

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

VOLUME 9 • NUMBER 6

October - November 2017



CALENDAR 2017

October 20-22 - Young Adult SWORD Retreat (ages 18-30), Sky Camp, southeast of Eugene, OR

October 20-22 - Octoberfest Family Camp, Jasper, AR

October 21 - Marion CoG7 75th anniversary celebration

October 27-29 - SWD Women's District Retreat, Waxachite, TX

Artios Calendar Events

October 22 - Late fall course registration ends

October 29 - December 10 - Late fall classes in session

For a complete listing of events, please visit churchright.org.

Responding to Disaster

As I write, it is Monday, September 11, 2017. Here in the United States, the news is almost entirely focused on disasters. Some disasters are created by human evil: It is the sixteenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the twin towers in New York City and on the Pentagon near Washington, DC. It is the fifth anniversary of the attack on US facilities in Benghazi, Libya, and the murder of our ambassador there.

There are also natural disasters — in the present instance, those Hurricane Harvey perpetrated upon Texas and that Hurricane Irma poured out upon Florida and the islands.

Much of this issue of *Churchright* is focused on these recent natural disasters and our church's response. You will read "On the Ground Reports" of what is presently known regarding the damage to our brothers and sisters in Corpus Christi and Houston, Texas, and in Florida. You will read about the Disaster Relief Fund and how it is helping affected members and congregations. You will learn of the benefits of organizational structure and members willing to serve throughout our church's branches at times such as these. And, of course, you will read of other good things, unrelated to these disasters, being done throughout our General Conference districts, ministries, and congregations.

While we focus on these horrible natural disasters, may I briefly remind you of an even worse disaster? More than once during the last few weeks, I have been inspired by the generous donations made to the Disaster Relief Fund and by members making themselves available to go into the affected areas to help clean up and rebuild. And more than once during the last few weeks, Executive Director Jody McCoy has shared with me this thought: We are in the midst of a constant and continuing disaster. People all around us are being lost for all eternity because they don't know Jesus as Savior and Lord. Oh, that our response to that disaster might be as immediate and as urgent as it is to the disasters of winds and floods.

— Loren Stacy



District News



Southeast

The SED held its annual Leaders Conference August 11-13, 2017, in Oldsmar, FL. Approximately 100 leaders and wives attended, representing every state in the district. On Sabbath, Elder Tereso Hernandez and Pastor Jeff Endecott delivered sermons. Presentations were made for women's, men's, and youth ministries. Superintendent Steve Krome also explained the new GC bylaws and their impact on local churches. He is pictured above, center.

Northeast

In 1965, Sister Hannah Gouldbourne migrated from Jamaica to Washington, DC, where she attended SHILO CoG7 for ten years. In 1975, she planted a church in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1979, she moved and began an evangelistic outreach in Boston.

Property was acquired in 1984. As the church outgrew the building, the property was sold, and the church met in rental properties for many years. A new building was acquired in 2012. It took almost five years to obtain the necessary permits and complete all renovations. The first Sabbath service was held December 17, 2016, but the official dedication service took place August 6, 2017. Sister Hannah's son, Donald, has pastored this congregation since 1989. Praise God for Sister Hannah's and her family's dedication to share the good news of the gospel!



Years ago, a former SDA volunteer pastor and his wife contacted our GC office to learn about CoG7. After some phone interaction with Elder Calvin Burrell and receiving our literature, Paul and Andi Dixon drove 100 miles on June 6, 2013, to visit our congregation in Moundsville, West Virginia.

Elder Burrell connected them with the Northeast District. After a few phone conversations, Superintendent Vega traveled to Fairmont and met with Paul and Andi the following August. Memberships were granted and certificates were issued that summer through the Moundsville congregation.

On September 7, 2013, the Berean CoG7 mission opened its doors in Fairmont, West Virginia.

In early 2014, a church building was acquired and paid in full, with the Lord's miraculous provision through a family in the Moundsville congregation. In October 2014, two more members joined the congregation. The Northeast District then changed its status from *mission to church* as the tenth and eleventh membership certificates were issued.

On May 2, 2015, the NED presented the congregation with its certificate of affiliation during special joint services with the Moundsville congregation.

The congregation celebrated its fourth anniversary on Sabbath, September 9, 2017. Some members from Moundsville, Sister Marna Renteria, rep for Area V, and Superintendent Heber Vega were present.

— Heber Vega

Western Canada

August 19-20 was a Spirit-filled weekend as brethren and friends of the Western Canadian churches converged on Calgary. Pastor Howard Green (Toronto) encouraged us to understand the role of the Holy Ghost in a vibrant 21st century church.

Brethren came from near and far to be encouraged and reminded that God has purposefully gifted His church. Noteworthy among the guests was Ister Violet Chalus, wife of the late elder Paul Chalus of Calgary.

We continued on Sunday with a special leadership meeting and sermon, again highlighting the Spirit as an encourager. God truly blessed us abundantly.

— Orville Rose

Southwest

On Saturday, May 29, Ruben Beard, pastor of the Central CoG7 in El Paso TX, was ordained with a ministerial license. Superintendent Chip Hinds (left) conducted the ordination. Also



pictured: Pastor Beard's wife, Susana.

The Central CoG7 in El Paso held Vacation Bible School July 24-28 with the theme "Galactic Stargate Voyagers." Around 70 children attended, and volunteers did a wonderful job explaining the greatness of our universe created by God.



The SWD Student Ministries had a blast together August 10-13, as they encountered the King of their lives. Students from all over the district worshipped, praised, and participated in small-group lessons and activities.



Pastor Wanted

The Philadelphia CoG7 in Chicago is looking for a new pastor. Interested candidates can send an e-mail to Iglesiafiladelfiacog7@gmail.com or to Axelvalle74@yahoo.com for details and instructions.



All summer, Vacation Bible School was the main topic across the SWD. Kids discovered the invisible God and were in awe when they learned that He created them with love, and that they are part of the kingdom. Children responded to the call and enjoyed the activities, lessons, and games.



Youth from the Central CoG7 in El Paso held a rally August 4-5. The theme "Echoes Through Time" focused on finding their spiritual gifts and how to use them in Christ's calling. The weekend was full of games, worship, and fellowship with youth from Texas, Arizona, and Albuquerque. On Saturday afternoon, Moises Capetillo led the service.

Strong Conferences

SWD-SWORD will have Strong Conferences throughout the SWD. Their main goal is to gather young adults who are passionate about seeing Jesus lifted high in their lives and in all the young people of CoG7. Upcoming Strong Conferences will be October 13 (Dallas, Texas) and November 10 (Brownsville, Texas).

Copyright © 2017 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 • churchright.org



On the Ground Reports

Many of our members in Texas and then in Florida were affected by the back-to-back hurricanes, Harvey and Irma. Harvey made landfall just north of Corpus Christi Friday night, August 25. It then moved northeast to hover over Houston for days, dumping unprecedented amounts of rain and flooding the entire region.

Before the Houston area floods began to recede, our attention was drawn to Hurricane Irma, which advanced across the Caribbean. It became an even bigger storm before turning north to travel the entire length of Florida September 10-11. More information will become available as our members return to their homes.

Corpus Christi, Texas

The damage to the members of our Corpus Christi congregations is from wind rather than flood. Fences and trees were blown down and roofs were damaged, but our members there are thanking God that He spared them from major loss. Initial reports were of the sorts of damage that insurance will cover. The first report received out of Corpus Christi provided information about local damages, but it also mentioned that our Corpus Christi members were already organizing to provide help for Houston area members.

Houston, Texas

We have well over thirty congregations within the greater Houston area. Here, the damage included both wind and flood. Reports indicate that many of our members were forced to evacuate before rising floodwaters. Some lost their homes, and other members' homes were damaged. A number of our congregations' church buildings suffered flood damage. Southwest District Disaster Area Response Teams (DARTs) have established distribution centers and are using Disaster Relief funds to secure materials needed to address the terrible aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Florida

Information is limited as of this writing (September 12). Southeast District Superintendent Steve Krome began contacting our Florida congregations' pastors and leaders as soon as it looked as though Hurricane Irma might strike.

So far, it appears that God has blessed both our

churches and members' homes with minor damage. Many tree limbs are down, and one member in the Lakeland area had a roof problem, which our brethren tarped until repairs can be made.

The Homestead church is without utilities, but it sustained no major damage. Orlando, Tampa, Haines City, and Dundee report no major damage to the churches or members' homes. There seems to be minor damage to the churches and members on the East Coast. The church in Jacksonville is a leased building, so the only concern is for the members and their homes. The story is the same for Fort Myers. Considering what they've been through, the members are in good spirits. Praises to God that there have been no deaths.

Vital Organization

As GC President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy met with GC Missions Director Bryan Cleeton Tuesday morning, August 29, Hurricane Harvey had already hit our members in Corpus Christi and moved northeast, hammering members in the greater Houston area. This previously scheduled meeting in our Denver offices was now totally focused on the immediate need to activate the Disaster Relief Fund and get help to Texas. But how could these officials in Denver make wise decisions regarding the needs and the best use of our limited resources in Texas? They couldn't. Such decisions need to be made by appropriate leaders onsite.

We thank God that SWD Superintendent Chip Hinds and the SWD leadership team were already in place and well organized. For many years, Brother Hinds has been delegating responsibilities and authority to the members of the SWD board within their respective areas. They serve as much as assistant superintendents as they do as area representatives. Additionally, pastors and other congregational leaders have organized themselves into effective regional ministry groups.

Responding quickly to a telephone call from Loren Stacy, Brother Hinds organized these leaders into Disaster Area Response Teams (DARTs) — willing, able, and ready to assess and report needs, receive Disaster Relief funds, and organize the needed efforts.

Organizational structure and members willing to accept ministry responsibilities are always important, but never as important as when we suddenly must respond to major disasters. Please consider the needs for organizational structure and leadership within your own district. Wherever you live, you are being served by an able and committed district superintendent. To do his job effectively, however, he needs area and local leaders to be willing members of his team.



ASLEEP IN JESUS

Eileen Hendricks

Evangelist Eileen Hendricks, wife of Pastor Erlo Hendricks (deceased), former president of the British Conference, passed away peacefully in her sleep at home August 20, 2017.



Sister Hendricks gave her life to the Lord as a young woman back in Jamaica, and never grew weary in kingdom work. She was a feisty, determined warrior, seeking to save souls wherever she went. From one corner of Jamaica to the other she would preach the Word, telling of Jesus' love, mercy, and power to save.

On leaving Jamaica, Sister Hendricks planted churches in the UK and was a foundation stone for the work in Canada. She initiated the Faithful Youth Challengers in the UK and started the Merrybell Gospel Choir and a band — The Challengers. Through her influence, young people were afforded many opportunities and experiences to travel the UK, Europe, and the US.

Kenneth Noble

Kenneth D. Noble passed away August 29, 2017. He was born in Muskegon on July 19, 1934, to Charles and Edith (Teaford) Briggs. On June 24, 1956, he married Dora J. Hassen.



Ken was a lifetime member of the Church of God (Seventh Day) and an active leader for the local congregations in Muskegon, Grand Rapids, and Freeland. He served as a fire chief for Moorland Township, a board member for Spring Vale Christian School, and a Boy Scout leader. Ken was a gentleman farmer and an avid gardener. Among other things, he enjoyed reading and studying his Bible and being with family.

Ken is survived by his wife, four children, fourteen grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and one sister.

For more on the lives of Eileen Hendricks and Ken Noble, and other deceased saints of God, visit our Memorials page at cog7.org (News).



Jasper, Arkansas Follow-Up

After almost five months of repair work following our April flood, the Jasper church is happy to report that our restoration efforts are wrapping up. We absolutely could not have done this without the generous support of sister churches around the county. Beginning with \$5,000 from the Disaster Relief Fund, offerings flooded in from churches and friends far and wide. These kind gifts brought the grace of Jesus Christ to life for us and met every need: new carpet, flooring, sheetrock, cabinets, trim, paint, and more.

We humbly thank you all, and our heavenly Father, for such amazing grace. As things get back to normal here in Arkansas, we're looking south to the even greater need of brothers and sisters in Texas and Florida following hurricanes Harvey and Irma. As grateful recipients of the Disaster Relief Fund, we are keenly aware of its important service to our churches in times of unexpected disaster, and we are eager to reach out to help others as we were helped through it.

We encourage everyone to give to this fund. You never know when your church might have need of it.

— Jason Overman

GC Disaster Relief Fund

The Disaster Relief Fund has long existed to receive and forward funds given in response to disasters experienced by members of the Church of God (Seventh Day) and their communities around the world. Whether it's earthquakes, floods, mudslides, or a host of other natural disasters, the DRF provides an avenue for members to provide love and materials, even when they can't go in person. Because the disasters usually have occurred in other countries, the DRF is administered by Bryan Cleeton, director of GC Missions.

We are grateful for the outpouring of generous donations to the DRF for hurricanes Harvey and Irma and the earthquake in Mexico. As this issue of *Churchright* goes to press (late September), the DRF has received \$66,533.07 since Harvey first hit Texas, and \$52,564.07 is on its way to our onsite teams to help in Texas, Florida, St. Martin, and Mexico. Additional donations continue to be received. Thank you!

The GC is committed to quickly sending almost every DRF dollar to be used by onsite leaders. The only administrative costs are for bank wire transfers required to get the funds from our Denver offices to where they are needed.

Make donations by sending a check, earmarked "DRF," directly to our Denver offices (PO Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233) or by credit card via our website: cog7.org. (Click Donate on the Contact dropdown menu.)

Do You Receive GC News?

As Hurricane Harvey began threatening the Gulf Coast of Texas, the General Conference office began receiving requests for information. The good news is that the GC continually shared information regarding our responses to the hurricanes. The bad news is that many who would like to have received that information did not.

We want our members to be fully informed regarding the activities of the General Conference, our districts, and our ministries. If you wish more information than you currently are receiving, please do the following:

- Regularly visit our website (cog7.org) and explore its many pages, menus, and links.
- Subscribe to Conference News and GC Prayer Partners e-mail broadcasts. (You may do this using the Contact Us/Sign Up for Newsletters options on the site.)
- Become a “friend” of the GC on Facebook, and read our regular posts.
- Read each and every article of each and every issue of *Churchright*.



Hispanic Women’s Retreat

As you enter Sandy Cove Ministries Conference Center in Maryland, a huge sign says *Jesus Never Fails* and another states *Rest in Him*. From the very beginning, we knew this event would be anointed by our heavenly Father.

Two hundred fifty-seven ladies from the US, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay attended. Messages from Jocheved Martinez, Mexican CoG7 Conference, and Claudia Ramos, Chilean CoG7 Conference, blessed and challenged us. The praise and worship team provided a beautiful time of worship.

Words can’t express my gratitude for a fine program planned by the sisters of Lanham, Maryland, and for their hard work and dedication. The 2018 Hispanic Women’s Retreat will be held in Austin, Texas. Get ready to be blessed again!

— Esther Winchell



SHINE: Overcoming the Enemy

Volunteering for SHINE since its second mission (Guatemala), I have worked more than ten years on the SHINE board helping prepare annual missions, write on and photograph missions for *Bible Advocate* articles, and prepare media presentations. I saw and learned many things.

One lesson I learned is that SHINE team members are not immune to life’s pitfalls. I believe Satan, displeased with the mission’s success, especially began attacking team members as the 2009 Honduras mission concluded. Going home, one mission doctor received word of her son’s unexpected death. Another person arrived home to find her father in a medical crisis in which he too died. Before the next mission, more team members endured depression and illness.

Miriam Morales (pictured above) experienced unexpected belligerence and assault when entering Colombia for SHINE’s February 2016 mission. An airport luggage scan revealed a “gun,” so she was pulled aside for interrogation. The contraband in her suitcases was actually medical instruments and supplies.

Fearing what they might do, Miriam prayed and endured their questioning. After four hours, she was finally released and allowed to take her clothes and two instruments— the gun-shaped otoscope and a glucometer. Her other medical supplies and gluco strips were confiscated.

SHINE needs young people and financial support to continue its missions. Won’t you join us?

— Bev Brenneise



Play Your Part

Your districts are instrumental in using passionate people to “play” in their many ministries. Superintendents and area reps direct and encourage your participation.

They also need your prayers and gifts of support. Contact your district leaders and get involved!

November 4 - Annual World IMC Sabbath

Join CoG7 in 40+ countries to celebrate God's work among us. Watch videos regarding our vision and global missions work, pray for specific needs, and understand how you can be involved. A special annual offering will be received for the International Ministerial Congress, the worldwide organization of CoG7. Offerings will support leadership development, evangelism and discipleship materials, and church planting in new regions of the world.



For more information, contact
gcmissons@cog7.org.