

# CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference  
Church of God (Seventh Day)

August - September 2013

Volume 5 • Number 5

## 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



The Omaha convention is past, adding one more page to CoG7's convention history. It was a memorable experience, from the opening event to the closing service, and served as a beautiful way in which to tie a ribbon around our biennium-long theme "Spirit-Formed Church" and the recent Conference Tour, "Unity in the Spirit." Joined by foreign delegates from several countries (including Mexico, Jamaica, St. Martin, the United Kingdom, and Nigeria), members of the North American Conference gathered for a full week of convention marked by worship, fellowship, Bible study, inspiring preaching, business sessions, celebration (LITES, the BA's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, LifeSpring graduation), talk of coming major transition, and a strong sense of unity and goodwill.

Genuine unity cannot be contrived or mandated. Rather, it results from pure hearts joined by the same passion. I'm therefore happy to report that such unity was genuinely evident there in more ways than can be elaborated on this page. To God be the glory! Our challenge coming out of convention is the preservation of that unity. And that we will do through the strength of Him who has made us one!

I've written several letters of thanks in recent days to various individuals who served before and during convention week. In one of those letters I talked about team spirit — placing the welfare of the whole above one's personal interests; becoming selfless, not serving for individual glory but out of love for Christ and the Church. Thank God for blessing our church with great team players!

— Whaid Guscott Rose

# Conference Tour 2012-2013

## Unity in the Spirit

### Final Tour Stops

The final two stops on the Conference Tour took place in early June in North Dakota and Southern California (with more than 900 in attendance at the LA stop — our largest and most responsive crowd!). What a fitting conclusion to our ten-month tour across the continent! Thanks to the team members who joined me for this adventure (Israel Steinmetz, Sam Holland, and Darrel Walters); to the superintendents, local contacts, and leaders for their support of this effort; and to the Lord for making it all possible.

By a rough estimate, we personally interfaced with some 6,000 members. Seeds have been sown through the messages, town hall meetings, leadership gatherings, and “reverse offering” distributed at each stop. The harvest has already begun. Members are inspired to live and walk in the Spirit, are better informed and more strongly connected within the General Conference, and are more deeply committed to Christ and His church. Thank God for the accomplishments of the Conference Tour.

— Whaid Guscott Rose



## Omaha Convention Business

Three afternoon business sessions were held during the recent General Conference Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. As required by our bylaws, the agenda for these meetings included the “State of the Conference” address, reports of the treasurer and auditor, reports of General Conference ministries, reports of committees, election of members to the board of directors, election of two members to the Nominating Committee, and appointments of committees.

The members present elected Brad Ciavarella, Jody McCoy, Dennis O’Banion, and Larry Zaragoza to full six-year terms on the board of directors. Manuel Salazar was elected to serve two years on the board, filling a vacancy created by the resignation of Carl Palmer. (The 2013-2015 board of directors, in addition to the members newly elected, includes Mark Caswell, Erik Dunn, Jose Hernandez, Samuel Holland, Ruben Marquez, Raul Romo, and Loren Stacy. Appreciation and gratitude are offered to outgoing board members Chip Hinds, Wayne Hrenyk, and John Tivald.) The members in session also elected Abel Salazar and Paul Carlin to the 2013-2015 Nominating Committee.

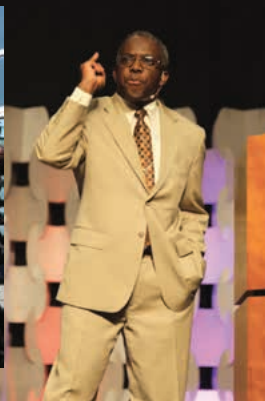
On the Sunday following convention, the board of directors appointed Brian Larson and Jon Harvey to complete the 2013-2015 Nominating Committee and appointed Jon Harvey chairman. The board also elected its officers for the coming two years (Loren Stacy, chairman; Samuel Holland, vice-chairman; Jose Hernandez, secretary; and Brad Ciavarella, treasurer) and created a CEO Succession Sub-Committee to move the board forward in its selection of our next General Conference president.

One proposed amendment to our bylaws was reported and considered during convention — an amendment that, if adopted, would have prohibited district superintendents from serving on the board of directors. This proposed amendment was not adopted.

Four resolutions were reported, two of which were adopted. The first adopted resolution created a committee to prepare a revision of our General Conference bylaws for consideration at our 2015 convention. The members of this Bylaws Revision Committee are Samuel Holland, chairman, Robert Coulter, Chip Hinds, Raul Romo, Whaid Rose, Loren Stacy, Israel Steinmetz, and Heber Vega. Parliamentarian Allan Burlison will serve this committee as a consultant.

The second adopted resolution calls for a study of





the feasibility of opening participation in the election of members to the board of directors, by means of electronic voting, to qualified members of the General Conference who are not attending convention. This resolution's sponsors (Steve Krome, Mike Vlad, and Larry Zaragoza) have agreed to serve as a committee to conduct this study.

Finally, Israel Steinmetz, Samuel Holland, and Raul Romo were appointed to serve as the 2013-2015 Amendments Committee.

## Churchmanship Award

The 2013 Churchmanship Award was given to Art and Martha Cummings of Holland, Michigan (Martha passed away a year ago this summer). The Cummings have been known and admired throughout the Church for their selfless service over many years. A picture of the presentation is not available because, in keeping with the humble Cummings manner, Whaid Rose did not invite Art to the front to publicly receive this honor.

## Convention Sermons Available

Messages delivered during the evening services at convention are available on DVD. Individual messages are \$5, plus handling. The package of six messages may be obtained at the discounted price of \$20.

Tuesday: Attitudes that Unite (*Antonio Vega*)

Wednesday: Doctrines that Unite (*Calvin Burrell*)

Thursday: Gifts that Unite (*Ken Lawson*)

Friday: Lifestyles that Unite (*Erik Dunn*)

Sabbath a.m.: Living in the Spirit (*Israel Steinmetz*)

Sabbath p.m.: Walking in the Spirit (*Whaid Rose*)



## First Annual Pioneer Sabbath

*A new and worthy tradition*

Each of us is a part of a larger historical context — part of a family, a history, a culture largely shaped by unique circumstances that form our values and heritage. Our sense of meaning, purpose, and destiny is enhanced by knowing our history, becoming familiar with our ancestors, understanding that we're part of something bigger than ourselves.

Celebrate CoG7's history and heritage on Annual Pioneer Sabbath, October 19, 2013.

Watch for more details.

## LifeSpring

Congratulations to these Spring 2013 graduates!

Diploma of Pastoral Ministry: Hector Alvarenga, Houston, Texas; Ruben Arzet, Chicago, Illinois; Bryan Cleeton, Denver, Colorado; Marvin España, Jamaica, New York; John Gonzalez, Fontana, California; Allo Sanchez, Hidalgo, Texas; Aubrey Williams, Mississauga, Ontario; Steven Zuraff, Newalla, Oklahoma.

Certificate of Biblical Studies: Agustin Garcia, Addison, Illinois; Sarael Gonzalez, Streamwood, Illinois; David Kidd, Adelaide, SA, Australia; Jose Martinez, Palmdale, California; Adelino Roblero, Doraville, Georgia; Nariel Roblero, Doraville, Georgia; Aroldo Vail Lopez, Doraville, Georgia; Rosalio Velasquez, Tucker, Georgia; Dustin Wiggins, Wingo, Kentucky.

Congratulations also to the Spring 2013 Dean's List Recipients\*: Jody Crowson, Springfield, Oregon; Marvin España, Jamaica, New York; Francisco Garcia Gonzalez, Brownsville, Texas; David Kidd, Adelaide, SA, Australia; Worrel Largie, Apopka, Florida; David Lozano, Indio, California; Jose Martinez, Palmdale, California; Steven Zuraff, Newalla, Oklahoma.

*\*These students took at least two courses and earned a minimum 3.5 GPA.*

## Women's Ministries Retreat

"An Appointment with Your Creator"

Sixty-five ladies from CoG7 congregations in New York, Maryland, New Jersey, and Connecticut attended the annual women's retreat June 15-16 at the Eddy Farm Retreat and Conference Center, by the Delaware River.

A ministry team from Nueva Vida CoG7 in Houston provided spiritual leadership and instruction. The Lord touched our hearts through messages, counseling, and ministry to our teen girls. A testimony was especially inspiring for the mothers in the group.

We left with a renewed commitment to labor in God's work, a longing for the Holy Spirit to fill us daily, and a resolve to keep our daily appointment with God through prayer, fasting, and His Word. — *Edna Solorzano*

## TAKE NOTE ✓

Sweet Rose Tweets  
Whaid Rose is going Twitter!  
Watch for further announcements.



On Sunday, May 19, Northeast District congregations in Area III held their fourth biennial award ceremony and banquet for "In His Service — Men and Women of Distinction." The event honored members, selected by their peers for their outstanding work for the kingdom of God:

Victor Brown, United CoG7 in Brooklyn, New York  
Isidro Bernal, Passaic CoG7 in New Jersey  
Miriam Hernandez, Elizabeth CoG7 in New Jersey  
Rose Minott, CoG7 in Roosevelt, New York  
Howard Thompson, Brooklyn Community in New York (honorary recipient)

While it is great to be honored by brothers and sisters, it doesn't compare to hearing "Well done, good and faithful servant" as God welcomes us into His kingdom.

— *Ray Bobcombe, United CoG7 – Brooklyn, New York*



Long-time CoG7 members from the Denver area, Harold and Thelma Wilhelm, were honored at a staff gathering July 17 at the Denver office for their dedicated service over many decades. Thelma retired several years ago after some 30 years as a staff member at the Denver office. The Willhelms recently relocated to Campbellsville, KY, to be closer to their children.

## Bible Adventure

*The Bible Adventure*, a collection of editor Calvin Burrell's short introductions of the Bible's 66 books, is available from the Bible Advocate Press. The regular price is \$9, with quantity discounts, but BAP is offering an introductory price of \$7.50 through August 31, 2013. It is available in English only.

Submit your orders to Bible Advocate Press, P. O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; [bap.orders@cog7.org](mailto:bap.orders@cog7.org), or the online bookstore at [cog7.org/store](http://cog7.org/store). You can also call the G. C. office at 303-452-7973.

## Publications

Bible Curriculum - fourth quarter 2013

**Adults.** *Life-Changing Events* — a study about major happenings reported in the Bible that still influence us today.

**Senior youth.** *Jesus Teaches What Happiness Is* provides lessons about true happiness based on the Beatitudes and related topics.

**Junior high youth.** In *God and I*, youth learn that God has a unique plan that includes everyone and that we are not robots.

## CALENDAR 2013

**August 9-11** – Northwest District SWORD Summer Retreat. Details to come soon! Contact: Kurt and Kaylee Stranberg (406-291-6723; [sword-west-coast@cog7.org](mailto:sword-west-coast@cog7.org)).

**August 20** – Fall semester begins at Spring Vale Academy

**August 23-25** - Parkland church (Edmonton, AB) district campout

**August 30 - September 2** – National Hispanic Women's Retreat, Lakeview Conference Center, Waxahachie, TX. Contact: Maria Romo (214-274-9321) or Clara Leon (469-432-7198). Visit [facebook.com/retirofemenildallas2013](http://facebook.com/retirofemenildallas2013).

**September 14-15** – Southwest District Summer SWORD Retreat, Camp Buckner, Burnet, TX. Contact: Deni Flores (214-694-5111) or Dan and Jacqui Melgoza ([sword-southwest@cog7.org](mailto:sword-southwest@cog7.org)).

**November 1-3** - Youth and Young Adult Retreat, Camp Iodiseca, Solon, IA. Contact: Abe Endecott ([abe.endecott@gmail.com](mailto:abe.endecott@gmail.com))

### LifeSpring Dates

**September 3** - Fall course registration closes

**September 15** - Fall classes begin

**Intermediate (grades 4-6).** *The Promise of a Savior* teaches children that God always keeps His promises and that He has provided a Savior in Jesus.

**Primary (grades 1-3).** In *The Shepherd King* students read about the shepherd boy who became the greatest king of Israel. They will also learn that God is the ultimate king.

**New! Preschool/kindergarten (age 5 and younger).** *God – Eternal Ruler, Awesome Creator, Loving Savior* introduces students to God as the eternal one who always existed and who created all things.

Learn more about these lessons under Publications at [cog7.org](http://cog7.org).

## Media4U

*BA Online* has a new feature: Media4U. Discover the latest in movie and DVD releases, TV programs, and music that promote biblical values. Visit [baonline.org](http://baonline.org) and click on the Media4U button.

## Scholarship Winners

This past spring the local Denver Church of God (Seventh Day) offered the Patricia Keith-Meyers Scholarship to Church members nationwide. This first year, the three scholarship recipients were Grant McGill, Marion CoG7, to attend George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon; Danielle Curran, Harrisburg CoG7, to attend the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon; Patrick Chalus, Eugene CoG7, to attend the University of Oregon as well.

Congratulations to these fine young Christians!



**Acme, Alberta CoG7:** On Sabbath, May 11, the children's class served a breakfast to the church family before services began. Conner, Kagen, and Willem Grabinsky are pictured with their teacher, Aunt Renay, preparing the food and setting tables. They even did the clean up!

## TAKE NOTE ✓

With great excitement, the Eugene Church of God (Seventh Day) announces that effective July 1, 2013, the church building we've been renting is now our permanent ministry home. We look forward to expanding our ministry to the community as we take ownership of this property. We desire the prayers of God's people to wisely steward all that God has entrusted to us.

— Ken Knoll, pastor

### “Leading Women to the Heart of God”

West Coast District Women's Ministries hosted a Women in Ministry retreat during May, with 50 women attending. Seasoned speaker Amy Carroll, from Proverbs 31 Ministries and director of Next Step Speaker Services, was our keynote speaker. John Howell and Brian Baker presented workshops. These Christian leaders encouraged, instructed, and inspired us to become Christlike leaders in our sphere of influence.

Interactive sessions allowed attendees to participate in practical application methods. We listened to real-life testimonies, participated in a three-step proven Bible study method, practiced sharing a personal struggle, and made Jesus the hero of our story as an effective way to evangelize. We discussed well-intentioned do's and don'ts of shepherding women in pain, and we learned about and prayed for opportunities to blend ministry and missions in everyday life.

We were challenged to prayerfully and intentionally seek out a mentor/mentee relationship as modeled in Titus 2:3-5. The retreat was a time of biblical instruction and sweet fellowship as part of the body of Christ. It was also a time of refreshment to “lift up the hands” of our spiritual leaders, providing them with words of encouragement, resources, and prayers as they continue to serve God.

— Jennifer Stucker  
West Coast District Women's Ministries Representative



## ASLEEP IN JESUS

**Mary Dais Haeger**, widow of long-time CoG7 minister Israel Haeger, passed away May 24, just a few months shy of her 100th birthday. Sister Haeger was a charter member of the Lodi, California congregation and is survived by one son, Mel Haeger. A graveside service was conducted May 29.



**Gene Wertz**, father of the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania congregation's co-pastor Bob Wertz, died May 11, at age 90. He and his wife Ruth were founding members of that congregation and the consummate hosts of visiting preachers and guests.



**Naomi Knoll Kiesz**, age 93, mother of Pastor Ken Knoll, passed away June 10. A memorial service was held June 27. Naomi was the eldest in the Philip and Alice Ling family, pillar members in the New Auburn, Wisconsin congregation.



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Real Education  
Real Faith  
Firm Foundation

# Spring Vale Academy

If our children are our greatest asset, then a solid Christian education is essential. There is no better place for CoG7 youth to receive this than at Spring Vale Academy.

Spring Vale not only prepared me for college but also helped prepare me for the rest of my life. — SVA alumnus and Student of the Year

Now Enrolling for the Fall Semester  
that begins August 20

My children are better people, stronger Christians, from having attended SVA. I wouldn't trade their years there for anything.  
— SVA alumnus and parent of three SVA graduates

August is Spring Vale emphasis month. Please support our youth by giving to this vital ministry.

Mark Caswell, Director

# Publications

Spreading the word of Jesus —  
to all the world

September is Publications emphasis month.

Keith Michalak, Director