

# CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference  
Church of God (Seventh Day)



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## Convention Review

The General Conference's Biennial Convention 2011 is now history. Months of planning, preparation, and prayer culminated in a full week of convention-style fellowship, worship, business, and much more at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois, July 18-23.

Due to convention and other summer travels, and a busier than usual printing schedule, this August-September issue of *Churchright* has been delayed and is given mostly to convention news.

A memorable feature: ministry of music by convention worship team and choir. Kayla Henry, Francine Taylor, Vanessa Taylor, and Deidgre Green presented an interpretative dance to "I Love the Lord" (Richard Smallwood), sung by the choir, with featured soloist Careta Grant. Dancers and soloist are from the Philadelphia Church of God (Seventh Day), Nauldy (and Maisie) Henry, pastor.

The choir also rendered "When I Survey" (Westminster Choral Series).



Worship team: Marjolene, Arvella, and Nathan Rose (Denver); Gisselle Gonzalez and Benjamin Romo (Dallas); Denny Mease (Conroe); Ruben Davila (San Jose); Amber Riggs (Eugene); Susan Payne (Portland); Paul Ijames (Denver)



Monday night's opening reception in the St. Charles Ballroom got the week off to a great start. It was a large crowd for an opening night. Laughter and fellowship filled the air as old friends became reacquainted and new friends were made. We traveled down memory lane via convention trivia and heart-warming stories, while munching on delicious finger foods and refreshments.

Beginning Tuesday, the order of the day was as follows: morning devotional, workshops and seminars, general session, special meal functions (sponsored by various ministries and entities of the Conference), afternoon business session, and evening worship service. Following this pattern, the convention theme, "Amazing Love," was carefully unpacked and celebrated throughout the week. Following a special welcome by the mayor of St. Charles, Donald P. DeWitte, Tuesday's general session (Whaid Rose) encouraged love for the Word of God, marking the Year of the Bible and the four-hundredth anniversary of the King James translation. Wednesday's general session, "Love Doesn't Wait" (Israel Steinmetz), was geared toward youth and young adults, though it spoke to all ages, challenging the church to love selflessly and sacrificially. Richard Jensen led Thursday's general session on "God's Love and the Problem of Evil."

### A general session like no other

Friday's general session was originally titled "A Church Like No Other" to highlight the General Conference's uniqueness in relation to organizations with similar histories. The title was later changed to "How Love Begets Peace" to inform the church body about recent reconciliation efforts between key Conference administrators and to expose the church to the mediation model used

in this effort, a tool that can help the rest of the church. However, because it seemed that those mediation efforts had failed, the general session was changed back to its original title. But what eventually happened at that General Session could not have been predicted, and has been described as the miracle at Pheasant Run.

### Amazing love demonstrated

So far, convention week had been good, except for the cloud that had hung over it, caused by conflict between the Conference administration and a group of individuals known as the Polity Action Committee (PAC). Tension between these two groups was now being played out during the convention business sessions. Free time on Thursday afternoon was used for business, and it was obvious that the major amendments and resolutions yet to be addressed could not be done in the time remaining for business on Friday.

But amid the tension, members were praying for unity and peace, and private talks and negotiations were taking place. To the glory of God, the Friday morning General Session turned into a time of worship and reconciliation, led by Conference President Whaid Rose, and resulted in the withdrawal of the major amendments and related resolutions proposed by PAC and its associates.

The tide was turned; the cloud was lifted. It might be said that our love was tested, and the result is undisputed: Love won out. The spirit of

**TAKE NOTE** ✓

**Hispanic Women's  
Retreat  
September 2-5  
Denver, CO**

## 2011 Convention Stats

- Registration: 1,372 — highest of any recent convention  
Opening reception: 600, highest of Monday evening attendance  
Business session: 665, highest attendance ever  
Sabbath morning and evening: approximately 1,800  
Live-streaming viewers online: 230 (US), 20 (foreign countries)  
Sabbath afternoon awards ceremony/African Children's Choir concert: approximately 1,300  
African Children's Choir organization reports outstanding response in sponsorships, offerings, and volunteers.  
Fraternal and foreign delegates to the convention included . . .
- Seventh Day Baptist US General Conference: Rob Appel (executive director), Kevin Butler (director of communications), and Gordon Lawton (church historian)
  - Peacemaker Ministries, Billings, Montana: Gary Friesen
  - General Conference, Church of God (Seventh Day), Jamaica: Henry Harley (conference chairman)
  - General Conference, Church of God (Seventh Day), Trinidad and Tobago: Lewis Guy (president) and Anthony Dalrymple (vice-president)
  - Mt. Zion Church of God (Seventh Day), Brooklyn, New York: Gilford Monrose

unity and peace that prevailed going into the Sabbath, compared with earlier tensions, was nothing short of a miracle.

### Evening services and Sabbath festivities

Each day climaxed with worship: Wayne Hrenyk, "Love Personified"; Max Morrow, "Love That Heals"; Jason Overman, "Love's Response"; Loren Stacy, "Love That Unites." Elder Bill Hicks, Thursday evening's speaker, left convention early due to a family emergency. In his place, Pastor Henry Harley, president of the General Conference on the island of Jamaica and a vice president of the International Ministerial Congress, blessed us with a message. Whaid Rose delivered the Sabbath morning message, "Love That Worships." The convention choir rendered "When I Survey" and "I Love the Lord," accompanied by worship dance.

On Sabbath afternoon, ministers and other servants of the Church who had passed during the biennium were remembered, acknowledgments were made, plaques presented, and two Churchmanship Awards were given: Joe and Lillian Shapitka (Eugene, Oregon) and Charles and Lorraine Carr (Conroe, Texas). Churchmanship Awards are given at each convention to laymen (servants of the Church who are not documented ministers) in acknowledgment of outstanding service to the General Conference over many years.

Sabbath afternoon activities climaxed with a concert by the African Children's Choir. Most of these children are orphans from very impoverished circumstances. They minister Christ's love through music across the United States, and through their ministry, support is provided for thousands of children throughout Africa. The concert was a great blessing, and a generous offering was received.





# CHURCHMANSHIP AWARD

The General Conference's Churchmanship Award was presented to Charles and Lorraine Carr of Conroe, Texas, and to Joe and Lillian Shapitka of Eugene, Oregon. This award is given at each biennial convention to couples and individuals who are not employed by the Church in vocational ministry, but whose service to the Church is outstanding and whose exemplary lifestyle and leadership earn them this distinction.

## Charles and Lorraine Carr

Lorraine sang her first solo when she was three or four years of age in the old church at Stanberry. By the time she was ten, she had probably been to church more than most adults. When her parents, Clayton and Donna Faubion, held revivals and meetings, she went along and sang, standing on her little chair to reach the microphone.

Lorraine taught children's church, classes, and VBS as a teenager and even traveled to Conroe, Texas, at age 17, to help organize their first VBS. Working with children and teens in the Church has always been a passion of hers.

Curiously, the Faubions moved to Conroe a few years later. While attending that church, Lorraine met Charles, who had been transferred

to Texas from Tennessee. Married 41 years, they have three wonderful children and four grandchildren. Their oldest granddaughter will be married in August; their youngest is six months old.

Lorraine and her mother began *Afterglow* in 1980, realizing the dream of a newsletter that targets the older generation of the Church. *Afterglow* is widely read, and its production is supported by faithful women of the Conroe congregation and elsewhere.

Charles hailed from Tennessee and was new in CoG7 when he and Lorraine met. He had fellowshipped with a group of believers in Memphis after accepting the truth of the Sabbath. After moving to Conroe, he became a regular at CoG7 and joined officially during the pastorate of Elder K. C. Walker.

Charles was soon elected to the local church board and became finance chairman for the Southwest District. Under his guidance, district finances were better defined and budgeted. He has continued to serve the district in this capacity until this time. He was elected to the board of directors in 1993 and has served as an officer of the board — Conference treasurer — until the 2011 convention.

The welfare of the Church is always a matter of great concern for Charles. Lorraine remarks, "I rarely hear him pray when he doesn't include the needs of the Church. He has always said how impressed he has been with the godly men who serve, and how humble he has felt to be a part of the leadership. We share a common goal to see the Church of God (Seventh Day) grow and prosper as a useful tool for God in the spreading of the gospel and equipping of the saints who call this their church home."



The Carrs were unable to attend this year's convention, due to Charles' ill health. Their daughter, Becky Riggs, received the award on their behalf. In presenting it, Whaid Rose spoke of Charles' knack for financial matters, the diligence with which he handled his responsibility as Conference treasurer, his tact and diplomacy, his professionalism, and his love for the Church. Congratulations to Charles and Lorraine on being given the Churchmanship Award.

### Joe and Lillian Shapitka

Joseph Shapitka and Lillian Keim (December 6, 1926 – August 6, 2011) were both members of the Church of God (Seventh Day) when they met; they were married sixty years. Their motto: Serve the Church so we can be a blessing to others, not seek a blessing from others. Guided by this principle, the Shapitkas have given themselves to the service of the Church in numerous capacities over many years, including the local pastorate (Calgary, Alberta), Sabbath school teachers, and the boards of local churches and Sis-Q Meadows camp. They were instrumental in the acquisition of Sis-Q.

As a building contractor, Joe lent his talent wherever needed. He designed and worked on the Calgary church building (1950); oversaw construction of the girls dorm at Spring Vale Academy (1967) and of the school building (1969); and designed and oversaw the construction of church facilities in Edmonton, Alberta; Harrisburg, Oregon; and Sis-Q Meadows.

With few exceptions, the Shapitkas attended



#### Convention chuckle:

Rob Appel, delegate from Seventh Day Baptists, said he was once asked by a young boy if he steals fruit. He explained to convention attendees that he doesn't steal fruit, any more than our president, Whaid Rose, walks through flowers.

General Conference campmeeting/convention over the past 60 years. They missed in 1977 due to an automobile accident on their way to convention, and they have missed the last two due to health challenges. Joe served for many years as chairman of the balloting committee at convention business sessions.

The Shapitkas have three children: Vona (and Harold Ogren), Carol (and Paul Lundgren), Oran (and Sandy) Shapitka. They also have seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The Churchmanship Award was presented to their children at the recent convention, and Lillian passed away just two weeks later. Funeral services were conducted on Wednesday, August 10, in Harrisburg, Oregon. The entire General Conference family pays tribute to Lillian, Joe, and the Shapitka family.



**NFYC:** Activities for youth, led by Kurt and Kristi Lang (NFYC directors) and their team, offered various programs throughout the week. One hundred eighty-eight youth filled out a registration form at our table; 150 youths participated in the Tuesday afternoon trip to the museum. Approximately 75 attended the daily workshops, and some 215 attended the special youth worship service on Wednesday evening.

### TAKE NOTE ✓

*Discovering the Bible*  
Fall Quarter  
Sabbath School  
Celebrating the  
Year of the Bible  
400th Anniversary  
of the KJV

See you in class!

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**Churchright** is a bimonthly newsletter published by the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day). It is dedicated to communicating relevant Church news and cultivating a "culture of excellence."

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## Convention Business

### This resolution passed:

Whereas, Ministries Directors are not considered for membership on the Board of Directors because they are Conference employees; and,

Whereas, District Superintendents, who also are Conference employees, are allowed to be members of the Board of Directors; and,

Whereas, District Superintendents are recruited and supervised by the Conference President; and,

Whereas, District Superintendents who serve on the Conference Board of Directors evaluate the Conference President during the annual performance evaluation process and participate in the deliberations of the Board to hold the Conference President accountable; and,

Whereas, it is in the Conference's best interest to preserve a reporting structure that minimizes potential for conflict of interest and is of the highest possible ethical standard; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that as a matter of policy, District Superintendents shall not serve on the Conference Board of Directors; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this policy change become effective at the end of the next biennium; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference Board of Directors shall prepare the necessary Bylaw amendment for approval at the next convention of the Conference (2013) to reflect this policy directive.

## Board of Directors

Board elections resulted in the reelection of Loren Stacy, Sam Holland, and Jose Hernandez to six-year terms. Mark Caswell of Owosso, Michigan (SVA), was newly elected to the board, also for a six-year term.

## Amendment Regarding Membership

The following is the new wording of Article III, Members, Section 2, Admission:

“Membership shall be issued by the Conference upon receipt of an application which carries the recommendation of a local congregation's minister and the district superintendent, or in the event a local congregation is not being served by a minister, the congregation's board and the district superintendent. Ministers who hold a retirement certificate may participate in this process with the approval of a local minister or, in the event a local congregation is not being served by a minister, the congregation's local board.”

## Correction From the Board Chairman

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During the discussion of the “constitution” project leading up to and during our recent convention, I repeatedly stated that the board of directors had not seen the draft of that unfinished work-in-progress that had been placed on the Internet. I said that because I believed it to be true. I have learned since returning home, however, that the board had seen that draft as part of a constitution committee progress report. I am embarrassed to have forgotten that and to have given you incorrect information. I also am embarrassed to have fallen short of the trust my colleagues placed in me. Because of that trust, they assumed that I must have known something that they didn't. Please accept my sincere apology and forgive me.

— Loren Stacy

Learning in the Light of Christ  
Preparing Christian Leaders for Tomorrow



# Spring Vale Academy

Every dollar given helps place a Spring Vale education within the reach of another student.

SVA's Bible curriculum meets requirements for LifeSpring credit.



Donations made to the school are tax deductible.

Help support our church by investing in our youth.

Mark Caswell  
Executive Director

## Scratching the Surface



- Friends of Bible Advocate on Facebook — 650+
- Viewers to Now What? from Facebook — 2500+
- People worldwide on Facebook — 500,000,000+
- Spreading the word of Jesus — to all the world

Help us increase our online presence!

Keith Michalak  
Publications Director



*SEE YOU IN 2013!*

