

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 5

August - September 2016



Annual IMC Sabbath Worldwide

Sabbath, November 5, 2016

Join CoG7 congregations in 50-plus countries as they celebrate God's work through International Ministerial Congress. Details will be sent through local leaders, or request them from gcmisions@cog7.org or imcsecretary@nedcog7.com.

Transforming Vision into Reality

It Starts With Me

As Executive Director Jody McCoy and I travel throughout the General Conference sharing our Transforming Vision into Reality message, we stress the importance of each individual member of our church. Each is incredibly important because our church can never be the vibrant 21st century church we envision unless our members are Christ-centered, Spirit-formed, Bible-based, Sabbath-celebrating, Distinct Yet Inclusive, Passionate in Worship, Compassionate in Service, Engaging in Witness, United in Fellowship, and Committed to Discipleship.

It recently struck me how important and helpful these ten descriptors can be to us as Christians and as CoG7 members, and to our congregations and districts. Christian, are you looking for a short checklist of attributes you hope are, or will become, true of you as a follower of Jesus Christ? Pastor, are you looking for a short checklist of attributes to use in leading those you shepherd? District superintendent or ministry director, are you looking for a short checklist of biblical goals to guide your godly work? It's available to you in our vision statement.

Each vision point is biblical and flows from a focus upon Jesus Christ "so that in everything he might have the supremacy" (Colossians 1:15-20, NIV). We are Christ-centered; He is "the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (Revelation 22:13, NIV). We are grace-oriented; Jesus is grace incarnate, offering salvation to all and teaching us to embrace godliness and reject ungodliness (Titus 2:11-14). We are Sabbath-celebrating; the Sabbath honors Jesus and the Father as our Creator (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16) and Redeemer (Colossians 1:19, 20). The Sabbath is a weekly reminder that we rest in the salvation that Jesus earned for all who receive Him and believe in His name (John 1:12).

If my church is ever to be these things, I must be these things. It starts with me.

— Loren Stacy



On the Road Again

Since the last *Churchright*, Loren Stacy and Jody McCoy have traveled throughout the General Conference, building relationships and trust, sharing the direction they believe God would have us go. Here's a brief list of completed visits:

SWD Men's Retreat – Jody attended and participated.

Spring Vale Academy – Loren attended Graduation Weekend with his wife, Karen, and presented the G. C. Award for Academic Excellence to Jacob Schmitz and the G. C. Award for Spiritual Leadership to Marcos Roman.

St. Paul, Minnesota – Loren attended the SVA Sound concert while spending time with new Central District Superintendent Ken Lawson and his wife, Sandra.

Alfred, North Dakota – Loren and Ken Lawson attended the North Dakota Men's Retreat and worshipped with the Alfred CoG7 that Sabbath.

Grand Rapids, Michigan – Loren and Jody joined Northeast District Superintendent Heber Vega at a Super Sabbath. Our congregations, not only in Michigan but also in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, were represented.

Ontario, Canada – Loren, Karen, and Jody attended and participated in the biennial Eastern Canada District Conference held in Kingston. District Superintendent Leeroy Williams and the pastors and members there provided a warm welcome that will never be forgotten.

Visits planned at the time of this writing include Port St. Lucie, Florida (Super Sabbath, July 9-10); Calgary, Alberta, Canada (Super Sabbath, August 20); Jacksonville, Florida (Southeast District Leadership Meeting, August 26-28); New York, New York (Super Sabbath, October 1-2); Washington, DC (Super Sabbath, November 11-12).

In addition, Loren and Jody plan to attend the October meeting of the North American Ministerial Council in North Carolina and possibly a rescheduled Chicago-area Super Sabbath. President Stacy is also scheduled to be an NAMC delegate to the October meetings of the International Ministerial Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Visit cog7.org for photos of Loren Stacy's and Jody McCoy's travels.



Don't Miss . . .

PMT December 18-28
Mexico City, Mexico —
missions training in
evangelism and discipleship
for young adults, pastors, leaders
Contact gcmissions@cog7.org

LifeSpring Name Change

Over the past seven years LifeSpring School of Ministry has transformed from a fledging ministry school to a vibrant Christian college that is equipping Christians in all areas of ministry.

As it continues to grow, one word has significantly inspired and influenced what LifeSpring is becoming. That word is *artios* (AR'-tee-oss). Artios is a concept highlighted in Ephesians 4 that embodies three elements key to equipping believers for vibrant ministry:

- embracing solid biblical foundations;
- restoring and realigning lives and relationships to reflect God's intent;
- stewarding gifts and calling with focused training.

Artios not only has come to define what LifeSpring is about but also continues to shape who we are becoming. Therefore, the administration of LifeSpring is proud to announce that in January 2017, LifeSpring School of Ministry will become known as Artios Christian College. LifeSpring staff members are immensely excited about the future of Artios and are currently reimagining all of the aspects of this change. As the rollout date of January 2017 approaches, plans are being put into place to make this transition a huge success.

Missions Update

Tom Benzen (Arkansas) and Bryan Cleeton (Colorado) worked with CoG7 in Sierra Leone and new brethren in Liberia April 7 - May 5. Their mission was to review ministry work and further strengthen CoG7 efforts there.

The team visited sixteen congregations and participated in 90+ baptisms in Sierra Leone. They met with Ebola survivors and families who received Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) support during the 2014 Ebola crisis and



with new CoG7 churches planted as a result of these efforts. The team also visited the 150+ orphans and widows sponsored by our Orphans and Widows Ministry, and they provided agricultural advice on a large-scale farm and smaller gardens cared for by local congregations to sustain ministry growth.

Traveling to Liberia, the team met new brethren who wish to join CoG7. Visits were made to local congregations, and a leadership meeting was held to plan a way forward for the development of CoG7 in that country.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for CoG7 around the world!

Curriculum

Be sure you have copies of these quarterly topics and themes, running October-December:

Intermediate. *The Promise of a Savior* focuses on the promises God made to Adam and Eve and others on sending a Savior. The students will learn how God fulfilled these promises through the birth, life, and death of Jesus.

Primary. In *The Shepherd King*, lessons on the stories in 1 Samuel continue where last quarter left off — from Hannah asking God for a son, to David becoming king of Israel.

Preschool. *God – Eternal Ruler, Awesome Creator, Loving Savior* introduces students to God who always existed and created all things. Students will also learn that Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, but that God chose to rescue them from death by sending Jesus to die.

District News

The Eastern Canada District met June 24-26 for its bi-annual district conference in Kingston, Ontario. Special guests were Loren and Karen Stacy and Jody McCoy. Our leaders emphasized and explained the importance for the district to come on board the “Vision Into Reality” mission. They held a special session with the pastors and officers from the various district churches.



The Southeast District held its first youth leaders conference May 6-8 in Jacksonville, FL, to plan the first joint Hispanic- and English-speaking youth retreat scheduled December 23-25. Forty youth leaders from all over the Southeast District attended.



CALENDAR - 2016

July 31 - August 7 - West Coast District Seeker Retreat, Sis-Q Meadows Camp, Cave Junction, OR

August 19-21 - West Coast District SWORD Retreat, Sky Camp, Fall Creek, OR

August 20 - Super Sabbath at Calgary, Alberta, Canada

September 2-4 - West Coast District SWORD Retreat, Evergreen Conference Center, Oakhurst, CA

September 12-17 - North American Ministerial Council, near Asheville, NC

September 14-18 - West Coast District Senior Adult Retreat, Sis-Q Meadows Camp, Cave Junction, OR

For a more complete list of events, including contact information, please visit cog7.org/churchright.

We're Growing!

A number of new congregations recently have been welcomed into the General Conference.

West Coast District: *Washington* - Shoreline CoG7 Mission; *Nevada* - Gospel for All Nations CoG7, Hawthorne; *California* - Guided by the Spirit CoG7, Indio, and Church of the Living Water CoG7, North Palm Springs.

Central District: *Minnesota* - Worthington CoG7 Mission; *Iowa* - Des Moines CoG7; *Wisconsin* - Plainfield CoG7; *Illinois* (Chicago area) - Calumet CoG7, Rockford CoG7, and Zion CoG7.

Southwest District: *New Mexico* - Las Cruces CoG7; *Texas* - Galveston CoG7; South Houston CoG7; La Verdad Presente CoG7, Houston; Huntsville CoG7; Laredo CoG7; Mesquite CoG7; and Mission CoG7.

Southeast District: *Georgia* - Grace Ministries CoG7, Norcross; NW Atlanta CoG7, Smyrna.

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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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January 2017