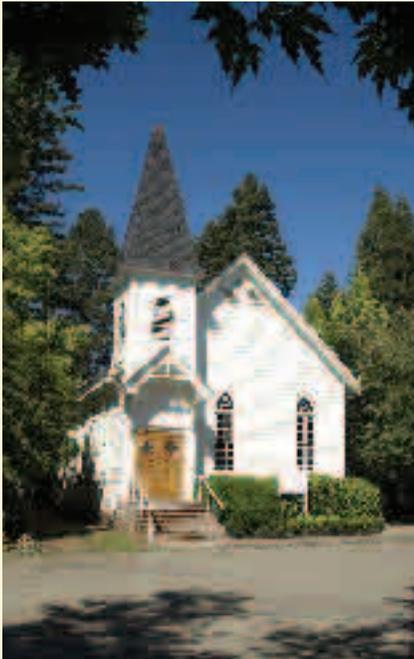


CHURCHRIGHT



Striving to do church right.

May-June 2010

Volume 2 • Number 3

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Sabbath-Observing

In 1852 a man named Joseph Bates walked into the post office in Battle Creek, Michigan, and asked for the name of the most honest man in that town. Bates was directed to David Hewitt, to whom he soon presented a Bible study on the Sabbath. Hewitt was convinced of this truth and began observing the Sabbath the next week. So did his friend, Gilbert Cranmer, the man credited with founding the Church of God movement.

As a result, for more than 150 years the Sabbath has been part of our church's history and tradition. Our denomination's Statement of Faith includes the following paragraph:

The Sabbath: The seventh-day Sabbath is God's gift to humanity from creation, was written into the Ten Commandments by God's finger, kept and taught by Jesus and observed by the apostolic church. A memorial of both creation and redemption, the Sabbath should be faithfully celebrated by believers now as a day of rest, worship, and well-doing.

Space doesn't allow for an elaborate outline of Sabbath theology with supporting biblical references. But at its core are the convictions that no evidence exists of a change of the day of rest in Scripture and that Sabbath observance does not conflict with the teaching and principles of the new covenant.

It is intriguing, therefore, to observe what may be called "a new awakening" to the concept of Sabbath in today's culture. Many are becoming increasingly aware of the essential quality and value of Sabbath rest. They're discovering that the reason God rested on the seventh day of creation is not because He was tired but because He knew how relevant Sabbath rest would be to twenty-first century humans. By resting, God underscored the "sacred rhythm" of work followed by rest and renewal. By tapping into this rhythm, we improve both our quality of life and the meaning of work. This is quickly becoming a subject of much interest in health journals, in-flight magazines, books, seminars, and conferences. Setting aside a portion of time for rest, reflection, and nurturing of relationships is very much in vogue these days.

For these and other reasons, the vision of a vibrant Church of God (Seventh Day) includes "Sabbath-observing." It serves to underscore our history and to challenge us to be the grace-oriented, Sabbath-observing church for which so many yearn today. Believing that our church has been uniquely poised for this time in history, let us point our restless world to God's gift of rest in the weekly Sabbath and to their spiritual rest in Christ, to whom the Sabbath ultimately points.

— *Whaid Rose*
Denver Office



Church of God
Denver, Colorado



Shine, Jesus, Shine

It was my privilege to be part of the SHINE Medical Dental Mission 2010 on the island of Jamaica in early April. I accepted the invitation to accompany the team for several reasons, including my desire to show tangible support for this effort and to welcome these missionary volunteers to my native island. But as

it turned out, my time in Jamaica was much more than that: It was a deeply moving experience I will not soon forget.

Doctors, dentists, nurses, and support staff from the General Conferences in Mexico and the U.S. served over 1,700 patients in two locations: Spanish Town (near Kingston, the

nation's capital) and Montego Bay (on the eastern end of the island). In both places the church facility was transformed into a medical-dental clinic with equipment rented on the island and medications shipped in from the U.S.

The team's dedication and passion for people are remarkable. Their focus was not just physical, but spiritual. Ministering to the emotional needs of people and seeing some come to Christ was precious to behold. Evening services held in various locations brought team members who are ministers to the pulpit. Sabbath service was attended by some 600 brethren.

Go to the SHINE blog (shinecog7.org) to catch the true spirit of the mission. See pictures, hear sermons, read testimonies, get to know the team, learn about Jamaica's rich culture, and sense the warm hospitality of the church on the island. Give an offering to assist with follow-up cases.

Join me in thanking God for this good thing happening in the General Conference, and pray that SHINE's passion to "share hope in nations everywhere" will continue, to the glory of God.

— Whaid Rose
Denver Office



Pastor of the Year

If you wish to nominate your pastor, this is a reminder that the deadline is **June 1**. The winner will be announced in October 2010, in conjunction with Clergy Appreciation Month.

Nominees must be current licensed or credentialed ministers. To check if a minister is eligible, call or e-mail Becky Robinson (303-452-7973, ext. 10; becky.robinson@cog7.org). More details available in *Churchright Online* (www.cog7.org).



Doing Church Right in Lanham

The beginnings of the Lanham, Maryland, church date back to 1972 when the Perilla family (from Colombia) and the Martinez family (from El Salvador) formed a fellowship in that area. The group met in various places, including La Casa del Pueblo (“Home of the People”), a public social hall in Washington D. C., until the late W. H. Olson invited the group to share his church’s rented facility in Adelphi, Maryland.

Fast-forward to May 22, 1989, a significant date in the history of this young, vibrant church: Pastor Antonio Vega arrived in the U.S. to assume the pastorate. Under his leadership, the congregation gave itself tirelessly to door-to-door outreach, street evangelism, and discipleship. A prime example of the fruit of such labor is Narciso Alberto Betances, Pastor Vega’s first convert (in Maryland). He’s now a leading lay minister in the Lanham congregation and area representative to the Northeastern District board.

Perhaps the most telling evidence of Lanham’s visionary and evangelistic spirit is its expanding list of

church plants. Satellite congregations were planted in Alexandria, Richmond, and Winchester, Virginia expanding to Frederick, Maryland, as new members were added. Financial assistance with facilities rental, equipment purchase, and pastoral services for a number of these groups are some ways the Lanham church sponsors and supports its new congregations. Assistance with leadership development and spiritual nurture is ongoing as Vega and his team travel to the various groups on a weekly rotating basis.

Back at home front, the Lanham CoG7 has become what may be the General Conference’s largest congregation. After meeting in Hyattsville for several years, the group purchased its current facility (with four acres) in Lanham for \$800,000 on May 22, 2004. With some 180 adult members, plus children, youth, and regular visitors, there is standing room only during Sabbath evening services and sometimes all day in the main auditorium. For that reason, vision has been cast for building a new 700-seat sanctuary and additional offices.

Though this group dates back to 1972, its active growth began with the arrival of Pastor Vega. Amazingly, in just a little over two decades, this congregation has made giant leaps in spreading the gospel and cultivating its members and satellite plants. The congregation remains united under the skilled leadership of this 76-year-old pastor, who believes in team ministry and in developing lay leadership. Despite financial challenges, the congregation has retained Pastor Vega full time through his tenure. It has lived up to its district and Conference commitments and supported many other causes. Most important, the Lanham congregation is a point of light through aggressive gospel witness to its community and beyond.

TAKE NOTE ✓



**Join the
Marion, Iowa, Church
June 25-27
150th Anniversary
Celebration**

Music by Gordon Kuryluk
Messages by Jeff Endecott,
Whaid Rose, Robert Coulter
Recognition of former
pastors, fellowship,
feasting, and fun

Contact Abe Endecott:
abe@cog7.org



The board of directors is joined by Whaid Rose (far right) for a picture following the Corpus convention in 2009. Wayne Hrenyk and John Tivald were not available.

Board of Directors: Meeting Highlights

The annual meeting of the General Conference's board of directors took place February 14-17 at the Doubletree Hotel in North Denver, under the chairmanship of Loren Stacy. All members were present except for Erik Dunn, who couldn't attend due to work-related conflicts.

The Sunday portion of the meeting is reserved for presentations by Conference President Whaid Rose on the state of the Church, the implementation of the vision, board training, and other matters. Following the "State of the Church" address, Whaid unveiled a ten-year Decade of Vision Master Plan, created around the following key elements:

Refocus - bringing the big picture vision of the General Conference back into focus on all levels of the Church

Critical Success Factors - giving prioritized attention to key factors critical to the success of the vision:

- Communication
- Leadership Development
- Centralization
- Spiritual and Organizational Accountability
- Fundraising
- Culture of Excellence

Succession - making concerted efforts to recruit and groom new personnel to replace and/or fill key leadership positions

Resource-driven - securing long-term funding for ministry by building up the Conference's Endowment Fund to \$1,000,000 within the decade.

Critical Mass - building synergy by bringing together people with the needed resources in the same place at the same time

Intensity and Momentum - creating a sense of urgency and passion behind the vision

Collaboration - leaving room for key entities and individuals within the organization to give input and feel ownership in the implementation of the vision

The Master Plan will be shared

with the Church at large after further planning, prayer, and collaboration with new members of the vision team.

New staff. In keeping with the Master Plan, staff were added immediately at the Denver office. Beginning April 1, Richard (Rick) Frye (Denver, Colorado) began serving full time as IT specialist, and Abraham (Abe) Endecott (Wellman, Iowa) is special assistant to the Conference president. Beginning July 1, Dr. Richard Jensen (Walla Walla, Washington) will begin his tenure as the Conference executive director. These new staff members will be formally introduced in upcoming issues of *Churchright* and other publications.

New LifeSpring staff. In addition to the new staff mentioned above, LifeSpring School of Ministry is also expanding its staff as it implements Phase I of a long-term vision for the educational and spiritual development of the Church's leadership. Rocky Cardwell (also of Walla Walla, Washington) will join as IT specialist beginning July 1.

Financial commitments. The board of directors approved the Conference's budget for the new fiscal year, which includes the allocation of a percentage of tithe income received from local churches through districts for the G. C. Ministries. In addition, the board funded the following projects with funds from its designated account: IMC; additional supplement for missions budget; NAMC; digital plate processor, digital printer, and energy-efficient lighting system for Denver offices; legal fees; and supplemental funds for LifeSpring.

The board heard reports from various committees, including Endowment, and the president pro-

vided updates on various matters. It reappointed ministries directors, district superintendents, and the board of regents (replacing Loren Stacy with Erik Dunn). The board also revised the job descriptions for the LifeSpring director and regents, and transferred the supervision of the Faithful Servant Memorial and Lydy funds from North American Women's Ministries to the LifeSpring board of regents.

The board granted the request of the Grand Prairie, Texas, congregation that the Conference no longer be named on its property title deed, and it dealt with other property matters. At the joint request of its superintendents, the board sponsored resolutions to be presented to the Conference in session in 2011; made a one-time grant of \$16,500 to SHINE

(Medical and Dental Missions), tangibly expressing appreciation for the ministry's positive impact through its witness to the gospel and commitment to missions; and changed the Conference's Vision Statement by substituting *Distinct, Not Exclusive* for *Evangelical* and *Spirit-Formed* for *Spirit-Filled*. The board also spent time reviewing the first draft of the proposed governing document prepared by one of its sub-committees, and met in executive session for the annual evaluation of the president.

The board will meet again in conjunction with the Ministerial Council in Colorado Springs this October. Pray that those you have selected to serve on this governing body will be given much wisdom and discernment as they play their role in the great cause of the kingdom.



Richard (Rick) Frye



Dr. Richard Jensen



Abraham (Abe) Endecott



Rocky Cardwell

TAKE NOTE ✓



Learning to Live Life Without Fear

Phoenix Grand Hotel and Salem Conference Center

See *Churchright Online* (www.cog7.org) for list of speakers

Pastor Needed

The Redmond, Oregon, church is looking for a full-time senior pastor. Please send résumé and cover letter to Redmond CoG7, 205 NW 4th Street, Redmond, OR 97756.

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CHURCH NEWS

NFYC News

Gimme Five awards. Thanks to all who participated in our Gimme Five program for 2009! Receiving High Five awards: Kristin Gonzalez and Theresa Scott, youth leaders. Receiving the Jacob Solis Community Service Award: Midland, Texas. Participation awards: youth leaders Brenda Cox, Karen Curran, Jason and Rose Rodriguez, and Pancie Payton.

Begin your Gimme Five 2010 Journey today, if you haven't already! Packets and journals can be downloaded at <http://nfyccog7.org>. Just click on Programs.

Contest winner. Congrats to Rebecca Davila for winning our texting quiz contest! She was the first to text us back with the correct answer, and she won a Christian music CD of her choice. If you want to sign up to receive texts from the National FYC (ages 13-22 and youth workers only), send your first and last names, cell phone #, and cell phone provider (Verizon, Sprint, etc.) to 541-517-1079. Receive regular texts, including Bible verses, jokes, random thoughts, and contests.

New Web design. Our NFYC page has a new look, and we want you to be on it. Send us some pics of your local youth group so we can post them for 'ya. Include a quick summary of activities your group has been doing together, along with some cool pics, and we will make you famous! You can also find a Calendar of Events, downloadable programs, and lots more on our site. Just click over to <http://nfyccog7.org> and visit us!

HeartSpeak. What is your heart saying? Who is influencing it? How does God want to strengthen your heart? *HeartSpeak* is our new brand of magazine, designed to help you answer these questions. You can find it right in the middle of the printed *Bible Advocate*, in the *BA Online* (<http://baonline.org>), and on MySpace (www.myspace.com/letyourheart speak). Don't miss another issue!

Third Quarter Lessons

Adult. In *Jesus According to Mark*, the third quarter series of Bible Studies for Adults, lessons help students search, analyze, and personally apply the message in Mark. This Gospel portrays Jesus' life in simple, straightforward, action-packed stories that support Mark's main theme: Jesus is the Messiah — Christ the anointed One, the Son of God.

Senior high youth. In *The Just Live by Faith*, lessons on the book of Romans provide an exciting journey into the realm of faith. They reveal how faith worked in Paul's life and how it can work in the lives of youth.

Junior high youth. Students reading *Call to Service* will learn how some of the faithful men in Bible times were called to service, and how they served with courage in difficult circumstances.

The adult student book costs \$3.25, and the teacher's guide is \$5. The senior youth student book is \$3, and the junior high student book is \$2.50; its teacher's guide costs \$3. Order from Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; 303-452-7973 or bap.orders@cog7.org.

TAKE NOTE ✓

Please answer these questions:

- Does the G. C. office have a current e-mail for your church?
- Do we have a contact for your church?
- Do you receive the monthly update of the Church directory?
- Do you receive e-mails from the G. C. president?
- Is your information on the Internet correct?

If you answered "no" to any of these, e-mail Becky Robinson (becky.robinson@cog7.org) with your current information.

How About Your Will?

Have you prepared your Last Will and Testament? Everyone should have a written document expressing how he or she wants the estate to eventually be distributed.

Have you included support for the Lord's work in your will? You might consider designating a tithe (10 percent) of your estate to support the gospel. If your children are grown and doing well, you may want to increase that percentage.

You can designate a portion of your estate for one or more ministries, either for current use or for the Pooled Endowment Fund, which will provide income for future support.

For more information, contact the Office of Planned Giving, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; plannedgiving@cog7.org.

Calendar 2010

- May 29-30** Grad Weekend at Spring Vale, Owosso, MI
- June 6-17** LifeSpring Summer Session, Spring Vale Academy, Owosso, MI
- June 20-27** Youth mission trip to Yakima, WA
- June 23-27** Refuge in the Rockies Christian Youth Camp '10, Rocky Mountains, CO; contact Colorado Springs CoG7 (*office@cscog7.org*)
- June 25-27** Marion, IA, church celebrates 150 years; contact Abe Endecott (*abe@cog7.org*)
- July 3-4** Eastern Canada Joint Fellowship Weekend, Montreal, Quebec; theme: "One Family, One Faith"; Whaid Rose, guest speaker
- July 18-25** Michigan youth camp (junior and senior campers), Hopkins, MI; contact Rex Miller (*kingmerex@aol.com*)
- July 21-25** SWORD retreat at Sis-Q Meadows, Cave Junction, OR
- July 23-25** Dakotas youth retreat, Devils Lake, ND (Lakewood Bible Camp); contact Steve Kyner (*tohiswork1@msn.com*)
- July 25-August 1** FYC camp at Sis-Q Meadows, Cave Junction, OR; contact Vona Ogren (*hogren@msn.com*)
- July 26-August 1** Junior youth camp and FYC camp at Capital Mountain in north CA; contact Jorge Perez (*nazaritemex@hotmail.com*)
- August 1-8** Seekers at Sis-Q Meadows, Cave Junction, OR
- August 1-8** Southeast District youth camp, Raleigh, NC; contact Sandy Jones (*june.bug810@gmail.com*)
- August 27-29** NED Men's Retreat, Laurelville, PA; contact Bruce Noble (*bruce.noble@cog7.org*)
- August 27-September 1** Seniors at Sis-Q Meadows, Cave Junction, OR
- September 3-6** Hispanic Women's Retreat, NorthBay Retreat Center, Maryland, near historic Washington D.C.; contact Edyth Valle (410-808-9240) or Roxana Murillo (301-498-1850)

Elroy Gold, Sr.

On February 19, 2010, Elroy Gold, Sr. lost his battle with esophageal cancer and entered his heavenly rest. He was 74.

Elroy joined the Church in his mid-twenties and served faithfully from then on. While working full time in education, he found time to devote to ministry. Often he worked hard all week, came home in the evenings, and worked on a sermon to preach that weekend.

Elroy's tireless devotion to the Church was recognized in 2003 when he and his wife, Joyce, were awarded the Churchmanship Award from the General Conference. In addition to local ministry, Elroy was serving in his thirtieth year as a representative on the district board. For the past two years he assumed additional duties as assistant superintendent.

With hard work and his wife's encouragement, Elroy earned a bachelor's degree with certification to teach grades 1-12. He later earned a master's degree in education administration with a counselor's certification. Working with young people was a passion for Elroy at his job, at church, and at home. Countless times he helped with retreats and camps. In the early 80s he moved to Michigan, where he served for two years as principal at Spring Vale Academy.

Elroy held a lay pastor's license, and he baptized many. Among his cherished memories was baptizing one of his daughters and granddaughters. He was also honored to perform the weddings for his children and for one of his granddaughters.

Elroy will be missed by his wife of 51 years, Joyce Baker Gold, his children, grandchildren, and a host of family members. He will also be sorely missed by the Triple Tree Church of God in San Antonio, as well as by the churches he represented on the district board.



Making a world of difference

Missions Ministries

- Missions Abroad, Home Missions and Church Planting
- Disaster Relief Fund
- Orphans and Widows Ministries
- Cristo Viene

Visit www.cog7missions.org for reports on these ministries, as well as missions work around the world.

May is Missions Ministries Emphasis. Your offerings are vital.

Bill Hicks, Director



Catch the JOY!

- Jesus first
- Others second
- You last

NFYC: It's your serve.

Find out about Hunger Lock-In weekend and other ways to change the "me" mentality at <http://nfyc.cog7.org>.



June is NFYC Emphasis. Thanks for your offerings.

Kurt Lang, Director

