

# CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

VOLUME 10 • NUMBER 1

December 2017 - January 2018



## CALENDAR 2017-18

**December 2-3** - SWORD-STRONG conference, Harlingen, TX

**December 10** - SWD leadership meeting

**December 28-31** - SWD Winter Retreat – HOLDFAST, Flint, TX

**January 13-14** - SWORD-STRONG Conference, San Antonio, TX

**January 27** - Oklahoma Super Sabbath

**March 10** - Pacific NW Super Sabbath, Harrisburg, OR

### Artios Calendar Events

**December 31** - Early winter course registration ends

**January 7 - February 11** - Early winter classes in session

*For a complete listing of events, please visit [churchright.org](http://churchright.org).*

## Ministry and Money

“Regarding our finances,” said the pastor, “I have good news and bad news. The good news is that God has blessed our congregation with all the money we need to pay our bills and to fulfill the Great Commission within our community. The bad news is that most of that money is still in our pockets.”

Believers recognize that everything we own comes from God and belongs to God. We are responsible to Him for our use of whatever He provides (Matthew 25:14-30). However, part of our stewardship responsibility is to care for our own necessities and those of our families (2 Thessalonians 3:7, 8; 1 Timothy 5:8). We struggle to determine the correct balance. How much for church and how much for family? How much for others and how much for me? These are deeply personal questions.

Definite biblical examples can guide our decisions here. Through tithes, God provided for ongoing material support for His work. Through offerings, God provided for “above and beyond” support for His work.

As I write this (early November), offerings to our Disaster Relief Fund for recent hurricanes and a major earthquake have surpassed \$100,000. Thank you! By offering “above and beyond” financial gifts, we can do stuff to express our love for God and for our neighbor.

Yet many members and congregations are not as faithful in routine material support of our local congregations, districts, and General Conference. Each of these branches of our larger fellowship is struggling financially because that solid material support is not what it should be.

Our organization’s financial plan relies on each of us giving ten percent of our income (designated “tithes”) and “above and beyond” gifts of money (designated “offerings”). While offerings are always appreciated, our functioning as local congregations, districts, and General Conference depends on the ongoing support of tithes. As 2017 ends and 2018 begins, won’t you please consider your stewardship decisions in this regard?

— Loren Stacy



## District News

### Southwest

On September 30, G C President Loren Stacy visited the Dallas, Texas Super Sabbath. Over 400 attendees heard about Transforming the Vision into Reality, motivating us to make changes that will help us be a vibrant 21<sup>st</sup> century church. Leaders met on Sunday, October 1, for questions and discussion on the details of TVR.

On September 24, the district women held a regional camp in Brownsville, Texas, on the theme "Daughters of God and Sisters in Christ." Our sisters were called to seek unity in love, in the seed of gospel, and in not giving up under any circumstance. Thanks to speakers Rosie Davila, Merari Teran, and Jaxel Martinez.

SWORD had its STRONG regional conference October 14-15 in Dallas. Brother Kirk Grant, the main speaker, motivated young adults to continue working for the Lord regardless of our times, and to grow strong in their spiritual disciplines.

The Jasper, Arkansas church held its annual October-fest October 20-22, centered on the theme "Draw Near to God and He Will Draw Near to You" (James 4:8). Attendees enjoyed devotionals, sermons, special offerings, worship, and fellowship with the body of Christ. At the same time, SWD Superintendent Chip Hinds rededicated the church after last April's flooding. Children, teenagers, and adults had a blessed weekend, witnessing how God has restored the Jasper church spiritually and physically.

— *Jamin Teran*



### Central

### Outstanding Super Sabbath

On October 14, the Mitchell/Huron, South Dakota church hosted a marvelous Super Sabbath in Mitchell, with 200+ attending from ten churches in the district. Elder Heber Vega's energy and timely messages were captivating, and the praise and worship were awesome.

But the most thrilling part of this Super Sabbath was the baptism. Ten people were baptized from six different countries: Cuba, Peru, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, and the US. Well done, leader Danny Borja and your leadership team! — *Ken Lawson*



### Zion Dedication

On October 28, the Zion congregation in Chicago dedicated their newly purchased and remodeled building. With 250+ present, Superintendent Ken Lawson spoke on "New Beginnings" during the morning dedication service and on "Where Do We Go from Here?" in the afternoon commitment service. The whole congregation took part in the dedication. Even the children anointed and dedicated every pew. Built in 1897, the amazing facility will seat 300+ in the pews and overflow areas. This energetic and family-oriented congregation will do great things in their city. — *Ken Lawson*







## A God-Driven Ministry

Approximately three years ago, a ministry was begun in the Marion, Iowa CoG7 that could only have happened because of God.

Cleta and Wayne Endecott were visiting a used clothing consignment store in the small town of Monticello, Iowa. While they talked to the store owner, the subject came up about what she did with unsold clothes she needed to get rid of.

When the owner told them that the clothes were thrown out, Wayne and Cleta arranged to give them away to needy people in the Marion area. As long as the church didn't sell the clothes, the owner would give them all she had each week. Since that time, our church has picked up and distributed a box van full of clothes every six weeks.

Then in February 2016, the church connected with Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc. (HACAP), a nonprofit dedicated to empowering and improving the lives of families in poverty. Through HACAP, the Marion church added food to our free giveaway program. Out of the approximately 58 food banks that work with HACAP, in only one year Marion has become the fifth largest food bank in the area, helping 100-130 people every week. In all my years of being a part of the Marion church, I have never seen the impact in our community like I have seen over the last three years.

As of February of 2017, one year after adding food to our giveaway program, we have distributed over 120,000 pounds of food. One of the greatest blessings came in a letter from a young lady we helped in June 2016. While she was living with her boyfriend, he found out she was pregnant and pushed her down a flight of stairs. Read this young lady's letter to the church at [churchright.org](http://churchright.org).

Pray for the Marion, Iowa church, that we can continue to minister to our community.

— Pastor Tim Endecott



*Meeting in Denver (L to R): Heber Vega (Northeast), Ken Lawson (Central), Steve Krome (Southeast), Larry Zaragoza (West Coast), Orville Rose (Western Canada), Chip Hinds (Southwest), and Leeroy Williams (Eastern Canada).*

## District Superintendents Meet

General Conference President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy met with all seven G C district superintendents November 5-8 in Denver, Colorado. This was the third face-to-face meeting of this core executive team held during 2017.

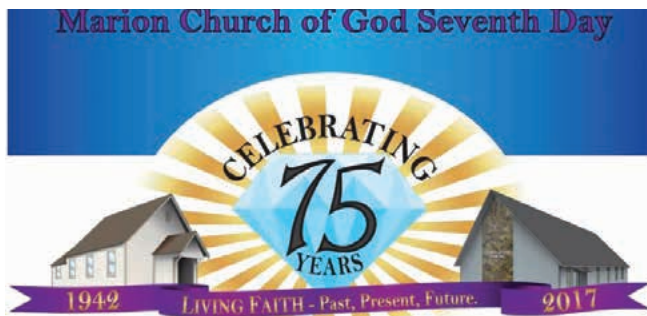
While the meeting resulted in an action list of twenty-four items to be completed before the next meeting (March 2018), major progress was made in five key areas:

1. Understanding the new G C Bylaws and their impact upon our districts and congregations;
2. Our G C organizational purpose, strategy, and plan (Transforming Vision into Reality being a key part of this);
3. A *Joint District Manual* of individual and shared district policies;
4. Use of online tools for goal-setting, reporting, and collaboration;
5. Team-building within the G C districts. President Stacy and Executive Director McCoy feel blessed to be able to work with this team of godly, dedicated, and capable district superintendents.

## West Coast



*Twenty young adults from Oregon and Washington met October 20-22 at Sky Camp (near Fall Creek, OR) for their annual Fall SWORD retreat. Reuben Zaragoza and his wife, Laura, were with them for the weekend. With the theme "Now What?," attendees were challenged to think about how to live for Christ after accepting His call, and the importance of choosing godly friends.*



## 75 Years Strong

On October 21 the Marion, Oregon church held a celebration of 75 years in its current location. With the theme of "Living Faith — Past, Present, Future," over 300 friends and members gathered to praise God for His faithfulness throughout those many years. Wonderful worship, a narrated photo history, and encouragement from Larry Zaragoza, Dale Lawson, and Loren Stacy blessed those present. An excellent meal, sharing of memories, and a photo timeline circling the gym completed the event. May God's blessings continue as this church lives out its faith as salt and light to the Marion community until Jesus returns!

## G C Translation Team

The General Conference faces the ongoing challenge of providing its materials, publications, and announcements in both English and Spanish, preferably at the same time. Publications and Artios Christian College have needed translators available on staff. Others of us have been left to search for volunteers when needed — until recently.

Elder Ruben Beard now serves as coordinator of the newly formed G C Translation Team, composed of bilingual members who translate various documents as needed. They have already proven their value. Team members have translated Transforming Vision into Reality materials and, more recently, Conference News and G C Prayer Partners e-mail newsletters.

Thank you, brothers and sisters, for offering this service to Christ and our church!

## Pastor Searches

Congregations in the West Coast, Central, Southwest, and Southeast districts are searching for their next pastor. If you are a minister documented by the North American Ministerial Council of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), and are interested and eligible to serve one of these congregations as its pastor, please contact the superintendent of the district for more information. There are immediate openings!

West Coast: Larry Zaragoza ([zman52@msn.com](mailto:zman52@msn.com))

Central: Ken Lawson ([klawson6817@comcast.net](mailto:klawson6817@comcast.net))

Southwest: Chip Hinds ([chiphinds@gmail.com](mailto:chiphinds@gmail.com))

Southeast: Steve Krome ([sdkrome@yahoo.com](mailto:sdkrome@yahoo.com))

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## Sabbath School Quarterlies

The quarterlies for 2017, 2018, and 2019 make up the Transforming the Vision into Reality (TVR) series. The three stages of TVR are simple yet infused with great meaning: Jesus as our Savior, Jesus as our Lord, and the Great Commission. In a nutshell, this means “Focus on Christ and follow His plan.” That’s how we become a vibrant 21st century church!

The quarterlies this year provided a detailed study of the Church’s ten-point vision. Next year we will explore Jesus as our Savior and Jesus as our Lord. The quarterlies in 2019 will complete the journey as we grow in our commitment to Christ, allowing Him to fulfill His purpose in us and through us in the Great Commission.

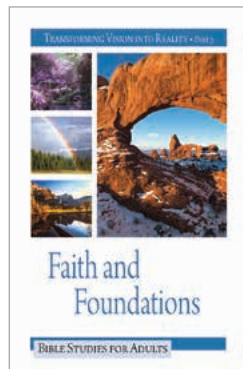
Please join in this exciting spiritual journey of trust and surrender as we allow the Holy Spirit to transform our nature into God’s good, giving nature. Order quarterlies at <https://cog7.org/online-store/>.

By the way, the high school quarterlies are based on the same Sabbath school material. If your high school class is using the quarterlies, you’ll be promoting their classes at the same time. If they aren’t, it’s a great time to start!

## Sabbath School Videos

Have you seen the series of videos recently produced by one of the district teams to complement Sabbath school classes? The promotional video creates awareness and interest in our Sabbath schools. You can view them on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCync2zK76fOjveEKxuq98g](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCync2zK76fOjveEKxuq98g)).

In addition,, the district team created thirteen videos (one per lesson) to assist teachers and students in personal preparation for class and enrich their learning after class. More videos will come in future quarters.

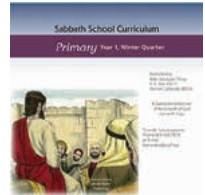


## Children’s Curriculum

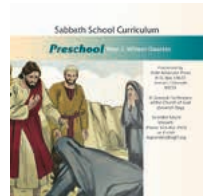
**Intermediate.** In *The Early Church Begins*, lessons begin with Jesus’ ascension and instructions to the disciples to remain in Jerusalem for a time. Lessons include stories about the rapid growth of the church, miracles performed by the disciples, how the believers shared, the persecution and dispersion of believers, Saul’s conversion, Peter’s vision, and Cornelius becoming a Christian.



**Primary.** *The Life and Ministry of Jesus* teaches students that Jesus did some amazing things while on earth, such as healing the sick and raising the dead to life. Sometimes Jesus chose to forgive a sin-burdened paralytic, test a father’s faith, or allow a dear friend to die because He had an even greater goal in mind. More than anything, Jesus wants us to believe and trust in Him through everything.



**Preschool.** Lessons in *Jesus, God’s Power and Love Revealed* take students from the early part of Jesus’ ministry to His triumphal entry and His cleansing of the temple. They will learn that Jesus was truly God and that He showed us God’s power and love throughout His life on earth. They will learn that Jesus’ miracles show us that Jesus can do anything and has the power to forgive sins. He truly loves and cares about us.



## Find Us on Facebook!

The Facebook Forum for Sabbath school teachers is a great place to discuss the upcoming lesson and get fresh ideas from around the country. Teachers can also expand their horizons and get to know new people who share the same spiritual values and concerns. When we work and worship together, God is with us, transforming us into a vibrant 21st century church!

To join the Facebook team for teachers, contact Jason Overman at [jason.overman@cog7.org](mailto:jason.overman@cog7.org).





*On Sabbath, November 11, the Jasper, Arkansas CoG7 took their "church service" on the road, singing songs and delivering Thanksgiving care baskets to the elderly in their community. Thirty-three church members (ages 4 to 74) took to the back roads to minister to widows and widowers, singing on lawns, front porches, and in living rooms. They delivered homemade sweets and baked goods, along with a bag of groceries for Thanksgiving. The children were the big hit, with their smiles and hugs for all. Highlights this year was singing to Bob in a barn and Butch in his pasture (with the cows looking on). Thank the good Lord for all His blessings and the opportunity to share them!*

## Welcome, Karina!

If you think you've heard a new voice answering the phones in the Denver office, you're right. Karina Muffley, the eldest of three daughters born to Monico and Martha Muffley, joined the G C staff in August as our bilingual receptionist, replacing Amber Michalak.



Karina was born in Brandon, Florida. She attended Milan Institute of Nampa (Idaho) to study massage therapy and graduated in November 2015. One month later, she and her family moved from Idaho (where they lived for over nine years) to Colorado so Monico and Martha could pastor the Denver church.

In addition to spending time with her boyfriend, Robert, family, and friends, Karina enjoys music (not country music, though!), coffee, and Jesus.

## Disaster Relief Fund Update

The offerings to our Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) since Hurricane Harvey first hit Texas near the end of August have been awe-inspiring. Between then and the first days of November, over \$121,000 was received for hurricane and earthquake relief efforts. G C Missions Ministries Director Bryan Cleeton had to ask us to stop giving because the needs had been met substantially.

All offerings earmarked for a specific location have been distributed. Offerings not earmarked have been used to help in those locations and others. As of this writing, total disbursements completed or underway are Caribbean Islands - \$25,000; Corpus Christi, Texas - \$3,000; Jacksonville, Florida - \$500; Houston, Texas - \$57,500; Mexico - \$23,616; St. Martin - \$6,000. A sum of \$20,861 is being held in reserve for the next Disaster Relief need.

We give thanks to God for these generous offerings and for the tireless efforts of our Disaster Area Relief team administrators and members.



*The Barbados Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) is one of two recognized congregations on the island. Only a year old, the conference has demonstrated its presence using social media, evangelism, and the name/logo display on their church van. Because of the words Seventh Day, most people associate the Barbados Conference with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the largest Sabbathkeeping body on the island. However, the conference has used the opportunity to witness and present the gospel of the kingdom of God. Their main challenge for the year was maintaining a stable location for church services, but they continue to press forward.*

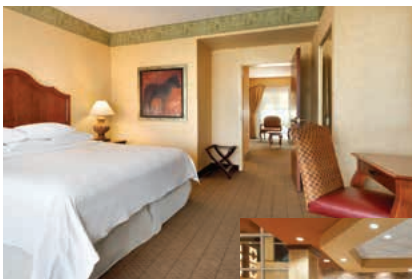


## NAMC in Albuquerque, 2018

The officers of the North American Ministerial Council (NAMC) have announced the location of its 2018 meeting: the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Council will begin on Monday, September 17, with dinner at 5 p.m., and end with the closing service on Saturday, September 22. All credentialed and licensed ministers and all local pastors are urged to attend.

The Embassy Suites is conveniently located three miles from the Albuquerque International Airport and is centrally located in downtown Albuquerque. It is one of two hotels that will be used for the 2019 Biennial Convention.

Every two years ministers have the opportunity to meet with colleagues from the United States and Canada. The NAMC is excited about what God has in store for its pastors and how they can work together to become a vibrant 21st century church.



## A Step Farther

Pioneer Missionary Training (PMT) and SHINE have been operating for many years. PMT offers opportunity for those ages 13-99 to attend a ten-day, hands-on outreach program in Mexico. People who successfully graduate from PMT 1 can apply for the next level of training. SHINE teams conduct medical and dental missions annually in developing countries.

PMT and SHINE began collaborating to develop a higher level of missionary training. It was determined that select missionaries would receive more extensive hands-on training, plus remain in countries (post missions) a longer period to work with leaders and membership of local congregations.

SHINE's mission to Peru (November 2017) began launching PMT 2. Teams of six to eight individuals, from Mexico and US/Canada, will complete three tours of three-month-long mission programs. To fulfill the requirements of PMT 2 training, members are expected to complete three tours (of three months each).

Though PMT 2 and SHINE will not always work together, they will dovetail in planning for SHINE's 2018 mission to Chile once Peru's mission and follow-up are completed. Both ministries will then be recruiting team members.

For more about the PMT 2 mission program, contact Pastor Monico Muffley ([pastormonico@gmail.com](mailto:pastormonico@gmail.com); cell: 208-697-8398; office: 303-428-6000). Also visit [churchright.org](http://churchright.org) for specifics regarding PMT 2. Please support these three missions with prayer and donations.

— Bev Brenneise





# Soaring High

What happens when you give to Artios, G C Missions, and Publications? They reach heights they could never reach otherwise. Just by giving your tithe plus an extra 1%, you enable these ministries to spread the gospel and expand the kingdom.



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