

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

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Catch the Vision of a Vibrant 21st Century Church!

Plan to attend Convention 2017 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois, July 3-8, 2017

- ❖ Join in worshipping the Lamb.
- ❖ Participate in revising bylaws to support this vibrant church.
- ❖ Fellowship with other believers and explore the Land of Lincoln.
- ❖ Pray for all volunteers involved in planning Convention 2017.

Watch for registration in January 2017!



Transforming Vision into Reality

TVR Encouragement

I often long for assurance that important decisions I make agree with God's perfect plan. Some decisions are simple. If God's Word says, "Do," we do; if God's Word says, "Don't," we don't. But many specific decisions aren't addressed in the Word — questions of what or how or when.

For example, Moses and the children of Israel didn't have to wonder if or when to stay or go. When the pillar of cloud by day or of fire by night moved, it was obviously time to pack up and follow. I'd love to have that kind of certainty in my decision-making, wouldn't you?

Our Transforming Vision into Reality (TVR) efforts fall within the "not specifically addressed" category. Each of the ten points of our Vision of a Vibrant 21st Century Church is instructed within God's Word. But what about our timing, our methods? What about our TVR stages and timetable, our posters and booklets? At least two good reasons prove our decisions align with God's will and plans for the General Conference.

First, our vision and its transformation came to us from God. While then G. C. President Whaid Rose was God's messenger in this, he compiled the ten points from God's Word. For sure, TVR was not an idea that Jody McCoy and I created. Rather, it came slowly, a tiny seed growing into a fruitful tree, as we prayed, talked, and pondered God's will. God, Himself, is leading us forward.

Second, both our vision and our TVR efforts are being met with excitement, acceptance, and commitment throughout our church: in Super Sabbaths and regional leaders' meetings across the United States and Canada, at the recent Ministerial Council meeting, and even at the more recent meeting of the International Ministerial Congress. As a people, we see God moving forward, and we are ready and eager to follow.

These reasons may not be as obvious as miraculous pillars of cloud and of fire, but I'm encouraged by them. I hope you are, too.

— Loren Stacy



District News



Central: Welcome, Huron!

Huron, South Dakota, became an official congregation on October 15. Pictured above, Daniel and Diana Borja are being anointed and prayed for, surrounded by leaders from area churches. Superintendent Ken Lawson presented the Huron church with a Certificate of Recognition. — *Ken Lawson*

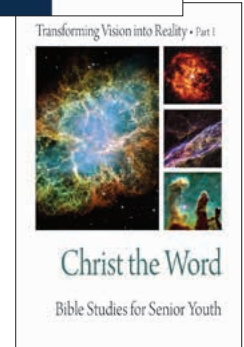
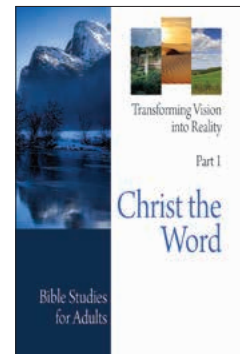
Southeast: Women's Retreat

For the first time in over a decade 225 Southeast District women met September 30 - October 2, in Oldsmar, Florida. Speaking on the theme "Who Are You? and Who Are You Becoming?" were Joy Moore, Jeddie Larry, Pam Brown, Elaine Donaldson, Sherry Jackson, Marina Anderson, and Zahida Hrenyk. Praise and worship teams came from Haines City, Port St. Lucie, and West Palm Beach. Various groups and individuals performed skits and music throughout the entire retreat, ending with a talent show Saturday evening. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time — a great beginning to our newly developed district women's ministry program. — *Steve Krome*



Quarterly Series on Vision

The BAP is excited to announce a four-part quarterly series for 2017 based on the General Conference's Transforming Vision into Reality message. These adult quarterlies will also be suitable for junior and senior high Sabbath school classes and will explore the ten-point vision of the Church of God (Seventh Day): Christ Centered, Spirit Formed, Bible Based, Sabbath Celebrating, Distinct Yet Inclusive, Passionate in Worship, Compassionate in Service, Engaging in Witness, United in Fellowship, and Committed to Discipleship. We hope our whole church will study these 52 lessons together in 2017, and so more closely realize the vision God has given us. Order *Part 1 - Christ the Word* today (see page 3 for details).



(Seventh Day) or (7th Day)?

It is not unusual to find Church of God (Seventh Day) written *Church of God (7th Day)*. Curious about the origin of (7th Day) and whether or not it is appropriate, Loren Stacy learned two interesting historical facts from Elder Robert Coulter.

First, *Seventh Day* was added to *Church of God* in 1923 to differentiate our church from others that used the name *Church of God*. Originally the intent was that *Seventh Day* would be printed as a second line directly under *Church of God*, but how would that fit into a printed paragraph? Perhaps to solve that problem, when the new name appeared in the *Bible Advocate* magazine, it was written *Church of God (Seventh Day)*.

Second, following the 1933 division of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) into the Salem, West Virginia church and the Stanberry, Missouri church, the Salem church began using (7th Day), or - 7th Day, to differentiate itself from the Stanberry church, which continued to use (Seventh Day). A. N. Dugger's Jerusalem churches in the Caribbean used 7th Day almost exclusively.

Elder Coulter prefers (Seventh Day), as does President Stacy, because it aligns us with our history, our legal name, and one another.

ASLEEP IN JESUS

A Servant Rests

Roy Marrs, a minister of the gospel for 65 years in CoG7, died October 8, 2016, in Carmichael, California, at age 91. Roy was born November 28, 1924, in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, to Mitchell and Vida (Kerns) Marrs and was the youngest of three children.



After serving in World War II, Roy married Claudia Ruth Whitford, and they had four children: Lucille Joy Dralle (Neal), Lawrence Mitchell, John Harold (Judy), and James Roy (Phylis). Claudia preceded Roy in death. He subsequently married Alvina (Miller) Stacy, who brought to the marriage Roy's stepson, Loren Gene Stacy (Karen).

Roy and Alvina's "adopted" children, Leo Lebitty (Karen) and Laura (Loomis) Tennant (Bond), also joined the ranks. Alvina passed away November 18, 2012.

In addition to his sister Wilma, children, and stepson, Roy is survived by ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, with two more on the way. A memorial service will be held January 7, 2017, in Lodi, California, where he lived for nearly 30 years. His children request that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to suitable Christ-honoring ministries.

CALENDAR 2016-17

December 16-18 - West Coast District Sword Retreat, Brooks Memorial State Park, Goldendale, WA

December 18-28 - Pioneer Missionary Training (PMT 1), Mexico City, Mexico

LifeSpring Calendar Events

December 6 - District Scholarship Application deadline

January 3 - Winter course registration ends

January 15 - March 26 - Winter class in session

January 15 - Early Spring course registration begins

A more complete list of events, including contact information, is available at cog7.org/churchright.

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TVR Tools

Now available for local congregations . . . helpful tools to transform our vision into reality!

- TVR Posters (\$30 for a set of 7, plus shipping and handling)
- TVR Booklets (\$25 for a set of 50, plus shipping and handling)
- 2017 Adult and Youth Sabbath School Quarterlies (quarterly: \$3.80; teacher's guide: \$5)

All tools available in English and Spanish.

Order by contacting the Bible Advocate Press at P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; e-mail bap.orders@cog7.org; or phone 303-452-7973.



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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.

20
YEARS AND
COUNTING!

It began with a desire to reach the unchurched on the Internet.

Twenty years later, *Now What?* is going strong and still offers the help and hope of Christ.

Check out the redesigned site at nowwhat.cog7.org, with its extensive archive. And share a story with someone!

January is Publications Emphasis Month. Support our online ministry!