

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)

October - November 2013

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The Worshipping Church

In the preface of *The Pursuit of God*, A. W. Tozer reflects on what he calls “the only real harbinger of hope” detectable anywhere on the religious horizon: increasing numbers of Christians whose religious lives are marked by a growing hunger after God himself. Desperate for spiritual realities, they refuse to be put off with words or be content with “correct interpretations of truth.” They’re thirsty for God and will not be satisfied until they’ve drunk deep at the fountain of living water.

Nowhere is this more clearly manifested than in the area of worship. According to Worship Institute’s LaMar Boschman, “Meaningful and empowered worship is the heart cry of Christians in every denomination. Worshippers want to connect with God in a sincere way. Consequently, Christian worship is experiencing a significant metamorphosis that challenges our traditions and touches us afresh.”

Thankfully, the Church of God (Seventh Day) is no exception to what Tozer and Boschman describe. Many among us have a growing hunger after God. Our vision of a Vibrant Twenty-first Century Church includes worship, given high priority in many congregations. And true to its nature, worship comes with good and bad. It can be the basis of revival as well as the source of tension and controversy. Worship must therefore be guided and nurtured, its biblical meaning taught, and the desire to become true worshippers encouraged.

The theme of the 2013-2015 Biennium is “The Worshipping Church.” Over the next two years we will explore worship’s biblical meaning and teach its priority and significance in our relationship with God. The goal is to engage the whole Church through worship materials and resources and through The School of Worship, an exciting event to be hosted in various locations (similar to the recent Conference Tour).

Worship is more than something we do at church on Sabbath; it’s a lifestyle. Worship is about God, not technique, personality, or culture. We therefore worship God for His benefit, not ours; for His glory, not our personal preference. So let’s get back to the heart of worship and in so doing, truly become the Worshipping Church.

— Whaid Guscott Rose
Denver office



Bylaws Revision Committee

Dear Conference Members,

You will recall that our 2013 convention in Omaha approved a resolution appointing a committee of eight members to revise our current General Conference bylaws. The members of that committee are Samuel Holland (chair), Robert Coulter, Whaid Rose, Loren Stacy, Raul Romo, Israel Steinmetz, Heber Vega, and Chip Hinds. Allan Burlison serves as parliamentarian consultant to the committee.

The committee had its first meeting in Denver September 8-10, 2013. The major question the committee began to address in order to complete its assignment was this: What kind of organization do we want to be in order to fulfill the Great Commission and our vision of a Vibrant Twenty-first Century Church? There was agreement that we must develop a structure based on scriptural principles and in agreement with our doctrinal statements. We aspire to be a conference that provides for the highest level of partnership among our members and congregations in the practice of our faith.

A schedule agreed upon by the committee will provide for completion of its work in time for the convention in 2015. The revision being contemplated will be informed by our current bylaws and the draft work on a constitution.

A great spirit of cooperation among the members of the committee existed throughout the first meeting. All members of the Conference are encouraged to continue to remember the committee in prayer. We will continue to update you as the committee completes major milestones in its assignment.

Yours in Christ,
Samuel Holland
Bylaws Revision Committee Chair



TEAMWORK

In a culture of excellence, teamwork is a core value. Teamwork is placing the welfare of the whole above one's personal interests. It's becoming selfless, not serving for individual glory but because of love for Christ and His church. Thank you for being a team player!



On the Road with the Roses

Whaid Rose was guest speaker at the Southern California Super Sabbath in San Fernando on September 21. His two messages, “The Worship of Heaven” (used to launch the new biennium theme on worship) and “Strength for Our Weakness” (dealing with the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers), were delivered to an enthusiastic crowd of approximately 700. Marjolene Rose rendered special music.

The Roses were also guests at a special Friday evening service at the Homestead, South Miami congregation on September 27. Heartfelt worship filled the sanctuary in preparation for the message “Let’s Talk About God.” Marjolene Rose provided special music.



In addition to the major mission conducted in Haiti earlier this year, SHINE Medical and Dental Missions recently completed a mini-mission in Nicaragua and is preparing for another in Chihuahua, Mexico, in November.

SHINE’s next major mission is scheduled for June 15-23, 2014, in Belize. More information and application forms may be downloaded at the G. C. or SHINE websites. Whether or not you personally go on a SHINE mission, you may still participate through your prayers and financial support. Thank you!



Senior Adult Retreat 2013 at Sis-Q Meadows

August 21-25 marked two “firsts” for us: first time to visit Sis-Q Meadows, first time to attend a Senior Adult Retreat. We joined approximately 50 others — a few more on Sabbath.

Someone asked, “WHAT do you do at a senior retreat?” The answer could be many faceted. We reunited and “caught up” with what’s going on in the lives of old friends. We made wonderful new friends. We ate Mary Sue’s good food. Some of us hiked up a trail to see the cobra lilies. We also hiked to the top of a high hill to enjoy the breathtaking scene of God’s great handiwork and a bird’s eye view of the camp.

Free time in the afternoons allowed for relaxing under the trees and visiting — or even napping. Another wonderful option was scheduling a massage with Alice (Williams) Bartlett, who shares a portion of her fee with Sis-Q Meadows.

Morning fellowship was rich. Al Brenneise led us in sharing our response to questions like “If you could have a two-hour interview with anyone (alive or deceased, famous or not), who would that person be?” Many spoke of a parent or grandparent with whom they would love to visit.

It was acknowledged by regular attendees that always, by the next year, someone is missing. Who could know, as we saw David Kauer packing the car to depart from Sis-Q, that by the next morning we would learn he had breathed his last earthly breath — a sober reminder that none of us knows “our” day or hour.

— Hope Dais



SVA Second Semester Senior Scholarship

Spring Vale is committed to discipling young people to Jesus Christ and passing the baton of faith to the next generation. Toward this goal, we have need-based grants and opportunities to help bridge the gap between what a family can reasonably afford and the cost of this valuable education and experience.

With your support, Spring Vale is promoting the new Senior Scholarship. This will make possible one boy and one girl to attend SVA for the last semester of their senior year. We invite all General Conference members, SVA alumni, and others who believe in this effort to financially back this fund. The goal is \$9,300.

Our seniors are a special class of students who will be faced with significant challenges as they go on to college and pursue their goals and dreams. Spring Vale's program is tailored to prepare these seniors and equip them with answers to life's difficult questions. We are taking a step of faith and have already begun soliciting applications from seniors who will fill these scholarships beginning in January 2014.

Will you donate to this fund today and help change the lives of two graduating seniors? Make your check payable to "Spring Vale Academy" and put "Senior Scholarship" in the memo line.

Spring Vale Academy
4150 S. M-52
Owosso, MI 48867



Future Leaders Scholarship Awards

The Future Leaders Scholarship is made possible through a collaborative effort between Spring Vale Academy and the General Conference. Scholarship recipients for this year's fall semester are pictured above.

Back row (L to R): Matthew Nienhuis, Angel Rodriguez, Josiah Carbajal

Front row (L to R): Danielle Endecott, Jacob Miller, Jennifer Rodriguez



Hispanic Women's Retreat

More than 300 ladies gathered at Lakeview Conference Center in Waxahachie, Texas, over Labor Day weekend to celebrate the XXVI Hispanic Women's Retreat. The theme was "Women of Courage and Power," based on Hanna's story in 1 Samuel 1, 2. The program was organized by the sisters of the North Dallas congregation. Those attending enjoyed inspiring worship, powerful preaching, and activities that promoted fellowship and raised awareness and funds for the SHINE and Orphans and Widows ministries.

Pioneer Sabbath

Pioneer Sabbath is scheduled for October 19. Its purpose is to underscore that we are part of a larger historical context. Understanding that history and becoming familiar with our ancestors enhance our sense of meaning and purpose.

On the Road with the Prez

In recent weeks Whaid Rose's schedule has taken him to Jacksonville, Sacramento, Milwaukee, San Fernando, and South Miami. He will minister in New York City October 11-13 and in Springfield, Missouri, on November 9.

Lanham Youth Camp

Fifty-three young people from our CoG7 congregation in Lanham stayed after church July 20-21 for a youth camp in the church campus in Maryland.

Mark Sullivan (Pennsylvania) and Dennis Farrar (New York) were the guest speakers. They preached about "Running the Good Race," illustrated in Hebrews 11 and 12. A heartfelt word of thanks goes out to our 17 staff members.

— Nancy Gallardo

LifeSpring

Congratulations to the following Summer 2013 Dean's List recipients: Thomas Childers, Cotulla, Texas; Jody Crowson, Springfield, Oregon; Ismael Martinez, Newnan, Georgia.

These students were enrolled in courses half-time and earned a minimum 3.5 GPA.

2013 Hunger Lock-In

Special thanks to the following churches that participated in the Spring 2013 Hunger Lock-In program, sponsored by the National Youth Ministry: Dallas (Melbourne), Texas; Marion, Oregon; Spokane, Washington; Phoenix (West), Arizona.

Your offerings will be sent to support the Daughters of the King, a subsidiary of the Orphans and Widows Ministry of G. C. Missions.

If your church has not yet participated, there is opportunity this fall to be involved. Please e-mail youth@cog7.org for more information.

ASLEEP IN JESUS



David Kauer

With sadness, the Denver office announces the passing of David Kauer, pastor of the Sacramento (Las Cruces) congregation, on August 26. He suffered a heart attack just after he and his wife, Betty, had returned from the Senior Adult Retreat at Sis-Q-Meadows.

David was born January 9, 1935, in Junction City, Oregon. In addition to pastoring various congregations, David served as secretary/treasurer of the General Conference during construction of our Broomfield (Denver) facility. His father, Stanley, a veteran CoG7 leader, was instrumental in founding Spring Vale Academy and a key figure in the growth and development of Midwest Bible College.

David was 78 and in recent years became very involved in the leadership of SHINE Medical and Dental Missions. A Celebration of Life service was held September 1.

TAKE NOTE ✓

G. C. Missions Trip

Pray for Missions Director Calvin Burrell and Missions intern Bryan Cleeton as they complete a 26-day journey across Asia:

The Philippines (September 27-30)

India (October 1-7)

Sri Lanka (October 8-9)

Western Australia (October 10-13)

Myanmar-Burma (October 14-20)

CALENDAR 2013

October 25-27 - Fall Frenzy Youth Rally, Harrisburg, OR. Contact: Kurt Lang (kurt@cog7.org)

November 1-3 - Central District Youth and Young Adult Retreat, Camp I-O-DIS-E-CA, Solon, IA. Contact: Abe Endecott, NYC (abe.endecott@gmail.com).

November 2 - Youth and young adult rally, Pleasant Hills Christian Church (Harrisburg, PA CoG7). Theme: "STAND UP!" Contact: Mark Sullivan (mark.sullivan@cog7.org).

December 26-29 - Southwest District Winter Retreat, Hoblitzel Camp and Conference Center, Midlothian, TX. Contact: Jason and Rose Rodriguez, NYC (jandr-rodriguez@att.net).

LifeSpring Events

October 28 - Winter course registration/scholarship application opens

November 12 - Winter Certificate program early applications due

November 26 - District scholarship applications due

December 10 - General scholarship applications due

December 31 - Winter course registration due

January 12, 2014 - Winter classes begin

How's Your Serve?

James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world" (NIV).

Our youth gladly accepted this challenge and took the opportunity to serve others rather than themselves this summer. Here are two examples:

"The hot Texas summer sun didn't stop over 120 young people and youth workers from spending a weekend together at the SWD Summer Getaway August 1-4, worshiping God with one voice, building stronger relationships with each other, and learning about living out a 'love riot' by following the example Jesus Christ set for us. We put our love for others into practice by serving the Houston community. Volunteering at the country's largest food bank, we helped package 26,250 Disaster Relief boxes. It was an amazing opportunity to work together through this organization to help share Jesus' love!"

— Rose Rodriguez
Southwest District Youth Coordinator

"On the first evening of SIS-Q Meadows Senior Youth Camp (July 21-28), Pastor Larry Zaragoza challenged the 80+ young people in attendance to give up a few of their 'snack store' bucks to raise \$90, the amount needed to buy one bicycle for a pastor in Kenya that would make travel for these pastors so much easier. By the end of the week, \$450 was collected — enough to purchase five bicycles! When God's people band together for a common goal, there's no limit to what God can do through them!"

— Kurt Lang
Camp Counselor

License and Credential Committee Meeting 2014

November 1 is the deadline to request an application for local pastor certificates, ministerial license, and credentials. There is a pre-application process, so do not delay! Contact Makayla Schlenker at lcc.custodian@cog7.org or 303-452-7973 for more information.

Pastors Needed

The **Sacramento, California** church is looking for a full- or part-time pastor for its congregation of 30-40 members. Interested persons who have a lay certificate or license/credential with the NAMC are encouraged to contact Elders Gil Kauer (gilkauer@surewest.net) and Alan Douma (doumaa@sbcglobal.net). Salary and hours are negotiable. Visit the Sacramento congregation website at www.cog7sac.org.

The **Kansas City** church is also looking for a pastor. For details, please contact the Central District superintendent or the church board at kccog7@yahoo.com.

The **Conroe, Texas** congregation continues the search for a pastor — a licensed minister of the NAMC. Please contact Justin Brann (936-697-1089; justinbrann@gmail.com).

Southeast District Family Retreat

"Perfect Man, Sovereign Savior and Reigning Lord" is the theme for the Southeast District Family Retreat, December 23-28, at Camp Tekoa in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Join in worship, celebration, and study of Jesus.

TAKE NOTE ✓

Mark your calendars for a Super Sabbath on December 14 in Phoenix, AZ. Additional details to follow.

TAKE NOTE ✓

Whaid Rose is officially on Twitter!
You may follow him @WhaidRose.

God has revealed Himself completely in Jesus of Nazareth. As Christians, our statement of faith stipulates that Jesus reveals God the Father and is Himself God. Jesus is thus the God of our trust, worthy of the same worship and obedience as His Father.

Contact Jeff Endecott (252-414-9191; jlend60@gmail.com) or Jim Camero (828-320-8786; jcamero74@gmail.com). Cost for food and lodging \$15 per person per day.



The Southwest District Young Adult Ministries hosted their first annual Summer Escape weekend near Austin, TX, September 14-15. Around 100 young adult staff and students enjoyed praise and worship and workshops on the theme "Exposed" (James 5:16). Israel Steinmetz and Ruben Marquez Jr. answered questions on accountability in the Christian walk.



The Southeast District held its annual leadership conference August 23-25 at the Ramada Conference Center in Jacksonville, FL. Fifty Church leaders from the entire district attended leadership courses taught by Pastor Israel Steinmetz. Pastor Whaid Rose gave the Sabbath service message of "Leadership Taking Aim." Over 100 people attended Sabbath services.



On Wednesday, August 21, Whaid Rose and Calvin Burrell hosted a two-hour meeting with leaders of the United Church of God, an international association, at the General Conference offices near Denver. They were Scott and Connie Ashley (Scott is managing editor of *The Good News* magazine), and Victor and Beverly Kubik (Victor is church president). What a delight to share the joys and challenges of service and oversight among Sabbath-observing brethren in Christ. It continued a friendship established with the Kubiks (then with the Worldwide Church of God) more than 20 years ago.

Clergy Appreciation

October is Clergy Appreciation Month

The General Conference is pleased to promote this worthy observance in honor of those who labor in the gospel and shepherd those under their care.

Individuals and local congregations are encouraged to make good use of this opportunity to appreciate the clergy, their wives, and their families.

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Cristo Viene provides support to scores of CoG7 missionaries, pastors, and evangelists worldwide.

Our five-year goal is to send 500 Cristo Viene workers to grow centers of faith from which new leaders are effectively prepared for service.

Please mark your offering "Cristo Viene" and pray that more workers be called into the harvest!



Find out more at gcmissions.cog7.org

/ GCMissions / MissionsGC



LifeSpring Branches Out

Did you know that LifeSpring isn't just for pastors?

This fall, LifeSpring School of Ministry launched new certificate programs in Biblical Guidance, Christian Education, Christian Leadership, Family Ministry, Outreach Ministry, and Worship Ministry. Each of LifeSpring's certificate programs is designed for individuals who are gifted and active in those ministries but who want to be equipped to serve at a deeper level.

For more information, visit www.LifeSpringSchool.org.