

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)

December 2012 -
January 2013

Volume 5 • Number 1

2013 Emphases

January - NAWM

February - SWORD

March - Publications

April - LifeSpring

May - Missions

June - Youth

July - World Missions
(Change for
Your World)

August - Spring Vale

September -
Publications

October - LifeSpring

November - Missions

December - G. C.
Ministries

Fan It Into Flame!

Vision is commonly defined as “the picture of a preferable future” for one’s life or ministry. Summarizing George Barna’s book *The Power of Vision*, someone wrote, “Grasping God’s vision for your ministry is not an option. To minister authentically and authoritatively you must determine, embrace, cast and implement that vision. It should become the focus of your life’s work, and the heartbeat of your church.”

God be praised, a vision of a preferable future for the General Conference — the Vision of a Vibrant Twenty-first Century Church of God (Seventh Day) — has been cast and embraced on all levels of the organization. It is composed of ten major components, some of which more describe the church we hope to become than the church we actually are. Hopefully they all describe the church we are becoming.

But as vision-casters admit, casting vision is infinitely easier than effectively implementing it and measuring its progress. For that reason, observing the fleshing-out of Spirit-formed (the component of the vision currently being highlighted) is gratifying. Examples include the 2012 Conference theme — “A People of the Spirit”; *Bible Advocate’s* emphasis on spiritual formation; Sabbath school quarterlies on the fruit and gifts of the Spirit; Conference Tour centered on living and walking in the Spirit; Ministerial Council meeting focused on the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the church; plans to unpack the “Unity in the Spirit” theme at the 2013 convention in Omaha. Indeed, the dream is in progress.

And because we’ve only scratched the surface of this deep mine of the Spirit, it seems appropriate to extend this emphasis, at least through the July convention. In fact, it’s been suggested that Conference themes be biennial, rather than annual, in length. No need to hurry to a new emphasis each year. Rather, spend the entire biennium fleshing out the meaning of each theme, applying its principles through tangible events and initiatives and delighting in how God is shaping our church through them.

So as we step into the new year, let us give ourselves anew to the ministry of the Holy Spirit for shaping our lives after the image of Jesus, and thereby shaping the church into the pattern He has planned. The challenges facing our church can only be resolved through the power of the Spirit. The Spirit is already at work. Let’s fan it into flame!

— Whaid G. Rose
Denver Office

Conference Tour 2012-2013

The Unity of the Spirit

Be consumed by the passion!

Conference Tour

Houston, Texas; Dowling, Michigan; El Paso, Texas; and New York City are the stops made so far on the Conference Tour. The tour team took a break due to Ministerial Council and the Thanksgiving holiday. Coming up in December are Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Phoenix, Arizona. See the G. C. website for dates and locations through the 2013 convention.



Tour Leaders

Whaid Rose
Israel Steinmetz
Samuel Holland
Darrel Walters



Top: In Dowling, MI, as is the case at each Tour stop, Church leaders from the local and surrounding areas pose for picture with Tour team: Whaid Rose, Israel Steinmetz, Samuel Holland, and Darrel Walters.

Right: The Tour team is joined by the district superintendent on stage during the town hall meeting, to field comments and questions from attendees.



Portland Ministerial Council

The 2012 meeting of the North American Ministerial Council convened in Portland, Oregon, at the Red Lion Hotel (on the Columbia River) October 29 - November 3. High attendance was notable, including a record number of wives, as well as a significant number of newly documented young council members.



The theme of the meetings was the Holy Spirit, unpacked through morning devotional messages and various major presentations throughout the week. Ministerial ethics was given much attention, and opportunity to address current concerns was provided during a town hall-style meeting that featured Loren Stacy (chairman, board of directors); Whaid Rose (Conference president); Calvin Burrell (NAMC president); and Ken Lawson (L&CC chairman). Major council business included the election of officers for the next two years. The new NAMC president is Samuel Holland.

Final activities on Saturday evening were preceded by a Sabbath afternoon fellowship of Oregon area congregations. It was an outstanding council.

Top: Church leaders during a council session. Above: New NAMC President Samuel Holland shares during closing ceremony. Below: Participants in the New Generation Leadership Summit (held prior to the beginning of council).



ASLEEP IN JESUS

Alvina Miller Stacy Marrs

of Lodi, passed away on November 18, 2012, at the age of 91. Born in Eureka, South Dakota on June 11, 1921, she moved as a young adult to the Junction City — Harrisburg, OR area, before moving to California as a newlywed in the early 1950's. Her husband, Carl Stacy, was killed in an auto accident, and she married Roy A. Marrs in 1958. After Roy retired from teaching school, they moved to Lodi, CA, to be near their children and other relatives.



In addition to being a public school teacher, Alvina loved singing, playing organ and piano, and hosting her church family in her home. One of her great passions was working at South Bay Hospital in Southern CA, and delivering medications and comfort for hospice. She was widely loved and admired as a model of women getting an education (when that was not the norm), and was also a model wife and counselor for many, especially for young married couples. She took keen interest in the pastoral ministry and established the Faithful Servant Memorial Fund, which has benefited many in their pursuit of ministerial training.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Albert Miller, and sisters, Clara Kayner, and Adeline Blanke. She is survived by her husband, Roy Marrs, daughter and son-in-law, Lucy and Neal Dralle, of Elk Grove, CA; son, Larry Marrs of Corunna, MI; foster son and daughter-in-law, Leo and Karen Lebitty, of Eugene, OR; son and daughter-in-law, Loren and Karen Stacy of Lodi, CA; son and daughter-in-law, John and Judy Marrs of Sacramento, CA; son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Phylis Marrs of Newport Beach, CA; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Alvina finished her course with flying colors and much honor, and will be greatly missed by her family and many throughout the church who knew her. A grave side service was conducted on Tuesday, November 27, near Harrisburg, Oregon.



Paul Heavilin (left) and James Patchen sing "Power in the Blood" during the alumni afternoon service at SVA.

Thanks to everyone who came out to our first Fall Homecoming 2012. We look forward to seeing you all again for Alumni Weekend, March 15-17, 2013. If you're interested in attending Spring Vale Academy, it's never too late to apply. Please contact our admissions director, Leticia Molinar, at 989-413-6213.



Joplin Disaster Relief

Calvin Burrell (right), acting Missions director, presents a check for \$5,125 to Pastor Dan King, president of the Joplin Area Ministerial Association (JAMA), during Sabbath service at the Joplin CoG7 September 29. These funds were received in response to the 2011 Joplin tornadoes.

BAP Online Bookstore

An online bookstore is available on the General Conference website. The number of books available will gradually increase until we have a selection of several dozen on various topics. You can make your selection and pay with credit card. Visit cog7.org/store.



Sueno Progreso
Now Available in Spanish!
*Dream in Progress:
The Vision of a Vibrant
Church of God (Seventh Day)*
by Whaid Rose



This We Believe
in Spanish December 2012

Lessons for First Quarter 2013

Adults. *Forever Miracles!* is a series of lessons about a portion of the miracles reported from Genesis to Revelation. Each lesson includes the account of a modern-day miracle with which the author is personally acquainted. Studying God's miracles builds faith.

Senior youth. Each lesson in *Living Letters* draws nuggets of truth from the apostle Paul's thirteen New Testament epistles. Three letters were addressed to pastors, most were messages to churches, and only one was sent to an individual. But all include the apostle's wisdom and fatherly admonition that benefit a believer's walk with Christ.

Junior high youth. *The Light of the World* is a continuation of the previous quarter's study. These lessons feature Jesus' last weeks and days of ministry on earth and eventually His trial, crucifixion, and glorious resurrection.

Intermediate (grades 4, 5, and 6). *The Fruit of the Spirit* provides enlightening lessons about the basic characteristics of the Christian life. Students will learn that the fruit of the Spirit is available to every person who submits his life to Jesus Christ and receives the Holy Spirit to fill, guide, and empower his life.

Primary (grades 1, 2, and 3). The lessons in *Journey of Faith – From Abraham to Joseph* focus on the stories in Genesis, continuing where last quarter left off, from the birth of Isaac to Joseph being sold as a slave. The emphasis this quarter throughout these Bible stories is faith. Students will learn that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus and that Jesus alone is the way back to our heavenly Father.

Prices and ordering

- Adult student book, \$3.80; teacher's guide, \$5.
- Junior high and senior youth student books, \$3.20; teacher's guide, \$4.
- Primary lesson sets are provided as e-mail attachments at \$15 for a set or on a disk for \$19. The church can print as many copies as needed.
- Intermediate lesson sets are also provided as e-mail attachments at \$20 for a set or on a disk for \$24.

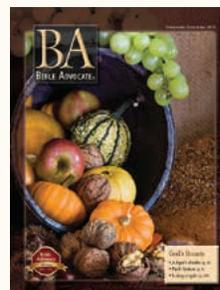
Order from Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; 303-452-7973; or bap.orders@cog7.org.

Read more about the first quarter lessons at cog7.org (Publications).

Turning 150!

Celebrate the *Bible Advocate's* 150th anniversary by reading through the Bible!

The publication of the *Bible Advocate*, the General Conference's flagship publication, began in 1863 under the name *The Hope of Israel*. Therefore, 2013 marks the BA's 150th year of continuous publication, placing it in the ranks of historic US publications. What better way to celebrate this significant ministry of our church than to read through the Bible in this anniversary year? See page 6 for details.



**SHINE
in Haiti**

March 25 – April 1, 2013

SHINE Medical and Dental Missions will minister in Haiti in the spring of 2013.

Deadline for completed applications is December 17. Please visit the SHINE website for more information: shinecog7.org.

TAKE NOTE ✓

Annual Lord's Supper Celebration
Sunday evening, March 24



Be sure to visit the redesigned BA Online — a new face on an old friend. And check back for updates! baonline.org

CALENDAR 2012-13

December 8 – Arizona Super Sabbath, part of Conference Tour; “Living in the Spirit, Walking in the Spirit”; 2131 E. Thomas Rd., Phoenix, AZ; contact: Gabriel Guzman (602-402-8829; gzm_chiajchiul@yahoo.com) or Jonathan Marrufo (602-334-5143)

LifeSpring Dates 2013

January 13 - Winter classes begin

January 28 - Spring course registration opens

February 1 - Spring Certificate of Biblical Studies applications due

February 20 - Spring scholarship applications due

*January is NAWM Emphasis.
Your offerings are appreciated.*

2013
July 1-6

Unity
in the Spirit

Omaha, Nebraska
Omaha Hilton
Century Link Center

BIENNIAL
General Conference Convention

General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)

One-Year Journey Through the Bible

REFLECT 2013: An Exciting Journey Through God's Word

“How I delight in your commands! How I love them!” (Psalm 119:47, NLT).

God's Word has life-giving power. But the busyness in today's world gets in the way of consistent daily Bible reading, making the Word of God an untapped spiritual resource for many Christians.

But there's help from Tyndale House Publishers. Tyndale's REFLECT resources guide believers through the entire Bible in one year in 15 minutes of Bible reading per day, using any version of the Bible. REFLECT offers a one-year Bible reading guide, and resources for a weekly small group discussion.

Tyndale's REFLECT initiative (see website) is endorsed by Whaid Rose and is recommended to General Conference members and congregations as a worthy spiritual endeavor for 2013.

Registration is required for free download of REFLECT resources from www.reflectps119.com. The One-Year Bible associated with REFLECT resources will be offered for purchase (without obligation).

REFLECT resources include monthly poster, weekly reading guide, weekly discussion guide, and leader's guide.

JOURNEY THROUGH
THE BIBLE with a
community of caring
friends.

2013
PS
119
A WAY TO SEE

REFLECT

FIND OUT MORE

Memorize Scripture like never before with—

The Scriptural Calendar

A Daily Guide to Help You Hide God's Word in Your Heart

By Bob Marette

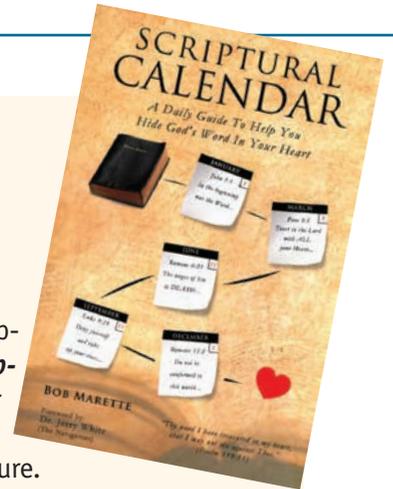
Dr. Robert Jeffress (Dallas First Baptist): "This new book...an invaluable service to the body of Christ...I enthusiastically recommend it to every believer interested in experiencing the power of God's Word in daily life."

Dr. Gary Smalley (The Relationship Expert): "This new book provides a way to take a few minutes each day to commit God's Word to memory and reshape your life."

Whaid Rose: The unique approach of Bob Marette's *Scriptural Calendar* deserves your attention of all those serious about memorizing Scripture.

Order it now and be on your way to an exciting adventure in God's Word in 2013!

Published by Xulan Press; available at our Conference's Online Bookstore: www.cog7.org.



"Spirit, Touch Your Church"

Week of Prayer
Annual Prayer Initiative
March 16-23, 2013
Day of Fasting
Wednesday, March 20



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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 • www.cog7.org

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If the *Bible Advocate* has blessed you and if you could give \$60 or more per year (\$5 per month) so it can bless others, then we invite you to join Editor's Circle for 2013. Your support will help us reach new BA readers with the grace and truth of Christ.

To join, please return this coupon, write to bap.orders@cog7.org, or call 303-452-7973.



I want to be an Editor's Circle donor in 2013, as God enables. This is not a legal debt, and I understand I will never be asked for payment.

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- I'll mail bimonthly donations, using reminder coupons provided by the Circle.
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- I enclose my annual donation. ___\$5 ___\$15 ___\$30 ___\$50 per month Annual: \$_____

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Address _____

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GC Ministries Emphasis and Year-End Letter



December is GC Ministries Emphasis, as well as the time when my year-end letter usually arrives at your mailbox. This page combines both. Thank you for responding as you are prompted by the Lord.

GC Ministries Emphasis

“The General Conference is the sum total of its members, local congregations, districts, and ministries. The success of any of the above equals the success of the General Conference; the failure of the GC equals the failure of all its entities.”

Why the General Conference? The General Conference exists so that more than 230 local congregations throughout the US and Canada can do together what each could not do alone. Together we do GC Ministries.

- > Coordinate activities for the spiritual enrichment of youth, young adults, and women
- > Provide training and leadership development for ministers and laymen
- > Sow gospel seeds through the publication of free literature and educational resources distributed around the world
- > Partner with Spring Vale Academy in preparing Christian leaders for tomorrow, while providing them with quality high school education
- > Fund and participate in global missions

Is this ministry partnership worthy of your support? Your offering earmarked “GC Ministries” will help the various ministries end the year in a good place financially. Thank you for your support.

Year-End Letter

Counting our blessings at the end of each year provides a unique opportunity to affirm our partnership as a General Conference. Just as a reminder, the “General Conference” isn’t the Denver office or biennial conventions. We are all the General Conference—a cooperative venture of members, local churches, districts, and ministries. Thereby, we are able to do together what each cannot do as a local autonomous entity.

The key to working together in this way is partnership. In his small volume on that subject, John Maxwell reminds us that partners share a common vision, set goals, earn each other’s trust, complement one another’s weaknesses, communicate well, work together, forgive freely, benefit mutually, and finish strong.

Thank God for our common vision and the goals we strive to achieve. Despite recent organizational conflicts, loss of key leaders, and financial shortfall, commitment to mutual trust, transparency, healing, and finishing well remain high on my list of priorities as we move into 2013. I’m confident of your commitment to the same.

Thank you for your partnership, for being the General Conference, and for your prayers and financial support. To avoid the cost of production and postage, my letter will not arrive in your mailbox this year. Please put a check in the mail or make your contribution via the GC Website www.cog7.org. Thanks in advance for your year-end contributions. They strengthen our partnership, and help us finish the year strong.

In Christ,
Whaid G. Rose
Conference President

