

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

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April - May 2018



CALENDAR 2018

- April 7-8** - SWORD STRONG Conference, Fort Smith, AR
- April 20-22** - SWD Team Conference, Jasper, AR
- April 28** - Super Sabbath, Oklahoma and Fort Smith, AR
- May 12-13** - SWD Area 7 Super Sabbath and Leadership Meeting, McAllen, TX
- May 18-20** - SWD Men's Retreat
- May 25-28** - SWORD yMinistry Retreat, Hawkins, TX
- May 26-27** - Graduation Weekend, Spring Vale Christian School

Artios Calendar Events

- April 1** - Early spring course registration ends
- April 8 - May 13** - Early spring classes in session
- May 13** - Late spring course registration ends
- May 20 - June 24** - Late spring classes in session

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

Following Our Leaders

Our plan to transform our Vision of a Vibrant 21st Century Church into our reality (TVR) is divided into a three-year, three-stage plan. During Stage 1 (2017), we endeavored to understand each of the ten vision points and begin focusing on Jesus Christ as our Savior. During Stage 2 (2018), we will also focus on Jesus as our Lord.

Then in 2019, having reminded ourselves that our personal identities and our identity as a church are completely in Christ, we will focus on fulfilling the Great Commission. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations," He commanded, "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19, 20a, ESV throughout). Taken all together, then, TVR simply is "Focusing on Jesus and Following His Plan."

Executive Director Jody McCoy and I are passionate about pointing people to Jesus. While we serve our church as leaders, we are accountable to the board of directors, whose members are accountable to our church's members. All of us, however, know that the true leader of our church is Jesus Christ. Our leadership is legitimate only if we follow Him and follow those He has placed in leadership over us.

The New Testament pattern of leadership shows that each leader needs to also be a follower of those to whom they are rightly accountable. Jesus set this example: "I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me" (John 8:28). The apostles followed this example. "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ," wrote Paul (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Regardless of our positions within the Church, we are leading someone, and we are following someone. And all of us must be ultimately following Jesus. If we are unwilling to follow our earthly leaders, we teach our followers to be unwilling to follow us! Let's all follow Jesus and His leadership example.

— Loren Stacy



District News

Southwest



SWORD STRONG in San Antonio

Eighty attendees gathered January 13-14 at New Hope United Church in San Antonio, Texas, as part of the SWORD STRONG Conference. Young adults from Austin, Brownsville, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Laredo, San Antonio, and even San Luis Potosi, Mexico, were challenged to make Christ the center of their lives.

Young adults analyzed the importance of prayers and a desire to develop a relationship and communication with God. Through games, icebreakers, fellowship, worship, and a Q & A panel, young adults found the motivation to continue making Jesus their priority. The STRONG Conference ended with feeding the homeless on Sunday.

— Jamin Teran

Special award. On January 27, Lawrence Eddy (second from right) received the Lifetime Ministry Achievement Award for work in the Oklahoma Conference CoG7



and Dover Campgrounds. He has worked faithfully at the local, state, and district levels of the General Conference for the past sixty years. Brother Eddy was instrumental in the development and construction of Spring Vale Academy (now Spring Vale Christian School). Pictured with him (L to R): Jeral Ullrich (Oklahoma Conference chairman), Sue Eddy, and Pastor Barry Mauldin.

Area 7 Super Sabbath and Leadership Meeting

“Divided We Fall Apart” was the theme of the Super Sabbath held February 3 in Brownsville, TX. Over 250 attendees were motivated to seek the unity of the

body of Christ in order to build God’s kingdom. The area churches gave presentations of upcoming events and ministries. Worship teams from Corpus Christi-Violet and Brownsville led the attendees to the presence of the Lord.



District Superintendent Chip Hinds explained that the church body is composed of different parts, but that each one has a specific function.

On Sunday morning, Area 7 leaders addressed questions and concerns regarding the present by-laws. At the same time, ministries such as Artios and SWD Media Ministries talked about the importance of equipping leaders for the new challenges we have as a church.

— Jamin Teran



Celebrating a milestone. On February 24, the Laredo-Yireh CoG7 celebrated ten years of ministry. Church members praised the Lord for His mercy through the years and committed themselves to continue the vision for the future. Superintendent Chip Hinds preached on the importance of being a church, and encouraged the congregation to continue strong on this path. Pastors prayed over leader Juan Jose Olguin Jr. for strength, and provided sermons and workshops for members.

Asleep in Jesus. Having lost Pastor Jose Velarde (pictured at right) in 2000, the Santa Fe, NM CoG7 notes the passing of leaders in 2017: Pastor Jose Balboa and Benjamin Moreno. We thank God for these men who supported the church in local ministry.



Northeast

A Super Sabbath-like day, with around 300 attending, took place February 10 at the Lanham church, near Washington, D.C. BA Editor Jason Overman taught the Sabbath school lesson to a class of 150+.

Jason Overman spoke to 35 at the weekly Men's Ministry meeting, including a fascinating Q & A period. Regional Superintendent Kirk Grant spoke to the youth, and Careta Grant spoke at the Women's Ministry meeting.



Executive Director Jody McCoy spoke to a full house during afternoon services. Careta Grant provided special music.

On Sunday, February 11, Kirk Grant, Jason Overman, Jody McCoy, and a video crew (right) filmed complementary videos for the second quarter 2018 of Sabbath school lessons. The local pastor opened the facilities at 7:30 a.m. and closed them at 7:30 p.m. Twelve hours for preparation, filming, a very short break, more filming, and cleanup. You can view the videos on YouTube under the NED COG7 Transforming Vision into Reality channel.



Super Sabbath and Leadership Meeting in Michigan

Congregations from the west side of Michigan attended their regional meeting in Vriesland on February 24. The packed house of God featured two praise teams and two dynamic speakers. Pastor Terry Graham brought God's message on prayer, and Elder Israel Steinmetz preached about living as aliens in this world. This was followed by a delicious meal with a fellowship movie, *The Case for Christ*, as a great ending to a beautiful day.

On Sunday, February 25, twelve attendees met with Elder Steinmetz for a Regional Leadership Meeting, in which he shared the changes in our bylaws and the need for churches to have their own local bylaws in compliance with those of the General Conference.

A great discussion took place with time for questions and answers. Everyone attending agreed that we should have more meetings like this on a regular basis.

Churches were represented from Culver Road, Free-land, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Vriesland, and West Olive. To God be the glory for willing servants to teach, edify, and serve Him!

— Tom Winchell
NED Rep for Area II



Sewing Machines in Pakistan

Thanks to offerings, purchases, and donations at the 2017 Convention in Springfield, Illinois, we raised enough funds to purchase sixteen sewing machines (\$1,643) for the sisters in Pakistan through our G. C. Missions Ministries. All the women who are beneficiaries of this sewing ministry are CoG7 members, many of whom are widows.

In Rawalpindi, ten sewing machines were purchased (\$100/each), and additional funds will support the teacher who will instruct the widows. About 25 women will be learning to sew, and the training will last six to eight months, as most of the widows will continue their normal jobs. Afterward, the funds they make from sewing clothes will allow them to become self-sufficient, supporting their families, paying their children's school fees, medical costs, etc., and supporting the Church through their tithes and offerings. Their current employment is very hard labor, such as making bricks, and is not sufficient to support all their needs.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this possible!

— Esther Winchell
Northeast District Women's Ministries

Western Canada

Learning from Ruth

Almost forty women from the district gathered at the Kozy Mountain Lodge February 9-11 to focus on lessons from the book of Ruth.

Various presenters highlighted how Ruth's dedication to follow Naomi was a type of the dedication



we should have in following Christ as we strive to become Christ centered. They found the love story of Boaz for Ruth of great interest, particularly how he protected and redeemed her. Again, the presenters looked at the significance in light of Christ's protection and redemption of His people.

Exhilarating and refreshing times were also spent in worship and fellowship. God was glorified as the weekend allowed for rededication to Him, and enhanced the unity of the Church through our women.

— Orville Rose

Southeast



Equipping men. *The Southeast District Men's Ministry held its annual retreat January 12-14 at the Lake Placid Conference Center in Lake Placid, FL. One hundred men from the entire district heard presentations by G. C. President Loren Stacy and pastors Jeff Endecott, Godwin Prospere, Keith Legg, and Ismael Martinez. The retreat theme was on Men's Leadership, with a presentation on Gary Chapman's book, The 5 Love Languages. As always, the food and fellowship were great!*

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Board of Directors Annual Meeting

The General Conference board of directors held its annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, February 17-21. The following board members were present: Samuel Holland (chairman), Dennis O'Banion (vice chairman), Hope Dais (secretary), Greg Lincoln (treasurer), Mark Caswell, Daniel Flores, Wayne Hrenyk, Raul Romo, Manuel Salazar, Larry Zaragoza, and Reuben Zaragoza. Joshua Gutierrez was unable to attend the meeting. Also present were Conference President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy. Brad Ciavarella resigned from the board effective January 18, 2018.

After beginning each day with devotion and prayer, the board focused on covering many things. Here are a few of them:

- discussion on the inability of Canadian congregations to comply fully with the financial plan as currently written in our bylaws
- an update from the executive team on the ongoing initiative Transforming Vision into Reality (TVR)
- review of the newly adopted Conference bylaws
- appointment of the following district superintendents for a two-year term, commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2020: Leeroy Williams, Eastern Canada; Orville Rose, Western Canada; Ken Lawson, Central; Chip Hinds, Southwest; Heber Vega, Northeast; Steve Krome, Southeast; Larry Zaragoza, West Coast
- appointment of the following ministry directors for a two-year term, commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2020: Bryan Cleeton, G. C. Missions; Keith Michalak, Publications; Israel Steinmetz and Amber Riggs, Artios Christian College
- approval of the Conference budget for the fiscal year, commencing April 1, 2018 and ending March 31, 2019
- review and discussion of the performance evaluation of the Conference president for the 2017 calendar year period

- approval of the quarterly goals of the Conference president for the 2018 calendar year
Finally, Chairman Holland reviewed with the board information regarding the Nominating Committee.

L&C Committee Annual Meeting

One of the highlights of my year is to work with some of the finest ministers I know on the License and Credentials Committee.

Our days begin at 7:30 a.m. and usually end at 10:30 p.m. We share devotions, our hearts, and prayer needs and will often pray over one of L&C Committee brothers.

Our work consists of interviewing candidates for ministry. What an opportunity to hear of each man's life and calling, from baptism to conviction to going into ministry. Many are already in the work preaching, visiting, and leading souls to Jesus and eternal life.

At our meeting in Denver, Colorado, February 26 - March 1, we granted a ministerial document (local pastor certificate, license, or credential) to nine amazing men. Elevation to ministerial license went to Felipe Orduño and Samuel Santos Preza. Elevation to local pastor certificate (LPC) went to John Camero, Loren Gjesdal, Nigel Lewis, Moises Medrano, Juan Mejia, Juan Jose Olguin, and Leeroy Williams.

After granting documents, we assign a mentor for each LPC and ministerial license we approve. The mentor calls, emails, and at times visits the newly documented person to encourage, correct, or just provide a shoulder to lean on through that first year. Many of these mentor connections develop into life-long friendships after the mentorship is over.

The L&C Committee thanks you, the Church, and the NAMC for the honor of serving in this way!

— Steve Kyner

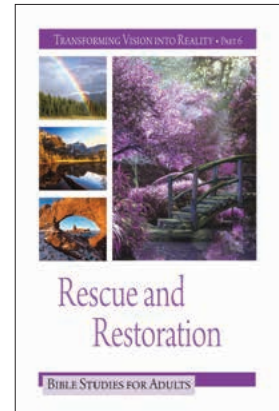


Members of the L&C Committee meeting in Denver recently (L to R): Monico Muffley, Steve Kyner, Eddie Villalba, Jhabel Chagollan, Noe Reyes, Ken Lawson, and Oscar Mata.

Adult Curriculum – Second Quarter

In *Rescue and Restoration*, we continue our journey of exploring Jesus as our Savior. We'll walk through twelve familiar Old Testament stories and see a loving God rescuing and restoring men and women with common yet diverse needs who turn to Him for help. We'll also find parallels to these stories in the New Testament as Jesus, God's only Son, reveals the Father's love, giving His life to rescue a fallen world and restoring those who trust in Him. The thirteenth, and last, lesson brings us into the New Testament with the birth of Jesus, our Savior, to whom all the other stories point.

Read more and order at publications.cog7.org.



Zone 5 Africa Convention

August 8-13, 2018

Ashanti Region, Ghana, West Africa

Representatives of the Church of God (Seventh Day) from more than fifteen African nations, as well as delegates from Jamaica, United Kingdom, and elsewhere, will converge for the IMC Zone 5 Africa Convention this August. Seminars and presentations will be given on the ten-point Vision of a Vibrant 21st Century Church. Cost per person is \$550, which includes transportation to/from the airport, meals, and accommodations for the duration of the convention. Staying beyond the convention dates and sightseeing will be at personal expense.

For further information, contact Robert Crawford, IMC Zone 5 Representative-Africa (phone: +44 7402484716; email: robertashcrawford@hotmail.com).

Let your light shine

Illuminate the world with a passion to serve. Ask your district superintendent and area rep to help you “plug in” so your influence can shine the brightest and advance God’s kingdom.

Don’t forget to pray for your district and its leaders, and support them financially.

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