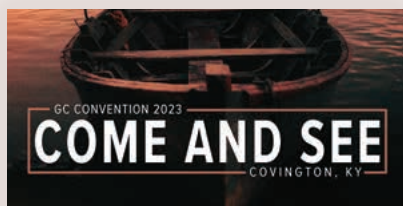


# CHURCHRIGHT

*Doing church right*



## Membership Notice

All members of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) who will be at least 18 years of age as of July 11, 2023, and who wish to vote during our 2023 convention, should register for convention no later than **May 1, 2023**. They must indicate on the form their intention to vote. Because of the time it may take to validate some memberships, we cannot guarantee that those who register later will be able to vote.

Additionally, because of the time it takes to process membership applications, this deadline also applies to anyone wishing to become a member before our 2023 convention. **No new memberships will be issued the week of convention (July 10-15, 2023).**

## Privileges and Obligations

Membership in and affiliation with the General Conference bring many privileges. Members can fully participate in their GC-affiliated congregation and in the GC as a whole. They may participate in decision-making through discussion and voting. They may contribute their gifts and experiences in various ministries. And they may access services for themselves in ways non-members may not. GC-affiliated congregations receive similar benefits on an even larger scale.

Whether member or GC-affiliated church, within the Conference we have a home, a family, resources, and support not fully available to others.

We also have certain obligations. Membership obligates one to faithful church attendance and participation in church, district, and GC ministries and initiatives. A member should respect and faithfully follow and support the purposes, programs, doctrines, organizational structure, and bylaws of our church, and faithfully give tithes and offerings. Affiliation with the GC obligates congregations to fulfill all of these obligations and a few more.

Unfortunately, we hear of members and/or congregations enjoying their privileges but refusing to fulfill their obligations. Congregations and their leaders are responsible to address their unfaithful members. District superintendents and area representatives are responsible to address their unfaithful congregations.

The 2023 GC Convention motivates us to get our house in order regarding our members and affiliated congregations. A series of letters from our district superintendents were sent in January, reminding some of our congregations that their affiliation with the GC, and their members' memberships in the GC, are in danger of being revoked because these congregations are not fulfilling their obligations. Is your congregation one of these? Is your personal membership in the GC in jeopardy? Ask your local and district leaders right away. Now, months before convention, is the time to make things right.

*—Loren Stacy  
GC President*



## District News

### Central

*Contributor: Ronald Rousseau, Superintendent*



#### Equipping through Evangelism

Evangelism training took place November 16-18 at the Church of God (Seventh Day) in St. Paul, Minnesota. Twenty-nine adults and 20 youth attended ten hours of teaching over three days.

Several topics were covered, including worship management and evangelism. Presenters explained different types of worship and their structure and purpose. They also analyzed the main purpose of evangelism, shared the different techniques and methods for evangelizing, and offered recommendations of what to do and what not to do when sharing your faith.

On Saturday, November 17, Julio Cesar Jaime Méndez from Mexico shared the Word of the Lord with the congregation, focusing on a captivating theme of the lost sheep. He received positive reaction from attendees.

At the end of the service, there was an anointing for the needs of some in the congregation. Later, sessions were held on biblical interpretation, exploring how the Bible should be read and analyzed, as well as the differences among different Bible versions. It was a dynamic class, involving the class members in different examples and biblical readings.

On Sunday, November 18, classes covered the Old and New Testaments, and attendees learned about homiletics. They analyzed different types of sermons

and the fundamentals of preaching, and reviewed other topics. The day ended with a question-and-answer session and a practical session testing what people learned throughout the training.

### Northeast

*Contributor: Bruce Noble*



#### Family 2 Family

The Owosso church held two events last fall under the outreach name Family 2 Family: in Laingsburg, September 10-11, and at the local township park in Shaftsburg on October 8-9. We handed out free winter items to those who came with needs, and provided food and drink to anyone who was hungry.

Many people from surrounding communities donated new and used items. We met other community-based charitable organizations we hope to work with in future projects that will benefit those in need.

In addition to these outreach events, we held a short outdoor service on Saturday, September 10. Over 40 from the congregation gathered to help set up, speak with recipients, and hold signs by the road. On October 9, we ended the day by going to a local hotel that houses many homeless people and families. We let them pick through what we had left so they could be blessed as well. All leftover items will be passed on to other charitable organizations to bless other individuals or families.

### Southeast

*Contributors: Jo Allison Krome and Steve Krome, Superintendent*

#### Under His Grace

The district held its annual Men's Retreat November 4-6 at Camp Adrian in Adrian, Georgia. Two hundred nineteen men from the entire district





gathered to enjoy fellowship and hear presentations on the theme “Men Under His Grace.” Brother Jose Perez spoke on obedience, Brother Antonio Gonzalez on virtue, Brother Walter Apen on devotion, and Brother Tereso Hernandez on steadiness. Special thanks to Brother Marcos Arenas and his team for providing “the best tacos ever”! Thanks also to the Men’s Ministry Committee – Walter Apen, Tereso Hernandez, and Wilmer Ortiz – for their hard work in preparing for this event.



### ‘God Revealed’

The 2022 Youth Retreat was held at Camp Mikell in the beautiful mountains of Toccoa, Georgia, December 16-18. With the theme “God Revealed,” 220 attendees heard presentations on how God reveals Himself through His Son, Jesus, through His names, through nature and the Bible, and through the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Presenters were Bryan Lozada, Jo Allison Krome, and Kimanio Fray.

Sabbath morning began with an activity led by Sharon Modeste. This year’s Y2Y (youth to youth) time was based on God’s attributes. Five churches (Lexington, Kentucky; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Baxley and Stone Mountain, Georgia; and South Miami) presented God’s attributes: good, majestic, powerful, faithful, and unchangeable.

On Sabbath afternoon, youth went on a challenging hike to a waterfall and did other activities. After the Sabbath evening presentation, we ended with a bonfire followed by hot chocolate, Mexican bread, fellowship, and games.

## Southwest

Contributors: Jamin Teran and Claudia B. Herrera

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry



**Field day.** On October 23, the Area 1 Children’s Ministry held a field day that included several workshops to help build Christian families. One of the main speakers, Tati Martinez, founder and director of Ya Basta, talked to parents about how to prevent child abuse and what to do if it happens. A skit was presented titled “Uncomfortable Secrets,” teaching children the value of their bodies. The second speaker, Jahzeel Flores, talked about the development of spiritual growth in children. Thanks to SWD Children’s Ministry Area 1 Representative Laura Ponce for her dedication and work, and thanks to Area 1 Director Ivan Villeda.



**Men “on the vine.”** A men’s retreat held November 18-20 in Jasper, AR, included several district speakers who developed the theme “Remain on the Vine” in their presentations. One hundred twenty-five men enjoyed prayer, worship, testimonies, games – and most important, lots of fellowship. We thank God for the opportunity these men had, and we hope they will always remain on the vine to edify the church.



**Marriage retreat.** *Forty-six couples from around the district gathered December 2-4 in Houston, TX, for a blessed retreat. The workshops, activities, and fellowship filled them with great joy. Fernando and Maribel Fitz organized the event. Arnulfo and Miriam Sandoval provided edifying workshops, and José and Ruth Trejo were in charge of activities. The couples felt motivated to renew their vows every day as a commitment of marriage with purpose.*



**Youth rally.** *On December 10, the youth of Area 1 gathered at the Piedra Angular church in Dallas, TX, for a youth rally. Participants attended a variety of workshops and heard a presentation by the main speaker, Brother Ruben Alonso. The whole day was full of activities, games, and fellowship among the youth.*



**Remembering.** *On December 17, the El Paso church celebrated another year at their current local church, where they've held a special yearly event called "Café*

*del Recuerdo" (Remembrance Coffee). It was a joy to come together with all our brethren and sing old hymns as a congregation while enjoying some coffee and hot chocolate. Many of these songs were favorites of some of our brethren who now sleep in the Lord. Until our Lord comes, we hope to continue this beautiful tradition for years to come.*

## Upcoming Southwest District Events

**February 3-5:** Leadership Meeting, San Antonio, TX

## West Coast

*Contributors: Dorian Lozano, Kassidy Hinds, Emily Plascencia, and Larry Zaragoza, Superintendent*



## SWORD in SoCal

The SoCal SWORD Ministry hosted an evening workshop for young adults at the CoG7 Riverside church on December 3. The theme was "Surveying the Damage," with guest speaker Veronica Estrada from CoG7 La Puente. The theme revolved around Nehemiah 2:11-18.

The event began with a prayer given by Brother Pete Alvarado from Riverside. Sisters Magda Mejia and Mirian Alvarado from Riverside led two icebreaker activities, human bingo, and speed dating to help the young adults (re)acquaint themselves with others. After the activities, worship was directed by Sister Dorian Lozano and led by the worship team from CoG7 Coachella Valley.

Afterward, Sister Veronica presented her workshop on Nehemiah's journey surveying the damages on the walls of Jerusalem and his task of rebuilding. She had the young adults break into small groups to discuss their experiences and thoughts on COVID and coming back to church, encouraging us to find our own way to help rebuild our community.

The evening ended with announcements, prayer and blessing, and fellowship.





**SWORD NorCal.** A Northern California SWORD rally took place in Lodi on December 17, focusing on the theme “He Is.” The main presenter, Pastor Jose Hernandez from Las Vegas, NV, centered his talk on the Creator of the universe, who loved us. Young Adult representatives from several churches came. About 80 people were expected to attend, but 130 came for both services that day. Many were inspired and encouraged by Pastor Hernandez, and about five people expressed interest in getting more involved with SWORD.



### Revival at the Big Chill

The Marion church youth group hosts an annual winter youth retreat known as Big Chill. Last December 22-25, youth from around Oregon, Washington, and Idaho (and one from Oklahoma!) gathered at the Marion church to have fun and ultimately grow closer to God.

Young Adult speakers shared a series of five different classes, and worship services centered on the theme “Revival.” The Holy Spirit carefully knit the sessions together to enhance our understanding of revival according to the Word of God, then turn our hearts toward Jesus as the Savior and Lord of our lives.

Though our time together felt like the blink of an eye, we built community and kindled relationships with the Lord. Truly, revival took place within our

hearts that could take place only if the Spirit was moving in our midst. The Spirit poured Himself out, not just in our worship services but also in our conversations and activities. He urged us to leave our comfort zones, to meet new people and try new things.

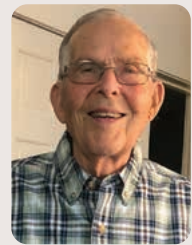
We are grateful for those who attended and for a fun, Spirit-filled retreat. Please pray with us for a continued revival in the hearts of those at the event so that a revival may spark in those around them!

## ASLEEP IN JESUS

### Artis Cummings

1931 - 2022

Artis Kendall Cummings (91) of Hudsonville, Michigan, was born August 9, 1931, and died December 1, 2022, in his home and under the care of his family.



Art taught school for thirty-four years. He later earned his certificate of biblical counseling and served many in the community and local church. He loved Jesus and wanted everyone to know the good news of the gospel. Through his patience, kindness, humor, ability to listen, gentleness, and faithful devotion to his Creator, he became a true patriarch of his family and an exemplary life to model.

*Please visit our Memorials page (churchright.org) for more on Art's life.*



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## Artios Update

Did you know Artios offers approximately four classes in each of our seven terms per year? Each term is five weeks long. This means, at any time of year, you are only a few weeks away from registering for an Artios class and jumping into the rewarding, rigorous, and challenging ministry-equipping model that has produced hundreds of vibrant leaders for the Church of God (Seventh Day).

To see our full calendar and what classes are offered in which terms, go to <https://my.artioscollege.org/en/catalog/2021/academic-calendar>.

To see what classes are coming up in the next term, go to <https://my.artioscollege.org/en/courses>.

At convention in July 2023, Artios will celebrate all our graduates since the last convention in 2019 (Convention 2021 was cancelled). You are cordially invited to celebrate our grads with us, some of whom may already be serving in a church near you.

Our projected graduates include 54 students, who represent 866 courses completed! Of these, 24 are completing pastoral majors, and thirteen are already serving their congregations as ministers, local pastors, or recognized lay leaders.

Our remaining graduates are leaders in a variety of ministries within our churches.

Come and see at convention the next generation of Church leaders. We look forward to seeing you there, and we encourage you to register for classes if you've never done so.

— Brian Franks



## Lord's Supper

Tuesday, April 4

*"Do this in remembrance of Me"*

*(1 Corinthians 11:24).*

## New TWB Combo Deal for Only \$16!

Study our Statement of Faith in-depth with *This We Believe: The Teachings of the Church of God (Seventh Day)* and a new 26-lesson personal study guide. This two-book deal is an excellent resource for new member instruction, as well as young adult and small group discipleship classes.

Take advantage of this discount rate. Order today at <https://cog7.org/online-store/>.





## Call to Convention

It is my great pleasure to extend this Call to Convention once again to each member and friend of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day). After missing our 2021 convention, aren't we all ready for the in-person fellowship and worship our conventions allow us to enjoy? Plan now to attend!

Our 2023 Convention is scheduled Monday evening, July 10, through Saturday night, July 15, in Covington, Kentucky. Most convention events will take place at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center. Three beautiful, newly remodeled hotels are available to those who attend. Marriott and Embassy Suites hotels are just across the street from the Convention Center, and Holiday Inn (the more "kid-friendly" option) is within walking distance or a short shuttle ride away.

Six major worship services are planned! They will include wonderful music, fervent prayer, encouraging personal testimonies, challenging sermons, and more – all focused on our theme "Come and See." Scheduled speakers are Elders Loren Gjesdal, Loren Stacy, Chip Hinds, Ramon Ruiz, Moises Capetillo, and Whaid Rose.

Many seminars will be offered in English or Spanish. Additional programs and activities will be offered for

most every age group – children, teens, young adults, and seniors. General Conference business sessions will be conducted Tuesday through Friday mornings. In these, members will receive up-to-date reports of the State of the Conference, the General Conference Ministries, and the General Conference finances. Qualified voters will elect members to our board of directors and to our Nominating Committee, and voters can debate and decide any bylaw amendments or resolutions that may be proposed.

Covington, Kentucky, also offers many great opportunities for individual or group outings. The world-famous Ark Encounter is less than an hour away. A Monday group outing is planned there for all who wish to come a day early. The Creation Museum is even closer, and a Friday afternoon excursion is available here. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and a beautiful riverfront park are just across the Ohio River, and a wonderful aquarium is nearby.

Make plans now to attend the 2023 Biennial Convention in Covington. I look forward to seeing you there!

*Loren Stacy*  
*General Conference President*

Register now for GC Convention '23 by going to [cog7.org/convention](http://cog7.org/convention). Hotel, meal, and outing registration is also available on the website. The early registration discount ends **April 30**, so don't miss your opportunity to save!

### Important Convention Dates

Early bird convention registration ends **April 30**.

Excursion tickets to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum must be purchased by **June 16**. Seats are limited, so sign up early!

Hotel reservations must be made by **June 19**.

Meal tickets need to be purchased by **June 30**.

# GC Missions . . . working for you

With your help, we can send evangelists (Cristo Viene), provide assistance through Disaster Relief (DRF), minister to orphans and widows, provide training through Bible schools, supply Bibles and gospel literature, mobilize short-term mission teams, and generate long-term income.

Learn more at [gcmissions.cog7.org](http://gcmissions.cog7.org) and on Facebook: "GC Missions" and "IMC."



## 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.

