

# CHURCHRIGHT

Doing church right



## AI Policy

In our society that leans heavily on technology, the BAP recognizes the need for a policy on using artificial intelligence in our publications.

You can view this policy at [baonline.org](http://baonline.org) (About/Write For Us).

## Praying in Jesus' Name

More than rhetoric and slogan, a Christ-centered church is a defining aim and passionate pursuit of our fellowship (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:10, 11). For nearly three decades, a Christ-centered church has served as the foundation of our ten-point vision. It has marked our unity, shaped our present (Ephesians 2:20), and guided our future (Revelation 1:7).

But how do we, individually and as the Church of God, ensure and continue in this holy pursuit? Focus on Jesus and follow His plan? *Yes, and amen!* Specifically, consider how Jesus taught us to pray. When we pray, our norm should be to pray to the Father in Jesus' name. While no prayer addressed to Jesus is a bad prayer and is wholly appropriate at times (Acts 7:59), the normative pattern Jesus gave us reveals this order: "When you pray, say: our Father . . ." (Luke 11:2, NKJV).

This call to pray to the Father *in Jesus' name* is not a move toward legalism. Rather, emphasizing the agency of Christ in prayer reveals and reminds us of something glorious, and, in turn, releases a renewed passion for both the Christ-centered life and the church.

Remember, we pray in Jesus' name to the Father because, apart from Christ, we have no right, no access, and no ability to come before God (John 14:6). But as we pray this way, receiving Christ as our great High Priest and only Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5), we glorify Jesus and the Father.

*Far from deemphasizing Christ, prayer in His name to the Father does the opposite.* As the church prays this way, an incredible effect unfolds: 1) Passion for our great High Priest is ignited as we, by faith, understand that we have access to the One who is holy *through Christ alone*. 2) Unity comes clearly into focus as we understand that each of us enters the presence of God the same way – *in Christ alone*. 3) As we continually come into communion with the One who is eternal – *by Christ alone* – our present and future become inextricably linked to Jesus.

Yes, Church, we are wise to remember this glorious order in prayer wholly relates to our pursuit of being a Christ-centered church.

In His Name,  
Greg Lincoln  
GC President



# District News

## Northeast

Contributor: Esther Winchell



**Focusing on women.** For many years, a good number of our congregations have selected a Sabbath and let their sisters lead for the day. In March we had participation in our Women's Emphasis Sabbath from Saginaw, MI; Fort Wayne, IN (Bowser Avenue); Lanham, MD (pictured); Lake Peekskill, NY; and Bridgeport, CT. Some congregations will participate later due to scheduling but will still use the theme "Be a Diamond," based on Ephesians 5:8.

**Super Sabbath.** On April 11, the House of Prayer church in Lake Peekskill, NY, hosted a Super Sabbath. Other congregations from New York



(Selden, Yonkers, Lynbrook, and Oxford); Passaic, NJ; Bridgeport, CT; and Lynn, MA, enjoyed great praise and worship. Superintendent Rex Miller shared two messages based on forgiveness. After a great meal provided by the sisters, Elder Miller met with local pastors and leaders, and Esther Winchell met with Women's Ministry directors from the attending churches. The youth group sold fruit slushies to raise funds for their upcoming retreat. Let's do it again real soon!

## Southeast

Contributor: Steve Krome, Superintendent



**New church.** On March 21, the district welcomed our newest church located in Louisville, KY. The members of Louisville were joined by members of the Lexington church, and sermons were delivered by Pastor Walter Apen (incoming superintendent) and Steve Krome (outgoing superintendent). Join us in welcoming our newest church, Louisville Iglesia de Dios (Septimo Dia)!

## Central

Contributor: Ronald Rousseau, Superintendent



**Welcome, Worthington!** We were blessed to fellowship with the mission in Worthington, MN, on April 3-5. During our visit, we anointed Elder Elias Gomez, who recently received his certificate as a local pastor. On Sabbath, we formally transitioned the mission to a church in the Central District. We were accompanied by the Sioux Falls church, led by Minister Oscar Mata and his wife, Nancy. The Worthington church made us feel at home.

## Southwest

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

**Dover women's retreat.** Women from Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma gathered March 27-29 in Dover, OK, for a meaningful time of fellowship and spiritual renewal. We were reminded that we are daughters of the King – worthy, chosen, and deeply loved. We are grateful for the speakers, praise team,



*and all those who served behind the scenes. From the inspiring messages and uplifting worship, to the thoughtfully prepared meals, banquet, and evening activities, every detail contributed to a truly memorable retreat.*



**Super Sabbath - Fort Smith.** Areas 2 and 4 gathered in fellowship for their Super Sabbath on April 18. We were honored by the presence of Greg Lincoln, GC president, and Daniel Flores, GC executive director and president of the North American Ministerial Council, along with their wives. Approximately 300 brothers and sisters attended, rejoicing in the Lord and united in spirit.



**Super Sabbath - El Paso.** On April 10-11, the CoG7 Central and CoG7 Socorro congregations in El Paso hosted the Area 6 Super Sabbath under the powerful theme “If Your Presence Will Not Go With Me.” The weekend was a meaningful time of worship, reflection, and spiritual renewal. On Friday evening Co-Pastor Santiago Trejo preached, followed the next day by inspiring sermons from Pastor Lorenzo Rodriguez, Area Representative Eduardo Villalba, and Superintendent Chip Hinds. A strong spirit of unity and renewal was evident among all who attended. The weekend concluded Saturday evening with a leadership meeting, where local leaders received valuable guidance and updates.



**Youth night.** At the conclusion of the evening church service on March 14, a special activity titled Noche Mexicana took place, sponsored by the youth department at the El Paso Central church. It featured delicious Mexican food, games, and friendly contests, all in support of their ministry. We enjoyed flavorful tacos and a variety of traditional dishes while sharing meaningful fellowship with one another. Let us continue to pray for our young people, that they may remain steadfast in the ways of the Lord and that this event would be a blessing to their ministry. – Maria Beard

**Super Sabbath - Pharr, TX.**

Area 7 had its Super Sabbath in Pharr, TX, on March 7 with the theme “Our Close Relationship with God.” More than 200 people gathered to hear God’s message from GC President Greg Lincoln and Steve Kyner, chairman of the License and Credentials Committee. Worship, fellowship, and prayer were essential parts of this event. On Sunday, leaders from the area heard different speakers and presentations motivating and instructing them to unite around the GC vision.



**SWD Upcoming Events**

June 14-21 - Dover Family Camp

## West Coast

Contributors: Kurt Lang, Jennifer Stucker, and Aaron Carbajal, WCD Media Ministry Director

### Unity in the Northwest

The annual Pacific NW Super Sabbath was held March 7 in Eugene, Oregon. About 350 friends from churches in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho enjoyed this day of worship together, centered around the theme of Unity (Ephesians 4). Pastor Brian Larson from Spokane was our guest speaker, encouraging us to live out the unity of the Spirit among and through us.

With a great children's program led by the Portland church, inspiring worship songs led by the Marion church, encouraging reports provided by Harold



Ogren (Sis-Q Meadows Camp) and Greg Haffner (West Coast District update), and the help of many others, our day together was blessed. Youth pastor Tim Hinds (Marion) and other leaders rounded out the day with a gym night and program for the teens, while the young adults enjoyed a game night led by Nakia Keim (Eugene).

Our services were live streamed and can be found on the Marion CoG7 YouTube page. Of course, the written details of the day never do justice to the camaraderie and love shared among the body of Christ. Let's plan for next year and do it again!

— Kurt Lang

### Visiting Santo Domingo

A group of us from Marion CoG7 recently traveled to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic to serve alongside a local pastor and congregation in Bambu. We partnered with TIME missions and Crosshill Christian School.

One of our primary projects was helping build a chapel for the growing church community. It was a joy to see the structure come together, knowing it will be a place where people gather to worship, learn, and experience God's presence for years to come.

Our team also hosted a three-day Vacation Bible School program for area children. We gathered with mothers who brought their children to VBS, spending time in group Bible study, sharing together, and lifting one another up in prayer.

In addition, we organized a sports ministry, which created opportunities to build relationships and open doors for sharing personal testimonies of faith and God's work in our lives.

A special part of the trip was our women's minis-



Attendees from the Marion CoG7 (L to R): Loren, Jennifer, Jeremiah, Ashley, and Kevin Stucker.



try outreach. We delivered meals and visited widows, offering encouragement through God's Word and prayer. These moments reminded us of the importance of presence, compassion, and lifting one another up in faith. We also visited homes and distributed study Bibles to pastors' wives and community leaders.

Throughout the trip, we witnessed God at work — in the lives of those we served and within our own hearts. We returned home grateful and encouraged, reminded that even small acts of service can have an eternal impact when done in Jesus' name.

— Jennifer Stucker  
WCD Women's Ministries Director



**Quarterly reunion.** On March 21, churches in Southern California met for a quarterly reunion in the San Fernando Valley, hosted by the church in Bell, CA. With the theme “Under His Grace” (John 1:15-18), Minister Oscar Mata reflected on the teachings of God’s Word. The day was filled with many blessings, demonstrated through heartfelt worship and meaningful fellowship among the churches, families, and guests.

(Photo: Miguel Orbe)

**Mental health workshop.** The Marriage Ministry of Las Vegas, with the local CoG7 church (United in Christ), hosted Minister David Lozano on April 10-11 in Las Vegas, NV. Through his sessions on mental health, we were reminded of the importance of caring for our mental and emotional well-being and how it directly impacts our families, children, and marriages. The event proved to be a powerful and uplifting experience. The recordings of the workshop can be found on the WCD Media Ministry YouTube page.



## Western Canada

Contributor: Orville Rose, Superintendent



**Blessed by youth.** On March 7, the Parkland CoG7 youth led the congregation in a time of worship. From hymns and choruses of praise to testimonies and special readings, the congregation was blessed by this entourage of youth. The services were capped off by Isaiah Camero and Sergio Martinez encouraging the brethren to give their all to the Lord and follow Christ.



**Ladies Sabbath.** The Calgary congregation hosted their annual Ladies Sabbath. Under the theme “Women of Worship,” they led in a theme-driven series of blessings, including Sabbath school and praise and worship. A special ladies choir presentation stirred visitors and congregants alike into worship. The keynote speaker, Paula Moore, encouraged the audience to use their God-given abilities and uniqueness in expressions of worship.

## WCD Upcoming Events

**June 12-14** - Women’s Retreat, Oakhurst, CA  
“Beauty for Ashes”

**July 13-19** - Arizona Youth Camp, Prescott, AZ  
“Awaken” - Ephesians 5:14

**July 20-26** - Northern CA Youth Camp, Weimar, CA  
“Follow Me” - Matthew 16:24

**September 16-20** - Adult Senior Retreat  
Sis-Q Meadows, Cave Junction, OR



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## CoG7 Leaders Meet in Denver

The 2026 Annual General Conference Leadership Meetings were held April 26-29 in Denver, Colorado, led by President Greg Lincoln and Executive Director Daniel Flores. These meetings provided an important opportunity for GC leadership to gather for prayer, collaboration, evaluation, and planning.

All seven district superintendents attended. They included incoming Superintendent Walter Apen, who will officially begin his tenure on July 1 in the Southeast District, following the retirement of longtime servant Steve Krome on June 30. Also attending were the directors of Artios, Publications, and Missions and representatives from the NAMC, along with department leaders from Communications and Information Technology. GC board chairman Dennis O'Banion contributed valuable insight into organizational mission.

The meetings began Sunday evening with a special meal to express appreciation for the faithful service of the GC leadership team. A special service centered on building trust and strengthening relationships through worship, prayer, and encouragement. Daniel Flores shared a message on connection with Christ, reminding everyone of their continual need for His touch and presence in life and ministry.

Monday began with a devotional message by Superintendent Rex Miller, followed by sharing and discussion on strengthening collaboration across Ministries and departments. Each Ministry and department presentation concluded with prayer, seeking God's blessing, wisdom, and direction. Discussions also focused on clarifying and strengthening the General Conference's mission, vision, and organizational identity, with emphasis on building and maintaining trust at every level of leadership. Greg Lincoln opened this session by sharing reflections on the mission of the General Conference, along with personal highs

and lows that provided transparency and encouragement.

Ministry updates were shared by Artios, Publications, Missions, Communications, and Information Technology. A recurring theme was the need for stronger disciple-making efforts and greater engagement with younger generations for the continued health and vitality of the Church.

Tuesday and Wednesday were devoted to meetings between the district superintendents and the executive team. Steve Krome was given special recognition for his years of faithful service, with the leaders praying God's blessing upon him in this new season.

The time together was marked by honest discussion, spiritual unity, and a renewed sense of purpose. As leaders departed, there was a shared commitment to move forward with greater clarity, collaboration, and focus on Christ. Please pray for all General Conference leaders as they labor together to advance Christ's kingdom and strengthen His church.

## L&CC Meets in McAllen

This year, the License and Credentials Committee met March 3-10 in McAllen,



Texas. Sabbath services were held in Pharr, Texas, where folks gathered with members of the board of directors, GC president and executive director, president and vice president of the Ministerial Council, Southwest District superintendent, and all seven members of the License and Credentials Committee.

It was a productive and meaningful year for the L&C Committee. We reviewed and renewed numerous LPC, ministerial licenses, ministerial credentials, and retirement documents. In addition, we granted new ministerial recognitions, including eleven Local Pastor Certificates, six Ministerial Licenses, and two Ministerial Credentials.

It was a privilege to spend eight days in fellowship together. We were especially encouraged to interact

with an exciting rising generation of leaders within the Church.

Reflecting on this time, we realize the ongoing need for laborers in the work of the kingdom. We seek men, both young and seasoned, who feel led to prepare for service through Artios Christian College.

We also seek professionals, or those nearing retirement, who desire to invest in gospel work. If you are sensing His call, we would love to connect with you.

– Steve Kyner, Chairman  
L&C Committee



## Winter Dean's List\* recipients

Arnulfo de la Cruz, Otoniel de la Cruz, Adiel de Leon, Otniel De Leon, Pedro Estrada, Jessica Franks, Rogelio Giron, Noe Gomez, Elias Gomez Marroquin, Greg Haffner, Alvaro Hernandez, Carlos Jimenez, Kurt Lang, Alirio Luna Sosa, Wilfredo Mejia, Dan Melendez de la Torre, Jose Perez, Margarito Perez, Justo Perez Marroquin, Jose Perez Vasquez, Oscar Retana, Emmanuel Santoyo, Félix Uz Cubule, Manrique Velazquez.

\* Dean's List recipients earn eight credits per quarter, with a minimum 3.5 GPA.

## New Spanish Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs

Artios Christian College is pleased to announce the new Spanish Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, David Lozano. David has served as an instructor, lecturer, and curriculum writer for several years. We look forward to David's passion for God in this new role. David started on March 15. You can read his biography at [tinyurl.com/4476feph](http://tinyurl.com/4476feph).

We would also like to thank Santiago Chavez for serving in this role for twelve years. He developed the Spanish program nearly from scratch and has managed it since that time. We are grateful for all he has done for Artios over the years.



## Online Conversations

Join Artios Center

Dean Whaid Rose and featured guests for a series of invigorating conversations on the second Thursday of every other month at 9 p.m. (EDT). The first two conversations were Artificial Intelligence: Navigating



the Good and Bad of AI's Rapidly Expanding Landscape (March) and Lowering the Stigma on Mental Health (May). The next conversation will be July 9.

Learn more and register at [my.artioscollege.org/en/resources](http://my.artioscollege.org/en/resources).



## Calendar Events

**July 9** - Artios Center for Vibrant Leadership Online Conversation

**July 13** - Summer registration closes

**July 19** - Summer classes begin

## Summer Classes

COM 121 Written Communication for Leadership

LEA 121 The Christian Life\*

PSY 321 Principles of Counseling

\* Course with limited audit

availability

Register at [my.artioscollege.org/en/courses](http://my.artioscollege.org/en/courses).





## Become an Artios Prayer Partner!

Artios Christian College  
needs your prayers . . .

for our students, our  
instructors, and our staff.

Contact

[lisa.harp@artioscollege.org](mailto:lisa.harp@artioscollege.org).

*Praying up leaders for a  
vibrant 21<sup>st</sup> century church.*



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