

# CHURCHRIGHT



*Striving to do church right.*

January-February 2010

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## Christ-Centered

**The** General Conference's vision of a vibrant twenty-first century Church of God (Seventh Day) begins with the phrase *Christ-centered*. Why? What does this mean? And how is Christ-centeredness reflected in the life and ministry of the church?

To be "central to" something is to be critically important, basic, the main thing, without which normal function is compromised. Times Square and Grand Central Station are central to New York City's vast transit system. The brain and spinal cord (nervous system) are central to the human body. And Christ is central to the church. This is what the Bible says:

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy (Colossians 1:12-18, NIV).

This is as plain as it gets. In the organization of the kingdom, God has ordained that Jesus be the supreme head of the church. He not only holds all things in the universe together in Him but also has purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Jesus is our life (John 3:36); apart from Him, we can do nothing (15:5).

Therefore the Church must be Christ-centered. It forfeits its claim as a Christian church if anything or anyone other than Jesus is at its center.

A Christ-centered church honors Jesus in all it does. Christ is the object of its preaching and teaching. Biblical worship, expressing God's attributes and character, focuses on Jesus because He is the revelation of God (Hebrews 1:3). Such a church understands that it cannot truly honor the Father without honoring the Son. Christ is the model of its discipleship and the daily supply of spiritual needs.

If Jesus is not in center place, nothing else is in its right place. That's why the true measure of a Christian church is whether it gives Jesus center place in all it is (identity) and does (ministry). This is our chief aim in CoG7, to the glory of God.

— *Whaid Rose*  
Denver office



General Conference  
Church of God (Seventh Day)

## TAKE NOTE ✓

Want to become  
more like Jesus?

Be part of a Sabbath  
school class this  
quarter —

Study the Beatitudes!



Winter quarter  
lessons for adults

The General Conference . . .

promoting Bible study  
churchwide in 2010

## Churchright Online

Read more about what's  
going on in CoG7 and  
download a graphic of  
Ministries' promos at  
[www.cog7.org](http://www.cog7.org). Click on  
"Churchright."

## Culture of Excellence Award: Leota Huff

Congratulations to **Leota Huff**, the next recipient of the Culture of Excellence Award!

Leota tirelessly serves the Denver congregation. Hope Dais writes, "When we moved to Denver, Leota was one of the first to teach our children in Sabbath school class. Today, 37 years later, Sister Leota still faithfully shows up early on Sabbath morning to prepare her classroom, ready to greet the children as they arrive for class. Some are children and grandchildren of her former students."

Leota has often led the Denver church through VBS week with amazing resourcefulness. Her research helps add interest and dimension to the setting in which a particular Bible story takes place.

When the Dais children were baptized, Leota sent them a letter of encouragement and admonition. Hope says that she works many hours behind the scenes, showing up with camera in hand when a special children's promotion or other occasion calls for such "documentation."

Leota is loved and appreciated by the Denver church, but isn't often publicly recognized for her service. Hope believes this dear sister deserves honor for willingly going the second mile.



## Announcing . . . First Annual Pastor of the Year Award



The Pastor of the Year Award is another initiative sponsored by the Issachar Forum in its continuing efforts toward cultivating a culture of excellence. Each General Conference congregation will have the opportunity to nominate its pastor for the award, and the winner will be announced in October 2010, in conjunction with Clergy Appreciation Month. Each pastor may be nominated only once by the congregation as a whole, by a few church members, or by the local church board.

The grand prize winner will receive a one-week Sabbath Experience expense-paid vacation for two at a pre-determined location. Six runners-up — one from each of the remaining districts — will receive a night-out dinner for two at the restaurant of their choice — a \$75 value.

Criteria for qualifications and rules for nominating your pastor are available at *Churchright Online* ([www.cog7.org](http://www.cog7.org)).



*Ribbon-cutting ceremony prior to dedication service of Newton, NC, church. See additional photos in Churchright Online.*

## Lizards, Legacies, Love

Sabbath, November 28, 2009, was a festive day of celebration and thanksgiving for the **Newton, North Carolina**, congregation. It dedicated its brand new edifice, with former pastor Whaid Rose on hand for the message and act of dedication.

The Newton congregation's history began in 1933, when William Mason Coulter and wife, Lizzie (maternal great-grandparents to Elder Rose's wife, Marjolene), were introduced to the Sabbath. Barely literate, William couldn't verify this biblical truth for himself, so he asked the Lord for a sign: three lizards in the water on his next trip to the spring. Lizards weren't out this time of year, but the Lord gave that exact confirmation. The Coulters gave some of their land and other material resources to erect a small building where they and others could worship and fellowship together on the Sabbath.

In 1944 their son, Edward, and wife, Jetty, donated the property

on McKay Farm Road, where the church is currently located. A brick structure was erected, and the church was named Church of God of Little Coulters. It affiliated with the General Conference in 1978 through the influence of Calvin and Vertie (Coulter) Ijames, who spearheaded efforts to purchase an adjoining property now used as the fellowship building. (Calvin grew up in another Sabbathkeeping organization headquartered in North Carolina.) Melvin Sweet served as pastor of the Coulters church from 1981 to 1984 and Whaid Rose from 1990 to 1994. It has been served by Jonathan Ijames, lay pastor, since that time. Several name changes occurred throughout the years; the current name is Newton Community Church of God (Seventh Day).

The legacy of faithfulness and sacrifice by the Coulters continues through the dedication of many individuals and families the Lord has

added to the congregation throughout the years. Current family names are Burke, Camero (Robinsons), Coulters, Edwards, Fox, Hunt, Hunter, Ijames, Kings (Rincker), Lawson, Littlejohn, Moodie, Rice, Richardson, Siffrod, Turner, and more. When these families were asked what attracted them to the Newton church, the predominant response was love, warm welcome, and a sense of belonging.

Can a church thrive and build new facilities with no more than a bivocational lay pastor? This congregation is proof that it can. In fact, under the humble, enthusiastic leadership of its lay pastor and local board, the Newton congregation has successfully completed its \$300,000 building project. Ministry to the elderly in rest homes and feeding the homeless are some of the ways this church reaches beyond its walls.

Praise God for the ministry of the Newton church. May it always be a point of light in its community and beyond.

### TAKE NOTE ✓

**“Presenting Every Man Mature in Christ”  
Ephesians 4:13**

**Conference-/District-Sponsored Men's Retreats**

***Coming to your area  
in 2010***

# News

## PULSE



### Mission Fundraising Projects

The SHINE Medical and Dental mission to Jamaica is quickly approaching. Fundraisers from New York to California are unfolding as team members work to raise the \$50,000 needed for the trip. To pay for their own transportation, team members become involved in fundraising projects that pay for medicines (all bought in Jamaica), housing and food costs, and follow-up work on selected patients. And this doesn't count all the prayer and preaching and spreading the gospel that takes place during the mission.

The CoG7 North Fellowship in Sacramento recently had a fundraising dinner (see photo). I was blessed by the work of our local members to make it a success. The cost? Whatever the people attending felt they could afford. We raised about \$2,000. Best of all, we felt the warm support behind the Jamaica mission.

We are slowly raising funds for the mission, but there is more work to be done. Lord willing, we will accomplish our goal.

— Bev Brenneise

TAKE NOTE ✓

Praying the Sermon  
on the Mount

Annual Prayer Initiative

March 13 - April 3, 2010

### SWORD Contest

SWORD is holding a logo contest, open to all CoG7 members in the U.S. and Canada. Go to <http://sword.cog7.org> for more information. Submissions must be received via e-mail by **May 14, 2010**. The winner will receive a laptop computer.

### National FYC

**Local youth groups:** Please register your youth with the National Youth Ministry for 2010. Do it now! All registered youth receive a personalized card for savings at youth camps, Spring Vale Academy, and other things. Provide e-mail addresses for *Youth Flash* e-news and a cell number for NFYC text list. Youth workers, please give your youth these advantages and more by signing them up at <http://nfyf.cog7.org/register> — today!

**Gimme Five program groups:** To honor your participation, please send us a summary of your 2009 events by **February 15, 2010**, to be eligible for our awards program. E-mail it to [nfyf@cog7.org](mailto:nfyf@cog7.org) or contact Kurt Lang ([kurt.lang@cog7.org](mailto:kurt.lang@cog7.org)) for other options. Gimme Five 2010 packets will be mailed to youth workers soon. Look for your copy and get ready for an awesome year!

### Annual Prayer Initiative

The 2010 Prayer Initiative is scheduled for March 13 - April 3, 2010. This event brings together General Conference members and congregations around corporate prayer. Having focused on the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes during the fall and winter Sabbath school quarters, the Church will revisit this portion of Scripture together, in prayer.

### Missions Opportunities

A new year with new opportunities awaits us in foreign mission fields. Consider how G. C. Missions Ministries can encourage your local congregation to become more involved. A growing number of people who have worked in foreign fields are willing to share their insights. Having represented us well in short-term missions and in foreign ministry development within G. C. Missions, these are prepared to share experiences in their area of interest:

**Monico Muffley** and **Dan Bellows** (Nampa, Idaho) - Pioneer Missionary Training

**Ernesto Frausto** (Sacramento, California) - SHINE Medical and Dental Missions

**Brian Baker** (Colorado) - Orphans and Widows ministry

**Ramon Ruiz** (IMC president) or I could spend a weekend with your church, with enough advance notice. We have worked in many countries together over the last ten years. If you haven't already, please review *Harvest Magazine* to understand more about our growing work around the world.

If you'd like any of these Missions Ministries personnel to visit your church, e-mail me at office@cog7missions.org or call me at 423-546-0374. All that any of us ask is help with our travel expenses and housing. You can learn more about each missions outreach by visiting [www.cog7missions.org](http://www.cog7missions.org).

For our brethren "down under" in Australia, G. C. Missions can provide short video ads encouraging people to visit your congregation. Your church name and address can be included to run on the Internet or on a television station near you. All this can happen for a freewill offering to the production company in Australia! Please visit [www.cog7missions.org](http://www.cog7missions.org), then click on Home Missions Ads for CoG7.

— *Bill Hicks, Director  
G. C. Missions*

## Challenging Lessons

If you're looking for Bible lessons that will challenge you to search your heart and your relationship with the Lord, we recommend *The Beatitudes*, the first quarter issue of Bible Studies for Adults.

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. Order from Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; 303-452-7973; or [bap.orders@cog7.org](mailto:bap.orders@cog7.org).

## Shoe Drive

The Chicago (Cicero) church is collecting new shoes for needy boys and girls, ages newborn to 12, living in Guatemala, Mexico, and Haiti. This missionary program is called HANS, meaning "gift of God."

Please donate canvas shoes, since they are easier to repair and require low maintenance. With your donation please include a letter to the child who will receive your gift. For more information, contact Ronald (CoG7 Cicero - 815-531-5584; [ronald\\_rousseau@cog7hans.org](mailto:ronald_rousseau@cog7hans.org)) or Evelyn (CoG7 Philadelphia - 708-263-9178; [evelyn\\_valle@cog7hans.org](mailto:evelyn_valle@cog7hans.org)). Or visit [www.cog7hans.org/](http://www.cog7hans.org/).

## Calendar 2010

**January 11** Dorms open at Spring Vale Academy. Spring semester begins January 12; contact Christie Camero (989-725-2391 or [ccamero@springvale.us](mailto:ccamero@springvale.us)).

**January 16** Central California Super Sabbath, 801 S. Lower Sacramento Rd., Lodi

**February 26-28** Men's Retreat in Alva, FL; presenters: Calvin Burrell, Jeff Endecott; worship: Bruce Noble; theme: "The Gospel: The Plan, Power, and Provision of God"; contact: Jeff Endecott (252-414-9191 or [pastorjeff60@msn.com](mailto:pastorjeff60@msn.com)).

**March 6** Pacific NW Super Sabbath, Jefferson Baptist Church, Jefferson, OR

**March 28** Lord's Supper Service in all churches (correction from March 23 date reported previously).

**April 2-4** Northeast District Women's Retreat, Oberlin, OH; theme: "The Grandest Theme." More information available in the near future.

**April 16-18** National Women's Retreat in Albuquerque, NM; theme: "Savor the Savior"; contact Grace Sanchez (651-646-1178) or Sylvia Corral (209-869-0777).

**April 23-25** Men's Retreat at Camp Cimarron, Dover, OK; program same as in Alva, FL; contact: Allan R. Burlison (405-229-1186 or [aburlison@cox.net](mailto:aburlison@cox.net)).

**July 6-10** West Coast District Family Conference, Phoenix Grand Hotel and Salem Conference Center, Salem, OR. More information soon.

**Correction:** The Web site for the *No Greater Love* DVD release on January 17, 2010, is [www.proverbscinema.com](http://www.proverbscinema.com).

## THEY SERVE



Various boards, committees, and groups meet throughout the year in service to the Church. Pictured above is the task force that met in Estes Park, Colorado, November 6-10, 2009, to cast vision for further development of LifeSpring School of Ministry:

Back row: Israel Steinmetz (Kansas City, MO); Calvin Burrell (Denver, CO); Erik Dunn (Houston, TX); Andrew Fernandez (Stanberry, MO); Caleb Noble (Middleville, MI); Raul Lopez (Galena Park, TX)

Middle: Amber Riggs (Eugene, OR); Makayla Schlenker (Denver, CO); Lisa South (Lawton, OK); Mary Jean Knoll (Eugene, OR); Jewell Linville (Tahlequah, OK); Debora Garcia (Houston, TX); Whaid Rose (Denver, CO)

Front: Richard Jensen (College Place, WA); Joe Corrales (San Antonio, TX); Abe Endecott (Wellman, IA); Larry Marrs (Denver, CO); Bryan Riggs (Eugene, OR); Ken Riggs (Claremore, OK)

## What Does the General Conference Do for Us?

### For all of us, it

- Provides a corporate identity for the Church of God (Seventh Day).
- Provides unified purpose and leadership for the Church.
- Supplies finances and means by which the Church in North America participates with the Church around the world through the International Ministerial Congress.
- Supports the biennial meeting of the Church's General Conference convention by site selection, program planning, and publication of essential materials. The General Conference in session conducts

the Church's business, including the election of its board of directors.

- Funds the work of any committee that may be called for by the general Church in session.

### For ministers and pastors, it

- Provides funding for site selection and program of the biennial North American Ministerial Council meeting.
- Funds the *Forum* and ministerial directory, as well as the committees of the council, including the License and Credentials Commit-

tee. Ministerial documentation is issued on behalf of the council by this committee.

- Administers and absorbs all overhead costs of the medical reimbursement, insurance, and retirement programs for Church employees.
- Provides all the ministerial letters, books, and other materials distributed from the president's office.

### For local congregations and members, it

- Publishes Church news through *Churchright*.
- Provides financial support and facilitation to agencies of the G. C. Ministries, which in turn provide programs that assist local churches in ministry.
- Provides, upon request and upon approval of the district coordinator, regional membership lists and *Bible Advocate* subscription lists.
- Provides for the time and travel of the president and other personnel for speaking appointments on special occasions for local churches throughout North America.

### For agencies and districts, it

- Provides office space and supplies for Publications (*Bible Advocate Press*) and LifeSpring School of Ministry.
- Provides, without charge, regional membership and *Bible Advocate* subscription lists and mailing labels upon request.
- Provides full accounting services for G. C. Ministries.
- Provides subsidy, when funds are available and when considered necessary, to other Church entities.
- Provides, on loan, translation equipment for retreats, Bible conferences, and leadership meetings.

**Times change,** but do our churches? The Summer 2009 *Leadership Journal* really caught my attention. The cover reads “iGens: How churches are integrating an isolated generation.” Reared on television, cell phones, and iPods, this generation needs to hear the gospel in ways that break through the sounds and penetrate the images.

Every generation, in fact, needs to hear the gospel in ways it understands, based on the culture it was raised in. For example, *Journal* editor Marshall Shelley probes, “Who is the first U.S. president you remember from childhood?” Our answers are one of the following: Franklin Roosevelt, the Depression, and World War II; Kennedy, Vietnam, television, and Civil Rights; Bush/Clinton, the Internet, mobile technologies, and 9/11.

It gets even more complicated. Beyond the generations are people groups that significantly influence American life and culture. Christian researcher George Barna identifies them in his book *The Seven Faith Tribes*. His list may surprise you, and his tips on how to reach them are worth considering.

Of course, not all strategies to reach people groups have turned out as expected. In his *Journal* article “The X Factor,” Collin Hansen says that most of the experimental worship services launched in the 90’s to reach Gen-Xers have folded. In 2006 leaders of Willow Creek Church announced the end of Axis, its Saturday evening event with alternative music and relevant teaching for youth and young adults. This trend-setting ministry attracted thousands when first launched, but in time it had dwindled to fewer than 400.

Why is this so important? Because when the willows sway in South Barrington, Illinois, the evangelical world takes note. So many ministries are now reevaluating separate, age-targeted services. Apparently this approach has not helped the problem of age segregation within the church. Integration, not separation, is now the goal. Emerging generations are craving solid biblical preaching and the truths of sanctification and the holiness of God. They are returning to the rich hymnology that more clearly portrays God’s sovereignty and providence, His love and justice.

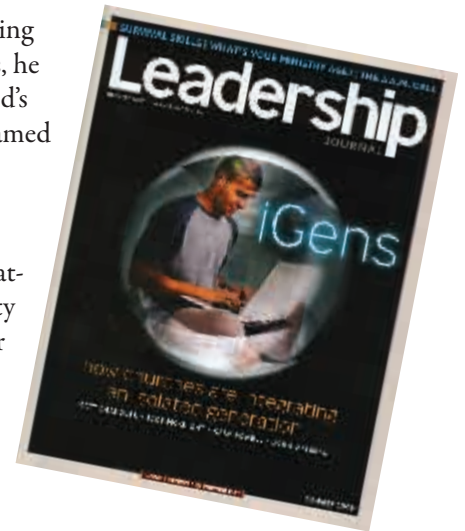
The Village, a Dallas congregation, is a good example. In 2002 this primarily Boomer church of about 150 hired 27-year-old Matt Chandler as pastor and asked him to “bring a new perspective.” A college pastor with a firm commitment to Calvinist theology, Chandler brought a new perspective to The Village. Rather than lowering

expectations and preaching highly practical sermons, he focused on doctrine, God’s character, and an unashamed call to commitment and holy living. Today The Village is a multiple-site church with over 6,000 attending, and the majority of its members are under age 35.

Space on this page will not allow me to highlight all the other must-read articles in *Leadership Journal*. Worthy of mention is “Open Source Activists,” by J. R. Kerr, calling attention to the desire of the present generation to help *create* the church’s vision, not just implement it — the surprising impact when leaders release control and empower a generation of influencers. This gets me thinking about the process of vision-casting in our own church and the need to empower the generations through involving them in the vision process. I will have more to say on this in future publications.

Overall, churches tend to resist change, in part because they’re out of touch with changes and developments in the world around them. That’s why “Culture Watch” will be featured in *Churchright* in 2010. May we be in tune with the culture’s current thoughts and trends so we can know how to minister to it.

— Whaid Rose  
Denver office



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North  
American

# Women's Ministries

- Programs proclaiming the Word of God
- Opportunities to serve
- National Women's Retreat, April 16-18, in Albuquerque, NM (See page 5 for details.)



January is NAWM Emphasis.  
Your offerings are appreciated.

Grace Sanchez, Director

# Helping CoG7 women

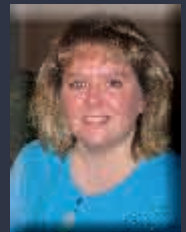


# Plug in . . . to SWORD

[Sharing the Word and  
Offering a Real Difference]

- Web site: <http://sword.cog7.org>
- Facebook group: "Church of God (Seventh Day) Young Adults - S.W.O.R.D."
- MySpace  
West Coast District (Northern Portion):  
[www.myspace.com/swordnw](http://www.myspace.com/swordnw)  
West Coast District (Southern California):  
[www.myspace.com/swordsc](http://www.myspace.com/swordsc)  
Southwest District: [www.myspace.com/swsword](http://www.myspace.com/swsword)

February is SWORD Emphasis.  
Your offerings are appreciated.



Christy Lang, Director