

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 6

October - November 2015



Annual IMC Sabbath
Worldwide

Sabbath, November 7, 2015

All congregations with one accord.

Per resolution of the International Ministerial Congress of the Church of God (Seventh Day):

1. The first Sabbath in November of every year has been designated to be celebrated by every CoG7 congregation around the world as the Annual IMC Sabbath Worldwide.
2. The IMC will provide important and relevant information and material to be shared.
3. Each CoG7 congregation in the world is asked to
 - a. Plan a special service for that day;
 - b. Present all the information and material received from the IMC;
 - c. Offer prayers on behalf of the IMC work worldwide;
 - d. Collect a generous special offering and earmark it "IMC."

Start with Why

According to author Simon Sinek, there are three basic ways to influence people. You can start with What, you can start with How, or you can start with Why. Sinek advocates starting with Why and, if you consider the gospel, it appears that the Holy Spirit does, too.

As always, this issue of *Churchright* contains much positive and encouraging information about things God is doing in and through our church. The following pages include a lot of What and even some How. Please allow me, however, to begin this issue by focusing on the Why. Why do we, the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), do what we do?

There are so many possible Whys, but I've been seeking an ultimate Why — to borrow a phrase recently used by Bill Hybels, a "white hot Why." For example, we might say that we do what we do because we love God. But why do we love God?

At least for now, I've settled on Romans 6:23 as my white hot Why: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (NASB). In that brief sentence, in that short summation of a plea for a Christ-centered, grace-oriented practice of righteous living, I find our Why. Because of sin, we are surrounded by a culture of death and dying, by people experiencing pain and hopelessness. But because of God's love and grace toward humanity, life eternal and abundant is available as a free gift from God, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Why do we do what we do? We do it because we are loved and transformed to love. We do it because we have been rescued from death and introduced into life. We do it because the love of Christ compels us to do it. Enjoy the What and the How as you read — but please remember the Why.

— Loren Stacy

Upcoming Emphases

December - G. C. Ministries • January - Publications

Denver Office Transitions

While much has been written about the recent transition from General Conference President Whaid Rose to new President Loren Stacy and new Executive Director Jody McCoy, this is not the only significant transition of personnel within our Denver offices.

Bookkeeper Lupe Chavez resigned in order to care for aging parents, and **Susana Apolinar** has been hired to keep our books in order. Missions Ministries Director Calvin Burrell continues his missions work from his new home in Stayton, Oregon. Elder Burrell has passed the baton of editor of the *Bible Advocate* to Elder Jason Overman. (Be sure to read the September-October BA to meet our new editor!)



IT specialist Rocky Cardwell has also moved out of the G. C. office but will continue serving LifeSpring School of Ministry part-time. **Christopher Idemmili**, from the St. Paul, Minnesota CoG7, has been hired as our new full-time, on-site IT specialist.

Change of plans. Rick Frye, formerly director of operations, has resigned and accepted another position. Loren Stacy and Jody McCoy launched a search for someone to fill the position of director of administration but decided on a better option.

Accordingly, their search has ended with the promotion of Facilities Manager **Eddie Villalba** to office and facilities manager. Elder Villalba was already employed part-time and is well respected by the staff. He accepted this added responsibility effective August 24.



New leaders hit the ground running. Loren Stacy and Jody McCoy spent July 20-24 in our Denver offices, where they met the Denver team members and received an extensive orientation from Whaid Rose. Since then,

both Loren and Jody have spent additional weeks in Denver separately in order to fill personnel gaps during transition. They have been aided greatly by a welcoming Denver office staff, accountant Dawn Wayman, Rick Frye, and Elder Rose.

In addition to hiring needed personnel, both Loren and Jody have begun to fulfill their responsibilities, participating in countless e-mail and telephone conversations, as well as many in-person and telephone meetings with district superintendents and Ministries directors.

Bylaws Revision Committee Change

During our 2015 convention in Milwaukee, the members in session voted to send the proposed revised General Conference bylaws back to the Bylaws Revision Committee for further work. Following convention, our board of directors elected Samuel Holland, chair of that committee, to be the 2015-2017 chairman of the board. Because Elder Holland cannot serve as chairman of the 2017 convention's business meeting and as chairman of the Bylaws Revision Committee at the same time, he has resigned as committee chairman. Elder Israel Steinmetz has been appointed to replace Elder Holland in that role.



Spring Vale Academy

The school year is off to a great start with 22 new students. With three international students from China and Mexico, this brings the fall enrollment to 52. Spring Vale also welcomes several new staff members and their families: Brian Franks, Joanna (Noble) Thomas, David DiFranco, and Helen and Ora Miller.

Spring Vale accepts enrollment throughout the school year, so it's not too late to join the SVA family. Call Scott Fischer, enrollment director, at 989-725-2391 for more details.

New this year, SVA is collaborating with the Northeast District to host the BRIDGE Co-Mission, the youth and young adult ministry of the NED. This ministry helps young people come to terms with who they are in Christ and find their calling as they transition into adulthood. To learn more, please visit bridgecomission.com, or look them up on Facebook.

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

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LifeSpring EQUIPS in Jamaica

Israel Steinmetz, dean of Academic Affairs for LifeSpring School of Ministry, was the special guest at the Jamaican Conference's 66th General Convention July 30 - August 2. Israel presented training August 4-7 in biblical, theological, and leadership studies to Church leaders. At the end of the week, attendees received continuing education certificates with the seals of both the Jamaica Conference and LifeSpring.

LifeSpring's goal is to not only prepare men for membership in the NAMC but also equip men and women to serve the Church in various capacities, both in North America and around the world. Its English language programs are open to international students, and it has served students from Australia, England, and Argentina.

In September, LifeSpring started conducting EQUIP Weekends, aimed at equipping the body of Christ in local churches, districts, or other groups in various topics/skills. The next EQUIP event will be October 23-25 in the Western Canada District. For more information, visit LifeSpringSchool.org.

LifeSpring Grads

Congratulations to Esther Winchell (Saginaw, Michigan), who graduated last summer with a certificate of worship ministry.

Also, congratulations to these folks who are the Summer 2015 Dean's List recipients*: Ruben Beard, El Paso, Texas; Victoria Capetillo, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Juan Chapaz, Stamford, Connecticut; Eliel Cortez, Channelview, Texas; Joel Delgado, San Antonio, Texas; Ricardo Flores, Garland, Texas; Agustin Garcia, Addison, Illinois; Francisco Garcia Gonzalez, Brownsville, Texas; Ismari Garcia, Round Rock, Texas; Careta Grant, Pottstown, Pennsylvania; Kirk Grant, Pottstown, Pennsylvania; Javier Guerrero, Centennial, Colorado; Marcial Hernandez, Hickory Hills, Illinois; Alejandro Larios, San Antonio, Texas; Esteban Morales, Antioch, Tennessee; Felipe Orduno, Escondido, California; Marita Reese, Maricopa, Arizona; Oliva Romero, El Paso, Texas; Luis Salazar, Bellingham, Washington; Priscila Sanchez, Allen, Texas; Samuel Santos Preza, Laval, Quebec; Howard Simpson, Derby, England; Andrea Slawson, Owosso, Michigan; Esther Winchell, Saginaw, Michigan.

* These students took courses half time and earned a minimum 3.5 GPA.

CALENDAR 2015

October 10 - Northeast District Super Sabbath, Washington, D.C.; guest speakers: IMC officers; contact: hebervega@gmail.com

October 30 - November 1 - Southwest District Women's Retreat, Salvation Army Camp Hoblitzelle, Midlothian, TX; deadline for registration: September 18; contacts: Rosie Davila (361-739-1147; mdrdavila@hotmail.com) or Mari Cummings (361-960-4423; mariselacummings@hotmail.com)

LifeSpring Calendar Events

November 17- winter certificate program early applications due

December 1- winter district scholarship applications due

December 8 - winter general scholarship applications due

December 29 - winter course registration ends

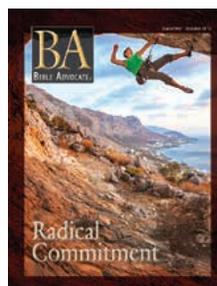


SHINE Mission

Do you want to be a part of the SHINE mission team to Bogotá, Colombia, February 7-13, 2016? Applications are now posted online (September-October) at SHINE Facebook (under "Shine Mission"), shinecog7.org, and General Conference site (cog7.org).

To go on the Colombia mission, you must submit an application. Previously completed applications do not qualify. Only those posted in September and October on the three websites will be accepted.

2016 Bible Advocate Themes



Who's ready for 2016? The BA is! For next year, Editor Jason Overman has chosen the theme "Equip for Discipleship." Based on Ephesians 4:11-13 and 2 Timothy 3:16, the BA will cover a different theme for each issue. Visit baonline.org for more details.



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To sponsor this work, visit cog7.org/giving or earmark your local offering "Cristo Viene - Monthly." Thank you!

Contact us at 303-452-7973 or gcmisions@cog7.org.

November is Missions Emphasis.



Find out more at gcmisions.cog7.org
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