

# CHURCHRIGHT

*Doing church right*

## Church of God (Seventh Day) International Federation



Last November, delegates representing Church of God (Seventh Day) conferences from around the world met in Nigeria for the International Ministerial Congress (IMC). There they ended the IMC by replacing it with the Church of God (Seventh Day) International Federation. The primary purpose of the IMC was to foster doctrinal harmony among its member conferences and coordinate their evangelistic efforts. The focus of the newly founded International Federation is, in addition to doctrinal harmony, a global church administration.

The bylaws of the International Federation (IF), perfected and adopted in Nigeria, provide for an IF board of directors consisting of three elected officers (president, secretary, and treasurer) and an additional four elected board members. The three elected IF officers are Robert Crawford (president, England); Bryan Cleeton (secretary, United States); and Chip Hinds (treasurer, United States). The four additional elected board members are Whaid Rose (United States), Daniel Flores (United States), John Klassek (Australia), and Gustavo Hultgren (Argentina).

As was the case with the IMC, affiliation with the International Federation is voluntary, and it comes with certain responsibilities. With the IMC, these included agreement with its bylaws, including the official doctrinal statements of the IMC, and participation in its financial support. The affiliated conferences of the IF have similar responsibilities. One improvement, however, is that the financial responsibility of each IF-affiliated conference is specifically stated: 1.5 percent of the tithes and undesignated offerings received at the conference level of each conference and one annual conference-wide offering for the IF, like the IMC Sabbath offerings we have been encouraging for many years. As a result, the financial obligation of our General Conference may amount to less than we have voluntarily been giving to the IMC for years! (Don't worry. If you love to financially support the work of our global church, nothing prevents us from giving more than we are obligated to give.)

Since the end of the November IMC meeting in Nigeria, the Church of God (Seventh Day) is truly a global church!

— Loren Stacy  
GC President



## District News

### Southeast

*Contributors: Jo Allison Krome and Steve Krome, Superintendent*



**Hayride in Hammondville.** The Hammondville, AL church held its annual hayride on October 28 at the home of Ken and Jimmie Pell. The event included a tractor hayride for all and pinatas for the kids. Around 60 members and guests attended and enjoyed a great dinner, events, and fellowship.



**Connecting to Jesus.** The district youth retreat was held at Dayspring Conference Center in Parrish, FL, December 20-24, with 150 youth, young adults, and chaperones from thirteen churches attending. Guest speaker Wesley Perine (TX) preached on the theme "Connected: The Right Source." Worship music, sound, and visuals were provided by our Lakeland, FL church, and Sabbath morning worship was provided by the Tarboro, NC youth. Our Sabbath afternoon Y2Y (Youth 2 Youth) time included participants from six churches and a young man's testimony. Sabbath evening, we had breakout sessions with the older youth, led by Sharon Modeste (South Miami), and the younger youth, led by Patrik George (Port St. Lucie). Many youths came forward in a call to keep their lives connected to the "right source," Jesus Christ.



**Baptisms.** The Stone Mountain church held a baptism service on October 28 at Lake Lanier, GA. It was conducted by Pastor Apen (conference president, Guatemala) and his son, Pastor Walter Apen (Stone Mountain). Congratulations to these brothers and sisters: Haynes Vicente Sontay, Gerson Velasquez Roblero, Kevin Apen Villatoro, Jasmine Diaz Roblero, Yohana Perez Roblero, Albertina Diaz Diaz, Marta H. Roblero Roblero, Marluiver Gonzales Perez, and Rivel C. Roblero Martinez.

### Northeast

*Contributor: Anna Chesney*



### Unity in Youth

On November 11, we hosted a youth rally in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with about 95 youth and young adults coming from Connecticut, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The day was memorable and impactful. Youth and young adults came together as one body, united in their pursuit of a deeper relationship with God.

Led by the Winchester church, the powerful worship service set the tone for the rest of the event. Mark Sullivan's and John Camero's messages resonated with everyone, challenging us to be authentic in our faith and seek a genuine connection with the Father.

Sports activities in the gym built relationships and created lasting bonds. Everyone displayed camaraderie and sportsmanship. Whether playing basketball, volleyball, or even dodgeball, people enjoyed the atmosphere filled with friendly competition.

A campfire fellowship was the perfect way to end



the day. Sitting around the fire, singing songs, playing games, and simply enjoying each other's company created a sense of community and belonging. It was a time of laughter, deep conversations, and building connections that will last beyond the event.

We are grateful to all the volunteers and participants who made this youth rally a success. Together, we created an environment where young people could encounter God, grow in their faith, and form genuine relationships with each other. We are already excited for the next rally and the opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship.

## Southwest

Contributors: Victoria (Tory) Capetillo and Maria Beard



**Transforming churches and families.** Brother Daniel Flores and his church in McAllen, TX, hosted a Welcoming Church workshop on December 1-3. In their teaching on transformed families, Brothers Moises and Pete Capetillo preached on the importance of having God in the center of our marriages and homes. They led the congregation through several activities that resulted in laughter and tears. We are thankful to God for His goodness!



**The blessings of church.** On November 4, the Fort Smith congregation hosted a Welcoming Church workshop,

*led by Brothers Moises and Pete Capetillo. It was a blessed and beautiful day of rest as attendees gathered from Arkansas and Oklahoma to praise the King of Kings. They enjoyed a delicious meal and thanked God for so many blessings for His people. If you'd like to schedule a workshop in your local church, contact your superintendent.*



**New church.** On October 28, the Mensajeros de Cristo congregation in San Elizario, TX, was recognized as a new church in our district. Superintendent Chip Hinds and Area 6 Representative Frank Arroyos were present during this special day. Please remember this church and the work of Pastor Gaudencio Gutierrez and his wife, Clementina, in your prayers.



**Community outreach.** The Ceralvo church in San Antonio, TX, hosted a community outreach event in their neighborhood on October 28. They thank God and all our members who helped make this a blessed event. May God move on all the visitors to revisit soon and join this church.

SWD photos taken by SWD Media Ministry



**Quarterly service.** On December 22-23, the Risen Life church in Midland, TX, hosted the first quarterly service since the pandemic started. Attendees from all over Area 6 joined in worship, praise, and fellowship and listened to speakers Michael Mancha, Esau Hernandez, and Moises Capetillo. The service also included a Welcoming Church workshop teaser, provided by brother Pete Capetillo. The worship group from Tree of Life church led us through beautiful praise and blessed us with communion with God. The joy that radiated in everyone made it clear we all missed gathering for these events. The next one will be held in El Paso, TX, at the Central church. Make plans to attend!



**Purity tips.** On November 11, we celebrated a Pajama Party Night at the El Paso Central church, sponsored by the Women's Department and organized by Claudia Herrera and Graciela Trejo. After a meal, Sister Graciela shared a message on how to keep our eyes, lips, and skin free of all impurities. In the same way, we should keep our spiritual lives free of impurities that can affect our relationship with God. Afterward, we worshipped and praised our Lord and shared testimonies. It was a night of great blessing for all the sisters who were present.



**Leadership meeting.** The Area 1 leadership conducted a meeting in Grand Prairie, TX, on October 22 to select new members of the pastoral board. They also discussed the concept of trust among leaders and provided ways to improve their local ministries. Please continue to pray for the leadership here.

### Southwest Upcoming Events

**March 8-10** - SWD Pastors' Retreat, Camp Tejas, Giddings, Texas

### West Coast

Contributors: Tim Hinds and Melva Smith



### Big Chill 2023

"Listening to God" was the theme for our annual winter retreat in Marion, Oregon. Fifty kids from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho took over our church campus December 20-24.

One of our activities (pictured) was to re-create specific Bible scenes using only Legos! We also enjoyed a variety of games and recreation. The Marion youth took on leadership of this event, and they did a fantastic job.

A team of cooks prepared delicious food, ensuring that no one went away hungry. Student-led praise and worship, daily class times, and evening church services turned our attention to "Listening to God." Area SWORD participants also came alongside the youth to teach classes and present the sermons.

Marion Youth Group (MYG) is already looking forward to Big Chill 2024!

— Tim Hinds





### Honoring Pastor and Congregation

For Pastor Appreciation Month in October, those of us in the Eugene church wrote a note to Pastor Kurt Lang and his wife, Kristi, telling them how much we appreciate and love them.

Using Proverbs 3:27 (“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act,” NIV), Pastor Kurt chose to designate November as Congregation Appreciation Month. On Sabbath, November 11, he began by acknowledging those who had become members of, or transferred their membership to, the Eugene church or General Conference. Next to be acknowledged were all our ministry team leaders, church treasurer, and church secretary. On behalf of the church board, Pastor Kurt and Mary Jean Knoll presented each leader with a card and small gift.

After hearing an encouraging sermon on service, we shared in the baptisms of four in our church family: Frank Phillips, Camrin Cory, Dominic Marshall, and Korah Snodgrass. May they walk with the Lord each day of their lives as He leads and guides them.



— Melva Smith

### Western Canada

*Contributor: Orville Rose, Superintendent*

The final quarter of 2023 saw the district continuing a spectacular year of multiple baptisms. It has been a heart-warming and encouraging time



## ASLEEP IN JESUS

### Nathan Lee Lawson

1941 – 2023



Nathan Lee Lawson was born September 14, 1941, in Harrisburg, Oregon. He passed away November 26, 2023, at age 82.

While attending Midwest Bible College, Nathan became a student pastor of the Kansas City church. Upon graduation, he went on to assignments in Lodi and Stockton, California, pastoring them at the same time.

Nathan also pastored in Nampa, Idaho, and served as superintendent of the Canadian District at the same time. His final move was to Conroe, Texas, where he and his wife finished their pastoral ministry.

In addition to being a pastor and district superintendent, Nathan served on the License and Credentials Committee and executive board.

### Ida Coulter

1932 – 2023



Ida Coulter, wife of retired minister Robert Coulter, passed away November 17, 2023, at age 91. Ida was a lifelong member of the Church of God (Seventh Day) and worked in the Church's General Conference office.

Robert would like to thank those who have sent cards and notes of condolence.

*Please visit our Memorials page (churchright.org) for more on Nathan's and Ida's lives and ministries.*

as the younger attendees are becoming engaged and decide to take the next step of committing their lives to Christ.

On October 7, our Parkland congregation had its annual Super Sabbath. Pastor Jason Overman was dynamic as he encouraged the over 115 members in attendance to experience the difference it makes when one encounters Christ.



November 25 saw the Calgary FYC youth leading out in the services for the day as we celebrated another resoundingly successful Youth Sabbath. Their dual speakers exhorted us on the benefit and relevance of relying on God through prayer.

As we close a year marked by various challenges, we thank God for the many families that have visited our district congregations and decided to make one



their home church. May God continue to bless and establish you all.



**Remember: Lord's Supper  
Sunday, April 21, after sunset**



Around the world, CoG7 missionaries are making an eternal impact, bringing people to Christ. Opportunities await us to proclaim the good news.

We ask that every congregation consider supporting one Cristo Viene missionary this year and commit monthly to pray and financially support their leader's mission. Regular reports will be provided to those who request them.

To sponsor a missionary, visit [cog7.org/giving](http://cog7.org/giving), or earmark your local offering "Cristo Viene."



Find out more at [gcmisions.cog7.org](http://gcmisions.cog7.org)



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Photos (L to R): Burundi •  
Chile • India



### Webinars on the Middle East Conflict



Both events, hosted by Whaid Rose, the Center's dean, featured guest panelists and were well attended.

The webinars focused on our church's historic positive posture toward the modern state of Israel and how Christians should respond to the current conflict. It also featured a time of prayer for peace, hope, and healing for those devastated by the war.

The webinars were recorded, not only for the benefit of registrants who didn't make the live event but also for everyone else who might like to watch. Check them out at [center.artioscollege.org/webinar-resource-list](https://center.artioscollege.org/webinar-resource-list).

Watch for more Artios Center webinars in 2024!

The Artios Center for Vibrant Leadership recently conducted two webinars addressing the Israeli-Hamas conflict.



### Early/Late Fall Graduates

Marna Renteria, Bachelor of Arts in Christian Leadership

Karen Menjivar, Certificate of Leadership Studies

Rebeca Ramirez de Roman, Certificate of Leadership Studies

### New Scholarship

The GC Equipping for Excellence Scholarship exists to encourage and assist students with a 3.5 GPA or better to complete a program through Artios Christian College. The scholarship provides the balance of

tuition for the final 25 percent of courses required to complete a degree or certificate, as long as funds are available and the student remains on schedule to complete the program. Find more information at <https://artioscollege.org/sponsorship/>.



### Calendar Events

**February 12** - Late Winter registration closes

**February 18** - Late Winter classes begin

**April 1** - Early Spring registration closes

**April 7** - Early Spring classes begin

### Late Winter classes

COM 121 Written Communication for Leadership

LEA 111 Essentials of Vibrant Leadership

THE 201 Christian Theology

THE 202 Church of God (Seventh Day) Doctrines

### Early Spring classes

COM 121 Written Communication for Leadership

BIS 104 History & Literature of the New Testament

LEA 331 Church Administration

WOA 311 Prayer Ministry

Register at <https://my.artioscollege.org/en/courses>.



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Church of God (Seventh Day) • P. O. Box 33677 • Denver, CO 80233 • Phone: (303) 452-7973 • Fax: (303) 452-0657  
[churchright@cog7.org](mailto:churchright@cog7.org) • [churchright.org](https://churchright.org)



# Save the Date! GC Convention 2025



June 30 - July 5  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Watch for updates in this publication and on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/COG7.org>)



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