

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

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CALENDAR 2018-19

December 28-31 - SWD Student Ministries Winter Retreat

February 17-20 - Board of Directors Meeting, Denver, CO

July 1-6 - G. C. Convention, Albuquerque, NM

November 2 - IMC Sabbath

Artios Events

December 31 - Early winter course registration ends

January 6 - February 10 - Early winter classes in session

February 11 - Late winter course registration ends

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

Therefore . . .

As the calendar transitions from 2018 to 2019, the Church of God (Seventh Day) throughout the United States and Canada is involved in another important transition: the one from Stage 2 to Stage 3 of our Transforming Vision into Reality (TVR) plan. During 2017 (Stage 1) we focused on Jesus as Savior. Speaking of Jesus, 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (NIV throughout). Romans 6:23 tells us, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Jesus is Savior!

During 2018 (Stage 2) we focused on Jesus as Lord. He is “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” (Revelation 19:16). “God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11). Jesus is Lord!

During 2019 (Stage 3) we are focusing on the Great Commission. “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,” Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:19-21a), “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Note two interesting things about Christ’s command. First, grammatically, it is one sentence, containing one imperative verb (*disciple!*), and three participial phrases (*going . . . baptizing . . . teaching . . .*). Second, the command is immediately followed by a promise: “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (v. 20b-c).

Please note the word *therefore* that begins the Great Commission. What’s *therefore* there for? It points us back to what Jesus said just before giving us His command: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (v. 18).

Wow! Jesus is Savior. Jesus is Lord. *Therefore . . .* going, baptizing, and teaching throughout 2019 (and every year), *make disciples!*

— Loren Stacy



District News

Western Canada

Ordination. On October 20, Robert Grabinsky (kneeling with his wife, Pam) was ordained as first local elder of the Acme congregation. Assisting Orville Rose (center) was Pastor Judal Thompson (left) and Minister Andres Menjivar.



West Coast



Still Serving

Over 50 seniors congregated September 12-16 at Sis-Q Meadows, Oregon, for a time of fellowship, relaxation, and worship. Many traveling to the retreat witnessed firsthand the devastation of the Northern California fires, but they made it safely. We are grateful!

Our theme this year was “The Vibrant Church: Serving in Our Golden Years.” We were blessed with wonderful Spirit-led workshops, sermons, and music helping us consider how we are fulfilling God’s directive to “keep on.” The lessons we have learned over years of service to the Church and our families are even more important to share in these difficult times. We need to come alongside those God has placed in our paths to uplift, pray with, befriend, and encourage them to follow God’s leading in their lives.

We hope you will plan to join us next year in the Siskiyou Mountains of Oregon — same place, same week in September 2019!

— Martha Ling

Southeast



Learning to Let Go

Approximately 150 ladies attended the district’s annual Women’s Retreat at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida, September 28-30. This year the ladies of the Orlando church coordinated the program centered on the theme “Let It Go.” Women’s coordinator Dot Ray planned the event.

Speakers included sisters Grace Haynes (“Letting Go of Worry”), Marina Anderson (“Letting Go of the Past”), Joy Moodie (keynote speaker), Samantha Roper (“Letting Go of Unforgiveness”), Lilia Villatoro (“Letting Go of Bitterness”), and Jeddi Larry (“Letting Go of Fear”). Sisters Ann Simmonds, Melissa Pedersen, and Leila Henry conducted prayer services; the Orlando ladies led praise and worship. As always, there was good food and great fellowship.



Food, fun, and fellowship. The annual hayride was held at the Keims’ farm in Alabama on Saturday night, October 27. Approximately 30 youth from Hammondville, AL, and Chattanooga, TN, attended with their parents and grandparents. Thanks to Jason and Amanda Keim for their hard work in hosting this year’s event.

Central



Planning for 2019. District staff present at the NAMC in Albuquerque (September 17-22) held a luncheon meeting to discuss ministries and programs coming up next year.



Elgin Super Sabbath. Almost 500 people attended the Super Sabbath in Elgin (Chicago) on October 13. Daniel Flores, our new NAMC president, was the guest speaker. Pictured here are most of the 104 children who were also present, singing a special song in the afternoon program.

Never Quit Praying!

Two brothers, Brad and Ron Plumley, grew up together in St. Paul, Minnesota. Both attended church, then went out into the world. Brad finally beat his drinking addiction and became faithful in church attendance, serving as a Sabbath school teacher and local elder. He regularly testifies about his personal victory over sin.



Brad never quit praying for his brother. Ron spent time in prison, but Brad faithfully requested prayer for him. Recently Ron was released and started back to church. When he requested baptism, Brad assisted. On October 3, these two brothers walked together into the St. Croix River with Elder Ken Lawson. Their amazing transformation came full circle into a renewed and vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ.

Never give up praying for your family members! God listens and answers prayers of faith.

Southwest

Washed in El Paso.

On August 18 the El Paso - Central church was blessed to host baptisms. Seven youth gave their lives to Christ. The district is happy to add their names to the church family: Rosita Atilano, Richard Prieto, Joselyn Romero, Jennifer Romero, German Espinoza, Paulina Herrera, and Paola Beard. May God bless and keep them strong in their faith.



Couples Reunion.

Psychologist and church brother, Aaron Martinez, presented a seminar to couples at the Central - El Paso church on August 25. Couples strengthened their relationships and spent more time together. They also enjoyed dinner and continued working on their faith.



Hispanic Women's Retreat. Women from various states gathered August 31 - September 3 in Austin, TX, for their annual retreat. With the theme "Women, Start Your Trip," attendees were motivated to change their vision and start serving the Lord, their homes, and families according to their calling. Several activities highlighted the event, as well as fellowship, worship, and "vintage night." Next year's retreat is scheduled to be in Las Vegas, NV.

Dover Super Sabbath.

Area 2 held its Super Sabbath on October 27 at the Dover Camp facilities. People gathered for worship, fellowship, and studying God's Word. As always, God's presence was felt in Dover!





Dallas Super Sabbath. Area 1 in the district celebrated its Super Sabbath on October 13 in Dallas, TX. Special speakers Whaid Rose and Ramon Ruiz delivered messages using the theme “Prophetic Vision: History and Grace.” With 450 attendees, this Super Sabbath was a blessing among the churches of the area. Superintendent Chip Hinds invited everyone to pursue the vision of a vibrant church. Attendees presented specials and gave testimonies of how God continues to restore lives today.



Octoberfest 2018. Octoberfest Family Retreat was held October 19-21 at the church in Jasper, AR. One hundred twenty people gathered for worship, teaching, fellowship, and play around the theme “Christ in You, the Hope of Glory.” We’re thankful for God’s presence and protection over this beautiful fall weekend in the Ozarks.



Women’s Conference. More than 160 women gathered October 27 in San Antonio, TX, for the district Women’s Conference. Those attending were encouraged to become the “Salt of This World” and to be sisters of truth and love. They created crafts, attended insightful workshops, and worshipped together. Specials were given, testimonies were told, and ministries were presented. But most importantly, prayer partners were created. Sisters from Austin, Laredo, San Antonio, McAllen, Pharr, El Paso, Houston, Midland, Corpus Christi, and Oklahoma were part of this amazing fellowship.



Area 3 Super Sabbath and Leadership Meeting

On November 3 around 700 gathered at the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe, Texas, to worship God. Members listened to an inspiring message from



G. C. President Loren Stacy. Focusing on the theme “Christ is Lord,” attendees were motivated to become vibrant believers. Executive Director Jody McCoy and Superintendent Chip Hinds also shared a message with youth about how the Lord changes your path for His glory and honor.

In the afternoon the church thanked brother Francisco Camarillo for his work as area representative in Area 3 for the past six years, and welcomed Brother Neftali Hernandez, who will continue as the representative in the area. Brother McCoy urged the Church to follow Jesus’ plan and become Christ centered. Children’s programs ran all day, as well as presentations by the SWD ministries (student, men’s, and media). God was praised with vibrant worship, fellowship, and powerful messages.



On Sunday, the Conroe English church opened its doors for 63 leaders who listened to district and national ministries leaders. HOPE ministry invited leaders to develop an education system in local churches to improve members’ finances and create a network of programs to assist others. Media Ministries motivated members to be consistent with their lifestyles inside and outside of church. Artios invited attendees to become leaders and educate themselves, and G. C. Missions talked about ways the Church can help take the gospel around the world.



Superintendents in Houston

G. C. President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy met with most of the district superintendents in Houston, Texas, November 1-2. (Leeroy Williams, superintendent of our Eastern Canadian District, was unable to attend.) This was the second and final face-to-face meeting of this “core executive team” during 2018. The agenda included such items as organizational strategy review; TVR progress; quarterly goal setting and reporting; coordination of 2019 calendars; district, G. C., and IMC protocols; and preparations for the 2019 convention.

District superintendents also attended the Greater Houston Area Super Sabbath on November 3 in Conroe. Stacy, McCoy, and Elder Heber Vega (superintendent of our Northeast District) also participated in the November 4 Houston area leaders meeting.



Intermediate. In *The Fruit of the Spirit*, students will learn that when Jesus left His disciples and returned to His Father in heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to take His place in their lives. These lessons focus on the virtues in the fruit the Spirit brought into the lives of believers.

Primary. *Journey of Faith – From Abraham to Joseph* teaches students that the Bible characters they are studying this quarter were people just like us. These lessons focus on the stories in Genesis, continuing where last quarter left off — from the birth of Isaac to Joseph being sold as a slave.

Preschool. The lessons in *Prophets and Kings* introduce students to some of the kings of Israel and Judah and to prophets Elijah and Elisha. Students will learn that the Lord God is the only true God.

ASLEEP IN JESUS

Lawrence D. Eddy (1937-2018)



Lawrence Eddy (81) was born May 4, 1937, in Tiawah, Oklahoma, to Mavis and Dewey Eddy. He passed away August 24, 2018.

Lawrence married Betty Brunson in 1957, and they were blessed with two children, Margaret and Max. A devoted member of the Church of God (Seventh Day), he served in many roles, from Sabbath school teacher to substitute preacher. He also served on the local and district boards and worked on his beloved Church camp in Dover, Oklahoma. Lawrence’s creed was God first and family second, followed by service to his community of family and friends.

On October 14, 2006, Lawrence married Betty “Sue” St. Clair and gained three more children: Aaron, Angie, and Lori. Lawrence is preceded in death by his son, Max, and his parents. He is survived by his wife, children (Margaret, Aaron, Angie, and Lori), 19 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and other family members.

For more complete information, visit our online Memorials page at churchright.org.

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2018 Ministerial Council Report

The meeting of the General Conference's Ministerial Council was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 17-22. We experienced a wonderful time of worship, instruction in God's Word, application of the Great Commission, and fellowship. We are grateful to the local congregation in Albuquerque for working with us on the evangelistic event that took place on Thursday and Saturday evenings during the week of our meeting. We pray the seeds planted at our meeting will bring forth much fruit and expand the kingdom of Christ. Special thanks to our brother, Moises Capetillo, and the leadership team that surrounds him for allowing us to come alongside them in this effort.

The presenters and speakers during this council meeting challenged our thinking and gave us new insights for our continued journey toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission. I thank them for their time and devotion to the assignment given them as they allowed the Holy Spirit to guide them in speaking to us.

The 2018 meeting of our council took the following actions:

- Received reports from the License and Credentials Committee, the Study Committee on Human Sexuality, and the Study Committee on the Role of Women.
- Adopted amendments to the council's Bylaws and Standing Rules, including the Documentation Manual (Resolutions MC 2018-01 - MC 2018-09).
- Adopted a resolution to add three chapters to the published volume titled *Sex: Created, Fallen, and Redeemed* (Resolution MC 2018-12). The three chapters added are
 - Male and Female - Created in God's Image
 - Mr. D, Human Sexuality, and Gender Dysphoria
 - Christian and Single
- Adopted a resolution instructing our council

president to appoint a study committee on the old and new covenants (Resolution MC 2018-15).

- Elected the following officers to a two-year term on the Executive Committee: Daniel Flores, council president; Wayne Hrenyk, council vice president; Monico Muffley, council secretary.
- Elected the following members to a four-year term on the License and Credentials Committee: Jhabel Chagallon, John Lemley, Noe Reyes (with the following members making up the remaining positions on the L and CC: Steve Kyner, Ken Lawson, Monico Muffley).
- Elected the following members to a two-year term on the Nominating Committee: Joe Corrales, Gerson Gonzalez, David Lozano.

It was announced our next meeting will be October 12-17, 2020, at the Cincinnati Airport Marriott, 2395 Progress Drive, Hebron, Kentucky 41048.

This meeting ended my service as council president. It was a privilege to serve for these past four years, and I am grateful for the confidence and cooperation of council members during my tenure. I am particularly grateful to the members who served alongside me on the Executive Committee and the other committees of our council. Our event coordinator, Dennis O'Banion, has been an indispensable asset to facilitate the many things necessary to select venues for our meeting and to coordinate logistics onsite during each meeting. The members of the Denver office staff, including the custodian of records, were equally indispensable.

Our ministers and other attendees left our 2018 meeting encouraged to transform our Vision of a Vibrant 21st Century Church into reality.

Your brother in Christ,
Samuel Holland

Call to Convention

It is my great pleasure to once again extend this Call to Convention to each member and friend of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day). Our 2019 Biennial Convention will be held Monday evening, July 1, through Saturday night, July 6, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the beautiful Albuquerque Convention Center. (Details regarding convention events, hotels, meals, and registration will soon be available online and in print.)

People attend our biennial conventions for many different reasons. No matter what your reasons may be, I'm confident that you will not be disappointed.

Do you come to worship? Six major worship services are planned! They will include wonderful music, fervent prayer, encouraging personal testimonies, challenging sermons, and more, all focused on our 2019 Convention theme "Compelled by Love" (2 Corinthians 5:14ff). Even better, all this will take place in the special setting of the Albuquerque Convention Center's awesome fine arts theater.

Do you come to learn? As many as thirty individual seminars or workshops may be offered. Artios Christian College will be presenting classes in English and Spanish. Other workshops will focus on evangelism, discipleship, family life, General Conference Ministries, and other topics — all designed to help you successfully live as an ambassador for Christ and fulfill the Great Commission Christ has given each believer.

Do you come to participate in the General Conference business sessions? Having completed the revision of our bylaws during the 2017 convention, we will return to our normal practice of Tuesday through Friday morning-only business sessions. We will receive State of the Conference, General Conference Ministries, and financial reports. We will elect members to our board of directors and to the 2019-2021 Nominations Committee. We will also discuss and decide any resolutions and bylaw amendments that may be offered.

Do you come for your children, teens, or young adults? There will be programs and activities for all! Do you come for the fellowship, to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones? They'll all miss you if you aren't there! Do you wish to make this convention a part of a family vacation? New Mexico is known as the Land of Enchantment for good reason. You could spend a month there and not come close to seeing all that this beautiful state has to offer.

Make plans now to attend the 2019 Biennial Convention of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in Albuquerque. I look forward to seeing you there!

Loren Stacy
General Conference President



Engage in the Great Commission in 2019

- Mobilize evangelists (Cristo Viene)
- Respond with Disaster Relief (DRF)
- Support orphans and widows
- Provide training through Bible schools
- Supply Bibles and gospel literature
- Send short-term mission teams
- Generate long-term income

Your help is needed!

Learn more at gcmissions.cog7.org and on Facebook: "G C Missions" and "IMC."

Mark your calendar for next year's annual **IMC Sabbath** — November 2.



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