

CHURCHRIGHT

Doing church right



The Praying Church

The week ending July 5 marked the close of our 2025 General Conference convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. The venue was amazing, the fellowship refreshing, the teaching edifying, and the worship invigorating! Indeed, God blessed us with His presence. While we left tired from a busy week, we also left encouraged and strengthened in our faith – to continue walking with our Lord and to *engage* more fully in the work of the kingdom.

The convention was blessed with guests from not only the United States and Canada but also Australia, England, India, Jamaica, and Kenya. Despite the incredible amount of travel – from city to city and nation to nation – God blessed each one with safety.

In all of God's goodness, I am reminded that we must not take these blessings for granted. Just recently, tragedy struck suddenly and catastrophically in Central Texas. Innocent and unwarned, many found themselves in the torrent of flash floods with no place to flee. Camp Mystic, an all-girls summer camp, lost at least 27 campers and counselors – an unspeakable, unimaginable blow. From the heights of summer camp to the unbearable burden that each parent must now carry for a lifetime, there are no words for this moment. For so many, life has changed forever.

I am reminded of Paul's frequent call to prayer: "strive . . . with me in prayers . . . that I may be delivered . . ." (Romans 15:30, 31, NKJV throughout); "brethren, pray for us, . . . that we may be delivered . . ." (2 Thessalonians 3:1, 2); "praying always . . . for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18).

Perhaps no greater illustration of the power of a praying church is Peter's miraculous deliverance from prison from between two soldiers. "Arise quickly!" the angel proclaimed as he led Peter to freedom (Acts 12:7). In this moment of crisis, it was said of the church "constant prayer was offered to God for him" (v. 5).

Churchright is about church happenings. May it be said of us that we are a praying church, covering every event in prayer for God's blessing, grace, and divine hand of protection. *May it be so!*

– Greg Lincoln
GC President



On June 30 - July 5, the Church of God (Seventh Day) family gathered in Salt Lake City, Utah, for our highly anticipated Biennial Convention, hosted at the beautiful Salt Palace Convention Center. This year's theme, "Engage," resonated deeply through every seminar, worship service, and fellowship moment shared among more than 1,000 attendees from across the United States, Canada, and countries as far-reaching as Australia, England, India, Jamaica, and Kenya.

The week was packed with a variety of enriching seminars led by SHINE, Artios Christian College, and other leaders. Topics addressed the broad spectrum of church life and mission, including family ministry, spiritual warfare, standing for life, Christlike hospitality, youth camps, homeschooling, social media, evangelism, pastoral ministry, and even sound system management within church settings.

Attendees also participated in interactive discussions on cultural integration, Sabbath school, and collaboration in service. Of particular note was the introduction of the International Federation, an exciting new effort to strengthen global church unity.

Each evening, the congregation gathered for inspiring worship services, with messages rooted in the call to engage with Christ, the church, and the world. Youth and young adults enjoyed special evening activities, and children were blessed with ongoing ministry and a memorable Sabbath children's program. Music throughout the week uplifted and united hearts, adding beauty to the spiritual tone of the gathering.

Highlights included a heartfelt reception honoring outgoing President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy, recognizing their decade of leadership and service to our church. Other special events included a women's luncheon, Spring Vale Christian School luncheon, and the Artios Meet & Greet, along with the Artios Christian College



graduation, where 27 graduates were honored for their academic achievements.

The biennial business sessions were also a central part of the week, led by board chairman Dennis O'Banion. Each began with a devotional led by an Artios student, setting a spiritual tone for the work ahead. Reports were given on the state of the church, districts, NAMC, and various ministries, along with financial reports.

No new amendments were adopted, but several leadership changes took place. Neftali Hernandez, Sam Holland, Ramon Ruiz, and Robert Grabinsky were elected to six-year board terms, and Dennis O'Banion and Jerad Ullrich to four-year terms. (New officers of the board are Dennis O'Banion, chairman; Sam Holland, vice-chairman; Wayne Hrenyk, secretary; and Neftali Hernandez, treasurer.)

Nominating Committee members elected were Douglas Klopfenstein and Gregory Crayton. Zuri Gutierrez and Nigel Lewis were appointed by the board of directors. The new Amendments Committee is composed of Chip Hinds (chair), Chris Idemmili, and Raul Romo, appointed by Chairman O'Banion.

The week concluded with a significant moment of transition. On the evening of July 5, Greg Lincoln was installed as the new president of the General Conference and Daniel Flores as the new executive director.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Convention Committee, led by Mary Jean Knoll, and a host of volunteers whose service behind the scenes made the entire week run smoothly.

Salt Lake City offered the perfect backdrop – with its scenic beauty, welcoming atmosphere, and many accommodating restaurants – for a week filled with connection, vision, and the unmistakable presence of God.





District News

Central

Contributors: Mike Wallace and Ronald Rousseau, Superintendent



Meeting in Montana. The Montana Fellowship of the CoG7 met May 31 and June 1, with the Wallace family hosting Keith and Sherry Elkington in their home for the weekend. Sabbath services were broadcast via Zoom to our online audience of ten people in three states. In addition to Mike and Bonnie Wallace and the Elkingtons, Lisa Montgomery and Kathy Gignac attended the in-home meeting. Fellowship with the Holy Spirit was the theme of the weekend.



Baptisms. On June 21, eight new souls entered the waters of baptism in Schuyler, NE. It was a great blessing to see these brethren make a covenant with God!

Twogether. The Central and Southwest Districts are collaborating on a new ministry called Twogether Marriage Ministry, focusing on guiding and equipping young married couples. This platform has been launched with a podcast, co-hosted by Pete and Claudia Capetillo (pictured) and is available on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. (Search for “Twogether Marriage Ministry.”)



Southwest

Contributors: Maria Beard and Victoria (Tory) Capetillo, SWD Media Ministry Director



Honoring dads. We had a wonderful time celebrating Father's Day on June 14 at the CoG7 in Artesia Wells, TX! Dads and uncles from our church family enjoyed fellowship and encouragement. Each father received a personalized pie, thoughtfully chosen to match their favorite flavors – a small but meaningful gesture of appreciation.



Dover Family Camp

Dover Family Camp, held June 9-15, was an incredible experience, filled with heartfelt worship, powerful teachings, and the joy of community.

Hosted by the CoG7's Oklahoma Conference, this year's camp focused on the theme "Restoration," inspired by Jeremiah 30:17. Each day was rich with meaningful messages from an amazing lineup of speakers, including Chip Hinds, Barry Mauldin, Daniel Flores, Kirk Grant, Alex DelToro, and others. Evening messages brought inspiration and encouragement from leaders, including Jason Overman, Peter Capetillo, Gerson Gonzalez, and Moises Capetillo.

There was something for everyone – from adult Bible classes, taught by Barry Mauldin, to youth and children's classes, led by a dedicated team of teachers, including Oscar Capetillo, Moises and Pete Capetillo, Tory Capetillo, and Claudia Capetillo. Special attention was given to even the youngest participants, with parent-accompanied classes and fun-filled activities coordinated by Krystal Bland for kids and Andrew and Jenny Anklam for youth.

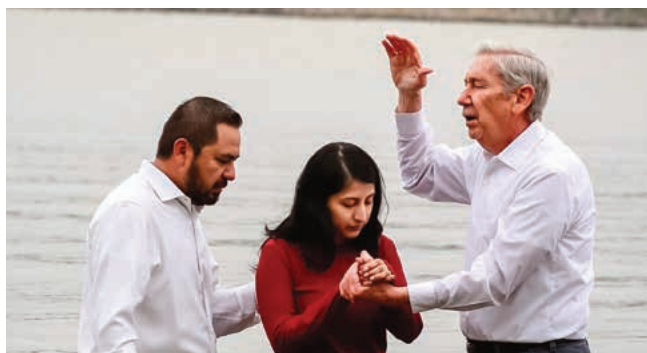
And, of course, the highlight for many: reconnecting with old friends, making new ones, and creating unforgettable memories. Whether gathered in the sanctuary or enjoying fellowship time, the spirit of unity and restoration was felt deeply throughout the week.

It's always hard to leave Dover Camp. But we're already looking forward to next year!



Media Team. On May 3, the El Paso church had the joy of celebrating our dedicated Media Team – those who faithfully serve by managing our Facebook livestream, operating sound, projecting lyrics, and supporting the praise group. Following the service, a special dinner was held in their honor in the church dining room.

During the meal, our pastor and co-pastor presented each team member with a small gift and a certificate of appreciation, recognizing their vital role in the ministry. The evening was filled with warm fellowship, laughter, and gratitude!



Baptisms – Arlington. Our sister church in Arlington, TX, witnessed a beautiful moment of faith on April 6 as four members were baptized, publicly declaring their love for Jesus Christ. May their commitment inspire our community, and may God's love continue to guide them.



Baptisms - Fort Worth. On April 6, our sister church in Fort Worth, TX, with Pastor Isaías Moran, witnessed a beautiful moment as brothers and sisters were baptized. Praise God for their declaration of faith!

West Coast

Contributor: Melva Smith

Family Camp

The Eugene/Springfield CoG7 enjoyed their third annual Family Camp May 23-26 at Sis-Q-Meadows Camp in Cave Junction, Oregon. The weekend began Friday night with a fireside worship service in the picnic shelter. Sabbath included a worship service in the morning, recreational activities in the afternoon, and fireside worship in the evening. Sunday was a play and work day.





Sis-Q hosts many summer camps, including our own Teen and Seekers Camps. Everyone helped to do cleanup and minor repairs, and to set up the teepees for Teen camp. In the afternoon, some hiked, swam, played group games, or went paddle boating in the pond. After a quick breakfast on Monday morning, it was time to go home.

The meals on Sabbath, Sunday, and Monday were each hosted and prepared by different families. Usually more than one family joined in the fun of preparing and serving. It was a very blessed weekend!

Now hiring: Sis-Q-Meadows is in the process of recruiting and hiring a new camp manager. If anyone is interested in more information, please contact Harold Ogren (541-729-1352).



Early Spring 2025 Graduates

Uber Donis, Louisville, KY (Associate of Christian Leadership, Pastoral Ministry)

Israel Pacheco, Thornton, CO (Associate of Christian Leadership, Pastoral Ministry)

Calendar Events

September 15 - Early Fall registration closes

September 21 - Early Fall classes begin

Early Fall Classes

COM 121 Written Communication for Leadership

FAM 301 Family Ministry

LEA 301 Spiritual Formation & Discipleship

PAM 301 Pastoral Ministry

PHI 311 Worldviews (English only)

New for 2025-2026: Limited auditing seats in select classes.

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



ASLEEP IN JESUS

Horatio Daniel Coulson

1943 – 2025

Horatio Daniel Coulson, age 81, of Coopersville, Michigan, went to sleep in Christ on April 8. He was born August 5, 1943.

After graduating high school at Spring Vale Academy, Dan went to Midwest Bible College. He was a licensed minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Church of God (Seventh Day), pastoring in Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Michigan.

For a full memorial of Dan's life, please visit our online Memorials page at <https://churchright.org/category/memorials/>.



Putting the Leader Together

Invest in your leadership through the next Leadership Forum. Sponsored by the Artios Center for Vibrant Leadership, in collaboration with the International Federation's Zone One, the forum delivers grassroots leadership training at the local level. Join Whaid Rose and the Zone One team for the next session on Sunday, August 17, at 2:00 pm. EDT (US and Canada). Theme: "Putting the Leader Together."

This event is conducted virtually. Zoom details:

<https://rb.gy/0bx2q6>

Meeting ID: 894 2902 9807

Passcode: 010217



Explaining the International Federation

Membership and structure

It's important for the membership of all member countries and conferences around the world to understand that the International Federation (Federation) has been structured carefully to avoid being an additional administrative level above each national church.

The Federation is structured to help our member countries and conferences collaborate on missions and to assist in delivering on the commission to spread the gospel to all parts of the world.

The Federation serves to facilitate and strengthen relationships among like-minded Sabbatarian conferences globally.

Objectives and unity

We accomplish our goals by limiting the objectives of the Federation to align with our ancestral organization, the International Ministerial Congress. We maintain the same statement of faith and will develop a similar process for our member countries and conferences to shape the future development of our shared doctrine through their ministerial councils.

We aspire for doctrinal unity through ongoing discussions among our member ministerial councils.

Mediation services

We offer mediation services to our member countries and conferences if they desire our assistance to resolve internal disagreements.

We provide this service by invitation only and have no authority to intervene in the internal operations of any of our member countries or conferences.

Governance

The governance of the Federation consists of a general assembly of delegates from each member country and conference. They meet every four years to elect a board and update its bylaws.

These quadrennial gatherings will also foster fellowship and worship on a global stage for all members of the Federation and not only our ministers.

Global community

We are a global community of Sabbatarians aligned in our mission efforts and doctrinal beliefs.

We seek to deepen our fraternal ties and strengthen our impact around the globe.

The transition from International Ministerial Congress to an International Federation commenced in November 2023. We are quickly approaching the first meeting of the general assembly of the International Federation in 2028. We ask all member countries and conferences to update their governing documents to reflect the transition to the Church of God (Seventh Day) International Federation. In addition, it is important to orient your membership to the new bylaws of the Federation as you prepare to send delegates to the upcoming meeting in 2028.

Please direct any questions or concerns to our executive director by email to international.federation@cog7.au.

— Samuel Holland, Executive Director
Church of God (Seventh Day) International Federation

Zone One Virtual Gathering

Close to 100 attended the virtual gathering on Sunday, May 4, hosted by the International Federation's Zone One team. It was designed to answer questions concerning the formation of the Federation in the place of the International Ministerial Congress.

The Federation's executive director, Samuel Holland, addressed three central questions: Why the change? How will this impact CoG7's global efforts? What does this mean for me and my national conference and local church?

This was followed by a lively and positive Q&A session. With its mission accomplished, the gathering ended with a rendition of Samuel Stone's classic hymn "The Church's One Foundation" and a prayer by Greg Lincoln, General Conference president.



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Did you know?

Artios has provided leadership training for 53 percent of current licensed pastors and dozens of other local and GC leaders.

Supporting Artios is supporting your local church. Give at artioscollege.org/give.



The International Federation

Federation zone representatives will meet via Zoom on September 24.

Conference representatives (presidents) and Federation zone representatives will meet via Zoom on December 3.

Be sure to pray for these important sessions.

