

# CHURCHRIGHT

*Doing church right*



## GC Convention 2023

Woohoo! Are you ready? GC Convention 2023 will be held July 11-15, 2023, in Covington, Kentucky. Yes, we re-negotiated the contract with some minimal changes, but the convention will take place one week later than usual. The week of July 4 was not available. Begin making your plans to join many others in Covington. Remember, a trip to the Ark Experience will still be a pre-convention excursion. Your prayers for a safe and exciting convention are appreciated. See you in 2023!

## Engaged in Witness, Committed to Discipleship

During the last two years or so, we've been rallying around the cry "Focus on Jesus and follow His plan." This January, we've announced and embarked upon a Conference-wide effort to make and grow disciples of Jesus. We are offering training opportunities and materials for our General Conference members, congregations, and districts. January-March, we're emphasizing personal evangelism. April-June, we will emphasize small group evangelism and ministry. July-September, we will encourage our congregations to be "Welcoming Churches" – places where new converts to Christ find a welcoming and safe place to be nurtured to maturity in Christ.

During the last quarter of 2022, we will review and renew our commitment to each of these points of emphasis, and more.

Despite the excitement about our focus on sharing the gospel and making disciples, I'm occasionally asked, "What happened to TVR (Transforming Vision into Reality)? Have we dropped that for something new?" We spent a full four years talking TVR. We hung the TVR posters in our churches. Some still drink coffee out of TVR mugs. Has all of that now been replaced by "Focus on Jesus and Follow His Plan"?

Absolutely not! While some of the TVR materials have become outdated, TVR is still alive and well and relevant. In fact, our current emphasis throughout the General Conference is upon two of the TVR values/points: *Engaged in Witness* and *Committed to Discipleship*. Our current efforts are not disconnected from our past efforts. Rather, having built a TVR foundation, we are now beginning to build on it by addressing the TVR values intentionally and specifically. As we commit ourselves to evangelism and to making disciples, as we focus on Jesus and follow His plan, we absolutely are turning vision into reality.

– Loren Stacy  
GC President



# District News

## Northeast

Contributor: Heber Vega, superintendent

### **Congratulations, Santiago!**

After many years of study, Santiago Chavez received his master's in divinity and master's in Christian doctrine in May 2021.

Santiago is the Spanish assistant dean of Academic Affairs at Artios Christian College and is a member of the Lanham, MD church, where he serves on the board and leads Men's Ministry.



## Pastor Search

The Owosso Church of God (Seventh Day), located on the campus of Spring Vale Christian School, is seeking a full-time senior pastor. This man will be called by God to become the spiritual leader of the Owosso congregation. He will lead it in fulfilling its collective mission of "living new life in Christ: united in love, devoted to community, passionate in worship, and compassionate in service."

The called and qualified candidate will be responsible to God and the church to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, to teach the Bible, to provide Christian leadership in all areas of the church, and to engage in pastoral care for the congregation.

For details on submitting information and the qualifications of pastor, please contact Kevin Caswell, chair of the Owosso church board, at [kcaswell1@frontier.com](mailto:kcaswell1@frontier.com). Submissions and letters of recommendation should also be sent via email to Kevin.

## Southeast

Contributor: Steve Krome, superintendent



**Youth retreat.** The Southeast District held its annual youth retreat at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish, FL, December 17-19. The theme was "Who You Say I Am." Presentations were made by Patrick George (Port St. Lucie), Cesar Medrano (Lakeland), Sharon Henry (Orlando), and Steve Krome (district superintendent). Planned and coordinated by Sister Jo Allison Krome (youth director) and Sister Sharon Modeste (co-director), the event drew 148 youth members from all over the district. Games, activities, and t-shirts were planned and coordinated by Francisco and Mayra Garcia (Lakeland). Special thanks to Wilmer Ortiz (Tampa) for sound equipment, graphics, and setup.

## Southwest

Contributors: Jamin Teran and Claudia B. Herrera

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry



**IMC service.** The International Ministerial Congress (IMC) service conducted November 6 in Zone 1 was a blessing as we celebrated God's work. With Elder Whaid Rose leading the service, we learned about the history of the IMC and heard reports from the different conferences about their advancements and needs during this time. The service ended with a sermon by IMC President Ramon Ruiz, urging the Church to touch more souls for God's kingdom.

**Super Sabbath.** Area 1 hosted its last Super Sabbath of the year November 12-13. Using the theme "Peace in the Storm," Brother Gustavo Salcido and Brother Daniel Flores encouraged us to trust in and rely on our Lord amid tribulations. Praise and worship were led by

*The Grey's Band, and District Superintendent Chip Hinds attended. Our sister churches in this area took us into the presence of the Lord in each service, and we enjoyed the worship with our brethren. We thank the Lord for allowing us to have this Super Sabbath for His honor and glory.*



**Pastoral support.** On November 14, pastors, their wives, the church board/committee, and Area 1 leaders gathered for a leadership meeting at our sister church, North Dallas in Carrollton, TX. Brethren heard the Word of God delivered by Elder Daniel Flores and his wife, Kerenha, encouraging us to remain in the footsteps of faith. District Superintendent Chip Hinds thanked the pastors for their work and encouraged them to continue moving forward. A new board committee of pastors was also elected at this meeting.

**100 years-plus.** On December 10, via social media, our sister church in Fairview, OK, shared her unique story of God's faithfulness since 1894. If you would like to know her story, please visit our YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANK-mIJV-fE&ab\\_channel=SouthwestMedia](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANK-mIJV-fE&ab_channel=SouthwestMedia). Link with subtitles in Spanish: <https://youtu.be/2IPJwJRBpbl>.

### Evangelism Training

The Southwest District held the kick-off evangelism training in Area 5 on December 10-11. West Coast District Superintendent Larry Zaragoza conducted a two-day session on how to present the gospel by following an easy process that everyone can do. More than 65

brethren went through the whole course and gained a clear expectation of how to implement the techniques in any environment.

Brethren participated in a question-and-answer session and had a moment to practice and develop their personal testimony. GC Missions Director Bryan Cleeton explained the importance of this ministry and how the evangelism training is the first part of a vision and mission of the Church.

Training will be available in all areas of the district in 2022, so be alert as to when it will be in your area. Make sure your church is prepared to work and multiply God's kingdom.



**Celebrating 25 years.** On December 11, the congregation in Pharr, TX, commemorated 25 years of ministry. More than 100 brethren gathered with grateful hearts and celebrated God's faithfulness in the church. With the theme "Guided by His Grace," the service included worship, special recognitions, testimonies of gratitude, fellowship, and the message given by the local pastor Noe Reyes titled "The Church Exists for 3 Reasons." Thank the Lord for this blessing. We will continue to pray that our sister church is a blessing in the community, and for God to add those who are to be saved.

## SWD Upcoming Events

February 5-6: Area 3 Children's Workshop

**25 years in El Paso.** On December 25, the El Paso Central church celebrated 25 years. Sister Manuelita Ríos read a poem that she composed for this occasion, and Pastor Ruben Beard preached on “The House of God,” focusing on 2 Chronicles 6 and 7. Those who attended enjoyed beautiful memories as they viewed a slide show of events held in this church during the last 25 years. After the service, members enjoyed a delicious dinner and fellowship.



## West Coast

Contributor: Melva Smith

### Sheds of Hope

Around Labor Day 2020, a large forest fire broke out in the area of Blue River, Oregon, and many homes were destroyed. Members of the Eugene and Harrisburg congregations contributed assistance in various ways. Some helped with a grassroots distribution of food and clothing. Others donated goods.

We also partnered with the OneHope network of churches in Lane County in a Sheds of Hope program. Prefabricated sheds were built, with the walls then taken upriver and set up on sites where people hoped to eventually rebuild their homes.

From December 2020 to the present, over 100 sheds have been built and placed through the efforts of many churches. The goal is to complete 140. High school and college woodshop classes have even joined in the effort.

A crew from the CoG7 congregations built their first two sheds in January 2021. What a joy to work alongside landowners, to bless them with a start to their rebuilding efforts. Sheds give them a place to store

tools and equipment to use while they work. We have set up a total of eight sheds throughout 2021. We have also helped build walls, donate money for materials, and deliver the walls for others to set up.

When many people contribute a little, much is accomplished for the kingdom. Praise God for the opportunities He gives us to serve and bless others!



### Backpack Giveaway

Also in partnership with the OneHope network, the Eugene and Harrisburg churches assisted in purchasing school supplies, sorting shoes, stuffing backpacks, and actually handing backpacks to eager students. These students lived in one of five regional sites that distributed more than 3,000 backpacks to students before the 2021-2022 school year began. The event included music, a bounce house playground, and a prayer tent. Happy faces and sincere thanks showed how much this event was appreciated.

### Thanksgiving Meal Boxes

The Eugene church building is next door to an elementary school. Using a list of needy families that the school provided us, we provided them with Thanksgiving meal boxes. Each year we set a goal of 30 boxes. This year people gave cheerfully, and we exceeded our goal! God has certainly blessed us, and we love sharing His love with others.



**New pastor.** The Eugene/Springfield Church of God (Seventh Day) is pleased to announce that Kurt and Kristi Lang, former youth pastors in Harrisburg, OR, have accepted the position of senior pastoral team. Pastor Kurt is also the English assistant dean



of Academic Affairs for Artios Christian College. We are thankful for all who ministered to us during the summer, and we anticipate the great things God has planned for us under Pastor Kurt and Kristi's leadership.

## Take Care With Copyright!

Those of us working at the Bible Advocate Press watch copyright diligently when producing literature for print and online. But any church or individual must also take responsibility for adhering to copyright laws when writing or creating content.

You can view the BAP's general guidelines regarding copyrighted material at [baonline.org](http://baonline.org) (About/Write For Us).

## ASLEEP IN JESUS

### Robert Baker

1932 - 2021

Robert Baker was born July 14, 1932, in Brooklyn, New York. He passed away September 19, 2021.



Robert was a strong supporter of the North American General Conference and attended the biannual conference in various states throughout the US. For several years, he served on the North-east District board and remained a faithful member of the Long Island church. Because of his excellent teaching and preaching ministry, some members became elders, deacons, and wonderful men of God.

In 1999, Elder Baker relocated to Florida, where he continued to serve in the Church of God (Seventh Day) until his death.

*Please visit our Memorials page ([churchright.org](http://churchright.org)) for more information.*



CHURCH RESOURCES



LIVESTREAM SERVICES



CHURCHRIGHT

Did you know a new GC website is under construction? Be sure to check out [cog7.org](http://cog7.org), where you will easily locate the online store, livestreaming options for Sabbath services, church resources, and much more!

Coming Soon . . .



Stay Tuned!



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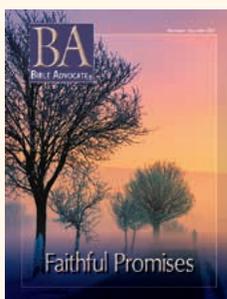
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# Would You Support the Bible Advocate?

Here we are, well into 2022, and we've made it because of the Lord's compassions, "new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22, 23) — and every year! We look forward to seeing the new things God has planned for us as we seek to do His will.

Some things don't seem so new, however. Like the pandemic. We're still battling it, with advances and setbacks. As you've heard, the pandemic dealt a hard financial blow to the Bible Advocate Press in 2020 and 2021, which we described in our annual spring support letter. We continue to struggle with postage and paper costs that increase regardless of what the virus is doing. This affects the printing of the BA and our original BAP study material.

At year end and three-quarters through the fiscal year, our expenses exceed revenue by \$32,700. That's a big deficit! Of course, we still endeavor to be faithful stewards of the resources God has provided, finding every way to save money. But we need your help.



The *Bible Advocate* has been a free publication for decades, and we want to keep it that way for as long as possible. Please give to the BA and purchase our products as you are able. We've made it easy. Just go online to [baonline.org](http://baonline.org) and click on "Donate." It's safe and convenient. We welcome donations by check as well. Please make your check out to Bible Advocate Press and mail it to P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233.

Help us start 2022 out right, trusting God for our needs and watching His compassions renew in the new year.

Jason Overman  
Editor

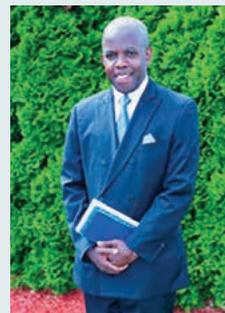


## A Big Vision for Small Churches

Coming in 2022!

Now more than ever, small churches are the right size to deliver hope and healing to our broken world. This one-day event will equip your church with the vision, information, and resources you need to be salt and light to this generation.

**Bring this event to your local area.** Contact the Artios Center for Vibrant Leadership at [center.artioscollege.org](http://center.artioscollege.org) for more information.



Whaid Rose

## General Conference Ministries

### Total Receipts and Total Expenses

Artios Christian College, Missions, and Publications (Bible Advocate Press) are the current GC Ministries. They receive financial support from direct offerings and from a portion of the 15 percent of members' tithes received by the General Conference. Expenditures are guided by each ministry's annual budget. In addition, the General Conference manages the receipt and disbursement of your gifts to a variety of additional ministries, such as Orphans and Widows, SHINE, Cristo Viene, and Disaster Relief.

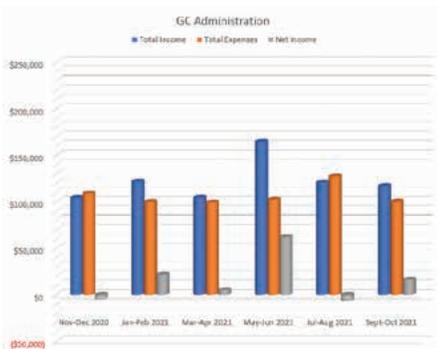
## General Conference

### Total Receipts and Total Expenses

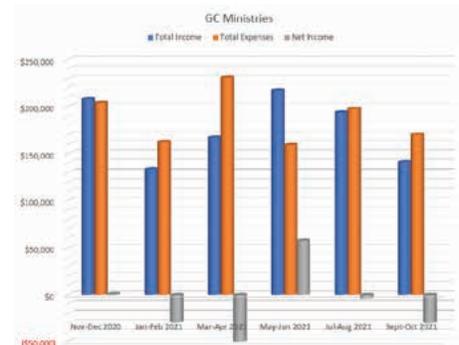
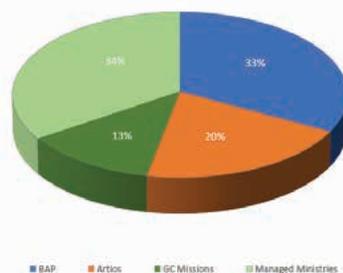
The General Conference administration (president, executive director, IT, finance, office management, and other staff not connected to a GC Ministry or district) receives financial support from 15 percent of members' tithes (minus what is then allocated to the GC Ministries) and direct offerings. Expenditures are guided by an annual budget.



September-October 2021



Your Support to Each Ministry



# Share the Wonder

Giving your time and talents through your district ministries can shine a light in the world.

Let your district leaders find the right place for you to serve. We can all be a part of sharing God's wonder of salvation.



Around the world, CoG7 missionaries are making an eternal impact, bringing people to Christ. Opportunities await us to proclaim the good news.

We ask that every congregation consider supporting one Cristo Viene missionary this year and commit monthly to pray and financially support their leader's mission. Regular reports will be provided to those who request them.

To sponsor a missionary, visit [cog7.org/giving](http://cog7.org/giving), or earmark your local offering "Cristo Viene."



Find out more at [gcmillions.cog7.org](http://gcmillions.cog7.org)

 / GCMissions  / MissionsGC

Photos (L to R): Burundi • Chile • India