



July 8-12, 2024
Indianapolis, IN

GA Today

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY



WEDNESDAY | JULY 10, 2024

Wednesday Events

Registration – ICC Main Lobby

Wednesday, July 10 – 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 11 – 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, July 12 – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

International General Council – Halls H-J

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. — Priority Prayer

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

African Field Area Breakfast

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Location: ICC – Room 201-203

International Junior Talent—Bible Teaching, Preaching, and Testimony

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: ICC – Room 101

International Junior Talent—Bible Quizzing

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: ICC – Room 105-106

International Junior Talent—Music

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: ICC – 500 Ballroom

International Women's Ministries Service

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Sagamore Ballroom

DOE—Distinguished International Educator's Luncheon

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Wabash Ballroom

Buy a Tree; Change a Life. Luncheon

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: ICC – Room 109-110

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: ICC – Room 201-203

International Junior Talent—Drama

Time: 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: ICC – 500 Ballroom

365 Kids Club—Passport to Adventure

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: ICC – Room 116-117

PK Gathering (Teens) *Reserved seating for PKs in service.

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: ICC – Room 107-108

Children's Church (Ages 3-6 Potty Trained)

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Location: ICC – Room 142

Kid's Church (Ages 7-12)

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Location: ICC – Room 143-145

Pentecostal Theological Seminary Reception

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Location: Sagamore Ballroom

Bible Colleges Reception

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Location: Wabash Ballroom

Canadian National Office Reception

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Location: ICC – Room 134-136

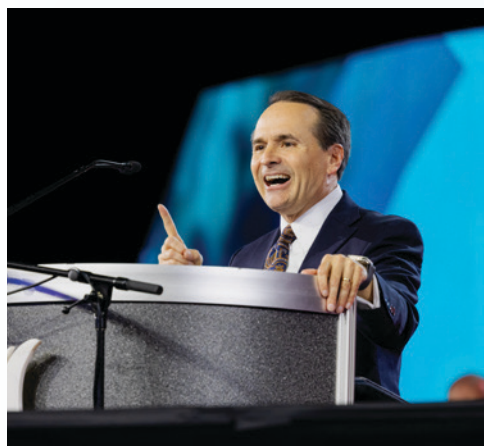
Spirit Sound Music Group

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Location: JW Marriott – White River Ballroom

Lewis Nominated General Overseer

By Cameron Fisher



After serving two years as Secretary General for the Church of God, Dr. Gary J. Lewis was elevated to the position of General Overseer on the first ballot cast by the International General Council.

Following a time of communion and prayer led by current General Overseer Tim Hill, he called for the first order of business, that of nominating the next leader for the Church of God. The Nominating Ballot led to a second round of voting for the General

—continued on page 17

Council Picks Stewart, Dority, Williams, and Madden for Executive Committee

By Cameron Fisher



Tony Stewart



T. Wayne Dority



Mark L. Williams



Tom Madden

With the tenures of three members of the International Executive Committee closing at this General Assembly, the General Council had an anointed task before them to nominate three new leaders for the Church of God. Following the elevation of Secretary General Gary Lewis to the office of General Overseer, the votes for first, second, and third assistant general overseer, as well as secretary general ensued.

Current Second Assistant Tony Stewart was nominated to move up to First Assistant, placing him in a new role for the next four years.

"I prayed this morning that God's will would prevail," Stewart said as he took the podium to accept the nomination. "Dr. Gary Lewis, I believe it is God's will for you to lead our Church in this next season." Testifying of

growing up in a Church of God parsonage, Stewart expressed his gratitude to the Church and its impact on his life.

"I have been honored for the last 18 years to pastor an amazing congregation in Tampa," Stewart said. "Today we gather as a family

—continued on page 6

Ramirez Chosen

By David S. White

In a development that was both unexpected and historic, Dr. David E. Ramirez was nominated to serve as the Assistant Director of World Missions during Tuesday's General Council session.

Dr. Ramirez was concluding his eight-year term as the Third Assistant General Overseer;

—continued on page 7

Indiana

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Indiana State Council

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Henderson, Dennis Sanders, Robert Sluder,
Charles Wiseman, Terry Cano, Jack Stout,
Jerry Ballard

Youth and Discipleship Gets New Leaders

By Justin Holbrook

A new Youth and Discipleship team was nominated during Tuesday's 79th International General Assembly. Bishop Brian Yaun was picked to transition from the Assistant role to Director of Youth and Discipleship. Yaun served as the Assistant for the past four years. Bishop Max Reyes was elected as the Assistant Director of Youth and Discipleship.

Yaun and his wife Cathy, hope to continue to build on the foundation laid by former director Bishop Rob and Christal Bailey.

"The Baileys have left a solid foundation on which to build, and we will both enhance and expand our reach through resourcing, equipping, and worshipping together," Yaun stated. "I'm grateful for Bishop Bailey's intentional onboarding process in preparing me for the Director's portfolio prior to my election as International Director. His desire to help me succeed in every way has been a blessing."

Yaun enters with a vision to empower by investing into this generation and making Disciples.

"At the core, Church of God Youth and Discipleship exists to ensure students know their faith, are equipped to grow in their faith,



and live to show their faith. We must make disciples," Yaun said. "To be about the Great Commission, we must "INVEST our BEST." Bishop Yaun's vision is built around the acronym INVEST.

I - IGNITE, N - NURTURE, V - VALUE, E - EMPOWER, S - SHAPE, T - TRAIN

If confirmed, joining Bishop Yaun is Assistant Youth Director Bishop Reyes and his wife, Rebeca. The Reyes' are no strangers to the Youth Department, as they have served as Youth Directors in Ohio and Michigan.

"It's one of the greatest honors, it's hard to even imagine," Reyes said. "To be able to serve in a position and a department that has blessed me so much, it is incredible. It is also an honor to be able to serve with Bishop Brian and Cathy Yaun. ♦

  
OnSocial
Posts @COGGA24

Donna Donald - A tremendous start of the greatest family reunion. My heart is overwhelmed when I think of the abundance of blessings and memories we share with each one #COGGA24

Stacy Eldridge Blackburn - Love and appreciate Presiding Bishop Tim Hill. Communion, intercession, and a call to repentance. What a beautiful start to business sessions this morning at #CoGGA24 Lord, have your way.

Lynn Swank - #cogga24 is a Family Reunion! So much more to come!!!

Jimmy Harper - Honored to help with the video crew this week at General Assembly 2024! This is a tremendous group of talented folks working to make these proceedings available to people all across the World! #COGGA24

Indiana Convention Center - A warm welcome to those attending the Church of God 79th General Assembly this week! #COGGA24

GA Today GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY

General Assembly Today is produced in the interest of delegates to the 79th Church of God International General Assembly. It is published daily, Monday through Friday, July 8-July 12, 2024.

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Cameron Fisher

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Comments or inquiries about *General Assembly Today* are welcomed and can be emailed to the editor, Cameron Fisher, cfisher@churchofgod.org.

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TOBY S. MORGAN
4:00-5:00



Friday, July 12

SKIP JENKINS
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KEVIN MCGLAMERY
12:30-1:30



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David Ray



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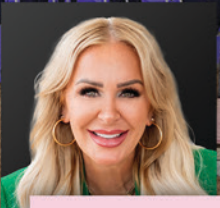
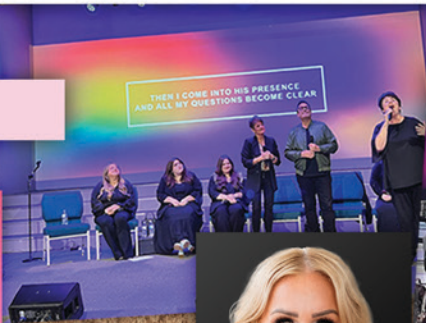


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Council Picks . . .

Continued from page 1

and we will leave as a family. I pledge to Dr. Lewis my support and to the other members of the Executive Committee that will join us." He lauded the outgoing Committee members saying, "I have learned so much from these three men and your deposit in me will live on."

Nominated to serve for the next four years as Second Assistant General Overseer was T. Wayne Dority, current administrative bishop of Tennessee.

"It was the cross that called me into this glorious ministry, and it is the cross that will lead us into the Harvest now," Dority stated. "Thank you to this Council for the nomination to this role and place of service." Dority told the story of attending the General Assembly 18 years ago in Indianapolis where he accepted his first administrative assignment after 22 years as local church pastor.

"I am deeply honored that you have placed your trust in me to serve in this capacity," Dority said in his remarks to the General Council. "I stand here with a profound sense of humility and honor. I stand here with clear eyes and a full heart for what lies ahead for this great church...if confirmed by the General Assembly, I pledge my full devotion and energy."

For the office of Third Assistant General Overseer, the General Council nominated former general overseer Mark L. Williams to the post.

"I am overwhelmed and inexpressibly honored to receive the nomination to serve the Church of God," he said. "For the last ten years, Sandra Kay and I had the great and high honor pastoring one of the great churches of our movement, the North Cleveland Church of God. It is with a sense of deep pain that we will leave that assignment only because we have put ourselves completely in the hands of God to ask for his perfect plan and will....may we all commit ourselves with honor, with humility and with holiness to communicate the full Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Spirit and power of Pentecost!"

Before adjournment of the morning session the General Council completed nominations of the Executive Committee with the selection of Thomas Madden to the office of secretary general. Madden is the current administrative bishop for the region of North Georgia.

"When I told the Lord I would preach, I never intended to be here," Madden said. "I want to thank the Lord for directing my steps. The call of God on my life has always been the next generation. I stand here today with that same burden for our sons and daughters." Madden continued his comments by telling the General Council, "I am a product of the Church of God and there is more right with us than wrong with us," as the body erupted in applause.



If confirmed by the General Assembly on Friday, the five men nominated on Tuesday will all be in office for the next four years signifying the opportunity for an unbroken and unified tenure of executive leadership for the Church of God until 2028. ♦



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Ramirez Chosen

Continued from page 1

the longest time any leader has occupied that position in Church of God history.



The vote came about when sitting Assistant Director Dr. John D. Childers resigned his position to accept an offer from newly nominated General Overseer Gary Lewis to become Executive Director of Global Communications for the Church of God.

Dr. Childers' decision announced to the General Council as a privileged statement opened the assistant director post for a vote and allowed Ramirez to make history as the first Latino and foreign national to be elected to World Missions office since Victor Pagan.

"Gloria a Dios," Dr. Ramirez said, giving glory to God in his native Spanish tongue when he first stepped to the podium. "This wonderful church

that we belong to has given me every opportunity in my life to do any kind of ministry I felt God was calling me to do," Ramirez said. "I feel so humbled because there is no limitation, no matter where you are from or what language you speak, to the doors that God can open for you."

Ramirez brings a wealth of global ministry experience to the World Missions Department, which is headed by Director M. Thomas Propes. A native of Chile, he has been a seminary founder and president in Argentina and Ecuador, Field Director to South America and Latin America Director with Church of God World Missions.

He was the first Latino elected to the International Executive Committee, taking office in 2016.

Dr. Childers was elected Assistant Director of World Missions in 2022. Between 2016 and 2022 was Secretary General on the International Executive Committee.

"Our newly nominated general Overseer has asked me to serve the church in a new capacity," Dr. Childers told the General Council. "Over the last hour or so, I have heard his vision and his hopes for the future of this great church that now has members in over 192 countries around the world."

"I have been honored to serve with Dr. Propes and I know that whoever you elect will carry on the great work around the globe of Church of God World Missions," Childers concluded. "Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve this great church." ♦

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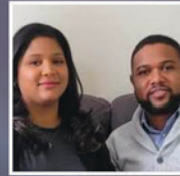
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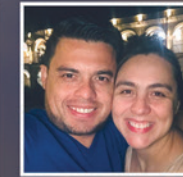
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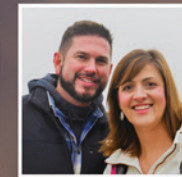
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Lewis Nominated . . .

Continued from page 1

Council, upon which Lewis was confirmed with the needed number of votes to nominate.

Lewis was elected to the Executive Committee two years ago at the 78th General Assembly in San Antonio. He came to the Assembly in 2022 as administrative bishop for South Georgia. He will serve out the remainder of this week as secretary general and upon confirmation by the International General Assembly on Friday will serve as the denomination's top leader for the next four years.

Approaching the podium to thunderous applause, Lewis first thanked General Overseer Hill and his colleagues on the Executive Committee.

"The last two years have been such a wonderful experience of learning, relationships, and journey, so I am so thankful to them," Lewis said. At times coming close to tears, Lewis thanked the Church of God, stating he was first generation, while his wife, Lori, has four generations of membership in the Church.

"She made up for my lack," he said. "Everything that I have is because of this great Church...I am overwhelmed with your expression of trust."

Lewis testified of his salvation as a 13-year-old young person invited to a revival where he was saved.

"From that revival I stand here today... We stand today here at the 79th International General Assembly and the Harvest is right now... we will always be about the Harvest. Let everything we do here this week be for the Glory of God."

Prior to serving as South Georgia AB, Lewis led the Department of Youth and Discipleship as assistant director and director.


A full profile interview of the life and ministry of Gary and Lori Lewis will be published in the Friday, July 12 issue of this publication. ♦




Newly nominated General Overseer Gary Lewis and his wife, Lori.

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Next Gen Youth Take the Stage at GA24

By David White



Junior Talent contestants compete in Bible Quizzing

If you follow the beautiful sounds echoing down the halls of the Indiana Convention Center, you'll find something so much more than a children's talent show. It will be there, in the 500 Ballroom, that you hear and see the anointed voices and creative minds showing us the Church of God has a future long beyond this 79th International General Assembly.

That bright future comes in the form of hundreds upon hundreds of 7-to-12-year-old sons and daughters glorifying God with their giftings in the International Junior Talent competition. The children are coming from every corner of the nation and globe, with the top-three finishers from every state and region putting their talents on full display this week.

Music, Individual Bible Quizzing, Creative Writing, and Art began on Monday. Drama and Multimedia join in on Wednesday and Thursday. Their inspiration: the words of Romans 12:6 (NLT), which says, "In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well"—and you better believe these kids are doing ministry well.


"You will be amazed and encouraged at the level of discipline and excellence each kid portrays as they execute their performances in honor to God this week during International Junior Talent," said Brian Yaun, the assistant director of the International Youth and Discipleship Department who oversees the event under the leadership of Director Rob Bailey.

This marks the third year International Junior Talent has been held during the International General Assembly, a vision Yaun credits to former Girls' Ministries Coordinator Janet Blair. "She dreamed of bringing the program to the international level," Yaun said. "Her vision became reality."

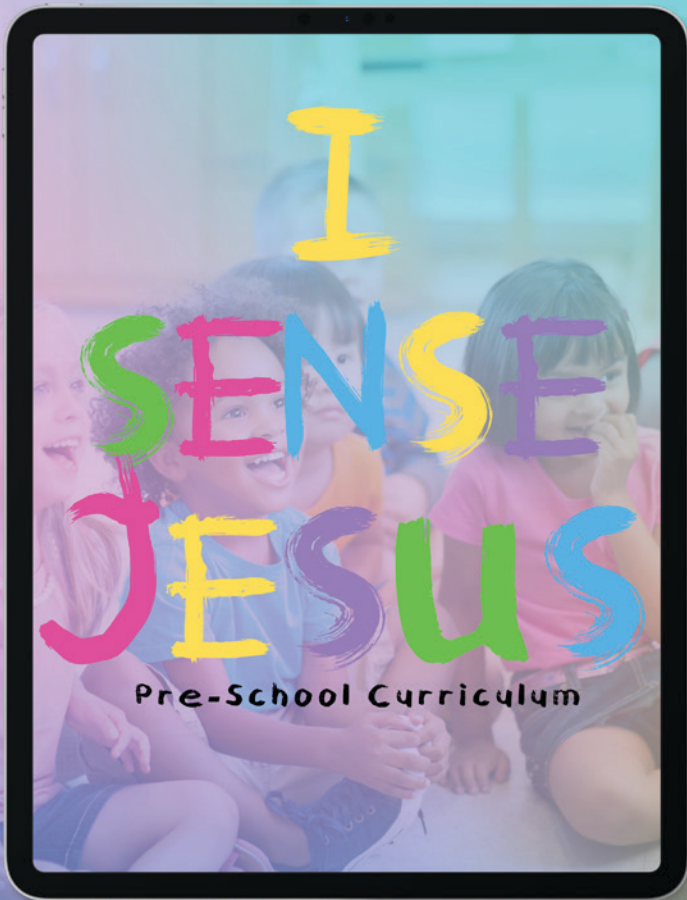
All are invited to celebrate our children during the Junior Talent Awards Festival, 2 p.m. Friday in the Sagamore Ballroom. While the competition happens daily, here are some key moments to watch for:

- The Art and Creative Writing Gallery is hosting an Artist Meet and Greet from 2-4 p.m. Thursday in the 500 Reception room.
- The Bible Quizzing finals are from 10 a.m.—3 p.m. Thursday in Rooms 103-106, while the Teaching, Preaching and Testimony competition is 8 a.m.—Noon Tuesday in Room 101.
- Music runs to Wednesday, and Drama is Wednesday and Thursday, in the Ballroom.
- The Multimedia presentation show is 8 a.m.—noon Thursday in Room 101.


Please pray for, and come support, the next generation of Church of God leaders competing this week in International Junior Talent! ♦



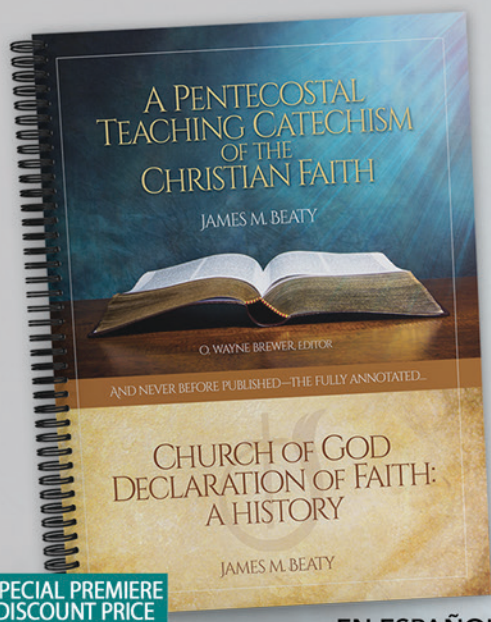
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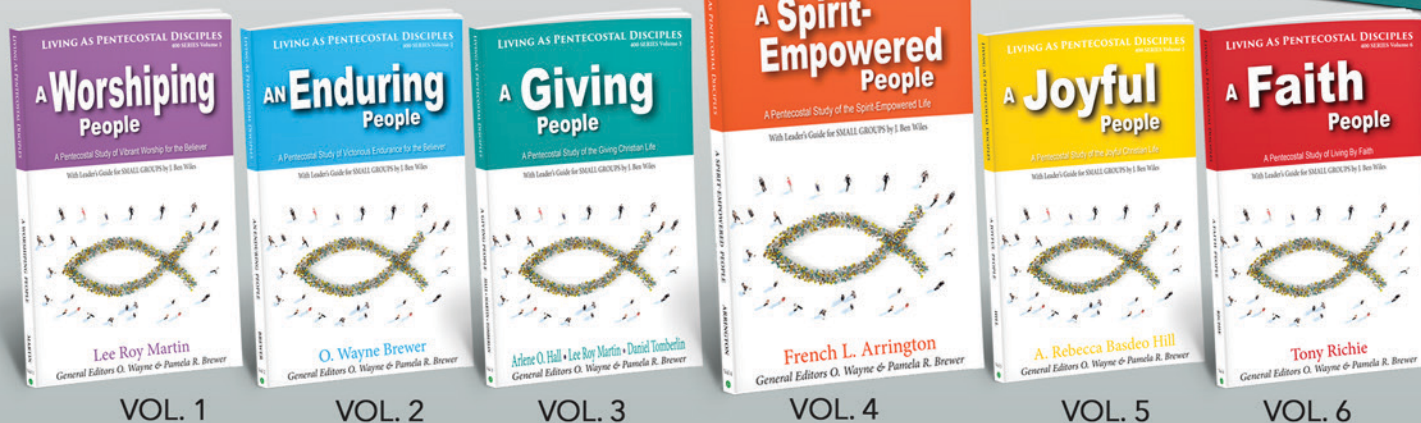
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Nominaciones al Comité Ejecutivo Internacional

por Cesia Kerem Ramos

Indianápolis, IN—El Dr. Timothy Hill, supervisor general saliente, inició oficialmente la sesión del Concilio General Internacional ayer martes 9 de julio con Santa Cena y oración. Luego, el primer punto del orden del día llevado a cabo por el Concilio General fueron las nominaciones para el nuevo supervisor general. El proceso de nominaciones fue rápido gracias a los nuevos procedimientos de votación y a que los obispos no tuvieron que compartir los aparatos de votación.

Dr. Gary Joseph Lewis fue nominado con 1,001 votos para servir como el 24° supervisor general de la Iglesia de Dios. El Dr. Lewis ha ocupado las posiciones de secretario general en el Comité Ejecutivo Internacional durante los últimos dos años, como director de Juventud y Discipulado, y como supervisor estatal de Georgia del Sur. El Dr. Tony Stewart fue nominado para servir como primer asistente al supervisor general, él ha servido los dos últimos años como segundo asistente al supervisor general y como pastor principal de la iglesia Citylife.

1 obispo T. Wayne Dority se añade al Comité Ejecutivo Internacional como segundo asistente al supervisor general. Actualmente, el obispo Wayne sirve como el obispo administrativo de Tennessee y ha sido



Tom Madden, Tony Stewart, Gary Lewis, T. Wayne Dority, Mark Williams

director general de Publicaciones, así como director de Ministerios Multiculturales de los Estados Unidos y Canadá.

Con una ovación por los delegados, regresa al Comité Ejecutivo Internacional, el Dr. Mark L. Williams como el tercer asistente al supervisor general. Actualmente, el Dr. Williams es el pastor de la iglesia de Dios de North Cleveland en Cleveland, Tennessee y

previamente sirvió como el supervisor general de la Iglesia de Dios del 2012 a 2016.

La sesión del Concilio General concluyó con la nominación del obispo Tom Madden como secretario general. El obispo Madden sirvió como director de Juventud y Discipulado y ha estado sirviendo como obispo administrativo de la Iglesia de Dios del Norte de Georgia. ♦

Nombran a los galardonados del Premio al Educador Distinguido

por Cameron Fisher

Este miércoles 10 de julio de 2024, la División de Educación de la Iglesia de Dios celebrará un almuerzo dedicado a educadores internacionales en el Salón Wabash. Desde 1976, la Iglesia de Dios ha honrado a educadores con el Premio al Educador Distinguido que han hecho una contribución a la educación en la Iglesia de Dios en todo el mundo.

La División de Educación entregará los siguientes premios durante este almuerzo:



• **Premio de la Facultad** – El Dr. Yattenciy Bonilla, es obispo ordenado de la Iglesia de Dios, vicepresidente del Seminario Sudamericano (SEMISUD), posee un PhD en Ciencias Bíblicas, y es un experto en lenguas antiguas y bíblicas. Además, es autor de varios libros, algunos de los cuales se utilizan como libros de texto para cursos en seminarios y universidades. Ha publicado más de 100 artículos académicos y de lectura general.

El Dr. Bonilla también forma parte del equipo fundador de SEMISUD. Además, forma parte de la facultad de la Universidad Teológica del Caribe. El proyecto más reciente del Dr. Bonilla es el

de traductor principal en una traducción del Nuevo Testamento del griego al español, *La Traducción Contemporánea de la Biblia* (TCB).



• **Premio de Liderazgo** – La Dra. Debbie Murray, es rectora y directora académica de la Universidad Lee, posee un Doctorado en Currículo e Instrucción, una Maestría en Ciencias en Educación Especial de la Universidad de Tennessee en Knoxville y una licenciatura de Lee College en Educación Matemática. Además, se desempeñó como decana fundadora de la Facultad de Educación Helen DeVos.



• **Premio al logro de por vida** – El Dr. Oliver McMahan (póstumamente), se ha desempeñado como profesor de Consejería Clínica en Salud Mental, y vicepresidente de Efectividad Institucional y Acreditación. Además, fue miembro del Concilio Ejecutivo de la Iglesia de Dios, miembro de la Junta General de Educación, y presidente del Comité de Raza y Etnicidad (por sus siglas en inglés, CORE) de la Asociación de Escuelas Teológicas (por sus siglas en inglés, ATS). Asimismo, el Dr. McMahan sirvió por más de 25 años como pastor, asociado y evangelista. ♦



Dr. James S. and Lady Lisa McIntyre, Sr. *Director*

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2022-2024 TIMELINE

Church of God Membership Surpasses 8 Million

January 24, 2023, Cleveland, TN— Timothy M. Hill, presiding bishop for the Church of God, has announced the Cleveland, Tennessee-based denomination has exceeded global membership of 8 million people for the first time at 8,177,439. Hill made the official announcement of the milestone number during a Zoom conference with the Church of God International Executive Council on January 24, 2023.

"We are excited that the message of Christ is reaching more and more people every year," Hill said. "As membership continues to grow, reaching this milestone demonstrates the hunger for the truth of God's Word around the globe. We recognize the favor of God, as it is He who touches the hearts of persons everywhere to seek His face." Hill explained that the consolidated numbers don't reflect the true number of persons who attend a Church of God around the world on any given weekend. That number is closer to 15 million with numbers that are not regularly reported.

"Monthly reports that reach our offices come from pastors of congregations affiliated with the Church of God in the 187 countries where we have a presence," Hill said. "They report many figures, including members, ministers, spiritual, and financial information. Several of those countries place heavy restrictions upon worship and freedom of expression, so specific or timely reports may be limited from those locations." ♦

Asian Seminary Dedicates New Facility

March 7, 2023—Philippines—The Asian Seminary of Christian Ministries (ASCM) recently conducted a dedication ceremony of a new educational and administrative facility, celebrating 50 years of education ministry and training in the Philippines.

Founded in 1973, ASCM's four-story, 60,000 square-foot structure replaces the former facility, previously located in downtown

Manila. Upon completion of the sale of the Manila location, which was a one-time YWEA project, a new site was found and a building erected which offers more space and less traffic congestion.



Leaders cut the ribbon at the ASCM dedication. (l-r): John Childers, Debbie Childers, LaQuita Propes, M. Thomas Propes, Marilen Morris, Marc Morris, David Ramirez, Fernanda Ramirez.

Dr. Marc Morris, regional superintendent for the Austral Asia region of the Church of God, leads the ASCM as president and supervised the transition. Morris addressed the event saying, "Personally, I believe this property was preserved and prepared for such a time as this. . . . This new location, and new facility are only indications that this is a new beginning for brighter days ahead. And to that, I believe all of us can say, 'To God be the glory for great things He has done.'" ♦

Debt Retired on Campus Expansion

April 18, 2023—Cleveland, TN—The financial obligation of a \$10 million+ expansion of the Church of God International Offices/Headquarters campus was symbolically retired in a ceremony led by the Executive Committee on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

Two weeks earlier, on April 5, 2023, Secretary General Gary Lewis confirmed the retirement of long-term debt with the announcement of the payoff of the buildings that was at \$1.8 million late last year. Action to pay off the indebtedness was accelerated at a Leadership Summit last September when state and regional leaders committed to an aggressive campaign to retire the debt that remained. The Executive Committee was joined by members of the International Executive Council, Advisory Council, and employees of the International Offices, for the ceremonial "note burning," signifying the retirement of debt on the expansion, which realized the construction of the Leadership and Communications Center, Discipleship and Education building, and a renovation of the original four-story headquarters center.

Headquarters for the Church of God have been located in Cleveland, Tennessee, since 1904. In 2000, following an extensive needs study, a proposal was brought to the

68th General Assembly in St. Louis to expand the footprint of headquarters by doubling the existing ministry space, adding two new buildings to form an International Offices campus. An original request of \$6 million was raised to \$10 million by a vote of the General Council and confirmed at the General Assembly. An official groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion took place on September 25, 2001, led by General Overseer R. Lamar Vest and attended by church, city, and state officials. Excavation of the site soon began, followed by more than two years of construction on the two new buildings, nearly identical in architecture. Once completed, crews moved immediately on an interior and exterior renovation of the original headquarters to mirror the new buildings. The entire project culminated in a formal dedication, ribbon-cutting and open house almost four years to the day on September 27, 2005.

Participating in the actual note burning was the Executive Committee and the Advisory Council, former members of the Executive Committee who served since the expansion took place. According to General Overseer Timothy Hill, release from this financial obligation now frees up more than \$60,000 a month, providing resources for church planting, discipleship training, and other ministries of the Church of God around the globe.



Among those participating in the note burning were (l-r): J. David Stephens, Mark Williams, John Childers, M. Thomas Propes, Lamar Vest, Tim Hill, Raymond Culpepper, Wallace Sibley, Gary Lewis, David Griffiths, Tony Stewart, and David Ramirez.



Close-up of note burning

"We give God the praise for this unprecedented campaign of partnership from visionaries, led by administrative bishops," Hill stated. "The Executive Committee thanks everyone for their commitment in digging deep to help realize this victorious day." ♦

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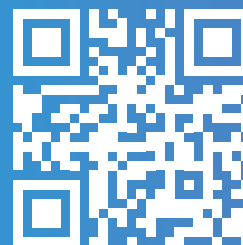
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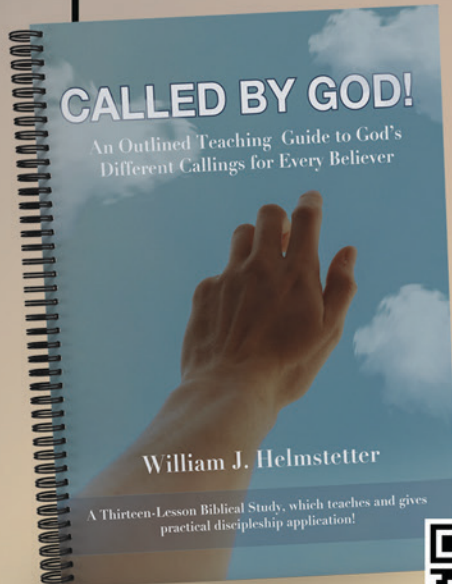
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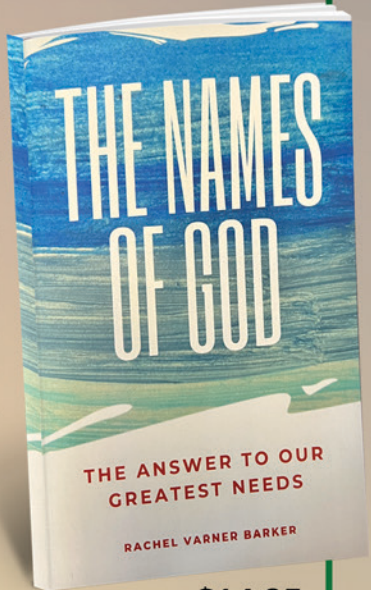
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