

# CHURCHRIGHT

*Doing church right*



## Lend a hand!

GC Convention is coming next July (see details on p. 6), and volunteers are needed in several areas.

- Nursery Coordinator, who will help find and assign shifts. Volunteers are also needed to fill the shifts.
- Children's program, youth program, young adult program, ushers and greeters, security, etc. Please sign up to help when you fill out your registration!
- Escalator monitor, required by the Convention Center. If you would like to staff a shift so we can avoid paying security \$40/hour to do so, please let us know.

## Are You a Member?

An important responsibility of the General Conference and its affiliated congregations is maintaining accurate and up-to-date records of our members. Without such records, we cannot know who should be granted the privileges of membership within the General Conference and/or our congregations. One of those privileges is participating and voting in the business of our church. Members eighteen years of age or older may discuss issues and vote; non-members may not.

How do we know who our members are? We consult our membership records.

For this reason and many others, we are updating and adding membership information to a single, new database program. As we do, we want records to be as accurate as possible. Therefore, our district superintendents and district area representatives are urging our pastors and other congregational leaders to update the membership records of their congregations and to submit them to the General Conference as soon as possible.

This is especially important because these records will determine who can vote during the July 2023 General Conference Convention. If you are in the database and are otherwise qualified to vote at convention, you will be able to. If you are not in the database at that time, you cannot vote. Because of the time it takes to validate membership records and then enter them into the database, all those eligible members who wish to vote during convention should register no later than **May 1, 2023**. (Online registration will be available January 2023. Be sure to check the box indicating your intention to vote during convention.) Further, no new memberships will be issued the week of convention.

Are you a member of the General Conference? Now is the time to make sure. Ask your pastor or leader if your congregation's records have been updated and submitted. Offer to help if they haven't. Together, we can do this!

— Loren Stacy  
GC President



# District News

## Western Canada

Contributor: Orville Rose, Superintendent



### A district busy for God!

**Refreshing time.** Upwards of 60 district brethren gathered July 14-17 at Silver Meadows Campground for the annual family campout, hosted by the Parkland congregation. Old friends renewed their commitments to the kingdom cause and new friends were inspired to get involved in God's mission.

**Baptisms.** On July 9, the Calgary congregation rejoiced as three brethren publicly demonstrated their commitment to follow Christ by being baptized. The public "laying on of hands" at the park emphasized to onlookers that the church is a praying church, dedicated to following Christ.



**Super Sabbath.** Brethren came from near and far to join in the Calgary congregation's annual Super Sabbath on

August 13. Elder Jason Overman, Bible Advocate editor, encouraged us to "Come and See," giving all a taste of

the GC Convention 2023. He also spent time chatting with current and past students of Artios about pursuing their call to serve Christ's church.

## Events

**October 8** - Parkland Super Sabbath of thanksgiving

## West Coast

Contributors: Melva Smith and Larry Zaragoza, Superintendent

### Counting our blessings in the Eugene church

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**1 baptism.** Zemirah Keim, daughter of Dr. Richard and Janine Keim, was baptized on July 9. May the Lord reveal to her His plan, and may she hear His voice to follow Him all her days.



**6 more baptisms!** On August 6, Zoe Riggs, daughter of Brian and Amber Riggs, was baptized. Landon, Titus, and Abigail Fields (parents: Mason and Annjulienna Fields) and Nathan and Aubrianne Watkins (parents: Robert and Brittanni Watkins) were baptized on August 13.

**35 campers.** Teens and staff attended Sis-Q-Meadows Teen Camp July 24-31 and Seekers Camp July 31-August 7. We heard great reports from both events! Neither high temperatures nor a loss of water could dampen the movement of the Holy Spirit among the campers.







*40 years. The Eugene/Springfield church marked its fortieth anniversary on July 17. It started as a church plant from the Harrisburg CoG7 congregation. A celebration was held August 21 in conjunction with the annual church picnic. May this congregation continue to love and serve our community and always be the hands and feet of Jesus.*



***Celebrating camp.** At the Northern California Youth Camp, every year is a “you had to be there” kind of year. Our young staff of former campers-turned-counselors brought new life and energy to the junior camp July 18-26. While at senior camp, our veteran staff tackled the tough topics of love and life, and our duty to be a light in the darkness. Six senior campers gave their hearts to the Lord. We know that God’s providence brought us together to experience His presence.*



***Junior camp.** At the Sis-Q Meadows Junior camp, held July 31 - August 6, 69 campers and 25 staff gathered. With the theme “Keys to the Kingdom,” everyone enjoyed a wonderful experience. Events included swimming at our natural swimming pond, crafts, classes, worship, and baptisms.*

## Southwest

Contributor: Jamin Teran

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry

***Pioneers.** The El Paso, TX congregation gives thanks to God for the visit of Rebeca Cárdenas on August 6. She is the wife of Brother Rodolfo Cárdenas, who sleeps in the Lord. Sister Cárdenas was one of the pioneers who began the work of the Lord in El Paso. We are grateful for this blessing and for the assistance of our sisters Rosita Méndez, Evangelina Gutiérrez, and Manuelita Ríos.*



***Personal evangelism.** On August 20, WCD Superintendent Larry Zaragoza and Elder Mike Vlad provided a one-day training in Area 1 on how to present the gospel in an easy process. Brethren participated in a question-and-answer session and practiced presenting their personal testimony. The Mount Hermon church hosted this event.*



***Small groups.** Elders Daniel Flores, Ramon Ruiz, and Bryan Cleeton held training for small groups on August 21 in Area 3. They explained how to develop groups at home first. We will increase the number of our churches if we begin at home with family groups. The Olive Tree CoG7 in Galena Park, TX, hosted the training.*

**Strong saint.** On August 19, Larry Zaragoza, Chip Hinds and his wife, and Elder Mike Vlad visited Elder Robert Coulter at Holiday Fox Run Estates in Arlington, TX, where he lives. At 92 years old, Brother Coulter's mind is still sharp, and his love for the Lord and His Word is stronger every day. This visit provided a great moment to review GC history in the US and Canada.



## Southeast

Contributor: Steve Krome, Superintendent



**Leaders meet.** Forty-two church leaders and their wives attended the district's annual Leaders Conference August 5-7 at Camp Adrian in Georgia. Presentations were made by Jon Unzueta (Area 4 representative) and Steve Krome (district superintendent) with the theme of "Small Group Leaders" training and in-home "Cell Ministries." We look forward to next year's meeting on the topic of "Welcoming Churches." During this meeting we also welcomed the installation of the 2022-2024 Southeast District board. Pictured (L to R): Eliezer Medrano, Walter Apen, Sam Wiley, Steve Krome, Jon Unzueta, and Wayne Hrenyk.



### Vacation Bible School

The Corpus Christi-Violet Church of God (Seventh Day) held its annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 20-24 and finale on June 25. With about 40 children attending, each day was packed with fun and adventure.

Each day the children celebrated themes about God's nature. As part of worship service on Sabbath morning, they performed seven songs for their parents, family, and friends and received a certificate of completion for their participation.

Similar VBS programs took place during June and July in San Antonio, Laredo, Houston, and Dallas, Texas, and Claremore, Oklahoma, as well as in other cities around the district.

### Upcoming Events

- October 1** - Personal Evangelism Training in El Paso, TX
- October 21-23** - Octoberfest in Jasper, AR
- October 22** - Oklahoma Conference Super Sabbath in Dover Family Camp, Dover, OK
- October 30** - SWD Senior Meeting, Area 7, in McAllen, TX
- November 18-20** - SWD Men's Retreat in Jasper, AR
- December 2-4** - SWD Marriage Retreat in Houston, TX

## Northeast

Contributors: Esther Winchell, Rebecca Coulson, and Heber Vega, Superintendent



**Church camp.** This year, 34 members, family, and friends met July 21-24 for the eleventh annual church camp at the Saginaw church. Our theme was "Chosen," taken from John 15:16. We had memorization challenges, devotional messages, swimming, fishing challenge, kickball, evening campfires, and lots of fellowship! The highlight of our camp time was on Sabbath when Lauryn Behmlander gave her life to the Lord, followed by her baptism on Sabbath morning. We had visitors for our Sabbath service, thanks to putting our convention theme of "Come and See" into practice by inviting others to join us on Sabbath. We were blessed greatly!



**VBS.** The Grand Rapids church held its first annual Vacation Bible School in our new building July 19-23. Focusing on the theme “Created in Christ,” an average of 25 children



(church members and community children) attended daily. VBS finished with a community carnival and cook-out.

**Lanham, MD.** Nathan Balbuena, José Carranza, Juan Pablo Cervantes, Marlyn Galindo, Aracely Pérez, Santos Pérez, and Javan Reuto were



baptized in the Petapsco River on August 14. Several members from the Lanham CoG7 congregation were at the Petapsco Valley State Park to witness the heavenly joy. Pastor Narciso Betances and Elder Santiago Chavez officiated.



**Alexandria, VA.** Stefanie Bonilla, Vilma Cardenas, Estrella Cruz, Fatima Martinez, Tamara Melendez and Sandro Mogolon were baptized in

the Potomac River on July 24. Elders from the local congregation officiated.



### Basking in His Spirit

Driving home from the Area IV Women’s Retreat, held August 13-14 in Wading River, New York, I was struck by the beautiful setting in God’s nature as we basked in His Spirit. Focusing on the theme “God’s Presence in our Lives,” we sang, prayed, rejoiced, and listened to God’s admonitions.

Women from Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New York joined in one accord to greet one another with a hug after a few long years of stillness. Thank You, Jesus, for the blessings!

– Esther Winchell  
NED Women’s Ministry Director

**Boston, MA.** Sandy Garcia was baptized at the Blue Hills Reservation, near Boston, on July 17. Visiting Pastor Johnny Solorzano, who pastors the Bridgeport, CT church, and local elder Higinio Bamaca officiated.



**Edison, NJ.** On July 16, Imelda Jeronimo, Norma Martinez, and Alex Xicay were baptized in Lake Marcia, Montague, NJ. Visiting minister Gamaliel Argueta, from our Guatemalan CoG7 Conference, and local pastor Jose Ayala officiated.



**Owosso, MI.** The Owosso congregation had the pleasure of joining Dinah Davis in her baptism on August 7. Pastor Bruce Noble officiated.



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## Did You Know?

General Conference Convention '23 will be here soon! We look forward to your presence July 10-15, 2023, in Covington, Kentucky.

Biennial conventions are mandated by our by-laws and are an essential aspect of our organization's success. In these meetings, we conduct the business of the Church, including voting for our board of directors and the adoption of resolutions to update our bylaws. It is important that members of the Conference be present to share and represent their wisdom in these and other matters.

But wait – there's more! Attend training workshops to enhance your faith. Learn about the exciting reports and plans for our GC Ministries. Children's, youth, and young adult programs will encourage and equip our younger generations. There's something for everyone!

This year, the Convention Committee thought it would be helpful to provide you some behind-the-scenes facts and information about GC Convention 2023. One big area of promotion includes room night counts and meal tickets. Hopefully, this is where you will find both useful information and answers to questions.

## Convention costs and you

A team of volunteers works years in advance to identify locations for conventions. Considerations include ease of travel, costs of hotels and food, and area attractions for those of you taking vacation time. Contracts are crafted months ahead of time to benefit attendees and the GC Conference, while convention sites are, of course, wanting to meet their budgets. We have been blessed with favorable contracts. In many cases, the local Convention and Visitor's Bureau has granted us thousands of dollars if certain criteria are met. You are an important part of meeting those contractual issues.

Specifically, we have contractual agreements concerning the number of rooms we book at hotels and the amount of money we spend on food. If we don't meet our contracted minimum room nights (the sleeping rooms you book) and purchase \$25,000 in meal tickets collectively, we will lose the over \$100,000 that has been granted to us to help pay for the Convention Center. Your little extra spending affords big savings!

If every person who registers for convention purchases just one meal ticket, we could meet our meal ticket minimum.

Hotel rooms booked through the official registration link, to be included in the registration process, guarantees that our organization receives credit for your room. Rooms reserved through discount sites or hotel points will not count as our group rooms.



## Registration

Registration fees cover the costs of the Convention Center rental; sound and video for our meetings; all printed materials; program costs for children, youth, and young adults; and many other convention costs.

You can save money by registering during the early bird registration period, which is generally by the end of April. Watch the website for details. You get a discount and the committee receives timely and valuable information for finalizing plans.

For everyone's safety and security, nametags are required to be worn at all times. You must complete registration and pick up your packet at the Registration Desk prior to attending any convention activities.

## Program



The theme of this convention is “Come and See.” An evening reception will be held on Monday, July 10, where you can meet new friends and get reacquainted with familiar faces. Daily programs will be offered for children, youth, and young adults.



### Hotel and center information

Our Convention Center features a humongous escalator! So parents, please monitor your children.

Discounted room rates for our three contract hotels are available three days prior and three days post-convention (July 7-18). Come early or stay late and enjoy the area!

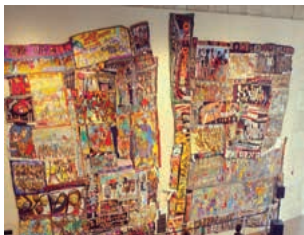
All three of our contracted hotels will serve a complimentary breakfast.

### Location

When you make airline reservations, your destination should be Cincinnati, Ohio (CVG). A little-known fact is that the Cincinnati airport is located in Covington, Kentucky. Only the Ohio River separates the two cities.

With everyone doing their part, our journey to Convention '23 will be a success. We look forward to your being with us! “Come and See” what mighty things God has in store as our imagination comes to fruition in Covington, Kentucky.

*Convention Committee*



## ASLEEP IN JESUS

### James E. Taylor

1936 - 2022

James Elbert Taylor, Jr. was born April 25, 1936, in Sikeston, Missouri. He passed away July 31, 2022, in Columbia, Missouri. He was 86 years old.



James married Barbara Eubanks on September 5, 1956. He was the head elder of the Marion, Iowa church, and in 1985, he and Barbara helped found the Springfield CoG7 congregation. In 1993 James became the pastor of the church, serving for 18 years.

*Please visit [churchright.org](http://churchright.org) for a longer version of this memorial and for other memorials.*



**UK visit.** On June 18 and 25, BA editor Jason Overman attended special Sabbath services in London and Manchester, UK. Here, Conference President Robert Crawford (L) and treasurer Courtney Johnson present him with a love offering for the magazine from the UK brethren.



IMC Sabbath  
**Continuing**  
 the mission of Jesus  
 November 5, 2022



# GC Ministries

We are making an impact around the world every day through teaching, printing, and providing the means to grow in the faith.

Please give to the ministries of the Church . . .

- Artios
- Bible Advocate Press
- GC Missions



## 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 specific 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.

