

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)

June-July 2013

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(Change for
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Changing Course

An important announcement

It was a foggy night on the Atlantic. Seeing a light in the distance, the captain of a US Naval ship radioed the following message: "Divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid collision."

A voice came back with this reply: "I recommend *you* divert *your* course 15 degrees to the south to avoid collision."

With greater insistence, the captain repeated, "This is the captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert *your* course."

But the response was no less insistent: "No, I say again, you divert *your* course."

Resorting to size and fighting capacity, the captain declared, "This is the aircraft carrier *USS Abraham Lincoln*, the second largest ship in the United States Atlantic fleet. We are accompanied by two destroyers, three cruisers, and numerous support vessels. I demand that you change your course 15 degrees north. That's one-five degrees north, or counter measures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship."

The exchange then ended when the plain-speaking voice replied simply, "This is the lighthouse. It's your call."

Various versions of this story exist, and the US Navy denies its veracity. But whether it is a true account or an urban legend, its popularity may be attributed to the valuable life lessons it teaches. They include the danger of self-importance and the reality that changing course is more often about "us" than about "them."

These principles informed David's thoughts as he prayed, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23, 24, KJV). And I trust they were the guiding influence in my decision to "change course" regarding my role as Conference president.

During the February meeting of the board of directors, I asked that my replacement be selected. Because it isn't likely this will happen by the time of the upcoming convention, it was mutually agreed that I would continue to serve through the 2015 convention, giving ample time to pray and process this critical decision. I shared this with directors and superinten-

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Conference Tour 2012-2013

Unity in the Spirit

By the time this issue of *Churchright* arrives at your local church, the Conference Tour will be nearing its end, with stops in Alfred, North Dakota, and Los Angeles, California, scheduled for early June. The pictures below are from the Acme, Alberta and Dallas, Texas stops. Praise the Lord for the inspiration and good connection resulting from these events!



*The Tour is nearing its end . . .
The CoG7 journey continues*



Standing Together

Under the current “Unity” theme, ministries directors and district superintendents gathered in Omaha April 21-23 for the annual leadership meeting. Major emphases included gaining advantage by fostering organizational clarity, rebuilding spiritual walls Nehemiah style, and making endings and transitions normal parts of our corporate culture.

Whaid Rose, Conference president, and Rick Frye, director of operations, led the group in a SWOT analysis of the General Conference (SWOT stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats). Matching weaknesses with strengths and opportunities confirmed the results of a SWOT done earlier this year and presented to the board of directors. There was much excitement about plans for future church development resulting from the analysis.

A significant aspect of this meeting was Whaid Rose’s announcement of his pending resignation (see front page). All ministries and districts were represented. Reports from directors and superintendents were encouraging.

Meeting in Omaha provided opportunity to acquaint key leaders with the convention facilities, which evoked much excitement. The meeting ended with leaders standing together, in our joint efforts and in heart and mind, affirming our unity in the Spirit.

— Whaid G. Rose

Changing Course

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dents in April and will elaborate during my “State of the Church” address in July.

Meanwhile, I’m staying here for the benefit of all concerned and covet your prayers for the board, the entire General Conference, and me as we enter into a period of transition. See you soon in Omaha!

— Whaid G. Rose
Conference President

TAKE NOTE ✓

The Conroe, Texas CoG7 seeks a licensed minister of the NAMC to serve as pastor. Contact Justin Brann (936-697-1089; justinbrann@gmail.com).

INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL CONGRESS: June 29 is IMC Sabbath for CoG7 congregations worldwide. Worship the God of all the earth, watch a documentary, pray for missions, and bring a Change for Your World offering.



SHINE, Jesus, SHINE



SHINE Medical and Dental Missions team ministered in Haiti March 25 – April 1. Whaid Rose joined the team mid-week. The effort was largely a success, though somewhat hindered by ten barrels of medication that were not delivered (and are still unaccounted for).

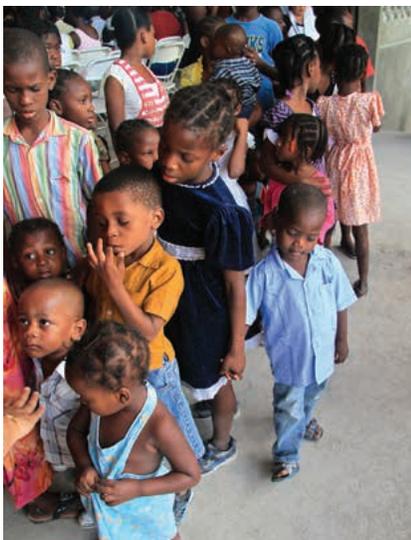
Long lines of people stretched across the open area of the compound long before the team arrived each morning. Haiti is the poorest nation in the Americas. These people live in poor circumstances — many in tent cities — and most have never received medical care of

this kind before. They're desperate, exploited, and in great need. And to the glory of God, over the four-day period the team served some 3,000 patients, providing comprehensive medical care and committing to follow up on a number of serious cases.

The goal of Mission Haiti was to disburse funds received in response to the 2010 disaster — approximately \$100,000. Half of that amount was expended through the recent effort, plus an additional \$15,000 disbursed in food distribution through local CoG7 pastors

and congregations and a donation to a ministry that conducts feeding programs for the elderly, women, and their children. The remaining funds will be used for long-term projects through Food for the Poor, a ministry in Haiti that specializes in building water treatment units and basic housing.

The need in Haiti is great; the work has only just begun. Your support of Missions has made this effort possible, and your continued interest and prayers will allow it to continue.



CoG7 NEWS

National Youth Ministry

NYM registration. Thanks to the following youth groups that have registered so far this year: Los Angeles, California (Bell); Wichita, Kansas; Farmville, Greensboro, and Newton, North Carolina; Fargo, North Dakota; Corona/Queens, New York; Eugene and Harrisburg, Oregon; Grand Prairie (English), Houston (Floral St.), and Midland, Texas (Hispanic Sabbath School). It's not too late to register!

National Youth Week/Hunger Lock-In. Get information packets at <http://youth.cog7.org> under the Resources tab. All local youth groups are encouraged to participate in this awesome weekend of service and spiritual growth anytime through **June 30**. All donations must be sent in before this date.

The foreign missions emphasis for this year is the Daughters of the King ministry in Sierra Leone, Africa, an offshoot of the Orphans and Widows Ministry of G. C. Missions. Your contributions will help this group of young ladies, freed from trafficking, to start a restaurant business that will help them become more self-sufficient and learn a trade. Thanks for your support!

Convention '13 youth program. Just one of the exciting things happening during the youth program at convention is a visit to Boys Town (www.boystown.org) on Friday. We'll tour this ministry to children and families, eat lunch with them there, and then stop at a park for a couple hours before heading back to the hotel. We can't think of a better way to spend a day together!

You can help! We hope to collect craft supplies to donate to this ministry during our visit: glue, fabric,



Last Call! 2013 Convention Omaha, Nebraska July 1-6

You may have missed the earlybird registration, but there's still time to register and make your hotel reservation. Don't miss this once-every-two-year opportunity. Your attendance means much!



CALENDAR 2013

July 1-6 – General Conference Convention, Omaha, NE.

August 1-4 – Dakota Youth Retreat, Crystal Springs, ND. Theme: “Addicted to Christ.” Visit www.csbcamp.org. Contact: Jesse-Wanda Hopewell (701-428-3667) or David-Jamie Nienhuis (701-655-3532).

August 9-11 – Northwest District SWORD Summer Retreat. Details to come soon! Contact: Kurt and Kaylee Stranberg (406-291-6723; sword-west-coast@cog7.org).

August 30 - September 2 – National Hispanic Women’s Retreat, Lakeview Conference Center, Waxahachie, TX. Contact: Maria Romo (214-274-9321) or Clara Leon (469-432-7198). Visit facebook.com/retirofemenildallas2013.

September 14-15 – Southwest District Summer SWORD Retreat, Camp Buckner, Burnet, TX. Contact: Deni Flores (214-694-5111) or Dan and Jacqui Melgoza (sword-southwest@cog7.org).

LifeSpring Dates

June 4 - Fall certificate program applications open

June 25 - Summer course registration closes

July 6 - Graduation ceremony at convention, Omaha

July 14 - Summer term begins

July 23 - Fall certificate program applications due

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TAKE NOTE ✓

Visit the Conroe CoG7 blog (www.sermonblog.net) featuring all sermons for the last year or so. Post your ideas or concerns about the sermons. No video is available — just audio.



Conroe Youth Conference. Over 415 youth, young adults, and youth workers from the Southwest District attended the Conroe Youth Conference, held in March at the local Conroe church. “Be Convinced” was the theme.

...sidewalk chalk, colored pencils, markers, washable paint, little wooden cutouts to decorate/paint, stickers, etc. If you’re coming to convention, will you bring an item or two and drop it off in the bin at our Youth Ministry booth? Thanks for your donations!

Spring Vale Academy

Enrollment. Spring Vale is accepting applications for the 2013-14 school year. For information on financial aid, call SVA at 989-725-2391 or visit springvale.us.

Scholarships. Applications for merit-based scholarships to SVA are being accepted beyond 2013, but don’t delay any longer! Fall semester begins August 20. Contact the G. C. office (303-452-7973; offices@cog7.org).

Employment opportunities. For detailed job descriptions of the following positions, please visit springvale.us (under Contact Us): principal, director of development, director of public relations, dean of boys, assistant dean of boys, assistant dean of girls, maintenance manager, Bible teacher, math teacher, music teacher, Spanish teacher.

SWORD Black & White Gala

Young adults ages 18-35, single or married, are invited to the Black & White Gala on Friday evening, July 5, at the 2013 convention in Omaha, Nebraska.

Let’s get all dressed up in our most fabulous attire, walk the red carpet, enjoy a delicious dinner and special guest speaker Whaid Rose — plus great entertainment, door prizes, and much more!

We request that no children attend this formal dinner event, except nursing babies. Childcare is available. Please contact Jacqui Melgoza (jacqui.melgoza@yahoo.com) to reserve a spot for childcare.

Evening dinner meal cost is \$23 per person. Purchase the Friday evening dinner special meal ticket on the convention registration page: <https://cog7.org/datavine/login/event/2>. If you have already registered for convention but have not purchased your Friday evening dinner meal ticket, call the G. C. offices (303-452-7973).

We look forward to seeing you at the SWORD Gala!

LifeSpring

Congratulations to these Winter 2013 graduates: Ruben Beard, El Paso, Texas (CBS); Gerson Gonzalez, Claremore, Oklahoma (DPM); Miguel Gonzalez, Carpentersville, Illinois (CBS); Ronald Rousseau, Crest Hill, Illinois (DPM); and Isai Urizar Laval, Quebec, Canada (DPM).

LifeSpring also recognizes the Winter 2013 Dean's List recipients*: Jody Crowson, Springfield, Oregon; Worrel Largie, Apopka, Florida.

* *These students took at least two courses and earned a minimum 3.5 GPA.*

CBS: Certificate of Biblical Studies. DPM: Diploma of Pastoral Ministry

Publications

Bible curriculum for the third quarter 2013:

Adults. *The Acts of the Apostles* offers studies about the growth and struggles of the early church.

Senior youth. *The Tabernacle: Salvation in the Desert* provides lessons about worship under the old covenant, showing how the elements of the tabernacle were a type of Jesus' ministry under the new covenant.

Junior high youth. *Call to Service* is about Apostle Paul's ministry during his missionary journeys, raising up churches in many places.

Intermediate (grades 4-6). *Living Wisely* involves challenging lessons from inspiring psalms and the wisdom of Proverbs.

Primary (grades 1-3). *God's Chosen People* has lessons about how God used different individuals to bless the early years of Israel — and how He can use us.

Learn more about these lessons in the Publications dropdown under Ministries (cog7.org).

North American Women's Ministries

Reminder to creative women: Your donations (crafts, jewelry, quilts, etc.) are needed for our bazaar at convention. Please remember to make your Women's Luncheon reservation before convention.

SERVICE COMPLETE

Clara Decker

Clara Lou (Walkley) Decker, 81, passed away April 26, 2013. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Ervin, as well as four sons and three grandchildren.



Of the five daughters in the Walkley family who pioneered a CoG7 congregation in Michigan, Clara leaves only one surviving sister, Ruby Barrow. Sisters who preceded her in death were Nettie McMicken, Lillian Masters, and Myrtle Brown.

The Deckers are known throughout the Church as faithful members who were familiar faces at our biennial conventions, though they raised their family isolated from other CoG7 members.



NED Retreat. *Fifty godly men serving in the Northeast District attended the 2013 Leadership Retreat March 28-31, in Mount Pleasant, PA. Theme: "The Core of Our Calling." For a full report of the event, visit cog7.org/churchright.*



Lanham Super Sabbath. *Over 500 people celebrated the first Regional Super Sabbath in Area IV of the Northeast District, Saturday, April 13, in Lanham, MD. To read more about the event, visit cog7.org/churchright.*

National Youth Ministry

June Emphasis

- Has your youth group registered with NYM? Youth workers, visit <http://youth.cog7.org/register> for online registration, or use the form located in the Gimme Five materials.
- Don't forget: Youth groups can participate in Hunger Lock-In anytime through June 30.
- Don't miss cool stuff for this summer, like camps and convention! See what's coming up at <http://youth.cog7.org>.

Change For Your World

International Ministerial Congress operates on free-will offerings from individuals and churches — around the corner and around the world. Congress officers, who also serve other duties, ask our support in a special annual IMC offering on June 29 (IMC Sabbath) or anytime in July.

Please mark your offering "Change For Your World," and pray that it will!

