

CHURCHRIGHT

Doing church right



Lord's Supper Tuesday, April 7

“This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me”

(1 Corinthians 11:25, NKJV).

We are the General Conference

We are the General Conference, the Church of God (Seventh Day) United States and Canada. We are one of many sister conferences that form the global CoG7. Within our conference, we have organized our work into three important areas of responsibilities.

Local congregations of individual Christ followers are the most important areas of our work. Organizations don't evangelize and make disciples of Jesus Christ; people do! People who know and love Jesus, share Him with others, work with believers to fulfill God's mission, support each other, and love as Jesus loves.

Our **districts** support local congregations. There are many things our congregations cannot do – or do as well – alone. So we've created seven districts within the US and Canada to help communication and collaboration among our churches. Working together as districts, our members and churches can provide support for local churches and leaders, multi-congregational worship and training events, retreats and camps for various groups, and much more. Our districts are key to the healthy flow of information among their congregations and throughout our entire Conference.

The **General Conference** as a whole provides or aids in things that neither a congregation nor a district can do, like the services and tools provided by our three GC Ministries: Artios Christian College (education, certifications, and degrees); GC Publications (*Bible Advocate*, *Churchright*, Sabbath school materials, etc.); and GC Missions (foreign and domestic evangelism and Christian instruction). The General Conference also establishes and funds the North American Ministerial Council (NAMC), the assembly of our documented ministers that determines the official teachings of our Conference.

Each of us gives most of our attention to the members, ministries, and programs of our own local congregation. But together, we are so much more!

– Loren Stacy



District News

Central

Contributor: Ken Lawson, Superintendent



Welcome Back!

The Central District and the Sioux Falls, South Dakota church are happy to have Pastor Oscar Mata and his family home. They had to return to Guatemala for almost a year to complete necessary adjustments on their immigration status. Now, with full government approval, they are back!



Pastor Mata works with not only the Sioux Falls congregation but also the mission they started that worships about 60 miles east in Worthington, Minnesota. Oscar also works with contacts across the state line into Sioux City, Iowa.

If you ever are near Sioux Falls, South Dakota, this local church is a good place to worship.

Pictured above are part of the Sioux Falls congregation and the Mata family (Pastor Oscar, wife Nancy, daughters Eunice and Naomi, and son Oscar). In the last photo, the younger Oscar (age 14) is preaching, and his sister Eunice (age 17) is interpreting.



True Love, Best Friends

The Area #1 marriage retreat was held at Inspiration Point Camp near Clitherall, Minnesota, in mid-December. The theme “True Love - Being Best Friends With Your Spouse” was highlighted by a focus on the marriage texts in Ephesians 5.

Twelve couples from Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota enjoyed a weekend of fellowship, discussion, and a special “date night,” when they reaffirmed love and commitment to each other. Pam Hopewell was the director, and the special speaker was David Vasquez.

The next retreat, scheduled for December 2020, is open to all couples who would love to discover real and measurable marriage enrichment. For information, contact Ken Lawson.



New building. The Rockford, IL congregation is doing well under the leadership of Oscar Lucero. They recently purchased a new building and are happy to be in their own facility. Rockford is located about 90 miles west of Chicago. If you are in that area, you will enjoy worshipping with this energetic group.

Southeast

Contributor: Steve Krome, Superintendent

Biblical Beauty

The district Women’s Ministry held its annual retreat October 25-27 at St. Stephen Christian Retreat and Conference Center in Titusville, Florida. One hundred fifteen ladies came from Alabama, Tennessee,



North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida to hear presentations on the theme “Beauty in Jars of Clay.”

Speakers were Liliana Apen, Allison Krome, and Zahida Hrenyk. The ladies said goodbye to their current director, Dorothy Ray, and hello to their new director, Zahida Hrenyk. Special thanks to Jeddie Larry for her work during the retreat and for publishing the women’s ministry newsletter.



FUEL in Florida. One hundred thirty district youth and youth leaders held their annual retreat at the DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish, FL, December 20-22. Pastor Al Haynes (Port St. Lucie), Pastor Ismael Martinez (Grace Fellowship), and area rep Jonathan Unzueta (Lakeland CoG7) focused on the theme “FUEL: Forgiven Under Extreme Love.” Attendees came from Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina, and two from Maryland. Plans for the next retreat have already been scheduled for December 18-21, 2020, at the same camp.

Lavern Ling

Our condolences to the family of Leland Lavern Ling, who passed away November 25 in Meridian, Idaho, at age 96. Lavern was involved in various teaching, musical, and speaking roles in churches he attended. While serving on district boards, he helped evaluate the properties for both Spring Vale Academy and Sis-Q-Meadows campgrounds before their acquisition.



Read the entire memorial for Lavern on our Memorials page at churchright.org.



CALENDAR 2020

February 16-19 - Board of Directors Meeting in Denver

March 29 - April 1 - Leadership Meeting in Denver

April 7 - Lord’s Supper Service

Artios Events

February 10 - Late winter course registration ends

February 16 - March 22 - Late winter classes in session

March 30 - Early spring course registration ends

April 5 - May 10 - Early spring classes in session

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

Have you seen the latest in CoG7 products? Visit our online store at cog7.org.



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Southwest

Contributor: Jamin Teran

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry



Super Sabbath (Area 3) and Leadership Meeting

On Saturday, November 9, brethren gathered in Baytown, Texas, to celebrate Sabbath. We worshipped together and enjoyed God's Word, with two speakers in the morning. Pastor Moises Capetillo motivated the church to use her abilities in the Lord's service so that our communities know the plan of salvation. Executive Director Jody McCoy also taught us to transcend the ordinary and give our lives to Jesus, because our status has changed as children of God.

After lunch and fellowship, the church gave thanks to the Lord with special offerings, and ministry presentations took place. The area and pastoral representative prayed over the speakers. In the afternoon service, GC President Loren Stacy urged the Church to focus on Jesus and follow His plan. As we do this, we transform as ambassadors of Christ, reconciling the world to Him.

Coffee of Remembrance.

The El Paso church gathered December 14 for a Coffee of Remembrance after a time of worship. Special guest Ismael



Martinez preached on the theme "The Vibrant Church of the 21st Century," encouraging us to put God first and fill her altar with the living water that flows from Jesus. Those present praised God by singing hymns, assisted by Brother Ismael and Sister Susana Beard. It was a night of great praise and blessing!



Beyond Words. Couples of Area 1 held a marriage retreat November 22-24 in Burseson, TX, with the theme "Beyond Words." Twenty-seven couples were blessed as they restored their marriages. Speakers were Pastor Raymundo Ramos and his wife, Rachel Peña. We praise the Lord for this event and for organizers Martha and Alfonso Lopez.



Celebration and new pastor. On December 7, the Dallas Melbourne church celebrated 28 years of Brother Pedro Garza's ministry. He established this church in the Dallas area and was the pastor there for all that time. On the same day, Superintendent Chip Hinds presented the church with a new pastor, Ramon Ruiz. This celebration was preceded with a prayer for both servants and their wives. We praise the Lord for His work in this area!



Women's reunion. The women in Area 1 gathered December 14 in our sister church at Dallas Central. Sister Jaxel M. Childers from Artesia Wells, TX, spoke on the theme "Here I Am." Around 90 women were encouraged to continue using their gifts for the Lord.



New church. We thank the Lord for the new building of our sister church Esperanza Viva in Area 3. The pastor is Brother Jonathan Donaciano.



administer the calling God has bestowed upon us.

This retreat was also the fifth anniversary of our gathering as the body of Christ, so a special celebration was held on Saturday evening. Thank you to all the volunteers for their support in making this event possible.



Back to Basics

The Risen Life church in Midland, Texas, hosted the Area 6 Super Sabbath events beginning Friday, December 27, and ending on the Sabbath. Several speakers (Beto Lopez, Benjamin Sanchez, Ruben Beard, and Esau Hernandez) spoke on the theme “Back to Basics.” They called on the church to return to Bible principles in their own lives first, then in their families and communities.

During both days, worship teams from El Paso churches (Tigua and Tree of Life) ushered us into the presence of the Lord. The Marriage Ministry presented and prayed for the Area 6 representatives, Florenzo and Claudia Hernandez. SWD Media Ministries gave a presentation and provided resources for the brethren in the area. Children and youth attended classes, workshops, and worship services presented by the Albuquerque church. Fellowship, praise specials from the churches, and worship were the major ingredients of this blessed event.

West Coast

Contributors: Ruth Martinez, Katelyn Chalus, and Anna Bandurovskiy

Kingdom Stewards

The 2019 SWORD retreat held December 6-8 in Oakhurst, California, marked the first time that both the Northern and Southern California SWORD ministries collaborated on one event. Speaking on the message “Kingdom Stewards,” Brother Jesus Manso and Brother Pete Alvarado encouraged the young adults to



Special recognition. Brother Lazaro Robles (area representative) and Sister Ruth Martinez (SoCal SWORD director) have stepped down from their responsibilities after years of dedicated service. During the Super Sabbath on December 21, Superintendent Larry Zaragoza recognized them and welcomed Brother Danilo Herrera and Brother Pete Alvarado (accompanied by their wives) to their new positions as area representatives.



Being still. The district (Oregon and Washington) held our annual fall SWORD retreat in late September, with about 40 young adults attending. Pastor Tim Hinds from Marion, OR, spoke on the theme “Be Still.” After hearing his insights on the life of Queen Esther and Zechariah, we discussed how being still can be our choice or God’s, and that it can take many forms. It was a blessed weekend full of fellowship and happy memories.



Women's retreat. District women gathered in October for a women's retreat centering on the theme "Forgiveness is a Key," based on Ephesians 4:32. Our guest speaker was sister Araceli Robles from California.

Western Canada

Contributor: Orville Rose, Superintendent



Focusing on Our Future

As we prepared for the challenges of another decade, our FYC and Seekers leaders looked to the future with renewed hope and enthusiasm. They expressed this sentiment while pouring out their energies and love, realizing that the Great Commission begins at home.

Much time and effort was spent over months in preparing youth for Youth Sabbath, hosted by the Calgary congregation. The youngsters came from various congregations to lead our Sabbath school, teach the lessons, conduct the worship services, present a sermonette, and exhort us to "Answer the Call."

As a reward for their yearlong preparation as the next generation of Church leaders, the youth held a winter camp-in December 21, hosted by the Acme congregation. Their enthusiasm and energies could not be checked while they fellowshiped through music, games, and an assortment of camping getups. We praised God for the fun-filled time for our district's youth.

We are encouraged in the challenges of another year, comforted that our youth have found a place of belonging within our congregations.

Welcome, Dave!

The GC office recently hired a new team member: Dave Herrera. He is an IT specialist and resident of the Denver community who responded to our search for tech personnel.

Dave joins our resident IT specialist, Chris Idemili, as he forms a technical team to improve the Church's web presence, membership database, and other IT-related work. With his technology expertise and bilingual skills, Dave will be a valuable asset for the GC office.

Preserving the Past

From 1863 to the present, the Bible Advocate Press has stored many issues of *The Hope of Israel* up to the current *Bible Advocate*. Through the years, the older copies have deteriorated, and this decay continues at a faster rate. As documents published by the BAP age, we're increasingly seeing a need to better preserve the past and our written history.



Therefore, with the board's authorization, the BAP recently purchased an archiving machine. The BookEye 4v2 (pictured) has a scanning surface that is 17½" tall and 24" wide, and scans two pages on one pass. The laser sensor keeps the type in focus for clear copies of any document. With this kind of quality, the BAP can preserve its priceless documents for the future.

Would you like to invest more in the future? Then consider contributing to the BAP Equipment Fund, which goes toward maintenance of the BAP's aging equipment. Giving is easy. Just visit <https://cog7.org/give-2-ba/>.

NAMC Meeting

We request the presence of all members of the North American Ministerial Council (NAMC) to the meeting scheduled for October 12-17, 2020, in Hebron, Kentucky. This invitation extends to both credentialed and licensed ministers, as well as to local



pastors and local leaders. This year, we offer a special invitation to pastors' wives.

Two topics to be discussed at council are the roles of women, and old and new covenants.

Meetings will be held at the Cincinnati Airport Marriott, with a guest rate of \$109/night, plus tax, for up to two adults in a guest room (king or two double beds). The rate includes a free breakfast for no more than two people per room.

Take a few extra days before or after the meetings to visit many other attractions in the area, like the Creation Museum and National Freedom Center. An offsite trip to the replica of the ark is being planned.

We encourage you to make arrangements to attend. Please look for the special NAMC October meeting questionnaire in the *Forum* and on other sites. We want to hear from you!

For questions, please email namc-office@cog7.org. More information will be provided in future publications and on social media.

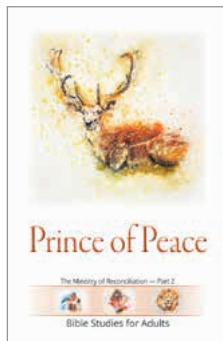
– Daniel Flores, Monico Muffley, Wayne Hrenyk
NAMC Officers

Second Quarter Lessons

This year's quarterlies are dedicated to what the apostle Paul called "the ministry of reconciliation." What is reconciliation and this essential ministry? The exciting truth is revealed in one of the Bible's most profound passages: 2 Corinthians 5:14 – 6:2.

The Author of the ministry of reconciliation is our heavenly Father. In the first quarter we praised and exalted Him: for "all things are of God" (v. 18). We learned who God is as our loving Father, the ground and source of all good relationships.

In the second quarter we focus on the center of the message of reconciliation: Jesus Christ. The lessons study what God has done through Christ: "For He



LeRoy Dais Young Writers Challenge

Be sure to read the flyer accompanying this issue of Churchright for details about the first-ever writing contest for young writers. It is named in honor of LeRoy Dais, who served the Publications ministry for nearly sixty years. Today's young people are tomorrow's leaders, so we want them to share their gifts and thoughts and dreams with us, the church.

The submission deadline (April 30) will be here before you know it, so encourage the young people in your life and congregation to participate in this contest. It will be fun and eternally rewarding!

For more information, contact Sherri Langton at sherri@cog7.org or Jason Overman at jason.overman@cog7.org.

made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us . . ." (v. 21). We will learn what Jesus accomplished as the Prince of Peace, the healer of all relationships.

The quarterly design has changed in 2020, so be sure to let us know what you think. Order copies through email (bap.orders@cog7.org) or online at <https://cog7.org/online-store/>.

Books from BAP

Do you need more information on CoG7 doctrines and history? Or maybe you want to dive deep into the Bible or learn what it says about current issues. These books in our online bookstore will help:

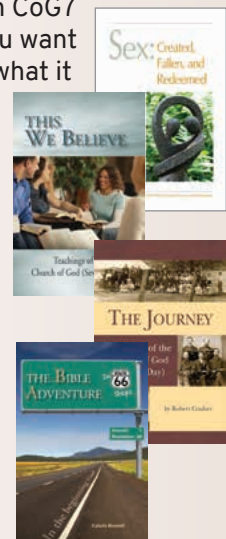
Sex: Created, Fallen, and Redeemed - \$9.95

This We Believe - \$10

The Journey: A History of the Church of God (Seventh Day) - \$15

The Bible Adventure - \$9

Place your order at <https://cog7.org/online-store/>.



Why are we asking you to say YES.

When you say yes, you help your district by . . .

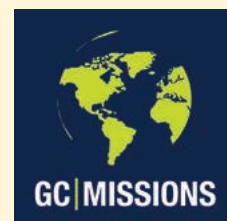
- Participating in functions — retreats, Super Sabbaths, youth activities
- Supporting financially — in partnership with local, district, and national needs
- Praying for our leaders — local, district, and national
- And supporting GC Ministries — Artios Christian College, GC Missions, Bible Advocate Press



Say YES to a strong, healthy church!



Engage in the Great Commission



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: "GC Missions" and "IMC."