

# CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 1

December 2015 - January 2016



## On the Road

Since July, Executive Director Jody McCoy and I have spent approximately one workweek a month in our Denver offices. Also, I have traveled to Eugene, Oregon, to learn convention matters from Ken and Mary Jean Knoll; to Ellensburg, Washington, for a Super Sabbath; and to Marion, Oregon, to help honor Pastor Dale and Ethel Lawson. October 2-5, Jody and I attended the annual Southeast District Leadership Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida (see page 3).

As of this writing, Jody and I are scheduled to be in San Antonio, Texas, November 7, for a special Sabbath and Saturday night meeting of the Southwest District board. I am then scheduled to attend the Phoenix, Arizona Super Sabbath weekend December 5-6. Jody's and my 2016 travel schedules already include events in Texas, Michigan, North Dakota, and Eastern Canada.

— Loren Stacy

## One Church!

It would be difficult to overstate the value that God places on godly unity. The concept is raised and praised throughout His written Word, the Bible: “A man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh (Genesis 2:24, NASB throughout); “The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity . . .” (John 17:22, 23); “For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:4, 5).

In Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul makes this passionate plea “to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all” (vv. 1-6).

Preserve the unity! One body! One Spirit! One hope! One Lord! One faith! One baptism! One God! The world and the cultures we live in are marked by division, so they find and focus on the differences. Separate those who are “us” from those who are “them.” “Divide and conquer” is the strategy of our day. How different that is from our high calling in Christ.

When you think of our church, I urge you to think **one church**. We are thousands of members, but we are **one church**. We are hundreds of congregations, but we are **one church**. We are seven districts and numerous G. C. ministries and administrators, but we are **one church!** We cannot control all that is done within our countries or within the body of Christ universal, but we are ridiculously in charge of who and what we choose to be.

Following Ephesians 4, we can help fulfill our Savior's John 17 prayer. We are the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day). We are **one church!**

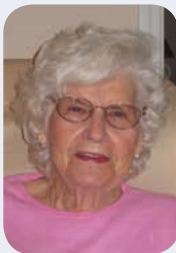
— Loren Stacy  
General Conference President

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## ASLEEP IN JESUS

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**Christine Dersa**, a long-time member of the Hammondville, Alabama congregation, passed away July 16 at age 91. She was baptized by Elder Ennis Hawkins in 1939. Her parents, the Millicans, were instrumental in founding CoG7 in this area of Alabama. Christine was the last survivor of the Millican family.



*Under the direction of G. C. Missions, a new Bible seminary was built in Faisalabad, Pakistan, and opened in early September. It will prepare Christian ministers, and nearly 70 students are enrolled. Pastor Shamas Pervaiz leads CoG7 in Faisalabad, assists wider Christian efforts, and often addresses inter-faith gatherings that include thousands of Muslims.*



## Aid to Dominique

A powerful summer storm hit the Commonwealth of Dominique, leaving many dead and many more homeless. Among those horribly affected were members of the Church of God (Seventh Day) - Jerusalem. Elder Godwin Prospere, co-pastor of our Orlando, Florida congregation, alerted G. C. Missions of this need. Missions is collaborating with him and others to send funds raised, along with a minimum of \$1,000 from the Disaster Relief Fund, to help these brothers and sisters in Christ rebuild what was damaged or destroyed.

## Disaster Relief Fund

Contributions to our General Conference Disaster Relief Fund may be made in response to specific events or at any time to prepare for disasters that surely will come. While our Missions ministry, which administers the fund, will most often honor the intentions of donors who earmark contributions for specific locations or events, we reserve the right to use all DRF donations to aide anyone anywhere who is in need of disaster relief.

## Denver Office News

The last issue of *Churchright* announced the hiring of two new General Conference office employees. Christopher Idemmili is now hard at work as our new full-time, on-site IT specialist. He is learning our systems, addressing our needs, and providing our staff with peace of mind that he is available to help when our computers won't do what we need them to do.

Unfortunately, the woman announced last issue as our new on-site bookkeeper is no longer with us. A mutual decision that we were not a good fit led to her departure and to our renewed search for an on-site bookkeeper. Until the right person is found, accountant Dawn Wayman and former G. C. bookkeeper Rebecca Van de Wyngaerde, who has come out of retirement to help us, are going above and beyond to fulfill this important assignment.

## 2017 Convention News

Ken and Mary Jean Knoll have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the 2017 Convention Program Committee, and they are already busy building their team and helping to identify the convention site. Having successfully led us through our fantastic 2015 convention, Elder Ken and Mary Jean were President Stacy's first choice for this important role, and he is extremely grateful for their willingness to do it again. Information regarding the dates and location of our 2017 convention will be shared as soon as possible.

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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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## District News



### Southeast District Leadership Meeting

At this year's meeting, held October 2-4 in Jacksonville, Florida, an estimated 90-95 percent of the Southeast District's pastors, district board members, and other leaders attended. The meeting emphasized evangelism, discipleship, financial stewardship, and plans for women's and men's ministries. Superintendent Steve Krome shared district news and goals, and President Stacy and Executive Director McCoy shared General Conference news and goals. Additional presentations were made by Darrel Walters II, Dr. Robert James, Darrel Walters, Dorothy Ray, Pastor Worrel Largie, and Pastor Ishmael Martinez. Sabbath service was led by Pastor Al Haynes.

The fellowship was warm, and those attending were encouraged. Watch for great news coming out of our Southeast District. Its leaders are on the move!



### Northeast District Men's Retreat

Sixty-three men from six different states attended the men's retreat October 23-25, in Grass Lake, Michigan. Themed "This Means War," the retreat was labeled "one of the most Spirit-filled retreat weekends yet!" Friday's message and prayer service set the tone for the rest of the time. Sabbath morning brought blessing after blessing as God moved.

Brother Joshua Gutierrez spoke with veracity and passion, encouraging men to be warriors for God and take their place as kingdom men. The warnings of temptation and sin were heard loud and clear. This retreat was for real men!

The rain didn't stop the many activities, nor did Satan. Attenders committed to small group brotherhoods so they can actively lift each other up and help them stay accountable in their spiritual walk.

## CALENDAR 2015 - 2016

**December 5** - Super Sabbath in Phoenix, AZ  
**January 9** - Leadership Meeting, Houston, TX  
**February 28 – March 2** - Board of Directors meeting, Denver, CO

### LifeSpring Calendar Events

**December 29** - Winter course registration ends  
**January 10** - Winter classes begin  
**February 9** - Spring certificate program early applications due  
**February 23** - Spring district scholarship applications due  
**March 1** - Spring general scholarship applications due

### Upcoming Emphases

February - LifeSpring • March - Missions

### Western Canada

This district enjoyed an October full of blessings, starting with the Thanksgiving Super Sabbath in the Parkland congregation on October 10. A message by Daniel Camero encouraged focus on building up each other through God's blessings. Wonderful fellowship and mealtime capped off a remarkable day in the Lord.

Also on October 10 the Calgary and Acme congregations hosted an inspiring Pastor's Day appreciation for their ministers.

The district's crowning activity for the month was hosting Equip seminars with Elder Israel Steinmetz in Red Deer, Alberta. Brethren from the three major congregations learned about church leadership, the polity of the General Conference, presentation and teaching methods of Sabbath school lessons, and sermon preparation and presentation.

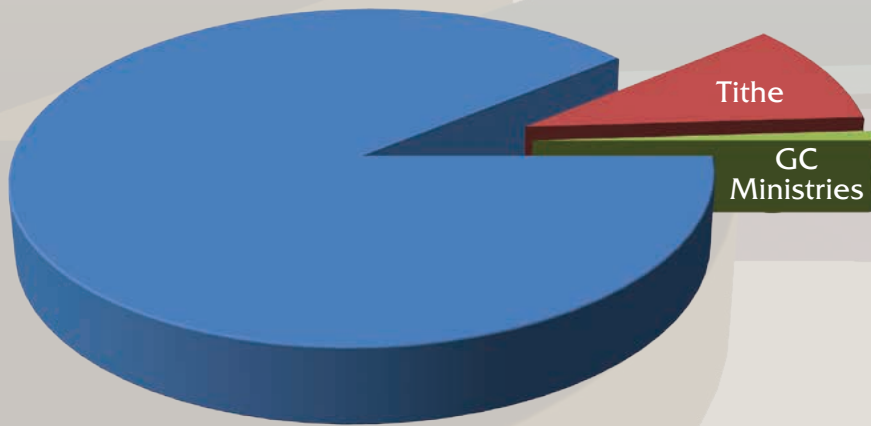
### Spring Vale Academy



*Spring Vale Academy celebrated three baptisms on October 30. Shortly after Sabbath began, Angel Pina, Audra Bishop, and Hayden English were baptized at the Owosso church on the SVA campus.*

# G. C. Ministries

## Give a Tithe-Plus



Support God's saving kingdom work by adding an offering of 1% to your tithe for our General Conference Ministries. . . .



Thank you for your generosity and prayers. Without these, our ministries cannot do their good work.

*Doing kingdom work together that none of us can do alone.*

# Publications: a World of Possibilities

## What's New

The adult Sabbath school quarterly for January-March 2016 is available for order. Written by Pastor Ken Lawson, *Community and Character* explores the ethical norms of Jesus and the New Testament for that holy community God calls *church*.

Order from the Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; e-mail [bap.orders@cog7.org](mailto:bap.orders@cog7.org); or call 303-452-7973.

## January is Publications Emphasis Month

*From the staff of the BAP,  
thank you for your gifts  
and prayers.*