

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

VOLUME 10 • NUMBER 5

August - September 2018



CALENDAR 2018

August 1-5 - Dakota Youth Retreat '18, Medina, ND

August 4-5 - Women's Retreat, Area 3 Northeast District, Bush, NY

August 17-19 - Family Camp, Lake Poinsett, SD

August 18-19 - Super Sabbath and Leadership Meeting, Fort Smith

August 31 - September 3 - Hispanic Women's Retreat, Austin, TX

September 14-16 - Men's Retreat, Northeast District, Stevens, PA

Artios Calendar Events

September 16 - Early fall course registration ends

September 23 - October 28 - Early fall classes in session

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

TVR from Here to There

Bill Hybels, founder of the annual Global Leadership Summit, has often described leadership as the ability to influence people to accompany you from Here to There. *Here* is the status quo, the beginning of the journey. It may be a horrible place (think the children of Israel enslaved in Egypt), or it may be a fairly good and comfortable place (think, perhaps, your local congregation as it currently is). *There* is the destination, the better and preferable place the leader envisions.

To influence people to move from Here to There, a leader must provide three things: 1) a convincing mental picture of a There that is enough better and preferable to Here to merit the journey; 2) convincing reasons that Here cannot be the place to remain; and 3) a reasonable plan by which those who take the journey actually can move from Here to There successfully.

Three years ago, when G. C. Executive Director Jody McCoy and I stepped into our new roles, God's There for our church was already clear. We were, and we remain, convinced that the Vision of a Vibrant 21st Century Church that God had given us through my predecessor, Elder Whaid Rose, is God's long-term desire for our church. That vision of a denomination of believers in Jesus Christ who are entirely Christ centered, Spirit formed, Bible based, Sabbath celebrating, distinct yet inclusive, passionate in worship, compassionate in service, engaged in witness, united in fellowship, and committed to discipleship is the better and preferable future to which God is calling us. We must move from Here to There because God is calling us There and because, though our Here is comfortable (and, in most cases, pretty good), it is not yet the There to which God is calling us.

Our three-year Transforming Vision into Reality (TVR) plan is the roadmap we have chosen to take us from Here to There. We are now more than halfway through Stage 2 and beginning to turn our focus from Jesus as Savior to Jesus as Lord. More and more of our members, leaders, and congregations are joining this joyful journey. Won't you join us too?

— Loren Stacy



District News

Northeast



New pastor. Paul and Andi Dixon, who planted the CoG7 congregation in Fairmont, WV, five years ago, participated in the installation service of the new pastor, William Jones, and his wife, Connie. Area Representative Marna Renteria (front row, left) and Superintendent Heber Vega (not pictured) were present for the June 2 service.



Women's ministry. One hundred and forty eight ladies from congregations in Alexandria, VA; Lanham, MD; and Richmond, VA, gathered May 26 for an all-day regional Women's Ministry event. Excellent worship and fellowship focused on the day's theme "Cherished and Loved."



D. C. outreach. Young adults from Lanham, MD, spent Sunday, May 27, reaching out to the homeless in Washington, D.C. They shared the love of Jesus by providing snacks, drinks, and a bag with personal hygiene items.



Spring Super Sabbath. Regional Superintendent Kirk Grant, New York City pastors, and their congregations hosted a Spring Super Sabbath on May 5 for the English-speaking brethren in Areas 3 and 4. Delegations came from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania. One hundred and fifty people enjoyed a full day of great worship, preaching, and fellowship.



Training leaders. Pastors in New York City met for an all-day Leadership Sunday on May 6. The meeting highlighted our common objective, common plan, specific roles and responsibilities, bylaws, and other practical topics. Presenters were John Ferreira, Kirk Grant, Rex Miller, and Heber Vega.

Central



Beloved women. Over 132 participants from fourteen churches across Chicago and surrounding churches attended their Women's Retreat June 15-17. Focusing on the theme "Beloved of God," the program was presented in four sections: Chosen by God, Forgiven by God, Beloved by God, and Challenged by God. Jocheved Martinez from Monterrey, Mexico, and Eva Delgado were special presenters. Teens from age twelve and up were involved in the program as training to become leaders of future women's ministry groups.



Welcome, Garcias! A new lay leader has been installed in the Waukegan, IL CoG7. Augustin Garcia and his wife, Claudia, have already begun serving the congregation. On June 23 they were installed by Area Director Miguel Garcia, Ministerial Representative Juan Arzet, and District Superintendent Kenneth Lawson.

Southwest



Super Sabbath. On April 28, churches from Areas 2 and 4 gathered in Oklahoma City for fellowship, worship, and communion. Superintendent Chip Hinds encouraged those present to be Jesus representatives in their communities. Presentation of ministries was also part of the service.

Unique baptism. After a phone call, a visit, and a personal conversation with our Lord, the Martinez family was blessed with a home baptism on May 6. Jesus Martinez Sr. accepted Jesus in just one visit from Pastor Don Rodgers, and he wanted to be baptized. Poor health prevented him from experiencing a normal baptism outside the house, so the next day Pastor Don bought a cattle water tank. Associate Pastor Martin Ramirez and fifteen church members joined the Martinez family to make this day special. Jesus Martinez Jr. was also baptized that day.



Meetings in McAllen

The McAllen, Texas church hosted the Area 7 Super Sabbath on May 12, with 236 (adults, children, and youth) hearing sermons and talks on the theme "Focus on Jesus and Follow His Plan." G. C. President Loren Stacy urged members to serve Jesus alone, and Executive Director Jody McCoy talked to adults and



youth on the importance of aligning our lives to God's plan. The day was full of praise, worship, and fellowship.

On Sunday, May 13, leaders gathered to continue exploring the theme through evangelism and according to the Transforming Vision into Reality (TVR) plan. Brother Stacy provided a simple way of sharing the good news with others, using a concrete timeline and example leaders can follow. Pastor Francisco Garcia led a workshop on how testimony plays a big role in today's personal evangelism. Jody McCoy also explained how "Focus on Jesus and Follow His Plan" is part of the overall vision of TVR and that there are guidelines to develop the plan with some useful resources the Conference is creating.

Sister Jamin Teran, SWD Media Ministries director, mentioned the importance of media in sharing the gospel. She challenged attendees to have a consistency in their lives inside social media and outside to create a great impact in our community. At the end of the meeting, Superintendent Chip Hinds touched on the importance of evangelism today as a leader and pastor. He provided key factors and resources to make each congregation a vibrant 21st century church for the honor and glory of our Lord. The leadership meeting also announced new upcoming events from Area Representative Misael Ibarra and new challenges to the area leaders.



Area 3 Super Sabbath. Children and adults learned God's unconditional love through activities, workshops, sermons, and fellowship in their Area 3 Super Sabbath May 12 in Houston, TX. More than 400 gathered there motivated each other to reach out to a world that needs healing from sin.



Leaders of grace. More than 160 men gathered May 18-20 at Camp Tejas (Giddings, TX) for the district Men's Ministry Retreat. Through workshops and sermons, these brothers learned the qualities and meaning of being real leaders. They enjoyed worship and fellowship and started long-time friendships.



YMINISTRY 2018. In Hawkins, TX, 89 young adults gathered May 25-28 to find their personal mission and understand their unique calling. Young adults were exposed to different ministries to join or participate in, and they were challenged to answer God's calling. Worship, a powerful testimony, fellowship, games, and friendships were vital parts of this retreat. Appreciation was expressed to SWORD directors Dan and Jaqueline Melgoza for their many years of service. The four-day retreat blessed our young adults and gave them hope for the work God calls them to.

Thanks, Brother Lawrence! A plaque was given to Lawrence Eddy for his dedicated service to the Claremore church, where he has attended for 60 years. He has served as an elder and board member and was instrumental in constructing the current sanctuary. Brother Lawrence, who recently retired from the board, just celebrated his 81st birthday.



Dover Family Camp

Families from Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri gathered June 10-17 for the Dover Family Camp. Focusing on the theme "Don't Live in Fear," brethren were motivated not to fear what happens in their complex daily lives.

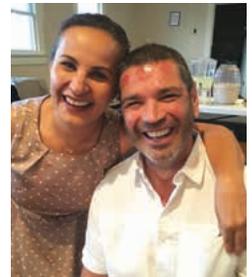
Children, teenagers, and adults attended individualized classes and activities during the week, developing fellowship and friendships. Morning and

afternoon services complemented the theme, encouraging members to extend their love to others, just as God has shown His love to us. On Saturday, the choir and different families shared their singing gifts, and all enjoyed the closing activities.



Since 1958, the Dover Family Camp has provided a place to seek the Lord, meditate on His Word, and experience heart change for His glory.

Ministering to couples. Husbands and wives at the El Paso Central Church received a blessing Saturday, May 19, in a workshop presented by Ruben and Susana Beard. The event helped to strengthen relationships in the church's couples ministry.



Preparing for ministry.

On May 20 members of the El Paso Central congregation gathered to prepare for their Bible Summer School, scheduled for July 23-27. Some also came to Extend Your Hand, a group of members who do repairs and extensive cleaning in the church every month.

West Coast

Building the Kingdom

The BraveHearted Tribe is a community of men and women building God's kingdom one testimony at a time. It is composed of eleven core members: Aaron Terrones, Alfonso Cano, Cain Prado, Dan Garcia, James DeLaTorre, James Garcia, Noemi Sandoval, Patty Prado, Ruth Sandoval, Timothy Sandoval, and Veronica Estrada.

Our tribe's name is based on Mark 6:45-52, where Jesus tells His disciples to be brave. Our purpose is to share God's goodness with everyone and bring genuine love and community to the world. Our mission is to build a community that encourages a fearless walk

of faith through fellowship, testimonies, and love. We plan to do so by sharing the Word of God, our struggles, our victories, and our testimonies.



Every other Wednesday, the BraveHearted Tribe hosts a gathering of young adults from all over Southern California. There they find a group who is passionate about fellowship, studying the Word of God, and discovering God's purpose for our lives. Our hope is that all who come to these gatherings can leave inspired and motivated to serve God and contribute within their local churches.

Together we shine; united we rise!

— *The BraveHearted Tribe*



SWORD Rally

The Southern California SWORD ministry gathered on June 9 for its second annual SWORD rally in Santa Ana, California. The theme was "Vindicated," based on Ezekiel 36:22-32. Brother Moises Capetillo (Albuquerque, New Mexico) spoke in the morning and afternoon to 126 attendees from Southern California, Northern California, New Mexico, and Arizona. He encouraged them to step up and confront the "lions" in our lives that prevent us from fully serving God. He explained how two young people in the Bible, Joshua and Daniel, served God because they did not depart from Him.

A collaboration of young adults from various

churches in Southern California made up the worship team. Attendees enjoyed fellowship and played games in between services. Everyone who attended was blessed. — *Veronica Estrada*



Super Sabbath celebration. The Ontario English church held its second annual Super Sabbath on April 21, and approximately 300 people attended. Executive Director Jody McCoy and G. C. President Loren Stacy shared messages. Also, Brother Felipe Orduño (pictured) was given special recognition for obtaining his ministerial license.

— *Ruth Martinez*

SWORD planning. The Southern California SWORD Committee gathered April 6-8 in Westminster, CA, to discuss the upcoming 2018 activity calendar.

The agenda also included mentorship by Brother Jose Hernandez, accompanied by his wife, Roberta. The workshops covered basic principles of how and why we serve as leaders. This small retreat gave us the opportunity to get away and be encouraged in serving the Lord. Pictured (L to R, front row): Italu Prado, Roberta and Jose Hernandez, Maria Torres and Yesenia Prado. Back row (L to R): Patty Prado, Veronica Estrada, Julio Cesar Cervantes, Ruth Martinez and Jesus Prado. — *Ruth Martinez*



Eastern Canada

In May, Pastor Samuel Santos was ordained in a service conducted by Pastor Samuel Holland. He received his ministerial license through Artios College and pastors the Laval church in Quebec.

On June 2, the Etobicoke CoG7 in Brampton, Ontario, was dedicated to the honor and glory of God. Pastor Whaid Rose conducted the service. The host pastor was Aubrey Williams.

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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

Missions

Bryan Cleeton, Director



Eruption in Guatemala

Guatemala experienced a significant volcanic eruption Sunday, June 3. The following is a brief update from IMC President Ramon Ruiz regarding the status of our brothers and sisters there: "We confirm that the Church in Guatemala has not suffered human loss or serious material damage. However, the Church is supporting hundreds of victims and the relatives of those who lost their lives due to the volcanic eruption."

We greatly appreciate your concern, prayers, and support for those affected. The General Conference sent a donation of \$4,000 from our Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) to assist. If you wish to help, please earmark your check "DRF" and send it to P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; or give online at cog7.org/giving. Further updates will be provided in *Churchright*.

Church Closures in Rwanda

More than one thousand churches have been closed in Rwanda due to a sudden government decision to implement stronger building standards and other regulations in churches. Twelve CoG7 congregations in Rwanda, mostly located in rural areas, have been

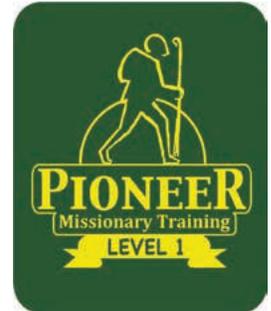


affected and closed as a result. More than eight hundred members regularly worship in these congregations. Without additional support, they will permanently close.

Through G. C. Missions Ministries, the General Conference has sent an initial amount of \$5,000 to assist. Because of this significant need, we ask you and your local congregation to prayerfully consider a generous donation to our brothers and sisters in Rwanda so they can reopen these churches. Roughly \$4,000 will reopen one church and go toward building materials and purchasing additional land where required by the government. Your check, earmarked "Rwanda Building Project," can offer great assistance in this project. Mail it to P. O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; or contribute online at cog7.org/giving. See future issues of *Churchright* for updates.

Pioneer Missionary Training – Level 1

We are looking for young adults, pastors, and others desiring to go deeper in their work for the Lord. If that includes you, then PMT1 (i.e., Level 1) would be just the initiative you need. Email pastormonico@gmail.com and ask for an application or more information. Trips are scheduled for a ten-day period during winter break in December, and the training takes place in Mexico.



Those who have participated in PMT1 are eligible for PMT2. This second level offers three-month tours to work alongside brethren in churches and missions in other countries. Participants can hone their skills in evangelizing, church planting, and other missionary-related work, perhaps preparing them for full-time missionary work. Potential mission field sites being considered at this time are Bolivia, Peru, Chile, and Cuba. If you believe God is calling you to more, then email pastormonico@gmail.com.

We join our brothers and sisters in the Mexican Conference in grieving the death of President Raúl López Espinoza. He entered into rest on June 19. For more on his life and legacy, please visit our Memorials page at churchright.org.





Annual World IMC Sabbath
November 3, 2018
 Watch for more details.
 Visit imc.cog7.org.



Ongoing Email Scams

From time to time, we become aware that someone has posed as one of our well-known and trusted Church leaders, using email to solicit financial donations to a seemingly worthy cause. The most recent (June) fraudulent email purported to come from one of our key General Conference leaders. It asked for donations to a local effort to help certain children.

Please do not be taken in by such scams. It would be highly unusual (one hopes that it would never happen) for one of our leaders to unilaterally solicit funds for a personal purpose. If you should receive such an email, contact the person directly via another method before you send funds or respond by way of that email. Or contact the General Conference offices at 303-452-7973 to verify its validity.

— Loren Stacy

Fourth Quarter Children’s Curriculum

Intermediate. In *Parables Jesus Told*, students will examine some of Jesus’ parables to learn valuable spiritual truths. They will go beyond simply listening to good stories to actually allowing the parables to influence their lives in positive ways.

Primary. *Back to the Beginning – A Look at Genesis* will teach students that the stories of the Old Testament are not fairy tales or fanciful stories of old. Each one is packed with lessons that we can learn from, and each one helps us to better understand God and His great love for us.

Preschool. *Israel’s First Kings* will provide lessons on Saul, Israel’s first king, and David, from his days as a shepherd boy to his rise as the greatest king of Israel. Students will learn what made Saul a bad king and what made David a great king.

So Long, SST!

On Sunday, July 1, a crew of CoG7 men tore down the old Summit School of Theology building, located on the General Conference property north of Denver. Since 1980, this building served as the training center for CoG7 pastors and leaders. Due to disrepair during the past decades, the structure had become an eyesore and needless expense. Since efforts to sell it have been unsuccessful, the decision was made to remove the building.

Praise God for the faculty who poured their lives into students at SST. The legacy of learning continues in the ministries of countless pastors and leaders.

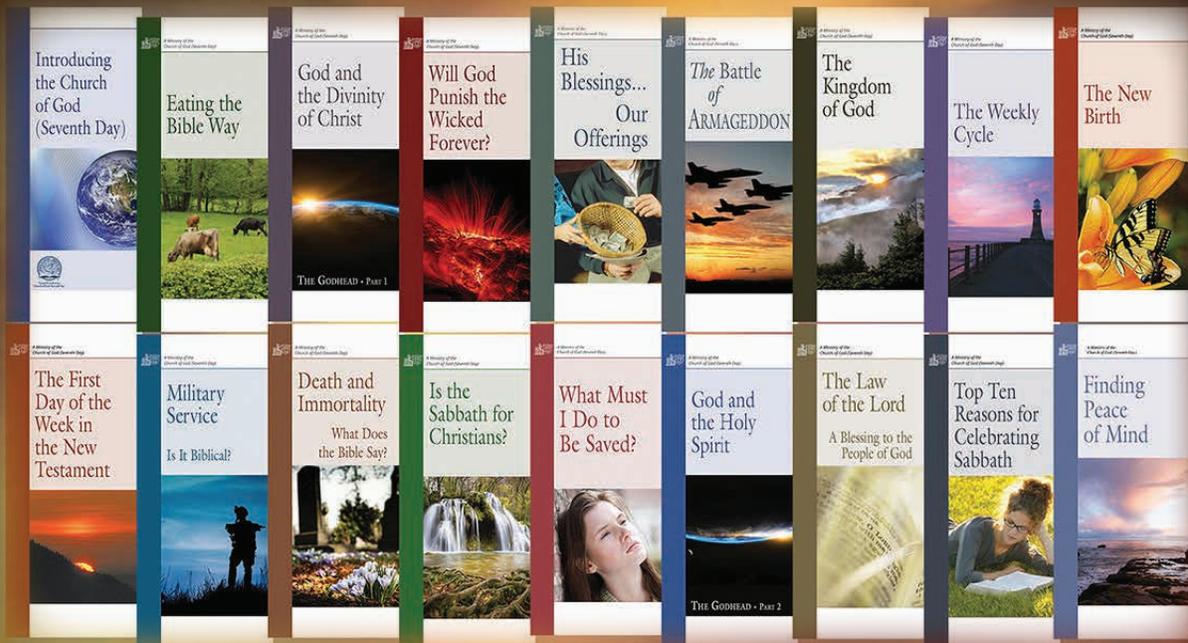


Men from the Aurora, CO congregation gave their time to remove the SST building. Pictured with them are G. C. Missions Director Bryan Cleeton, Office Manager/Pastor Eddie Villaba, and IT Specialist Chris Idemmili.




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