

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

George O. Wood

What a great joy it is to gather again for General Council! It has been 34 years since we last met in Anaheim. Since then we have seen the number of Assemblies of God churches in the USA grow from 10,386 in 1983 to 13,023 as of the end of 2017, and the number of adherents in the USA grew from slightly less than 2 million to over 3.1 million. The Assemblies of God family world-wide, including the USA, in these intervening years has grown from 110,635 churches to over 370,000; and increased in adherents from 12,551,743 to about 68 million. This increase is a remarkable testimony to the work of the Holy Spirit across our nation and our world.

At this Council in Anaheim, we meet in the long shadow of the Azusa Street Revival that began 111 years ago. In this second century since Azusa we continue to see the remarkable influence of the spiritual outpouring that occurred then and continues unabated to the present. Our Pentecostal forefathers and foremothers could have only dreamed of the reach and extent of this Apostolic Movement the Spirit bade them to begin. It is God's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes!

This past year witnessed the most Assemblies of God churches planted in the USA in our 103 year history – 406 new churches. In the past 9 years from 2008 through 2016, 2,998 new Assemblies of God churches have been started in the USA.

With all our heart we have sought to fulfill our four-fold mission: to evangelize, disciple, show compassion, and worship; and our core values: passionately proclaim Jesus, strategically invest in the next generation, vigorously plant new churches and revitalize existing ones, skillfully serve the Fellowship, and fervently pray.

Two years ago I shared a lengthy report with the General Presbytery regarding 10 priorities that the Spirit impressed on my heart. These are priorities I continue to pursue in my role. Here they are:

- To remain faithful to the doctrine and mission that brought us to where we are.
- To remain hungry for more of the Spirit.
- To never lose our passion to reach the lost.
- To invest in the next generation.
- To have a healthy Spirit-filled church in every community.
- To pray the Spirit will give us wisdom in relating to a culture that is largely secular.
- To strengthen the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural diversity in our Fellowship.
- To recognize that the size of the Assemblies of God has cast us in a new role within the larger body of Christ. (By some estimates, we are the 4th or 5th largest Christian movement in the world.)
- To treasure the past, but not live in it – recognizing the constant need for change in methods for evangelism and discipleship.
- To have the National Leadership and Resource Center be the premier publishing resource serving our churches, ministers and laity.

With the Spirit's enablement, the best days lie ahead for our Fellowship!

I want to especially express gratitude for those who serve alongside me:

- My fellow co-workers and lasting friends who are members of the Executive Leadership Team. At this Council, we also express our gratitude to Zollie Smith, executive director of AGUSM, who is retiring. “Well done, Zollie!”
- My colleagues on the Executive Presbytery. They serve this Fellowship with such excellence and wisdom. Special thanks is owed to these executive presbyters who conclude their service at this Council due to term limits: Warren Bullock, J. Don George, Jesse Miranda and Brian Schmidgall.
- The incredible and talented staff at the National Office who serve this Fellowship with extraordinary skill and devotion.
- My wonderful administrative staff: Jewell Woodward (who has been a General Council employee for 52 years), Helen Waggoner, Joy Wootton and Shelly Mackey.
- My wife, Jewel, and family for their support of me through thick and thin.

Finally, I am grateful for all of you. So many have expressed their love, encouragement, support to me, and prayers for me. I am debtor.

I close with a word from our second general superintendent, J. W. Welch, as he was coming into office in October of 1915. He was facing the formidable doctrinal controversy of the “Jesus Only” teaching that racked the early Pentecostal Movement and the Assemblies of God. Here’s what he said: *Brethren pray for me that I may have and hold a correct view of my place in the body of Christ and of my ministry in this new relation; and pray together with me that God may guide us together through the tangle of varied and often distracting matters which arise in these days. Only God can save us from error and fanaticism and keep us free from formalism and deadness. We may never see eye to eye in all things this side of eternal glory, but thank God we can go on together till Jesus shall come if we truly and lovingly “consider one another to provoke unto love and good works” and not to strive one against another. With much love to all men.*

What J. W. Welch asked then from our Movement, I ask again for myself and for all in our leadership. And, with much love to all of you!

The Lord richly bless you!

George O. Wood
General Superintendent

AGTRUST REPORT

Dr. George Wood

AGTrust: Growing a vibrant, healthy Assemblies of God Fellowship for future generations and training and preparing leaders to fulfill the task of the Great Commission

We thank God for His blessings on our efforts together. Since our inception in 2008, more than **11,500 churches, individuals and businesses** have contributed to our efforts to help future generations of the Assemblies of God. Currently, we have approximately **1,000 active donors** who give monthly. Through donations and matching fund replenishments, our total revenue exceeds **\$26.3 million dollars** that has been generated for our four AGTrust initiatives.

- **Planting Churches:** In partnership with Church Multiplication Network, AGTrust has provided matching funds for **454 church plants** that represent an asset of over **\$13.6 million**, which will continue to plant churches as the funds are replenished by the church plants. The evangelistic efforts of these churches have resulted in nearly **1.1 million contacts** with unchurched individuals and **29,589 decisions for Christ**. The churches have given **\$7.8 million dollars** for missions. More than 75 church plants launched in September on National Church Planting Day 2016, and many more are planning to launch this year on September 17, 2017.
- **Strengthening Churches:** In partnership with Church Transformation Initiative, **AGTrust has provided scholarships to 613 of the 944 churches in 31 districts** participating in the one-year Acts 2 Journey to better health. The number of scholarships provided by AGTrust has almost doubled since last year, and the number of participating churches has increased by nearly 300. (Alton will expand on the tremendous growth we are seeing in this area with his report.)
- **Training Young Leaders:** Partnering with the Alliance for AG Higher Education, AGTrust has awarded deserving AG students/graduates from our 17 AG colleges and universities with **\$3,054,982 million in 1,164 scholarships/grants** (Making THE Difference, Ralph Riggs and J. Robert Ashcroft Scholarships; and the AG Next Generation Grant).
- **Creating New Church Resources:** AGTrust has provided \$1.1 million to produce cutting-edge training materials for our young students.

Transform America: A Healthy Church in EVERY Community

Through this campaign launched at General Council 2015, AGTrust is continuing to accelerate our church planting efforts as well as strengthen existing churches.