

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)

**February - March
2015**

Volume 7 • Number 2

2015 Emphases

January - NAWM

February - **SWORD**

March - **Publications**

April - LifeSpring

May - World Missions

June - Youth

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August - Spring Vale

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Publications

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December - G. C.
Ministries

Radical Church!

The Southern Baptist Convention, the world's largest Protestant denomination, recently went radical. The trustees of its International Missions board elected David Platt as its president!

What's so radical about that? Platt is part of a new movement focused on changing Christianity in America — what *Christianity Today* describes as “calling comfortable Christians to extreme discipleship.”

The movement is led by a group of young SBC pastors known as “the new radicals,” including Francis Chan, Shane Claiborne, Kyle Idleman, and at the front of the pack, David Platt. Their books, *Crazy Love*, *Follow Me*, *Not a Fan*, *The Irresistible Revolution*, *Radical*, and *Radical Together*, are dominating the Christian bestseller list. Another radical, Steven Furtick, has joined ranks and added a new book, *Greater*, to the collection. Its premise is that “Christians are mired in a miserable mediocrity and should open their imagination to the possibility that God has a vision for our life that is greater than what we are experiencing.”

This radical message has found “an eager market,” evidence that many are ready for something new; ready to step out of their comfort zones; tired of making Jesus as appealing, comfortable, and convenient as possible. This accounts for the new spiritual wave moving many into deeper dimensions of discipleship and mission. And since this wave began with its own sons, the SBC is stepping into the water, wading out a little bit deeper, even at the risk of change and the discomfort it sometimes brings.

But this radical message isn't new. Jesus taught it, demonstrated it, and expects it of His followers: “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24, NKJV). It begins with moving beyond self-living; it is fueled by following hard after Jesus and leads to a radical lifestyle marked by a willingness to lay down our very life. This is truly radical, and Platt and company are saying it in new and fresh ways to a church that has long forgotten.

Last time I wrote about viable church. Viability is good, but radical is even better. So may this spiritual wave reach our shores, causing a holy discontent among CoG7 sons (and daughters) too. It will change lives, ignite cutting-edge faith, inspire radical church. I'm ready. Are you?

— *Whaid Guscott Rose*

Quotations are from March 2013 *Christianity Today* lead article “Here Come the Radicals!”



“Worship in the Spirit” Conference Tour Update



Lodi, California



Lodi, California - January 17. Some 500 participated throughout the day from Lodi, San Jose, Oakland, Visalia, and elsewhere. It was hosted by the Lodi congregation, where Loren Stacy pastors. It was a memorable stop, marked by great worship and teaching, and enthusiastic and receptive participation.

Coming up . . .

March 21, 2015: San Fernando, California; contact Jorge Herrera (818-378-7568; jdhp4life@aol.com)

April 11, 2015: Church of God (Seventh Day), Acme, Alberta (Canada); contact Robert Grabinsky (westagra@gmail.com)

May 2, 2015: Chicago, Illinois — to be announced (rented facility being negotiated); contact Juan Arzet (773-648-1524; arzet8@yahoo.com)



Port St. Lucie, Florida



Port St. Lucie, Florida - December 6. More than 300 attended this event, hosted by the Port St. Lucie (Treasure Coast) congregation, pastored by Al Haynes. Whaid Rose summarized this stop with these words: “Port St. Lucie was a *super great tour stop*, with an enthusiastic and receptive crowd, a positive spirit throughout, good attendance, delicious Jamaican food, and more! God be praised!!”

Phoenix, Arizona - December 13. More than 300 attended this tour stop, hosted by the Phoenix area congregations. Participants wrote: “The messages were inspiring and so well communicated. The question-and-answer sessions were informative. If this is an introduction as to what awaits us at convention, we are doubly excited about attending!”



Phoenix, Arizona



Convention registration
now open at
cog7.org/convention.

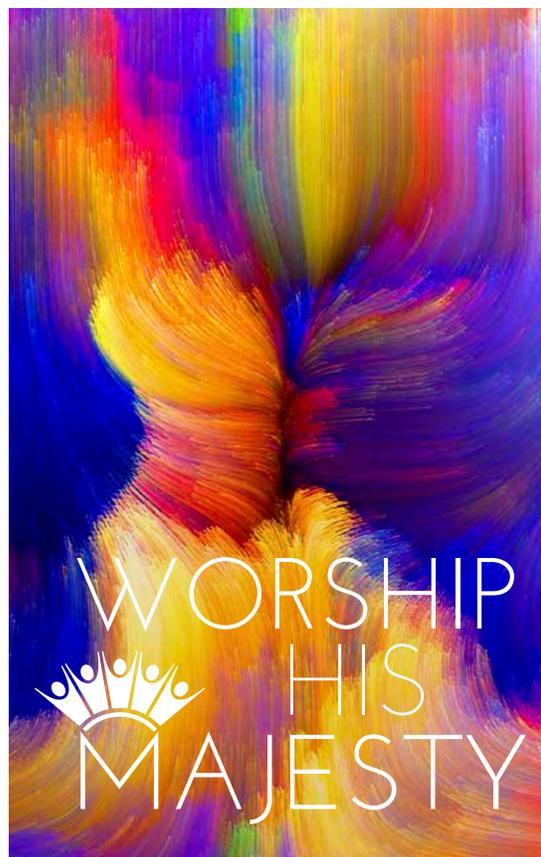
You're Needed in Milwaukee!

June 29 – July 4, 2015
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Conference Member,

Our bylaws require that the Conference president issue a “Call to Convention” prior to each biennial session. I’m pleased to do so now for my ninth and final time. I’ll keep it short, to the point — just a couple of reasons from me personally why you should seriously consider attending the upcoming Milwaukee convention:

- **Major Conference business.** Due to extensive bylaw revisions being considered, the business to come before this convention will be significant in nature and proportion. Your participation is critical. Add to that the presentation of the new Conference president, new BA editor, and announcement of changes in the configuration of our G. C. Ministries. Your voice and vote are needed.
- **Worship His majesty.** We’ll culminate the biennium-long worship emphasis with a celebration fit for The King, each worship service highlighting a different aspect of Jesus’ life and ministry and ending in a grand “big sing” crescendo on Saturday evening. Your praise and worship are needed.
- **A cherished tradition.** Over the years I’ve referred to biennial conventions as “a cherished tradition,” borrowing that phrase from my predecessor. It speaks for itself, conjuring up images of family, fellowship, feasting, fun, and festivities



— things that warm the heart. In “We Are God’s People,” the songwriter says that each ember loses its fire when it burns alone. But joined with others, the flame burns on to produce light and warmth. Your flame is needed.

- **Discover Milwaukee.** If you’ve visited Wisconsin’s fourth largest city, situated on beautiful Lake Michigan, you know that it’s well worth the return visit. If you have never visited, this is your finest opportunity! I could go on and on about Milwaukee, but that would break my promise to keep this short. So check it out for yourself, and start packing. Your visit and patronage are needed.

Milwaukee will stand out in my memory as the last convention over which I’ll preside. I hope you will be part of that memory.

So much more I could say, but this will suffice for now. On behalf of Ken and Mary Jean Knoll and the entire Planning Committee, I invite you to the 2015 Biennial Convention and look forward to seeing you there.

Whaid Rose
Conference President



Remembering LeRoy Dais

After an extended health battle, LeRoy Dais departed this life on Monday, December 1, 2014, surrounded by his family. The General Conference remembers this faithful servant of the Lord with gratitude and hope in the resurrection. Here, three General Conference presidents offer their tributes.

Someone should have written a book about LeRoy Dais. Such a book would include chapters on faith, family, integrity, humility, selfless and tireless dedication, a long journey in the same direction, and other such topics.

His full-time service in various capacities for more than fifty-eight years has endeared LeRoy to many throughout the Church here at home and abroad. It's been rightly observed that in the modern history of the General Conference, no name has been more closely linked to its Publications ministries and *Bible Advocate* magazine, by people around the world, than the name LeRoy Dais. Press operator at the publishing house in Stanberry, Publications director, foreign missions correspondent, Bible curriculum editor, and promotion of financial stewardship and planned giving are just some of the ministries to which he tirelessly gave himself over these many years. On both local and national levels, LeRoy's churchmanship was outstanding, inspiring me to think to myself on various occasions, *When I grow up, I want to be like LeRoy.* He worked tirelessly, with dedication and diligence and never

a complaint. In challenges with his health, he persevered with patience and discipline. In disappointments or conflict, he endured quietly and was never mean-spirited.

Over the course of time I've learned much about his Eureka, South Dakota family heritage, and how his teenage decision to attend Midwest Bible College set the trajectory for the rest of his life, including his marriage to Hope. The book about LeRoy would therefore also include a chapter on finding purpose. As one writer notes, "The greatest tragedy in life is not death, but life without purpose." LeRoy Dais found his life's purpose at an early age and dedicated himself to that one thing for the rest of his life. What a way to live.

Therefore, on behalf of the entire General Conference family across the continent, I extend love and condolences to the Dais family. Thank you Hope, Bryan, Susan, Craig, and Linda for sharing LeRoy with us. Thank You, Lord, for giving our church the gift of LeRoy Dais.

It's been said that a tree is best measured when it is down. We're now getting an even better perspective on the impact of this one

life. Our church's Sabbath heritage began with a search for the most honest man in Battle Creek. LeRoy could have easily been that man; his life fits that profile. So I thank God for LeRoy Dais, who showed us how to live, love, serve, and finish well. His gentle spirit and quiet demeanor, combined with strength of character, will long inspire us.

So the book about him I would title *LeRoy Dais: Quiet Strength*.

— *Whaid G. Rose*
Conference President

Of all the abilities God gives to men, the greatest of these may be dependability, stability, reliability, and durability. Stick-to-it-iveness and steadfastness; constancy and consistency. Loyalty, fidelity, and faithfulness. Immovable, unwavering, and unswerving. God's Word is well sprinkled with such counsel:

"You shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left" are Moses' words in Deuteronomy 5:32 (NKJV throughout).

"If you abide in My word," Jesus said in John 8:31, "you are My disciples indeed." "He who endures to the end will be saved"

appears in more than one place in this Gospel.

Now hear Paul: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

These are the kinds of counsel that took deep root in LeRoy early on. He was a single-minded man: one church, one mission, one spouse. He was straight as an arrow, true blue, tried and true. Once he put his hand to the gospel plow, he didn’t look back. He set his face like a flint toward the one high and blessed calling to serve His Savior. Sure he had his share of failures and grieved the loss of others who fell out along the way. But none of those things moved him, nor did he count his own life dear unto himself so that he might finish the race with joy and the ministry he had received of the Lord Jesus: to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

This one thing LeRoy did: Forgetting things behind and reaching to things ahead, he pressed toward the goal of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. He ran to win the prize promised to all who complete the course and finish the race. As one who endured to the end, all the good promises of God’s Word are in his favor. There is laid up for him a crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous judge, will give him in that day. In him will be fulfilled the promise that says, “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

— Elder Calvin Burrell

LeRoy Dais was a Christian of tremendous faith and conviction, a family man who cherished his wife

and children. He was a friend and brother who showed hospitality to the many who visited their home. He was a churchman who devoted his life to proclaiming the gospel of Christ by producing the finest literature possible for the Church of God (Seventh Day).

I became acquainted with LeRoy when he served as manager of the Church’s publishing house and I served as director of the youth department (mid-1950s). Through our joint assignment on the G. C. Administrative Committee, we formed a lifelong friendship.

LeRoy was responsible for the modernization of the Bible Advocate Press. When he was made Publications manager, its literature was produced on a large hand-fed cylinder press. The printed stock was folded, collated, stitched, and trimmed — all by hand. LeRoy had a vision for making this antiquated publishing house into a first-class printing operation.

To realize his vision, LeRoy standardized the size of the Church’s tracts for mailing in a letter-sized envelope, changed the shop name to Bible Advocate Press (after the *Bible Advocate* magazine), and initiated the Church’s free literature distribution program and publication of literature in Spanish. LeRoy also realized his dream of writing and producing Sabbath school materials for children and youth through adults.

When the Bible Advocate Press moved from Stanberry to Denver, Colorado, in 1972, LeRoy acquired a new offset printing press,



capable of publishing the Church’s literature in color, and bindery equipment that put the magazines together in one operation.

LeRoy’s plan to distribute the Church’s literature free of charge more than tripled the distribution of the *Bible Advocate* and made it available for global readership. Through this ministry LeRoy became known and loved by the readers of the literature he produced.

It was painful to observe LeRoy’s failing health over the past year. When I asked him how he was doing, he never complained. I feel blessed to have known and worked with LeRoy Dais!

— Elder Robert Coulter





SHINE 2015

“Serving Him in Nations Everywhere” has been the passion of SHINE Medical and Dental Missions for the past decade. SHINE has served in Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Jamaica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, and Belize. Now in 2015, SHINE will minister to the least of these in Las Calientes, Mexico, April 12-19, and later in the year in Colombia, Central America. Your support of this worthy cause is solicited, with much appreciation. Whether you go on the mission or support those who do, your contribution will reap heaven’s blessings. Whoever gives a cup of cold water in Jesus’ name will not lose their reward (Matthew 10:42, paraphrased).

CALENDAR 2015

May 23-24 - National Women’s Ministry Conference, All Saints Academy, Gloucestershire, England, UK; theme: “Married to the Main Man”; contact: Marvet Simpson (marvetsimpsonsaved@hotmail.com)

May 29-31 - Southwest District SWORD Retreat, Brookhaven Christian Retreat, Hawkins, TX; contact: Jacqui Melgoza (210-900-9889; sword@cog7.org)

LifeSpring Calendar Events

February 9 - Spring course registration opens

February 10 - Spring certificate program early applications due

February 24 - Spring district scholarship applications due

March 3 - Spring general scholarship applications due

March 24 - Spring course registration ends

April 5 - Spring classes begin

Donations to SHINE can be given at cog7.org. (Select “Giving” at the top left of the page and follow instructions. Be sure to designate SHINE.)

LifeSpring

Congratulations to these fall 2014 graduates:

Diploma of Pastoral Ministry

- Sergio Alfaro, Houston, Texas
- Timothy Hinds, Kansas City, Missouri
- Mario Lopez Gutierrez, Linwood, North Carolina

Certificate of Biblical Studies

- Daisna Gibson, Bronx, New York
- Benjamin Ramirez, Stockton, California
- Martin Ramirez, Fort Smith, Arkansas
- Edgar Rodriguez, Midland, Texas
- Andreas Salinas, Dallas, Texas

Fall 2014 Dean’s List Recipients*: Ricardo Flores, Garland, Texas; Francisco Garcia Gonzalez, Brownsville, Texas; Jonathon Hicks, Newman Lake, Washington; Worrel Largie, Apopka, Florida; Ismael Martinez, Norcross, Georgia; Jose Fredy Mata, Severn, Maryland; Martin Ramirez, Fort Smith, Arkansas; Priscila Sanchez, Allen, Texas.

**These students took courses part-time and earned a minimum 3.5 GPA.*

College Scholarship Opportunity

Are you a graduating senior or currently enrolled in college with a minimum GPA of 2.5? Are you a member of Church of God (Seventh Day)? If yes, then you may be eligible for the Patricia Keith-Meyers Scholarship. The Denver local church is offering three merit-based \$1,000 scholarships for qualifying students.

Submission deadline is April 1, 2015. For details, requirements, and an application, contact cog7.denver@cog7.org.



PMT1 2014

Pioneer Missionary Training Level 1 took place December 21-31, 2014, at the Boturini CoG7 in the heart of Mexico City, under the leadership of its pastors Isaias Molina and Manuel Ulaje. The team was amazed with this local congregation's jam-packed programs, starting with RSKT – *rescate* (“rescue” in English). This youth-led program uses drama and street evangelism (including a “flash mob” done by the RSKT-kids ministry) to set the stage for the congregation's access to the public's spiritual needs. Just one day alone put the Boturini church in contact with 70 people seeking spiritual direction from the Lord.

A full schedule of equally intense activities continued, such as using the congregation's TV studio ministry to prepare a short *Today Show*-style interview, a superbly acted drama performed in a rented theater, a hospital visit, an entertaining children's fair, and an art gallery. All these activities joined with tours of the city's natural history and monuments. Inspiring messages and training showed just how much a congregation, guided by its various leaders and manned by its members, can do in the name of the Lord. Thank you, Boturini, for giving us that vivid example!

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Churchright is a bimonthly newsletter published by the General Conference Church of God (Seventh Day). It is dedicated to communicating relevant Church news and cultivating a “culture of excellence.”

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Don't Miss . . .
SVA Alumni Weekend
March 20-22, 2015
“SVA Generations”

**Spring Vale
Academy**

Former staff and alumni: Contact your friends and schoolmates to attend Alumni Weekend! It's going to be a multi-generational extravaganza, with lots of activities and events. The classes of 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2005 are big years — 10-25 years since graduation. Take advantage of this opportunity for a super reunion!

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26, NKJV).

**Annual Lord's
Supper Service**

**Thursday,
April 2, 2015**

(at sunset)

In every local
church in the US
and Canada

Your seat at the Lord's
table is reserved; come and dine.



REBOOT

**We are an
ever-changing generation.**

**The time is now:
Refreshed - Renewed
It's time to Reboot!**

February is SWORD Emphasis Month

Has your young adult
ministry crashed?
Reboot it!

Visit sword.cog7.org for help
in starting or restarting your
young adults. Let's impact
high school grads and
college and career students
for Christ!

Jacqui Melgoza,
Director



Publications

Working behind the scenes supporting our cast
members of districts, churches, agencies, and
individuals like you. Thank you for letting us
serve!

March is Publications Emphasis Month

Keith Michalak, Director