

CHURCHRIGHT

Volume 1 Number 2

Striving to do church right.



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Church, the Baptist Way

The time between Malachi 4 (end of the Old Testament) and Matthew 1 (beginning of the New Testament) is known as the *intertestamental period*. During this four hundred-year span, there was no word from God.

To put this in perspective, consider the age of the United States and the role of preaching in our nation’s history. Then try to imagine the total absence of the ministry of God’s Word since the country’s inception and remember that, for Israel, such silence lasted twice as long.

The ministry of John the Baptist marked the end of the intertestamental period. Suddenly he appeared, preaching the message of the kingdom. Matthew’s description of John suggests that he was not your typical preacher. Some have called him a wild man — not to undermine the importance of the professional ministry, but to underscore that the message of the kingdom is not just for the sophisticated.

This principle is one of several that emerge from John’s ministry in the first twelve verses of Matthew 3. It can help us in our commitment to doing church to the glory of God. Space on this page doesn’t allow me to quote the corresponding verses nor offer extensive commentary on them. But I am confident that you will make the connection between them and those notions commonly held by Christians today about “ministry success.” In fact, here’s a worthwhile exercise. Take time to read Matthew 3:1-12 and identify these principles:

Location is not everything. The message of the kingdom is one of repentance. The evidence of true repentance is spiritual fruit in the lives of believers. Ministry that doesn’t bear fruit is offensive to a holy God.

Church is not a hideout for religious people. Authentic ministry focuses not on the preacher, but on Jesus.

Servant-leadership (modeled by humility) is key to effective ministry. This principle is the focus of this issue of *Churchright*. May you be inspired to give of your best in service to the Lord and to His church.

And by the way, if the title of this article raised your curiosity about which Baptist church I’m referring to, you’ll be relieved that it isn’t the folks in the other church down the street. Rather, it is a first century prophet whose ministry can serve as a model for effective ministry in our day.

Adapted from “Doing Church Like John the Baptist,” a sermon by Whaid Rose. Read transcript at Churchright Online (www.cog7.org).

REALITY CHECK



Where Do You Fit?

Years ago, a church in Kansas City, Missouri, surveyed the congregation to find out where members preferred to serve. In addition to asking about the members' various talents, the survey posed a question: "If you could do the one thing in the church that you prefer to do more than anything else, what would it be?"

Surprisingly, the church's trustee chairman responded that he wanted to work with boys' and girls' clubs because he had been an Eagle Scout as a teen. But his reputation as an outstanding businessman always qualified him for high offices in the church.

This man ended up working with children ages six to twelve on Wednesday nights. He thrived in his new ministry, and so did the Wednesday night program: Its attendance doubled.

It might be time for you to take your own survey. Maybe something you've done in the past can transfer into the present and multiply the kingdom.

— CR

Source: *Fresh Ideas for Discipleship and Nurture*, p. 97 (Christianity Today, Inc.)

OUR HIGH CALLING

A Servant's Thanks

by Howard E. Butt, Jr.

Joan was a new volunteer in a major hospital ER. She didn't expect a standing ovation — but sometime during that first rough evening, she expected someone to thank her. But no one did. Amid victims of shootings, drug overdoses, construction accidents, and car wrecks — she was ignored. In the crowded halls and hospital rooms, she had to help or get out of the way. And she was slightly put out.

Later, Joan's friend said to her, "I hate to be cruel, but if you want to be

a servant, then you need to be ready to be treated like one."

This is Howard Butt, Jr., of Laity Lodge. Our work is not about recognition, but about service. Thank yous are nice, but they're not the reason we punch in for the high calling of our daily work.

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven." (Matthew 6:1)

Taken from The High Calling of Our Daily Living (www.thehighcalling.org/). Used by permission.



Congratulations to **Enoc Flores**, the first recipient of the Culture of Excellence award!

Enoc was recently elected deacon in the San Jose Spanish church, but he excelled in serving the congregation long before that. Parking at the church has always been a challenge, so Enoc helps members find a parking place and directs traffic when they leave in the afternoon. He makes sure no children are running around and that members can exit safely. Enoc is also an uplifting song leader with a tremendous voice, and he encourages worshippers to lift their voices to the Lord, even if they can't sing.



Enoc just finished his term as youth sponsor and now supports his wife in sponsoring the San Jose Seekers group. He also serves as an usher.

The most outstanding characteristic about Enoc is his humility. You can always count on a kind word, a smile, a firm handshake, and gratitude to God for allowing him to serve God's people. He never takes the credit but simply acknowledges that our Creator deserves the glory!

Around the corner and
around the world . . .
sharing the good news.



Please be in prayer for these
upcoming Missions events:

- ▶ May 23-24 - Missions
presentations in Dover, OK
- ▶ May 30 - Day of prayer for
Zone 7 (Europe)
- ▶ June 27 - German CoG7
conference
- ▶ July 6-11 - General
Conference convention

For updated information
on missions, visit
www.cog7missions.org.

May is Missions
Ministries Emphasis.
Your offerings are
appreciated.



Bill Hicks
Director

Towels or Titles?

*Who, me? A servant?
You've got to be kidding!*

The idea of being a servant elicits negative reaction these days, even among Christians. Yet the Bible models servanthood as a goal of the Christian life. We were saved to serve: “We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works . . .” (Ephesians 2:10, NIV). Jesus defined His mission in terms of service: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve . . .” (Mark 10:45, NIV). And to illustrate what it meant for Jesus to divest Himself of divine glory in coming into this world, Paul used the picture of a servant:

[Jesus] being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:6-8, NIV).

To fully obey the Scriptures and model the life of Christ, we must be servants.

It’s therefore safe to say that Christians who do not aspire to service are either ignorant of or misguided about what the Bible teaches on the subject. Such were Jesus’ disciples. It is shocking but true that during Jesus’ last supper with His disciples, just hours before the Crucifixion, a dispute arose among the disciples as to which of them was the greatest (Luke 22:24). Jesus reminded them that thoughts of greatness reflect more the rulers of this world than citizens of the kingdom and that in God’s economy, those who are great are those who serve (vv. 25, 26).

In John’s account (chapter 13), Jesus then laid aside His garments, took a basin, and washed His disciples’ feet. Jesus underscored:

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them” (vv. 14-17, NIV).

Here Jesus introduced a principle as counter-cultural in His day as it is in ours. By means of a task usually reserved for the lowest of slaves, He modeled for His followers the true meaning of greatness: To be great is to be a servant.

Service can be wrongly motivated, but when it is genuine, it becomes the antidote to our pride. It’s been asserted that pride is the first sin committed on the planet (when Lucifer exalted himself against God). It is first on Solomon’s list of “big sins” God hates (Proverbs 6:16, 17). In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus directed the first beatitude toward the humble (the poor in spirit) and the second to those who mourn their spiritual pride (Matthew 5:3, 4). In the Greek, *deakono* (deacon) is translated as both “ministry” and “service,” suggesting that to be in ministry is to be in service and that the greatest leaders are servant-leaders. This applies to all believers, not just to leaders. We’ve all been given at least one spiritual gift. Gifts are to equip us for service – ministry. All members, then, are ministers (1 Corinthians 12).

There are king-leaders, and there are servant-leaders. One is into titles (“I’m the boss”); the other is into towels (“May I serve you?”). David and Saul are classic examples of this contrast. The difference between these two models is the difference between healthy and unhealthy churches, between spiritual arrogance and humility, and between division and the unity of the body. Which model describes your life?

— *Whaid Rose*



Ministerio Juvenil: No se trata de programas - ¡se trata de relaciones!

Fraternidad Juvenil Cristiana Nacional

- ▶ Biennial convention theme: "The Encounter" — where God and man collide
- ▶ Check out summer youth camps and retreats at <http://nfyc.cog7.org>. New Web sites for youth and youth workers coming soon.
- ▶ Have you seen *HeartSpeak* in the BA this year? Give a copy to a teen!
- ▶ Local participation in the Hunger Lock-In will raise funds to build the Dreamland school in Ghana.

June is NFYC Emphasis. Your offerings are appreciated.



Kurt Lang
Director



Ministries Highlights

SVA

- ▶ May 24 - Spring Vale Academy Commencement, 10 a.m.

NFYC

- ▶ July 31 - August 4 Lakewood Park Bible Camp, Devil's Lake, ND. Registration forms at www.churchofgodalfred.com. Contact: Julie (701-763-6320).

NAWM

- ▶ September 4-7 XXII Annual Hispanic Women's Retreat, San Francisco, CA. Contact: Sylvia Corral (209) 869-0777 or sylral869@aol.com.

Calendar Events

CoG7

- ▶ July 6-11 Biennial Convention

Districts

- ▶ May 22-24 SW District Men's Retreat, Dover Family Camp, near Kingfisher, OK. Contact: Sergio Alfaro (713-304-4993) or Edgardo Navarro (281-642-9058). Registration forms at www.cog7.org.
- ▶ July 19-26 - Senior Youth Camp, ages 13-17 - Spring Vale Campus
- ▶ July 26-August 2 - Junior Youth Camp, ages 9-12 - Spring Vale Campus

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News and Notes

North American Women's Ministries

Biennial convention. This year, NAWM will host a dinner on Thursday evening instead of its regular convention luncheon. At that time, the new NAWM director, Grace Sanchez, will be introduced. Join in welcoming her and in expressing gratitude to past director Mary Ling for her fine service.

Online survey. Have you seen NAWM's survey on the Web? Log onto www.cog7.org and click on "Women (NAWM)" under Ministries. Send your responses before June 1 (English) to Mary Ling, P.O. Box 301, Amherst, OH 44001; maryling@oh.rr.com; or (Spanish) to Sylvia Corral, 5912 Webb Court, Riverbank, CA 95367; sylral869@aol.com.

2010 National Women's Retreat. Some information may be shared at the convention dinner, so make plans to be there!

Women's Day 2009. Do you have a report to share about your program for this day? Send it to churchright@cog7.org for posting on the G. C. Web site.

Women's Bazaar. Donations are needed to support many ministry efforts.

Biblical Counsel on Finances

In these trying times, many people are concerned about their financial welfare. Books offering sound biblical advice, written by founders and friends of Crown Financial Ministries, are available from Bible Advocate Press:

- ▶ *Free and Clear: God's Road Map to Debt-Free Living*, by Howard Dayton - \$12.99
- ▶ *Your Money Map: A Proven 7-Step Guide to True Financial Freedom*, by Howard Dayton - \$19.99

- ▶ *Money Before Marriage: A Financial Workbook for Engaged Couples*, by Larry Burkett - \$14.99
- ▶ *Money in Marriage Workbook/CD*, by Larry Burkett - \$19.99
- ▶ *Surviving Financial Meltdown*, by Ron Blue and Jeremy White - \$12.99. This guide offers a six-step plan that will lead to economic health.

- ▶ *Your Finances in Changing Times*, by Larry Burkett - \$11.99
- ▶ *Money Management for College Students*, by Larry Burkett - \$12.99

Mailing is free in the United States for prepaid orders. Call 303-452-7973; e-mail bap.orders@cog7.org; or write Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233.

A longer list of books is available from BAP on finances. Also for family, Christian growth, youth leaders, and church leaders.

Lessons for the Third Quarter 2009

Adult. *Stewardship Principles* is the title for the third quarter issue of Bible Studies for Adults. The first two lesson titles are "God: Our Creator and Provider" and "Our Role in God's Universe." Recognizing God's ownership of all things, the lessons discuss our stewardship responsibilities in various aspects of life.

Senior high youth. In *Living Letters* the lessons focus on the apostle Paul's vibrant, vital letters written under divine inspiration to New Testament churches and fellow workers.

Junior high youth. Lessons in *The Greatest Book Ever Written* portray some of the marvelous truths taught in God's Word.

Helpful teacher's guides are available for these studies. The price for the adult student book is \$3.00, and the teacher's guide is \$5.00. (The prices for the senior youth and junior high student books are \$2.50 and \$3.00 for the teacher's guide.) Order from Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; 303-452-7973; or bap.orders@cog7.org.

Doing Copyright Right

Recently the General Conference was notified of a copyright infringement in a Church newsletter. Those working in Publications watch copyright diligently when producing literature in print and online. But any church or individual must also take responsibility for adhering to copyright laws.

Here are some general guidelines Publications follows regarding copyrighted material:

- Permission isn't needed when quoting **magazine articles**, but attribution to the author and magazine must be given.
- Some quotations from books are allowed under "fair use" rules, but others require securing permission from the publisher. The U.S. Copyright Web site (www.copyright.gov) provides a detailed explanation of fair use. Given the time (weeks or even months) it takes to secure permission, paraphrasing the work is often the best solution.
- No lines from a song, poem, or hymn may be quoted without permission, except if the work is in **public domain** (visit www.copyright.gov for a definition of this term). Every church should have a **Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) license** permitting use of song lyrics for its worship services. However, this license does not cover use of lyrics for print in a magazine or newsletter. Visit www.ccli.com for more details.
- Generally, several lines from certain Bible translations may be used without permission. However, it's better to check the translation's information page for what the publisher allows.
- A work posted on the Internet isn't always free to use, because many Web sites' copyright notices protect their content. Also, material reprinted and passed around on e-mail should be avoided. Most times the source/author isn't known or hasn't been contacted for permission.

A search on the Internet will provide unlimited information about copyright. Considering the penalty charged for infringement, the extra effort is well worth it. For further information, contact Sherri Langton, associate editor (churchright@cog7.org).

— Sherri Langton

Languishing Logo



Church Leaders:

Back in '07 the new Church logo was officially unveiled. The enthusiastic response and the logo's wide use throughout the Church confirmed that this was a very timely investment. (Speaking of investment, I am reminded that the funding for this effort was provided by the Issachar Forum.)

Unfortunately, however, our logo has been found to be in violation of federal trademark infringement rules. Specifically, the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference has challenged our use of our logo. While there are significant differences between theirs and ours (in my opinion), both contain a Bible and a flame. We have addressed this matter through legal counsel and have resolved that the best and most cost-effective course of action is to redesign our logo.

For your information, the following elements are considered by the courts when deciding on trademark infringements:

Validity of mark. Logos trademarked for more than five years cannot be easily challenged. The SDA had theirs longer than we have had ours.

Similarity of identity. There are not only similar elements in our logos but also similar elements in the names of both organizations: "General Conference" and "Seventh Day."

Possibility of confusion. Because of similarity of identity in the names, the similar elements in the logos of both organizations could cause confusion.

Other legal elements could be mentioned, but hopefully these are sufficient for you to understand the basis for our decision to comply. Furthermore, I share this information for our benefit as Church leaders as you develop materials that may be subject to similar regulations.

Therefore, this letter serves as official notification to all pastors, lay pastors, local congregations, and district administrations that all uses of the Conference's current logo must be discontinued immediately. I deeply regret this development and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Our redesigned logo will soon be unveiled. I am praying that it will not only be comparable to the one being disbanded but also exceed our expectations.

Grace and peace,

Whaid G. Rose
Conference President



Significant changes were made during this year's meetings of the Ministries Training System board of regents and the Conference board of directors. One is the appointment of **Larry Marrs** as the new director, replacing Calvin Burrell, director since its inception in 2001. Larry's appointment became effective April 1.

In addition, a name change from Ministries Training System to **LifeSpring School of Ministry** was approved. Also **Makayla Schlenker** (Alfred, North Dakota), former LITES student of Stanberry, Missouri, was appointed administrative assistant to Larry, effective April 1. Makayla will assist Conference President Whaid Rose as well.

Transitions

New NAWM Director

Effective July 1, 2009, North American Women's Ministries will have a new director. **Grace Sanchez** of St. Paul, Minnesota, was recently appointed to complete the unexpired term of **Mary Ling**, who has served in this position since 2001. Grace has been a women's rep with NAWM in the past and has been employed in various roles with non-profit organizations. Now retired, she continues to work alongside her husband, Gilbert, in different lay leadership capacities.

Spanish Language Services

Eddie Villalba has served as director of administration since 2003. Since April 1, he has transitioned to new assignments. He now functions as manager of the Denver office facilities and as

coordinator of Spanish Language Services, a new position created to more effectively meet the needs of our growing Hispanic constituency. Eddie and his wife, Socorro, decided five years ago to uproot from their native El Paso in order to serve the Church. We bless Eddie in his new role.



Staff Addition

The new voice on the phone when you call Denver office is **Becky Robinson** (above), working since December 2008 as front desk receptionist. Combined with this assignment is a half-time position with Issachar Forum.

Board Appreciation

Mary Ling: MOVED that the General Conference board of directors express its appreciation to Mary Ling for her service as director of the North American Women's Ministries since 2000.

Calvin Burrell: MOVED that the General Conference board of directors express its appreciation to Calvin Burrell for his service as director of Ministries Training System since its inception.

National Men's Ministry

During its winter meeting, the Conference board of directors gave its blessing to the creation of what will eventually become an additional G. C. Ministry — to men. It will parallel the Conference's National Women's Ministries, with the goal of "presenting men mature in Christ."

This effort follows the substantial investment made jointly by the districts and Conference in men's ministry training (Local Church Impact). The creation of this new ministry will take a "soft launch" approach, hosting area and district men's conferences in fourteen locations beginning this fall. Watch for further details in upcoming issues of *Churchright* and on the G. C. Web site. For questions, contact Pastor Jeff Endecott.

Future Servants

The following have been approved for ministerial license:

John C. Adame
Daniel W. Bellows
Gabriel Guzman
Richard Jensen
Bruce Noble
Tom Robinson



Pastor Opening

Due to the retirement of Elder Nathan Lawson, who pastored over 25 years, the English church in Conroe, Texas, has an opening for a full-time pastor. NAMC-licensed ministers may send a letter of interest and/or resumé to Church of God (Seventh Day), c/o Dennis O'Banion, 2305 N. Frazier, Conroe, TX 77303 or to dobanion@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please call Dennis at 936-443-4775.