

# 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).**

## Trust Issues

The issue of trust is crucial to any significant relationship. Without it, no positive, healthy relationship is possible. Each of us, therefore, and all of us together, must make building and maintaining trust a high priority.

Two related questions are worth asking: "Why do we trust God?" and "What might God's example teach us?" Three key characteristics come to mind.

First, **competence**. God continually displays His unlimited abilities. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. He does whatever He chooses to do because He can. We pray to and rely on God because we know this truth. He is absolutely competent.

Second, **consistency**. God never changes; He is always true to Himself. In the past, He did what He said He would do. In the present, He does what He says He will do. In the future, therefore, we can trust that He will do what He has said He will do. He is 100 percent reliable. God is consistent.

But what about those times God does not do what we ask Him to do, what we expect Him to do, what we know He is capable of doing? What are we to think, for example, when the loved one for whom we are praying passionately is not healed?

That's when we must focus on the third characteristic of God: **character**. When we wonder why our competent and consistent God isn't providing what we want, we should remember that God is righteous. He always does the right thing. Always. We struggle to understand how certain things God does or allows can possibly be the right thing, but we can trust God's character. Whatever "it" may be, it's right within God's sovereign plan. God's character allows nothing else.

We humans, of course, do not possess the competence, consistency, and character of God. Someone once said, "The best of men are men at best." But we can aspire to those characteristics. Doing so will help us build and maintain trust.

— Loren Stacy  
GC President



# District News

## Central

Contributor: Ronald Rousseau, Superintendent

**Dodgeville mission.** On January 21, Ronald Rousseau and wife, Maria; Miguel Gonzales and his wife, Xiomara; and Oscar Lucero of the Rockford church visited the mission in Dodgeville, WI. We enjoyed meeting the congregation



and fellowshiping with them. We pray for leader Adolfo Luna, his wife, Lupita, for the new board we anointed, and for growth and harmony in the group.



**Blessed visit.** The Stanberry, MO, church welcomed Ronald and Maria Rousseau on Sabbath, February 11. They stayed with Pastor Tim Steinhauser and his wife, Debbie, and enjoyed their hospitality.

## Northeast

Contributors: Elder Santiago Chavez and Heber Vega, Superintendent



### Satellite in Selden

On Sabbath, January 14, Superintendent Heber Vega and Pastor Wilmer Arias held all-day services for the dedication of a new church plant in Selden, New York. The Edison, New Jersey congregation sponsored the plant.

There's something special about a church "giving birth" to another church. In this case, a satellite church was established with a faithful group of CoG7 members residing in this region who wanted to reach the unsaved. Pastor Jose Ayala and his team are leading and supervising this effort.

For now, this satellite church will be meeting at Hope Lutheran Church in Long Island on the second and fourth Sabbaths of the month. The rest of the time, the members will travel to their home church in Edison. We're waiting on the Lord to provide a leader who can soon oversee the new church.

For further information about this satellite church, please contact Pastor José Ayala at (908) 937-6282.



**Vigil in Lanham.** On Saturday evening, February 11, about 300 people from all the Area IV congregations (Lanham, MD; Alexandria, Richmond, and Winchester, VA) gathered for a vigil organized by the Men's Ministry of Lanham,



MD, the host church. The theme was “The Harvest is Plentiful, but the Workers are Few” (Luke 10:2), with the slogan “Fostering Your First Love” (Revelation 2:4). The spiritual celebration, filled with songs, sermons, testimonies, fellowship, and a play by the children’s ministry, began with a shared dinner at 5:30 p.m. It ended with the presentation of two Bibles at 1:00 a.m. the following day.



**New church.** On January 7, Superintendent Chip Hinds and area director Gilbert Walker held a ceremony to recognize the Springdale, AR church, and to ordain elders and deacons. The Sabbath celebration was even more special with four baptisms. We praise God for the work He is doing in the church, as well as for the local pastor and family.

## Southeast

### District Events

- August 11-13** - District Leaders Conference in Valdosta, GA
- September 29 - October 1** - District Women’s Retreat, Camp Adrian, Adrian, GA
- November 3-5** - District Men’s Retreat, Camp Adrian, Adrian, GA
- December 22-24** - District Youth Retreat, Dayspring Conference Center, Parrish, FL

### 2024

- November 8-10** - District Men’s Retreat, Dayspring Conference Center, Parish, FL



**Founders’ Day.** Aguedita Davila, Maria Davila, Nancy Perez (Diaz), and Margarita Renteria were honored at a Founders’ Day service on February 4 at the Corpus Christi-Violet church. Envisioning that they would someday have a church building, these sisters were instrumental in starting the first Church of God (Seventh Day) in Corpus Christi, TX. A video presentation was shared with a historical timeline of how the first church began. View it at <https://cog7cctx.org/> (under Sermon Videos).

## Southwest

Contributor: Victoria (Tory) Capetillo

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry

**Church recognition.** Superintendent Chip Hinds and area director Manuel Salazar visited our sister church in Austin, TX – Truevine on December 10, 2022. After two years of hard work, Truevine was formally recognized as a new church in the district. Pastor Abraham Garcia is leading the congregation. We welcome Truevine and praise the Lord for the work He is doing in our district.





**Evangelistic workshops.** West Coast District Superintendent Larry Zaragoza and Elder Mike Vlad led a Personal Evangelism workshop on Sunday, January 22, at the McAllen, TX church. Fifty-three brethren learned how to present the gospel in any environment and engaged in a question-and-answer session. They also developed their personal testimony. If you would like to schedule this workshop at your church, please contact the superintendent.



**Super Sabbath.** On February 25, approximately 200 brethren from churches in Oklahoma and Arkansas gathered at the Claremore, OK church for a time of worshipping, praising our Lord, and listening to the Word of God. The Oklahoma board was thankful for the funds raised to continue the projects in the area.



**Leadership conference.** The SWD Leadership Conference took place Saturday, February 4, in San Antonio with our brothers from the Triple Tree church. We ask for your prayers for the SWD leadership as we embark on a new year.

## Upcoming Events

April 4 - Lord's Supper Service  
June 11 - Dover Camp  
July 10-15 - GC Convention

## West Coast

Contributors: Melva Smith and Larry Zaragoza, Superintendent

### Returning home.

On Sabbath, January 21, the Eugene/Springfield congregation was once again blessed to witness the baptism of Niall



Waters. He gave his testimony, expressing thankfulness that God never gave up on him during the time he stepped away from following Christ. We pray our heavenly Father will continue to restore Niall's soul and lead him in the paths of righteousness.



**Baptisms.** On Sabbath, January 14, Pastor Reuben Zaragoza baptized Aurora Prado and Eileen Zaragoza at the Ontario church. It was a time of rejoicing.

## Western Canada

Contributor: Orville Rose, Superintendent

### Growing the Church

As the district continues to focus on evangelism and membership updates, God is growing His church in astounding ways. Despite setbacks, He has been adding complete families and new families to our congregations.

While some are awaiting the warmer climates to



take that plunge, five others could not wait to become part of the family of God. Meanwhile, baptized attendees have felt so much at home in these congregations that they decided to take out or renew their membership.



Kudos to the district teams and various levels of leadership within these congregations for opening their homes and hearts in making our church and extended communities feel the welcoming warmth of God's grace.



### Early Winter Graduates

- Pedro Estrada, certificate of Biblical Studies
- Rene Marroquin, certificate of Biblical Studies
- Jose Trejo, associate of Christian Leadership (Spiritual Formation and Discipleship)
- Josue Zelaya, associate of Christian Leadership (Spiritual Formation and Discipleship)

### Essentials of Vibrant Leadership Course Redesign

We are excited to announce the redesign of our English foundational course: LEA 111 Essentials of Vibrant Leadership! This course lays the groundwork for Christian leadership and ministry by focusing on

- Our calling to God
- Our Vibrant Church vision
- The Equipping Ministry model
- Missional church principles
- What leadership looks like in the next generation

Students who complete LEA 111 will have the opportunity to hone their ministry and leadership abilities in whatever context they serve or are preparing to serve.

We invite you to register for your first Artios class, beginning, April 4 at [my.artioscollege.org/en/course](http://my.artioscollege.org/en/course).

### Commencement at GC Convention

Artios Christian College commencement will take place on Saturday, July 15, during GC Convention in Covington, Kentucky. Graduates who completed their academic program since the 2019 convention will be recognized. Plan now to join us and cheer on the graduate in your life!

Join us Thursday, July 13, after evening services for our Open House and 10-Year Commemoration!

Watch for our three workshops at convention! Topics will include

- Enhancing the Sabbath School Experience
- Responding to Anxiety and Depression
- The Equipping Model of Ministry

– Makayla Ross, Co-Director

### Calendar Events

- April 3** - Early Spring registration closes
- April 9** - Early Spring classes begin
- May 15** - Late Spring registration closes
- May 21** - Late Spring classes begin
- July 15** - Graduation Commencement at General Conference Convention



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## GC Missions



### Pakistan Floods

As of October 2022, 33 million people in Pakistan were affected by historic monsoon rains and flooding. Many of our brothers and sisters in Sindh State lost homes. They also lost their ability to support their families because of devastation to more than 1.5 million acres of agricultural fields.

To help, Disaster Relief Funds (DRF) were sent to assist 180 families with emergency food relief and, later, 160 families with clothing and other necessities in preparation for winter. Those affected are slowly recovering. Efforts are being made through GC Missions' sustainability projects to help these brethren establish new economic opportunities in areas safe from future flooding.

Thank you for your prayers and donations to the "DRF" or "GC Missions Sustainability Projects" for our brethren in Pakistan as they rebuild. If you want to donate today, please visit [cog7.org/giving](http://cog7.org/giving).



### Togo Mission

Pastor Robert Crawford made his second missionary trip to the country of Togo January 15-29. The purpose was to strengthen the new fellowship established there in November and to continue outreach efforts

to the community. This included a Muslim man named Nasser, who wants to learn more about Jesus and salvation.

Four persons were baptized, and another expects to be baptized after recuperating from an illness. Please keep these young believers in your prayers.

Plans are being outlined to further strengthen the developing church in Togo. We greatly appreciate your prayerful financial support for this effort. Contributions may be earmarked "Togo Mission."

– Bryan Cleeton, Director



**Mile High meeting.** On February 22, the License and Credentials Committee held its annual meeting in Denver. Left to right: John Lemley, Jhabel Chagollan, Andy Hassen, David Lozano, Wayne Hrenyk, Noe Reyes, and Steve Kyner.



**Board business.** The General Conference board of directors met for its annual meeting in Denver, February 26 – March 1. Pictured with the board are Jody McCoy, executive director; Loren Stacy, GC president; and Hope Dais Clark, secretary. Board members are (L to R) Samuel Holland, Narciso Betances, Raul Romo, Dennis O'Banion, Joshua Gutierrez, Wayne Hrenyk, Daniel Flores, Greg Lincoln, Ruben Zaragoza, and Kirk Grant.

GC CONVENTION 2023

**COME AND SEE**  
COVINGTON, KY



# General Conference Convention

We are quickly approaching the Biennial GC Convention, to be held July 10-15 in Covington, Kentucky.

Have you been convinced yet that you need to be there? From fellowship with friends, old and new, to the sweet Spirit of the Lord in our long-awaited gathering, or the encouraging and equipping workshops and evening services – even the necessary business of our church organization, not to mention the engaging children’s/youth/young adult programs: There’s something for everyone!

Bring the whole family for a wonderful vacation. The area holds many exciting things to see and do together, including the Ark Encounter, Newport Aquarium, and more. Expand your search and visit the great Mammoth Cave just three hours away. The Great Lakes and Nashville are within striking distance. What a beautiful part of the country to explore!

Our afternoon workshops will afford you a glimpse into the current GC Initiatives: Personal Evangelism, Small Group Ministries, and Welcoming Church. Take in the opportunity to learn more about our GC Ministries: *Bible Advocate*, Missions, and Artios. Need to know more about church finances? Dealing with anxiety? How to develop a preschool program? One or more workshop topics will certainly propel you on your journey!

Pay attention to the group excursions for the Ark Encounter (Monday) and the Creation Museum (Friday). Options include riding a chartered bus for the group rate. You can also drive yourself (different discount). These differences are spelled out on the [cog7.org/convention](http://cog7.org/convention) website. The deadline to register for group excursions (via bus) is **June 16**.

Good eateries are not far from the Convention

Center. Please consider staying on site and purchasing a few meal tickets. These help offset the cost of our meeting rooms. Meal tickets must be purchased in advance – by **June 30**.

Register today, if you haven’t yet done so! All who register by **April 30** pay the early bird registration fee. Anyone registering after this date will pay the regular fee. (This includes any registrations that may have been started but not completed via payment.) Even after you complete your registration, you can return to the site and make changes, such as buying more meal tickets, selecting an excursion, or signing up for a volunteer spot.

Speaking of volunteers, please consider signing up to help for an event, for a day, or for a program. The success of our convention relies on all those who donate their time to make it happen. Many opportunities are listed on the registration site. We need your smiling face and caring hands to fill the need.

All registration information can be found at [cog7.org/convention](http://cog7.org/convention). We are looking forward to your presence. “Come and see” what God has in store for us!

– GC Convention Committee

## Deadlines

**April 30** – Early bird registration

**June 16** – Group excursions

**June 19** – Hotel reservations

**June 30** – Meal tickets



# ARE YOU IN THE PICTURE?



Each district has ministries you can be a part of.  
Contact your local leaders for ideas on where you can serve.

*Prayers and financial gifts are always appreciated!*



## 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/>.

## Climbing the Mountain of the Beatitudes

2023 Second Quarter Lessons



Climbing the Mountain of the Beatitudes

Why is “poor in spirit” the first beatitude, and why are we blessed for being that way? Why would Jesus say it’s a good thing to mourn?

Discover the answers in this second part in the Spiritual Formation Series. Get ready to reach higher ground!

To set up a standing order for Sabbath school curriculum, go to <https://cog7.org/online-store/>.

Bible Advocate Press

