

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

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February - March 2019



CALENDAR 2019

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

May 17-19 - Central District Men's Retreat, Inspiration Point, MN

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

November 2 - IMC Sabbath

Artios Events

February 11 - Late winter course registration ends

February 17 - March 24 - Late winter classes in session

April 1 - Early spring course registration ends

April 7 - May 12 - Early spring classes in session

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

Lord's
Supper
Service

Thursday, April 18



Convention Reminder

Our 2019 Biennial Convention will be July 1-6, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the beautiful Albuquerque Convention Center. You can now register at cog7.org/convention.

You will not be disappointed with this convention. Six worship services, with music, prayer, personal testimonies, sermons, and more, will focus on our theme "Compelled by Love" (2 Corinthians 5:14). All this will take place in the Albuquerque Convention Center's awesome fine arts theater.

As many as thirty seminars/workshops are being planned, including classes conducted by Artios Christian College (English and Spanish). Other workshops on such topics as evangelism, discipleship, family life, and General Conference Ministries will help you successfully live for Christ and fulfill the Great Commission.

We completed revision of our bylaws during the 2017 convention, so business sessions will be conducted Tuesday through Friday mornings (only) during this convention. Various reports will be presented, and we will elect members to our board of directors and to the 2019-2021 Nominating Committee. Any resolutions and bylaws amendments offered will be discussed and decided.

There will be programs or activities for all ages at the 2019 convention, with plenty of fellowship. If you're planning the week as part of a family vacation, New Mexico is a beautiful destination, known as the Land of Enchantment.

So what's stopping you? Jump online and register for the 2019 Convention! Early registration deadline is April 30. See you in Albuquerque!

— Loren Stacy

For more information, see the special insert in this issue.



District News

Southwest

Contributors: Jamin Teran and Lupe Chavez



Celebration. The SWD's sister church, Ceralvo, in San Antonio, TX, celebrated its 90th anniversary November 17-18. The theme "For All You Have Done" highlighted God's faithfulness since 1928. Guest speakers Wesley Walker and Chip Hinds spoke to around 200 attendees. Everyone enjoyed great fellowship and worship on Sabbath, ending with lunch on Sunday.

Special recognition.

On November 24, Superintendent Chip Hinds presented the Shepherd's Staff to Pastor Wesley Walker and his wife, Darlene, at the McAlester, OK church. Elder Walker has worked as a documented minister for 57 years in Christian ministry, serving as both a pastor and district superintendent in the CoG7. For the last 18 years, he has driven approximately 100 miles each way to his pastorate. He plans to continue in the Lord's service closer to home.



New pastor. Juan José Olguín Jr. responded to Jesus' call and now serves as pastor of the Yireh congregation in Laredo, TX. Superintendent Chip Hinds and Area Representative Manuel Salazar prayed over him on December 8. On Sunday, leaders and pastors held a leadership meeting in the area.



Unity. On December 15, over 70 youth from all the Area 3 churches gathered in Houston's Floral church. Area Representative Neftali Hernandez shared the Word, motivating them to be united in Christ.

Pastor appreciation.

The El Paso church recognized the service of Pastor Ruben Beard and his wife, Susana, and co-pastor Armando Aguirre and his wife, Nora, with a special dinner on October 27. God bless them for their time and dedication to the ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



IMC Sabbath. As a special way of celebrating the IMC Sabbath (November 3), the El Paso church was asked to memorize John 3:16 in other languages. Those who did this, and recited the verse, were Beatriz Barraza, Jair Herrera, Silvia Griego, Lupita Garnica, Armando Aguirre, Roberto Sáenz, Etelevina Ochoa, Lea Canales, Susana Beard, and Ruben Beard.



New family. The Fort Smith, AR congregation welcomed new members into their church family on December 15. Pastors Martin Ramirez and Don Rodgers prayed over them in a service that included guests from their sister church in Jasper.



Something bigger. On December 29, 116 gathered at the Claremore, OK church to celebrate its 70th anniversary. Pastor Barry Mauldin preached on “Something Bigger Than Yourself,” and awards were given to members who have been in the church since its beginning: Bill and Joyce Hinds, Lavell and Lavetta Brunson, Guy Brunson, and Betty Adams. The church honored those born in 1948 and those born in 2018. Superintendent Chip Hinds also shared his thoughts with the church.



Winter retreat. Two hundred students gathered in Pine Cove Ranch (Flint, TX) December 27-30, for workshops, worship, and fellowship centered on the theme “You are a Miracle, Even If You are a Mess — God Loves You.” They learned the good news that their personal circumstances today do not shape their future.

West Coast

Contributors: Jennifer Stucker, Patty and Cain Prado, and Ruth Martinez

WCD committee members (L to R): Jennifer Stucker (director), Eunice Regalado, Ana Herrera, Ivonne Vega, Martha Ling, and special guest speaker, Aracely Robles.



Women’s Ministry

The West Coast District Women’s Ministry Committee participated in a bilingual Women’s Day, held at the Good News CoG7 in San Fernando, California. Over 140 women attended. The theme of the event was “Being Women of Influence and Blessing,” and a key passage centered on 1 Thessalonians 2:7, 8, 12.

Sisters Aracely Robles, Eunice Regalado, Ana Herrera, Martha Ling, Ivonne Vega, and Jennifer Stucker shared messages and personal testimonies throughout the day. A special prayer service, fellowship meals, and worship music were also included on this Sabbath day. The West Coast District Women’s Mentoring Ministry materials were presented and shared among participants. Committee members met the following day to discuss ways to promote this ministry in our local churches throughout the West Coast District.



So Cal Young Adults

One hundred young adults from around California and Las Vegas gathered November 9-10 at Union Cowork (Glendora, California) for their annual So Cal Young Adults Retreat, a collaboration of the Brave Hearted Tribe and SWORD ministries. With the theme “Love God. Love People,” the event started on Friday night with a service led by the Brave Hearted Tribe and a devotional shared by two of its core members.

On Saturday, worship was led by members of the Brave Hearted Tribe and Las Vegas Element worship team. Guest speakers Aracely Robles (Desert Hot Springs CoG7) and Jose Hernandez (Las Vegas English CoG7) led workshops focusing on what love means, what it means to truly love God, and how to love ourselves so we can love others. The retreat concluded Saturday night with a message by Jose Hernandez.



Marriage and forgiveness. The Southern California SWORD held its second annual marriage workshop October 20 in Ontario, CA. The theme, “Forgiveness,” centered on forgiving one another, just as Christ has forgiven us. Guest speaker David Lozano delivered the message, and ten couples attended the event, some of them newlyweds and others married for over ten years.

Sabbath study.

The last SWORD event of the year, held December 15 in San Fernando, CA, focused on a study of the Sabbath, taught by Ruben Davila. During the session, participants reviewed the historical and biblical points of why it is important to keep the Sabbath. The event was recorded live via Facebook for those young adults who were not able to attend. Pictured above (L to R): Maria Torres, Ruben Davila, Larry Zaragoza, and Ruth Martinez.



Worship. On August 4, young adults met in Bloomington, CA, for their second annual Worship Night. Acoustic worship was led by three local churches: Santa Ana, San Diego, and Riverside. Jonathan Garcia delivered a message on the theme "The Gospel/Hundredfold," based on Mark 10:28-30.

Southeast

Contributor: Steve Krome, Superintendent



Stepping up. More than 170 district youth and their local leaders held their annual conference at the DaySpring Conference Center (Parris, FL) December 21-23. Messages focused on the theme "Step Up for Jesus." The Lakeland and Orlando youth participated in praise and worship, with special presentations by youth from South Miami and Port St. Lucie; Stone Mountain, GA; and Tarboro and Thomasville, NC. Sabbath speakers were Daven Llewellyn (Orlando) and Jon Unzueta (Lakeland). Each message drew a large number of young people who dedicated their lives to Jesus by coming forward to be blessed and prayed for! We praise God for a successful conference and look forward to the 2019 conference December 20-22 at the same location.

Central

Contributor: Ken Lawson, Superintendent



Marriage retreat. Eleven couples met December 7-9 at Inspiration Point, MN, for the first marriage retreat in the district's Area 1. It was a time of sharing, personal testimony, breakthrough, and renewal. The main focus was on the Bible's teaching about marriages and building our marriage centered on Christ. Plans are already underway for the 2019 marriage retreat. Directors were Pam and Jeremy Hopewell.

Eastern Canada

Contributor: Leeroy Williams, Superintendent

Longtime member. Sister Lorraine Archer (81) was honored August 25 by the Etobicoke church as one of its longest-standing members. She still has the ability to recite several psalms and poems. Her two daughters and other family members were with her for the celebration.



Outreach. Emma Williams of Etobicoke's Missionary Department, and coordinator of the homeless program, collaborated with the youth ministry in their annual winter package distribution December 25. When he came



upon a young man who wore no shoes in the cold, Darnell Johnson took off his new pair of shoes and gave them to the young man — a sign of true compassion!

ASLEEP IN JESUS

Kenneth "Ken" Knoll (1946-2018)

Kenneth Glen Knoll (72) was born May 14, 1946, in New Auburn, Wisconsin, and died November 29, 2018, in Springfield, Oregon, surrounded by family.



Ken graduated from Midwest Bible College in Stanberry, Missouri, with a degree in pastoral ministry. He married Mary Jean Wilson on June 15, 1969, in Conroe, Texas. They have two daughters, Carla and Kristen (Kristi).

During his almost fifty years of ministry, Ken pastored churches in Texas, Oklahoma, and Oregon. He retired from the Eugene Church of God (Seventh Day) in January 2014. However, he continued to be actively involved in the Church both locally and nationally, as well as with the Eugene One Hope Network of pastors and churches.

Ken was passionate about his family, his friends, and his God. He will be remembered for his humor, his smile, his love of life, his unconditional love for others, and his total commitment to sharing the love of Jesus. During his brief illness, Ken was often seen with his hands lifted high, singing praises to God and His Son Jesus.

Ken is survived by his wife, two daughters, two sons-in-law, five grandchildren, and many other relatives and brothers/sisters in Christ. He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Violet (Anklam), brother Jesse, and granddaughter, Amy Lang.

Samuel Sanchez (1930-2018)

Samuel Sanchez (88) was born July 18, 1930, in Kansas City, Missouri, and passed away November 16, 2018, in Sacramento, California. He married Oralia "Ruth," and they had four children. He was the rock of his family and taught them all about God and CoG7.



Samuel was the last of the original ministers of the Spanish bilingual CoG7 on 71st Street in Sacramento. A compassionate man, he headed the outreach program and involved himself in many other duties, including serving on the board, teaching Sabbath school, conducting Bible studies, preaching, and being a counselor and mentor.

Samuel is survived by his wife, children, seven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

Congratulations! Jonahdith Scott, daughter of Elder A. Scott, graduated in November with her degree in early childhood education and is now a licensed teacher. She teaches one of the children's classes at Etobicoke.



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Women in Mission

Hundreds of women from different parts of Mexico and other countries met November 29 - December 2 at the Reflect Krystal Grand Hotel at the Nayarit Riviera to celebrate their long-awaited national congress.

Jocheved Martínez welcomed attendees from the seventeen districts of Mexico, as well as sisters from the United States (Texas, California, Michigan, Colorado, Maryland, Florida, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Illinois), Guatemala, Belize, Peru, and Argentina. A total of 930 sisters registered for the event.

The service began early on Friday, November 30, with prayer for the mission to continue spreading throughout the world. That evening the women enjoyed a special program and listened to the plenary session, "The Power of the Holy Spirit in the Mission," presented by Jocheved Martínez. Three videos were presented from Miriam Morales (SHINE), Ruth Carreño (Uruguay), and Brenda Berenice Morales (Argentina) on how they carry out the mission in different countries.

The program continued on December 1 with prayer for missionaries and four workshops. God gave a spiritual nudge through these speakers. The evening service included Min. Israel Delgado, president of the General Executive Council in Mexico. Over sixty women were recognized for their work in the mission and inspiration to others. Special recognition was given to Bertha Elizabeth Esparza (wife of Raúl López, who sleeps in the Lord) and Susana Reyes (wife of Abraham Valdovinos, who sleeps in the Lord).

Alicia Miranda spoke on "The Mission, Action of Love," then extended a moving call to women who wanted to be baptized. Afterward, Brother Israel Delgado delivered an emotional message and concluded with a restoration prayer for all women. The evening concluded with a parade of regional costumes, with

all the states of the Mexican Republic present. Women also paraded representing the United States, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, as well as India and Africa.

On December 2, prayer was held at the sea, with the baptism of four sisters who made a covenant of love with God. Hundreds of women prayed and wept in this blessed event, officiated by Min. Delgado. Eva Delgado-Alonso gave the closing message on "Women in Mission" and challenged the sisters to share the light of God wherever they are. After the closing prayer by Israel Delgado, the women concluded by singing "To God Be the Glory" — praise for His love covering this magnificent event.

— Jocheved Martinez

Ladies from California, Texas, Mexico, and Argentina at the women's congress in Mexico.



IMC News

In December 2018, the first edition of *IMC News* launched. This quarterly newsletter, produced by IMC Secretary John Klassek, is devoted to sharing news of the International Ministerial Congress. Visit imc.cog7.org/newsletters.html to

download English and Spanish versions in both high (printable) and low resolutions.



Visiting CoG7 in Rome

For over ten years, I earnestly desired to travel to Europe. By the grace of God, an opportunity made this dream come true. I would, however, be faced with the challenge of traveling overseas on my own. With high hopes and some fears, I booked my solo trip to Rome, Italy, in November.

With Bryan Cleeton's help, I located the nearest CoG7, an hour away from Rome. Although I took two buses and one tram to get there, the destination was more than worth it! There is something about sharing the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ that breaks all barriers. The service was in Italian and Romanian, but I was blessed with the support from two sisters, Jennifer Agneta Pop and Mara Armenean, who knew enough English to translate the message and conversations. This transformed a group of "strangers" who don't speak the same language into family!

After the service, we went to Pastor Daniel's home for a potluck, and experienced firsthand the warmth and generosity from our brethren in Italy. The congregation in Rome mainly consists of brethren originally from Romania. They gather at a small location (garage), where they have met for about fifteen years. Unfortunately, the congregation loses members from time to time, as people return to Romania due to lack of employment in Italy. The brethren who remain in Rome drive an hour or so to get to their church.

I found so much encouragement in visiting the church as much as they did from my visit, and I promised I would send their greetings as well as lift them in prayer. Please keep Pastor Daniel and the congregation in your prayers.

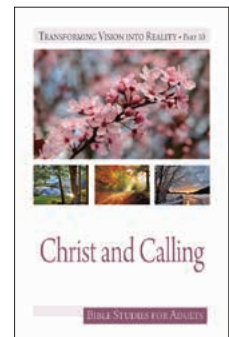
— Ruth Martinez

Adult Second Quarter Lessons

Christ and Calling focuses on the biblical basis of being disciples of Christ. The necessary attitude, commitment, and enduring faith that mark out a disciple of Jesus is explored throughout.

In a general sense, we are all called to be disciples, and then to make disciples of others. But to engage in this work effectively, we must first be disciples ourselves. A disciple of Christ is involved in a process of inner transformation accomplished by God, but that process requires our willingness and submission to be discipled by Him.

Becoming Christ's disciple mandates a personal desire to be encouraged, corrected, and ultimately transformed into the very image of Jesus Christ. This quarterly discusses the challenge of discipleship and the results it produces.



Children's Curriculum (March-May)

Intermediate. In *The Armor of God*, students will learn why Jesus needed to come to earth to pay for humanity's sins. Those who commit their lives to Christ and accept Him as their Lord and Savior learn that Satan is their enemy. Therefore, they must put on the armor of God to protect against the spiritual warfare Satan directs against them. Lessons also cover Paul's admonition to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20).




Primary. *Blessing – God Blessing Us and Using Us to Bless Others* teaches students that God has many blessings He longs to give to each of us. As we read His Word, we better understand some of these blessings and how we can receive them and then share them with others. These lessons focus on the stories in Genesis and Exodus, continuing where last quarter left off — from Joseph in Egypt to the Israelites building the tabernacle in the wilderness.



Preschool/kindergarten. *God's Power in Us* introduces students to characters in the Bible just before, during, and after the Babylonian captivity. Students will learn how God used many different people in different situations to show His power and glory. Students will also learn that God can use us, too, if we let Him.





Where is
your path
taking you?

Your talents can greatly impact the world. Work with your local district to find the right path for you!



Engage in the Great Commission in 2019

With your help, we can send evangelists (Cristo Viene), provide assistance through Disaster Relief (DRF), minister to orphans and widows, provide training through Bible schools, supply Bibles and gospel literature, mobilize short-term mission teams, and generate long-term income.

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

Mark your calendar for the annual **IMC Sabbath** — November 2.