

CHURCHRIGHT

Doing church right.



General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)



April-May 2011

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In This Issue

Doing Dissolution Right	1
Board of Directors	2
Points of Light	3
CoG7 News	4
CoG7 News, Calendar	5
Fulfilling the Virtual Vision — LifeSpring Update	6
May Emphasis: Missions.	7
Convention in Kenya	7
Convention 2011	8

Doing Dissolution Right:

A Tribute to the Detroit Church

What happens to the assets of a local church should it cease to exist? The dissolution of a church is not uncommon. Here in the United States, churches and other non-profit entities reportedly disband almost daily. Therefore, responsible churchmanship prompts the question of what happens to the assets.

For this reason, non-profit organizations are encouraged (in some states, required) to have what is known as a dissolution statement in their articles of incorporation. Several years ago, required by the state of Pennsylvania, the General Conference added such a statement to its Bylaws, detailing the appropriate steps to be taken in the event the Conference ceases to exist. This is to safeguard against “private inurement,” ensuring instead that all assets are passed on to a “like entity.”

The former Detroit, Michigan, congregation is a good example of this process. The discontinuation of regular Sabbath fellowship and subsequent sale of the church building and parsonage raised questions regarding proper dissolution of the assets. Initially \$100,000 was given to Spring Vale Academy and \$10,000 to LITES. After several years, and through the careful guardianship of faithful former members, the remaining assets of approximately \$337,000 were turned over to the church’s “parent entity,” the General Conference. To honor the wishes of former Detroit members, an additional \$150,000 of this amount was given to Spring Vale Academy. The remaining portion was disbursed thus: \$100,000 to LifeSpring School of Ministry, \$50,000 set aside for the possible replant of a Detroit congregation, and \$37,000 for Conference use.

The Detroit congregation began in the home of Harry and Caroline Pearl (Merriam) Walkley in the early 1900s. The Walkley children include well-known CoG7 ladies: Nettie McMicken, Lillian Masters, Myrtle Brown, Ruby Boor Barraw, and Clara Decker. Other families soon joined, necessitating the purchase of a church facility. Revival services



Harry and Caroline Pearl Walkley

continued on page 2



Board of Directors Holds Annual Meeting

The General Conference Board of Directors held its annual winter meeting in Denver, Colorado, February 20-23 (noon). All members were present: Charles Carr, Erik Dunn, Jose Hernandez, Chip Hinds, Sam Holland, Wayne Hrenyk, Ruben Marquez, Carl Palmer, Raul Romo, Loren Stacy, John Tivald, and Larry Zaragoza. General Conference President Whaid Rose and Executive Director Richard Jensen were also present during most of the sessions.

As is usual during its annual winter meeting, the board of directors spent time in prayer and worship; heard and responded to the president's vision for the coming years; received and responded to information regarding General Conference ministries, districts, and personnel; considered its annual evaluation of the president's performance; and adopted a budget for the coming fiscal year. In addition, the board

- prepared numerous bylaw amendments that, if adopted during this summer's convention, will bring our bylaws and the board's commitment to policy governance into better harmony;
- dissolved LifeSpring School of Ministry's board of regents, thanking the current members for completing the purposes of that board;
- thanked Elder Bruce Noble for faithfully completing his appointed term as General Conference superintendent of our Northeastern District, and appointed Elder Sam Holland as interim superintendent for the coming year (July-June);
- placed General Conference Missions Ministries Director Bill Hicks on a fully paid, two-month sabbatical for rest, restoration, and return to ministry; and
- discussed the report of the committee appointed to study the feasibility of a triennial or quadrennial convention; its extensive investigation found virtually no support for such changes from our current biennial schedule.

The board of directors, elected by our General Conference members, serves

as trustee of our church when the membership is not gathered to do business. In addition to being directly answerable to the membership, the board is strictly limited in what it may and may not do by our General Conference bylaws and by extensive policies that govern the board's and the president's activities. A computer file copy of the board of directors' policy manual may be requested by emailing board chairman Loren Stacy at lodicg7@juno.com.

Doing Dissolution Right

continued from page 1

ensued and pastors were called. The Merriam, McCann, Lashbrook, Neuman, Nelkin, Starks, Otto, Wilhelm, Guerra, Perez, and Roche families — among others — were added. Ministers throughout the years included William McCann, Harvey Otto, Robert Coulter, Marvin Keim, Melvin Sweet, and Bill Rice.

Throughout its history, the Detroit church purchased four properties. And though it did not have a dissolution statement in its incorporation documents, the church eventually “did dissolution right” by directing the remaining assets — the fruit of many years of service and sacrificial giving — to the General Conference for appropriate disbursement.

The General Conference takes this occasion to acknowledge the history and legacy of the Detroit Church of God (Seventh Day), grateful for all its former members, living and deceased — especially those who persevered in keeping the doors open in the final years. May the Detroit funds bear fruit for the kingdom, till Jesus comes.

— *Whaid Rose*
Conference President



Little Church in the Big Woods

The Jasper, Arkansas, congregation began in 1986 on the front porch of Ron and Vicki Overman's country-style home deep in the Ozark Mountains.

Before migrating to Arkansas with his young family, Ron had pastored the Hammondville, Alabama, church in the mid-1970s after graduating from Midwest Bible College.

This little house-church in the big woods enjoyed Sabbaths studying the Word of God, with special emphasis on Bible prophecy, current events, and conforming to the image of Christ. With singing and praying, eating and fellowshiping, Sabbath tended to go all day long, and no one was in a hurry to go home.

This small church family gathered around the idea that God was calling them to not just "go to church" a couple hours a week but to be the church as an intentional, visible counter-cultural community in the world — a "city on a hill." The church believed that it needed to recover the example of the early church in Acts 2 — a society of believers defined by daily existence, not just weekly; a community of care that shared the

Word, fellowship, prayer, meals, resources, and more.

Those in the Jasper church had been deeply influenced by the old-fashioned church campmeetings of the 60s and 70s, as well as by the neighborhood feel of the Midwest. So the question was raised "Why can't we have campmeeting year round?" Their shared dream: to build a camp people could enjoy that would also serve as the local church's home.

After several years, Jason Overman, who began serving as lay pastor in 1990, and Peter Youngs discovered property in a beautiful Ozark valley that seemed perfect but totally beyond reach. The owner, who lived in Florida, had ties to the Gainesville CoG7, and he was excited by Jasper's plan of developing a camp. He sold the 166-acre plot to the church and its families at a fantastic price.

Today the Jasper CoG7 is blessed to live and worship together around a camp facility. It also ministers to the poor and elderly through rest home visitation and music ministry, to the sick and shut-ins through Care Basket ministry, and to the needy through a food pantry.

The journey of the Jasper church was not a straight line, but by the grace of God, hard work, and dedication, the dream became reality. The convictions that moved its members at the beginning still inform its growing congregation today. Sabbaths still go long as members continue studying the Word, fellowshiping, sharing meals, praying, and attempting to be a caring community to the wider world around them.

**Serving the
body of Christ
by calling,
connecting,
discipling, and
encouraging
young adults to
reach the future
for Christ.**

**LITES
Ministries
P.O. Box 172
Stanberry, MO 64489
660-783-9544
lites.cog7.org**

Check us out on Facebook!



They Serve

The License and Credentials Committee, pictured above, met in Denver in February. Front row (L-R): Raul Lopez, Ken Lawson (chairman). Back row (L-R): Steve Kyner, Heber Vega, Dale Lawson, Max Morrow, and Don Rodgers.

CREDENTIALS GRANTED

Pieter Barkhuizen
Jhabel Chagollan
Wayne Hrenyk
Israel Steinmetz

LICENSES GRANTED

Tim Endecott
Scott Fischer
Daniel Flores
Brian Franks
Pedro Garcia
Jose Gonzales
Josias Hernandez
Abiel Martinez
Sean Mills
Jason Overman
Isaac Pedraza
Larry Rice
Steve Rodriguez
Herlindo Roman
Dan Sweeney
Tim Steinhauer

National Youth Week / Hunger Lock-In

All local youth groups are encouraged to participate in this weekend of service and spiritual growth. April 8-10 are the suggested dates, but local groups can participate anytime through June 30. All donations must be sent in before this date.

The National Youth Week event allows youth to gain leadership experience in designing and implementing a Sabbath worship service. It also presents a challenge to participate in a 24-hour famine, taking the focus off God's blessing for us and putting it on how we can bless others.

Through this year's Lock-In we are raising money for an orphanage in Myanmar. Your support will help more orphans and build a new structure for them (all 16 orphans are currently living in one home that is badly in need of repair).

Meet the challenge! If all youth groups send in at least

\$50, the \$10,000 raised will meet orphans' needs for the next year and more!

Questions? Contact Kurt Lang, National Youth director, nfyc@cog7.org. Information packets are at <http://nfyc.cog7.org>.

Other NFYC News

National youth registration for 2011 is still open! Youth workers, please register your youth group at <http://nfyc.cog7.org/register>, or use the registration form mailed to all churches. A registration form is also in the Gimme Five booklet, which can be downloaded at <http://nfyc.cog7.org>. All youth and youth workers who register receive a personalized National Youth card with discounts to events throughout the year, plus a subscription to our e-newsletter and text list. Don't miss your opportunity to participate and be a part of our national youth group. It's the biggest youth group you'll ever be in!

Join us for the **youth program** at the General Conference convention this summer in Chicago. Ever wonder why God created you and what He wants from you? Is His way really the truth, or is there absolute truth at all? Answers to these questions and more are waiting for you at the convention!

Plus, enter our **Year of the Bible** competitions (trivia, verse memorization, etc.) to have lots of fun and win some cool prizes. The Bible will come alive like you've never seen it before at G. C. convention this summer! You'll want to be there!

Third Quarter Lessons

Adult: *The Pastoral Epistles* deals mainly with the epistles Paul wrote to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon, with instructions regarding relationships between a pastor and his congregation, among members within a congregation, and between believers and the world.

Senior high: *Israel — God's Soldiers on Earth* covers a wide range of topics, from Abraham's covenant, Moses' leadership, and the kingdom age up to the Roman rule of Israel.

Junior high: In *Discipleship*, youth will learn how to live a Christian life by learning from the experiences of the early Christians. *Note: Youth lessons have been revised and updated.*

Cost: Adult student book, \$3.25; teacher's guide, \$5. Junior high and senior youth student books, \$3; teacher's guide, \$4.

Intermediate (grades 4, 5, and 6): The lessons in *God Provides a Way* reveal how sin entered the world and

Calendar 2011

the remedy God provided to overcome it. Lessons provided as e-mail attachments or on disk. **Cost:** \$15 for teacher's set (teacher's overview, weekly teacher's guides, student handouts, activity worksheets, and resource pages); \$4 for a disk. Student set \$2 per student. **Order** from Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; 303-452-7973; or bap.orders@cog7.org.

Looking for Writers

BAP urgently needs writers who can provide Bible stories and contemporary stories for children's curriculum, preschool, and primary ages (grades 1, 2, and 3). Contact LeRoy Dais at LeRoy@cog7.org.

Your Will or the State's?

Have you prepared your Last Will and Testament? Though it's easy to procrastinate in preparing this document, it is a final opportunity to express your personal desires.

Even when property distribution issues are not numerous, the will is the legal avenue through which a number of other issues should be addressed, such as naming an executor, avoiding expense of a bond, naming a legal guardian for minors, making gifts or transfers, and reducing estate tax liability.

A charitable bequest is a frequently used method to support the gospel work. A bequest may take on a number of forms, including a specific dollar amount, a percentage of the estate's residual value, and a specific asset.

The Office of Planned Giving of the Church of God (Seventh Day) stands by to assist you. Contact P. O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233, or plannedgiving@cog7.org.

'Duration' Booklet Available

This popular 31-page booklet has been revised and is available again from Bible Advocate Press. It explains some misunderstood texts related to Jesus' prediction that He would be in the grave three days and three nights, the length of time Jonah was in the belly of a great fish (Matthew 12:39, 40). Cost: \$1.50 each.

Spring Vale Openings

A number of job positions are open at Spring Vale Academy: maintenance manager, food service manager, assistant girls dean, assistant boys dean, director of development and admissions, and business manager.

Visit www.springvale.us for contact information.

April 1-3 North Dakota Youth and Young Adult Retreat, Alfred, ND CoG7; contact Amber Schlenker (ambermarie92@hotmail.com)

April 15 LifeSpring Certificate of Biblical Studies early enrollment deadline

April 17 Lord's Supper Service

April 21-24 Spring Youth and Young Adult Retreat, Camp I-0-Dis-E-Ca, Solon, IA; contact Abe Endecott (abe.endecott@cog7.org)

April 22-24 NE District Women's Retreat, Elgin, OH

April 23-24 Conroe Youth Conference - Youth Rally Weekend, Conroe, TX (English) CoG7; contact Jason and Rose Rodriguez (jandrrodriguez@att.net)

May 13-15 Spring Thing - Youth Rally Weekend, Meridian, ID CoG7; contact Laura Perez (llperez40@hotmail.com)

May 28-29 SVA Graduation, Owosso, MI

June 1 - July 15 Registration for Summer/Fall 2011 LifeSpring courses

June 15 LifeSpring Certificate of Biblical Studies application deadline

July 18-23 Biennial Convention, St. Charles, IL

August 11-14 Dakota Youth Retreat, Medina, ND; contact Jessue and Wanda Hopewell (701-428-3667) or David and Jamie Nienhuis (701-655-3532)

September 9-11 Michigan Women's Retreat, Gladwin, MI; contact Esther Winchell (989-574-7325; esther416@charter.net)

October 21-23 Michigan Men's Retreat, Miracle Camp and Retreat Center, Lawton, MI; deadline for registration: October 1



The Redmond, OR, church plans a special celebration April 2 honoring Kenneth and Sandra Lawson, who retired from 44 years of ministry. The Lawsons, pictured here with their son Del and grandson Hogan (left) and son Darrick, pastored the Redmond church for 15 years.



Fulfilling the Virtual Vision

LifeSpring: April Emphasis

Simulcast technology

Plans for developing Simulcast technology for LifeSpring School of Ministry have made significant progress. The new delivery model debuted on Sunday, February 13, the first full-day training session as the initial part of the pilot program.

Through this technology, LifeSpring had a single teacher in front of his own local classroom and “live” in front of the five remote sites across the country! Those in the classrooms interacted with the instructor and with each other in real time, even responding immediately to humorous comments. The simulcast technology, developed by LifeSpring’s IT personnel, pulled everyone together in one virtual classroom, fulfilling the long-term goal of “bringing training to the people” in a streamlined fashion. This is one small step for LifeSpring, one giant step for the General Conference.

The technology is being perfected. Meanwhile, churches and groups wishing to host a Simulcast site should contact LifeSpring for more information.

Staff/board of regents changes

Richard Jensen has directed the affairs of LifeSpring since Larry Marrs’ retirement in September of last year. Raul Lopez, Hispanic Services coordinator, is moving on to a local pastorate after an eight-year tenure with MTS/LifeSpring. Eddie Villalba now coordinates Hispanic Services. And during its February meeting, the board of directors expressed its deep gratitude for the work of the board of regents: Mary Jean Knoll (chair), Max Morrow, Joe Corrales, Calvin Burrell, and Erik Dunn. The board also relieved the regents of their assignment, considering that the current structure and operation of LifeSpring no longer requires their hands-on involvement and oversight.

Certificate of Biblical Studies

The Certificate of Biblical Studies (CBS) program is a perfect fit for anyone who would like training in the core subjects and disciplines needed for effective, life-giving min-

istry in today’s church and world. LifeSpring is making the CBS program amazingly accessible:

- CBS is a 24-credit program of study that can be completed in ten months (one academic year).
- CBS graduates will have met the educational requirements to apply for or renew the Lay Pastor Certificate, the entry point for the Diploma of Ministry program.
- The early application deadline for 2011-2012 enrollment is **April 15**. Students who apply by this date are eligible to receive a \$100 discount off a summer/fall 2011 course. The regular application deadline is **June 15**. You may request a CBS application at www.lifespringschool.org.

Annual donations

If every member of the Conference would donate just \$35 per year, that would revolutionize LifeSpring’s budget and make it even more effective at meeting the educational needs of its members and ministers. Thirty-five dollars is less than a month’s purchases at Starbucks. Many have already committed to this means of financing the future of LifeSpring — even whole congregations.

In April, please lend your support to LifeSpring.

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May is Missions Ministries Emphasis. Your offerings are vital.



William C. Hicks, Director

Convention in Kenya

“Jambo!” That’s how they say “hello” in Kenya, East Africa. Traveling there last December marked my first visit to that continent. There were moments of panic traveling on treacherous roads and times when I needed to make major cultural adjustments. But there were many moments of joy and inspiration as the love of Christ shone brightly on the Dark Continent.

Prior to my trip, I noted common stats about Africa: poverty, HIV/AIDS, low life expectancy rates, and the rapid spread of the gospel and growth of the Church despite these challenges. I was blessed to personally observe this paradox of hope and joy in the face of poverty and suffering. Materially, African believers have so little; spiritually, they’re rich and overflowing. They can’t seem to stop singing and dancing. They don’t know they’re poor; they have nothing to compare themselves to. Emmanuel Kant said it well: “A man is rich, not by what he owns, but by what he can live without.” This is quite a commentary on the way we live in the West.

This was the first regional convention for Africa’s Zone 5, attended by brethren from all over the continent and

from around the world. The US delegation included Missions Director Bill Hicks; BA Editor/IMC Vice President Calvin Burrell; Brian Baker (Colorado); Noah Cleeton (Colorado); June Bobcombe and Daisna Gibson (New York); Phyllis Weekes (Oklahoma); and yours truly. It was an enriching experience — one I will not soon forget. Pray for the Church of God (Seventh Day) in Kenya and throughout Africa, and lend tangible support by giving to G. C. Missions Ministries.

— *Whaid Rose*



What's so amazing about love?

Come find out!

July 18-23

Biennial Convention

General Conference

Church of God (Seventh Day)

Pheasant Run Resort

St. Charles, Illinois

Register at convention.cog7.org



He brings us to His banqueting house, and His banner over us is love (Song of Solomon 2:4).

