

CHURCHRIGHT



Striving to do church right.

September-October 2010

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In This Issue

Spirit-Formed	1
Church Administration, Culture of Excellence	2
Points of Light	3
Church News, Calendar	4
G. C. Convention	5
September Emphasis: Publications	6
Fellowship in Montreal, October Emphasis: LifeSpring	7
NAMC, Pastor Appreciation	8

Spirit-Formed

The Holy Spirit has been called “the displaced member of the Godhead.” Unlike the Father and Son, the Holy Spirit is overlooked in some Christian circles. Those who give much credence to the Spirit admit to this, so imagine the potential for even greater displacement among those for whom the Holy Spirit is merely “a power” or “force.”

For this reason *Spirit-formed* is among the phrases in the Conference’s Vision Statement, highlighting our commitment to understanding and embracing the biblical principles of the Holy Spirit’s ministry.

Spirit-filled was in the original version of the Vision Statement, but recently the board of directors officially substituted *Spirit-formed*, a phrase with less baggage that better captures the broadness of the Spirit’s work. This broad scope is highlighted, to some degree, in our Statement of Faith:

The Holy Spirit is the promised divine helper who proceeds from the Father and Son. The Spirit is God’s presence and power in the world and indwells believers. By the Holy Spirit, God inspires and illuminates the Scriptures; convicts and regenerates sinners; sanctifies, teaches, comforts, guides and preserves believers; and empowers them for service. Evidences of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life are faith in Christ, obedience to God, and the spiritual fruit of love.

Additional aspects of the Spirit’s work could be mentioned, like revealing Christ, baptizing into the body of Christ, and distributing spiritual gifts.

We conclude, therefore, that the overarching purpose of the Spirit’s work is to form the church by indwelling and shaping it with supernatural capacity. The church Jesus promised to build (Matthew 16:18) is a living church (1 Peter 2:5), and the Spirit gives it life. As an infant grows into a fully formed adult, so babes in Christ grow into spiritual maturity and join Christ’s body. A Spirit-formed church recognizes this principle and increasingly cooperates with the Spirit, committed to ministering in the power of the Spirit rather than in the energy of the flesh.

The Enemy employs various schemes to paralyze the church. In some people he instills fear of the Holy Spirit’s work; he makes others overemphasize the work of the Spirit, creating division and controversy. As a result, what is intended to unify the body becomes the basis of disunity.

The General Conference will walk a balanced path in relation to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, demonstrating what it means to truly be Spirit-formed.

— *Whaid G. Rose*
Denver Office



General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)

Good, Better, Great!

“If better is ever possible, good is never enough.”

That line inscribed on a wall near a fitness center and gymnasium caught my attention while touring a college campus recently. It called to mind our current emphasis on the pursuit of excellence and serves here as a good lead into my comments about recent staff additions in our Denver office.

“The General Conference does so much with so little” was one of my first observations after becoming involved with Conference administration. Living with this reality has been both a lesson in gratitude and an exercise in frustration: gratitude for the sacrifices of those who support this ministry financially and those who serve it vocationally at modest wage; frustration over lack of additional resources, both human and financial, needed to fulfill the dreams and goals for the organization’s growth.

This frustration is why the Issachar Forum and other fundraising mechanisms have been created and why the Endowment Fund was reactivated. It’s also why the Conference’s executive leadership is committed to broadening the scope of the Denver office staff by adding highly competent personnel at every feasible opportunity.

Richard Jensen, the Conference’s newly appointed executive director, is a prime example. In addition to his educational profile, Dr. Jensen brings a wealth of experience in leadership and business management to the table. He is passionate about the vision cast for the future of this denomination. Developing staff in the Denver office, coming alongside superinten-

dents in their administration of districts, and providing greater support and direction to ministries directors are among Richard’s assigned responsibilities.

Please note, however, that “executing” a theological course for the General Conference is not part of Richard’s job description, as some may have surmised. Theological and doctrinal matters are within the purview of the Church’s Ministerial Council, not vested in any one individual in the Denver office.

So what will Whaid Rose do with his time now that an executive director is on staff? Good question. To summarize, I’ll get to devote much more time to the promotion and implementation of the vision. Fundraising (capital campaigns), writing

(book projects), and advancing new initiatives are among the items on my plate. Hiring a director of communications and technology, additional IT personnel (under LifeSpring), and an executive assistant and executive director is an effort to expand home base so we can serve you more effectively.

Ours is a good organization in many ways, but being good isn’t enough when we can be better — even great! I am grateful to God that such advancements are happening during these difficult economic times, thanks to your support of your local church, district, and Conference through tithes and offerings. In upcoming issues of *Churchright*, Richard Jensen will share about his background and passion for CoG7’s journey from good to great.

— *Whaid G. Rose*
Denver Office



CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

Arvella Rose was guest soloist at the Union Civic Center in Greeley, Colorado, on July 25. She accompanied well-known multiple Dove and Grammy Award-winning singer Larnelle Harris on the familiar song “I’ve Just Seen Jesus.” This was her second time to sing with Larnelle.

Congratulations, Arvella! Watch the performance on the CoG7 Channel on YouTube (youtube.com/user/cog7media).





Ministry in Marion, Oregon

The Marion Church of God (Seventh Day) is one of the General Conference's thriving congregations in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Details of its founding and history were not available at press time, but this congregation's longevity and current outreach to its community are enough to qualify its inclusion among the churches featured in this year's Points of Light series.

In order to increase outreach to its community, the Marion church expanded its campus in 2000 by adding a multi-purpose family and youth center (dedicated in 2001). Following is a partial list of that congregation's ongoing outreach activities: commu-

nity basketball games and back-to-school clothing giveaway events, assembly and delivery of Thanksgiving food baskets, annual Vacation Bible School, and hosting monthly nights out for foster parents in the community.

Under the leadership of its current pastor, Dale Lawson, and an active team of local leaders and elders, the Marion church leads an active ministry focused on prayer, body life, worship, and evangelism. Through these emphases, and more, may the Marion Church of God (Seventh Day) continue to be a point of light to its community.



Edwin A. Lang, 77, died Thursday, August 5, 2010, at Hospice in St. Luke's Hospital. Services were held on August 9 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Pastor Tim Endecott officiated.



Ed is survived by his wife of 48 years, Willigene (daughter of the late Elder W. T. and Winnie McMickin); one daughter, Christy (National SWORD director), of Cedar Rapids; one son, Kurt (National FYC director), of Harrisburg, Oregon; three grandchildren (Nicole, Jordan, and Korban); and other relatives.

The General Conference pays tribute to Ed Lang, a quiet and unassuming churchman, for his contributions to the Church throughout his life and for those made by his children.

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CHURCH NEWS

Facebook Frenzy

Did you know you can now connect with the General Conference and the *Bible Advocate* on Facebook? You can also connect to the latest stories posted in *Now What?* Post your comments and learn what God is doing in people's lives all over the globe.



There's also a Facebook page for the G. C. convention. Tell us if you'll be attending, share your favorite convention memory, and see photos of the convention site in St. Charles, Illinois. Visit us on Facebook and join the conversation!

Celebrating Summer Session

Nearly 50 students, representing 19 states and one Canadian province, gathered June 6-17 at Spring Vale Academy for LifeSpring School of Ministry's first Summer Session. Attendees included students seeking diploma of pastoral ministry (DPM) and certificate of biblical studies (CBS), lay pastors, licensed ministers, and district superintendents.

Summer Session provided six courses to students who had completed six weeks of course assignments prior to arriving. Students were housed on campus and enjoyed meals and free time together, building relationships and strengthening a few muscles on the basketball court.

On June 12 attendees took part in a Super Sabbath in Owosso, with local Church members, out-of-state, and even community visitors filling the

church. Conference President Whaid Rose was the guest speaker for the morning worship service. In the afternoon Richard Jensen shared his "Wings of Steel" presentation on his historic climb up the face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park — a harrowing adventure with parallels to the Christian life.

LITES Staff Needed

LITES Ministries is seeking a couple to host its student dorm. The Fair Haven LITES House has served as student and staff housing for the past five years. The late Pastor Melvin Sweet and his wife, Marybell, hosted Fair Haven for three-and-a-half years, and Sister Marybell continued through this past year. With her move to Texas, we are now looking for a couple to take her place.

Pastor Melvin also taught Bible class, so LITES is looking for someone to help with teaching responsibilities. If you are interested in working with LITES, or if you know someone who is, please write to lites.cog7.org or call 660-783-9544 as soon as possible.

Please continue praying for LITES Ministries as it begins the 2010-2011 school year.

Fourth Quarter Lessons

Adult. Revival: Divine Initiative, Human Response is the title of the next series of Bible Studies for Adults. These lessons focus on the inspiring books of Ezra and Nehemiah. The revival and restoration of captives returning from Babylonia to start a new life in Jerusalem and Judah exemplify a challenge humanity faces today. Through Jesus Christ and the gospel, God provides a release from captivity to the snares of the world and offers a new life of spiritual freedom.

Senior high youth. In the fourth quarter, senior youth will be studying *The Ten Commandments*. These foundational studies provide them with some of God's basic requirements for a close relationship with Him and their fellow humans.

Junior high youth. Lessons for this age group are titled *God and I*. Students will learn how God is their provider and is involved in all areas of their lives. God's love and concern reach out to all.

Helpful teacher's guides are available for these studies. The price for the adult student book is \$3.25, and the teacher's guide is \$5. The senior youth student book costs \$3, and the junior high student book is \$2.50, with \$3 for the teacher's guide. Order from Bible Advocate Press, P. O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; 303-452-7973; or bap.orders@cog7.org.

Read about the new intermediate curriculum for grades 4, 5, and 6 on p. 6.

Calendar

October 15-17 - South Dakota Family Camp "Living Waters," Lake Poinsett Methodist Camp; contact: Brad Ciavarella, bciavare@juno.com

October 15-17 - Octoberfest Family Retreat, Jasper, AR; contact: jasonoverman@hotmail.com or 870-446-5736

October 18-23 - North American Ministerial Council, Glen Eyrie Conference Center, Colorado Springs, CO

November 19-21 - Youth and Young Adult Retreat, Camp YMCA Abe Lincoln, Abe Endecott, abe@cog7.org

December 18 - Arizona Super Sabbath, 6750 N 7th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85013; special speaker: Dr. Richard Jensen

General Conference Convention

July 18-23, 2011
convention.cog7.org

Continuing a Cherished Tradition



Harold and Thelma

We've been attending conventions before they were called conventions; they were called campmeetings. In fact, we were married at the 1948 campmeeting back in Stanberry, Missouri!

*Harold and
Thelma
Willhelm
Denver, CO*

I remember the first convention I attended as a teenager. I was in awe of the worship service with so many fellow believers praising the Lord. It was an awesome worship time, and they have been that way since. Awesome messages and a good time of refreshing your spirit!

*Esther Winchell
Saginaw, MI*

It's like a taste of what the kingdom will be. A "family" reunion. A refreshing. A chance for our children to meet others their own age of like faith. Better than a vacation to Disney World.

*Cinda Hise
Albany, OR*

Fellowshipping, making memories, and conducting the business of the Church are among the reasons my wife, Wilma, and I made campmeetings and conventions a tradition in our family throughout the years. It was a family affair and has reaped rich rewards in the lives of our children. Wilma passed away in 2001, but I continue to attend because I love reuniting with old friends in the faith, and I want to support the gospel efforts of the Church I love. And by the way, I haven't missed a meeting since the beginning — 1924, at just two months old.

*Delvin O'Banion
Denver, CO*



Wilma (1931-2001) and Delvin

Prepare the next generation

- Use your writing and designing gifts
- Nurture young minds through intermediate curriculum



September is Publications Emphasis. Your offerings also support *Bible Advocate* and BAP literature.

Keith Michalak, Director



Calling for Artists and Writers

Bible Advocate Press needs artists, writers, and activity designers to develop children's curriculum for three age levels: preschool to kindergarten; primary (grades 1, 2, and 3); and intermediate (grades 4, 5, and 6). The latter grades still need a completed three-year cycle of lessons.

Use your God-given talents to help teach children what the Bible says about God and Jesus Christ. We must give them a firm foundation for their young lives, centered on Jesus Christ.

Contact LeRoy Dais at the BAP office (leroy@cog7.org) to learn how you can become involved.

Help for Sabbath School Teachers

Two very helpful manuals are available for Sabbath school teachers from Bible Advocate Press.

Initial Teacher Training Manual for Sabbath School Teachers, authored by Karen Edwards of Spokane, Washington, and published by BAP. This manual offers essential guidelines for training new teachers and serves as a valuable support for experienced teachers. It provides a list of helpful books and Web sites. Every Sabbath school should have at least one of these manuals. Available in either English or Spanish for a \$10 donation.

Gospel Light's *Teacher Training Smart Pages* with CD-ROM. In addition to a large volume of guidelines and instructions for understanding and teaching students, this manual contains sample posters, bul-

letins, and much more. A Sabbath school needs only one because a purchaser may make photocopies for staff members. Price is \$39.95 but is available from BAP for \$30, postpaid, in the U.S (English only).

Order both manuals from Bible Advocate Press.

Ready for Your Orders

Produced by Bible Advocate Press and Church of God (Seventh Day) writers, our new intermediate Sabbath school curriculum is ready for the fall quarter of 2010, beginning in September-October. These lessons are geared for grades 4, 5, and 6.

The theme *God Promises a Savior* features lessons about prophecies that foretold Jesus' first coming, birth, childhood, and early ministry. John the Baptist's birth and ministry are also taught in these thirteen lessons.

Curriculum components include a teacher's overview for the quarter and weekly teacher's guides, student handouts, activity worksheets, and resource sheets.

This new curriculum is provided via e-mail attachments that can be downloaded and printed. It is also available on CD's for those who prefer that method. These copyrighted lessons will be forwarded to those who order and pay for specific quantities.

A free sample lesson and order form will be e-mailed on request. Contact the Bible Advocate Press office at bap.orders@cog7.org or by phone at 303-452-7973.

Fellowship in Montreal

The Eastern Canada District had its joint district fellowship weekend in Montreal, Canada, July 3-4, 2010. The theme was “One Family, One Faith.”

In his morning presentation titled “The Unity of the Body” (based on John 17:20-26), General Conference President Whaid Rose challenged over 200 worshippers gathered at the Grand Plaza Montreal Centre-Ville to maintain the unity of the church body. He said that the most beautiful place on earth is where a company of believers gathers in one place with one heart to worship God. We were encouraged to live Christ’s prayer for the unity of the Church.

During the morning, a portion of the senior youth program took place at the nearby Olympic Park.

The worship service sermon admonished us to become Romans 12 Christians. The characteristics of such a Christian include surrender to God, separation from the world, sober self-assessment, supernatural capacity, and empowering by the Holy Spirit. The Romans 12 Christian is not hard-hearted, faint-hearted, or broken-hearted but willing-hearted. We enjoyed the singing of both Marjolene and Arvella Rose.

The evening program involved our district congregations sharing their histories so we could become more

familiar with their development.

On Sunday morning district superintendent Samuel Holland, provided an update on the district and answered questions. District women’s coordinator Janine Ward also shared her report on the activities of women’s ministries on both national and district levels.

We were thankful to have visiting brethren from sister congregations in Boston, Massachusetts. There was good music and wonderful fellowship. Special thanks to all the volunteers who planned and staffed the various activities to make the weekend such a success.

— Shirley Lindsay

Dare to Stand in the Gap

- Over half of CoG7 licensed ministers are over age 60.
- Only two CoG7 licensed ministers are under age 40 in North America.
- 105 students currently enrolled in a LifeSpring program are under age 40.
- If every CoG7 member gave just \$35 this year, LifeSpring could provide training for the next generation of ministers.



October is LifeSpring Emphasis. Your offerings are vital.

Larry Marrs, Director



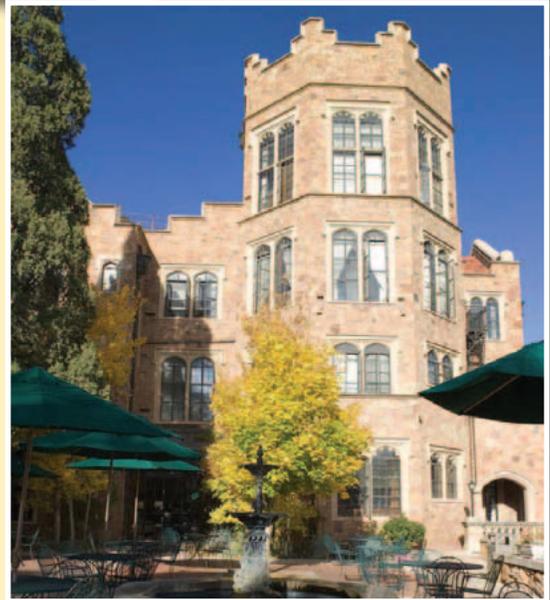
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2010 Ministerial Council

Licensed and credentialed ministers, lay pastors, and wives who can attend will gather for the next biennial session of the North American Ministerial Council at the Glen Eyrie Conference Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado, October 18-23. During this session the council will deal with various matters of doctrinal importance to the spiritual development of the Church.

Find out whether your pastor/lay pastor plans to attend. As a local congregation, encourage his attendance and help provide the means for him and his wife to attend without causing financial strain on their family.

Now *there's* a Clergy Appreciation Month idea!



For the times we burden you with our
griefs and fears,
For the times we share our woes and
tears,
In times of stress and sore dismay,
When things look dark and long the
way . . .

For being there in our darkest hour,
For serving, even at the cost of sleep,
For pointing us to God's mighty power,
For preaching, praying, for feeding
God's sheep . . .

For all the ways you love us each day,
We say thanks. — Adapted

Clergy Appreciation

Thank you . . .

to all CoG7 pastors, lay pastors, and wives

When was the last time you thanked your pastor and his wife for their service of love?

October is Clergy Appreciation Month. CoG7 congregations are encouraged to take this opportunity to honor those in church leadership.