

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

VOLUME 10 • NUMBER 2

February - March 2018



CALENDAR 2018

February 17-18 - SWORD-Strong Conference, Brownsville, TX

March 3-4 - Super Sabbath-SWD Area 5, San Antonio, TX

March 3-4 - SWORD-Strong Conference, in Houston, TX

March 10 - Pacific NW Super Sabbath, Harrisburg, OR; speaker: Jason Overman

Artios Calendar Events

February 11- Late winter course registration ends

February 18 - March 25 - Late winter classes in session

April 1- Early spring course registration ends

April 8 - May 13 - Early spring classes in session

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

TVR Stage 2 is Underway!

Transforming Vision into Reality (TVR) may be thought of as a spiritual journey that General Conference members are taking together. As we travel toward God's future for us, the Holy Spirit transforms our Vision of a Vibrant 21st Century Church into our reality.

TVR provides a way for us to unite as we fulfill our individual roles and responsibilities. The TVR plan is to simply focus on Jesus and follow His plan. It doesn't micro-manage; it respects the roles, ministries, and expertise of our members, congregations, and leaders in the places where Christ has called them. TVR binds us together with common purpose, focus, and terminology.

During 2017 (Stage 1), we focused on Jesus as our Savior. The goals were about connecting with the vision — i.e., becoming more Christ centered and less self-centered; understanding that only God is good and that salvation is a gift, not a reward; and developing an attitude of gratitude toward God for His love and grace. We'll know that we were successful in 2017 if our members and congregations have developed an even deeper gratitude for Christ.

During 2018 (Stage 2), we are focusing on inward spiritual growth: becoming more secure in our identity as individual believers, and as a church, because our identity is in Christ; growing in the grace *and* truth embodied in Christ; obeying Christ as an expression of the new nature He gives us; and growing in Christ's giving nature.

The Sabbath school quarterlies are the central tool allowing us to walk together as a church on this spiritual journey (see p. 4). Last year the lessons provided a detailed exploration of our vision. The lessons for 2018 will center on Jesus as Savior and as Lord. In 2019 (Stage 3), we will all study fulfilling the Great Commission together.

Thanks to each member and congregation taking this journey!

— Loren Stacy and Jody McCoy



District News

West Coast



Connecting with Couples

Twelve couples gathered on October 21, 2017, in Anaheim, California, for the first annual SWORD Couples workshop. Various topics were discussed centering on the theme “Love Never Fails.”

The program consisted of five sections: Role of the Husband and Wife, Understanding Submission, Understanding God’s Perspective of Love, a Practical Application, and a Q & A session with guest speakers Jose and Roberta Hernandez (Las Vegas English church). All the workshops gave many attendees a better understanding of the biblical perspective of marriage.

The evening concluded with a three-course dinner, games, and live music provided by several members of the SWORD sub-committee. The whole day was an immense blessing, with many of the couples asking when we would have the next workshop. This event will be held annually, and more information will be provided as details are decided.

— Cain and Patty Prado

Photo: Maria Torres

Making an Impact

Last year’s Southern California SWORD Retreat (Fall 2017) had all the characteristics of success. With a combination of worship leaders from Southern California and Nevada, and 80 young adults, this Veterans Day weekend (November 10-12) in Oakhurst, California, was nothing but amazing and impactful. By popular demand, Josh Gutierrez and his wife, Susie, from El Paso shared the Word and connected with these young adults.

We felt God’s presence, and everyone enjoyed fel-



lowship with one another. It was a great opportunity to hear the Word in a clear, concise manner and to recommit ourselves to Christ. Thank you to everyone who made this possible!

— Maria Torres

Photo: Jessica Martinez

Central



Chicago celebration. On December 2, 2017, the Elgin (Chicago) church celebrated her first-year anniversary in an amazing new facility. It was also a Super Sabbath for the area. Over 700 were present for this marvelous event! All the pastors attending prayed a blessing on the seven members of the church board (above). Congratulations, Elgin! And congratulations, Pastor Miguel Gonzalez!



Honoring a servant. District Superintendent Ken Lawson (right) congratulates Elroy Schlenker, who has faithfully served on the Alfred, ND church board for over 60 years. He is now privileged to serve alongside one of his grandsons, Jordan Schlenker. May God bless your work!

Southwest



Team meeting. On December 10, 2017, the SWD team reunited in San Antonio, TX, to discuss and understand their vision for 2018. The main goal is that all team directors can become ambassadors of the CoG7 mission and vision to become a vibrant 21st century church and that all the ministries motivate their demographics.



Student Ministries Winter Retreat. Two hundred forty students gathered in Pine Cove Ranch the last four days of 2017. The retreat's theme, "Holdfast," made students aware of the importance to keep themselves firm in faith and hope in the Lord, regardless of the pain and struggles they face.

Small group sessions, worship times, activities, and fellowship blessed the students. They thanked the Lord for His presence with the Student Ministries team, youth workers, and attendees.

Southeast

Amazing Women

Co-chaired by Dorothy Ray and Jeddie Larry, the Southeast District women held their annual retreat December 1-2, 2017, at Camp Kulalqua in High Springs, Florida. One hundred fifty women in attendance heard presentations and break-out sessions



centering on the retreat theme "Amazing Women Serving an Amazing God." Presenters were Marina Anderson, Lilianne Apen, Esther Winchell, Dr. Aminah Dean, Sharon Henry, Ann Simmonds, Zahida Hrenyk, Joyce Sookram, Angela Gilbert, and Jeddie Larry.

Talent presentations were given by the women of Stone Mountain, Georgia; and Jacksonville, Haines City, and Tampa, Florida.



Youth: Changing Focus

District youth and young adults met December 22-24, 2017, at Dayspring Camp and Conference Center (Parrish, Florida) to study the theme "Youth to Youth Changing Your Focus." Over 200 youth, young adults, and youth leaders attended the event, hosted by Allison Krome (youth) and John Unzueta (young adults).

Presenters for the youth were Araceli Lopez and Cesar Medrano, and a video presentation was given by Cephus Modest. Youth from Florida and North Carolina led the worship groups, and youth from North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida gave special presentations.

Presenters for the young adults were John Unzueta and Jackson Frenot, and worship groups were led by the young adults from Florida and Georgia. Special presentations were made by the young adults from Florida, North Carolina, and Georgia.

Northeast

Saginaw Outreach

Several weeks ago, members of the Saginaw church reached out to their neighborhood. They came up with a "giving tree" — hats, gloves, and scarves hung on a tree in their yard, available to anyone. Thanks to the great response, coats were hung after that and were immediately taken.



Western Canada

100 Years Strong

On April 14, the Acme church in Alberta, Canada will hit the century mark as a CoG7 congregation. This shining



light in the wild woods has seen many a trial, but God's grace continues to sustain her.

Churches in the Western Canada District will come together to hear Elder Loren Stacy, Conference president, applaud and encourage the members as we celebrate Acme's amazing milestone. For more information, contact Pastor Orville Rose (olhrose@gmail.com).

Eastern Canada

Healing touch. The members of the Etobicoke CoG7 in Brampton,

Ontario, are rejoicing greatly for another marvelous work God has done among them. Brother

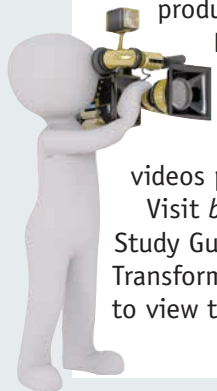
James Brown was diagnosed with blockage of the heart, so the church prayed for him. When

he went in for surgery, to the amazement of the doctors, no blockage was found. To God be the glory!



Have you seen the new Sabbath school videos, produced by Pastor Kirk Grant, Northeast District NYC regional superintendent (English)? He recently interviewed Jody McCoy and Jason Overman, authors of the 2018 Sabbath school series. The videos provide insight to the lessons.

Visit baonline.org and click on Publications/ Study Guides (Curriculum), or go to NED COG7 Transforming Vision into Reality YouTube Channel to view the videos. Enjoy!



The idea came from someone who is not a CoG7 member but is known as a "committed attendee." In December, Jeremy Perez received a generous donation from a co-worker to keep the tree supplied.

Saginaw is warming bodies but also touching hearts and souls! Pray that those souls will walk through the church doors to hear about the love of Jesus.

Church dedication.

Members of the Elizabeth, NJ congregation dedicated their new building on December 2, 2017. About 200 people attended, including

delegations from

other CoG7 congregations in the region. Guest speakers were Bruce Noble and Heber Vega. J. Christian (Chris) Bollwage, mayor of Elizabeth, also stopped by for the opening ceremony and briefly addressed the congregation.



Prayer power. Directed by the pastor, the Culver Road church in Battle Creek, MI, has developed a Prayer Partners team. The kickoff breakfast included signing commitments to this vital ministry. Members and attendees anticipate great things from God as they seek the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Sabbath School: Key to Our Unity

What unifies a group of people? Isn't it one or more things they have in common? Common experience and purpose, values and beliefs, terminology and focus: Blended together, these things create a common culture. In other words, unity!

Among the congregations of the General Conference, one key factor in creating unity is our Sabbath school materials. Whether in Spanish or English,

thousands of our fellow members are studying the same lesson each week and discussing it each Sabbath. We are sharing the same experience, learning the same terminology, and developing the same values and beliefs together, throughout Canada and the United States. It takes much more than sharing an organizational name to create true unity among us. It takes all of the commonalities that lead to a common culture.

If you don't know what TVR stands for and if you can't list the ten points of our Vision of a Vibrant 21st Century Church, you are probably not attending a Sabbath school class that is using our quarterlies. If so, you're missing out on the blessing of shared studies, terms, and experiences that are unifying the majority of our members.

The 2017 quarterlies received great reviews most everywhere they were used. Both the 2017 and the 2018 study materials are available. Join your brothers and sisters throughout our church on this journey.

Quarterly orders, promotional videos, and additional SS teacher resources can be found on our website at baonline.org/study-guides/.

Children's Curriculum

Intermediate. In *Paul's Missionary Journeys*, students will learn that hundreds of years earlier, God had told the people of Israel that He would send a Savior. Paul and his companions took that gospel message to many parts of the Roman Empire. The majority of the lessons cover the three missionary journeys of Paul and his companions, and their determination to share the gospel message under trying circumstances.



Primary. *The Last Days of Jesus* teaches students about some of the events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection so they understand how the disciples played an important role in everything that happened.

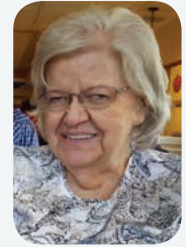
Preschool. Lessons in *Jesus: Servant, Savior and Risen King* take students from our Lord's Last Supper to His crucifixion, and finally to His ascension to heaven. Students will learn that although Jesus is Lord of all, He came to serve us, to take our sins on Himself, and to die in our place so we can live with Him forever.



ASLEEP IN JESUS

Lorraine Carr

Lorraine Anita Faubion Carr (74) passed away September 21, 2017. Born July 20, 1943, in Bassett, Nebraska, she was the wife of Charles Carr, former member of the General Conference board of directors. He preceded her in death.



Lorraine worked as a teacher of English, speech, and drama for several years before leaving to help her husband start and run their successful automotive paint and supply business. She took over as editor of the senior adult newsletter *Afterglow* after the passing of her mother, Donna. Through the newsletter, she touched many lives with her editorials and inspirational writings.

Lorraine had a special bond with each of her children and raised them to have a strong faith in the Lord and in family. One of her favorite things was to gather all the family around the piano or guitar and sing hymns. As a child, she began singing at church tent revivals with her parents. She enjoyed singing with her husband and helped many people worship through song. Those who knew Lorraine best knew that she was always humming a tune that sometimes only she would recognize.

But in all these things, most memorable about Lorraine is her love for the Lord and her passion for bringing others to know Him.

In addition to her husband, Lorraine is preceded in death by her parents, Clayton and Donna Faubion. She is survived by her loving children: Wes and Sharene Carr, Julie and Michael Garza, and Becky and Tony Riggs; by her cherished grandchildren Brittney and Eric Udell, Aaron, Ryan, and Jason Riggs, and Ethan and Liana Garza; and her great-grandchild Brady Udell.

For more, visit Memorials at cog7.org.

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Equipping Leaders for a Vibrant 21st Century Church.

Follow us at



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.

March is Missions Emphasis.



Find out more at gcmisions.cog7.org
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Photos (L to R): Myanmar • Paraguay • Philippines