

CHURCHRIGHT

Doing church right



Voting Eligibility at Convention 2019

Voting in the convention business sessions is limited to registered GC members who have also registered to vote. When a person registers to vote, the voting registration team verifies that the individual is a registered GC member.

To facilitate this process, the GC office must receive an individual's GC membership application no later than **June 17**. Individuals who have not become GC members by that date will not be eligible to vote at the convention.

If you are already a registered GC member, the deadline does not concern you. If you think you are but wonder if your membership is in our database, please contact the GC office as soon as possible.

Summer is coming fast! We'll be together in Albuquerque soon!

We Are Better Together

I'm often asked what I enjoy most about serving as General Conference president. I respond that I most enjoy meeting so many wonderful members of our church I've never met before. I was born and raised in the Church of God (Seventh Day) to parents who sent me to youth camps and took me to campmeetings and conferences. I came to know hundreds of our members fairly well, and many more at least by name. But we have thousands upon thousands of members across the United States and Canada! As GC president, I get to meet many more of them.

I equally enjoy another aspect of my role: working together with others as part of several vibrant General Conference teams. I'm learning that almost nothing is more encouraging, invigorating, and productive than getting out of my solitary silo and collaborating with others.

GC Executive Director Jody McCoy and I recently spent six straight days in a Denver hotel meeting with a number of our GC teams. **Sunday and Monday** we connected with the district superintendents. Jody and I call these our Core Executive Team because they and their district teams (area representatives, district ministries teams, and pastors) are our vital connection to all GC congregations and members. **Tuesday** the GC Ministries directors and several other ministries and office staff members joined us. What an incredible day of sharing and collaboration! All or parts of three teams came together as one team to improve and advance our vibrant 21st century church! **Wednesday** the GC Ministries and office teams continued working together. Then on **Thursday** and much of **Friday**, Jody and I met with our Strategic Planning team members regarding GC branding, our upcoming convention, and plans for the coming years. What a fantastic week!

Various English translations of 2 Corinthians 6:1 describe us (Christians) as "God's fellow workers" or "co-workers with God." It appears that God himself enjoys working as part of a team. If you are not serving Christ and our church as a team member, I highly recommend that you give it a try. We are better together!

— Loren Stacy



District News

Northeast

Contributor: Esther Winchell



Teaching About Passover

On April 20 the Saginaw church held a Passover Teaching Service for its children. They learned about the history and purpose of the Lord’s Supper – from the sacraments to the type of meal Jesus and His disciples would have eaten. They also dressed the part to make it come to life.

Children sat around the Seder table to experience some of the foods the Jewish people would have eaten and to understand their significance. For example, lettuce dipped in salt water represented the tears that the Jews shed in Egypt. Children also made their own matzah bread (without leavening), which represented the Jews’ haste in leaving Egypt.

Most important, through this great experience the children understood that the Lord’s Supper is a remembrance of what Jesus has done for us all. It is not to be taken lightly, but done with reverence and thanksgiving.



Welcome, Warsaw! The Northeast District’s newly organized congregation, Warsaw Street CoG7 in Fort Wayne, IN, observed their first Lord’s Supper April 20 as official members.

Southwest

Contributor: Jamin Teran



Prayer and praise. Thirty-four sisters from San Antonio, Houston, Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Cotulla, and Laredo gathered March 17 in Artesia Wells, TX, to pray and worship the Lord. They were reminded that God can accomplish His will in their lives only if they surrender their hearts to Him. Group prayers were developed for families, ministries, health problems, and other requests.



Baptisms. The district witnessed many who confessed their sins and placed their faith in Jesus Christ. Churches celebrated baptisms during several weekends in March and April. We are happy and blessed to welcome more to the CoG7 family and support them as they serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Healthy relationships. On January 26, Area 3 Representative Neftali Hernandez presented a workshop on human relationships from a biblical perspective. About 70 brethren attended this study at the sister church in Pasadena, TX, where they learned the importance of healthy human relationships in church.



Sabbath celebration. On March 23 brethren from Area 6 celebrated a Super Sabbath at the Emmanuel church in El Paso, TX. The event was sponsored by a sister church, Tigua of El Paso. With the theme “No One Loves Me Like You,” the church was motivated to love the Lord in gratitude for His unconditional love toward us. Churches from El Paso, Lubbock, Midland, Houston and Albuquerque, NM, were part of this great day. Brethren from Aurora, CO; Cd. Juarez, Mexico; and Cd. Chihuahua, Mexico, also participated.



Super Sabbath. Churches from all over Oklahoma and Fort Smith, AR, gathered April 27 at the church in Wister, OK. The day was blessed with fellowship, worship, and communion. Pastor Barry Mauldin instructed the adults with the quarterly lesson, and children also had their classes. Superintendent Chip Hinds encouraged the church to deal with daily stress the way Jesus did.



CALENDAR 2019

- June 7-9 - SoCal SWORD Rally, San Diego, CA
- June 9-16 - Dover Family Camp, Dover, OK
- July 1-6 - GC Convention, Albuquerque, NM
- August 16-18 - Family Camp, Lake Poinsett, SD
- August 23-25 - Men’s Retreat, Chicago, IL
- August 30 - September 2 - Hispanic Women’s Retreat, Las Vegas, NV
- September 6-8 - Areas 1 and 2 Women’s Retreat, Gladwin, MI
- September 11-15 - Senior Adult Retreat, Sis-Q Meadows, Cave Junction, OR
- September 14 - Super Sabbath, Denver, CO (*tentative date*)
- September 26-28 - Harvest of Thanks, Alfred, ND

Youth Camps/Retreats

- July 15-21 - Youth and Seeker Camps, Weimar, CA
- July 18-21 - Youth Retreat, MN
- July 21-27 - Youth Camp, Sis-Q Meadows
- July 28 - August 4 - Seeker Camp, Sis-Q Meadows
- August 2-4 - Youth Camp, Chicago, IL
- September 20-22 - SWORD Retreat, Fall Creek, OR

Artios Events

- July 6 - Commencement ceremony at GC Convention
- July 15 - Summer course registration ends
- July 21 - August 25 - Summer classes in session

For a complete listing of events, please visit churchright.org.

West Coast

Contributors: Citrina Niles, Mayte Ezquivel, and Ruth Martinez



Prayer Power

Although heavy rain was forecast January 1 for Ontario, California, it did not hinder the first SoCal SWORD event of the year. It centered on the power of prayer and aligning our will with God's. Luis Gonzalez from Ontario led a devotion that unpacked the theme "According to His Will," based on 1 John 5:14, 15.

Reflective worship was led by Citrina and Sabria Niles from San Diego. The prayer segments began with thanksgiving, followed by prayer requests, and ending with physical and spiritual healing, led by Abel Zaragoza and John Gonzalez.



Baptism basics. On February 10, SoCal SWORD held its Bible Study & Coffee event in Ontario, CA. Pastor Reuben Zaragoza gave a study on baptism. Young adults who joined learned why it's important as followers of Christ to be baptized and what we need to prepare ourselves. Many questions were answered regarding misconceptions of baptism.



Super Sabbath. Area 7 in the district held its third annual Super Sabbath on April 6 at the Ontario church. Brother Moises Capetillo from Albuquerque, NM, delivered the message on "God's Holiness/God's Mercy." The day was filled with the Word, worship, specials, and a heartwarming performance by the children, who presented Chris Tomlin's "Holy is the Lord" in sign language. The 270 adults and 46 children in attendance worshipped in unity. At the end of the second service, an altar call was given for people to return to the Lord. Many responded and were prayed over.



Hiking in Hollywood. SoCal SWORD led a seven-mile hike to the Hollywood sign, starting at 6:30 a.m. on March 17. Hikers included adults, young adults, and furry friends. At the end of the hike everyone enjoyed a well-deserved picnic lunch at Griffith Park.

Like what you see?

By now you've seen the new GC logo in correspondence, on Facebook, and in our publications. Thanks for the positive feedback! Did you know you can purchase products displaying the logo? Visit our online store at cog7.org for mugs and clothing. These items, and more, will also be available at the GC Convention.



Central

Contributor: Stephanie Kalinowski, Retreat Director



Seeding the Garden

A mother and daughter reading the Scriptures together during service; a quiet morning sunset glowing on the horizon; the cheerful chatter of women catching up and getting to know others better; the sweet melody of voices during worship; a circle of sisters holding hands with tearful eyes as they lifted each other in prayer; meals made with love; and a full heart as we said goodbye and anticipated next year.

This is just a glimpse into Women's Retreat 2019 – "Beautiful Garden of Prayer - the Art of Prayer" – held at the Coteau Des Prairies Lodge in Havana, North Dakota, April 19-21. The retreat was greatly blessed with 43 women attending. Each church from Area 1 of the district was represented.

Martha Muffley (Denver, Colorado) shared messages. Through her words, seeds were sown to keep our spiritual gardens healthy. She encouraged us to confront the Peninnahs in our lives with prayer and wisdom, found in the story of Hannah (1 Samuel 1:1-7). Martha's energy and bilingual gifts in her speaking made her a perfect match for us this year.

The ladies went home equipped to start planting and reaping in their personal spiritual prayer gardens, supported by the warmth of God's love!

ASLEEP IN JESUS

Clifford G. Tuttle

(1936 - 2019)



Clifford G. Tuttle (82) was born October 23, 1936, in Janesville, Wisconsin. He died April 16, 2019, in his home in Fargo, North Dakota.

Clifford attended Spring Vale Academy and William Jewel College in Liberty, Missouri, and was a graduate of Midwest Bible College. He taught school in Kiefer, Oklahoma; farmed in Ipswich, South Dakota; and served as a nursing home administrator in North Dakota.

Beyond this, Cliff was a faithful, lifelong member of the Church of God (Seventh Day). In the 1960s he served as pastor of the churches in Alfred, North Dakota; Kansas City, Missouri; and Tulsa, Oklahoma. Cliff was also a member of the Fargo church for about 20 years. He worked with Lutheran Social Services to assist refugees in the area, helping prepare them for their driving test. Cliff never met a stranger and always had a friendly word and a good story to share.

Cliff is survived by Deloris, his wife of 60 years; three sons Darryl (Annette), Richard (Rachel), and Bill (Rae); nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his infant son, Clifford James.



CHURCH OF GOD™
(SEVENTH DAY) UNITED STATES & CANADA

Volume 11 • Number 4

Churchright is a bimonthly newsletter published by the General Conference Church of God (Seventh Day). It is dedicated to communicating relevant Church news and cultivating a "culture of excellence."

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Southeast

Contributor: Steve Krome, Superintendent



Super Sabbath. Around 300 people attended a Super Sabbath on March 23 at the Tarboro, North Carolina church. Brother Tereso Hernandez preached on “Living Under God’s Purposes.” In the afternoon Pastor Whaid Rose preached on worship and how it is more than songs and music; it is our response to Jesus revealing Himself to us. In the morning and afternoon Brother Juan Moreno led the worship for the Tarboro church. People came from Stone Mountain, Marietta, Thomasville, Summerfield, and New Bern, as well as a few people from Farmville, Newton, Florida, and New Jersey.



Fifth Sabbath. The CoG7 in Newton, NC, held a special service on March 30. About 75 brothers and sisters attended the event, hosted by Pastor Whaid Rose. Pastor Jeff Endecott taught Sabbath school on the subject of covenants. Pastor Calvin Burrell, with his wife, Barbara, also present, delivered the Sabbath message entitled “Waste Places Reclaimed.” The Newton membership provided a fellowship meal at the conclusion of services.



Sex: Created, Fallen, and Redeemed

In 2014 the North American Ministerial Council (NAMC) appointed a committee to write a study on human gender, sexuality, and marriage. Chaired by Israel Steinmetz, the committee, consisting of Calvin Burrell and BA Editor Jason Overman, agreed to tackle the subject from the standpoint of creation, fall, and redemption.

After much writing and review, a new book has emerged from the committee’s study: *Sex: Created, Fallen, and Redeemed*. Chapters cover a wide range of topics, including divorce and remarriage, homosexuality, and singleness. The book can be used for personal reading or for group studies.

We plan to have copies of *Sex: Created, Fallen, and Redeemed* (English and Spanish) available at the biennial convention. Don’t miss the special introductory price of \$8 (through September). After that, the price increases to \$9.95. The book will also be available in early July in our online bookstore at cog7.org.

New from the Bible Advocate Press

Two tracts have been recently updated: *A Closer Look at Christmas* and *The Sacred Name of God*. Visit our online store at publications.org.

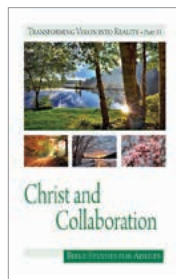




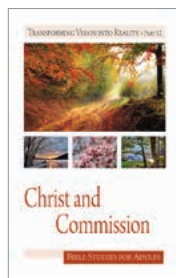
Teamwork. District superintendents, Ministries leaders, and GC office staff gathered April 7-12 at the Embassy Suites in Denver for the annual leadership meetings (see page 1). Back row (L to R): Jason Overman, Steve Krome, Bryan Cleeton, Chris Idemmili, Eddie Villalba, Israel Steinmetz. Middle row (L to R): Orville Rose, Larry Zaragoza, Keith Michalak, Dawn Wayman, Chip Hinds, Ken Lawson, Loren Stacy. Front row (L to R): Heber Vega, Jody McCoy, Sherri Langton, Amber Riggs.

Coming up . . .

Our third quarterly in 2019, *Christ and Collaboration*, examines our call to work with Christ in making disciples. This is divine cooperation with Jesus for the ultimate purpose of fulfilling His mission – the Great Commission – to proclaim and build the kingdom of God on earth. This study will prepare the disciple for work in the field, to be successful in ministry, and to fulfill the call to be a light to the world.



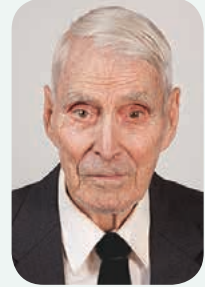
In the fourth quarter, *Christ and Commission* reaffirms our mission as disciples of Christ. We must be willing vessels, useful to our Lord in proclaiming the gospel and expanding His kingdom. Collaborating with members of our own church and the greater Christian community is a key theme in this quarter, as well as the need for our conduct to match our message. Among other things, this study will equip Sabbath school students to evangelize their communities and edify the church.



ASLEEP IN JESUS

Bennie “Ben” Coulson

(1927 - 2019)



Ben Coulson (91) was born on December 27, 1927, in Michigan to Homer and Anna Timmerman Coulson. He passed away April 30, 2019, at Pocahontas Healthcare and Rehab Center in Pocahontas, Arkansas.

Elder Coulson served faithfully as pastor of the Delaplaine, Arkansas CoG7 and facilitated its move to the larger town of Pocahontas. There he built relationships with other believers and with the community in developing a stable work for Jesus Christ. He recognized the need to choose change wisely for continued relevance in this age, to appeal to younger potential workers and continuously recruit them to serve with him.

Elder Coulson served as pastor regularly until early 2018. He was in specialty nursing care for most of a year and in hospice care for the last few weeks. He was preceded in death by his parents; son Steven Paul; sister Carrie Hassen; and brothers Edwin and Wesley. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Florence; daughters Diana R. Tweedy, Janette (Rick Harris) Gillean; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brothers Dick, Ned (Joyce), and Danny (Judy), as well as nieces and nephews.

For the list of board nominees and amendments to be considered at Convention 2019, please visit cog7.org/convention-downloads. Printed copies of these will be distributed at convention.



Join us at the 2019 Convention in Albuquerque to celebrate and recognize the graduating students who completed their studies over the past two years.

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light to the world . . .
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