

# CHURCHRIGHT

Volume 1 Number 3

Striving to do church right.



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## Getting the Gospel Right

**What** is the gospel? A church will rise no higher than the level of its understanding of who God is and the plan of salvation. This is the most significant question facing the Christian church today.

*Gospel* is mostly a New Testament term, though the concept goes all the way back to Genesis where One who would bruise the head of the serpent is prophesied (3:15) — the first hint of the gospel in Scripture. *Proto-euangelion* (Greek) reflects the implications of this prophecy. From this term, referred to as the good news of a military victory or the birth of a king (in Greek culture), *gospel* is derived. *Gospel* (English) comes from *godspell*, Anglo-Saxon for “good news.”

So what is the gospel? It is the good news about Jesus. Its primacy and content are underscored in 1 Corinthians 15:2-4:

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of *first importance*: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (NIV).

In summary, the gospel holds primary importance in our Christian walk, and it's about Jesus — His life, death, burial, and resurrection. Paul further defines the gospel as “the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16, NIV), meaning that it is not only about a set of historical events but also about God's present power to save, available to all regardless of race or color.

But Satan is a skillful imitator, so the invention of “other gospels” and the perversion of the true gospel (language used in Galatians 1:6, 7) has been an ever-present challenge to the cause of the kingdom. The gospel is perverted both by enemies of the cross and by well-intentioned Christians, ignorant of what the gospel is and what it isn't.

The gospel is not a set of rules to live by, nor a means by which we can achieve “our best life yet.” It isn't a cure-all for the emotional and psychological ills and stresses of the culture. Rather, it is the joyous news of the free gift of salvation, by faith alone, in Christ alone.

To do church right, we must get the gospel right, and getting the gospel right should be the commitment of all Christians whose core commission is to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

— *Whaid Rose*  
Denver, Colorado

## REALITY CHECK



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### Gated Community?

We've seen them in our neighborhoods: a cluster of nice-looking houses with a wall around them and a gate at the entrance. We don't just drive into such places; our names have to be cleared with the guard at the gate. A gated community keeps the riff raff out.

Unfortunately many churches are like that, walling themselves off from the riff raff of the outside world. But doing this keeps believers from reaching the lost. That's what author J. Daniel Lupton believes, especially as it pertains to reaching out to the poor. When a church is a gated community, he says, it looks for people "who look like us, act like us, believe like us, and don't rock our boat. . . . It just doesn't correspond to our Lord's command to go into all the world with the gospel, alert to the needs of the poor and broken" (*I Like Church, But . . .*, pp. 130-131).

Would you determine to see the lost as Jesus sees them and open your doors and hearts to them?

— CR

## OUR HIGH CALLING

### What Are You Doing to Transform Your Workplace?

by Howard E. Butt, Jr.

Incarnational evangelism is sometimes called friendship evangelism. That's the phrase Young Life uses. Think about that for a minute.

Jesus said we are . . .

1. the light of the world
2. the salt of the earth
3. the yeast that makes the whole loaf rise

All three — light, salt, yeast — work by penetration, by permeation, by their influence spreading out. None of these call attention to themselves — they just silently transform, flavor, and lift their environment.

Think about your daily work. What are you doing to transform, flavor, or lift your workplace?

*Taken from The High Calling of Our Daily Living, June 6, 2009 (www.thehighcalling.org/). Used by permission.*



### Culture of Excellence Award: Doris Youngs

Congratulations to **Doris Youngs**, second in line to receive the Culture of Excellence Award!

Doris exemplifies excellent service by action and not just words (Ephesians 6:7). She and her husband, Tim, have a gift of hospitality as well as patience and long-suffering.

Doris teaches Sabbath school for the children in the Jasper, Arkansas, church, but she has taught more through her living examples. Susan Kennedy says that Doris became her mentor when she moved to the Jasper congregation a few years ago. She taught Susan what the word *family* means and what the unconditional love of Christ is.

Doris works as an RN in a local hospital serving the medical needs of others during the day. She returns home in the evening and cares for four of her young grandchildren. Though busy, Doris will stop whatever she's doing to help someone needing encouragement or direction. She serves her brothers and sisters with good will as to the Lord and will give all the glory to God with this special recognition.



Your offerings . . .

- ▶ benefit the International Ministerial Congress
- ▶ help develop and encourage CoG7 leadership in some 40 countries
- ▶ bring the gospel to the ends of the earth

Stay up-to-date on all Missions news at [www.cog7missions.org](http://www.cog7missions.org).

July is Missions Emphasis. Your offerings are appreciated.



Bill Hicks  
Director

So little can  
do so much.

Change for Your World

# Strategy for Soul-winning

by Nelson Caswell

One of the craziest court scenes of all time resulted in the agonizing death of an innocent Man while setting a murderer free instead of Jesus, our Savior.

This backdrop should motivate us to share the salvation story. We should recruit followers to become fishers of men, to go, preach, and make disciples.

God's dedication to the redemption of humanity is hard to ignore. The Bible therefore makes evangelism a core issue. In the face of that reality, any church should be measured effectively and accountably.

For years, the CoG7 has admitted its weakness in evangelism. This is not debated in our midst. Leadership has agonized over it. If God had to depend strictly on our church to carry His gospel to the ends of the earth, He'd be terribly disappointed.

Prayer in this matter has caused me to ask God to make us strong in our weakness. When we're asked how many people in the CoG7 qualify as successful soul-winners, the answer is clear: very few! Even our pastors aren't trained in the best one-on-one tactics of evangelism.

We have tried the shotgun approach, which doesn't work. Most efforts along that line prove it. D. James Kennedy's book *Evangelism Explosion* proves that the explosion in winning the lost happens only as individuals are prepared with in-field training by experienced presenters. My idea is to institute the best training possible

on personal evangelism and make sure that every church in the United States has at least one person able to train others in leading people to Jesus Christ. This person would operate from a list of prospects provided by and prayed for by that church. Whether people accept it or not, the gospel would be presented — not distinctives, not the church, but the good news.

Such a program would distinguish us as the best soul-winners around. Our goal is increasing God's kingdom, not just our church. There is a difference. There's not a better focus anywhere than transforming sinners to a life of hope and confidence and eternal life. That's where God's heart is and where ours must be.

## Issachar Forum: Funding the Vision

Like the sons of Issachar "who understood the times and knew what Israel should do" (1 Chronicles 12:32, NIV), many within the Church of God (Seventh Day) understand the present times and have much to contribute to the Church's vibrant future. The Issachar Forum has been established to provide opportunity for such individuals to make the most of their contributions, either through financial partnership or through actively participating in the Forum's Vision Community. Donations to the Forum fund new projects and priorities of the General Conference not covered within its regular budget.

Over the past year, the Forum leadership has been strategically taking the Forum to the next level by creating needed infrastructure and by activating the Vision Community. Among these efforts is fundraising through collaboration with major U.S. corporations, four of which will be featured at the biennial convention in Corpus Christi, Texas, this summer: Kroger Food Family, Giving Bean, Yoder Meats, and Yamaha. For more information on how you may help fund the Church's vision by participating in one or more of these fundraising efforts, please contact Peter Youngs ([peteryoungs@cog7.org](mailto:peteryoungs@cog7.org)).

There are many ways to contribute to the Church's future, besides giving or raising funds. Dreamers and visionaries, advisors, spokespersons, prayer warriors, and just plain cheerleaders are needed to be part of the team. Ultimately, the goal of the Forum is to change the typical corporate attitude of "What can the church do for me?" to "What can I do for my church?" Join the movement; become a member of the Issachar Forum. Call 303-452-7973 or e-mail [issacharforum@cog7.org](mailto:issacharforum@cog7.org).

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**— Sarah Noble  
Student of the Year  
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**August is Spring Vale emphasis month. Please support our youth by giving to this vital ministry.**



**Mark Caswell  
Director**

## THEY REST IN JESUS

### Jesus Sandoval

October 31, 1915 - April 3, 2009



Jesus Sandoval was born October 31, 1915, in Michoacan, Mexico. His parents were Esther and Heladio.

Brother Sandoval was raised with two siblings: an older brother, Beto, and an older sister, Mary. He had an inborn appreciation for the order in the family, allowing the oldest members to be the most respected and take on the most

responsibility.

Brother Sandoval was blessed with three children: two sons, Ernesto and José, and one daughter, Mary. He also had ten grandchildren: Tina, Sarah, Ernesto, Jose, Melisa, Rebeca, Vivian, Lilia, Elena, and Rachel. Brother Sandoval worried over his children and was deeply concerned for their development as they grew up. He maintained a firm hand in their upbringing.

Faith was important to Brother Sandoval. He held high moral standards and worried about the moral decay he saw around him. For that reason, he held deep spiritual beliefs and shared them with others. He was a member of the Church of God (Seventh Day) for 71 years. During that time, he served as pastor and elder. Though his primary occupation was minister, he also held positions at Brachs, Zenith, and Rheem. In both his personal and professional environments, Brother Sandoval upheld his standards.

When he retired in 1981, he found new pleasure in staying active in the church. To him, retirement provided opportunity to catch up with his friends, attend functions and group outings, and tackle new, interesting activities.

Brother Sandoval passed away on April 3, 2009, at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, after complications following a heart attack. He was laid to rest at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

### K. C. Walker

March 27, 1911 - May 5, 2009



Kenneth Cortez Walker was born to Elder R. K. (Rufus) and Minnie Walker on March 27, 1911, in southeastern Oklahoma. He was one of ten children.

The Walker family migrated to Alabama in 1929 so Rufus could work with the Church near Henagar. There Kenneth met and married Jewel Millican on July 14, 1931. They had one son, Philip (1942-98). After Jewel's death in 1987, Kenneth married Helen Ligon Whited in 1988. She survives him.

Kenneth entered the Church's gospel ministry in 1936 and spent the remainder of his life advancing the kingdom of Christ. He pastored churches and held evangelistic efforts in Alabama, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. He taught at Midwest Bible College in Stanberry, Missouri; wrote many *Bible Advocate* articles; spoke on radio; and authored books on his favorite subject of Bible prophecy.

After serving the Conroe, Texas, congregation and Southwestern District for many years, Kenneth retired from full-time service in 1978 and moved to Mentone, Alabama. There he continued service as pastor in the Hammondville church and preached over a Ft. Payne radio station.

Elder Walker died on May 5 in a Collinsville, Alabama, rest home. Elder Robert Coulter officiated at funeral services on May 8, and the body was laid to rest near Henagar, Alabama.

### Winnie McMickin

Wife of long-time minister W. T. McMickin, passed away Saturday, June 27, in Mesa, Arizona. She was 93 years old. Sister McMickin has three daughters, six grandchildren (including NFYC Director Kurt Lang and SWORD Director Christy Lang), and several great- and great great-



grandchildren. She would have been 94 in three weeks. We thank the good Lord for her long, fruitful life.



