

# CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 2

February - March 2016



## CALENDAR - 2016

**February 28 – March 2** – Board of Directors Meeting (Denver, CO)

**April 3-5** – G. C. Leadership Meeting (Denver, CO)

**May 20-22** – Southwest District Men's Retreat (Austin, TX)

**May 27-29** – Spring Vale Academy Graduation Weekend (Owosso, MI)

**May 27-30** - #yMinistry16 Young Adult Retreat (plus ministry/job fair), Hawkins, TX (Brookhaven Retreat); information and on-line registration at <http://yministry16.eventbrite.com>; contact Jacqui Melgoza (210-900-9889)

**June 3-6** – Central District Men's Retreat (Alfred, ND)

**June 24-26** – Eastern Canadian District Conference (Kingston, Ontario)

### LifeSpring Calendar Events

**February 9** - Spring certificate program early applications due

**February 23** - Spring district scholarship applications due

**March 1** - Spring general scholarship applications due

## Transforming Vision into Reality

My predecessor, Elder Whaid Rose, was used by God to cast for us a wonderful Vision of a Vibrant 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church. With slight improvements over the years, this vision is Christ centered, Distinct but not exclusive, Sabbath observing, Bible based, Spirit formed, Passionate in Worship, Compassionate in Service, Bold in Witness, Warm in Fellowship, and Committed to Discipleship. It's a vision of a church I'm blessed to belong to, but it's also a vision that has not yet been realized.

In his book *The Advantage*, Patrick Lencioni distinguishes between core and aspirational values. The two are often mistaken. Aspirational values are not core values; they are only wishful thinking. The same observation may be made about our church's vision. Stating it is not the same as achieving it. Christ has provided us a wonderful vision of the church we want to be and that, with His help, we can be.

I am grateful God is at work transforming our vision into our reality, but more can be done. There are things we can do as local congregations, districts, G. C. ministries, and one church — the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) — to make our aspirations our actualities. The most important transformation must occur within each member. The Church of God (Seventh Day) will never actually be Christ centered, Distinct but not exclusive, etc. until each one of us lives out those elements of the vision. Our church will never be something its members are not. As Christ leads us into the future, each of us must commit to allow Him to transform our aspirations into our actualities, our vision into our reality.

Have you made that commitment? Are you fulfilling it? This issue of *Churchright* provides news of many among us who are participating in this transformation — evidence of Christ's work. These are exciting times to be a part of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day)!

— Loren Stacy



## On the Road

Loren Stacy and Jody McCoy continue traveling throughout the United States and Canada.

On Sabbath, November 7, 2015, they worshipped at New Hope United CoG7 in San Antonio, Texas, where Loren delivered the sermon. Later, Loren and Jody attended the annual Southwest District Leadership meeting at Triple Tree CoG7. There they joined District Superintendent Chip Hinds, the SW board, key district ministries leaders, and others to hear exciting reports and proposals and to share their “Transforming Vision into Reality” message.

On December 5, 2015, Loren and Karen Stacy joined West Coast Superintendent Larry Zaragoza for a huge Super Sabbath weekend in Phoenix, Arizona. Brothers and sisters from area congregations and from Southern California, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, and El Paso joined in morning and afternoon worship and fellowship. A third service was held the next morning at the Phoenix West CoG7. Loren spoke at all three services. The highlight of these trips for Loren and Jody was meeting and listening to the wonderful people who make up our church.

As of this writing, Loren’s and Jody’s travel schedules for early 2016 include the following: **January 9-10** – Houston Super Sabbath and meeting of the area Pastors Association; **January 19-22** – time in Denver, including two days of budget planning for the coming fiscal year; **February 25 – March 4** – another Denver trip that will include the annual meeting of the G. C. board of directors and possibly a Denver or Colorado Springs Super Sabbath.

Loren is also scheduled to join Ken and Mary Jean Knoll, co-chairs of the 2017 Convention Planning Committee, for a potential site visit January 25-28.



*Southern California young adults held their SWORD retreat in the San Bernardino mountains November 13-15, 2015. Around 85 attendees came from Sacramento, San Jose, Las Vegas, and Phoenix. Workshops were taught by Israel Steinmetz, Jose Luis Arenas, and Jose Hernandez.*

## Improved Communication Tools

For various reasons, those serving in three significant roles cannot live in Denver, Colorado, where our headquarters is located. Therefore, except for regular trips to Denver or travel throughout our districts, they work remotely from their homes: Loren Stacy from Lodi, California; Jody McCoy from Austin, Texas; and Jason Overman from Jasper, Arkansas.

Thanks to Office Manager Eddie Villalba and IT specialist Christopher Idemmili, a video conference center has been created in our Denver offices, allowing staff and others to meet “face to face” in real time via the Internet. Loren, Jody, and Jason connect with Denver staff on Monday mornings for prayer, and Loren and Jody have used this new capability to conduct an interview.

Also, our Denver telephone system has been upgraded so that Loren, Jody, and Jason are now connected and can buzz the extension of any person on the system. Calls received in Denver for these men can be connected with them in their remote offices. Said President Stacy, “Technology may be shrinking the world, but it is expanding our opportunities.”



*The annual Hispanic Youth Retreat in Dahlonega, GA, December 24-26, 2015, was sponsored by the Stone Mountain, GA CoG7. Youth attended from Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, and North Carolina. The retreat featured various presentations on how our youth can shine the Lord’s light.*

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## Coming Transitions

During its February 28 – March 2 meeting in Denver, our board of directors will consider the appointment or reappointment of district superintendents and ministries directors. Two of our many highly valued team members have already indicated that they are unavailable for re-appointment: Missions Director Calvin Burrell and Central District Superintendent Glen Palmer.

We are grateful to these special brothers and wish them and their families God's best in the future.

## Worship Book Update

The G. C. offices have received many orders for *Getting a Handle on Worship*, the new book written by Whaid G. Rose and Israel Steinmetz. We're glad to report that, after unforeseen delays, the book will be available the end of January. Details for new orders will be listed in the next issue of *Churchright*.

## Pastor Needed

The Church of God (Seventh Day) in Meridian, Idaho, is seeking a full-time, Christ-centered pastor. Interested qualified applicants should contact Gordon Williams ([G-KWilliams@juno.com](mailto:G-KWilliams@juno.com)) and copy Larry Zaragoza ([zman52@msn.com](mailto:zman52@msn.com)).

## LifeSpring Grads

Congratulations to these Fall 2015 graduates:

**Certificate of Biblical Guidance:** Marina Anderson, Jacksonville, Florida.

**Diploma of Pastoral Ministry:** Thomas Childers, Artesia Wells, Texas; Alejandro Larios, San Antonio, Texas; Ruben Yanez, Corpus Christi, Texas.

**Certificate of Biblical Studies:** Edgar Sanchez, Allen, Texas; Bonifacio Vicente, Marietta, Georgia; Giovanni Vicente, Marietta, Georgia; Ben Williams, Edmond, Oklahoma; Ruben Yanez, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Also, congratulations to the Fall 2015 Dean's List Recipients\*: Ricardo Flores, Garland, Texas; David Melendez, Houston, Texas; Edgar Sanchez, Allen, Texas; Priscila Sanchez, Allen, Texas; Samuel Santos Preza, Laval, Quebec.

\* These students took courses half time and earned a minimum 3.5 GPA.

## The Life of David - Part 1

The adult Sabbath school quarterly for April-June 2016, written by Jason Overman, is available for order. Details in the March-April *Bible Advocate*. Order from BAP, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; e-mail: [bap.orders@cog7.org](mailto:bap.orders@cog7.org); or call 303-452-7973.

## LORD'S SUPPER

The annual Lord's Supper observance will be held in congregations throughout the General Conference after sunset on Thursday, April 21, 2016.



## PMT: Ministry in Mexico

Twenty-plus Pioneer Missionary Training team members joined CoG7 in Mexico City, December 17-27, 2015. For ten days, workshops and practice sessions explored different outreach ministries, God's calling, and how spiritual gifts help churches grow. The training mission ended with 22 local baptisms from Mexico's Boturini church.

"I don't think any of us that participated in this spiritual event will ever be the same." — *Cesi Betances*

"I learned I have five amazing gifts God gave me to serve Him that I cannot wait to grow in using." — *Alethea Rice*

Pastors, leaders, and young adults are invited to join PMT 1 in December 2016. Please contact G. C. Missions at 303-452-7973 or [gcmisions@cog7.org](mailto:gcmisions@cog7.org) for more information.

*In response to severe earthquakes that struck Nepal last year, much-needed Disaster Relief aid was provided in November to new CoG7 believers in that country. Blankets, food, and other forms of assistance*



*are helping brethren there this winter as a result of your generous offerings to the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). In 2015, your DRF sent over \$24,000 to assist brethren in nine countries, covering 16 separate disasters. Thank you for your generous support!*

*to build up families*

# Equipping Leaders<sup>^</sup> for a Vibrant 21st Century Church



February is



Emphasis Month

Get our Family Ministry resources at [LifeSpringSchool.org/family](http://LifeSpringSchool.org/family)



Great Commission opportunities await CoG7 in Burundi, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and other least-reached nations of the world.

Starting this year, every congregation is encouraged to support one Cristo Viene missionary, and commit monthly to pray and financially support this leader's mission — just \$300 per month.

To sponsor a missionary, visit [cog7.org/giving](http://cog7.org/giving), or earmark your local offering "Cristo Viene."

Contact G. C. Missions at 303-452-7973 or [gcmisions@cog7.org](mailto:gcmisions@cog7.org) to learn more.

March is Missions Emphasis.



Find out more at [gcmisions.cog7.org](http://gcmisions.cog7.org)  
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Photos (L to R): Shamas Pervaiz, Pakistan • Tluang Kung, Myanmar • Alexandre Masumbuko, Burundi