

# CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference  
Church of God (Seventh Day)

April-May 2013

Volume 5 • Number 3

## 2013 Emphases

January - NAWM

February - SWORD

March - Publications

April - LifeSpring

May - Missions

June - Youth

July - World Missions  
(Change for  
Your World)

August - Spring Vale

September -  
Publications

October - LifeSpring

November - Missions

December - G. C.  
Ministries

## Back to Nehemiah

by Mark Caswell



As much as I desire to be a godly leader, I often struggle. One thing that calls me back to the right path is studying the examples of godly leadership in the Bible, like Nehemiah.

There are many principles I could draw from this book, but I list seven here.

**1. A godly leader sees the problem and cares passionately about it (1:3–6).** Nehemiah not only clearly understood the problem but also cared passionately about it. The children of Israel were in great distress because Jerusalem's walls had been torn down and its gates destroyed. Nehemiah wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed for days.

Do I care this deeply about the problems I see? Too often I am not bothered by them but am actually a part of them. Let's pray that God's concerns become our concerns.

**2. A godly leader is humble before God and his brothers (v. 6).** He engages in honest self-examination. Often we need to begin with confession of sin and wrong and include personal, organizational, or cultural failures — or as in Nehemiah's case, a combination of the two. A godly leader is humble enough to admit these.

**3. A godly leader is not self-serving and determines to honor God above all else (v. 11a).** Nehemiah understood that God hears and answers those who sincerely desire to honor Him alone. A godly leader is not agenda-driven but driven by God's agenda. Let's make sure we are adopting God's view and vision of ministry.

**4. A godly leader prepares for leadership by being faithful (v. 11b; 2:5).** What kind of cupbearer do you suppose Nehemiah was? Lazy and unreliable? Do we conduct ourselves in such a way that when we are called on to lead, we have actually earned the capital to do it?

**5. A godly leader is bothered enough by the current state of affairs that he develops a plan or a vision (2:5).** Nehemiah didn't remain in a state of perpetual mourning. He developed a plan and pursued it passionately. A godly leader sees the current circumstance and envisions something better. Nehemiah envisioned a much-improved condition for Jerusalem.

*continued on page 3*



## Conference Tour Coming Your Way!

April 6	Acme, Alberta
April 13	Dallas, Texas
May 4	Kansas City, Missouri
June 1	Alfred, North Dakota
June 8	Los Angeles, California

The Conference Tour is making its way across the continent, with five more stops to go before its grand finale at the Omaha convention. Since the last issue of *Churchright*, stops have been made in San Antonio, Orlando, and Jefferson, Oregon. Each event is unique in terms of culture, worship style, and general atmosphere, but warm reception and positive response to the unity theme is common to all events.

“When will you be back?” or “What’s going to be the next event?” are questions frequently asked during tours. Plan to join us at an upcoming location over the next three months. And pray that the unity of the Spirit will increase among us.

— Tour Team



*Congratulations to these Spring Vale seniors who will graduate May 26. Top row (L to R): Michael Carbajal, Wyatt Hise, Evan Schmitz. Middle row (L to R): Faith Mills, Carlos Robles, Alex Arroyo, Katarina Nienhuis, Clay Baker. Bottom row (L to R): Cathryn Caswell, Christopher Huff, Kayla Silvestain, Douglas Camero*

## An Exciting Opportunity!

Merit-based scholarships are still available, thanks to the collaboration of Spring Vale and the General Conference.

Spring Vale has been a gift to the Church of God (Seventh Day) for more than six decades, helping grow the next generation of the Church through cultivating a biblical worldview alongside academic development.

Because of the high value placed on Spring Vale, the General Conference offers an opportunity for the entire Church to rally behind the school. Merit-based scholarships are available to both new *and* qualified students for enrollment in the Fall 2013 semester.

This effort brings together the Denver office (initial place of contact), district offices (to select worthy candidates for consideration), and local churches (potential CoG7 young people, their families, and local leaders).

If you ask how many have attended or served at SVA, or know/are related to someone who has attended or served there, you will see the evidence of its remarkable impact on CoG7. Spring Vale is part of our history, of our present, and of our future. Let’s make it thrive!

*Fall semester begins August 20, so time is of the essence. Early applications will receive early consideration, but the offer is ongoing — beyond 2013. Don’t miss out!*

Contact the G. C. office:  
 P.O. Box 33677 Denver, CO 80233  
 303-452-7973 • [offices@cog7.org](mailto:offices@cog7.org)

## Back to Nehemiah

*continued from page 1*

**6. A godly leader mobilizes others to action [vv. 17, 18].** Nehemiah could not have rebuilt the walls by himself. He enlisted the help of his brothers so that even with the opposition they faced, they completed the task in only fifty-one days. A godly leader clearly communicates the plan and transfers his passion so that others can help with the work.

**7. As a godly leader pursues the vision, he will face opposition (v. 7).** Before the work was even started, Nehemiah anticipated resistance to his plan. The people had to work with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. This way, they could deal with the opposition and still complete the Lord's work.

What can we learn from this? First, even while dealing with opposition, we must focus on fulfilling God's vision for us. We can't allow resistance to derail us. Recent events have reduced our effectiveness in wall building. We must ensure that we are engaging in the work the Lord has called us to.

Second, we often lose sight of who the opposition is and instead turn our swords on each other. This keeps us from completing God's work and leaves us wounded so that we can never be as effective in His work as we would have been otherwise. Let's remember who the opposition is: Satan, the enemy of our souls — the one whose purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy. As much as it depends on us, we need to make sure that we unite as brothers against our common enemy.

**Mark Caswell** is director of Spring Vale Academy and a member of the board of directors. This article was adapted from his devotional given at a board meeting.

## Board Update

by Loren Stacy



The General Conference board of directors held its annual winter meeting in Denver, Colorado, February 17-20. The 2011-2013 board consists of Mark Caswell, Erik Dunn, Jose Hernandez, Chip Hinds, Samuel Holland, Wayne Hrenyk, Ruben Marquez, Raul Romo, Loren Stacy, John Tivald, and Larry Zaragoza. (Elder Carl Palmer resigned this past October because of health concerns.) All the current members were present except for Erik Dunn, who was unable to receive leave from his employment. General Conference President Whaid Rose was also present for most of the sessions.

During its meeting, the board received and responded to reports from the president and others regarding the state of the General Conference, as well as its ongoing ministries, projects, and concerns, and it adopted the 2013/2014 budget. The board was challenged by reports of the effects our nation's new health care law will force upon our church as an employer, and it was encouraged by a presentation of short-term and long-term goals by President Rose — so encouraged that it adopted a formal resolution endorsing the direction that our president is leading us.

Other highlights of the board meeting included a Human Resources training session conducted by Gary Hansen, former HR director for Promise Keepers; a detailed financial presentation by accountant Dawn Wayman; and a lunch with staff at our General Conference offices.

Significant board actions of this meeting include the preparation of a motion to amend the General Conference bylaws as instructed by a resolution adopted by the members present during the 2011 convention; the endorsement of making SHINE an officially sponsored entity of our Missions Ministries; the appointment of Leeroy Williams as superintendent of the Eastern Canadian District for the remainder of the current term (Samuel Holland tendered his resignation effective February 15); and the appointment of Calvin Burrell as director of our Missions Ministries and Santiago Chavez as assistant director, April 1, 2013 through the remainder of the current term, which ends June 30, 2014.



## Pastors Needed

The **Conroe, Texas Church of God (Seventh Day)** seeks a licensed minister of the NAMC to serve as pastor. For information or employment application, contact Justin Brann (936-697-1089; [justinbrann@gmail.com](mailto:justinbrann@gmail.com)).

The **Southeast District** is in need of two full-time pastors for both English (Alabama) and Spanish-speaking (North Carolina) churches. Interested applicants should contact Steve Krome, Southeast District superintendent (423-710-3911; [sdkrome@yahoo.com](mailto:sdkrome@yahoo.com)).

## CALENDAR 2013

- April 13** - Spanish Regional Super Sabbath, 9031 Howser Ln., Lanham, MD. Contact: Pastor Vega ([pastorserafin@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorserafin@yahoo.com)).
- April 20** - Orlando Church celebrates Women's Sabbath. Theme: "Women Standing for God." Guest speaker: Pastor Henry Harley (chairman, Jamaican Conference). Special artists: Andrea Stevens and Olive Brown from Spanish Town. Contacts: Alorna (352-638-1416) or Sharon (407-719-0179).
- May 24-26** - Family Retreat, Jasper, AR, at church's campground. Contact: Jason or Stephanie Overman (870-446-5736; [jasonoverman@hotmail.com](mailto:jasonoverman@hotmail.com))
- August 30 - September 2** - Hispanic Women's Retreat in Waxahachie, TX. Contacts: Maria Romo (972-365-7455) or Clarita Leon (214-274-9403), or visit [facebook.com/retirofemenildallas2013](http://facebook.com/retirofemenildallas2013).

### LifeSpring Dates

- May 29** - Summer scholarship applications due
- June 4** - Fall Certificate of Biblical Studies applications open
- June 25** - Summer course registration closes
- July 4** - Graduation ceremony at convention

## Publications

**Bible curriculum.** Information about Bible lessons for the second quarter 2013 is available under Publications on the G. C. website ([cog7.org](http://cog7.org)). BAP has lessons for most age groups: adult, senior youth, junior high, intermediate (grades 4-6), and primary (grades 1-3).

**Shop our online bookstore!** We are gradually adding more books to our online bookstore on the G. C. website. You will find a good selection of books on finances and Christian stewardship. Make your selection and pay with your credit card. Visit [cog7.org/store](http://cog7.org/store).

**Literature Days.** Contribute to the BAP Literature Fund at your church on each Literature Day (fifth Sabbaths), March 30 and June 29. Your offerings help send thousands of gospel booklets and tracts to churches in other countries that cannot contribute to the cost of producing the literature sent to them.

**Teacher training disks.** Four teacher training sessions, titled "How to Revitalize Your Sabbath School Program" presented by Karen Edwards, are available in both English and Spanish on the same two disks.

This training is excellent for new teachers and helpful for experienced ones. The disks can be used by individuals or groups. Each person taking the training should have a copy of the *Initial Teacher Training Manual* by Karen Edwards, also in either English or Spanish.

The set of two disks is \$20, and the training manual is available for a discounted donation of \$8. Order from Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; 303-452-7973; [bap.order@cog7.org](mailto:bap.order@cog7.org). Or visit the online bookstore.

## SWORD

SWORD is promoting our social media through a series of giveaways every month, leading up to G. C. Convention. For March, we gave away a paid registration to the convention. For April, we will give away two dinner tickets to our Gala SWORD Formal Dinner at the convention. For May and June, we will do something similar.

Anyone can enter these giveaways on our SWORD Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CoG7YoungAdults](http://www.facebook.com/CoG7YoungAdults). Daily entries are welcome — and you don't have to be a young adult to enter! — *Jacqui Melgoza*

## SPECIAL SWORD EVENT!

**Don't miss SWORD's Black & White Gala at the G. C. Convention, Friday, July 5. Dinner, music, and much more! Just purchase the Friday dinner meal ticket on the registration website ([cog7.org/convention/](http://cog7.org/convention/)).**

## License and Credentials

The L&C Committee met in Denver in February. Following is a summary of its actions:

### Local Pastor Certificates

Jody Crowson • Dustin Wiggins

### Ministerial License

Johny Solorzano • Kirk Grant

### Ministerial License (pending completion requirements)

Marvin Espana • Gerson Gonzalez  
Stephen Salazar • Bryan Cleeton  
Allo Sanchez

### Elevation to Ministerial Credentials

Eddie Villalba • Samuel Holland

### LPCs Renewal

Rene Monge • Mike Reuscher  
Aubrey Williams • Reuben Zaragoza  
Joe Romero

The **Valencia Scholarship Fund** has a tradition of championing students who are training for pastoral ministry through the provision of scholarships. LifeSpring School of Ministry is proud to recognize that the tradition continues this year.

The Valencia Scholarship Fund has awarded full-tuition scholarships to the following students:

**Jody Crowson, Springfield, Oregon**  
**David Lozano, Indio, California**  
**Ismael Martinez, Newnan, Georgia**  
**Ezra Modeste, Homestead, Florida**  
**Dustin Wiggins, Wingo, Kentucky**



## LifeSpring

by Amber Riggs

LifeSpring School of Ministry's inaugural graduation ceremony will be held Thursday morning, July 4, 2013, at the General Conference Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. This event will honor the 50-plus graduates who earned diplomas or certificates between 2008 and 2013.

Following the July 4 LifeSpring general session and graduation ceremony, a LifeSpring luncheon will serve as a reception for graduates, their families, and friends.

[amber.riggs@lifespringschool.org](mailto:amber.riggs@lifespringschool.org) | [www.LifeSpringSchool.org](http://www.LifeSpringSchool.org) | P.O. Box 33677 | Denver, CO 80233

**April is LifeSpring Emphasis**





*Calvin Burrell, Director  
Missions Ministries*

# A Long Commitment

The General Conference's long history of commitment to foreign missions includes the dedicated service of several directors, including Roy Marrs, Robert Coulter, Victor Burford, and William (Bill) Hicks. That commitment now continues with the appointment of a new Missions Director: Calvin Burrell. This commitment is sustained by your prayers and financial support. Thank you!

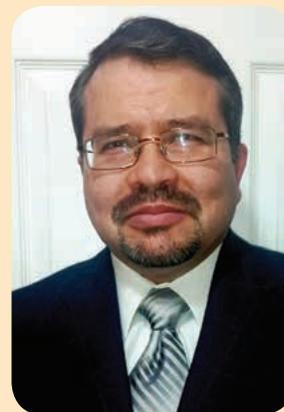
*May is Missions  
Ministries Emphasis*

**The dedicated service of Elder Bill Hicks as G. C. Missions director for more than a decade, during which time our church's efforts in missions experienced significant growth, is hereby acknowledged with much appreciation.**

*— Board of Directors*

Santiago Chavez was recently appointed assistant director of Missions Ministries. Pastor Chavez has served a number of years on the pastoral staff of the Lanham, Maryland congregation (under the leadership of Antonio Vega). He is playing a lead role in planting a new English church in the Washington, D. C. area and serves as a LifeSpring instructor. Santiago's bilingual skills and exposure to foreign fields through his career in the Navy have prepared him for this assignment.

Santiago has completed the Diploma of Pastoral Studies with LifeSpring and is currently completing an MA program in Christian Counseling. He and his wife, Lourdes, and family and reside in Germantown, Maryland. We welcome Brother Chavez to his new assignment.



*Santiago Chavez  
Assistant G. C. Missions  
Director*

## New Superintendent

Leeroy Williams, a member of the Fellowship Centre congregation (Scarborough, Ontario), was recently appointed by the board of directors as superintendent of the Eastern Canadian District. A native of Jamaica, Pastor Williams committed his life to the Lord at an early age and served the Church there, as well as in Florida in various capacities prior to migrating to Canada in 2002.

Pastor Williams and his wife, Lena, have been married 42 years and have three adult children and seven grandchildren. He succeeds Samuel Holland, who has served as superintendent since 2008. Pastor Williams' tenure begins immediately.





New NYM officers (L to R): Cheyenne Cox, Faith Mills, and Nikki Hammock. Zach Del Toro was not present.

## National Youth Ministry

Don't forget the National Youth Ministry's annual **Hunger Lock-In**. All local churches can participate any weekend between April 1 and June 30. Packets available at <http://youth.cog7.org> or by e-mailing [youth@cog7.org](mailto:youth@cog7.org) for a printed copy of the packet. Your participation supports the work of the NYM and a foreign missions project (typically an orphanage) through Missions Abroad. Will your church accept the challenge to raise at least \$75 for this worthy cause? Individual and collective donations can be sent to the General Conference office, c/o Hunger Lock-In, anytime before June 30.

**Congratulations to the Farmville, North Carolina youth group** for being the first to register with the NYM in 2013! Churches, there's still time to register your youth group at <http://youth.cog7.org/register>. Forms have also been sent to all local churches. Make sure your students don't miss out on this opportunity for connecting with us!

NYM has a new **officer team!** Officers for the 2012-14 term are Cheyenne Cox (Oregon), Faith Mills (Oregon), Nikki Hammock (Texas), and Zach Del Toro (Texas). The officers held their first meeting at a Youth Ministry Conference in Indianapolis March 1-4, along with Director Kurt Lang and Jason and Rose Rodriguez, Southwest District youth coordinators. We look forward to working with this team to bring some new ideas and skills to our national team!

## NAWM

Reminder: Crafters, crocheters, knitters, jewelry makers, quilters, and creative women — your donations are needed for the NAWM bazaar at convention. Be sure to make your Women's Luncheon reservation when registering.

## ASLEEP IN JESUS

### Remembering Albert Nunez

Alberto Nunez, 36 — beloved son of Sabino and Otilia; loving husband of Elizabeth Karen; and caring father to Raul, Evelyn, David, Grace, and Elijah — passed away March 4, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Alberto was born in Juarez, Mexico, June 9, 1976, and came to the United States in 1978. On January 24, 2000, he married Elizabeth Karen Todd in Colorado Springs after dating only six weeks. It was love at first sight! In addition to his secular employment, Alberto was a lay pastor for the Church of God (Seventh Day). He enjoyed soccer, chess, fishing, camping with his family, and target practice with friends.

In addition to his wife and children, Alberto is survived by his parents; grandmother, Leonor Porras; brother, Francisco; sisters Miriam, Cristina, Gabriella, and Violet Ortiz; and other relatives. The family requests memorials be made to the Orphans and Widows Ministry, Missions Abroad, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233-0677.

### ✓ TAKE NOTE



**If your church is live-streaming your Sabbath services, let us know so we can have that information available when we receive inquiries.**

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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."

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Unity in the Spirit  
Biennial Convention 2013  
Omaha, Nebraska  
July 1-6  
Hilton CenturyLink Center



For \$89 room rate, go to [cog7.org/convention/](http://cog7.org/convention/) or call 402-998-4215 and use our group name:  
General Conference Church of God (Seventh Day).

**Dynamic messages:** Attitudes that Unite (Heber Vega) • Doctrines that Unite (Calvin Burrell)  
• Gifts that Unite (Ken Lawson) • Lifestyles that Unite (Erik Dunn) • Living in the Spirit  
(Israel Steinmetz) • Walking in the Spirit (Whaid Rose)

**General sessions:** One Body • One Vision • One Blood • One Calling • One Hope • One  
Book

**Power-building track:** Daily Bible Study (in General Session format) designed to build up the  
body of Christ

**Business sessions:** State of the Church address • Election of Board of Directors • Conduct  
Convention Business

**Special events:** LifeSpring Graduation • BA's 150th Celebration • Celebrating LITES • Pastors  
and Wives Dinner • SWORD, Youth, and NAWM events • Children's Program • Springvale  
Sound Concert • Diversity Celebration

And much more . . .

