

GA

Today

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY



JULY 30—AUGUST 3, 2018
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

77TH CHURCH OF GOD INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 1, 2018

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

Wednesday Events

Intercessory Prayer

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.
Hall AB

Women's Celebration Service

9:30 a.m., Valencia Ballroom AB

California/Nevada Regional Office

11:45 a.m.—2:00 p.m., 307 B

International Educators Luncheon

11:45 a.m.—2:00 p.m., 209 ABC

South Georgia State Office

12:30 p.m., 307 A

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

Lee University Alumni Reception

9:30 p.m., Valencia CD

Ministry to the Military

9:30—11:30 p.m., 209 ABC

En Español 18

GA2018

The Church of God: A Movement of Critical Presence By Tim Hill

Before any business of the 77th International General Assembly got underway on Tuesday morning, Presiding Bishop Timothy Hill called for the privilege of addressing the General Council. The following represents the heart and vision of the address, which was followed by a powerful period of prayer, laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and a parade of ministers and laypersons who represent the core of the future of the Church of God:

Two years ago, as I stood to accept your nomination as General Overseer, I remember saying to you that the Church of God must be a church of Continual Prayer, Committed Purpose and Critical Presence. I used those words intentionally to simply convey the message that "it has to matter that we are here."

To say that we are a church of Critical Presence is not in any way meant to indicate that, in and of ourselves, we are the remedy to the many ills and issues of the world. But it is to say that we, the Church of God, as part of the Body of Christ, are a channel through which the Holy Spirit may flow in order to bring healing and restoration to a world desperate for redemption.

Our movement must never be content to withdraw into the dust-covered



General Overseer Tim Hill addresses the opening session of the General Council.

museums of irrelevance. Nor should we succumb to being a subculture of meaningless existence, heavy on paper-thin rhetoric but short on Gospel execution and implementation. We must make a Gospel difference and a Kingdom impact.

The church does not exist in a bubble or a vacuum. We live and do ministry in a socio-economic context, influenced by a world-view, political ideologies, and spiritual forces. It is within this context that we are called upon to share the Gospel, live out the Gospel, and contend for the Faith. Those with discerning eyes will recognize that the

—continued on page 12

General Council Elects Eighteen

By Cameron Fisher

Following General Overseer Hill's opening address, the first order of official business for the International General Council was to elect the members of the Council of Eighteen, which will serve for the next two years.

Of the 18 ordained bishops currently on the Council, five were ineligible

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Bottom, L-R: Keith Ivester; T. Wayne Dority; Sean O'Neal; Gary Lewis; Eliezar Bonilla; Niko Njotorahardjo; Terry Hart; Jerry Madden. Second Row: T. Bryan Cutshall; Mark Williams; Gerald McGinnis; Thomas Madden. Third Row: Timothy Oldfield; Travis Johnson. Top Row: Kevin McGlamery; Barry Clardy; Ishmael Charles. Not Pictured: Loran Livingston.



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KELVIN PAGE, DR. JEREMY MCGINNIS, TERRY HARRIS, SCOTT CARDIN
FRONT ROW (L-R): CALVIN NUNLEY, DR. MARK WILLIAMS, BISHOP MITCHELL CORDER, RICK COTTRELL, KENNY CHESSOR
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General Council

—continued from page 1

to be reelected due to term limitations. After the nominating ballot and four subsequent ballots, the International General Council elected the eighteen who will be their representatives at the international level.

Elected first to the 2018–2020 Council was immediate past General Overseer Mark Williams. Since his term ended two years ago, Williams has been serving as senior pastor of the historic North Cleveland (Tennessee) Church of God. Following Williams was Gary Lewis, state overseer for South Georgia, who was first elected two years ago. Pastor of the Charlotte Central Church of God Loran Livingston was returned to the Council for a second, two-year term. Others who were elected in 2016 and returned to the Council were Kevin McGlamery, pastor of Life Church in Huntsville, Alabama; Ishmael Charles, field director for the Caribbean for the Church of God; Sean O’Neal, state overseer of Arizona; Travis Johnson, pastor of Pathway Church in Mobile, Ala.; pastor of the Potter’s House in Columbus, Ohio, Timothy Oldfield; Gerald McGinnis, senior pastor of Park

West Church in Knoxville, Tenn.; Eliezar Bonilla, pastor of Vida Abundante Church in San Antonio, Texas; Barry Clardy, senior pastor of Princeton Pike Church of God in Hamilton, Ohio; and Keith Ivester, state overseer of Florida-Tampa.

Joining the Council elected in the ninth position is T. Bryan Cutshall, president of Church Trainer Ministries. Cutshall returns to the Council after serving terms in the past. Also returning to the Council after a hiatus was Thomas Madden, who currently serves as state overseer for the Church of God in North Georgia. A third returning member of the Council is Pastor Niko Njotorahardjo, of Gereja Bethel Church in Indonesia. Pastor Niko, along with Ishmael Charles, satisfied the required representation of two members residing outside the United States.

Three members were elected for the first time to serve on the Council of Eighteen. Pastor Jerry Madden is pastor of Praise Cathedral in Greer, S.C. Also elected for the first time was Director of Publications T. Wayne Dority at Pathway Press in Cleveland, Tenn. Rounding out the Council elections on Tuesday afternoon was Terry Hart, state overseer

of Alabama, also a newcomer to the Council.

The Council of Eighteen joins with the International Executive Committee to form the International Executive Council. Meeting with the group by virtue of established representation is South African representative Stafford Petersen and representing Indonesia, Japarlin Marbun.

The 2018–2020 edition of the International Executive Council will first meet the third week of September. ♦



Tweet-Worthy

Posted on Twitter @COGGA18

Kaleb Brandenburg@thebishopkaleb What I love about #cogga18 is the reminder that we are apart of something greater than ourselves.

The Mayor’s Daughter@VLNunn I’m so thankful for my COG heritage!!

Clyde Bailey@clydebailey Voices of Lee were awesome in ministry at World Missions Banquet. Power of Holy Spirit rests on them. @COGHQ #WorldMissions

J. David Stephens@Stephensjdavid Prayer is the heartbeat of the church #COGga18

First Four Agenda Items Addressed on Tuesday

By B. Randall Parris

This year’s International General Council is quite different in that no elections were necessary for the offices of the International Executive Committee, International Youth and Discipleship directors, or World Missions directors. The election process on Tuesday began with voting for the Council of Eighteen.

Item 1 of the International General Council Agenda was a “Resolution: Visional Actualization.” This measure allows for the general overseer, in consultation with the International Executive Committee, to appoint a Task Force on Visional Actualization that is representatively diverse. This Task Force would “prepare recommendations for the International Executive Council to consider for implementation and, as necessary, inclusion on the International General Council Agenda for 2020.” This measure passed without debate.

Agenda Item 2 was “Actualization of a Global Ministry Context.” This motion seeks to task the International Executive Council with the responsibility of actualizing a global context of ministry by “enhancing the availability of language-specific resources; recognition and utilization of international leaders during general church events, refining programs, methods, and systems to reflect the international nature of the church; and challenging the church to think globally.” Agenda Item 2 was passed by the International General Council.

The third Agenda Item addressed a “Church Planting and Revitalization Task Force.” This motion requires the development of a Church Planting and Revitalization Task Force, and Church Planting and Revitalization Training Center in each state/region. These centers would eventually become a catalyst throughout the Church of God by providing training, equipping, and revitalization of pastors and church planters with needed resources to bring greater church health, systems, and growth in existing churches (Ephesians 4:11-12). The International General Council was updated by the director of USA Missions, Mitch Maloney. This motion passed. ♦



GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY

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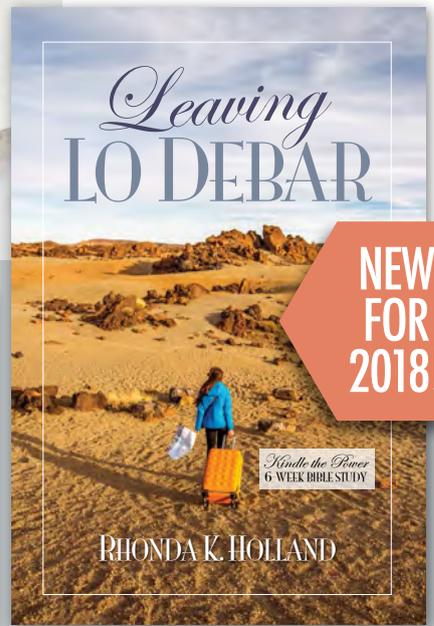
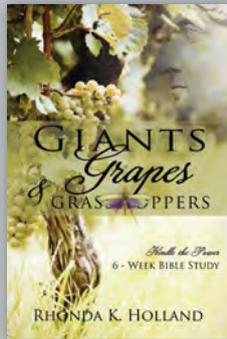
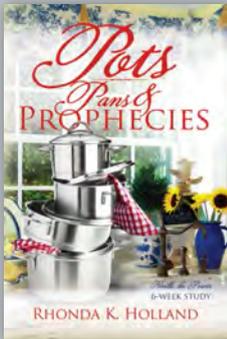
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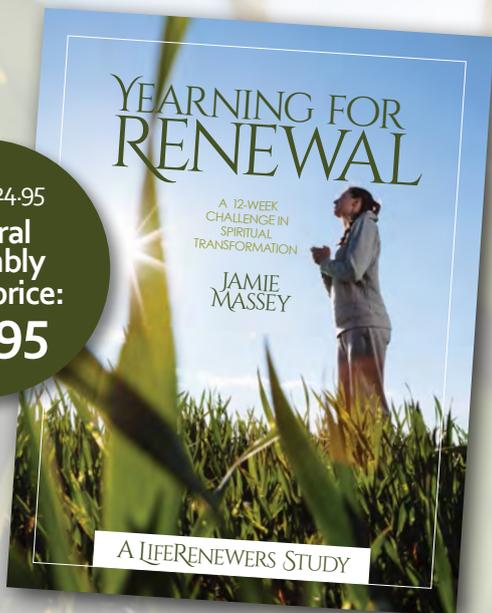
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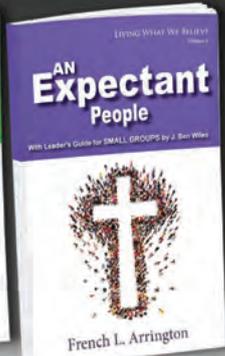
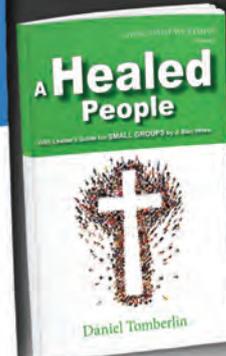
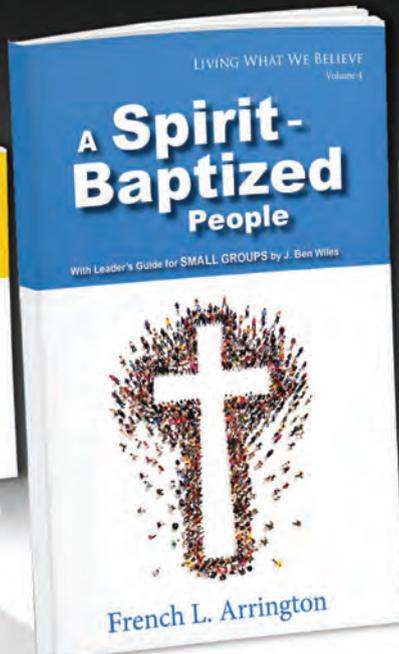
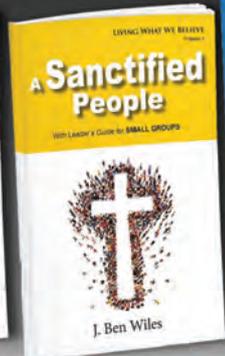
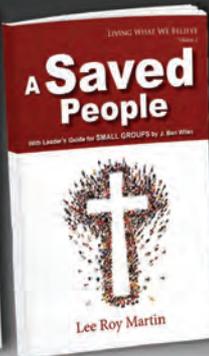
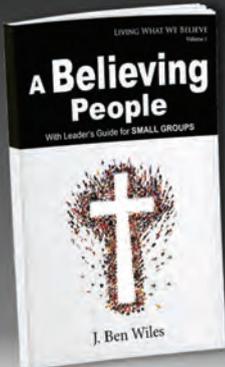
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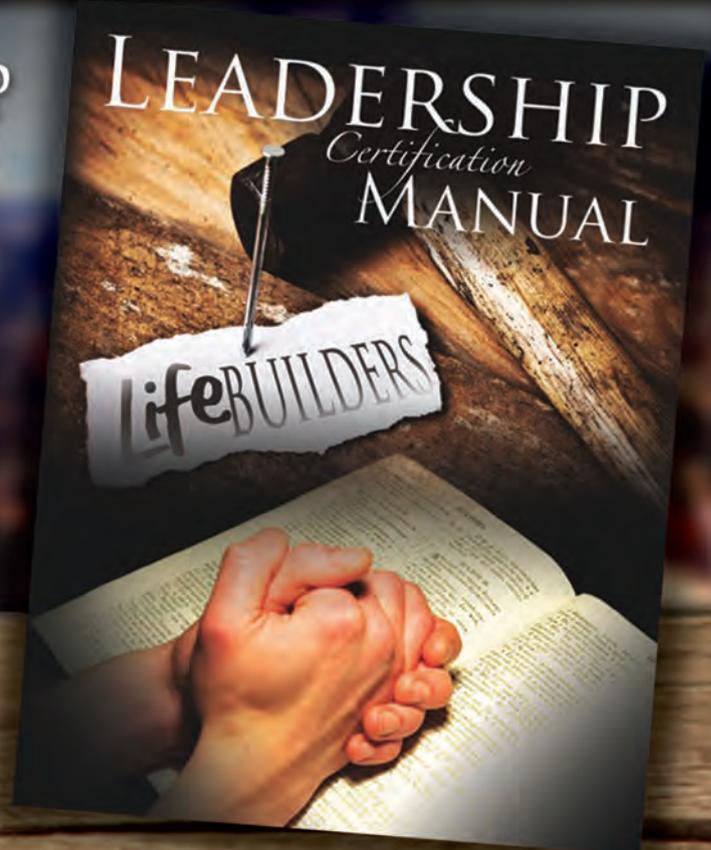


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The Church of God: A Movement of Critical Presence

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space around us is not neutral. There is a battle for dominance and secular forces have a clear agenda to frustrate and derail our mission. The world is seeking to promote morality without religion and render the church inconsequential. This is not a new agenda; it is just camouflaged in the garments of post-modernity.

When we strip away all the euphemistic language, it boils down to good versus evil, righteousness versus unrighteousness, morality versus immorality, and love versus hate.

The church can only be effective in this age if we recommit to the mission of Jesus Christ. This mission is about truth and love. We must perceive truth through the eyes of Jesus Christ and live and speak this truth through the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit.

The desperation gripping our world today places a renewed Gospel demand on the Church of God. To sneak in and out of Orlando without speaking something of kingdom significance, and without doing something of human impact, will not justify our being here. A thousand and one issues are screaming for resolve and most every institution is crying out for reformation. Yet the truth is, we are not in the world today to reform the world. Our mandate in the world today is not political. It's not social and it's not economic. And while every issue is important and most likely affects someone we love somewhere, we must not be seduced by the idea that if we can "fix" this and then "fix" that and then "fix" the other, everything will be fine. We were never invited to "fix" this or "fix" that. The calling of the church is to proclaim the un-compromised Gospel of Jesus. Whenever that which is central, becomes peripheral, then that which is peripheral becomes central. Every issue in America and the world today is of significant importance yet there seems to be few acceptable answers. Since we were together last in Nashville, our world has been in a constant state of convulsion over issues that no one knows what to do with. Name the issue - any issue:

- Poverty
- Terrorism

- Racism
- School Violence
- Immigration
- Substance Abuse
- Sexual exploitation and human trafficking
- The denigration and abuse of women and children
- Abortion
- Unemployment
- Healthcare
- Leadership Transparency and accountability

On and on I can go and every individual would place each issue in a different order of importance. However, I want to name you the most concerning issue in America today. It's not poverty, immi-



gration or any other that I may have listed. The greatest issue in the world today is.... *a lukewarm church, listless and unable to effectively make a difference in this world.*

The very definition of lukewarm-ness describes too many churches on the global landscape. They are too cold to be hot -- and too hot to be cold. In such a Laodicean state, these churches face the grave danger of the Master's expulsion. He cannot endure any church in such condition.

Some are like the Church of Ephesus, "they have abandoned their first love." It wasn't an accident. Ephesus didn't "lose" anything, but they drifted away and pushed the main thing aside while pursuing other passions. It wasn't that they didn't love Jesus at all, they just simply did not love him like they used to.

I ask the Church of God today, "Do we still love Jesus like we used to?" Do we love him enough to forsake personal agendas, political agendas, prideful agendas and adopt His Harvest Agenda - His "people" agenda?

- Hurt people
- Lonely people

- Hungry people
- Sick people
- Lost people

We've come to Orlando this week united under the banner of "FINISH in the Spirit and Power of Pentecost." For two years now, you have embraced, as never before, the mandate to:

Find Unreached People

Intercede in Prayer

Network together

Invest in Church Planting

Send laborers around the World and

Harvest ripened fields and bring lost souls to Jesus

This is the Great Commission on course for a Great Completion. But hear my heart: *We are a Pentecostal Church and Pentecost must not be viewed apart from the Great Commission.* Likewise, the Great Commission should not be viewed apart from Pentecost. They are intertwined and interwoven together.

You've heard me say for a while now, "We were not filled with the Spirit for our enjoyment, but we have been filled for our employment." We are not Spirit-filled so we may sing louder, run faster, or engage in more vigorous worship. We have been filled with the Holy Ghost in order to effectively fulfill the mandate of Christ in Acts 1:8, "You shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you and you shall be my Witnesses." That's it.

For whatever reason we often feel that this simple mandate isn't enough. So we go out looking for better methods. Seeking the latest and the greatest methods of men reminds me of David doing his best to bring back the Ark of the Covenant. He employed a lot of brass, and a lot of boards that were moved along by Big Wheels. However, with the first bump in the road, disaster struck and revival was sidelined for the next three months.

Listen to me! God isn't looking for better methods out of this meeting this week. He's looking for better men - better women - better pastors - better evangelists - better leaders who will lean on him, understanding that, "It's not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord."

Our theme strongly conveys our dependency on the power of the Holy Spirit for us to be able to FINISH the Great Commission. But it also implies a frightening antithesis. If we are so

dependent upon the Holy Spirit, how would we ever assume that we could do any of this without Him? Do we really want to try this without His help and participation?

We must return to Pentecost again.

- The Suddenly of Pentecost
- The Sounds of Pentecost
- The Sights of Pentecost
- The Speech of Pentecost

All so we may experience the Significance of Pentecost. It's time for us to get the microphone back. We gave it up to those who said, "You cannot be Pentecostal and reach this generation." We gave it up to the crowd who said, "The days of miracles, signs and wonders are over." We gave it up to those who said, "A younger generation won't embrace the message of holiness and conviction." We gave it up to those whose message is much more apostate than apostolic. Many have been seduced by doctrines of devils, and now, too many who once burned with Gospel Fire have become clouds without water carried about by the wind. They are as trees whose fruit has withered, twice dead and plucked up by the roots.

We must get our voice back and proclaim again that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. We must get our voice back and proclaim that the day of the Lord is at hand. We must get our voice back and proclaim that righteousness exalts a people but sin is a reproach to any nation. We must get our voice back and speak truth. Speak clearly and speak firmly. We need to stand firmly on the "Jesus platform" again. This Assembly cannot be about but one agenda. We must get back to delivering Jesus to the world again by the Power of the Holy Spirit.

When Peter went into the home of Cornelius, he proclaimed Jesus.

- Jesus - born of a virgin
- Jesus - living a virtuous life
- Jesus - dying a vicarious death
- Jesus - raised in a victorious resurrection
- Jesus - coming in a visible return

As he preached Jesus, the Holy Ghost "fell on them as in the early church in the upper room." Why complicate it? After we work through all of the resolutions, after we debate and adopt motions, and throw "points of order" around like confetti, let's get back to the simplicity of the Gospel. It's Jesus preached and proclaimed in the Power of the Holy Spirit.

As I close, I'm pondering the question that Mary asked when visited by the Angel Gabriel. When Gabriel announced that she would carry and birth the Messiah, Mary asked one question, "How shall this be?" This was not a question expressing her doubt. She just wanted an explanation. God is not short on explanations. He has an answer.

When I first began to broadcast the idea that the Church of God could be a leading participant in FINISHING The Great Commission, I asked the same thing, "How shall this thing be?"

In preparing the Agenda, I asked the Executive Council to look at six primary areas to help facilitate the FINISH Commitment. I saw us at a crossroad and was reminded of Jesus sending his disciples to Bethphage - a place where two roads came together. Once there, they released two donkeys and brought them to Jesus. He would choose the unriden colt to be his transportation into Jerusalem which would demonstrate that He has not come to do away with the old law but He has simply ridden it out.



With no disrespect intended, I asked the council that day, "Could it be that we are a church tethered and bound at a place where two roads meet?" The road of the past has intersected with the road to the future - and we are bound in between.

I asked the council to join me as agents of release and consider for this agenda these six possibilities:

- Visional Actualization
- Doctrinal Affirmation
- Ministerial Activation
- Generational Assimilation
- Spiritual Acceleration

After reflecting on each of these again, I asked the same question, "How shall this thing be?" I received the same answer that Mary did. How? The Anointing of The Holy Ghost. The Angel

said, "The Power of the Holy Ghost will come upon you and the Power of the Most High will overshadow you and that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." That's the answer.

How do we reach into every nation?
The Anointing of the Holy Ghost

How do we find the unreached?
The Anointing of the Holy Ghost

How do we push back against the darkness in this world with any hope of impact upon the harvest?

The Anointing of the Holy Ghost

How do we expedite healing to the nations and reconciliation to the races - and also bridge the generations that exist in our churches today?

The Anointing of the Holy Ghost

How will the Church of God arise into a new manifestation of relevance, a dispensation of revival and a demonstration of anointing?

The Anointing of the Holy Ghost

This General Council Agenda is vitally

important. It has been seasoned with prayer, study and discussion. It has been seasoned with vision. Vision that declares in clarion tones that we - the Church of God - accept the call to share the gospel in the *Spirit and Power of Pentecost*. We embrace the call to share the Gospel as a 21st century movement and with great commitment, we will contend for the faith.

Yes, this agenda carries numerous resolutions. These resolutions point us to the future and every motion propels us to relevance.

Does it matter that we are here? I answer that question with a resounding Yes! Yes, it matters because we are here to FINISH the Great Commission and witness a fresh wave of Pentecostal Power. ☩

Smoky Mountain Children's Home Announces Awards

By Pamela Kay Overbey

The Smoky Mountain Children's Home hosted an awards brunch on Monday, July 30, with support of the International Women's Ministries president, Paula Hill. The First Lady commented, "International Women's Ministries is extremely proud to be in partnership with Dr. Walt and Tammie Mauldin and Smoky Mountain Children's Home. We thank God for the opportunity to change lives and for the leadership of the home."

Greeting the audience and praying the invocation was the International Executive Committee liaison to the Care Division, First Assistant General Overseer Dr. Raymond Culpepper. Smoky Mountain Children's Home presented awards to those who have raised the most funds in their respective divisions:

B-E Category

Second Place - N. New England, Jodi Cushman
First Place - Minnesota, Linette Watson

A Category

Second Place - Arizona, Shyrel O'Neal
First Place - Alaska, B.C., Jan Wright

AA Category

Second Place - Arkansas, Diane Morgan
First Place - California-Nevada, Alice Fischer

AAA Category

Second Place - Pennsylvania, Kathy Cooper
First Place - Mississippi, Teri Moody

Four-Star Category

Second Place - Virginia, Betty Mirkovich
First Place - Kentucky, Wanda Rabon

Six- and Five-Star Category

Second Place - Ohio, Donna Higgins
First Place - Tennessee, Wendy Corder

The overall winner giving the most monies to SMCH during the General Assembly term was Tennessee, Wendy Corder.

Special recognition was given to the International Executive Committee spouses: Paula Hill, Peggy Culpepper, Joyce Stephens, Fernanda Ramírez, and Debbie Childers. In addition, honor was given to each state sponsoring its own Church of God orphanage, which includes Florida—Keith and Debbie Ivester; Eastern North Carolina—Dennis and

Judy Page; Western North Carolina—Ken and Trish Bell; South Carolina—Tom and Cathy Gillum; and West Virginia—Dan and Ruth Hampton.

For the first time, presentations were made for an annual Christmas Offering Award, with the winner being Pastor Gordon Lee of the Church of God Worship and Ministry Center in Lebanon, Tennessee. The first Mother's Day Offering Award recipient was Pastor James Worley and Care Pastor Alan Mathura of the South Metro Ministries, located in Sharpsburg, Georgia.

During the event, the late Dr. Donnie Smith was honored and remembered for his twelve years of service as the executive administrator of the Division of Care. A commemorative gift was presented to Dr. Smith's wife, Barbara. Also in attendance were Dr. Shane Smith, Lisa and Casey Smith, along with their five children.

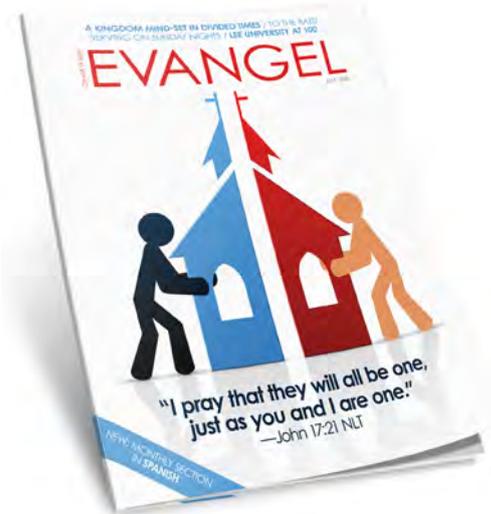
Updates on the progress of the Smoky Mountain Children's Home was provided by the Mauldins, which included major renovations on the gymnasium, interior and exterior transformation of the Moffett Dining Hall, the Memories Room facelift, completion of the new Miller Training Room, repairs of both the Texas Rose House and the director's home, makeovers of the Administration Building Lobby and Board Room, dedication of the new location of the Oneida Foster Care Office, and an update on the progress of the cottage now under construction.

Bishop Ron Martin, Board of Directors chair, concluded the event by saying, "Finding the harvest begins with finding the children who need a home. The SMCH Board of Directors is committed to this vision. We believe every child has a purpose, and God has a plan to fulfill each purpose."

Together for 97 years, the Church of God Women's Ministries and the Smoky Mountain Children's Home continue striving to fulfill the mandate of James 1:27, to care for the orphans and widows. ♦

The Evangel Has Much to Offer—Including Spanish

By Lance Colkmire



In an era when Bible literacy is declining, when we don't have time to hear testimonies at church, and when doctrinal and denominational loyalty are ebbing, think about this: the Church of God Evangel can help with all those needs.

Bible literacy: The Evangel features articles that help engage readers with Scriptural truths.

Testimonies: The Evangel provides stories of God's work in people's lives around the nation and globe.

Doctrinal and denominational loyalty: What the Church of God believes and how our churches carry out those beliefs are lifted up in inspirational features.

And now, for the first time in its 108-year history, the Evangel includes a four-page section written in Spanish. It is an important part of the new partnership between Pathway Press and Editorial Evangélica.

Carlos S. Morán, director of Hispanic Ministries, said, "The competitive, fast-changing operations of the production and distribution of publications calls for a repositioning of Editorial Evangélica to Pathway with the concrete understanding that 'Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor'" (Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIV).

Another key development with the Evangel is its top-notch website, evangelmagazine.com, which offers a portion of the monthly magazine's contents.

Pick up a free copy of the *Evangel* at the Church of God Publications store in the Exhibit Hall. ♦



SMCH Directors Walt and Tammie Mauldin, and International Women's Ministries President Paula Hill, are joined by winners of the SMCH awards



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La Iglesia de Dios: Un Movimiento Crucial

Por Tim Hill



El obispo presidente Timothy Hill solicitó el privilegio de dirigirse a la 77ª Asamblea General Internacional antes de que comenzaran los trabajos. A continuación, incluimos el mensaje de su visión y pasión para la iglesia. El mensaje fue seguido por un período de oración, la imposición de manos, el ungimiento con aceite y un desfile de ministros y laicos como representantes del futuro de la Iglesia de Dios.

Recuerdo que hace dos años atrás, tras haber aceptado la nominación como supervisor general, les dije que la Iglesia de Dios tenía que ser una iglesia de oración, propósito y presencia. Escogí esas palabras para dejarles saber que «el que estemos aquí debe ser importante».

Al decir que somos una iglesia de presencia no estamos diciendo que somos el remedio de los males y los problemas que aquejan al mundo. Antes bien, estamos diciendo que la Iglesia de Dios, como parte del cuerpo de Cristo, es un canal del Espíritu Santo para la sanidad y restauración de un mundo que está desesperado por su redención.

Nuestro movimiento nunca debe contentarse con el retiro en los museos polvorientos de la irrelevancia. Tampoco debe convertirse en una subcultura sin sentido, de mucha retórica, pero que se queda corta en la implementación y ejecución del Evangelio. Debemos hacer la diferencia en la evangelización y dejar una huella en el Reino.

La iglesia no existe en una burbuja ni en el vacío. Vivimos y ministramos dentro de un contexto socioeconómico bajo la influencia de una cosmovisión, ideologías políticas y fuerzas espirituales. Ahí es donde debemos predicar, vivir el Evangelio y contender por la fe. La gente espiritual reconoce que no se trata de un espacio neutral. Una batalla está librándose por el dominio, mientras que las fuerzas seculares tienen una agenda clara de hacer que fracasemos en nuestra misión. El mundo está tratando de promover una moralidad sin religión y de restarle importancia a la Iglesia. No se trata de un nuevo programa, sino de lo mismo de siempre bajo

el camuflaje de la posmodernidad. Cuando demolemos los eufemismos, encontramos la lucha entre el bien y el mal, la justicia en contra de la injusticia, la moralidad en contra de la inmoralidad, el amor en contra del odio.

La Iglesia no será eficaz en este siglo a menos que se entregue de lleno a la misión de Jesucristo. Esta misión es verdad y el amor. A través de los ojos de Jesucristo debemos discernir la Verdad y vivirla y proclamarla por medio de la sabiduría y el poder del Espíritu Santo.

La desesperación que impera en el mundo está exigiéndole a la Iglesia de Dios que vuelva al Evangelio. De nada valdría nuestra presencia en Orlando si entráramos y saliéramos a escondidas sin haber proclamado la importancia del Reino ni haber afectado a la comunidad. Más de mil problemas claman por una solución y cada institución está gritando por una reforma. Sin embargo, no estamos aquí para reformar al mundo. Nuestro mandato en este mundo no es político. No es social ni económico. Y aunque cada problema sea importante, y probablemente afecte a alguien que amamos en algún lugar, no debemos engañarnos con que si «solucionamos» esto y «arreglamos» aquello y «corregimos» al otro, todo estará bien. Nadie nos ha llamado a que «arreglamos» esto o lo otro.

La Iglesia ha sido llamada a predicar el Evangelio puro de Jesús. Cada vez que nos movemos del centro a la periferia, lo que era periférico se convierte en el centro. Cada problema dentro de los Estados Unidos y el mundo es importante, pero es como si las respuestas aceptables fueran pocas. Desde nuestra asamblea en la ciudad de Nashville, nuestro mundo ha estado convulsionando con problemas sin solución. Mencione el asunto, cualquiera sea:

- Pobreza
- Terrorismo
- Racismo
- Violencia escolar

- Inmigración
- Abuso de sustancias
- Explotación sexual y trata de personas
- La denigración y el abuso de mujeres y niños
- Aborto
- Desempleo
- Servicios médicos
- La falta de responsabilidad y transparencia del liderazgo

Puedo seguir hablando y cada persona cambiaría el orden de importancia de esos asuntos. Sin embargo, debo mencionar el asunto más crítico para la América de hoy. No es la pobreza ni la inmigración ni cualquiera de las otras cosas que ya he mencionado. El problema número uno en el mundo de hoy es... *una iglesia tibia, apática e incapaz de hacer la diferencia en este mundo.*

La tibieza describe apropiadamente a muchas iglesias alrededor del mundo. Están demasiado frías como para calentarse o demasiado calientes como para enfriarse. Su condición *laodiceana* las ha expuesto al grave peligro de que el Maestro las expulse. No tolera esa condición en ninguna iglesia.

Algunas, como la iglesia de Éfeso, «han abandonado su primer amor». No fue un accidente. Éfeso no «perdió» su amor, sino que se había dedicado a otras pasiones. Amaba a Jesús, pero no como antes. Iglesia de Dios le pregunto: «¿amamos todavía a Cristo?». ¿Lo amamos lo suficiente como para dejar a un lado nuestras agendas personales, políticas, orgullosas a cambio de su programa de cosecha, de «gente»?

- Gente herida
- Gente solitaria
- Gente hambrienta
- Gente perdida
- Gente enferma

Esta semana nos hemos congregado en Orlando bajo el lema, *Finalicemos en el Espíritu y poder de Pentecostés*. Desde hace dos años ustedes han acogido, como nunca antes, el mandato de:

- Encontrar a los pueblos no alcanzados
- Interceder por las vidas
- Organizarnos
- Invertir en la plantación de iglesias
- Enviar obreros a la mies por todo el mundo
- Cosechar la mies y las almas a Cristo

La Gran Comisión está en vías de su Gran Finalización. Pero escúcheme: *Somos una iglesia pentecostal y Pentecostés no está separado de la Gran Comisión*. Además, la Gran Comisión no está separada de Pentecostés. Están entretreídos.

Usted me ha oído decir que, «no hemos sido llenados con el Espíritu para nuestro disfrute, sino para que trabajemos». El Espíritu no nos ha llenado para que cantemos más fuerte, corramos más rápido ni adoremos con más pasión. Hemos sido llenos con el Espíritu Santo para que cumplamos el man-

dato de Cristo, como dice Hechos capítulo 1 versículo 8: «pero recibiréis poder cuando haya venido sobre vosotros el Espíritu Santo, y me seréis testigos». Eso es todo.

Por alguna razón a veces creemos que no basta con ese sencillo mandato. Así que, salimos en busca de mejores métodos. Esa búsqueda por lo último en la avenida me recuerda que David hizo todo lo posible por recuperar el arca del pacto. Usó mucho metal y paneles con ruedas enormes. Sin embargo, el primer bache en la carretera llevó al desastre y el avivamiento quedó retrasado por tres meses.

¡Escuche! Dios no espera que al final de esta semana tengamos los mejores métodos. Él está buscando hombres mejores, mujeres mejores, pastores y pastoras mejores, evangelistas mejores, líderes mejores que se apoyen en Él y entiendan que no es con espada ni con ejército sino con mi Santo Espíritu.

Nuestro lema proclama que dependemos del poder del Espíritu Santo en la finalización de la Gran Comisión. Pero, también implica una antítesis aterradora. Si dependiéramos tanto del Espíritu Santo, ¿cómo se nos ocurriría que podríamos hacer de todo sin su ayuda? ¿De verdad queremos intentarlo sin su ayuda y colaboración? Debemos volver a Pentecostés.

- El Pentecostés repentino
- El Pentecostés audible
- El Pentecostés visible
- El Pentecostés en lenguas

¡Oh, si volviéramos a experimentar el significado de Pentecostés! Muchos están viviendo del recuerdo en lugar del poder de Pentecostés. Ya es hora de que retomemos la palabra. Se la hemos cedido a los que decían: «No podemos ser pentecostales si queremos evangelizar a esta generación». Se la hemos cedido a los que decían: «Los días de los milagros, las señales y los prodigios son cosa del pasado». Se la hemos cedido a los que decían: «Las nuevas generaciones no aceptan el mensaje de la santidad ni de la convicción de pecado». Se la hemos cedido a los que predicaban un mensaje más apóstata que apostólico. Muchos han seguido doctrinas de demonios y ahora, muchos de los que alguna vez ardieron con el fuego del Evangelio se han convertido en nubes sin agua, llevadas de un lado a otro por el viento. Son como árboles cuyo fruto se ha marchitado, muertos y arrancados de sus raíces.

Debemos retomar la palabra y predicar que en donde está el Espíritu del Señor hay libertad. Debemos retomar la palabra y predicar que el día del Señor está cerca. Debemos retomar la palabra y predicar que «la justicia engrandece a la nación; el pecado es afrenta de las naciones». Debemos retomar la palabra y decir la verdad. Seamos francos y firmes. Tenemos que reafirmar la «plataforma» de Jesús. Esta asamblea no

debe quedarse en una agenda. Tenemos que volver a predicar a Cristo en el mundo bajo el poder del Espíritu Santo. Pedro entró en la casa de Cornelio predicándonos a Cristo:

- Jesús - nacido de una virgen
- Jesús - quien vivió virtuosamente
- Jesús - quien murió vicariamente
- Jesús - quien fue resucitado victoriosamente de entre los muertos
- Jesús - cuya venida será visible

Mientras predicaba a Cristo, «el Espíritu Santo cayó sobre todos los que oían el discurso». ¿Por qué tenemos que complicarlo? Cuando terminemos con todas las resoluciones y hayamos debatido y adoptado enmiendas y llamado «cuestiones de orden» a diestra y siniestra, debemos volver a la sencillez del Evangelio. Es Jesús predicado y proclamado en el poder del Espíritu Santo.

Estoy a punto de concluir pensando en lo que María le preguntó al ángel Gabriel. Cuando Gabriel le anunció que llevaba en su vientre al Mesías, María le preguntó, «¿cómo será esto?». No estaba dudando del mensaje. Simplemente quería una explicación. Dios no evita las explicaciones. Él tiene una respuesta. Cuando comencé a hablar de que la Iglesia de Dios podía convertirse en líder de la finalización de la Gran Comisión, también me pregunté a mí mismo, ¿cómo será esto?

Mientras preparábamos la agenda, le solicité al Concilio Ejecutivo [Internacional] que se enfocara en seis áreas con miras a El Compromiso Final. Vi que estábamos en una encrucijada y entonces, me acordé de la ocasión en que Jesús envió a sus discípulos a Betfagé (la encrucijada en el camino). Allí, encontraron los asnos y se los trajeron a Jesús. Sobre el pollino cabalgaría hacia Jerusalén para demostrar que no había venido a destruir la Ley, sino ha cumplirla.

Con mucho respeto le solicité al Concilio: «¿Será posible que como iglesia estemos atados a una encrucijada?». El camino del pasado se cruza con el camino hacia el futuro; y estamos en el medio.

Le solicité al Concilio que se me unieran como agentes de liberación para que planteáramos esta agenda en torno a seis posibilidades:

- La actualización de la visión
- La afirmación de la doctrina
- Los cambios estructurales
- La activación del ministerio
- La asimilación de las generaciones
- El apresuramiento espiritual

Tras haber meditado en cada uno de estos puntos, volví a preguntarme, ¿cómo será esto? Recibí la misma respuesta dada a María hizo. ¿Cómo? La unción del Espíritu Santo. El ángel le dijo: «El Espíritu Santo vendrá sobre ti y el poder del Altísimo te cubrirá con su sombra; por lo cual también el Santo Ser que va a nacer será llamado Hijo de Dios».

Esa es la respuesta.
¿Cómo llegaremos a cada nación?
La unción del Espíritu Santo.

¿Cómo encontraremos a los no alcanzados?
La unción del Espíritu Santo.

¿Cómo reprenderemos las tinieblas de este mundo y mantendremos la esperanza de llegar a la mies?
La unción del Espíritu Santo.

¿Cómo aceleraremos la sanidad de las naciones y la reconciliación racial y entre las generaciones dentro de las iglesias?
La unción del Espíritu Santo.

¿Cómo se levantará la Iglesia de Dios como pertinente, avivada y ungida?
La unción del Espíritu Santo.

Esta Agenda del Concilio General Internacional es de vital importancia. Ha sido sazonada con estudio y discusión. Ha sido sazonada con visión. Una visión que resuena diciendo que nosotros, la Iglesia de Dios, aceptamos el llamado de evangelizar en el Espíritu y poder de Pentecostés. Aceptamos el llamado de ser un movimiento del siglo XXI que predica el Evangelio y contiene por la fe.

Sí, los trabajos incluyen muchas resoluciones. Estas nos señalan el futuro y cada medida nos hará más pertinentes.

¿Qué si importa el que estemos aquí? ¡Por supuesto! Sí, importa porque estamos aquí para terminar la Gran Comisión y ser testigos de la nueva ola del poder pentecostal. ♦

PROGRAMA PARA EL MIÉRCOLES, 1 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:

«Transformación Urbana», Bruce Deel

Celebración Fe, Fuego y Libertad

Ministerios Internacionales de la Mujer
Valencia Ballroom 9:30 a. m. — 12:00 p. m.

Alabanzas:

Angie Primm, Leslie Ruiz

Predicadora:

Evang. Joyce Rodgers

Servicio de adoración:

7:00 p. m.

Moderador:

Dr. David E. Ramírez

Alabanzas:

The Crabb Family, Angie Primm
Coral Exalumnos Universidad de Lee

Predicador:

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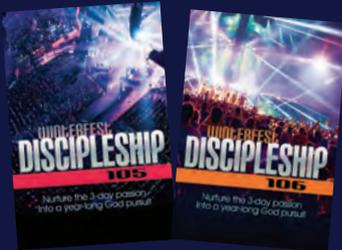
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77TH INTERNATIONAL

General Assembly



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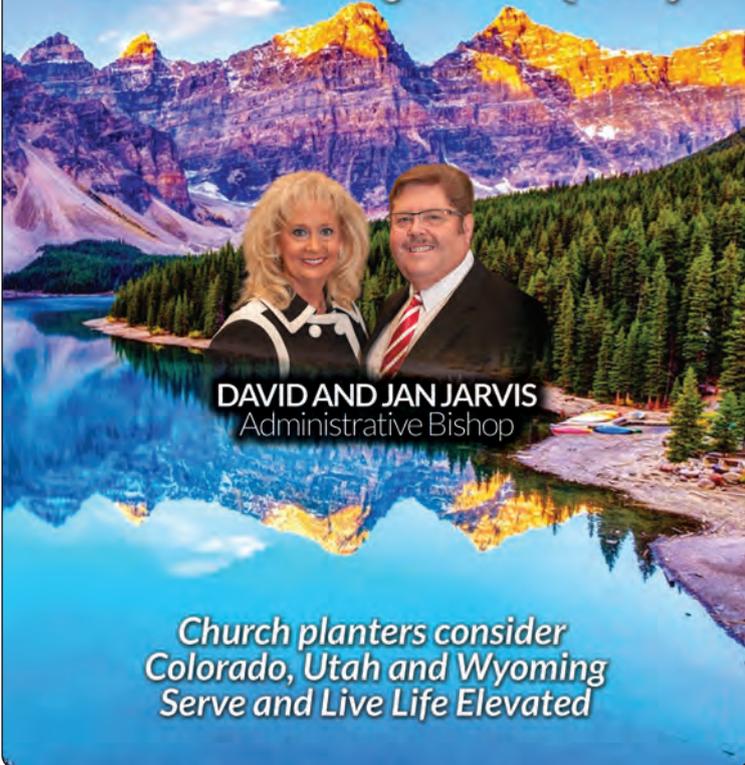


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Women Working Together For Good

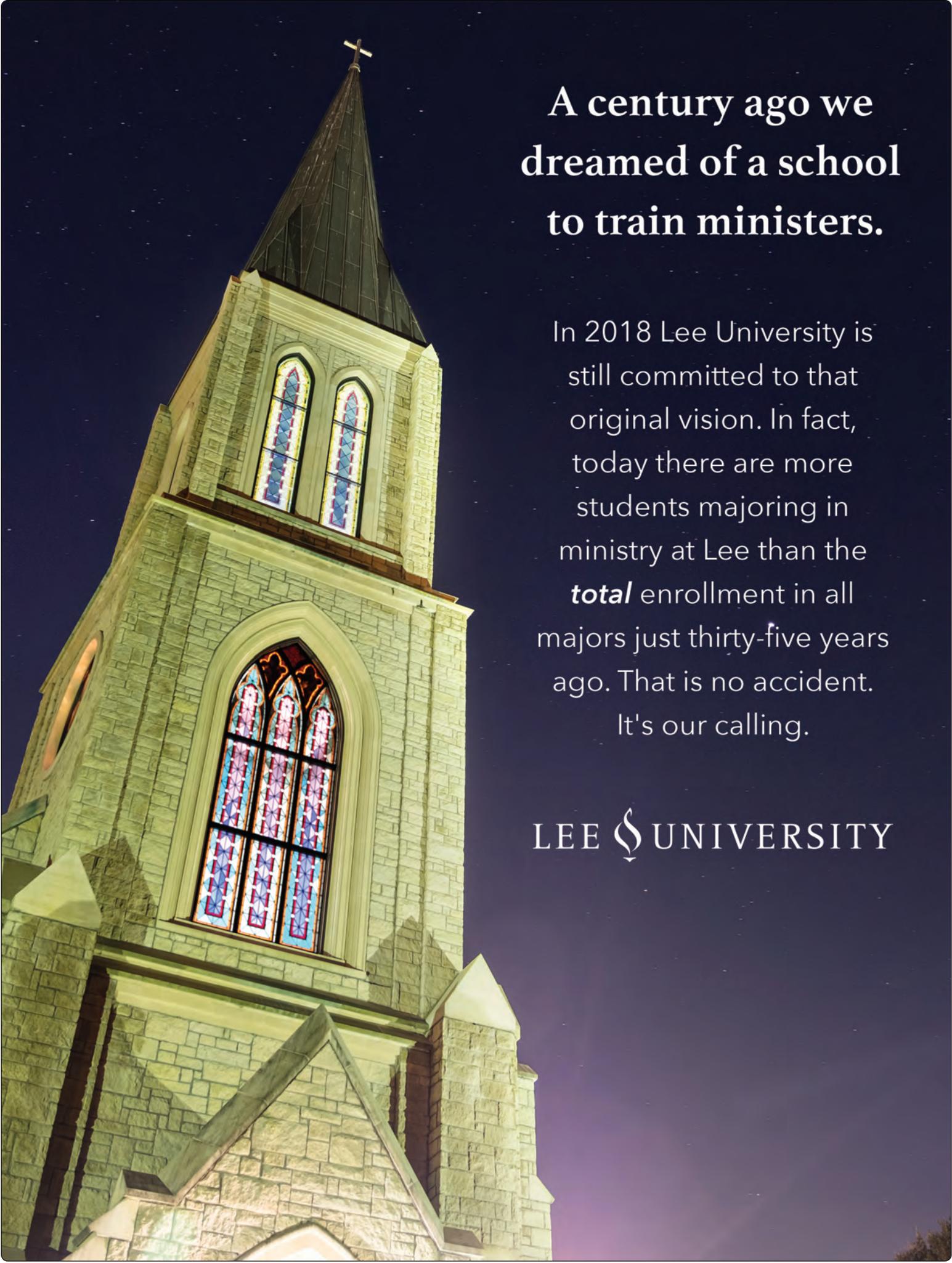
Women With a Mission is partnering with City of Refuge - a leader in business and social transformation - to offer a 12-month transitional home for women who have been sexually trafficked and their children. Join us as we embark on a mission to shine light into dark places, and empower hope so families can heal, thrive and reclaim their lives.



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Welcome

from the

Stephens Covenant Ministry Team

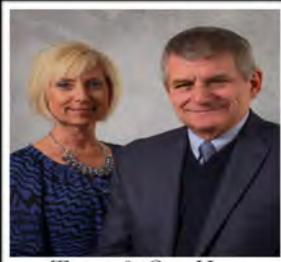
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Home for Children

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Assistant General Overseer



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(Alaska)



Charles and Alice
Fischer
(California/Nevada)



Anthony and Millicent
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Thomas and Charla
Madden
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Perkins
(Midlands)



Efrain and Elba
Navas (North
Central Hispanic)



Lester and Donna
Higgins
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Vaughn and Barbara
Mathews
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Thomas and Cathy
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Through the
power
of the
Holy Spirit,
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the *MISSION*.





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- Advocate for their benefit in your local church
- Care for their family and emotional health
- Communicate often to sustain a long-term relationship of support and trust
- Celebrate their unique personality and character that God is using on the field
- Receive them with open arms when they return home
- Invest in their ministry realizing God has called us to send them to places we cannot go
- Listen closely to their testimony of how God is working where they serve
- Equip them to be warriors of light who are following God's voice
- Understand and love them in their humanity
- Remember the big moments in their lives

Project# 102-9496

A missionary is an **agent of God** who travels into the unknown with the message of hope. As **warriors of light**, they follow God's Voice, sharing *His Word, His Message and His Love* with people of **other cultures** foreign to their own.



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Go West!

From the California/Nevada Church of God State Office



David & Maria White
Youth & Discipleship
Director

Charles & Alice Fischer
Administrative Bishop & Women's
Discipleship Director

Phil & Joann Patterson
Ministerial Development
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Alaska/BC Church of God
 Leadership Team & Family
 Welcome you to the

77th General Assembly



L to R: Bishop Fred & Tamika Ledbetter, Bishop Joe & Carol Perez,
 Bishop Bobby & Linda Jones, **Administrative Bishop Pat & Jan Wright**,
 Bishop David & Tina Matthews, Bishop Tom & Fredda Shook,
 Bishop Jeff & Marie White

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CHURCH OF GOD

Florida - Cocoa State
 Administrative Office

WELCOMES YOU TO:

77th International General Assembly



*Bishop Billy Gowdy &
 Lady Maryann Gowdy*

*Bishop Anthony Pelt &
 Lady Millicent Pelt*

*Bishop William "Bill" Lee &
 Lady Sheila Lee*

Youth & Discipleship Directors / *State Administrative Bishop* & *Women's Discipleship Director* \ *USA Discipleship Director*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018

GA Today



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to the
77th



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Joy Claypoole
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Chuck Ferrell
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Sherry Ferrell
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Karen Smith
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Heather Seals
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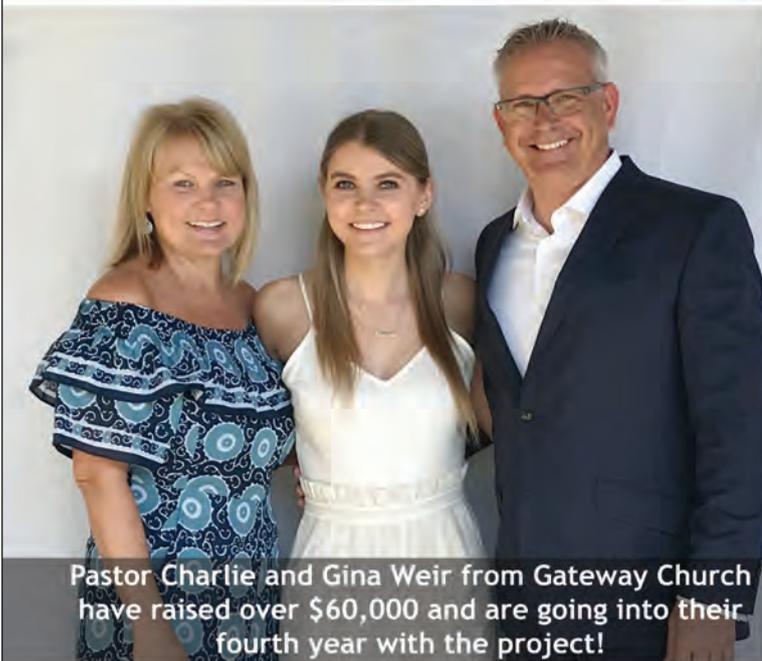
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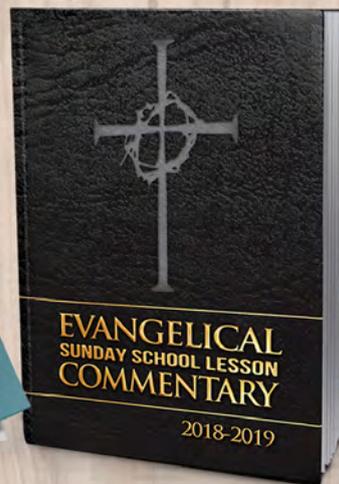
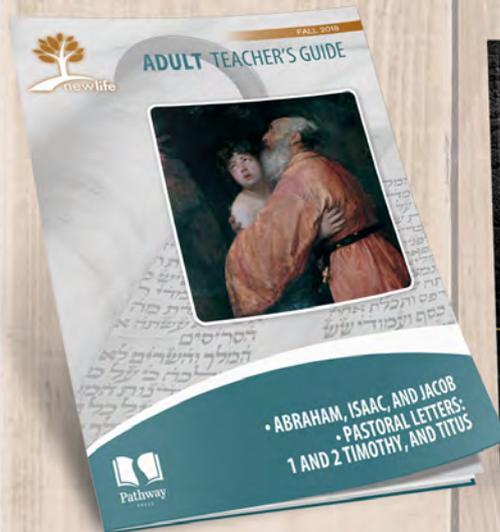
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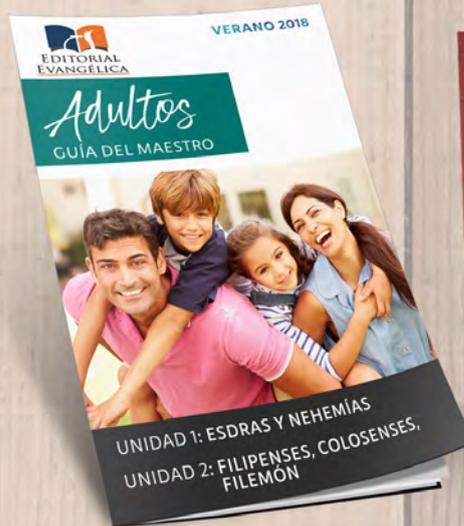
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