# APOSTOLIC 2017

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> > Administrator Sandra Martínez

**Design** Dominic Moschetti

ADDRESS Apostolic Assembly 10807 Laurel St. Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 www.apostolicassembly.org pr@apostolicassembly.org



The Apostolic Herald is the Official Gazette of the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus.

All questions or suggestions should be sent to: Apostolic Assembly 10807 Laurel St. Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 Attn: Herald.

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### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future" – President John F. Kennedy



BISHOP JOSÉ G. ZÚŃIGA

Digital: **"involving or relating to the use of computer technology."** We hear a lot these days about the digital revolution. It makes everything instantly accessible. The digital camera allows us to instantly see what we have created. Social media gives us instant information about our friends and events and connects

us in ways never imagined. We can also use apps for anything from getting a ride with Uber or Lyft to looking for good restaurants on Yelp. With this issue, we have decided to go digital. You will be able to read the articles in this issue via a computer, a tablet or with a smartphone.

Although there are still many people who prefer flipping pages in a book or magazine, and enjoy getting their news from newspapers, digital is the wave of the future. And we want to be part of it.

The production of this Herald is a team effort that involves writers, photographers and other key people. I would like to thank brother Dominic Moschetti, our graphic designer, for his outstanding effort and sister Sandra Martinez, our administrator, for her contributions to the success of this publication.

We are a diverse church and this issue reflects that diversity. This is a publication for ALL Apostolics, young and old. Those who prefer to flip through the pages of the Heraldo, as well as young Millennials, who prefer to look at it on their smart phones.

This issue is all about the General Convention held in Long Beach, California on Thanksgiving weekend in November 2016. The theme of the convention was "United in the Power of the Holy Spirit." It features many outstanding activities, highlighted by three powerful night services. We have attempted to capture those precious moments with words and photos so that the memories can be lived again and again. Take the time to look

through the articles and the photos. You will be blessed!

In Christ,

Bishop José G. Zúñiga Editor



# MESSENGERS OF PEACE

As young people all across the nation gathered in one place at one time, expectancy and anticipation grew in every heart. It was that time of year; the General Convention had finally ar-

rived. The excitement gathered as many crowded to get into the first activity on Thursday morning. The young people wasted no time as the youth activities were kicked off by a powerful sermon by North Texas District President Alexander Cordoba, where youth gathered at the altar and were filled with a desire to have a "Rekindled Mindset". There was an obvious outpour of the Holy Spirit, and that was just the beginning.

Friday morning sessions occurred simultaneously. This gave the Messengers of Peace a broad spectrum of selections

that could be made based on their needs, passions, and interests. For the young ladies, there was a Woman to Woman panel with first ladies Diana Cardenas, Patty Prado, Cherie Rodriguez, and Damaris Cortez where young ladies were filled with words of life. Mike Ramirez and Treasurer Joshua Alvarez led the Platform-ology conference that covered the preparation and follow-through that takes place for worship services, and how to do this with excellence. For young people looking for ways to do Practical Evangelism, Javier Garza and Dr. Mark Amin gave them words of encouragement and different tactics on how to do this successfully.



The young people's desire for more of God grew as the Saturday service took place. Mike Ramirez led worship as the young people glorified the Name that is above all names. Treasurer Joshua Alvarez led a new and joyful way to keep worship going as offering was collected. Secretary Jacob Rodriguez gave an impactful message entitled "Pioneers of Promise". Bishop President John Fortino graced the youth with his presence as he honored President Omar Cortez for the dedication, vision, and love he had for the Messengers of Peace as he served as presi-

dent for four years. With this, President Omar Cortez spoke to the "NOW" generation, giving the young people a fiery and timely last word as their president.

The National Messengers of Peace now welcomes their new board for the next two years; President Jacob Rodriguez, Secretary Alexander Cordoba, and Treasurer Dr. Oswaldo Moreno.



President Jacob Rodriguez



Secretary Alexander Cordoba



Treasurer Dr. Oswaldo Moreno

### GROWTH

#### IS THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY'S INTERNATIONAL CHURCH PLANTING NETWORK.

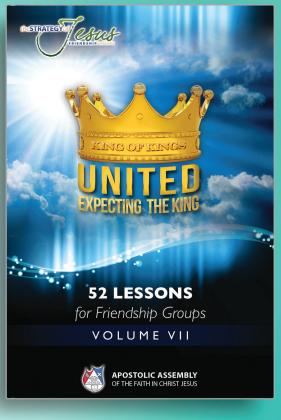
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# FOUND TRUST WORTHY

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" 1 Corinthians 4:2



With great joy I report that the Treasurers' Training Seminar at our 2016 General Convention was a tremendous success! We had over 200 attendees who were taught on stewardship in the Kingdom, the process of a Compilation, and on establishing Finance Committees. The sessions focused on the financial responsibilities of the local and district treasures and the need to have the essential core values which will benefit them not only in their role as treasurers, but in all relationships. The seminar was spearheaded by our awesome team: Pastor Edward Campa, our Assembly's Controller, Brother Abraham Maffey, our Assistant Controller, CPA Gil Aguilar, and your servant. We thank the Lord Jesus Christ that this collaboration received excellent reviews and compliments regarding the topics and teaching methods from presenter to presenter. As always, having informative and engaging topics to present is paramount for our Accounting Team. It is our prayer that God's people may continue to be equipped and up-to-date with the latest information in this ever-changing business world.

We pray that just as this event was a stunning success, our upcoming Seminars in 2017 may also be blessed by the merciful hand of God!





Dr. Oswaldo Moreno Harvard University

### PARENTAL ADVICE FOR IMMIGRANT Families

"Being a parent does not mean being an expert on how to raise a child, but it rather means being a daily learner on how to parent." – Dr. Moreno

In the United States, more than 50% of the Latino community is immigrant. The immigrant trajectory indicates that immigrating to the United States impacts family dynamics. For The objective was to understand how these processes navigate differences in values and apostolic practices between parent-child interactions. Finally, parents learned proactive

example, children of immigrant families are typically born and raised in a culture different than their parents. At our LXI General Convention, a series of parent conferences explored the processes that affect these healthy family systems. Part of these processes include: spiritually raising our children in a postmodern era, over-

coming the challenges of mixed families, helping our children develop their inner potential, and providing general advice for parents of immigrant families.

In this series of conferences, parents also examined the American assimilation/acculturation (typically seen among our children). As a result, this process of assimilation/acculturation creates an acculturation gap between parentchild interactions. This gap places families and especially our children at risk for deviant behavior, conflict, loss of identity, and an overall decrease in the satisfaction and wellbeing. The acculturation gap typology was also understood in relation to parenting styles (e.g., authoritarian, permissive, and democratic). Parents also explored: 1) differences in family dynamics (e.g., collectivism versus individualism), 2) communication with their children (e.g. aggressive, passive, passiveaggressive, and assertive communication, and 3) family values (e.g., materialism vs. family values, spiritual, and overall self-progress).



skills to raise their Christian children in an American society. Part of these skills included learning how to communicate with our children in an assertive way and promoting a democratic parenting style. More importantly, the overarching aim was to encourage our children to reach an academic and ministerial potential yet be servants of God. In doing this, our

beloved Apostolic Assembly will continue to reach higher levels not previously seen. However, this begins in our own homes. In summary, an unhealthy communication promotes an unhealthy family. Without a healthy family, there will be an unhealthy church. But if our parents instruct our children in a healthy way, the future of our apostolic church will continue to flourish.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The 2016 General Convention Children's Ministry was an exciting and impacting time for all the children who attended this event. This year's theme was Kingdom Rock, in which our Apostolic kids were taught to stand strong for God. This year our attendance was 225 children, and on Friday night we experienced the incredible move of God as our Apostolic kids sang, danced, praised, and worshiped Jesus. We were blessed to see over 30 of these kids (ages 5-9) receive





the Holy Spirit and speak in other tongues as the outpouring of God's Spirit manifested upon their lives. The 2016 Children's Ministry was an incredible event which was made possible by the efforts of a great group of young people and musicians from North Texas, Southern California, and Northern California.

# IJUNIORS MINSTRY



But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8 (KJV)



Our mission for this convention was for the Juniors Department to POWER UP. Power Up Salvationin teaching them the price Christ paid for our sins. Power Up

in Baptism-teaching them to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ as in Acts 2:38. Power Up in the Bible-teaching them His Word is Powerful (Hebrews 4:12). Power Up in Worship-teaching them it is more than just music, it is a lifestyle to give Him Glory in every situation. Power Up in Missions-teaching them to be compassionate for the lost and dying world. Through Jesus Christ, we have the power to change the World! We were blessed to have Minister Aaron Barbosa invest his time, talents, and wisdom on this generation. Under his direction, in three short workshops, the Juniors wrote, produced, and recorded a brand new single, "Let the Church Rise UP". (\*This song will soon be available on iTunes and Spotify)

We heard inspiring preaching from Pastor Jason Oceguera who brought the story of David to life. This convention over 300 juniors and staff experienced God on a new level, 21 juniors received the Holy Ghost for the first time and 1 was baptized when he went back home on Sunday.





On Tuesday, November 22, 2016, we held our first Teacher Training workshop for Bible college teachers. The aim of this workshop was to train our Bible college teachers and give them resources for their classes. We had an attendance of approximately 120 and the consensus was that this was very useful and should be repeated on an annual basis. The speakers were Bishop Armando Tamez, Dean Eduardo Iglesias, Pastor Noé Villegas and Bishop David Martinez, the Christian Education secretary in Mexico. The topics covered were: Pedagogy, Anthrogogy, Plagiarism and a progress report on the Bible colleges in Mexico.



# 2016 FAMILY CONFERENCE

Our Second National Family Conference was held Saturday, November 26, 2016 in the Long Beach Convention Center Arena. 850 pastors, ministers, and parents attended this conference. Last year we also had as the keynote speaker Dr. Marcel Pontón, a Pentecostal Clinical neuropsychologist and associate professor at UCLA. His conferences were impactful, they were entitled "Family Secrets," a conference based on the family structure of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, from both a background in psychology, and a Pentecostal faith.

There were two more conferences that morning. Bishop Felipe Salazar, General Secretary, gave a conference on "Keeping the Apostolic Identity in the Family," where he highlighted the ministry parents do in transmitting the Apostolic faith to their children. Bishop Robert C. Martín, former General Superintendent of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ, also returned this year and closed the Family Conference with his message: "Behold, My Hands," the message was on revealing and healing wounds, to bear them just like Jesus bore wounds from the nails after his resurrection from the dead.

God's message was clear that Saturday morning: God wants to heal the families of our church, and the families of America through the Apostolic message. We encourage to listen and to see these conferences on the App of the Apostolic Assembly (Search: AAFCJ). If you were not able to attend in 2016, save the date for next year's Third National Family Conference at the National Youth Conference in November 2017!







### THE MOST RELEVANT STATISTICS OF THE CONVENTION



#### 2016 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

- A record 22 programs and conferences for all our brothers and sisters.
- State of the Art Sound and Audiovisual Systems.
- First time the Pastors Legislative Session was conducted by electronic vote.
- We hosted representatives from five Apostolic sister denominations: David Bernard from the United Pentecostal Church International, Samuel Sánchez from the Apostolic Church of the Faith in Christ Jesus (México), Robert Martin from the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ, Adan Álvarez from the Apostolic Church of the Faith in Christ Jesus (Nicaragua), and Rigoberto Martínez from the Apostolic Church of the Faith in Christ Jesus (El Salvador).
- First time the Hospitality Program was expanded to all pastors and pastor's families: 4,000 meals were served in three days.
- Online Viewership increased.
- Special Needs Program for children with autism, and other conditions.
- A new record Friday Attendance of 7,451 Apostolic believers!
- A new record Saturday attendance of 7,582 Apostolic believers!





### MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

The ministerial meeting, which was legislative in nature, was held at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach on November 22-24, 2016. Some of the outstanding events were the ministerial agreements and proposals. One of the new features of the ministerial meeting was the use of electronic voting pads to facilitate and speed up the voting.



In addition, we heard the President's message as well as a report from one of the 8 General Board members. Each report highlighted the most important programs and projected activities of their respective department.

Lastly, during the meeting, we heard pow-

erful testimonies. Pastor Samuel Delgado spoke about a fire that destroyed their church building in Hanford, CA. However, no one was hurt. A prayer request was made for a family member who had been kidnapped. At the precise moment the ministers prayed, this person was miraculously set free. We also made a special prayer for the healing of South Central California District Bishop David Aguilar.

Gone are the days of counting hands to register votes for and against proposals. The votes were tallied and then displayed on the screen. There were agreements with regards to the pastor and his successor and another agreement regarding term limits. One of the proposal initiative that passed and will be considered next year is a proposal affirming the Apostolic Assembly's position on the Bible.



# THE MESSAGES DURING THE GENERAL CONVENTION



On November 24 to 26, 2016, the Apostolic Assembly held three celebration services that culminated with a powerful sermon by our Bishop President and a record attendance of more than 8,000.

All the sermons were excellent! Because of the great number of English speaking people in attendance, the sermons were translated into English (or Spanish). We thank our translators: Ministers Martín Calderón, Ismael Martín del Campo III, and Frank Quezada, for an outstanding job.

The first day (November 24), the theme was SERVE. Our first sermon was delivered by the Secretary of Christian Education, Bishop José G. Zúñiga. His theme was on how to have a Servant's Heart. It is essential that we serve the church with the right attitude. He used the narrative in Luke 19:11-17 as his text. The servant of the Lord must be a good and faithful servant. There is nothing more refreshing than a person who has a servant's heart. The second sermon was delivered by Bishop Joseph Rodríguez, the Secretary of Social Assistance. His theme was the Eleventh-Hour Call. It was a powerful and dynamic message that exhorted us to be ready to usher in the last days. One of the things that stuck out from this sermon was his use of the Bible that survived a church fire in Hanford, CA.



During the Azusa Revival 1906-2016 celebration, one of the speakers was our General Treasurer, Bishop Felipe Lugo. He gave an excellent sermon on the theme Apostolic Identity in Revival.

Friday, November 25, the evening service theme was GROW. The first sermon was given by Bishop Joe Aguilar, the Secretary of National Missions. His theme was GO! The thrust of the message was the commandment given by Jesus to GO and make disciples. It was a clarion call for people to commit to God's calling on their lives.

The second sermon was given by our Vice President, Bishop Ismael Martin del Campo. His theme was The Mission of Your Church. It was a powerful exposition on the mission we have in our local church. Both sermons complemented each other and we ended the night with an altar call filled with hungry and passionate believers committing their

lives to serving God in whatever capacity He might ask.

Saturday morning, during the Family Conference, our General Secretary Bishop Felipe Salazar brought a stirring word on the theme: Keeping the Apostolic Identity in the Family. He spoke on the need to maintain the values that make us Apostolic imbedded in the family structure. We must never abandon those values. In addition, he stressed that doctrine needs to be taught at home.



### "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

In the closing service on Saturday evening, Bishop Andy Provencio spoke about the great need to contribute to Global Missions. He then proceeded to collect an offering with the dual purpose of opening new missionary fields in other countries and in the states where we do not have Apostolic presence.

To close our great convention, our Bishop President, Dr. John Fortino delivered a powerful word based on the new theme for the Apostolic Assembly in 2017: United Expecting the King! He used as his text Acts 1:11

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. He had not finished preaching when the altar was filled with people who were hungry for more of the presence of God.

To recap this joyous occasion, all the sermons and conferences spoke about the need to recover an Apostolic passion and identity, in anticipation of the soon coming King of Kings! The theme of the convention was United in the Power of the Holy Spirit. There was a depth to the worship and the altar calls.

We ended the celebration with a prayer for all the pastors and their wives. It was deeply moving to see pastors of all ages come to the platform to be prayed for and anointed by all the bishops and missionaries. All in all, an incredible moment!



## MEN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY SOCIETY



### **REACH AMERICA TOP 25 CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS**

	CUUDCU	DISTRICT	TOTAL	
4	<u>CHURCH</u> Merced CA	<u>DISTRICT</u> North Central CA	¢	
1			\$	22,500.00
2	Porterville CA	North Central CA	\$	3,500.00
3	Escondido #1 CA	Southern CA	\$	2,685.00
4	Sunnyside WA	Northwest/Washignton	\$	2,467.00
5	West Phoenix #3, AZ	Arizona	\$	1,968.00
6	Bakersfield #1, CA	South Central CA	\$	1,843.00
7	Coachella CA	IDCN	\$	1,812.00
8	Lamont CA	South Central CA	\$	1,735.00
9	San Fernando CA	Los Angeles	\$	1,700.00
10	Denver #2, CO	Colorado	\$	1,371.00
11	San Diego #7, CA	Southern CA	\$	1,350.00
12	Livingston NM	New Mexico	\$	1,320.30
13	San Marcos CA	Southern CA	\$	1,312.00
14	Clovis CA	North Central CA	\$	1,160.00
15	Oasis CA	IDCN	\$	1,104.00
16	Hobbs NM	New Mexico	\$	1,051.56
17	Livingston CA	North Central CA	\$	1,030.00
18	Milwaukee WI	Mid West	\$	1,000.00
19	National City CA	Southern CA	\$	1,000.00
20	Sanger CA	North Central CA	\$	1,000.00
21	Chandler #1, AZ	Arizona	\$	954.65
22	Ontario CA	IDCN	\$	931.61
23	Apache Junction AZ	Arizona	\$	912.00
24	Rancho Cucamonga CA	IDCN	\$	910.00
25	Bloomington CA	IDCN	\$	870.00
	v			

### TOTAL \$57,487.12



Bishop Joe Aguilar National Missions Sec./ Advisor



President Pastor Jimmy Morales



Secretary Minister Jeffrey C. Rodriguez



Treasurer Minister Juan Serrano

## FLOR AZUL OFFERING 2016 TOP 25 CHURCHES

1. 1ST SAN JOSE, CA	\$50,000	PASTOR ARTHUR ESPINOSA
2. UNION CITY, CA	\$30,000	PASTOR ADAM LOPEZ III
3. E. PALO ALTO, CA	\$25,000	PASTOR JOE PRADO
4. WEST PHOENIX, AZ	\$23,070	PASTOR EDWARD IGLESIAS
5. MERCED, CA	\$22,617	PASTOR JOE AGUILAR
6. 3RD SAN JOSE, CA	\$21,360	PASTOR STEVE RODRIGUEZ
7. 2ND SAN JOSE, CA	\$18,000	PASTOR ISHMAEL ARELLANO
8. COMPTON, CA	\$15,040	PASTOR PHILLIP SALAZAR
9. 1ST LONG BEACH, CA	\$15,000	PASTOR DAVID RAMIREZ
10. 1ST BAKERSFIELD	\$14,105	PASTOR ELIAS DUARTE
11. 1ST CHANDLER, AZ	\$13,305	PASTOR NOEL VILLEGAS
12. 2ND CORONA, CA	\$12,400	PASTOR FRANCISCO QUEZADA
13. 1ST HOUSTON, TX	\$12,250	PASTOR OMAR CORTEZ
14. RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA	\$12,000	PASTOR BENJAMIN GUERRA
15. VISTA, CA	\$11,500	PASTOR JOHN SANCHEZ
16. INDIO, CA	\$11,000	PASTOR LUCIANO MONTES
16. SANTA BARBARA, CA	\$11,000	PASTOR OSCAR BARBOSA
17. MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA	\$10,355	PASTOR JACOB RODRIGUEZ
18. YUBA CITY, CA	\$10,200	PASTOR MOSES VARELA
19. SAN FERNANDO, CA	\$10,050	PASTOR VICTOR PRADO
20. SALINAS, CA (ACLC)	\$10,000	PASTOR ANDREW LOPEZ
20. RIVERBANK, CA	\$10,000	PASTOR EFRAIN AMAYA
21. AUSTIN, TX	\$9,750	PASTOR FRANK BALBOA
22. SAN MARCOS, CA	\$9,050	PASTOR GILBERTO MEZA
23. BAY POINT, CA	\$9,000	PASTOR ELIZANDRO MENDOZA
24. NATIONAL CITY, CA	\$8,740	PASTOR MISAEL ZARAGOZA
25. SANTA MARIA, CA	\$8,586	PASTOR GUADALUPE SANCHEZ

# UNIVERSITY OF A CONVENTION &

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 20-25 / LONG BEACH CA



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