

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)

December 2013 - January 2014

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2014 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

Worship at Its Core — *Whaid Guscott Rose*

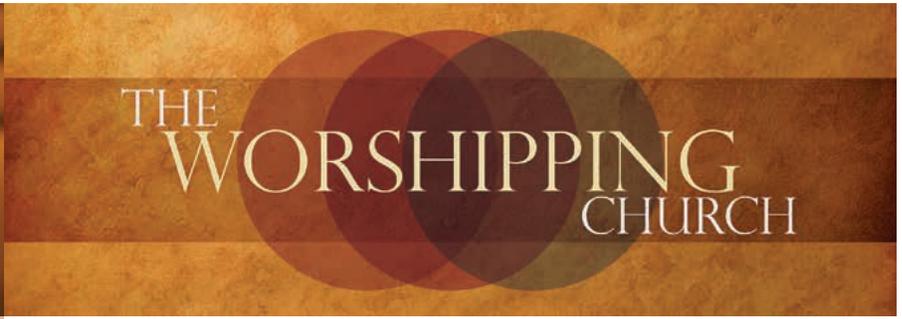
We derive from Scripture that the worship of God is the most important activity in which Christians can engage. The true measure of a church is its capacity to honor God with biblical worship. The church's life and ministry should flow out of its preoccupation with the worship of God. A day is coming when all of human history will narrow down to one thing: the ceaseless praise and adoration of the Lamb of glory. Therefore, as Christians, our most important question should be, How shall we worship?

That's where the problem of worship begins, Skye Jethani cautions — especially for Americans who place such high value on the pragmatic, the utilitarian, and the transactional. We care much about what works and what's most practical, and about negotiating deals. We transfer this approach to our worship of God, and our American version of the golden calf emerges! Its worshippers ask, "What new thing can we do to get to the next level?" They demand practical sermons, so worship is transactional; expect something in return for giving to God. As prime example, Jethani cites this tweet directed at God by an NFL player after losing a game: "I praise you 24/7 and this is what You do to me? You expect me to learn from this? How? I will never forget this! Ever!"

This tweet exposes the serious state of worship in our day. It becomes a means to an end. Jethani's assertion is timely: "God does not exist to be useful. He exists to be adored, simply because of who he is. True worship is never transactional."* At its core, true worship is giving God all we are and have, no matter how costly, expecting nothing in return. This principle has scriptural backing, including the story of the woman who poured an entire alabaster jar of very costly perfume on Jesus in selfless worship (see Mark 14:3, 4). Those looking on called it a waste; the woman considered it worship. Her extravagance reflected the depth of her love.

It is therefore reasonable to infer from this that most of us have never truly worshipped God — in a seemingly wasteful extravagance, with one desire: "to behold the beauty of the LORD" (Psalm 27:4, NKJV). This is worship's call. May our souls say, "Yes!"

*Skye Jethani, from a sermon at Newsong Church in Irvine, CA. Quoted in *Leadership Journal* (Fall 2013), p. 11.



Reality Check

What's missing in your worship?

Most of us have never honored God with biblical worship. That's quite an assertion. Note its basis. Read "Worship at Its Core" on page 1.

Worship is . . .

Carry a business-sized worship card with you wherever you go as a reminder of the nature and priority of worship. Cards will be available throughout the year. Order yours for a donation of any amount by contacting the Denver office.



The Heart of Worship

Not too long ago, two San Antonio congregations, Heart of Worship and Living Rock Church, merged to form a larger and stronger local church called New Hope United.

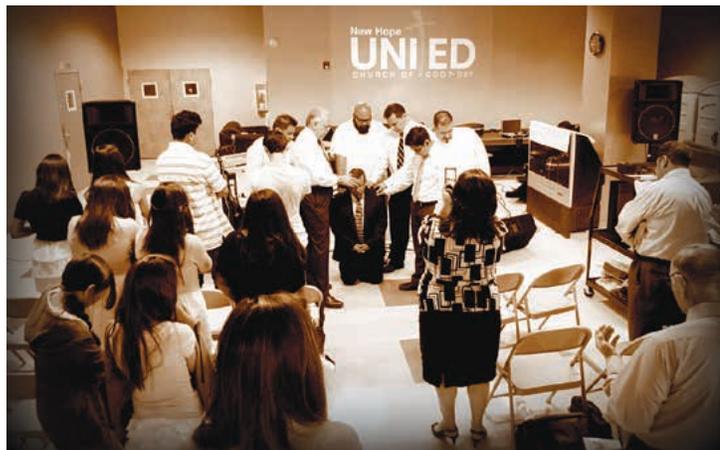
The following question was recently posed to its leadership:

"The name Heart of Worship is part of your local church's history. Is it safe to say that though worship is no longer part of its name, it remains an important part of the life and ministry of the congregation? Why? What is worship? What does worship mean to your local church?"

Response:

"A local church's name should reflect its mission. The use of the name Heart of Worship was to reflect our understanding that we were made for the purpose of worship and that it is therefore central to what it means to be a church. Worship isn't complicated. Worship is simply responding to God's love. We love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). We give back to Him what He gave us in the first place. We do so not out of obligation, but as a natural inclination of the heart. This delights the Father just as earthly fathers delight in the spontaneous joyful love response of their children. This leads to deeper intimacy and the surrender of our gifts and abilities in service to the Lord.

"Though our church is no longer called Heart of Worship, this understanding of worship remains an integral part of who we are. The passion of ministry is getting back to the heart of worship."





Philippines Update

On November 8 the central islands of the Philippines took a devastating blow from super-typhoon Haiyan. You've seen images of the destroyed east shore city of Tacloban and other locations along the storm's path. The suffering there is incomprehensible.

CoG7 members in the Philippines are concentrated on the southern island of Mindanao and were mostly unaffected by this storm. We have fewer members and churches around the northern city of Manila, an area that also escaped the wrath of Haiyan. The brunt of this killer storm was borne in the country's midsection, the state of Visayas. Most or all of the relief funds we will send to the Philippines will go toward helping the people in that east-central area, including any members of our church (a dozen or more scattered congregations in Visayas) who may need it.

Hundreds of thousands of people, a majority of them Christians by profession, are now homeless, hungry, and facing the task of rebuilding with very few resources. From our Disaster Relief Fund, CoG7 joins the many who have sent or will send financial assistance. An amazing and encouraging sub-theme of this great tragedy is that our church's leaders in the Philippines report that as of late November, no members of our church have lost their lives and that property damage among CoG7 families is relatively minor. Let us thank God for this!

Recently CoG7 members in the US and Canada have responded generously to support our brethren in southern Mexico who experienced serious flooding in September. Now we ask you to open your hearts again — to the people of the Philippines in their time of need — by an offering earmarked "DRF" or "Disaster Relief." You can contribute either online (cog7.org) or in the local plate.

On behalf of hurting people who've been helped in dozens of places around the world through DRF, thanks to all of you!

Calvin Burrell
for G. C. Missions

Missions Travels

Thanks for tracking with us in your thoughts and prayers on our recent trip to five Far East and Down Under countries in 26 days.

- We flew more than 30,000 miles in 20 flight segments, about 70 hours in the air. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (three times), and Seoul, Korea (twice), were our most-visited airports. We also traveled by bus (eight hours to the Hatton area in Sri Lanka), by train (India), by taxi (Myanmar), by rickshaw (India), and by private car (Philippines, India, Australia) — amid often chaotic traffic. In 26 nights away from home, we slept in ten different beds. We spent six nights flying and one in a train (sleeper).

- We visited about a dozen local churches and a dozen family homes. We taught at six pastor-leader conferences and dedicated two new church or school buildings, handing out BAP books and tracts freely along the way. We invested several hours with Church leaders in each country, reviewing the status of CoG7 in each place, offering counsel, and exploring ways G. C. Missions might encourage and assist. All the brethren sent their hearty



Cristo Viene

From the Arabian coast of southwest India, Claret is a fisherman and a CoG7 pastor. His mission is to share the hope of Jesus and to disciple believers in India where Christians make up less than 3 percent of over a billion people.

Cristo Viene, an international CoG7 ministry, supports missionaries like Claret to impact their homelands with the gospel and plant CoG7 in new regions of the world. Just \$30 a month will help enable native missionaries to serve full-time and reach the unreached. Give online at cog7.org/giving or earmark your local offering "Cristo Viene." Thank you for your prayerful support!



Find out more at gcmisions.cog7.org
Facebook: /GCMissions Twitter: /MissionsGC



100 x \$100 Campaign

Spring Vale Academy invites all alumni and friends to participate in a 100 x \$100 campaign to help fund a Senior Scholarship initiative for the second semester. SVA has launched this new scholarship to demonstrate that anyone can attend SVA, regardless of financial background. The scholarship will provide opportunity for one senior boy and one senior girl to attend Spring Vale, fully funded by alumni and friends.

If 100 SVA alumni or friends donate \$100, the \$10,000 raised would more than cover the \$9,300 it costs for both scholarship recipients to attend Spring Vale the semester starting January 2014. If you prefer, you may spread your donations out over the course of the next five months by sending \$20 per month.

Write "Senior Scholarship" on the memo line of your check and mail it to Spring Vale Academy, 4150 S. M-52, Owasso, MI 48867.

Or you may donate with a credit card through the PayPal link on Spring Vale's website (www.springvale.us). Thanks for your participation in this life-changing campaign!

Applications are now being accepted for the second semester of the 2013-2014 school year. Please contact Scott Fischer at 989-725-2391 for more information.

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greetings to CoG7 in the US and Canada, with gratitude for your support and fellowship in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Weather was uniformly tropical (warm and humid) in the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. Only in Western Australia did we experience any "cool." We missed the earthquake and the ethnic violence in the Philippines and the typhoon in India. Grateful to God for our personal health and safety and for much success in our mission, we arrived home on the evening of October 21.

Calvin Burrell and Bryan Cleeton
G. C. Missions

Spanish Assistant Dean

On November 4 Santiago Chavez joined the LifeSpring School of Ministry team as Spanish assistant dean of Academic Affairs. He is responsible for Spanish language academic programming, including curriculum development and faculty oversight. His appointment allows LifeSpring to live up to its commitment to serving the General Conference's growing Hispanic constituency, reflected in LifeSpring's student demographic.



Initial funding for this position was approved by the board of directors, based on the agreement that LifeSpring staff be responsible for raising long-term funding. May the whole Church rally behind this effort, with even greater support from those who directly benefit from this staff addition. Gifts earmarked "LifeSpring Spanish" will be directed to this need.

After serving faithfully in lay ministry at the Lanham, Maryland congregation for many years, Santiago recently planted the Open Arms Church of God (Seventh Day) in Gaithersburg, Maryland. He earned a Diploma of Pastoral Ministry from LifeSpring in 2011 and is continuing his education with a master of arts in Christian Counseling and Discipleship from Capital Bible Seminary.

Santiago Chavez has served as assistant director of G. C. Missions since April. Effective with his new assignment with LifeSpring, Brother Chavez no longer serves with G. C. Missions. In addition to his good qualifications for the LifeSpring position, the decision to switch departments was prayerfully made based on matching the most urgent ministry need with the area of greatest passion, and has the blessing of those involved in both departments.

Publications

First Quarter Lessons, 2014

Adults. *Proverbs: God's Book of Wisdom* is the theme for this quarter.

Senior youth will study *The Just Shall Live By Faith*, based on the book of Romans.

Junior high youth. With the theme *God's Plan in History*, this series covers a wide span — from Abraham and the origin of the nation of Israel to the New Testament times and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Intermediate (grades 4, 5, and 6). The theme for this quarter is *Jesus' Ministry*. The lessons are a continuation of last quarter.

Primary (grades 1, 2, and 3). *Kings and Prophets* focuses on the stories in 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings, continuing where last quarter left off.

Preschool/kindergarten. In *God – Always in Control, Always with a Plan* the lessons start with Noah and the Flood and end with Joseph saving his family from the famine.

For more detailed information and pricing, click on Curriculum under Publications on the G. C. website.

National Youth News

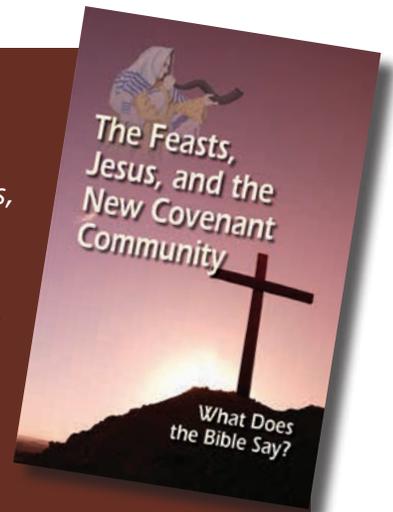
Fall Frenzy. YOLO? Nah. . . . YODO! This was the theme of Harrisburg, Oregon's annual Fall Frenzy Youth Rally October 25-27, 2013. Playing off the popular slang "You only live once," guest speaker Jonathon Hicks (Spokane, Washington) brought a message of our hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ, using YODO: "You only die once"! As believers, we need not fear spiritual death but can rejoice in our salvation.

We were blessed with about 90 youth from Eugene, Marion, Harrisburg, Redmond, and Portland, Oregon churches, as well as from Puyallup, Toppenish, and Spokane, Washington. Our farthest guests came from Meridian, Idaho!



BAP has a new 16-page booklet titled *The Feasts, Jesus, and the New Covenant Community: What Does the Bible Say?* This document explains the CoG7 understanding of the purposes served by the Hebrew festivals during the old cov-

enant era and how they should be understood under the new covenant. The booklet is free. Offerings for the Literature Fund are appreciated.



Stand Up. The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania CoG7 hosted their annual youth/young adult rally on Saturday, November 2. This year's theme was "Stand Up." Approximately 150 people attended, including youth and young adults from Spring Vale Academy, Philadelphia, New York City, Maryland, and Virginia, as well as the Harrisburg group.

Worship was led by a group from Lanham, Maryland. Messages were given on non-conformity and standing up for rights as students and Christians, as well as a call to action for young people to change their lives. Many answered the call to stand up and make a commitment to live for Christ, some for the first time.

Be Different. The Central District held its annual fall youth and young adult retreat with the theme "Be Different," based on Romans 12:2. Every day we are faced with waking up in a world where we trade our time and our talents to acquire what is "cool," yet we find ourselves broken, afraid, and consumed by the things we desire. The focus of the retreat was to learn what it means to be transformed, uncomfortable yet joyful, uneasy but reliant in Him, feeling pain but delighting in His pleasure, and finding strength in His promises.

TAKE NOTE ✓

Lord's Supper Service

April 13, 2014

CALENDAR 2013-2014

December 26-29 - Southwest District Winter Retreat, Hoblitzelle Camp and Conference Center, Midlothian, TX. Contact: Jason and Rose Rodriguez, DYC (jandrodriguez@att.net).

LifeSpring Events

December 10 - Winter general scholarship applications due

December 31 - Winter course registration due

January 12 - Winter classes begin

January 27 - Spring course registration/scholarship application opens

February 11 - Spring certificate program early applications due

February 25 - Spring district scholarship applications due

Pastors Needed

The Conroe, Texas CoG7 still searches for a pastor — a licensed minister of the NAMC. Please contact Justin Brann (936-697-1089; justinbrann@gmail.com).

The CoG7 in Wister, Oklahoma, is searching for a full-time pastor. Qualifications include someone with pastoral experience. Call Lamar Ford (918-647-5913) or Chip Hinds (918-647-6021) for more information.

The Brooklyn Community Church in New York also needs a full-time pastor. Please contact Heber Vega (hebervega@gmail.com).

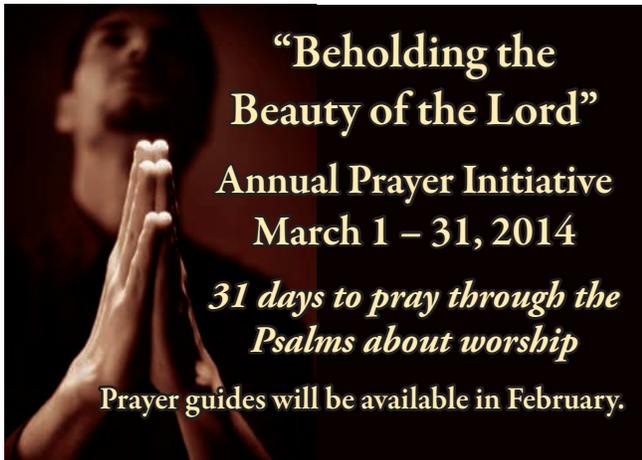
LifeSpring: It's Not Just for Pastors

Over the past three years, almost 40 students have graduated from LifeSpring School of Ministry with diplomas of Pastoral Ministry. With the 2013-14 school year, LifeSpring is proud to announce new programs that cater to students in other areas of ministry as well.

The new BA in Christian Ministry is a completion program that combines traditional undergraduate coursework with biblical studies and specialized ministry coursework. Students who already have some undergraduate coursework, a bachelor's degree in another field, or a LifeSpring diploma may be very close to earning a BA in Christian Ministry!

LifeSpring's new ministry certificate programs are designed for men and women who desire to be servant leaders after the model of Christ by approaching ministry through a Christian worldview. Twenty-four credit ministry certificates are available in Biblical Guidance, Biblical Studies, Christian Education, Christian Leadership, Family Ministry, Outreach Ministry, and Worship Ministry.

All programs are available in both English and Spanish. Find out more at www.lifespringschool.org.



“Beholding the Beauty of the Lord”
Annual Prayer Initiative
March 1 – 31, 2014
31 days to pray through the Psalms about worship
Prayer guides will be available in February.



SHINE: Fulfilling Its Mission

In 2013, SHINE Medical and Dental Missions conducted a major outreach in Haiti, a mini mission in Nicaragua, Central America, in early fall, and another mini mission soon to take place in Chihuahua, Mexico. SHINE is also preparing for its 2014 major mission in Belize.

Pray for SHINE as it Shares Hope With Nations Everywhere!

Pastor Retires

At least 300 brothers and sisters gathered to honor Pastor Allan Crawford, who retired from the Brooklyn Community Church in November and returned to Jamaica. Pastor Crawford leaves behind a legacy of impact on the kingdom and fruit from his godly labor. The CoG7 Brooklyn congregation will miss him but will gladly welcome the next pastor God sends their way.



December is GC Ministries Emphasis

Through its ministries, the General Conference is . . .

giving the world an opportunity to hear the
gospel; **sowing** Bible seeds worldwide
through print and online literature;
equipping men and women for more
effective ministry through leadership training;
preparing young people academically and
spiritually; **encouraging** worship,
fellowship, and service among youth;
making a real difference in the lives of
young adults; **uniting** women around their
God-given purpose in Christ's body.

These efforts are made possible through your financial support and prayers. Thank you!
Please earmark your donations "GC Ministries."



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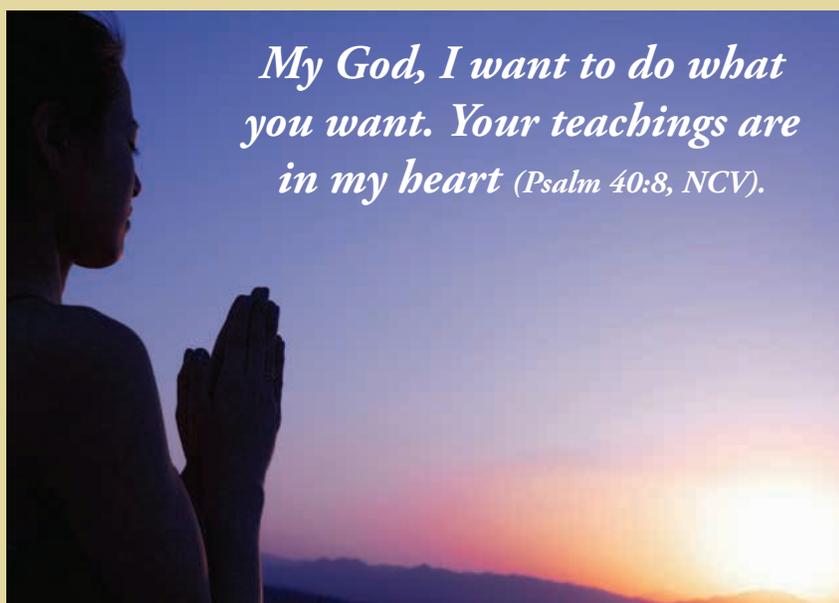
Missions
Publications
LifeSpring School of Ministry
Spring Vale Academy
Youth Ministry (NYM)
Young Adult Ministry (SWORD)
Women's Ministries (NAWM)

National Women's Retreat . . .
and 75th Anniversary Celebration

All She Ever Wanted

Inverness Hotel and Conference Center
Englewood, CO
April 4-6, 2014

Guest speaker: Whaid Rose



NAWM is celebrating its 75th anniversary as a CoG7 ministry, and we'd be honored to have you celebrate with us. We've come a long way, and we want to praise God for the blessings He has bestowed on us. Our retreats are always for women of all ages and cultures.

Mark your calendars! Arrive a day early or leave a day later with our special retreat rates. Cost per person: \$225 + \$25 non-refundable registration fee. (Two nights, four meals, double occupancy.)

Details and registration forms available at www.cog7.org/nawm-register.

January is North American Women's Ministries emphasis.