

APOSTOLIC

SUMMER EDITION 2015

THE HERALD



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UNITED IN CONSECRATION

A CLEAR VISION

THE SOLUTION FOR A TIME OF CRISIS

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2014 - 2018

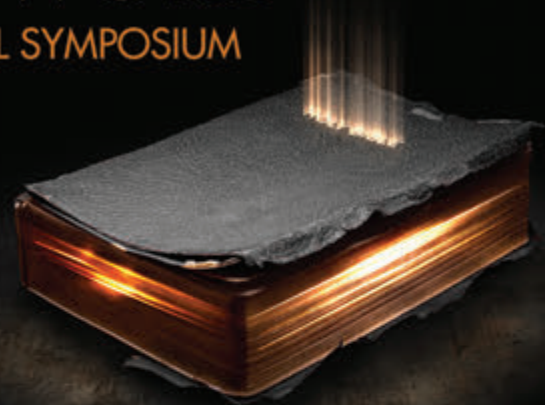
THY KINGDOM COME

PASSION/POWER/PURPOSE

SPECIAL PROJECTS

THE WORD

MINISTERIAL SYMPOSIUM
2015



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

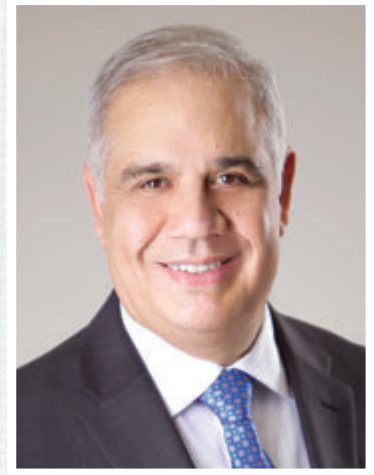
And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

(Esther 4:13-14 NKJV).

Six months into 2015, as we enter the summer season, we are silently being reminded that the days are swiftly passing by. Where has the time gone? The truth of the matter is that time slips by and we need to take full advantage of each moment. The Bible speaks about time in two different manners, using the Greek words kronos and kairos. Kronos time is chronological time. It is composed of seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks and months. We measure our lives by kronos time. We celebrate birthdays and anniversaries by kronos.

However, God measures time by kairos. Kairos time refers to those moments in which God moves in a specific way to carry out a specific task. God raised up Esther to intercede for her people “for such a time as this.” The Jewish people were about to be exterminated. Someone needed to act. At the opportune time, God raised up Esther to present her plea on the plight of the Jews and to be the voice of influence. Her courage under immense opposition was the catalyst that stemmed the tide of destruction of the Jewish people.

The ocean is full of raging waves. When the tide comes in with those majestic waves, we must anticipate and catch them at the opportune time so we can fully enjoy the moment when they break. I believe that the Apostolic Assembly is experiencing such a moment. God is preparing His church “for such a time as this.” We must wade out into the deep waters and ask God for His direction and wisdom. We desperately want and need to be in the center of God’s will. We hunger for His presence in our midst. We want



BISHOP JOSÉ G. ZÚÑIGA

to make a difference in people’s lives. If there ever was a time to be in God’s kairos, it is right now. The challenges and obstacles are great, but the opportunities are even greater.

In this issue, we will read a timely message from our president, Dr. John Fortino. We will meet the 7 other General Board members and learn about the goals and vision for their respective departments. There are 5 new General Board members. In addition, there will be a large numbers of new bishops elected in the district conventions this year.

We are also gearing up for an exciting time at our Apostolic Symposium “The Word.” We will also have a songwriting competition, a youth conference as well as other exciting events for the men, women, teachers, treasurers and a special event for the entire family. This takes place in November during Thanksgiving week.

Our desire is that this Herald will not only inform you but also inspire you. Be blessed so you can be a blessing to others!

Bishop José G. Zúñiga
Editor



BISHOP PRESIDENT
John Fortino



“Maintain a clear vision.”

A CLEAR VISION

The Solution for a Time of Crisis

Luke: 9:51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

When President John Adams wrote to Thomas Jefferson in the later years of both of their lives, he said to him: “My friend, you and I, have lived in very serious times.” “Definitely”, is what Jefferson answered.¹ All the Apostolic leaders of the 21st century can identify with Adams and Jefferson. We live in a most difficult time filled with challenges and if we do not have a clear and definite vision, it will be impossible to finish with success.

Every time something terrible happens, whether it be on the religious or secular scene, by the mercy of God, the Apostolic Assembly, has come out ahead. God has watched over His church as He promised. We definitely live in very serious and challenging times for our faith. It is true that we are not of this world, but we must understand that only clear vision of what we want as a church, and where we want to go, will give us guidelines to follow and ultimately the victory.

Luke, the sacred writer, observed a unique determination in the face of Jesus. He wrote, inspired by the Holy Spirit, “**he set his face.**” He determinedly looked on with until He reached a clear vision.

As long as we maintain a clear and active vision for the church, the Apostolic Assembly will be triumphant. We are restoring the confidence of the leadership of the Church, we are changing the paradigm of silence for another one of participation and camaraderie. We are promoting administrative transparency in all levels. We are working on promoting the connection and adaptation of the three generations within the church. We are creating a culture of growth and multiplication of churches in the country and also in the missionary field. We are underpinning the apostolic values and doctrine; and, above all, we have received a prophetic word of prosperity and victory.

This all sounds very interesting, but how will we achieve these things in the midst of so many negative situations, such as, hearing voices of discouragement, being bombarded on all sides by pictures and videos of “Apostolics” on the social networks, and as if that were not enough, all the new laws that are shaking the foundations of our faith? The answer is quite simple yet very powerful: “Maintaining a clear vision.”

In the Old and New Testaments, throughout the history of the people of God, all the crisis potholes were preceded by three conditions (though not necessarily in this order): evil attacks, moral decay, and spiritual slumber. Each of these critical moments left irreparable marks on some, and on others, it was the catalyzing element for betterment, to make changes and to continue forward with greater strength.

A CLEAR VISION IN A CONFUSED WORLD

The story of the patriarch Abraham is quite complex, it is full of serious and confusing moments, but if there is something that characterizes him during his pilgrimage, it is his perseverance in the vision. The mortal’s vision immortalizes him and converts him into the father of the faith and a friend of God. When a man, or a Church, has a clear vision of what God expects of him or them, their lives will change. Abram was not perfect, his environment was not perfect, the prevailing laws were not perfect, but in spite of all of this he was crowned, because he maintained himself firm in his vision.

1. James Emery White, *Serious times: Making your life matter in an urgent day* (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2004), 9.

• *Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. 2 And Abram said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? 3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. 4 And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. 6 And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*

Every Wednesday morning, when I am in Miami and I can, I go to the temple to pray. This is a practice that I have maintained for years. There, I try to disconnect myself from everything and enjoy a very nice time with God. In solitude, I walk through the temple speaking with Him; if you would see me, you would think the President is out of his mind. I speak with him by faith, and I feel that He is there with me, and after several hours, I go to attend to my father's business. This is the time where He shows me that He continues to be God and I am just a man. In spite of everyone and everything, God wants a healthy and united church, without these things, we will not grow, we will just maintain.

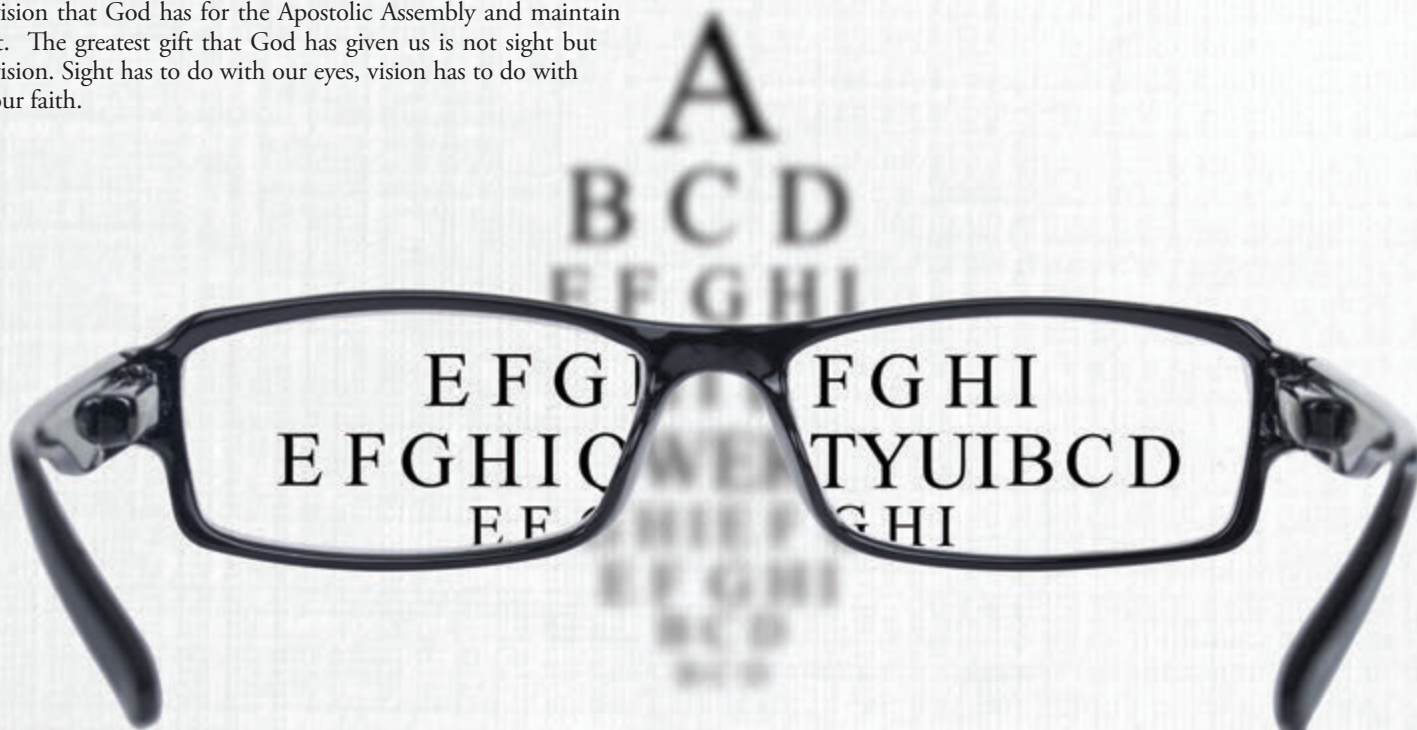
He has deposited this prophetic word in me, but I firmly believe that we can achieve it. This word is what nourishes my faith and clears my vision daily. The Lord wants us to unite and for everyone to receive the same vision. His will is above every circumstance, and He created this Church with the purpose of disseminating His prophetic word to every corner of the earth. We must clearly capture the vision that God has for the Apostolic Assembly and maintain it. The greatest gift that God has given us is not sight but vision. Sight has to do with our eyes, vision has to do with our faith.

• *Mark 8:22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. 24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. 25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.*

Mark's text speaks to us of a progressive healing. It would seem that his sight was healed first and his vision second. The fact that he compares men to trees, means that at one point this man was able to see and then was unable to see. Jesus already knew that this man had become accustomed to seeing blurry. He had forgotten that he could see things clearly. If Jesus did not heal his vision, he would never again see clearly. It would seem that some need two touches of Jesus' hands to see clearly. Something happens with the vision when we believe in it and we put it into practice, the vision begins to clarify. Here is where many become frustrated, because they do not understand the divine vision's essence. The vision is clear and firm when it comes from God, but in man, it goes from less to more.

FROM LESS TO MORE

We all receive a vision, we all have a dream, but some do not understand the process, so they prefer to leave it when they are in crisis. Some bury dreams that are still alive simply because they have not understood that dreams and visions go through a process. God wants to revive those dreams and visions. You do not need to resign yourself to burying them before their time. And if they are already buried, we are going to say as was said to Lazarus: Come out!!!



PRESIDENT

• *Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. 2 And Abram said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? 3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.*

Here in the prophetic word originates the vision: here it is gestating. But look at how God does it. First, God generates a void that is to say, He creates a need (problem – crisis) to later resolve it. In the beginning the earth was without form and void, but God filled that void with His creation. Abram was void of children. The great things God does happen in very conflictive and terrible moments. I believe that this is the moment in which the church globally finds itself, void of safety, suffocated by everything that is seen and heard in the secular world, by the double life that is lived by those that profess to be brothers but are not so. Beloved, God is gestating something great that will bring glory to His name. Prepare yourself, the best is yet to come!

• *Genesis 15:4 And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.*

After He generates the void, God gives a prophetic word. No divine vision begins in the territory of the tangible. Every divine vision begins in the

territory of the prophetic, of the intangible, of the invisible. God prophetically says that his heir would be a son of Abram. This son would come from the union between Abraham and Sarah. Hagar was only an emotion. This means that divine vision cannot be originated from a momentary emotion (Hagar), but it must originate in the promise of God (Sarah). But for Abram to understand, God took him out of his tent. If he looked up inside of his tent, he would only see the skins of the roof of his tent, and maybe a cobweb or two. To see what God has for us, the church must desperately escape conformity and routine. We must pay the price of consecration. We need leaders separate from the world and consecrated to God.

• *Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*

In this level the divine vision begins to take form. Faith is the adhesive that holds the pieces in their places. Faith is what makes us pleasing to God. Faith is expressive, it's communicated, it makes itself public. Sara was barren and Abram was very elderly, and if the challenge of not having children was not enough God changes the name of Abram to Abraham, and then he asks him to announce it. From father of one

(Abram), now he is a father of many (Abraham). Imagine the scene, Sara calls him the father of many (Abraham) and he turns to look at her, or to attend to her needs. Why? Because they believed in the vision, it had already become part of them, for them it was just a matter of waiting. God said it, they could not see it with the natural eyes, but they knew they would see it. They were full of pictures (photographs and videos), even more so when they would look at each other in the latter part of the day before they would lie down. Everything indicated that they would not be parents, not even have one, but that prophetic word would activate the vision in them and they believed, and that vision would keep them focused on their destiny. Paul, explained it in the following manner:

• *Romans 4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;*

Abraham believed that voice, trusted and live according to the prophetic word. His body had deteriorated daily, but in spite of everything, he passed the test and believed. This is what many fail in the test. Desperation and the things that surround them, causes them to doubt and it is precisely here, where they win or lose, this is the highest and

critical point for the divine vision. Dear brothers, do we trust in Him completely or will we allow ourselves to be overtaken by the prevailing confusion? There are no shortcuts,

no halftime, it is all or nothing. It is here when the divine vision becomes personal. There are no shortcuts, no halftime, it is all or nothing. It is here with the divine vision becomes personal, it is when the divine vision already has "your" name.

• *Genesis 15:8 And he said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? 9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtle dove, and a young pigeon.*

Now it is clear that the message is personal, but the Lord asked him to sacrifice something specific. Success does not exist without sacrifice. This is something that modern society hates. Sacrifice gives flavor to the things that we do, the things God asks us to do. This is the least appealing moment of the divine vision. It is where we learn to depend on God and not on ourselves. That one may want success, growth, many cell groups, prosperity, but then not want to pay the price, that is not only irrational, it is impossible.

How great would it be if everything we did never confronted opposition! Is that true? It would be glorious, but unfortunately our reality is

"to find refuge in a secure place, stay still and wait for it to pass"

different from that. This has been a constant throughout the centuries, and it would appear that there is no indication that this will change. Everyone who has received a similar vision, goes through difficulties and spiritual warfare that they have had to fight.

• *Genesis 15:11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.*

The person who never goes to war never loses nor wins. Many do not want to enter in spiritual warfare because they don't like to take risks. The Apostle Paul was on the edge of the sea with his empty nets because he did not want to risk going into deeper waters being that in the depths with full nets, he was risking death. Where is the Church today? Is the Church on the edge or in the deep waters? Some say, I am fine here, "I'm comfortable (empty) but without having to take any risks." The battle against Abram's dream shows us that it can be tiring, you run the risk of losing the divine vision, and how the ravenous birds (demons) take advantage of the situation, and want to eat what belongs to God.

The battles of life and spiritual warfare are truly difficult. It is also true that no one wants to go through them, but how glorious are the victories! After the storm comes the calm, comes peace. The secret of success in any hurricane is: "to find refuge in a secure place, stay still and wait for it to pass". Into 2005, we were hit by Hurricane Wilma, thank God I was home when it impacted South Florida with strong wind gusts of up to 130 to 140 mph, it was a very unique experience. The damages it left in its path were immense, and the days following were very difficult. This type of storm reveals the frailty of humanity. You can do nothing else but wait for it to end. You cannot make plans, set goals, or even think of tomorrow, you must confront what is happening at that very moment, and save your life and those of your loved ones. We had to cancel plans that we had with the church. We also cannot project ourselves towards the future. Everything must stop in the midst of the storm: plans, goals, projects, everything. It is here where one learns that the best defense during and after this time is just to stay still, not to make plans, and wait until things return back to normal. Thank God in those weeks, everything returned to normal, though in some parts of the city the work of rebuilding and remodeling took months. We were able to resume the work and plans began to become part of our normal lives once again. The vision stayed static for a brief time, but it never died, it was only stationary, but with the same life and intensity of the beginning.

• *Genesis 15:3 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. 15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.*

After Abram fought all night, God gave him the victory. All of a sudden the clouds of the night disappear when the breaking of dawn is on the horizon. The fatigued patriarch, sits close to the sacrifice regaining

his strength, and in the midst of that calm, the Lord speaks to him again and confirms the vision, only this time, He gives him details on how it would happen. On many occasions the divine vision needs a "shaking", since the vision is blurry by so many things that have happened. Human frailty will never understand such a revelation, this is why God causes humanity to go through a process, and it is this exact place where many turn back, become tired and abandon the vision. They do not understand the process and God's timing in fulfilling His perfect will.

CONCLUSION

We have seen how the heavenly vision passes through the gestational process until the affirmation, and to conclude we see that the divine vision "already is" fulfilled in God's plan.

• *Genesis 15:17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. 18 In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: 19 The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, 20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, 21 And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.*

Abraham did not know it, but God had already given these lands to him before he moved out from his tent with his descendants. Success in everything we do is found in maintaining a clear vision in the midst of adversity. God has already given us a prophetic word, the church is more than an overcomer, though at times it does not seem so. We need to develop our vision based on His promise, and His promise is already fulfilled! God has great things for the Apostolic Assembly if we can believe, and see the invisible.

Dear brothers, the divine vision is made up by gestation, affirmation and has a fulfillment. If the Church understands this, it will never be destroyed. The Church will never be destroyed if she understands that the divine vision contains a beginning, process and fulfillment. The divine vision is gestated by God and by man activating a prophetic word. Once we have received it, we must communicate it by faith. Though there will be a sacrifice to do so, and when the fight is at its worst, fight though we are tired, understanding that soon the confirmation of what we have heard will arrive.

How terrible it is to abandon the race being just a few feet away from the finish line! How many leaders have lost out on their reward by abandoning their beautiful dreams, beautiful projects, simply because they didn't understand the process? It fills me with joy that God does not change, His strategy continues to be the same, His plans have continued intact throughout the centuries, and the Apostolic Assembly continues in them.

Let us continue seeing the Invisible One.

VICE PRESIDENT



BISHOP VICE PRESIDENT
Ismael Martín del Campo



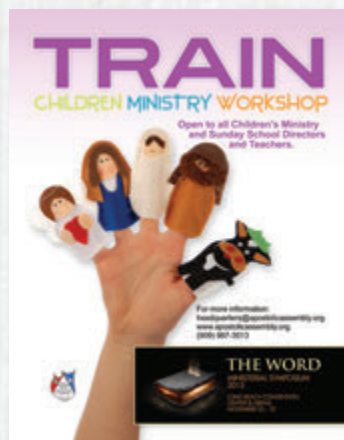
SPECIAL PROJECTS

“THE WORD”

2015 Ministerial and Family Conferences

We are preparing for a powerful time this November as we celebrate the 2015 “THE WORD” Ministerial and Family Conferences. This year we will be having a **Symposium** (a meeting to discuss a particular subject) for pastors and ministers to study our church’s doctrine about the Holy Scriptures. We will put away business sessions and go back to the precedent of our pioneers which was to study doctrine and its relevance to our time.

Concurrent to our Symposium will be a range of conferences for all members. The Messengers of Peace will be celebrating their National Youth Conference “NEXT”. Our treasurers are invited to the “Found Trustworthy!” workshop, where they will acquire tools to better serve their local churches. And we will be offering our pastors a workshop on their fiscal responsibilities and benefits the law affords them. “TRAIN” Workshop is for all Sunday School, Children’s Ministry staff or Juniors Ministry teacher: here they will be equipped to impact children with the Gospel. On Friday we will be offering an orientation seminar to all our pastors, ministers, and men laity about the new legal challenges for our Assembly (Obergefell vs. Hodges), while our pastors wives and the Dorcas will participate in another similar seminar. Lastly, there will be the “United in the Word” Family Conference open to all our pastors, parents, and leaders with the goal of strengthening our families in the 21st century. The Songwriting Challenge winning submissions will also be debuted here. This will be a great spiritual celebration!



Please visit apostolicassembly.org for more information on these events and workshops.



GROWTH

As churches grow, they meet barriers. Currently the Apostolic Assembly is at a 700-churches barrier (an unbroken decade-long barrier, though we have experienced growth in existent local churches). GROWTH,



a General Board initiative, is dedicated to breaking this barrier by helping to plant at least two hundred new churches mainly through small groups here in the United States and in International Missions by 2018. GROWTH contains three teams. Bishop Joe Aguilar leads Team “Growth Revolution,” which is dedicated to Jesus’ Strategy in the United States. Bishop Andy Provencio leads Team “Outreach Worldwide” which will work with the Jesus’ Strategy in International Missions. And lastly, I have the privilege to lead Team “Two Hundred,” dedicated toward the planting of new daughter churches. Our team is composed of the following ministers: Bishop Gabriel Calderón (Washington District), Pastor Mario Alas (Poway, CA), Pastor Eduardo Saucedo (Maywood, CA), Pastor Albert Pérez (Coachella, CA), Pastor Luis Montero (Trenton, NJ) and Pastor Elías Montes (Houston, TX). On our website you will find additional information about the resources we will be offering for this project.

CONSTITUTION 2015

I’ve had the joy of working on the Constitution Revisory Commission (CRC) since 1994 and currently as Editor of the Constitution. Our Constitution is a true jewel: it is a legacy to us from our pioneers. The CRC has amended the text to include approved proposed-initiatives in 2013 and 2014 in our new 2015 Constitution. This Constitution is available at the Christian Education Bookstore for \$20. The Revisory Commission counts on the following members: Bishop Luciano Montes (Indio, CA), Bishop Armando Tamez (North Texas District), Pastor Eduardo Iglesias (West Phoenix, AZ) and Elder José A. Castro (Fredericksburg, VA).

APOSTOLIC THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

On Monday, October 5, we will inaugurate at our General Headquarters, our first program in a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies and Christian Leadership. This program is meant for all members of our churches (but with preference toward pastors and co-pastors) that have a University degree and that can take classes in English. On our website you will find applications for the program. We are also taking a historic first step this coming month by inaugurating our Seminary’s Library at our General Headquarters. The Library is an essential part to the accreditation of our Seminary. For the last eight years we have acquired valuable books of theology and pastoralia in the United States, Europe and Latin America, in English and Spanish. This library will be a crucial resource for our pastors, ministers and leaders.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

The Internet is a growing opportunity for the church to reach millions. For this reason we have launched a revamped Website, with greater accessibility and resources for our pastors. It is also our desire to connect to all our members and to reach the nations with the Gospel through Social Media as well. Follow us on Facebook (/officialapostolicassembly), Instagram (/apostolicassembly) and Twitter (/apostolic_) and especially, tell your young people to follow the Apostolic Assembly Online.

HEADQUARTERS & HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

Every month we are making improvements on our General Headquarters. This is especially pressing now that priceless articles are being housed here at the Historical Archives. We are taking our first steps to modernize our Headquarters to better serve our pastors and to protect the information of our local churches.

GENERAL SECRETARY



BISHOP GENERAL
SECRETARY
Felipe A. Salazar



“do it heartily
as to the Lord.”

(Colossians 3:23 KJV)

THE SERVICE WE PROVIDE THE PASTORS

Since its beginning, the office of the General Secretary has been a facilitator for the Apostolic Assembly’s leadership. It is our mission to bless the leadership of our organization by serving the administrative needs of the church. The General Secretary’s office is responsible for six areas of the church’s administration. We oversee all official communications from the General Offices, the Real Estate Department, Ministerial Licenses, insurance needs, records & legal documentation, and all legal matters. The department’s staff that serves in these areas is a dedicated, very capable, and efficient group of people that love serving Christ, his church, and its leadership. Most Pastors in our beloved church will probably never visit the General Offices and meet our amazing staff. So, let me take a few moments of your time and introduce them to you.

We have six staff members. Pastor Timothy Arroyo and sister Yvette Cristobal work in the Real Estate Department. They process all loan resolutions & documentation. They also deal with the banks and lending institutions, with whom we have built relationships over time in order to guarantee that the churches that need loans or have any other related real estate needs get the best loan terms they possibly can. Sister Cathy Rojas works on processing the ministerial licenses and credentials. Among many other duties, she makes sure that the ministerial information of every Pastor of our church is up-to-date. Sister Silvia Guerra assists in the Records Department. This department, under the direction of Sister Yvette Cristobal, has been working hard to create an electronic database of all the Real Estate and legal information pertinent to the local churches of our Assembly. Once finished, this database will facilitate the quest for information whenever it is required. Sister Damaris Cristobal works on insurance related issues. She serves to assist the Pastors with their local church insurance needs and primarily their Workman’s Compensation insurance needs. Finally, brother Santiago Calderon, who recently moved from the state of Washington to California to serve as this Department’s Administrator serves as a liaison between myself, the Pastors, and Bishops of our church. Besides many other essential duties he also assists me in dealing with the corporate attorneys that work to protect our churches interests. One of the joys of coming every day to work at the General Offices is the unity, and the camaraderie I feel from those who work here. This is a great place to work because these are great people.

Our staff has been working hard on perfecting the service we provide the Pastors. We understand that the Pastors of the Apostolic Assembly are the individuals whom we primarily serve and we want you to know that we are working hard on creating as efficient a department as possible. We have established the goal of being as responsive as possible to the needs of the local churches, the districts, and the General Offices. As our church continues to grow, the needs of the church will correspondingly continue to grow as well. We (the staff of the General Secretariat) want the Pastors of our church to know that it is with great joy that we serve you. Brothers, we “do it heartily as to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:23 KJV).

GENERAL TREASURER

Five Loaves and Two Fish

We are pleased to reach you through this edition of the Apostolic Herald and provide information about the General Treasury of our beloved Assembly.

Since ancient times, God established the treasury as a central location where his people brought their offerings to be deposited. These were kept vigilantly in the treasuries of the temple. Some Levites were in “charge of the treasures of the House of the Lord” (1 Cr. 26:22, 26).

Offerings were requested for certain projects. Moses asked offerings to build the Tabernacle. David gave them and asked the people to build the temple. Paul asked them to help the Saints in need in Jerusalem.

Jesus himself has left us an example of what can be done through the effort of a person willing to provide what he owns. He took the five loaves and two fish, from a young man, and blessed them, multiplied, and divided them. He also praised the widower who gave two pennies in the temple, Mark 12:41–44 , giving us an example as to how to give sacrificially.

In our time, the Treasury of our Church is receiving offerings and tithes from the Ministry and the Members of our churches. The Lord of the harvest is blessing his work. New fields are being harvest and congregations are being established in the nation and abroad. Families are being benefited; and congregations are getting help in time of need.

As a testimony to this, we have a program called “The Real Estate Trust Fund”. This program is funded by the contributions of the district treasurers who systematically send 5% of the pastoral tithes given to their treasuries. The General Treasury contributes 5% of the tithes of tithes that comes into the treasury. These funds have helped different congregations with emergency loans for renovations or remodeling of their temples. As of today, this Fund has provided approximately \$500,000.00 in loans; and all this to the diligence of the bishop’s supervisors who send their share of the monies.

The administration of these assets are carried out by the elected officials by the Ministerial General Convention. The General Board under the direction of our presiding Bishop President, John Fortino, has ensured that all funds be invested in the well-being and progress of the Church. Several brothers and sisters, approved by the same board, are those who assist us to guarantee the good management of our Treasury.

Allow me the freedom to introduce the names of these brothers. Their loyalty, commitment and self-sacrifice is a great asset that has help us to serve his church in the managing of the Treasury.

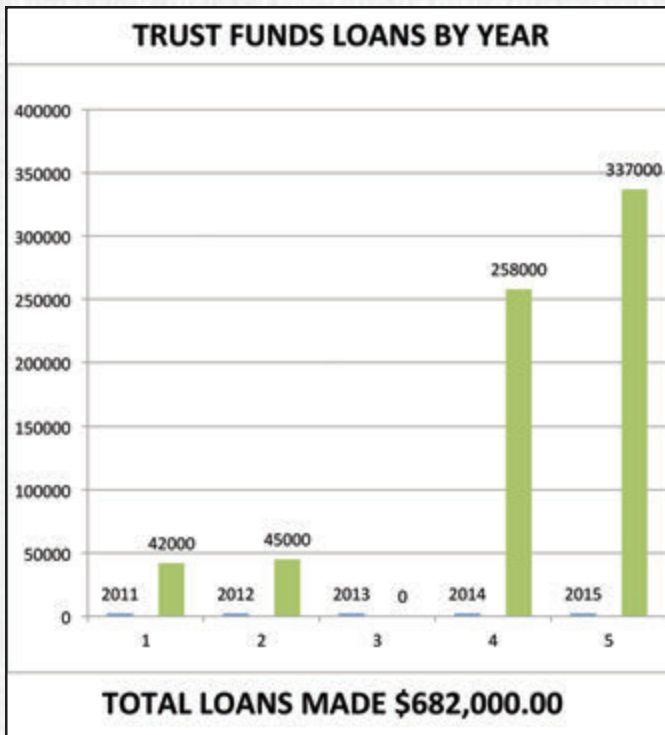
Pastor Edward Campa, Controller, graduated from California State University, San Bernardino with a Bachelor’s of Science in Business Administration, with a concentration in Accounting. He currently supervises the accounting department functions and is the intermediary between government entities in the area of finance and the General Office. He also serves as the General Office Manager.



BISHOP GENERAL
TREASURER
Felipe Lugo



GENERAL TREASURER



	Church	Loan Amount
2011	San Antonio #2, Texas	10,000.00
2012	Caldwell, Idaho	10,000.00
2011	East Palo Alto, CA	12,000.00
2012	Cathedral City, CA	15,000.00
2011	Las Vegas, NV	20,000.00
2012	San Fernando, CA	20,000.00
2014	Oak Cliff #2, Texas	20,000.00
2014	Midwest District	25,000.00
2014	San Bernardino #2, CA	30,000.00
2015	East Palo Alto, CA	30,000.00
2014	Jacksonville, Texas	33,000.00
2014	Yakima, Washington	50,000.00
2014	Ridgecrest, CA	50,000.00
2014	Northern Pacific Coast District	50,000.00
2015	San Fernando, CA	50,000.00
2015	Las Cruces #3, New Mexico	50,000.00
2015	Aldine, Texas	207,000.00
Total of Loans		\$ 682,000.00

Dear brothers, our beloved Assembly has become a global corporation in ascent. The vision of our leaders is to populate the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each and every one of us has the opportunity to support with our contributions to achieve our aim. I implore your prayers so that we can carry out the assigned commission. The administration of the monies received in our office is a great priority that requires a high work ethics.

Minister Sergio Abraham Maffey, Assistant to the Controller, graduated from the University of California, Riverside with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with a concentration in Accounting. He has served from July 2010 to present assisting in the various audits required of the Treasury.

Sister Rena Gonzalez has more than 18 years of experience working as an assistant to the controller. She's responsible for accounts receivable and processing the payroll for the office staff and members of the General Board. As a Notary Public, she notarizes all the legal documents of the Headquarters.

Brother Fredy Núñez is an assistant to the Bishop President and works in the accounting department with accounts payable. He receives, pays and administers all the invoices and accounts payables for the Assembly. He also assists the Controller in the different required audits.

Sister Lydia Hernandez, Accounting Assistant, is responsible for the accounting of the National Confederations: Varones, Dorcas and Messengers of Peace. She's also responsible for organizing and assisting these departments in their national activities. She's also responsible for processing loan payments such as the Real Estate Trust Fund Loan.

Brother Alex Rodelo, Business Analyst, graduated from DeVry University with a Bachelor of Science in Technical Management with an emphasis in Accounting. Brother Rodelo is a deacon whose primary responsibility is to compile all the financial information of the congregations to carry out the required audits.

2015 APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTION
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1. Swanson, J., & Nave, O. (1994). New Nave's Topical Bible. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.



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"CLERGY TAX & BENEFITS"

"In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy
(1 Corinthians 4:2)."

For more information email at:
headquarters@apostolicassembly.org
or visit www.apostolicassembly.org
(909) 987-3013



THE WORD

MINISTERIAL SYMPOSIUM
2015

LONG BEACH CONVENTION
CENTER & ARENA
NOVEMBER 25 - 27

SUMMER EDITION 2015

13

THY KINGDOM COME PASSION/POWER/PURPOSE

By Santiago Cristobal

There was much anticipation and expectation leading up to the 2014 National Convention of the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus. Brothers, sisters and friends from various locations of the country gathered in the city of Long Beach, CA to worship and lift high the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Individuals with their own personal needs put aside the demands in their lives and embarked in a journey to convention, trusting that the Lord would make his presence felt in the midst of his people. Transcending cultural and ethnic differences, the Holy Ghost unites us as a body in Christ. As the primitive church did, the Apostolic Assembly too convened in one accord to worship the beautiful name of Jesus.

The Church was also waiting on the Lord to dictate the leaders who would shepherd the organization for the next four years. Seeking first the direction of the Lord, Bishops and Pastors gathered to elect the members that would compose the General Board. God appointed Bishop John Fortino as the President to head the organization. At his side, there are seven Board members filled with the Holy Ghost and a burning desire to serve the people of God. With the appointment of such servants that are more than capable to lead the church towards Christ, the Apostolic Assembly displayed its support in the welcoming of the new General Board. From one transition to another, God has proven to his church that his promises are true and that he has never left us nor forsaken us. From generation to generation, the Lord has raised leaders and members among his people that are longing for his heavenly touch and to guide others to his beautiful presence.





President John Fortino delivered the message to the church; speaking on the passage from 2nd Chronicles chapter 12 verses 9-12, when King Rehoboam lost the shields of gold that he had received as an inheritance from his father Solomon. Instead of fighting to take back the shields of gold that he had lost, he decided to make shields of bronze. Rehoboam replaced the pureness of the gold that had been given to him with bronze. Bishop Fortino addressed the attendees saying that something pure like gold cannot be counterfeit. There is a price to be paid for the power of God. If the Church wants to attain the power of God, they must walk through the path of brokenness. Sitting in church or asking people to pray for you will not guarantee the glory of God. To obtain the glory and power of God, the Church must first pay the price. David too, like Rehoboam, lost everything that he had, including his family. As he went before the presence of God, the Lord told him to rise up and fight to take back what he had lost. Bishop Fortino encouraged the church to put down the fake shields, rise up, and fight to take back the power of God.



Once again the Lord moved in the midst of His people and His glory descended upon those present. Thousands of people united under the powerful name of Jesus and in one Faith experienced the outpouring of the Holy Ghost. The Lord is still active and working miracles in the days of today. In the words of Bishop President John Fortino, "Let Thy Kingdom come, and let it come with power from above!"





GENERAL BOARD 2014 - 2018



**BISHOP JOHN & FIRST LADY
SARA FORTINO**

**BISHOP JOHN FORTINO IS THE PRESIDENT
OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY**

Born on January 4, 1960 in Buenos Aires, Argentina to Italian immigrants, he heard and unreservedly obeyed the apostolic message in his youth, overcoming his family's religious opposition. He was filled with the Holy Spirit at thirteen years of age on January 15, 1973 and would be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ seven days later by Apostolic Argentine pioneer Wuckola Jactzuc. His characteristic missionary passion comes from him being the first President that emerges from the missionary field.

Immigrating to the United States in the early eighties to study at Fuller Theological Seminary, he was called to be a National Evangelist in 1981 by then Secretary of National Missions, Bishop Roberto Ramírez. The Lord used him powerfully in revivals throughout the nation.

As a minister he helped in the Apostolic Assembly's development in Washington D.C. The Lord called him to plant in 1987 "Fountain of Life" Apostolic Church in Miami, Florida. After twenty-seven years he continues to shepherd this large, flourishing and multicultural church of more than 700 members. His trailblazing leadership was demonstrated when he was elected Bishop Supervisor in 1997 to reestablish the Florida District. He served in this position for seven years. From "Fountain of Life," the church he pastors, he has planted eighteen new congregations.

Near the dawn of the new millennium, the 1998 General Convention elected him as Secretary of National Missions where he spearheaded for eight years the planting of churches all throughout the East Coast and the Heartland of our nation. He is a prolific author of fifteen books, which include "The Life of the Redeemer" and "The Spiritual Life". In the 2010 General Convention he was elected Bishop Vice President and he was the School of Pastors founding director. The 2014 General Convention elected him by overwhelming vote our eleventh Bishop President.

He obtained a Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degree from Knox Theological Seminary (Fort Lauderdale, Florida) in May 2013. The Bishop President and his wife Sara live in Miami, Florida with sister Sara's mother, sister Elsa. They have three daughters, Verónica, Valeria (married to John) and Deborah.



**BISHOP ISMAEL & ORALIA
MARTÍN DEL CAMPO**

**BISHOP ISMAEL MARTÍN DEL CAMPO IS THE VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY**

He was born May 11, 1963 in Mexico City. The eldest of nine, at the age of twelve his father died and he became his family's provider. He is a gifted counselor having placed this early experience with pain in the hands of God. Filled with the Holy Spirit at the age of thirteen, this third generation Apostolic was baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ on August 6, 1978.

Desiring to better prepare himself, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from the Baptist Seminary of Mexico in 1987. He planted two churches in Mexico City. In 1993 he received a small and indebted church in South Gate, California. Today the "Apostolic Community Center," has grown to become a large and debt free congregation.

An author and historian, his peers elected him as Bishop Supervisor of the Los Angeles District in 2003. He organized the Azusa Street Revival Centennial celebration in 2006. He was later elected that year at the General Convention the Secretary of Christian Education. Compelled by the great work that Apostolic pastors bear he has in these last eight years created graduate level accredited programs for pastors. He has also established the Apostolic Assembly's Historical Archives and organized dozens of Church Growth seminars. He is the Apostolic Theological Seminary's founder. The 2014 General Convention elected him Bishop Vice President.

He earned a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Religion from the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico in 2012 and is in the Doctor of Ministry program at McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago, Illinois).

He and his wife Oralia reside in Long Beach, California, and have two children, Ismael III (married to Elizabeth) and Jasiel.



**BISHOP FELIPE A. &
ROSE SALAZAR**

**BISHOP FELIPE A. SALAZAR IS THE GENERAL
SECRETARY OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY**

He was born May 27, 1959 in National City, California. His father, Pastor Felipe Valles Salazar, was an early missionary to the Mexican state of Oaxaca and pastored in Northern Mexico, Arizona and in the Los Angeles area.

Inspired at a very early age by his father to preach the Gospel he was baptized April 13, 1975 in the Name of Jesus Christ. Receiving ordination to ministry at the 1984 General Convention, he served as Los Angeles district youth president where he began his career as an outstanding preacher. In 1989 he was appointed Pastor of the Second Church of San Pedro, California. Later in 1993 he assumed the pastorate of the historic congregation of Compton, California, known today as "Hosanna Apostolic Church." He has led it to have a thriving and sustained growth. In the present the church hosts three services every Sunday.

After serving for eight years as District Treasurer the Los Angeles District pastors elected him as their Bishop Supervisor, an office in which he completes eight years of service. Month to month he has impelled a district program of church growth through small groups. The 2014 General Convention elected him General Secretary.

He is currently in a Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (M.A.C.L.) program at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

He and his wife Rose currently live in Long Beach, California. God has granted them four children Jazmin (married to Micah), Kimberly (married to Jonathan), Phillip and Katherine, and one granddaughter Kennidee.



**BISHOP FELIPE &
ALMA LUGO**

**BISHOP FELIPE LUGO IS THE GENERAL
TREASURER OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY**

Born in a Catholic home on September 13, 1950 in Mexico City his parents, seeking the betterment of his life, sent him with family members in Rancho Cucamonga, California when he was thirteen. At the age of twenty-six he read the Bible for the first time, it opened to Galatians 5:19-21 and this passage had an impact on his life. Without hesitation he gave his life to the Lord a few days later and was baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ on September 19, 1976.

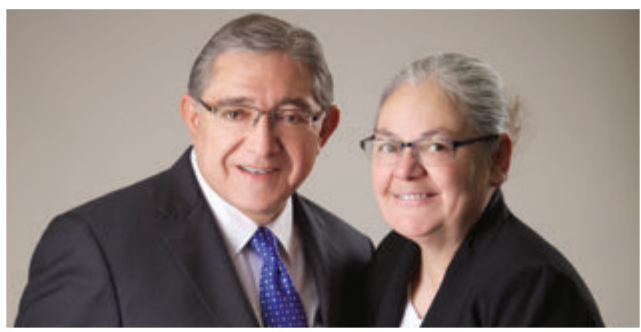
Soon after God called him to ministry. He was set apart and ordained in the early eighties and in 1987 he was appointed Pastor of the Second Church of San Bernardino, California. Though receiving only five members, he deftly led his church to pay off it's building in the first two years of his pastorate and he has led it toward further growth. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Administration Accounting Concentration from California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) in 1993.

After many years of working first as Auxiliary Elder and then eight years as District Treasurer, he was elected in 2003 as Bishop Supervisor of the Interior District of California. He served for eight years in this capacity, establishing five new churches, and wisely integrating into his district the Nevada and Southeast California districts. The 2014 General Convention elected him General Treasurer.

He obtained in 2012 a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

He and his wife Alma live in San Bernardino, California, they have two children Eliezer and Veronica (married to Albert), and seven grandchildren: Yasmin, Albert, Jordan, Kristine, Jacob, Isabella, Lilah.

GENERAL BOARD 2014 - 2018



**BISHOP ANDY &
NANCY PROVENCIO**

**BISHOP ANDY PROVENCIO IS THE
SECRETARY OF INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS
OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY**

Born on June 16, 1952 in Santa Rita, New Mexico he is the eleventh son of twelve children born to Pastor Albino Provencio. Persevering in his family's faith legacy, he was baptized February 23, 1969 by Bishop Richard Almaraz, who would be the first Apostolic Assembly missionary to Spain.

He graduated from Western Apostolic Bible College (now CLC), and was ordained at the 1972 General Convention. He served a term as National Messengers of Peace Secretary, from 1974 to 1976. In 1976 he was appointed pastor of the church in Clovis, in California's San Joaquin Valley.

The Lord Jesus Christ first called him to be a Missionary in 1981 at the age of twenty-nine in Spain, where he served for six years. Returning to the States, he received the pastorate of Gilroy, California for two years until he was called anew to the missionary field because of his exemplary service. He was the Apostolic Assembly's President in Argentina for two years beginning in 1990 and was the first South America Regional Supervisor from 1992 to 1994. His leadership sent the first missionaries of the Apostolic Assembly to Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru.

Upon his second return God called him to Donna, Texas from 1994 to 2003. He would be called back to be a Pastor in California at the First Church of San José. He has served as District Treasurer in South Texas and District Secretary in California's North Pacific Coast District. The 2014 General Convention elected him Secretary of International Missions.

He is married to sister Nancy and they have two children, Aaron and Keren.



**BISHOP JOE A. &
MARGARET AGUILAR**

**BISHOP JOE A. AGUILAR IS THE
SECRETARY OF NATIONAL MISSIONS
OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY**

Born in Garza Ayala, Nuevo Leon on September 21, 1954 his family emigrated from Mexico to the United States of America in October of that same year. His parents, already Holy Spirit filled, heard the Apostolic doctrine in Wasco, California and were baptized in 1959.

His father, Florencio Aguilar, would serve as Pastor in Earlimart, California for twenty-four years. There in California's San Joaquin Valley, Bishop Aguilar would be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ and later called to ministry. Ordained at the 1974 General Convention, he graduated in 1976 from Western Apostolic Bible College, today CLC. In 1981 he moved to pastor in Grand Rapids, Michigan until 1982. Upon his return to California he was a pioneering Pastor in beginning an English-speaking Church in Visalia, California until the need for a Pastor arose in Merced, California.

Bishop Gilbert Diaz appointed him in 1986 to this small, traditional, Spanish-speaking church. "New Life Apostolic Church" has grown to be a dynamic and multicultural congregation of 750 members. Through empowering believers to ministry and with a visionary focus on small groups, the church he shepherds built its own facility in 2001, which sits 640 people. He has served as International Apostolic Bible College Dean, Sector Elder and North Central California District Secretary. For his passion in the growth of the church and the preparation of new pastors, the 2014 General Convention elected him Secretary of National Missions.

He lives in Merced with his wife Margaret. They have two children Melissa Rebecca (married to Victor), Joe Jr. ("Che," married to Michelle) and two grandchildren: Seth Jared and Lia Nicole.



**BISHOP JOSÉ G. &
FEBE ZÚÑIGA**

**BISHOP JOSÉ G. ZÚÑIGA IS THE SECRETARY
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY**

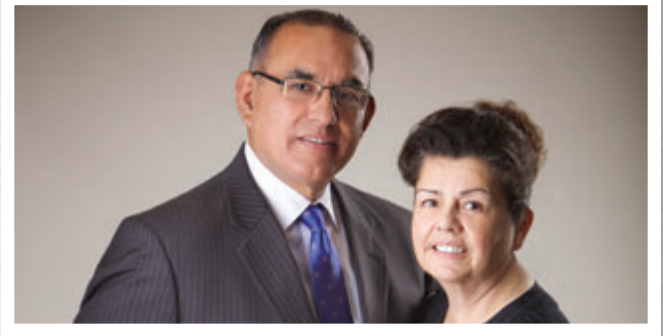
He was born in Delicias, Chihuahua on December 12, 1953. His father, Minister Román Zúñiga, was a New Mexico Apostolic Pioneer that pastored in Deming, Derry and Santa Fe. Pastor Román culminated here his ministerial calling serving as Bishop Supervisor.

Restless one night, he was baptized at the age of fourteen in 1968. With a precocious love for education, he graduated from the National Apostolic Bible College in 1975 by completing the mandatory year of fieldwork shepherding a small church in Agua Prieta, Jalisco. Under his father's leadership, his ministerial career flourished and he was appointed pastor of Silver City, New Mexico from 1977 to 1979. Later he moved to Chicago, Illinois where he was a very active minister of Chicago's First Apostolic Church.

He planted the "Apostolic Center for Christian Life" in 1991 with a small group of believers, where he is at present the Pastor. Education continued to be one of his great passions; he attended Loyola University from where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Business Administration in 1995. In 2011 the pastors of the dynamic Midwest District elected him Bishop Supervisor. Through his leadership as Bishop, the Midwest District bought an 80+ acre District Camp and has started three churches. The 2014 General Convention elected him Secretary of Christian Education.

He graduated in 2001 with a Master of Divinity (M. Div.) from McCormick Theological Seminary and is completing his Doctor of Ministry (D. Min) in the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico.

He lives in Chicago with his wife Febe, together they have two sons: Eric (married to Saily) & Ariel.



**BISHOP JOSEPH V. &
DELIA RODRÍGUEZ**

**BISHOP JOSEPH V. RODRÍGUEZ IS THE
SECRETARY OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY**

He was born October 10, 1950 in Bakersfield, California. His paternal grandfather was an early Arizona evangelist. He continued in his grandfather's calling, this charismatic fourth generation Apostolic leader was ordained to the ministry in 1975 in Oakland, California, and later became a National Evangelist speaking in revivals throughout the United States. Present for the technological advances in the Silicon Valley, he began working at a very early age at IBM Corporation in 1968. Rising to become Failure Analysis Senior Methods Specialist, he accomplished a brilliant career, until his retirement in 1992.

The Lord Jesus called his father, Pastor Joseph G. Rodríguez in 1982 to open San José's Third Apostolic Assembly. When his father retired in 1992 the Lord placed him as the new Pastor. Combining his professional experience and Apostolic ministry, he is the Pastor at the "Community Christian Church," a growing bilingual congregation.

In his district he was quickly elected for different responsibilities. He first served as Sector Elder for six years and later as District Secretary for eight years. He was elected in 2007 as Bishop Supervisor of California's North Pacific Coast. Overcoming his struggle with cancer in which God gave him the victory, this did not stop him from planting three churches, and inspiring many men to be church planters, pastors and evangelists. The 2014 General Convention elected him Secretary of Social Assistance.

He is married to sister Delia, and they live in San José. They have three children Joey (married to Yolanda), Steven (married to Julie) and Jacob (married to Cherie), and four grandchildren: Nicolette, Makai, Chloe and Arya.

A DOLLAR A DAY FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

International Missions
Bishop Andy Provencio

**"DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS,
HIS MARVELOUS WORKS AMONG ALL THE PEOPLES!"**

1 Chronicles 16:24

I am convinced that beyond having a prayerful burden for our missionaries and for those who are lost without Christ, the most pressing need in our wonderful institution (the Apostolic Assembly) is learning how to GIVE passionately and unconditionally to the work of Missions.

The phrase "A dollar a day for missions" has been weighing heavy upon my shoulders. It simply has to do with a willingness to give a dollar a day for the support of International Missions. Let's do some simple figures, if every baptized adult in the Apostolic Assembly would understand that giving just "one dollar a day" to the cause of missions, the result would be that our giving endeavors would become very successful. If we could get five thousand adults or youth to give one dollar a day to missions, (an average of 200 per district), our giving would be one million eight hundred and twenty five thousand dollars (\$1,825,000) in one year. However, if we would set a goal of ten thousand adults or youth at one dollar a day (an average of 400 per district), the result would be three million six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$3,650,000) in one year.

Do you believe that giving one dollar a day will make a big difference to your pocketbook? No it won't. A dollar a day is really nothing. But what a difference it can make in our mission fields! Oh what a difference! Can it be accomplished? Yes it can! And why not start this year? Be the first to give a Faith Promise Offering of at least \$365.00 to your local church's Flor Azul goal for this October. Giving a "dollar a day" to missions is a great way of planting a daily seed that can produce an abundant harvest of souls in our existing mission fields and will open new fields where we may be able to establish apostolic presence.

Our main goals in International Missions during this administration are:

- To increase financial giving for Global Evangelism.
- To establish four solid regions with four regional supervisors (South American Region, Central American Region, Caribbean Region and Europe/African Region).
- Establish the Apostolic Assembly in ten new countries.
- Promote missionary vision at home and in our missionary fields.

I believe that giving a dollar a day (\$365 in one year) is simple, fun, powerful and a great personal habit that we can all accomplish! It can also become an unconditional style of giving to God's work that produces great rewards. Remember, "The world will never be brought to Christ unless we bring Christ to the world." We will only accomplish this through our prayers and giving to God's work.

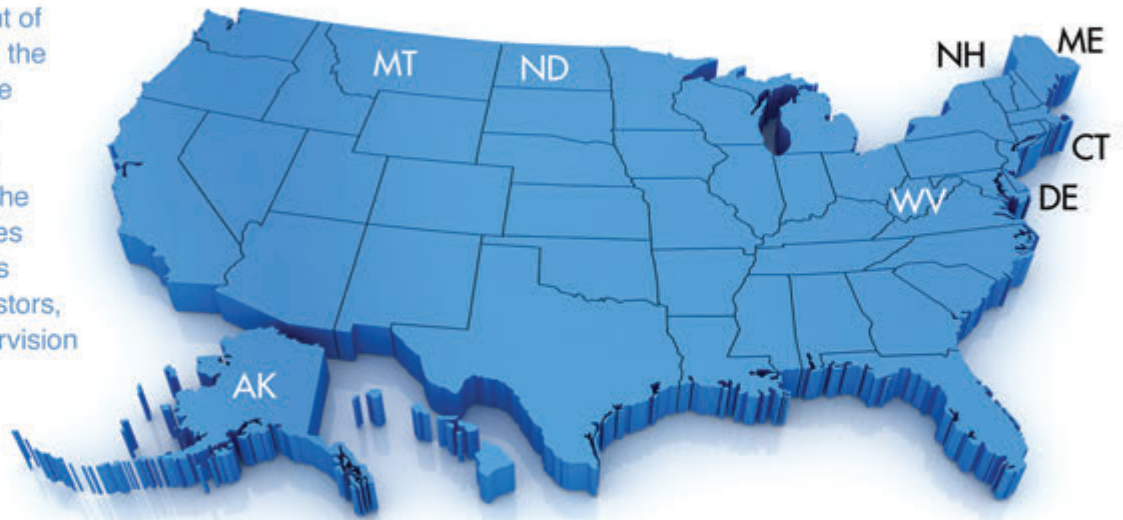
**IT'S LESS THAN
A CUP OF COFFEE.**
www.aaintlmissions.org



A Vision for Growth

National Missions
Bishop Joe A. Aguilar

The purpose of the Department of National Missions is to expand the Kingdom of God throughout the United States of America. The strategy for accomplishing this purpose is described through the different areas of responsibilities that have been assigned to this department: The School of Pastors, the GROWTH team, and supervision of the current and future National Missions Regions.



SCHOOL OF PASTORS

The SCHOOL OF PASTORS is a program that has been initiated with the purpose of training future pastors. A combination of hands-on workshops, lectures, case studies, and mentoring sessions will primarily train the participants to begin their pastoral ministry in existing church vacancies or in church plants within an established district or in a National or International Missions field.

GROWTH TEAM

The acronym **GROWTH** represents a joint effort of the offices of the Vice-president, National Missions and Foreign Missions. The acronym stands for the following:

- GR – Growth Revolution**
- OW – Outreach Worldwide**
- TH – Two Hundred**

Our mission is to recruit 100 churches in the USA that want to be part of this pilot program with an emphasis on planting 2 churches during the years 2015-2018, using the Strategy of Jesus model of Evangelism and Discipleship.

The vision of National Missions is to plant churches in the states that don't have an Apostolic Assembly presence. These states include Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and West Virginia. We also believe that God will help us send missionaries to the following key cities: Billings, MT; Cleveland, OH; Lexington, KY; Memphis, TN; Montgomery, AL.

www.nationalmissions.org

SUPERVISION

We're glad to report that the mission field of Hawaii has been reopened in Honolulu, where Missionary Daniel González and family are doing a great work. God has blessed them with baptisms and a radio and community ministry. Continue to pray for this mission field and for the resident missionaries.

In the past year National Missions has installed the following 5 new pastors: Joel Gallegos in Alabaster, AL, Leobardo Leyva in Sleepy Eye, MN, Gustavo Martínez in Kenner, LA, Alejandro Garza in DeQueen, AR, and Gerardo Fraire in Springdale, AR. We're excited about what God is already doing in these churches.

The department also recently established the brand new Region of Ohio, currently comprised of the 4 churches of Akron, Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton. Our brethren in Akron have already begun working in Cleveland. With your prayers, we are confident that this Region will grow rapidly and impact the entire state.



EDUCACIÓN CON PROPOSITO

Christian Education
Bishop José G. Zúñiga

CENTRADA EN CRISTO JESÚS

A El nosotros proclamamos, amonestando a todos los hombres, y enseñando a todos los hombres con[a] toda sabiduría, a fin de poder presentar a todo hombre perfecto en Cristo.

Colosenses 1:28

Our vision for the department of Christian Education is to establish our own Apostolic Theological Seminary, enhance the learning experience at our Bible Colleges, improve our materials, add new resources and to generate more money for scholarships and for installations for our own seminary.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING

The Christian Education department provides resources, training and tools for the entire church, not only in our country but also in other countries as well. We have 26 district Bible colleges and in 4 National Missions regions. In addition, we have Bible colleges in the mission field, the most recent one in Cuba.

We are interested in training and developing new teachers as well as providing scholarships for graduate studies in seminaries across the country. Our department produces material for the Bible colleges, Sunday school departments and home cell groups. The best way to support the Christian Education department is buying our literature and publications from the bookstore, headed by Carlos Bañuelos. We are excited to announce that plans are underway to write our very own manual on Apostolic Systematic Theology.

We currently have agreements to send our students to Master's level and Doctor of Ministry graduate programs at McCormick Theological Seminary, Fuller Seminary, Seminario Evangélico of Puerto Rico, Seminario Internacional Teológico Bautista in Buenos Aires, Argentina and the Universidad de las Américas in San José Costa Rica. Some students are studying on their own at schools such as Harvard Divinity School and others. By encouraging participation in these seminaries, in the long run, it will enhance the education of our pastors, pastor's wives and leaders and also enable us to have our own professors.

BIBLE COLLEGE DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S WORKSHOP

This workshop is held every year in the month of August. It helps us keep our district directors informed as well as plan for the next school year. This year, the workshop will be held in the beautiful city of Long Beach, CA from the 11th to the 13th of August. It is open to all Bible college directors as well as those district bishops who want to attend.

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REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

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Social Assistance
Bishop Joseph V. Rodríguez



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Jesus Christ speaks to his Church in Matthew, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was in prison and you visited me"(Matthew 25:35-36). I encourage every member of the Apostolic Assembly to join me in serving the needy; For we know that by doing so, we are participating in the will of our Lord Jesus Christ. Together we will continue to improve the work of service that has been handed to us by our predecessors, and we will reach new heights for the advancement of the Church.

Through the Department of Social Assistance, the Antonio Castaneda Nava Foundation has served our brothers and sisters of the Apostolic Assembly in the continental United States and abroad. Upon need and eligibility, members of the Apostolic Assembly will have the ability to become recipients of the determined aide. In the past four years, the A.C. Nava Foundation has had the privilege to serve the church by donating over \$1,000,000.00! Through the contributions of generous supporters, the Department has awarded \$32,000.00 in scholarships, \$83,000.00 in disaster aide, \$306,000.00 in support for retired pastors, \$191,000.00 in support for the widows, \$29,000.00 in support for pastors and \$425,000.00 in general assistance.

The Department of Social Assistance has also partnered with Christian Medical Brigades to empower undeserved communities with sustainable healthcare and spiritual growth. The A.C. Nava Foundation has provided the funding for the building of a medical clinic in the country of Honduras. This is the first clinic built by the Apostolic Assembly. The clinic will provide support for families that need medical assistance in an area that did not previously have a medical facility, much less, medical aid.

Special programs and ministries have also been established to better serve the needs that members of the church have come to face. The program known as Embracing Hope ministry was founded for the purpose of reaching out to the women who are battling the disease of cancer. The creation of the Adam Project is also aimed to promote the Faith of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ among the deaf and hearing impaired. This ministry holds annual conferences and workshops for our brothers, sisters and friends.

The Department of Social Assistance and the A.C. Nava Foundation are funded solely by generous contributions made by the Church. We thank and appreciate every donor that has made it possible for the A.C. Nava Foundation to go out and impact the world.

RUN CHURCH, RUN!

Memorial Biography of Bishop Baldemar Rodríguez (1941 – 2015)



“CUANDO CRISTO ME HALLO”

Baldemar Rodríguez served as the seventh Bishop President of the Apostolic Assembly. He was born in Santa Rosa, Texas, on February 4, 1941 to Luis and Zoila Rodríguez. Raised in a family of musicians, he came to the Lord at the age of twenty when his father died in 1961. Pastor José García baptized him in the name of Jesus Christ on February 19, 1961 and was filled with the Holy Spirit at the General Convention in 1962. Bishop Benjamín Quiroz married him and sister Homa Lee Candelaria in 1965.



THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

A charismatic preacher, the leadership soon saw great potential in him. He was appointed at the age of twenty-two pastor of the historic Apostolic Assembly in Mission, Texas in 1963 where another Texan and Bishop President had begun his ministry: Pioneer Benjamín Cantú. He later received the church in Edinburg, Texas and from there he helped establish the churches in Raymondville and San Juan. Years later he would again become a Pastor in San Bernardino. Bishop Rodríguez was a talented accordionist and hymn writer, composing hymns like “Ayúdame Señor,” “Cuando Cristo me hallo,” and “Quiero orar al Padre” in his Tejano style.

CHARISMATIC LEADERSHIP

He served as a Sector Elder and was elected Bishop Supervisor in the South Texas District (1971 – 1975) and later the Southeast Texas District (1975 – 1979). From 1987 to 1994 he would again be Bishop Supervisor of the Interior District of California and Nevada. On April 10, 1975 the Lord gave him and sister Homa their only daughter: Judy Elizabeth.

“RUN CHURCH, RUN!”

His election in 1978 was a welcomed surprise by the pastors and people of the Apostolic Assembly. He served for eight years until 1986 when he was elected Bishop Vice President. The 1994 General Convention elected him Bishop President again and he served in this second period until 2002. His first (1978) and last sermon (2002) at a General Convention was: “Run Church, Run!” Bishop Rodríguez’s leadership saw many districts established, the first General Conventions in Texas and New Mexico, and he expanded the Apostolic Assembly in numeric growth in the United States and abroad. He graduated with a Master of Arts (M. A.) in Theology degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

“PARA SIEMPRE VIVIR CANTANDO”

The Lord called him to His presence on July 30, 2015 at the age of 74. Bishop Rodríguez is survived by his two brothers Ramiro and José Angel, his wife, our distinguished sister Homa, his daughter, Judy Elizabeth, and seven grandchildren: Anatolio Jr., Abigail Elizabeth, Baldemar, Rebecca Leah, Natalie Zoie, Ismael, and Katherine Olivia.



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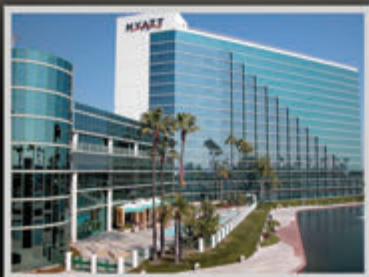
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