

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)

April - May 2014

Volume 6 • Number 3

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

Music and Worship

Worship isn't music. That is to say, music is not a foundational element of worship; one can worship without it. But music plays an integral role in private and corporate worship; it can assist and enhance it. That may be the reason that a hymnbook is in the middle of the Bible, replete with invitations to sing and play instruments of praise, to make music to the Lord. The pages of Scripture, beyond the Psalms, testify to the importance and power of song.

Yet we must face the brutal facts about music in relation to worship. Plainly said, music is one of the most divisive elements in the life of the church. Why? Because music is powerful; nothing stirs our emotions quite like it. Music reflects our worldview (the way we see God and the world around us) and the things most important to us. And music is largely influenced by the surrounding culture and its emerging art forms.

For these reasons, we are rightly concerned about the potential for manipulation, about undue cultural influences on our worship, and we bristle at musical styles and art forms that do not reflect our values.

The following rhetorical questions are therefore offered to help us sort through this very sensitive topic:

- Are all styles and forms of music equally valid and valuable?
- Is my musical taste being shaped by the surrounding culture or by the Word of God?
- Who or what is the focus of my worship? When it comes to musical choice, am I giving God what He wants or what I want to give Him?
- What is music doing to me? Is it only driving me emotionally, or is it also shaping my will and deepening my theology and doctrine? Is my worship void of any emotion?
- Does my worship begin with the fear of the Lord? Whatever happened to the New Testament admonition to “serve [worship] God acceptably, with reverence and godly fear” (Hebrews 12:28, NKJV)?

This only scratches the surface and will be addressed more extensively in the soon-to-be-published *Worship Manual*. Meanwhile, may our answers to these questions lead us to the feet of Jesus in pure worship.

— Whaid Guscott Rose

Worship in the Spirit Conference Tour

Coming Back to the Heart of Worship

June 2014 – May 2015

One-Day Event
Coming to a Location
Near You!

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23, 24, NKJV).



Get Into a Worship Circle

- Cobourg, Ontario, Canada
- Houston, Texas
- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Port Saint Lucie, Florida
- Lodi, California
- Los Angeles, California
- Washington, DC
- Acme, Alberta, Canada
- Chicago, Illinois

- Experience a fresh encounter with God
- Discover a theology of worship
- Be equipped to worship in Spirit and truth
- Pass on a legacy of worship to the next generation of the Church.

**Learn.
Apply.
Grow.**

Tour Team



WHAID ROSE
General Conference
President



ISRAEL STEINMETZ
LifeSpring Dean of
Academic Affairs



HEBER VEGA
Northeast District
Superintendent

The Father is seeking true worshipers! Don't miss this opportunity to learn and grow in your worship.

African Connection

Given by the Nigerian church, two plaques were received by G. C. President Whaid Rose during the Africa convention (December 2013) and presented when the Denver staff and board of directors gathered on February 16.



Board Chairman Loren Stacy receives a plaque on behalf of the General Conference in recognition of its many contributions to the African church.



BAP staff is recognized for its impact on the work in Africa.

Special service in Eugene, OR, on February 1 combined the dedication of a new facility and official retirement of Pastor Ken Knoll and his wife



Mary Jean. Whaid Rose gave the dedication message. Congratulations to the Knolls, who served the Eugene congregation for 28 years!



Board of Directors Report

The board of directors of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) held its annual winter meeting in Denver, Colorado, February 16-19, 2014. The entire board (Mark Caswell, Brad Ciavarella, Erik Dunn, Jose Hernandez, Samuel Holland, Ruben Marquez, Jody McCoy, Dennis O'Banion, Raul Romo, Manuel Salazar, Loren Stacy, and Larry Zaragoza) was present, as was G. C. President, Elder Whaid Rose. The meeting was marked by a spirit of unity and brotherhood in Christ.

Over the course of this three-and-a-half day meeting, the board worshiped and prayed; received training; heard and responded to the reports of President Rose, its Human Resources Committee, its Succession Planning Committee, the Marketing / Public Relations Task Force, LifeSpring School of Ministries, Spring Vale Academy, the General Conference Endowment Committee, and a representative of Conference Direct (convention planning consultants); and completed its annual evaluation of the president.

The board also made its biennial appointments of General Conference Ministries directors and district superintendents pending individual acceptances and confirmations. (Results will be released by the office of the General Conference president through our various publications.)

Finally, the board approved the balanced 2014-2015 budget prepared by staff.

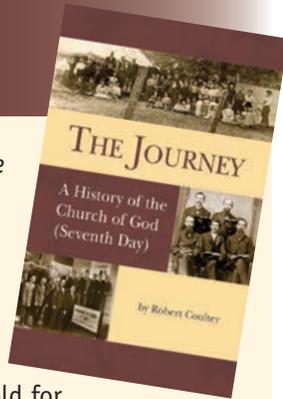
The board's next in-person meeting is scheduled to be held in Alabama this coming September just prior to the meeting of the NAMC.

*— Loren Stacy
Board Chairman*

CoG7 History Book on Sale

The Journey: A History of the Church of God (Seventh Day), the most recent book by Robert Coulter, will be available for purchase in May. At 500+ pages and in hard cover, the book will be sold for \$29.95. For a limited time, it will be sold for \$25 (postage not included).

Order by e-mail (bap.orders@cog7.org), online (cog7.org), or mail: P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233.



Bylaws Committee

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, Chip Hinds, Raul Romo, Whaid Rose, Loren Stacy, Israel Steinmetz, and Heber Vega. Allan Burlison serves as parliamentary consultant to the committee.

Since its first meeting, the four teams assigned to various sections of the document have made their recommendations, and the committee met February 19-20 in Denver to consider those recommendations. Our next meeting is scheduled for April, and we hope to provide another update by early summer 2014. The committee is likely to have a first draft of the bylaws revision ready for input from the Ministerial Council by fall 2014.

— Samuel Holland
Bylaws Revision Committee Chair



On February 9, 2014, an open house was held in Acme Hall for Martha Keim, who turned 100 years young on February 10 of this year. About 200 friends and relatives attended. Martha still attends the Acme, Alberta Church of God each week, studies her lessons, and enjoys excellent health.

National Youth Ministries

National Youth Week / Hunger Lock-In packets are now available online at youth.cog7.org under the Resources tab. Local groups can participate anytime throughout the year. However, we request that all donations be sent in before the end of October.

The mission emphasis for this year is the US. We have a great mission field right here in our own back yard! Poverty, homelessness, trafficking, and the like are just a few highlights of this emphasis. Download the program to learn more about how your church can help. We challenge each local church to raise *at least* \$75 toward this goal. Are you ready to accept?

2013 NYM registration. There's still time to register! The National Youth Ministry requests that all youth groups register at the beginning of each calendar year. Registration helps us better communicate with each group so we can know best how to serve you. Those who register will receive a registration card, an imprinted lanyard, event discounts, and subscriptions to *Youth Flash* e-newsletter and text communications. Youth workers can register their group online at youth.cog7.org/register, or use the form located in the Gimme Five materials.

Summer youth events are listed on our website under the Calendar tab.

Questions? Contact Kurt and Kristi Lang, National Youth directors, at youth@cog7.org.

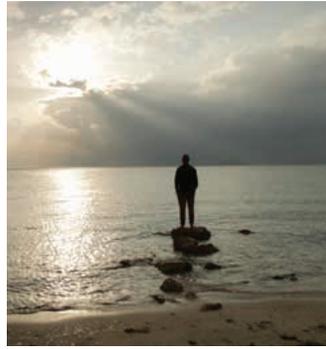


Our newest New York City congregation, Yonkers Community Church of God (Seventh Day), led by Pastor Grandville Mullings, receives an Affiliation Certificate

and individual Membership Certificates on Sabbath, March 8. Pastor Heber Vega, NED superintendent, did the honors.

Irreplaceable

The documentary *Irreplaceable*, dealing with the meaning of family, will be in select U.S. cinemas the evening of May 6, 2014. The film follows Tim Sisarich, executive director of Focus on the Family New Zealand, as he explores the answers to two critical questions: "What is family?" and "Does family still matter in today's society?"



The first in a series of documentaries by Focus on the Family, this special one-night showing of *Irreplaceable* will include a panel discussion featuring prominent faith leaders. It will be presented in more than 700 select movie theaters around the country through Fathom Events' exclusive Digital Broadcast Network.

Sisarich examines why all humans yearn to be part of a family, and looks at the forces that can contribute to the breakdown of a family. *Irreplaceable* will attempt to answer these central questions by spotlighting cultural, historical, and religious experiences from around the globe.

Tickets are available at participating theater box offices and online at FathomEvents.com. The website also offers a complete list of theater locations and prices (theaters and participants subject to change).



Congratulations to these Spring Vale Class of 2014 grads (L to R): Norma Perez, Katy, TX; Kristina Prince, Lennon, MI; Anna Salgado, Arlington, TX; Christopher Barrett, Philadelphia, PA; Amanda Miller, Buffalo, MO; Carrie Nienhuis, Devil's Lake, ND.

ASLEEP IN JESUS

Clarence Severson

was born April 5, 1923, and passed away February 8, 2014, at age 91. He was the son of CoG7 minister Ed Severson and a lifelong member of CoG7, attending the Harrisburg, Oregon, and Lodi, California congregations. Clarence is survived by his wife, Luella Straub Severson, and their daughter and son.



Eva Norton

(February 11, 1924 - February 10, 2014) died one day short of her 90th birthday. She was a longtime member of CoG7 in the Los Angeles, Ontario, Visalia, and Lodi, California churches. Eva was known for her love and hospitality. She was preceded in death by her husband a few decades ago and is survived by her two sons and three daughters.



TAKE NOTE ✓

National Day of Prayer

May 1, 2014

Theme: One Voice, United in Prayer

More information and promotional resources at
nationaldayofprayer.org.

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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. www.cog7.org/nawm-register.

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

May 16-18 - Florida Women's Retreat, Canterbury Conference Center, Oviedo, FL; theme: "God's Beautiful Butterfly." Open for registration. Contacts: Alorna Largie (253-638-1416) or Sharon Henry (407-719-0173).

May 23-25 - Family Retreat at Jasper CoG7's campgrounds, Jasper, AR. Contact: Jason or Stephanie Overman (870-446-5736; jasonoverman@hotmail.com).

June 6-9 - Men's Retreat, Alfred, ND; theme: "Leading in the Way," with Jack Nelson; \$50 cost includes meals and lodging, plus \$20 if you stay for fishing (June 8-9); contact: Steve Kyner (701-252-1677).



June 26 – July 1 - Refuge in the Rockies Christian Youth Camp, Colorado Springs CoG7; at Summit Peaks Lodge, Silverthorne, CO. Theme: "Life's Journey"; see pictures/video from previous years and register at cscog7.org (click on Events).

LifeSpring Events

April 6 - Spring classes begin

May 27 - Summer certificate program early applications due

June 8 - Summer district scholarship applications due

June 15 - Summer general scholarship applications due



North American Ministerial Council Meeting

September 15-20, 2014

Shocco Spring Baptist Conference Center
Talladega, Alabama

Theme: "Worship: Leading the Way"

Lodging, meals, and registration fee are a packaged price for the entire meeting:

Double occupancy: \$470/person

Single occupancy: \$590/person (while supplies last)

Register and provide payment to the Conference office.

All documented ministers of the Ministerial Council (licensed, credentialed, and local pastors) should plan to attend. You may bring your wives.

SVA Scholarship Winners

Spring Vale Academy is praising God for two seniors who have been awarded scholarships through its Senior Scholarship Campaign, covering their second and final semesters. Currently, \$3,500 has been received toward the goal of \$10,000.

Additional donors are needed for the challenge of 100 people giving \$100. You may donate on the Spring Vale website (springvale.us) or send a check marked "Senior Scholarship" to Spring Vale Academy, 4150 S. M-52, Owosso, MI 48867. Please contact Scott Fischer (sfischer@springvale.us) for more information.



Anna Salgado



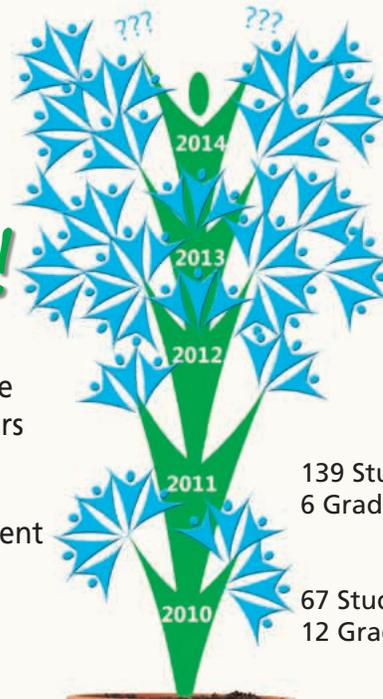
Chris (C. J.) Barrett

Donate today!

Every penny you give to LifeSpring will be brought to life as **scholarships** for G.C. members taking courses **this Spring!***

Invest in the future and keep student tuition low.

What a way to grow!



114 Students
25 Graduates

115 Students
31 Graduates

139 Students
6 Graduates

67 Students
12 Graduates



Donate online at
www.LifeSpringSchool.org

**If total amount received exceeds scholarship need, funds will be applied toward other terms.*



In 2013, sponsors of G. C. Missions and Cristo Viene supported 86 missionaries in 17 nations, including Cuba, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Peru, South Africa, and Sri Lanka. Please pray for G. C. Missions and Cristo Viene as plans are set to send more workers into the harvest, particularly Africa, Asia, and South America.

To sponsor this work, visit cog7.org/giving or earmark your local offering either "G. C. Missions" or "Cristo Viene." Thank you!

Contact us as at gcmisions@cog7.org.

May is Missions Emphasis.



Find out more at gcmisions.cog7.org
[f](#) / GCMissions [e](#) / MissionsGC



Wisconsin Center

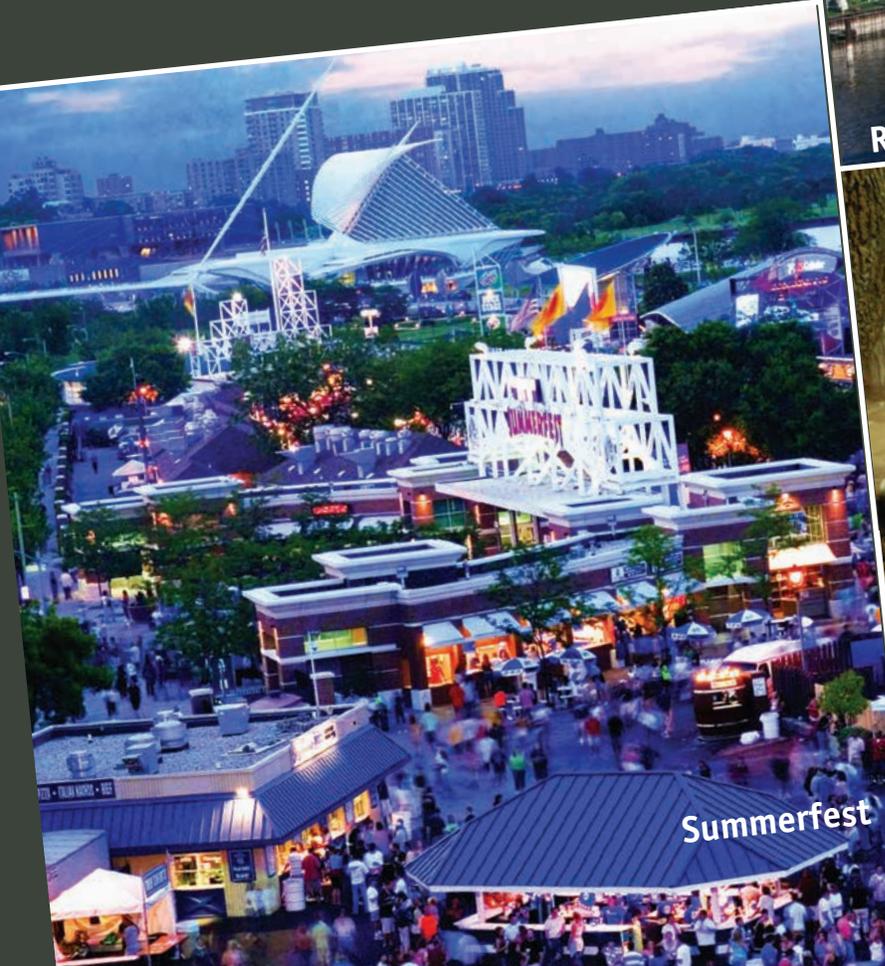


Hilton Milwaukee City Center

Announcing . . .
Biennial Convention 2015
Hilton Milwaukee City Center
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
June 29 – July 4, 2015
Save the date!



Riverwalk



Summerfest



Summerfest