

CHURCHRIGHT



Striving to do church right.

March-April 2010

Volume 2 • Number 2

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Evangelical?

Many find the word *evangelical* troublesome because of the baggage it carries. In fact, some mainline evangelicals are now shunning this label. So why is it part of our Conference's vision statement? If I am an evangelical, what am I?

Evangelical is rooted in the Greek *euangelion*, from which such terms as *gospel* and *good news* are derived. This word symbolized a movement at the turn of the twentieth century that attempted to bring balance to the fundamentalist movement. During that time orthodox Christianity was threatened by harmful elements on the rise: Higher Criticism (of Scripture), Darwinism, Liberalism, etc. In response, Christians emphasized and defended the "fundamentals" of faith.

Though noble in its intent, fundamentalism missed the mark, as summarized by Harold Ockenga in the *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*: 1) Wrong attitude: suspicion of all those who don't adhere to every doctrine and practice they do; 2) Wrong strategy: separation aimed at having a totally pure church; and 3) Wrong results: failure to turn the tide of liberalism because it was so busy being right, it failed to address the cultural and social needs of people (p. 408).

To bring balance, evangelicalism emphasized the good news of the gospel and the centrality of Christ. It also stressed the need to embrace those committed to the gospel, cooperating with them in kingdom work despite doctrinal differences. This is why the Conference's vision statement includes *evangelical*. To be an evangelical is to be committed to Christ's gospel and to relationships with others outside our circle who are equally committed to the gospel.

This is not "easy believism" nor acceptance of all who wear a Jesus label. Some differences do matter, and not all who call themselves Christians truly *are*. But Scripture admonishes us more to be different from the world than to be different from other Christians. Scripture also teaches that those who love Christ and embrace His gospel are not enemies of the faith.

Historically the Church of God (Seventh Day) has looked more like fundamentalism (as described by Ockenga) than evangelicalism. Thus I hope you can understand and appreciate the inclusion of this term in the Church's vision statement.

However, I must confess that while its overarching principles remain important, the term *evangelical* itself has less and less appeal. Though noble in its intent, evangelicalism has fallen into the same predicament fundamentalism fell into in the mid-twentieth century: imbal-

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General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)

TAKE NOTE ✓

Lessons for Second Quarter 2010

Daniel: Man of God
(adult)



Jesus Teaches What Happiness Is (senior high youth)

The Church Begins
(junior high youth)

Teacher's guides available for these studies. Order from Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; 303-452-7973; or bap.orders@cog7.org.

Churchright Online

Read more about what's going on in CoG7 and download a graphic of Ministries' promos at www.cog7.org. Click on "Churchright."



Funding Conference programs and priorities through gifts from Forum contributors

- Multiple Fundraising Projects
- Culture of Excellence
- Pastor of the Year
- Vision Community

CoG7's Issachar Forum
Impacting our Church's Future




See details at Churchright Online (www.cog7.org)

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ance. Out of balance, fundamentalism becomes rigid and exclusive; evangelicalism becomes fluffy and all-inclusive. A biblically balanced church will be committed both to the fundamentals of the faith and to the gospel of Christ. In fact, such a church views Christ's gospel as the foremost fundamental.

Therefore what we really mean to say by *evangelical* is that we are "distinct, but not exclusive" and that being "in Christ," rather than "being different," should be the basis of our identity as Christians. I have suggested to the board of directors that the word *evangelical* be substituted with the phrase *distinct, but not exclusive* in our vision statement. Watch our various publications for the updated statement. And meanwhile, catch the vision!

— *Whaid Rose*
Denver Office



A celebration of the life and sacrifice of Jesus

Where:
General Conference congregations Church of God (Seventh Day) everywhere

When:
Evening of March 28, 2010

Your place at the table is reserved . . .
Don't leave it empty.

At the Table of the Lord

One life
One love
One evening each year



Doing Church in Cut and Shoot

In 1930 one Brother R. C. Ward began visiting scattered brethren in an area of Texas known as Cut and Shoot, part of Conroe and an hour north of Houston. They met in homes for Sabbath school, but with the assistance of the Walton and McCoy families, Brother Ward began holding meetings in the school building. Thus a new congregation was planted, and the original building was constructed in 1932.

Brother Ward was called to California, and the congregation went without a pastor for many years. After its sale to the Three Rivers congregation (also being formed at the time), the building was eventually dismantled and moved by wagon to that area.

Eighty years and a number of pastors later, the Conroe, Texas, congregation continues to be a “point of light” in its community — and beyond. Not everything can be said about this local church in the space available, but its education emphasis is worthy of note. A few years ago

the church added a state-of-the-art education wing to its facilities, which includes a playground and basketball court. Local church board chairman Dennis O’Banion says that this new addition is a place where people can fellowship after the morning services, where children, youth, and young adults can be taught from God’s Word. Overall, the church wants the education building to be a place where young people can have fun. It’s a great outreach tool as well, attracting many VBS students from the community.

The Conroe congregation has a reputation for providing large financial support to various entities of the Church of God, including Spring Vale Academy. It sponsors SVA students from the Conroe church and from other parts of the country. Additional assistance is provided to

District boards and finance committees, the SVA board, G. C. administration, and board of directors — these are among the places where leaders from the Conroe con-

gregation have served over the years. The church is also responsible for *Afterglow*, a publication for CoG7 senior adults. The Conroe Youth Conference, hosted annually for the past several years, draws hundreds of young people.

Thank God for Conroe’s members, past and present; for its pastors, including its most recent, Nathan Lawson (who served for 25 years); and for Alex Ciurana, who will soon begin his tenure there as pastor. Conroe has been not only a good team player within the General Conference but also a beacon of light in its community. May it continue, till Jesus returns.

TAKE NOTE ✓

SHINE

The slow economy and necessary diversion of funds to Haiti have lessened the financial support for the Medical and Dental Missions Team, headed to Jamaica this spring. Can you help? My support of this effort includes going with the team to Jamaica. You may not be able to go, but your gifts and prayers will help Sharing Hope In Nations Everywhere. Please, and thank you, with all my heart.

— *Whaid Rose*
Conference President

Relief for Haiti

The Disaster Relief Fund was activated in response to the recent earthquake in Haiti. Your gifts through your local church or sent directly to the Denver office earmarked “Disaster Relief” will make a world of difference.

CHURCH NEWS



Attention: Children Need You!

Work is well underway in developing curriculum for the intermediate age group (grades 4, 5, and 6), and sample lessons have been written for the primary age group (grades 1, 2, and 3). **But writers and support personnel are urgently needed.** For intermediate ages, crafts and activities must be created to complete a three-year plan.

Also, we need folks to start developing lessons for the preschool through kindergarten-age group.

Why not accept the challenge to become involved in this important ministry? If you have taught children's Sabbath school classes, you may have a good idea what to do. Lesson topics and sample primary and intermediate lessons will be provided for anyone who wants to learn more about this effort.

Contact LeRoy Dais at the BAP office (leroy@cog7.org) for more information.

TAKE NOTE ✓

Annual Prayer Initiative

March 13 - April 10

Praying the Sermon on the Mount

Abbreviated prayer guide is enclosed with this issue of *Churchright*.

See full-length prayer guide at *Churchright Online* (www.cog7.org).

Spring Vale Academy

Second semester is underway and the official count is at 53 students. We'd love to see our enrollment increase. If you are interested or have any questions regarding Spring Vale, please contact Christie Camero at 989-725-2391 or ccamero@springvale.us.

Summer Session

Spring Vale Academy in Owosso, Michigan, is the place for LifeSpring's Summer Session, June 6-17. There's a track for all ministry levels. Summer Session — a place to build collegiality, find mentoring, build peer and cross-generational relationships, and meet classroom coordinators and instructors. There will be evening social and recreational activities, plus a special mid-session awards program the evening of June 12. Attend both weeks, or at least plan to be there on June 12. Since pre- and post-work are done separately, there's more time to relax!

Eight credits offered. Students, check your degree programs for your most-needed classes. Licensed and credentialed ministers, you can earn your required clock hours while you connect with students to pass on wisdom of experience. **Please help us meet the current crisis in ministerial ranks.** Documented ministers may opt to audit for continuing education hours, if needed, but please consider coming to encourage and develop our younger men for ministry. Crises (tough times) require tough men (and women) to take tough measures.

Housing available (as room permits) on campus *and* at the Comstock Hotel. Classroom space is for 120 students. **Register by April 8** at www.LifeSpringSchool.org.

Women's Ministry Day 2010

Any Sabbath in March is Women's Ministry Day! This year's theme is "Are You Being Taxed?"

Today's world sends a message of doom and gloom, followed by hurry and worry. Have you allowed the message of fear and uncertainty to consume your thoughts and conversation? Or have you remembered from Whom your help comes (Psalm 121:2)?

Most agree that 2009 was one of the most difficult financial years we've experienced, with widespread hardship around the world. "Are You Being Taxed?" reminds us that we in the faith are not without hope and that we must cling to His promise in Matthew 6:25-34 to care for our needs.

NAWM hopes you choose to celebrate this special



day with your congregation this year. If you require assistance or information, please contact your district's NAWM representative.

NFYC News

The National Youth Ministry challenges all local youth groups to participate in the National Youth Week/Hunger Lock-In. Through this event they can gain valuable leadership experience within their churches and participate in our foreign missions emphasis/fundraiser in cooperation with G. C. Missions.

April 15-17 are suggested dates for the Lock-In, but groups can get involved anytime before June 30. We are challenging each one to raise at least \$50 to contribute toward the missions project. Information packets will be sent to all local youth workers. Please e-mail director Kurt Lang at nfyc@cog7.org for more details.

Has your local youth group registered with the National FYC Youth Ministry for 2010? It's not too late! Those registered receive special discounts on youth camps and events, a subscription to the *Youth Flash* e-newsletter, and opportunity to sign up for our daily texts (jokes, encouragement, Scripture, etc.) sent right to your phone. Youth workers can register their local youth group through the 2010 Gimme Five booklet or at <http://nfyc.cog7.org/register>.

Lots of exciting district and national youth events are being planned for 2010! Check out our calendar at <http://web.me.com/nationalfyc>.

Pastor Needed

The St. Joseph, Missouri, church is seeking a full-time minister-pastor. For more information, or if you're interested in applying, please contact either Ora Miller (816-261-8217) or Andrew Miller (816-244-6241). Or write to 1017 Angelique St., St. Joseph, MO 64501.

COME VISIT BEAUTIFUL SALEM, OREGON!

West Coast District Family Conference
Salem Conference Center and
Phoenix Grand Hotel
July 6-10, 2010

For more information, contact Larry
Zaragoza (zman52@msn.com)

Calendar 2010

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

March 19-21 Alumni Weekend at Spring Vale; contact Christie Camero (989-725-2391 or ccamero@springvale.us)

March 28 Lord's Supper Service in all churches

April 2-4 Central District Youth and Young Adult Retreat, Davenport, IA; YMCA Camp Abe Lincoln; contact Abe Endecott, youth director (abe@cog7.org)

April 2-4 NED SWORD/NFYC retreat, Camp Hebron, PA; contact Bruce Noble (home/fax: 989-725-6763; cell 989-413-4131; e-mail bruce.noble@cog7.org)

April 3-4 Conroe Youth Conference, Conroe, TX; contact Jason and Rose Rodriguez, CSM directors (jandrrodriguez@att.net)

April 15-17 Suggested dates for National Youth Week/Hunger Lock-In

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 22-25 NED Pastors/Leaders Retreat, Laurelville, PA

April 23-25 Men's Retreat at Camp Cimarron, Dover, OK; contact Allan R. Burlison (405-229-1186 or aburlison@cox.net)

April 30 - May 2 Bloomsday NW Youth Weekend at Zepher Lodge, Liberty Lake, Spokane, WA, area; contact Brian Larson (509-220-2276 or BrianCG7@msn.com)

May 29-30 Grad Weekend at Spring Vale, Owosso, MI

June 6-17 LifeSpring Summer Session, Spring Vale Academy, Owosso, MI; register at www.LifeSpringSchool.org; **deadline: April 8.**

June 25-27 Marion, IA, church celebrates 150 years; contact Tim Endecott (tim.endecott@cog7.org)

Note: NED Women's retreat originally scheduled April 2-4 in Oberlin, OH, will be postponed till next year, due to the retreat in Albuquerque. Put April 22-24, 2011, on your calendar!

THEY REST IN JESUS

This page is dedicated to the memory of three servants of the Church. Two were documented ministers (John Martinez and Wesley Coulson) and the other, a layman — Albert Fischer, aptly described as “an outstanding churchman.” May their memory live long among us.

John Martinez

John Martinez (60), pastor of the Oklahoma City CoG7, passed away October 12, 2009. Funeral services were held October 16, 2009, at the church he served for ten years.

John was born August 24, 1949, in Valla Hermosa Taps, Mexico, to Juan M. and Gonzala (Gonzales) Martinez. He was drafted in the Army during the Vietnam War and proudly served his country for 13 years.

John enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, Petra, four children, and 12 grandchildren.

Note: Read John’s testimony at Churchright Online (www.cog7.org).



Albert Fischer

Albert Fischer, former CoG7 district coordinator, died December 28, 2009. He was 90.

Born October 29, 1919, in Eureka, South Dakota, Albert worked in various lines of work and at one time owned and operated his own straw and hay business, sod business, a service station, and a house-moving business.

In 1943 Albert married Hulda Kiesz, and they joined the Church of God (Seventh Day) in 1953. Except for



three years, Albert served on the local church board in various capacities until 1998. He also served the General Conference as a district board member, finance committee member, and Conference board member. In 1979 he was appointed as district coordinator and held that position for more than ten years.

Albert is survived by his son and daughter, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. His wife preceded him in death.

Wesley Coulson

Wesley Coulson, former CoG7 pastor and maintenance supervisor at Spring Vale Academy, died January 1, 2010, at age 74.

Brother Coulson was born in Kent County, Michigan, on December 20, 1935. He was the son of Homer and Anna (Timmerman) Coulson and a graduate of Spring Vale. He also attended Midwest Bible College.

Brother Coulson pastored the CoG7 in Saskatchewan, as well as other churches in the United States and Canada. He retired from Spring Vale in 2002, having completed 18 years of service.

He is survived by four children and two grandchildren. His wife, Carol, preceded him in death.



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District superintendents, Ministries directors, and staff gather each January for a time of prayer, fellowship, team-building, leadership development, and preparation for ministry in the coming year, led by Conference President Whaid Rose. The group met January 10-12, at the Doubletree Hotel in North Denver. SWORD Director Christy Lang was unable to attend.



Church of God (Seventh Day)

Mission Statement

Our mission is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, introduce others to the Lord, teach them to obey His Word, and nurture spiritual growth in all believers.

Identity Statement

The Church of God (Seventh Day) is a fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ. We are bound together and find unique identity in our combined commitment to the written Word of God as our sole authority for belief and practice, to our distinctive doctrines, and to one another as a General Conference of members and congregations.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the General Conference is to provide training, services, resources, and materials to assist congregations and members in accomplishing the Mission.

Pioneer Missionary Training 2009

by Pastor Monico G. Muffley
PMT 2009 Team Leader

Ten years of mission training and another great PMT trip! Thanks to Minister Isaac Santiago Jimenez (overseer for Mexican District 6), Dr. Erick de la Garza, their team of leaders, and the members in Guadalajara for a superb job!

Most of our 19 members arrived in Guadalajara, Jalisco, México on December 21, 2009. A large team from local CoG7 congregations met us.

The team from the U.S. represented Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada, Oklahoma, Washington, North Carolina, and Minnesota. The entire group of leaders, cooks, worship bands, including those from the U.S., numbered nearly 60. The team included several student missionaries from the state of Aguascalientes, also part of District 6 of the Iglesia de Dios (Séptimo Día).

After a time of worship, we underwent training for a few hours by one

of the many ministers and some lay people.

Following lunch break, we put our classroom training to work through activities like an orphanage visit, clown and mime acts in a convalescent home for the elderly, and a service dinner with a local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous. In the plaza our team reached out to a large crowd already gathered. They distributed gifts, Bibles, and questionnaires and presented a skit.

The team also visited a local hospital to visit, provide food, and pray for patients. It was beautiful to see how we impacted so many people for Christ in such a short time.

One activity that was especially a blessing to us was the *brigade* (“brigade”), which is a team of people providing services such as free haircuts, clothes distribution, medical consultations, and the like to the public in a very poor neighborhood.

As in other years, we were very blessed to learn how to reach others for Christ and to make lifetime friendships. Watch future issues of *Churchright* for information on the 2010 trip!

Online Christian Soldiers

Consider the facts:

- 74.2 percent of North Americans use the Internet¹
- Internet users in Africa and the Middle East have multiplied more than 1,000 percent since December 31, 2000¹
- Facebook has more than 350 million users²

Pray for Publications as we seek to increase our online presence and reach more people with the gospel.

March is Publications
Emphasis. Your offerings
are vital.

Keith Michalak, Director



1. Internet World Stats (www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm)

2. www.facebook.com

Summer Session . . . like no other

- June 6-17 - Spring Vale Academy campus
- Special mid-session awards, June 12
- Mentoring between senior leaders and students
- Registration ends April 8



April is LifeSpring
Emphasis. Your offerings
are vital.

Larry Marrs, Director

For more information and to register,
visit www.LifeSpringSchool.org.