

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT



General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)

April - May 2015

Volume 7 • Number 3

2015 Emphases

January - NAWM

February - SWORD

March - Publications

April - LifeSpring

May - World Missions

June - Youth

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August - Spring Vale

September -
Publications

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December - G. C.
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Relevant Church

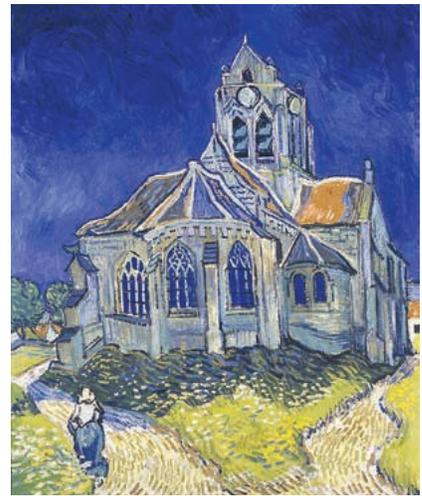
One of Vincent van Gogh's most celebrated works is *The Church at Auvers*. More than a mere rendition of the Dutch artist's impression of his childhood village church, it was a subtle commentary on his feelings about church in general.

Though its foreground is brightly lit by the sun, the church itself sits in its own shadow, neither reflecting nor emanating any light of its own. The building is deformed, its colors distorted; it has no door to go in and out of. Most telling is the sandy road that diverges in opposite directions around the building, not leading directly to it.

It turns out that disappointment with church as a young man shattered van Gogh's dream of becoming a Christian preacher like his father, so he took up painting and became known as the master of Impressionist art (given to deep emotional expression). Painted during the last two months of his life, *The Church at Auvers* is said to symbolize emptiness and irrelevance.

And since a picture is worth a thousand words, I'm shortening my comments to make room for van Gogh's painting in hopes that a visual of it will convey more than my words can. Suffice to say that, like *The Church at Auvers*, the danger of the modern church is that it would become "a lifeless relic that people bypass to avoid its dark shadow" (Dr. David Jeremiah). This isn't a call to be trendy and culture-driven, but rather, a caution against being so heavenly minded, we're no earthly good.

Being a relevant church is being salt and light, a church set on a hill whose light isn't hidden (Matthew 5:14), attracting people to its source — Jesus. Van Gogh's dream of such a church was shattered, but it's a dream to which we hold fast — a viable, radical, and relevant twenty-first century CoG7. Let's keep the dream alive.



— Whaid Guscott Rose

Board Matters



The board of directors of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) held its annual winter meeting February 1-4, 2015, in Denver, Colorado. All members of the board were present, though two were unable to join the meeting until the second day. General Conference President Whaid Rose also attended.

Highlights of this meeting include the following:

- Elder Glen Palmer was appointed Central District superintendent for the duration of the current term (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016). The Central District board has confirmed Elder Palmer's appointment.

- The Succession Planning Committee reported concerning its search for our next General Conference president. Following the report and ensuing discussion, the board revised its search parameters and adjusted the membership of the Succession Planning Committee. That committee now consists of Jody McCoy (chairman), Erik Dunn, Samuel Holland, Dennis O'Banion, and Whaid Rose. It is hoped that our next president will be identified and be prepared to assume his duties no later than July 4, 2015, the effective date of President Rose's resignation.

- A proposal regarding a possible "Family Ministries" General Conference ministry was considered as part of the board's discussion of its decision to move the work of the National Youth Ministry, SWORD, and the North American Women's Ministries to the various General Conference districts. It was decided to keep the proposal in mind as the districts are given opportunity to facilitate these vitally important ministries.

- Information was received and action taken toward the appointment of the next editor of *Bible Advocate* magazine. (Elder Calvin Burrell has asked to be replaced.)

- A very encouraging financial report was received from President Rose and his team members, Dawn Wayman and Rick Frye, and treasurer Brad Ciavarella. The FY2015/2016 budget was approved.

- In place of its annual evaluation of President Rose (and because of his resignation), the board instead conducted an "exit interview" of President Rose, seeking to learn all it could from him as he comes to the end of his service as G. C. president, and allowing President Rose to share with the board whatever he desired to share.

- Finally, the board expressed to President Rose, and

Central District Transitions



Welcome, Glen Palmer. After more than fifty years in ministry and recent retirement, Elder Glen Palmer has accepted the call to serve the Central District as superintendent. Glen and his wife, Barb, returned to Colorado last year after serving the Harrisburg,

Oregon congregation for almost twenty years. They are active in the Denver congregation, where they previously pastored. Glen brings many years of experience, wisdom, and servant leadership style to his new assignment, which became effective March 1. Rich blessings upon the Palmers in their new leadership role!

Thank you, Tim Endecott.

Announcement of the new appointment provides a unique opportunity to publicly thank Tim Endecott for his service as Central District superintendent for eleven years. The leadership of the General Conference acknowledges

Pastor Endecott's service with appreciation. Unique to the Endecott era of district leadership was the involvement of his entire family. Thanks to the Endecott family.



Thanks, too, Stephen Kyner.

The General Conference also wishes to thank Pastor Steve Kyner for his service as interim superintendent for the past year.

to his family, its great appreciation for his and their service to and sacrifices for our church during the now almost eighteen years of Elder Rose's presidency.

Members of the board departed this meeting encouraged and looking forward with positive hope to whatever God may have in store for our church as we go through our current transitions.

— Loren Stacy
Chairman

Three G. C. Ministries Discontinued

Over the years, the G. C. board of directors has analyzed the various G. C. Ministries by asking questions such as "Does this ministry help the Conference successfully fulfill its mission?" and "Can this ministry be fulfilled at least as successfully at the district or local levels of the Conference?"

During its winter 2014 meeting, the board decided that specialized ministries to our teens, young adults, and women could more effectively be planned and conducted by our districts and local churches. Therefore, the three demographically focused G. C. Ministries (National Youth Ministry, SWORD, and North American Women's Ministries) will end, and responsibility for these important ministries will be assigned to our districts, effective this summer following our 2015 convention.

Please be assured that the board continues to value our teens, young adults, and women. This decision is, in fact, an effort to improve ministries to these important groups within our church by moving their planning and implementation closer to those they are intended to serve. The General Conference is the sum total of its districts and local congregations. Therefore, while these ministries will no longer exist as "G. C. Ministries," they certainly will continue as ministries within the G. C.

Please continue to support ministries to our teens, young adults, and women within your district and local congregation. After all, that's where ministry to these special groups of people takes place.

— Loren Stacy, Chairman
Board of Directors

Celebrating *Afterglow*

Our church has been blessed by *Afterglow* for more than thirty years. The vision for a newsletter aimed at encouraging and inspiring seniors was born in the hearts of a small band of Conroe, Texas ladies, including Donna Faubion and Eileen (Adams) Lambert, soon joined by Linda Armstrong, Verna McCoy, and Lorraine Carr (daughter of Donna Faubion). In recent years, Dorothy Nimchuk joined the team

Due to pending changes in the structure of our G. C. Ministries, funding for *Afterglow*, provided by NAWM for many years, recently shifted to the Conroe local church — a natural fit, given the newsletter's history. This time of transition, therefore, seems a good occasion to highlight the ongoing impact of this effort in the lives of seniors and seniors at heart throughout the Church. It is also fitting to affirm that this grassroots effort is indeed a ministry of and to the entire General Conference, operating with its full blessing and deep appreciation.

Thanks to the Conroe church for assuming the financial responsibility of *Afterglow* on behalf of the rest of the General Conference. And thanks to the faithful women who produce and distribute this bimonthly publication as a labor of love. We celebrate *Afterglow*!

— Whaid Rose



TAKE NOTE ✓

Worship Tour

Acme, Alberta - April 11
CoG7 in Acme; contact Robert Grabinsky
(westagra@gmail.com)

Chicago - May 2
North Point Church
900 N. Lewis Avenue, Winthrop Harbor, IL
Contact Juan Arzet
(773-648-1524; arzet8@yahoo.com)

Job Description

Note: The search for a new Conference president has evolved into a search for an "executive team" that includes the president and an implementer, or executor, serving alongside him.

The separation of these responsibilities is intended to attract fresh interest. The following job description is for the second position — Executive Director — for which qualified candidates are being sought. Submit your résumé and a letter of application by April 30 to: General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233 ATTENTION: Talent Management Task Force; or successionplanningcommittee@cog7.org.

Job Title: Executive Director of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day)

Position Details

Key Responsibilities and Accountabilities

- Implements the vision and policies of the General Conference.
- Converts policies into actionable goals and solutions.
- Develops strategies and contingency plans to form creative solutions.
- Clearly defines problems in close collaboration with the Conference President.
- Values the Conference President's insight to validate and guide solutions.
- Leads and collaborates with ministries directors and district superintendents in planning, developing, and organizing the CoG7 vision into an implementable plan.
- Demonstrates the characteristics and fulfills the responsibilities of an elder listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
- Personally committed to the doctrinal teachings of the General Conference.
- Works confidently with diverse personalities and groups of people.
- Builds and manages positive working relationships across all areas of the organization.

- Understands and communicates the importance of expecting excellence throughout the organization.
- Recognizes, recruits, and develops internal talent.
- Reports to the Conference President.

Travel or Outside Activities

- Occasional travel throughout the United States and Canada.

Position Requirements and Qualifications

Experience

- Membership in the General Conference for the past five (5) consecutive years or since January 1, 2010.
- Active participant in a General Conference affiliated congregation.
- Participation in General Conference activities at a national or district level a plus.
- A minimum of two (2) years leadership experience in an executive role.
- Performance management experience with senior level managers, supervisors, and team members.
- Experience managing/overseeing budgets of \$1M or more.

Educational Background

- Bachelor degree required. Graduate degree(s) preferred.

Proficiencies and Attributes

- Possesses strong communication skills and motivational ability.
- Exhibits positive ability to work confidently with diverse personalities and lead a high performance team.
- Displays personal integrity, high moral and biblical standards.
- Demonstrates effective conflict-management skills.
- Exemplifies stable marriage and family home life as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
- Possesses excellent interpersonal skills.

Required Training

- Ongoing professional development training through seminars, course work, etc. will be expected.



Congratulations to these winter 2015 graduates:

Diploma of Pastoral Ministry

- Miguel Gonzalez, Carpentersville, Illinois
- Worrel Largie, Apopka, Florida
- Martin Ramirez, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Certificate of Biblical Studies

- Ricardo Flores, Garland, Texas
- Abraham Garcia, Round Rock, Texas
- Jose Fredy Mata, Severn, Maryland

Employment Opportunities at Spring Vale

The following job openings at Spring Vale Academy are available for interested applicants: principal, director, manager, dean of girls, dean of boys, assistant dean of girls, assistant dean of boys, history teacher.

Please contact SVA for more information (989-725-2391; springvale.us).

Worship in the Rio Grande Valley

The Pharr Church of God (Seventh Day), led by Pastor Noe Reyes, was the venue for the February 28 quarterly meeting of the Southwest District's Rio Grande Valley (Area 7). Under the theme "A Church That Worships," messages were delivered by Chip Hinds and Whaid Rose. Some 320 attended this uplifting event.

Bible Studies for Second Quarter 2015

Adult: *Jesus According to Mark*

Senior youth: *Let's Talk About God*

Junior high: *The Greatest Life Ever Lived (Part 2)*

Intermediate: *Paul's Missionary Journeys*

Primary: *The Last Days of Jesus*

Preschool: *Jesus: Servant, Savior and Risen King*

Prices, descriptions, and ordering information

- Adult student book, \$3.80; teacher's guide, \$5.
- Junior high and senior youth student books, \$3.20; teacher's guide, \$4.
- Preschool/kindergarten lesson sets include the teacher's overview with the scope and sequence, weekly teacher's guides, student handouts, and resource pages. Lessons are provided as e-mail attachments at \$15 for a set or on a disk for \$19. Local churches can print as many copies as needed.
- Primary lesson sets are also provided as e-mail attachments at \$15 for a set or on a disk for \$19.
- Intermediate lesson sets are similar but include activity worksheets. These are available as e-mail attachments at \$20 for a set or on a disk for \$24.

Order from Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; 303-452-7973; or bap.orders@cog7.org.

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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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The sixth annual Triple Tree Bible Bee was held March 1 in San Antonio, TX, with 31 contestants (ages 2-15). They memorized 54 verses and studied 2 Samuel for an intensive test. It was an awesome experience seeing young children hiding God's Word in their hearts. Thanks to many volunteers and the hard work of organizer Zahida Hrenyk.

Missions Update

Pastor Shamas Pervais (Pakistan), Pastor Tluang Kung (Myanmar), and G. C. Missions Assistant Director Bryan Cleeton were at work January 25-February 23 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Bangkok, Thailand. Their mission was to explore planting CoG7 churches among Christian refugees from Pakistan and Myanmar who fled to these two countries due to religious persecution.

The team visited numerous families and cell groups in different parts of Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. They invited team members to share the Word of God and introduce CoG7 and its mission. Much interest and readiness to work with the Church was expressed.

The team also visited the UN to discuss problems these refugees and asylum-seekers are facing, and to make contacts there for future action. By God's grace, ministry work will begin long-term in these countries by mid-year. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for your brethren around the world! Glory to God.

— Bryan Cleeton





Convention 2015

June 29 – July 4
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

20/20 Leadership Primer

The Monday of convention week will feature a one-day event called the 20/20 Leadership Primer. Though it is dubbed “leadership,” this event is open to all attendees. But you must register, which includes a modest fee that covers lunch and materials.

Why this leadership primer? The General Conference finds itself at a defining moment in its history. We are in the midst of major transitions in leadership, organizational structure, and much more. The Milwaukee convention, in a real sense, will witness the changing of the guards.

Conscientious members should therefore be asking, “How did we get here from there? Where do we go from here?” If it is true that those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it, what lessons must we learn? How do we prepare ourselves to serve effectively alongside new leadership?

Join me and other leaders as we retrace our steps over the past eighteen years, look squarely and honestly at our present circumstances, and offer tips for the journey ahead. Come be part of eight hours of teaching and interaction that will inspire and encourage. Come hear it from the “horse’s mouth” as I bare my soul in moments of reflection, confession, and frank honesty. Come be equipped to make a difference

in your church. I hope you’ll give this serious consideration.

— *Whaid Rose*

Church Finance Essentials

Attention all Church treasurers, secretaries, and administrators! Please join me during the convention (Tuesday, June 30, at 3:45 p.m.) for an informative workshop covering the important areas of church finance, reporting, and documentation. It is crucial that our local churches are compliant with Federal regulations to maintain tax-exempt status, avoid penalties, and protect our reputation.

In this session we will review the General Conference’s finance policies and the *Top 20 Finance Questions for Churches*, by Richard Hammar. We will also cover the basics of church organization, non-profit status, record retention guidelines, year-end reporting, pastors’ payroll, housing allowance, and much more.

Please be sure at least one representative from your church attends this workshop. Its valuable information and resources will help your local leadership navigate the complex issues of church finance and administration. See you there!

— *Dawn Wayman*
G. C. Accountant

Milwaukee Convention Reminders

The Milwaukee convention will be less than three months away by the time this issue of *Churchright* arrives at your local church. So here are a few things to keep in mind:

- The convention website is up and running at cog7.org/convention.
- Early bird registration rate ends April 30. Don't miss out on a good deal!
- Additional bonus: Registration fee includes your Sabbath noon meal.
- Our room block at the Hilton will be released to the general public on June 5. Make reservations right away to secure the \$99 rate and the type room you would like.
- A one-day Leadership Primer, open to all attendees, is scheduled for the Monday of convention. Read details on page 6.
- Your participation in this year's convention business is critical.
- Enjoy a rich menu of workshops and seminars, as well as worship services planned around the life of Christ:

Tuesday - "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" (Grandville Mullings)

Wednesday - "Joy to the World, the Lord Has Come" (Whaid Rose)

Thursday - "Jesus, You Are My Life" (Israel Steinmetz)

Friday - "Behold, the Lamb" (Heber Vega)

Sabbath - "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" (Calvin Burrell)

Sabbath - "We Shall Behold Him" (Ramon Ruiz)

The worship and music package includes a rich blend of high church, contemporary, gospel, live mariachi, and grand finale "Big Sing" featuring a patriotic medley, "life of Christ sing-through," ending with the "Hallelujah Chorus" sung and played by our very own voices and orchestra.

Additional features: Spring Vale Sound, LifeSpring graduation, Pastors and Wives luncheon, Power of a Dream banquet, special NYM and SWORD activities, an awesome children's program, chance to meet foreign and fraternal delegates, and much more.

This is a "can't miss convention." See you there!

— Whaid Rose

CALENDAR 2015

May 23-24 - National Women's Ministry Conference, All Saints Academy, Gloucestershire, England, UK; theme: "Married to the Main Man"; contact: Marvet Simpson (marvetsimpsonsaved@hotmail.com)

May 29-31 - Southwest District SWORD Retreat, Brookhaven Christian Retreat, Hawkins, TX; contact: Jacqui Melgoza (210-900-9889; sword@cog7.org)

June 14-21 - Dover Family Camp, near Kingfisher, OK (jared.ullrich@yahoo.com)

June 30 – July 4 - General Conference Convention, Milwaukee, WI (cog7.org/convention)

September 4-7 - National Hispanic Retreat, Long Beach Marriott, Long Beach, CA; contacts: Aseneth Orduno (310-213-1158), Juanita Acosta (562-209-4020), or Helen Escobar (562-879-2749)

October 30 – November 1 - Southwest District Women's Retreat, Salvation Army Camp Hoblitzelle, Midlothian, TX; deadline for registration: September 18; contacts: Rosie Davila (361-739-1147; mdrdavila@hotmail.com) or Mari Cummings (361-960-4423; mariselacummings@hotmail.com)

LifeSpring Calendar Events

April 5 - Spring classes begin

May 24 - Summer course registration opens

June 2 - Summer certificate program early applications due

June 14 - Summer district scholarship applications due

June 21 - Summer general scholarship applications due

July 4 - Graduation ceremony at General Conference convention

July 7 - Summer course registration ends

Pastor Needed

The Eugene-Springfield Church of God (Seventh Day) in Eugene, Oregon announces a vacancy for a pastor. The pastor should be a documented minister of the General Conference. He will be selected in cooperation with the administration of the West Coast District.

For more information on pastoral duties and requirements, or to apply, please contact Randy Chalus (RChalus@msn.com) or Don Patton (dpattonor@gmail.com).



April is LifeSpring School of Ministry Emphasis month.

Did you know that **every penny** you donate to LifeSpring goes directly toward scholarships for members of the General Conference? All donations made in April-June will help provide scholarships for students enrolled in Spring 2015 courses.



Missions

In this generation, CoG7 experiences missions energy and expanding influence for Christ's kingdom on earth:

- in most Latin American countries — Argentina to Mexico
- in a dozen African nations — Sierra Leone to Zimbabwe
- in Asia and the Pacific Rim

May is Missions Emphasis month.

Calvin Burrell, Director

