CHURCHRIGHT

Doing Church right

Volume 11 • Number 2

February - March 2019



CALENDAR 2019

February 17-20 - Board of Directors Meeting, Denver, CO

May 17-19 - Central District Men's Retreat, Inspiration Point, MN

July 1-6 - G. C. Convention, Albuquerque, NM

November 2 - IMC Sabbath

Artios Events

February 11 - Late winter course registration ends

February 17 - March 24 - Late winter classes in session

April 1 - Early spring course registration ends

April 7 - May 12 - Early spring classes in session

For a complete listing of events, please visit churchright.org.



Convention Reminder

Our 2019 Biennial Convention will be July 1-6, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the beautiful Albuquerque Convention Center. You can now register at *cog7.org/convention*.

You will not be disappointed with this convention. Six worship services, with music, prayer, personal testimonies, sermons, and more, will focus on our theme "Compelled by Love" (2 Corinthians 5:14). All this will take place in the Albuquerque Convention Center's awesome fine arts theater.

As many as thirty seminars/workshops are being planned, including classes conducted by Artios Christian College (English and Spanish). Other workshops on such topics as evangelism, discipleship, family life, and General Conference Ministries will help you successfully live for Christ and fulfill the Great Commission.

We completed revision of our bylaws during the 2017 convention, so business sessions will be conducted Tuesday through Friday mornings (only) during this convention. Various reports will be presented, and we will elect members to our board of directors and to the 2019-2021 Nominating Committee. Any resolutions and bylaws amendments offered will be discussed and decided.

There will be programs or activities for all ages at the 2019 convention, with plenty of fellowship. If you're planning the week as part of a family vacation, New Mexico is a beautiful destination, known as the Land of Enchantment.

So what's stopping you? Jump online and register for the 2019 Convention! Early registration deadline is April 30. See you in Albuquerque!

— Loren Stacy

For more information, see the special insert in this issue.



District News

Southwest

Contributors: Jamin Teran and Lupe Chavez



Celebration. The SWD's sister church, Ceralvo, in San Antonio, TX, celebrated its 90th anniversary November 17-18. The theme "For All You Have Done" highlighted God's faithfulness since 1928. Guest speakers Wesley Walker and Chip Hinds spoke to around 200 attendees. Everyone enjoyed great fellowship and worship on Sabbath, ending with lunch on Sunday.

Special recognition.

On November 24, Superintendent Chip Hinds presented the Shepherd's Staff to Pastor Wesley Walker and his wife, Darlene, at the McAlester, OK church. Elder Walker has worked



as a documented minister for 57 years in Christian ministry, serving as both a pastor and district superintendent in the CoG7. For the last 18 years, he has driven approximately 100 miles each way to his pastorate. He plans to continue in the Lord's service closer to home.

New pastor. Juan José Olguín Jr. responded to Jesus' call and now serves as pastor of the Yireh congregation in Laredo, TX. Superintendent Chip Hinds and Area Representative Manuel



Salazar prayed over him on December 8. On Sunday, leaders and pastors held a leadership meeting in the area.



Unity. On December 15, over 70 youth from all the Area 3 churches gathered in Houston's Floral church. Area Representative Neftali Hernandez shared the Word, motivating them to be united in Christ.

Pastor appreciation. The El Paso church recognized the service of Pastor Ruben Beard



and his wife, Susana, and co-pastor Armando Aguirre and his wife, Nora, with a special dinner on October 27. God bless them for their time and dedication to the ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



IMC Sabbath. As a special way of celebrating the IMC Sabbath (November 3), the El Paso church was asked to memorize John 3:16 in other languages. Those who did this, and recited the verse, were Beatriz Barraza, Jair Herrera, Silvia Griego, Lupita Garnica, Armando Aguirre, Roberto Sáenz, Etelvina Ochoa, Lea Canales, Susana Beard, and Ruben Beard.



New family. The Fort Smith, AR congregation welcomed new members into their church family on December 15. Pastors Martin Ramirez and Don Rodgers prayed over them in a service that included guests from their sister church in Jasper.



Something bigger. On December 29, 116 gathered at the Claremore, OK church to celebrate its 70th anniversary. Pastor Barry Mauldin preached on "Something Bigger Than Yourself," and awards were given to members who have been in the church since its beginning: Bill and Joyce Hinds, Lavell and Lavetta Brunson, Guy Brunson, and Betty Adams. The church honored those born in 1948 and those born in 2018. Superintendent Chip Hinds also shared his thoughts with the church.



Winter retreat. Two hundred students gathered in Pine Cove Ranch (Flint, TX) December 27-30, for workshops, worship, and fellowship centered on the theme "You are a Miracle, Even If You are a Mess — God Loves You." They learned the good news that their personal circumstances today do not shape their future.

West Coast

Contributors: Jennifer Stucker, Patty and Cain Prado, and Ruth Martinez

WCD committee members (L to R): Jennifer Stucker (director), Eunice Regalado, Ana Herrera, Ivonne Vega, Martha Ling, and special guest speaker, Aracely Robles.



Women's Ministry

The West Coast District Women's Ministry Committee participated in a bilingual Women's Day, held at the Good News CoG7 in San Fernando, California. Over 140 women attended. The theme of the event was "Being Women of Influence and Blessing," and a key passage centered on 1 Thessalonians 2:7, 8, 12.

Sisters Aracely Robles, Eunice Regalado, Ana Herrera, Martha Ling, Ivonne Vega, and Jennifer Stucker shared messages and personal testimonies throughout the day. A special prayer service, fellowship meals, and worship music were also included on this Sabbath day. The West Coast District Women's Mentoring Ministry materials were presented and shared among participants. Committee members met the following day to discuss ways to promote this ministry in our local churches throughout the West Coast District.



So Cal Young Adults

One hundred young adults from around California and Las Vegas gathered November 9-10 at Union Cowork (Glendora, California) for their annual So Cal Young Adults Retreat, a collaboration of the Brave Hearted Tribe and SWORD ministries. With the theme "Love God. Love People," the event started on Friday night with a service led by the Brave Hearted Tribe and a devotional shared by two of its core members.

On Saturday, worship was led by members of the Brave Hearted Tribe and Las Vegas Element worship team. Guest speakers Aracely Robles (Desert Hot Springs CoG7) and Jose Hernandez (Las Vegas English CoG7) led workshops focusing on what love means, what it means to truly love God, and how to love ourselves so we can love others. The retreat concluded Saturday night with a message by Jose Hernandez.



Marriage and forgiveness. The Southern California SWORD held its second annual marriage workshop October 20 in Ontario, CA. The theme, "Forgiveness," centered on forgiving one another, just as Christ has forgiven us. Guest speaker David Lozano delivered the message, and ten couples attended the event, some of them newlyweds and others married for over ten years.

Sabbath study.
The last SWORD
event of the year,
held December 15
in San Fernando,
CA, focused on
a study of the
Sabbath, taught



by Ruben Davila. During the session, participants reviewed the historical and biblical points of why it is important to keep the Sabbath. The event was recorded live via Facebook for those young adults who were not able to attend. Pictured above (L to R): Maria Torres, Ruben Davila, Larry Zaragoza, and Ruth Martinez.



Worship. On August 4, young adults met in Bloomington, CA, for their second annual Worship Night. Acoustic worship was led by three local churches: Santa Ana, San Diego, and Riverside. Jonathan Garcia delivered a message on the theme "The Gospel/Hundredfold," based on Mark 10:28-30.

Southeast

Contributor: Steve Krome, Superintendent



Stepping up. More than 170 district youth and their local leaders held their annual conference at the DaySpring Conference Center (Parris, FL) December 21-23. Messages focused on the theme "Step Up for Jesus." The Lakeland and Orlando youth participated in praise and worship, with special presentations by youth from South Miami and Port St. Lucie; Stone Mountain, GA; and Tarboro and Thomasville, NC. Sabbath speakers were Daven Llewellyn (Orlando) and Jon Unzueta (Lakeland). Each message drew a large number of young people who dedicated their lives to Jesus by coming forward to be blessed and prayed for! We praise God for a successful conference and look forward to the 2019 conference December 20-22 at the same location.

Central

Contributor: Ken Lawson, Superintendent



Marriage retreat. Eleven couples met December 7-9 at Inspiration Point, MN, for the first marriage retreat in the district's Area 1. It was a time of sharing, personal testimony, breakthrough, and renewal. The main focus was on the Bible's teaching about marriages and building our marriage centered on Christ. Plans are already underway for the 2019 marriage retreat. Directors were Pam and Jeremy Hopewell.

Eastern Canada

Contributor: Leeroy Williams, Superintendent

Longtime member. Sister Lorraine Archer (81) was honored August 25 by the Etobicoke church as one of its longest-standing members. She still has the ability to recite several psalms and poems. Her two daughters and other family members were with her for the celebration.



Outreach. Emma
Williams of
Etobicoke's Missionary
Department, and
coordinator of the
homeless program,
collaborated with the
youth ministry in their
annual winter package
distribution December
25. When he came



upon a young man who wore no shoes in the cold, Darnell Johnson took off his new pair of shoes and gave them to the young man — a sign of true compassion!

ASLEEP IN JESUS

Kenneth "Ken" Knoll (1946-2018)

Kenneth Glen Knoll (72) was born May 14, 1946, in New Auburn, Wisconsin, and died November 29, 2018, in Springfield, Oregon, surrounded by family.



Ken graduated from Midwest Bible College in Stanberry, Missouri, with a degree in pastoral ministry. He married Mary Jean Wilson on June 15, 1969, in Conroe, Texas. They have two daughters, Carla and Kristen (Kristi).

During his almost fifty years of ministry, Ken pastored churches in Texas, Oklahoma, and Oregon. He retired from the Eugene Church of God (Seventh Day) in January 2014. However, he continued to be actively involved in the Church both locally and nationally, as well as with the Eugene One Hope Network of pastors and churches.

Ken was passionate about his family, his friends, and his God. He will be remembered for his humor, his smile, his love of life, his unconditional love for others, and his total commitment to sharing the love of Jesus. During his brief illness, Ken was often seen with his hands lifted high, singing praises to God and His Son Jesus.

Ken is survived by his wife, two daughters, two sons-in-law, five grandchildren, and many other relatives and brothers/sisters in Christ. He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Violet (Anklam), brother Jesse, and grand-daughter, Amy Lang.

Samuel Sanchez (1930-2018)

Samuel Sanchez (88) was born July 18, 1930, in Kansas City, Missouri, and passed away November 16, 2018, in Sacramento, California. He married Oralia



"Ruth," and they had four children. He was the rock of his family and taught them all about God and CoG7.

Samuel was the last of the original ministers of the Spanish bilingual CoG7 on 71st Street in Sacramento. A compassionate man, he headed the outreach program and involved himself in many other duties, including serving on the board, teaching Sabbath school, conducting Bible studies, preaching, and being a counselor and mentor.

Samuel is survived by his wife, children, seven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchilden.

Congratulations! Jonahdith Scott, daughter of Elder A. Scott, graduated in November with her degree in early childhood education and is now a licensed teacher. She teaches one of the children's classes at Etobicoke.



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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."

Church of God (Seventh Day)
P. O. Box 33677 • Denver, CO 80233,
Phone: (303) 452-7973 • Fax: (303) 452-0657

churchright@cog7.org • churchright.org



Women in Mission

Hundreds of women from different parts of Mexico and other countries met November 29 - December 2 at the Reflect Krystal Grand Hotel at the Nayarit Riviera to celebrate their long-awaited national congress.

Jocheved Martínez welcomed attendees from the seventeen districts of Mexico, as well as sisters from the United States (Texas, California, Michigan, Colorado, Maryland, Florida, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Illinois), Guatemala, Belize, Peru, and Argentina. A total of 930 sisters registered for the event.

The service began early on Friday, November 30, with prayer for the mission to continue spreading throughout the world. That evening the women enjoyed a special program and listened to the plenary session, "The Power of the Holy Spirit in the Mission," presented by Jocheved Martínez. Three videos were presented from Miriam Morales (SHINE), Ruth Carreño (Uruguay), and Brenda Berenice Morales (Argentina) on how they carry out the mission in different countries.

The program continued on December 1 with prayer for missionaries and four workshops. God gave a spiritual nudge through these speakers. The evening service included Min. Israel Delgado, president of the General Executive Council in Mexico. Over sixty women were recognized for their work in the mission and inspiration to others. Special recognition was given to Bertha Elizabeth Esparza (wife of Raúl López, who sleeps in the Lord) and Susana Reyes (wife of Abraham Valdovinos, who sleeps in the Lord).

Alicia Miranda spoke on "The Mission, Action of Love," then extended a moving call to women who wanted to be baptized. Afterward, Brother Israel Delgado delivered an emotional message and concluded with a restoration prayer for all women. The evening concluded with a parade of regional costumes, with all the states of the Mexican Republic present. Women also paraded representing the United States, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, as well as India and Africa.

On December 2, prayer was held at the sea, with the baptism of four sisters who made a covenant of love with God. Hundreds of women prayed and wept in this blessed event, officiated by Min. Delgado. Eva Delgado-Alonso gave the closing message on "Women in Mission" and challenged the sisters to share the light of God wherever they are. After the closing prayer by Israel Delgado, the women concluded by singing "To God Be the Glory" — praise for His love covering this magnificent event.

— Jocheved Martinez

Ladies from California, Texas, Mexico, and Argentina at the women's congress in Mexico.





IMC News

In December 2018, the first edition of *IMC News* launched. This quarterly newsletter, produced by IMC Secretary John Klassek, is devoted to sharing news of the International Ministerial Congress. Visit *imc.* coq7.org/newsletters.html to

download English and Spanish versions in both high (printable) and low resolutions.



Visiting CoG7 in Rome

For over ten years, I earnestly desired to travel to Europe. By the grace of God, an opportunity made this dream come true. I would, however, be faced with the challenge of traveling overseas on my own. With high hopes and some fears, I booked my solo trip to Rome, Italy, in November.

With Bryan Cleeton's help, I located the nearest CoG7, an hour away from Rome. Although I took two buses and one tram to get there, the destination was more than worth it! There is something about sharing the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ that breaks all barriers. The service was in Italian and Romanian, but I was blessed with the support from two sisters, Jennifer Agneta Pop and Mara Armenean, who knew enough English to translate the message and conversations. This transformed a group of "strangers" who don't speak the same language into family!

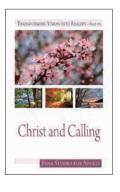
After the service, we went to Pastor Daniel's home for a potluck, and experienced firsthand the warmth and generosity from our brethren in Italy. The congregation in Rome mainly consists of brethren originally from Romania. They gather at a small location (garage), where they have met for about fifteen years. Unfortunately, the congregation loses members from time to time, as people return to Romania due to lack of employment in Italy. The brethren who remain in Rome drive an hour or so to get to their church.

I found so much encouragement in visiting the church as much as they did from my visit, and I promised I would send their greetings as well as lift them in prayer. Please keep Pastor Daniel and the congregation in your prayers.

— Ruth Martinez

Adult Second Quarter Lessons

Christ and Calling focuses on the biblical basis of being disciples of Christ. The necessary attitude, commitment, and enduring faith that mark out a disciple of Jesus is explored throughout. In a general sense, we are all called to be disciples, and then to make disciples of others. But to engage in this work effectively, we must first be disciples ourselves. A disciple of Christ is involved in a process of inner transformation accomplished by God, but that process requires our willingness and submission to be discipled by Him.



Becoming Christ's disciple mandates a personal desire to be encouraged, corrected, and ultimately transformed into the very image of Jesus Christ. This quarterly discusses the challenge of discipleship and the results it produces.

Children's Curriculum (March-May)

Intermediate. In *The Armor of God*, students will learn why Jesus needed to come to earth to pay for humanity's sins. Those who commit their lives to Christ and accept Him as their Lord and Savior learn that Satan is their enemy. Therefore,



they must put on the armor of God to protect against the spiritual warfare Satan directs against them. Lessons also cover Paul's admonition to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20).

Primary. Blessing – God Blessing Us and Using Us to Bless Others teaches students that God has many blessings He longs to give to each of us. As we read His Word, we better understand some of these blessings and how we can

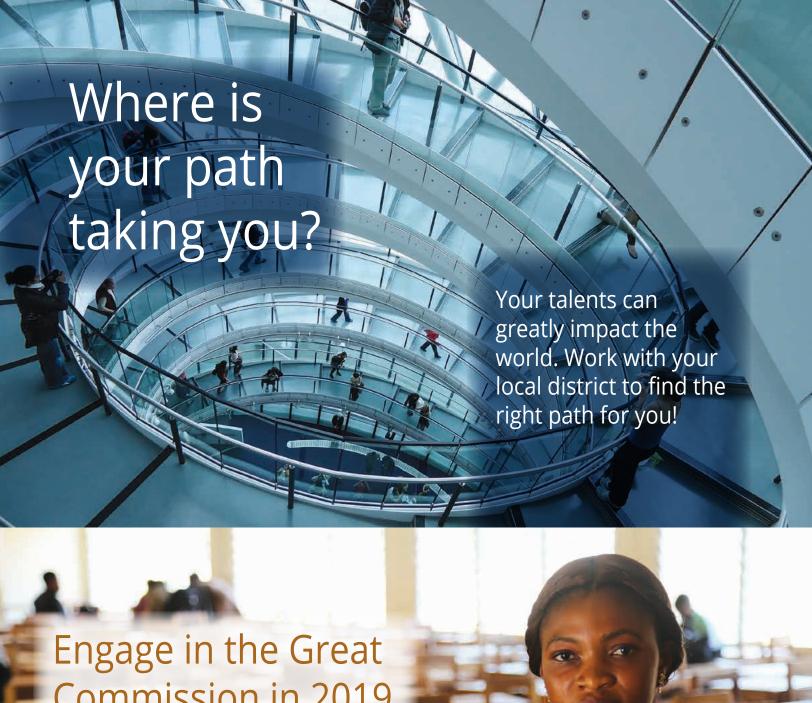


receive them and then share them with others. These lessons focus on the stories in Genesis and Exodus, continuing where last quarter left off — from Joseph in Egypt to the Israelites building the tabernacle in the wilderness.

Preschool/kindergarten. God's Power in Us introduces students to characters in the Bible just before, during, and after the Babylonian captivity. Students will learn how God used many different people in different situations to show His



power and glory. Students will also learn that God can use us, too, if we let Him.



Commission in 2019

With your help, we can send evangelists (Cristo Viene), provide assistance through Disaster Relief (DRF), minister to orphans and widows, provide training through Bible schools, supply Bibles and gospel literature, mobilize short-term mission teams, and generate long-term income.

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

Mark your calendar for the annual IMC Sabbath — November 2.





Convention 2019

July 1-6 Albuquerque, New Mexico

Our Biennial Convention will be here before you know it! Reduce your stress level now — check out this quick guide to what's coming up in Albuquerque and how you can prepare for it.

Hotels

Two Albuquerque hotels have been chosen for our convention. This information will help you make the best choice for you and your family.

DoubleTree

The beautiful DoubleTree Hotel is right across the street from the Convention Center, where most of our meetings and events will be held. An underground tunnel to the Convention Center lets you go back and forth without ever going outside! The DoubleTree



has a coffee bar, café, and restaurant. The sleeping rooms are nice but not spacious. If staying close to the action and walking/driving as little as possible are your priorities, the DoubleTree is for you. Cost per night: \$119, plus tax.

Embassy Suites

The Embassy
Suites is also beautiful. (Ask your pastor. It was the site of the 2018 Ministerial Council meeting.)
Unfortunately, it is located almost a mile from the Convention Center.



Those who stay in this hotel need to drive or take a shuttle to get back and forth. *Parking is free at this hotel only.*

So why would anyone choose Embassy Suites? Because each room is a suite with a separate bedroom, living room, and kitchenette. Included in the per-night cost is a wonderful breakfast each morning and a snack, which might serve as a light dinner each evening. There is also a full-service restaurant and coffee bar. Cost per night: \$119, plus tax, for one or two adults; \$129 for three or four adults, plus tax. (Children are free with an adult.)

Whichever hotel you choose (and please do choose one of them), you will need to make your own room reservation. Online reservation links to each hotel are on our convention website: *cog7.org/convention*.



Albuquerque Convention Center

The modern Albuquerque Convention Center has ample space to accommodate all events: children, youth, and SWORD activities; workshops, meals, business sessions, and worship services. The Kiva Auditorium, with seating for 2,300, is a bonus in a facility that already meets our needs. Can you imagine our evening worship services in this beautiful auditorium — voices singing praise to Jesus, our Lord and Savior, and evening speakers challenging us to more intentional Christian living? Worshipping together is such a blessed event.

There's even more. Outside the Convention Center is a large Civic Plaza that hosts a variety of outdoor activities throughout the year. Knowing how our attendees enjoy visiting with each other, the Plaza will probably be a popular spot.

Let's meet at the Albuquerque Convention Center in July!

Registration and Reservations



In order to attend and participate in our 2019 Convention, you must do two things.

First, register for the convention itself by completing the registration forms and paying the appropriate fees online (*cog7.org/convention*). If you can't do this yourself, please have someone help you. You may call "Linda K" at our Denver office (303-452-7973) during business hours for assistance.

Second, reserve a room at the convention hotel you prefer, using the link provided on our convention website. If you wish to participate in a pre-convention tour on Monday, July 1, make sure to check in to your hotel on Sunday, June 30. Otherwise, check in on Monday, July 1, and out on Sunday, July 7, to attend the entire convention.

Dollars and Sense



How are conventions paid for?

You may be surprised that every two years, we do our best to ensure that our biennial conventions pay for themselves. This is more difficult than you may imagine. Those who attend pay for their own hotel rooms, sure, but there is so much more to cover. Hotel/Convention Center meeting rooms, auditoriums, audio/visual equipment, security personnel, group meals, special meals, parking, Wi-Fi, video streaming are all extremely expensive. Add to these the expenses of special programs for children, teens, young adults, and senior adults, as well as the costs of printing registration forms and voting information (nominees, amendments, committee reports) and of renting voting equipment. Don't forget transportation costs to bring equipment and materials to the convention from our Denver offices!

These and other expenses are largely paid for by attendees. Our registration and facility fees, offerings, purchases of meal tickets, and contract credits we receive for staying in the convention hotels usually help us break even financially.

You can help! Attend. Participate. Stay in a convention hotel. Buy meal tickets. Pay the registration fee. If we each do our part, we can save our church a lot of money.

Why stay in a convention hotel?

Each convention, we negotiate the best possible nightly room rate with one or more hotels needed to house attendees and conduct our meetings. In most cases, the more convention hotel rooms we occupy per night, the less we are charged for meeting rooms and services. If, on the other hand, we fail to occupy the number of hotel rooms per night agreed upon in our contract, we must pay the difference, which can be substantial — tens of thousands of dollars! For this reason, there is an additional Facility Fee charged to those who do not stay in a convention hotel.

One could find a budget motel near our convention that costs a few dollars less per night than a convention hotel. But the relatively few dollars saved per night can cost our church thousands! That's why booking at one of our convention hotels is so important.

Convention Speakers



There will be six major worship services throughout our convention, each focused on some aspect of Christ's Great Commission.

Tuesday evening – Executive Director Jody McCoy: "Focus on Jesus and Follow His Plan"

Wednesday evening – *Bible Advocate* Editor Jason Overman: "God's in the Going"

Thursday evening – Elder Kirk Grant: "Welcome! We Got You"

Friday evening – Ministerial Council President Daniel Flores: "A Generous Disciple"

Sabbath morning – Artios Christian College Dean Israel Steinmetz: "Joining God's Mission"

Sabbath evening – General Conference President Loren Stacy: "Disciple!"

Workshops/Seminars

Back by popular demand: seminars and workshops! Having completed the business of revising the organization's bylaws, we're offering training and motivation through over 30 inspiring workshops during convention week.

Our 2019 Transforming Vision to Reality campaign will focus on Jesus' Great Commission. How do Jesus' words to His disciples impact us today? Are we individually and collectively (General Conference, boards, churches) practicing this mandate?

During convention, we will explore possibilities, share ideas, and return home with a renewed commitment to go into our world. Workshops will include such topics as discipleship, mentoring, and family life. There will also be reports from G. C. Ministries, an Artios leadership class, and reports from churches that are actively involved in ministry to their communities.

Since some workshops will involve three consecutive sessions, some advance planning with others from your congregation will ensure that you gather the most information. Check back to the convention website for a complete list of workshops, available in May.

Special Events

Hot air balloon ride, anyone?

Have you ever dreamed of flying in a hot air balloon and viewing the beautiful scenery below? Maybe this is the year to make that dream a reality. Albuquerque, New Mexico, is the hot air balloon capital of the world.



Or maybe you want to do something else in this

southwestern state. If previously you've wished for more time to explore the locations of our G. C. conventions, this is the place to do it. And if you'll be flying into Albuquerque and have no car available, there is good news! Most of the tours (through Tour New Mexico) provide ground transportation.

On Monday, July 1, and Friday afternoon, July 5, attendees can join other friends and family in exploring the local historical, cultural, and recreational attractions. Be sure to check out the "Tours" section of the convention website for a list of tours you can



enjoy during the week. In addition to hot air balloon rides, choose from a tram ride on the second longest aerial tramway of its

kind in the world, Old Town Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and museums (Turquoise Museum, National Hispanic Cultural



Center, or Albuquerque International Balloon Museum). Or visit the Albuquerque BioPark (aquarium, botanic garden, and nearby zoo).

The Fourth of July in Albuquerque would not be complete without a fiesta! As a bonus, your registration includes a fiesta dinner on Thursday, July 4. Can you hear the mariachi band in the background?

Good times are waiting in Albuquerque. Register online at *cog7.org/convention*. See you in July!

For more details, visit cog7.org/convention.