

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 6

October - November 2016



Pastor Appreciation Month

In October we honor laborers in gospel work and shepherds of the flock. Be sure to express your appreciation to pastors, their wives, and their families!

**Not enough Churchright?
Go online!**

Visit cog7.org for an "extra" about Spring Vale Academy. Also access a more complete list of calendar events and our Memorials page.

Transforming Vision into Reality

What is Our Target?

Can you imagine playing a game of basketball without any hoops? A game of football without any goal lines? Can you imagine a footrace without a finish line or an archery competition without any targets?

Specific targets (goals) are critical in most every area of our lives. Without them, we can't know where we're going or whether we've arrived.

Unfortunately, many people live and work without clear goals. Frustrated with his colleagues, someone famously bemoaned, "We aim at nothing and hit it every time."

Thankfully, Jesus didn't leave us without a clear, specific target for our efforts on His behalf. Just before ascending back to heaven, He gave us our mission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you . . ." (Matthew 28:19, 20, NASB).

The Greek text of this passage contains several participial phrases (*going, baptizing, teaching*), but only one imperative mission: Make disciples! We may be active for our Lord and church, but if the result isn't more fully committed disciples of Jesus Christ, we fail to fulfill our mission. We may become focused on the tools and techniques of "doing church" and how to better fulfill our mission, but if this focus doesn't result in completely committed disciples of Jesus Christ, we fail. Our goal, our target, our very purpose is "Make disciples!"

The vision of a vibrant 21st century church that God has given us is a vision of vibrant 21st century believers practicing love and reproducing our full commitment to Christ in others, as God enables us. The ten points of our vision provide a checklist for attaining our goal: Christ Centered, Spirit Formed, Bible Based, Sabbath Celebrating, Distinct Yet Inclusive, Passionate in Worship, Compassionate in Service, Engaging in Witness, United in Fellowship, Committed to Discipleship.

That's our target. God grant that we hit it every time.

— Loren Stacy



District News



Southeast: Solid Progress

The Southeast District (SED) held its annual leadership meeting August 26-28 in Jacksonville, Florida, led by superintendent Steve Krome. Speakers Antonio Gonzales, Walter Apen, Jody McCoy, and Wayne Hrenyk focused on the theme "One God, One Savior, One Church." Their message: A loving God wants to bless us if we allow Him to transform us into a giving people, zealous of good works.

One year ago, the SED was struggling to start ministries for women, men, and youth. This year, Steve and others reported solid progress in all of these ministries, especially women's. Registrations for a women's retreat increased from 70 to over 200. Clearly, the Holy Spirit is at work in the SED, transforming their vision into reality! — *Jody McCoy, Executive Director*

West Coast: No Summer Slump

Congregations may suffer the so-called summer slump, but in the West Coast District, summer is the most active time of year. Youth camps for children and teens and retreats for both young adults and seniors were held in Prescott, Arizona; northern California; southern Oregon (Sis-Q Meadows); and near Eugene, Oregon.

Superintendent Larry Zaragoza oversees planning these events. He sometimes provides counselor training, often attends, and always serves as camp pastor for the Sis-Q Meadows Senior Youth Retreat. Some 23 of our children and teens received Jesus as their Savior at WCD youth camps this summer.

WCD congregations are also active. One of the newest celebrated the baptism of five new believers on August 13.



Eastern Canada: Progressive Growth

July was special for the brethren at the Etobicoke CoG7. Under the leadership of Pastor Aubrey Williams, they moved into their own building, located on Torbram Road in Brampton, Ontario.

Also in July the congregation in East York, Ontario, celebrated a baptism, and two souls were added to the body of Christ. Pastor Leslie DeSouza serves there.

In August, Superintendent Leeroy Williams was pleased to present the LifeSpring Dean's Honor Roll certificate (spring term) to Samuel Santos Preza, pastor of the Laval, Quebec, congregation. The following day, the church conducted a baptism, and three souls were added to the body of Christ. God is growing His church!

Central: New Church

The Des Moines, Iowa congregation is now an official church of the Central District, coming on board August 27. Their building is located at 2110 Carpenter — an excellent location and fully paid off! The leaders are Ricardo and Raina Segura (right).

According to Superintendent Ken Lawson, this congregation and their energetic youth group have a vision for the future. Visit them sometime. You will remember the experience!



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ASLEEP IN JESUS

Death of a Saint

Orabelle Dugger Youngs, beloved wife of the late Elder Victor A. Youngs, died August 28, 2016, at age 88. She was born August 1, 1928, to Elder Andrew Nugent and Effie (Carpenter) Dugger in Stanberry, Missouri.



Victor and Orabelle married in 1949 at the CoG7 in Marion, Oregon, and they served congregations in Ontario, California; Nampa, Idaho; Walla Walla, Washington; and Portland, Oregon. Orabelle is survived by three siblings, ten children, 54 grandchildren, 103 great-grandchildren, and a multitude of nieces, nephews, and friends.

For more, visit "Memorials" at cog7.org.

Curriculum

It's not too soon to start thinking about first quarter 2017 Bible studies.

Intermediate: *Jesus' Ministry* teaches students why Jesus came, how He cared for people, and why we must accept Him as Savior. They will also learn that we can be confident that Jesus' promise of eternal life will be fulfilled.

Primary: In *Kings and Prophets*, lessons center on

CALENDAR - 2016

October 8-10 - Southwest District Marriage Conference, Hilton Dallas/Rockwall, TX

October 10-15 - International Ministerial Congress, Buenos Aires, Argentina

October 14-16 - Octoberfest Family Camp, hosted by Jasper, AR CoG7

November 5 - Worldwide Annual IMC Sabbath

December 18-28 - Pioneer Missionary Training (PMT 1), Mexico City, Mexico

A more complete list of events, including contact information, is available at cog7.org/churchright.

the stories in 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings — from David bringing the ark to Jerusalem to Elisha healing Naaman of leprosy. Students will witness what happens when people obey God, then disobey Him. Most important, students will learn that God loves and provides for us and is eager to forgive us when we've sinned.

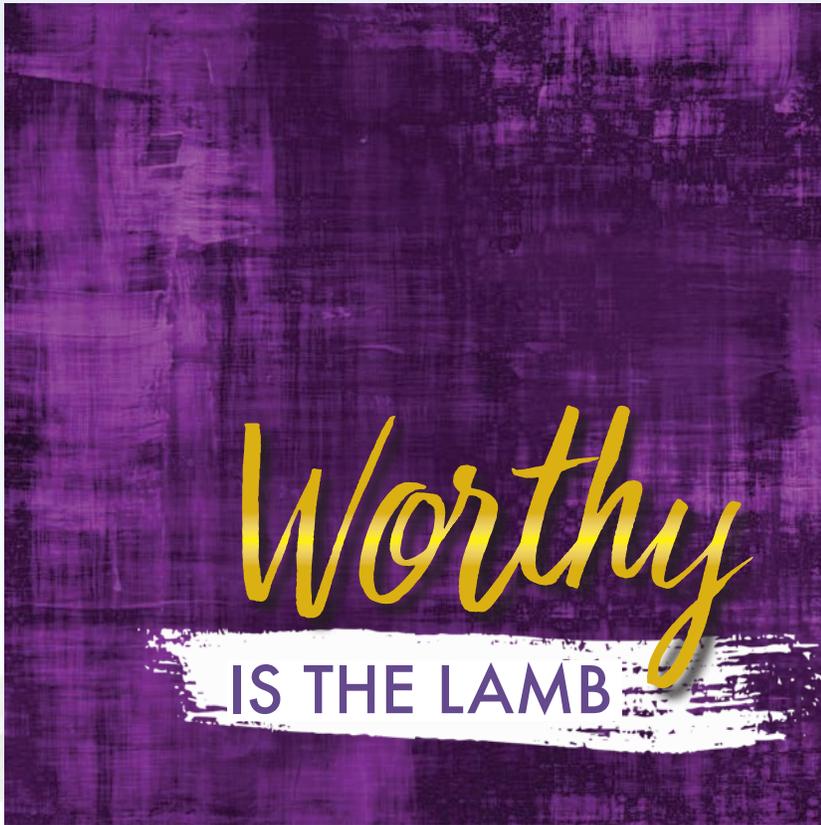
Preschool/kindergarten: *God – Always in Control, Always with a Plan* starts with Noah and the Flood and ends with Joseph saving his family from the famine. Students will see that God is always in control, always keeps His promises, and always has a plan to bring good out of the worst situations. They will see that if we truly trust God, we will obey Him.



World Missions

Did you know International Ministerial Congress (IMC) connects CoG7 worldwide, unites it theologically, and helps coordinate its global evangelistic mission? Join 50-plus nations Sabbath, November 5, to pray, celebrate, and receive a special offering for the work of IMC.

Look for details by e-mail, or request them from gcmisions@cog7.org.



General Conference Convention

"Worthy is the Lamb"

July 3-8, 2017

Springfield, Illinois

You won't want to miss this gathering!

- ❖ Revision of bylaws, fellowship with friends and relatives, inspiring worship, fun and Spirit-filled activities for children, youth, young adults, and seniors.
- ❖ Activities in historic Springfield, Illinois, home of Abraham Lincoln.
- ❖ Spacious, comfortable rooms in the Crowne Plaza Springfield, the largest convention hotel in central Illinois.

Look for more information in future issues of *Churchright!*

