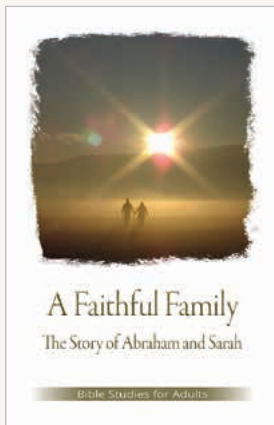


CHURCHRIGHT

Doing church right



A Faithful Family

Abram and Sarai are remembered and revered by billions of people on planet Earth today. God chose them to remove the curse and restore the blessing to all creation. This family heard God's call, trusted God's promises, and faithfully followed Him (Genesis 12:1-4).

Through the quarterly lessons in this series, we will journey alongside Abraham and Sarah to better understand about being a faithful family in our own world of increasing unbelief.

Want to create a standing order? Visit <https://cog7.org/online-store/>.

Hope!

Saying goodbye to 2020, we hope for a much better 2021. As I write, however, new cases of COVID-19 are on the rise, people are rioting in major cities, and governments are further shutting down schools, businesses, houses of worship, and even (in California) family dinners. Through it all, our rallying cry continues to be "Focus on Jesus and follow His plan."

Why focus on Jesus? Because He is our Lord and our God (John 20:28). He is our Creator (1:3), our Savior (Philippians 3:20), our King (Colossians 1:13). Why follow His plan? Quite simply, because of who Jesus is. Our obedience is due Him. Any plan other than His is doomed to failure and a waste of our lives.

One of the messages I've been preaching this year is titled "Jesus, Our Hope." It is centered in the gospel about Jesus, and recently, I've divided significant components of this good news into two sections: The Heart of the Gospel and The Hope of the Gospel.

The Heart of the Gospel consists of 1) An Event: Jesus died; 2) An Achievement: By His death in our place for our sins, Jesus achieved the possibility of our forgiveness and salvation; 3) An Offer: Those who repent of their sins and receive Jesus by faith as their Savior and Lord are offered forgiveness and salvation; and 4) An Application: Those who do repent of their sins and receive Jesus by faith as their Savior and Lord are forgiven and saved.

The Hope of the Gospel is that everything Jesus did is part of God's purpose and plan. God has had the restoration and reconciliation of His fallen creation as His purpose and plan since before the foundation of the world. And God is sovereign! God is all-powerful! Anything that God purposes and plans will be accomplished. If that isn't reason for certain hope, nothing is.

The year 2020 has been tough; 2021 may be tough too. But God is in control. I like Corrie ten Boom's observation: "God has no problems, only plans." Focus on Jesus and follow His plan!

— Loren Stacy



District News

Northeast

Contributors: Esther Winchell, Santiago Chavez, Heber Vega, Superintendent



Congratulations! We rejoice with the Philadelphia Church of God (Seventh Day) regarding their new facility at 258 West Cheltenham Ave. May God bless them!



Ministry of love. Every week, from July 18 to September 19, the Lanham congregation partnered with the Up 2 Us Foundation to distribute over 1,700 boxes of free produce. Each box, containing 25 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, was given out through a drive-up grocery pickup at the church campus. Families from local congregations in Alexandria, Lanham, Richmond,

and Winchester, as well as people from the surrounding communities, benefitted from this ministry of love. A big “Thank you!” to the church leadership and the many volunteers (Benevolence, Youth, and Men’s Ministries) who made this possible.



New facility. The United Church of God (Seventh Day) celebrated their first Sabbath at their new facility (180 Denton Ave., Lynbrook, NY) on September 12. Regional Superintendent Kirk Grant presided over the dedication ceremony. He complimented the members on preparing a place where praise waits for the one and true God, and he expressed his pride in what they accomplished together.

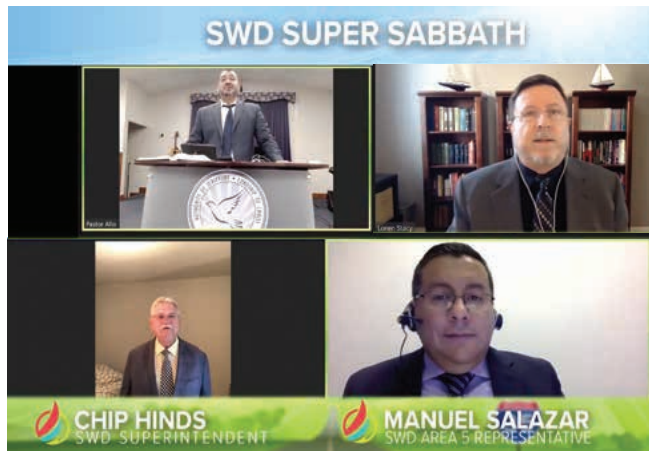


Men at work. Brothers from Michigan, Indiana, West Virginia, and Texas met October 23-25 for the “Forged in Fire” men’s retreat, sponsored by the Saginaw CoG7. The Holy Spirit was present, and so were 47 men of all ages! Messages, fellowship, prayer, raffles, games, and more were enjoyed by all. We look forward to an even better 2021 and hope to see you there!

Southwest

Contributor: Jamin Teran

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry



Building hope. Area 5 hosted the SWD Super Sabbath on September 25-26, focusing on the theme “Jesus, Our Hope.” Elders Chip Hinds, Loren Stacy, and Ramon Ruiz motivated and encouraged the Church to be faithful in Jesus, to build our hope in Him, and to continue walking with Him in any situation. Worship teams from the Willard, Adonai, and Ceralvo congregations ushered attendees into the presence of the Lord. Different area pastors who participated made the event a blessing for those who connected.



Marriage guidance. On October 11, the SWD marriage ministry held a workshop on “How to Handle Conflicts in Marriage,” taught by Monico and Martha Muffley. Forty-three couples were encouraged to listen to God, obey what the Lord wants in their marriage, and humble themselves for the benefit of their spouse. The workshop took place on Zoom, with questions and comments to help couples in the district.



Faithful families. Areas 2 and 4 hosted a Super Sabbath October 16-17 through the social platforms of our sister church in Fort Smith, AR. Speaking on the theme “For Me and My House,” Elders Chip Hinds, Jason Overman, and Daniel Flores urged church families to serve the Lord. They can become welcoming families where people experience the Word of God, patience, hospitality, and worship. The speakers also challenged the heads of the households to restore others and impact our broken community. Thanks to our sister churches in Oklahoma and Arkansas that participated in worship, as well as our translators.



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Worship gathering. On October 17, the Austin SWORD gathered for a worship night. Young adults enjoyed socially distanced fellowship and great moments worshipping our Lord together.



Children sharing love. Children from our sister church, Austin Adonai, showed Christ's love to neighbors by sharing Bible verses with them on October 17. God bless them!

SWD

Super

Sabbaths

December
11-12 - hosted
by Area 1

New Artios Co-Director

Makayla Ross, longtime registrar of Artios Christian College, has been appointed and confirmed as co-director of Artios, joining Israel Steinmetz in this important role. She steps into a position formerly filled by Amber Riggs, who asked to be replaced so that she may give greater time and attention to her family and to new creative opportunities as a writer.



Makayla Ross

With great gratitude and excitement, we wish Amber Riggs well in this next season of her life, confident that God has wonderful plans for her. Amber joined our ministerial training efforts in 2004 and has been instrumental in helping the transition from Ministries Training Systems (MTS) through LifeSpring School of Ministry to Artios Christian College. Thank you, Amber!



Amber Riggs

With equal gratitude and excitement, we welcome Makayla into her new role. She joined the LifeSpring staff in 2009 and has already been serving as a member of Artios' core leadership team. Amber and Israel agree that nobody knows more about Artios than Makayla. Thank you, Makayla, for accepting this new role!

Artios Dates

Late winter registration - December 29, 2020 - February 8, 2021

The Winners!

Congratulations to the winners of the LeRoy Dais Young Writers Challenge, sponsored by the BA magazine:

- First place: Elise Keim and Micah Keim (*tie*)
- Second place: Shelby Harris
- Third place: Cassidy Hinds and Layne Ling (*tie*)
- Honorable mention: Lizette Ramirez

Three youth groups representing these winners (Hammondville, Alabama; Fort Smith, Arkansas; and Marion, Oregon) shared the award money from an anonymous donor. Read more about these young people in the November-December BA.



Call to Convention

It is my great pleasure to once again extend this Call to Convention to each member and friend of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day). After 2020, aren't we all ready for the in-person fellowship and worship our conventions allow us to enjoy? Plan now to attend!

Our 2021 Biennial Convention is scheduled for Monday evening, July 5, through Saturday night, July 10, in Covington, Kentucky. Most convention events will take place at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center. Three beautiful, newly remodeled hotels are available to attendees. Marriott and Embassy Suites hotels are just across the street from the convention center, and Holiday Inn (a kid-friendly option) is within walking distance.

Six major worship services are planned! They will include wonderful music, fervent prayer, encouraging personal testimonies, challenging sermons, and more – all focused on our 2021 convention theme “Faithful.” Scheduled speakers are Elders Loren Gjesdal, Kenneth Lawson, Ruben Beard, Samuel Holland, and Loren Stacy.

As many seminars or workshops will be offered as meeting space allows (English or Spanish). Additional programs and activities will be available for most every age group: children, teens, young adults, and seniors. General Conference business sessions will be conducted Tuesday through Friday mornings. In these, members will receive up-to-date reports of the State of the Conference, the General Conference Ministries,

and the General Conference finances. Qualified voters will elect members to our board of directors and to our Nominating Committee, and can debate and decide any bylaw amendments or resolutions that may be proposed.

Covington, Kentucky, provides many great opportunities for individual or group outings. The world-famous Ark Encounter is less than an hour away; a Monday group outing is planned there for all who wish to come a day early. The Creation Museum is even closer! The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and a beautiful riverfront park are just across the Ohio River, and a wonderful aquarium is nearby.

Make plans now to attend the 2021 Biennial Convention in Covington. I look forward to seeing you there!

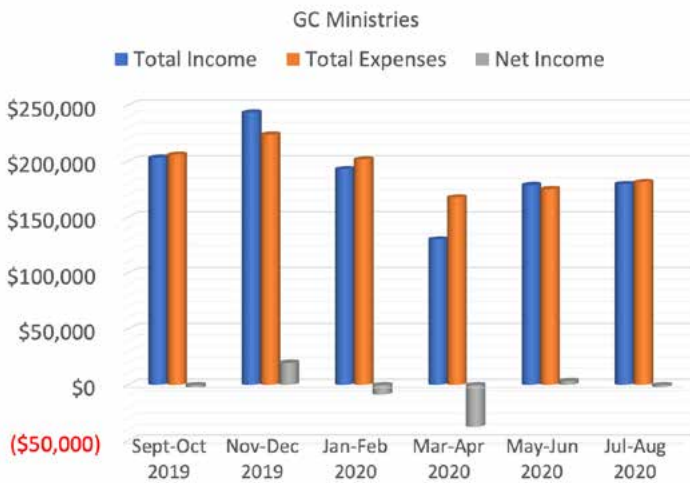
– Loren Stacy
General Conference President



General Conference Ministries

Total Receipts and Total Expenses

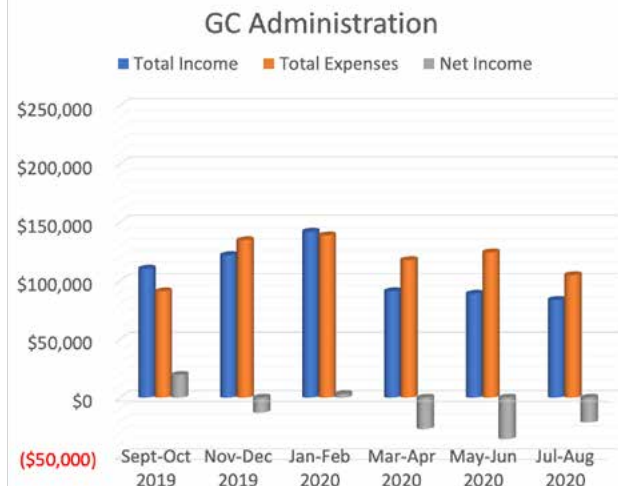
Artios Christian College, Missions, and Publications (Bible Advocate Press) are the current GC Ministries. They receive financial support from direct offerings and from a portion of the 15 percent of members' tithes received by the General Conference. Expenditures are guided by each ministry's annual budget. In addition, the General Conference manages the receipt and disbursement of your gifts to a variety of additional ministries, such as Orphans and Widows, SHINE, Cristo Viene, and Disaster Relief.



General Conference Administration

Total Receipts and Total Expenses

The General Conference administration (president, executive director, IT, finance, office management, and other staff not connected to a GC Ministry or district) receives financial support from 15 percent of members' tithes (minus what is then allocated to the GC Ministries) and direct offerings. Expenditures are guided by an annual budget.



Print-on-Demand Services Through BAP

Books and adult lessons are in English and Spanish

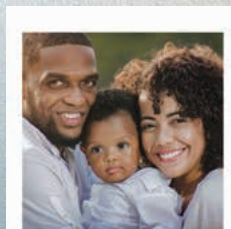
- Convenient orders of any size for church or families
- Current or archived Bible studies for personal study
- Sabbath school or at-home curriculum for all ages
- Gospel tracts and literature for evangelistic efforts
- *The Story of the Church of God (Seventh Day)* - 1983
- Church Manual

We're here to serve!

Review our special order quarterly archive at publications.cog7.org/adult-past-issues/ or publications.cog7.org/youth-past-issues/

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The Family:
God's Design for Every Generation

Bible Studies for Adults



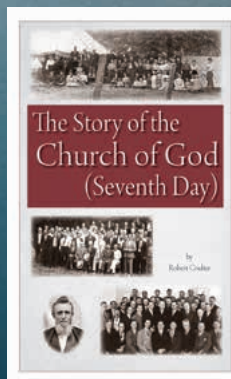
Thessalonians:
Encouraging Letters

Bible Studies for Adults



Genuine Christianity

BIBLE STUDIES FOR YOUTH




The Story of the
Church of God
(Seventh Day)

by
Robert Crutcher



CHURCH MANUAL
(Church of God Seventh Day)



Being a Light to the World

GC Ministries

Your offerings help support Artios Christian College, Bible Advocate Press, and Missions. Help us let our light shine.



Faithful to Missions in 2021

With your help, we have sent evangelists (Cristo Viene), provided assistance through Disaster Relief (DRF), ministered to orphans and widows, provided training through Bible schools, supplied Bibles and gospel literature, mobilized short-term mission teams, and generated long-term income. Carry on the good work of the gospel!

Learn more at gcmissions.cog7.org and on Facebook: "GC Missions" and "IMC."