

CHURCHRIGHT

Doing church right



Sabbath School Zooms!

On Sabbath, April 25, BAP curriculum editor Jason Overman was the guest teacher for Lesson 4 of the *Prince of Peace* quarterly, via Zoom. Over 230 households “Zoomed in” for the lesson. Even in desperate times of uncertainty, God’s grace opens up new opportunities for His people in ways we could not imagine.

Special thanks to Pastor Donville Bell and the Rhema Praise Sanctuary CoG7 family in Willowdene, Jamaica.

Jason is available to teach lessons and hold discussions via Zoom. Contact him at jason.overman@cog7.org.

Certainly Uncertain

If there were a contest to determine the top ten most heard phrases these past few months, I’d submit *uncertain times*. It seems that every television commercial, corporate email, and newscast contains at least one sentence that begins, “In these uncertain times. . . .”

These times certainly are uncertain. An unseen and previously unknown threat, COVID-19, suddenly changed our lives. Some people became seriously ill, and many more became seriously afraid. Businesses closed. Churches didn’t meet in person. Hundreds of thousands lost their jobs. Will things ever return to what they were before? We don’t know. Uncertain times.

I am, however, certain about these three things:

- The Church of God (Seventh Day) is alive and well. Within the United States and Canada, congregations are livestreaming worship services, Zooming Bible studies, and staying in touch electronically. District superintendents and area representatives continue to communicate. Artios Christian College, Missions, and Bible Advocate Press haven’t missed a beat, thanks to technologies available. Our Denver offices have remained open to serve us.

- Our local congregations, districts, and Conference continue to need tithes and offerings. Budgeted expenses are being cut to the bone. Scheduled salary raises have been withheld. Leadership meetings, Super Sabbaths, retreats, and camps are being cancelled. Leaders are doing everything possible to protect the financial health of our church, but many expenses cannot be eliminated. We continue to need the tithes and offerings of our members.

- The almighty God we serve and in whom we trust remains in absolute control. Nothing that is happening surprises Him or overwhelms Him. Throughout human history, God has demonstrated His faithfulness to those who place themselves in His hands. Present difficulties never annul God’s eternal promises and plans.

I am uncertain of much. But God, His mission, and His promised outcomes are not among them. Keep faith with God!

— Loren Stacy



District News

Northeast

Contributor: Esther Winchell, Women's Ministries Director

Ministering God's Way

My family and I had just come home from spending time with our family in Arizona, only to enter quarantine on March 15. We wanted to start on our district travels, beginning with our biannual board meeting. Well, that didn't occur. The March and April calendars were filled with different district-wide functions, but they were cancelled or postponed.

As a ministries director for women, my calendar cleared up quickly. It made me sad, and I wondered how I would fill the time. But God had other plans.

I began receiving requests that needed to be filled by our Prayer Shawl Ministry. In two weeks, we sent out eleven prayer shawls and one coverlet for those needing prayer due to the virus and hospitalization. Recently, another three went to friends of members. We have done 22 prayer shawls since the quarantine began.

I thank God for the technology He has provided. We are holding women's meetings, devotions, prayer time, and chat time on Zoom. Our Ossining, New York women's group did a group meeting recently, and members from various churches joined in. We re-treated with several women from Boston, Bridgeport, Winchester, and other cities.

In mid-April our own local women's group Bible study met online. It was great to see others and have a study and "catch up" time.



Church is still going on. It may not be as we know it, but we must remember we are the church, so we will continue to minister in ways that God provides.



Bringing comfort. Women Equipping Women in the NED have been busy! They made a prayer blanket for Pastor Donald Gouldbourne (Boston, MA), who was having major health issues, and sent it to him in March. In late January, Laura Sinai Chavez in Fort Wayne, IN (Warsaw St. congregation) was scheduled for surgery, so her mom requested a prayer afghan for her.

I am a discipleship cell leader. In this time of pandemic, I am sending devotionals to twenty brothers daily. At the same time, I remind them to all pray at 7:00 p.m. as Pastor Antonio Vega suggested. In my home we have Bible study on Thursdays and Fridays. — Areli Vega, Church of God, Lanham, MD

The Lanham, Maryland congregation has been reaching out during the coronavirus outbreak. Read what their various ministries are doing at churchright.org.

Central

Contributor: Ken Lawson, Superintendent

Board Meeting

March 14-15, just before the shut down for COVID-19, the Central District board completed its 2020 meeting in St Paul, Minnesota.

Extra time was spent working to increase the effective Ministry Program, which consists of all our camps, retreats, and Super Sabbaths. There are well over 25 of these valuable camping and fellowship events in our district.

The board signed a letter of thanks to Crist Romero

(Waukegan, Illinois), who completed a four-year term working with our translation needs. She also helped organize and work personally with the growing number of members-at-large in our twelve-state district.

Due to a generous contribution from Still Waters Prairie Retreat in Alfred, North Dakota, we approved a committee to manage these funds. It will assist all Central District Pastoral Program students taking classes at Artios by covering all their tuition costs.

Perhaps like every district, much of our meeting was consumed with trying to create a balanced budget. New appointments for the coming year were made, the budget was adopted, and the minutes were approved. Then everybody scrambled to get home as news of the pandemic and coming shutdown threatened.

Southwest

Contributor: Jamin Teran

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry



Legacy of leadership. The SWD Leadership Team had its annual meeting in San Antonio, TX, on March 8, centering on the theme “Building a Legacy of Leadership.” Team members heard from different CoG7 national leaders and district ministries to learn how they can reset their ministries and enhance existing ones. During a Q&A time after the presentations, the team was encouraged to strive for a leadership mindset for 2020.

CHURCHRIGHT.org

Have you seen the updated Churchright Online? You can view the current issue, an archive, memorials, and more at *churchright.org*. (Adjustments are still being made.)



Prayer and praise. Twenty-six sisters from San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Kerrville, and Laredo gathered on March 15 at our sister church in Artesia Wells, TX. Focusing on the theme “Don’t Give Up!” they prayed and worshipped and were reminded that even when we are discouraged, we must continue to pray. God listens.

For more SWD news, visit churchright.org.



CALENDAR

Artios Events

May 12 - July 6 - registration

July 12 - August 16 - classes in session

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



Volume 12 • Number 4

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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ASLEEP IN JESUS

Paul Eugene Heavilin Sr.

1927 - 2020

Paul Heavilin was born March 15, 1927, in Marion, Indiana, child number eight of fifteen born to McClellan and Vera (Foster) Heavilin. He slipped peacefully from this life on March 29, 2020, in Waldron, Indiana. His wife, Virginia, and daughter Marilyn were by his side.

After earning his first bachelor's degree, Paul pastored two years in Wisconsin for the Wesleyan Methodists. At that point in 1952, with three young girls in tow (the youngest less than a week old), he went to Missouri to teach at Midwest Bible College (MBC) for the Church of God (Seventh Day), and Virginia cooked for the students. This set a pattern for the rest of Paul's life of his wife being a co-partner in his ministry wherever he went.

Over the next 48 years, Paul served the Church



of God in multiple places and in multiple roles: pastoring in Wisconsin, California, and Michigan; working as youth camp director, president of the Michigan state board, president of the North American Ministerial Council, and secretary of the International Ministerial Congress; carrying out duties in numerous positions on district, state, and local boards; and ministering for fourteen years at Spring Vale Academy (SVA), where he was "Uncle Paul" to many of the students. Between his MBC and SVA teaching years, Paul taught two generations of some of the same families!

Paul was preceded in death by his parents and eleven of his siblings. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Virginia (Spencer); brothers John and Charles (Barbara); sister Lois (Ben) Drown; seven children, 19 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren.

Read the entire memorial for Paul on our Memorials page at cog7.org.

A close-up photograph of a Canon printer. A Bible is placed on the printer's tray. The printer has several control buttons and a display screen. The text "The Bible Advocate Press is going digital!" is overlaid in large, yellow, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

The Bible Advocate Press is going digital!

To update our 47-year-old printing press and other machines, the board of directors approved the purchase of a Canon printer. We can now do smaller print-on-demand jobs — you print only what you need.

To learn more about our new addition, watch for updates in future issues of *Churchright*.