

# CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference  
Church of God (Seventh Day)

**December 2014 -  
January 2015**

Volume 7 • Number 1

**2014 Emphases**

**January - NAWM**

February - SWORD

March - Publications

April - LifeSpring

May - World Missions

June - Youth

July - Missions

August - Spring Vale

September -  
Publications

October - LifeSpring

November - Missions

**December - G. C.  
Ministries**

## A Viable General Conference

Unique to the Church of God (Seventh Day) is the fact that several different organizations operate under that name; the Denver operation is only one of them. Others operate from Meridian, Idaho; Salem, West Virginia; Vancouver, British Columbia, Toronto, Canada; and several locations that claim to represent “the Jerusalem work” of the late A. N. Dugger.

At the risk of undue comparison, I’ll assert that our General Conference is the most viable of them. That’s essentially what I was asked to explain during a meeting of independent CoG7 leaders on the East Coast: “What does the General Conference have to offer that other similar CoG7 organizations do not?” It is a reasonable question, and it deserves a substantive answer.

My answer is woven around three elements: longevity, capacity, and diversity. Its time-tested efforts that span more than a century-and-a-half set the General Conference above the rest. This long history gives it greater capacity for ministry here at home and around the world. And its demographic makeup, racial and ethnic mix, and various worship styles, etc., reflect a degree of diversity that makes the G. C. unique among its counterparts.

This isn’t everything that needs to be said about viability. While the G. C. is more viable than its counterparts, it has a long way to go in becoming the vibrant twenty-first century church we envision. Please watch for my final membership letter to be distributed early in the coming year, in which I treat this topic more extensively.

Meanwhile, it goes without saying that the Conference’s viability is possible only because of your membership and active participation in it. And this being the time of year when ministries like ours make an extra push for financial support, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contributions throughout the year and ask that you consider how you might make the General Conference even more viable through a year-end, tax-deductible donation. It will make a big difference. Thanks in advance.

Finally, please join me in prayer for the major transitions that will ensue within the General Conference in the coming months — that we will make the best of every opportunity, by God’s grace, and for His glory!

— *Whaid Guscott Rose*

# A 40-Day Prayer Challenge

January 1 – February 9, 2015

**Begin 2015 with the forty-day prayer plan that will change your life plan.**

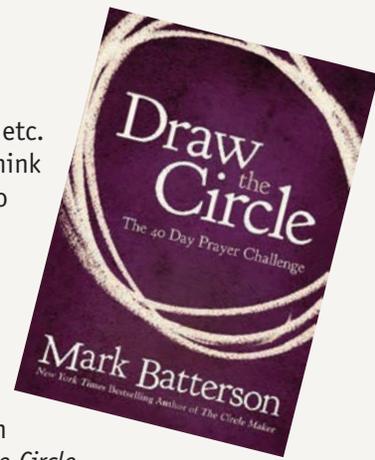
There's a Draw the Circle movement in CoG7. It began with one leader whose heart was strongly drawn to Mark Batterson's book on prayer, *Draw the Circle*. He shared it with me, gave a copy to our Denver office staff, the board of directors, and then to attendees at the 2014 Ministerial Council.

I'm inspired to make this the focus of this year's Prayer Initiative. Over the past many years, I've offered various prayer themes and topics, and now it seems fitting that my final initiative focuses on prayer itself, which is what *Draw the Circle* is all about: the power of bold prayers, how they honor God, and how God honors them.

Some are skeptical of this material:

**Claim God-given promises, pursue God-sized dreams, seize God-ordained opportunities!**

pie in the sky, name it, claim it, etc. But for me, it challenges us to think outside the box when it comes to prayer. There's nothing magical about drawing circles, nothing spiritual about praying for forty days. But there's something powerful about watching God give more of Himself to us as we give more of ourselves to Him in prayer, the passion of *Draw the Circle*.



## How to prepare

- Commit to spending time each day around this material, beginning January 1, as an individual, a family, or local church prayer group. Each daily reading takes only 5-10 minutes.
- Order your copy of *Draw the Circle* (available wherever Christian books are sold).
- Order *Draw the Circle* in Spanish, available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or at [Christianbooks.com](http://Christianbooks.com).

Additional recommended resources include *The Circle Maker*, the inspiring book by Mark Batterson from which the forty-day prayer challenge is drawn. This is recommended for reading in preparation for the initiative. A *Draw the Circle* DVD curriculum is also recommended.



## “Worship in the Spirit” Conference Tour Update

**New York/New Jersey:** On Sabbath, October 11, 2014, some 700 brothers and sisters worshipped and responded to God's Word preached in Andover, New Jersey. This third stop of the tour was held at the SDA Conference Center. There were congregations and delegations from Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. To God be the glory!

**Fort Smith, Arkansas:** Some 250 folks from Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas attended this October 25 stop held at the Fort Smith local church facility. A receptive crowd, great fellowship, and lots of food made it a meaningful and memorable occasion.

### Coming up . . .

**December 6, 2014:** Port St. Lucie, Florida — Treasure Coast CoG7, 4051 SW Savona Blvd.; contact: Al Haynes (772-878-5383; cell: 772-979-3577; [luciansaint@yahoo.com](mailto:luciansaint@yahoo.com))

**December 13, 2014:** Phoenix, Arizona — **Casa Torre Fuerte**, 2927 N. 35th Ave.; contact: Gabriel Guzman (602-402-8829; [gzm\\_chiajchiul@yahoo.com](mailto:gzm_chiajchiul@yahoo.com))

**January 17, 2015:** Lodi, California — Church of God (Seventh Day), 2100 Tienda Drive; contact: Loren Stacy (209-368-1000; [lodcg7@gmail.com](mailto:lodcg7@gmail.com))

**March 21, 2015:** San Fernando, California; contact Jorge Herrera (818-378-7568; [jdhp4life@aol.com](mailto:jdhp4life@aol.com))

**April 11, 2015:** Church of God (Seventh Day), Acme, Alberta (Canada); contact Robert Grabinsky ([westagra@gmail.com](mailto:westagra@gmail.com))

**May 2, 2015:** Chicago, Illinois — to be announced (rented facility being negotiated); contact Juan Arzet (773-648-1524; [arzet8@yahoo.com](mailto:arzet8@yahoo.com))

## LifeSpring

Out of a commitment to providing quality lectures for each course and to allow as many people as possible to benefit from these teachings, LifeSpring records all of its lectures *live* in congregations throughout the United States and Canada. Since the LifeSpring Seminar Series began in 2013, at least twenty seminar events in English and Spanish, with topics ranging from family ministry to the history of Christianity, have been webcast live. More seminar series events are being planned for 2015. Your congregation can host one by contacting [office@lifespringschool.org](mailto:office@lifespringschool.org).

## Spring Vale Academy

At Spring Vale we are passionately continuing our ministry to teens. Studies by the Barna Group indicate a large majority of people come to Christ before age 18. Our goal is not just to help teens make a decision for Christ but to build a solid foundation that will last into adulthood and help them serve the Church for years to come. A review of Church leadership reflects that God is granting us some success. Praise His name! The future of the church and society depends on the next generation carrying the baton of truth forward.

The administration at Spring Vale is working hard to make the school affordable for all who want to attend. We have structured individual financial plans and made grants to students based on our confidence that "the Lord will provide" as He has in the past.

Can you donate to the Student Scholarship Fund? Gifts are completely tax-deductible and will be granted to students who need support. We currently have a few students waiting on God for the funds to attend this coming semester. We are also taking applications for the winter semester, which begins January 13, 2015.

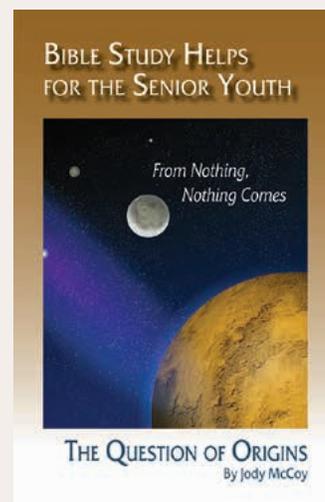
Those who wish to donate to the Student Scholarship Fund (SSF) can send checks to Spring Vale Academy, 4150 S. M52, Owosso, MI 48867. Be sure to note this fund on the memo line. You can also utilize the Donate button with a credit card or Pay Pal account on the school website ([www.springvale.us](http://www.springvale.us)). When using the Donate button for this cause, please mark your donation "SSF."

Call Scott Fischer, admissions director, for more information (989-721-8584).

## Publications



**Attention all senior youth classes!** A unique set of lessons titled *The Question of Origins* is scheduled for the first quarter of 2015. Four lessons are devoted to three topics each: Origin of the Universe, Origin of Life, and Origin of Species. These lessons by Jody McCoy are a condensed version of his book *From Nothing, Comes Nothing*, to be published mid-2015.



These lessons explain where the teachings of Darwinism, evolution, and related topics come from, revealing their false premises and teachings. Any youth who have been exposed to these erroneous teachings in public schools will benefit greatly from *The Question of Origins*.

In addition, we encourage parents with children in public schools to purchase these lessons so they can teach them a biblical perspective.

Other lessons available for the first quarter:

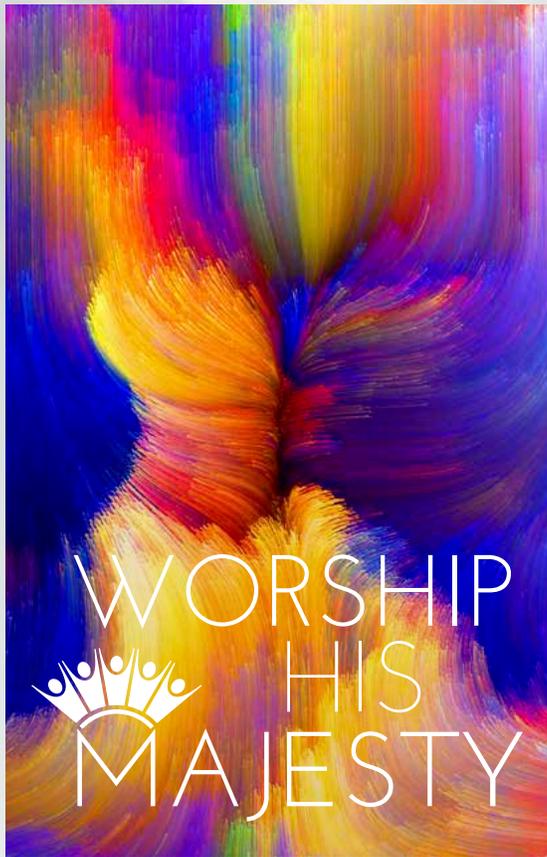
**Adult:** *The Epistle Of James: Active Faith* looks at the first New Testament book written. It emphasizes Christian ethics, still relevant for today.

**Junior high:** *The Greatest Life Ever Lived (Part 1)* covers the prophecies of Jesus' birth, events related to His birth, and the early part of His ministry.

**Intermediate (grades 4-6):** *The Early Church Begins* starts with Jesus' return to heaven and Pentecost. Other lessons teach about the boldness of the apostles, outstanding miracles, and the trials and victories of the church.

**Primary (grades 1-3):** *The Life and Ministry of Jesus* takes students from the early part of Jesus' ministry to His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, then to His betrayal at the hands of one of His own disciples.

**Preschool/kindergarten:** *Jesus, God's Power and Love Revealed* teaches about His miracles. These lessons cover the early ministry of Jesus to His triumphal entry and cleansing of the temple.



PREVIEW  
GENERAL CONFERENCE  
CONVENTION  
2015

## A PERSONAL INVITATION

You—yes, each and every one of you—are warmly invited to be part of the big CoG7 family reunion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 29–July 4, 2015. OK, perhaps you're not used to referring to biennial conventions as a family reunion. We, however, like to think of it that way—a reunion of brothers and sisters in Christ where we fellowship, catch up with old friends, make new ones, share in instructional seminars, receive inspiration from dynamic worship services, and conduct the business of the Church.

We're also excited about the convention theme, "Worship His Majesty," and look forward to how it will be fleshed out during convention week. Imagine what it will be like to offer praise with hundreds of fellow believers. Can you hear the music?

On these pages you'll find lots of good information to help you plan for the big family reunion in Milwaukee! We truly look forward to seeing you there!

Ken and Mary Jean Knoll  
Program Committee Co-chairs

*More convention information is available at [cog7.org](http://cog7.org).*



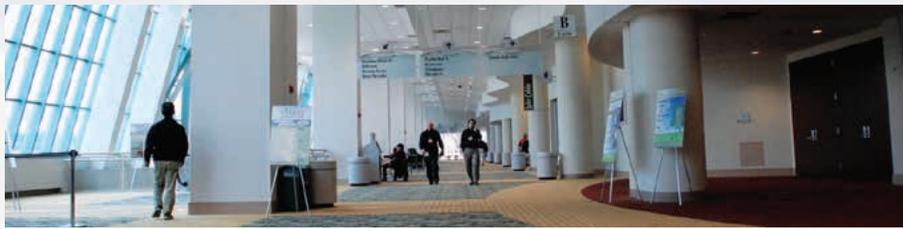
## Worship Services

Join with fellow believers in lifting hearts, hands, and voices in heartfelt worship to our Lord, Savior, and coming King. Look forward to stirring sermons that remind us of the life, death, resurrection, and second coming of Jesus.

## Accommodations

Milwaukee Hilton City Center, the convention hotel, was built in 1927 and has been recently renovated. You will be impressed with the rich furnishings and distinctive architecture. Located among the downtown hotels on Wisconsin Avenue, it is connected to the Wisconsin Center. The 1920s grandeur and elegance, combined with today's modern conveniences, makes this a great place for the family to gather.

Detailed reservation information will be available in early 2015. Hotel rates: \$99 per night, plus taxes and parking.



## Meals

Perhaps the most innovative change in this convention will be the varied meal options for attendees. With the proximity of the Hilton and Wisconsin Center to downtown restaurants and food courts, attendees can easily take a short 1-2 block stroll to enjoy a meal. Meal options will also be available in a dedicated room within the Wisconsin Center on a day-by-day and individual meal basis, offered pay-as-you-go rather than using meal tickets.

There will also be special meal functions for various G. C. Ministries, as usual.



## Convention Meeting Facilities

Completed in 1999, the Wisconsin Center has more than ample space to accommodate our meeting and mealtime activities. We will have at least 15-20 separate meeting spaces to conduct activities during a single day. The Wisconsin Center also has open gathering spaces for visiting with other attendees.

Visit [wcd.org](http://wcd.org) for more information.



## Business Sessions

We will break with tradition and conduct convention business in the morning. General sessions and seminars, primarily focusing on the art and heart of worship, will be presented during most afternoons.

Thursday afternoon will be free for family gatherings and opportunities to visit the many Milwaukee attractions.

SVA Alumni Weekend  
 March 20-22, 2015  
 "SVA Generations"



We encourage all former staff and alumni to contact friends and schoolmates to attend Alumni Weekend so we can have as many classes represented as possible. We are planning a multi-generational extravaganza, with lots of activities and events. It won't be the same without you!

The classes of 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2005 are big years — 10-25 years since graduation. Take advantage of this opportunity to have the super reunion you've always dreamed of!

Celebrating Retreats



**Northeast District Men:** Ninety brothers from eight Northeast District congregations in Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia were edified August 29-31 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Reading, Pennsylvania. Guest speaker Elder Ezra Viveros (Mexican CoG7 Conference) taught about the biblical perspective on masculinity at church and at home — being complete men of integrity in the Lord. We thank God for His holy presence throughout this retreat. — *Pastor Johny Solorzano*

**Michigan Men:** Seventy-four "band of brothers" came together October 24-26 to fellowship, learn, and be challenged physically and spiritually. Topics covered our past, knowing the Enemy, and realizing that we can live in victory today. Our time together was topped off with worship, testimonies, the zip line, a polar plunge, archery, burgers at midnight, and paintball. Praise God we have continued to grow every year. — *Steve Rodriguez*

GOODBYE, BECKY!

She was the smiling face and friendly voice of the Denver front office for nearly six years. Many of you were helped by her efficiency and blessed by her energy. But on November 25, Becky Robinson, receptionist in the General Conference office, waved goodbye to her friends and co-workers and headed to Ohio, where she and her husband, Rick, will live.



In addition to seeking work, Becky looks forward to spending time with family and traveling to nearby states. Eventually she would like a job as a camp director or perhaps a DJ — whatever the Lord has planned for her. Before her office farewell, Becky commented, "I'm on another adventure with God, not exactly sure where I'll end up . . . but knowing that as I continue to place one foot in front of the other, taking one day at a time, and focusing on the task presently in front of me, the Lord's plans are being worked out."

Amber Schlenker, from Alfred, North Dakota, is Becky's replacement. Welcome, Amber!



**Area III Women:** Seventy women from the Northeast District arrived September 26-28 at Sandy Cove Retreat Center in Maryland to admire the handiwork of God and the breathtaking sunset blazing across the sky and the Chesapeake Bay. With a plethora of activities about our theme "Returning to the Heart of Worship," we were reminded that we may have strayed from the true meaning of worship and must return to God. We live in worship because "worship is a lifestyle" and "worship is to show submission to the One who is worthy." Among other things, we enjoyed corporate worship, prayer, a session of consecration, various excellent presentations, a "world tour" exploring the cultural styles of worship

portrayed by five sisters, and testimonies of women receiving healing through worship. Our weekend of worship culminated with Sister June Bobcombe guiding our hearts to a “spiritual mountain climb,” with women pledging to be beautiful-beatitude-women of worship.

— *Claudia Guy*



**Northeast District Women:** Women arrived October 3-5 at Mackinaw Island, Michigan, to find no cars on the island and a taxi consisting of a horse-drawn buggy instead. Ninety-four women worshipped together, praising the Lord, praying, and fellowshiping as part of the “Sisters with a Testimony” weekend. The “liquid sunshine” kept us indoors so we could draw closer together in one accord. We shared the confidence that God is with us at *all times!* — *Esther Winchell*

## LifeSpring in the Bronx



Pastor Granville Mullings from Yonkers, New York, summarized it best: “This was a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. ‘Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life!’” LifeSpring Seminar Series came to New York the third weekend in November 2014 to present *This We Believe: Teachings of the Church of God (Seventh Day)*, and we were richly blessed.

Elders Calvin Burrell and Israel Steinmetz exercised their gifts of preaching and teaching to summarize why we believe what we believe. Ten hours were just not enough and left us wanting some more. More than 200 participated on Saturday and around 70 on Sunday. The event was hosted by Pastors Crayton, Lewis, and Mullings and their congregations at the Bronx CoG7, with full support from Pastor Douglas, his ministry team, and congregation. Affiliated and non-affiliated congregations were united by God’s Word. They were, indeed, “Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.”

## CALENDAR 2014-15

**January 1-4, 2015** - Southwest District Winter Retreat (single young adults and youth), Hoblitzel Camp and Conference Center, Midlothian, TX; contact: Jason and Rose Rodriguez ([jandrodri.quez@att.net](mailto:jandrodri.quez@att.net))

**January 13** - Spring Vale classes begin; visit [springvale.us](http://springvale.us)

**May 23-24** - National Women’s Ministry Conference, All Saints Academy, Gloucestershire, England, UK; theme: “Married to the Main Man”; contact: Marvet Simpson ([marvetsimpsonsaved@hotmail.com](mailto:marvetsimpsonsaved@hotmail.com))

**May 29-31** - Southwest District SWORD Retreat, Brookhaven Christian Retreat, Hawkins, TX; contact: Jacqui Melgoza (210-900-9889; [sword@cog7.org](mailto:sword@cog7.org))

**August 28-30** - Michigan Women’s Retreat, Gladwin, MI; Springs Retreat Center; details to come

### LifeSpring Calendar Events

**December 2** - Winter district scholarship applications due

**December 9** - Winter general scholarship applications due

**December 30** - Winter course registration ends

**January 11** - Winter classes begin

**February 9** - Spring course registration opens

**February 10** - Spring certificate program early applications due

**February 24** - Spring district scholarship applications due

Copyright © 2014 General Conference  
of the Church of God (Seventh Day)

**Churchright** is a bimonthly newsletter published by the General Conference Church of God (Seventh Day). It is dedicated to communicating relevant Church news and cultivating a “culture of excellence.”

Church of God (Seventh Day)  
P. O. Box 33677 • Denver, CO 80233  
Phone: (303) 452-7973 • Fax: (303) 452-0657  
[churchright@cog7.org](mailto:churchright@cog7.org) • [cog7.org](http://cog7.org)

# We are G. C. Ministries



General Conference Church of God (Seventh Day)

- LIFESPRING SCHOOL OF MINISTRY**  
Equipping leaders for today and tomorrow.
- MISSIONS MINISTRIES**  
Glorifying God around the world by proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, teaching the Word, and equipping believers to serve the nations.
- NATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY**  
Enabling youth to lift up their hands in intimate worship to God, lend an encouraging hand to each other, and stretch out a helping hand to those in need.
- NORTH AMERICAN WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**  
Uniting women by encouraging each one to find her place in the Church's ministry.
- PUBLICATIONS**  
Producing and distributing literature to edify Christians and to evangelize those who don't know Christ.
- SWORD**  
Equipping and encouraging our passionate 18-35-year-olds through online resources, events, and networking with other G. C. ministries.
- SPRING VALE ACADEMY**  
Learning in the light of Christ today; preparing Christian leaders for tomorrow  
Support these ministries by giving online at [cog7.org](http://cog7.org).

## North American Women's Ministries

Several years ago, North American Women's Ministries initiated Women's Ministry Day. This program allows the sisters to share their unique heart for ministry with their congregations.

I encourage you to set aside *one* Sabbath a year for this program, preferably the first Sabbath in March. The sisters are responsible for all aspects of the worship hour.



Grace Sanchez  
Director

January is NAWM  
Emphasis Month

The theme for Women's Ministry Day 2015 is "W.O.W. Women of Worship," chosen to coincide with our church's present emphasis on worship.

May God bless your celebration and may you reap many blessings.