

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

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Transforming Vision into Reality

Stage 1

If you've followed our TVR efforts throughout 2016, you know that we have embarked upon a four-year plan to transform our Vision of a Vibrant 21st Century Church into the reality lived by each member, congregation, district, and ministry. As Executive Director Jody McCoy and I have shared, this journey can be described as "finding our identity in Christ and becoming more like Him as we share His love with others."

Throughout the first year (2016), we traveled extensively and worked closely with our core executive team members — the district superintendents — to develop this three-stage plan and prepare the Church for it. I trust that your congregation is using TVR posters and booklets. Now it is 2017, and Stage 1 has begun.

This stage is a yearlong focus on our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Via sermons, Sabbath school quarterlies, the TVR booklet, and articles in *Churchright* and the *Bible Advocate*, we will concentrate on Jesus. Only Jesus lived a sinless life, qualifying Him to give His life as a ransom for us. Only Jesus died for our sins that we might be redeemed from sin and its penalties. Only by God's grace through faith in Jesus can we be saved and made new. Throughout 2017 we will focus on who Jesus is, what He has accomplished, and what it means for us individually if we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord.

The purpose of this concentrated focus on Jesus is twofold: knowledge and response. We want everyone to know Jesus because "there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12, NASB). And we want everyone to respond to Jesus with personal belief, total commitment, and overwhelming gratitude for who He is and what He has accomplished.

Stage 1 has begun. In 2017 join fellow members of your church as we all grow closer to Christ and find our identity in Him.

— Loren Stacy



Artios Christian College

On January 31, 2017, LifeSpring School of Ministry changed its name to Artios Christian College (pronounced *AR-tee-oss*).

If you want to influence your family, church, community, and workplace, Artios is for you. It equips Christians to be vibrant leaders through flexible programs, affordable courses, and other focused resources that lay a foundation of biblical theology, restoration, and missional engagement.

February is Artios Christian College Emphasis. Find out more at artioscollege.org.

Artios Calendar Events

January 15 - March 26 - Winter class in session

April 2 - Early spring course registration ends

April 9 - May 14 - Early spring class in session



District News



Central: Super Celebration

The Chicago Area Super Sabbath was held in the Elgin Church of God (Seventh Day). This beautiful new facility held all 530+ attending and could have held more. With featured speakers Loren Stacy and Jody McCoy, the program presented by the ten Chicago churches, and their hospitality, reflected their devotion to God.

Central District Superintendent Ken Lawson prayed a blessing on the leader of the Elgin congregation, Miguel Gonzalez, and his wife. Miguel has completed his studies and is applying for ministerial documentation. Included in this prayer were the leaders of three new churches and their wives, fully recognized in the Chicago area: Oscar Lucero (Rockford), Ronald Rousseau (Calumet), and Marcial Hernandez (Zion). Not present due to weather was Miguel Uraga (Plainfield, Wisconsin).

We know that God will bless each leader and his wife in fulfilling the Great Commission. A special celebration will take place in each of these local churches when the process is complete. Welcome aboard! — *Ken Lawson*



Southeast District youth met in Eustis, FL, December 23-25, 2016, at a retreat hosted by the Dundee, FL church. More than 200 young people heard presentations by Bledy and Derick Jaramillo on the theme "It's Time to Change." The 2017 youth retreat and its theme, "Youth Talking to Youth," were announced.

Western Canada: Faithful Member

Martha Keim, a member of the Acme, Alberta congregation since 1935, is arguably the oldest and perhaps the longest-serving CoG7 member. Back then,



document issuing and filing weren't the best, so it was impossible to find a membership certificate for her. Thanks to the dedicated work of Amber Michalak in the Conference office and the research of Western Canada's historian Robert Grabinsky, District Superintendent Orville Rose issued Sister Martha her General Conference documentation.

At 102 years old, Sister Martha still actively participates in Sabbath school. Her years have not diminished her wit, and her sharp remarks often cause us younger ones to think outside the box. Sister Martha has also been a longtime contributor to *Afterglow*.

We continually pray God's grace on this spry, young woman He brought into our midst over eight decades ago. — *Orville Rose*



Thanksgiving project: After weeks of collecting food from the congregation and from nearby Cascade School students, Marion, OR CoG7 members and friends met November 20 to assemble and deliver food baskets. They served 93 families, totaling 522 individuals, up from 86 families totaling 465 individuals in 2015. Last year was the project's 23rd, thanks to original organizer Dixie Deedon and to Sheryl Henderson, this year's coordinator. Many other volunteers came together to help, motivated by God's love for all.

Second Quarter Curriculum

The goal of the adult and senior youth Sabbath school quarterlies this year is to flesh out the Vision for a Vibrant 21st Century Church.

In the first quarter, we studied Christ Centered and Bible Based. The second installment in the Transforming Vision into Reality series — *The Spirit of Truth* — addresses Spirit Formed, Sabbath Celebrating, and Distinct Yet Inclusive.

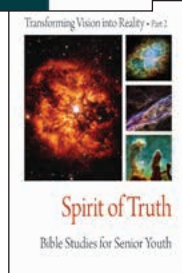
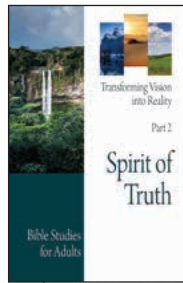
May Jesus have the supremacy in every way within the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) and wherever Christ-honoring and truth-loving believers study these lessons.

Also, don't miss the titles for children's studies:

Intermediate. *Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection* starts with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and includes the Passover meal; institution of the Lord's Supper; His trial, crucifixion, resurrection, instructions for the disciples, and return to heaven.

Primary. In *Rejoice in the Lord Always*, lessons focus on some Old Testament stories not previously covered.

Preschool/kindergarten. *God – Strong Deliverer, Merciful Savior* starts with Moses in Egypt and ends with the Israelites building the tabernacle in the wilderness.



ASLEEP IN JESUS

Catherine Carlin (97) passed away November 2, 2016. She was born February 17, 1919, to Tjeerd (George) and Altje (Alice) Nienhuis — the fourth of eight children.

Catherine married Dr. Albert Carlin, and they lived a short time in Japan, then in Bakersfield, California, where Albert began a residency. In 1952 they moved with Paul, their toddler, to Stanberry, Missouri. Within a month, they welcomed their second child, Janice. Elizabeth and Ann were born in the busy years that followed.

Catherine was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 55 years, her brothers Edward and Matthew, and her sisters Tena, Rose, Fennie, and Fencine. Catherine is survived by her children Paul (Pat) Carlin; Janice Smith; Elizabeth (Ken) Keim; and Ann Grape, as well as by her sister Alice Sheffield, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.



Monica P. Zaragoza (89) passed away December 11, 2016. She was born July 5, 1927, in Los Padillas, New Mexico, to Monico and Ramona Rosita Padilla. She moved to California in 1943 and met her husband, Reuben, there in 1945.

Married in 1947, Monica and Reuben had seven children: Irene Bova (Victor), Reuben (Laura), Larry (Vicky), Elizabeth Dupray, Abel (Lucy), Gabriel (Diana), and Abraham (Angie) Zaragoza. Reuben, Jr., Larry, and Abel are pastors in the Church of God (Seventh Day). She was given 17 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandson.

Monica was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers Trinidad, George, and Frank; sisters Pina (Avila) and Joanne (Ledesma). She is survived by a sister, Maria Baca (90), and a younger brother, Gene (84).



CALENDAR 2017

February 19-22 - G. C. Board of Directors Meeting, Denver, CO

March 25-26 - TVR Super Sabbath and Leaders Meeting, El Paso, TX

April 2-5 - Annual G. C. Leadership Meeting (district superintendents and G. C. ministries directors only), Denver, CO

April 9 - Lord's Supper Service in all churches

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For more, visit *Memorials* at cog7.org.



Around the world, CoG7 missionaries are making an impact. Opportunities await us with open doors to proclaim the good news.

We ask that every congregation consider supporting one Cristo Viene missionary this year and commit monthly to pray and financially support their leader's mission. Regular reports will be provided to those who request them.

To sponsor a missionary, visit cog7.org/giving, or earmark your local offering "Cristo Viene." Contact G. C. Missions at 303-452-7973 or gcmisions@cog7.org to learn more.

March is Missions Emphasis.



Find out more at gcmisions.cog7.org
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Worthy
IS THE LAMB

General Conference
Convention

July 3-8, 2017

Registration is now open!

- ❖ Register by April 30 to receive the early discount.
- ❖ Invite your friends and family to register.
- ❖ Remember there are activities for everyone: children, youth, adults, young adults, senior adults.
- ❖ Hear the latest news about G. C. ministries.
- ❖ Check the website for full convention details: <https://cog7.org/convention/2017-info/>.