

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)

February - March 2014

Volume 6 • Number 2

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

Defining Worship

Previously on this page I suggested that because a day is coming when all of human history will narrow down to the ceaseless worship of the Lamb of Glory, our most important question should therefore be “How, then, shall we worship?”

Answering this question should begin with a biblical definition of *worship*. Determining how we must worship should begin with understanding what worship is in the first place.

Much is said in Scripture about this subject, but nothing in terms of a concise dictionary-type definition. Nonetheless, drawing upon the many things Scripture does say about worship, we can develop a working definition against which all elements of our worship can be evaluated.

Rather than parsing the Hebrew and Greek words translated “worship” in Scripture (that will come later), let’s consider some of the common definitions crafted by various spiritual leaders and authors* who’ve delved deeply into the Bible to discover *worship*’s true meaning. Remember, this isn’t something new; we need not reinvent the wheel.

Worship is the believer’s affirmative response to God’s self-revelation, the active response of a community of believers to the glory of God, attributing praise and honor for who He is and what He has done.

Worship is communion and intimacy with God, the act of joyously loving and celebrating God — the highest and most fulfilling activity in which believers can engage.

Worship is the believer’s heart response to God’s character, attributes, and truth in His Word.

Worship is focusing the mind’s attention and the heart’s affection on the love, grace, and mercy of God, which daily informs and guides our actions and experiences.

Worship is a lifestyle.

Defining *worship* isn’t easy; it is a big and multi-faceted subject. But we must work at it, for everything we do in worship flows out of our definition. So prayerfully ponder its meaning as we strive to truly become a worshipping church.

— Whaid Guscott Rose

* Definitions informed by the writings of Bob Sorge, Robert Wertz, and Robert Webber.

THE WORSHIPPING CHURCH

Reality Check

What's your definition of *worship*? What informs that definition?

How we worship, our reservations, and our inhibitions are based on our definition of *worship*. Developing a working definition, based on Scripture, is an important step for serious disciples. So develop one — and don't ever leave home without it!

Memory Boost

Carry a worship card (business card sized) 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.



Worship Spotlight on Nigeria

The Church of God (Seventh Day) is unique in many ways, including its varied worship styles — from traditional to contemporary and everything in between, reflected even more colorfully in our international fellowship.

We experienced this first-hand during the recent convention in Nigeria. Worship Nigerian style involves all of the “in between”: ceremony, pageantry, boundless energy, and a festival of choirs rendering selections that range from contemporary to traditional high-church anthems. It reflects the evolution of worship in CoG7 at home and abroad. To God be the glory!





Africa

Accompanied by IMC Representative Robert Crawford of the UK, Calvin Burrell and Bryan Cleeton of G. C. Missions worked in Zone 5 for two weeks in December 2013.

Ghana. In the cities of Accra, Kumasi, and Offinso we met for five days with national conference leaders, visited a church construction site, preached and taught at a large Sabbath gathering, and met with a pastors-leaders group to work for unity among CoG7 groups in Ghana.

Nigeria. In the town of Omoku (near Port Harcourt) we attended a five-day convention for delegates and leaders from thirteen African nations where the Church exists. Fifty-plus visitors from Africa and elsewhere joined many more Nigerian members and families to make large crowds (up to 6,000 on Sabbath) for a program that featured a Festival of Choirs — dozens of them — from the host country. Preaching and teaching were strong, and 120 persons were baptized the last day!

We believe the momentum seen and gained in Nigeria will result in increased gospel effort and fruit across the entire continent. African nations where CoG7 is currently represented through IMC or G. C. Missions efforts: Burundi, Cameroon, D.R. Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South

Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Our special thanks to Pastor Robert Crawford and the entire Nigerian church for their love and hard work to plan and provide for this Pan-African convention!

Sierra Leone. Following convention, Bryan Cleeton met with Peter Blackie and his leadership team for an additional two weeks. In this 60+ percent Muslim nation, they reviewed the extensive Orphan and Widow work taking place and discussed development of agriculture and other means to sustain long-term ministry. Locations visited included Freetown, Make-ni, Segbwema, and Rokupr. Over three Sabbaths, 175 new converts were baptized, committing their lives to Christ!

— Calvin Burrell and Bryan Cleeton
G. C. Missions





SHINE to Belize

The SHINE Medical and Dental Mission is facing several challenges as it plans for the Belize mission June 15-24, 2014.

Few applications have been received so far. Anyone interested in applying for the trip should go to shinecog7.org and download forms. Deadline for applications is **February 28**.

More medical professionals, especially doctors and dentists, are needed, as well as additional funds to finance the Belize mission's medications and basic needs for team members. SHINE also encourages churches to help with transportation costs of needy team members within their congregations.

The mission accepts donations of funds, used glasses, and reading glasses. Prayers are especially needed! Donations may be given through the General Conference website (cog7.org). If you have reading glasses to donate, please contact SHINE Director Ernesto Frausto (916) 833-8997; ernestofrausto@att.net). Thank you for any support you can give!



Twenty-two young people from Lanham, MD, currently enrolled in a college or university, attended a special event hosted by their ministry leaders at the historic Lord Baltimore Hotel, January 4. Guest speaker Andrew Martinez, from Open Arms CoG7, encouraged them with the biblical words "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans" (Proverbs 16:3, NIV). They also participated in a roundtable discussion to share ideals, struggles, and plans to use their professional training to benefit God's church.



Pioneer Missionary Training

This year's PMT1 trip, held in Villahermosa, Tabasco, December 19-29, 2013, was amazing! God's presence was felt every step of the way. We encountered several obstacles, but we overcame them.

Only a few of us were bilingual, but God gave us the words and stamina to provide adequate translation. Despite the language barrier, great relationships were formed. Thankfully, heavy rainfall and flooding in some areas didn't last long and didn't cause serious harm.

Our training focused on evangelism, worship, service, discipleship, and fellowship. Many of us had to cast our fears aside and jump headfirst into assigned tasks, such as door-to-door ministry, family groups, and public evangelism. These fears were quickly forgotten once we witnessed the great needs of the people we encountered.

We were all blown away by the kindness, patience, and generosity of the Villahermosa brethren throughout our stay. We experienced the same kindness and openness from the majority people we met along the way. All of us were reminded that even if things didn't go as planned, God was always in control. In the end, He led us down the best path!

— Lorena Manso

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Church of God (Seventh Day)
P. O. Box 33677 • Denver, CO 80233
Phone: (303) 452-7973 • Fax: (303) 452-0657
churchright@cog7.org • www.cog7.org

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Disaster Relief

Following Typhoon Haiyan, DRF funds of \$5,000 were sent to the Philippines, providing food supplies for over 115 families, galvanized iron sheets and wood for five homes, medical examinations for two, and building materials for the reconstruction of three churches.

John Villarante and the CoG7 brethren in the Philippines send their greetings and heartfelt thanks!

Publications

Second Quarter Lessons, 2014

Adults. *Building Character Through Character Studies* teaches lessons from lesser-known personalities in the Bible about the various character attributes God wants to form in us.

Senior youth. *Living By God's Word - Book 1*

Junior high. *God's Plan — Present & Future*

Intermediate. *Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection*

Primary. *Rejoice in the Lord Always*

Preschool/kindergarten. *God – Strong Deliverer, Merciful Savior*

Learn more about these lesson under Publications at cog7.org. Order from Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; 303-452-7973; bap.order@cog7.org.

College Scholarship

Are you a graduating senior or currently enrolled in college with a minimum GPA of 2.5, and a member of Church of God (Seventh Day)? If so, you may be eligible for the Patricia Keith-Meyers Scholarship. The Denver church is offering three merit-based \$1,000 scholarships for qualifying students. Scholarship submission deadline is **April 1**. For details, submission requirements, and an application, contact cog7.denver@cog7.org.

ASLEEP IN JESUS

Pastor Jose H. Garza of Houston, Texas, passed away January 11, 2014, at age 84. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Estella; sons Jose Luis, Carlos, and Victor; daughters Sylvia Valdez, Sandra Garza, Estella Alas, and Leticia Garza.



Brian Noble, Hastings, Michigan, passed away January 16 at age 56. Wife, Marion; son, Caleb; daughters, Bethany, Joanna, and Sarah.



The following faithful Conference members are also acknowledged:

Rose (Nienhuis) Dais, Acampo (Lodi), California, passed away October 5, 2013, at age 90. Children: Bob, Bill, Ken, and Kathy Straub.

Laura (Davis) Wilson, Conroe, Texas/Eugene, Oregon, passed away September 23, 2013, at age 94. Mother of Mary Jean Knoll and Paula Mann.



CALENDAR 2014

April 4-6 - National Women's Retreat and 75th Anniversary Celebration, Inverness Hotel and Conference Center, Englewood, CO; theme: "All She Ever Wanted." Guest speaker: Whaid Rose. Cost: \$225 + \$25/person non-refundable registration fee. (Two nights, four meals, double occupancy.) Details and registration forms at www.cog7.org/nawm-register.

April 17-20 - Leadership Retreat, Northeast District, Laurelville Retreat Center - Mt. Pleasant, PA. Contact: Heber Vega (hebervega@gmail.com).

August 29 – September 1 - National Hispanic Retreat, Chicago, IL, on "Fulfilling Your Mission"; cost: \$280/person (until July 1), \$300 after July 1. Contacts: Eva Delgado (708-955-5475) or Gloria Arzet (773-593-1425); e-mail: retironacionalhispano2014@gmail.com; Facebook: Retiro Nacional Hispano.

October 3-5 - Northeast District Retreat, Mackinaw Island, MI; theme: "S.W.A.T." Registrations being accepted. Contacts: Esther Winchell (esther416@charter.net; 989-574-7325) and Linda Rodriguez (frogbabe523@msn.com).

LifeSpring Events

February 11 - Spring certificate program early applications due

February 25 - Spring district scholarship applications due

March 4 - Spring general scholarship applications due

March 25 - Spring course registration due

April 6 - Spring classes begin

RE

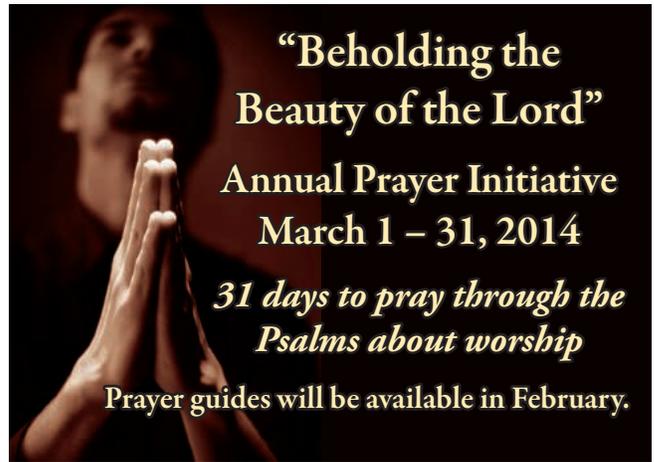
MEMBER

RE

UNITE



2014 Alumni Weekend
March 21, 22, 23



LifeSpring

Congratulations to these Fall 2013 graduates: Walter Apen, Norcross, Georgia (DPM); Francisco Garcia Gonzalez, Brownsville, Texas (DPM); Lisa South, Houston, Texas (CBS).

Congratulations also to these Dean's List recipients for the Fall 2013*: Jerry Arterberry, Marshfield, Missouri; Jody Crowson, Springfield, Oregon; Worrel Largie, Apopka, Florida; Abiel Martinez, San Antonio, Texas; Ismael Martinez, Newnan, Georgia; Herlindo R. Roman, Willis, Texas; Devon Simmonds, Wilmington, North Carolina; Lisa South, Houston, Texas.

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

DPM: Diploma of Pastoral Ministry

CBS: Certificate of Biblical Studies



Rebecca Retires

The Denver office acknowledges, with appreciation, the dedicated service of Rebecca Van de Wynaerde for almost 26 years. Since becoming part of the "staff family" in 1988, she has served in various administrative roles, including the past several years as bookkeeper. In that capacity,

the employees here, as well as ministers, committee members, team leaders, and many others, have come to rely on Rebecca to protect their interests and process things smoothly and professionally.

Rebecca officially retires on February 28. Her long and faithful service to the General Conference is appreciated, and her presence in the G. C. offices — keeping things "in balance" — will be greatly missed.

Cut and post in Church

†SWORD

2014 National Young Adult Retreat

May 23-26

Register now for this year's National Yministry Retreat, and secure the Early Bird special.



Early Bird Special
Save \$31!
Upgrade to private room!
**Limited time/availability*

Speakers



Whaid Rose



Israel Steinmetz



Jason and Rose Rodriguez

and more . . .

Registration Information



Brookhaven Christian Retreat
Hawkins, Texas
Ages 18-35

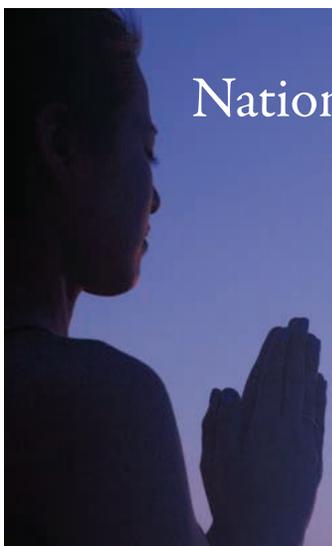
Register at
sword.cog7.org

- **Early Bird Registration:**
\$140 (before March 1)
- **Regular Registration:**
\$171 (after March 1)
- **Child Registration:**
\$45 (ages 4-6)

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

"All She Ever Wanted"
Inverness Hotel and Conference Center
Englewood, Colorado
April 4-6, 2014

Details and Registration: www.cog7.org/nawm-register



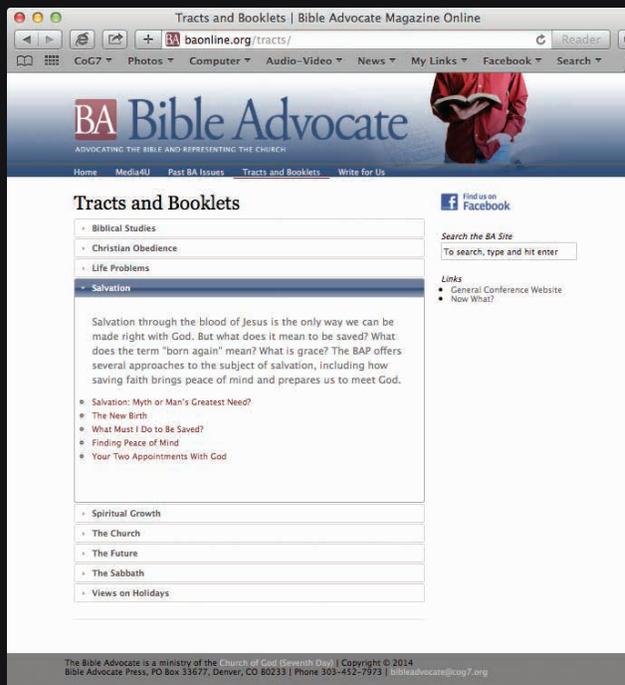
Publications

Who will fill the editor's chair?

In the past 150 years, over 30 editors have labored in love for the Lord and for the written word. Thanks to their faithfulness, the *Bible Advocate* has communicated gospel truth to generations. Pray that God will send the right man to carry on this legacy.

March is Publications Emphasis month.

Keith Michalak, Director



Have you checked out the BAP's tracts and booklets online? See what people are saying about them. . . .

Christmas and Pagan Customs

Is this God's providence? I've been searching for a Christian church that is observing the Sabbath *but* does not celebrate Christmas. I hope and pray that your church is the answer to my prayers. — *Mario*

The Path to Christian Living

Very nice and encouraging word from God. — *Ian*

Visit baonline.org.