

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 3

April - May 2016



CALENDAR - 2016

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

April 3 - June 12 - Spring class in session

May 31- Summer certificate program early applications due

June 12 - Summer district scholarship applications due

June 19 - Summer general scholarship applications due

July 5 - Summer course registration ends

Transforming Vision into Reality Say the Same Thing

Many recent English translations of 1 Corinthians 1:10 urge those believers to “agree” with one another. The KJV, however, sticks closer to the Greek: “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing. . . .” The NIV includes the best of both: “I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say. . . .”

As Executive Director Jody McCoy and I travel throughout our church, one of our major efforts is to focus members, congregations, ministries, and leaders on our vision of a vibrant twenty-first century church. Our hope is that all will not only embrace that vision but also commit to becoming and being the Christians and church we envision.

As Jody and I spoke with a district superintendent recently, he told us how he helps his members “speak the same thing.” He encourages area representatives to speak this vision to the pastors and people in their areas. While doing that, area representatives encourage their pastors to speak this vision to members of their congregations. Pastors are beginning to do so.

God willing, our entire membership soon will be focused on being 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.

The concepts these words express, and our personal commitment to them, are vital. To fulfill any vision, first we must see it, then be it.

Paul wrote of the unifying power of saying the same thing. I invite each person within the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) to join Jody and me in saying the same thing about what we are committed to being as individuals and as a church. Can you imagine the impact of a Christ-centered, Grace-oriented, Sabbath-celebrating church?

May God transform the vision into our reality. And may we all be saying the same thing!

— Loren Stacy

ASLEEP IN JESUS

Roy Leonard Keim

1932-2016

Brother Keim (83) of Huntsville, Texas, passed away at his home on January 31.

Born October 13, 1932, to Simeon and Katherine Keim, Roy was one of eleven children.

After graduating high school, he joined the Army and later served in the National Guard. During this time, he married his sweetheart, Shirley Cummings. He attended universities in four different states and Midwest Bible College in Stanberry, Missouri, where he received his credentials as pastor for the General Conference.

Over the years, Roy served as a teacher and pastor in many states and in Canada. He also served the students of Spring Vale Academy in various capacities over many years.

Roy is survived by his wife, six children, fourteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Winter Board of Directors Meeting

The General Conference board held its annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, February 28 – March 2, 2016. The following members were present: Samuel Holland (chairman), Dennis O'Banion (vice chairman), Jose Hernandez (secretary), Greg Lincoln (treasurer), Mark Caswell, Brad Ciavarella, Joshua Gutierrez, Wayne Hrenyk, Raul Romo, Manuel Salazar, and Larry Zaragoza. Ruben Marquez Sr. was unable to attend due to a family emergency. Also present were Conference President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy.

After beginning each day of meetings with devotions and prayer, the board . . .

- completed a comprehensive review and revision of the Board Policy Manual;
- appointed ministries directors and district superintendents;
- appointed a Literature Committee, with Jason Overman as its chairman;
- completed its performance evaluation of the Conference president;
- appointed a Human Resources Advisory Committee, with Samuel Holland as its chairman;
- approved a conference budget for the April 1, 2016 - March 30, 2017 fiscal year.

— Samuel Holland

Curriculum

Don't miss these themes and topics for curriculum July-September:

Intermediate. *Living Wisely.* These lessons draw from Psalms and Proverbs and teach the students how to live lives that honor God.

Primary. *God's Chosen People.* These lessons focus on stories in Numbers, Joshua, Judges, and Ruth, beginning with the twelve spies reporting on the Promised Land and continuing to Ruth becoming the ancestor of Jesus.

Preschool. *The Great Commission.* In these lessons, students go through the book of Acts and learn about the early Christians, how they spread the gospel, and how we are to tell others about Jesus.

Adult. *The Life of David – Part 2,* written by Jason Overman, continues the study of the "man after God's own heart" through his triumphs and tragedies.

Order print or markable digital versions (adult) from Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; e-mail: bap.orders@cog7.org; or call 303-452-7973.

New G. C. Bookkeeper

The newest member of our headquarters staff is bookkeeper Pam Bartolo. She has been trained by accountant Dawn Wayman and former bookkeepers Rebecca Van de Wyngaerde and Lupe Chavez. Welcome aboard, Pam!

Superintendents and Directors Appointed

During its winter meeting, the General Conference board of directors reappointed all but two of our current district superintendents and Ministries directors. District superintendents for the coming two-year term (pending confirmation by their respective district boards) will be Orville Rose – Western Canadian District; Leeroy Williams – Eastern Canadian District; Larry Zaragoza – West Coast District; Chip Hinds – Southwest District; Heber Vega – Northeast District; Steve Krome – Southeast District; and Ken Lawson – Central District. (Our current Central District Superintendent, Elder Glen Palmer, declined reappointment because of physical difficulties.) G. C.

Ministries directors for the coming two-year term will be Keith Michalak – Publications; Israel Steinmetz and Amber Riggs – LifeSpring School of Ministry; and Bryan Cleeton – G. C. Missions. (Elder Calvin Burrell, our current G. C. Missions director, declined reappointment.)

Northeast District Board Meets

The board of our Northeast District met with NED Superintendent Heber Vega the weekend of March 5 in Detroit, Michigan. Highlights include the following: 1) Elder Vega was confirmed as NED superintendent July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018; 2) Lyle Kendrick was hired as full-time NED Youth Ministry director beginning April 1, 2016 (current Youth Ministry director, David Ross, has accepted a pastoral position in Owosso, Michigan, effective April 1, 2016); 3) Esther Winchell was appointed interim NED secretary; and 4) the NED board expressed its deepest gratitude to Marie Roche, who has concluded many years of employment and service to the Northeast District as secretary-treasurer.

2017 Convention Site

Our board of directors has chosen Springfield, Illinois, as the site for our 2017 General Conference convention. As President Abraham Lincoln's hometown and the location of his tomb, Springfield has much to offer our families and members of all ages and interests. Once final contracts are signed with the beautiful hotel-convention center we hope to use, a search for our 2019 convention site will begin in order to hold the biennial convention further west or east. Stay tuned for further details as our plans develop!

Looking Back, Looking Forward

So far in 2016, President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy have traveled a lot: budgeting and winter board of directors meeting in Denver; Super Sabbaths in Houston, Denver, and Harrisburg (Oregon); a convention site visit to Springfield, Illinois (Loren with Ken and Mary Jean Knoll and Gordon Kuryluk); and the West Coast District board meeting (Jody).

Upcoming events that Stacy, McCoy, or both are scheduled to attend include April 3-5 - G. C. Leadership Meeting (Denver, Colorado); April 16 - Super Sabbath and Leadership Meeting (St. Joseph, Missouri); May 14-15 - Super Sabbath and Leadership Meeting (McAllen, Texas); May 20-22 - Southwest District Men's Retreat (Austin, Texas); May 27-29 - Spring Vale Academy Graduation Weekend (Owosso, Michigan).



Front row (L to R): Tabitha Flood (Bronx, NY), Abigail Molinar (Owosso, MI), Cailin O'Neal (Corunna, MI), Anya-Joy President (Baytown, TX). Middle row (L to R): Miguel Villavicencio (Acapulco, Mexico), Marcos Roman (Willis, TX), Zhao Guanqiao (Dandong, China), Mariah O'Neal (Corunna, MI), Anna Denny (Tualatin, OR), Ninive Robles-Flores (York, PA), Rene Temrowski (Oakland, MI), Jordan Davila (The Woodlands, TX), Abel Molinar (Owosso, MI), Jafet Hernandez (El Paso, TX), Jacob Schmitz (Perry, MI). Back row (L to R): Jared Cunningham (LaPorte City, IA), Benjamin Arend (Owosso, MI), Olivia Arend (Owosso, MI).

Spring Vale Academy

Support the 2016 graduating class by joining them for Graduation Weekend, May 27-29. Commencement takes place Sunday, May 29.

Enrollment season is here, so prepare now for your child's Christian education. Call Scott Fischer in the enrollment office (989-721-8584) about how to make the Spring Vale experience possible for you and your loved ones.

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.



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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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District Family Ministries

District Ministries are thriving. Superintendents and area reps have good news to share, and encourage your participation.

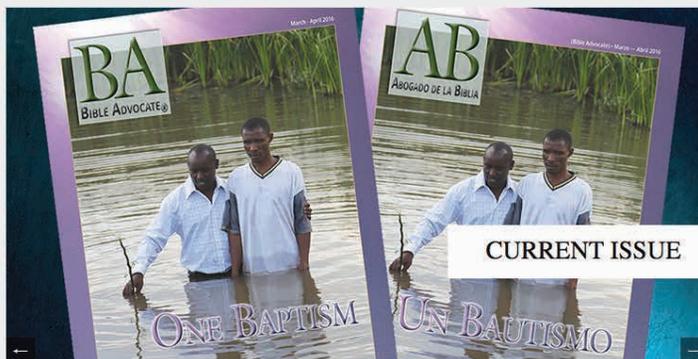
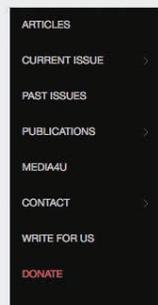
Your district may include the following ministries:

- ❖ Young Adult
- ❖ Youth
- ❖ Men
- ❖ Women
- ❖ Couples
- ❖ Seniors

Gifts of support are needed. Contact your district leaders and get involved!

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March 3, 2016
by Calvin Burrell

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