

GA Today

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY



JULY 30—AUGUST 3, 2018
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

77TH CHURCH OF GOD INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY | AUGUST 2, 2018

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

Thursday Events

Prayer Ministry

9:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m., 204 ABC

International General Council

Prayer: 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.;
8:30—11:30 a.m.; 1:30—4:30 p.m.

Buy A Tree/Change A Life

11:30 a.m., 307 D

Ohio State Office

12:00 noon, 307 AC

Latin American Banquet

11:30 a.m.

Executive Ballroom, Rosen Centre

Kids Day Camp

1:00—5:00 p.m., 205, 206 ABC

International Junior Talent

1:00 p.m., Chapin Theater

Children's Church

7:00 p.m., 206 ABC

Kids Church

7:00 p.m., 205 ABC

World Missions Director's Reception

9:00 p.m.—11:30 p.m.

Valencia CD

West Coast/Northwest/ Patten University Reception

9:15 p.m.—11:30 p.m., 209 ABC

En Español 16

GA2018

Lee University Celebrates Centennial

By Cameron Fisher

On January 1 of this year, Lee University began a year-long commemoration of its 100th birthday, recognizing the snowy day on January 1, 1918, when a dozen students and one teacher opened the first day of Bible Training School.

FAITH • FIRE • FREEDOM

By Déborah E. Ortiz



Joyce Rodgers ministers during the Women's Service.

On Wednesday morning, the women of the Church of God gathered together to celebrate *Faith, Fire, and Freedom* at the Valencia Ballroom of the OCCC. Leslie Ruiz opened the worship service, followed by a video greeting from General Overseer Timothy M. Hill. Dr. Hill highlighted the accomplishments of International Women's Ministries, as well as announcing the upcoming Celebration of Faith, Fire, and Freedom in Israel in 2020. Paula Hill, president of International Women's Ministries, welcomed to the stage Theresa Arwood who, along with her husband, Joel Arwood, will be leading the event to the Holy Land.

First Lady Hill read the opening scripture, Luke 1:36-37, and asked the

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It's not everyday someone, or something, turns 100. With the milestone comes reasons to celebrate, and Lee University is rightfully claiming as many opportunities as possible to tell their Lee story in many events and venues.

This week is the culmination of weeks of planning by Lee University staff, alumni and volunteers, led by Centennial Committee Chairman Dr. Jayson VanHook. The efforts show, particularly in the magnificent display that dominates the entrance to the Exhibit

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Junior Talent Debuts

By David White

A girl named Addison, dressed in ballerina blue, asked for water to clear her singing throat and tissue to blow her nose. A mime named Caleb laughed out loud at a joke, proving mimes can talk, after all. A 12-year-old twisted her locks of hair with her finger as she pretended to be Jairus' daughter.

One young girl from East Canada plucked at her violin strings. A boy out of Tennessee ran his fingers over the chords of an unplugged electric guitar. Still other children spun in their chairs, fidgeted in their seats, and asked if it was their turn yet as everyone waited in the cinder-blocked backstage for a chance to make history at the International General Assembly.

Everyone, meet the Jeremiah Generation: Kids Edition. They'll be here all week, mostly in the Chapin Theater, singing, dramatizing, Bible quizzing

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FAITH • FIRE • FREEDOM

—continued from page 1

audience: "What is it that is barren in your life that needs to be resurrected? God wants to resurrect those things in your life. With God nothing is impossible."

The service continued with the members of the International Women's Ministries Advisory Council, Peggy Culpepper, Joyce Stephens, Fernanda Ramírez, and Debbie Childers, joining Sister Hill on stage for the presentation of Women's Ministries awards. The 'Hope Released' Project award was presented to Rosalba Pérez, director of *Provisión de Amor*, for her dedication to the safe house she founded to rescue young girls from the streets of Cota, Colombia.

There was also a presentation of the state/regional directors of Women's Ministries who raised the most money per capita for the 'Hope Released' Project. New York and South Carolina were the top two winners. In total, the women of the Church of God raised \$535,000 to support the Cota project.

Paula Hill announced the new project for the following International General



Paula Hill addresses the Women's Service.

Assembly period: *City of Refuge: House of Cherith*. Bruce Deel, director of City of Refuge in the city of Atlanta, Ga., presented his daughter Kelsey Deel, the director of The House of Cherith, a program to rescue women from sexual trafficking. Sister Hill announced that the women of the Church of God will focus on building a safe house for women with children who need to be rescued from human trafficking.

The service continued with the energetic participation of Angela Primm, Jonathan Sawyer, and the Faith, Fire, and Freedom Singers. Evangelist Joyce Rodgers brought the sermon titled, "This is Your Season of Breakthrough." The whole service was a true celebration of freedom in Christ. ♦

USAMEH Holds

Luncheon

By Cameron Fisher



On Monday, the Department of USA Hispanic Educational Ministries of the Church of God hosted a luncheon in recognition of the excellent and dedicated work of the members of its board, as well that of the Hispanic Regional Directors. Among the speakers were Dr. David Ramírez, Executive Divisional Director of Education and Third Assistant General Overseer; Dr. Michael L. Baker, Chancellor of Education; Dr. Fidencio Burgueño, Chairman; and the Director of Education, Dr. Enrique A. De Jesús.

"The luncheon's main purpose was to express gratitude to the staff members, regional overseers, education directors who have worked side by side with the director," stated De Jesús. "They have made it possible for the USA Hispanic/Latino Educational System to fruitful as well as elevated to another level beyond our expectations and dreams when we first came into the position eight years ago. To God be all the glory!" ♦

GA Today

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY

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International Educator Awards Presented

By Cameron Fisher

Two traditional International General Assembly recognitions were given on Wednesday during the International Educators Luncheon.

The International Educator Faculty Award honored Dr. Marcia Ruth Anderson. It was presented by Dr. Enrique A. De Jesús, director of USA Hispanic Educational Ministries.

Born in South Dakota and converted in Teheran, Iran, at the age of 31, Anderson has demonstrated a faithful journey as a disciple of Christ for many years. The awardee is well known by colleagues as a champion missionary-educator who will never retire from God's calling. Dr. Anderson has excelled in many educational and ministerial tasks throughout her life.

Serving with distinction for 27 years, Dr. Anderson began her ministry as an elementary education teacher, continuing as a missionary with Word for the

World, and for more than ten years as faculty and dean of students at the Asian Seminary of Christian Ministries. She has served as missionary and academic dean at Discipleship College in Eldoret, Kenya, for more than eleven years. Dr. Anderson holds the following degrees: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Theology.



L to R: David Ramirez, Michael Baker, Honoree Marcia Anderson, Enrique A. De Jesus

She is a published author and has served as guest speaker/teacher in India, Zambia, Kenya, and Uganda.

The second award—distinguished leadership—was presented to Jürgen Rudolph and was made by Daniel Vassell of the Division of Education. An ordained bishop, Rudolph has been credentialed with the Church of God for 21

years. He has served with excellence as a missionary in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, and Germany. He has served as regional Christian Education coordinator for Africa, traveling to more than 67 nations during his ministry.



L to R: Michael Baker, David Ramirez, Honoree Jürgen Rudolph, Daniel Vassell

Bishop Rudolph has earned a Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity. He has authored teaching curriculum and articles in Church of God publications and been a plenary speaker at national assemblies, conferences, seminars, and graduation exercises.

Congratulated during the luncheon was Dr. Paul Conn, president of Lee University, for the 100th birthday of the institution, and Dr. Lamar Vest on the release of his new book. ♦

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GA Today

Lee University Celebrates Centennial

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Hall, including an 8-foot seal of the university. Lee has invested in several ways this week to send the message that Lee University is proud of its heritage and poised to enter its next century.

Throughout this year, Lee has been ramping up their centennial celebration events, which have included student-led programs, community concerts and tours, and banners hung throughout the campus.

In addition to the display in the Exhibit Hall, Lee University's presence has been felt throughout the week, culminating in an alumni mass choir, which ministered in the evening service last night. Hundreds of alumni, whether they were in a musical group while they were students or not, participated in the choir led by Delton Alford, Danny Murray and Brad Moffett. Afterwards, hundreds more alumni attended a reception in the Valencia Ballroom.

VanHook stated the Centennial



Committee has focused on six keynote events, including the activities of this week. At their exhibit, which features multiple panels that tell the history of Lee, there are giveaways, including lapel pins, T-shirts, and books. In the hallways all week are "Centennial Ambassadors" who have so far given away commemorative CDs of music, cookies, stickers, and on Thursday, bookmarks. A book titled, *High Callings*, which profiles the journeys of 26 Lee professors, was released last month in time for the Assembly.

Yesterday, August 1, was another milestone as Dr. Paul Conn marked his 32nd year as president of the university. It was on August 1, 1986, during the centennial year celebration of the Church of God at the General Assembly in Atlanta.

that Conn received the official appointment as president from the Church of God Executive Committee. His appointment came following then President Lamar Vest's election to the Executive Committee. Conn had been serving as vice president.

"This centennial year has been a wonderful reminder of how many people have been touched by Lee," stated Conn. "In so many generations, the message is the same: Lee matters in their lives. That is so inspiring and motivating to me!"



Paul Conn, right, reminisces with former classmate, Ted Gray, at the Lee University exhibit.

The culmination of the centennial year will be an event simply titled, "Celebration 2018," scheduled for November 2-3, 2018, on the Lee campus. ♦



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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
VIRGIE PARKER

General Council Completes Published Agenda

By Randall Parris

Prior to the Wednesday morning Business Session, many members of the International General Council gathered for prayer. A tone of worship and grace filled the room before the Council looked to the business on the Agenda before them.

Item 4 of the International General Council's Agenda was a Resolution regarding "Doctrinal Affirmation." The Resolution principally affirms the Church's stance on the whole Bible, rightly divided, the Declaration of Faith and Doctrinal Commitments, the Pentecostal distinctive of speaking in tongues as the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and a commitment to instruct the youth in these core beliefs. With minimal amendments, this item passed.

A Resolution on "Structural Acclimation" (item 5) of General Council Business passed. This Resolution provides attention to consistency in tithing and reporting by ministers and churches; consideration of the State Youth and Discipleship director's length of tenure; and that a Task Force be appointed to study considerations for greater global missional impact.

Item 6 considering the possible number of members of the International Executive Council was referred for further study. Item

7 which offered two minor linguistic adjustments to some of the general overseer's duties swiftly passed. Item 8 quickly passed adjusting the tenure limitation in one state from eight years to four consecutive years for State Youth and Discipleship directors. Agenda Item #9 regarding maximum tenure limitation of State/Regional Youth and Discipleship directors was referred for further study.

Item 10's call for a study commission to review the Election and Appointment Process, including multicultural diversity to the International Executive Council passed. Item 11 that recommended the formation of an ethnically diverse Task Force to review and recommend the process of the care and procedures for rehabilitation and enhancement for ministers, standards of ministerial applicants, and enhancement of the credentialing process carried. Item 12, suggesting changing the current process of credentialing for exhorters and ordained ministers outside the United States and Canada, was also affirmed.

The somewhat complex issue of the Meaning and Usage of the Term "Bishop" in Item 13 and the presentation of the "Further Study" that was prepared with respect to ministerial rank, qualifications of ministry, and women in ministry was briefly addressed. The recommendation that called for Open

Ministry Forums, globally, for deliberate and meaningful discussion on the topic carried. The motion in Item 14, recommending that all credentialed ministers be active in both tithing and attendance in a local Church of God congregation within the state/region in which the state overseer vote/evaluation is conducted, carried.

Item 15 affirmed that a study commission should be formed for the purpose of exploring a possible scholarship fund for Lee University and Pentecostal Theological Seminary students and that the findings be brought back in 2020. Item 16 passed, recommending that any person who is placed/appointed/hired for a ministry position in a local congregation should have a criminal background check. Agenda Item 17, recommending that a Study Commission on Pastoral Placement be appointed and offer recommendations, carried.

Language of support and structure for the possibility of rest and a time of sabbaticals for pastors in Item 18 carried. Item 19, addressing State Overseer Qualifications by offering that those serving as state overseer should have served as the senior/lead pastor of a local church congregation for a minimum of five years, or after having been elected to an international position, carried. Item 20, requiring on-going Leadership Development for State Overseers, carried.

Item 21, recommending that district overseers annually participate in a church revitalization project and establish goals for church planting every two years, carried. Item 22 and Item 23 simply deleted unneeded phrases under the category "Exhorter" in the International General Assembly Minutes. A Resolution on Generational Assimilation was carried as Item 24. Item 25, recommending practical Ministry Life Planning for ministers of all ages, was affirmed.

Item 26, recommending better cooperation at identifying and utilizing "Jeremiah Generation" leaders, was quickly affirmed. The establishment of a Generational Task Force was affirmed as Agenda Item 27. Agenda Item 28 asked for an appointed Task Force to review the needs of the aging ministry and to provide both affirmation and recognition for aging ministers was quickly passed. A Resolution on Spiritual Acceleration (Item 29) that affirms ways and means to foster renewed dedication and commitment to the core values of the Church of God carried. Finally, item 30, asking for a Task Force to study ways to renew our commitment to the Church of God Mission and Vision Statement, carried.

The general overseer said to the International General Council, "You have completed the published agenda... in lighting speed." New motions will be considered in Thursday's Business Session. ♦

Daniel L. Black Honored

By Lance Colkmire



L to R: T. Wayne Dority, Dorothy and Daniel Black, Tim Hill, and David Ray

During the Wednesday session of the International General Council, Dr. Daniel L. Black—who has served as editor of the *Church of God General Assembly Minutes* since 1988—was honored for his continuing ministry to the Church of God.

He was presented the award in the morning session by T. Wayne Dority, current general director of Pathway Press.

At age 8 in South Carolina, Black accepted Jesus Christ under the influence of his grandmother. The Bible became the most important book in his life.

At age 16, he knew God was calling him to be a preacher and teacher of the Gospel, and he received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He then began his preaching ministry. At age 21,

he became a licensed minister in the Church of God. He was ordained in 1970.

While attending Northwest Bible College in Minot, North Dakota, Dan pastored his first church. During this time, he married Dorothy. During a 19-year span, he pastored churches in North and South Dakota, South Carolina, Kansas, and Missouri.

Beginning in 1963, he earned four degrees in theology, culminating with a doctor of theology in 1979. In 1988, Pathway Press published a nonacademic form of Dr. Black's dissertation called, *A Layman's Guide to the Holy Spirit*.

For 35 years, he has served as editor-writer of *New Life* Adult Sunday school literature at Pathway Press, writing more than 1,800 Sunday school lessons published in teacher's guides. In 2002, he was given the Pillar of Pathway award.

Dr. Black has been a member of the Pentecostal-Charismatic Curriculum Commission for more than three decades. He served as chairman from 2001 through 2017.

For 35 years, he has also been the teacher of the Westmore Church of God Sanctuary Class.

Westmore awarded him the H.D. Williams Heritage Award in 2003.

Daniel Lyon Black is a fiercely loyal husband, father of two children, and grandfather of four. ♦



By Leonard Albert

General Overseer Timothy Hill and members of the International Executive Committee are joining together with a worldwide movement that focuses on all believers sharing their faith on May 23, 2020.

This Kingdom initiative is called "GO FINISH 2020" and will involve all state and territorial offices and all local churches both home and abroad. Dr. Hill says, "We are making Global Outreach Day part of our FINISH Commitment, and it is truly a Kingdom opportunity where our denomination will join with multiple worldwide denominations, church networks, and para-church ministries with the idea of every believer sharing the gospel with at least one person on one day. This is the Great Commissions in action!" The goal is for every person, in every church represented by the 185 countries where the Church of God has a presence to share the gospel with someone. The BIG idea is that *everyone can reach someone, and together we can reach the world..*

"This challenge should be in the heart of every believer as the Holy Spirit stirs us to actively engage in witnessing," Hill continued. "This is a huge, God-sized challenge where our denomination is joining a Global Outreach Day, which can be the biggest evangelistic outreach effort ever undertaken in the history of the church."

The initiative seeks to mobilize 100 million people to reach one billion people, with the goal of 50 million salvations and to see one million churches planted.

The Global Outreach Day endeavor has already seen awesome results with 140 nations coming together to train nearly seven million believers who have already won close to six million people to Christ. This is only the beginning.

The Church of God will provide resources tailor-made for this effort. It is a proven fact that many evangelical believers never share their testimony, and as a result, many believers have never won a soul to Christ. With just a simple click of the website, believers will be able to find easy ways to share their faith. The denomination will be providing training booklets, teaching DVDs, prayer guides, plus many other ideas that will make this one day of witnessing a great success.

To learn more about the 2020 Challenge, visit www.churchofgod.org/gofinish2020. ♦

Junior Talent Debuts

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and jamming on their instruments during the inaugural International Junior Talent competition—a younger version of the ever-popular Teen Talent—with this event being for Church of God kids ages 7–12.

"This is so exciting," said Tennessee's Aly Brown, dressed in ancient garb for her monologue. "To get to meet new people and make friends, and tell a story like an author, is awesome."

Brown is one of more than 500 kids, from the Caribbean to Canada and throughout the continental United States, to enter this arts, drama, music, and Bible competition. The winners will be announced Friday during the Awards Festival, starting at 5 p.m.

As one "proud mom" in the stands said, every contestant has already won.

Caleb Williams of the Fort Mills Church of God is entered in five categories. He came off the stage rubbing his elbows after telling the story of Samson and Delilah through a Solo Mime performance, dropping to the ground to act out Samson's fall.

"The floor was harder than I thought," he smiled.

Caleb showed Samson-like strength to stand in front of hundreds of strangers and perform without saying a word. The same goes for hundreds of others who overcame the potential for stage fright to use their gifts and talents on the color-splashed stage.

"I'm just glad God blessed me with the courage and bravery to be up there for Him," he said. "It's great to get this chance."

The International Junior Talent at the International General Assembly went from a great idea to a save-the-date reality in September 2017. Junior Talent has always been a state or regional competition, in part, to prepare children for the big stage of Teen Talent.

Thanks to visionary leadership on the local and international levels, these kids now get the big stage to themselves through Friday.

In a cooperative effort between the International Youth and Discipleship Department and Church of God leadership, the decision was made to bring a talent competition back to the

International General Assembly for the first time since International Teen Talent in 2008.

The Youth Department prepared manuals and guidelines in a hurry. State Youth and Discipleship directors worked in overdrive to schedule their Junior Talent competitions, inform churches of the exciting addition, and help pastors and youth ministers do all they could to get their gifted children to Orlando.

They're here, all right. So many, in fact, the competition had to start Tuesday, one day early, to get them all in.

Twenty-three teams are vying for a spot in the Bible Quizzing Final Four, starting at 9 a.m. Friday in the Valencia Ballroom. An amazing 44 students entered the male and female vocal solo competition. Drama teams from three nations, in categories ranging from Group Human Video to Solo Pantomime, acted out their faith.

No small coincidence: Children's church reported more than 400 kids in attendance on the first night of International General Assembly.

The Junior Edition of the Jeremiah Generation is indeed here to stay.

"The Church of God is making history with these kids," said David Blair, the International Youth and Discipleship director. "We believe in the Jeremiah Generation, and we want to give them a platform to show, and minister with, the talents God has given them."

Win or not, Cleveland's Aly Brown, for one, is going to celebrate.

"I'm going to Disneyland," she said, just like a champ. ♦



Tweet-Worthy

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Michelle Smith@Michelle34Smith That was an anointed Word from God!!! @MsJoyceLRodgers #COGGA18

DelphineGervais@Dellygal @drtonyevans brought the hammer last evening! Thank you @coghq for bringing this man of God To this year's general assembly. @cccmiami servant leaders were blessed. #COGGA18

Kevin Harris@KevinHarris I'm thankful for the opportunity to lead worship today at the Church of God General Assembly. @COGHQ. An equal honor to share the stage with Dr. Phillip Thomas. He is a masterful musician and he gave me my first vocational ministry role many years ago in Chattanooga. #fullcircle



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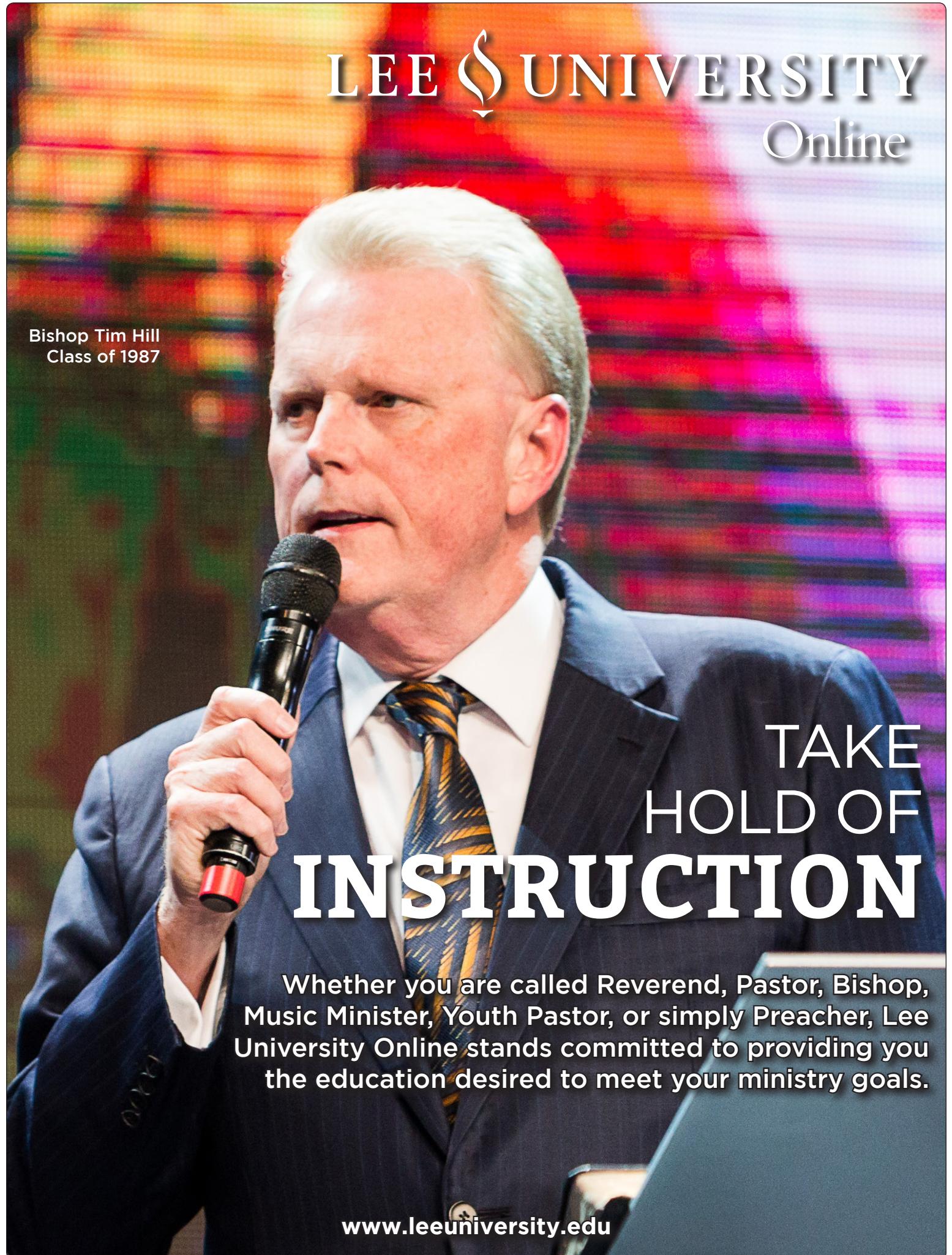
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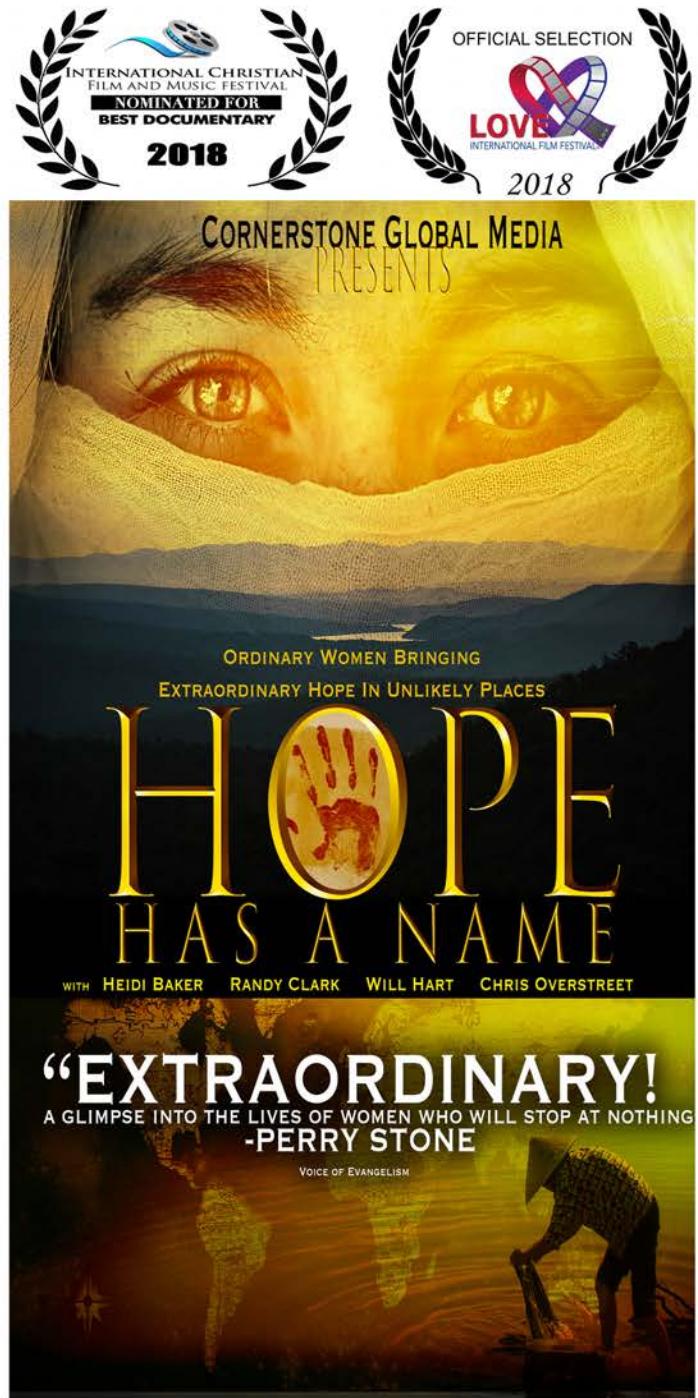
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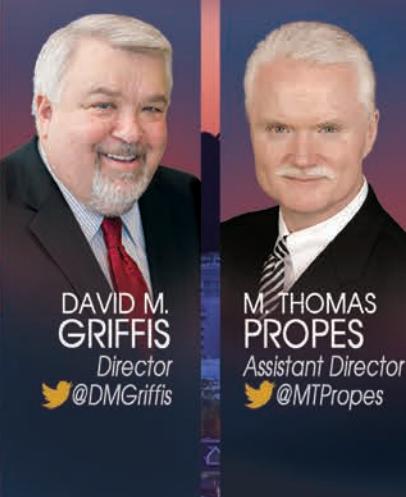


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El CEL y la Educación Hispana

Por Déborah E. Ortiz

Conversamos con el Dr. Wilmer Estrada Carrasquillo sobre la importancia de la educación teológica formal.

Dentro de la Iglesia de Dios existe un sinnúmero de programas educativos dedicados a preparar a las personas que sienten el llamado al ministerio. ¿Qué papel juega la educación teológica formal en este proceso? ¿Qué la distingue de los niveles más básicos a los que estamos acostumbrados?

La educación teológica es parte esencial de la formación y vida cristiana. Ahora bien, esta se da en distintos niveles. Por ejemplo, en escuela bíblicas, institutos bíblicos y en estudios de educación superior o formal. Cada uno de estos niveles sirven a la iglesia desde distintos frentes. En el caso de la educación teológica formal, está prepara a hombres y mujeres para un servicio cristiano el cual se enfoca en un área específica de la vida de la iglesia. Como resultado, se espera que aquellos y aquellas que se hayan especializado en algún área de la vida de la iglesia complementen el quehacer bíblico, teológico y ministerial de aquellos y aquellas que sirven a nivel de escuelas bíblicas e institutos bíblicos. Como resultado, se espera que la educación teológica formal no sea vista como un rechazo, sino como una aliada de la escuela bíblica y de los institutos bíblicos.

Son varios elementos que distinguen la educación teológica formal de los programas que están a un nivel académico más bajo. Quizás, el más fundamental es la intervención de las agencias de acreditación. Es de suma importancia que aquellos y aquellas que anhelen entrar a un nivel de educación teológica formal lo hagan con instituciones educativas que estén afiliadas, certificadas o acreditadas por agencias educativas que velen por credibilidad institucional y académica. Esto no sólo le garantiza la seriedad del programa, sino la certeza que está invirtiendo su tiempo y dinero de forma sabia. Sin duda alguna, este es el elemento principal que distingue la educación formal.

Desde su perspectiva como educador, ¿cuáles son las necesidades educativas más apremiantes de las iglesias hispanas en los Estados Unidos?

Esta es una pregunta que debe de discutirse seriamente. Por lo tanto, lo que comparto aquí es un preámbulo de una conversación que debe retomarse más adelante. Me di a la tarea de conversar con algunos pastores sobre esta pregunta. Entre las tres necesidades que más resaltaron fueron las siguientes. Primero, ajustar nuestras clases bíblicas para una comunidad que tiene dificultades para leer o escribir. Según estos pastores, esta necesidad nos invita a repensar en cómo nuestros maestros y maestras se preparan para transmitir el contenido de su clase de una forma que llegue a todos los participantes, en especial a esta comunidad. Segundo, el desarrollar un currículo educativo para la iglesia local el cual no solamente nos ayude a discipular al nuevo convertido, pero también sirva de puente para los programas educativos que ofrecen las regiones por medio de la división de educación y el seminario. En otras palabras, acortar la distancia entre la iglesia local y la educación teológica formal. Finalmente, la iglesia local está necesitada de un programa educativo que sea capaz de contextualizarse a las distintas realidades de la iglesia. Por ejemplo, cómo atender una iglesia multi-generacional y los retos que tal realidad nos presenta.

¿Cómo ayudamos a los pastores y las pastoras a reflexionar sobre su ministerio local?

Esta es una pregunta de suma importancia. El quehacer ministerial no se da en un vacío. Por el contrario, se da en un contexto particular. Por consiguiente, la reflexión seria y constructiva de nuestro quehacer ministerial debe ser eje central de la tarea pastoral. La tarea no puede estar desconectada de la reflexión, si lo hacemos, nuestra pastoral será una desconectada de nuestras realidades.

Este acercamiento educativo, el conectar la tarea ministerial junto con la reflexión y nuestros contextos es parte medular de lo hacemos en el Centro para Estudios Latinos (CEL). A cada estudiante se le requiere tomar tres cursos de formación ministerial los cuales promueven esta conexión con el fin de ayudar a la pastoral a reflexionar seriamente sobre su vocación ministerial.



¿Cuál es la visión del Centro para Estudios Latinos del Seminario Teológico Pentecostal?

La visión del CEL es ayudar a los ministros dentro y fuera de la Iglesia de Dios a fortalecer su desarrollo académico por medio de un programa de nivelación el cual le permitirá ingresar a los programas de maestría del Seminario Teológico Pentecostal de la Iglesia de Dios.

¿Qué espera este año para la Cumbre Teológica?

Los días 1 al 2 de octubre el Centro para Estudios Latinos celebrará la Cumbre Latina. Este año el tema central es «Redescubriendo los distintivos de nuestra espiritualidad Pentecostal». Las ponencias principales estarán a cargo del Dr. Sammy Alfaro y de la Dra. Margarita Colón. Además, tendremos talleres simultáneos que profundizarán en el tema principal y darán la oportunidad de reflexionar seriamente en comunidad sobre nuestros distintivos pentecostales. ♦

PROGRAMA PARA EL JUEVES, 2 DE AGOSTO

Inscripción:

8:00 a. m.—5:00 p. m.

Sesiones del CGI A-B

8:30 a. m.—11:30 a. m.
1:30 p. m.—4:30 p. m.

Orden del Día:

«El Compromiso Final: Su historia ministerial»,
Mark Rutland

Oración Concilio General

8:00 a. m.—8:30 a. m.

Sesión del CGI

8:30 a. m.—11:30 a. m.

Sesión del CG

1:30 p. m.—4:30 p. m.

Servicio de adoración:

7:00 p. m.

Moderador:

Dr. J. David Stephens

Alabanzas:

Voices of Lee

Predicador:

Rev. Jentezen Franklin

Enmienda Propuesta para el Concilio de los 18

Por Deborah E. Ortiz



Frente, Iz-Der.: Keith Ivester, T. Wayne Dority, Sean O'Neal, Gary Lewis, Eliezar Bonilla, Niko Njotorahardjo, Terry Hart, Jerry Madden. Segunda fila: T. Bryan Cutshall, Mark Williams, Gerald McGinnis, Thomas Madden. Tercera fila: Timothy Oldfield, Travis Johnson. Al fondo fila: Kevin McGlamery, Barry Clardy, Ishmael Charles. Ausente: Loran Livingston.

El Concilio Ejecutivo Internacional está compuesto por el Comité Ejecutivo Internacional y el Concilio de los Dieciocho. Este concilio es una de las instituciones más antiguas dentro de la estructura gubernamental de la Iglesia de Dios. Sus miembros son ministros que no están activos como directores ni en juntas de las distintas instituciones de la denominación. Dieciséis de sus miembros son líderes en los Estados Unidos, siendo los otros dos puestos ocupados por líderes internacionales.

Este año, se ha propuesto un aumento en la composición del concilio de

dieciocho a veinticuatro miembros. La última vez que se añadieron miembros fue en el 1986. Por esta razón, los proponentes de la enmienda indican que el aumento en la membresía en los Estados Unidos, Canadá y el resto del mundo amerita un concilio más representativo.

La medida también propone que dos de los miembros estén radicados en el extranjero y que el resto de la composición del concilio represente la diversidad étnica y generacional de la Iglesia de Dios. Este cambio entraría en vigor a partir de esta asamblea. ♦

USAMEH Celebra Sus Logros

Por Dr. Enrique De Jesús

El lunes, 30 de julio de 2018, el Departamento de Ministerios Educativos Hispanos en Estados Unidos y Canadá de la Iglesia de Dios organizó un almuerzo en reconocimiento al excelente y dedicado trabajo de los miembros de su junta, así como a los Directores Regionales Hispanos.

Entre los oradores estuvieron el Dr. David Ramírez, director ejecutivo de la División de Educación y Tercer Asistente al Supervisor General, Dr. Michael L. Baker, canciller de Educación y presidente del Seminario Teológico Pentecostal, Dr. Fidencio Burgueño, presidente de la junta de USAMEH y el director de Educación, Dr. Enrique A. De Jesús.

En medio de un dulce entorno de hermandad de la Iglesia de Dios, el propósito principal del almuerzo fue expresar nuestra más sincera gratitud a todos los miembros del personal, supervisores regionales, directores de edu-

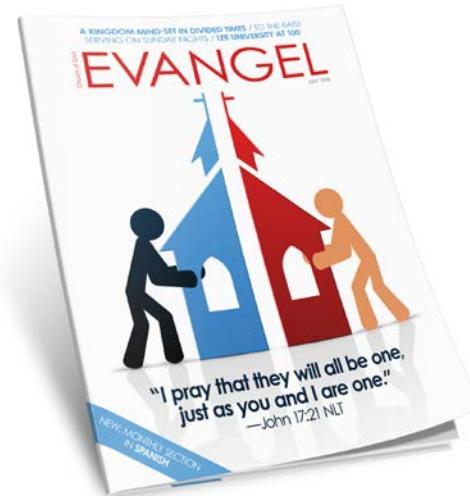


cación que han trabajado mano a mano con el director y han hecho posible que el sistema educativo sea mucho más fructífero y elevado a otro nivel más allá de nuestras expectativas y sueños cuando comenzamos a ocupar el cargo hace ocho años.

¡Para Dios sea toda la gloria! ♦

The Evangel Ofrece Mucho Más—en Español

Por Lance Colkmire



La revista *The Evangel* (El Evangelio) de la Iglesia de Dios ofrece una respuesta a las necesidades de este tiempo, tales como el analfabetismo bíblico, la pérdida de los testimonios durante los servicios, la falta de lealtad a la denominación y a la doctrina.

Alfabetización bíblica: la revista presenta artículos con estudios de las verdades bíblicas.

Testimonios: la revista incluye testimonios de la obra de Dios en personas de todo el mundo.

Falta de lealtad a la denominación y la doctrina: los temas están inspirados en las creencias de la Iglesia de Dios y el ministerio de nuestras congregaciones.

Y ahora, por primera vez en sus 108 años de historia, la revista incluye una sección de cuatro páginas en español. Se trata del proceso de alineamiento de Pathway Press y Editorial Evangélica.

Carlos S. Morán, director de Ministerios Hispanos, comenta: «Los cambios en la producción y distribución de publicaciones ameritaban que Editorial Evangélica fuera reposicionada con Pathway Press para que mantuvieran su competitividad en el mercado, entendiendo que 'Más valen dos que uno, porque obtienen más fruto de su esfuerzo' (Eclesiastés 4: 9, NVI)».

The *Evangel* también, ha mejorado su presencia cibernética con el desarrollo de su página, www.evangelmagazine.com, en donde encontrará parte del contenido de la revista mensual.

Recoja una copia gratuita en la tienda de Publicaciones de la Iglesia de Dios.—Lance Colkmire, gerente de publicaciones. ♦

Sinopsis del Estudio a Fondo: Significado y Uso del Título de Obispo

Por Déborah E. Ortiz

La sinopsis de este «estudio a fondo», en primer lugar, identifica las tareas asignadas por la moción. No solicitaba un estudio teológico de obispo. Las instrucciones eran que se investigara los cambios que fueran necesarios en la nomenclatura actual, sus posibles ramificaciones legales y culturales tanto a nivel nacional como internacional, así como el tema correlacionado de los títulos de los rangos ministeriales.

El propósito expreso requiere objetividad en la investigación histórica, las referencias bíblicas e influencias culturales con el fin de ofrecer recomendaciones y alternativas para el futuro.

Antecedentes históricos:

Este «estudio a fondo» ha investigado los antecedentes históricos del uso del título de *obispo* dentro de la Iglesia de Dios, recurriendo a la prueba documentada. Para el 1907, las actas de la Asamblea General describían la ordenación de obispos. El Prof. David Roebuck, historiador de la iglesia, ha provisto una descripción clara de los rangos ministeriales a partir del 1909: obispos o ancianos, diáconos y evangelistas.

Para el 1948, la Iglesia de Dios modifica sus oficios ministeriales: de *obispo a ministro ordenado, evangelista a ministro licenciado*, eliminando el de diácono. Para el 2000, la 68.a Asamblea General cambió el título de *ministro ordenado* por el de *obispo ordenado, ministro licenciado* por *ministro ordenado*. El Prof. R. Hollis Gause escribe en su libro «Gobierno de la Iglesia de Dios», pág. 185, que el rango de «ministro ordenado» goza de mayor autoridad y eminencia que el de «obispo».

La Asamblea General Internacional aprobó estos cambios de títulos que, a partir de ese momento, han generado muchísimo debate sobre su significado y uso. En respuesta, monografías teológicas fueron comisionadas con el fin de aclarar esta nomenclatura. La 71.a Asamblea General Internacional de 2006 adoptó una narrativa, la cual fue incluida en las EDG. Desde el 2006, no ha cesado el pedido de más estudios e informes. En el 2016, la Asamblea General Internacional solicitó otro estudio, cuyos hallazgos fueran presentados ante el Concilio General Internacional de 2018.

Uso del título de obispo en otras denominaciones:

Esta sección es una sinopsis del uso de los rangos ministeriales en otras denominaciones. A vuelo de pájaro se entiende que cada organización ha usado el título de obispo de acuerdo con sus respectivas tradiciones e interpretaciones bíblicas. Algunas lo otorgan a todos sus ministros, otras a sus ejecutivos, ascensos ministeriales, etc.

Esto nos lleva a que la Iglesia de Dios tiene su propia tradición; sin embargo, lo principal

es que sigamos comprometidos con la integridad de las Escrituras y su interpretación.

Problemas vinculados con la capellanía castrense, asuntos culturales y legales:

La asignación requiere que examinemos los problemas de índole jurídica y cultural. Cabe señalar que las EDG actuales reconocen que el uso del título de *obispo* puede verse limitado por las particularidades culturales de cada país y a estos efectos, la AGI permite flexibilidad en su uso internacional.

El Lcdo. Dennis W. Watkins, asesor legal de la Iglesia de Dios, afirma que no ha tenido ningún problema internacional vinculado con el título de *obispo*. Sin embargo, reconoce que de vez en cuando ha tenido que aclarar que la denominación no usa este título con el mismo sentido de los metodistas, episcopales y católicos, para quienes se refiere a una persona a cargo de un distrito, región o diócesis. Además, dentro de los Estados Unidos, el Servicio de Rentas Internas está más interesado en las funciones ministeriales que en los títulos de cada rango.

Por último, el asunto de la ordenación es muy importante para los ministros y las ministras de la Iglesia de Dios que sirven profesionalmente como capellanes de las fuerzas armadas. Según la Comisión de Capellanía, estos deben presentarse enteramente cualificados para el ejercicio de sus deberes ante los oficiales del ejército y otras organizaciones religiosas.

Significado y uso de los títulos ministeriales:

La asignación no requería un análisis teológico de los títulos ministeriales, pero debe señalarse que la denominación utiliza muchos otros títulos que no están debidamente explicados dentro de las *Enseñanzas, disciplina y gobierno*, tales como *ministro, pastor, reverendo, capellán, clero, anciano* y posiblemente otros. Quizás este estudio haya contribuido a resaltar el valor y la importancia de todos los rangos, las posiciones y los títulos ministeriales para que la Iglesia de Dios logre su misión y visión.

Requisitos para el ministerio:

La tarea era estudiar a fondo los requisitos para los rangos y las posiciones ministeriales. El estudio incluye una revisión de las posiciones identificadas. También, cubre el proceso de credencialización internacional. Se está considerando hacer la recomendación de una sesión conjunta del Comité Ejecutivo Internacional y el Concilio Internacional.

Las ministras:

Las mujeres han sido objeto de estudio, discusión y debate sobre su papel dentro del ministerio desde los comienzos de la Iglesia de Dios. El estudio documenta la historia del ministerio de las mujeres, datos estadísticos

por rango y género que demuestran que actualmente componen el 18% del ministerio, con un 5% sirviendo como pastoras en los Estados Unidos y Canadá.

El relato encara el uso título de *obispo* y los límites que impone a las ministras en ciertas funciones de la denominación. Las opiniones al respecto son bien diferentes. Se sugiere que durante el período 2018-2020 se abran oportunidades al diálogo deliberado acerca de todos los rangos ministeriales y que las diversas propuestas sean consideradas durante la Asamblea General Internacional de 2020.

Realidades actuales y opciones consideradas

Por último, este estudio a fondo enumera las realidades actuales, las posibles opciones y ofrece una recomendación. Estas alternativas no requieren acción inmediata, sino más bien, que se trace una estrategia para resolver este asunto de una vez y por todas. Se recomienda que se extienda una invitación a foros de preguntas y respuestas acerca del ministerio. De ahí deben surgir mociones que serían llevadas ante el Concilio General Internacional de 2020.

Más allá de la investigación, el estudio, las opciones consideradas y las recomendaciones, que el liderazgo de la Iglesia de Dios continúe dedicado a las Escrituras, la oración, la discusión y meditación bajo la dirección del Espíritu Santo, para que sea testigo del cumplimiento de su misión, visión y El Compromiso Final.

RECOMENDACIÓN

Este estudio a fondo fue comisionado para determinar los cambios que fueran necesarios a la nomenclatura actual, de modo el rango de obispo ordenado de la Iglesia de Dios exprese claramente las intenciones del Concilio General Internacional. Además, tuvo que revisar el significado de los títulos de los rangos ministeriales, los requisitos para el ministerio y el papel de las ministras.

Luego de haber estudiado a fondo la información y los datos presentados, según lo dispuestos por el Concilio General Internacional para la Asamblea General Internacional de 2018, y de haber evaluado la década del incesante pedido de aclaraciones, recomendamos lo siguiente:

Que foros públicos sobre el ministerio sean llevados a cabo por todo el mundo con el fin de discutir, dialogar, responder preguntas y discernir espiritualmente la importancia de los rangos ministeriales, sus requisitos, el lugar de las ministras, así como el significado y uso del título de obispo. Que luego de estos foros, el Concilio Ejecutivo Internacional formule una moción (o mociones) apropiadas sobre los temas ya indicados para el debate en el Concilio General Internacional. ♦

Fe, Fuego y Libertad Culmina En Gran Fiesta

Por Déborah E. Ortiz

En la mañana del miércoles las hermanas de la Iglesia de Dios se dieron cita para la Celebración de Fe, fuego y libertad en el salón Valencia del CCCO. Leslie Ruiz inauguró el servicio de adoración, seguido por el video del supervisor general Timothy M. Hill. El Dr. Hill destacó los logros de Ministerios Internacionales de la Mujer y anunció la celebración de un viaje a Israel para marzo de 2020. La hermana Paula Hill, presidenta de Ministerios Internacionales de la Mujer, dio la bienvenida a la hermana Theresa Arwood, quien junto a su esposo estará a cargo de este proyecto.

Acto seguido, la hermana Hill dio lectura a Lucas 1: 36-37, preguntándoles a las presentes, «¿Qué está esperando que resucite en su vida? Dios quiere resucitar esas cosas en su vida. Nada es imposible para Dios».

El servicio continuó con la junta asesora de MIM, Peggy Culpepper, Joyce Stephens, Fernanda Ramírez y Debbie



Joyce Rodgers ministra durante el servicio de las mujeres de la AGI

Childers, uniéndose a la hermana Hill para la presentación del homenaje, 'Desate la Esperanza', a Rosalba Pérez, directora de Provisión de Amor, un refugio dedicado a rescatar a las niñas y adolescentes de las calles de Cota, Colombia.

También fueron mencionados los estados y las regiones que más dinero recaudaron para el proyecto 'Desate la Esperanza', siendo Nueva York y Carolina del Sur los ganadores. Las mujeres de la Iglesia de Dios recaudaron un total de \$535,000.00 para Provisión de Amor en Cota, Colombia.

MIM anunció el nuevo proyecto para el siguiente período de la Asamblea

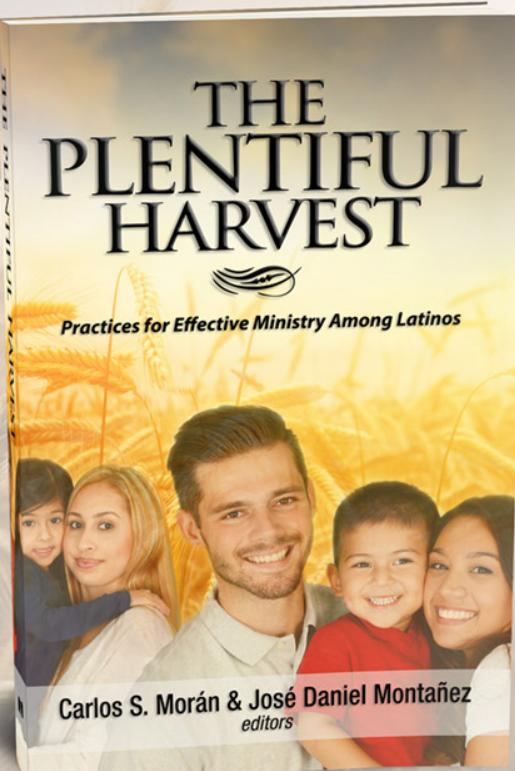
General Internacional: «Ciudad de Refugio: Casa de Querit». Bruce Deel, director de Ciudad de Refugio en la ciudad de Atlanta, GA, presentó a su hija Kelsey Deel, directora de la Casa de Querit, un programa para rescatar a las mujeres de la trata sexual. Las mujeres de la IDD recaudaron fondos para la construcción de un albergue para mujeres atrapadas en la trata sexual junto a sus hijos.

El servicio continuó con la enérgica participación de los cantantes Angela Primm, Jonathan Sawyer y la agrupación Fe, fuego y libertad. La evangelista Joyce Rodgers trajo el sermón titulado, «Esta es su temporada de avance». El servicio fue una verdadera fiesta de libertad en Cristo. ♦

¡GRAN FIESTA LATINOAMERICANA!

El Departamento de Ministerios Hispanos se honra en presentar la Fiesta Latinoamericana. Esta gran celebración se llevará a cabo el 2 de agosto a las 11:30 a.m. en el Executive Ballroom I del Hotel Rosen Centre. Para más información visite nuestra mesa en la Sala de Exhibiciones.

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Rob and Christal Bailey
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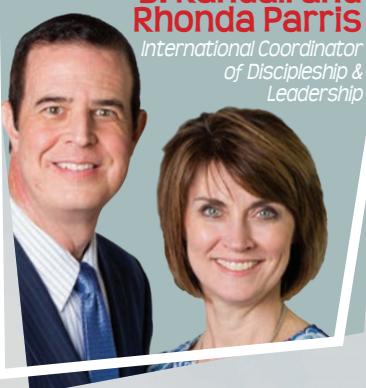
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Deborah Childers

Peggy Culpepper

Paula Hill

Joyce Stephens

Fernanda Ramirez

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Arizona
Sean & Shyrel O'Neal



East Central Hispanic
David & Maribel Munguia



Florida-Tampa
Keith & Debbie Ivester



Great Lakes
Ronald & Rochelle Martin



Louisiana
Melvin & Glenda Shuler



Michigan
Kip & Tammie Box



Minnesota
Clayton & Linette Watson



Missouri
Thomas & Jessica Powell



New England Hispanic
Rigoberto & Sara Ramos



North Carolina-Eastern
Dennis & Judy Page



North Carolina-Western
Kenneth & Tricia Bell



Northeastern Hispanic
Juan & Jennie Garcia



Pennsylvania
Tony & Kathy Cooper



Field Director/Europe
Stephen & Janice Darnell

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BACK ROW (L-R): CALEB BOLTON, DR. ERNIE VARNER, DR. HERSCHELL BAKER,
KELVIN PAGE, DR. JEREMY MCGINNIS, TERRY HARRIS, SCOTT CARDIN

FRONT ROW (L-R): CALVIN NUNLEY, DR. MARK WILLIAMS,
BISHOP MITCHELL CORDER, RICK COTTRELL, KENNY CHESSON
(NOT PICTURED TRAVIS BALLINGER)

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