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Engage!

You're already seeing it pop up in various contexts – the invitation to “Engage” (in Spanish, “Involúcrate”). This is the theme for the General Conference’s 2025 convention, scheduled June 30 - July 5 in Salt Lake City, Utah. However, “Engage” is also an emphasis and encouragement we plan to keep before all GC members before, throughout, and perhaps beyond our 2025 convention.

“Engage” is meant to remind us of the many opportunities available throughout the Conference to obey the commands of Christ; to serve our fellow believers, communities, and the world; and to grow ourselves in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Among such GC opportunities are the GC Ministries (Artios Christian College, Publications, and Missions (including the SHINE, Widows and Orphans, and Cristo Viene ministries); the GC Evangelism Initiatives (Personal Evangelism, Small Group Home Bible Studies, and Welcoming Churches); and countless other service and spiritual growth opportunities available within our districts and congregations. Engage! Get involved! These many opportunities accomplish nothing without your participation.

“Engage” may also be expressed as “Plug In.” In Christ, we are part of the greatest community there is: the body of Christ. All around us are brothers and sisters in Christ working together to spread the gospel, grow disciples of Christ, serve church and community, and bring glory to God. Don’t stand on the sidelines; plug in! Get involved! Engage!

“Engage” is a call to action. Month after month, year after year, pastors and leaders of our congregations, districts, and our entire General Conference pray and think, plan and work, trying to find “the thing” that will motivate those they serve to get involved. What is needed, however, is not a new program or an old program in new packaging. Ultimately, we must obey the callings and commands of the Lord Jesus Christ: “Go and make disciples. . . . You shall be My witnesses. . . . Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”

Engage!

*– Loren Stacy
GC President*



District News

Central

Contributor: Ronald Rousseau, Superintendent



Baptism recognition. Amani Pacheco of the CoG7 Aurora, CO church was baptized at the Sis-Q Youth Camp in July. On August 16, Ronald Rousseau presented a certificate of baptism to her. Amani is starting her walk with Christ early in life, and we pray that her investments in the kingdom will yield great fruit.

Sabbath in Schuyler. On July 20, a Sabbath service was held at the CoG7 in Schuyler, NE. Representing the Central District were Superintendent Ronald Rousseau and Area Coordinator Oscar Mata.



Focusing on worship. A special worship event was held July 13 at the Justice congregation in Chicago, led by Ruben Davila Jr., an accomplished musician and worship leader. He encouraged the group of

musicians, worship leaders, and media engineers to seek excellence. The enlightening question-and-answer session reflected common situations faced by those in music ministry.

Photos by E. Rousseau

Camp. Youth from the Aurora and Thornton, CO churches attended the annual Sis-Q Meadows camp July 21-28. Ten kids gave their hearts to Jesus!



Northeast

Contributor: Rolando Morales



Youth camp. Eighty young people from Area 4 churches (Alexandria, Richmond, and Winchester, VA, and Lanham, MD) held their youth camp July 26-28 at the Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center. Guest speakers Moises and Pete Capetillo (Albuquerque, NM) shared sermons on our theme “Defining Your Identity.” One young man accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, and many came forward for prayer. Twenty adult brothers and sisters supervised and served at the camp. Thank you for all the spiritual, moral, hands-on, and financial support.

Southeast

Contributor: Steve Krome, Superintendent



Leaders Meet in Georgia

The Southeast District held its annual Leaders Conference on August 16-18 at the Camp Adrian Conference Center in Adrian, Georgia. Attending were 85 pastors, elders, and church leaders, along with their wives.

General Conference Communications Director Jamin Teran gave several presentations on immigration laws and resources, and Steve Krome spoke on local church organization. During this meeting, two new district ministries were announced: Media, which will expand under the direction of Keila Hernandez from Tarboro, North Carolina; and Young Adult, directed by Jesus and Leidi Velazquez of the Lakeland, Florida church.

We praise God for His blessings on this conference!

Celebration. The NW Atlanta church celebrated its tenth anniversary on May 21. Pictured here are Elder Claude Ricketts and his wife, Beverly, who started and have led this church from the first day. Pastor Gregory Crayton and wife, Deborah, attended, and Pastor Crayton delivered the Sabbath message. An excellent lunch was provided, and the young people enjoyed games and prizes.



Southwest

Contributors: Irma Mendoza and Victoria (Tory) Capetillo, SWD Media Ministry Director

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry



Super Sabbath. On August 17, the brothers in Area 3 hosted a successful Super Sabbath. It featured inspiring messages from Larry Zaragoza and Mike Vlad, who also led a dynamic Personal Evangelism workshop. This workshop is one of three GC Initiatives available as a valuable resource to support local churches.



Concert. An area concert was held August 10 at the Central El Paso church. The event was organized by the director of the Young Adult department, Eduardo Villalba III, and his wife, Michelle. We were joined by the Tigua and Tree of Life congregations. We thank our Lord Jesus Christ for allowing us to enjoy so much talent gathered on this day!



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Vacation Bible School

On July 24-26, children’s director Irma Mendoza and the Mount Pleasant church hosted a Vacation Bible School. The week before was emotional as we eagerly awaited the arrival of the books from Mexico. When they arrived, we got to work. Despite the exhausting task, willing hands and hearts made it satisfying to see everything come together.

VBS exceeded our expectations, bringing glory to God. We had prayer, praise, crafts, and games. Food was provided through donations. We were moved to see children pray and sing as the gospel seed was planted in their hearts.

This year’s VBS was special, with young people involved in decorating and teaching. We’re a small church, but we’re seeing progress in the kingdom’s work. VBS will remain in the children’s memories as they return to school.

– Irma Mendoza

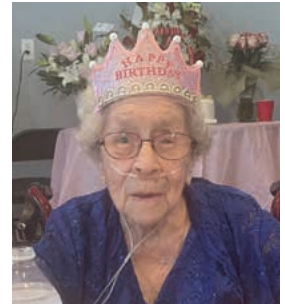
Youth Rally

On July 13, the youth group of New Hope United Church in San Antonio ignited a spark of faith and unity as they hosted a powerful youth rally with the theme “Rise.” Twenty-two CoG7 churches from across Texas joined forces, creating an experience that will forever be etched in the hearts of our young people.

As they came together in worship, fellowship, and service, they prayed that this encounter would fuel their passion for God, inspiring them to prioritize His presence in their lives. May the memories of this blessed event continue to inspire our youth to serve the Lord with purpose and dedication. Let us continue to uplift our young people and this vital ministry in prayer, that they may be beacons of hope and light in a world that desperately needs His love.



Happy 97th! On July 13, the El Paso Central Church celebrated the 97th birthday of sister Rebecca Cardenas. She and her husband, Rodolfo, who already sleeps in the Lord, helped start the congregations in El Paso. We thank God for her life!



VBS. On July 15-20, the Dallas Central church held Vacation Bible School with the theme “Rock Breaks Waves.” Topics covered: The truth comes from God; God’s plan is better; we all need Jesus; Jesus is the only way; and speak the truth in love.

Upcoming Events

September 27-29 - Super Sabbath, Albuquerque, NM

October 11-13 - UNITE Fall Youth Retreat, New Hope, San Antonio, TX

October 28 - November 2 - North American Ministerial Council, Grapevine, TX

December 6-8 - SWD Women’s Retreat, Burnett, TX

December 13-15 - Super Sabbath, El Paso, TX

West Coast

Contributors: Matthew and Johanna Stucker, Melva Smith, Harold Ogren, and Aaron Carbajal, WCD Media Ministry



Seekers camp. With an emphasis on Psalm 19:1-4a, our 68 campers learned some of the many ways we “See Creation SHOUT!” (our theme) the glory of God. Staff and campers (ages 8-12) assembled at Sis-Q Meadows July 28 - August 4 for Christ-centered and creation-themed morning devotions, classes, music, crafts, and evening fireside gatherings. Field recreation, swimming, and paddle-boating provided lots of opportunity to enjoy His creation. The joy of witnessing six baptisms was a particular special blessing of this year’s camp experience!



Summer Family Weekend

August 17-18 was designated as Summer Family Weekend at the Eugene CoG7. Sabbath began with a typical morning service of Bible classes, awesome worship service, and a great sermon about “Hopefulness.”

After much planning, Saturday night was a surprise celebration of Harold and Vona Ogren’s 50th wedding anniversary. This faithful couple has served the Lord and the Church together their entire married life and will continue for many years. In addition to being co-directors of our Teen Camp, they have served on the national committee of the FYC (former CoG7 youth organization) and on various committees to make the General Conference Conventions run smoothly. Both Harold and Vona have servant hearts and have taught their family to serve at church or in the community.

On the final day of Summer Family Weekend, Sunday, we enjoyed our annual church picnic. Thank you to the team that cooked the beef briskets and those who brought all the side dishes. It was a fantastic afternoon of visiting, playing, and eating!

— Melva Smith



New members. In the August-September issue of Churchright, Loren Stacy wrote, “Effective efforts require effective teams. Effective teams require faithful members.” On June 22, Robert, Brittanni, Nathan Watkins, and Megan Ogren received their membership certificates and joined the team. We are so thankful they have chosen to serve the Lord!



Youth Camp

The Sis-Q-Meadows Youth Camp took place July 21-28 in Southern Oregon, with 87 students and 29 staff attending. Churches in Oregon were well represented, as well as those from Washington, Idaho, Oklahoma, and Colorado. It was a great week with the theme of “God’s Playbook” - “41.” We have His instructions. We are a team.

During our time, we enjoyed early morning Bible study on the outdoor deck, firesides at night, classes, crafts, basketball, a huge soccer tournament, swimming, paddle boats, and a trip to the California coast via the Redwood forest.

Youth made hand-tied blankets that were donated to the local fire/rescue unit. During one unplanned event (the camp cook developed an eye infection) many youth and staff stepped in to help in the kitchen. We are a team!

Of course, the highlight was seeing students make a commitment to follow Christ. Eleven of our campers made first-time commitments, and three of them were baptized at camp. We praise the Lord for these young people! We also praise the Lord for a safe, Spirit-filled week.

– Harold Ogren



Youth service. On July 27, the CoG7 Phoenix youth hosted a youth service. Our guest speaker, Zuri Santoyo, shared a powerful message centered on our theme “A Calling to Serve.” The event brought together 110 youth from churches across Nevada, California, and Arizona. After a day filled with worship, praise, and the Word of God, Sabbath concluded with a pool night, an abundance of food, and joyful fellowship. Thanks to God for the overwhelming support shown by all the youth who came together to uplift our local CoG7 Phoenix youth.



Awakening. A young adult service titled “An Awakening,” held June 8 in Ontario, CA, focused on waking up young adults from their worldly attachments and shifting their attachment to God. Thanks to this event, the Ontario church has gained new members and witnessed

baptisms. Ontario’s young adult leader, Ezri Anguiano, came up with the idea of “An Awakening.” With continued support from the church, she and her team are already planning for the next event.



Shining a light. The East Valley, AZ youth, sponsored by Gladis Payan and Marvin Thompson, held a youth service on April 27. The theme was “Be a Light.” Youth from all four Phoenix-area congregations were represented. They led Sabbath school for a joint youth and adult lesson, led praise, and presented special songs, exhortations, and the message. The service concluded with the song “Go Light Your World.”



Breaking through. The Northern California Youth Camp took place July 15-21 with the theme “Break Through” (2 Corinthians 5:17, 18). There were many lessons given but only one message: There is newness in Christ. Only through Him can we have spiritual breakthroughs that tear down the walls in our lives. This camp provided a powerful experience. Consider joining us next year at Capitol Mountain!

Upcoming Events

October 4-5 - Northern California SWORD Rally, Sacramento, CA

December 14 - Arizona Super Sabbath, Phoenix, AZ

Late Spring and Summer Graduates

Rachelle Bowers, Certificate of Leadership Studies;
Pauline Kelly, Certificate of Leadership Studies; Juan
Carlos Villeda, Associate of Christian Leadership, Pas-
toral Ministry.

Late Spring 2024 Dean's List* Recipients

William Aba, Rachelle Bowers, Pete Capetillo, Aaron
Coulson, Dan Davila, Arnulfo De la Cruz, Caleb Dona-
ciano, Eduardo Garza, Efrain Gomez, Greg Haffner,
Jacob Keim, Jordan Lang, Alirio Luna Sosa, René Mar-
roquin, Pablo Martinez, Israel Pacheco, Ottoniel Perez
Gonzalez, Rebeca Ramirez, Cohayne Sutherland

** Dean's List recipients earn eight credits per quarter
with a minimum 3.5 GPA.*

Calendar Events

October 28 - Late fall registration closes
November 3 - Late fall classes begin

Late Fall Classes

BIS 101 History and Literature of the Old Testament
COM 121 Written Communication for Leadership
LEA 111 Essentials of Vibrant Leadership
LEA 311 Spiritual Leadership

Register at

[https://my.artioscollege.org/
en/courses](https://my.artioscollege.org/en/courses)



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ASLEEP IN JESUS

Marjolene Ijames Rose

1959 - 2024

Born December 6, 1959, in
Mocksville, North Carolina,
to William Calvin Ijames and
Vertie-Mae Coulter, Marjolene
was the last of three siblings.
She passed away July 21 at age 64.



Marjolene married Whaid Guscott Rose and
joined him in pastoral ministry in New York City.
Both of their children – Arvella Elizabeth and
William Nathaniel Simpson (Nathan) – were born
there.

After returning briefly to North Carolina
(1990-1994) to lead the Newton Church,
Marjolene and her husband answered a call to
serve the church in Colorado. For a combined 23
years, they ministered in both the local church
and the General Conference.

Since returning to North Carolina in 2017,
Marjolene devoted herself to caring for her par-
ents, serving the church alongside her husband,
and making her house a home to everyone. She
did all of this while participating in Bible Study
Fellowship.

Marjolene was loved and appreciated by so
many here at home and around the world, but
Jesus loved her most.

Wilma Ling

1923 - 2024

Irene Wilma Ling entered
into rest June 21 at her home
in Meridian, Idaho. She was
100. Wilma was born Septem-
ber 10, 1923, to Mitchell and
Vida Marrs in Earlsboro, Oklahoma. She worked
alongside her husband, Lavern, in ministry and in
raising their family.



*Read the full memorials of Marjolene and Wilma
on our Memorials page at churchright.org.*

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GC Convention

Excitement is building for the next General Conference Convention in Salt Lake City! We hope you are planning to attend the entire week (June 30 - July 5). Grab your memories of the last convention and get ready to take them to the next level!

In 2023, our afternoon workshops included topics covering the GC Initiatives. Convention 2025

will focus on motivating and equipping us to apply our knowledge and skills in active ministry. It is not a coincidence that the convention theme is “Engage.” Learn ways to become involved in your churches, families, friend groups, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Some of you are eagerly waiting for specific details about the convention. As usual, the registration website will be released in early January. At that time, hotels will provide the dedicated information for you to receive convention rates. Booking one of our reserved rooms (not using your points) helps to ensure the Church can meet contractual requirements. By reserving a block of rooms, you receive a discounted rate, and the cost for renting meeting rooms is greatly reduced.

Working together helps keep convention costs reasonable. We appreciate your assistance and patience. Be planning and praying for our time in Salt Lake City!