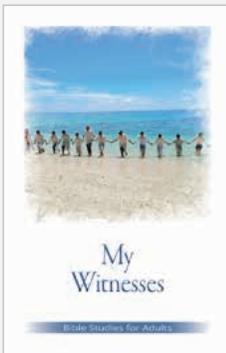


# CHURCHRIGHT

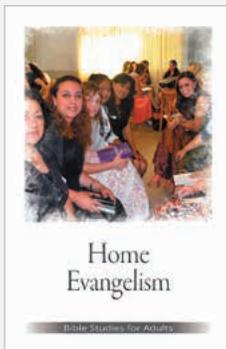
Doing church right



## Ready to Witness?

Don't miss out on the new two-part quarterly series dedicated to cultivating hearts for mission. Coming to you in '22, *My Witnesses* and *Home Evangelism* Sabbath school quarterlies provide the tools for effective personal and practical evangelism. They can be ordered at <https://cog7.org/online-store/>.

Join us as we strive to focus on Jesus and follow His plan!



## Decision Time

During the July 2017 General Conference Convention, our members, meeting in formal business session, voted to adopt our current General Conference bylaws. Because these revised bylaws were in some parts significantly different from our previous ones, the members-in-session adopted an accompanying resolution to allow each GC-affiliated congregation three full years to bring its own bylaws and practices into agreement with the newly revised GC bylaws.

Those three full years ended July 2020. But at that time, we all were focused on the rapidly spreading pandemic caused by COVID-19. Bylaws were the last thing on our minds! Our congregations concentrated on protecting their members and just surviving! Therefore, with the support of the GC board of directors and district superintendents, the decision was made to postpone that July 2020 deadline an additional year and a half until January 1, 2022 – a total of four-and-a-half years following the adoption of our GC bylaws.

Since July 2020, however, and especially throughout 2021, the district superintendents and district area representatives have been reminding our congregations of the January 1 deadline. They are working with congregations to bring their practices and bylaws into agreement with the GC bylaws. We certainly do not want to lose any of our affiliated congregations and their members, but it is necessary that all GC-affiliated congregations conduct themselves in agreement with the bylaws that the GC membership itself adopted. There is no point in having bylaws if we do not follow them. Congregations and members who do not are choosing to disaffiliate themselves from the General Conference.

Within a few weeks of your receiving this issue, the January 1 deadline will arrive. Do you know the status of your congregation and of the membership? Please speak with your pastor, area representative, or district superintendent. We sincerely will miss you if you choose to leave us.

– Loren Stacy  
GC President



# District News

## Western Canada

Contributor: Orville Rose, superintendent

### A Growing District

Despite today's challenges with the pandemic, our district is showing signs of growth and cooperation: steady attendance of visitors to the Calgary and Parkland congregations; requests for membership/affiliation by some of the attendees; recent baptisms in Parkland (pictured); successful workday in Calgary; strengthening our core of volunteers in teaching youth and adult lessons; and volunteer speakers online and locally in various groups.



Our online ministries continue to benefit our members-at-large and others in congregations. Ongoing Zoom presentations of Sabbath school and worship services outside of Calgary, along with Monday evening prayer meetings, have been shored up with the biweekly Bible study from Parkland.

Closing out October (Pastor Appreciation Month), nothing is more encouraging or rewarding than to know you are not alone. No one pastor or superintendent can keep a district advancing to God's glory.

While the undercurrent of the pandemic is causing divisive tremors in our ranks, God is graciously building us up through the dedication of two local church elders. Weeks and months on end, their quiet dedication encourages and stabilizes their congregations. My task is made that much easier, as I'm not bogged down with the daily logistics of these groups, leaving more time for other tasks.

We praise God for these men and our progress!

## Northeast

Contributors: Heber Vega, superintendent, and Steve Rodriguez



**Renewed at retreat.** Brothers from around the Michigan area met October 22-24 for our eleventh annual Men's Retreat. Fifty-one joined us from Wisconsin, West Virginia, Indiana, and Michigan, including brand new non-members. We experienced great fellowship, laughs, and great messages about "Taking" back what the devil has stolen from us. Mark your calendars for next year's retreat. Grab a couple of guys from your church or friends from work, and plan on joining us next year October 21-23, 2022, at Faholo Conference Center ([faholo.org](http://faholo.org)). – Steve Rodriguez



**New building.** The CoG7 congregation in Richmond, VA, led by Brother Tomas Flores, dedicated their new building on September 12. Delegations from sister churches in Area IV were present, including Area Representative Jose Marín. Elders Jose A. Vega and Narciso Betances (Lanham, MD) officiated. The inspiring service and joyful time of sharing lunch together blessed all. This congregation is an excellent host. Plan a visit soon: 3125 Hartwell Drive, Richmond, VA 23234.



**District meeting.** We held our biannual NED board meeting October 15-17 in New York. We spent a great Sabbath with our hosts, the United Church of God (Seventh Day), enjoying Sabbath school and their worship service. It was one of those Sabbath celebrations where you



linger outside with great fellowship and don't want to leave. Pastor Crayton (pictured left), Sister Debbie, and their members generously supplied our needs, including great food and a conference area to conduct our meetings through Sunday afternoon. A big **thank you** and **praise the Lord** for His goodness and to this great church!

## Southeast

Contributor: Steve Krome, superintendent



**Training leaders.** The district's annual Leaders Conference was held August 20-22 at the Ramada Conference Center in Jacksonville, FL. Larry Zaragoza (West Coast district superintendent) and Mike Vlad (retired pastor, Denver) spoke to 140 church leaders and wives on evangelism. GC President Loren Stacy delivered the Sabbath sermon titled "Focus on Jesus." Plans are being made to bring this presentation to various regions throughout the district in 2022.



**Learning to trust.** The district Women's Ministry, led by Zahida Hrenyk, held its annual women's retreat October 1-3 at Camp Kulaqua in Florida, centering on the theme "Trusting God in Hard Times." Gathering from churches in Stone Mountain and Marietta, GA; Winston-Salem, NC; and Haines City, Dundee, and LaBelle, FL, the ladies shared in praise and worship. Presentations were given

by Jenny Stevens (Hammondville, AL), Allison Krome (Chattanooga, TN), and Olga Cruz and Yoli Villatoro (Stone Mountain, GA). There was plenty of time for visiting, special presentations, and a visit to the camp zoo.

**Baptism blessings.** On October 2, three new members were baptized in the Tarboro, NC church. Congratulations to Yanci Cartagena, Oscar Ramirez, and Maria Isabel. Congratulations as well to the Tarboro church!



**Joint baptism.** On October 9, the congregations in Stone Mountain and Baxley, GA, held a joint baptism service for ten new members at Lake Lanier, near Atlanta. Pastor Ismael Martinez delivered the message and performed the baptisms, along with Pastor Walter Apen. Following the afternoon services, all of the members of both churches enjoyed a welcoming dinner.

## Southwest

Contributor: Jamin Teran

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry

**Bringing hope.** David and Cathy Burrell were honored on September 13 for their leadership in the HOPE ministry for more than six years. Families and brethren who have been helped by the program gathered and gave thanks for this couple and for all those who work with this ministry. HOPE ministry has been a blessing to the Fort Smith, AR church, as well as to the district.





**Prayer and praise.** We are thankful that the ladies of prayer and praise gathered September 19 at our sister church La Casa del Alfarero in San Antonio, TX. The group was encouraged through the service.



**Blessed through baptism.** On September 12, our sister church, Monte Hermon in Area 1, witnessed four brethren confess their sins and faith in Jesus Christ. Pastor Ramon Ruiz conducted the baptisms. Pastor Jose Antonio Hinojosa conducted baptisms at our sister church in San Antonio, TX, Bethel Casa de Misericordia, on October 9. We rejoice because of these blessings.



**Encouraged in October.** Brethren gathered October 16 from the Jasper, AR church and from all over the district for Octoberfest. As every year, the event was a blessing for everyone, and different messages during the day encouraged folks to remain faithful to the Lord. Brethren enjoyed the fellowship, worship, and just being part of Octoberfest. We thank God for His presence!



*The Footsteps of Faith*  
**SWD PASTORAL SUPPORT**  
*October 10, 2021*

**Pastoral support.** Pastors, their wives, church boards/committees, and leaders of Area 5 gathered on October 10 for a leadership meeting at our sister church, Ceralvo in San Antonio, TX. Brethren heard the Word of God from Elder Daniel Flores and his wife, who emphasized the importance of making decisions inside and outside the church environment. GC Executive Director Jody McCoy thanked the pastors for their work and encouraged them to continue moving forward. Upcoming events and other important details were provided in the meeting.



**Super Sabbath.** The Oklahoma Conference celebrated its Super Sabbath weekend October 22-24 in Dover. Families in the area worshipped, fellowshiped, and enjoyed a great time praising God for His faithfulness and goodness. Pictured here are Pastor Barry Mauldin (left) and Area Representative Clarence Ullrich in a presentation.

**Celebrating pastors.** Several churches in the district celebrated Pastor Appreciation Month. On October 16, the El Paso-Central church



recognized Pastor Rubén Beard and his wife, Susana, as well as co-pastor Armando Aguirre and his wife, Nora. Sister Manuelita Ríos read a poem she had composed, and Secretary Becky Atilano shared a few words of gratitude. Sister Antonia López guided us in a prayer to thank our God for these two men and their wives.

## SWD Upcoming Events

November 12-13: Area 1 Super Sabbath

November 14: Pastoral Support Workshop  
- Area 1

November 21: Pastoral Support Workshop -  
Virtual Session

December 10-11: Evangelism Training, San  
Antonio, TX

December 25-26: Second Children Ministry  
Teacher Workshop

dual English and Spanish tracks. English language presenters included Whaid Rose, Brian and Jessica Franks, Jonathon Hicks, Loren Gjesdal, and roundtable participants Moises and Victoria Capetillo and Jamin Teran of the SWD Media Team.

Spanish language presenters included Santiago Chavez, Ramon Ruiz, Zuri Gutierrez, Oscar Mata, Gustavo Guerrero, and Jhabel and Norma Chagollan.

The recorded presentations are available for viewing at [my.artioscollege.org/en/resources](http://my.artioscollege.org/en/resources) (English) and [my.artioscollege.org/es/resources](http://my.artioscollege.org/es/resources) (Spanish).

– Whaid Rose

Dean of The Artios Center for Vibrant Leadership

## Central

Contributor: Ken Lawson, superintendent

**New pastor.** John Marlin and his wife, Amy, have arrived in Denver, CO! On November 6, Elder Marlin was installed by Superintendent Ken Lawson and the local church board as pastor of the congregation in Thornton, CO. Welcome, John and Amy, to the Central District and to the Denver congregation!



## Welcome, Todd!

Todd Edmondson has accepted a contract position as IT Specialist, serving the General Conference and Artios College. He will be working under the oversight of Chris Idemmili, IT Administrator. Todd is currently working full time for the FAA as a software developer and has over 20 years of experience working on various software projects.



A brother in Jesus Christ, Todd attends the Oklahoma City church with his wife and five children, and he serves as a deacon there.



## New Class

Artios will be offering a new class in the early winter term (begins January 9) called LEA155 – The Essence of Life Coaching. It is open to current and new students and is offered in coordination with Master Life Coaching Training Institute. If you'd like to get your feet wet exploring the basics of life coaching, we encourage you to register at [my.artioscollege.org](http://my.artioscollege.org).

– Brian Franks

Dean of Academic Affairs

## A Way Forward: Virtual Summer Session

The Artios Center for Vibrant Leadership conducted its first virtual Summer Session August 26-29. The theme “Where Do We Go from Here? Helping the Post-COVID Church Redefine Itself and Its Mission” was beautifully complemented by a rich menu of workshops covering practical aspects of leadership and ministry in today’s pandemic-driven world.

A unique feature of the Summer Session was the

The Harrisburg church is looking for a halftime youth pastor. If interested, please contact Leo Lebitty ([lebittyk@gmail.com](mailto:lebittyk@gmail.com)) or Pastor Greg Lincoln ([pastorgregcg7@live.com](mailto:pastorgregcg7@live.com)).



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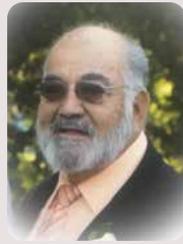
[churchright@cog7.org](mailto:churchright@cog7.org) • [churchright.org](http://churchright.org)

## ASLEEP IN JESUS

### Elias Escoto

1932 - 2021

Elias Escoto (89) of Madera, California, passed away on October 11. He was born August 1, 1932, in La Verne, California. Brother Escoto served as deacon, elder, teacher, and youth leader in the Church. He helped plant a congregation in La Puente, California, and another in Madera, California, in 1990. Elias was pastor there until 2018, and continued to serve as treasurer until his passing.



*Please visit our Memorials page ([churchright.org](http://churchright.org)) for more information.*

## Meeting in Minnesota



GC President Loren Stacy and GC Executive Director Jody McCoy met with the seven district superintendents in Bloomington, Minnesota, October 5-6. Due to COVID-related concerns and travel restrictions, this was the first in-person meeting of the leadership team since October 28-29, 2019! These leaders meet for about an hour each month via Zoom, but Zoom is a poor second to an in-person meeting.

Major agenda items during these two full days included plans to focus the entire GC on evangelism and growing disciples of Christ, the continuing update of the GC membership database, and efforts to bring district policies and procedures into agreement with the GC bylaws. The next in-person meeting of this team is scheduled for April 3-5, 2022, in Denver, Colorado.

## Coming in 2022: “Living the Gospel”

Our world has no shortage of bad news today. But for all the bad news, there is good news as well, and Christians are ambassadors of it.



With this in mind, the *Bible Advocate* is dedicating our six issues of 2022 to what must be the heart of our faith: the gospel. The Greek word *evangelion* translates to *gospel* in English, and both mean “good news.” What is the good news that we are heralds of? In a single word, *Jesus!* We want to spend the year focused on “the gospel of God . . . concerning His Son” (Romans 1:1-4) and why “the gospel of Jesus . . . [and] the kingdom” (Mark 1:1, 14) is the good news we need right now.

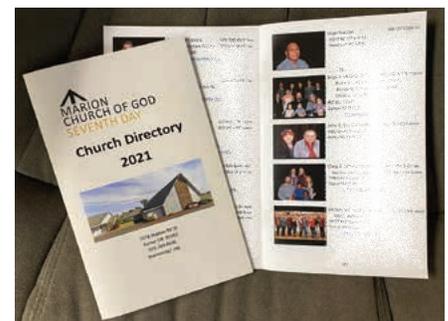
As “Living the Gospel” indicates, believers are heralds of the gospel not only in word but also in deed. We must proclaim the gospel, and we must live it.

So join our 2022 journey as we explore the gospel. In addition to instructive Bible-focused articles, we welcome your testimonies about witnessing, outreach, and discipleship. Please visit [baonline.org](http://baonline.org) (About/Write for Us) for a breakdown of topics for each issue.

Church of God members can send articles in a Word document, with contact name and submission information, to [jason.overman@cog7.org](mailto:jason.overman@cog7.org). Be sure to review our writer’s guidelines on our website for submission details.

## Local Church Directories

Changing technology here at the BAP means we can offer more products to our congregations. Have you thought about a directory for your local church, like the one pictured here? Because we’re not bound by the need to produce high-volume quantities to be cost effective, we can print any number of directories you need at a price per piece. And you can have a colorful record of your members and attendees!



The process is easy. To get started, download the templates, pricing, and other information pages at [baonline.org/whats-new-at-the-bap/](http://baonline.org/whats-new-at-the-bap/).

## General Conference Ministries

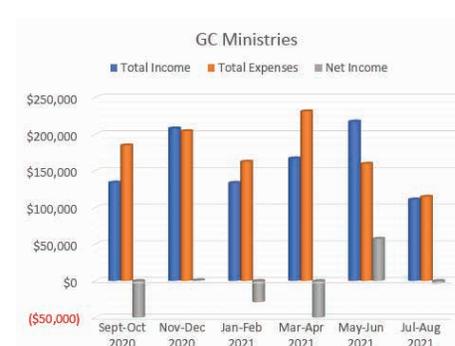
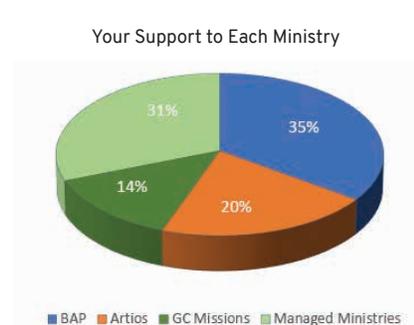
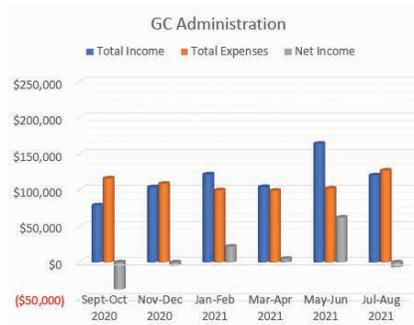
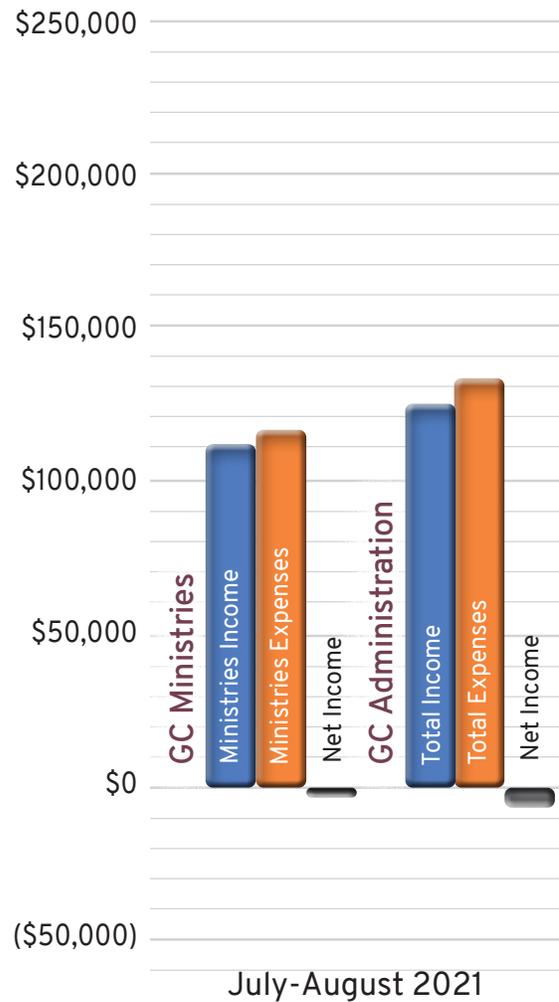
### Total Receipts and Total Expenses

Artios Christian College, Missions, and Publications (Bible Advocate Press) are the current GC Ministries. They receive financial support from direct offerings and from a portion of the 15 percent of members' tithes received by the General Conference. Expenditures are guided by each ministry's annual budget. In addition, the General Conference manages the receipt and disbursement of your gifts to a variety of additional ministries, such as Orphans and Widows, SHINE, Cristo Viene, and Disaster Relief.

## General Conference

### Total Receipts and Total Expenses

The General Conference administration (president, executive director, IT, finance, office management, and other staff not connected to a GC Ministry or district) receives financial support from 15 percent of members' tithes (minus what is then allocated to the GC Ministries) and direct offerings. Expenditures are guided by an annual budget.





Around the world, CoG7 missionaries are making an eternal impact, bringing people to Christ. Opportunities await us to proclaim the good news.

We ask that every congregation consider supporting one Cristo Viene missionary this year and commit monthly to pray and financially support their leader's mission. Regular reports will be provided to those who request them.

To sponsor a missionary, visit [cog7.org/giving](http://cog7.org/giving), or earmark your local offering "Cristo Viene."



Find out more at [gcmisions.cog7.org](http://gcmisions.cog7.org)

 / GCMissions  / MissionsGC

Photos (L to R): Burundi • Chile • India



## Standing Strong

The COVID crisis has devastated our nation and world physically and emotionally during the last 18 months. Through it all, GC Ministries has continued to serve our churches through training, missions, and publishing.

More than ever, we rely on your prayers. We also rely on your financial support through tithes and offerings. Would you consider helping with your gifts to keep our vital ministries going?