

CHURCHRIGHT

Doing church right



Extra, Extra!

Have you read the Online Extras in the May-June issue of the *Bible Advocate*? If you need a little more BA in your diet, this digital food will sustain you in your walk with God.

For this issue, three Extras focus on the Bible's wisdom and poetry:

"Mom and the Most High" features Psalm 91.

"Proverbs and Preparation" and "Proverbs and Prophecy" give fresh perspectives on the Proverbs 31 woman.

While you're reading these, check out the other Extras from past issues at baonline.org.

Homeschoolers, Unite!

I write this article as one who has earned a master's degree in education from the University of Southern California and secondary education teaching credentials from the State of California and the State of Oregon. I have taught students within three public school districts. Both my parents were public schoolteachers, as were one of my brothers and my wife. Despite that involvement, I am delighted that each of my three children and their spouses are homeschooling their children.

In some school districts within the United States, children are taught traditional values and subjects, but far too many of our schools have become indoctrination centers of our increasingly anti-God society. The news has shown student demonstrations on college campuses against Jewish people, and supporting terrorists who wish to exterminate them. Online videos reveal university students unable to answer basic questions about the geography and government of their own country. They violently protest in favor of issues and ideologies they know even less about.

Many families within our General Conference have decided that their children are far too valuable and vulnerable to entrust to public schools. They have concluded that "Caesar's" schools are designed to produce students who share Caesar's values that often contradict biblical values. Therefore, parents have removed their children from public schools and enrolled them in private schools, or have chosen to educate them at home. Cooperatives of homeschoolers are springing up everywhere as parents and Christian educators band together to provide educational opportunities in line with Christian values and classical methods and subjects.

Other GC leaders and I support these parents and others who desire to follow their example. We hope to build a repository of information, available to anyone, of homeschool organizations, materials, and methodologies. If you are a homeschooler interested in helping us build this, please email your information to contact@cog7.org.

—Loren Stacy
GC President



District News

Northeast

Contributor: Esther Winchell



Women's Emphasis Sabbath 2024

March was a joyous month, with various women's groups participating in Women's Emphasis Sabbath. Early in the month, groups from Saginaw, Michigan, and Fort Wayne, Indiana (Bowser), took part. Completing the month, United CoG7, Lanham, Maryland; Fort Wayne (Lafayette); Grand Rapids and Holland, Michigan; Passaic, New Jersey; and Ossining, New York, shared their hearts for the honor and glory of God.

This year's theme, "Declutter Your Heart," was



shared in different ways, all concluding that worshipping in Spirit and truth should be at the center of our hearts.

Thanks for your great participation in the Northeast District! We look forward to seeing what 2025 has in store. In the meantime, keep serving!

Giving Hands. At the 2023 GC Convention, the Women's Bazaar raised funds for the Giving Hands ministry that feeds the homeless. This ministry began with Sister Maurene Brown and other sisters from the CoG7 in Kingston, Jamaica. Their home-cooked meals are distributed to those in need. For \$250, about 75 people can enjoy a meal for three months.



Southeast

Contributor: Steve Krome, Superintendent



Retreat planning. The Youth Retreat Planning Committee met March 8-9 near the event location at Camp Toccoa, GA. District Youth Director Jon Unzueta (standing) gave a presentation to the committee members: Joel and Sharon Modeste, Walter and Lilly Apen, Cesar Medrano, Keila Hernandez, Yanci Cartagena, and Jo Allison Krome, administrative director. The retreat will be held December 20-22, 2024, and will feature speakers Moises and Pete Capetillo.

Southwest

Contributor: Victoria (Tory) Capetillo and Maria Beard

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry

Helping marriages.

On March 16, the Albuquerque, NM church hosted a service focusing on marriage. Speakers (and brothers) Aaron and Fresca Ochoa, from Phoenix, AZ, presented a workshop to the congregation. They enjoyed beautiful and meaningful sermons, as well as interactive



activities and games for the couples.

more attended and enjoyed wonderful worship. They all returned to their congregations motivated and willing to serve the Lord. The three sermons inspired the men to continue making themselves available for the work of the Lord, for visitors, for fellow ministers, and for those the Lord will call to His vineyard.



El Paso women. On March 9, women from the Tree of Life church in El Paso, TX, held a service to honor the Women's Emphasis theme. They enjoyed beautiful worship and fellowship and focused on how to be transformed in the eyes of God.

Laredo women. The Laredo, TX CoG7 experienced an amazing women's service on March 9. Their theme was "Transformed," based on Romans 12:1, 2 and following the CoG7's Women's Emphasis for this year. Thank you to all the sisters who participated in this day.



San Antonio women. The Women's Emphasis service in San Antonio, TX, took place March 23. The women's group of the Ceralvo congregation had a wonderful time with a fellowship luncheon, followed by a Spirit-led worship service, a devotional, and an activity. They also thanked God for their pastor's wife, Eva Salazar. A special thanks to Maria Antonia Macias for leading the service, Jessica Pila for presenting a beautiful devotional, and Judith Salazar for leading and guiding the painting activity.

Pastors' retreat. We give thanks for the pastors' retreat that took place March 8-10 at Camp Tejas in Giddings, TX. Everyone felt the Spirit of the Lord moving. Speakers were GC President Loren Stacy, Brother Ramon Ruiz, and Brother Loren Gjesdal. Pastors, leaders, and many



Amazed in Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Women’s Retreat, held March 22-24 at Dover Camp, was simply amazing! Sixty-four women attended and shared blessing after blessing, encouraged that “Jesus . . . My Refuge, My Strength” will be a firm statement to hold on to daily.

The Friday night meal, prepared by Jerad Ullrich and son, Patrick, started the weekend off with praise and uplifting encouragement. Moises and Pete Capetillo joined them and assisted with the remaining meals, and other gentlemen (husbands) helped out in the kitchen. Our thanks to you all for the graciousness with which you served.

On Friday after our evening meal, Sister Gail Anklam brought us together with a get-to-know-one-another ice breaker. It was followed with a devotion to begin our Sabbath worship. The praise team led worship in song throughout the weekend. We were blessed with all the songs – some new, some familiar. Beautiful voices blended in praise!

On Sabbath, Sister Wanda Taylor presented three workshop sessions, all with Psalm 28:7 as key verse. The weekend was so blessed and the fellowship sweet. Thanks to everyone who came!



Baptisms. With great joy, we share the great news of our fellow “newborn” brethren in Christ who joined the body of Christ through baptism. Alejandra Avalos and Laura Hernandez were baptized April 20, 2024. These sisters said goodbye to the old man and hello to their new

creation in Christ. On April 6, Leonard Kelly, Zulybeth Reynaga, and Jair Herrera were baptized as well. Our prayers are with each one of these. We can’t wait to see what our Lord and Savior has in store for their new lives!

Upcoming Events

- June 9-16 - Dover Family Camp
- September 1-4 - Women’s Retreat, Austin, TX
- October 21 - North Dallas Super Sabbath, youth and SWORD group
- October 28 – November 2 - NAMC

West Coast

Contributors: Aaron Carbajal and Nakia Keim



District board. On March 10, the West Coast District board convened for its annual meeting in Ontario, CA. The day before, board members worshipped alongside the Ontario church brethren, followed by a delightful meal shared with both Ontario churches. Let’s continue to keep our district leaders, their families, and local churches in our prayers.



Baptisms. There is joy in heaven when a sinner repents! We rejoiced with the angels on April 13 in Canyon Lake, AZ, as we welcomed to God’s flock our brothers and sisters in Christ (L to R): Dulce Larazola, Allison Moreno, Dasha Beiza, Amanda Botello, Josue Rios, and Tevin Blevins.



Quarterly service. Churches in Arizona gathered on March 23 for their quarterly service, hosted by the Phoenix church. Filled with praise and worship, the event served as an opportunity for believers to come together in fellowship and unity. Superintendent Larry Zaragoza delivered a powerful message, imparting the Word of God and igniting hearts with spiritual nourishment. Following the service, the host church provided a delightful meal for everyone to enjoy.



“Reign Revival” youth rally. The Eugene/Springfield CoG7 hosted their first youth event during spring break, March 28-31. More than 40 youth, young adults, and youth leaders attended. Using the theme “Run to the Father,” various speakers covered the topic of leaving the world behind and truly trusting in our heavenly Father. Youth participated in times of worship, fellowship, and community outreach.



Anniversary Celebration

The Church of God (Seventh Day) “Roca Eterna” in Escondido, CA, celebrated its thirteenth anniversary on March 23.

It began in 1998 but briefly closed after eight years when Pastor Alejandro Baez moved. In 2007, the church restarted when Brother Felipe Orduño and his wife, Areli, were called to serve. Minister Heber Vega supported the mission and Sabbath school during those years.

On March 19, 2011, the congregation was officially designated a church by Superintendent Larry Zaragoza. Last year, Minister Felipe Orduño passed the pastoral role to Brother Gabriel Pérez, who graduated from a ministerial seminary in Mexico and is studying at Artios to obtain his license in the US. This celebration is a reminder of the rebirth and perseverance of the congregation throughout its history.

Upcoming Events

- July 15-21 - Youth Camp, Weimar, CA
 - July 21-28 - Senior Youth Camp, Sis-Q Meadows
 - July 28 - August 5 - Junior Youth Camp, Sis-Q Meadows
 - September 11-15 - Senior Adult Retreat, Sis-Q Meadows
- For more info, contact wcdmedia@cog7.org.

Our sympathies to the family of Phyllis Ann Weekes, who was married to Pastor Hubert Weekes and passed away April 21, 2021. Read her full memorial on our Memorials page (churchright.org).



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Annual GC Leadership Meetings

Each year in April, President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy host GC Leadership Meetings in Denver. The first day (Sunday) is an everyone-together meeting of our district superintendents, Ministries directors (Artios, Publications, and

Missions), heads of our GC departments (Communications and IT), president of our Ministerial Council, accountant, office manager, and other key personnel. This allows for sharing and collaboration among all of these key Conference leaders.

On the second and third days (Monday and Tuesday) the president and executive director continue meeting with only the district superintendents. This year these meetings took place April 14-16. The photo is of some of those around the table during the Sunday, April 14, meeting.



Late Winter Graduate

- Rachele Bowers, French Guiana (Certificate of Leadership Studies)

Winter 2024 Dean's List* recipients

- William Aba, Stamford, CT
- Rachele Bowers, French Guiana
- Pete Capetillo, Albuquerque, NM
- Aaron Coulson, Allegan, MI
- Dan Davila, Justice, IL
- Arnulfo De La Cruz, Stamford, CT
- Caleb Donaciano, Cypress, TX

- Eduardo Garza, Cicero, IL
- Efrain Gomez, Raritan, NJ
- Greg Haffner, Veneta, OR
- Jacob Keim, Eugene, OR
- Jordan Lang, Harrisburg, OR
- Alirio Luna Sosa, Bridgeport, CT
- René Marroquin, Basking Ridge, NJ
- Pablo Martinez, Sherman Oaks, CA
- Israel Pacheco, Thornton, CO
- Ottoniel Perez Gonzalez, Atlanta, GA
- Rebeca Ramirez, Los Lunas, NM
- Cohayne Sutherland, Etibocoke, ON

* Dean's List recipients earn eight credits per quarter with a minimum 3.5 GPA.

Calendar Events

- July 8 - Summer registration closes
- July 14 - Summer classes begin

Summer Classes

- COM 121 Written Communication for Leadership
- LEA 111 Essentials of Vibrant Leadership
- LEA 121 The Christian Life
- PSY 321 Principles of Counseling

Register at <https://my.artioscollege.org/en/courses>





Captivated by Convention?

Our General Conference Convention rolls around every two years. This summer is the off year, but in 2025 our convention will be in full swing with the theme “Engage.” There are so many words for the ways we can do that!

What *captures* your attention as you consider attending convention? Are you *absorbed* by some of the same reasons as we are?

At each convention, we *involve* ourselves as members of our good organization by taking care of business. We *partake in* opportunities to be disciplined in our walk with the Lord. We are *fascinated* by the company of dear friends and loved ones, many of whom we haven’t seen since the last convention. We *enter into* precious vacation moments with family and friends and are *attracted* by the grandeur of an area of the country we may not have seen before.

Most important, we *immerse* ourselves in worship together, mirroring the grand reunion that

will one day draw us into eternity and the reality of never leaving again!

Whatever reason *draws* you, we pray your desire to *participate* will come to fruition and that, by God’s grace, we will see you in Salt Lake City June 30 - July 5, 2025. Don’t let this opportunity pass you by! Registration information will be available in early January 2025. Stay tuned to our publications and website (cog7.org) for lots of good information to *allure* you.

No matter how we say it, we hope you will **engage** with us at Convention ’25! Prepare for this event, and *draw* your heart to worship. *Catch* the vision of this amazing celebration as we anticipate our gathering!



REGISTER NOW!



LEA 111 Essentials of Vibrant Leadership is a flexible online course that lasts just five weeks and is designed to increase your influence as a Christian in your home, church, workplace, and community.

Find out more at <https://my.artioscollege.org/en/courses/LEA111>



Reaching the World

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