

CHURCHRIGHT

Doing church right

The Mission Before Us

Go! This is the preeminent mission given to the church by her Head, Christ Jesus (Mark 16:15). Timeless and commanded regardless of context, the calling before us is clear: *Go and tell the world the good news!*

The early church understood this directive well. Peter and John, under severe threat and forbidden by the religious authorities to preach Jesus, responded, “We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). And while scattered, other early disciples – with Stephen’s martyrdom in their immediate past and a great persecution underway – “went everywhere preaching the word” (v. 4).

As the body of Christ we must, with renewed focus, engage in the mission before us.

Standing at the forefront of our collective efforts is GC Missions, led by interim Director Daniel Flores, Assistant Director Moises Capetillo, and Grant Manager Priscilla Weekes. We are grateful for these servant-leaders who hold great passion for proclamation and go-ing! Under their leadership, widows and orphans are cared for, while churches, pastors, and missionaries around the world are supported in advancing the gospel.

The vision of GC Missions is expressed through four primary areas: 1) Global Missions (supporting foreign missions and sister churches outside the United States and Canada (US and C); 2) Church Planting (assisting districts and local churches in planting, developing, and strengthening congregations within the US and C; 3) Evangelism and Discipleship (advancing evangelism, discipleship, church cooperation, and spiritual renewal); and 4) Compassion Ministries (disaster relief, helping the poor, and special projects).

The mission before us is clear and unambiguous. As with the early church, we must be moved with determination, purpose, passion, and action for this holy and high calling. And by God’s grace, may we boldly proclaim the love of God and the gospel of Christ, no matter the context or consequence.

Greg Lincoln
GC President



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District News

Central

Contributor: Ronald Rousseau, Superintendent



Dodge City visit. On June 5-7, Brother Juan Arzet, his wife, Norma, and Brother Arno Galvez visited the Dodge City congregation in Kansas. Three sisters of that congregation were baptized by Brother Arzet. The day included a church picnic and a presentation by Sister Arzet with the women's group. Brother Arzet also preached in the afternoon.

Northeast

Contributor: Esther Winchell



Blessing in New York. April 11 was a blessed, full day in Lake Peekskill, NY, at the Casa de Oracion Iglesia de Dios (Septimo Dia) House of Prayer congregation. Area churches from Selden, Oxford, Younkers, Lynnbrook, Saginaw, Grand Rapids, Owosso, and Boston (Spanish) were among those that attended. Pastor Rex Miller delivered Local Pastor Certificates to William Benoni

Aba Guzman. Various churches led us in worship with services in the morning and afternoon, following a delicious meal served by the hosting church.

Southwest

Contributor: Victoria (Tory) Capetillo, SWD Media Ministry Director



Women's Ministry gathering. On May 16, approximately 80 women met in Dallas for a beautiful evening of worship, fellowship, and encouragement centered on the theme "A Faith That Watches, A Heart That Waits" (Matthew 25:1-13). Through inspiring worship by the Piedra Angular Women's Ministry, meaningful fellowship, and a message from SWD Women's Director Jessica Salazar, attendees were encouraged to remain prayerful, faithful, and spiritually prepared for Christ's return. Each woman received a lamp and vial of oil as a special reminder to stay filled with the Holy Spirit and ready to serve God.



Marriage workshop. Couples gathered on May 30 at the Messengers of Christ Church in San Elizario, TX, for the New Wine marriage workshop, led by Esau and Mayra Hernandez. Through biblical teaching, practical encouragement, and meaningful fellowship, attendees were reminded of God's design for marriage and the importance of continually renewing their relationship with one another and with Christ. The workshop provided couples with tools to strengthen their marriages and grow together in faith.

Youth worship night. On May 23, the El Paso youth and SWORD gathered at Fuente de Vida Church in El Paso, TX, for an inspiring evening of worship, fellowship, and spiritual encouragement centered on the



theme “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young” (1 Timothy 4:12, NIV). Attendees were blessed by messages from Caleb Lopez and Gabriel Castaño, who encouraged youth to boldly live out their faith and allow God to use them to lead and serve others.



Immersion. On May 1-2, more than 250 young adults from across the SWD, along with brethren from Mexico, gathered for the Immersion young adults event at the Adonai church (Friday night) and Truevine church (Saturday) in Austin. The weekend was dedicated to worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Through messages from Ruben Alonso, Neftalí Hernández, and Daniel Flores, attendees studied the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 18. They focused on childlike forgiveness, biblical conflict resolution, reconciliation, and the joy of restoration.



Dover Family Camp. Families from across the Southwest District and beyond gathered June 14-21 for the Dover Family Camp, centered on the theme “Walk On, No Matter Where the Road Leads” (2 Corinthians 5:7). With

a record attendance of more than 200 campers, the week was filled with inspiring biblical messages, uplifting worship, children’s and youth programs, fellowship, and activities for all ages. Throughout the week, attendees were encouraged to continue walking by faith and trusting God through every season of life. The camp was a wonderful time of spiritual renewal, strengthening family bonds, and building lasting friendships in Christ.

Upcoming Events

August 1 - SWD Youth Conference, Conroe, TX

September 4-7 - National Women’s Retreat, El Paso, TX

September 26 - Area 6 Super Sabbath, Albuquerque, NM

West Coast

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



Sent out and set in. Isaiah 6:8 was the theme of the February 28 sermon by Kurt Lang, pastor of the Eugene, OR church. He encouraged all of us to listen for the Lord’s voice and answer His call as Isaiah did. At the end of his sermon, we had opportunity to “send out” Jacob Keim from our congregation to assume the position of youth pastor at the Harrisburg CoG7. Jacob has been our worship team leader for about six years. That same Sabbath, we “set in” our new worship team leader, Kadian Keim. We are delighted and blessed to have her take on this ministry! – Melva Smith

ASLEEP IN JESUS

Mary Ann Patchen

1933 - 2026

Mary Ann Patchen, 92, of Owosso, Michigan, peacefully passed away on April 22 at her home.

Mary graduated from Spring Vale Academy in 1952. She and her husband, Vernon, began their ministry at Spring Vale as a young married couple in 1959. They pastored the New Auburn congregation in Wisconsin and returned to the Spring Vale campus in 1966. Vernon and Mary lived on campus, serving in many different roles for the rest of their lives.

Read Mary's full memorial at churchright.org.



Photo: Dalia Carbajal

that invites women into the freedom, healing, and restoration that God desires for them. Throughout the weekend, women gathered in a safe, grace-filled environment to share their stories without shame and experience the hope and healing found in Jesus Christ.

Through powerful personal testimonies woven together with biblical narratives, participants explored God's redemptive work in the lives of ordinary people. Attendees were challenged to reflect on and answer the life-changing question "How do you currently see Jesus in this season of your life?"

Throughout the retreat, women selected personal "power verses" to remind them of their identity in Christ. The gospel message was shared during the weekend, and an invitation was extended for women to respond to God's call in their lives. A special prayer service was reserved for those seeking personal prayer, creating sacred moments for healing, encouragement, and spiritual renewal.

To support continued spiritual growth beyond the retreat, each participant received a follow-up Bible study designed to be completed at home and within their local church communities. The study encourages women to continue reflecting on God's healing work, their identity in Christ, and the freedom found through His grace.

As they returned home, the women carried with them the assurance that God is still transforming ashes into beauty and restoring hearts through His unfailing love.

— Jennifer Stucker

Note: The full version of this report can be found at churchright.org.



Reign Revival. *What is worship? How should we worship? Why should we worship? And what does it mean to live a life of worship? We tackled all of these questions and more at the Reign Revival youth rally, hosted in Eugene March 27-29. The theme was "If the Rocks Cry Out," with Luke 19:40 as the key verse. Korban Lang spoke Sabbath morning, and Kadian Keim, Keziah Keim, and Madde McKibben shared devotions. Throughout our classes and sermon, we learned that we were made to worship, and discussed how to live a life of worship. As a service project, we assembled food bags and wrote encouraging messages that were distributed to those in need. We hope to see you next year! — Jordan Lang*

Beauty for Ashes

The WCD Women's Ministries recently hosted a Beauty for Ashes Women's Retreat in Oakhurst, California. Beauty for Ashes is a ministry movement

Family Camp. *The Eugene church participated in our fourth annual Family Camp May 22-25 at Sis-Q Meadows. Our theme was "Created by God: Made for a Purpose," with devotions led by Jerry Ogren.*



Pastor Kurt Lang also led us in creating family crests, symbolizing what is most important to our families. We were blessed to help the camp facility gear up for summer camps by doing various projects. Thank you to Sis-Q Meadows and their new caretakers, Zach and Angie Boettner, for hosting us. — Kurt Lang

Super Sabbath. Our sister church in Shoreline, WA, hosted the West Coast Super Sabbath on May 23. The theme, “Imitators of Christ,” challenged everyone to continue following Christ on their journey, stand firm in His Word, and impact the next generation with their testimony. Two hundred attendees gathered to celebrate



the Sabbath and enjoy fellowship among brethren from the area. On Friday, GC President Greg Lincoln and Executive Director Daniel Flores provided messages and shared the GC vision and mission.

Photos: Jamin Teran



Men’s Retreat. The “Epic Friends” Men’s Retreat was held May 22–24 at the Evergreen Conference Center in Oakhurst, CA, near Yosemite National Park. Minister Abelardo Alarcón from Mexico presented five workshops for the attendees – a total of 140 men from various congregations within the district. These were days of fellowship, spiritual instruction, and strengthening of faith. Each participant shared moments of unity, reflection, and spiritual growth with brothers united by a common purpose. God willing, we will see each other again in 2027!

West Coast District Events

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



Preserving the Past

The BAP’s long anticipated archiving project is underway! Thanks to the investment of the board of directors, meaningful first steps have been taken toward preserving the historic publications of the General Conference for the benefit of future generations.

Special thanks to Isaac Overman (pictured), who spent four weeks (May 18 - June 12) at the GC offices to launch the project. The scope of Isaac’s work included scanning fragile historical publications, organizing files, and creating preservation-quality and access-oriented digital copies. In total, Isaac scanned over 30,000 pages spanning the first seventy years of *The Hope of Israel/Bible Advocate* from 1863 to 1932.

The project has just begun, but we are pleased with this excellent start.



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Convention 2027

You are invited to join us for the Biennial Convention of the Church of God (Seventh Day) June 28 – July 3, 2027, in Greensboro, North Carolina! Our Convention theme is “In His Presence.”

From Sabbath gatherings to daily life in this world, we all sense our great need for deeper revelation and increased awareness of God’s presence in our lives. Please plan now to attend this life-changing week of fellowship, learning, and worship as we explore what it means to gather, live, experience, be transformed, minister, and serve in the very presence of God.

Preparing the heart and house for worship, abiding daily in Christ, beholding His glory, hearing His voice, and being sent on mission with Him: By the grace of God, this convention will stir fresh hunger for God’s manifest presence. Come expecting to experience the restoring, revealing, and transforming work of the Holy Spirit as we are brought into the presence of the King!

Yes, come ready to meet with God.

Join us for “In His Presence.”

Please pray with us as we prepare for this event. May all experience His grace, His joy, His Spirit through His glorious presence among us as we gather in His name!

In His presence

... everything changes.

(Find convention updates at cog7.org/convention.)

Seasoned with Grace

Due to be published before the end of 2026, *Seasoned with Grace* is a unique women’s devotional designed to encourage, inspire, and strengthen faith through every season of life.

This beautifully crafted resource features 52 uplifting devotions drawn from the lives of women in the Bible, offering timeless lessons that help us



grow in grace, wisdom, and devotion to God. To make the experience even more enjoyable, the book also includes 25 delicious recipes that complement its message of nourishment for both body and soul.

Whether for personal growth, Bible study, or as a thoughtful gift, *Seasoned with Grace* is a meaningful resource for women of all ages. Watch for its release, and share the blessing with someone who could use encouragement, hope, and inspiration on their faith journey.

The devotional will also be available in Spanish.

MIT 2026 is Coming!

Save the dates December 22-27, 2026, for Mission Immersion Training (MIT) in McAllen, Texas.

We are excited for what God is preparing, and we invite everyone to begin praying, preparing, and staying connected for more information. Additional details regarding applications, cost, travel, and schedule will be released soon.

For now, please help us spread the word and encourage those who may be interested to pray about being part of MIT 2026.





Endowment Fund

We are excited that the Artios Endowment Fund has now been established! This remarkable blessing will help us continue to equip students and strengthen local churches for years to come.

Now we have an incredible opportunity to multiply our impact. Every dollar you give will be matched dollar for dollar, effectively doubling your contribution and expanding the reach of this ministry. The matching opportunity is available through December 2027.

Your generosity will directly support the development of our students, our staff, and our ministry that serves our churches both locally and beyond. No gift is too small – every contribution becomes part of a greater mission and creates a lasting legacy of faith, leadership, and service.

Together, we can maximize this opportunity, extend our reach, and make an even greater difference. Thank you for partnering with us in this important work and for helping transform lives for the glory of God.



Give today at <https://secure.cog7.org/giving/>. (If giving via the online option, select Artios - Endowment Fund on the pull-down menu.)

Note: Principal contributions to the Artios Endowment Fund are permanently invested and preserved. Only earnings and authorized distributions are used for ministry purposes.

Artios Center Online Conversations

Join Artios Center Dean Whaid Rose and featured guests for a series of invigorating conversations on the second Thursday every other month at 9 p.m. Eastern time. Conversations so far have been on such relevant topics as artificial intelligence, mental health, and grief. The next conversation will be September 10.

Learn more and register at my.artioscollege.org/en/resources.



Calendar Events

September 7 - Early Fall registration closes

September 10 - Artios Center for Vibrant Leadership Online Conversation

September 13 - 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

** Course with limited audit availability*

Register at my.artioscollege.org/en/courses.



What's New With the International Federation?

2028 General Assembly in Guatemala, scheduled for March 6-11, 2028, is a week of worship, fellowship, and business sessions.

Youth & Young Adults Forum Committee held its first meeting on **May 17, 2026**. Officers were elected and initial planning began.

A new Federation logo was adopted by the IF board in April 2026. The logo's elements (tree, branches, colored leaves, globe, and open book) represent life in Christ, connection, diversity, global mission, and the Word of God.



Artios Endowment Fund



Through your generous gift today, Artios Christian College can continue preparing the next generation of pastors, teachers, and ministry leaders to faithfully serve our churches and reach their communities with the gospel.

Your contributions today will equip students for years to come.

Don't miss this chance! Qualifying gifts are being matched dollar for dollar through December 2027.

Principal contributions are permanently invested and preserved. Only earnings and authorized distributions are used for ministry purposes.

See page 7 for more details and how to give.

ARTIOS ENDOWMENT FUND

