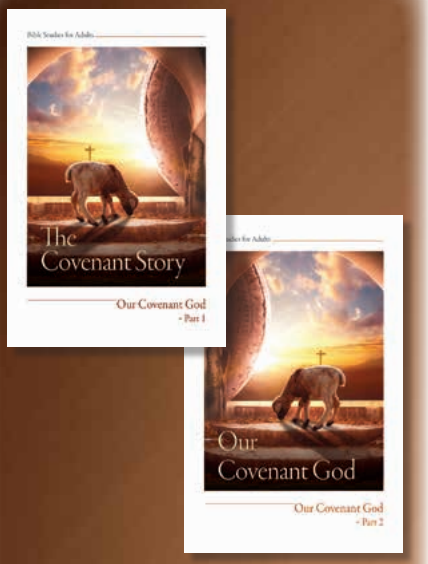
June - July 2025

CHURCHRIGHT

Doing church right



On sale now!

A two-part Bible Study for adults, based on the covenant book, is scheduled for the third and fourth quarters of 2025. Fourth quarter lessons will be available in August. Visit *store.cog7.org/*.

The Power of the Church Gathered

"Do this in remembrance of Me." Jesus spoke these words with the cross clearly in view, His imminent death shaping His final instructions to the disciples. They did not understand the significance of His words, and their own sense of confusion likely prevented them from inquiry.

The Churches of God recently took part in the Lord's Supper. A sense of solemnity certainly marked our gatherings as we remembered *Christ slain for sinners.* No words can express this gift. Yet, in simple and holy praise, we join the chorus of heaven: "Worthy is the Lamb."

Reflecting on this season also brings us to another moment, when the angel declared, "He is risen! He is not here" (Mark 16:6, NKJV throughout).

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. As He joined them, notice the context: "they talked . . . conversed and reasoned . . . of all . . . which had happened" (Luke 24:14, 15). This was no light conversation; this was a wrestling with and deep reflection on the things these disciples did not yet understand. Like the Twelve, they did not comprehend all that God was doing. But despite that, our Lord honored their talking and reasoning by *joining their discussion.*

Here, then, is the power of the church gathered: Despite our limitations, the Lord — by the power of the Holy Spirit — joins our discussions and opens to us the Scripture and the things concerning Himself (v. 27).

Note also this amazing detail: As they ate with the Lord, "their eyes were opened and they knew Him" (vv. 30, 31). This is the power of the church's fellowship. As we gather in His name to consider Him, Jesus opens our understanding. As we assemble and break bread together, He makes Himself known.

Family of God, do not forget: There is no other place in the world like the church. It is God's sanctuary, His voice, and His people. As we approach our biennial convention and as you read this edition of *Churchright* of all the events and happenings, make sure you join in whenever and wherever you can, knowing the Lord will meet us there.

— Greg Lincoln
GC President

District News

Southeast

Contributor: Keila Hernandez, SED Media Ministry Director

New members. *This past month, the Southeast District celebrated a special milestone as we welcomed new members into the family of Christ. With hearts full of joy and gratitude, we witnessed six of our brothers and sisters at the Thomasville, NC church publicly declare their faith through baptism. Please pray for (pictured, L to R) Abigail, Loida, Pati, Elías, Oscar, and Joaquin as they begin this new chapter in their lives.*

West Coast

Contributors: Noemi Sandoval, Melva Smith, and Aaron Carbajal, WCD Media Ministry Director

Peace and trust. *Youth and young adults gathered in Las Vegas, NV, on April 19 for a SWORD and Youth Rally. Based on this event's theme, "Praising God in the Storm," they learned about the meaning of peace and trusting in God. People from Arizona and California came to participate in our ice breakers, testimony, worship, and games. Worship was led by the Las Vegas English church in the morning and the Hayward church in the afternoon. Thomas Davila was our speaker in the morning, and Jose Hernandez spoke in the afternoon.*

It's baptism season! *All over the world, lives are being transformed as people take the step of faith and go down in the waters of baptism. In Las Vegas alone, eleven precious souls were baptized between the two churches! Baptisms were also celebrated across the West Coast District — in San Jose and Ontario, California; Mesa, Arizona; and other places. There was great rejoicing in heaven and on earth as these new believers boldly declared their faith in Jesus Christ. Photo (L to R): Elishah Rodriguez, Jade Gomez, Karina Proo, Will Gomez, and Cristian Martinez.*

Photos taken by Tim Sandoval

New life in Christ. *On April 5, the CoG7 in Ontario, CA, witnessed a beautiful moment of transformation as two siblings, Diane and Louie Mercado, were baptized and publicly declared their faith in Jesus Christ. Diane has been faithfully attending our church for some time, and her walk with the Lord deeply impacted her brother Louie. Just a day before the baptism service, Louie met with our pastor and gave his heart to Christ. The following day, both brother and sister were baptized in a powerful testimony of God's grace and the influence of a Christ-centered life. We praise God for what He is doing in their lives. — Noemi Sandoval*

New members. *Three of our church family — members of the body of Christ (Romans 12:4-6) — chose to become members of the CoG7 in Eugene, OR. On April 12, Randy Ledger, Ali Valle-Guerrero, and Keziah Keim received their certificates of membership. What a blessing these three have been and will continue to be as they share their unique giftings with the local church family. — Melva Smith*

Upcoming Events

June 25-29: Sis-Q Young Adult Retreat, Cave Junction, OR
July 20-27: Sis-Q Meadows Senior Youth Camp, Cave Junction, OR
July 21-27: Northern California Youth Camp, Weimar, CA
July 21-27: Arizona Youth Camp, Prescott, AZ
July 27 - August 3: Sis-Q Seekers Camp, Cave Junction, OR

For more information, contact *wcd.cog7.org*.

Southwest

Contributors: Maria Beard and Victoria (Tory) Capetillo, SWD Media Ministry Director

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry

New chapter. *On January 24, Area 6 Director Eduardo Villalba spoke at the Risen Life CoG7 in Midland, TX, for the installation service of the new pastor, Julio Garza, and his wife, Gaby. Drawn from Deuteronomy 31:7, 8 and Joshua 1:1-17, the message emphasized the importance of leadership, faith, and unity. As we marked the end of an era, we expressed our heartfelt gratitude to Ray and Letty Mancha for their thirteen years of dedicated ministry at Risen Life church.*

Youth/SWORD. *On March 1, the El Paso Central church hosted a Youth/SWORD event. Speakers presented several workshops on the theme "Youth Working in the Ministry and Adults Helping Them." Each group — adults, girls, and boys — heard a special talk specifically geared to them. As adults, we must mentor our youth and guide them to work in the ministry to honor and glorify God.*

Celebrating women. *In March and April, the Tree of Life, Galena Park, Pharr, and Laredo congregations observed Women's Ministry Appreciation Month. The theme "Refined . . . Ephesians 2:10" highlighted the beauty and purpose of these amazing women. Thanks to so many women who made this day special!*

Laredo

Pharr

Sisterhood gathering. *The CoG7 Ceralvo in San Antonio, TX, gathered on March 22 for a beautiful time of fellowship, worship, and spiritual growth. They enjoyed one another with a wonderful luncheon, sharing laughter, conversation, and the joy of sisterhood.*

Ministry camp. *On March 14-16, the SWD Children's Ministry held its first Children's Ministry Camp in Burnett, TX. With 80 children and 47 volunteers, the entire weekend was filled with joy, laughter, and life-changing moments. Our speakers guided us through the powerful theme "Come Taste and See." The children discovered the boundless goodness of God and learned to put their faith and trust in Him.*

Baptisms - Somerville. *On April 5, seven churches from Area 3 gathered to celebrate baptisms at the Somerville Church of God camp. Five brothers and sisters confessed their sins and faith in Jesus Christ.*

Baptisms - El Paso. *The Central church in El Paso, TX, celebrated baptisms on March 22. They had the blessing of witnessing two sisters confess their sins and faith in Jesus Christ.*

Baptism - El Paso. *It is with great joy that we announce the baptism of Marcos Solís on April 6 at the Central church in El Paso. Several brothers from our congregation came from the Rehab Center, where our brother Marcos resides, to attend this great event. Our brother said goodbye to the old man and is now a new creation in Christ!*

Baptisms – Albuquerque. *On April 5, our sister church in Albuquerque witnessed a beautiful moment of faith as three youths were baptized, publicly declaring their love for Jesus Christ.*

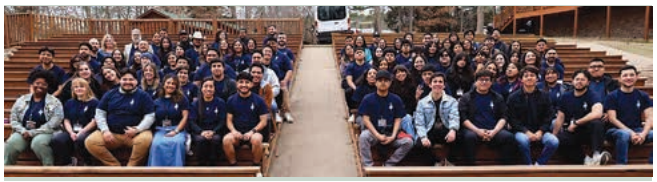
Super Sabbath. *On April 1, the CoG7 in Jasper, AR, held a Super Sabbath that included great fellowship with the family of God. Superintendent Chip Hinds celebrated his birthday that day, and his message touched many hearts. Blessings to Pastor Jason Overman for opening his church to us and to all who made this event possible.*

Baptisms - Fort Worth. *On April 6, our sister church in Fort Worth, TX, with Pastor Isaías Moran, witnessed a beautiful moment of faith as brothers and sisters were baptized, publicly declaring their faith.*

Women's retreat. *The Women's Ministry of the CoG7 in Dover, OK, shone brightly with their "Marvelous Light" retreat on March 28-30, radiating the beauty of 1 Peter 2:9. The weekend sparkled with inspiring workshops, heartfelt fellowship, and loving activities. We're overflowing with gratitude for the Dover sisters who poured their hearts into planning this event.*

Women's reunion. *On March 8, a women's meeting was held, organized by the women's group in our Central Church in El Paso. The women enjoyed a delicious dinner, and Graciela Trejo, our co-pastor's wife, spoke on the importance of putting all our trust in God and leaving our afflictions, problems, and worries with Him.*

Youth service. *On March 1, an area youth service, organized by youth director Dan Melendez, was held at our Central El Paso CoG7. Moises and Pete Capetillo and several members from the Albuquerque church joined young people from Lubbock and from other area congregations. The Capetillo brothers presented workshops on the importance of being good mentors for our young people.*



SWORD Retreat. *Fort Smith, AR, was blessed to host the "Knitted" SWORD Retreat March 14-16, bringing together over 100 young adults from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Alabama. Josue Portillo, Jason Overman, and Pete and Moises Capetillo presented powerful messages. Yared and Chris Banda and Jamin and Merari Teran led impactful workshops. A huge thank you to Israel Rodriguez for his leadership, and thanks to the Fort Smith church!*

Upcoming Events

June 8-15 - Dover Family Camp 2025: "Restoration"

GC Leadership Meetings

Our district superintendents, GC Ministries, and department directors met in Denver, Colorado, April 27-29. They addressed several priorities in the Conference and were introduced to the president-elect, Greg Lincoln, and executive director-elect, Daniel Flores. Leaders shared about their projects and areas where they can collaborate with each other. Some of them had opportunity to fellowship with area congregations. We praise the Lord for His presence during the sessions and for the unity among our leaders to edify the Church and each other.

The Post Office returns mail to our office because subscribers have not sent us a change of address. The BAP pays for return postage, and that places stress on our tight budget.

Please remember us and send your changes of address to *bap.orders@cog7.org* or Bible Advocate Press • P.O. Box 33677 • Denver CO 80233.

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License and Credentials Committee

What an amazing time we had in our committee meetings! Due to the large number of applicants (23), we met for a full week, March 6-13. There were many hours of interviews and discussions, many pages of material for each applicant, and much time spent in prayer. On Sabbath, I was honored to preach at the Conroe, Texas church, after which we returned to the hotel in Houston for rest and a special committee prayer time.

The good news is that we granted ministerial documents to 17 ministers (seven LPC's, one license, and eight credentials), and we encouraged others to press on toward their ministerial document.

I think I can speak for everyone on the committee in thanking the North American Ministerial Council for entrusting us with this huge responsibility and the wonderful privilege of fellowship we share. We are especially blessed to meet and work with these amazing candidates. The work is sometimes arduous, but it is tremendously rewarding!

— Stephen J. Kyner
L&C Committee Chairman

Preparing the Next Generation of Pastors

The Church of God (Seventh Day) is committed to raising up faithful, equipped pastors to serve the body of Christ. During the upcoming General Conference Convention, a special meeting will be held for students and potential students studying pastoral ministry through Artios Christian College, as well as those wanting to advance to license or credentials. This gathering is a valuable opportunity to connect, encourage, and outline the next steps toward pastoral ministry within our church.

One of the key areas we will discuss is the process by which pastoral candidates are evaluated and affirmed in the ministry. In the Church of God (Seventh Day), this important responsibility is handled by the License and Credentials Committee (L&CC). This committee ensures that candidates meet both the biblical and organizational standards necessary for a local pastor certificate, license, or credentials.

The meeting will also walk students through the formal requirements for pastoral ministry. These include completing appropriate theological education, demonstrating character and leadership in a local congregation, securing pastoral mentoring, and fulfilling the experiential and doctrinal standards outlined by the Church. A clear path will be presented, helping students understand each stage of preparation — from initial education to the application for licensing and credentials.

The goal is to support future pastors not only in their studies but also in their spiritual development and readiness to serve. We invite all interested students, current ministerial workers, and those considering a calling to pastoral work to attend. Together, we will explore how God is preparing leaders for His church and how we can walk faithfully in that calling.

We are excited to see how the Spirit is moving among the next generation of leaders and excited to partner with each of you in answering God's call.

— Stephen J. Kyner
L&C Committee Chairman

Pastor Search

The Visalia, California church is seeking a part-time/full-time pastor. All interested candidates should contact Larry Zaragoza, West Coast District Superintendent: email: *zman52@msn.com*; cell: (559) 967-3383.

ARTIOS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Late Winter 2025 Graduates

Ottoniel Timoteo Perez, Atlanta, GA (Certificate of Leadership Studies)
Elias Gomez Perez, Worthington, MN (Certificate of Leadership Studies)

https://artioscollege.org/academic-programs/#certificate-of-leadership-studies

Winter 2025 Dean's List* Recipients

William Aba, Stamford, CT; Alex Baez, Santee, CA; Pete Capetillo, Albuquerque, NM; Aaron Coulson, Allegan, MI; Dan Davila, Justice, IL; Arnulfo de la Cruz, Stamford, CT; Adiel De leon, Lantana, FL; Pedro Estrada, Pico Rivera, CA; Manuel Huizar, San Jacinto, CA; Jacob Keim, Eugene, OR; Alirio Luna Sosa, Bridgeport, CT; René Marroquin, Basking Ridge, NJ; Pablo Martinez, Sherman Oaks, CA; Elizabeth Perez, Homestead, FL; Jose Perez, West Palm Beach, FL; Margarito Perez, West Palm Beach, FL; Ottoniel Timoteo Perez, Atlanta, GA; Justo Perez Marroquin, Homestead, FL; Ledy Portocarrero Agredo Rebeca Ramirez, Los Lunas, NM; Oscar Retana, Moreno Valley, CA; Jesus Velazquez, Lakeland, FL.

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

Summer Classes

COM 121 Written Communication for Leadership
COM 341 Expository Preaching
LEA 111 Essentials of Vibrant Leadership
LEA 121 The Christian Life
PSY 321 Principles of Counseling

Register at *https://my.artioscollege.org/en/courses.*

Calendar Events

July 5 - Graduation Commencement at GC Convention
July 14 - Summer registration closes
July 20 - Summer classes begin

Last Call for Convention!

Salt Lake City is the place to be;
Bring all your friends and family.
Hop on the train; get on board:
Join in as we worship our Lord.

Now is the time for the body uniting.
Get in the act; it's you we're inviting!
Connections to make and sights to see
With you and your CoG7 family.

Convention '25 holds something for all.
Hear God's heart and answer His call.
Now you're tracking; we're on the same page.
This is your time to come and ENGAGE!

Go to *cog7.org/convention* to register and finalize your spot for this GC Biennial Convention June 30 – July 5 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Hotel reservations must be made by June 9. Reservations made after this date are not guaranteed to receive our convention rate.

Online registration is still available for a small late fee but will close on June 24. Registrations after this date can be made in person at the event.

Meal tickets need to be purchased by June 24.

All aboard!

Engage

ARTIOS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

See you at GC Convention! Watch for Artios . . .

- Five Artios-sponsored workshops on Biblical Eldership, Church Administration, and The Equipping Model of Ministry;
- Meet-n-Greet event after the Thursday evening service;
- Graduation Commencement on Saturday afternoon;
- Our exhibit — stop by to say "hi" and to pick up some Artios swag.

Every Gift Counts!

Times have changed in fifty years. The cost of business keeps rising, with printing and postage rates at an all-time high. If you can give a one-time gift or partner with us monthly, quarterly, or annually, it would be appreciated.

Help us keep the *Bible Advocate* free so we can continue to minister through the written word. It's easy to donate:

- **by check, mailed to P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233. Make sure you designate Bible Advocate on the memo line;**
- **online at *https://secure.cog7.org/giving/*.**

Thank you!