

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)



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Doing the Old Testament Right

During its fall 2010 meeting, the North American Ministerial Council addressed the observance of the annual Hebrew festivals, often referred to as (Old Testament) feast days. It retained the General Conference's historic position (that of non-observance), but voted to embrace festival-observing members and congregations who do not make such observance a condition of salvation or fellowship, and whose promotion of the festivals carefully points out that such observance does not reflect the position of the General Conference.

In addition to the principles taught in Romans 14, at the heart of this discussion is the relationship between the testaments, between the old and new covenants, and how our understanding of that relationship, from a Christian perspective, should inform and influence the Church's core beliefs and philosophy of ministry.

Needless to say, well-meaning Christians are at both sides of this debate. Some see little or no difference between the Old and New Testaments. They tend to elevate the importance of the Ten Commandments and various Jewish customs, sometimes at the expense of emphasizing the finished work of Christ. Others see little value in the Old, tending to abandon "all things Jewish" in order to demonstrate and protect their freedom as new covenant believers.

As in most debates of this kind, the truth is usually somewhere in the middle of these extremes. Finding balance begins with this reminder: God inspired the writing of both Testaments; He is the God of both covenants. Paul's statement — "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16, NKJV) — was written before the New Testament Scriptures came to be. Therefore, "All Scripture" references the Old Testament at the time Paul wrote.

B. B. Warfield describes the Old Testament as "a room fully furnished but dimly lit." Commenting on Warfield's statement, Iain D. Campbell writes, "... all the fundamental elements of the gospel were revealed in the Old Testament ... but awaited the coming of Jesus Christ to bathe that revelation in glorious light" (*Tabletalk*, January 2010, p. 31). The perspective of the saddened disciples on the road to Emmaus was changed when Jesus highlighted all the things Scripture says about Him, "beginning with Moses and the prophets" (Luke 24:27, NIV). Jesus' object lesson was clear: The Old Testament is all about Him.

So to be Christ-centered doesn't necessitate being anti-Old Testament. God inspired the writing of the whole Bible, not just the second half. Accordingly, Christians should be "whole-Bible believers."

Obviously, portions of the Old Testament apply only to its original hearers,

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CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

Pastor of the Year

The General Conference is pleased to announce the second annual Pastor of the Year Award, created to highlight the importance of the pastoral ministry and to encourage those who serve the Church at this grassroots level.



Chip and Mary Hinds, recipients of the 2010 Pastor of the Year Award

To nominate your pastor, call or e-mail Becky Robinson (303-452-7973, ext. 10; becky.robinson@cog7.org) to confirm eligibility, as nominees must be current licensed or credentialed ministers. Nomination packets will be sent upon request via e-mail. The deadline for nominations is August 8, 2011. The winner will be announced in October 2011, in conjunction with Clergy Appreciation Month.

We are also accepting applications for ten judges for this project. We require a minimum of one per district (seven total). To qualify, you must be a member in good standing with your local church and the G. C., have basic computer / e-mail skills, and have the time to read 15 or more essays in September, grading them according to the rubric provided. Please contact Becky for an application by August 1, 2011.

Year of the Bible

Giving attention to the priorities and programs of the General Conference is one of the expectations of its affiliate congregations. The Lanham, Maryland; Harrisburg, Oregon; and San Diego, California congregations are hereby saluted for their participation in the Conference's Year of the Bible emphasis.

Harrisburg Challenge. Members of the Harrisburg, Oregon, church (photo of building, below) are working to memorize 111 verses in 2011, starting with Psalm 119:11: "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (NIV).

Each person age 18 and over who completes the memorization tasks will receive a gift card from the Bible bookstore. Those under 18 have an added incentive called the Bible Bucks program. For every verse they learn, they receive a Bible buck. For every verse both they and

a parent learn, another buck. Bucks are also earned for Bible reading during the week and other ways. Once a month, participants can trade their Bible bucks for Walmart gift cards, Christian CD's and movies, games, candy, and other items at the church's "store." If at year's end they complete the 111-verse challenge, they will receive gift cards totaling \$111!

Want to join the challenge? E-mail harrisburgor@cog7.org for a full copy of the 2011 Bible Challenge program.

TAKE NOTE ✓

As of May, 20 respondents "signed" their names to the Year of the Bible Declaration, announced in the January-February BA. Add your name by writing to yearofthebible@cog7.org.



The Lanham, MD, and San Diego, CA churches have read from the commemorative Bible in their services. Pictured left: A Lanham member reads from John 17 on March 26, 2011.

Doing the OT Right

continued from page 1

the Jewish people. But even those portions provide spiritual principles Christians can glean from. Salvation is not God's Plan B. It is the original plan, revealed from the earliest chapters of Genesis. And understanding the Judaic roots and culture out of which this plan grew can be enhanced by giving attention to the annual festivals, doing so in good balance, while not making it a matter of salvation or test of fellowship. And it is in that spirit that many in the council, including me, voted in support of this position.

But the discussion shouldn't end there. There are issues related to the council's new position — staying on top of it administratively, looking deeper into new covenant theology, and carefully crafting a ministry philosophy regarding festival observance — that need to be addressed further, lest today's decision become tomorrow's problem. As stated before, being Christ-centered doesn't necessitate being anti-Old Testament, but to be Christ-centered does necessitate "doing the Old Testament right" — or keeping it in proper perspective. The old covenant came with light, but that light fades in comparison to the light that shines in the new (1 Corinthians 3). The old pointed to the reality; that reality is wonderfully present in the new. Standing on this side of the cross, we have a much clearer view of the old, and what we see should give us a deeper love for Jesus. Doing the Old Testament from any other perspective poses a threat to the gospel. Doing it right will enrich our faith, expand our fellowship, and draw us closer to Jesus, who is our life. This we will do, to the praise of His glory!

— *Whaid G. Rose*
Denver office

A Statement to the Conference Membership

Issued May 11, 2011

On May 9-11, we – Whaid Rose, Richard Jensen, and Bill Hicks – entered into professional Christian mediation, guided by Peacemaker Ministries of Billings, Montana.

We came together in recognition of our need to resolve conflicts that had arisen between us and were able to clearly see the connection between these conflicts and our mutual failures to follow the biblical principles of relationship. These include the failure to communicate with one another, the tendency to respond in distrust, not understanding the impact of our distrust on those around us, violating the biblical principle of believing the best about each other and esteeming each other above ourselves (Philippians 2:3, 4).

We learned how our conflicts reflect our hearts, as Jesus expounded in Matthew 15:15-20, and how conflicts emerge from idolatry. We discovered how to identify our idols through what is called "the progression of an idol," a key concept in the Peacemaker Ministries' model, which identifies the escalation of idolatry as follows: 1) I desire; 2) I demand; 3) I expect; 4) You disappoint; 5) I judge; 6) I punish (every idol needs a sacrifice).

We thank the board of directors for initiating and funding the process. Most important, we want to express our deep appreciation to God for His great love and patience and power to redeem. He redeemed our relationships, and we have emerged from this process deeply unified.

Additionally, we have come to believe that the formal Peacemaker process is extremely valuable and should be fostered throughout the

General Conference, its districts, local churches, families, and each of us as individuals.

This summary is shared not merely for information but also to demonstrate our commitment to leading by example in preserving the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We therefore appeal to you for ongoing prayer as we commit ourselves to grow in our relationships, loving each other as Christ loves us, not allowing the frustrations associated with our roles to get in the way of this commitment. We also pray that this spirit of unity and Christian charity would prevail among you and will be strongly felt at the upcoming biennial convention, in demonstration of this biblical principle: "the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace" (James 3:18, KJV).

In Christ's peace,

Whaid G. Rose
President



Richard Jensen
Executive Director



William C. Hicks
Missions Director





2011 LITES team (L to R): Samuel Steinhauser, Damaris Jimenez, Ivonne Vega Garcia, Sandra Marquez, Abigail Wallace, and Levi West.

LITES

LITES Ministries is dedicated to preparing tomorrow's leaders today. Finishing strong in the final month of the 2010-2011 school year, six students (Abigail Wallace, Oregon; Ivonne Garcia and Sandra Marquez, Nevada; Samuel Steinhauser and Levi West, Missouri; and Damaris Jimenez, Mexico) have taken the challenge to see what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ in our church and world.

LITES is a foundation-building ministry through intentional discipleship and classroom training, as well as through practical ministry experience with an emphasis in character development. What started as a summer ministry has grown to a full school year of training with students from all across the United States and Mexico!

Classes this semester have included Apologetics, Spiritual Gifts, Biblical Finances, CoG7 Doctrines, and Relationships and Marriage, as well as our daily Bible classes and worship. In addition, LITES has been teaching two of the six classes needed for LifeSpring's Certificate of Biblical Studies. This provides a seamless transition for those who wish to continue in academic training for the pastorate or other ministry areas in our denomination.

Today, LITES alumni serve as staff members for LifeSpring, work in the Conference office, pastor at the local level, lead as district reps for SWORD, and serve as youth leaders in churches. Other students stand with integrity as husbands, wives, fathers, and mothers in raising godly families to reach future generations for Christ. Interested? Check us out on Facebook or at lites.cog7.org, or call 660-783-9544 for free info packet. Let's dream big about God's plans for you and His church!

Tax-Free IRA to Charity Distributions

The provision that permits taxpayers age 70½ and over to make direct distributions (up to \$100,000 per year) from their Traditional or Roth IRA to a church or charity has been reinstated for 2011. The distribution is tax-free, but there is no charitable deduction. This provision can be very beneficial to taxpayers who have Social Security income and/or do not itemize their deductions.

The key benefits of this provision are that the distribution 1) is not included in the taxpayer's income for the year; 2) counts toward the taxpayer's minimum required distribution for the year (if any); and 3) does count as a charitable contribution for the year (although not a deductible contribution).

With this provision, taxpayers age 70½ and over can make a major portion of their 2011 contributions to the Church from an IRA to reduce their annual income. For more information about this, check out "Tax-Free IRA to Charity Distributions Reinstated" on the Internet. Or write to Office of Planned Giving, Church of God (Seventh Day), P. O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; plannedgiving@cog7.org.

Teacher Training at Convention

Training for Sabbath school teachers will be an important feature at the General Conference convention, July 18-23, in St. Charles, Illinois. Karen Edwards will be doing a 70-minute presentation each day, Tuesday through Friday. Spanish PowerPoint, handouts, training manuals, and translation will be included.

Different topics will be presented each day. These five major questions will be addressed:

1. How do you get kids excited about Sabbath school and learning about God?
2. How do you get parents to regularly bring their children to Sabbath school?
3. How do you get the Church to realize the value of Sabbath school and children's ministry?
4. How do you find people who are willing to teach and become effective teachers?
5. How do you conduct an effective teachers meeting where teachers want to attend and improve?

Pastors and local leaders, please encourage your teachers to attend these training sessions.

Spring Vale

Sound and Action concerts. June 1: Denver, CO; **4:** Meridian, ID; **5:** Walla Walla, WA; **6:** Toppenish, WA; **7:** Tacoma, WA; **8:** Marion, OR; **9:** Harrisburg, OR; **11:**

CALENDAR 2011

Sacramento, CA; **11:** Lodi, CA (evening); **12:** San Jose, CA; **17:** San Diego, CA; **18:** LA Super Sabbath; **19:** Phoenix, AZ; **20:** El Paso, TX.

2011-12 school year. For those student applications submitted before July 1, there is no registration fee.

Job openings. A number of job positions are still open: maintenance manager, food service manager, assistant girls dean, assistant boys dean, director of development and admissions, and business manager. Visit www.springvale.us for contact information.

NFYC Changes

After much time and thought, the National FYC leadership team has agreed to change the ministry's name to CoG7 National Youth Ministry.

Another change comes in target ages. Now that the college-age-and-above members are well served through SWORD, the National Youth Ministry is honing its ministry focus specifically toward middle school and high school young people, with official ages now set at 13-18. Local groups may expand those ages within reason, but all district and national functions will target this age group.

Ministry to students comes through, among other things, national and district events, our Gimme Five program, National Youth Week/Hunger Lock-In, and online publications. Youth workers are encouraged to use these tools in building their local ministries. In 2011 we intend to offer one to two youth worker training seminars in every district, equipping youth workers with resources to face the challenges of ministering in our culture.

For Women Only

NAWM luncheon. With convention time fast approaching, North American Women's Ministry is planning a great luncheon program Wednesday, July 20, and bazaar. We will need your help to make this successful. Please plan to attend the luncheon and bring an item or two for the bazaar.

Welcome, Jennifer! Jennifer Stucker (Jefferson, Oregon) was recently appointed to represent the West Coast District on the NAWM board. As a young wife and mother of young children, Jennifer brings a much-needed perspective to the board.

A million thanks to Sylvia Corral, who faithfully represented the West Coast District on the board and worked alongside three NAWM directors. Her contributions to this ministry are many, and NAWM will forever be grateful for her outstanding work.

Widows Ministry. Widows to Widows, a new ministry led

June 1 - July 15 Registration for Summer/Fall 2011 LifeSpring courses

June 5 First anniversary celebration Treasure Coast CoG7, Port St. Lucie, FL

June 15 LifeSpring Certificate of Biblical Studies application deadline

June 20-26 Northern California Youth Camp, Weimar, CA; Capital Mountain Christian Camp; contact: Leah Gomez, registrar (gomez02@frontiernet.net)

July 3-10 Michigan Youth Camp, Long Lake Outdoor Center, Middleville, MI

July 18-23 Biennial Convention, St. Charles, IL

July 24-31 SIS-Q Meadows Senior Youth Camp (ages 13-18), Cave Junction, OR; contact: Harold and Vona Ogren, camp directors (hogren@msn.com)

August 11-14 Dakota Youth Retreat, Medina, ND; contact: Amber Schlenker (ambermarie92@hotmail.com)

August 13 Calgary CoG7 Super Sabbath; contact Orville Rose (403-293-6778; olhrose@gmail.com)

August 17 Dorms open at Spring Vale Academy

August 18 Classes start at Spring Vale

August 26-28 Pembina campout in Western Canada; contact Pastor Adolf Dietterle (780-963-0389; pastor@cog7.ca)

September 9-11 Michigan Women's Retreat, Gladwin, MI; contact Esther Winchell (989-574-7325; 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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RESTING IN JESUS



Long time CoG7 minister and leader **Nelson Caswell** died on March 27 near Eugene, Oregon. He was 77.

The first of seven children born to Fulton and Lois Caswell, Pastor Nelson attended college in Salem, West Virginia, and graduated from Midwest Bible College in Stanberry, Missouri. He and Wilma Munro of Stanberry were married fifty-plus years, and they had two daughters (Glenda Patton of Oregon, Cindy

Nienhuis of California) and three sons (Vernon of Colorado, Randy of Nevada, and Clark of Oregon).

Nelson served as pastor in several congregations, as overseer of the Central District, as national youth director, and as a member of the General Conference executive board.

Preceded in death by his parents, by his wife, and by brother Malcolm, Nelson is survived by sisters Hope Dais (Thornton, Colorado); Cecyl Fischer (Perry, Michigan); and Marjorie Frary (Canton, New York); and by brothers Norman (Owosso, Michigan) and Tim (Lansing, Michigan).

by Toni (Ellen) Kayner from Eugene, Oregon, connects widows in the US with CoG7 sisters in Africa. It allows women who have lost their husbands an opportunity to serve and give purpose to their sometimes empty lives.

This new ministry will raffle off an Amish quilt to raise money for missions work abroad. You can purchase three tickets for \$10. Send your donation to the Conference office in \$10 increments. Tickets will be collected and raffled on Friday, July 22, at the General Conference convention in St. Charles.

Make checks out to Church of God (Seventh Day), and write "Widows to Widows Raffle" on the memo line. For more information, contact Toni Kayner at kkayner@rtinet.com.

R U involved in youth ministry?

- **Hunger Lock-In. All monies collected should be turned in by June 30.**
- **Year of the Bible competitions during the biennial convention. Cool prizes for the top teams!**
- **Youth camps and retreats. See page 5 of this issue for details.**



Kurt Lang
Director

June is Youth Emphasis. Your support is critical.
CoG7 Youth Ministry <http://youth.cog7.org>

Phyllis Diane Tuller of Denver, Colorado, born November 5, 1958, to Delvin and Wilma (Presler) O'Banion, passed away on March 18, 2011, ending a short battle with cancer.

As a pastor's kid, Phyllis grew up to love the Lord and the Church her parents served, and dedicated much of her short life to being a servant of the Church herself. She worked in many capacities, locally and on a Conference level. Her absence at the upcoming convention will be felt, given her participation on Planning Committees over the years. Professionally, Phyllis worked as an admin-

istrative assistant in the health field. She was devoted to her family and was a caregiver to many.

Phyllis is survived by her husband, Dwayne (married in 1979); daughter Jenni; son Kris; three grandchildren (Isaac, Ashley, and Eli); brother Dennis O'Banion (Conroe, Texas); sister Wanda Taylor (Independence, Missouri); father Elder Delvin O'Banion (also of Independence); nieces, nephews, and other relatives. Funeral services for Phyllis were conducted at the Denver church March 23. Interment was in Linden, Colorado.

The General Conference hereby



pays tribute to Phyllis Tuller, and blesses Dwayne and the family as they go on in life without her.

LOOSE CHANGE FOR LOST HEARTS



Your pocket change helps our International Ministerial Congress (IMC) cover costs associated with global missions.

July is "Change for Your World" Emphasis. Your offerings are vital.

William C. Hicks
Director

Missions Ministries www.cog7missions.org.

2011 Convention

11 Reasons to Attend



- 1 Inspiration through fleshing out the convention theme, “Amazing Love,” through worship and the spoken word
- 2 Opportunity to participate in important convention business (*See insert with board nominees and amendments in this issue of Churchright*)
- 3 Location and resort setting — beautiful grounds, three golf courses, spa, and more
- 4 Presentation of biennial and financial reports, State of the Church address, and ministries highlights
- 5 Teacher training and worship technology, seminar tracks, dynamic general sessions
- 6 Children’s activities, geared for capturing and motivating young and active minds for Christ
- 7 Youth and young adult activities, encouraging fellowship, friendship, and service
- 8 Reunion with old friends and acquaintances, and making new ones
- 9 African Children’s Choir concert on Sabbath afternoon
- 10 Reenergizing for service in your local church and community
- 11 Spiritual rejuvenation – like chicken soup, biennial conventions are good for the soul!



July 18-23, 2011
Pheasant Run Resort
St. Charles, Illinois



Register at
convention.cog7.org