana.

A thought to share: One of my favorite quizzing memories is playing spikeball and octoball with all my quizzing people! I love hanging out with younger quizzers and watching their quizzes. It's so amazing to see them study God's Word.





Name: Elijah F  
Living in: Spencer, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Marshfield 2016-2021  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: I've been attending my youth group and a couple other functions that the youth group does for several years now. I play the drums for a youth group ministry when it meets. I've also been a part of the FCA section at my school for a while now. Apart from that, I'd say quizzing is my main ministry that I'm a part of currently.

A thought to share: Well, this is kind of before I actually started quizzing, but I'm going to say it still counts. When my brother was quizzing, I was usually at the meets if I could go and went to several practices. It was awesome to be around so many great teens and inspired me. I remember coming home one night after a meet and thinking, "I want to be like those guys. I want what they have." That was the night I became a Christian and accepted Jesus. Quizzing has had and will have a life-long impact on me. It's a fellowship and a family and you can't ask for much more than that.



Name: Grace T  
Living in: Appleton, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Appleton 2017-2021  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: Before COVID-19, I enjoyed serving in the special needs ministry, as well as the cafe, at our church, Appleton Alliance. I look forward to going back this summer.

A thought to share: One of my favorite memories was when me and the rest of the 2019 Internationals team were driving through Chicago at night. We could see four or five firework shows going off all at once from the car windows. I loved playing Mafia with the team for hours, as well as talking about random things. Thanks for the memories, team!



Name: Mercy T  
Living in: Appleton, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Appleton 2018-2021  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: I'm currently serving in AWANA as a worship leader.

A thought to share: I'll never forget after a quiz meet, 3 years ago, some of the quizzers went outside and had a snowball fight, no coats, no gloves. We came back in soaking wet and laughing!



Name: Luke T  
Living in: Marshfield, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Marshfield 2018  
Role(s): Quizzer

A thought to share: My favorite quizzing memory is when our quizzing team did the leg thing as a celebration, but we were all in sync with each other.

Name: Jessica Tower  
Living in: Appleton, WI  
Quiz team: Appleton 2015-2021  
Role(s): Parent, coach

What I'm doing now: Bible Quizzing is a major ministry for our family and it has blessed us all so much! So far 4 out of our 6 girls have been quizzers and number 5 is joining this fall. Besides quizzing, we also serve in various capacities at Appleton Alliance Church and in leadership in our local homeschooling group.

A thought to share: So many memories have been made through Bible Quizzing! Trips to meets and tournaments, practices both in person and online, special performances and devotions, shared meals and trips to Culver's, laughter and games...Bible Quizzing is such a unique blessing! I love that everyone is always encouraging and uplifting and glorifying God in their actions and attitudes, even through the competition.





Name: Aliya S  
Living in: Appleton, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Appleton 2018-2021  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: As a volunteer in our Preschool ministry, I try to be the best example I could/can be to nonbelievers-loosely mentioning things about my faith to others-encouraging my brothers and sisters in Christ.

A thought to share: It's really difficult to think of anything worthy to represent the whole of all the fantastic memories I've had and hopefully will have, but I have to mention the several times someone would finish the quote in a SIT question and someone on the bench would render that as correct after the QM would say "quote is complete", and that would trigger them to shout for joy and start clapping...even though the quizzer had yet to answer the rest of the SIT.



Name: Riley P  
Living in: Appleton, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Appleton 2019-2021  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: I participated in Awana and Bible Quizzing.

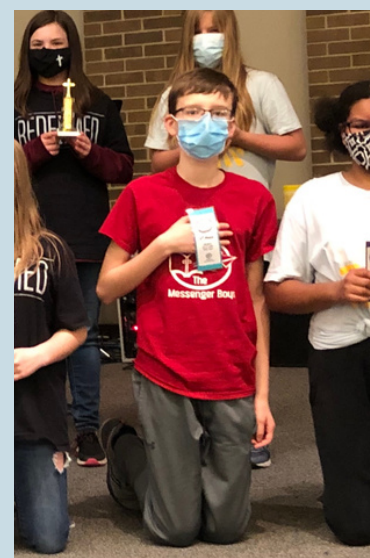
A thought to share: My favorite quizzing memory was the NCD invitational tournament finals. My team took second place even after losing two quizzes.



Name: Malachi D  
Living in: Hortonville, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Appleton 2020, 2021  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: I anticipate being able to volunteer at church and I have helped place Bibles in hotels with the Gideons.

A thought to share: Being able to Bible quiz helped me know other Christians too.



Name: Anika M  
Living in: Neenah, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Appleton 2020-2021  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: I help with child care on Wednesdays and Sundays at our church. My dad is involved with a small missionary support group and I also help with that.

A thought to share:

One thing I really appreciate about quizzing is the fact that everyone was super welcoming to me when I joined and they are still very encouraging. Quizzing is like a big family and everyone makes everyone else feel at home and comfortable. I believe that is one of the best parts of quizzing, besides the fact that we are studying God's word.

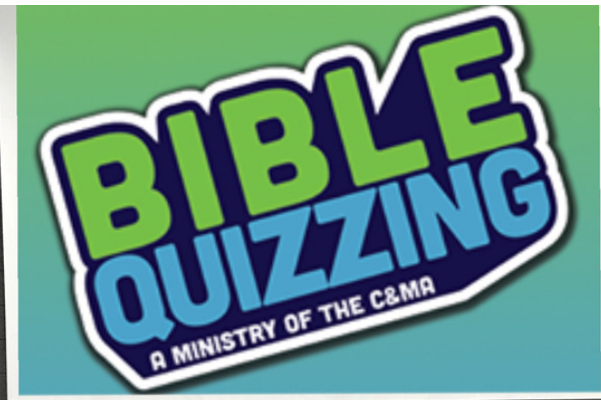


Name: Jack H  
Living in: Elcho, Wisconsin  
Quiz team: Appleton 2019-2021  
Role(s): Quizzer

What I'm doing now: I volunteered during summer, went to men's conferences, went to youth group as much as possible

A thought to share: My favorite memory was of the 2019-2020 B quizzer invitational.

## WGL quizzers 2020





# F A Q

**Want to know more about quizzing?** Check out our district site at [www.cmabiblequizzing.org/wgld.html](http://www.cmabiblequizzing.org/wgld.html) and [www.cmabiblequizzing.org](http://www.cmabiblequizzing.org)

**Are you interested to start a quiz team?** Contact [jttower@yahoo.com](mailto:jttower@yahoo.com) or contact the [Western Great Lakes District office](#), and ask for the contact information of the quizzing coordinator.

**Did you miss the deadline to submit your pictures and quizzing bio?** Send it to [wglquizzingalumni@gmail.com](mailto:wglquizzingalumni@gmail.com)  
If there is a future edition, yours can be included.

30



**BIBLE QUIZZING** IN THE WESTERN GREAT  
LAKES DISTRICT OF THE C&MA

1991-2021