

# CHURCHRIGHT

*Doing church right.*



General Conference  
Church of God (Seventh Day)



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## Doing the Bible Right

**I**t happened during a church workday. A curious book was discovered while clearing junk from the temple-attic, and was later determined to be a copy of the Scriptures. Some in the congregation had never seen a Bible or heard one read before. So it was read, sparking the greatest revival in that church's history.

Sound incredible? Some of the details here have been changed for effect, but the story is based on a true event in 2 Kings 22. While the temple was being repaired, the Book of the Law was discovered (v. 8). King Josiah had been on the throne for eighteen years but had never heard the law read. Its subsequent reading and application led to one of the greatest revivals in Israel's history.

This conveys a brutal fact: The Bible can be lost at church! It's no secret that the twenty-first century church has lost the Bible amid the clutter of popular opinion, feel-good theology, and post-modern thinking. The Bible is less and less regarded as central to the Christian life. It is seen as useful, but not essential. Worship is entertainment-driven, not Bible-based. Some preachers deliver whole sermons without ever opening the Bible. Its public reading is no longer in vogue. Many no longer treat it with any reverence, taking hold of it only out of necessity — the way a drunk holds on to a lamppost.

The Christian campaign to put the Bible back in public schools has limited appeal to me. Believers should speak out against the anti-Bible bias in our culture, but mandating the Bible in the classroom can lead to false notions about the moral state of our nation. Giving the Bible its rightful place in our homes, lives, and churches (Deuteronomy 6:6-9) is of far greater importance — the reason the General Conference has declared 2011 “The Year of the Bible” (see p. 3).

Throughout the year I will offer various suggestions on how to “do the Bible right.” For now, I suggest that, like Josiah and his officials, we rediscover it, as in finding a treasure. Treating the Bible like a treasured possession is, in some ways, how we treat our cell phone. We carry it everywhere we go. If we forget it at home, we hurry back to get it. We flip through it several times a day. We give it to our kids as a gift and dutifully upgrade to the latest version on a regular basis. Essentially, we act as though we can't live without it.

When little Johnny was told that the old dusty volume he discovered behind the bookshelf was “God's Book,” he exclaimed, “Then we better send it back to Him. He may be looking for it!” Job esteemed God's Word “more than my necessary food” (23:12, NKJV) — no doubt the secret of his endurance. Recognizing that the Bible is as necessary to spiritual life as food is to physical life guards against losing the Bible — at church and at home.

— *Whaid G. Rose, Denver office*



# Changing Denver One Family at a Time

The migration of families from the eastern Colorado plains in the mid-1930s — Taylors, Stewarts, and Preslers — resulted in the start of the Denver congregation.

The church was organized and met in the home of Emmett and Mable Presler in 1939. As it grew, pastors were called, beginning with Emmett Samson, followed by Frank Walker and Lawrence Roof. Needing a regular meeting place, four lots were found at 44<sup>th</sup> and Clayton, costing \$420. The new facility was dedicated March 4, 1950. Bud and Eileen (Presler) Michalak were the first to be married in the new sanctuary.

Following the Salem-Stanberry merger of 1949, the General Conference offices were moved to Denver and operated for a while out of the Clayton Street church basement. Office space was provided there for Conference officers, and the Ministerial Council convened at the church. This began a period of growth: Add the Craig, Haerber, O'Banion, Git-

thens, Willhelm, and Coulter families, as well as the Charles (Eileen) Adams and Burt (Flossie) Marrs families, who pastored during the '50s.

The relocation of the Bible Advocate Press from Stanberry and the launch of Summit School of Theology brought additional families to Denver: the Daises, Rinckers, Tolberts, Tullers, Turners, Straubs, Grifins, Burrells, Davilas, and more.

Local outreach, biological growth, and the arrival of additional families from Stanberry, Missouri, made it necessary to relocate. The congregation worshipped in rented facilities until new facilities (69<sup>th</sup> and Sheridan) were dedicated in 1979. Following Calvin Burrell's tenure (1978-1988), Glen Palmer was called as senior pastor. Shortly thereafter another relocation seemed prudent. In 1991 the Denver church began sharing the facility with the Rocky Mountain Church of God. During this period Whaid Rose became pastor (1994). Mike Vlad joined the staff as associate pastor in 1995. In

2001, the congregation purchased its present property at 9375 Gaylord in Thornton. Mike Vlad succeeded Whaid Rose as pastor in 2004.

The Denver church demonstrates a heart for evangelism and outreach, expressed in its vision statement: *Changing Denver one family at a time*. Outreach efforts include Operation Shoe Box (through Samaritan's Purse); Loaves and Fishes Sabbath (serving a meal to the community; giving away food, clothing, and other items; offering financial and job counseling, etc.); Cold Weather Care Initiative (the homeless eat and sleep at the church during cold winter nights); annual backpack project for needy families; Family Assistance (financial aid for needy families); and Helping Hands (reaching out to low-income seniors by providing yard work).

The church also plants a community garden and gives the produce to needy families through COFU, a network of pastors and congregations in the North Denver area. These initiatives, coupled with Mike Vlad's passion for discipling young men (mentoring women also happens), uniquely qualify the Denver congregation as a Point of Light. May the light shine till Jesus comes!

### Denver Pastors

Emmett Presler, Frank Walker, Emmett Samson, Lawrence Roof, Charles E. Adams, Burt F. Marrs, Delvin O'Banion, Archie B. Craig, Robert Coulter, Nelson Caswell, Marvin Keim, Calvin Burrell, Ken Moldenhauer (associate), Glen Palmer, Carl Smith (associate), Whaid Rose, Michael Vlad

# Year of the Bible Declaration

Renouncing the biblical illiteracy of our age, the compromise of the call to preach and teach God's Word, and the post-modern spirit whereby Christian churches exchange entertainment for exposition, popular opinion for scriptural authority, and feel-good theology for Bible truth; and

Recognizing that "as the pulpit goes, so goes the church," that history's greatest eras of spiritual awakening and revival are linked to the rediscovery and faithful exposition of God's Word; and

Recalling that defining moment in the mid-1800's, when his conviction concerning the authority and sufficiency of Scripture inspired Church pioneer Gilbert Cranmer to declare, "My Bible and my Bible alone";

The leadership of the Church of God (Seventh Day) hereby reaffirms the commitment of our Michigan pioneers by declaring 2011 "The Year of the Bible" and encouraging Church-wide participation in this emphasis by

1. Daily reading and regularly memorizing God's Word.
2. Promoting Christian education at all Church levels; supporting General Conference efforts to produce Bible-based curriculum for children and youth; and responding to the need for writers, editors, finances, and prayers.
3. Supporting denominational focus on leadership and LifeSpring School of Ministry.
4. Recognizing and encouraging the gift of teaching, determined that every Sabbath class in every local church be taught by a gifted and well-prepared teacher.
5. Urging greater student participation in every church's Sabbath school program.
6. Making the Bible central to Sabbath worship by reading it publicly, reverently.
7. Ensuring that pastors heed Paul's charge to "Preach the Word . . ." (2 Timothy 4:2-4) and commit themselves to faithful exposition of the Scriptures through preaching and teaching.

— Calvin Burrell  
Ministerial Council President

— Whaid G. Rose  
General Conference President



*Declaring the Year of the Bible,  
January 2011 (L to R): Calvin  
Burrell, Mike Vlad, Whaid Rose,  
Richard Jensen*

**This document highlights the term Bible-based in the CoG7 Vision Statement; declares 2011 the Year of the Bible; complements the BA's year-long emphasis; and calls the Church to renewed zeal for the Scriptures, making the Bible central in personal and corporate life.**

**To mark this emphasis, a commemorative Bible will be placed in the General Conference archives. Throughout the year, this Bible is made available to local churches, upon request, for public reading. Additionally, you may "sign" the declaration above by sending an e-mail of support to [yearofthebible@cog7.org](mailto:yearofthebible@cog7.org), including your name and location in the message.**

**Lists will be kept of congregations and individuals who respond.**



## THEY SERVE

Ministries directors, district superintendents, and executive staff met January 9-11 at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL — the venue for the upcoming biennial convention. This annual meeting is for team-building, planning, vision-casting, and prayer. Also pictured are board members from the North-east District and the SHINE liaison.

## Representative Needed

Central District is seeking a representative for the North American Women's Ministries (NAWM) board. Interested women may request a job description from District Superintendent Tim Endecott. The district board will review the applicants for possible appointment.

This volunteer position requires access to a computer for communication and availability to attend an annual planning meeting. Please submit your request to Tim Endecott (319-646-

5941; [central.district@cog7.org](mailto:central.district@cog7.org)), with a copy to Grace L. Sanchez, director of NAWM (651-646-3108; [gilngrace@aol.com](mailto:gilngrace@aol.com)), on or before **April 1, 2011**.

## The Write Stuff

BAP needs writers who can provide Bible lesson stories and contemporary stories for children's curriculum, pre-school and primary ages (grades 1, 2, and 3). Contact LeRoy Dais at [LeRoy@cog7.org](mailto:LeRoy@cog7.org).

## Resources for Teachers

Need help with teaching Sabbath school? Try these resources:

**Initial Teacher Training Manual for Sabbath School Teachers**, by Karen Edwards. Offers essential guidelines for training new teachers and serves as a valuable support for experienced teachers. List of helpful books and Web site resources. English or Spanish; \$10 donation.

**Gospel Light's Teacher Training Smart Pages**, with CD-ROM. Large volume of guidelines and instructions for understanding and teaching students; sample posters, bulletins, and much more. Purchaser may make photocopies for staff members; \$39.95, but available from BAP for \$30, postpaid, in the U.S. English only.

## Second Quarter Lessons

**Adult:** *Psalms: A Book of Praises*. Learn about the various types of psalms and how some relate to events in the history of Israel.

**Senior high:** *Stewardship and Youth*. Stewardship involves much more than learning how to make good use of finances and possessions and how to support the gospel work.

**Junior high:** *God's Plan — Present and Future* teaches about salvation, the work of the church, the end times, and the return of Jesus Christ to set up His kingdom.

*Note: Junior high and senior youth quarterlies have been revised, updated, and given a new look. Youth will greatly benefit studying the Bible by using these lessons.*

**Costs:** Adult student book, \$3.25; teacher's guide, \$5. Junior high and senior youth student books, \$3; teacher's guide, \$4.

**Intermediate (grades 4, 5, and 6):** *Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection*. Lessons provided as e-mail attachments or on disk. **Cost:** \$15 (Teacher's Overview, weekly Teacher's Guides, Student Handouts, Activity Worksheets, and Resource pages); \$4 for a disk. Student set is \$2 per student. **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).

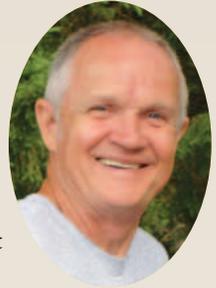
TAKE NOTE ✓

Make online donations  
to the G. C. and its  
ministries. Visit  
<http://cog7.org/>.

## RESTING IN JESUS



**Remember . . .**  
**Annual Lord's**  
**Supper Celebration**  
**Sunday, April 17**



**Mark Ling** (Oregon), 65, died October 28, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Martha, and four children. A graduate of Midwest Bible College, Mark served as pastor in Ohio, Michigan, and Washington before retiring from CoG7 ministry in 1979.



**Lois Margaret Caswell** (New York) passed away December 10, 2010. She was 97 years old. Her husband, Fulton, preceded her in death. Many of their descendants serve the Church in various capacities.



### 100+-Year-Old Member Dies

Ala Loretta Samford Hicks (Texas), thought to be the oldest CoG7 member, passed away January 13, 2011 — just before her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Gladys Marie Little Brann** (North Carolina), wife of former minister Melvin Brann, died December 29, 2010, at age 90.

*Please note: Though exceptions may be made, in general, announcements in this column are reserved for ministers and wives, Church leaders, and others noted for prominent service within the General Conference.*

### Congratulations, Grads!

LifeSpring School of Ministry congratulates the following students on earning a diploma of pastoral ministry in the fall of 2010: Bradley Crowson (Springfield, Oregon); Scott Fischer (Owosso, Michigan); Brian Franks (College Place, Washington); Pedro Garcia (La Grange, Illinois); Josias Hernandez (Elizabeth, New Jersey); Sean Mills (Thornton, Colorado); Steve Rodriguez (Bridgeport, Michigan); Isaac Pedraza (Zeeland, Michigan); Stephen Salazar (San Antonio, Texas); and Tim Steinhauser (Stanberry, Missouri).

### Share the Blessing

Have you participated in the recent Conference-Wide Prayer and Fasting? Let the Denver office know. Share your experience! Send brief testimonies of answers to prayer, breakthroughs, deliverance, and blessings to [offices@cog7.org](mailto:offices@cog7.org). Or post them on the General Conference Facebook page.

## Calendar 2011

**February 7** LifeSpring registration deadline for Pilot courses – BIS 201 and COM 341; register at [www.LifeSpringSchool.org](http://www.LifeSpringSchool.org)

**March 2-5** Winter revivals at Spring Vale Academy; speaker: Dr. Richard Jensen

**March 25-27** Spring Vale Alumni Weekend

**April 17** Lord's Supper Service

**May 29** Spring Vale graduation

**September 9-11** Michigan Women's Retreat, Gladwin, MI; contact Esther Winchell (989-574-7325; [esther416@charter.net](mailto:esther416@charter.net))

**October 21-23** Michigan Men's Retreat, Miracle Camp and Retreat Center, Lawton, MI; deadline for registration: October 1

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Church of God (Seventh Day)  
P.O. Box 33677 • Denver, CO 80233  
Phone: (303) 452-7973  
Fax: (303) 452-0657  
[churchright@cog7.org](mailto:churchright@cog7.org)  
[www.cog7.org](http://www.cog7.org)

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## Doing Good or Having a Great Purpose?

by Richard Jensen  
Executive Director

In the last *Churchright* I mentioned the dangers of being merely good instead of striving for greatness. I talked about some of the things we are doing here at the General Conference so that our organization can strive for greatness. Now I want to talk specifically about what we mean by *greatness*.

There is a great guiding principle of action that Jesus delivered to His church. It is found in the last verses of Matthew, and we know this passage as the Great Commission.

I won't quote the passage here because we all know it. There are several key points that define the Great Commission: 1) go into *all* the world; 2) make disciples everywhere; 3) baptize these disciples; 4) teach *all* things that Christ taught. Collectively, these key points define *greatness* in the work of God.

Now it is easy to localize these key points, to say something like "Well, my local church goes into the community and meets people's needs. We offer Bible studies, and we even have some baptisms." These are all good works indeed. But, brothers and sisters, if our purpose and focus end here, then we are merely "doing good," yet have lost sight of *great!*

There is a reason that Christ organized His people and gave them far more than a localized vision. No local congregation can go into *all* the world making disciples, baptizing, and teaching. It takes an organized denomination to do that. A local congregation can have only a small sphere

of influence compared to the global mission Christ set before His people. So, just as in apostolic times, Christ expects His people to organize congregations together, to work together, and thereby take up a great work that exceeds the reach of any of the member congregations. Thus, many congregations become what we would today call a *denomination*. And it takes a denominational perspective on the part of each individual person and member church to engage in the Great Commission.

Some will say at this point, "Wait a minute. The 'church' encompasses much more than just any denomination we see today! The Great Commission is being satisfied by many denominations, and it is not the work of any particular church or denomination. We are *all* just small parts of the body of Christ."

And I am certainly not suggesting that we in the Church of God (Seventh Day) should adopt an elitist attitude or start to think that we are the *only* ones in Christ's ethereal body. But I would remind us of the fourth key point in the Great Commission. Most churches and denominations in the world today are *not* teaching all things that Christ taught; they are actually *denying* many of the things that Christ taught! And the key points of the Great Commission go together; it's impossible to really do one or the other without doing them all.

For example, you can't make a genuine disciple for Jesus if the person you are "discipling" doesn't even know enough to count the cost of being a disciple. Teaching and discipling go hand in hand. So for any

organization to really be striving toward greatness, it must be committed to genuine discipleship, which means honestly and accurately teaching what Christ taught.

The Church of God (Seventh Day) stands with only a very small group of other organizations in teaching some of the really distinctive things that Christ taught. It is not the case that most of the denominations on Earth today are teaching these distinctive things, but the CoG7 *is!* So in a very special way the CoG7 has a capacity to satisfy the Great Commission that is not shared by most other organizations on Earth today.

This is both exciting and sobering.

It is profoundly exciting to be part of an organization that really is going into all the world, making genuine disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them according to what Christ really taught! But the responsibility Christ has placed upon us to achieve greatness is also sobering. We must take seriously the many, many decades in which we have faltered and stumbled as an organization, barely even being an organization, having a localized and congregational perspective and thereby doing many *good* works but not striving for *greatness*.

We could have quite a discussion about the relation that should exist between local churches and a denomination, and I would encourage you to start such discussions and ask related questions on the G. C. Forums at <http://cog7.org/forum/>. But for this article I want to emphasize that only globally minded and truth-teaching organizations such as the Church of God (Seventh Day) can achieve great-

ness in the sense Jesus intended with the Great Commission. If we will take the Great Commission seriously, then we will align ourselves with just such a denomination.

Such alignment has practical implications, and that fact brings us back to the discussion I had with you in the last *Churchright* about what your denomination is doing to prepare for greatness. The staff members we hired have been strategically placed into key positions of great need. In upcoming issues of *Churchright* I will emphasize some of these roles and explain the ways in which we can do much better than we are presently doing.

For now, however, I pray that you will take the next couple of months until the next issue of *Churchright* to think and pray about your own commitment to your local congregation. And then expand your thoughts and prayers to think in terms of your local congregation's role as a part of this denomination as we together seek to be *great*, in the sense of that word Jesus intended with the Great Commission. Finally, think and pray in terms of how your involvement in your local congregation might be different if you always had it in mind that you are part of a globally minded, truth-teaching denomination.

It is far too easy to be satisfied with *good* works! But our Lord expects us to produce great works, and great works take a completely different level of commitment, submission, and sacrifice than do merely good works. So, is your purpose merely good, or is it great?



# Sold out to Him

In mid-February, look for young adult program schedule for Convention 2011 at <http://sword.cog7.org>.

February is SWORD emphasis. Thank you for your offerings.

**SWORD** <http://sword.cog7.org>

# The world at our fingertips

Join the BA on Facebook!

March is Publications Emphasis. Thank you for your offerings.



# 2011 Convention

July 18-23

## Scheduled Speakers

Tuesday  
Wayne Hrenyk



Wednesday  
Ramon Ruiz Garza



Thursday  
Bill Hicks



Friday  
Jason Overman



Saturday morning  
Loren Stacy



Saturday evening  
Whaid Rose



A special treat on Sabbath  
afternoon . . .

African Children's Choir

Register at [convention.cog7.org](http://convention.cog7.org)