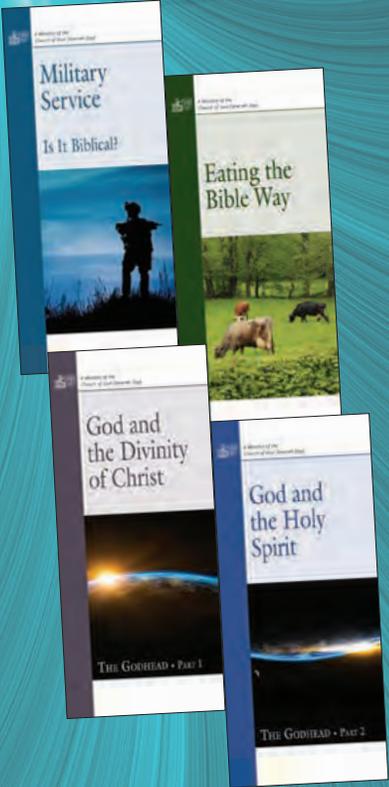


CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

VOLUME 9 • NUMBER 4

June - July 2017



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Convention 2017 Not That Different

The 2017 Biennial Convention is set for July 3-8 in Springfield, Illinois. This year's gathering will be different from most. First, during the business sessions, members will consider adoption of revised General Conference Bylaws. Regular amendments to our Bylaws may be proposed at any convention. A proposed revision, however, is unusual because it is comprehensive — dealing with the entirety of our Bylaws, not just a part — and because of its process. A proposed Bylaws amendment may be submitted up to 120 days before the next convention, but a proposed Bylaws *revision* requires at least two years of preparation. Members in one convention vote to create a Bylaws Revision Committee to prepare a proposal they can consider at the next convention. That's what we did in 2015, so at our upcoming convention, we'll look at the proposed revision.

Second, this convention will be different because time usually given to seminars will be devoted to business. In 2015 we reviewed a previously proposed Bylaws revision but didn't finish. Therefore, after voting to reappoint the Bylaws Revision Committee and assign it to report in 2017, we voted to spend both mornings and afternoons of this year's convention (except Thursday afternoon) to business, in hopes that we won't run out of time again.

Are you thinking you might skip our time in Springfield because of the differences from our normal conventions? I hope you won't. Do you enjoy evening and Sabbath worship, with great music and encouraging messages? We'll have them! Do you appreciate the children's and teens' programs, morning devotionals, and special interest meals and events? We'll have them! Do you treasure catching up with beloved friends you see only at conventions? They'll be there! Will you?

Our 2017 convention will be different, but not *that* different! I hope to see you there!

— Loren Stacy



District News



G. C. leaders (L to R): Ken Lawson, Leeroy Williams, Orville Rose, Larry Zaragoza, Loren Stacy, Jody McCoy, Heber Vega, Chip Hinds, and Steve Krome

Leaders Meet in Denver

The 2017 G. C. Leadership Meeting was held April 2-5 in Denver, Colorado. President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy met alone with our district superintendents all day April 2 and 3.

The morning of April 4, this group was joined by our G. C. Ministries directors (Israel Steinmetz, Bryan Cleeton, and Keith Michalak) and by *Bible Advocate* Editor Jason Overman, G. C. Office Manager Eddie Villalba, and G. C. accountant Dawn Wayman. The afternoon of April 4, the district superintendents left for their homes, and those remaining continued to meet until noon April 5. In effect, therefore, the annual G. C. Leadership Meeting became three meetings: one of our district superintendents, one of our ministries directors and three other key staff members, and a combined meeting of both groups — all focused on transforming our vision of a vibrant 21st century church into our reality.

The opportunity for these key leaders to meet with others who share similar roles and responsibilities is vitally important. So is the opportunity for face-to-face conversations between district superintendents and ministries directors. This meeting was blessed with positive communication, collaboration, and mutual support. All agreed that the major lack was that more time is needed for the superintendents group and the ministries group to meet. God willing, that will be added next year.

Southwest

Super Sabbath and Leadership Meeting

Area 6 held its Super Sabbath and Leadership Meeting in El Paso, Texas, March 25-26. Conference President Loren Stacy admonished

the audience to become men and women whose actions and words reflect the Holy Spirit. He urged members to evaluate themselves and strive to be the spiritual person that God seeks.

At the same time, the Vibrant 21st Century Church vision was shared with the church and area leaders. Sixty-three leaders gathered in the Tigua church to understand the details in becoming this kind of church. Jody McCoy, executive director, and Loren Stacy answered questions and concerns of area leaders. Superintendent Chip Hinds and other coordinators also helped the leaders understand the process and vision of the district.



Pressing in.

Student Ministries held its annual CYC (Conroe Youth Conference) in Conroe, Texas, April 15-16. Teenagers from all over the district heard

from speakers on how God transforms our lives when we seek Him. They were urged to get outside their comfort zones and press in to their faith in God. Students also worshipped, played, and learned from other ministries and programs in the district.



Baptisms and children's ministry.

The Southwest District was blessed with baptisms in different areas. Also, churches in south Texas are developing programs with children and creating new concepts for them to learn the Word. For example, the church in Laredo-Yireh presented a play representing the Good Samaritan as part of their thanks-giving service before the Lord's Supper.





West Coast

At the 2017 Northern California SWORD retreat February 17-19, 83 attendees identified themselves as “the Church of Today.” With the help of messages from Brother Moises Capetillo from Albuquerque, New Mexico CoG7, and Brother Ruben Frausto from the Sacramento, California CoG7, the group was moved to offer a real difference in the Church. In addition to the new relationships among attendees from Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Texas, and Washington, the group left with a desire to roll up their sleeves and answer the call from Jesus to His service.



Northeast

Being a vibrant 21st century church includes being compassionate in service, engaging in witness, and being committed to discipleship. The men’s ministry in Lanham, Maryland, meets every Sabbath, after lunch and before afternoon services, to be discipled for service and witness. Twice a month, these men join praise and worship on Sabbath morning, then go out to share the gospel with unchurched day laborers in Riverdale Park, Maryland. A non-CoG7 family allows informal outdoor services in their yard. The gathering typically hosts 20-40 unchurched men and includes singing, an evangelistic message, and a homemade meal served by the Lanham men. These men demonstrate the brotherly affection that only the love of God can bestow. They return, overflowing with joy, to join afternoon services. Close to 300 people attend services every Sabbath in Lanham.



CALENDAR 2017

June 8-11 - Men’s Retreat, Still Waters Prairie Retreat Center, Alfred, ND

June 11-17 - Dover Family Camp, Camp Cimarron, Dover, OK

July 3 - Pre-Convention Leadership Conference, Springfield, IL

July 3-8 - General Conference Biennial Convention, Springfield, IL

July 17-23 - Youth Camp, Capital Mountain Christian Camp, Weimar, CA

July 17-23 - Seekers Camp, Capital Mountain Christian Camp, Weimar, CA

July 17-23 - Youth Camp, Camp Wamatochick, Prescott, AZ

July 23-30 - Youth Camp, Sis-Q Meadows Camp, Cave Junction, OR

July 30 - August 6 - Seekers Camp, Sis-Q Meadows Camp, Cave Junction, OR

Artios Calendar Events

July 8 - Commencement ceremony at G. C. convention

July 16 - Summer course registration ends

July 23 - August 27—Summer classes in session

*For a complete listing of events,
please visit churchright.org.*

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My Testimony

Hand of Healing

My dad has struggled with blindness for essentially the past three months. Doctors told him his left eye was permanently damaged and that the damage was irreversible. Dad recently had surgery on his right eye and now can see out of it, but nothing in the field of medicine could be done for the left eye.

That changed on April 22. The service that morning was amazing — Spirit filled! It began with a feeling in my spirit early that morning. Something was just different. My dad had a terrible pain in his eye that day and could not attend. I was sad that he wasn't going to be there because visitors were coming to see him.

The entire service was about healing, and even visitors spoke of the need for healing in their families, or testified of their own healing experiences. We ended with prayer at the altar, and people were anointed.

Fast forward to the church service on April 29. My dad attended and gave his testimony.

He said he had to sleep in the recliner for the past two weeks because of his surgery. After sleeping the evening of April 22, he awoke to a vision of a large finger coming toward him. He said he couldn't open his eyes to look at it. He was paralyzed — frozen. But then he felt pressure from the finger on his left eye, the one with permanent damage. When the pressure from the finger was gone, my dad was too afraid to open his eyes. He yelled for my mom, thinking she was downstairs, then went back to sleep.

The next day, as the day went on, my dad realized he could see out of his left eye. He can now see more than 50 percent out of it, and his right eye is healing nicely. This is a miracle!

Thank you for your prayers and your faith in God's healing powers. I believe the reason this happened is that we believed in one accord.

— *Pastor Steve Rodriguez*
Saginaw, MI



Southeast

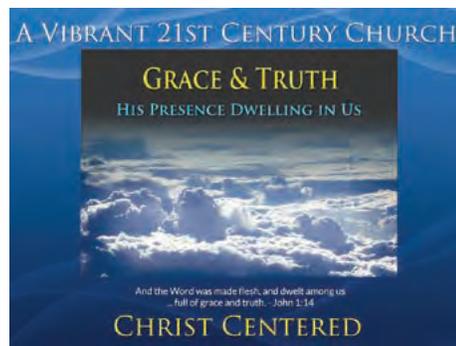
The Tarboro, North Carolina church, led by Tereso Hernandez, held a Super Sabbath on March 25. About 200 people attended from churches in North Carolina and Georgia. Walter Apen and Steve Krome (second from left) performed baptisms in the local river for five new believers. During Sabbath school, a recap of the TVR initiative was given and the afternoon message was entitled "Membership or Partnership." Music was provided by the Tarboro and Stone Mountain praise and worship teams.

Central

On April 1, Superintendent Kenneth Lawson visited the Aurora, Colorado church, where he installed Elder Eddie Villalba as pastor. With Eddie (third from left) stands his wife, Socorro and the church board (L to R): Efrain Aranguti, Ramon Mendez, Javier Guerrero, and Hilda Linares.



The Aurora congregation has some energetic evangelism plans. One is training their children and youth in music. Every Sabbath they are learning to play instruments and are quickly becoming a special part of the services and worship. Pictured here with her instruments is Helen Flores.



Children's Curriculum - Summer Quarter

Intermediate: In *God Gave the Ten Commandments*, students will learn that when we disobey God's will and laws, we commit sin; that Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins; and that God gave the Ten Commandments as our basic moral law. The first three lessons explain the meaning, origin, and consequences of sin. Lesson 4 explains that God gave Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins. The rest of the lessons are devoted to the Ten Commandments and the importance of obeying God's law.

Primary: *Our Mission – to Share the Gospel with Everyone* helps students learn that God has given us a great work to do: to share the gospel with everyone. God has also given us everything we need to do this great work. These lessons focus on stories from the book of Acts. Students will learn about the early followers of Christ and how they carried the gospel to the world.

Preschool: The lessons in *Knowing God and Believing in Him* continue where last quarter ended, starting with Moses sending out the twelve spies and ending with Ruth marrying Boaz. Through these lessons, students will learn that God can do anything. They will also learn that He will empower us to do great things for Him just as He empowered Joshua, Gideon, and Samson. Most of all, students will see that God sent Jesus to die on the cross so that anyone who believes in Him will be saved.



The international SHINE Medical and Dental Mission team is dedicated to helping heal the body, nurture the soul, and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. SHINE's mission this year — to Peru — has two main goals: 1) to conduct medical and dental clinics November 19-26 and 2) to offer initial assistance and support to the local brethren in building Peru's first CoG7 temple. SHINE does not normally build churches; however, it is necessary in Peru so the SHINE mission can be conducted.

Peru currently has no CoG7 church facility, so individuals meet in a member's private home. Peru's brethren will construct a church in three phases, beginning in May of this year and ending in October. SHINE's medical/dental clinics in November will be held in the new church facility.

Laying a foundation is more than a physical act, however. It is also the beginning of a spiritual journey



Change in Quarterly Orders

Beginning with the fourth quarter 2017, standing orders of Bible study quarterlies will no longer be shipped automatically. Instead, they need to be placed through the Church of God (Seventh Day) online bookstore (cog7.org). Instructions on how to order will be sent by e-mail and by regular mail prior to fourth quarter 2017.

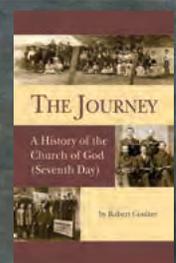
We are making these changes because of the large debt that the Bible Advocate Press has incurred from churches or individuals who have fallen behind in paying for their materials. Even though the BAP is a ministry of the Church, the ink, paper, and personnel needed to print the quarterlies is expensive, and those bills need to be paid on time.

For those who have paid their invoices in a timely manner, we want to express our thanks and appreciation. The BAP staff looks forward to serving you more efficiently in the future with online ordering. Please don't hesitate to call (303-452-7973) or e-mail us (bap.orders@cog7.org) with any questions you may have.

Book Sale!

The Journey: A History of the Church of God (Seventh Day), by Robert Coulter, is available for purchase for a reduced price of \$19.95 + postage.

Order by e-mail (bap.orders@cog7.org), online bookstore (cog7.org), or mail: P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233.





...of building on the rock of Christ's teachings (Matthew 7:24). Even erecting walls and roofing a building assume broader meaning, as verses 24-27 urge believers to read, understand, and follow biblical teachings, laying strong Christian foundations in their lives.

Almost twice the size of Texas and slightly smaller than Alaska, Peru lies on the western coast of South America, between Chile and Ecuador. In recent years, its economic stability has improved and the poverty rate has dropped substantially, but poverty is still around 30 percent (more than 55 percent in rural areas). Many poor children temporarily or permanently drop out of school to help support their families — about a quarter to a third of Peruvian children, aged 6-14. Despite economic growth, many have left Peru. Both civil war (1980-2000) and drug problems (it's now the world's second largest producer of coca leaf and cocaine) have caused more than two million Peruvians to exit this country in the last decade.

Peru can be a harsh place, and thus building your house/life on rock rather than sand is necessary. The country's brethren, as with all believers, need solid foundations of Christian spirituality in their lives, even as they work to build a foundationally solid church home in which to worship.

Please pray for Peru and its people . . .

- that the Lord guides the construction of the church;
- that the temple built will be a shining light to its community;
- that the SHINE mission team and its preparations will be blessed;
- that God's will prevails in all that happens.



Your donations are needed as well. Several ways to give are listed at cog7.org (Contact/Donate; specify "SHINE" beneath the "Other" category under G. C. Missions).

Contact Ernesto Frausto (916-896-9267), SHINE director, if you have any questions. Online applications for people interested in joining the SHINE team to Peru will be available June 1 - August 31 and will be due by August 31. Watch for more details on SHINE Mission's Facebook site and on the home page of cog7.org.

— Bev Brenneise



Flooding in Jasper

On Sabbath, April 29, flash floods quickly submerged the lower floor of the Jasper, Arkansas church, leaving most of the congregation stranded on the upper floor. The waters continued to rise almost four hours and reached the windows before receding. Thankfully, no one was hurt, but the building was extensively damaged. Water came through the doorways and pushed up through the floor, cracking it in several places. Carpet, cabinets, and baseboards were ruined, as was the sheetrock along the bottom of the walls. The driveway was all but washed away.

Because this congregation's insurance will not cover flood damage, \$5,000 from the General Conference's Disaster Relief Fund was immediately sent to help address the needs, which will undoubtedly require tens of thousands of dollars before all is repaired.

Members and congregations of the General Conference are encouraged to help through donations and special offerings. Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be made via the Donations page at cog7.org, through our local congregations, or by mailing a check to General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233. Checks should be earmarked "DRF."

Direct donations to the Jasper congregation may be sent to Church of God (Seventh Day), HC72 Box 413-D, Jasper, AR 72641-9517.

SPRINGVALE

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Fall enrollment is open! Visit www.springvale.com.



Around the world, CoG7 missionaries are making an eternal impact, bringing people to Christ. Opportunities await us 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.

July is Missions Emphasis.



Find out more at gcmisions.cog7.org
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CONVENTION 2017



Worthy
IS THE LAMB

Don't forget!

You can still register for the 2017 General Conference Convention, July 3-8, in Springfield, Illinois.

What's there to do?

- Engaging activities for children, youth, young adults, and adults
- Stimulating discussions, led by God's Spirit in refining our Bylaws
- Extended meal times for fellowship among believers
- Dynamic worship, energized by our worship team and challenged by gifted speakers each evening

Don't miss this gathering of your church family! Visit www.cog7/convention/2017-info.

