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## The Answer

In the past, like many of you, I've lived through wars both hot and cold. I've stood in line to be vaccinated against horrible diseases and waited in longer lines, hoping to get a rationed necessity: gasoline. I've suffered financial loss and prayed to recover as the economy crashed, then slowly grew strong again. I've been unable to attend church services because of social unrest and riots. And I've struggled to remain hopeful through horrible political election cycles and the administrations of leaders with whom I've completely disagreed.

But this year, 2020, it's "déjà vu all over again" – and it seems to be hitting us all at once! What's worse, we've been denied needed human contact and comfort for long periods of time. We've stayed home. We've "social distanced." We've covered our faces, preventing ourselves from knowing if people are smiling or frowning. Depression and discouragement have spread a vague uneasiness that something is very wrong. Emotions have often overcome common sense, and rational discussions about some topics have become impossible.

What shall we do? Focus on Jesus and follow His plan! Remember and share the gospel. From the beginning, our unchanging God has had an unchanging mission and plan to reconcile His amazing creation to Himself in Christ Jesus. Because Jesus died for our sins, we who believe are saved from the coming wrath of God against sin, and we are invited to join God in His great work as ministers of reconciliation and ambassadors for Christ. No present circumstance or cause is more important. Nothing must be allowed to distract us.

In 1973, singer/songwriter Andraé Crouch penned the lyrics to "Jesus Is the Answer," affirming that He is the only solution for our world today. His beloved song is as true and relevant today as it has ever been. In spite of all that is happening throughout the United States and Canada, your General Conference staff members – district and Denver – remain on task and available. Whatever your role may be, please join us. Keep the main thing the main thing. Focus on Jesus and follow His plan!

– Loren Stacy



# District News

## Central

Contributor: Ken Lawson, Superintendent



### COVID-19 Response

When the coronavirus hit the Central District, nearly 100 members contracted it. Two of them passed away, and others were in serious condition. Many of our congregations were hit with unemployment: several at 30 percent, two at 50, one at 70, and another at 100.

All or most of our churches shut down. The immediate need in some areas was for basic groceries, rent assistance, and funeral expenses, so we began to raise funds. Thanks to Steve Krome and the Southeast District board for contributing financial assistance. Local churches in our district also established a Relief Assistance Fund, raising almost \$25,000. They set up a system to distribute contributions through our district board members – directly to the needs in the local churches they represent.

The hardest hit areas were in Chicago, Illinois, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Thanks to those churches that quickly donated some of their local funds to meet this emergency need: Alfred, Fargo, St. Paul, Denver, Southeast District board, Devil’s Lake, Kearney, and numerous individuals. Hard-hit churches in Chicago met many needs of their sister churches in the area.

Special appreciation to Elder Miguel Gonzalez and Elder Ronald Rousseau, two of our pastors in Chicago and members of our district board who assisted Chicago local churches. They and numerous families

purchased and delivered groceries to the families of our brothers and sisters hardest hit.

Spiritual gifts, hearts of compassion, and a lot of hard work define us in times of crisis. May God be with us all as we assist each other and adapt to the needs of God’s people during this critical and difficult time. Just to say thanks does not seem like enough, but this comes from sincere hearts of appreciation!

## Southwest

Contributor: Jamin Teran

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry

**Reopening.** Several pastors of the SWD are reopening their churches at 50 percent capacity, or some at full capacity, depending on the restrictions of their city and state. Many of them have created videos and graphics to inform the church of guidelines when they come back. This provides a clear communication among members, pastors, and community.



Pastor Israel Steinmetz | New Hope United Church

**Pastoral support.** On June 25 the SWD pastors received encouragement and support from Elder Whaid Rose. Gathering on Zoom, more than 50 pastors were motivated to have Jesus in their hearts all the time. This way, when they share the Word with



others, people can feel the love and presence of Jesus. Continue praying for these pastors.

**Virtual Super Sabbaths.** The SWD will conduct virtual Super Sabbaths in the upcoming months. The first one is scheduled for July 24-25 in Area 6, with the theme "Time to Trust." Through this initiative, we can bless our people during the pandemic.



**Assisting widows.** Youth from the Jasper church held a bake sale on June 24, with the funds going to help area widows. We thank the Lord for these young people!

**75 years!** On May 19, 2020, Eliseo and Maria Davila celebrated 75 years of marriage. They were married in Montemorelos, NL, Mexico, on May 19, 1945, and have resided in Corpus Christi, TX, for 64 years. They love



God and are active members of the Church of God (Seventh Day). They are blessed with a big family and a loving church family as well! We praise the Lord for this testimony of love and faith.

2021



### Save the Date!

Our GC Convention is scheduled for July 5-10, 2021, in Covington, Kentucky. Activities will be centered around the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.

Make plans now to join your Conference president, board of directors, and fellow believers in conducting church business and exploring our theme, "Faithful."

Not far away is the Ark Encounter, a full-size replica of Noah's ark. Just 40 miles south, the ark joins many other nearby tourist sites and attractions to round out your family vacation.

Watch our church publications for detailed information in the months ahead. In the meantime, pray for those on the Convention Committee as they make plans to serve you before and during Convention 2021.

Mark that calendar, and we'll see you there!



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## ASLEEP IN JESUS

### Elden Wesley Fischer

1935 - 2020

Elden Fischer (84) of Perry, Michigan, passed away May 26 in Owosso after a battle with COVID-19.

Elden was born in Eureka, South Dakota, on November 7, 1935, to Fred F. and Esther (Schrenk) Fischer. He served his country at Kansas University Medical Center in Kansas City as a conscientious objector until 1960. In 1959, he married his love-for-a-lifetime, Cecyl (Caswell), in Stanberry, Missouri. They celebrated 61 years of marriage just two days before his passing.

Teaching at Spring Vale Academy (now Spring Vale Christian School), Elden held several titles: science teacher, principal, director, supervisor, and eventually a board of directors member. After he left his employment at the school, he remained a pillar of the school community as a personal basketball coach (unofficial), friend, mentor, and encourager of students and staff.

Elden brought his experience with the Church of God (Seventh Day) National Youth Agency to his role as Sabbath school superintendent.

The passion of Elden's life was sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was a daily Bible reader and showed up at God's house for whatever was taking place. Elden loved people and truly wanted the best for them.

Elden was preceded in death by his parents, sister, and infant son, Kent Douglas. He is survived by his wife, Cecyl; brother Harvey (Barbara) Fischer; sister Lucille (Will) McGill; three children – Becki Fischer, Tracy (William) Schmitz, and Scott (Elizabeth) Fischer; and six adoring grandchildren.



### Robert Lee "Bob" Barthel

1938 - 2020

Robert Barthel (81) of Muskogee, Oklahoma, passed from this life June 6 in Muskogee. He was born July 31, 1938, to Roy and Shirley (Krumsiek) Barthel in Roland, Oklahoma.

Bob married Dorothy Lee Whitten in 1958; she died on April 15, 1997. He later married Leah Moldenhauer, who preceded him in death as well. He later married Mary Irwin.

Bob served as a minister in the Church of God (Seventh Day) and was a major supporter of the Muskogee congregation. He taught at the Ministerial Training Center and served in many Church leadership roles and committees.

In addition to his first two wives, Bob was preceded in death by two brothers, Kenneth and Thomas. He is survived by his wife, Mary; sons Robert (Nanci), Randall (Audri), and Roger (Nina); step-children Kenneth Gitthens, Sharon Wilson, Steven Gitthens, Andrew Gitthens, and Kimberly Keyes; sister, Dr. Judith V. "Dee" Barthel-Blair; and numerous grandchildren and extended family and friends.



*You may read the full text of these memorials on our Memorials page at [churchright.org](http://churchright.org).*



### CALENDAR

*Please note: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Senior Retreat scheduled for September 9-13 at Sis-Q Meadows has been cancelled.*

#### Artios Events

**July 16 - September 16** – registration for early fall classes

**September 17 - October 28** – registration for late fall classes

*For a complete listing of events, please visit [churchright.org](http://churchright.org).*

Contribute  
to these  
ministries

August: Artios  
September: IMC